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Congress to sweep Haryana

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI/ HARYANA

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

The Dainik Bhaskar poll predicted the Congress getting 44-54 seats and the BJP 15-29 seats in the 90-member Assembly. The Harvana Republic-Matrize poll put the Congress tally even higher at 55-62 seats as against the BJP's 18-24.

According to NDTV's Poll of Polls, 55-62 seats are predicted for the Congress while the ruling BJP may win 20-32 seats. The Red Mike-Datansh exit poll gave the Congress 50-55 seats in Haryana and the BJP at 20-25, while the Dhruv Research poll pegged the Congress at 50-64 seats, BJP 22-32 seats, and others 3-8 seats. Peoples' Pulse exit poll gave the Congress 49-60 seats and the BJP 20-32 seats in Haryana.

Most exit polls pegged the Indian National Lok Dal



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

(INLD) tally higher than that of farmers, and a "mohabbat ki the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP), dukan" will be opened in every while others were seen getting corner of the state. up to 10 seats. The ruling BJP is In the 2019 Assembly elections, eyeing a hat-trick while the the BJP won 40 of the 90 seats, Congress is hoping to make a comeback in the state after a forming government with the JJP, which decade

The other key contestants are Congress, JJP, INLD, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), INLD, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), and Azad Samaj Party (ASP). Key candidates include Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, BJP leaders Anil Vij and OP Dhankar, Congress leaders Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Vinesh Phogat, INLD's Abhay Singh Chautala, and JJP's Dushyant Chautala. The BJP's campaign was spearheaded by Prime Minister

of minor scuffles and stonepelting were reported from Haryana's Nuh district. Modi, Narendra who addressed four rallies, where he The Election Commission attacked the Congress on has seized cash, drugs and liquor worth Rs. 75.72 crores several issues and said they kept every matter important for in Haryana in the run up to country entangled, the polls. This is four times the including the Ram temple more than the seizures worth issue. Congress leader Rahul Rs 19.3 crore, reported in Gandhi also addressed many 2019. Seizures have been public meetings where he said a made across all districts & Congress storm" is on its way cohorts, which includes Rs. in Haryana and his party would 31.5 crore cash, Rs. 16.6 crore worth of liquor and 11.13 form the government, which will be one for the poor and crore drugs. Ambala (Rs

11.82 crores), Faridabad (Rs 10.07 crores) and Gurugram (Rs 9.94 crores) remained the top 3 districts in terms of seizures.

Mewar recorded voter turnout of 68.28 percent, followed by Yamunanagar 67.93 percent and Palwal (67.69 percent). Gurugram and Faridabad recorded lowest voter turnout of 49.97 percent and 51.90 percent respectively.

Interestingly, BJP leader and Kurukshetra MP Naveen Jindal arrived at a polling station in Kurukshetra on a horse to cast his vote, while a groom delayed his wedding to cast his vote, and Olympians proudly flaunted their inked fingers.

coalition

won 10 seats. The Congress

secured 31 seats. However, JJP

later broke out of the coalition.

Manohar Lal Khattar served as

the Chief Minister of Haryana

for around 9.5 years. He was succeeded by Nayab Singh

The single phase polling for 90 Assembly Constituencies in

Haryana concluded largely

peacefully, in more than 20,000 polling stations set up in the

state, except for stray incidents

Saini in March this year.

"Riding a horse is considered auspicious... People ride horses while going to attend weddings. That is why I came on a horse for his auspicious work," Jindal told reporters after casting his vote. On his mother Savitri Jindal contesting the polls as an Independent from Hisar, Iindal told reporters people made her contest the elections and they were quite enthusiastic about her candidature.

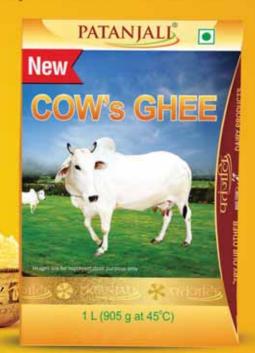
The EC bringing polling booths into high-rise high-rise apartment complexes was a hit among their residents who would earlier "think twice about taking out time for voting". The voters residing in many high-rise apartment complexes especially in the NCR cities of Gurugram and Faridabad said they found it convenient to cast their votes as polling stations were set up in several such residential buildings.

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NMDC 66th AGM Chairman Message

FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET





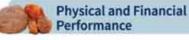


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Dear Shareholders,

It is with great pleasure and a deep sense of responsibility that I address you as the Chairman and Managing Director of your company - NMDC Limited, a cornerstone in the Indian mining industry. As we navigate through dynamic market landscapes and global economic shifts, I am honoured to lead a company known for its resilience, innovation, and commitment to sustainable growth. NMDC is devoted to Responsible Mining, the goal is to mine sustainably, restore ecosystems, invest in social initiatives, and meet the country's thriving demand for iron and steel. NMDC delivered historic iron ore volumes in FY24, an accomplishment that will echo through time as a testament of its mettle and shape the destiny of the company and the industry. Our legacy has been truly enriched by the surpassing of the 45 million tonnes mark in the financial year 2023-2024. India's largest iron ore producer continued to realize the weight of the country's dreams in fortifying mineral security. In this journey, NMDC has mitigated cyclical volatilities of the sector, built upon its technical and digital strength, bolstered its financial resilience, and worked tirelessly to deliver value to its stakeholders. As we reflect on FY24. I take pride in sharing the achievements, challenges and strategic vision of the company with you. NMDC's operational excellence, financial prudence, and strategic agility dovetailed with the stakeholders' confidence is positioning the company at the forefront of sustainable growth.



During the year under review, NMDC registered its best ever yearly physical performance as it produced 45.02 million tonnes and sold 44.48 million tonnes of Iron ore. The company recorded a 10% growth in production and 16% growth in sales compared to FY23 volumes. It translated into a strong financial performance earning a revenue of Rs. 21,294 crores in FY24, which is a 21% increase from the revenue generated in FY23. Strategic financial planning and pricing mechanisms led to a Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs. 5,632 crores and Profit Before Tax (PBT), before exceptional item, of Rs. 8,294 crores in FY24, realizing an upswing of 2% in PAT and 30% in PBT over CPLY.

For FY24, NMDC's EBITDA stood at Rs. 8,709 crores representing a 28% growth from the previous financial year. The company's operating profit margin in 2023-24 was 34%

Company's highest-ever capital expenditure of Rs. 2,066 crores was expended towards capacity building in FY24, which was 17% north of the capex target, Rs. 1,769 crores. NMDC's standalone net worth (post the demerger of NSE) crossed the Rs. 25,000 crore mark in FY24 reinforcing the company's financial stability and its capacity to invest in growth and generate value for stakeholders.

Operational Highlights

NMDC's major iron ore mines - Kirandul and Bacheli in Chhattisgarh, and Donimalai in Karnataka delivered their highest-ever annual production in company history. The bottlenecks in pellet production were also resolved leading to peak volume of 2.65 lakh tonnes pellet production in FY24, highest since the plant's commissioning

During the year under review, NMDC made a strategic move to boost evacuation capacity and build supply chain resilience by commencing operations from its Kumar Marenga stockyard and implementing a 10 MTPA Rapid Wagon Loading System at its Kirandul complex. These developments give a peek into the business model that the company is finalizing for leapfrogging to double its capacity

Another significant development in FY24 was the resumption of operations at Panna Diamond Mines in Madhya Pradesh, revitalizing a historic asset that diversifies our mineral portfolio. A landmark achievement in the direction of expansion and diversification came with the commencement of gold mining at Mount Celia in Western Australia in FY24 through the company's subsidiary, Legacy Iron Ore Limited. Legacy has also signed a Joint Venture agreement to unlock the potential of magnetite resources at Mount Bevan and explore minerals of strategic interest like Lithium in Australia.

Towards enhancing efficiency, transparency, and ease of doing business, a new organizational structure - 'Works Organisation' was conceptualised and implemented for the close monitoring and timely execution of all major capital projects.

Response to Climate Change

NMDC plans to leverage and enhance its sustainable and efficient mining legacy to meet the evolving needs of the environmentally conscious customers and align with India's goal of achieving Net Zero Emissions by 2070.

To minimise carbon emissions, NMDC is moving towards eco-friendly ore transportation through slurry pipelines. and railways instead of roadways. Progress in this direction is underway with the doubling of the Kirandul-Kothavalasa railway line expected to be completed in FY25 and the laying of the 15 MTPA Slurry Pipeline from Bacheli to Visakhapatnam via Nagamar slated for completion in FY27. NMDC is building a 2 MTPA Pellet Plant and 10 MTPA Beneficiation Plant along the Slurry Pipeline route with plans to introduce blending yards in its ecosystem as a step towards zero waste mining.

The company is also investing in solar and wind energy projects while exploring opportunities to mine critical minerals like lithium and cobalt to fuel the renewable energy sectors and the green transition of India.



NMDC is intensifying efforts to curtail GHG emissions, enhance wastewater recycling, manage solid waste, and conserve biodiversity. We have developed a Scope 3 Greenhouse Gas Inventory to meticulously vet our value chain emissions. Our Biodiversity Conservation initiatives continue to thrive as we collaborate with the State Forest Departments to restore habitats and preserve ecosystems. Contributing to Chhattisgarh's environmental health, NMDC presented a first of its kind Mobile Environment Lab to Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board

The company's transformative CSR initiatives are a source of pride and purpose for us. From empowering women to upskilling youth, generating employment opportunities to addressing public health, NMDC has been a steady pillar in enabling progress in the hinterlands of India. Our flagship social initiatives Shiksha Sahayog Yojana and Balika Shiksha Yojana have empowered the journeys of thousands of tribal children with scholarships for higher education and nursing education, making them agents of change in their communities. It is this approach that gave way to the Education City, Hospital on Wheels, Sports Academies,

and the infrastructure that ensures education. healthcare and opportunities for all. This strong legacy is built by a committed workforce. We classify the health, safety, and dignity of NMDC employees as a top priority. Robust vigilance structures, safety protocols, access to grievance redressal along with the freedom to associate and engage in collective bargaining has nurtured a progressive and empowering. workplace.

On Formation Day 2023, NMDC instituted the 'CMD Excellence Awards to celebrate and honour the exceptional contributions of our employees, who are the driving force behind our company's progress.



NMDC upholds the highest standards of corporate governance and ensures transparency, accountability, and integrity in all our operations. Corporate governance is not just a regulatory requirement but a fundamental pillar of our culture, guiding our actions and decisions to create long-term value for our stakeholders.

Towards Progress and Prosperity

As we progress further into the era of NMDC 2.0, we are gearing up to deliver 50 million tonnes of iron ore in FY25. Our journey from hereon will be guided by an ambitious growth strategy. We are investing in capacity expansion and new infrastructure to augment our production capacity to 72 million tonnes from our existing iron ore mines, while also developing the NCL (NMDC CMDC Limited) JV mines to contribute another 28 million tonnes. Leveraging on our intrinsic strengths and constraint optimization are the two drivers for realisation of our vision to achieve a 100 million tonnes production capacity by 2030.

This narrative aligns with the National Steel Policy's vision to enhance India's steel production capacity to 300 million tonnes by 2030. NMDC's 100 million tonnes



The accomplishments of NMDC find a unified representation in our new logo, unveiled in August, 2023. This logo heralds a new era of responsibility at NMDC, conveying the spirit of NMDC 2.0.

We convey our sincere gratitude to the Government of India for their constant support in creating an enabling environment that fosters growth and innovation in our industry. To our valued customers, banks, shareholders, associates, and global partners, I express my deepest gratitude for your trust, collaboration, and continued partnership. Together, we have overcome challenges and achieved iconic milestones. I am confident that with our collective effort, we will continue to thrive. Thank you for your invaluable contributions to the journey of NMDC.

Our achievements for FY24 are commendable, but the path ahead beckons with both promise and challenge. Our compass points north - toward innovation, sustainability, shared purpose and a 100 million tonnes strong future. Jal Hind

Amitava Mukherjee

CMD (Additional Charge)

Excerpts from the CMD Speech at 66th AGM of NMDC held on September 27, 2024.





Regd. Office: Khanij Bhavan, 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad - 500028, India. www.nmdc.co.in



nation 02



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RAIPUR | SUNDAY | OCTOBER 6, 2024

scene from Luv Kush Ram

Delhi Cabinet headed by Atishi approves proposal regarding re-employment of bus marshals

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Atishi on Saturday approved a proposal regarding re-employment of the bus marshals and sent it to the Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena for his approval even as the event turned out chaotic with both BJP and AAP accusing each other of creating drama.

In a dramatic event, Atishi, accompanied by BJP MLAs, also met Saxena and submitted a cabinet note to reinstate the bus marshals. However, it turned into a dramatic sequence of events with Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwaj getting laid at BJP MLA and Leader of Opposition Vijender Gupta's feet, requesting him to accompany AAP leaders to the LG's residence to seek Saxena's approval while the Chief Minister left her car and sat in the BJP leader's car.

Reacting to the incident, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva slammed the AAP



The Chief Minister was inside

leaders and said, "The kind of LG's house. At least 27 people, indecent behavior witnessed including AAP workers and today with the Leader of the Delhi Minister Saurabh Opposition Vijender Gupta, and BJP MLAs in the pres-ence of the Delhi Chief Minister is proof of the anarchy in their party." After the MLAs of both parthe LG residence when the

ties reached Saxena's house, protest happened. Atishi lashed out at the BJP after AAP leaders accused the BJP MLAs of not asking him to meeting with the LG, saying sign the cabinet note, and the party has "betrayed" the held a protest outside the bus marshals.

"Firstly, the BJP MLAs were not ready to come to meet the LG, but we managed to get them with us somehow. But even after coming here, they have not asked the LG to sign the cabinet note even a single time," she said.

Bhardwaj, who was also detained, said, "BJP-LG have betrayed 10,000 bus marshals. BJP MLAs said that if you pass the cabinet note, they will get the bus marshals reinstated from LG.But LG Sahab has not signed the cabinet note, he will be cursed by 10,000 bus marshals."

Moreover, AAP National Convenor and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday expressed pride in the relent less efforts of the party's ministers to secure the livelihoods of bus marshals in Delhi."I am proud of my ministers who go to any extent, even laying at people's feet, to get work done for the people," Arvind Kejriwal tweeted, reacting to a photo of Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj

laying at the feet of Gupta. Further, he asked the BJP and LG to not politicise the matter and said, "I request the LG and BJP not to politicise this issue further and to immediately reinstate the bus marshals to their jobs."

Over 10,000 civil defence volunteers deployed as marshals in public transport buses were removed last year after an objection was raised by the directorate of civil defence that they were meant for disaster management duties. Earlier in the day, the BJP MLAs met the Delhi chief minister over the issue of

reinstatement of the marshals. The Chief Minister said the cabinet will meet immediately to pass a note on rein-stating the bus marshals and appealed to the BJP MLAs to join a delegation to take the note to the LG for his approval.

AAP leaders claimed that the BJP MLAs refused to go to the LG office after the cabinet passed the note and tried to leave the meeting.

Sachdeva facilitates meeting of bus marshal delegation with LG, requests him to hear their case STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

 $\mathbf{D}^{ ext{elhi}}_{ ext{Virendra}}$ BJP President Virendra Sachdeva on Saturday facilitated the meeting of a delegation of bus marshals with the Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena and requested him to hear their case.

The delegation, which includ-ed Mukesh Pal Singh, Salman, ed Mukesn Pai Shigh, Saiman, Chandrashekhar, Anuj Srivastava, Mahendra Singh, Kamlesh, Anita Mehra, and the state office and expressed their gratitude to Sachdeva for the meeting with Saxena. They also expressed their regret over the Delhi Minister Saurabh Pharadhuri kuring on the fort Bharadwaj laying on the feets of the Leader of the Opposition Vijender Gupta, and BJP MLAs.

After meeting the Lieutenant Governor, the delegation issued a video statement reassuring

Bidhuri stated that even in the name of restoring the jobs of the marshals, a drama is being

played with them. "The proposal is passed in the assembly but when it comes to paperwork, the proposal is not even passed in the cabinet. Instead, a drama is played to get

claimed. Bidhuri added that the BJP has been supporting the marshals very seriously from the beginning and is not only making continuous efforts for the restoration of their jobs but is also exposing all the activities of the AAP.

Addressing the media in this context, Sachdeva said, "The

their fellow bus marshals that the Lieutenant Governor had BJP had consistently stated that Arvind Kejriwal first promised a swift resolution, appointed the bus marshals and they would soon receive without following proper procedures and then dismissed

good news. South Delhi MP Ramvir Singh

the sympathy of the marshals by lying down on the roads," he

truth. He alleged that his party has consistently pointed out how Arvind Kejriwal appointed the bus marshals without following due process, dismissed them to avoid an investigation, and today, after meeting the Lieutenant Governor, the bus marshals realized the truth. "Arvind Kejriwal played with

them to avoid scrutiny. After

meeting the Lieutenant

Governor today, the bus mar-

shals now understand the

the lives of the bus marshals for an entire year, and when they felt exposed by the BJP, they hurriedly passed a cabinet note. Kejriwal and Atishi Marlena should explain why this action wasn't taken back in October 2023," he alleged.

DMRC completes underground MCD House meeting adjourned amid ruckus tunnel on Phase-4 Golden Line

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Saturday completed an underground tunnel between Chhatarpur and Chhatarpur Mandir stations on Phase-4 Golden Line. A 97-metre-long tunnel boring machine (TBM) broke through on Saturday morning at Chhatarpur Mandir station after boring an 860-

metre-long tunnel. According to Delhi Metro, two parallel circular tunnels for up and down movement have constructed stretch as part of the Aerocity-Tughlakabad corridor. The breakthrough on the other parallel tunnel was achieved on August 21. This new tunnel has been constructed at an average depth of approximately 12 metres. About 613 rings have been installed in the tunnel, with an inner diameter of 5.8 meters, DMRC Principal Executive Director Anuj Dayal said. The tunnelling work involved numerous challenges such as shifting a 66 KV electrical high tension line. Additionally, the TBM had to cross below the existing Yellow Line viaduct without disrupting metro train operations on the line, he said. The tunnel has been built using the technology of EPBM (earth pressure balancing method)



e lining r

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The House meeting of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) was adjourned on Saturday amid a ruckus over the delay in appointing a Dalit Mayor of the city. The BJP councillors raised slogans and stormed into the well of the House, carrying posters and banners, and demanded that mayoral elections be held

Amid the commotion, several proposals were passed by Mayor Shelly Oberoi. She then adjourned the House until the next meeting. proposals by Oberoi without the majority of the AAP councillors in the House, Leader of Opposition Raja Iqbal Singh said the passed resolutions will be considered invalid. The meeting, scheduled to begin at 2 pm, started late when Mayor Shelly Oberoi arrived at 2:48 pm. It opened with the leaders of all three parties reading a 'shlok prastav' to mourn the death of two former councillors. Mayor Oberoi then called for a twominute silent tribute, to which all councillors complied. However, immediately after the tribute, the house descended into chaos as AAP and BJP councillors began shouting slogans against each other. BJP councillors repeat-



held in this meeting. But in an unconstitutional manner, the elections were held hastily on September 27," Oberoi said.

"After the matter was brought to the notice of the Supreme Court, it took cognizance of the issue and ordered that elections will not be held until the next hearing," she added before adjourning the meeting after passing several

proposals. The elections for the stand-ing committee chairperson have been stalled following the Supreme Court's directive to the office of Lieutenant

precast tunnel rings. These tunnel rings were cast at a fully mechanised casting yard set up at Mundka. The concrete segments were cured with a steam

curing system to achieve early strength, Dayal said. All necessary safety precautions were taken during the construction of the tunnel

below the existing viaduct and built-up structures. Ground movements were monitored with highly sensitive instruments fixed on nearby structures, ensuring that there was no settlement anywhere, he said.

As part of Phase-4 work approved so far, 40.109 kilometres of underground lines are being constructed. The Aerocity-Tughlakabad corri-

said A TBM is a machine used to excavate tunnels with a circular cross-section through various soil and rock strata. They can be designed to bore through anything from hard

rock to sand. TBMs have revolutionised tunneling work worldwide, enabling tunnels to be bored without disturbing buildings and other surface structures, the officials said. TBMs are particularly useful for underground tunneling work in congested urban areas. The DMRC has been using

TBMs for its tunneling work since Phase-1. In Phase-3, when approximately 50 kilometres of underground sections were built, about 30 TBMs were deployed in the dor has underground sections national capital, he added.

tion, reducing the travel time to

Anand Vihar RRTS station is

expected to become one of the

busiest commuter transit hubs,

with significant daily footfall

due to its proximity to a Metro

station serving two Metro lines,

a railway station, and two

ISBTs—one on the Delhi side

and the other at Kaushambi,

NCRTC is ensuring the seam-

less integration of these various

less than 40 minutes.

Uttar Pradesh.

edly chanted "Pass" and "Adjourn" into the microphones, mocking the mayor for passing agendas without discussion and adjourning meetings amidst the ruckus. A few BJP councillors even attempted to approach the well of the house where the mayor was seated but were stopped by security personnel. Despite the commotion, within five minutes, Mayor Oberoi passed a few agendas, postponed the remaining ones, and adjourned the

meeting. As she left, BJP councillors jeered with chants of "Bhaag gayi, bhaag gayi, Mayor Sahiba bhaag gayi." There were 81 AAP councillors present, while the BJP had a majority with 94 councillors in attendance, along

with six Congress councilors. The AAP councillors, upset with the obstruction of the standing committee election, did not attend the session, the BJP claimed.

The BJP councillors demanded a vote on the resolutions, but the mayor ignored the request, Singh said. "According to Article 44 (1) of the rules of procedure and conduct of the MCD, if four or more members demand a vote on any proposal, the Mayor is required to conduct the vote," Singh said. He further claimed that the declining attendance among AAP councillors was a sign of internal frustration with ongoing violations of the MCD Act and delays in the Mayor's election and the formation of the Standing Saxena to not hold the polls Committee. until the next hearing, slated

In response, AAP's Leader of the House, Mukesh Goel, defended the low turnout, attributing it to the city's traffic woes. "Some councillors were stuck in traffic for over two hours, and many only managed to reach the MCD after the meeting had already ended," Goel said. When the proceedings began,

Oberoi criticised the quick manner in which standing committee elections were held on September 26 despite her objections.

"In the previous House, the MCD standing committee elections were not able to be held. The House was adjourned until October 5 and the elections were to be

after two weeks. Since the AAP took control of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) in 2022, the ongoing power struggle between AAP and the BJP has turned the civic body into a political battleground. This conflict led to stalled discus-

sions, even on crucial issues, leaving the MCD in a state of paralysis. At the heart of this tussle is the battle for control of the

standing committee-an 18member body that serves as the financial backbone of the corporation. No proposal exceeding rupees 5 crores can proceed without the standing committee's approval.

Man being treated for anxiety NCRTC begins trial runs between Sahibabad, Ashok Nagar RRTS stations

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

In a significant step towards Limplementing India's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS), NCRTC has commenced trial runs on the Sahibabad-New Ashok Nagar section of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor.

This marks a major milestone, as Namo Bharat trains is now entering Delhi, bringing the corridor's Delhi section closer to the already operational sec-tion from Sahibabad to Meerut South.

NCRTC MD Shalabh Goel was present on the occasion with senior officers to witness this moment. Namo Bharat train has been operated manually to check the Ĉivil Structure compatibility in the trials

As testing advances, NCRTC will carry out comprehensive evaluations to assess the train's integrated performance and its coordination with various subsystems such as tracks, signalling, Platform Screen Doors



(PSDs), and overhead power supply systems. Extensive trial runs, including high-speed tests, are planned over the next few months.

This 12 km stretch of the corridor is going to connect Sahibabad RRTS station to New Ashok Nagar RRTS station having two RRTS stations of Anand Vihar and New Ashok Nagar. Once operational, it will offer commuters a fast and efficient travel option between New Ashok Nagar

transit modes to offer commuters effortless convenience and accessibility, making Anand Vihar RRTS station a model for multi-modal integration. The New Ashok Nagar RRTS station is located less than 100 meters from the New Ashok Nagar Metro Station. To integrate these two transport modes, NCRTC will provide a footbridge (FOB) connecting the concourse level of the Metro station to the concourse of the RRTS station. Additionally, two more FOBs

will enhance accessibility at the New Ashok Nagar RRTS station-one connecting Chilla Village and Mayur Vihar Extension, and the other near the Ancient Shiv Temple for easy access to New Ashok Nagar residents. All these will provide easy access to the residents of New Ashok Nagar. NCRTC recently earned top honors at the UIC Sustainability Impact Awards 2024 in Germany, winning both the Best Transit Award for Seamless Connectivity and the

prestigious Overall Winner Award, standing out among numerous global entries.

Currently, Namo Bharat train services operate over a 42 km stretch from Sahibabad to Meerut South, covering nine stations of Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Guldhar, Duhai, Duhai Depot, Muradnagar, Modi Nagar South, Modi Nagar North, and Meerut South. With the operationalization of Sahibabad to New Ashok Nagar section, the operational length will increase to 54 km with 11 RRTS stations. Delhi section has three stations of New Ashok Nagar, Anand Vihar, and Sarai Kale Khan RRTS station. The work on the rest of the section from New Ashok Nagar to Sarai Kale Khan station is in the final stage of construction and track laying activities are in progress. Once the entire 82 km corridor is completed by the targeted deadline of June 2025, passengers will be able to travel between Delhi and Meerut in less than an hour.

jumps from hospital terrace, dies

STAFF REPORTER MINEW DELHI

63-year-old patient died Aafter allegedly falling from the terrace of a private hospital in Delhi's Dwarka on Friday. According to the police on Saturday, the deceased has been identified as Jai Singh Rawat, who was a patient of Mohan Garden, and had retired around three years ago. The victim, a retired Delhi High Court employee, was being treated for anxiety and stress at the hospital in Mohan

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Ankit Singh said, "As per statements, he had been ill since long and was admitted in this hospital multiple times even before. Recently, he was admitted on September 28 complaining difficulty in breathing, fever, etc. and for two to three days, remained in ICU before being shifted to a room, where he was recuperating. His wife as well

Garden area.



was there taking care of him in hospital." The incident, suspected to be a case of suicide. occurred around 8 pm on Friday when the man climbed onto the hospital's terrace on the fourth floor and jumped off. "At around 8:27 pm, he went to terrace on 4th floor and reportedly jumped from it and died," the DCP added.

He was taken to the emergency room, where he was declared dead, the officer said, adding that no suicide note was recovered.Further Singh stated that the CCTV footage is being

reviewed and inquest proceedings are on. "No foul play has been alleged by his family

so far," he said. While there were reports of non-payment of bills as the reason of the suicide, the police has clarified that no such angle has been found. "As per the non-payment of bills is concerned, it's not correct, as the patient being a government servant was covered under Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) and was being given

cashless treatment," Singh

claimed.



RAIPUR | SUNDAY | OCTOBER 6, 2024

chhattisgarh 03

Farmers have strong trust in PM Modi: CM

STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Saturday said that farmers have a strong trust in Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his pro-farmer policies.

Sai said this at an event in which Modi e-transferred directly into the accounts of more than 9.40 crore farmers across the country the 18th installment of the 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi' scheme. The event, held in Washim district in Maharashtra, was virtually attended by Sai from the Science College Ground in Raipur.

Sai expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister for transferring Rs 566.77 crore to



the accounts of 24.98 lakh farmers in Chhattisgarh. "This time, 66,485 more farmers have benefited from

the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi. Prior to this, the 17th installment had seen an the scheme compared to the increase of 1,11,518 farmers

compared to the 16th installment," the Chief Minister said. The growing number of

farmers benefiting from the

scheme is clear evidence of the rapid progress in India's agriculture sector.

"It also reflects the strong trust that farmers have in the Modi government. Among the farmers in Chhattisgarh who benefited today, 2,49,867 are forest lease holders and 30,408 are receiving benefits under the PVTG scheme," Sai said. Present at the event were Chhattisgarh Speaker Dr. Raman Singh, Agriculture Minister Ramvichar Netam, Commerce and Industries Minister Lakhan Lal Dewangan, Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Tank Ram Verma, MP Brijmohan Agrawal along with MLAs Motilal Sahu, Purandar Mishra, Ishwar Sahu, Guru

Khuswant Saheb and Dr. Rampratap.

Dreaded woman Maoist among 31 killed: Police

carried a reward of Rs 25

lakh, was slain in Dantewada

STAFF REPORTER DANTEWADA

Chhattisgarh Police on Saturday said a woman Maoist who carried a bounty of Rs 25 lakh was among the 31 Naxalites killed in Chhattisgarh's Bastar division

on Friday. The slain Maoists include 18 men and 13 women from various formations of the outlawed Maoist outfit, Bastar (Range) Inspector General of Police Sundarraj P said.

As many as 16 Maoists have been identified who had carried a cumulative bounty of over Rs. 1.30 crore.

Niti was a Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee Member (DKSZCM) member who carried a reward of Rs 25 lakh on her head.

She is the third DKSZC member killed by security forces this year.

Single soldier enough

Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana and Maharashtra.

Among the other fatalities, Suresh Salam and Meena Madkam were DVC members while Arjun, Sundar, Budhram, Sukku, Phulo, Basanti and Some were the PPCM under the PLGA's Company Number 6.

Ramder, Sonu Korram, Sohan, Sukku alais Vijay and were Area Committee members and Jamila alias Budhri was a party member.

Last month, Randhir from Fifteen other slain Maoists the DKSZC, the strongest are yet to be identified. Maoist formation and who

An LMG rifle, four AK-47 rifles, six SLR rifles, three INSAS rifles, two .303 rifles and a huge cache of automatic weapons were recovered from

district in April 2024. The DKSZC handles Maoist activities in the Bastar region in Chhattisgarh besides parts of adjoining Andhra division this year.

district in Bastar division. DKSZC member Joganna was killed in Narayanpur the site Friday. A total of 188 Maoists have been killed and 706 have been arrested while 733 have surrendered in the Bastar

Jal-Jagar mulls measures to conserve water bodies

STAFF REPORTER DHAMTARI

Policy makers, environmentalists, experts and representatives of national and international organizations on Saturday mulled measures to protect water bodies and to conserve ground water.

They were participating in a symposium on the inaugural day of a two-day Jal-Jagar event at Gangrel in Dhamtari on Saturday, organised by the Chhattisgarh government.

The event aims to create awareness on depleting ground water levels and various programmes to preserve the water bodies including the region's lifeline, the Mahanadi.

The prominent speakers at the symposium include environmentalists and Padma



Shri awardees Popat Rao state. Pawar, Shyam Sundar Paliwal It was opined that water and Umashankar Pandey recharging was the biggest challenge in the current times along with Union government officials Maninder Kaur of climate change and global Dwivedi and Archana Verma. warming. As a part of an Gangrel, which lies at the initiative to conserve water Mahanadi's shores, houses sources and increase water the Ravishankar reservoir. It level, Chhattisgarh is dries up in summer and has committed to conserving concern over water, officials underlined. availability of water in the To mark the occasion,

Jal-Abhishek was done in Gangrel by water from 108 Amrit Sarovars and percolation tanks in the region. The villagers of Parastarai in Dhamtari district contribute to water conservation by planting trees in the name of their girl child and pledging to protect the plants by tying up Raksha Sutra.

to infuse patriotism: CM STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR hhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said on Saturday that a single soldier

was enough to awaken the spirit of patriotism in people. He said this while inaugurating the 'Know Your Army' exhibition at the Science College Ground in Raipur.

The event aims to instill discipline, patriotism and awareness of the Army's contributions and foster enthusiasm for military

service. Speaker Raman Singh, MP Brijmohan Agrawal, Ministers, MLAs and public

representatives were present. The exhibition showcases both modern and heritage military equipment including advanced drones, rifles and

other weaponry. Additionally,

stalls provide information about support schemes for exservicemen.

Brigadier Aman Anand briefed Sai about various tanks and weapons, including the T-90 Bhishma tank, one of the key attractions. Sai observed

Dilshad Ahmad. (Borrower)

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Raipur Chhattisgarh 492001 India.Also At Work Address-Future Mobile Solution Shop No 19 Second Floor Ravi Bhawan Jaistambh

Chowk Rainur Chhattisoarh 492001 India

the skills of the armed forces and lauded their capabilities. He announced the extension of the exhibition by another day till October 7.

He expressed happiness over the large turnout of youths at the exhibition and urged them to consider careers in the armed forces. Naxalites.

SCHEDULE-A Details A) 21.11.2023 Rs. 1274595/-

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SCHEDULE-A Details A) 15.12.2023 Rs. 462305/- Rs.544848/-

He highlighted the army's key role in providing vital assistance during natural disasters. Sai also praised the security forces for their recent successes against Naxalism. Over the last nine months, they have achieved significant milestones, neutralising 191

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Only).



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'Sampoornata Abhiyan' concludes in Chhattisgarh STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

three-month



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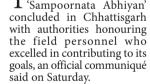
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Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Saturday took part in traditional rituals and entered his new official bungalow in Nava Raipur.



The

honoured Thev Anganwadi workers, supervisors and other field personnel in the concluding ceremonies.

The NITI Aayog blocks launched the campaign on July 4 to achieve saturation in campaign was started to six indicators — health and nutrition, agriculture and allied services, social development, basic geographical problems and infrastructure and education behaviour change were

in aspirational districts and hindering progress.

Kondga nal D Dantewada Collector Kunal Mayank Chaturvedi said the Anganwadi significantly create public awareness the district's because barriers like providing supplementa

rogress. aon Collector Dudawat said li workers y contributed to s top ranking in	 Kapil Dev Katiya, (Borrower) S/o Bajjnath 190 Das Para Santoshi Naga Bardar Balrampur Chhattisgarh Chhathsutar: Surguja Chhattisgarh 497119 India Phi: 6260466197.Also At Work Address- Clott Store Balarampur Bilaspur Chhattisgarh 495001 India 	TATA-TATA CAT C-TIGOR; Reg No:- C G 3 0 D 7 3 4 4 ; Engine No:- REVTRN08HYXK76052; Chassis No:-MAT629303MKH59085	(Rupees Four Lakhs (Rupees Five Sixty Two Thousand Intree Hundred Five 2023 Forty Eight Hundred Forty Eight Only)
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/SUKMA illagers were killed dly by Maoists in rate incidents in d Sukma districts	 Riyaz Ahmad Siddique, (Borrower) Makan No 307 Main Road Mominpura Ambikapur Chhattisgarh 497001 India Ph: 9827172302.Also At Work Address-Ms Riyaz Ahmad Siddique Kharsiya Naka Ring Road Ambikapur Chhattisgarh 497001 India Ph: 9827172302 	MARUTI MARUTI CAT C- BALENO;Reg No :-CG15D06065; Engine No :-K12MN7520686; Chassis No:-MBHEWB22SKL391758	(Rupees Five Lakhs (Rupees Six Twenty Three Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand Nine Thousand Hundred Twenty Five Hundred Eight Only)as on 12- 12-2023
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o court) in Savnar Bijapur district, uperintendent of ndra Kumar Yadav ukma, a villager, bodkel, was killed by Naxalites on	The steps are being taken for substituted service are advised to make the payments of outstandin within 60 days from the date of the publication of ti date of this notice as per the provision of Securi InterestAct. 2002. Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the sai transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of secured creditor. Borrower's kind attention is invited to the pr respect of time available to the borrowers, to n	g dues as mentioned above along with fi is notice failing which further steps will be tisation and Re-construction of Financial d Act, no Borrower shall, after Receipt of his secured assets referred to in the notic ovisions of Sub Section (8) of Sectio	uture interest and applicable charges taken after the expiry of 60 days of the Assets and Enforcement of Security Notice referred to in Sub-section (2), ce, without prior written consent of the
suspicion of being e spy, Sukma l Superintendent e Akash Rao said. A search launched in the	Section 13 sub-section (8) of the SARFAESIAG Where the amount of dues of the secured creditor secured creditor at any time before the date of pul private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignm (i) The secured assets shall not be transferred by (ii) In case, any step has been taken by the secur tendering of such amount under this sub-section lease or assignment or sale of such secured asset Date: 06.10.2024	t, 2002 - together with all costs, charges and expenilication of notice for public auction or invitient or sale of the secured assets, way of lease, assignment or sale by the side creditor for transfer by way of lease or a no further step shall be taken by such s	ing quotations or tender from public or ecured creditor; and ssignment or sale of the assets before
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Cut down sedentary time, do walk, brisk exercise to prevent back pain: Study

AGENCIES

 $F_{new \ study \ suggests \ reduc-}^{acing \ severe \ back \ pain? \ A}$ ing daily sitting time and walking or doing some brisk exercises to prevent back pain from worsening.

Back pain is very common and common reasons include muscle strain, disk damage, and some health conditions, such as scoliosis and osteoporosis.

Doctoral Researcher and Physiotherapist Jooa Norha from the University of Turku in Finland said that people concerned about back health, must "reduce sitting at work or during leisure time'

To understand the link between activity and back pain as well as the mechanisms related to back pain, the

researchers included 64 adults with overweight or obesity and metabolic syndrome.

The participants reduced their sitting by 40 minute per day, on average, during the sixmonth study.

People with back pain tend to have excessive fat deposits within the back muscles. They are also likely to have impaired glucose metabolism, or insulin sensitivity, which can predispose them to pain.

The study did not, however, find a link between "the fattiness or glucose metabolism of the back muscles".

Further, the researchers said that being overweight or obese and having metabolic syndrome not only increases the risk for back pain but also

for cardiovascular disease. Just standing up also may not help, instead "walking or more brisk exercise" may be more beneficial", Norha said

The researchers also said that switching between postures is more important than only looking for the perfect posture.

According to a recent analysis published in the journal Lancet Rheumatology, more than 800 million people will suffer from lower back pain by 2050, a 36 per cent increase from 2020.

The study showed that since 2017, the number of low back pain cases has ticked over to more than half a billion people. In 2020, there were approximately 619 million

Authorised Officer For Axis Bank Ltd cases of back pain. Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisements.

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STAFF REP BIJAPUR/S

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

RAIPUR | SUNDAY | OCTOBER 6, 2024

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday said here he will not hold bilateral talks with Pakistan during his upcoming visit to Islamabad to participate in the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) summit in mid-October. India on Friday announced that he will travel to Pakistan to attend the conclave.

"It (visit) will be for a multilateral event. I'm not going there to discuss India-Pakistan relations. I'm going there to be a good member of the SCO," he said at the sidelines of an event in the national capital. "But, you know, since I'm a courteous and civil person, I will behave myself accordingly," he added.

Jaishankar noted that typically the Prime Minister attends such high-level meetings with heads of state, but "it changes" sometimes. 'So your question, I think, is,

what am I planning for it? Of course, I'm planning to go. In my business, you plan for everything which you're going to do, and for a lot of things which you're not going to do and which could also happen. I mean, you plan for that as well," he said. Jaishankar made these obser-

sunday pioneer

vations during an interaction with media while attending the Sardar Patel lecture on governance organised by the IC Centre for Governance. The SCO was founded as a political union of Central Asian nations Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan -- to

discuss security and economic matters. India and Pakistan became permanent members in 2017 Jaishankar said the situation in

helicopters.

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

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

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

Pakistan, holding it responsible

for the derailment of the forward, we haven't had a SAARC initiative. "At the meeting of SAARC for a very

moment SAARC is not moving simple reason -- there is one

member of SAARC who is Pakistan to attend a conclave of practicing cross-border terrorthe Shanghai Cooperation ism at least against one more member of SAARC, maybe

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

more...

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

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

India on Friday announced that the minister will travel to

Organisation (SCO) in mid-October. It will be for the first time in nearly nine years that India's External Affairs Minister will travel to Pakistan even as the

ties between the two neighbours remain frosty over crossborder terrorism. Pakistan is hosting the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting on October 15 and 16. The last Indian External Affairs Minister to visit Pakistan was Sushma Swaraj. She had travelled to Islamabad in December 2015 to attend a conference on Afghanistan.

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

ICMR to study PCOS

drugs' impact on fertility

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

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

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

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

India to host four-nation Malabar naval exercise DRDO conducts successful VSHORADS flight tests

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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

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

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

The exercise will feature the



participation of various Indian and anti-submarine warfare naval platforms, including through a Subject Matter guided missile destroyers, Expert Exchange (SMEE)," the Navy said. multi-purpose frigates, submarines, fighter aircraft and "Complex maritime operations

such as anti-submarine warfare, "The exercise will focus on a surface warfare, and air defence broad range of activities exercises will be conducted at designed to enhance cooperasea, with an emphasis on tion and operational capabiliimproving situational awareties, including discussions on ness in the maritime domain," special operations, surface, air, it said in a statement

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 $D_{D \ e \ v \ e \ l \ o \ p \ m \ e \ n \ t}^{efence \ Research \ and} \\ Organisation \ (DRDO) \ suc$ cessfully conducted three flight-tests of the fourth generation, technically-advanced miniaturised Very Short Range Defence Air System (VSHORADS) at the Pokhran Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan on October three and four, defence ministry said here on Saturday.

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



completed and two production agencies have been engaged in the Development cum Production Partner (DcPP) mode. In these trials, the missiles realised through DcPPs have been successfully used, thus paving the way for early user trials and production in a short time span in line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi-led Government's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

VSHORADS is a Man Portable Air Defence System designed and developed indigenously Research Centre Imarat

(RCI) in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and DcPPs. The three Services have been associated with the project right from the beginning and participated during the

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO, Armed Forces and the Industry involved in the successful development trials. This new missile equipped with modern technologies will give further technological boost to the Armed Forces against aerial threats, he said.

the constitutional provisions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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

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

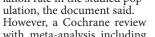
A senior official from the apex health research body of the Union Health Ministry said not to play at the hand that (EOI) have been invited to undertake a multi-centric randomised controlled trial for evaluating the efficacy of Metformin vs Inositol to improve fertility and birth outcomes among PCOS women. PCOS is a complex disorder ranging from mild to severe disruptions in reproductive, endocrine and metabolic functions, with key features including irregular menstrual periods (anovulation), hyperandrogenism, insulin resistance and abnormal gonadotropin secre-

Moreover, PCOS women have been found to have increased prevalence of pregnancy complications and less favourable pregnancy outcomes (live births, miscarriage, pregnancy rate) compared with women

without PCOS, it stated. In contemporary practice, the use of Metformin and Inositol for the treatment of PCOS is widespread.

"However, present evidence on the efficacy of these two drugs in terms of improvement in fertility and other related outcomes is insufficient," the

ICMR said in a document. A Finnish study suggested that, as compared to placebo, metformin improved the pregnancy rate, live birth rate and ovulation rate in the studied population, the document said.



three other smaller studies

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey accuses Congress of defaming Government

PNS NEW DELHI

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



the world's third-biggest econ- tional and disdainful act of omy, devised a "tool kit" to defame it by attacking its financial structure and the Committee", which is against economy by dubbing important organisations like SEBI as and in clear violation of parcorrupt. Claiming that unver-ified allegations by a foreign "I request your goodself to ified allegations by a foreign company like Hindenburg restrain Mr K.C. Venugopal bart such a campaign, he alleged that the "India Chapter' of this toolkit has become active. "It used its position as is presently being used by K C Venugopal in the capacity of Chairman, Public Accounts Committee, to further defame the Government and damage the financial prospects of our This time also, economy. unverified allegations have been levelled against the SEBI Chief by a foreign entity viz., Hindenburg Research, which is notorious for targeting business houses, important functionaries and financial insti-

developmental trials.

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



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

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

told Birla. He also accused Venugopal of committing the "unconstitu-

tutions of the country," Dubey

aforementioned 'tool kit and misuse his position as Chairman of Public Accounts Committee," Dubey told the Speaker. Citing rules, the BJP MP said the sole function of the Public Accounts Committee is confined to scrutinising the appropriation accounts of the Government of India and reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

The committee, he alleged, has been made as a "surreptitious tool kit of some countries, inimical to the galloping strides which India has witnessed during the last decade under the exemplary leader-ship" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Supreme Court dismisses electoral bonds review pleas

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

reported that as compared with placebo, metformin may have only marginal benefit for live birth rate outcome. Additionally, there is very lim-

ited data available globally on the effectiveness of Inositol for PCOS women, especially for birth outcome and cycle regulation.

'Evidence on the efficacy of both metformin and inositol in the Indian context is almost non-existent.

To address the knowledge gap and to generate evidence on the management of PCOS for improving birth outcomes in the Indian context, the current ICMR call is being proposed," the document said.

Antarctica's greening signals alarming climate change effects

ARCHANA JYOTI 📕 NEW DELHI

The coldest, windiest and I most inhospitable ice-clad Antarctica Peninsula, a vast territory belonging to no one nation is witnessing a dramatic greening!

Viewing this trend as a stark warning rather than a hopeful sign, climate change experts have raised alarms. Not without reasons. Vegetation, particularly moss and algae, have surged by more than tenfold over the last four decades from less than one square kilometer in 1986 to nearly 12 square kilometers by 2021.

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

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

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

and rock, with only a tiny frac-

tion colonised by plant life. "But that tiny fraction has rown dramatically showing that even this vast and isolated wilderness' is being affected by anthropogenic climate change. "As these ecosystems become more established and the cli-

mate continues to warm it's likely that the extent of greening will increase. "Soil in Antarctica is mostly poor or non-existent, but this

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

"greening" trend.

The Supreme Court has dis-missed a batch of pleas seeking review of its February 15 verdict, which had scrapped the Modi government's electoral bonds scheme of anonymous political funding.

PTI NEW DELHI

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai, J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said there is no error apparent on the face of the record.

The top court also rejected the prayer for listing the review petitions in an open court. "Having perused the review petitions, there is no error apparent on the face of the record. No case for review under Order XLVII Rule 1 of the Supreme Court Rules 2013. The review petitions are, therefore, dismissed," the bench said in its order dated September 25 that was uploaded today.

The review pleas filed by Mathews advocate Nedumpara and others contended that the matter related to the scheme falls in the



exclusive domain of legislative and executive policy.

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

He had said the court failed to notice that the public opinion could be sharply divided and the majority of the people of this country could probably be in support of the scheme, brought into existence by their elected representatives, and that they too have a right to be heard as much as the petitioners.

The court failed to notice that, if at all it is venturing into the forbidden domain of adjudicating upon a matter of legsecret ballot.

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

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

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

The electoral bonds scheme, which was notified by the government on January 2, 2018, was pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring transparency in political funding. On March 13, the SBI told the

Supreme Court that a total of 22,217 electoral bonds were purchased and 22,030 redeemed by political parties between April 1, 2019 and February 15 this year.

In a compliance affidavit filed in the apex court, the SBI said as per the court's direction, it has made available the details of electoral bonds to the Election Commission of India before the close of business hours on March 12.

The electoral bond controversy had become a major poll issue during the Lok Sabha elections as the opposition alleged it was an "extortion racket", while the ruling BJP defended the scheme, saying it had a laudable objective of bringing transparency in poll funding.

nation 05

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE WASHIM (MAHARASHTRA)

RAIPUR | SUNDAY | OCTOBER 6, 2024

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

pointes. "They (Congress) think that if we all unite, then their agenda to divide the country will fail," Modi said, addressing a rally in Washim district of Maharashtra after launching various projects. "Congress only knows how Congress only knows how to loot the poor and keep them poor for its selfish politics. It only knows how to divide people. We have to be alert and remain united. Congress is run by a gang of urban Naxals," he alleged. Everyone can see how

Everyone can see how closely Congress stands with those people who do not harbour good intentions for India, Modi said. "Drugs worth thousands of crores of rupees were seized in Delhi recently. A Congress leader is suspected to be the kingpin. Congress wants to contest elections from the money it gets by pushing the youth towards drugs," he

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



when they left, successive

Congress governments continued the trend and

prevented the community

from coming into the

The PM also accused the

The governments run by

mainstream,"

alleged.

the

РМ

kingpin, was expelled from the organisation on October 17, 2022, for anti-party activities, soon after BJP spokesperson and MP Sudhanshu Trivedi charged the opposition party with the opposition party with having links with the drug dealers.

sunday pioneer

Congress of leaving no stone unturned to make the lives Modi alleged that Congress' thinking has been foreign of farmers miserable. from the very beginning. "Like the British rule, this the Congress used the money meant for farmers Congress family also does not consider Dalits. Dalits, and irrigation schemes for not consider Modi asked people to beware of the Congress propaganda of false assurance of farm loan backward and tribals as their equals. They feel that India should be ruled by only one family. That is why they have always maintained а derogatory attitude towards waiver "People in Telangana are still the Banjara community," he said.

waiting for the loan waiver. "Saints from the Banjara In Karnataka, the Congress community inspired culture government stopped the irrigation schemes started by the BJP regime," he said. and spiritualism. Britishers harassed the community, but

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

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

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

The prime minister, who launched various initiatives of Rs 23,3000 crore related to agriculture and animal husbandry sectors, expressed happiness over the completion of the Banjara Virasat Museum in Poharadevi.

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KOLHAPUR (MAHARASHTRA)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said removing the existing 50 per cent cap on reservation is necessary to protect the Constitution, and asserted that the INDIA bloc will

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

India's financial system. The caste-based census will help gather data on the Samman Sammelan' here, population of various



communities. He said the doors of opportunities are being closed on 90 per cent of the country's population. Ninety top IAS officers decide India's budget but only three belong to the Other Backward Class (OBC) communities, which form at least 50 per cent of the country's population. Dalits and Adivasis (tribals) comprise 15 per cent and eight per cent, respectively, communities. He said the and the INDIA bloc, a eight per cent, respectively, of India's population but have only three and one such officer, according to the Congress leader.

He said the caste census is like getting an X-ray done to identify anomalies but the BJP and the RSS are opposed to it as they don't want the "truth" to come out.

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

made to erase that history. The Congress leader said the public sector is being privatised, and stressed that it should be termed de-reservation. He accused the PSS and BIP of doing this for RSS and BJP of doing this for years. He called the Agniveer scheme – for short-term induction of personnel in the Army, Navy and Air Force -

a ploy to snatch pension from 90 per cent of people. Earlier, speaking at an event, where Rahul unveiled a statue of Shivaji, Gandhi alleged that the warrior king's statue collapsed in the state's Sindhudurg district as the intentions and ideology of those in power were wrong. He said the wrong. He said the intentions are visible and cannot be hidden.

"They built Shivaji Maharaj's statue and in a few days, it collapsed.

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

Setting up Justice K Hema Committee unconstitutional: Kerala HC Lawyer

KUMAR CHELAPPAN 📕 KOCHI

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

advocate, who has fought many landmark cases cases including the infamous P Rajan case that shook the nation during the 1975-77 internal emergency days questioned the propriety of setting up a committee at the cost of the public exchequer. He also disclosed that the Government of Kerala cannot make any legislation based on



maker who had been honored sexual harassment of women with Dada Saheb Phalke at workplaces, The seventh Award for his lifelong schedule of the Constitution that has enumerated the powers of the Parliament and contribution to the world of cinema. Though Gopalakrishnan State Legislatures under Lists had submitted his findings with 1 and 2 have made it clear that recommendations to the the Centre is the sole noth ing has authority to enact laws under happened." said Ramkumar. He said the Indian Parliament itself had passed two legislations, the Vishaka Guidelines in 1997 following a Supreme Court directive said Ramkumar. against sexual harassment at workplaces and the Sexual Harassment of Women at (Prevention, Workplace Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013. Both these guideline and statute have sufficient powers to take on the aggressors and predators who torment women, said Ramkumar. Kerala Government The would have to answer an important question which the court is certain to ask. "The Congress constitution of the Justice Hema Committee itself was an act of transgression as the are running helter-skelter as a Centre is the lone authority to enact legislation against

WHO strategic preparedness, response plan PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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

This plan aims to reduce the burden of disease, suffering, and deaths associated with these viruses, including Zika chikungunya, and fostering a coordinated global response. Currently, an estimated four

billion people are at risk of is infections a figure



regional approach. Dengue is endemic in tropical and subtropical particularly in ast Asia, the regions, South-East Americas. The situation is multiple

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

Lt General Srivastava assumes charge of Srinagar based Chinar Corps



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE JAMMU

the Counter Insurgency Force (Victor) in South Kashmir.

General ieutenant LPrashant Srivastava Saturday assumed command of the strategic Srinagarbased (hinar

Meanwhile, Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai remained at the helm for the last 16 months. The period witnessed a strong curity arcl

countries

coalition of over two dozen opposition parties, will also bring out laws to enable a caste-based census. 'We will ensure in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha that the 50 per cent cap on reservation is removed and ideas.

Kadam. His party wrested the Kolhapur and Sangli Lok Sabha seats from Shiv Sena and BJP, respectively after losing them in 2014 and 2019. Speaking at the 'Samvidhan

no power can stop it. Removing this 50 per cent This is Rahul Gandhi's second visit to western limit is necessary to protect the Constitution," he said. Rahul said when his party Maharashtra in a month. He visited Sangli last month to unveil the statue of late Congress leader Patangrao talks of caste census, it wants to add two more aspects to it: to identify the population of each community and how much control they have over

USD 55 million needed to implement

the committee's report as cinematography law was an exclusive domain of the Centre as per the 7th schedule of Indian Constitution.

sufficient "There are provisions in our judicial system to undertake investigation into sexual harassment faced by women in all sections of the society including the filmdom. The Kerala Government has spent Rs 1.55 crore on the three-member Hema Committee that probed the sexual harassment faced by female artists. It was sheer waste of time and money," the veteran lawyer told The Pioneer in an exclusive interview.

He pointed out that the Kerala Government had set up a committee under the chairmanship of Adoor Gopalakrishnan, movie

arbovi cinematograph films while the State is left with the responsibility of collecting entertainment tax accrued through exhibition of films," The Hema Committee report submitted to the Government in 2020 was kept as a State Secret for four years and it was released by the State under orders from High Court in September. The report opened a floodgate of scandals and spicy reports titled Me Too and has put many leading stars on the defensive. Film actor Mukesh, who is also a CPI(M) MLA, Siddique, film actor with connections, Maniyan Pillai Raju, Idavela Babu, Baburaj and Jayasoorya consequence of the findings of the Hema Committee.

projected to rise to five billion by 2050. Dengue cases have surged across all six WHO regions, with the number of reported cases nearly doubling each year since 2021. As of the end of August this year, there have been over 12.3 million dengue cases—almost double the 6.5 million cases recorded for all of 2023, as per the WHO statement. The plan outlines priority actions to control transmission and offers recommendations to affected countries across various sectors, including disease surveillance, laboratory activities, vector control, community engagement, clinical management, and research and development, through a whole-of-society and

health challenges amid conflict and natural disasters, straining already fragile health systems.

In December 2023, the WHO classified the current global dengue upsurge as a grade 3 emergency—the highest level of alert. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, stated, "From maintaining clean environments to supporting vector control and seeking medical timely care, everyone has a role to play in the fight against dengue. This plan is a roadmap to turn the tide against this disease, protect vulnerable populations, and pave the way for a healthier future." Welcoming the WHO's GSRP plan, scientist Dr. Kavita Singh, the South Asia

Lt Gen Srivastava took charge from Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, who assumed command as the director of general military operations at the Army headquarters, a defence spokesperson said. of assumption On

command, Lt-Gen Srivastava paid obeisance at the Chinar War Memorial at Badami Bagh Cantonment, Srinagar, honoring the sacrifices of the Bravehearts for the Nation. A battle-hardened soldier,

Lieutenant General Prashant Srivastava possesses extensive operational experience in Counter Insurgency and Counter terrorist Óperations having served in both Jammu and Kashmir as well as the North East. He has commanded

Ramachandran, Malayalam

facilitating peace and stability in the region. It saw the conduct of two incidentfree Amarnath Yatras, the Parliamentary Elections in May 2024 and the Assembly Elections after a period of 10 years, in September to October 2024. The Corps numerous achieved in Counter successes Infiltration Operations on the Line of Control and in Counter Terrorists Operations in the valley, thereby dealing a significant and crippling blow to the

terror network The new Chinar Corps commander said that integrated efforts of the civil society and the security forces are the way forward to dismantle the terror infrastructure and nefarious designs of the adversary.

Verbal spat intensifies before UP by-elections

BISWAJEET BANERJEE LUCKNOW

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

Yogi Adityanath, known for his aggressive campaigning style, has focused his attacks on the Samajwadi Party (SP) and its governance record. Meanwhile, Akhilesh Yadav, leveraging social media platforms like 'X' (formerly Twitter), has taken calculated yet increasingly sharp jabs at Yogi's leadership. While Yogi



emphasises his Hindutva agenda and critiques the lawdropped to 33 from 62. This and-order situation under victory has emboldened Akhilesh, fueling his direct SP's rule, Akhilesh portrays the BJP Government as confrontations with Yogi authoritarian, often accusing Adityanath. The political landscape in it of using police power to stifle dissent. Uttar Pradesh saw a dramatic

Akhilesh Yadav, traditionally shift with these results. SP's resurgence, after years of more cautious in his attacks, electoral setbacks, has positioned Akhilesh as a has shifted to a more confrontational approach following SP's success in the formidable challenger for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. SP upcoming 2027 Assembly secured 37 out of 80 seats in elections. His aggressive Uttar Pradesh, a significant stance reflects the party's 2024 Lok Sabha elections. SP

determination to build on this momentum.

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

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

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

the narrative that will appeal

to voters.

radio's icon breaths his last KEMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI M^R a m a c h a n d r a n , renowned news anchorperson of All India Radio is no more. He passed away at his house in Thiruvananthapuram Saturday. Ramachandran (91)

was rated as the Melville de Mellow and Surajit Sen of Malayalam radio broadcasting for his diction, articulation, pronunciation and modulation while presenting news bulletins. De Mellow and Surjit Sen were pioneers of Radio broadcasting in the country. During the 1960s to 1990s Ramachandran was the Malayalees' window to the outside world. "Let it be regional, national international Rame or news, Ramachandran had a distinct style of presentation and this made listeners drawn towards his news reading," said former



colleague, broadcaster and literary critic Dr M Rajeev Kumar.

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

mind," reminiscences Dr Rajeev Kumar.

When there were no round-the-clock TV news channels, Ramachandran and his team of broadcasters offered the listeners a birds eye view of the happenings in the world. "The election news bulletins presented by Ramachandran were held in high esteem by political leaders across the spectrum. His news bulletins were as popular as the Malayalam film songs broadcast by the stations of AIR," said M K Harikumar, Malayalam writer and a long-

time fan of Ramachandran. There were many Malayalam films in which Ramachandran's news reading was mimicked by lead stars marking his stature as an iconic figure. Ramachandran is survived by his Vijayalakshmi and wife two children.

world 06

UK evacuates British nationals from Lebanon as conflict escalates

inday pioneer

The UK government on Saturday confirmed its final charter plane to fly British nationals out of Lebanon as the conflict between Hezbollah and Israel intensifies and tensions in the region escalate.

RAIPUR | SUNDAY | OCTOBER 6, 2024

British Prime Minister Kein Starmer once again urged British nationals still in the country to come forward to be evacuated.

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

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

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

"With demand falling and the



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

security situation deteriorating, there is no guarantee other options to leave quickly will become available. I urge anyone who wants to leave to register now," Lammy said. The UK has been advising its nationals to leave Lebanon amid a deteriorating security situation: three chartered

flights have left Beirut and more than 250 additional people have been able to leave the country in the last week. British nationals and their spouse or partner, and chil- Beirut and the wider region to

provide support to British nationals. An FCDO Rapid dren under the age of 18 are eligible for Sunday's flight, with dependents who are not Deployment Team has also arrived in Lebanon to bolster British nationals requiring a valid visa. Sunday's flight will the support offered by British Embassy officials. The UK reiterated its call for depart from Beirut-Rafic Hariri International Airport, and British nationals who have

a ceasefire between Lebanese registered their presence with Hezbollah and Israel to prothe government will be sent vide the space necessary to find a political solution that details on how to request a enables civilians on both sides The FCDO said government to return to their homes in officials have been working safety amid air strikes and ground incursions as the conround the clock in London, flict escalates.

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

AP WASHINGTON

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

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

Biden, in a rare appearance in the White House press briefing room, was responding to comments made by one of his allies, Senator Chris Murphy, D-Conn., who told CNN this week that he was concerned Netanyahu had little interest in a peace deal in part because of US politics. "I do not think you have to be

a hopeless cynic to read some of Israel's actions, some of Prime Minister Netanyahu's actions, as connected to the American election," Murphy said. Biden and Netanyahu have

long managed a complicated relationship, but they are running out of space to manoeu-

vre as their views on the Gaza war diverge and their political futures hang in the balance. For Biden, a diplomatic deal would help resolve a deep divide among Democrats over the war and shore up support for Vice President Kamala Harris, making one fewer global conflict for her to manage should she win next month. Netanyahu has his own political concerns closer to home: His far-right coalition would abandon him if he stopped the war, and he could lose power and have to face his own legal problems. And Israel has been decimating Hezbollah's leadership, so there is little incentive to stop now.

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

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

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

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

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

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

European cities brace for pro-Palestinian rallies Army deployed in

Hundreds of thousands of pro-Palestinian demonstrators were expected to take to the streets across Europe on Saturday calling for a cease-fire as the first anniversary of the Hamas attacks on Israel approached. Security forces in several countries warned of heightened levels of alert in major cities, amid concerns that the escalating conflict in the Middle East could inspire new terror attacks in Europe or that some of the

protests could turn violent. Massive rallies are planned in several European cities, including London, Berlin, Paris and Rome through next week, with the largest gatherings expected from Saturday to Monday.

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

Museum. Protests are also taking place in other parts of the world. In the Philippines on Saturday, dozens of left-wing activists protested near the US Embassy in Manila, where police prevented them from getting closer to the seaside compound. On October 7 last year, Hamas launched a surprise attack into In late September, Israel shift- protests in the Italian capital, Israel, killing 1,200 Israelis, ed some of its focus to citing public security con-

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

seat.

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

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

Hezbollah, which holds much Italian authorities believed of the power in parts of souththat the timing of the planned ern Lebanon and some other rally risked the October 7 areas of the country, attacking the militants with exploding attack being "glorified," local media reported. Interior Minister Matteo pagers, airstrikes and, eventually, incursions into Lebanon. Piantedosi also stressed that, Pro-Palestinian protests calling for an immediate ceaseahead of the key anniversary, fire have repeatedly taken place across Europe and

Europe is on high alert for potential terror attacks. "This around the globe in the past is not a normal situation ... year and have often turned We are already in a condition violent, with confrontations of maximum prevention," he between demonstrators and said. law enforcement officers. A large crowd was also expected to gather in central London In Rome, a rally was planned for Saturday afternoon -

PTI PESHAWAR

itary said on Saturday.

media wing Inter-Services

Public Relations (ISPR) said

the exchange of fire took place

on the night between October 4-

5 at Spinwam area in North

Waziristan district, bordering

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

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

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

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

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

Islamabad, Lahore amid PTI protests

PTI ISLAMABAD/LAHORE

Assembly that Israel would

"continue degrading Hezbollah

until all our objectives are

Israel has pressed forward on two fronts, killing top

Hezbollah leaders and pursu-

ing a ground incursion into Lebanon and conducting

strikes in Gaza that killed

dozens, including children.

And the nation has vowed to

retaliate for Iran's ballistic mis-

Oil prices rose 5 per cent on

Thursday as concerns mount-

ed that Israel would hit Iranian

oil facilities as payback; a surge

in gas prices so close to the

election would be a blow to

Harris, particularly after strong

Biden said there had been no

economic news on Friday.

sile attack this week.

met'

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

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

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

6 Pak soldiers, ultras Pakistan Army troops were deployed in Islamabad to curity as PTI support. ers moved forward with plans for a protest. The army would remain in the city from October 5-17 to maintain law and order for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit. Pakistan is hosting the SCO summit on October 15-16. The deployment came as PTI supporters led by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur were moving ahead to reach the D-Chowk in the national capital to hold the protest. However, the convoy led by Gandapur faced intense police action as it approached Rawalpindi.

have been blocked and pillion riding has been banned, while mobile phone services remained suspended for the

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

Police and paramilitary Rangers were also deployed to stop the protestors.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday warned, "Nobody will be allowed to disrupt law and order [in Islam

Ukraine downs Russian warplane while Russia claimed it made Donetsk province

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

DISMANTLING AND OTHERS

UTILITY SHIFTING

Public Notice This is to inform the general public that Mr. Shakil Ahmad Tamanna is the GPA Holder of Flat no. 302, Front to Back Side, second floor without Roof Right, Property Bearing no. RZ-9018, area measuring 125 Sq. Yds, out of Khasra no. 450, stuated at Gulshan Apartments, Gali no. 24, Tughlakabad Extn., Delhi 110019. He is in possession through Notarized GPA, ATS & Will dated 23.01.2007 executed by M/s. Kataria Buittech PYL Ltd. in favour of Mr. Shakil Ahmad Tamanna in respect of said Flat. Mr. Shakil Ahmad Tamanna intends to transfer the ownership by way of Sale Deed of aforementioned Flat to Mrs. Heena Subsequently, Mrs. Heena is in the process of mortgaging the said property with SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd. (Formerly Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd., Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be reised within period of 7 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 7-day period will not be E-Tender Notice No.: AP/EL/19/24-25. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigne for the following work: SI. No.1; Tende No.: AP/EL/19/24-25; Name of work: At Alipurduar Division: Dismantling and others utility shifting at 15 nos, station under" Amrit Bharat Station Scheme Advertised Tender Value ₹1,55,03,454.45; Earnest Money ₹2,27,500.00. E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 25-10-2024 and will be opened on 25-10-2024 at 15:30 hrs. at DRM/Elect. (G)/Alipurduar Jn.'s office The complete information with the tender property o document of above e-tender will be so within the Law Verit: Consultant Building N ailable in website www.ireps.gov.in. DRM/ Elect.(G) / Alipurduar Jn.

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

gains in Ukraine's east. The Russian bomber was shot

Public Notice

down near the city of Serhiy Kostiantynivka in the

of the Military Horbunov quoted as saying by Ukraine's

Kostiantynivka Photos showed charred remains of an aircraft after it Administration was landed on a house that caught fire.

with about 30,000 demon-

strators expected — in spite of

a ban by local police chiefs

who refused to authorize

protests in the Italian capital,

Also in the partially occupied Donetsk province, Russia's SIGNAL & TELECOM Defence Ministry claimed on WORKS IN KATIHAR DIVISION Saturday that it had taken control of the village of Tender Notice No.: N-2024-K-19, Date: 04-10-2024, E-Tender are invited by the Zhelanne Druhe.

If confirmed, the capture indersigned for the following work; Tender No.: N-2024-K-19: Name of Work would come three days after Signal and Telecom work for yard Ukrainian forces said they emodelling of Forbesganj station in were withdrawing from the front-line town of Vuhledar, connection with bridge connectivity owards Narpatganj end. Tender Value some 33 kilometers (21 miles) ₹1,21,48,153.89/-; Earnest Money from Zhelanne Druhe, ₹2,10,800/-; Date & time of closing of following a hard-fought twoender at 15:00 hrs. on 28-10-2024. For vear defense. on with the tender

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

killed in gunfight

ity for the attack. The TTP was set up as an $S_{\rm cer,\ and\ as\ many\ terrorists}$ umbrella group of several militant outfits in 2007. Pakistan has were killed in a gunfight in officially declared TTP as 'Fitna Pakistan's restive Khyber al-Khawarij' and the notification by the Interior Ministry empha-Pakhtunkhwa province, the milsises the use of the term 'khari-In a statement, the military's ji' (outlawed) along with the

names of such terrorists. The Pakistani government has repeatedly accused the TTP of operating from sanctuaries in Afghanistan, a claim denied by the Afghan Taliban.

Afghanistan, during which six There has been an uptick in the soldiers, including a Lieutenant Colonel, and "six Khwarij" were incidents of terrorism in Pakistan since the Taliban took killed. During the "intense fire over the government in Kabul in exchange", 43-year-old Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad 2021, dashing hopes in Islamabad that a friendly gov-Ali Shoukat, who was leading ernment in Afghanistan would help to tackle militancy. the operation against the terrorists, was killed along with five Relations between the two coun tries have lately become strained, other soldiers, the statement said. Meanwhile, the banned largely because of the TTP but Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan also due to frequent border (TTP) has claimed responsibilskirmishes

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

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

The authorities are taking strict measures to stop PTI supporters from entering Islamabad or making it to the D-Chowk. All highways leading to the city

OFC AND PIJF CABLING ALONG WITH ASSOCIATED WORK

E-Tender Notice No. 06 of 2024-25. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works E-Tender No. N-2024-25-06-Dy CSTE-NW. Name of work: OFC and PIJF cabling along with associated work at Maligaon Head Quarter area in connection with provision of Server Based IP EPABX system. Tender Value: ₹30,90,292.48/-. Earnest Money: ₹61,800/-. Date & time of closing of tender: 15.00 hrs. of 25-10-2024 & opening at 15.30 hrs.of 25-10-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in Sr. Signal & Telecom Engineer

Network, Maligaon NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

directing the authorities to deal with the "miscreants" with iron hands.

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

The PML-N government called in the Pakistan Army to maintain the law and order situation in Punjab province, especially in its capital Lahore. All roads leading to the ruling Sharif family's Jati Umra Raiwind Lahore residence were also blocked.

Hundreds of containers have been placed in different parts of the city and also at all entry and exit points.

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE Mr. Manohar Singh Gusain,

Bhopal Singh, R/o H. No. 100-D Pocket-A, Mayur Vihar Ph-2 Delhi, has been missing since 29.05.2015. A civil suit for his death declaration has been filed by his sons, Ravindra Singh Sushil Gusain, and Sunil Gusain. The NDOH is on 28.10.2024 in the court of Sh. Fahad Uddin. Ld. Sr Civil Judge, Karkardooma Court Delhi. Avanish Mishra (Advocate)

Ch. no. 79, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi

of this 7-day period will not be binding with respect to the said the interests of our client. vishes to raise an objection, please do	document of above e-tender will be available up to 15:00 hrs. on 28-10-2024 in the website http://www.ireps.gov.in DRM (S&T), Katihar NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With A Smile

PICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh. Delhi-110005 PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

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

Pradesh-: 3101683; e

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

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

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

The online auction will be conducted on the website (URL Link- https://disposalhub.com) of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ Notices are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest by October 28, 2024 before 05:00 PM else the secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule.

The prospective bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005 on or before October 28, 2024 before 05:00 PM Thereafter, they have to submit their offer through the website mentioned above on or before October 28, 2024 before 05:00 PM along with the scanned image of the Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. In case the prospective bidder(s) is/ are unable to submit his/ her/ their offer through the website then the signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005 on or before October 28, 2024 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of 'ICICI Bank Limited' payable at Delhi

For any further clarifications in terms of inspection, Terms and Conditions of the E-Auction or submission of renders, contact ICICI Bank Employee Phone No. 8657476284/8854874809 Please note that the Marketing agencies 1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augeo Asset Manager

Port Ltd 3. Hecta Proptech Pvt. Ltd. have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed Terms and Conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date : October 05, 2024 Place: Delhi, Faridabad

028 curity

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

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

Name of the Borrower/Guarantor	Description of the Mortgaged Property	Amt. 0/s (as per Notice U/s.13(2)	Data of 13(2) Notice	Date of Possession	
IINDAL AND	Equitable Mortgage of Built up Property Bearing No.1-A Land are measuring 500 Sq.Yds. with Roof Rights Upto Sky in Block H1 Situated in the Revenue Estate of Village Malikpur Chhaoni Known as Model Town Near Kingsway Camp at Mall Road Delhi with the Free Hold Rights of the Land Underneath in the name of Sh. Pradeep Kumar Jindal S/o Sh. Dinesh Chand Jindal. Boundry: North: Plot No.H-3/1 South: Plot No.H-1/1-B East: Plot No.H-1/2 West: Service Lane	(Rupees Forty Eight Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Six Hundred Fifteen Only) as on 02.07.2024 plus future interest and other incidental charges	10.07.2024	01.10.202	

SBI	ST	ATE	BA	N	< 0	F	IN	D	A
Home Loan Centre,	59 Communit	y Centre, Na	raina Industr	ial Area P	hase - 1,	Near Paya	I PVR, I	New Del	hi-110
POSSES	SION NO	DTICE {	For Imm	iovabl	e Prop	erty u	nder	Rule	8(1)
Notice is hereby air	ven under the	Securitisation	and Record	struction of	f Financia	al Assets	& Enfor	cement	of Sec

sports 07

INDIA LOOK TO IRON OUT COMBINATION FLAWS, REGAIN Fight in crucial t20 WC game against pakistan

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

RAIPUR | SUNDAY | OCTOBER 6, 2024

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

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

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

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



Iemimah Rodrigues to No, 4

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

inday pioneer

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

Harmanpreet to No. 3,

auixotic. The inclusion of three pacers was not wrong move on the hindsight as there was no dew

and the Kiwis pacers made full use of a hard deck But India made a hash of their three-pronged pace attack move, giving just one over to

Pooia Vastrakar, the third-best bowler in T20Is this year with 20 wickets from 16 matches. Also, the decision to go with the pace troika cost India the presence of left-arm spinner Radha Yadav, their second most successful T20I bowler with 22 wickets from 13 matches.

So, head coach Amol Muzumdar will need to take a long look at the combination as another defeat will seriously hamper India's chances of progressing to the last-four stage from Group A. But stats apart, India, particularly batters, looked

mentally frozen against the Kiwis, evidenced by the highest individual score in their innings - a 15 by Harmanpreet.

In that context, India might just think of adding Dayalan Hemalatha to bolster the batting. Though India have a head-to-

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

experienced Nida Dhar,

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

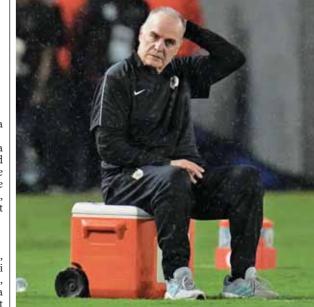
TEAMS (FROM):

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

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

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

Travelling reserve: Najiha Alvi (wk)



Luis Suarez criticises Uruguay coach Bielsa for mistreating team at Copa America not with the national team. It

later.

goes wrong."

AP MONTEVIDEO (URUGUAY)

Tust-retired striker Luis Suárez has criticized Uruguay coach Marcelo Bielsa for the way he treated players

during the Copa America, saying the "friction" hurts. Uruguay finished third at the Copa in July in the United States but Suárez said all was not well behind the scenes.

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

didn't even say hello." The relationship between Bielsa and the players was so bad that some are considering leaving the national squad, Suárez said. He retired his 17year international career a month ago as Uruguay's alltime leading scorer.

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

Despite the team's success, Suárez said the atmosphere cultivated by Bielsa was not good, even at their training facility. "At the Celeste Complex, employees are not allowed to come in and greet us and eat with us," he said. "They have to be careful even at the door

hurts to see what is going on."

Bielsa, who has coached Argentina and Chile, was hired by Uruguay in May 2023 to the end of the 2026 World

Cup. He has Uruguay third in South

American qualifying for the

World Cup, and is preparing for qualifiers against Peru next

Friday and Ecuador four days

on the players if something

"We are arriving to a tough situation and very painful situations. The friction is

going to keep happening and

the players are going to reach

their limit before exploding."

Sinner and Alcaraz breeze through Shanghai Masters openers ongoing doping case, had a comfortable 6-1, 6-4 outing against Taro Daniel of Japan for

AP SHANGHAI

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

The second-ranked Alcaraz, who beat the Italian in Beijing on Wednesday for his fourth title of the year, recorded his 10th consecutive win with a 6-2, 6-2 result against 19-year-old Shang Juncl ng of Ch

Divanshi's second gold leads India's clean sweep at ISSF Junior Worlds PTI LIMA (PERU) (565), Raajwardan Singh Patil

ndian pistol shooter Divanshi Indian pistol shooter Divanshi secured her second individual gold in the women's 25m stan-dard pistol event, leading a remarkable clean sweep in the event at the ISSF Junior World Championship here. India's young shooters added for

India's young shooters added five more medals to their kitty, including two gold on Friday taking the tally to 21 medals to remain at the top of the stand-ings -13 gold, two silver and

six bronze. Norway remained a distant sec-The Italian, who won the U.S ond with 10 medals - four gold, Open last month for his second three silver and three bronze while China occupied third major of the year, fired 12 aces place (3-1-0). Divansĥi dominated the event with a score of 564

and 38 winners. "I felt quite comfortable today," said the 23-year-old Sinner, who next plays Tomas Martin India bag U18 team silver in women's Etcheverry of Argentina. "I feel in good shape also phys-ically, which is very important section at Asian Youth Archery for me. Of course I will try to improve for tomorrow's performance, but today I was serving really, really well, especially in

his 250th career win.

PTI 🗖 NEW DELHI sing archer Vaishnay

out of 600, finishing ahead of teammate Parisha Gupta, who shot 559 for silver.

Manvi Jain completed the Indian sweep with a bronze-winning score of 557, marking India's first-ever clean sweep in this competition. Shikha Chaudhary narrowly missed a podium fin-ish, placing fourth with a score

of 554, just one point ahead of Estonia's Marja Kirss.

In the corresponding junior men's event, Suraj Sharma claimed gold with a score of 571, edging out Poland's Ivan Rakistski, who shot 568 for silver.

Mukesh Nelavalli, who already has four gold medals in the championship, shot 568 but settled for bronze after a countback. Other notable performances included Harsimar Singh Rattha





SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT

The 21-year-old Spaniard won the first nine points of the match and four of seven break points as he rushed into a third-round meeting with another Chinese player, Wu Yibing.

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

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

Sinner, who is dealing with an

PPawar showed impressive important moments, and was presence of mind to help India moving well? No. 65-ranked Jakub Mensik of clinch team silver in the recurve U-18 women's categothe Czech Republic broke sixthranked Andrey Rublev seven

ry at the 2024 Asian Youth Archery Championship in times on his way to an upset 6-7 (7), 6-4, 6-3 victory. Yosuke Watanuki also had a surprise win, beating No. 35ranked Brendan Nakashima 7-6 (4), 6-3. The Japanese qualifier plays either seventh-ranked Taylor Fritz of the U.S. Or French qualifier Terence

Alexei Popyrin of Australia

Chinese Taipei. Vaishnavi took the first shot for shoot-off.

the three-member Indian team. also comprising Pranjal Tholiya and Jannat, in every round and handled the pressure well as they pipped fancied South Korea in the semifinal in a

incredibly proud to represent India alongside my teammates. Beating South Korea in the semifinals was a significant milestone for us," Vaishnavi said. "Winning silver at the Asian Youth Archery Championship is a testament to our hard work and dedication, and it inspires me to aim even higher in the future." The Maharashtra archer fin-

2-4 deficit to force a shoot-off

against Chinese Taipei, who

ultimately prevailed

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

announces

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS

belonging to Scheduled Castes & Other Disadvantaged Groups to pursue School Education under the

Pre-Matric Scholarships Schemes for SCs & Others for the Year 2024-25

ELIGIBILITY	SCOPE	ENTITLEMENT
Component-I Students belonging to SC category Parents'/Guardians' annual income not exceeding Rs 2.50 Lakh	 Students studying in class 9 and 10 in recognised schools Applications are accepted and verified by the State Government/Union Territory Coverage of the poorest households 	 Academic allowance ranging from Rs 3500 to Rs 7000 per annum 10% extra allowance for Divyang (specially abled) students
Component-II Students whose parents/ guardians are engaged in occupations involving cleaning and prone to health hazards No income limit criteria	 Students studying in classes 1 to 10 in recognised schools Applications are accepted and verified by the State Government/ Union Territory Coverage of the poorest households 	 Academic allowance ranging from Rs 3500 to Rs 8000 per annum 10% extra allowance for Divyang (specially abled) students

Students to apply on their respective State Scholarship Portals

Student should have a valid Mobile Number, Aadhaar Number (UID). Aadhaar seeded Bank Account, Income Certificate and Caste Certificate



Scheme guidelines and detailed eligibility criteria available on below mentioned link

http://socialjustice.gov.in/schemes/23



cbc38101/11/0022/2425

beat Miomir Kecmanovic of Serbia 6-3, 6-2.

Atmane next. Also, 24th-ranked In the gold medal round, India found themselves in a similar situation, fighting back from a

AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED (A SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANK) Regd. Office: 19-A, Dhuleshwar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur - 302001, Rajasthan, (India). (CIN:L36911RJ1996PLC011381) APPENDIX-IV-A- [See proviso to rule 8(6)] Sale notice for sale of immovable properties E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforce ment of Security Interest Act. 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s)/Co-Borrower (s)/Mortgagor (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank), the same shall be referred herein after as AUSFB. The Secured Assets will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis through E-Auction for recovery of amount mentioned in the table below along with further interest, cost, charges and expenses being due to AUSFB viz. Secured Creditor. It is hereby informed you that we are going to conduct public E-Auction through website https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net Loan A/c No./ Name of Borrowers/Co Borrowers/ Mortgagors/Guarantor Date & Amount of 13(2) Demand Notice Reserve Price For Property Earnest Money For Date & Date of Bid ontact Perso E-Auction Place of Tender **Description of** Date Of and Property Visit Date Property Possessio Submissio Property E-Auction (Loan A/C No.) 13-Jun-22 23-Aug-24 **Property Situated** Rs. Rs. 20-Nov On or **AU Small Finance** Gopal Das Bank Ltd., Branch Address : -Rs. 18,55,432/-L9001060720473445, At Ph No 17, Kh No 19,00,000/ 1,90,000/ 24 Before Bairagi & 2.00 PM Rs. Eighteen Deepak Jair Manmohan Giri S/O 267/1/12K/1, Ward Nineteen One Lakh 18-Nov 1st Floor, Shop Lac Fifty-Five to 4.00 Pancham Giri No 01, Lal Bahadur Lakh Ninety 24 7610210556

(Borrower), Nitu Goswami W/O Puran Giri (Co-Borrower)	Thousand Four Hundred Thirty- Two Only As On 10-Jun-22		Shastri Ward, Teh - Bilha, Dist - Bilaspur, CG Admeasuring 96.8 Sqyds	Only.	Thousand Only.	PM with unlimited extension of 5 minutes		No. 4, 5, 6, Mittal Chambers, Main Road, Vyapar Vihar, At & Post- Bilaspur, CG 495001	9773358234 auctions@ aubank.in 14-Nov-24
(Loan A/C No.) L9001060123387590, Mukesh Kumar S/O Chhagan Lal Tamrakar (Borrower), Chhagan Lal Tamrakar S/O Horilal Tamrakar (Co-Borrower)	15-Dec-22 Rs. 12,66,487/- Rs. Twelve Lac Sixty-Six Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Seven Only As On 14-Dec-22	10-Jun-24	1020 B	Rs. 11,00,000/- Eleven Lakh Only.	Rs. 1,10,000/- One Lakh Ten Thousand Only.	06-Nov- 24 2.00 PM to 4.00 PM with unlimited extension of 5 minutes	On or Before 04-Nov- 24	AU Small Finance Bank Ltd., Branch Address : - 1st Floor, Raipur Road Sunder Nagar Bemetara CG - 491335	Gopal Das Bairagi & Deepak Jain 7610210556 9773358234 auctions@ aubank.in 30-Oct-24

The terms and conditions of e-auction sale:

(1). The E-Auction sale of Secured Asset is on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "no recourse" basis for and on behalf of the Secured Credito viz. AUSFB and there is no known encumbrance which exists on the said property. (2). For participating in online e-auction sale, Bid document, copies of PAN Card, Board Resolution in case of Company and photo ID, address proof are required to

be submitted along with EMD, which is payable by way of RTGS/NEFT/DD in the name of MSME AUCTION POOL ACCOUNT OF AU Small Finance Bank Limited, Current account No.1921201121711599 AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED Fifth and Sixth Floor Sunny Big Junction STC Khasra No. 64 to 67, Gram Sukhaipura New Atish Market Jaipur 302020, IFSC Code: AUBL0002011, Once an Online Bid is submitted, same cannot be withdrawn. Further any EMD submitted by bidder will be required to send the UTR/Ref no./DD no. of the RTGS/NEFT/DD with a copy of cancelled cheque on the following email IDs i.e. auctions@aubank.in

(3). All Interested participants / bidders are requested to visit the website https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net & https://www.aubank.in/bank-auction for furthe details including Terms & Conditions, to take part in e-auction sale proceeding and are also advised to contact e-mail of auctions@aubank.in

Please Note: This is also a 15 days & 30 days notice Under Rule 8(6) read with Rule 9(1) to the Borrowers/Co Borrowers/Mortgagors of the above said loan account about sale through tender / inter se bidding on the above-mentioned date. The property will be sold, if their outstanding dues are not repaid in full by the borrowe in the given notice period Authorised Officer Date : 05/10/2024 Place : Chhattisgarh AU Small Finance Bank Limited

LIVE

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ICOLOURS VIVACIUS 08 sunday pioneer GET READY TO SLAY THE COLLECTION THAT REDEFINES

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

STYF

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

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

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

choices.

A standout feature of this collaboration is Orry's handson involvement in the design process. His creative input ensures that the collection reflects his signature style, with playful slogans like "L8R H8R" and "Can I live" adding a fun twist. This level of engagement not only enhances the authenticity of the collection but also reconstructs with consumers collection but also resonates with consumers looking for genuine connections with brands. The vibrant designs and oversized fits are more than just fashion statements; they are

their identities and showcase their unique personalities.

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



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

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

on for young people to en

NEW OFFERINGS



CELEBRATE NAVRATRI WITH A SPECIAL THALI

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

DETAILS

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

CELEBRATE SAKETOBER

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

DETAILS

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





CULINARY FUSION EXPERIENCE

Indian Accent celebrates 15 years with an exclusive culinary collaboration with Nadodi. Chefs Shantanu Mehrotra and Yavhin Siriwardhana will create a 9course menu blending inventive Indian flavours with

South Indian and Sri Lankan influences. Expect an unforgettable dining experience showcasing the best of both culinary worlds.

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

TAAZA KHABAR **CONTINUED TALE OF GREED AND REDEMPTION**

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

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

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

and *'Taaza Khabar'* excels in both the departments. The characters truly outdo themselves this season. Bhuvan Bam shines as Vasant, improving even further from the first season with his impeccable comedic timing and reactions.

Javed Jaffrey, known for his comedic roles, plays the antagonist this time. His content toles, plays the antagonist this time. His portrayal of a villain driven by malevolence, political power, and money brings intensity to the show. *Shilpa Shukla's* character Aapa perfectly complements Jaffrey's dark, twisted role. The addition of *Jaffrey's* dark, twisted fole. The addition of *Jaffrey's* character brings much-needed energy to the new six-episode arc. *Shriya Pilgaonkar (Madhu), Vasant's* love interest, has fewer scenes this season, but her

presence is felt at key moments. Prathamesh Parab's portrayal of Raja, Vasant's loyal friend, is heartwarming and crucial to the emotional core of the show.

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

hotstar specials

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

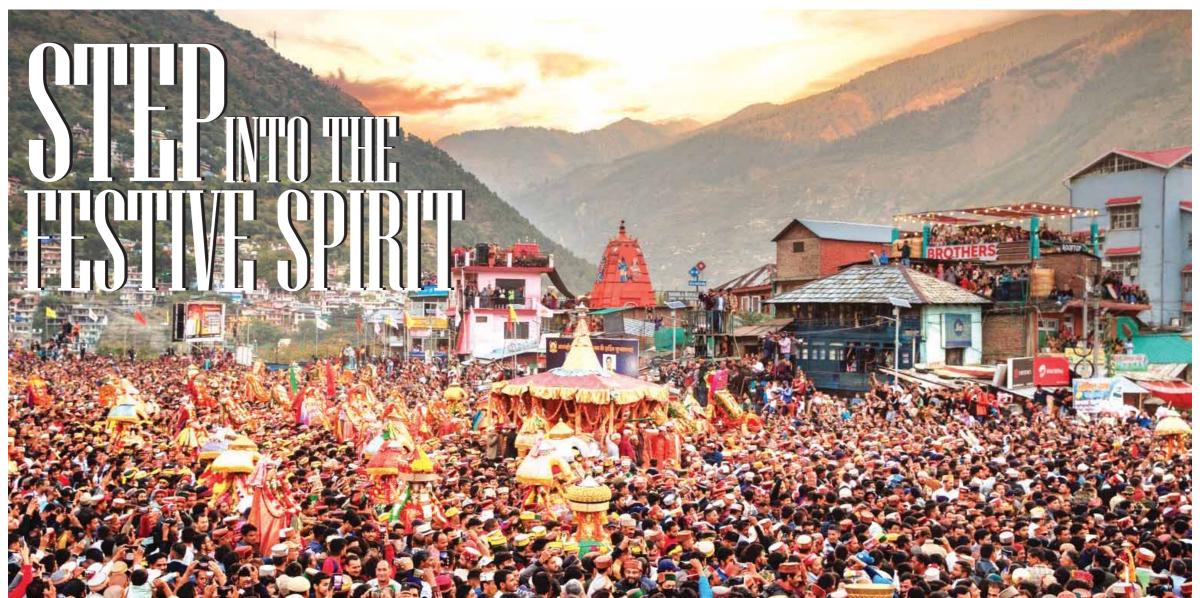
The music in 'Taaza Khabar' perfectly

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

Its engaging scenes and witty dialogues keep viewers on the edge of their seats, eager to see what happens next. While the show hints at a potential third season, an official confirmation would only add to the growing excitement among its fanbase. 'Rating: 4/5'

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





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

ullu Dussehra, celebrated in the picturesque valley of Kullu in Himachal Pradesh, is a vibrant week-long festival that goes beyond just religious observance. It brings together centuries-old traditions, the unity of hundreds of local deities and the incredible artistic expression of the region. Kullu Dussehra has a distinctive flavour, embracing the valley's culture, history and devotion. This year, the International Kullu Dussehra Festival is set to take place from 13th to 19th October 2024, offering visitors a chance to immerse themselves in the vibrant festivities while also appreciating the breathtaking scenic beauty and natural wonders of this enchanting region. The origins of *Kullu Dussehra* date back to the 17th century when Raja Jagat Singh, a ruler of Kullu, brought the idol of Lord Raghunath Ji to the valley. From then on, Lord Raghunath Ji became the central deity of the festival and Kullu Dussehra has been celebrated in His honour ever since. What sets this festival apart is its spirit of inclusion, with over 300 local deities from surrounding villages joining the celebrations. These deities, carried on beautifully decorated palanquins, are accompanied by their devotees, musicians and dancers, creating a lively and spiritual atmosphere as they converge at Dhalpur Maidan in Kullu. The festival begins on 13th October with the grand Rath Yatra, a procession where Lord Raghunath Ji is placed in a chariot and pulled through the streets by devotees. This procession marks the beginning of a week filled with devotion, music and dance. The streets come alive with the sounds of traditional instruments, the colourful sight of waving flags and the energy of people who have come from far and wide to participate in this sacred event. The Rath Yatra is not just a religious act; it's a celebration of the unity and shared faith that binds the people of Kullu together. Kullu Dussehra is not only a spiritual gathering but also a cultural festival that showcases the rich artistic heritage of the region. Every evening, the open-air auditorium at Lal Chand Prarthi Kalakendra becomes a stage for performances by local, national and international artists. From traditional Himachali folk dances like the Nati to contemporary performances, the festival offers a diverse range of cultural experiences. This year, approximately 15 international cultural troupes will participate, bringing their unique traditions and performances to Kullu. These performances reflect the universal language of art, reminding everyone of the shared human connection through culture On 14th October, the Cultural Parade takes place, showcasing a vibrant display of traditional attire, music and dance from across India and the world. This parade highlights the rich diversity of cultures, where each troupe brings its own distinct flavour to the celebrations.

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

The sight of dancers in traditional



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

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

celebration, it's essential to reflect on the



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

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

The penultimate day features the

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

Historically, Kullu Dussehra has also been a major commercial event. It once served as a trading hub where villagers would sell their crops, handicrafts and other goods. Traders from regions like Lahaul and Ladakh would bring products such as pashmina shawls, carpets and local herbs, creating a bustling marketplace. Today, this tradition continues with the Artisan Showcase, where award-winning artisans display their crafts, from textiles to woodwork. Visitors can purchase these handmade items, taking home a piece of Kullu's rich artistic heritage and supporting the local economy. For those who enjoy food, Kullu Dussehra is a culinary journey that showcases the flavours of Himachal Pradesh. The food courts at the festival serve traditional dishes such as siddu (a type of steamed bread) and madra (a rich chickpea curry), offering a taste of the region's culinary traditions. Alongside these local delicacies,

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



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

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

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

significance of festivals like Kullu Dussehra in preserving and promoting cultural heritage. The festival not only showcases the artistic traditions of Himachal Pradesh but also serves as a reminder of the unity and community spirit that festivals inspire. It brings together people from different walks of life, whether they are locals, tourists or international dignitaries, all coming together to celebrate the rich cultural legacy of the region. Kullu Dussehra is a festival that everyone should experience at least once in their lifetime. It's not just a celebration; it's a living tradition that continues to evolve while staying deeply rooted in the values of the community. The festival's grandeur, coupled with the warm hospitality of the people of Kullu, makes it a truly unique experience. As the date approaches, excitement is building, and the town of Kullu is gearing up to welcome visitors from all

over the world. It's a time of joy, devotion and celebration, an event that leaves a lasting impression on all who attend. *The International Kullu Dussehra Festival 2024* is set to be a spectacular event that will showcase the best of Himachal's culture, art and traditions. *Kullu Dussehra* 2024 promises to be a celebration unlike any other. From the grand Rath Yatra to the vibrant cultural performances, from

the symbolic Lanka Dahan to the bustling artisan markets, the festival offers a diverse range of experiences for all who attend. Whether visitors are drawn by the spiritual devotion, the artistic performances or the natural beauty of the valley, Kullu Dussehra is a festival that speaks to the heart, offering a unique glimpse into the soul of Himachal Pradesh. As the festival approaches, everyone is encouraged to mark their calendars and experience this remarkable celebration from 13th to 19th October 2024. It's a perfect opportunity to enjoy the magic of Kullu Valley, where tradition, culture and community come together in a festival of life, love and joy!





A TASTE OF THE NELLOS OF THE NELLOS OF THE NELLOS OF THE SHAPING RESTAURANTS SHAPING NCR'S FOOD SCENE

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



PAWAN SONI Food critic and founder of the Big F Awards

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

LITCHI BISTRO

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

AVARTANA AT ITC MAURYA

This is easily the most intriguing restaurant I've explored this year. Avartana offers set-course menus ranging from 7 to 13 courses, priced from Rs. 2,950 upwards per person. The cuisine is a contemporary interpretation of South Indian ingredients, far from the traditional dishes we usually associate with the region. I'll be doing a detailed review soon, as it's hard to choose favourites when each dish is

stellar. It's no surprise that Avartana ranks 44th among Asia's 50 best.

689, GURGAON

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





zing from shichimi lime. Ideal for

those who enjoy Asian flavours and

refined cocktails without the

Gurgaon finally has a live

Teppanyaki counter. What was once

distraction of loud music.

GURGAON

TEPPANYAKI AT EEST, WESTIN

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

Eest's Omakase section has been

ROOM XO, AIPL JOY CENTRAL, GURGAON

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

THANKS AND BEYOND, NEHRU Place, Delhi

Veteran nightlife impresario *Priyank Sukhija's* latest venture at Epicuria Mall offers three distinct zones. 'Thanks' is a casual dining space, 'And' is the outdoor area, and 'Beyond' is a high-energy bar. For a great time, I recommend the Tequila-based *Picante*, *the Sheesha*, and *the Tuna on Toast*.

PIRATES OF GRILL GRANDE, CYBERHUB, GURGAON

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

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

FROM KOLKATA TO DELHI: THE TASTE OF TWO CITIES

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







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

CHEF GAUTAM KUMAR'S RECIPE FOR Gobindobhog gurer Payesh

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

GOBINDOBHOG GURER PAYESH

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

Durga Puja. Sharing *Payesh* symbolises unity and fosters harmony among family members.

INGREDIENTS

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

METHOD

•Soak the Rice: Soak the rice in water for 30 minutes, ensuring not to overwash it to retain as much starch as possible. After soaking, drain the rice and spread it out to dry.

• Coat the Rice: Coat the soaked rice with ¹/₄ teaspoon of ghee and set aside. • Property the Paising Soak the raising in water

•Prepare the Raisins: Soak the raisins in water until swollen.

•Fry Cashews: Heat ghee in a pan and fry the cashews until golden. Set aside.

•**Boil the Milk:** Boil the milk in a heavybottomed pan, simmer for 15 inutes, and add cardamom powder.

•Cook the Rice: Add the ghee-coated rice to the milk and cook on low heat until fully cooked. The rice should be soft and mushy when mashed between your fingers, as it will firm up while cooling. Stir gently to prevent burning and release starch, which

burning and release starch, which thickens the payesh.

soaked raisins.

•Thicken the Payesh: Ensure the rice is fully cooked; the payesh should be slightly thicker than desired, as the gur will thin it out. •Add Gur: Turn off the heat and mix in the gur, salt, soaked raisins, and fried cashews, keeping the heat off to prevent curdling. Gently fold everything together, cover the pan, and let the residual heat melt the gur completely. Serve the payesh hot or cold in a bowl, garnished with fried cashews and

RECIPE FOR NARKEL NI CHINGRI

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

NARKEL NI CHINGRI RECIPE

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

INGREDIENTS

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

INSTRUCTIONS

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

 Adjust seasoning and garnish with fresh coriander and Serve hot with steamed rice for a delicious meal!

Navratri: The essence of Satvik food

BY **TEAM VIVA**

The festival of Navratri is here and the air is filled with a spirit of devotion and celebration. During these nine auspicious days, millions across India follow a special dietary regimen, abstaining from regular food and opting for Satvik meals. While these dishes are rooted in tradition, chefs at hotels like Le Meridien, New Delhi have taken the opportunity to elevate this sacred cuisine with contemporary flavours, ensuring that even the most discerning food lovers can enjoy fasting meals with a gourmet touch. Navratri food is characterised by simplicity, with ingredients that align with spiritual purity. Common dishes consumed during this period have been improvised by Chef Setuu *Gupta*. Here are the dishes: •'Řuttu ki Puri' (Buckwheat Flour Puri) – A deep-fried, gluten-free flatbread made from buckwheat flour, which is one of the staples during Navratri. •'Sabudana tikki' - A light

•'Sabudana tikki' – A light and flavorful dish made with soaked tapioca pearls, peanuts, and mild spices like cumin, offering a fulfilling yet easy-to-digest meal. •'Paneer Tikka' – Cottage

•'Paneer Tikka' – Cottage cheese cubes marinated in yoghurt and mild spices, then grilled to perfection. Paneer dishes are popular as they provide a protein-rich option for those fasting.

for those fasting. •'Samak Rice Pulao' – This is made from barnyard millet, often called "vrat rice," and is cooked with mild spices and vegetables to offer a flavorful alternative to regular rice. •'Anjeer ka Halwa' – A dessert made from figs, slowcooked in milk and flavoured with cardamom, is a popular sweet indulgence for the fasting period.

• 'Makhana Curry' - A creamy salty pudding made from foxnuts (makhana) and curd flavoured with spices and nuts for a rich taste.

• 'Kacche Kale Sabudana Tikki is a crispy snack made from raw banana, sabudana (tapioca pearls), green chilies, and spices. Shallow-fried and enjoyed during fasting periods like Navratri, it offers a flavourful and energising treat.

•'Arbi Singara Kadhi' - is a flavourful curry made with colocasia (arbi) and water chestnuts (singhara), simmered in a spiced yoghurt-based gravy. It's thickened with singhara flour and seasoned with mustard seeds, curry leaves and chilles for a tangy sayoury dish

Kumar

Pankaj

Photo:

for a tangy, savoury dish. Navratri food has always been about maintaining purity and simplicity, but at *Le Meridien*, *New Delhi*, Chef *Setuu Gupta* and his team have shown that fasting meals can be both humble and sophisticated. By elevating traditional dishes with innovative techniques, they ensure that guests not only honour their spiritual commitment but also indulge in a culinary journey that excites the senses. This fusion of faith and flavour is a testament to the evolving nature of India's food culture, where tradition and modernity walk hand in hand.

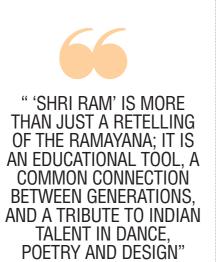




CELEBRATING NAVRATRI A SPECTACULAR DANCE-DRAMA EXPERIENCE

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

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





A GRAND STAGE AND CAPTIVATING ATMOSPHERE

From the moment visitors arrive at the venue, they are welcomed by an impressive stage representing ancient Ayodhya. The meticulous attention to detail in the stage design is evident, featuring intricate patterns and vibrant colours that transport the audience to the heart of the Ramayana. The lighting shifts throughout the performance, enhancing the emotional depth of each scene.

As the performance commences, the atmosphere buzzes with excitement and anticipation. Artists in elaborate costumes fill the stage, celebrating the arrival of their lord Ram. The traditional music accompanying their movements resonates with the audience, enveloping everyone in the festive spirit. The dance-drama format allows for a seamless blend of storytelling and art; classical Indian dance forms like Kathak, Bharatnatyam and Odissi take centre stage, where each gesture and expression conveys deep emotion. The opening scene beautifully showcases themes of community, love, and unity, drawing everyone into the celebration.

A DIVINE BEGINNING

The story begins with the birth of Lord Ram and his brothers, as the people of Ayodhya rejoice in the arrival of their beloved prince. The joy on stage is visible, reflecting the warmth and happiness of the occasion. The scenes that follow take the audience on a journey through Ram's life, from his education in scriptures and warfare to his marriage with Sita, highlighting the trials he faces along the way.

What makes this story captivating is not just Ram's destiny as a divine figure but his humanity. From a young age, Ram exemplifies virtues of humility, patience and wisdom, shaping his actions throughout his life. This sense of divine purpose, combined with Ram's ability to empathise with ordinary people, makes his character relatable and inspiring to devotees during Navratri. As "Shri Ram" beautifully portrays, Ram's early years symbolise the joys of life and the weight of



Photo: Pankaj Kumar

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

THE JOURNEY OF LORD RAM AND HIS BROTHERS

As the story progresses, spectators witness the formative years of Ram alongside his brothers, training under Vishwamitra. This segment showcases the dedication and brotherly camaraderie that define their relationships, expressed through intricate choreography that highlights their commitment to duty. The physical movements and emotional expressions of the dancers capture the essence of loyalty, honour, and sacrifice, core values that resonate throughout the Ramayana. The portraval of Ram's marriage to Sita is another highlight of the performance. The ceremony is beautifully staged and thoughtfully executed, illustrating the depth of love and devotion between the two characters. Sita is depicted with grace and

strength, captivating the audience as she expresses her hopes and dreams. The artistry of this scene reflects the timeless nature of love, with each gesture drawing the audience deeper into their narrative. This portrayal captures the essence of their divine union while reminding the audience that true love involves enduring hardship and remaining steadfast in faith.

THE RISE OF CONFLICT

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

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

THE BATTLE OF GOOD AND EVIL

As the narrative escalates, the stage transforms into a dramatic battlefield. The choreography during these scenes is breathtaking, with performers moving in perfect synchrony to depict the chaos of war. Ram's battle against Ravana becomes the climactic moment of the performance, showcasing the bravery and determination of the forces of good. The audience is enthralled as Ram ultimately conquers Ravana, a victory resonating with the core message of the Ramayana: righteousness prevails in the face of evil.

The final scenes, where Ram returns to Ayodhya to be crowned king, are a celebration of joy and mastery. The atmosphere fills with colour and light, reflecting the happiness of the citizens of Ayodhya as they welcome their lord home. This ending serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of justice, duty, and the values that bind communities together.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF "SHRI RAM"

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

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

A CELEBRATION OF CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

The performance of "Shri Ram" is not just an artistic display; it is a celebration of culture and community. The universal messages of love, sacrifice, and the struggle against adversity resonate deeply, reminding everyone of the cherished values in our lives. The lighting is masterfully used to reflect shifts in tone, from the warmth and joy of Ram and Sita's union to the ominous darkness of Ravana's plans. As the scenes transition, the stage transforms fluidly, drawing the audience deeper into the narrative.

The costumes are a visual feast - rich, vibrant and steeped in historical authenticity. Each character, from Ram and Sita in their royal attire to Hanuman and his monkey warriors, is dressed to reflect their roles and the cultural and mythological significance of their actions. The grandness of the set and costumes adds a layer of magic to the story, allowing the audience to fully immerse themselves in the spectacle. Embracing the Spirit of Navratri The festival of Navratri is a time for reflection, devotion and celebration, beautifully captured in the performance of "Shri Ram." This production highlights the strength of unity and the importance of

standing up for what is right while encouraging a shared understanding of our cultural values. As the Navratri celebrations continue, performances like "Shri Ram" inspire us to reflect on the deeper meanings of the Ramayana and the victory of good over evil.

With performances scheduled until 26 October 2024, families have the chance to experience this iconic production together, witnessing the brilliance of Indian art and culture come to life on stage. So, as we gather with friends and family to celebrate Navratri, let us carry forward the lessons of the Ramayana in our hearts. May this festive season fill our lives with joy, love, and an unwavering commitment to righteousness. Wishing all readers a blessed Navratri filled with love and light!



MADHU KOTIY



ARIES March 21-April 19

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

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Teal Lucky day Friday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

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

Lucky number 131 Lucky colour Saffron Lucky day Monday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

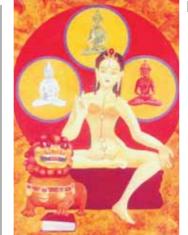
This week, your innate kindness, generosity, honesty, and tranquility shine through. Some individuals may embark on a budding relationship brimming with promise that could blossom into profound joy and love. This period marks a significant phase where your deepest aspirations might begin to materialize,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

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Mint Lucky day Thursday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week marks a phase of deep satisfaction as a longheld dream comes to fruition. You find yourself in a joyful union or embarking on a career path that fills you with pride. Riding a wave of bliss, you feel the support of



LEO July 23-Aug 22

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

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Red Lucky day Tuesday

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

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

Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour Maroon Lucky day Wednesday

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

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

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Lavender Lucky day Saturday

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

At the start of the week, some individuals might find themselves overwhelmed by their emotions. Minor issues, whether related to personal health or family matters, could cause tension. This period encourages

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

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

Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Fuchsia Lucky day Wednesday

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

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

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Black Lucky day Friday

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18



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

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Gold Lucky day Tuesday

PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Throughout this week, individuals prone to deep empathy are especially attuned to the needs of others. They naturally excel in nurturing roles, offering their support and guidance generously. Their compassion extends widely, ensuring that





a higher power enriching your journey. Recognition for your perseverance and tenacity inspires others, while guidance from a mentor proves to be incredibly beneficial. Your commitment to a balanced and harmonious approach to life strengthens. As the week closes, your interactions are characterized by fairness and responsibility. You secure a role that promises emotional and financial rewards, brightening your prospects for the future. Your outlook is optimistic as you navigate forward, ready to embrace new opportunities with open arms.

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour White Lucky day Sunday



introspection and expressing oneself through writing. As the week progresses, a shift occurs, bringing a surge of enthusiasm and energy. This phase is characterized by a strong sense of leadership and commitment to responsibilities, possibly coinciding with new responsibilities or projects. The latter part of the week signals a significant period of change, marking the arrival of new professional opportunities. These changes are poised to positively influence one's future, setting the stage for lasting improvements in personal and professional life.

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Turquoise Lucky day Monday



those who seek their help find solace and assistance. Known for their capability to address and manage the challenges faced by others, they blend resilience with a profound capacity to care. Not only are they mentally and physically robust, but they also possess an indomitable spirit characterized by bravery and endurance. Their unique approach to action is guided by a clear, unaffected rationale. This week, many will find themselves impressed by these intrinsic traits, strengthening bonds and forming meaningful connections with those dear to them.

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Olive Lucky day Thursday

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Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Spiritual Guru

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

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

get bored! So, in that sense, boredom is a blessing. Because you get bored, you move on, you look forward, you become a seeker and you rise higher. At the same time, boredom is also a curse because it doesn't

Is boredom a blessing or a curse?

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

allow you to be centred and steady in one place. So your mind aimlessly keeps jumping from one place to another. Because you get bored of everything, you can't enjoy anything. There are two different paths that boredom leads you to. Boredom is a blessing when it leads you to wisdom. Boredom is a curse when it leads you to frustration and depression. Because you are bored, you can't enjoy it, and when you can't enjoy it you get depressed and frustrated. Or, because you are bored you wake up and begin with a quest. When life feels dull, there's

this magical moment where everything becomes lively. You can repeat the same thing over and over, and it won't bother you. It's like finding a spring of life. Just let go of the past, be like a carefree child, and every moment becomes priceless.

You move ahead and you look into the Self which is fresh all the



time! The Self is ever new. Because you are bored with the ephemeral, the surface, you go deep into the Self. So boredom is both a blessing and a curse. A blessing because it takes you away from the routine monotonous life, makes you aware and brings life into you. And it is a curse because it doesn't let you

stabilise. People who are in love don't get bored. The heart knows no boredom. The head knows boredom.

In life both are essential, the heart and the head. If you are only

in the heart, it is no good. And if you are only stuck in the head, that is also no good. Balancing both is Yoga. Spirituality is balancing the heart and head together. Anyone who feels that they are a failure, just wake up! So what?! Life is eternal.

Meditation acts like a bridge connecting your head and heart. Take a few moments to sit down, be open to boredom, and you'll effortlessly move into a deep meditative state. Otherwise, that boredom might just lead you to sleep. It's a choice — either you sleep, become more sluggish, or you seize the opportunity of boredom to delve into a deep meditation.

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

On a full moon, if it is cloudy and the light cannot shine on the Earth, the moon does not get upset. If on one full moon night, you cannot see the moon rising, so what? The moon is still there. Like that, inside you there is potential, there is divinity which is so complete. If it has not come to the surface in one day, never mind! You have all the great qualities. If some do not exhibit on a particular day, never mind.

Don't blame yourself, don't analyze yourself too much. We start analysing ourselves too much; to the extent that we feel upset and down. We are so hard on ourselves. I am saying this to those who feel bad about themselves. NEVER MIND, WAKE UP! Never mind if these many years are wasted. The future is bright and there is still so much for you to do. All regrets happen only when you are looking at the past. If you are walking and your head is turned backwards, then that is called regret. Turn your head and look forward, and you will see the future is always bright.