



# Established 1865 sunday pioneer

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



magazine



www.dailypioneer.com

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

## Israel, Iran in mortal combat



PTI/AP ■ JERUSALEM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Take down threat posts: MeitY

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

### West Delhi man arrested for hoax bomb call

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

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

## US sends illegal visitors back home

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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



RISHABH MALIK ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

## Substandard helmets must be trashed



RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



## NC feeling the heat of 'dual control'

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

## ED detects irregularities in concert ticket sales

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



FILE PHOTO

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

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

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

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



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

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

BY ABHI SINGHAL

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

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

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

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

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

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



Photo: Abhi Singhal

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Naxal activities pose security challenges for upcoming Assembly Polls

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

In view of the assembly elections, the district administrations in East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum, and Seraikela Kharsawan have intensified efforts to address security in Naxal-prone regions. With heightened activity from Maoist insurgents, particularly in Seraikela Kharsawan, police and civil authorities are prioritizing coordinated security measures, aiming to safeguard candidates, election workers, and voters.

The resurgence of Maoist activity in certain pockets has been a persistent challenge for the police. Over recent weeks, combing operations have been initiated across dense forested areas such as the Saranda Forest in West Singhbhum, known

for its history of Naxal presence. Despite these operations, concerns linger over potential threats posed to candidates campaigning in rural constituencies, as well as to voters on election day.

State's history with Maoist insurgency is extensive, with Jamshepur and its surrounding areas witnessing notable episodes of violence. A stark reminder of the threat posed by Naxalites is the tragic assassination of Jamshepur's former MP Sunil Mahto in 2007, who was fatally attacked during a public event. The impact of his assassination has lingered, creating a sense of vulnerability among politicians and residents alike during election seasons.

The issue is further compounded by limited campaign efforts in high-risk areas. Political parties have



previously shown reluctance to campaign in what are considered "Naxalite dens," fearing for the safety of their candidates and staff. "Security of political leaders and voters is a serious con-

cern this election," an official from the district administration remarked. "We are mobilizing resources to ensure these elections proceed safely." Recent upticks in Maoist

activities in Seraikela Kharsawan have heightened concerns, spurring authorities to increase surveillance, road checks, and area patrols. The district's bordering forest zones, includ-

ing Chakradharpur and Chaibasa, have witnessed incidents that indicate a resurgence of insurgent movement. Despite the deployment of additional forces, Naxals have managed to stage sporadic attacks and hold covert meetings aimed at consolidating their influence. In response, authorities have ramped up patrolling in critical areas, especially across the Ghatshila sub-division, which covers regions like Dumaria, Musaboni, Chakulia, Baharagora, and Ghatshila. These areas have seen intermittent insurgent activities despite a decline in Naxalism in past years. According to sources within the police force, patrols have been increased around suspected Maoist hideouts and meeting points, with particular emphasis on night surveil-

lance and intelligence gathering.

Jharkhand's fight against Naxalism has had some success. Regions like Dumaria in Ghatshila and Patamda, once considered Maoist strongholds, have seen a significant decline in insurgent activity. Following brutal atrocities against villagers, local communities in these areas organized against Naxal dominance, substantially reducing Maoist influence.

"Naxal activities have increased in the district over the years, however, government agencies will take care of it but campaigning will not suffer due to Maoist threat, hopefully," said a leader. ADM reviews preparation at Dumria Block

Jamshepur: In anticipation of the upcoming Assembly Elections 2024, Additional District

Magistrate (ADM) for Law and Order, Aniket Sachan, held a comprehensive review meeting at Dumria block headquarters. The meeting focused on administrative preparations, security arrangements, and infrastructural assessments necessary for ensuring smooth, fair, and transparent elections in the region.

ADM Sachan meticulously reviewed various critical aspects, including the transportation routes, inter-state check posts, and the cluster sites where polling teams would be stationed. Following the meeting, he visited the designated clusters and the Bhitaramda inter-state check post on the Odisha-Jharkhand border to assess the readiness of the election infrastructure and inspect facilities for polling teams and security forces.

## Dr. Ajoy Kumar questions Raghubar's efforts for ownership rights in Jamshepur

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

Congress candidate from Jamshepur East, Dr. Ajoy Kumar, raised critical questions about former Chief Minister Raghubar Das's commitment to securing ownership rights for the people of Jamshepur.

Speaking to the media on Saturday, Dr. Ajoy pointed out that despite holding the MLA seat from Jamshepur East for 25 years and eventually becoming Chief Minister, Raghubar Das failed to fulfill his long-standing promise of granting ownership rights to residents. According to Dr.



Ajoy, Raghubar Das misled the public, using the promise of ownership rights as a political tool without taking meaningful steps to address the issue. "Raghubar Das, who rose to power with the support of the people, priori-

tized his own political interests over the well-being of Jamshepur's residents," he said, adding that displacement due to "encroachment" became common during Das's tenure, undermining the rights and security of

local communities.

Dr. Ajoy further accused Das of working in favor of corporate interests, particularly Tata, rather than as a true representative of the people. He questioned the former Chief Minister's motives, highlighting a controversial decision to grant sublease rights rather than full ownership. "If the intention was to grant sublease rights, why were certain colonies taken off lease?" he asked.

The congress candidate also criticized a decision from Das's administration, which limited lease rights to 10 dec-

imals of land, calling it "the biggest hurdle in the path to ownership rights." He argued that this measure kept genuine ownership out of reach for many residents, leaving them without lasting security over their properties.

Dr. Ajoy emphasized that the ownership issue extends beyond Jamshepur, affecting the entire state. He promised to form a dedicated commission to pursue ownership rights if elected, assuring residents of Jamshepur and Jharkhand that, with public support, he would work toward a lasting solution to this pressing issue.

## BRICS Meet is a Game changer



BY BANSHIDHAR RUKHAIYAR

The recently concluded BRICS Meet in the Russian city of Kazan is a game changer in the field of international relations. It will have far reaching consequences on the international political, security and financial arrangements and bring about a paradigm shift in the existing tattering unipolar world led by America. It will shift the global focus on BRICS from the US led international arrangements in the name of the UN and its financial instruments like the World Bank and IMF. This would happen because of two reasons. First, the world is fed up with the domineering attitude of the US led West which treats the rest of the world with bitter contempt and humiliation without providing the benefits of being under a Don. The sanctions regime imposed upon nations whose behaviour does not suit their interests is literally disgusting with no veil of diplomatic decorum and decency. Instead of helping in maintaining peace in the world, the US led West is guilty of disturbing them time and again as per their interests. Other nations are so weak that they have no guts to oppose their tyranny in the name of democracy, human rights, women's rights, gender equality and bla bla bla. The USSR and its allies

fought for their rights successfully but Non Aligned Nations were left to fend for themselves. Russia became weak after the disintegration of the USSR and the US led NATO had a field day. They had no justification for further expansion and strengthening of NATO. Second, BRICS is not a pride of lions led by the strongest male lion as is the case with the US led NATO. It is a multipolar organization with a positive space for the weaker nations which have been left behind in the modern race of development. It is guided by the spirit of general good of its members. Third, it is not a power bloc meant to oppose anyone. It is simply a bulwark against the oppression and exploitation of the US led West.

America and its allies are in a state of shock and disbelief as they never expected that India, China and Russia would be on the same platform. The icing on the cake is the presence of Brazil, South Africa, Egypt, Iran, Ethiopia and UAE and a host of other nations waiting to join BRICS. India and China being on the same page is a big blow to the US's chances of ever taking on China. The credit goes to the master politician and diplomat Vladimir Putin who made Russia rise like a sphinx. Biden was out to isolate Russia by imposing a number of sanctions, but Putin pulled off a surprise rapprochement between India and China on the sidelines of BRICS Meet. The US was apprehensive of India and China coming together and Russia emerging as a powerful player, but it didn't expect what had unfolded at Kazan. China is a powerful country and it has shown pragmatic sagacity while coming to terms with India. It is not in the interests of India and China to have a volatile border. It is a long and difficult process but it is a positive development in the right direction. Both the nations would be wise to act as per

ground realities. America will have to recalibrate its diplomacy to take on China, India and Russia in the changing world order. China was the main challenger of America but the rise of Russia under the dogged leadership of Putin and the emergence of a defiant India is completely out of syllabus for the American policy makers. In 2008, Michael Mandelbaum and Thomas L. Friedman in their famous book, 'What Went Wrong With the US' rightly explained the decline of America and emergence of China. However, they failed to take note of Russia and India.

BRICS constitute forty percent of the global population with thirty percent of world GDP. It consumes forty four percent of the world's crude oil production. It is contemplating a multi currency trade which may finally lead to BRICS currency. The process of de-dollarisation has begun. However, it will take some time as MBS has still not made up his mind. He was absent from the BRICS Meet. The day he does so the petro dollar would start losing its sheen. BRICS has founded the New Development Bank to provide easy loans to its members for infrastructure development. Alternative Reserve Arrangement has been made to provide loans as bailout packages to its members in case of payment failures. These financial institutions will break the hegemony and dictatorship of financial institutions like World Bank and IMF for the third world countries which are also called global south.

BRICS is a positive development for a proper balancing of powers and financial institutions associated with them.

THE WRITER IS A NOTED ACADEMICIAN AND POLITICAL COMMENTATOR. VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE ARTICLE ARE PERSONAL.

## Division Commissioner reviews preparations for Assembly Elections



PNS : BOKARO

In preparation for the upcoming 2024 Assembly Elections, Northern Chotanagpur Division Commissioner Pawan Kumar conducted a comprehensive review meeting at the Bokaro Collectorate Auditorium, Hazaribagh, on Saturday evening. The meeting was attended by key officials, including District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner Vijaya Jadhav, Deputy Development Commissioner Girja Shankar Prasad, and various nodal

officers of election departments.

During the session, Commissioner Kumar evaluated the arrangements made for polling stations with over 1,200 voters, ensuring that additional polling personnel would be stationed at these locations. The District Election Officer confirmed that one extra polling staff member has been assigned to each such booth. Furthermore, nine centers have been designated for postal ballot voting, with these locations already announced in local newspa-

pers. Additional steps have been taken to enhance voter awareness, with voter information slips (VIS) being distributed by Booth Level Officers (BLOs). To further boost voter turnout, the Commissioner reviewed the Voter Awareness Groups (BAGs) and other Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities in low-turnout areas. The district administration has also planned to send bulk SMS messages on voting day to encourage maximum participation. The Commissioner concluded by stressing the importance of addressing citizen complaints and directed the respective nodal officers to ensure a transparent and efficient electoral process. Key officials, including those from vehicle management, personnel coordination, EVM logistics, and the media coordination unit, participated actively in the meeting, each updating their respective preparations.

## Mahila Samiti Organizes Festive Event for Dhanteras and Diwali

PNS : BOKARO

In celebration of Dhanteras and Diwali, the Mahila Samiti organized a grand event at the badminton hall of Bokaro Club. The president of the committee, Anita Tiwari, performed the Ganesh-Lakshmi puja, praying for happiness and prosperity for all. She extended Diwali greetings to all committee members and expressed her wishes for a bright future for all institutions run by the committee.

President Anita Tiwari, along with Vice Presidents Preeti Sharan, Monika Rangani, Nisha Srivastava, and Iti Rath, inaugurated the event by lighting ceremonial lamps. Secretary Richa Priyadarshini welcomed the president and vice presidents with a traditional tilak ceremony. The event's highlight was a bumper housie game, skillfully conducted by cultural secretary Shweta Kumar, which kept everyone engaged and entertained. As a gesture of goodwill, President Anita Tiwari distributed Diwali gifts to all members. Executive members of the committee, including Deputy Secretary Kumud Kumari, Treasurer Abhiruchi Priya, Anjali Tiwari, Pushpa Bharatiya, Anisha Jha, Neetu, Preeti Rajesh, Samita Mohanty, and Asha Raj, played vital roles in making the event a success.



## LOP Amar Bauri meets bereaved family in Chnadankiyari

PNS : BOKARO

In a tragic incident, Niyuti Devi, a 45-year-old resident of Haraikurwa village in Saharjori Panchayat under the Chandanakiyari Assembly constituency, lost her life on October 22, 2024, after falling into a paddy-threshing machine. Upon hearing of the accident, Leader of the Opposition Amar Kumar Bauri visited the grieving family to offer his condolences. During his visit, he emphasized the need for caution while working in such environments and urged local youth to raise awareness about safety measures in these activities.

Bauri also visited the family of Vijay Rawani, another resident of Haraikurwa, who passed away on September 26, 2024, after accidentally falling into a well. In these difficult times, the Leader of the Opposition assured the affected families of full support, promising to expedite access to government schemes that could aid them.



## CII SAFETY TALK 2024 CHAMPIONS A SAFER, SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR ALL

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Jharkhand organized a two-day conference and exhibition, the CII Jharkhand Safety Talk 2024, with the theme "Equitable and Sustainable Strategies: Building a Safer Future for All." The event gathered over 250 delegates, 1,000 business visitors, and featured 40 exhibitors, sparking meaningful discussions on safety innovations and best practices across industries.

In the opening session, Ranjot Singh, Chairman of CII Jharkhand State Council and Managing Director of Emdet Jamshepur Pvt Ltd, expressed gratitude to speakers and attendees for their active participation, celebrating collective achievements in advancing safety standards within Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). He underscored the critical role of continuous improvement and collaboration in fostering a culture of safety. Malcom Dunbar, Corporate Safety expert from Levy, highlighted the ethical



responsibility of ensuring zero harm in workplaces, citing challenges like incident underreporting and complex operational risks, and emphasized the moral and financial imperative of prioritizing employee safety. Jaspal Singh, Partner at Abreast Engineering, introduced a foundational approach to MSME safety focused on the pillars of awareness, accountability, and availability. He stressed the necessity of policies against child labor and sexual harassment to create a universally safe workplace. Singh also unveiled the

Behaviour Safety Violation Card, an online tool empowering employees to report unsafe behaviors discreetly, fostering accountability and commitment to a safe work environment. Tata Cummins Pvt Ltd's General Manager of Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE), Mukesh Singh, spoke on the rigorous safety practices essential in high-risk environments like engine test cells. Singh highlighted the importance of regular equipment inspections, emergency response training, and robust monitoring systems, essential in handling hazardous materi-

als and high-pressure operations. He called for a strong safety awareness culture to ensure both personnel and equipment are protected.

Hemaleka Balu, Senior Manager of Projects at Tata Chemicals Ltd, focused on process safety in dynamic work environments. She stressed the integration of process safety management into daily operations, the importance of risk assessments, and advanced monitoring technologies to detect early hazards. Moderated by Ranadip Das, Chief Process Safety at Tata Steel Ltd, the session emphasized fostering open communication and employee engagement as crucial elements for safety.

On Day 2, Neeraj Kumar Sinha, Convener of the CII Jharkhand Safety Panel and Chief-Safety at Tata Steel Ltd, joined other safety experts in sharing insights on industry safety protocols. The event concluded with attendees pledging to continue enhancing safety standards, aiming for a safer and more sustainable future across all sectors in Jharkhand and beyond.

## Automated Biochemistry & Hematology Analyzer Inaugurated at BGH

R SHARMA : BOKARO

Today, on October 26, the Automated Biochemistry & Hematology Analyzer and High-Pressure Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) machines were inaugurated at BGH by the BSL Director-in-Charge, Birendra Kumar Tiwari. Also present were C.R. Mahapatra, Executive Director (Projects and Additional Charge Materials Management); Suresh Rangani, Executive Director (Finance & Accounts); P.K. Rath, Executive Director (SRU); BGH In-Charge Dr. B.B. Karunamay; Chief Medical Officer Dr. Anand Kumar; along with Dr. Aninda Mandal, Dr. Varsha Ghanekar, Dr. Shrawan Kumar, Dr. Surendra Kumar, Dr. Gajendra Kumar Singh, and other senior medical personnel.

The newly installed Automated Biochemistry & Hematology Analyzer and HPLC machine will greatly aid in the early detection of genetic blood disorders like thalassemia and sickle cell anemia.

Notably BGH, which serves a large number of patients from the Bokaro region, is now equipped with these advanced diagnostic tools, enhancing healthcare access and outcomes for those seeking medical services.





# FIR lodged against Irfan Ansari for Model Code of Conduct violation

## National ST Commission takes cognisance, seeks report from State Govt

PNS : RANCHI

A case was registered against Congress candidate Dr. Irfan Ansari in Jamtara police station on Saturday in violation of Model Code of Conduct.

On October 24, Congress candidate Dr. Irfan Ansari filed his nomination in Jamtara. After filing the nomination, he addressed the press near the office. It is alleged that Irfan Ansari used inappropriate words for BJP leader Sita Soren in this address. A case has been registered on the instructions of the District Election Officer regarding this. The alleged comment made

by Jamtara MLA Ansari on Sita Soren will be investigated. The order has been given by the National Scheduled Tribe Commission. The Commission has given this order by writing a letter to L. Khiangte Chief Secretary, Vandana Dadel Principal Secretary, Dr. Ehtesham Vakarib Superintendent of Police, Jamtara, Ajay Kumar Singh Director General of Police and Kumud Sahay Deputy Commissioner, Jamtara.

In the letter issued, it is being said in the newspapers and news channels that "Irfan Ansari made indecent remarks for Sita Soren. It should be investigated and its



report should be submitted in 3 days. The letter further states that if the answer is not received within the stipulated period, the Commission can exercise the powers of the civil court under the Constitution of India.

BJP leaders have protested against the alleged indecent statement made by Congress leader and minister Irfan Ansari on Sita Soren. On Saturday, BJP election in-charge and Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan demanded the dismissal of Irfan Ansari from Hemant Soren's cabinet. Shivraj Singh opposed Irfan's statement. He said that Jamtara MLA and minister Irfan Ansari has used



indecent words for Sita Soren. Shivraj Singh further said that Sita Soren is the wife of late Durga Soren, daughter-in-law of Shibu Soren ji and sister-in-law of Hemant Soren. She is a respected leader of Jharkhand BJP. Irfan Ansari used scheduled words for Sita Soren Irfan Ansari has not only insulted Sita Soren ji but also insulted the sisters and daughters of Jharkhand.

Koderma MP and Union Minister Annapurna Devi has strongly opposed the statement of Congress MLA Irfan Ansari on Sita Soren. She said that Irfan Ansari has made a very insulting comment for Sita Soren. The minister said that what

the Congress thinks about women has become clear from the statement of Congress leader Irfan Ansari and Congress is an anti-women and youth party. She said that Congress has always had a petty mentality towards women, which has been made clear today by Congress's Irfan Ansari by using abusive language on Sita Soren. Annapurna Devi said that women should protest against the indecent statement of Congress leader Irfan Ansari, people with such petty mentality and such ministers should be removed and Irfan Ansari's ticket should be withdrawn but Congress encourages such people.

# 805 nominations filed for first phase of polls

## Comments that hurt someone's sentiments are a violation of MCC: Dr. Neha Arora

PNS : RANCHI

Additional Chief Electoral Officer Dr. Neha Arora has said that during the assembly elections, political parties and candidates should avoid making statements that hurt anyone's sentiments. Such statements are a violation of the Model Code of Conduct. FIRs will be registered against them and action will be taken. She said that an advisory has already been issued in this regard. These guidelines of the Election Commission are being made available to political parties and candidates again. She was addressing a press conference at Nirvachan Sadan, Dhurwa on Saturday.

Dr Arora said that the Election Commission's guidelines mainly state that no appeal will be made on



Additional CEO Neha Arora during a press conference at her office in Ranchi on Saturday. PNS

the basis of caste/communal sentiments of voters. Political parties and workers will not make any false statements without factual basis with the aim of mis-

leading voters. Other parties or workers of other parties should not be criticized in a distorted manner without proven allegations. Any aspect of the personal life of leaders or workers, which is not related to public activities, will not be criticized. The lowest level of personal attack will not be used to insult one's opponent.

Places of worship will not be used for election campaigning. Especially references to religious ridicule and condemnation cannot be made. Political parties and candidates have to refrain from any such act/action/statement, which can be considered against the honour and dignity of women. Unverified and misleading advertisements will not be given in the media. Advertisements will not be given in a disguised manner

in the form of news material. Posting/sharing posts on social media that insult or disrespect opponents and are below dignity will be considered a violation of the Model Code of Conduct.

She informed that a total of 805 nominations have been filed in the 43 assembly constituencies of the first phase. The maximum nominations, 32 each, have been filed in East and West Jharkhand. The least nominations, 11 each, have been filed in Simaria and Khunti. Action is being taken by registering 19 FIRs so far against violation of the Model Code of Conduct. On the other hand, since the implementation of the Model Code of Conduct, illegal material and cash worth Rs 57.66 crore have been seized in the state.

# Raj Bhavan to be illuminated in support of 'Go Red' today

DIVYA MODI : RANCHI

The month of October is annually observed as the International Dyslexia Awareness Month when high impact events and advocacy drives are organised as a part of the 'Go Red' theme with an aim to not only remove the stigma associated with dyslexia and other learning disabilities but to also create public awareness. In this regard, the Raj Bhavan as well as the Jharkhand State Bar Council, both situated in the State capital too will be illuminated in bright red on October 27, the last Sunday of the month.

The colour red is often associated with dyslexia. Supporting the cause, in the past, the north and south block of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Indian Parliament and the India Gate along with

various historical monuments and government buildings were also lit up in red to mark the occasion.

The Jharkhand Council of Education and Research Training and Jharkhand Education Project Council in collaboration with ChangeInk Foundation and UNESCO MGIEP have taken proactive steps to raise awareness and promote understanding on Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD) under #Walk4Dyslexia and GoRed theme. For this, an MoU was also signed between JCERT and ChangeInk Foundation on July 24, 2023.

Various initiatives have been undertaken in this context including capacity building of about 6000 stakeholders- teachers, principals, block resources persons and special educators in the

State. Steps have also been taken to help strengthen the system in identifying SLD cases as well as advocating for different policy level changes which may include possible accommodation during exams like other disabilities, similar to a scribe or a writer that is appointed for a child who cannot see during examinations.

As a part of the Dyslexia Awareness Month, a State level 'Walk for Dyslexia' event was also organised on October 22 at JCERT, Ranchi in which about 200 participants including students, teachers, officials from JEPC, JCERT, District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) facilities of Ranchi and organisations such as UNICEF, Room to Read, Piramal Foundation, Dream A Dream among others actively participated.

# Grievance redressal camp organized in CCL

PNS : RANCHI

Under Special Campaign 4.0, a grievance redressal camp was organized on Saturday at Central Hospital Gandhinagar, CCL, Ranchi for the employees and contract workers working in the hospital. A total of 21 complaints were registered from Central Hospital, Gandhinagar.

Of all the complaints, most were related to settlement of quarter maintenance, PF and pension claims, while others were related to service book matters. Most of the cases were either resolved or timely and specific resolution of their complaints was ensured to all the candidates, who were satisfied with the response given to them.

General Manager (CCMC), NK Jha, General Manager (Man Power), Kavita Gupta, General Manager (Social Security), Rajiv Ranjan Sharma, Chief Manager (P), Resolution Cell, AK Malik, Senior Manager (P-NEE), Sanjay Bharti, Manager (Personnel), Shelly T Nag, Deputy Manager (Finance-CMPF), Somnath Banerjee, Deputy Manager (Civil), Nasir Tauheed, Assistant Manager (Civil), Rajan Kumar Choudhary, Assistant Manager (Personnel), Vaibhav Saluja, Assistant Manager (Personnel), GNH, Seraj Ahmad, Assistant Manager (Personnel), CMS Shikha Awasthi and representatives of Contractual Workers were present on the occasion. All employees, contractual workers welcomed the initiative of Grievance Redressal Camp.

# CEO asks officials to keep an eye on illegal money transactions, intoxicants

## Asks banks to share information about suspicious transactions with IT Dept

PNS : RANCHI

Chief Electoral Officer, Jharkhand K. Ravi Kumar has said that in the Assembly Elections 2024, enforcement agencies should keep an eye on illegal transactions of money, illegal liquor, banned material or all such free seeds and seize them, which may have the potential to influence the voting.

He said that after the implementation of the Model Code of Conduct, all the enforcement agencies are working in coordination, even after this, better performance is still expected in some areas. Today he was reviewing the assembly elections related to senior officials of all the enforcement agencies of the state. Kumar said that not only cash, but efforts can also be made to lure voters with the lure of other items. All enforcement agencies should coordinate and take prompt action on all these activities. Everyone will have to make a joint effort to provide



CEO K Ravi Kumar holds a meeting with senior officers in view of the upcoming Assembly Election in Ranchi on Saturday. PNS

equal opportunity to all candidates and to conduct clean, fair and peaceful elections in the state. Kumar said that information about any suspicious transaction by the bank should be shared with the Income Tax Department, so that raids can be conducted and criminals can be caught. He said that special attention should be paid to alcohol and intoxicants. Necessary steps should be taken to completely ban it. He directed the officials of departments like

Traffic, Forest Department, Airport Authority, Prohibition Department, Customs Department, Income Tax etc. to work diligently during the elections and completely stop illegal activities. On this occasion, State Police Nodal Officer A.V. Homkar, Additional Chief Election Officer Dr. Neha Arora and senior officials of all enforcement agencies were present. Meanwhile, holding a review meeting with all the District Electoral Officers and

Nodal Officers of Police Postal Ballot and Postal Ballot Cell of the districts today Kumar said that not even a single voter should be deprived of his right to vote. For this, all the District Electoral Officers should provide Form 12 D to voters above 85 years of age or those disabled voters in their assembly constituencies who wish to vote from home. Kumar said that Form 12 or 12 D must be made available to those absentee voters who are eligible and willing to vote through postal ballot. During the review, he said that while holding a meeting with the Nodal Officers related to all essential services, the forms should be made available to the voters willing to vote through postal ballot. He said that arrangements should also be made for the voting of the assistant police personnel engaged in election work through postal ballot, so that they are not deprived of their right to vote while on duty.

# Vedanta ESL Steel Ltd hosts Blood Donation Camp

BOKARO : Vedanta ESL Steel Limited held a voluntary blood donation camp at its Sijaljori plant, led by its CSR initiative, 'V for Society', in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross Society, Bokaro, and Citizens Foundation. The camp collected 87 units of blood with broad participation from plant employees and contractors. Dr. Abhay Bhusan, Civil Surgeon of Bokaro, attended as Chief Guest, emphasizing the importance of blood donation in medical care. Dr. B.K. Mishra, Chairman of the Indian Red Cross Society, Bokaro, served as Guest of Honor, sharing insights on the health benefits of blood donation. Kunal Daripa, Head of CSR at ESL Steel Limited, expressed gratitude to all participants and highlighted the health advantages of donating blood.

# DPS Bokaro honours 365 Students

BOKARO : DPS Bokaro held its Annual Function and Scholar Badge Felicitation Ceremony, 'NAKSHATRA 2024', celebrating academic excellence and cultural performances. A total of 365 students were awarded certificates and badges for their achievements in the 2023-2024 session. Chief Guest Rajan Prasad, Executive Director (HR) at BSL and Pro Vice Chairman of DPS Bokaro, praised the students and encouraged them to pursue their goals with a sense of responsibility towards society and the planet. Principal Dr. A.S. Gangwar congratulated the honorees and stressed the importance of both academic excellence and compassion. The event concluded with the release of the 36th edition of the school's annual magazine, DIPS Reflection.

# DPS Ranchi holds 'AD MELIORA'

DPS Ranchi organised an Inter School Quizzing Festival - "AD MELIORA" 2024 on 26th October 2024. The event drew an enthusiastic crowd of participants and spectators, with students displaying their knowledge and quick thinking in a battle of wits. Vinay Kumar, District Education Officer, Ranchi, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and Dr. Alok Kumar, Director, DAV Alok was the Guest of Honour. More than 200 participants from 20 schools across the State of Jharkhand took part in this initiative. The event aimed to foster healthy competition, encourage teamwork and ignite a passion for learning among the youth. The event was held in the sprawling Vivekananda Auditorium of DPS Ranchi.

# Bokaro Rotary Clubs organises Polio Awareness Rally

On October 24, 2024, to mark World Polio Day, members from all three Rotary Clubs of Bokaro held an impactful polio awareness rally. The event was organized under the leadership of District Polio Chair Rotarian Anoop Agarwal, while the rally was successfully coordinated by Rotary Club of Bokaro's Polio Chairman, Rotarian Dr. R. N. Pradhan. The initiative received widespread praise for its efforts to raise awareness within the community. During the rally, the presidents of all three Rotary Clubs—Rotary Club of Bokaro Steel City President Rotarian Mahesh Gupta, Rotary Club of Midtown Couples President Rotarian Ranjan Gupta, and Rotary Club of Chas President Rotarian Binod Chopra—issued a joint statement: "Rotary's mission is the complete eradication of polio worldwide, and until there is not a single case of polio anywhere, Rotary will not rest."

# BJP created Jharkhand, will not let it ruined BJP: Dr Ravindra Rai

## Dr Ravindra Rai made State BJP executive president

PNS : RANCHI

On being made the working president of the state BJP, Dr Ravindra Rai said that we all have been working together in the BJP since 1984. What should be the spirit of a politically astute worker, all this has come into our upbringing. I have had some experience of contesting elections on many occasions, getting elections contested, leading the party at the state level as well. I express my gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Jharkhand election in-charge Shivraj Singh Chouhan, election co-in-charge Himanta Biswa Sarma, state president Babul Marandi for the trust the party put in us to free Jharkhand from the political transition period again with the cooperation of the workers.

Rai said that on the occasion of the election, they have given me a special responsibility. We will try to ensure that there is no gap between any kind of worker and the management in the election. He said that I



Newly appointed State BJP Working President Ravindra Kumar Ray welcomed by State BJP President Babul Marandi, Union Agriculture Minister and Assembly election incharge Shivraj Singh Chauhan and State General Secretary Organisation Karamvir Singh at the party office in Ranchi on Saturday. Pix by Vinay Murmu



BJP Women Cell members protest against Congress leader Irfan Ansari outside his residence in Ranchi for his alleged comments against Sita Soren on Saturday. PNS

# BJP Women's Cell protests against Ansari

PNS : RANCHI

BJP Mahila Morcha held a strong protest on Saturday against the derogatory remarks made by Congress leader and minister Irfan Ansari on BJP leader Sita Soren. On this occasion, hundreds of women, led by State Mahila Morcha President Aarti Singh and Ranchi Metropolitan President Payal Soni, gheraoed Irfan Ansari's residence and protested.

During the protest, BJP women workers termed Irfan Ansari's statement as an insult not only to Sita Soren but to the mothers and sisters of entire

Jharkhand and demanded his resignation. BJP Mahila Morcha alleged that Ansari on Friday hurt the dignity of not only a woman leader but also all the mothers and sisters of the state by calling Sita Soren "rejected maal".

State Mahila Morcha President Aarti Singh said, Chief Minister Hemant Soren talks about respect, but a minister of his government uses such language for a respected woman leader, and not a single word comes out of Hemant Soren's mouth.

She said that insult to women is not a new thing in Hemant Soren's government, but his silence on the

shameless comment made on his own family member Sita Soren ji is shameful. This shows that those who do not have the courage to protect the honor of the women of their own family, how will they protect the interests of the women of the state? During the protest, the women raised slogans against Irfan Ansari and demanded his immediate dismissal. Ranchi District Mahanagar Mahila Morcha President Payal Soni said, we demand a clear stand from the Congress. Congress should cancel the ticket of people like Irfan Ansari and the party should apologise.

believe that Jharkhand of Atal Advani's dreams should be created. Jharkhand was born from the womb of BJP. We cannot see it getting ruined. I will work towards how to make Jharkhand better in the coming times. As long as Bharatiya Janata Party exists, we will work to keep Jharkhand safe.

After being made the working president of the party, Dr Rai reached the BJP state office, where election in-charge Shivraj Singh Chauhan, state president Babul Marandi, organization minister Karmaveer Singh and many other leaders welcomed him by giving him a shawl and feeding him sweets.

Organization minister Karmaveer Singh, outgoing state president Deepak Prakash, former Union Minister Arjun Munda, Rajya Sabha member Aditya Sahu, Dr Pradeep Verma, media in-charge Shiv Pujan Pathak, state spokesperson Pradeep Sinha and others congratulated Dr Rai on being made the state working president.



# Amit Shah to inaugurate passenger terminal at Petrapole

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

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

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

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



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

# Priyanka Gandhi promises to fight for Wayanad's interests

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

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

# Gandhi family is not above law: BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

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



# Panchayati Raj ministry approves new infrastructure projects

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

# Centre appoints 29 new joint secretaries across departments

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

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

# AI curriculum launched for ITI students nationwide



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

# Former NIOS chairperson repatriated amid controversy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

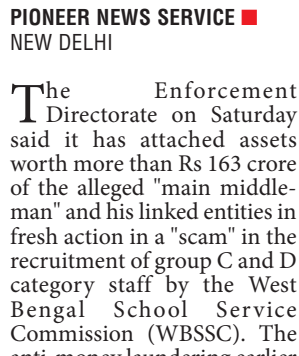
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# ED attaches assets worth ₹163 crore in West Bengal recruitment scam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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



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

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# India-China LAC breakthrough: Jaishankar credits military, diplomacy

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

## India and Germany both regionally rooted but globally committed: Risch

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

## Lawyers must learn to pay proper salaries to youngsters: CJI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



Commonwealth nations adopt 1st ocean declaration
Former British colonies seek reparatory justice

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

10 officers dead in police convoy in Iran

An attack on an Iranian police convoy Saturday in the country's restive southern province of Sistan and Baluchistan killed at least 10 officers, authorities said.

agency said that Eskandar Momeni, the country's interior minister, ordered an investigation into the incident that it described as causing the "martyrdom of a number of police".

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

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

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

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: PAD FOR SECONDARY SUSPENSION FOR LHB AS PER DRG. NO. RCF DRG. NO. 1903149 VER. a MAT SPECIFICATION NO. 17.477.10002 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery].

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

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Nickel-Cadmium Batteries Set for WDP4 HHP Locomotives to DLW Pt. No. 17051472 & DRG. NO.10609375 and conforming to RDSO Specn No. MP0.51.01.02 (Rev-2) June 2009

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

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Vinyl coated upholstery fabric (Artificial leather) for AC Coaches Size: 127 CM X 30 Mtrs. Spec: Specification: RDSO/2008/CG- 07/Aug.08, Amendment no. 5 of August 2016 RDSO's

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

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: (i) Schedule item No 1. Coral Flexicom 6000 Exchange 24 SLS Card. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery].

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

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Speed Sensor for LHB Coaches to KB Part no. 1135435/10012 or 1135456/20013 or STN 31450/205A18U RDSO Spec. No.: RDSO/2011/CG-04 (Rev.02).

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

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: 500 Amp, 750V, Inter Vehicular (IV) Coupler unit for EOG type AC Coaches / Power car conforming to RDSO's Specn. No. RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0177 (Rev.1) -2013.

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

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: BG PSCT/O/SLEEPER 1 in 8.5 Drg No. (T-4865). [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery].

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

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: 1-in-12 BG 60 KG Weldable CMS Crossing (WCMS) on PSC sleepers in accordance with RDSO's with RDSO standard drawing No. T-6412 including supply of 6mm thick grooved rubber slide plates

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

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: TURN OUT (1 IN 12) sleeper Dual Gauge. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery].

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

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: DS SLEEPERS TO DRG No-T-6068 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery].

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



PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that SH. RAJENDER SINGH SHAIHS/OH.MOHAN SINGH R/O HOUSE NO 224, FIRST FLOOR, POKHET-Q, TYPE-IV, DILSHAD GARDEN, DELHI-110095, vide File No 0113/34391/DG/NP. the original document i.e. POSSESSION LETTER, DEMAND LETTER, NOC, ELECTRICITY AND WATER of the above said flat has been lost.

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

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Russian strikes in Ukraine kill 2 teenagers

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

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

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

In the Kyiv province, which surrounds but does not include the capital, flying debris from a drone attack killed a woman, Ukraine's Emergency Service reported. A 13-year-old boy was wounded elsewhere in the region, it said.

कार्यालय नगर पालिका निगम, भोपाल
केंद्रीय कर्मशाला (मैके.शाखा)
निविदा सूचना
क्र. 185 के.कर्म/2024
भोपाल, दिनांक 25.10.2024
नगर निगम भोपाल केंद्रीय कर्मशाला के द्वारा 05 नग नवीन मिनी एक्सवेटर क्रय करने हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

कार्यालय नगर निगम, देहरादून
सार्वजनिक निविदा सूचना।
दिनांक- 26.10.2024
नगर निगम क्षेत्रान्तर्गत 100 वार्डों में स्थित विद्युत पोल जो जैसे हैं जहां है उसी स्थिति में पोल व्योस्क के माध्यम से विज्ञापन प्रदर्शित करने हेतु अनुबंध की तिथि से कुल 02 वर्ष हेतु सार्वजनिक निविदा सूचना प्रकाशन की तिथि से दिनांक 09.11.2024 को अपरान्ह 2:00 बजे तक पोल व्योस्क विज्ञापन की ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है-

Table with columns: पोल व्योस्क स्थल का विवरण, कुल पोल, निगम द्वारा आरक्षित धनराशि

MANIBHAVNAM HOME FINANCE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

REGISTERED OFFICE:- Farm No. 10, Tropical Drive, Ghitorni, M.G Road, New Delhi -110030
Mob-9310100001. Email: customercare@manibhavnam.com
PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the public in general, and the customers in particular, that the management of the Company has decided to close the following branch :

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

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

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

Table with columns: Open Tender No., Name of work, Date of Closing/Opening, Approx. Cost, Earnest Money, Completion period, Validity period, Cost of tender form



# INDIA LOOK FOR CONSISTENCY FROM BATTERS TO SEAL SERIES

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



form in this format. On the other hand, New Zealand's ambition to square the series received a

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



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

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



## India one win away from U17 Asian Cup qualification

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

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



**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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





# THE RUNWAY OF CREATIVITY

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

BY SAKSHI PRIYA

Lakme Fashion Week, presented by the Fashion Design Council of India, celebrated the artistry and innovation of over 20 acclaimed designers this season. With collections that ranged from the whimsical to the sustainable, the event showcased the dynamic evolution of Indian fashion. Esteemed designers such as Rohit Bal, Monisha Jaising and Tarun Tahiliani took centre stage, each unveiling their unique visions. This year's week-long event not only highlighted the richness of contemporary Indian aesthetics but also served as a platform for emerging talent, making it a vibrant tapestry of creativity and elegance.

The festivities kicked off with péro's enchanting collection, "HELLO péro," which marked its 15th anniversary in collaboration with Hello Kitty. This joyful presentation blended playful nostalgia with modern design, featuring vibrant textiles inspired by everyday delights like cherries and cupcakes, infused with the spirited essence of Japanese Harajuku street style. The show radiated with richly embroidered garments and a cheerful palette of pinks, reds, and yellows, exemplifying the artistry behind handcrafted textiles and the spirit of modern Indian fashion.

Day 2 showcased the R|E|lan Circular Design Challenge during Sustainable Fashion Day, where seven visionary finalists presented their imaginative collections. The air buzzed with excitement as Ritwik Khanna's Rkive City captured the coveted title, embodying innovation and eco-consciousness. This initiative, in collaboration with the UN in India, underscored the fashion industry's commitment to sustainability while nurturing emerging talent, setting the stage for a greener, more creative future.



Photos: Pankaj Kumar



On Day 3, Payal Singhal celebrated 25 years of her illustrious label with the stunning "Tazhib" collection. The show, which opened with the enchanting Shriya Saran, featured a delightful mix of deconstructed Anarkalis, chic corset cholis, and ruffled lehengas crafted from luxurious fabrics like organza and velvet. Drawing inspiration from Mughal artistry, the collection sparkled with intricate embroidery and iridescent embellishments, perfectly marrying traditional craftsmanship with modern aesthetics, making it ideal for the

upcoming festive season. On Day 4, Monisha Jaising unveiled "The Sailing Bride 2.0," a breathtaking collection for the modern holiday bride. Shalini Passi opened the show in a stunning metallic kaftan that beautifully blended contemporary glamour with heritage detailing. Monisha's designs featured fluid drapes and playful co-ord sets in serene ocean hues, culminating in a show-stopping moment when Riddhima Kapoor dazzled in a Banarasi-inspired gown. This day also highlighted



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

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



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

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

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



## REDEFINING LUXURY INDIAN WEDDINGS

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

A wedding is a momentous occasion that signifies the beginning of a lifelong journey together, and couples cherish this day as a beautiful memory forever. It is a celebration of love, joy and togetherness, not only for the couple but also for their families and loved ones. The choice of venue plays a crucial role in setting the tone for this special event, and Shangri-La Group has elevated luxury Indian weddings with the grand unveiling of "Bandhan by Shangri-La." This exclusive wedding service is designed to create breathtaking, culturally rich celebrations across the globe.

The newly launched ballroom at Shangri-La Eros New Delhi adds a touch of grandeur to luxury weddings in India. This service seamlessly blends timeless traditions, stunning settings, and Shangri-La's renowned hospitality, promising couples an unforgettable journey of love and celebration.



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

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

## DO PATTI THE HARSH TRUTH OF LIVES

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

Kriti Sanon shines in her dual role debut in the captivating romantic thriller, Do Patti. Released on Netflix, this film marks several firsts: Sanon's inaugural double role and her venture into production under her banner, Shaheer Sheikh's cinematic debut, and Kajol's maiden appearance as a police officer. The film is directed by Shashanka Chaturvedi and stars Sanon as the twin sisters Saumya and Shailee, Sheikh as Dhruv Sood, Kajol as the enigmatic police officer Vidya "VJ" Jyothi and Shah Paandya as Shobhana Pundir, Saumya and Shailee's mother.

The movie commences with the past, a troubled childhood life of two twin sisters, Saumya and Shailee (both played by Kriti Sanon). Both the twins have a lack of love for each other, converting it into hate. Saumya, the first twin falls in love with Dhruv but Shailee the other twin comes in as the antagonist in the film snatching away Saumya's love. The characters have aced their roles in acting and that adds life to the 127 minutes thriller. Kriti Sanon is a give star at both the double roles she has played beautifully with complete expressions which are horizons different. The flip between the two characters is smooth like slime and is Sanon's best performance by far. Shaheer playing Dhruv goes



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

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

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

movie and Shashanka Chaturvedi blends it perfectly with the film till the end. The major plot unveils itself in the end of the film with a message which is a voice for many women in a country like India. Visually, Do Patti is a treat, with picturesque locations like Mussoorie, Nainital, and Manali providing a stunning backdrop to the story. The film's skillful direction and captivating cinematography enhance the overall viewing experience. The film starts to build the plot from the very beginning, engulfing the minds of the viewers. At some point with its emotional songs the movie will also be successful in touching the emotional corner of your heart.

The songs like Raanjhan by Parampara Tandon had already won hearts before the release and describes the emotion beautifully. Other songs like Akhiyaan De Kol by Shilpa Rao, Maiyya by Sachet Tandon and Parampara Tandon are a treat to the ears. The climax of the movie is the hotshot scene with the restored love between the twin sisters. It is the climax you might have imagined but unfolds in a different way. Do Patti is a compelling film that offers a unique blend of romance, suspense, and social commentary with exceptional performances, coupled with a gripping storyline.

Rating - 4/5





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

# DIWALI

## FESTIVAL THAT UNITES HEARTS AND HOMES

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





# CELEBRATE INDIA'S DIVERSE CULINARY LANDSCAPE

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

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

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

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

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

## FESTIVE AMBIENCE

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

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

## TO CONCLUDE

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

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

# A Taste of Italy at Farmer's Basket

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



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

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



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

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

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

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



## A HEALTHY DIWALI

# WHOLESOME RECIPES FOR FESTIVE INDULGENCE

TEAM AGENDA

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

## ALMOND DATE CHOCOLATE BALLS

(by Australian Almonds)

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

### INGREDIENTS

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

### Method

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



## SPECIAL COCONUT LADDOO

(by Bristhi Kumari, on behalf of Chilean Prunes)

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

### Ingredients

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

### Method

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



## PISTACHIO BAKLAVA CAKE

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

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

### Ingredients: Glaze

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

### Cake

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

### Garnish

- Pistachios, almonds and dried rose petals

### Method

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



## CARAMEL WALNUT KHEER (by Chile Walnuts)

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

### Ingredients

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

### Method

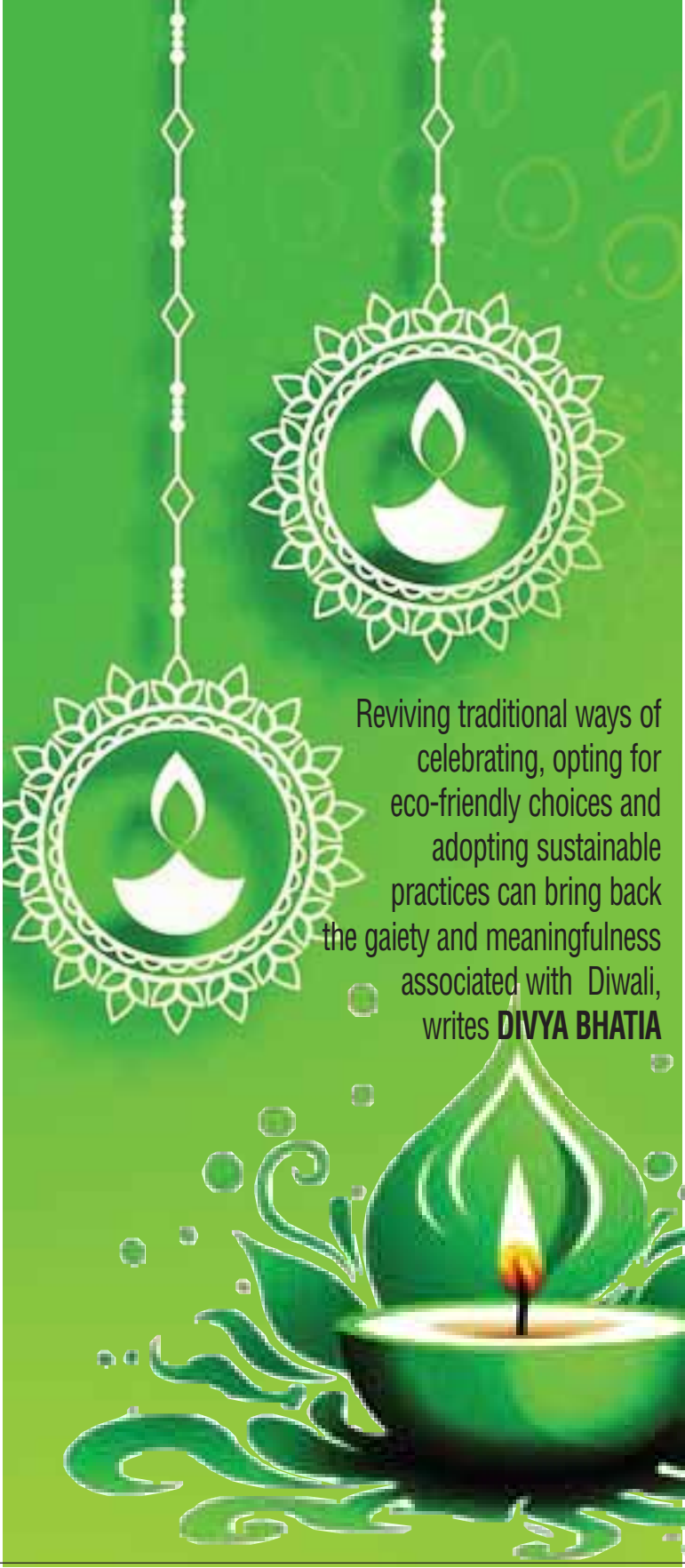
- Cook soaked rice with ½ cup milk in a pressure cooker for 2 whistles.
- For caramel, heat sugar with water until golden brown, then stir in butter (optional) and 2 tsp warm milk.
- Boil the remaining milk, add the cooked rice, and cook for 5 minutes. Stir in walnuts and caramel.
- Garnish with more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



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



# GO GREEN THIS DIWALI



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

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

## THE NEED FOR HEALTHIER CELEBRATION

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

## THE DIFFERENCE GREEN CRACKERS CAN MAKE

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



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

produce a significantly smaller amount of air pollutants.

## EMBRACING SUSTAINABLE GIFT-GIVING

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

## EAT HEALTHY THIS DIWALI

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

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

## TAKE CARE OF MENTAL HEALTH

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



## A Night of Dandiya and Festive Cheer

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

BY SAKSHI PRIYA

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



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



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

Photos: Pankaj Kumar



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

BY TEAM AGENDA

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

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



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



**ARIES** March 21-April 19

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

**Lucky number** 12 | **Lucky colour** Coral  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

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

**Lucky number** 20 | **Lucky colour** Mint  
**Lucky day** Saturday



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

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

**Lucky number** 11 | **Lucky colour** Mustard  
**Lucky day** Monday



**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

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

**Lucky number** 18 | **Lucky colour** Fuchsia  
**Lucky day** Thursday



**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

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

**Lucky number** 3 | **Lucky colour** Saffron  
**Lucky day** Friday



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

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

**Lucky number** 23 | **Lucky colour** Peach  
**Lucky day** Saturday



**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

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

**Lucky number** 6 | **Lucky colour** Indigo  
**Lucky day** Monday



**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

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

**Lucky number** 2 | **Lucky colour** Teal  
**Lucky day** Sunday



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

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

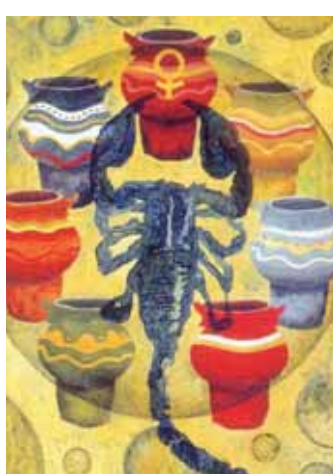
**Lucky number** 8 | **Lucky colour** Turquoise  
**Lucky day** Sunday



**CANCER** June 21-July 22

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

**Lucky number** 10 | **Lucky colour** Lavender  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

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

**Lucky number** 14 | **Lucky colour** Burgundy  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



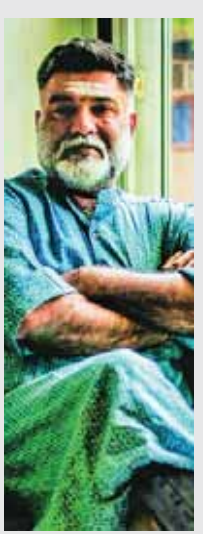
**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

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

**Lucky number** 11 | **Lucky colour** Mauve  
**Lucky day** Thursday

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THE TUNING FORK



C V Srikanth

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

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

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



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

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

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

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