WORLD 5

BRAZIL BANS X AFTER DISINFORMATION ROW SPORT 7

BHAMBRI AND BOPANNA WIN WITH RESPECTIVE PARTNERS, BALAJI EXITS **Published From DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI** RAIPUR CHANDIGARH **DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA**

BHUBANESWAR, SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹4



In Memorian -**BOSS KAUN THA?** DR CHANDAN MITRA

By SIDHARTH MISHRA

It has been three years since Chandan Mitra is gone. I left the *Pioneer* in 2012 summer but my phone still has his number saved as Editor. I last met him on January 19, 2019. I presented him a copy of my book Delhi Political 1947-2013 and clicked a picture together. Since we both had French beards and sported similar glass frames, some commented that I was indeed a true disciple, since I did not simply follow him in his writings but also the style of his beard. Covid followed, poor health got the better of Chandan's physical charm and our interactions got limited to exchange

of messages on the phone. My last

message to him was on 24 July 2021 on Guru Purnima. Somewhere I had this gut feeling that he may not be there to receive the customary message on Teachers' Day, September the 5th. It turned out

In 1992, I was working as a district correspondent in the Patna edition of the Hindustan Times. I remember reading a front-page review of Mani Ratnam's film Roja sitting in the dingy district bureau office. It was sometime then that somewhere inside me the thought arose, if I were to make a career in journalism. Chandan Mitra was the writer to follow

Soon after, I came to Delhi and found a job at the newsdesk in *The Pioneer.* The newspaper then had a good number of feature and theme pages. The newspaper's then Editor, Ashok Bhattacharya, gave me somewhat of a license to write on these pages if it would not compromise with my desk work. I grabbed the opportunity with both hands.

In 1996, Chandan came as the Editor to Link House, the office of *The Pioneer*. In the first meeting with the newsdesk, then officiating editor Ajoy Bose introduced me saying that I was some kind of a specimen, who despite working till late in the night on the desk could still find time to write. Chandan responded, "I am surprised as I always thought of you to be in someone in the writing departments.

Soon he made me jump the fence, and I was part of the City reporting team. In less than two years' time I was heading the City unit. When I took over, my friends told me that the job was jinxed as, since the launch of the paper in Delhi, nobody completed a year as the Chief Reporter.

When I completed a year, I wrote a thanksgiving note to the Editor, and Chandan in a hand written reply said I survived not because of his benevolence but because of my work. He said I would have many more years in the office. I worked in *The Pioneer* for 18 years on a trot and of which 16 years were with Chandan We were ideologically not much aligned. Given my military school background I was never much amused by the life of glamour which he enjoyed but still we managed to work together. With time I came to look after the newspaper's editions in Dehradun. Chandigarh and Banchi in addition to the Delhi City unit charge. Those were tumultuous years. The Thapars gave up on the newspaper and Chandan brought it back from the brink of closure. In those years many left for better opportunities; sometimes I ask myself what held me back. The charm of attending the evening news meetings with Chandan in the chair, things never got boring. They used to be great gatherings with Swapan Dasgupta and Kanchan Gupta, all *mahapandits* of right wing ideology, with poor me fighting to justify my sympathies for the then Sheila Dikshit Government. Chandan would face a lot of heat from Delhi BJP leaders like Madanlal Khurana for having me as the head of the naner's City unit

The majority of the years that Chandan held the reigns of *The Pioneer*, the paper Not that under the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government, Chandan mortgaged his right

to criticise. There was this instance of a border skirmish with Bangladesh in which a BSF officer was killed. His corpse was returned in a most undignified manner. The images made one baulk and at the same time angry even as the Government talked of peace. The front page editorial in the paper said, Bend, don't genuflect. Now this was a startling criticism coming from a newspaper known for its ideological proximity to the Government of the day. This must have required a lot of courage on the part of Chandan, and a real large heart on the part of the Government to take the criticism in the right spirit

During those 16 years, Chandan gave me the freedom to make my team. The team had to be made every sixbmonths as someone who had just started to shine would be poached by bigger media houses. Today these 'freshers' are the strength and backbone of many a media house across the country

Whenever one gets to meet them, they show gratitude for giving them the break but I could do so because Chandan allowed it. That was Chandan!

Sidharth Mishra is author & president Centre for Reforms, Development and Justice

Change Ravenshaw Varsity name: Dharmendra

Intellectuals

BHUBANESWAR

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Saturday pleaded for a change of the name of Ravenshaw University, thereby drawing mixed reactions from educationists and alumni of the 156-yearold premiere educational in-

Pradhan questioned the

as the Commissioner of "What did Ravenshaw do

www.dailypioneer.com

during the 1866 great famine in Odisha? Is the person who was found tormenting Odia people a matter of pride for us?" asked Pradhan during an event in Cuttack city.

Pradhan said, "Let me make it clear that it is my personal opinion. Intellectuals in Odisha should think over it. There should be debates and discussions over the matter."

Durbhiksha' (famine) claimed over a million lives. Many blamed Ravenshaw for the ca-

An advisory by BMC Com-

missioner Rajesh Patil instructed

chicken stall owners to destroy

the birds if they observe any un-

usual activity in the latter and

properly bleach the area where

should go to a doctor immedi-

ately if they feel uneasy and show

symptoms like coughing, sneez-

ing and fever, the advisory added.

Sulochana Das also appealed to

the Smart City residents to avoid

People running such shops

the activity is done.

lamity saying he could not foresee the imminent calamity and failed to handle the situation.

Pradhan's observation did not find favour with certain former students of the institu-

"I don't support the name change suggestion. Ravenshaw is not a name. It is a way of life. It has more than 100 years of history behind it. It can't be related to 'Asmita' (pride and identity). Asmita cannot exist without tradition. I think the minister's statement is unrealistic," said Hemendra Narayan Das, a former Ravenshaw stu-

Satyakam Mishra, a former

tor of Ravenshaw University said, "Those who know about the contribution of Ravenshaw will never say that the university named after him should be changed. If our students have read Odia, it's because of Ravenshaw only. When there was a conspiracy not to teach the students in Odia medium in schools, Ravenshaw was strongly against it. He has written many letters in this regard."

Former Odisha Chief Secretary Sahadev Sahoo said, "Ravenshaw never tormented people. He played a great role in the spread of education in Odisha.

Anguished women of

Kerala cry for help

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

Radhika Sarathkumar, a highly respected movie artist in South India, dropped a bombshell on Saturday by accusing some of the leading stars of the Malayalam film industry of making nude visuals of female artists with hidden cameras and blackmailing them later.

Speaking to the media, Radhika, who is married to Tamil superstar Sarath Kumar and is daughter of the iconic Tamil actor M R Radha, said that she has seen the these film stars videographing nude visuals with hidden cameras in the caravans hired for exclusive use by the female artists.

"It is done while the artists change their costumes or use the washrooms. I saw this with my own eyes and ever since stopped using the caravans. Though I alerted the director and other crew members, nothing happened. Malayalam film industry is not safe for female artists," said Radhika.

The revelations by the actress come in the wake of the #Me Too movement getting intensified after the release of the Justice K Hema Committee report about the murky happenings in Malayalam film industry. The committee was appointed by the CPI (M)-led Government in 2017 following reports of sexual harassment suffered by

female film artists. It may be recalled that a leading actress of Malayalam films was kidnapped by gangsters led by Pulsor Suni and raped as per the directive of reigning superstar Dileep.

Odia people during his period student and an ex-administra-

oppose idea NALINI SAHU

stitution.

contribution of Thomas Edward Ravenshaw, after whom the university has been named, to the development of

Bird flu scare

Traders urged not

to procure poultry

BHUBANESWAR

hough no case of bird flu has

been detected in the State capi-

tal city so far, the Bhubaneswar

Municipal Corporation (BMC)

on Saturday urged the poultry

traders not to procure chickens

from the affected areas of Pipili

and Nimapara in Puri district.

from outside city

The 1866 'Na-Anka

Avoid eating chicken for some days: BMC

consuming chickens for some

days. "I urge citizens to avoid eating chickens for some days as some might import chickens from outside. We are keeping surveillance so that action can be taken if any symptoms are

detected," said the Mayor.

In its tweet, the BMC has also urged traders to contact Veterinary Officers and ward offices if they detect any illness among their poultry. Besides, while handling poultry, the traders have been advised to maintain hygiene and wear masks. A health expert, Srikant Dhar

said, "Earlier also, bird flu was detected, but there is less probability of detection of cases in humans. However, those handling chickens should take precautions by wearing masks and maintaining hygiene. There is no need to panic.'

According to Dhar, if any chicken or egg is boiled properly, there is no chance of it getting

Chhatrapur Crorepati BEO in Vig net

Bhubaneswar



3 buildings, Rs 6L cash detected

CUTTACK

▲ he Vigilance police on Saturday conducted raids on multiple locations linked to Sita Ram Patro, Block Education Officer (BEO), Chhatrapur in Ganjam district, on the allegation of accumulating assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Mayor

During the searches so far, assets unearthed in the names of Patro and his family members included a double-storied residential building over 3,500 soft area at Ramakrushna Nagar, 7th Lane, near Khodasingh in Brahamapur, a double-storied building over 1,600 sqft area at Kolisahi, Polasara in Ganjam district, another building at Kolisahi in Polasara of Ganjam, Rs 6.50 lakh in cash, a fourwheeler and two two-wheelers.

The measurement and valuation and assessment of the buildings were being carried out by Vigilance Technical Wing. Bank, insurance and postal deposits and other investments were also being ascertained. Further investigations were underway.

Jammu votes on September 18 in first phase Kishtwar and win their support. Out of 24 districts. They include 27 in Assembly seats going to the polls in the first phase, 16 fall

erstwhile Doda district of Jammu province.

and 15 in Ramban district.

Substandard Chhatua 'Take action against erring agencies

Speaker asks Minister PNS BHUBANESWAR

Raising concern over the substandard quality of Chhatua, the nutritious food provided to children, pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls under the supplementary nutrition programme, State Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy on Saturday directed Women and Child Development Department Minister Pravati Parida to initiate action against the erring supplying agencies.

The move from the Speaker came after BJP MLA Sidhant Mohapatra raised questions over the Chhatua quality in the House. Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida

said a team of supervisors have been engaged in supervising the mixing of Chhatua in the take-home ration-making units.

"If there is any complaint regarding a specific 'Chhatua' brand, I will direct a departmental enquiry in this regard," Parida added. Later, the Speaker directed Parida to take the matter seriously and initiate action against the erring supplying agencies.

Odisha inks MoU to implement PM-USHA



Scheme aims to improve quality of, access to higher education PNS

BHUBANESWAR

In a significant step towards strengthening education, innovation and research capacities in Odisha in alignment with NEP 2020, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Odisha Gov-

day for successful implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA).

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi signed the MoU with Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan during a special event organised at the Krushi Bhawan in Bhubaneswar.

As per the guidelines of the PM-USHA scheme, States/UTs are required to sign an MoU for onboarding the scheme for its impleThe PM-USHA, an ambitious

project by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to enable State universities to ramp up infrastructure and also aid their transformation into world-class multidisciplinary univer-

It aims to improve the quality and access to education in higher education institutions (HEIs). Besides, it focuses on improving the curriculum, teachers' training, infrastructure, accreditation and employability.

 $W_{ ext{scrutiny}}^{ ext{ith the completion of the}}$ nomination papers for the first phase of the polling on September 18, the electioneering in Jammu and Kashmir has intensified. Different political parties have stepped up efforts

to reach out to the voters to

in the Kashmir valley and eight in the

According to the Election Commission of India, 64 candidates are left in the fray for eight seats in Doda,

Doda district, 22 in Kishtwar In 2014, the BJP had won four Assembly segments of Kishtwar, Doda, Bhaderwah and Ramban while two Assembly segments of Inderwal and Banihal were won by the Congress party candidates in the region.





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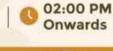


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Odisha to build world-class sports valley in BBSR

PM to lay foundation on Sept 17 To be built on 150 acres of land, project entails Rs 1,000-cr

investment **NALINI SAHU** BHUBANESWAR

he Odisha Government on Friday announced plans to build a world-class sports valley at Gothapatna on the outskirts of the capital city Bhubaneswar. Prime Minister

foundation-stone for the project on September 17.

land, the project will entail an investment of Rs 1,000 crore. The sports valley will, among others, have facilities

for almost all the sports events

played at the Olympics.

To be built over 150 acres of

The proposed sports valley will have facilities for almost all the sports and games like golf, wrestling, boxing, skating, archery, swimming, beach volleyball and other water sports as well as high performance centres. It will add to the constant endeavour of the

Bhubaneswar on the world's sports map. The State has already succeeded in grabbing the global eyeballs by creating world-class sporting facilities inside the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. With an incred-

ible annual sports budget of

Rs 1,300 crore, the highest

among all States, Odisha is

aiming at a holistic develop-

ment of athletes and sporting The State has already established a bouquet of high-performance centres at the Kalinga Sports Complex in hockey, football, swimming,

weightlifting, sports science, gymnastics, athletics, shooting and badminton. According to Olympian and renowned sprinter Shravani Nanda, the centres are a platform for athletes to refine their skills under seasoned mentors and coaches.

"I extend my sincere thanks to the Odisha Government for its endeavour to build at world-class sports valley. This will further encourage our local talents as well as provide all the Indian players to hone up their skills here and emerge successful and international arena," said Nanda.

25 new excise stations be opened in State

To ensure strict enforcement in the aftermath of the Ganjam hooch tragedy, the Excise Department has decided to open 25 new excise stations in Odisha.

"For effective enforcement and to make excise administration more efficient by strengthening the enforcement activities under excise and other relevant acts and to counter excise-related prob-

lems like cross border infiltration of liquor, illegal transport, storage, sale and illicit distillation of liquor/other NDPS items and to check hooch tragedy in the State, a proposal to open 25 new excise stations will be submitted to the government," Joint Ex-Commissioner Somanath Majhi said in a letter to Superintendent of

The Superintendents of Excise concerned have been

Excise of 16 districts.

asked to examine the feasibusted during last financial years 2021-22, 2022-23 and bility for opening of a new excise station based on geo-2023-24. A crucial meeting has been graphical size of the existing one, inaccessibility of convened on September 4 to chalk out further strategy in the far-flung areas, vulnerability to ID liquor distillathis regard. tion and supply from

1.42 lakh cases pending in HC

neighbouring district/State,

vacuum area within the

present excise station area,

number of cases detected,

number of accused arrested,

quantity of seizure of ID li-

quor, number of ID pockets

disposed of in last

BHUBANESWAR

As many as 1,42,858 cases

are pending in the Orissa High Court, informed Law Minis-

ter Prithviraj Harichandan in

the State Assembly on Satur-

The Minister's response was

to a question raised in the

House by Cuttack-Choudwar

The BJD lawmaker wanted

to know about the total pen-

dency of cases in the High

Court, disposal of cases in last

five years and the steps that

 $B_{
m JD}$ Deputy Chief Whip in

the Odisha Assembly Pratap

Keshari Deb on Saturday ex-

pressed concern over media

reports suggesting that the

JSW Group may shift its inte-

grated Electric Vehicle (EV)

and EV battery manufactur-

MLA Souvik Biswal.

Over 55,000

5 yrs

In the Ganjam hooch tragedy, which has so far claimed three lives, police suspect a link with illicit liquor supplied to rural areas of Andhra Pradesh and the traders are now believed to be hiding in the neighbouring State.

In State

Spurious liquor claims 231 lives since 1992

Minister informs Assembly

At least 231 people have died due to consumption of spurious liquor in Odisha, the State Assembly was informed on Saturday.

Excise Minister Prithviraj Harichandan shared the information while answering a question. Spurious liquor has claimed the lives of 231 people since 1992 in the State, he said.

The highest number of 134 deaths due to spurious liquor took place in Cuttack in 1992 while 41 people died after consuming hooch in 2012 at Tukulipada on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, the Minister

Similarly, 20 people died in Puri in 2001 while 19 deaths due to spurious liquor reportedly took place in Ganjam in 2006, he said, adding that spurious liquor claimed the lives of seven persons at Tihidi in Bhadrak in 2019.

The Minister further informed that there are 433 country liquor manufacturing units in rural areas of the State while licences have been issued to 490 such units for pouch liquor production.

Balabhadra Pahandi mishap: Govt to perform remedial worship

The Odisha Government would perform a remedial worship for the unfortunate mishap during of Lord Balabhadra's Adapa Mandap pahandi ritual on the occasion of the previous Rath Yatra in Puri, informed Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan on Sat-

According to the minister, whatever had happened was an accident and it occurred due to some negligence.

"However, Lord Balabhadra didn't fall on the ground and He was supported on the back of the servitors. The unfortunate incident happened as the 'Pata Dori' slipped due to some negligence. A probe committee was formed to carry out an investigation in this regard and they have already submitted their report to the temple management. We will review it soon and take action accordingly," said Harichandan.

"Discussion in this regard

has been held with the Mukti

Mandap pundits. A remedial worship for the unfortunate mishap of Lord Balabhadra will be performed after a suitable time is fixed by the Mukti Mandap pundits," he

After the incident during

widespread outrage among devotees across the globe against the servitors for their alleged negligence that led to the mishap. As many as seven servitors were injured in the mishap during the Pahandi Bije ritual.

Subsequently, the probe

give specific and pinpointed

submit its inquiry report. Though the committee has already submitted its report to the temple management, the report has been termed as incomplete. The committee has been asked to go through the videos minutely again and

ing units from Odisha to an-Raising the issue in the State Assembly, Deb urged Speaker Surama Padhi to instruct the Industries Minister to make a statement in the House regarding these reports.

Dev said that if the media reports are accurate, the State Government must take immediate action to ensure that the plant is established in Odisha

are taken to speed up the pro-

In his reply, the Law Minis-

ter informed that 55,203 cases

have been disposed of in the

last five years. Similarly, the

High Court has taken adequate

steps to speed up the process

to complete the trials and dis-

Similarly, the number of

judges would also be increased

in the State, said the minister.

pose old cases in the State.

as planned. He highlighted that under the BJD government's tenure, the JSW Group had signed an MoU with the Odisha Government to set up the projects in Cuttack and Paradip with an investment of Rs 40,000 crore. The projects were expected to create jobs for 11,000 people, and land acquisition for the projects had al-

ready been completed.

Chikiti hooch tragedy 1 more patient dies; toll rises to 3

ASI held taking bribe in Baripada

The death toll in the Chikiti liquor tragedy in Ganjam district rose to three after one more person succumbed to its effects while undergoing treatment at an ICU of the MKCG Medical College Hospital in Brahampur on Saturday.

Moreover, four other affected persons are still undergoing treatment at the hospi-

At least 15 persons from Moundpur, Jenapur and Karabalua village of Chikiti

he Vigilance police on Sat-

urday caught Rama Chandra

Soren, Assistant Sub-Inspec-

tor (ASI), Town police station

in Baripada of Mayurbhanj

district, while accepting a bribe

Soren had demanded the il-

legal gratification from the

complainant to help him in a

case registered at the Town

police station. The entire bribe

money was recovered from

Following the trap, simul-

taneous searches were carried

him and seized.

of Rs 6,000 from a person.

block had consumed country liquor from a local unlicensed shop and were rushed to the hospital after their health conditions deteriorated.

Following the incident, the State Government swung into action and intensified raids in Bhubaneswar and other parts of the State on illegal liquor units.

Brahmapur Excise Superintendent Pradip Panigrahi was placed under suspension while two other officials were transferred after the spurious liquor tragedy in Ganjam.

'Chinese ship with 'illegal' Ghana immigrants at Paradip

At least three Ghana residents, believed to be illegal immigrants, were spotted inside a Chinese ship that docked at the Paradip Port on Saturday. With its 20 crew members, the ship named 'MV where Wen' is carrying coal from Russia

Suspicion grew after three Ghana nationals were spotted inside the vessel, prompting Paradip Immigration officers to launch a probe into the incident. It was not clear whether the Ghanaian nationals have absconded from their country to go to another nation or have come to Odisha with



some other motive.

Meanwhile, the Paradip Immigration office issued a notice to the Chinese ship and directed them not to de-board the Ghana nationals at any of the Indian ports.

Meanwhile, no one was allowed to disembark from the

To empower Ganjam SHG women

ship with the immigration department probing the case. The ship was also guarded by a security guard as the document verification was on at the time of sending this news, it was

According to preliminary reports, the ship was carrying

coal from the Kavkaz port in Russia. On the way, it passed through many countries where the Ghana nationals are suspected to have entered the ship. However, it was not im-

mediately known if they were

planning to illegally migrate

In Cuttack

Havildar found hanging in barrack

Mystery shrouded the death of a Havildar, whose body was found hanging in the 6th Battalion barrack at OMP Square in Cuttack on Saturday. The deceased was identified as Trilochan Sethi.

Sethi's body was found hanging from a towel in the barrack. However, it was yet to be ascertained whether it was a case of suicide or murder. The concerned zone ACP said that the incident occurred when nobody was present in the

The deceased Havildar's duty was scheduled on the day and his body was recovered in the wee hours. Following the incident, the body was recovered and his family members were informed about the inci-

dent. The 6th Battalion Commandant said, "The exact reason behind the death is yet to be ascertained." Things are likely to get clear after the probe progresses in connection with the incident and the postmortem report is availed.

Crimes against women

Take strict action against perpetrators: CM PNS BHUBANESWAR lodged again

hief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Saturday directed the Home Department Additional Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police to take stringent action against the perpetrators of crimes against women.

Recently, the President of India had expressed concern over the crimes against women.

Majhi said the State Government's priority is to provide safety and security to women and provide justice to the victims. FIR should be

lodged against the accused and investigation should be expedited to ensure suitable punishment to the accused. If necessary, police personnel should be provided training for the

out at two locations linked to

the ASI to ascertain whether

he has accumulated assets dis-

proportionate to his known

sources of income. Further in-

vestigation was ongoing.

The CM also directed to hold a State-level conference by police with the agenda of women's security. The State Government has a policy of zero tolerance in the crimes against women. If any police official displays any negligent attitude in provide justice to women, strict action should be taken against him, Majhi di-



The centre, namely, Mangalam Dhoopbatti Centre, will work towards empowering women in rural areas. It came into existence, in partnership with the Odisha Livelihood Mission and the Mission Shakti, and aims to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities to women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) of the region.

The inaugural event was



graced by TPSODL CEO Amit Kumar Garg, along with Block Development Officer (BDO) of Rangeilunda

Ansuman Mahapatra and other dignitaries. The Mangalam Dhoopbatti Centre will benefit SHG members

from six panchayats, namely Randha, Golanthara, Kanisi, Chikarada, Sasanpadar, and Kotharising

The centre will engage women in producing ecofriendly incense sticks by upcycling flowers collected from several temples. The innovative approach not only supports environmental sustainability by transforming waste into valuable products but also provides a stable

source of income for the SHG members. CEO Garg said, "The TPSODL continues its efforts to empower the community by creating new opportunities. The company is particularly

focused on the overall development of women, as well as progress in the social and economic life of rural areas. The incense stick production cen-

women with employment but also promote Sustainable prac-Comprehensive training

programmes have already been organised for the SHG members involved in the initiative. Led by experts, these sessions have equipped the participants with the skills to craft high-quality Dhoopbati using natural materials. TPSODL has also facilitated the necessary machinery arrangements for the centre.

Gitanjali Pradhan, a member of a participating SHG, said, "I am delighted to be part of the initiative and hope it will help us a lot in our economic empowerment."

To sort out faculty recruitment problem

Will Odisha Govt re-introduce Senate system?

By amending Odisha University Act, 2020

BHUBANESWAR

he BJP Government in Odisha now plans to amend the Odisha University (OU) (Amendment) Act, 2020 to remove legal hurdles that had stalled recruitment process of faculty members for the past two years in the State universities. This was announced by Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj while replying to questions in the State Assembly.

The Minister claimed that the previous BJD government had made extensive amendments to OU Act of 1989, diluting the autonomy of the State-run universities, and

violated the UGC regulations, under which academic staff in universities are selected by a duly-constituted selection committee of the concerned university.

But, the recruitment power in the amended 2020 Act was transferred to the Odisha Public Service Commission, creating an uproar. Later, the matter reached the Supreme Court, which issued a stay order in May 2022. Many had argued that the

2020 amendments clearly violated the UGC guidelines, which states that the searchcum-selection committee for the selection of a vice-chancellor should have persons of eminence from education sector and not be associated with the university.

But, the 2020 amendment

had allowed a superannuated officer of the State Government in the recruitment process of VCs. Even, Union Education Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan, had written to Chief Minister Mohan Majhi expressing concerns over the amendments made to the

Now, the question arises is that what amendments will be done to the existing Act by the present Government? Will it revert to the previous system of Senate that was abolished by the BJD Government? Will it make changes to the Syndicate—presently the highest authority of the universities—that was restructured by the former Naveen Patnaik Government to accommodate representations from the State Governhappens to the Odisha Public Service Commission that was created to undertake selection of university teachers centrally with an aim to save time, effort and expenses?

What was senate system? As these questions now take up the centre stage, the focus now shifts to what was the senate system as described in the Orissa Universities Act of 1989? The ex-officio members of the senate were the Vice-Chancellor of the concerned University; the Director; the Director of Medical Education and Training, Orissa (now Odisha), the Director of Technical Education; the Chairman of Council of Higher Education, Odisha or the Vice-Chairman duly authorised by him; the Advocate General of Odisha, Principals of some

Graduate Council of the concerned University and heads of all Post-Graduate Departments of the concerned uni-

This apart, there were other members also. The Chancellor of the university could nominate principals—one-third the number of affiliated colleges, maximum 20—on senioritycum-rotational basis as other members. The Chancellor could also nominate five eminent persons to become other members. Three members of the Odisha Legislative Assembly to be elected from among themselves. There were representations from students, nonteaching employees and the State Assembly as well. The Senate was empowered to review policies and programmes of the universities, suggest measures for its development and could pass resolutions and consider the annual report, annual accounts and audit report of the university. It could also exercise some other prescribed functions.

Why was Senate abol-

At the time of its abolition, the BJD Government had mentioned in the amendment that 'over the years, Senate's role had become very ceremonial, without any real contribution to university functioning.' Though Senate meeting was to be convened by the Vice-Chancellor at least once in a year, several universities didn't conduct the same frequently. For instance, at the time of amendment, Utkal University had not held the

Shri Jagannath Sanskrit University didn't hold any such meeting for 9 years. Ravenshaw University didn't conduct the same for 3 years. Other universities were also found to be irregular in the conduct of such meetings.

Was restructured Syndicate a threat to autonomy of varsities?

Well, some have argued that the Syndicate was restructured to ensure the State Government could interfere in the matters of the universities. But, it wasn't the restructured Syndicate alone that ensured representation of the State Government in the system. The abolished Senate from the 1989 Act also had four State Government officers as its exofficio members. So, what did

the restructured Syndicate, Secretary of Higher Education Department or his representative, not below Joint Secretary rank, was included as an ex-officio member. In place of Director of Higher Education Department, the Regional Director of Higher Education Department was made an exofficio member.

What happens in other States?

In Kerala, Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra and West Bengal, Secretary of Higher Education Department along with two to five other senior State Government officials of Secretary and Director rank are ex-officio members of their respective University Syndicate or equivalent bodies.

Elephants rescued from canal in D'nal



Jumbo herd trapped in Baitarani

DHENKANAL

In an unfortunate event, an elephant and its calf accidentally got trapped in the Sapua main canal of Lahada under Rasol section of Dhenkanal district on Friday night.

After efforts of five long hours, Forest Department officials rescued the elephant duo with the help of a bulldozer.

As per sources, a herd of elephants was passing through

the area in night. However, the mother and calf fell into the canal in their way. The rest of the herd remained nearby throughout the night, keeping a watch over them. Upon receiving the news, forest officials rushed to the scene with a bulldozer to rescue the elephants and covered the canal with soil to pave a path for the jumbos.

Following the rescue operation, both mother elephant and calf went into a nearby forest.

Adivasi Manch meets CM with various demands

A delegation led by State convenor Bidulata Huika of Manch(OAM), an apex tribal forum in the State of Odisha, has demanded promulgating Panchayat Extension to Schedule(PESA) rules, reopening of closed schools, allotment of forest land, resettlement of displaced persons, education of children in their mother tongue tribal languages, establishment of tribal language academies at district level, etc. The demands were presented to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

Although the PESA Act was enacted by the Central Government in 1996 and despite repeated demands of the OAM, the Odisha Government did not enact any Rules for nearly 30 years. In some other States, the Rule has been enacted. Therefore, OAM demanded immediate introduction of people-oriented Rules to empower the Gram Sabhas or village assemblies in the

The previous Naveen



Patnaik Government, especially in tribal-dominated districts, closed down many primary schools and deprieved thousands of tribal children of basic education. Therefore, the forum demanded that all those schools should be re-opened immediately

Despite ownership of the land allocated under the Forest Rights Act, many irregularities are alleged. In spite of repeated demands, many tribal families have so far failed to get forest land pattas . Most of the villages have not been given community forest rights. The forum demanded an immediate solution to all these irregularities. Tribal families displaced by mining, large

river dams and other large scale projects are still living a miserable life. The Manch demanded that they be properly rehabilitated within a certain time frame according to the Government's R&R policy.

In 2013, the Central Government enacted a policy on mother-tongue-based pre-primary education (Anganwadi) in tribal areas, following a sustained movement by OAM. But it was not implemented in true spirit. The previous State Government also kept quiet after publishing books in ten tribal languages and imparting half-hearted training to ICDS functioaries. Those books with lots of errors are rotting in the warehouse of the that the Mohan Government re-examine the policy in the context of the State and implement it at the grassroots level. The forum demanded that mother tongue based multilingual pre-primary education be introduced in all tribal areas.

Out of the 62 types of tribes of Odisha, about 30 languages have survived in one way or other. All other indigenous languages are dead or dying. Like Odia Asmita, own mother tongue is also the identity of tribal Asmita. In this context, the forum submitted a demand to the Chief Minister to establish a "Language Institute or Language Academy" in each tribal district.

In this delegation, president of voluntary organization PREM Jacob Thundiyl, EDUCO national director Guru Prasad, OAM State advisor Dr Badal Tah from Koraput, OAM State coordinator Sudhir Digal and Santosh Sahu from Kandhamal, Mayurbhanj OAM convenor Basant Singh and Ratan Mishra from Gajapati among others were

In Balangir Illegal country liquor trade raises concern

Excise Dept accused of inaction

PNS ■ BALANGIR

While the Ganjam liquor tragedy has sent a shockwaves across the State, rampant illegal sale of country liquor in several parts of Balangir district has raised serious questions over the efficiency of the Excise Department.

According to sources, there are multiple government-licensed country liquor vends in the Titilagarh and Saintala areas in the district.

As per the norms, the country liquor should be packaged

at the manufacturing units. However, flouting the government guideline, the manufactures are illegally transporting the liquors to other units for packaging.

The violation of the packaging norm not only increases the chances of adulteration but also poses a threat to life. Locals accuse the Excise Department of not taking any action against of such country liquor manufacturing units.

Notably, two people died and 15 others from Karbala and Jenasahi villages fell ill after consuming country liquor sold near Moundpur in Ganjam this month.

In Keonjhar **•** Ex-Coop Secy convicted in 2 graft cases

NARESH PATTANAYAK KEONJHAR

Dhagirathi Bhuyan, former Secretary, Deogaon Service Cooperative Societies (SCS), Keonjhar district, who had been charge-sheeted by the Vigilance police for showing undue official favour to the loanees and putting the government in loss, was convicted in two corruption cases on Friday.

Special Judge, Vigilance, Keonjhar, Rasmita Dalei ruled that Bhuyan would undergo three years' imprisonment and pay a fine of Rs 10,000 in the first case for causing a loss of Rs 13.23 lakh to the government

under the Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme.

In another case, he was convicted and sentenced to three years of rigorous imprisonment and for submitting Debt Waiver and Debt Relief claims by showing ineligible farmers by way of alteration, addition as well as manipulation of loan ledger of the SCS, Deogaon, for which the Keonjhar Central Cooperative Bank (KCCB) Ltd

> After the conviction, the Vigilance would now move the competent authority for stoppage of pension of

sustained wrongful financial

loss of Rs 3.36 lakh.

Name Gate Bazar-H'khandi Rd after ex-CM

The Ganjam District Development Forum has demanded that the Gate Bazar-Haridakhandi Road in Brahmapur be named "Binayak Acharya Marg" in honor of former Chief Minister late Binayak Acharya. The demand was made during a ceremony held on the occasion of Acharya's 106th birth anniversary at Binayak Smruti Vidyalaya on Friday here.

The event, led by Rajendra Panda, president of the forum,



saw participation from several prominent personalities. Former Deputy Speaker Ram Chandra Panda served as the chief guest, while senior journalist Rabi Rath delivered the keynote address. Other notable attendees included social worker T Gopi, advisor Dr Siba Prasad Mishra, teacher leader Komaraju Maharana and school headmaster Bhagaban

Speakers at the event em-

Binayak Acharya's simple and selfless life, reflecting on his dedication to public service and his refusal to accumulate personal wealth. Despite holding a high office, Acharya remained committed to the people, which is why the forum is pushing for the road to bear his name as a lasting trib-

phasized the need to honour

The forum also urged that a statue of Acharya be erected in the State capital, akin to those of other former Chief

Empowering through Education: Vedanta

Vedanta helps transform J'suguda schools' standard

PNS JHARSUGUDA

 $T_{\text{hrough initiatives such as}}$ Project Vidyagraha and Mini Science Centre, as well as its support for the Government of Odisha's Mo School Abhiyan programme, the Vedanta Aluminium is setting new benchmarks in academic advancement for Government school students.

A digital leap in academic performance launched across 106 high schools across Jharsuguda, Project Vidyagraha has demonstrated remarkable success in enhancing the academic performance of students in Jharsuguda. The

e-learning initiative focuses on

exams, six of the seven participating schools in the Vidyagraha programhave achieved 100% pass rate, with one school securing a commendable 97.70% passing rate. Additionally, 51 students achieved first division with distinction, and one student ranked third in the district with an outstanding 92% score.

the active involvement of over 100 employee volunteers from Vedanta Jharsuguda, who contribute their professional expertise and time to foster greater community engagement and learning opportu-

achievements and career pros-

The Vedanta Mini Science Centres, installed in five schools across Jharsuguda, are

revolutionizing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) learning in schools. Featuring interactive models and learning materials in regional languages, these centres enhance the students' understanding through handson learning. Pranaya Kumar Patel, Headmaster, Debadhi High School, said, "The Mini Science Centre has significantly increased student interest and participation in sci-

ence, fostering a culture of

curiosity and innovation." The Vedanta's Computer Literacy Programme addresses the critical need for digital skills among youths living in rural areas, who have limited access to learning opportunities. With three centres in Jharsuguda, the programme offers basic computer education and vocational training, equipping students with essential skills crucial in the digital age. Ghasia Meher, Headmaster, Kurebaga High School, said, "The programme is instrumental in preparing students for the digital age, enhancing their learning experience and future employment opportunities." In collaboration with

CYRAN AI Solutions, Vedanta Jharsuguda has introduced the Buddhi AI DIY Kit in two CBSE schools in Jharsuguda. The innovative kit facilitates an intuitive understanding of Artificial Intelligence, aligning with CBSE curriculum and fostering creativity and problem-solving skills among young students. PK Panda, Principal, DAV Public School, Jharsuguda, shares, "The BuddhiAI Kit is a groundbreaking tool that integrates artificial intelligencebased tools into our educational framework, preparing students for a technologydriven future."

problem with the elephants." team is trying for their safe **Delay in providing flat** Court asks builder to pay Rs 30L to consumer

 ${f A}$ n apartment owner has been directed by a consumer court in Jeypore of Koraput district to return Rs 30 lakh to a person, who had booked a flat.

■ KEONJHAR

A herd of 17 elephants has

been trapped in an island of Baitarani river for the last

three days. Due to heavy wa-

ter flow, they cannot cross the

river. A forest department

As per reports, the apartment promoter Jogindra Sai has been directed to pay the amount to K Suman of Nehru within a month. Complainant Suman had moved the court after the apartment owner allegedly failed to hand over the unit within the stipulated timeframe.

Suman had paid the apartment owner around Rs 20 lakh in 2020, but he is yet to get the possession of the flat, Hearing the matter, the

crossing of the river.

Local people believe that as

there are five calves in the herd,

they could not cross the river

after water level went up due to rainfall in the river's catch-

ment area. Keonjhar DFO

Dhanraj HD said, "There is no

court has directed the owner to pay Rs 20 lakh at an interest of 6% and Rs 5 lakh as compensation and Rs 1 lakh as rent and other expenses to the complainant. Moreover, the court also directed for collection of money at 12% interest if the apartment owner fails to pay within 30 days of the judgement.

providing digital learning resources via a web-based platform for Math, English, and Science subjects, and has yielded impressive results so In this year's State board

The project benefits from

nities for the students. Speaking on the success of the project, District Education Officer, Jharsuguda Dr Radhakanta Gartia, said, "Project Vidyagraha exemplifies a successful collaboration between corporate and educational sectors, significantly uplifting students' academic

Dharmendra appointed Delhi chief secretary, Naresh Kumar denied third term

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

 $E_{\rm giving\ a\ third\ term\ exten}^{\rm nding\ speculations\ over}$ sion to Naresh Kumar, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Saturday appointed Dharmendra as Delhi's next Chief Secretary. He is a 1989 batch of Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer. Incumbent Naresh Kumar, a 1987-batch officer, who was given two extensions in the past, completed his tenure

"With the approval of the competent authority, Dharmendra, IAS (AGMUT 1989), is hereby transferred from Arunachal Pradesh to

on August 31.

Delhi and posted as chief secretary, GNCTD, wef 01.09.2024 or with effect from the date of joining, whichever is later," according to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs order issued on Saturday. His appointment comes at a time when the administration is focusing on enhancing governance and effective management of the capital. This change comes following Govind Mohan's recent appointment as Union Home Secretary.

ınday pioneer

Dharmendra is among the senior-most AGMUT cadre officers and is taking charge as the Delhi chief secretary ahead of the assembly polls due in February. He who has been serving as the Chief Secretary of Arunachal

Pradesh since April 2022, before being transferred to

His appointment came on the day his predecessor's three-month extended tenure came to an end. There was speculation over a further extension in view of the polls. In addition to being a bridge between the Centre and the Delhi government, the post of Delhi chief secretary is crucial to the national capital's administration.

The post has become more significant since the enactment of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2023 as part of which the chief secretary is one of the three members of the National Capital Civil



Services Authority (NCCSA), which presides over the transfer, posting and vigilance matters of civil servants posted in the city apart from the Delhi chief minister and principal secretary (home). He has served in several posts in the capital in the past, including divisional commissioner-cum-revenue secretary, NDMC chairperson, deputy commissioner (North West Delhi), and deputy commissioner (East Delhi) in addition to secretary of the industries, environment and irrigation and flood control

He has the formidable task of bridging the gap between Delhi's elected government, bureaucracy, and Raj Niwas. Known for his low-key demeanor, maintaining this image could be crucial. He assumes this significant role

at a critical juncture, with Delhi assembly elections just months away, making his responsibilities even more crucial. Insiders some Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) officials expect Kumar to get another

six-month term given the

upcoming Delhi Assembly

elections, which are due to be

held in early 2025. According

to them, Kumar understands

the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam

Secretary will be critical during the run-up to the elections. Other DoPT officials said it would be a strange situation if he works under the consultative command of the new Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, who is an IAS officer of the 1989 batch from Sikkim cadre and two batches junior to Kumar. On the other hand, his predecessor was consistently at

Aadmi Party government best

and the role of the Chief

loggerheads with the AAP government in Delhi during his two-year tenure as chief secretary. His tenure, which began in April 2022 and was extended twice by the Centre, ends on August 31.

Dharmendra, bureaucrats in the Delhi government assert-

AAP dispensation and the Lt Governor's Office. During his previous stint in the Delhi government, Dharmendra -a civil engineer by training - held various posts, including secretary in the revenue; irrigation and flood control; and industries departments. He was chairman of the New Delhi Municipal Council before being transferred to Arunachal Pradesh in April 2022. He has also served in the housing and urban affairs and the consumer affairs ministries, as development commissioner for Dadra and Nagar Haveli/Daman and

Diu, and resident commis-

sioner of Aizawl.

ed, would require fine bal-

ancing skills, being the crucial

link between the "warring"

Minto Bridge closed for repairs till September 2

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Minto Bridge which has been witnessing frequent flooding this monsoon and a key link between New Delhi, Old Delhi and Connaught Place has been closed for repair works till September 2, the Delhi traf-fic police said in an advisory in a social media post on X. According to an advisory, both the carriageways at Minto Bridge will remain closed till Monday morning due to repair work of deep potholes. It has been closed from August 20 (10 PM) to from August 30 (10 PM) to September 2 (7 am). To minimise any possible inconveniences to travel, travellers have been encouraged to seek other routes. The Ranjeet Singh flyover on Barakhamba Road is the suggested detour. To minimize inconvenience, commuters are highly recommended to schedule their trips appropriately.

The advisory asked the general public and motorists to keep patience, observe traffic rules and road discipline and follow direction of traffic personnel deployed at all intersections and remain updated through their social media

channels.

The Minto Bridge has frequently been in the news, especially during this monsoon, due to persistent issues massive

waterlogging. There are still substantial issues for commuters as a result of the unresolved issue, despite several initiatives and attempts by civic agencies. The road's condition has deteriorated due to the frequent waterlogging. There are large potholes on Minto Bridge that need to be fixed right now to make trav-

Minto Bridge connects New Delhi Railway Station with Connaught Place, named after Gilbert Elliot-Murray-Kynynmound, 4th Earl of Minto, who was the viceroy and governor-general of India from 1905 to 1910. It was built in 1933, between the flood plains of the Yamuna river and the Delhi Ridge. The Delhi Ridge is the northern extension of the ancient Aravalli hill range, which is surrounded by urban areas. The Minto Bridge underpass

has a catchment area of one kilometre, contributing to the recurring waterlogging issues during heavy rainfall. Water from two roads flows down to the slope, and the DJB sewage line overflows, exacerbating the flooding. Even minimal rain can result in waterlogging, causing buses and other vehicles to get submerged. The Minto Bridge is of historical and strategic importance in the heart of Delhi. Minto Bridge was built in 1933 after the seat of power of

the British Raj moved from

The underpass below the bridge is a low-lying patch, surrounded on all sides by areas at a higher elevation. This bowl-like depression is a natural receptacle for rain-

Minto Bridge witnessed vio-lence during the riots at the time of Partition. There are several accounts of how those fleeing the walled city — on foot and in tongas — to refugee camps in Purana Qila and Humanyun's Tomb were ambushed and killed near

Minto Bridge. The Bridge hit the headlines first time in the early 1950s for water-logging. In the late 1960s, Minto Bridge area became Delhi's cabaret destination with the opening of Blue Star, a restro-bar. Tucked by the side of the bridge, it soon found thousands of

In 2008, a report emerged of Northern Railways getting verbal approval from the Ministry of Urban Development to demolish the old bridge and make way for a new one for its elaborate redevelopment plans for the New Delhi railway station, but the plan never took off.

Orphaned children to receive education free of cost: Delhi Govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has I ordered that those children who became orphan or lost a parent due to Covid or otherwise will continue to receive education free of cost in schools.

In an effort to ensure that such children continue their education, the order issued on Friday said these students may be adjusted in the same school, if running on DDA or government allotted land under freeship category immediate-

Or, such students may be treated as a student studying under Economically Weaker Section/Disadvantaged Group category and reimbursement may be claimed from the Directorate of Education, Delhi up to elementary level and after 8th class such students may be guided/facilitated for admission in any government school for, their uninterrupted further education, the order said.

Further, all the DDE (District) were directed to ensure that such cases do not remain pending at School/Zonal/District level. If

any case is pending at any level, the, proposal of the same will be submitted to PSB for approval of Competent Authority by September 30. "In continuance of the Circular

DE.(178)/PSB/2021/3739-3743 dated 22.09.2021 issued by DDE (PSB) and in compliance with orders dated 27/07/2021 of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Case SMW(C) No. 4 of 2020, Children who have become orphans or lost a parent after March, 2020 either due to COVID-19 or otherwise, need due attention to enable them to continue their education in Private Unaided/Aided Recognized schools.

All District DDEs were directed to ensure the continuation of the study of all such students. These students may be adjusted in the same school, if running on DDA or government allotted land. under freeship category immediately.

Or, such students may be treated as a student studying under Economically Weaker

Section/Disadvantaged Group category and reimbursement may be claimed from. the Directorate of Education, Delhi upto elementary level and after 8th class such students may be guided/facilitated for admission in any government school for, their uninterrupted further education.Further, all the DDE (District) are hereby directed to ensure that such cases do not remain pending at School/Zonal/District level. If any case is pending at any level, the, proposal of the same will be submitted to PSB for approval of Competent Authority by September 30,"

the order said. Data from the Delhi government shows that the national capital saw a decline in birth rate after the COVID-19 pandemic as it reduced from 18.35 per 1000 population to 14.85 in 2020, according to the latest report of the government. The 'Annual Report on Registration of Births and Deaths in Delhi-2023' also said that out of 13,919 noninstitutional births, 7,216 (51.84 per cent) were females.

LG directs complete makeover of Kashmere Gate ISBT complex



In an effort to reduce congestion at the Kashmere Gate inter-State bus terminal(ISBT), Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday directed complete makeover of the complex. He also ordered that turn-around period of inter-State buses should be reduced from the existing 45 minutes to 30 for faster circulation of buses.

Giving details, Raj Niwas officials said Saxena gave these directions after inspecting Kashmere Gate bus terminus and took stock of the passenger amenities as well as the operation of local and interstate buses from the terminal. He later went on a walking inspection of the Rani Jhansi Road from Azad Market to Pusa Road intersection via the Faiz Road intersection and the

The LG, who has been for the past one month regularly reviewing the traffic situation in the Capital, was confronted with the issue of massive congestion outside ISBT due to unduly high turn around time of inter-state buses to and from the bus bays inside the Terminal.

He was informed that the minimum turn around time for an inter-state bus currently was 45-60 minutes, which led to spilling over of buses on to the adjoining roads outside the ISBT, which in turn led to traffic snarls.

To this, Saxena directed the Transport Commissioner and DTC to reduce the turn-around time for inter-state buses to 30 minutes that will increase the circulation of buses by over

od of 45 minutes, caters to over 2,600 buses from its 60 bays, that comprises nearly 1,300 inter-state buses, 1,200 DTC and Cluster buses and nearly a hundred All India Tourist Permit buses. With this turnaround period getting reduced to 30 minutes, ISBT, Kashmere Gate will be able to handle over 1,900 inter-state buses, up from the existing 1300, every day. Upon witnessing the poor upkeep, maintenance, sanitation and encroachment of passenger ways by unauthorized vendors, the Saxena expressed dissatisfaction and directed the concerned officials to carry

Terminal. He asked for a thorough sprucing up exercise, which includes repair of the false ceiling, broken tiles, greening of the unutilized spaces and removal of stains and litters, to be carried out within 15 days. MCD and Delhi Police were directed to prevent illegal squatting and clearing of passenger and bus

out a complete makeover of the

During his walk on Rani Jhansi Road, the LG came across serious problem of encroachment of the road, disrepair of the pavements and central verges, pathetic condition of the road around the Faiz Road intersection, disrepair of the fortification on the side of the Idgah, stray cattle and absence of traffic police. All these gravely affected the circulation of traffic on the road resulting in massive traffic jams.

The LG pointed out that the current state-of-affairs was affecting huge areas that include PulBangash, SabziMandi, Azad Market, Sadar Bazar and MalkaGanj amongst others

At present, ISBT, Kashmere

Delhiites pollution concern grows as Monsoon drawing to end: BJP STAFF REPORTER ■

Saturday said as the monsoon is drawing to a close, the ters to evade responsibility, he Delhiites about winter pollution are increasing. In the past decade, due to Arvind Kejriwal government's criminal negligence, winter pollution in Delhi has escalated to such an extent that millions suffer from respiratory issues every year, and many even die unexpectedly, he said.

Making these assertions in a news conference, Sachdeva said last year saw the worst pollution levels in Delhi's history.Based on the experience of black pollution in the past decade, especially last year,

Delhiites hoped that the Kejriwal government would wake up in 2024, but it is Delhi BJP President regrettable that Delhi's Virendra Sachdeva on Environment Minister Gopal Rai is merely playing with let-

The Delhi BJP President stated that winter pollution is a very serious issue that requires serious long-term measures to combat. It is necessary to work on a policy plan with neighbouring state governments to combat winter pollution, but it is unfortunate that Environment Minister Gopal Rai wants to wash his hands off the responsibility of winter pollution by playing with letters with the Centre and presenting some rehearsed points through press conferences.



Rai has publicly disclosed two letters written to the Centre in the last fortnight, but he has not disclosed any letter that he might have written to the Punjab government regarding stubble burning, the biggest contributor to winter pollution in Delhi, Sachdeva said. He said Delhiites want to know from Gopal Rai, who emphasized artificial rain in his letter to the Centre to reduce increasing winter pollution, in which cities artificial rain has helped reduce pollution levels as high as in

Many environmental experts

have already deemed the suggestion of artificial rain unnecessary and ineffective. Shri Sachdeva said that the first step in fighting pollution is to streamline the working of the Delhi Pollution Control defunct today. It is surprising that almost half the positions in the DPCC are vacant, which raises questions about how much work the committee can actually do. Gopal Rai should explain why more than half of the positions in the DPCC have been vacant for

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee has consistently condemned the Delhi government's symbolic anti-pollution measures, such as the Rs. 24 crore waste on the Connaught Place smog tower

dence after spending Rs. 13 crores, he said. Sachdeva questioned why Gopal Rai has not taken concrore special anti-pollution fund provided by the Centre and more than Rs. 700 crore

and the Real-Time Source

Apportionment Report that

came without scientific evi-

of the environment cess fund, along with the special stubble management fund. The Delhi BJP President said

the Arvind Kejriwal government should stop playing politics in the name of environmental protection and take concrete anti-pollution measures, starting with calling an all-party meeting with the Punjab government's Chief Minister on winter pollution preparations.

Woman kills six-day-old daughter, throws body on adjacent roof in Khyala

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $F_{ ext{the birth of her fourth}}^{ ext{acing social stigma over}}$ girl child, a 28-year-old woman killed her six-dayold daughter and threw her body on the roof of an adjacent house in west Delhi's Khayala area. "A PCR call was received around 5.30 am on Friday, reporting that a sixday-old baby girl was missing. Given the sensitivity of the case, officers from the local police station immediately reached the spot," Deputy Commissioner of Police (west) Vichitra Veer.

During initial questioning, the girl's mother, Shivani, claimed that she was discharged from the hospital the previous night and had returned to her parental home. She told police that after feeding the baby around 2 am, she slept with the child beside her but when she woke up at 4.30 am, the baby was gone, DCP Veer said. The police officer said a team was constituted to check CCTV footage from the neighbouring area and search

nearby houses. 'While the search was on,



allowed her to go," the DCP Meanwhile, during the search,

a bag was found on the roof of an adjacent house. Upon opening it, the police found the baby, who was immediately taken to the hospital, where the doctors declared her brought dead, Veer said. The DCP said a police team was subsequently sent to a hospital, bus stations and Shivani's residence in Shahdara to trace her, who on being questioned broke down and confessed to the crime. Shivani revealed during initial

interrogation that the deceased was her fourth daughter, two of whom had already died. The accused cited social stigma as the reason for her actions, he said. Overwhelmed by these thoughts while feeding the baby, Shivani smothered her daughter and then disposed of the body on the neighbouring roof. She later claimed the baby was missing as she was uncertain about what to tell her family, the DCP said. Shivani has been arrested and

a case of murder has been registered, Veer said. The police are awaiting the results of the postmortem to verify the account of the accused and determine the exact cause of death, he added.

Minor girl raped by 14-year-old neighbour

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

five-year-old girl was Afive-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a 14-year-old boy residing in her neigbourhood at a time when the girl child was alone at her house in southwest Delhi's Kapashera area. The incident took place when her parents, who are labourers, had gone to work and she was alone at home on Thursday afternoon. The accused boy, who is a friend of the victim girl's brother, was apprehended and sent to an observation home. According to police, they registered an FIR under section 65 (2) (raping woman under 12 years of age) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and section 6 (Punishment for aggravated penetrative sexual assault) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The boy was apprehended and sent to an observation home,

police said. Sharing details, DCP (southwest) Rohit Meena said a PCR call was received at Kapashera police station regarding the heinous crime



committed with a 5-year-old girl by a 14-year-old boy. Sensing the gravity of the matter, a police team was immediately dispatched to the spot where they met the parents of the victim child who narrated the entire mat-

'The parents, who are both labourers, were out on their work. Sensing this as an opportunity, the accused boy went to their house and allegedly raped their daughter," the DCP said.

The police took the girl child to a hospital where her medical examination was conducted. The victim was counseled in the presence of her

DU VC inaugurates new facilities at **Delhi College of Arts** and Commerce



STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi University Vice Chancellor(VC)Professor Yogesh Singh on Saturday said the future of India rests in the hands of young minds and edu-cators. He also said "We must all work tirelessly, with dedication and innovation, to ensure that India reaches the pinnacle of global development by 2047." Making these assertions after

inaugurating state-of-the-art facilities at Delhi College of Arts and Commerce, he also shared a powerful message with the teaching community, urging them to adopt modern teaching-learning systems that can revolutionize the educational landscape.

Brazil bans X after disinformation row

AP SAO PAULO

Prazil started blocking Elon Musk's social media platform X early Saturday, making it largely inaccessible on both the web and through its mobile app after the company refused to comply with a judge's

X missed a deadline imposed by Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes to name a legal representative in Brazil, triggering the suspension. It marks an escalation in the monthslong feud between Musk and de Moraes over free speech, far-right accounts and misinformation.
To block X, Brazil's telecommunica-

tions regulator, Anatel, told internet service providers to suspend users' access to the social media platform. As of Saturday after midnight local time, major operators had begun doing so. De Moraes had warned Musk on Wednesday night that X could be blocked in Brazil if he failed to comply with his order to name a representative, and established a 24-hour deadline. The company hasn't had a representative in the country since earlier this month.

"Elon Musk showed his total disrespect for Brazilian sovereignty and, in particular, for the judiciary, setting himself up as a true supranational entity and immune to the laws of each

country," de Moraes wrote in his decision on Friday

The justice said the platform will stay suspended until it complies with his orders, and also set a daily fine of 50,000 reais (\$8,900) for people or companies using VPNs to access it. In a later ruling, he backtracked on his initial decision to establish a 5-day deadline for internet service providers themselves — and not just the telecommunications regulator — to block access to X, as well as his directions and the service providers to block access to X, as well as his directions. tive for app stores to remove virtual private networks, or VPNs. Brazil is one of the biggest markets for

X, which has struggled with the loss of advertisers since Musk purchased the former Twitter in 2022. Market research group Emarketer says some 40 million Brazilians, roughly onefifth of the population, access X at least once per month. "This is a sad day for X users around the world, especially those in Brazil, who are being denied access to our platform. I wish it did not have to come to this - it breaks my heart," X's CEO Linda Yaccarino said Friday night, adding that Brazil is failing to uphold its constitution's pledge to forbid censorship.

down by de Moraes, "simply because we would not comply with his illegal



orders to censor his political oppo-

"When we attempted to defend ourselves in court, Judge de Moraes threatened our Brazilian legal representative with imprisonment. Even after she resigned, he froze all of her bank accounts," the company wrote. X has clashed with de Moraes over its reluctance to comply with orders to block users

Accounts that the platform previously has shut down on Brazilian orders include lawmakers affiliated with former President Jair Bolsonaro's rightwing party and activists accused of undermining Brazilian democracy. X's lawyers in April sent a document to the Supreme Court in April, saying that since 2019 it had suspended or blocked 226 users.

In his decision Friday, de Moraes' cited Musk's statements as evidence that X's

conduct "clearly intends to continue to encourage posts with extremism, hate speech and anti-democratic discourse, and to try to withdraw them from jurisdictional control.

In April, de Moraes included Musk as a target in an ongoing investigation over the dissemination of fake news and opened a separate investigation into the executive for alleged obstruction. Musk, a self-proclaimed "free speech absolutist," has repeatedly claimed the justice's actions amount to censorship, and his argument has been echoed by Brazil's political right. He has often insulted de Moraes on his platform, characterizing him as a dictator and tyrant.

De Moraes' defenders have said his actions aimed at X have been lawful, supported by most of the court's full bench and have served to protect democracy at a time it is imperiled. He wrote Friday that his ruling is based on Brazilian law requiring internet services companies to have representation in the country so they can be notified when there are relevant court decisions and take requisite action specifying the takedown of illicit content posted by users, and an anticipated churn of misinformation during October municipal elections.

The looming shutdown is not unprecedented in Brazil.

Lone Brazilian judges shut down

Meta's WhatsApp, the nation's most widely used messaging app, several times in 2015 and 2016 due to the company's refusal to comply with police requests for user data. In 2022, de Morres threatened the messaging de Moraes threatened the messaging app Telegram with a nationwide shutdown, arguing it had repeatedly ignored Brazilian authorities requests to block profiles and provide informa-tion. He ordered Telegram to appoint a local representative; the company ultimately complied and stayed online. X and its former incarnation, Twitter, have been banned in several countries mostly authoritarian regimes such as Russia, China, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea, Venezuela and Turkmenistan. Other countries, such

as Pakistan, Turkey and Egypt, have also temporarily suspended X before, usually to quell dissent and unrest. Twitter was banned in Egypt after the Arab Spring uprisings, which some dubbed the "Twitter revolution," but it has since been rectored. it has since been restored. A search Friday on X showed hun-

dreds of Brazilian users inquiring about VPNs that could potentially enable them to continue using the platform by making it appear they were logging on from outside the country. It was not immediately clear how Brazilian authorities would police this practice and impose fines cited by

Indian embassy in Laos rescues 47 Indians from cyberscam centres

PTI VIENTIANE

At least 47 Indians trapped in cyber scam centres in Laos have been rescued from the Bokeo province of the country, the Indian embassy in the Southeast Asian country said on Saturday Indian authorities have been

cautioning its nationals against fake job offers in Laos and urged them to conduct thor-ough due diligence to avoid being deceived. The Indian mission has so far rescued 635 Indians from the country and ensured their safe return to India. In the latest case, the embassy rescued 47 Indians trapped in cyber scam centres at the Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Bokeo province, a statement from the Indian Embassy in Laos said. "Of these, 29 were handed

over to the Embassy by Laos authorities after their crackdown on illegal activities in Golden Triangle SEZ, while other 18 had approached the Embassy in distress, seeking help," the statement, which was posted on X, said.
It said the embassy officials travelled from the capital

Vientiane to Bokeo to liaise with local authorities for their

The statement added that

Prashant Agrawal, the Ambassador of India to Laos, met the group upon their arrival to discuss the challenges they faced and to advise further course of action.

The embassy has undertaken and completed all procedural requirements of Laos authorities for their repatriation to India, the statement said, adding that 30 of those have already safely returned to India or are on their way, while the remaining 17 are only awaiting travel arrangements to be firmed up and would be leav-

ing the country soon. Agrawal emphasised that "ensuring safety and well-being" of Indians was a matter of top priority for the Embassy, the statement said. External Affairs Minister S

Jaishankar last month discussed the issue of trafficking of Indian nationals with Laos Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone during his visit to the Southeast Asian nation. The Indian embassy in Laos last month rescued 13 Indians, who were lured into certain

cyber-scamming centres in the country and sent them back In Saturday's statement, the

Indian Embassy urged the Laos government to take action at their end against unscrupulous

At the same time, Ukraine has

sent its forces into Russia's

Kursk region in recent weeks in

the largest incursion onto Russian soil since World War

II. The move is partly an effort

to force Russia to draw troops

away from the Donetsk front.

5 killed by Russian strike in Donetsk region

Five people were killed by Russian shelling in the town of Chasiv Yar on Saturday as Moscow's troops continue their push on Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region.

The attack struck a high-rise building and a private home, Filaskhin, who said the victims were men aged between 24 and 38. He urged the last remaining residents to leave the frontline town, which had a pre-war population of 12,000.

'Normal life has been impossible in Chasiv Yar for more than two years," Filaskhin wrote on social media. "Do not become a Russian target —

Meanwhile, Russia's Ministry of tured the town of Pivnichne, also in Ukraine's Donetsk region. The Associated Press could not independently verify the claim.

Russian forces have been driving deeper into the partly occupied eastern region, the total capture of which is one of the Kremlin's primary ambitions. Russia's army is closing in on Pokrovsk, a critical logistics hub for the Ukrainian defence in the area.

Elsewhere, the number of injured following a Russian attack on the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv on Friday continued to Six people were killed, including a 14-year-old girl, when glide bombs struck five loca-

tions across the city, said regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov. Writing on social media Saturday, he said that the num-ber of injured had risen from Syniehubov also confirmed

that the 12-story apartment strike, setting the building ablaze and trapping at least one person on an upper floor, would be partly demolished. The number of injured also continued to rise in the Russian border region of Belgorod where five people were killed Friday by Ükrainian shelling, said Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov. He said Sunday that 46 people had been injured, of whom 37 were in the hospital, including seven children.

Helicopter with 22 onboard missing

Moscow (AP): Rescuers are searching for a helicopter that went missing in Russia's far east on Saturday with 22 people on board. The Mi-8 helicopter took off close to the Vachkazhets volcano in the Kamchatka region, but did not arrive at its destination as scheduled, Russia's Federal Air Transport Agency said in a statement. It said it believed that 19 passengers and three crew

is widely used in Russia, where crashes have been frequent, as well as in neighbouring countries and many other nations.

Trump continues personal attacks against Harris

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has launched a fresh personal attack on his Po al attack on his Democratic rival Kamala Harris, calling her "defective". His latest attacks come after

Harris sat for her first major interview with CNN as her party's presidential nominee on Thursday Fifty-nine-year-old Harris,

who is of Indian and African descent, is the Democratic Party candidate in the November 5 presidential election in which she will contest against Trump, 78.
"I think she would've been

better off if she just did interviews, even if they weren't great it would have been better ... because now everyone's

watching and now we see, she's defective," Trump said on Friday at the annual gathering of Moms for Liberty, a conser-

vative nonprofit. "She's a defective person." "And we don't need another defective person as president of the United States," Trump said, likely referring to President Joe Biden who dropped out of the race last month and endorsed Harris.

He also said Biden was "sharp as a tack," during the presi-dential debate in June and complained that it was "unfair" he had to spend millions going after the wrong person during the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee (RNC) last month. Trump has unleashed personal attacks on Vice President Harris as her political star has risen since she rose to the top of the Democratic ticket in recent weeks.

Earlier, Trump disparaged Harris' physical appearance and insisted that he was "much better looking than

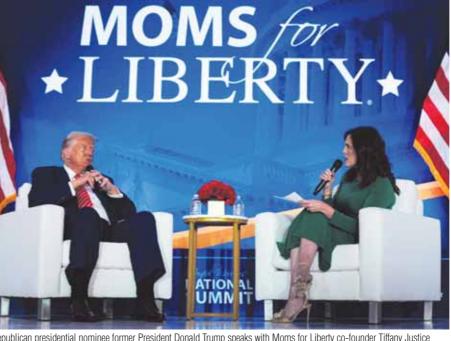
Trump earlier this month said he was "entitled" to personally attack Harris because he doesn't "have a lot of respect for her".

He has also questioned her racial identity. Harris in the interview with

CNN on Thursday brushed off Trump's remarks questioning her race.
"Same old, tired playbook.
Next question, please," Harris

responded. During an election campaign

in Pennsylvania earlier Friday, Trump briefly commented on



Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump speaks with Moms for Liberty co-founder Tiffany Justice during an event at the group's annual convention in Washington

last night? This is gonna be the president of our country?

I don't think so," he said. "Did you see her on television While the outlet aired the interview in its entirety, Trump and his allies criticised

CNN for pre-taping the interview instead of airing it live as a way to cover up potential Harris slipups.

Polio vaccine campaign begins in Gaza

campaign to inoculate chil-Adren in Gaza against polio and prevent the spread of the virus began on Saturday as Palestinians in both the Hamas-governed coastal enclave and in the occupied West Bank reeled from Israel's ongoing campaigns in both

Children in Gaza began receiving vaccines on Saturday, the Strip's health ministry announced in a news conference, a day before the largescale rollout and planned pause in fighting agreed to by Israel and the United Nations World Health Organisation.

Associated Press reporters saw roughly ten infants receiving doses of vaccine in the Nasser hospital in Khan Younis on Saturday afternoon.

Hours earlier, Gaza's Health Ministry said hospitals received 89 dead on Saturday, including 26 who died in an overnight Israeli bombardment, and 205 wounded — one of the highest daily tallies in months. Meanwhile, parts of the West

Bank remained on edge Saturday as Israel's military continued its largescale military campaign, the deadliest since the Israel-Hamas war began, and two car bombings by Palestinian militants near Israeli settlements left three soldiers injured.

Two car bombs exploded early Saturday in Gush Etzion, a bloc of Israeli settlements in the West Bank. Israel's military killed both Palestinian attackers after the bombs exploded in a compound in Karmei Zur and at a gas station, Israel's military said. Three Israeli soldiers sustained minor injuries.

Zoodhi Afifeh.

months since the war began. In central Gaza, Israeli airstrikes hit a multi-story building housing displaced central Gaza, further south in Khan Younis and northward in

Palestinian health officials said Israel was holding the bodies of the attackers, naming the men as Muhammad Marqa and

Hamas did not claim the men as its fighters but called the attack a "heroic operation" and a "new slap to the occupation's security system" in a statement early Saturday. The Palestinian militant group said earlier this month after a bombing attack in Tel Aviv that it would continue such attacks. The bombings took place as Israel continued its largescale raid — which includes destruction of infrastructure, airstrikes and gunbattles — into urban refugee camps in the cities of Jenin and Tulkarem, in the north of the volatile West Bank. About 20 Palestinians have been killed since Israel's incursion started Tuesday, causing alarm among the international community that the war might widen beyond the Gaza Strip. Israel has described the operation as a strategy to prevent attacks on Israeli civilians, which since the start of the war have increased in the West Bank, including near settlements that the international community largely considers illegal. In return, the Palestinian Health Ministry noted a surge in Palestinian deaths by Israeli forces, with 663 killed in the West Bank in the nearly 11

people in and around Nuseirat, a built-up refugee camp in owned by him. Gaza City, officials at hospitals in the three areas said on

Saturday morning. Among the dead were a physician and his family and a child whose right leg had been previously amputated, according to an initial list of casualties from the hospital and footage released on Saturday by civil defense officials who operated under Gaza's Hamas-run govthat repairs and maintenance will

7 US troops hurt in raid with Iraqi forces targeting Islamic State group militants Iraqi civilians. as well as US cit- ed in the raid, while two oth- targeting then

 $T^{
m he}$ United States military and Iraq launched a joint raid targeting suspected Islamic State group militants in the country's western desert that killed at least 15 people and saw seven American troops hurt, officials said Saturday.

For years after dislodging the militants from their selfdeclared caliphate across Iraq and Syria, US forces have fought the Islamic State group, though the casualties from this raid were higher than in previ-

ous ones The US military's Central Command alleged the militants were armed with "numerous weapons, grenades, and explo-

sive suicide' belts" during the attack Thursday, which Iraqi forces said happened in the country's Anbar Desert. This operation targeted ISIS leaders to disrupt and degrade ISIS' ability to plan, organise,

and conduct attacks against

izens, allies, and partners throughout the region and beyond," Central Command said, using an acronym for the militant group. "Iraqi Security Forces continue to further exploit the locations raided." It added: "There is no indica-

tion of civilian casualties." An Iraqi military statement said "airstrikes targeted the hideouts, followed by an airborne operation.

"Among the dead were key ISIS leaders," Iraq's military said, without identifying them. "All hideouts, weapons and logistical support were destroyed, explosive belts were safely detonated and important documents, identification papers and communication devices were seized."

A US defence official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss details of the operation yet to be made public, told The Associated Press that five American troops were wounders suffered injuries from falls during the operation. One who suffered a fall was transported out of the region, while one of the wounded was evacuated for further treatment, the official

"All personnel are in stable condition," the official said. It wasn't immediately clear

why it took two days for the US to acknowledge it took part in the raid. Iraq did not say the US took part in the operation when initially announcing it, as politicians debate the future of having American troops in the country. There are approximately 2,500 US troops in Iraq. Since the US toppled dictator Saddam Hussein with its 2003 invasion of Iraq, the country has struggled to balance relations between America and neighbouring Iran. Since the Israel-Hamas war broke out, Iraqi militias allied to Iran have targeted US forces there, leading to American airstrikes

At its peak, the Islamic State group ruled an area half the size of the UK. It attempted to enforce its extreme interpretation of Islam, which included attacks on religious minority groups and harsh punishment of Muslims deemed to be apos-

A coalition of more than 80 countries led by the United States was formed to fight the group, which lost its hold on the territory it controlled in Iraq in 2017 and in Syria in

However, the militants have continued to operate in the Anbar Desert in Iraq and Syria, while claiming attacks carried out by others elsewhere in the world inspired by the group. That includes the two suspects in a foiled plot to attack Taylor Swift shows in Vienna. Meanwhile, the IS branch in Afghanistan is known to carry out intense ly bloody assaults.

members were on board. The Mi-8 is a two-engine helicopter designed in the 1960s. It

British Sikh MP defends record as landlord amid tenant complaints PTI LONDON

Anewly elected British Sikh Labour Member of Parliament has defended his record as a landlord after UK media reports highlighted anonymous complaints from his tenants of being subjected to poor living conditions in properties Jas Athwal, elected to Parliament

in last month's general election from Ilford South constituency in east London, said he was "shocked" and "profoundly sorry" to hear of residents' issues after the BBC reported on mould and ant infestations on Friday. Athwal, 60, is said to own 15 rental flats and says he had not been aware of the issues due to the properties being managed by an agency. He has now promised

be completed through immediate action. "I am a renters champion. I'm proud to rent out homes with secure tenancies at below-market rents," Athwal said in a detailed statement. "I want every one of my tenants

to have excellent accommodation; I'm shocked at the reported condition of a number of the properties and have asked the managing agent for an explanation and immediate action to rectify any issues. I know it's my responsibility to have issues addressed as soon as they arise and have met with the property management company to understand failures in communication," he said. "I'm profoundly sorry that tenants have been let down and will be reviewing the property management and how matters are escalated going forward,"

Athwal, previously a local politician as leader of Redbridge Council, is also required to have a selective property licence in order to rent out a block of seven flats – a system he introduced in 2017 when he was in charge of the council. However, the BBC found the council's public licence register indicated that none of the seven properties had a licence. Athwal admitted that he had "recently seen an email" which said the licences were due to expire. He added: "I am in the process of renewing all licences. As council leader I implemented the most rigorous landlord licencing scheme in London in 2017, and expanded the scheme in 2023 and 2024 - the scheme would've been even stronger if Conservative housing secretaries had not repeatedly watered it down. "In 2019, I led a campaign

calling on the government to abolish Section 21 evictions, further protecting tenants' rights, which was again blocked by the Conservatives. According to the BBC investiga-

tion, in one block of seven flats owned by Athwal nearly half the tenants said they had to regularly clean their bathroom ceilings to remove mould.

The news corporation said it also saw evidence of ant infestations in a number of the seven properties. Andrew Boff, Conservative member of the London Assembly who also visited the flats, is calling on the governing Labour Party and local Redbridge Council to investigate as the party's 2024 general election manifesto included a commitment to "prevent private renters being exploited and discriminated against".

Houthi rebels fire missiles at container ship

Two missiles suspected to have been fired by Yemen's Houthi rebels targeted a Liberian-flagged container ship in the Gulf of Aden late Friday, splashing down nearby without causing any damage, authorities said. The attack comes after the

Houthis repeatedly assaulted and then boarded a Greekflagged oil tanker in the nearby Red Sea, planting explosives on it they later detonated. That attack, the worst in weeks, risked a major oil spill as the rebels' campaign disrupts the USD 1 trillion in goods that pass through the Red Sea each vear over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip, as well as halting some aid shipments to conflict-ravaged Sudan and The attack Friday saw two

missiles "exploding in close proximity to the vessel" some 240 kilometres east of Aden, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre said. The ship "reports all crew are

safe and proceeding to next port of call," the UKMTO said. "Investigations are ongoing. Joint Maritime Information Centre, a multinational body overseen by the US

Navy, on Saturday identified the vessel targeted as the Liberian-flagged container ship Groton. The Groton came under attack August 3 as well in a similar Houthi assault off Aden that included two missiles fired at the vessel, with one causing minor damage.

PM Modi flags off three new Vande Bharat trains, says nation advancing

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

The railways have made big strides in addressing longstanding issues and will not stop till it becomes a guarantee of comfortable travel for all sections of society, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday.

Flagging off three new Vande Bharat Express trains via video-conferencing, the Prime Minister said the nation was inching towards the goal of Viksit Bharat with modernisation and expansion of Vande Bharat trains. The three trains flagged off by the Prime Minister connect Meerut with Lucknow, Madurai with

Bengaluru, and Chennai with

Through its hard work over the years, the railways have made big strides in addressing long-standing issues and offered new hopes and solutions. We will not stop until the Indian Railways becomes a guarantee of comfortable travel for evervone," Modi said. The Prime Minister said mod-

ern rail infrastructure was a strong pillar of the vision of Viksit Bharat. He said more than Rs 2.5 lakh crore was allocated to the railways in this year's Budget and the Government was connecting Indian Railways with high-tech services to transform its old

He underlined that the rapid development of southern States was imperative to accomplish the goal of Viksit Bharat.

Southern India is the land of immense talent, resources and opportunities," the Prime Minister said adding that the development of Tamil Nadu, along with the entire southern India, was the Government's priority

He said the development journey of the railways was an example of the Government's commitment.

Modi said more than Rs 6,000 crore was allocated for Tamil Nadu's rail Budget this year, seven times more than in 2014. Similarly, a Budget of more than Rs 7,000 crore was allocated for



Karnataka in this year's Budget, which was nine times higher than in 2014. Eight Vande

Bharat trains are connecting different parts of Karnataka, he The Prime Minister drew parallels from Budgets of the past and said the multiple-fold

increase in allocations further strengthened rail traffic in southern States, including Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. He said railway tracks were being improved, electrification of tracks taking place, and stations modernised. The Meerut City-Lucknow Vande Bharat Express will help passengers save around an hour compared to the current fastest train between the two cities. The Chennai Egmore-Nagercoil Vande Bharat Express and the Madurai-Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express will cut down travel time by more than two hours and around one-and-ahalf hours, respectively.

The Prime Minister said while the Regional Rapid Transit

nect Meerut with New Delhi, the distance to Lucknow has also been reduced with the introduction of the Vande Bharat Express. "The National Capital Region (NCR) is becoming an example of how PM Gatishakti's vision will change the country's infrastructure with modern trains, network of expressways, and expansion of air services," Modi

Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, her Tamil Nadu counterpart RN Ravi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, among others, were virtually present on the occasion.

District judiciary crucial component of rule of law: CJI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud on Saturday said district judiciary is the "backbone of the judiciary" and thus a crucial component of the rule of law and calling it subordinate must be stopped.

Referring to the increasing number of women joining the district judiciary in the past few years, he highlighted that judges, despite being professionals, are affected by their own "brush with reality" and their mental health may suffer as a consequence. Speaking at the 'National Conference of the District Judiciary', which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here, Justice Chandrachud said district judiciary is the first point of contact for a citizen in search of justice.

"The district judiciary is a crucial component of the rule of law," he said, adding, "Data on the NJDG (National Judicial Data Grid) reveals a basic truth - the district judiciary is not just the first but is also the final point of contact for citizens".

The CJI said the reasons may be numerous - many citizens are unable to afford legal representation, they have a lack of awareness about statutory rights, and there are geographical difficulties in physically accessing Courts.

"The quality of our work and the conditions in which we provide justice to citizens deterfidence in us and is a test of our own accountability to society,"

"The district judiciary is therefore called upon to shoulder tremendous responsibility and is aptly described as the 'backbone of the judiciary," Justice Chandrachud said, adding, "The spine is the core of the nervous system. To sustain the spine of the legal system, we

must stop calling the district judiciary the 'subordinate' judiciary". He said 75 years after independence, the time has come to bury one more relic of

mindset of subordination. Referring to the "multifarious responsibilities" of judges, the CJI said it was difficult for a judge not to be affected by the actual face of suffering that each of us encounters every day a family which has faced a

the British era - the colonial

gruesome crime, an undertrial who is languishing for years or the children in a parental matrimonial dispute.

"Judges, despite being professionals, are affected by their own brush with reality. Their mental health may suffer as a consequence.

This aspect is of great consequence but it unfortunately does not receive the attention that it merits," he said.

Justice Chandrachud said as a step towards a more open discussion on the topic, the third session of the conference on Saturday was on judicial wellness, with a focus on holistic mental health, and quality of

Referring to the aspect of adoption of technology in the legal system, he said in 2023-24, 46.48 crore pages of court records have been scanned or digitised and 714 district court websites have been hosted on the SwaaS of the Government

He said the NJDG is a mine of



data not only for lawyers but also for citizens and it reflects real time data of over four crore cases across the district Courts and the High Courts. The CJI said 970 e-sewa

district Court complexes, besides 27 in the High Court He said e-sewa kendras assist lawyers and litigants with e-

kendras were fully functional in

processes by providing assistance for e-filing, providing information regarding the case status and so on.

He said e-Courts project has been responsible for computerisation of over 3,500 court complexes and more than 22,000 court rooms.

The CJI also spoke about data on the changing demography of judiciary. "An increasing number of women have been joining the district judiciary in

the past few years. Women consisted of 58 per cent of the total recruitment for civil judges in Rajasthan in 2023," he said.

He said 66 per cent of judicial officers appointed in Delhi in Uttar Pradesh, 54 per cent of appointments for civil judge (junior division) in the batch of

2022 were women. "In Kerala, 72 per cent of the total number of judicial officers are women in the latest recruitment. These are a few examples which paint the picture of a promising judiciary of the future," Justice Chandrachud

A wetter than usual August gets 16 per cent more rain :IMD PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

In what remains a key factor In growth of the economy, India received around 16 per cent more rainfall than normal in August, with above normal rains forecast for September as well. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Saturday that in addition to 16 per cent surplus rainfall in August, the Monsoon precipi-tation over Northwest India was recorded at 253.9 mm, the second highest in August since

Addressing a virtual Press conference, IMD Director-General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said the country recorded 287.1 mm of rainfall in August, compared to the normal 248.1 mm. Overall, India has received 749 mm of precipitation against the normal 701 mm since the start of the monsoon season on June 1.

The lifeblood of a nearly \$3.5trillion economy, the annual monsoon brings almost 70 per cent of the rain India needs to water farms and replenish reservoirs and recharge aquifers. Without adequate irrigation facility, nearly half the farmland in the country depends on the rain that is usu-



ally received from June to September.

Several districts in the foothills of the Himalayas and the Northeast experienced belownormal rainfall as most of the low-pressure systems moved south of their usual position, and the monsoon trough also remained south of its typical position, the IMD chief said. Many States in the Northeast along with Kerala and the Vidarbha region Maharashtra, experienced deficient rainfall, he added. The IMD chief said that six lowpressure systems formed in August, two of which intensi-

or deep depression. There were 17 low-pressure system days this August, compared with the normal 16.3 days. From August 10 to August 22, the monsoon trough remained along its nor-

fied into monsoon depression

mal position, resulting in good rainfall over northern and adjacent central India, parts of eastern India, and the extreme southern peninsula, especially Tamil Nadu. From August 23 to August 31, the trough shifted south of its normal position, causing very heavy rainfall over central and western parts of India.

No-break monsoon conditions were observed in August this year despite an increasing trend of break days during the month, Mohapatra said. He said the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) was very active during the second half of the month, leading to good rainfall across the country. MJO is a large-scale atmospheric disturbance originating in tropical Africa and travelling eastward, typically lasting 30 to 60 days. Monsoon rainfall in September and October could be influenced by La Nina weather conditions, which are likely to develop from the next month, said another IMD official.

In the past, when La Nina develops during the second half of the monsoon season, it has led to a delayed monsoon withdrawal, said the official, adding that "this year, we could see a similar pattern".

Expect more rainy September this year

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

After a wetter than normal August, India is likely to experience above normal rainfall in September too, with heavy to very heavy precipitation expected in Northwest India and the surrounding areas.
Addressing a virtual Press
conference, IMD Director Mrutyunjay General Mohapatra said that the country was expected to receive above normal rainfall in September, at 109 per cent of the long-period aver-

Heavy to very heavy rainfall is anticipated in the Northwest region, including Uttarakhand, parts of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, and the adjoining areas of Madhya Pradesh. "Above normal rainfall is

likely over most parts of

India, barring some areas in

the extreme Northwest,

many parts of the southern

promoting Ayurveda, and "his guidance and support will continue to help in taking

Ayurveda to the masses and

establishing it on the global

According to AIIA officials, President Droupadi Murmu is

highlighting the sector's rising

age of 167.9 mm.

and northeastern Uttar Pradesh, as well as most of the Northeast India, where below normal rainfall is expected," the IMD Chief The monsoon trough is expected to remain in its normal position, with the

possibility of several lowpressure systems developing in the Bay of Bengal, which may travel towards westnorthwest up to Rajasthan. The trough could also shift towards the foothills of the Himalayas, and there is a potential for a western disturbance to affect the region in September, Mohapatra

Government to set up 10 new AYUSH institutes in 5 years

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Government on Saturday said 10 new AYUSH institutes will be set up over the next five years to expand traditional medical improve healthcare access in underserved areas, enhance the doctor-patient ratio, and ensure that more citizens benefit from it in the country. Announcing the Government's plan, Union Minister of Ayush Prataprao Jadhav, noted that "Ayurveda and our traditional medical system suffered significant damage during the

colonial period and foreign



invasions but today, there has been a global shift in perception towards Yoga and Ayurveda, and their acceptance is rapidly increasing. He was at the All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA),

at Sarita Vihar here where he reviewed the facilities and the

the patients. Professor Tanuja Nesari, AIIA Director, said Minister Jadhav

has played a significant role in

treatments being provided to

prominence and the Prime Minister's ambitious initiative to make Ayurveda accessible to every household. Minister Jadhav

announced an international conference, titled 'AAROHA-2024, scheduled to be held from October 17-19.

According to a report by Ayurveda tech startup

NirogStreet, India's Avurveda product market is expected to grow to USD 16.27 billion by fiscal 2028, up from the current USD 7 billion. This substantial growth is driven by increasing demand for natural and herbal remedies, a rise supportive Government initiatives, and the emergence of new entrepreneurs in the sec-

As per the Government data, about 12,121 Ayush Health and Wellness Centres (AHWCs), renamed as Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (Áyush), under Ayushman Bharat are functional in the

IMA urges NTF for Central law to protect doctors

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has once again written to the Supreme Court-appointed National Task Force (NTF), for a central law, seeking protection of healthcare professionals and declaring hospitals as 'Safe Zones' across the States. The NTF is tasked with creating protocols to ensure the safety and security of medical personnel.

The IMA's request comes in response to the suggestions sought by the NTF, which is tasked with creating protocols to ensure the safety and security of medical personnel.

The NTF has been set up following a series of protests by doctors, triggered by the tragic rape and murder of a female trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

In their letter to the NTF, the IMA called for a uniform central law arguing that it acts as a deterrent and ensures consistent handling of violence across all states. They provided several documents to support their

case, including a survey of 3,885 doctors, a draft legislation - "The Healthcare Service Personnel and Clinical Establishments (Prohibition of violence and damage to property) Bill, 2019", the Epidemic

Diseases (Amendment) Act September 2020 among others as annexures, and related legislative amendments.

'The only preventive strategy that could be applied across the board and across all the States is deterrent central law in statute. Absence of such law has resulted in half-hearted actions by the police and less than optisionals from across the country contended that the lack of a national law leads to inconsistent enforcement and inade-

The IMA has proposed that hospitals be designated as safe zones, with enhanced security measures. This designation, they argue, should be incorporated into the proposed central law, ensuring hospitals receive necessary security while maintaining a patient-friendly and culturally sensitive approach. "Declaration as safe zone entitles the hospitals with security entitlements.

These security entitlements however should be tempered with patient friendly nature and cultural sensitivity," said the Association having presence in almost all the districts of the country with 1,800 local branches, 28 State branches and 3,85,000 members...

mum investigations and prosecution of the incident," it said. The IMA which is the largest body of the medical profesquate protection.

UNICEF issues urgent alert on Mpox risk for children



ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

s the World Health AOrganization (WHO) has called for increased vigilance against Monkeypox (Mpox), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has issued an urgent alert regarding the heightened risk for children, especially those who are mal-nourished or suffering from other illnesses.

The new variant of Mpox (clade Ib) is particularly concerning due to its potential for of children is not only necessary but urgent. The children's body warned

broader transmission, including among young children, especially in Africa. The Unicef said that in the fight against the outbreak, prioritising the needs

Mpox through close contact with symptomatic individuals, including parents or caregivers. The virus spreads via contact with skin lesions, infectious bodily fluids, contaminated materials, respiratory droplets, and infected animals. Pregnant women can also pass the virus to their unborn babies. Mpox symptoms are similar to

that children can be exposed to

but less severe than smallpox and include skin rash, fever, sore throat, headache, body aches, back pain, low energy, and swollen lymph nodes. The virus poses a significant threat in areas with widespread malnutrition, crowded living conditions, other infectious diseases, and limited healthcare

In India, while there have been no reported cases of Mpox so

far this year, authorities are taking precautionary measures with the AIIMS, RML and LNJP already allocating designated sites for the treatment of

the patients in case if any. A 2022 study by Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Delhi, noted the potential for Mpox resurgence in India due to the discontinuation of the smallpox vaccine, which had historically provided 85% protection.

The study was published in the Indian Journal of Medical Microbiology. In 2022, at least 14 people with the disease were reported in the country out of which 9 were reported in the National Capital.

Dr Chand Wattal, corresponding author and chairperson, ICMI, had said that waning immunity in humans due to the discontinuation of the smallpox vaccine established the scope for the resurgence of Monkeypox, demonstrated by the re-emergence of the outbreak after a break of 30-40 years.

India declared itself smallpoxfree in 1979 while it was offi-cially eradicated all over the world around 1979-80. The study highlighted con-

cerns about waning immunity and the potential for Mpox to re-emerge after a long



IAF jettisons helicopter in Uttarakhand, no casualties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

An Indian Air Force helicopter airlifting a damaged Kestrel civil helicopter in Uttarakhand on Saturday had to "jettison the load" due to flight safety reasons, the IAF said. It said an inquiry has been ordered into the matter. "An #IAF Mi-17 V5, while airlifting damaged Kestrel civil helicopter in Uttarakhand today, had to jettison the load due to flight safety reasons.

The crew safely released the load over an unpopulated area, ensuring no damage to life or property. An enquiry has been ordered, #AviationSafety," the IAF said in a social media post. The defective helicopter was being airlifted from Kedarnath to Gauchar airstrip, it was

Rahul Gandhi to visit US for first time as LoP, to interact with diaspora

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi will visit the US from September 8-10 during which he will hold numerous interactions in Washington DC and Dallas, including at the University of Texas.

Indian Óverseas Congress Chief Sam Pitorda shared details of Rahul Gandhi's first visit to the US after becoming the leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha in June.

'Since Rahul Gandhi has become the Leader of Opposition, I, as chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, which has a presence in 32 countries, (have) been bombarded with requests from the Indian diaspora, diplomats, academicians, businesspersons, leaders, international media and many others, for interactions with him," Pitroda said in a video statement.

'Now, he (Gandhi) is coming to the US for a very brief visit. He will be in Dallas on September 8th and Washington DC on September 9th and 10th. In Dallas, we will have interactions with the University of Texas, (with) students, academic institutions and community people. We will have a very large community gathering. We will meet some technocrats and then we will have dinner with Leaders from the Dallas area," he added.

The following day, Gandhi will travel to Washington DC where there is a plan to have similar interactions with a variety of people, including think-tanks, national press club and others, the Indian Overseas Congress chief said.

There are a lot of events planned with a variety of people because we find that people also have a lot of interest in the States we run with a Congress Government," he

"We look forward to a very successful visit," Pitroda added. Rahul Gandhi, who turned 54 in June, has been an MP for five terms and currently represents the Rae Bareli constituency previously held by his mother Sonia Gandhi.

He won from two constituencies in the Lok Sabha polls but resigned from the Wayanad seat in Kerala, from where his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will contest a bypoll. Rahul Gandhi entered the Lok

Sabha for the first time in 2004 following his victory from Amethi in Uttar Pradesh.



Bhambri and Bopanna win with respective partners, Balaji exits

ndia's Yuki Bhambri and Albano Olivetti advanced to the men's doubles third round of the US Open with a hard-fought win over 15th seeds Austin Krajicek and Jean-Julien Roger here.

Indo-French defeated the USA-Dutch team 4-6 6-3 7-5 in the second round that lasted two hours and five minutes on Friday.

This is only the second time that Bhambri has reached the third round at a Grand Slam, having reached the same stage at the Australian Open back in 2014

Second seeds Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden also moved to third round with a 6-2 6-4 win over Spain's Argentina.

Bopanna also won in the mixed doubles Indonesian partner Aldila Sutjiadi. Seeded eighth, they won 7-6 (7) 7-6 (5) against Germany's Tim Puetz and Dutch player Demi Schuurs in the opening round.

However, another Indian in the fray, N Sriram Balaji and his Argentine partner Guido Andreozzi exited the US Open after losing to Michael Venus of New Zealand and Neal Skupski of Great Britain. The Indo-Argentine pair lost 6-7 (4), 4-6 in the second-round match that featured just one break of serve in the second set.

In total, Venus and Skupski

important role in Karnataka's

maiden title triumph in the

The 18-year-old made 362

runs from eight matches and

his 98 against Jammu and

Kashmir stood out for its quality and fluency.

Samit also had a memorable tournament with the ball,

where he claimed 16 scalps in

eight matches, including two in

the final against Mumbai.

INDIA U19 SQUAD FOR

ONE-DAY SERIES: Rudra Patel, Sahil Parakh, Kartikeya

KP, Mohd Amaan (Captain), Kiran Chormale, Abhigyan

Kundu (wk), Harvansh Singh

Pangalia (WK), Samit Dravid,

Yudhajit Guha, Samarth N, Nikhil Kumar, Chetan Sharma,

Hardik Raj, Rohit Rajawat,

INDIA U19 SQUAD FOR

FOUR-DAY SERIES: Vaibhav

Suryavanshi, Nitya Pandya,

Vihan Malhotra, Soham

Kartikeya KP, Samit Dravid,

Chetan

Samarth N, Aditya Rawat,

Nikhil Kumar, Anmoljeet

Singh, Aditya Singh, Mohd

(Captain),

Sharma,

Kundu (WK),

Singh Pangalia

Mohd Enaan.

Patwardhan

Abhigyan

Harvansh

(WK),

and converted one, while Balaji and Andreozzi failed to capitalise on their lone opportunity for a service

"The first step is to consistently play at this level. It's starting from here. Now the next step is to get my ranking higher slowly," Balaji told PTI, reflecting upon his campaign.

"Game" wise I'm feeling confident and moving in the right direction. I also have to keep working on certain aspects of my game and keep getting better. This year the difference was a coach/trainer travelling with me almost every other week, doubles program," he said.

Defending champion Novak Djokovic is shocked at the US Open one night after Carlos Alcaraz's loss

Tovak Djokovic did not go easy on himself when assessing the listless way he performed from the start of the U.Ś. Open, pointing to his sloppy serving as the main reason the defense of his 2023 title surprisingly ended in the third round.

"I have played some of the worst tennis I have ever played, honestly," Djokovic said, just after midnight as Friday turned to Saturday. "Serving - by far the worst ever."

With 14 double-faults, raising his tournament total to 32, Djokovic bowed out with a 6-4, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 loss to 28th-seeded Alexei Popyrin of Australia, another shocking result at Flushing Meadows one night after Carlos Alcaraz exited.

"It was just an awful match for me," the No. 2-seeded Djokovic said. "I wasn't playing even close to my best. It's not good to be in that kind of state where you feel OK physically, and of course you're motivated because it's a Grand Slam, but you just are not able to find your game. That's it. The game is falling apart, and I guess you have to accept that tournaments like this happen."

Not often for him, though. After all, Djokovic was trying to become the first player in tennis history with 25 Grand Slam singles titles. Instead, after knee surgery in June, he finishes a year without claiming at least one major championship for the first time since 2017. Before that, it hadn't happened since 2010.

Also of note: 2024 now becomes the first season since 2002 in which none of the Big Three of men's tennis -Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer - earned a Slam trophy.

The third-round exit equals Djokovic's worst showing at Flushing Meadows; the only other occasions he was beaten



that early at the U.S. Open came in 2005 and 2006. The man who defeated Djokovic 18 years ago, International Ténnis Hall of Fame member Lleyton Hewitt, is now Australia's Davis Cup captain and was sitting in Popyrin's guest box in Arthur Ashe Stadium. Djokovic, who is 37, has reached the

final in Ashe 10 times, leaving with the title in 2011, 2015, 2018 and 2023. On Friday, though, he was sluggish and emotionally flat, perhaps residual fatigue after collecting his first Olympic gold medal for Serbia by beating Alcaraz in the final at the Paris Games earlier in August.

"Obviously, it had an effect," Djokovic said. "I spent a lot of energy winning

the gold, and I did arrive to New York just not feeling fresh mentally and physically. But because it's the U.S. Open, I gave it a shot and I tried my best. I mean, I didn't have any physical issues. I just felt out of gas. And you could see that with the way I played." The No. 3-seeded Alcaraz entered the U.S. Open as the tournament favorite

having won the French Open and Wimbledon, and acknowledged his energy was lower than he realized after getting eliminated by 74th-ranked Botic van de Zandschulp 6-1, 7-5, 6-4 on Thursday night.

Djokovic then replaced Alcaraz as the money-line pick to take the men's title, according to BetMGM Sportsbook, but

that status didn't last long at all. For the 25-year-old Popyrin, this represents a real breakthrough: He had been 0-3 against Djokovic and 0-6 in third-round matches at majors.

But the strong-serving Popyrin is playing as well as ever, coming off the biggest title of his career less than three weeks ago at a hard-court tournament in Montreal, where he picked up five wins against opponents ranked in the

Everything was working against Djokovic.

top 20.

Popyrin was terrific at the net, going 10 for 10 on serve-and-volley approaches and 25 for 36 overall on points when he pushed forward. Djokovic, in contrast, only won the point on 19 of his 40 trips to the net, in part because Popyrin kept flipping passing shots by him.

Popyrin took big cuts with his powerful forehand, accumulating 22 of his 50 total winners with that shot.

And he broke Djokovic five times, including for a lead of 3-2 in the fourth. That game felt titanic, lasting more than 10 minutes and including four break chances for Popyrin, who converted the last with an inside-out forehand to close a 22-stroke exchange, then rocked back on his heels, clenched both fists and let out a roar. He took Djokovic's next service game, too, to make it 5-2.

The first time Popyrin served for the match, he faltered, allowing Djokovic to break. The second time, Popyrin finished the deal, holding at love when Djokovic sent a forehand long.

Now Popyrin will try to reach his first Grand Slam quantorfinal by activing a set.

Grand Slam quarterfinal by getting past No. 20 Frances Tiafoe, who advanced Friday with a 4-6, 7-5, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-3 win over No. 13 Ben Shelton in a matchup between two Americans.

"If he serves well, plays well, he can beat anybody," Djokovic said about Popyrin. "Look, Alcaraz is out.

Pistol shooter

at Paralympics

PTI ■ CHATEAUROUX

Saturday.

of Unhalkar.

Swaroop finishes 14th,

fails to qualify for final

Indian shooter Swaroop Unhalkar finished a dismal

14th in the men's 10m air rifle standing (SH1) qualification

round to miss the eight-player

final by quite a distance at the

Paralympic Games here on

The 38-year-old Unhalkar, who

had missed a bronze medal by

a whisker at the Tokvo

Paralympics three years ago,

was far from impressive in an

18-shooter field on Saturday,

South Korea's Park Jinho topped

the qualification with a score of

Unhalkar never rose beyond the

13th rank, and at one point during the contest had slipped to

16th. The Kolhapur marks-

man, who was diagnosed with

polio at an early age that left

him paralysed in both the legs,

a clear 10.5 points ahead

aggregating 613.4 points.



Samit Dravid in India U19 squad to face Australia in multi format series

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Samit Dravid, son of former India captain and head coach Rahul Dravid, was on Saturday drafted into the India under-19 squad for the upcoming multi-format series against Australia.

The three-match one-day series will be held in Puducherry on September 21 23 and 26, and India will be led by Uttar Pradesh's Mohammad Amaan.

The series will then roll to Chennai for two four-day matches beginning September 30 and October 7. The India squad for this leg of the tour will be captained by Soham Patwardhan of Madhya Pradesh.

Samit, a pace-bowling allrounder, is currently playing for Mysore Warriors in the ongoing KSCA Maharaja T20 trophy in Bengaluru.

However, his outings so far have been underwhelming with the bat - 82 runs from seven innings with a highest of 33, and he is yet to bowl in the tournament.

But earlier this year, Samit had a productive time in the Cooch Behar Trophy, playing an

Man United signs Uruguay midfielder Ugarte from PSG for \$55M to take summer spending to \$240M **AP** MANCHESTER

anchester United signed Muruguay defensive midfielder Manuel Ugarte from Paris Saint-Germain for an an initial 50 million euros (\$55.7 million) on Friday, with the transfer announced only in the final hour of the summer transfer window. Ugarte is United's fifth signing

of the window - after striker Joshua Zirkzee, center backs Leny Yoro and Matthijs de Ligt, and full back Noussair Mazraoui and takes the club's summer spending on new players to around \$240 million.

signed a contract until 2029, has been a target of United throughout the summer and looks set to be the long-term replacement for Casemiro, who is 32. Signing Manuel was another of

our primary targets for this summer. He is among the very

best ball-winning midfield players in the world," United sporting director Dan Ashworth said United manager Erik ten Hag said Ugarte will bring "con-trolled aggression" to the team. "I will sacrifice and give every-thing for my teammates," Ugarte

said. "Together we will fight to win trophies and reach the level where this club needs to be." The deal for Ugarte includes the potential for 10 million euros (\$11 million) in bonuses, subject to performance and success. Ugarte spent just one year at PSG after joining from Portuguese team Sporting.

Earlier Friday, United sold Scotland midfielder Scott McTominay to Napoli for 30 million euros (\$33 million), a transfer which created space in the squad for Ugarte. Mali youth international Sekou

Kone also joined United from Guidars FC in his homeland and will initially play in the academy.

Shuttler Mandeep wins first match in Group B, enters SL3 singles quarterfinals

Tndian shuttler Mandeep Kaur entered quarterfinals of the women's singles SL 3 category in the Paris Paralympics after defeating Australia's Vinot Celine Aurelie in the women's singles SL 3 event on Saturday. Mandeep regrouped to win her last group B match 21-23 21-10 21-17 against her Australian rival. She had lost her opening match to Nigeria's Bolaji

The Indian finished second in the three-player group B to book a quarterfinal spot. Mariam topped the group to enter the semifinals.

directly advanced to the semifinals. The top two teams in group B as well as secondplace finishers in group A and C compete in the quarterfinal the two remaining semifinal spots.

SL3 class is for players with



severe lower limb disability. They compete on half-width

In Friday's late night matches, Suhas Yathiraj and Palak Kohli lost their opening mixed doubles SL3 contest 11-21 17-21 to top seeded Indonesian pair of Hikmat Ramdani and Leani Ratri Oktila

In another group A SL3 mixed doubles contest involving Indians, Nitesh Kumar and Thulasimathi Murugesan lost 22-24 19-21 to the French team of Faustine Noel and Lucas

like Ricky Ponting. He fields on the boundary, he fields on

the circle. He is a complete all-

round fielder," added Rhodes.

Rhodes also gave a meaningful insight on what it

doubles came through Nithya Sivan Sumathy and Sivarajan who defeated Solaimalai, Natthapong Thailand's Meechai and Chai Saeyang 21-

7 21-17 in group B. Later on Saturday, Nitesh Sukant Sarkar, Kadam, Sivarajan Solaimalai and Tarun will compete in different categories of men's singles.

In women's singles, Manisha Ramdass and Nithya Sivan Sumathy will present their challenge.

did manage a decent second series of 103.0 but again slipped back into mediocrity. He had scores of 101.8, 103.0, 101.7, 101.8, 102.4, 102.7 to

aggregate 613.4. The SH1 category is for para shooters who can hold their

gun without difficulty and shoot from a standing or sitting position (in a wheelchair or chair). The disappointment comes just a day after women's 10m air rifle shooter Avani Lekhara came up

with an extraordinary performance to become the first Indian woman to win two Paralympic gold medals with a record-breaking performance. India had also won a silver medal through Manish Narwal in the men's 10m air pistol (SH1) final, and a bronze through 37-year-old latebloomer Mona Agarwal, who finished third in the same event as Avani, on Friday.

Jadeja is a complete all-round fielder, Raina too was brilliant: Rhodes

South African cricket legend Jonty Rhodes on Saturday called Ravindra Jadeja a "complete all-round" fielder in the world right now, and also spoke highly about former India player Suresh Raina's abilities on the ground. The 55-year-old Rhodes,

regarded as one of the greatest fielders of all time who became the first South African cricketer to take 100 ODI played for the team from 1992 till catches, national

retirement, Rhodes Post became associated with several IPL teams, including Mumbai Indians, Punjab Kings and most recently Lucknow Super Giants, as fielding coach. "I am a big fan of Suresh

Raina. I enjoyed his playing days but now he has retired. In the past in India, the cricketing infrastructure wasn't there to support the passion and love for cricket. Suresh Raina was someone who used to throw himself around the field," said Rhodes, who was roped in as the brand ambassador of Hero Pro Corporate League cricket tournament on Saturday.

"Unlike Raina, I had a very fortunate upbringing. I played football, hockey and cricket on good grounds. So I was very fortunate.

"I think Jadeja is at the next level, he doesn't dive as much but he is so fast to the ball. And his accuracy at throwing down the stumps is somewhat

takes to become a good "It has nothing to do with the hands; it's actually all about the legs because if you use your legs and be there at the right time, you can get your

hands in good position. You can have the best hands in the world and the most magnetic hands but if you don't have the legs you cannot get there. "It's more about quick body

positions. It' all about technique," he added. Rhodes said that at 55 he still

diving on the field. "Flying is not the problem for me right now, the landing is the problem. When I am on the field I am not thinking about 'should I dive or should

doesn't think twice about

I not'. I think that's what made me successful on the field," he "So, if you are thinking about (not) diving you can never stop the ball. My father, who was my coach, and and a school principal used to tell me that the saying 'practice

practice. Practice like you play in the match." he added. Former India pacer Chetan Sharma is the commissioner of the league.

makes perfect 'is not correct

but what matters is perfect

'D' Class (of Odisha PWD) or equivalent

Kimi Antonelli named as Lewis Hamilton's replacement at Formula 1's Mercedes

AP ■ MONZA (ITALY)

Teenager Kimi Antonelli has been named as Lewis Hamilton's replacement next year at Mercedes, a day after his Formula One debut ended in the 18-year-old Italian driver hitting the wall.

Antonelli took over for George Russell in the opening practice session for Sunday's Italian Grand Prix at Monza.

But his much-anticipated first appearance lasted fewer than two laps, and only 10 minutes,

after he lost control of his Mercedes at the Parabolica, sliding backward through the gravel and into the tire barri-

Team principal Toto Wolff said Saturday the crash would have no impact on Antonelli's F1 chances, and confirmation of his elevation as a junior driver with the team was confirmed ahead of final practice at his home event.

"It is an amazing feeling to be announced as a Mercedes works driver alongside George

for 2025," Antonelli said in Saturday's announcement. "Reaching F1 is a dream I've had since I was a small boy." Antonelli has been with Mercedes since he joined its junior program when he was

"I want to thank the team for the support they've given me in my career so far and the faith they've shown in me. I am still learning a lot, but I feel ready for the opportunity," said Antonelli, who only turned 18 last Sunday.

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit I, Monika Biswakarma, years, W/o Sanjay Sharma, At/ Po-South Balanda Ps-Colliery Qtr No 157 Dist-Angul, declare Mvself Monika Sharma Monica Viswakarma, D/o Radhe Mohan Biswakarma Joba Sharma and Monika Bishwakarma W/o Sanjaya Sharma is one and same

AFFIDAVIT

Agarwal S/o Narayan Lal At my Passport my name has been mentioned as Bhupen

person for all purposes

By virtue of an affidavit made before the Notary, Talcher vide N.R. No 4350 dated 30.8.2024, I, Bhupen Kumar Ward no. 05, Thana Sahi, Po: Talcher Town, Ps: Talcher, Dist: Angul- 759107 do hereby declare that my name has been mentioned in my Aadhaar and PAN card as Bhupen Kumar Agarwal but in Kumar Agrawalla. Hence Bhupen Kumar Agarwal and Bhupen Kumar Agrawalla S/o Narayan Lal is one and same

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR O-236 No:-Tender - Online - BBSR Divn. - 04

e-Procurement NOTICE

: Special Repair of Building w

a) Above Rs. 20 lakh and upto 3 cro

b) Upto Rs. 40.00 lakh c) Upto Rs. 20.00 lakh

Estimate cost of Individual r Rs. 25.00 lakh to 38.00 Lakh Time for completion

Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Bhubaneswar 13.09.2024 at 11.00 A.M. 12.09.2024 Tender Online -BBSR Divn. - 04 03.09.2024 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website <u>www.tendersorissa.gov.in</u> Superintending Engineer,
OIPR-25189/11/0009/2425
Rural Works Division BBSR

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[COLOURS] VVacity 0:8

ISLANI HOPPING MALDIVES





destination itself say

ust a quick 20-minute speedboat ride from the capital, Male, transforms us from weary travellers to relaxed coconut sippers in an instant. That's no small feat, especially when many islands require lengthy boat and seaplane journeys just to begin the island experience. But don't be misled-despite its proximity to the capital, this island captures the enchanting 'island feel' and sets the perfect tone for arriving at this tropical perfect tone for arriving at this tropical paradise resort on its own private island. Four Seasons Kuda Huraa truly embodies the essence of Maldivian luxury. Since opening its doors in 1998, it has set the standard for other hoteliers hoping to offer a taste of paradise to their discerning guests. After undergoing several renovations, it's no surprise that this island boasts a remarkably high rate of returning visitors. Its positioning grants us uninterrupted views of the mesmerizing Indian Ocean, stretching as far as the eye can see. We are delighted by the choice of accommodations, whether overwater or on the beach. For our trip, we opt for a Sunset Overwater Villa with Pool, and it is simply magnificent. If it's your first time in the Maldives, we wholeheartedly recommend staying overwater-it's an experience you won't want to miss. The villa features a cloudlike bed, expansive bathroom, a magnificent bathtub, plus an infinity pool and the spacious terrace boasts an infinity pool and hammocks for relaxing while watching the fish below. Every amenity I could wish for is provided, and we especially appreciate the nightly replenishment of cooling Aloe Vera, which we slather on each evening to soothe my skin after a day in the sun. With so many amazing amenities available, it would be easy to spend your entire stay exploring the island's quartermile stretch. However, just a short 20minute boat ride away, you'll find incredible world-class dive sites and renowned surf breaks waiting to be

LANDAA GIRAVAARU

the Four Seasons Landaa Giraavaru boasts a prime location in Baa Atoll, easily reached via one of the hotel's charming private seaplanes: the delightful yellow-and-black polka-dotted Flying Boxfish or the vibrant Flying Triggerfish. From our window, we are treated to a breath-taking aerial view, gazing down at the atolls from a lofty 5,000 feet. Below me lies the expansive 44-acre Four Seasons Resort on Baa Atoll, nestled within a serene 1.5-mile lagoon. Here, nature takes centre stage, with two stretches of pristine beaches calling me to explore their untouched beauty. As we step off the pier, we are instantly captivated by the ethereal blue waters and sweeping stretches of white sand. Towering 50-foot palm trees line a grand boulevard while mature gardens burst with the vibrant colours of banyan grand boulevard while mature gardens burst with the vibrant colours of banyan trees, lemongrass, frangipani, and orchids. The island feels completely untouched by time, offering plenty of space for leisurely strolls or even a solid 10,000 steps a day. If we ever need a break, we can easily hop on one of the electric bicycles available for everyone, or simply call for a buggy to whisk me or simply call for a buggy to whisk me away in comfort. The 102 thatched beach and water bungalows, more spacious than accommodations found elsewhere in the islands, blend seamlessly into the lush jungle, vibrant gardens, and soft sands. The bungalows, set in private gated enclosures, offer an intimate

This remote island is a sanctuary for conservation, led by the Marine Research Centre's vital efforts to protect marine life. As nature enthusiasts, we truly appreciate this commitment to preserving the Maldives' natural treasures. Upon arrival, guests are greeted by a lively lagoon bustling with marine life, including eagle rays, stingrays, reef sharks, clownfish, and parrotfish-just in the house reef! As part of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, visitors can also experience vast pods of





dolphins, nests of sea turtles (some even lay their eggs on the island), and the spectacular Hanifaru Bay, where massive swarms of manta rays feed the plankton-rich monsoon season from May to November. For those eager to May to November. For those eager to delve into local culture, nearby inhabited islands offer an inviting glimpse into the vibrant tapestry of Maldivian village life, providing an opportunity to immerse myself in the authentic rhythms of this idyllic archipelago. For those eager for adventure, the luxury live-aboard catamaran, The Explorer, is an excellent option for diving and exploring the option for diving and exploring the waters surrounding both Four Seasons resorts. This stay is not only luxurious but also mindful of the environment, making it all the more memorable.

Our last stop is Blu for lunch, and what

an experience it was! The restaurant, beautifully designed, overlooks the main pool and the vast ocean beyond. The food is simply phenomenal-we can easily dine there for a week without getting bored. Twice a year, the renowned Italian chef Gaetano Trovato and his team enhance the culinary journey with their exquisite creations. Dinner at Arnolfo is in a league of its own. Honestly, it is the best steak we have ever had, even surpassing those from Argentina. We would gladly return to Landaa Giraavaru just to savour it once more! The Moroccan-themed Al Barakat is equally exceptional. This resort truly prioritizes wellness in many forms. While the yoga classes and spa services are fantastic, it is the AyurMa Ayurvedic centre that truly captivates me. The consultations are thorough and illuminating; we learn things about ourselves that we have never realized before. Another compelling reason to visit the Maldives-it's a chance for self-discovery! After soaking in the serene beauty of Baa Atoll, we look forward to embrace the richness of Maldivian

MALE CITY BY FOOT

Thile Kuda Huraa feels cosy and inviting, Landaa Giraavaru V strikes us as grand and expansive, like a swinging pendulum. Since both are part of the Four Seasons family and many guests spend time at each resort, it's easy to draw comparisons, but we won't go down that road. Each place is truly a gem in its own right, and I can honestly say we cherished our time at both. Taking a seaplane back to Male offers a stunning view of the azure waters and lush green islands below. Each resort we pass has its own unique charm, showcasing the diverse beauty of this enchanting paradise. Once in Male, we are guided by a knowledgeable local expert as we explore the city's historic landmarks. We text at the barbour and more past the start at the harbour and move past the oldest school, a proud symbol of the Maldives' impressive 98% literacy rate. At the Royal Garden Café, nestled in a nobleman's 'Ganduvaru,' we enjoy a lovely cup of tea surrounded by beautifully carved wooden interiors. The November 3rd Memorial pays tribute to the heroes of 1988, while Sultan Park and the National Museum preserve the rich history of the sultanate era. As we continue our journey, the Grand Friday Mosque and the Islamic Centre impress with their striking architecture, and Independence Square reveals yet another chapter of Male's story. The local markets are alive with colour and energy, showcasing an array of tropical delights. In this enchanting place, time seems to stand still, inviting us to discover more at every corner. It is a journey we won't soon forget!

 Awarded the 'Best food writer in the country' by the Indian culinary forum, WACS and the ministry of Tourism, Rupali Dean writes on food and travel. Bakshish Dean, a 'distinguished chef and writer' with over 25 years of experience, excels in food styling and rraphy while passionatel wildlife, forgotten recipes, and advanced culinary techniques

KINWANI HOUSE: YOUR ABODE THAT SHINES AMIDST HIMALAYAN FOOTHILLS

A peaceful retreat with old world charm and stunning views beckons travelers for a luxe, exclusive vacation, writes SHARMILA CHAND

estled in the foothills of The Himalayas, Kinwani House is a charming retreat that offers guests a rare opportunity to immerse themselves in the rich heritage of Tehri Garhwal. One remarkable aspect of Kinwani House is its geographical significance, with its longitude nearly aligning with 79 degrees east, passing through all twelve Shiva temples from Kedarnath to Kanyakumari, enhancing its spiritual aura, making it a unique destination.

WHERE CULTURAL HERITAGE MEETS NATURAL **SPLENDOR**

bout 40 minutes uphill drive from Rishikesh, took us to The stunning home of the Royal family, 'Kinwani House'. The estate, built in 1954, now stands as an architectural gem, a testament to passionate restoration, regal grandeur and a beacon of warm luxe hospitality. It offers a unique blend of modern comfort, natural beauty, and cultural richness, making it a perfect choice for discerning travellers. From the moment of arrival, the warmth of Marisha Chheda, Resort Manager and her team sets the tone for a truly memorable stay. That exactly is the sentiment as expressed by Aditya Paul Lakhanpal, Chairman, JPL Group, when he tells me, "Our goal is to seamlessly blend the regal charm of the past with modern luxury, offering our guests a stay that is as memorable as it is meaningful. We invite you to explore the spiritual treasures of Rishikesh and experience the tranquil beauty of Kinwani House-a



place where history and luxury meet in harmony. I stepped into my Princess Suite with smiling Aryan escorting me, and was captivated by the aesthetics infused with traditional and contemporary touches, featuring signature Aalia Collection amenities. Spread over two floors, the tastefully re-done House comprises six large suites, each with their own ensuite baths, drawing rooms and private decks. Each suite is a harmonious blend of old world charm and contemporary elegance, offering a unique blend of art deco design



and modern luxury, providing boasts lush gardens, sweeping views of the holy river Ganges, guests with an enriching and tranquil experience. The house also

breathtaking panoramic vistas of



the majestic Himalayan foothills, creating a captivating backdrop for moments of serenity and reflection.

I loved my High Tea at the beautiful conservatory with a bar and sitting area for an indoor evening under the stars or a special evening of cocktails by candlelight. Every detail, from the room amenities to the dining options, is designed to ensure guests feel truly

DINING: CELEBRATION OF

LOCAL FLAVOURS! was happy to see the menu that blends local regional dishes and world cuisine. Be it a hearty breakfast featuring both Indian and international favourites, or meals, the food caters to every palate. Here you celebrate both global flavours and the rich tapestry of Pahari cuisine. No wonder, the star of my meal was 'Pahari Thali' with local ingredients and specialities of the region. Chef Arvind Negi, Aalia Collection pointed out, "Our culinary offerings blend local flavors with global influences, ensuring a delightful gastronomic journey. From fragrant biryanis and robust curries, to succulent kebabs and the authentic Pahadi thali, our menu across celebrates the diverse culinary heritage of India. For our discerning global travelers, we present a thoughtfully curated selection of international dishes. Whether one wishes to experience Oriental, Continental, Italian, or Thai flavours, we love to create exquisite dishes. Our sweet offerings are the perfect finale to

your dining experience enhanced by homemade fresh ice creams." ROOTED IN WELLNESS

tart the day with a serene Sunrise Yoga session, followed by an indulgent spa treatment

featuring varied therapies. What better way to unwind, than the temperature-controlled outdoor pool, a perfect de-stress mantra.

IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES

¬or those seeking varied activities to engage themselves, the team crafts special experiences, including both cultural and adventure immersions. A visit to the iconic Parmarth Niketan Ashram to evening arti at Triveni Ghat on the banks of the Ganga in Rishikesh is a must for those spiritually inclined. For trek lovers there are several trails, the most beautiful being hiking up to the ancient Kunjapuri Devi Temple. Weather permitting, river rafting and bungee jumping are adventure sports one could partake in for those seeking thrills. Hike through pristine mountain trails, coak in the bountain. soak in the beauty of nature, or indulge in yoga and mindful meditation amidst the serenity of the Himalayas. The choice is all

TO CONCLUDE

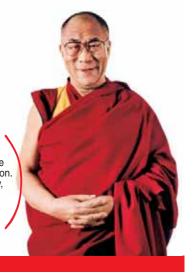
f you looking for a tranquil getaway enveloped in natural splendor, The Kinwani House is the perfect answer. Here is a peaceful retreat away from the touristic crowd with experiences that are both enriching and indulgent. Whether it's enjoying a curated menu under the stars, relaxing in the temperature controlled pool with breathtaking views of the Himalayas, or embarking on a bespoke adventure with Kinwani Concierge, every aspect of Kinwani House is designed to leave a lasting impression.

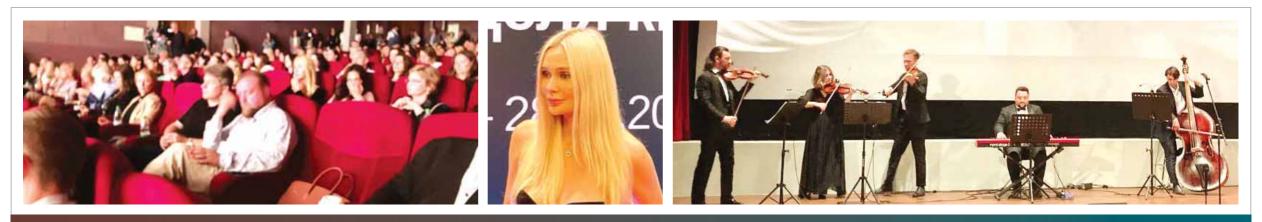
September 1, 2024

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"If you want others to be happy, practice compassion if you want to be happy, practice compassion"

— Dalai Lama





MOSCOW FILM FESTIVAL KICKS OFF WITH FOCUS ON INDIAN CINENA

Laapata ladies and Kalki resonate with Russian audience, opening up huge possibilities for Indian cinema in Russia, writes GYANESHWAR DAYAL



he Moscow International Films Week, an event that has become a significant cultural bridge between Russia and the world opened up in Moscow with much fanfare at Khudozhestvenny Cinema and with people from film fraternity from around the world in attendance at the gala event. On the first day of the Film Week, screenings of both foreign and domestic films took place, including the nationwide premieres of the Indian sports drama Field and the philosophical-mystical drama Alzheimer from Iran. This year it is an Indian-themed week with focus on Indian cinema and celebrating Indian art of storytelling on celluloid. The film festival is hosting films from more than 40-countries but the flavour of the

was completely
dedicated to Indian
cinema, with Russian
artists performing on
Indian songs and
Indian cuisine being
served at the venue with
Bollywood songs playing in the
background. The Indian segment of
the festival is dedicated to
celebrating the richness and
diversity of Indian cinema, offering
Russian audiences a taste of India's
cinematic brilliance filmum and the state of the state of

festival is completely

Indian. The second day

cinematic brilliance through a curated selection of films. Among the highlights are two remarkable Indian films, Laapata Ladies and Kalki, which have captivated the Russian audience with their unique storytelling and cultural nuances. Indian cinema has long been admired in Russia, with classics from Bollywood making their mark in the past. Ra Kapoor was a household name in Russia and 'mera joota hai Japani, an all-time hit. The Indian-themed week at the Moscow International Films Week is a testament to the enduring connection between the two cultures. This year's selection is not just about showcasing films; it's about highlighting the shared human experiences and emotions that transcend borders. As one Russian filmmaker quipped, "Indian and Russian films are made with heart, the most striking similarity

between Indian and Russian films is that the songs are woven into the storyline." This is despite the fact that much is lost in translation and language barrier remains a significant impediment. But that is about to change as Swapna Dutt, the co-producer of Kalki, told the Pioneer that they would be releasing the

film dubbed in Russian.

"Indian films were once
very popular in Russia, we
want to open that bracket again. I
am sure Indian films have a huge
market here," said Swapna Dutt.

THE INDIAN SEGMENT OF THE
FESTIVAL IS DEDICATED TO
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OFFERING RUSSIAN AUDIENCES A
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HIGHLIGHTS ARE TWO
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"LAAPATA LADIES" AND "KALKI,"
WHICH HAVE CAPTIVATED THE
RUSSIAN AUDIENCE WITH THEIR
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CULTURAL NUANCES

МОСКОВСКАЯ Международная Неделя кино

28.08.2024

Laapata Ladies, a film that delves into the complexities of womanhood in contemporary India, has struck a chord with Russian viewers. The film's narrative, which intertwines humor with social commentary, offers a glimpse into the challenges and aspirations of Indian women. The Russian audience, known for its appreciation of nuanced storytelling, has responded positively to the film's portrayal of universal themes such as identity, freedom, and societal expectations.

Kalki, another standout film screened on the second day, explores themes of mythology and modernity, blending them in a way that is both thoughtprovoking and visually stunning. The film's exploration of Indian mythology, set against the backdrop of modern societal issues, has intrigued Russian viewers. The films ability to weave together the old and the new, the mythical and the real, resonates deeply with a culture that values its own rich historical and cultural heritage. The success of Laapata Ladies and Kalki at the Moscow International Films Week highlights the growing appeal of Indian cinema in Russia. These films, while rooted in Indian culture, address universal themes that resonate with audiences across the world. The Russian viewers have found a connection with the characters and their stories, appreciating the films

for their depth, creativity, and the way they tackle complex social issues.

The Indian-themed
week has also opened
doors for cultural
exchange, with
discussions and
workshops that allow
Russian audiences to
engage more deeply with
Indian cinema. This
exchange of ideas and
cultural narratives fosters
a deeper understanding
between the two nations,
reinforcing the importance
of art in bridging cultural

gaps.
As Indian films continue to gain popularity in Russia, the Indianthemed week at the Moscow International Films Week is likely to become a regular feature, showcasing the best of Indian cinema to Russian audiences. The success of *Laapata Ladies* and *Kalki* is not just a win for the filmmakers but also a testament to the universal appeal of Indian stories that, while deeply rooted in their own cultures, speak to the shared human experience.

The Moscow International Films Week's Indian-themed week is more than just a showcase of films; it's a celebration of the cultural connections between India and Russia. The warm reception of films like *Laapata Ladies* and *Kalki* by the Russian audience is a reflection of the power of cinema to transcend borders and bring people together through the shared language of storytelling.





From leading corporate giants to shaping culinary excellence, **PAWAN SONI'S** journey is a celebration of passion and innovation in the food industry, says SAKSHI PRIYA

FROM CORPORATE SUCCESS TO CULINARY STARDOM

A JOURNEY INTO THE WORLD OF FOOD BLOGGING AND AWARDS



commitment to transparency and integrity. Built on the principle of not imposing any financial burden on nominees, these awards have earned a reputation as a fair and respected platform for recognising excellence in the food industry. Over the past decade, they have become synonymous with culinary credibility, highlighting the region's finest dining establishments and championing new talents, including home chefs and bakers who bring fresh flavours and practicity to the fresh flavours and creativity to the

the culinary world, where

flavours tell stories and meals

become cherished memories,

Pawan Soni has forged an

extraordinary path. A former Vice President at global giants like

This year, The Big F Awards embark on an exciting new chapter by expanding their reach to encompass the entire Delhi-NCR region, reinforcing their vision of inclusivity and growth. This grand event will talent, with new categories that reflect the latest trends and celebrate the art of both dining out and home cooking. Attendees can look forward to an immersive experience where innovation, artistry, and passion are celebrated in a truly memorable way. At the heart of this celebration is a distinguished jury, featuring some of India's most renowned culinary experts, such as Chef Kunal Kapur, Chef Nita Mehta, Rocky Singh, and many others. These esteemed judges will rigorously evaluate each nominee, visiting the restaurants and sampling the dishes before casting their votes. This commitment to fairness ensures that the awards remain a beacon of trust and excellence in the food industry.

For Pawan Soni, The Big F Awards are more than just an event, they are a community and a platform for supporting genuine connections and inspiring culinary creativity. As he prepares for the upcoming awards in September, Soni envisions an evening that brings together the best of Delhi NCR's food scene, offering an opportunity to celebrate, connect and elevate the standards of culinary excellence. With a legacy of integrity and innovation, The Big F Awards continue to shine as a cornerstone of the region's vibrant food culture. Founded in 2014, The Big F Awards have become a symbol

of credibility and fairness, consistently upholding the highest standards in the industry. This year's edition promises to build on this legacy, with new surprises, new talents, and new stories to be told. Join Pawan Soni and his esteemed panel in this grand celebration of culinary brilliance, where the finest in food artistry come together to create an unforgettable experience.

A CONVERSATION WITH PAWAN SONI

Pawan Soni shares insights into his transition from corporate life to food blogging, the challenges he faced in the early days and his commitment to transparency and excellence in The Big F Awards. He provides valuable perspectives on the growth of his blog, the influence of his corporate background and what to expect from this year's prestigious

You left a successful career as Vice President at MNCs like HSBC and GE Capital to follow your passion for food. What motivated this career shift, and how did your corporate experience shape your approach to food blogging and awards?

Back in our day, social media wasn't a thing. Like many, I followed the conventional route—completing an MBA and then diving into the world. escape. Traveling the world, I discovered hidden culinary gems and started writing for newspapers and magazines. Eventually, I launched my own blog, Indian Food Freak. Before I knew it, my passion for food had grown into a full-blown

MY CORPORATE **EXPERIENCE WAS THE** YEAST THAT HELPED INDIAN FOOD FREAK RISE. THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN ORGANISING THE AWARDS WAS SECURING SPONSORS WHO BELIEVED IN THE VISION **BUT DIDN'T INFLUENCE** THE RESULTS.

In foodie terms, my corporate career was a recipe for success, but my love for food was the secret ingredient. I traded PowerPoint for paprika and now, I'm serving up a plate of purpose. Jokes aside, my corporate experience was invaluable. It taught me critical skills in sales, operations, and more, which I still use in my second career. Having worked with ethical companies, I've always prioritized transparency. Even after 11 years of running the food awards, I ensure there's no money exchange involved, whether for nominations, attending the awards or in any other aspect.

When you started Indian Food Freak food blogging was relatively new in India. How did you introduce the concept to an unfamiliar audience, and what strategies did you use to build your initial following?

Introducing food blogging to India was like adding a new spice to a traditional recipe—initially unfamiliar, but now indispensable. I focused on creating content that was relatable, authentic, and sprinkled

with humor. I remained honest and objective in all my reviews, even if it meant ruffling a few feathers among friends in the industry. By avoiding fancy jargon and staying true to my readers, I built trust and loyalty. My guiding principle has always been to write for my readers, not for the restaurants.

How did you address the skepticism or resistance from both the public and industry professionals during the early days of food blogging, especially when it was an emerging

Skeptics are like stale spices - they need to be replaced with fresh perspectives. I proved that food blogging wasn't just a flash in the pan by consistently delivering quality community. Facebook played a significant role in this, as I created a space where food enthusiasts could exchange opinions and learn from

What were some of the biggest challenges you faced in creating content for your blog in the early days, and how did you overcome issues related to resources, technology audience engagement?

The early days were like cooking with limited ingredients-creativity was key. I tackled challenges by infusing my content with storytelling, leveraging social media, and engaging with my audience like a master chef. Content was never an issue because food is something we encounter daily. To improve the visual appeal, I invested in a DSLR. As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words.

Indian Food Freak has grown into one of the largest food and travel blogs in India. What were some of initial challenges you encountered when starting your blog and organising The Big F Awards, and how did your corporate experience help you navigate these obstacles?

My corporate experience was the yeast that helped Indian Food Freak rise. The biggest challenge in organizing the awards was securing sponsors who believed in the vision but didn't influence the results. My sales and marketing skills were crucial here. Convincing people of the brand visibility that our awards could offer was key, and looking back, I'm proud to say that I delivered on those promises.

This year, The Big F Awards has expanded to cover the entire Delhi-NCR region. What motivated this expansion, and what new opportunities and challenges do you anticipate?

Expanding The Big F Awards to Delhi-NCR was like adding a new course to the menu—a natural progression. Since it takes nearly six months to organize the awards, with our jury visiting each restaurant to taste the food before

delivering a verdict, venturing into other cities wasn't feasible. However, Delhi-NCR should be treated as one city, with people frequently traveling for work and pleasure. Including Delhi has given us broader and, in some cases, better choices, helping foodies make informed decisions when they dine out.

The introduction of categories for home bakers and home chefs is a unique and thoughtful addition. What inspired these new categories, and how do they reflect current trends in the food industry?

Home bakers and home chefs are the new spice merchants—they're trends. These categories reflect the democratisation of food and the rise of culinary entrepreneurship. I'm pleased to see that home chefs and bakers are now taken seriously. Not only have their businesses expanded, but many new ventures are focused solely on this segment, helping them grow by organising pop-ups at five-star hotels, developing apps for delivery, and introducing them to wider audiences.

Winning the Best Influencer Award by BBC Good Food in 2018 is a significant achievement. How did this recognition impact your career and the growth of Indian Food Freak and The Big F Awards?

We all seek acknowledgment and appreciation. Winning the award was a validation that I was on the right path. It boosted my morale and increased confidence in the products and content I deliver.

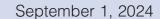
The Big F Awards are known for their transparency and integrity. How are you ensuring these values are upheld in this year's expanded edition, especially with addition of new categories?

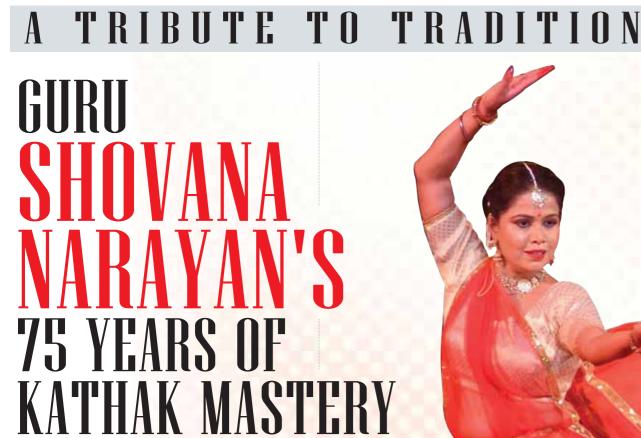
Transparency and integrity are the secret ingredients in The Big F Awards' recipe. We ensure fairness by using a robust judging process, clear criteria, and a commitment to accountability. From selecting the right jury to deliberating each result, we remain steadfast in our dedication to honesty and transparency.

As you prepare for the 11th edition of The Big F Awards, what are your personal goals for the event, and what do you hope attendees and participants will take away from this year's awards?

My personal goal for The Big F Awards is to foster a culinary community that's the icing on the cake. I hope attendees and participants leave inspired, with new connections and a renewed passion for the food industry. People don't mind losing as long as they know they lost to a worthy opponent. Our aim is to be fair and just while building camaraderie among all industry professionals.







Sharanyam, a heartfelt tribute to the legendary Guru SHOVANA NARAYAN on her 75th birthday, beautifully

celebrated her extraordinary journey in Kathak. The evening was a touching tribute to her life's work, showcasing the profound impact she has had on the art form and her disciples, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

n the world of Indian classical dance, few names resonate with as much reverence as Padmashri Guru Shovana Narayan. Her journey is not just a tribute to her unparalleled dedication to Kathak but a living legacy that has inspired generations. As she steps into her 75th year, the Asavari Centre for Kathak honoured this icon with an evening titled "Sharanyam," a celebration as vibrant and profound as Guruji herself.

Padmashri Guru Shovana Narayan is a celebrated icon in Kathak, with a remarkable career spanning over six decades. Her innovative approach and deep understanding of Indian culture have redefined the art form. of Indian culture have redefined the art form. With prestigious awards like the Padma Shri and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, her influence extends beyond performance to visionary choreography, dedicated teaching, and cultural leadership.

On this unforgettable evening, the Stein Auditorium at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi was transformed into a space of dance

Delhi was transformed into a space of dance and devotion. The evening was not just an event; it was a vibrant expression of love, respect and admiration from her disciples just Kathak but the essence of Guru Shovana Narayan - the artist, the mentor and the

From the moment the lights dimmed and the

was a poetic journey that moved everyone present. Similarly, "Malika" seamlessly fused song and dance, creating a blend of beauty that felt almost otherworldly. One of the most memorable moments of the night was "Moonly ight Impressionism," a performance that seemed to slow time itself. The dancers moved with such grace that the stage became a peaceful space, where the silence of captured in every gesture and step. The

elegance, making it feel as though the audience was witnessing a dream first note echoed through the auditorium, it was clear that this evening was extraordinary. The performance of "Taal Pancham Sawari" come to life. was a masterful display of rhythm and precision, perfectly embodying the discipline The evening was a reflection of the profound bond between Guruji and her and expression that Guruji has always disciples, a connection that was evident emphasised. Beyond the technical brilliance, it was the sheer emotion that captivated the audience. "Chaand" was not just a dance; it in every movement and gesture on stage. This wasn't just a series of performances; it was a living reflection of the relationships built through years of passion, shared dedication, and mutual respect. As the presentation video featuring played, heartfelt birthday messages from her students, the in the emotion auditorium was overwhelming. These messageswere more than just soft strains of the piano added an extra layer of

ONE OF THE MOST MEMORABLE MOMENTS OF THE NIGHT WAS **'MOONLIGHT** IMPRESSIONISM," A PERFORMANCE THAT SEEMED TO SLOW TIME ITSELF. THE DANCERS MOVED WITH SUCH GRACE THAT THE STAGE BECAME A PEACEFUL SPACE, WHERE THE SILENCE OF **MOONLIGHT WAS** CAPTURED IN EVERY



admiration; they were living proof of the deep, enduring love and gratitude that have grown over the years - a love that extends far beyond the art of Kathak.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

the art of Kathak.

As the evening drew to a close with the powerful performance of "Dhwani-Pratidhwani," the energy in the auditorium reached its zenith. The audience's applause was more than just appreciation; it was a collective outpouring of respect, love, and admiration for a woman who has devoted her life to the pursuit of art and the nurturing of others

In the words of Guruji's first disciple, Shruti Gupta Chandra, "Sharanyam is a small tribute from all of us who have learned so much from Shovana Didi - dance in its purest form and, with it, many life lessons. And the learning continues...." Guruji herself reflected on the evening with emotion, saying, "The air rebounded with the pure love and sublime devotion of all the disciples that touched every heart and left everyone emotional. The programme was meticulously planned and

As her disciples paid tribute through their performances, it was clear that Guru Shovana Narayan's influence extends far beyond the stage. She has touched lives, instilled values, and inspired a generation of dancers who carry For them, she is not just a guru; she is a mother, a confidante, and a guiding star. Guru Shovana Narayan represents both tradition and innovation. She embodies the continuity of creativity, demonstrating that art is not just about preserving the past but about creating a future rooted in tradition yet open to new possibilities.

As we celebrate her 75th year, it's evident that Guru Shovana Narayan is much more than a dancer; she is a visionary whose life has been dedicated to Kathak. Her legacy extends beyond performances to the hearts of her and the countless lives touched. She is not just a mentor and guide but an inspiring figure whose dedication continues to elevate the art form and inspire those who learn from her.

A CELEBRATION OF INDIA'S TIMELESS CRAFTSMANSHIP

Naayaab highlights India's rich craftsmanship through over 100 masterpieces by renowned artisans. This exhibition blends tradition with innovation, presenting a unique cultural celebration, writes SAKSHI PRIYA

aayaab, a groundbreaking exhibition platform, is set to become a beacon of India's rich heritage, showcasing over 100 masterpieces by the nation's most celebrated artisans. Spanning three major cities New Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai. This exhibition is more than just an exhibition, it is a profound celebration of India's artistic legacy, bringing together over 40 traditional art forms under one roof.

A SHOWCASE OF INDIA'S ARTISTIC DIVERSITY

Naayaab's significance lies in its ability to bring together an extraordinary collection of art forms, each representing a unique aspect of India's cultural fabric. With works from over 70 master artisans, including several Padma Shri and Shilp Guru awards, this exhibition is a rare opportunity to witness the pinnacle of Indian craftsmanship.

The exhibition highlighted the exceptional craftsmanship of several renowned artisans. Sudarshan Sahoo captivated with his intricate stone carving while Jai Prakash Lakhiawal impressed with his detailed miniature paintings. Khaleel Ahmad showcased his exquisite kilim carpets and Bhuri Bai presented her vibrant Bhil art. Durga Bai Vyam contributed her intricate Gond paintings. The visionary leaders behind Naayaab were Ajay A Singh, Founder Director and Akansha Dixit, Founder & Chief Curator.

One of the most captivating pieces is the Inlay Artistry Chest by

Rupan Matharu, a work that exemplifies the exhibition's ethos of blending tradition with modernity. Crafted from Indian rosewood using traditional Hoshiarpur inlay techniques, Matharu's chest replaces the historically used ivory or bone with acrylic, making it both environmentally conscious and a stunning piece of art. The intricate patterns and meticulous detailing make it a true testament to the mastery of Indian artisans.

Another powerful piece is Durga Bai Vyam's Gond Painting "Climate in Crisis", which uses symbolic imagery to address the resilience of nature in the face of human activity. This painting not only showcases the intricate detailing typical of Gond art but also delivers a poignant message about environmental conservation. Jai Prakash Lakhiawal's Shrinathji in Tanjore and Miniature Fusion painting is another highlight, merging Tanjore and Pichwai styles to create a resplendent depiction of the Hindu deity. The use of gold leaf and natural pigments elevates this piece to a new level of artistic brilliance. The Heritage Red Sozni Shawl by Bashir Ahmed Bhatt is a must-see for those interested in traditional Indian textiles. This exquisite shawl, with its intricate embroidery of 600 stitches per centimeter, took four years to complete and is a tribute to the time-honored skills of Kashmiri Sozni artisans.

MASTERPIECES OF

CRAFTSMANSHIP Among the many remarkable pieces, Shiva Kumar's Tri Panel Mythic Tales stands out as a masterpiece of wood inlay and carving. Spanning six years in the making, this wooden set depicts narratives from the lives of Lord Rama and Lord Krishna across three panels, showcasing scenes like Sri Rama Pattabhishekam,



Vishwaroopa and Krishna Leela. with the use of vibrant enamel The craftsmanship is so intricate colors, reflect the rich tradition of that concealed handles reveal a Meenakari, an art form passed hidden third panel, an down through generations since engineering feat in itself. The use the Mughal era. of different woods and seashells for vibrant hues, along with A PLATFORM FOR PRESERVATION hand-carved Yali motifs on the **AND INNOVATION**

and refined. The intricate

designs on both sides, along

outer frame, make this artwork Naayaab is more than just an a true marvel. exhibition; it is a movement aimed at preserving and reviving India's traditional Another notable piece is Mukesh Kumar Soni's art forms. The long-term Maharaja Brooch Pendant, a stunning vision of making Naayaab example of Meenakari on gold. Inspired by the regal bearing of an annual event, both in India and globally, is commendable. By doing so, the organizers hope to inspire the next generation of artisans Rajput personages, this pendant cum brooch combines and ensure that these uncut diamonds, baroque freshwater invaluable skills continue to thrive. As pearls, glass, spinels, and gold to create a art enthusiast, witnessing Naayaab is both a piece that is both opulent

privilege and a profound reminder

of the richness of Indian heritage.



the exceptional talent of Indian artisans but also serves as a platform to elevate these crafts to the global stage, ensuring they are celebrated for generations to come. Naayaab is not just an exhibition, it is a celebration of India's artistic heritage, a platform for master artisans and a beacon of hope for the future of traditional crafts. In an age where digital and massproduced art often takes center stage, Naayaab stands as a beautiful contradiction, a reminder of the beauty of handcrafted excellence and the importance of preserving cultural legacies. For collectors, connoisseurs and art lovers alike, Naayaab offers a rare opportunity to connect with the soul of Indian culture, to witness the legacy of its artistic heritage, and to support the artisans who dedicate their lives to preserving these traditions. It is an

unmissable event that promises to

leave a lasting impact on anyone

The exhibition not only showcases

who values the intersection of history, culture and creativity. Naayaab is not just an exhibition but a profound celebration of India's rich artistic heritage. By bringing together over 100 masterpieces from acclaimed artisans across the country, it offers a unique platform that honors and revives traditional crafts. The intricate works displayed, from the innovative Inlay Artistry Chest to the evocative Gond Painting, illustrate the extraordinary skill and creativity of Indian artisans. This event is a tribute to the enduring significance of these art forms and serves as an inspiring reminder of the beauty that emerges when tradition meets innovation. Naayaab stands as a pivotal moment for both art lovers and cultural enthusiasts, marking a significant step in preserving and promoting India's invaluable





























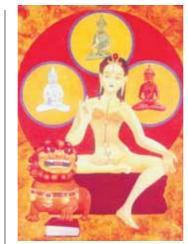
tarot 12



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week, you'll experience a surge of emotional renewal and inspiration, leading to significant personal growth and the opportunity for meaningful connections. Embrace the new beginnings in your life with confidence and enthusiasm, allowing yourself to be open and vulnerable. This openness will deepen your relationships and enhance your sense of fulfillment. The current energies are encouraging you to explore your emotional needs and desires more deeply, guiding you toward a greater understanding of yourself. Engage in activities that truly resonate with your values and bring you joy. To maintain balance, take time for introspection, ensuring that your excitement and drive are rooted in authentic, meaningful

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Friday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week, focus on maintaining fairness, balance, and accountability in your actions and decisions. It's an opportune time to resolve any disputes and strive for harmony in your relationships and projects. Be mindful of the importance of acting with integrity, as this will be crucial in your interactions and endeavors. You may encounter situations that require careful consideration of your options or addressing imbalances. Trust in your ability to advocate for what is right and true. Reflect on how your actions impact others and ensure that you proceed with honesty and clarity. By aligning your goals with a commitment to fairness, you'll navigate any challenges that arise with grace and effectiveness.

Lucky number 15 | Lucky colour Ivory Lucky day Monday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

tasks with flexibility and adaptability. It's a time to harness your enthusiasm and organizational abilities to keep everything moving smoothly. The current cosmic influences emphasize the importance of maintaining equilibrium in your busy schedule. By prioritizing and adjusting as needed, you can handle the demands of the week without becoming overwhelmed. Stay focused on your goals while remaining open to making necessary adjustments. Your resourcefulness and ability to adapt will be key in navigating through the week with efficiency and maintaining a sense of harmony among all your commitments. Keep a steady pace, and you'll find that your efforts align beautifully with your

This week invites you to balance multiple responsibilities

effectively. Embrace the challenge of managing various

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Palm Lucky day Saturday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week, you're stepping into a role that demands leadership and ambitious endeavors, making it a perfect time to take charge of your goals with confidence and creativity. You'll find yourself exuding a magnetic energy that draws others to your ideas, giving you the opportunity to inspire and guide those around you. This is a time to harness your inner drive, pushing forward on important projects with a mix of passion and practicality. While your $\label{eq:determination} \mbox{determination is strong, remember to balance your}$ ambitions with a steady, grounded approach. Your natural perseverance will serve you well as you navigate this dynamic period, allowing you to lead with both vision and stability. This is your moment to shine in your pursuits with unwavering determination

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Brown Lucky day Wednesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week highlights a period of recognizing and addressing personal barriers and unhealthy behaviors. You might find yourself grappling with issues of control or repetitive negative patterns that are limiting your growth. The influence of current cosmic energies encourages you to identify and confront these challenges, urging a break from the constraints of fear or excessive desire. This period is crucial for regaining your independence and strength. Reflect on any habits or situations that may be limiting you and make a concerted effort to release them. Though the process might be demanding, it provides a substantial opportunity for personal evolution and development. Seize this moment to free yourself and cultivate a more wholesome and balanced life approach

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Emerald Lucky day Friday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week calls for a period of deep reflection and navigating through areas of uncertainty. It's a time when hidden aspects of your life or underlying emotions may surface, requiring careful exploration. The influences surrounding you are pushing towards relying on your inner instincts and looking beyond obvious appearances. You might face situations filled with ambiguity or even deceptive information, making it crucial to evaluate circumstances with a keen sense of awareness. This phase is ideal for delving into your deeper self, addressing any underlying anxieties or misconceptions. Embrace these moments for self-exploration and foster a connection with your own guiding voice. Although this time may feel unstable, it presents an opportunity to gain significant personal insights and growth. Let your internal compass lead you through less clear paths.

Lucky number 1 | Lucky colour Amber Lucky day Thursday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week, focus on establishing order and discipline in your life. You'll benefit from setting clear boundaries and creating a structured approach to your tasks. The current energies support your efforts to take control and make strategic decisions, allowing you to lead with confidence. This is an opportune time to take charge of projects or situations that require a strong and authoritative presence. Utilize this time to establish long-term objectives and apply practical approaches.By balancing your need for intellectual engagement with a disciplined approach, you can achieve greater stability and success. Trust in your ability to organize and guide others, and you'll find it easier to navigate any challenges that arise.

Lucky number 19 | Lucky colour Coral



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week promises a period of emotional satisfaction, harmony, and strengthened connections. You may find a profound sense of joy and completeness in your personal relationships and household. The current influences are conducive to fostering closer ties with those close to you. It's an ideal time to nurture your family dynamics and cultivate a nurturing atmosphere. Enjoy the benefits of positive exchanges and collective joy. Additionally, this is a favorable moment to pay attention to your emotional health and explore methods to develop enduring happiness. Appreciate the splendor of these experiences and utilize them to enhance the love and delight in your life. These enriching experiences can be a foundation for future stability and joy.

Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Mint Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week ushers in a period marked by intense curiosity and the birth of fresh ideas, presenting an excellent opportunity for intellectual growth. You are poised to make remarkable discoveries due to your heightened analytical abilities. This is the perfect time to immerse yourself in research projects or initiate stimulating intellectual pursuits. The current influences inspire you to look at things from innovative angles and engage in meaningful dialogues. Your ability to think critically will serve you well, but it's important to avoid being overly sharp in your interactions. As you navigate through this period of dynamic thinking, remember to balance your keen enthusiasm with tact and patience. Let your inquisitive nature guide your journey of exploration and

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Turquoise Lucky day Monday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week brings a surge of mental clarity and a strong drive to take swift action. You may find yourself propelled into new ideas or projects with a sense of urgency, feeling a heightened determination to get things done. This is a time to approach tasks with a clear and assertive mindset making the most of the dynamic energy around you. However, it's important to remain mindful of the impact of your words and actions; avoid being overly reactive or impulsive. Strive to balance your focused determination with a sense of emotional awareness. By doing so, you'll be able to navigate this active period effectively, embracing the momentum while staying connected to your inner

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Pink Lucky day Thursday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week may bring moments of conclusion and opportunities for significant breakthroughs. It's a time when you might encounter challenging situations or harsh truths. These experiences suggest a need to address and let go of elements that no longer contribute positively to your life. While this period can be demanding, it offers a valuable chance for closure and rejuvenation. Take this opportunity to release any old grievances or burdensome circumstances. Confronting these issues directly allows for healing and transformation. Although the process may be intense, it is clearing the way for fresh starts and personal advancement. Use this period to reevaluate your direction and emerge more robust and adaptable

Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour Silver Lucky day Wednesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week is ripe with opportunities for fresh beginnings and the pursuit of exciting ventures. You are encouraged to embrace your imaginative side and take bold steps toward your goals. You may find yourself inspired by new ideas or projects that ignite your passion. This is an excellent period for launching new endeavors or diving into creative interests. However, it's important to balance your enthusiasm with practical considerations to ensure your plans are well-founded. Embrace this time of exploration and allow your curiosity and creativity to guide you. Trust in your capabilities and remain open to the possibilities that unfold. This approach will help you harness the energy of the moment and channel it into productive and fulfilling

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Saffron

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C V Srikanth

From the disciplined learning of youth to the ultimate renunciation of worldly attachments, thefour stages enunciated in the scriptures offer a blueprint for balancing our worldly duties with our spiritual aspirations

he one constant from my

School, to my Corporate, to my family has been- hearing You are not thinking' | 'You are not applying yourself' | 'You are not invested enough in what you are doing' phrases we have all grown up listening to and perhaps continue to. Manasa Budhi Chitta Ahankara. - embodied in the quotients - IQ | EQ | SQ.

IQ (**Intelligence Quotient**): A relative measure of the Intelligence of the person expressed in number. Can be seen as the ability to understand complex conceptsand apply it effectively. Aligns with the concept of 'Buddhi' the higher intellect or discrimination (Viveka). It includes intellectual discernment, wisdom (Prajña) through practise

EQ (Emotional Quotient): Relative measure of Emotional intelligence having a heightened sense of emotional and social awareness, including skills like ability to understand, use, manage your own emotions in positive ways, communicate empathetically, selfregulation. Indian ancient texts see it as qualities like emotional balance, compassion (karuna), non-attachment (vairagya), and equanimity (samata). SQ (Spiritual Quotient): Relative measure of Spiritual intelligence. Encompasses placing our actions and our

lives in a wider, richer, meaningful context. mindfulness, self-awareness, and connection to a higher purpose or reality. Indian scriptures describe it as the work towards and capacity for transcending the ego and realizing one's true nature (atman) or universal consciousness (Parabrahman), the aptitude to enter into heightened spiritual states of consciousness, the ability to invest in everyday activities, events, and relationships with a sense of the devotion (bhakti) and non-attachment (aparigraha), to engage in virtuous behavior (forgiveness, gratitude, humility, modesty, compassion). They are distinct concepts - but

inseparable by nature for any holistic development or application. Only a judicious combination of Intellectual clarity + emotional maturity + spiritual insight (SQ) can result in fulfilment. Our scriptures emphasize the need to cultivate and practise these through self-discipline and self-inquiry (Jijñāsā) Ultimately, the goal is defined by us -a comprehensive embracing awakening to the Universe. Krishna teaches us in The Bhagavad Gita that both EQ and SQare integral aspects of a balanced and meaningful life.

कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन। मा कर्मफलहेतुर्भूर्मा ते सङ्गोऽस्त्वकर्मणि।। ४७।।

EQ and SQ karmany-evādhikāras te mā phaleshu kadāchana

mā karma-phala-hetur bhārmā te saṇgo 'stvakarmani You have the right to perform your prescribed duties. You are not entitled to the fruits of your actions. Never consider

योगस्थः कुरु कर्माणि सङ्गं त्यक्त्वा धनञ्जय। सिद्धयसिद्धयोः समो भूत्वा समत्वं योग उच्यते।। yoga-sthah kuru karmāni sangam tyaktvā

vourself to be the cause of the results of

your activities, nor be attached to

siddhy-asiddhyoh samo bhūtvā samatvam yoga uchyate Be steadfast in the performance of your duty. Abandon attachment to success and failure. Such equanimity is called Yoga. These2 shlokas are an example of EQ. Applying our emotional balance to our actions and duties with a sense of equanimity

प्रजहाति यदा कामान्सर्वान्पार्थ मनोगतान। आत्मन्येवात्मना तुष्टरू स्थितप्रज्ञस्तदोच्यते।। prajahāti yadā kāmān sarvān pārtha mano-gatān ātmany-evātmanā tuṣhṭaḥ sthita-prajñas

(2.55)

When one discards all selfish desires and cravings of the senses that torment the mind, and becomes satisfied in the realization of the self, such a person is said to be transcendentally situated.

दूरेण ह्यवरं कर्म बुद्धियोगाद्धनञ्जय। बुद्धौ शरणमन्विच्छ कृपणाः फलहेतवः।। dūreṇa hy-avaram karma buddhi-yogād dhanañjaya buddhau sharanam anvichchha kripanāh phala-hetavaḥ (2.49)

The recourse is divine knowledge and insight. Discard reward-seeking actions that are certainly inferior to works performed with the spiritual intellect established in divine knowledge. Miserly are those who seek to enjoy the fruits of their works.

These 2 Shlokas are examples of SQ. When we tune in and nurture our SQ, we move towards happiness, peace and a tranquil state of mind because we do everything in s ate of gratitude and devotion.

None of the 3 - IQ EQ or SQ can be underestimated and under rated. They compliment each other. We need to farm their working together in coherence and balance. IQ helps rational and logical thinking. Emotional stability and maturity help individuals maintain

equanimity amidst life's apparent contradictions or dualities, facilitating focused spiritual practice. The Spiritual quotient is the provides the overarching context and purpose for life. Understanding one's true nature as a spiritual being (atman) and cultivating faith and devotion (shradhha), sensitivity and detachment helps us transcend to lasting inner tranquillity, gratitudeandcontentment. Emotional stability supports spiritual practice by reducing distractions and mental turbulence, while spiritual understanding provides a higher perspective that enriches emotional experiences with depth and meaning. As someone said 'The world is a contradiction and the Universe is Paradox.' To understand, navigate and rise above - Deep Breathe, Soak in, Experience Life!

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dhanañjaya