



WORLD 6
STARLINER RETURNS TO EARTH, WITHOUT CREW

SPORT 7
INDIA LOOK TO START FRESH AFTER OLYMPIC BRONZE

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PAKISTAN ADMITS KARGIL WAR FOUGHT BY ITS SOLDIERS, NOT MUJAHIDEENS



Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir admits Pak army's role in Kargil war, says several Pak soldiers died in the 1999 Kargil War against India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Pakistan for the first time has admitted its soldiers fought in the Kargil war in 1999. This assertion came from none other than Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir. Islamabad, till now, denied any role in the conflict and maintained 'mujahideens' (freedom fighters) waged the war. India had all along reiterated that Pakistan army

soldiers were actively involved in the war. Speaking at an event in Rawalpindi to mark the country's Defence Day, Pakistan army chief General Munir said several soldiers had laid down their lives while fighting the wars in 1965, 1971 and in Kargil in 1999. "Be it 1948, 1965, 1971, or the Kargil war of 1999, thousands of soldiers have sacrificed their lives for Pakistan and Islam," the Army chief said.

"The Pakistani community is a community of braves which understands the importance of freedom and how to pay for it," General Munir said. The event was attended by senior military and governmental officials, and families of soldiers. The Pakistani army has never publicly acknowledged its direct role in the Kargil War and has officially claimed that it was the work of "mujahideen or freedom fighters." In fact, it

refused to take bodies of its dead soldiers during the Kargil war. Pakistan suffered a crushing defeat in the war, with Indian soldiers successfully reclaiming the positions occupied by infiltrators on the Indian side of the Line of Control (LOC) in the Kargil sector, including Tiger Hill, after a nearly three-month-long battle. Then US President Bill Clinton also asked Pakistani

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to order the withdrawal of Army personnel from the Kargil sector. The day is observed as 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in the war. A total of 545 soldiers laid down their lives fighting the Pakistani intruders. India has always maintained the operation was a strategy by Pakistan to assert its claim over Kashmir. India has several evidence of involvement of the Pakistani army in Kargil, including prisoners of war, their pay books, uniforms, and weapons. The Indian Army buried several dead Pakistani soldiers in Kargil after the war. The Pakistani Army had refused to accept the bodies of soldiers killed in Kargil. The authorities had secretly sought bodies of Pakistani officers killed in the war. India has consistently asserted that the conflict was a direct act of aggression by the Pakistani military. The Pakistani army's intrusion into Kargil with terrorists as a cover became evident from the intercepted conversation between General Pervez Musharraf (while visiting Beijing) and his Chief of General Staff Lt Gen Mohammed Aziz in Rawalpindi on May 26 and May 29.

Majhi to visit Sambalpur for Nuakhai today

To launch CM Kisan Yojana

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

People of Sambalpur await to welcome Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on the occasion of Nuakhai on Sunday.

Union Minister and Sambalpur MP Dharmendra Pradhan and local MLA Jaynarayan Mishra, along with Revenue Minister Suresh



Water Rabi Narayan Naik would share the dais with the CM at various events in the city.

The CM will have Prasad of Maa Samaleswari (Nabanna)

Pujari, Minister of Higher Education, Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water at Ashok Niwas, Burla, before heading towards a Bhetghat programme of Marwari Yuva Manch at Mandliya. Subsequently, he will launch the CM Kisan Yojana at the Gangadhar Meher University auditorium.

There are four Bhetghat programmes in the city. The first one is at Mandliya and the remaining three programs will be attended by Majhi after launching of the CM Kisan Yojana.

HM Shah vows to decimate the Opposition in J and K elections

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU



Predicting the Assembly poll results in advance, Union Home Minister Amit Shah Saturday declared the National Conference and the Congress will never be able to form a government in Jammu and Kashmir.


Shah said the BJP will contest and win these elections with full strength. He also emphasized that the election results will be decided by the people of Jammu. Addressing the 'Karyakarta Sammelan', a day after releasing the party's Sankalp Patra (Manifesto) here in Jammu Shah motivated the booth-level party workers to launch a door-to-door

campaign to ensure the formation of the BJP government. "We just don't have to defeat them, we have to seize their deposits." "I am reading the writing on the wall that NC and Congress will never form a government. They are the people who forced Maharaja Hari Singh to exile and only his ashes could be brought back after his death," Shah said. The movement started by Pandit Prem Nath Dogra was ended by PM Modi Ji on August 5, 2019. He said, "It is a coincidence that the first election rally of BJP is starting on the day of Ganesh Chaturthi and we all know that Lord Ganesh destroys all the obstacles of

the path." The Union Home Minister said the upcoming elections are historic. For the first time since the country's independence, the voters of Jammu and Kashmir will cast their votes under the tricolor. For the first time, votes will be cast under the Constitution of Baba Saheb Ambedkar and not under two constitutions. For the first time, no PM will sit in Jammu and Kashmir as only one person can be PM. These elections are taking place out of the shadow of article 370 and we have seen its results in Lok Sabha elections." More than 58 percent of voters participated in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

DALS-28









**ନୂଆଁଖାଇ-୨୦୨୪ ଅବସରରେ
ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ
ବାର୍ତ୍ତା**

ସୁଖ, ଶାନ୍ତି, ମୈତ୍ରୀ ଓ ଆନନ୍ଦର ପବିତ୍ର ପରମ୍ପରା ଓ ପର୍ବ "ନୂଆଁଖାଇ" ପାଳନ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି । ଏହା ଏକ କୃଷିଭିତ୍ତିକ ପର୍ବ । ଏହି ପରିପ୍ରେକ୍ଷାରେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟର କୃଷକ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କର ସୁଖ ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି କାମନା କରିବା ସହ କୃଷିକ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାକୁ ଏକ ଅଗ୍ରଣୀ ଓ ପ୍ରଗତିଶୀଳ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ପରିଣତ କରିବାକୁ ଆହ୍ୱାନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

(ରତ୍ନବର ଦାସ)



**ନୂଆଁଖାଇ ତିହାର ଲାଗି
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କର ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ**

ପଶୁମ୍ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ବଡ଼ଖା ତିହାର ନୂଆଁଖାଇ ଲାଗି ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ମୋର ନୂଆଁଖାଇ କୁହାର, ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଆର ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ । ମାଁ ସମଲେଇଙ୍କର ଅପାର କୃପାକୁ ଧରତୀ ମାଁ ଶସ୍ୟ ଶ୍ୟାମଳା ହଉ । ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ଜୀବନ ସୁଖ, ଶାନ୍ତି ଆର ସମୃଦ୍ଧି ଉରିଯାଉ, ଲଟା ହିଁ ମୋର କାମନା ।

(ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ)
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

OIPR-15001/13/0146/2425

CM Majhi launches Subhadra Rath

BJD seeks Rs 50K aid in max two installments
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi launched 'Subhadra Rath' on Saturday and said the Subhadra Yojana reflects the Odia Asmita. Attending the event, Bhubaneswar BJD Mayor Sulochana Das on Saturday took a sly dig at the Majhi government for the Rs 5,000/half-yearly and Rs 10,000 annual money instead of Rs 50,000 as per BJP's promise. Das said, "If a woman gets Rs 50,000, she can invest it somewhere and make more money. So, I request the government to think about it because giving Rs 5,000 in installments will hardly be of any



help to anyone." "A needy family will spend it on their daily expenses. So, it will be difficult for them to be self-

independent until they get the Rs 50,000 in one or two installments," Das added. In response, Deputy Chief

Minister Pravati Parida stated that the Rs 5,000 given to a woman is to pave the way for them to dream big. It is like

an encouragement gift for women.

"I think Rs 5,000 for every woman and our Rs 50,000 guarantee will help women dream big for Rs 5 lakh. Such big dreams will make them fighters and move them forward in life," said Parida.

"Even the biggest brand like KFC was also started with Rs 5,000. A steel company was started with just Rs 6,000. So, anything can happen with the Rs 5,000. This is like building a foundation for them. It is like an encouragement gift to the women. All we want is to give hopes and dreams to women who could not even dare to dream earlier," she stated.

"In days to come, I promise that Odisha will be the No. 1 State in 'lakhpati didis'," Parida added.

2 held for abducting, looting BBSR cab driver

Miscrants booked car online
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Gondia police in Dhenkanal district have arrested two persons in connection with the loot of a cab of Bhubaneswar, which was booked online.

While carrying out investigations into the case, the Gondia police arrested the mastermind Rajesh Nath and his associate Suman while one more accused was still absconding.

The cab driver Balram Pradhan on August 13 had got a booking from Bhubaneswar to Joranda under the Gondia police limits. He picked up three passengers as per the online booking from near the AIIMS Bhubaneswar.

After driving for several ki-



ometers, Balram, who is also the owner of the car, was about to get the biggest shock of his life. The three passengers asked him to stop the car on the pretext of attending nature's call. Later, they took out knives and looted a gold ring, cash of Rs 5,000, two mobile phones and the car of Balram near Radhadeipur.

According to Balram, his car

was a new one. After escaping from the spot, he went to the nearest village and sought help of people.

"Villagers gave me Rs 500 and I came to police station to lodge a complaint. My car has been recovered, but cash and gold ring have not been recovered yet. Now, I am afraid to take long-distance trips," said Balram.

Govt to fill 2,000 Forest Guard posts in 3 months

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government is soon going to fill up 2,000 Forest Guard posts in the State. Forest and Environment Minister Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia on Saturday informed that the government would fill the 2,000 within three months.

While talking to reporters, Khuntia said that at present around 3,000 Forest Guard posts are lying vacant in the State and the government would soon start the process to fill up 2,000 posts in the first phase.

Earlier, Chief Minister Mohan Majhi had announced

that 2,298 Home Guard posts that are lying vacant would be filled up as soon as possible. The development came after the government lifted the ban on recruitment of Home Guards which was in force from February 2020.

Apart from Home Guards, the CM also informed that around 3,000 vacant police posts would be filled in 100 days. Besides, one police outpost each would be set up for 10 government medical colleges and one outpost at the Baramunda bus terminal while 9,000 motorcycles would be provided for Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors.

In a first in Odisha Doc conducts uterus tumour treatment without surgery

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

For the first time in Odisha, a Bhubaneswar-based doctor successfully treated uterine fibroid using a pioneering technique 'Microwave Ablation'. This is the first-ever such procedure in Odisha in the treatment of uterus tumour without any surgery.

Microwave ablation is a minimally invasive procedure that does not require surgery and does not even leave a scar on the patient. Furthermore, patients can be discharged in a single day after the treatment.

Senior gynaecologist, obstetrician and infertility specialist Dr GSS Mohapatra revealed how the ablation technique



uses heat to melt the tumour.

He said, "The process is called microwave ablation. Normally, when there is a tumour in uterus, we call it uterine fibroid. It is also called uterine myoma/adenomyosis, the condition when the patient goes through extreme pain, especially during menstrual time. They may also experience se-

vere bleeding." "Adenomyosis surgery is very unrewarding. Whoever performs advance laparoscopy, we always feel that the surgery does not do justice to procedure. So, now are using the latest procedure 'Microwave Ablation' to treat uterine fibroid or tumour," he said. "In simple language, we are

not performing surgery anymore; we are just melting it. The melt is done by a mechanism called 'microwave ablation'. Due to high degree of heat, it can melt the tumour," he said. "Many patients do not want to go through surgery. So, this is the best procedure to treat fibroid and adenomyosis. With this procedure, there will not be a single cut or scar in the uterus or abdomen and patients can be discharged in a single day," he further said.

"The procedure is also very affordable and will not cost more than laparoscopy. Most importantly, the patient is free to choose what procedure she wants to go through," Dr Mohapatra stated.

Ex-Jharpada jail Super arrested for DA

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Vigilance police on Saturday arrested and forwarded to court Satya Prakash Swain, former Superintendent of the Jharpada Special Jail, Bhubaneswar, at present Superintendent of Keonjhar District Jail, for possession of disproportionate assets (DA).

The Vigilance during house searches had detected a four-storied residential building of 3,300 sqft worth over Rs 1.5 crore of Swain at Jharpada, four high-value homestead plots in prime areas of Bhubaneswar, Balangir and Dhenkanal, gold ornaments worth Rs 10 lakh, bank and postal deposits of Rs 6.24 lakh, a four-wheeler, a two-wheeler and household



articles worth over Rs 15 lakh in the names of Swain and his family members.

The income, expenditure and assets of Swain were calculated and he was found in possession of disproportionate assets which were 89% in excess of his known sources of income, which he could not account for satisfactorily.

Raids conducted on Cuttack street food stalls

After receiving complaints of sale of stale stuffs
PNS ■ CUTTACK

Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) teams conducted multiple raids on a number of street food kiosks selling Chaat, Gupchup, momos and other fried items in the city on Saturday.

The drive was launched after several complaints of sale of stale food items during the festive season were received.

The raids were conducted at small hotels and eateries at Ranihat, College Square and Jobra. The health squad of the CMC seized stale foods and prepared awareness drives regarding food safety and hygiene. Frequent raids would



eateries.

The officials also checked the licences of the eatery owners and fined many of them for the contamination of food.

A special squad has been formed for periodic checks and to spread awareness drives regarding food safety and hygiene. Frequent raids would

continue to stop the contamination of food and bring a change in the situation, an official stated.

"Due to the upcoming festive season, the food safety teams of CMC have started periodic raids. We have prepared a plan and are accordingly conducting the raids,"

said the official. He added, "The raids will be conducted in other places too. All big and small eateries will be raided. Our primary focus currently is two things - licence and sanitation and quality of foods. We will not compromise if there are any irregularities found, be it a big hotel or a small one."

No deadline for Subhadra Yojana



Registration to continue till last beneficiary submits form
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida on Saturday reit-

erated that the registration for the Subhadra Yojana would continue till the last beneficiary submits form. "There is no deadline to submit the Subhadra Yojana form. Registration for the scheme will continue till the last beneficiary submits it. We will ensure no beneficiary is left

out and all eligible beneficiaries get the benefits of the scheme," she said.

Meanwhile on Saturday, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi flagged off Subhadra Yojana Awareness Rath (chariot) which will run across the State creating awareness on

the scheme. Speaking on the occasion, CM Majhi said that the BJP government is committed to ensuring no beneficiary is left in the State. "It's an opportunity to fulfill the dream of every woman. The scheme is also an identity of Odia Asmita," said the CM.

'Good Cinema Film Fest' ends at DAV CSpur

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The DAV Public School, Chandrasekharpur, organised a two-day "Good Cinema Film Festival" for the students in collaboration with SIFFCY (Smile International Film Festival for Children & Youth) and Smile Foundation. The initiative was devoted to serve as a platform for greater appreciation of meaningful cinemas made for children which can bring a change in the society by showcasing specially curated children movies supporting emerging filmmakers and promoting the diverse perspectives of Good World Cinema.

The Festival was for children with just about every level of interest in film, whether to watch and enjoy, create their own work or take things a stage further and find out more about a career



in the film or television industry. Acclaimed film maker, festival director, Jitendra Mishra, Director Polish Institute, Embassy of Poland, New Delhi, Magdalena Filipczuk, Second Secretary for Culture, Press & Information, Embassy of Ukraine in India, Volodymyr Prytula, Odia actors Sabyasachi Mishra and Archita Sahu, besides eminent filmmaker

Sabyasachi Mohapatra and Bakul Foundation founder Sujit Mohapatra were present at the inaugural ceremony to interact with the students and share their perspectives and experiences on movies.

School Principal Dr Sujata Sahu welcomed the dignitaries and appealed to the students to explore various facets of life

through the prism of cinema and reflect on the values projected by the protagonists of the movies. A workshop on movie making was also conducted for the students by renowned filmmaker Snehashish Das. The event was coordinated by school counsellor Isha Iphita Satpathy and incharge of the photography club Anand Das.

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In Kendrapada dist School kids cover 4 km for mid-day meal

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA
Students of the Atharabatia Upper Primary School in Kendrapada district's Pattamundai block walk four kilometers every day to have their midday meals. Investigation revealed that their school has a new building. However, the contractor who carried out the construction work is yet to get the payment due to the alleged sub-standard work. So, he has locked up the building. Due to a lack of classrooms, the students of Classes-VI, VII and VIII go to the Bajra Mahakali High School, which is two km away. At lunchtime, they come to their own school, have food and return. Walking four km not only eats up their study time but



makes them tired. "Since our school building is in a dilapidated state, we are coming to Bajra Mahakali High School. At lunchtime, we go to our school; and, after having our food, we return. We put our lives at risk as there is fear of accidents and lightning," said Prajnasmitha Sethi, a student of the Upper Primary School. "I am in charge of three

classes-Class VI, VII and VIII. They come to Bajra Mahakali School in the morning; and at lunchtime, they again walk to Atharabatia Upper Primary School, covering a distance of two km to have mid-day meal. During rainy days, there is always a risk of lightning," said Atharabatia Primary School Headmistress Bhaktimayee Das Mohapatra.

When contacted, Pattamundai BDO Subhranshu Sahu said, "The construction of an additional building of Atharabatia Upper Primary School is near completion. The payment to the contractor will be made in a day or two. Then, the contractor will hand over the key to the school and the sufferings of the students will come to an end."

In Brahmapur 2 trucks seized for smuggling sand

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR
The Badabazaar police in Brahmapur on Saturday busted a sand smuggling racket by seizing two trucks transporting sand from Aska in Ganjam district to Andhra Pradesh. Four persons, including the drivers and helpers, were detained for questioning and later handed over to the Mines Department for further investigation. Badabazaar Police Station IIC Baba Shankar Saraf said a fine of Rs 2 lakh has been imposed on the seized vehicles by the Mines Department. "The operation was exposed thanks to two alert Corporators Durga Kumar Layak and



Ashwini Kumar Patnaik, who noticed suspicious activity near Taluka Street. Suspecting sand smuggling, they informed police and we seized the vehicles," the IIC added. The incident has raised concern on the rampant sand smuggling in the district.

INBRIEF



Subhadra Rath flagged off in Brahmapur
Brahmapur: The Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) flagged off the Subhadra Rath from its campus on Saturday to ensure awareness about the Subhadra scheme. The Rath will tour all wards in the city, educating residents about the benefits and application process of the scheme. The ceremony was attended by local MLA K Anil Kumar, Mayor Sanghamitra Dalai, Deputy Mayor E Vivek Reddy, Commissioner Bhabani Prasad Mishra, all community organisers and Corporators.

Hills reforesting by Ganjam environmentalist
Brahmapur: Environmentalist and chairman, Aryabhata Foundation, Sudhir Sahu led by a differently-abled senior volunteer Laba Sethi completed 3 months of their reforesting the hills recently. The team used more than 2lakh seed balls, 6lakh seeds to sow and around 500 collected saplings on the 20 hills on which they had worked on till last year and a hillock that they took up this year in nearby AP. In addition, they have planted 50 banyan saplings and 1,000 palm sprouts on the Rushikulya river banks in Ganjam.

Brahmapur photojournalist Sahu passes away
Brahmapur: Photojournalist Simanchala Sahu passed away at a private hospital in Visakhapatnam on Friday. He worked with a number of TV channels. Brahmapur Press Club members and intellectual of the city expressed deep grief over his demise and offered their sympathies to the bereaved family. Sahu is survived by his wife, a daughter and parents.

Worker electrocuted in Gajapati
Paralakhemundi : A person was electrocuted in an under-construction building on National Highway-326 under the Mohana police station in Gajapati district when he came in contact with an 11-KV wire while painting the building. Though he was rushed to hospital, the doctor declared him brought dead. The deceased was identified as Akhay Kumar Nayak of Baliapata village in the Bhanjanagar area of Ganjam district. The building belongs to a hotel owner.

In Jajpur Road SP Nanda Library's annual function held



PNS ■ JAJPUR ROAD
The 25th annual function of the SP Nanda Library was celebrated at Durlav Kala Parishad Mandap here on Thursday under the chairmanship of library chief Dushmanta Kumar Rout. Jhadeswar Junior College Principal Dr Akshaya Kumar Panda attended as chief guest and inaugurated the programme. Senior educationist Aswini Kumar Das attended as chief speaker while TU leader and Vyasaganar Senior Citizens' Forum secretary Chandramani Samal, teacher Jiban Kumar Nayak, social worker Tusarbindu Nayak, Jajpur district Bajrang Dal coordinator Basant Ku. Patra and educationist Sanjay Ku

Deo attended as guests of honour. The speakers said the SP Nanda Library has been providing its service for 25 years along with holding social and cultural activities. The Teachers' Day was also celebrated here. On the occasion, advocate Deepak Sengupta was felicitated. Among others, environmentalist Akshay Ku Jena, Sukinda BJD leader Lalbahadur Mohanta, scribe Umakanta Mohapatra, Abhiram Parida, TU leader Arun Das, Biplab Dutta, Sanatan Patra, Suman Ray, Chakradhar Mallick, Hardayal Singh, Pritipal Singh, Bichitrnanda Mohanty, senior teacher Dillip Ku Behera were present. Bidyutprava Ray offered a vote of thanks.

IIM-S'pur hosts 2nd annual Book Exhibition

PUBLISHERS FROM ACROSS COUNTRY JOIN
NIMAI CHARAN SAHU ■ SAMBALPUR
In commemoration of the Teachers' Day, the IIM Sambalpur hosted its second annual Book Exhibition on their campus at Basantpur. The exhibition will end on Sunday (September 8), the International Literacy Day. The book fair garnered significant participation from esteemed publishers, including Bloomsbury, Cengage, McGraw-Hill, Wiley, Sage, Springer Nature, Taylor & Francis, CRC, Routledge, and CBS Publications. The exhibited books were meticulously organized into two primary categories: literature pertaining to business and manage-

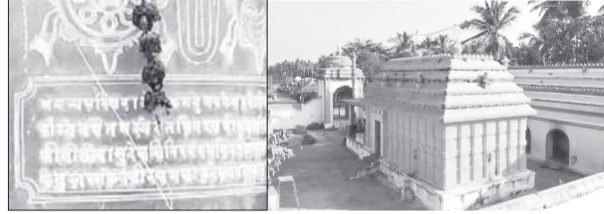


ment and a diverse selection of works encompassing higher education, educational materials, resources for competitive examinations (such as GRE, TOEFL, IELTS, etc.) fiction, science fiction, biographies, and indigenous knowledge of India. In an effort to foster widespread engagement, several educational institutions and universities including Sambalpur University, Gangadhar Meher University, Sambalpur Women's College, College of Agriculture in Chiplima, NAC College in Burla, Hiraakud College, NSC Bose College in Sambalpur, and other neighbouring colleges were formally invited to participate. Noted book distributors from various regions of the country, including Bharat

Book Distributors from Kolkata, Baroda Book Corporation and BSP from Baroda, Capital Books, New India Book Agency from Delhi, New Delhi Publishers, Overseas Books from New Delhi, and Bombay Books were present. Additionally, the Bikalananda Kar Memorial Trust participated in the event, showcased its publications that reflected the culture and history of Sambalpur. Furthermore, educators and students from Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya (OAV) in Kalamati and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in Goshala were also invited to attend. As a component of the event, a quiz programme was organised for students pursuing a Master of Library and Information Science at Sambalpur University and Gangadhar Meher University.

Nagari inscription in AP village highlights Kalingan influence

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ BRAHMAPUR
A significant archaeological discovery in the village of Ratti near Haripuram in Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh, has unveiled a deep historical influence of the ancient Kalinga region, particularly the Ganjam district. A Nagari inscription, dating back to 1910, has been found engraved on a bronze Moksha Stambha pillar outside the Jagamohana of the Sri Matshya Ballava Narayana Jiu temple. Written in Sanskrit and N?gar? characters, the inscription prominently features the Utkaliya Sankha Chakara and Urdhwa Pundra image, symbols that are integral to the cultural heritage of Kalinga, which includes present-day Ganjam. The inscription, deciphered by Bishnu Mohan Adhikari of Paralakhemundi, records the establishment of a Ketu Stambha (a ceremonial pillar) and a Singha (lion) statue in front of the temple during the



reign of King Basudeba Rajamani of the Manjusha Estate. The Manjusha Estate, historically part of the Kalinga region, shared close cultural and political ties with Ganjam, reflecting the extensive influence of Kalinga over these regions during the early 20th century. The inscription reads: "Brahmanya Shristhi Rabde Shakamanu Japateh Sampremeyain Mine. Soumye Varshe Tapasye Yuta Shita Dashami Pusya Tare Arka Bare. Shri Shri Shri Basudeba Kshhitiraman Manih Padmamala Sva Matra. Ketu Stambham Kritam Shri Raman Mahakrite Sthapayamam Simhe." This text refers to the dedication of the Ketu Stambha on a specific date corresponding to March 20, 1910, during the

BK Singh Deo, a descendant of Raja Basudeba Rajamani, emphasized his great-grandfather's legacy, noting his efforts in temple construction and the initiation of the Dolo Utsav. He also highlighted Raja Basudeba Rajamani's critical role in the early movement for a separate Odisha province, a movement that had strong roots in the Ganjam region. Raja Basudeba Rajamani was actively involved in the Ganjam Jatiya Sammilani and Utkal Sammilani, organizations instrumental in advocating for Odisha's Statehood. Raja Basudeba Rajamani's contributions to public welfare and education, including the establishment of scholarships and schools, are still remembered in Ganjam. His role in the broader socio-political landscape of Odisha is further underscored by the inscription, which highlights the enduring influence of Kalinga on the cultural and historical narratives of regions beyond its current borders.

In southern Odisha TPSODL's awareness drive for solar rooftop



PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR
The TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) has launched a mass awareness campaign for solar rooftop across southern Odisha, leveraging the region's abundant solar resources to foster widespread adoption of solar energy. The initiative promotes the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY) and aligns with the State's Renewable Energy (RE) Policy, underscoring Tata Power's unwavering commitment to sustainable energy solutions. The campaign seeks to educate residents and commercial and industrial (C&I) customers on the benefits of solar energy, as well as the available subsidies. Key elements include information on the Central Financial Assistance (CFA) programme under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY), which provides substantial subsidies for rooftop solar installations. The subsidy amounts range from Rs 30,000 per KW for 1 kW to 2 kW systems, Rs 78,000 for 3 kW and above 3 kW capacities. The campaign also

offers support with the application process and technical evaluations. The campaign was inaugurated by TPSODL CEO Amit Kumar Garg and National Head-Renewables, Tata Power Kaushik Sanyal in the presence of senior officials from the company. As part of this initiative, consumers were honoured as 'Green Champions' in recognition of their adoption of solar and their contributions to sustainability and eco-friendly practices. Emphasizing the importance of this initiative, Mr. TPSODL CEO Garg stated, "Our solar awareness campaign in southern Odisha is a strategic move to harness the vast solar potential of this region. Through the promotion of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, we are committed to making solar energy both accessible and affordable for all. By driving solar adoption among our 23 lakhs consumer base, we are empowering them with reliable, cost-effective, and clean energy solutions. The initiative is in perfect harmony with TPSODL's vision of a greener, energy secure Odisha."

Pratima, crusader against caste-based, wasteful weddings

B RAMCHANDRA CST VOLTAIRE
In the 44 years of social reform activities undertaken by AMOFOI (Anti-Caste Marriage One-child Family Organisation of India), a worthwhile event took place on August 3. On the day, Pratima Pradhan, a resident of Takarada village under Sheragad police station of Ganjam district reached AMOFOI, Bhubaneswar office with her 1.15 months' old grandson in her lap. She was accompanied by her daughter Jogeswari Pradhan (21) and her lover

Santosh Kumar Mahankuda (30). The lovers are from different castes. They defied social barriers and started staying together right from January 10, 2023 as a couple in Kamalpur village under Mohana police station in Gajapati district. On June 18, they were blessed with a male baby. Pratima joined her daughter Jogeswari and started taking care of her grandson. She was never driven by any caste or religious prejudices. Santosh runs a medical store. His parents wanted him to marry traditionally with



dowry etc. However, Santosh did not like to betray Jogeswari. So he was having a strained relationship with his

parents. Pratima advised her daughter and her daughter's lover to get formally married. In order to fulfill the objective

the couple led by Pratima came to Bhubaneswar and reached AMOFOI to tie the nuptial knot. AMOFOI organized a record of 11, 034 casteless, dowryless, priestless love marriages by August 2. However, in its long history of organizing such marriages, it could not see such a brave and bold mother as Pratima. Social change cannot take place if young boys and girls in their marriageable age are not given the social freedom to choose their respective life partners. Pratima is truly a flag bearer. In each and every AMOFOI marriage, lovers marry by exchange of garlands. A minimum of Rs 5,000 is spent in the process. The money is borne by the lover in question. Thus parents of the young girl are not called upon to spend a single paisa in conduct of their daughter's weddings. We do hope we will see more of Pratima Pradhans in coming days to support the crusade against caste-based ostentatious weddings, which are a scourge on society. (Voltaire, who is general secretary, Freethought Party of India, is also founder of AMOFOI)

'We remain indebted to our teachers always'



Teachers' Day held in Brahmapur; 260 students feted
PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR
The Teachers' Day celebration at Chhatrapur stadium saw the recognition of academic excellence and speeches aimed at motivating the youth on Thursday. Commerce and Transport, Steel and Mines Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena attended as the chief guest, emphasizing that no matter how accomplished a person becomes, they remain in debt to their teachers. He encouraged students to contribute positively to the nation's development.

Chikiti MLA Manoranjan Dyan Samantara and Ganjam Zilla Parishad President Anjali Swain also spoke on the importance of teachers in shaping individuals' futures. Ganjam District Collector Dibya Joti Parida discussed ongoing initiatives to improve the district's education system, while District Education Superintendent Amita Patnaik highlighted the significance of the day. The event honoured 260 students, including 202 district toppers and 2,169 block-level achievers. Additionally, 113 students received merit-based scholarships. In another key moment, 26 top students were selected to represent Ganjam in the State-level Swariya Vidyarthi programme.

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi to visit India on Monday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan will begin a two-day maiden visit to India on Sunday to hold wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The visit will further reinforce strong ties between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and open avenues for partnership in new and emerging areas, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, announcing the trip.

Prime Minister Modi and the Crown Prince will hold talks on Sunday covering a wide range of areas of bilateral cooperation, it said. Besides bilateral issues, the two leaders are also expected to deliberate on the overall situation arising out of the Israel-Hamas conflict.

The visiting leader is also scheduled to call on President Droupadi Murmu. He will visit Rajghat to pay tributes to Mahatma Gandhi.

The Crown Prince will be accompanied by several Ministers from the UAE Government and a business delegation. After concluding the Delhi leg of his visit, Al



Nahyan will travel to Mumbai to participate in a business forum on Monday. Top business leaders from both countries will participate in the forum.

September 9 and 10," the MEA said on Saturday. The MEA also referred to the boosting of bilateral cooperation in a range of areas in the last few years. "India and UAE share historically close and friendly ties. In recent years, the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and the UAE has deepened in a wide range of areas including

political, trade, investment, connectivity, energy, technology, education, and culture," it said. Following the landmark visit of Modi to UAE in August 2015, bilateral relations between the two countries were elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Both countries signed a Comprehensive Economic

Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in February 2022 and a Local Currency Settlement (LCS) System in July 2023 to promote the use of Indian Rupee and AED (United Arab Emirates Dirham) for cross-border transactions. The two countries are among each other's top trading partners with a bilateral trade of about USD 85 billion in 2022-23, according to official data. The UAE is also among the top four investors in India in terms of foreign direct investments in 2022-23. About 3.5 million strong and vibrant Indian community forms the largest expatriate group in the UAE. The UAE was invited as special invitee for G20 during India's Presidency of the grouping. In February 2023, the India-UAE-France (UFI) trilateral was formally launched. With India's active support, the UAE joined SCO as dialogue partner in May 2023. The UAE also joined BRICS as a member on January 1 with India's support. The India-UAE defence cooperation has also witnessed a renewed momentum in the last few years. In January 2024, the first India-UAE bilateral army exercise 'Desert Cyclone' was held in Rajasthan.

About 62000 cases pending in High Courts since 30 years



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There are nearly 62 thousand cases pending in various high courts, which are more than 30 years old, including three awaiting disposal since 1952. According to official data, there are four cases pending since 1954 and nine since 1955 in High Courts. Out of the three cases pending since 1952, two are in the Calcutta High Court and one in the Madras High Court. Addressing the national conference of district judiciary here earlier this week, President Droupadi Murmu had called for a change in the "culture of adjournments" in the judiciary. She said long-standing pen-

dency and backlog of cases is a big challenge before the judiciary. "All stakeholders have to find a solution by giving priority to this problem," the President said. As many as 58.59 lakh cases, including 42.64 lakh of civil nature and 15.94 lakh of criminal nature, are pending across high courts. According to the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), nearly 2.45 lakh cases are pending in high courts which are 20 to 30 years old. Addressing the same event, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal had called for breaking the perception that Indian courts follow the "tareekh pe tareekh culture". He said the law

Ministry has analysed that there were cases pending since five, 10, 15, 20 and 30 years. He said an analysis of pending cases mentioned on the NJDG shows that parties involved in litigation are either not present or not interested in taking the case forward. He said 25 to 30 per cent of such cases can be closed in one go. In this regard, some high courts have taken effective steps. Referring to the concepts of 'ageing analysis' and 'clubbing of similar cases', he said these have helped settle pending cases in a time-bound manner. More than five crore cases are pending in various courts, including district courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court.



India willing to work with like-minded partners on specific agenda: Jaishankar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India would be willing to work with like-minded partners on specific agenda and its role in the Quad is an example of such an approach, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Saturday, while calling for reformed multilateralism.

In a virtual address at the FPCI Global Town hall, Jaishankar, delving into major geopolitical developments, said the world is looking at a more "sharpened contestation" between the US and China on a range of areas. He underlined that even as the world looks "complicated", India's desire and determination to ensure its stability and contribute to its prosperity is only getting stronger.

The Quad, comprising India, the US, Australia and Japan, has emerged as a key coalition focusing on working towards ensuring a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific against the backdrop of

China's growing muscle-flexing in the region.

In the context of key directions and developments in international relations over the last few decades, the External Affairs Minister observed that many big powers are now content to do less and the newer ones are more reticent in stepping forward.

"In many situations, it is left to the regionally significant players to sort out their own particular mess. Beyond this, we are also looking at a more sharpened contestation between the US and China on a range of areas," he said.

"If we also take into account that technology advances like AI, electric mobility, space or drone can shape balances of power more strongly, then the global calculus looks even more daunting," he added. "This, in essence, is the world that we deal with," he said. The External Affairs Minister then explained what a country like India can do in response to such a situation. "First, it can build up its own

national capacities so that there are more options and contributions that benefit the world. We have seen this recently during the Covid pandemic in terms of vaccine production capacity," he said. "Or in the Arabian Sea to strengthen maritime security. As indeed, the supply of food grains to those in great need. Second, to de-risk the global economy from pandemics, climate events and conflicts, help build more resilient, reliable and redundant supply chains," he said.

This, Jaishankar argued, means working with global partners more efficiently and create an environment where it is easier to do business. "Many of the recent infrastructure initiatives in India will make a difference in that regard. Third, in the digital domain, create trusted partnerships and trusted vendors," he said.

This will ensure that the sensitivities at home that we have about our data are equally respected when they cross the borders, he noted.

Government making efforts to recognise bright teachers practising innovative methods: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said efforts were being made to recognise bright teachers practising innovative methods as he took an apparent swipe at past Governments, saying he would not talk about what used to happen earlier. In an interaction with teachers who were conferred National Teachers' Awards, he said they could prepare young students for 'Viksit Bharat'. The interaction took place on Friday while its video was shared on Saturday.

Modi suggested that the teachers could involve the students in selecting the top 100 tourist destinations in the country by encouraging them to learn about different places they might visit as part of education tours.

The teachers awarded were



selected after a long process as their efforts can be useful in the new National Education Policy (NEP), Modi said while noting

that there would be many others doing excellent work. He told the teachers to take their students to nearby uni-

versities and watch sporting events as the experience could fire up their dreams. As many as 82 teachers from

around the country were selected for the award. They included 50 teachers by the Department of School Education & Literacy, 16 by the Department of Higher Education and 16 by the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, an official statement said. Modi suggested that the awardee teachers connect with each other on social media and share their best practices so that everyone could learn, adapt and benefit. He highlighted the impact of the NEP and spoke about the significance of attaining education in the mother tongue. The Prime minister suggested that the teachers teach local folklore to their students in different languages so that they learn multiple languages and also get exposure to India's vibrant culture.

Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra a historic mass movement: Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday hailed the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra, saying the Kanyakumari-Kashmir march was a "massive booster dose" for the party and a historic mass movement which became synonymous with uniting the society.

On the second anniversary of the launch of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said the yatra proved that Indians were inherently, loving people and "today our mission remains to ensure that the voice of love is heard in every corner of the country".



Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said the distance covered on foot by Rahul Gandhi and Bharat Jodo Yatris from Kanyakumari to Kashmir awakened an unprecedented public consciousness of brotherhood in the hearts of crores of people.

"On the occasion of the second anniversary of Bharat Jodo Yatra, I only appeal to the people of the country to continue the struggle to preserve the

Constitution and democracy," Kharge said in a post in Hindi. "Our struggle continues on the real issues of economic inequalities, inflation, unemployment, social injustice, destruction of the Constitution, centralisation of power," the Congress chief said.

"We will not let the agenda of hatred and division succeed. The victory of love and humanity is certain. The Congress Party will not stop, it will not pause. The voice of Mother India is our voice," he said. "As the Bharat Jodo Yatra marks a milestone, we celebrate the resilient tapestry of unity and inclusivity it has woven across India's diverse landscapes," Kharge said.

States, UTs surpass 50 per cent rural tap water coverage: Government

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

All States and Union Territories have surpassed 50 per cent coverage of tap water connections in rural households, as per official data. The Har Ghar Jal scheme ie 'Water to Every Household', a program launched in 2019 by the Ministry of Jal Shakti as a part of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) aims to extend tap water connections to all rural households by the end of this year.

Currently, all States and UTs have achieved over 50 per cent coverage, with 11 States and UTs reaching full coverage. As of now, all States and Union territories (UTs) have more than 50 per cent coverage of tap water connections in rural households with 11 States and UTs having 100 per cent coverage. The States and UTs with 100 per cent cov-



erage of tap water connections in rural households are Goa; Andaman & Nicobar Islands; Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu; Haryana; Telangana; Puducherry; Gujarat; Punjab; Himachal Pradesh; Arunachal Pradesh; and Mizoram. The least coverage has been recorded in

West Bengal at 52.30 per cent, Rajasthan at 52.91 per cent, Kerala at 53.62 per cent, Jharkhand at 54.26 per cent, and Madhya Pradesh at 64.84 per cent, according to the data.

Out of a total of 19,33,38,234 (19.33 crore) rural households, 16,09,75,396 (16.09 crore) have been provided with tap water connections so far. The Har Ghar Jal scheme was initiated by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti under the Jal Jeevan Mission in 2019 with the aim to provide 55 litres of tap water to every rural household per capita per day by 2024. According to an official, beyond the numbers, the mission's impact was visible in flood-prone areas such as Assam, where climate-adaptive water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) structures were in place to ensure access to clean water even during natural disasters.

leanings, took charge of the top office around 10 months back.

Within hours of his oath, he had demanded the withdrawal of the Indian military personnel from his country.

Over 500 wheelchair users participate in National Injury Prevention Week

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Injury Prevention Week culminated on Saturday with the participation of over 500 wheelchair users in the Wheelchair Sports and Cultural Program, and health checkup camp at the National Centre for Disease Control here.

This event, organized under the aegis of the Directorate General of Health Services of the Union health ministry, was held to mark the Spinal Cord Injury Day, which is held every year on the first Saturday of September. Director General of Health Services, Prof Atul Goel, underscored the significance of injury prevention and rehabilitation. Official coordinator for Injury Prevention Week, Dr Harvinder Singh Chhabra, said, "Prevention is the key to spinal cord health since it's cells, as in the case of brain, does not regrow and any damage has a debilitating effect." Chhabra is also the chief of the Spine and Rehabilitation Centre at Sri Balaji Action Medical Institute, President of the Spinal Cord Society and Chairman of the Spine Wellness & Care Foundation, further said, "Our ongoing efforts in prevention, early intervention, and comprehensive management including rehabilitation are vital to improving the quality of life for those affected." The programme highlighted the importance of spinal cord injury awareness and the need for comprehensive care and rehabilitation. According to a report of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, as many as 16,397 persons lost their lives in road accidents in 2021 by not wearing seat belts, including 8,438 drivers and 7,959 passengers.

South enjoys Vinayaka Chaturthi festivities, Telangana CM joins in celebration

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE CHENNAI/HYDERABAD/BENGALURU

Vinayaka Chaturthi was celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety across the south on Saturday, with prominent leaders, including Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy joining the celebrations in their respective states. A festive mood prevailed as people gathered in large numbers to offer worship in temples and grandeur marked the occasion with the installation of large Ganesha idols in Chennai and Hyderabad, among other cities. Prominent Ganesha temples such as the ones at Pillayarpatti in Sivaganga and Malaikottai in Tiruchirappalli, both in Tamil Nadu, and the Manakula Vinayakar temple in neighbouring Puducherry with devotees.

Uchhi Pillayar) atop a hill in Tiruchirappalli was decked up for the festival. In keeping with the tradition, a huge Kozhukattai, a sweet made from rice flour, jaggery and coconut was made for the deity. It was packed in a big vessel and it was suspended from a decorated bamboo pole and it was carried all the way upto the hill temple by people to offer it to Lord Ganesha. Traditional music was played and a pontiff led the procession of offering the mega sized sweet, which weighs over a 100 kilos, to the Lord. Similarly, the festival was celebrated with spiritual fervour at the ancient Pillayarpatti temple with devotees lining up the temple precincts to have darshan and a "Theerthavari" (poojas in temple tank) was held. Clay idols of Lord Ganesha were installed at homes and poojas were held. Market places wore a festive look as people flocked shops and roadside stalls to buy pooja items, flowers and fruits. Ganesh pandals, organised by Hindu outfits and individuals as well featured several themes including 'environment friendly, farmer Ganapathi', (Chennai) and a 'justice dispensing court Ganapathi' (Krishnagiri).



At some places in the state, police denied permission to install Ganesha idols due to alleged violations, like failing to secure proper permission and flouting norms on ensuring environment friendly idols. In Chennai, the actors' association, (Nadigar Sangam-South Indian Artistes Association) held 'Annadhanam,' a distribution

of food to the people. In neighbouring Puducherry, people thronged Manakula Vinayagar temple since early morning to offer worship to the presiding deity. Special poojas and other rituals were performed to Lord Ganesha. Chief Minister N Rangasamy, Home Minister A Namassivayam and leaders of political parties were among those who greeted the people

on the occasion. In Telangana, the nine-day-long festivities commenced on a grand scale and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy attended the puja at the famous pandal at Khairatabad in Hyderabad, known for the giant size of the idol. This year a 70 ft idol was installed for worship at the pandal, which attracts

thousands of devotees during the festival observed for nine days. Several pandals were set up across the state, especially in Hyderabad. The state government has made elaborate security arrangements for the festival and also for the immersion of idols in water bodies after the conclusion of the worship. Clay Ganesha idols are gaining more popularity with each passing year in the state, as part of initiatives to promote greener celebrations. At Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, a 63-foot Ganesha idol made of eco-friendly materials was set up on the banks of Tungabhadra river and Hubballi in Karnataka witnessed elaborate security arrangements for the festival. In a visual treat, at Koppal (Karnataka), 2,000 students came together and sat down and also stood in patterns to form specific shapes to create the form of a giant Ganesha. Tamil Nadu police said processions for the immersion of the idols will be held on different dates in the state. As many as 64,217 police personnel have been deployed to regulate traffic and maintain law and order during the installation and immersion of the idols.

Goa celebrates Ganesh Chaturthi; make it eco-friendly, appeals CM

PTI PANAJI

The 10-day Ganesh festival began on Saturday in the coastal state of Goa amid religious fervour and enthusiasm, with most Hindu families bringing home idols of the elephant-headed god. Families in the coastal state welcomed their beloved Lord Ganesh amid various rituals before installing the idols of the deity of wisdom and knowledge at their places. Ganesh Chaturthi marks the beginning of the festival. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant held a puja at his private residence at Kothambi, Pale village, in his constituency of Sankhali in North Goa. In a message released after performing the puja, Sawant said may Lord Ganesh give wisdom and prosperity to everyone in the state. He appealed to people to celebrate the



festival with utmost sensitivity towards the state's ecology. "Let's celebrate an eco-friendly Ganesh festival," he said. Many Sarvajanik Ganeshotsav mandals across the state have set up huge, attractive pandals with elaborate decorations to house big idols. While households immerse their idols of the deity in nearby waterbodies after two days, five days, seven days or eleven days, the Sarvajanik Ganeshotsav at public places continues for a longer time.

Greenpeace India warns of deteriorating air quality in Bengaluru, Mangaluru, Mysuru

PTI BENGALURU

Three major cities in Karnataka -- Bengaluru, Mangaluru, and Mysuru -- have registered deteriorating air quality as the air pollution is on the rise, said a Greenpeace India report on Saturday. The report, 'Spare the Air 2' flags serious health concerns as the average PM 2.5 and PM10 levels soar in 10 major cities of southern India, significantly exceeding the air quality guidelines set by the World Health Organization (WHO). PM2.5, or fine particulate matter, is a type of air pollution that consists of tiny particles that are 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter. PM10 is an air quality term for particulate matter that is 10 micrometers. The report has analysed the air quality standards of Hyderabad, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Kochi, Mangaluru, Amravati, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Bengaluru, Mysuru and



Puducherry. The lead researcher of the report Akanksha Singh said, "Clean air is fundamental to our health, yet this report reveals that particulate matter levels in all cities have surpassed the revised WHO guidelines. While current efforts are focused on cities not meeting the national ambient air quality standards, it is crucial to also address those cities that are currently in compliance. "Proactively managing air quality in these areas can help prevent them from falling

into non-attainment." When compared with WHO guidelines, the annual average PM2.5 levels are found to be six to seven times higher in Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Kochi, Mangaluru, Amaravati, and Chennai. Additionally, comparing PM10 levels with WHO guidelines reveals that Bengaluru, Puducherry, and Mysuru have annual averages that exceed these guidelines by four to five times. "To address this, we continue urging the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to

adopt a health-based approach in revising the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), striving to meet WHO's latest scientific guidelines," said Selomi Garnaik, Greenpeace India's campaigner. According to her, given the distinct pollution profiles and climatic conditions of southern cities, it is crucial to establish region-specific air quality standards aligned with local airshed management. "This tailored approach will ensure more effective measures for managing air pollution and safeguarding public health in these regions," added Garnaik. The report strongly advocates for new NAAQ standards considering the unique pollution profiles and climatic conditions of South Indian cities. It also recommends increased investment towards developing a 'hybrid' air quality monitoring network facilitating real-time public access to air quality information.

BJP only party in which people coming from ordinary families can also become PM: Nadda

PTI PATNA

BJP president J P Nadda on Saturday took a jibe at the opposition saying all other parties are restricted to dynasty politics, while in sharp contrast, BJP is the only party in which people coming from ordinary families can also become the prime minister of the country. Speaking at BJP's online membership drive function here, Nadda said in BJP everybody has equal rights and opportunity. "All other political parties are restricted to just dynasty politics...Or some parties represent certain community...BJP is the only party in which people coming from ordinary families also become the prime minister of the country like Narendra Modi Ji," he said. "In our party...everybody has equal rights and opportunity. In other parties, you can become president only if you belong to a particular family, particular caste etc. But, BJP is the party that represents the



entire society", said Nadda. Speaking on the party's ongoing membership drive, recently launched by PM Modi, Nadda said BJP is the only party in which the prime minister, national president, state president, mandal president, district president, booth president... All have to renew their membership every six years. This is not possible in any other party because all other parties are either parties of a particular caste or a particular community or a family. "BJP is the party of people belonging to all sections of the society. We are the party of villagers, poor, farmers, dalit, tribals, youth, weaker and socially marginalised sections of the society. Under

the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, around four crore houses have been built for the poor so far, out of which about 1.77 crore houses have been distributed among our Dalit and tribal brothers. Similarly, our Dalit brothers are getting the maximum benefits from government development schemes." Nadda also the Union Health minister said. Earlier in the day, Nadda visited Takhat Sri Harimandir Ji Patna Sahib amid tight security. Nadda, wearing a Sikh turban, bowed before the Darbar Sahib. He had arrived here on Friday on a two-day visit to inaugurate and lay the foundation of several health projects in the state. After visiting Takhat Sri Harimandir Ji Patna Sahib, Nadda in a post on X wrote, "Today I got the privilege of paying obeisance and receiving blessings at Takhat Sri Harimandir Ji Patna Sahib. Coming to this divine place always gives me immense energy and inspiration to serve the people."

1 passenger killed, 16 injured after bus overturns in Pathankot



One passenger was killed and sixteen sustained injuries after a bus from Himachal Pradesh overturned in Punjab's Pathankot on Saturday, police said. The wounded, two of them with serious injuries, were admitted to a local hospital, they said. Police said the accident took place near Bungal Badhani village in Pathankot after the driver of the bus lost control over the vehicle. Himachal Pradesh roadways bus was coming from Chamba in Himachal Pradesh and was heading towards Amritsar, they added. Police said a 22-year-old passenger from Punjab's Batala died in the accident.

Odisha CM Mohan Majhi flags off Subhadra Yojana Awareness Rath

PTI BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Saturday flagged off Subhadra Yojana Awareness Rath (chariot) which will roam across Odisha creating awareness on the scheme. Accompanied by deputy chief minister Pravatari Parida, who is also the women and child development minister, Majhi said that the Subhadra Yojana will empower women across the state. The chief minister said the awareness chariots will sensitize people on the scheme and how to apply for it. More than 1 crore women will benefit under the Subhadra scheme in the state, he said. "It's an opportunity to fulfil



the dream of every woman. The scheme is also an identity of Odia Asmita (pride)," Majhi said. Parida said that the registration for the Subhadra Yojana will continue till the last beneficiary submits her form. "There is no deadline for submitting the Subhadra Yojana form. We will ensure that no beneficiary is left out and all eligible beneficiaries get the benefits of the scheme," she said. The DyCM said that before launching of any major

programme, confusions do prevail and it is natural. The awareness chariot will clear doubts in the minds of the people. "The government will reach out to all beneficiaries. I assure that no one will be left out under the scheme," she said. Under the scheme, the women beneficiaries will receive Rs 10,000 per annum for five years. The first instalment of Rs 5,000 will be given on September 17, on the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birth anniversary. Officials said that the state government has set a target to enroll at least 1 crore women beneficiaries under Subhadra Yojana, a promise made by the BJP in its election manifesto.

MP Government announces ₹1 crore assistance for kin of soldier killed in road accident

PTI BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh government will provide financial aid of Rs one crore to the parents of Army personnel Pradeep Patel killed in a road accident in Sikkim. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav offered floral tribute after the mortal remains of sepoy Patel arrived at the Khajuraho airport Saturday afternoon. The deceased soldier originally hailed from Hardua village in Katni district of the state. "I offered floral tribute to the brave soldier at Khajuraho airport. Rs one crore will be given to his parents as the deceased was not married.



The state government stands with the bereaved family in this hour of grief," Yadav said. The last rites of Patel will be performed in Hardua village in the evening. Four Army personnel, including sepoy Pradeep Patel, were killed when a vehicle carrying Army's EMC personnel skidded off a road along the Rhenock-Rongli highway and rolled down into a forest in Sikkim's Pakyong district on September 5, police said.

Police stations in Assam need to be made more people-centric: Himanta

PTI GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday said with militancy-related incidents decreasing in the state, police stations have to be transformed into more people-centric places. Sarma also emphasised the role of 'Nagarik Samitis' (citizen committees) in assisting police personnel in public service responsibilities. "For the last three decades, Assam was fighting insurgency. Counter-insurgency measures were the focus points for police. I won't say that insurgency has been completely wiped out, but incidents are coming down. The police stations have to be transformed into



more people-centric places," he said. The CM was speaking at the first state-level conclave here of 'Nagarik Samitis' from all 307 police stations in the state. Maintaining that the long and difficult nature of duty of police personnel tend to make them tough in their regular dealings, he said the role of Nagarik Samitis in helping the personnel to

engage in civil work can also ease some stress. Sarma said positivity created within the society can lead to slow but permanent social transformation for the better, and the samitis can help the police force in discharging the public service responsibilities entrusted on them. "Policing has two aspects - administration of criminal justice and public service. The first aspect is addressed by the Bharatiya Nyay Samhita. Criminal justice, criminal investigation, filing of chargesheet are dealt in the first aspect by the OCs; the samitis don't have anything to do in this regard. "They (the samitis) have to maintain good relations between the police station and the public," he said.

BJP polarising people ahead of assembly polls in Jharkhand: D Raja

PTI RANCHI

CPI general secretary D Raja on Saturday accused the BJP of poaching leaders from other parties and raking up issues like infiltration to polarise people ahead of the assembly polls in Jharkhand. Raja arrived in Jharkhand earlier in the day to discuss the party's strategy for the assembly elections in the eastern state later this year. "The BJP and its conservative allies are targeting ruling parties in Jharkhand. In order to cripple functioning, they poach leaders from ruling parties if possible. This is happening in Jharkhand," he told reporters here. "On the issue of infiltration, if they are serious about it, the Union home minister should give an explanation to the country. Instead, they are targeting



some states in order to create confusion and conflict among communities," Raja alleged. The saffron party has been making allegations of increased infiltration in Jharkhand, especially in the Santhal

Parganas. The senior CPI leader also claimed that the BJP would face defeat in the upcoming assembly elections Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana and Maharashtra. "The way the wrestlers were treated during their protests at Jantar Mantar Delhi was shameful. Now, there is anger not only among sports persons but also among people of Haryana," he said. Raja also said there is "resentment" among people of Maharashtra, who are now questioning the policies of the central government". He said the Communist Party of India (CPI) would try to unite all secular democratic parties, which have come under the banner of the INDIA bloc, to win the assembly polls in Jharkhand, and "teach a lesson to the BJP and right-wing forces".

16-year-old girl killed, two injured as truck hits school goers in UP; kin, students protest

PTI RAEBARELI (UP)

A 16-year-old girl lost her life and two other teenagers were injured here on Saturday morning when they were hit by a truck, while they were on their way to school on their bicycles, police said. Angered over the incident, the victims' family members, villagers, and the school's students staged a sit-in protest. According to the police, the accident took place near Pyarepur turn in Salon



police station area of Raebareli district. Shaikja died on the spot, while two other girls -- Kanchan (17) and Aarti (16) -- got injured and were admitted to the district hospital, they said.

The victims were students of a government-aided school in Raebareli, they added. Family members of the girls and villagers started protesting on the Raebareli-Pratapgarh road. A large number of girl students of

the school also joined them and sat on the road in protest, the police said. Traffic on the stretch was disrupted for a long time before police officials intervened and pacified the protestors. Salon Circle Officer Salon Pradeep Kumar said the villagers called off the protest after they were pacified. He said that the body of the deceased has been sent for postmortem, and added that the search for the truck driver is on.

Starliner returns to earth, without crew

Boeing's first astronaut mission ended Friday night with an empty capsule landing and two test pilots still in space...



'She's on her way home,' Williams radioed as the white and blue-trimmed capsule undocked from the space station...

Colbert and Kay Sears, told employees in a note that they backed NASA's ruling. 'While this may not have been how we originally envisioned the test flight concluding...

MODI INDUSTRIES LIMITED
CIN - U15429UP1932PLC000469
Regd. Office : Modinagar - 201204. (U.P.) Tel : 01232-243115, 9084786567

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Mothrowala Road, Kedarpur, Dehradun
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Applications are invited for empanelment as an authorized vendor for the supply of books to Doon University, Dehradun...

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(Address : A 8-10, Kribhco Bhawan Sector-1, Noida, Phone No : 0120-2538576 & Email Id: iob1725@iob.in)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Rajinder Singh S/o. Sunder Singh
Have Lost Original Allotment Cum Demand Letter, Possession Letter, Site Possession Slip And NOC of Electricity and Water of my Residence 250-G, DDA MIG Flats (Green), Block - 512, G-8, Area, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi - 110027, Vide File No. 56 (19) 79/HBM1. Online Fir Has Been Lodged Vide LR No:2095154/2024 Dated 06/09/2024 In Crime Branch Delhi. FINDER PLEASE INFORM TO MENTIONED ABOVE ADDRESS

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Mrs. Paromita Datta, W/o Mr. Sagar Datta, R/o C104 Divyajan Auras Kudsan Gandhi nagar Gujarat have lost and misplaced the original documents issued by DDA (i.e. Allotment Letter-cum-Demand Note, site Possession Letter, and NOC for Water and Electricity) in respect of the Flat No. L-11/106-A, Ground Floor DDA LIG Flats, Kalkaji, New Delhi - 110 019 allotted by DDA vide File No. F.37(198)76-HB(M)-II have been lost/ misplaced. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in PS-Crime Branch, Delhi bearing LR No. 1961859/2024 dated 23/07/2024. Any person (s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact above named person at above address/Phone No. 9601647463 and to Dy. Director (LAB) H or Director (H)-1, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi, or Sub-Registrar New Delhi, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

JINDAL LEASEFIN LIMITED
CIN : L74899DL1994PLC059252
Regd. Office : 110, Babar Road, New Delhi-110001
Ph: 011-46201000, Fax: 011-46201002, E-mail: jindal@jindal.biz, Website: www.jindalleasefin.in
NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that the 30th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the members of Jindal Leasefin Limited will be held on Monday, September 30, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at Kajri Farm House, Holambi Kalan Narela, Delhi - 110 082 to transact the business as set out in the Notice convening the AGM...

STORES E-PROCUREMENT
E-procurement Tender Notice No. S/18/2024-25 Dated: 03-09-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works.
SN.1. Tender No. 79/24/0951/OT/150/2024-25. Closing/Opening date: 23/09/2024
Brief Description: Washable pillow foam size 60X36X12 cm Construction details: 1) Material for pillow - Polyester Staple Fiber, (2) Fibre content- 100% white virgin hollow fibre, (3) Weight- 450 gm (Plus/Minus 5 percent), (4) Pillow should be surrounded by virgin hollow fibre sheet of 20mm thickness (Min), Identification of fibre hollowness will be as per IS: 667/1981, (5) The covering cloth should contain 50% (Min) polyester yarn and balance cotton and (6) Pillow should be resistant to normal wash. Monogram- At one corner of the pillow the woven cloth. (Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery) i) Qty- 36074 Nos. for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Dept, NFR (Assam), ii) Qty-11209 Nos. for Kathiar/GSD, NFR (Bihar) iii) Qty- 23566 Nos. for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal), iv) Qty-80827 for Pandu/GSD, NFR (Assam), P.L.No- 79331040.

SC AGROTECH LIMITED
(FORMERLY KNOWN AS SHEEL INTERNATIONAL LIMITED)
CIN: L01122DL1990PLC042207
Regd Address: RZ-1484/28, Ground Floor, Tughlakabad Ext. New Delhi-110019
NOTICE OF 34th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
E-VOTING INFORMATION AND BOOK CLOSURE
1. Notice is hereby given that the 34th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of SC AGROTECH LIMITED ("the Company") will be held on Saturday 30th September 2024 at 11:00 A.M through Video Conferencing (VC)/Other Audio Visual Means(OAVM). To transact the business that will be set forth in the notice of the meeting.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS
CHANGE OF NAME
It is for general information that I Himanshu Kumar S/o Munesh Kumar R/o B-17/1, Jagat Puri, Krishna Nagar, East Delhi, Delhi-110051 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Manish Kumar in my 10th and 12th Class educational documents. The actual name of my father is Munesh Kumar which may be amended accordingly.
PD(728)C
I, Mahesh Chand S/o Sh. Hari Chand Tanwar R/o House no. 588, Dera Village, Dera, South Delhi-110074, have changed my name to Mahesh Tanwar for all purposes.
PD(729)C

SUPERIOR FINLEASE LIMITED
CIN: L74899DL1994PLC061995
Regd. Off: 92, Kharsa No-3321, Ranaji Enclave, Najafgarh, Near Arjun Park Bus Stand, New Delhi-110043; Email : superiorfinlease@gmail.com; Website: http://www.superiorfinlease.com; Phone No : +91-8953788335
NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING EVOTING INFORMATION AND BOOK CLOSURE
Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Superior Finlease Limited ("the Company") is scheduled to be held on Monday, 30th September, 2024 at 02:00 PM IST through Video Conferencing (VC) Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM") to transact the Business as set forth in the notice of the AGM dated 05th September, 2024.

SC AGROTECH LIMITED
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Indian Overseas Bank
Nehru Place Branch
14-15, Farm Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi 110019
Email: iob0543@iob.in
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
[Under Proviso to Rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules]
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to Indian Overseas Bank, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Overseas Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis as per details mentioned hereunder.

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Nehru Place Branch
14-15, Farm Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi 110019
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NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile
PCMM, Maigaon

Indian Overseas Bank
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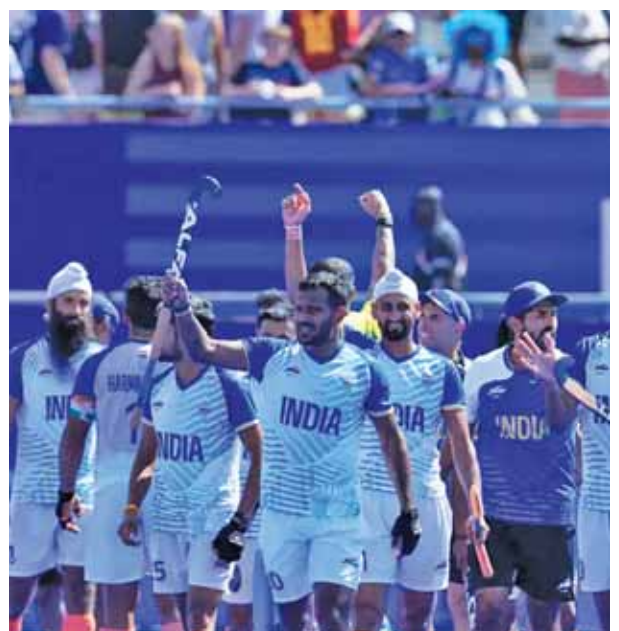
FROM J&K BATTLEFIELD TO PARALYMPICS BRONZE: SEMA'S INSPIRATIONAL JOURNEY THROUGH HARDSHIPS

On a quiet October day in 2002, a young soldier's dreams were shattered in a heartbeat in the volatile terrain of Jammu and Kashmir's Chowkibal. An unexpected explosion ended the ambition of Havildar Hokato Hotozhe Sema to join the Special Forces. That landmine blast during an anti-terrorist operation claimed his left leg below the knee, inflicting immense physical pain and mental trauma. Sema's world went dark, or everyone thought so. But for Sema, it was the beginning of an extraordinary journey of resilience, courage, and fierce determination to rebuild life — a process he went through at the Army Paralympic Node, BEG Centre in Pune. Twenty-two years later, at the swank State de France, the 40-year-old Indian shot-putter came up with his career-best throw of 14.65 metres to secure a bronze medal in the men's F57 category at the Paralympics to swell the country's medal haul to 27 (six gold, nine silver and 12 bronze). His rise in para-athletics has been nothing short of inspiring. He quickly distinguished himself with his sheer willpower in the F57 category, which includes athletes with limb deficiencies and impaired muscle power. Sema was encouraged by senior army officials at the Pune-based Artificial



Limb Centre to take up shot put after seeing his fitness as he embraced the sport in 2016 at the age of 32. That year, he travelled to Jaipur to compete in the National Para Athletics Championships. A silver at the Morocco Grand Prix in 2022 was followed by a bronze medal at the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou.

He narrowly missed a medal at the 2024 World Championships, finishing fourth. But Sema's determination never wavered. The defining moment came during his Paralympics debut, when he battled against a fiercely competitive field. Strapped to a throwing chair, each of his six throws was a manifestation of grit and physical strength. He touched the 14m mark on his second throw and then improved further with a heave of 14.40m. Sema achieved his best throw in his fourth attempt, bettering his personal best to 14.49m en route to the bronze. Iran's Yasin Khosravi, the 31-year-old two-time para world champion, clinched the top spot with a Paralympic record of 15.96m, while Brazil's Thiago Dos Santos took the silver (15.06m). Prime Minister Narendra Modi described Sema's win a "proud moment" for the nation while hailing his incredible strength and determination. "A proud moment for our nation as Hokato Hotozhe Sema brings home the Bronze medal in Men's Shot Put F57! His incredible strength and determination are exceptional. Congratulations to him. Best wishes for the endeavours ahead," PM Modi wrote on X. Sema has been supported by the Khelo India initiative and his training, boarding, and lodging were taken care of by the National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) scheme.



India look to start fresh after Olympic bronze, eye title defence

The Indian men's hockey team will look to press the restart button after a successful Olympic campaign and defend its Asian Champions Trophy title when it opens its campaign against hosts China here on Sunday. After bagging back-to-back Olympic bronze medals, India will start as favourites to defend their ACT title against top hockey playing nations of Asia in the form of China, Japan, Pakistan, Korea and Malaysia. Last year, India won the title at home, making them the only team to bag four titles in the history of the tournament. Back from a short break after the Paris Olympics, India skipper Harmanpreet Singh is keen on continuing their dominance in the continental championships. "The Asian Champions Trophy last year gave us the right momentum going into the Asian Games and followed it up with the Olympic Games triumph of standing on the podium yet again. This time too, we want to begin the fresh Olympic cycle by winning this tournament," Harmanpreet said ahead of their tournament opener. "While we have 10 members from the Olympic side playing in this tournament, we have a few youngsters trying to make their impact in the team. "In terms of game point-of-view, our attacking and penalty corners are our forte but we will be looking to play a structured defence, particularly against teams like Japan, Malaysia and Pakistan. This is an important tournament for us in terms of world ranking points and we are ready for the challenge," he added. After China, India will take on Japan in their second match on September 9, followed by games against last year's runners-up Malaysia on September 11, Korea on September 12 and arch-rivals Pakistan on September 14. The semifinal and final are scheduled for September 16 and 17. Young India midfielder Vivek Sagar Prasad, who has been named as Harmanpreet's deputy for this tournament, said this would give them a chance to see other teams' progress ahead of the 2026 Asian Games. "This tournament is one of the most exciting ones in the Asian Hockey calendar. We will also get to see the progress the Asian teams are making in the new cycle as they will play with a fresh group of players keeping in mind the Asian Games in 2026," said Vivek, who will replace Hardik Singh as vice-captain. Vivek is mesmerised by the scenic view and facilities on offer here. "We arrived here earlier this week and have got good time on the pitch. The weather is suitable for us, but it gets a bit cold in the evening. The facility is incredible and perhaps one of the most beautiful hockey venues in the world. "The excitement of hosting the first international tournament here is quite evident and we are looking forward to playing quality matches and entertaining the hockey-loving people of this region," he said.

England pacer Wood to miss Pakistan and New Zealand test series due to elbow injury



England fast bowler Mark Wood will miss the rest of 2024 because of a right elbow injury, ruling him out of the test tours of Pakistan in October and New Zealand in December. Wood, England's quickest bowler, noticed increasing stiffness in his elbow during the test series against the West Indies in July and played the first test against Sri Lanka in Manchester last month managing the discomfort whilst he was bowling. During that match at Old Trafford, Wood also sustained a right thigh injury and that was given as the reason why he hasn't featured in the second and third tests against Sri Lanka. However, scans have confirmed Wood has a bone stress injury in his elbow, England said on Friday, and he will continue to work closely with the ECB medical team on his management and rehabilitation. England said Wood is aiming to return to full fitness by early 2025, in time for England's white-ball tour of India and the Champions Trophy in Pakistan that's scheduled to begin in February.

Senior spinner Ravichandran Ashwin lauded BCCI's move to have DRS in the ongoing Duleep Trophy, saying it will help an upcoming batter to make necessary technical tweaks before his possible initiation into international cricket. Ashwin was pinning his argument on the leg before dismissal of India D batsman Ricky Bhui against India C left-arm spinner Manav Suthar in the Anantapur-leg of Duleep Trophy on Friday evening. Bhui was batting on 44 and looked fluent but he stretched forward to play a defensive prod, and got pinged on his pads. The on-field umpire initially didn't give him out as the bowler was forced to resort to the Decision Review System, which favoured the bowler's plea for a leg before dismissal. "DRS for domestic cricket is not just for the right decisions

Ashwin favours DRS in domestic cricket, calls it a helping agent to young batters

Ashwin alluded to that. "Now, keeping your bat behind the pad can be fatal, imagine someone making the climb to international cricket without getting this experience Ricky got yesterday. "He could very well take an entire Test series to understand what he needs to work on and his career could well be over," he wrote. However, the DRS, first introduced in the domestic circuit during the 2019-20 season, is yet to be fully implemented in domestic matches. It is still restricted to big-ticket domestic matches such as Ranji Trophy semifinals and finals. Initially, the DRS came without the UltraEdge feature and it was later added to the system during the 2022-23 domestic season, albeit only for the final. But the full version of the DRS is available for the ongoing Duleep Trophy matches in Bengaluru and Anantapur.



to be made. Ricky Bhui's (Bhui) dismissal last evening against Manav Suthar is a classic case of a batter who will get away with this technique 10/10 times in FC cricket," Ashwin wrote on his official X handle. "This was not a faulty technique pre DRS but now it is. Back in the day batters were given not out just because they managed to get on the front foot," he added. Ashwin's observation was spot on because in earlier days, umpires hardly gave a batter out if he had plonked his front

Haaland kept scoreless by Kazakhstan's five-man defense in Nations League; Italy and Belgium win

Maybe the English Premier League teams struggling to contain Erling Haaland should consider employing the 5-4-1 formation that Kazakhstan used against Norway on Friday. Kazakhstan's yellow-clad defenders swarmed around Haaland for the full 90 minutes of a 0-0 draw in the Nations League and kept the striker scoreless following his consecutive hat tricks in the Premier League. Haaland failed to hit the target with any of his four shots during a match in which Norway had 65% of the possession and produced 19 shots to Kazakhstan's four. Haaland has seven goals in three Premier League matches for Manchester City this season and hadn't been held scoreless for nearly a month - since City won the Community Shield in a penalty shootout over Manchester United on Aug. 10. Haaland did find the target in the shootout of the Community Shield, though. Haaland has been the joint top scorer with six goals in each of the past two editions of the Nations League. Overall, he has 31 goals in 34 matches for Norway. He still needs two more goals to match Norway record-holder Jorgen Juve, who scored 33 from 1928-37. On Wednesday, Haaland was among the 30 players



nominated for the Ballon d'Or. Norway is in League B of the Nations League, in a group with Austria and Slovenia, who drew 1-1 after both sides advanced to the knockout stages of the European Championship. ITALIAN STYLE: Italy turned on the style to beat France 3-1 in Paris for the first time in 70 years.

counterattack. Spalletti's youth movementAfter losing to Switzerland in the round of 16 at Euro 2024, Italy coach Luciano Spalletti eliminated over-30 players like Francesco Acerbi, Jorginho, Matteo Darmian and Stephan El Shaarawy from his squad. Dimarco is 26 and Frattesi and Raspadori are 24. "It was not easy to get back on track after the Euros," Dimarco said. "We needed this victory to raise the morale of the team." De Bruyne braceKevin De Bruyne scored twice for Belgium in a 3-1 win over Israel in neutral Hungary. De Bruyne put Belgium ahead after being set up by his Manchester City clubmate Jeremy Doku and converted a second-half penalty. Youri Tielemans restored Belgium's advantage following an own goal for Israel by Belgium full back Timothy Castagne. The game was in Debrecen after the Belgian soccer federation said in July "no local authority in Belgium considers it possible" to stage a game against Israel for security reasons. LEAGUE B: Euro 2024 quarterfinalist Turkey was held to 0-0 at Wales after playing the final half hour with 10 men after Baris Alper Yilmaz was sent off for two yellows. Former Wales captain Craig Bellamy

made his debut as Wales coach - his first senior coaching role. Iceland beat Montenegro 2-0 with goals from Orri Steinn Oskarsson and Jon Dagur Thorsteinnsson. drawn in Zurich in December, likely with seedings decided by FIFA world rankings updated in November after Nations League group play ends.

Table with 7 columns: SI No., Name of work, Approx Value of work (Rs. in lakhs), Class of contractor, Bid Security (Rs.), Cost of documents (Non-refundable), Period of completion. Rows include construction of classrooms in Dasaharapada PS and Kendrapada PS.

Advertisement for Odisha Government Department of P.R. & I.W. Invitation for Bids (IFB) for construction of classrooms. Includes details in Odia and English.

Fritz wins an all American matchup against Tiafoe in 5 to reach the US Open final against Sinner

AP ■ NEW YORK

When Taylor Fritz, a 26-year-old from California, and Frances Tiafoe, a 26-year-old from Maryland, strode under the Arthur Ashe Stadium lights Friday night for the first

game, but broke right back and soon it was over. They met at the net for an embrace. Sinner, a 23-year-old from Italy exonerated in a doping case less than three weeks ago, finished off a 7-5, 7-6 (3), 6-2 victory over No. 25 Jack Draper on Friday that featured

seemed to reflect the players' contrasting personalities. The excitable Tiafoe would mark a key moment by shaking a raised fist or gritting his teeth or wagging

his racket or nodding while strutting to the sideline, and his entourage - including coach David Witt, who worked with Venus Williams for many years, as well as

Jessica Pegula, the American in the U.S. Open women's final Saturday against Aryna Sabalenka - stood and got noisy, point after point after point.



U.S. Open semifinal matching two American men in 19 years, the crowd might have been forgiven for not knowing which to support. There was a burst of clapping right before the initial point, a curtain-raiser befitting the show about to unfold. Once the contest got going, maybe the momentum shifts made it tough to choose between a pair of close pals who've known each other since they were playing tournaments for kids younger than 14. In the end, the roars were for Fritz, who surged with a six-game run against a fading and frustrated Tiafoe to come out on top 4-6, 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 and reach his first Grand Slam final. "It's the reason why I do what I do," Fritz told the fans, his voice cracking during a post-match interview. "It's the reason why I work so hard."

simultaneous treatment of both competitors by trainers deep in the 1 1/2-hour second set. "It was a very physical match, as we see," said Sinner, who won the Australian Open in January. "I just tried to stay there mentally." He got his left wrist massaged after falling during a point he managed to win; Draper needed medical attention after vomiting twice in a game with the temperature in the high 70s and the humidity above 60%. During that break in the action, a vacuum was used to clear the ground behind the baseline and finish the cleaning job Draper, a 22-year-old from Britain, tried to do himself by wiping his, um, mess with a towel. There was none of that sort of drama away from the actual play in Tiafoe vs. Fritz. The respective guest boxes

Incredible culture, spectacular forts & places, great traditions and rituals. This is called "country of snake charmers and magicians" boasts of a great civilization.

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ଆମର ପରବ୍ ଆମର ଗରବ
ଆମର ମିଳା ଚିହ୍ନ

ନୁଆଁଖାଇ ଜୁହାର

ପ୍ରଗତି ପଥେ ଖଡ଼ିଆଳ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ସମିତି

ମହାତ୍ମା ଗାନ୍ଧୀ ଜାତୀୟ ଗ୍ରାମୀଣ ନିର୍ଭୂତ କର୍ମ ନିଯୁକ୍ତି ଯୋଜନାରେ ଶ୍ରମଜୀବୀ ପରିବାରକୁ କର୍ମ ଯୋଗାଇ ଦେବାର ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ରଖିଥିବା ଉକ୍ତ ଯୋଜନାରେ ଚଳିତ ୨୦୨୪-୨୫ ଆର୍ଥିକ ବର୍ଷରେ ୪୯ ଗୋଟି ପୋଖରୀ, ୧୨ ଗୋଟି ଆଦର୍ଶ ପୋଖରୀ, ୧୦୨୭ ଜଣ ପରିବାରକୁ ଜମି ମରାମତି, ୧୩୭ ଗୋଟି ରାସ୍ତା, ୩୦ ଗୋଟି ବହୁମୁଖି ପୋଖରୀ, ୩୧ ଗୋଟି କୃଷି ପୋଖରୀ, ୫୮ ଗୋଟି କୁପ ଖନନ, ୪୪ ଗୋଟି ଗାଈ ଗୃହାଳ, ୧୩ ଗୋଟି ଛେଳି ଗୃହାଳ, ୩ ଗୋଟି ଖେଳ ପଡ଼ିଆର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କରାଯାଇ ୮୩୮୭ ପରିବାରକୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଯୋଗାଇ ଦିଆଯାଇ ୪,୧୨,୫୦୧ ଶ୍ରମ ଦିବସ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରାଯାଇ ପାରିଛି । ଏହି ମଧ୍ୟରୁ ୯୬୨ ଜଣ ପରିବାରକୁ ୧୦୦ ଦିନର, ୧୪୭ ଜଣ ପରିବାରକୁ ୨୦୦ ଦିନର, ୩ ଜଣ ପରିବାରକୁ ୩୦୦ ଦିନର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଅଦ୍ୟାବଧି ଯୋଗାଇ ଦିଆଯାଇଛି ।

ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ନୁଆଁଖାଇ ଜୁହାର

ମହାନ ପରବ୍ ନୁଆଁଖାଇ ଚିହ୍ନ ଲାଗି
ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱେ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ସାଜେ ସମକୁ

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agenda

the pioneer

"People say to me, 'You're so lucky. You get to see the world.' But I don't. I go to the hotel and to the pools and back again. That's it"
— Michael Phelps



In the last two years, India's travel and tourism industry has flourished in an unprecedented manner. In the past, Westerners and even visitors from other Asian countries associated India mainly with landmarks like the Taj Mahal, Lal Qila, Qutub Minar, and Jama Masjid. Although India had several opportunities in the 1980s and 1990s to showcase its rich heritage to the world, leadership failed to seize the moment and market the country's lesser-known attractions. Events like the Non-Aligned Movement meeting in 1982 and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 1984 were limited to New Delhi. The same pattern followed during the SAARC summit under Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's tenure. The world, however, took notice during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to India in 2014, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted him in Ahmedabad and Raj Nagar, Gujarat. This visit stood out for the unprecedented camaraderie between Modi and Xi. The "Chai Pe Charcha" and stroll along the Sabarmati River, along with traditional Gujarati delicacies, were a new experience for Xi (though, in an ironic twist, while enjoying hot and crispy pakoras, Xi had already instructed the PLA to provoke incidents along the India-China border). After this visit, India hosted several significant events, including the G-20 summit. For the first time in India's history, global dignitaries were taken beyond the capital to experience the diversity of the subcontinent. They were captivated by India's opulence and natural beauty, pushing the country to the forefront of desirable travel destinations.

India truly has something for everyone. The enchanting beauty of Kashmir, the stunning landscapes of the northeast, the lush jungles of the south, and the winding rivers of Krishna, Kaveri, and Godavari, along with the mesmerizing western coastline, are sure to attract hundreds of thousands of tourists every year. The concept of tourism has evolved over the last decade, and it is no longer just about leisure. The serene locations across India can rejuvenate the spirit, and the ancient Ayurvedic medicine system offers a holistic experience, revitalizing both body and soul. An untapped potential in India's tourism sector is MICE tourism—Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions. Pradeep Shetty, president of the Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India, believes that MICE tourism could play a crucial role in positioning India as a global tourism powerhouse. Beyond its cultural and scenic wealth, the sector offers immense job and business potential, catering to both skilled and unskilled labour, as well as entrepreneurs. Hotels in India are no longer limited to luxury chains like Taj Residencies or Hilton. Even clean, hygienic, and safe accommodations that serve regional cuisine with a smile can qualify as excellent hospitality options, regardless of star ratings.



INDIA'S TOURISM BOOM: A JOURNEY BEYOND THE ICONS

UNVEILING THE FUTURE OF INDIA'S HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM INDUSTRY

PRADEEP SHETTY, President of the Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI), is currently preparing for the association's 54th annual convention, set to take place in October 2024. In an exclusive interview with *Kumar Chellappan*, Shetty shared insights into the immense potential of India's hospitality and tourism sector, its challenges, and the expectations from both the central and state governments

What is the real potential of the hospitality and tourism industry?
India's hospitality and tourism industry is on a remarkable growth trajectory. According to Mordor Intelligence, the sector is projected to reach a valuation of USD 247.31 billion by 2024, with forecasts indicating it could soar to USD 475.37 billion by 2029, growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 13.96%. Key trends driving this growth include a shift towards sustainable tourism, with eco-friendly accommodations and community-based initiatives gaining traction. India's rich cultural heritage, diverse landscapes, and geopolitical stability further bolster this expansion. However, to fully capitalize on its potential, the industry must address sustainability, infrastructure development, and adaptability to evolving consumer preferences.

How do you view the current and future employment trends in the hospitality sector?
Despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the hospitality sector is expected to rebound strongly. The India Food Services Report-2024 projects that by 2025, the sector will employ approximately ten million people. The industry's resilience, coupled with advancements in accommodation and government initiatives to promote tourism, supports its significant role in job creation.



PRADEEP SHETTY
President, Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI)

INDIA'S HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM SECTOR HAS THE POTENTIAL TO GENERATE 50 MILLION DIRECT AND INDIRECT JOBS IN THE NEXT 5-7 YEARS. THIS GROWTH WILL DEPEND ON ROBUST GOVERNMENT SUPPORT, INCLUDING GRANTING INDUSTRY AND INFRASTRUCTURE STATUS AT VARIOUS LEVELS

What are the prospects for job creation in the hotel and restaurant industry over the coming years?
India's hospitality and tourism sector has the potential to generate 50 million direct and indirect jobs in the next 5-7 years. This growth will depend on robust government support, including granting industry and infrastructure status at various levels. The sector's resilience and strategic investments, along with effective policy implementation, are critical for shaping its employment landscape. Notably, the industry has already seen a 14% increase in Revenue Per Available Room (RevPAR) in the first half of the current fiscal year, with expectations of a further 15-20% growth in the latter half of FY24.

What does the industry expect from the Government of India and state governments?
The industry seeks favorable policies that encourage investment, reduce regulatory burdens, and provide tax incentives. Essential infrastructure development, such as improved roads, airports, and connectivity, is crucial. State governments should align regional policies with national goals, streamline hotel project approvals, and support skill development through training programs. Promoting India as a global destination requires targeted campaigns that highlight its cultural diversity and unique experiences. Post-pandemic, enforcing health and safety protocols is vital for rebuilding traveler confidence, while state governments should foster sustainable tourism and create a

business-friendly environment by simplifying licensing and permits. Public-private partnerships and engagement with industry stakeholders are also key to enhancing tourism growth.

Has the Government of India shown any commitment to granting infrastructure status to the hospitality sector?
The Government of India's interest in granting infrastructure status to the hospitality sector is a promising development. If approved, this status could attract more investments and empower the sector to contribute to the development of the 50 new destinations recently announced by the government.

What benefits would infrastructure status bring to the industry?
Granting infrastructure status to the hospitality sector could provide access to more favorable financing options, including better interest rates. Currently, the lack of industry status in several states results in higher power tariffs and interest rates. Infrastructure status would incentivize both domestic and international investments, fostering stability and growth within the sector.

As the current President of FHRAI, how well is the Federation positioned to address these issues with regulators?
The Federation of Hotel and Restaurant

Associations of India (FHRAI), founded in 1955, is the apex hospitality association in India and the third largest globally. It represents 55,000 hotels and 500,000 restaurants across the country. FHRAI advocates for the industry's interests, engaging with government bodies, regulatory agencies, and other stakeholders to promote growth and address challenges.

What are the major issues facing the industry, and what do you expect the government to do about them?
The hospitality industry faces several critical challenges that require strategic solutions. First, GST rationalization is needed to implement a uniform rate of 12% across all hotels. Second, separating GST on food services from room rates would address high costs and complex regulations. Third, granting infrastructure status would provide access to better financing options and encourage investment. Finally, uniform sectoral reforms and streamlined business processes under the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) would attract more investments. The government should simplify regulations, support infrastructure development, and provide incentives for training and technology to foster a vibrant and resilient tourism industry. Addressing these issues will enhance service quality and support industry growth.





BY SHARMILA CHAND

CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF ONAM WITH SADHYA ROOTED IN TRADITION

The Onam is a celebration of culture, tradition, nature's bounty, symbolising harvest festivals and expressing gratitude, bringing families, communities together in a spirit of joy and togetherness

Onam, the harvest festival of Kerala, is renowned for its grand feast known as the Sadhya. Also known as Thiruvonam or Thiruvonam, this is a harvest festival that celebrates the return of King Mahabali/Maveli to his beloved state. It's a time of thanksgiving for the bountiful crops. Truly, what adds to the festival is the tradition of the 'Onam Sadhya'.

Traditionally, an Onam Sadhya consists of around 24 to 64 dishes. What sets this meal apart is its intricate balance of tastes—sweet, sour, salty, bitter, and spicy—all harmoniously combined to create a delightful experience.

The number of dishes vary based on the region. There is a specific order in which the dishes are served on the banana leaf. It usually starts with serving the rice, followed by various curries, pickles, and desserts.

Interestingly, the feast is traditionally eaten with the hands, believed to enhance the sensory experience of the varied flavours. Families and communities come together to enjoy the feast, which is a way to celebrate the bountiful harvest, express gratitude, and bring people together in a spirit of joy and togetherness.

People decorate their homes with floral arrangements called "Pookkalam" and wear traditional attire during the festival for a holistic experience, an integral and cherished part of the celebration.

Folding the Banana Leaf Is Important

Towards You: Once you've finished eating, fold the banana leaf towards you. This helps to signify that you've enjoyed the meal and are satisfied. The grandeur of Onam Sadhya awaits you offering annual culinary extravaganza in Delhi, Mumbai, Goa, Pune and Bengaluru.

EXCLUSIVE ADIPOLI ONAM SADHYA AT SOUTH OF VINDHYAS, THE ORCHID HOTEL, MUMBAI

South of Vindhyas, the authentic Southern Indian restaurant at The Orchid Hotel Mumbai, is all set to



welcome the diners for the much-awaited ADIPOLI ONAM SADHYA feast. This exclusive culinary experience promises an immersive experience for guests to the rich flavors of Kerala, in authentic style.

Chef Bala Subramaniam, the culinary maestro behind South of Vindhyas, has meticulously crafted a menu featuring 56 authentic dishes that capture the true essence of Southern India. Upon arrival, guests will be greeted with a refreshing Kachia Moru (Buttermilk) or a warm Thakkali Rasam (Tomato Soup), setting the tone for the culinary journey ahead. The feast unfolds with a variety of crispy and flavorful chips, including Banana Chips, Jackfruit Chips, Plantain Chips, and the ever-popular Nendrankai Chips. Guests can indulge in an array of traditional breads like Appam, Kal Dosa, and Malabari Paratha with main course, which includes a diverse selection of vegetarian dishes that celebrate the harvest. From Olan (Chowlibeans & White Pumpkin) and Kalan (Suran) to the flavorful Avial and Kootu Curry and much more, each dish is a celebration of Kerala's culinary heritage. A variety of pachadis (pickles) such as Vellari Pachadi (Cucumber Pickle), Pavakkai Pachadi (Ridge Gourd Pickle), Bhindi Pachadi (Okra Pickle), and Manga Curry (Mango Curry) add a tangy twist to the meal. Complementing the spread are rice preparations including Red Rice, Steamed Rice, Lemon Sevai, and Coconut Sevai.

To conclude the meal, guests can indulge in a range of traditional sweets like Ada Pradhman, Kadala Pradhman (Black Gram Payasam), and Mambazha Pradhman/Chakka Pradhman (Mango/Jackfruit Payasam), along with other delightful treats like Pazham Pori (Banana Fritters) and Panchamrutham (Sweet Nectar).

Step in and you will be transported to Kerala with the venue adorned in beautifully arranged banana leaves and vibrant rangoli patterns. Enhancing the authenticity, the staff will be dressed in traditional South Indian attire adding a genuine touch of Kerala's rich heritage to your dining experience. The ADIPOLI ONAM SADHYA at South of Vindhyas is not just a meal; it's a celebration of culture, tradition, and the joy of sharing food with loved ones. The meticulously prepared dishes, the vibrant ambiance, and the warm hospitality make this an experience not to be missed.

LUNCH & DINNER
12th to 16th September
At South of Vindhyas,
The Orchid Hotel Mumbai
Contact : 7506010316



SADHYA CULINARY VOYAGE AT SANA DI GE, DELHI

Sana-di-ge, the well known culinary haven for coastal cuisine enthusiasts, is set to treat the patrons once again with an exceptional Sadhya experience. The acclaimed restaurant, like every year, promises a sensory journey into the diverse and aromatic world of coastal India's gastronomic legacy. The stunning entrance with beautifully oil lit diya is the reminder of its name - Sana-di-ge, derived from the Tulu language meaning a brass lamp. The restaurant is known for its authentic coastal recipes curated with freshly sourced ingredients. The extensive menu comprises delicacies from Mangalore, Goa, Maharashtra, and Kerala. The food here is served on brass plates lined with plantain leaves giving an experience of Dakshina Kannada dining.

Savour a symphony of Sadhya feast with dishes, elegantly served on traditional banana leaves. Says Executive Chef Suresh Kanchan, "In our Sadhya menu, each dish captures the essence of Kerala's culinary heritage. The highlights of the menu are Sambharam - Spicy buttermilk with fresh coriander, ginger and curry leaves; Upperi - Banana chips; Sharkara Upperi - Sweet banana chips; Kosambari Salad - Traditional Kannadiga salad; Cabbage



THE ADIPOLI ONAM SADHYA AT SOUTH OF VINDHYAS IS NOT JUST A MEAL; IT'S A CELEBRATION OF CULTURE, TRADITION, AND THE JOY OF SHARING FOOD WITH LOVED ONES



Thoran; Mezhukku Puratti - Stir fried raw banana finished with coconut silvers & crushed dry red chilli; Avial and a lot more. The feast concludes on a sweet note with the signature 'Chana Dal Payasam', a melding of jaggery, cow's milk, coconut milk, and chana dal.

The culinary art and decor of Sana-di-ge are sure to transport patrons to the kitchens of the coast bringing in a one-of-a-kind experience.

LUNCH & DINNER
12th to 16th September
22/48 Malcha Marg, New Delhi
Contact : 01140507777

ONAM SADHYA EXTRAVAGANZA AT TAJ RESORTS, GOA

Celebrate the joyous occasion of Sadhya at the luxurious Taj Holiday Village Resort & Spa and Taj Fort Aguada Resort & Spa. Chef Dibyendu Roy and Chef Somnath Rakesh are all set to prepare Sadhya where each dish comes in its authentic style, ensuring that the flavours and textures are true to tradition. The meal is served in a traditional setting, complete with banana leaves and copper vessels, service team in traditional ensemble, creating a truly immersive experience. Beyond the culinary delights, the Onam celebrations at these resorts also feature Carnatic music playing in the background. These performances offer guests a glimpse into the rich cultural heritage of Kerala and add to the festive atmosphere. By celebrating Onam with traditional food and cultural performances, Taj Holiday Village and Taj Fort Aguada are fostering a sense of community and preserving the rich heritage of Kerala.

Venue : Caravela at Taj Holiday Village
Date : Lunch On 15th Sept
Venue : Kokum Kitchen at Taj Fort Aguada
Date : Lunch on 14th and 15th Sept

ONAM SADHYA AT SANTOSHAM, MUMBAI

Santosham Foods is thrilled to unveil its beloved Onam Sadhya, where tradition meets taste in a celebration that promises to be nothing short of spectacular.

At Santosham, which aptly translates to 'Happiness' or 'Joy' in Malayalam and Tamil, the team is passionate about delivering an experience that lives up to its name.

Founded in May 2022, Santosham Foods has become synonymous with genuine South Indian flavors in Mumbai. While the city is known for its love of South Indian cuisine, finding those truly authentic tastes amidst a sea of fusion trends is rare. That's where Santosham comes in, offering a slice of home with every dish.

The Head Chef and Co-Founder, Bhagyalakshmi Gohokar, brings her rich heritage to her kitchen. Growing up in the bustling environment of Shanti Bhavan in Nagpur, she has always been surrounded by the irresistible aroma of freshly brewed filter coffee and crispy medu vadas. Her childhood memories of watching the magic of South Indian cooking unfold have inspired her to bring these authentic flavours to Mumbai.

This year's celebration promises to be even more memorable, with a menu featuring over 40 traditional dishes that will transport your taste buds straight to South India. From the rich and sweet Palada Pradhman to the spicy and tangy Lemon Achar & Manga Kari, each dish is crafted with love and care, reflecting the true spirit of Onam.

"Last year, we had the pleasure of serving over 2,000 delighted diners during Onam, and this year, we're set to create even more unforgettable experiences. Our Sadhya is not just a meal; it's a vibrant celebration of tradition, culture and culinary excellence.

So, come and join us at Santosham for a feast that's brimming with flavour and festivity. Whether you're a longtime fan or a first-time guest, our Onam Sadhya is sure to leave you with a smile and a satisfied belly," says Bhagyalakshmi.

Dates: September 13th, 14th, 15th, 21st, & 22nd
Location: Powai, Chandivali
Date: September 14th & 15th
Location: Manpada, Thane

EXQUISITE SADHYA AT THE SHERATON GRAND PUNE BUND GARDEN HOTEL

Celebrate the spirit of Onam with a traditional Sadhya at the Sheraton Grand Pune Bund Garden Hotel. Feast starts with classic starters like Dal Wada, and Medu Vada, perfectly complemented by refreshing Sambar and the Ingi Thayir. Next are the traditional condiments like Sarakara Uperi, Nendran Chips, and Mango Pickle that set the stage for the main course. A vast range of authentic delights such as the Avial, Kadla Curry, Olan, and Thoran, all served with the aromatic Ponni Rice, flaky Pooris and finished with the comforting Thayir Sadam. Indulge in Paruppu Payasam and the Banana Sheera to complete the feast.

Lunch On 13th, 14th, and 15th of September
At Feast, Sheraton Grand Pune Bund Garden Hotel

GRAND SADHYA AT HILTON BANGALORE EMBASSY GOLFLINKS

Savour timeless classics like the appetizing Neyyappam, wholesome Avial, Kootu Curry, Thoran, Olan, Kalan, Pachadi, Inji Puli, and Erissery, each crafted with a perfect balance of spices to awaken your senses to be enjoyed with the wholesome goodness of Parippu, Matta rice and the delightful flavours of Sambar and Rasam, all served on the traditional banana leaf. Conclude your Sadhya on a sweet note with desserts such as Paal Payasam.

Venue: MOF, Hilton Bangalore Embassy Golflinks
Date: 15th September
Timing: 12:30 pm to 04:00 pm

Sharmila Chand is a senior Journalist and Author who writes on Food, Travel, Lifestyle.



A FUSION OF LUXURY, TRADITION AND CULINARY EXCELLENCE

Discover how Crowne Plaza New Delhi Okhla, brings dreams to life with its exquisite and personalised approach to creating unforgettable wedding celebrations, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

Crowne Plaza recently presented a magnificent Wedding Showcase, offering an immersive experience that symbolises elegance and grandeur. The event showcased the hotel's ability to create unforgettable wedding celebrations with a blend of stunning venues, luxurious decor and exceptional culinary offerings.

A GRAND WELCOME: SETTING THE TONE FOR ELEGANCE

The red and white theme, aesthetic lighting and wedding-themed photo booth set a vibrant and warm tone for the evening. Guests were greeted with an opulent welcome as they entered the beautifully decorated lobby. The grand entrance was further enhanced by the Red Wedding Hues Tunnel, accompanied by the traditional shehnai music, creating a memorable and enchanting atmosphere from the very start. The grand welcome was a perfect introduction to Crowne Plaza's commitment to blending luxury with tradition, ensuring that guests felt special and immersed in the wedding experience right from the beginning.

EMERALD BALLROOM: A GLAMOROUS COCKTAIL EVENING

The Emerald Ballroom was transformed into a glamorous cocktail venue with a black and glitter theme, highlighted by a breathtaking chandelier. Accommodating up to 400 guests, the ballroom provided an elegant setting enhanced by a soulful Sufi live band, which created a magical and romantic ambience for the evening. The Emerald Ballroom exemplified Crowne Plaza's ability to create a luxurious and adaptable space, making it an ideal setting for a grand wedding reception that



can be tailored to the couple's preferences.

JADE LAWN: A SERENE OUTDOOR CEREMONY

The Jade Lawn offered a picturesque outdoor setting for the wedding ceremony. Adorned with floral decor and soft lighting, the lawn, which can host up to 500 guests, provided a serene backdrop for the bride and groom's vows. The vibrant mandap, decorated with red and white flowers against lush greenery, created an elegant and natural atmosphere. The Jade Lawn was an ideal venue for couples seeking a tranquil and naturally beautiful outdoor setting for their wedding, showcasing Crowne Plaza's ability to create serene and picturesque environments.

OPAL BANQUET: A VIBRANT HALDI CEREMONY

The Opal Banquet was transformed into a lively venue for

the Haldi ceremony with a vibrant yellow and blue theme. The banquet, which accommodates 180 guests, featured joyful decor, including entries decorated with yellow marigold flowers, capturing the essence of the traditional ceremony. The Opal Banquet's vibrant and traditional setting perfectly captured the joyous spirit of the Haldi ceremony, reflecting Crowne Plaza's attention to detail and commitment to creating memorable pre-wedding rituals.

POOLSIDE: A FESTIVE MEHENDI CELEBRATION

The poolside venue was styled for a vibrant Mehendi night with colorful decor in red, yellow, pink, and green. This intimate space, accommodating 60 guests, featured delightful food and drinks, creating a lively and festive atmosphere for an unforgettable celebration. The poolside setup was perfect for an intimate yet vibrant Mehendi



celebration, demonstrating Crowne Plaza's expertise in crafting fun and festive environments for wedding events.

CHAOBELLA: A CHIC BOHEMIAN DINNER EXPERIENCE

The evening concluded with a Bohemian-themed sit-down dinner at ChaoBella. The al fresco setup, adorned with chic

bohemian decor, offered a stylish and intimate dining experience, providing a perfect end to the showcase with its elegant and relaxed ambience. ChaoBella's Bohemian-themed dinner provided a sophisticated and unique dining experience, showcasing ability to deliver memorable and stylish wedding receptions.

CULINARY EXCELLENCE: A FEAST FOR THE SENSES

Food is an integral part of any celebration and Crowne Plaza excelled in delivering an exceptional culinary experience. The showcase featured an array of mouthwatering dishes, like *kulkad wale taka-e-tak*, a variety of *idlis - ragi, vegetables and steaming hot idlis* - paired with five types of *chutneys*. *Street-style chats* and *pani puri*'s added a burst of flavours, while the dessert table was a highlight with options like *berry panna cotta, tres leches cake, tiramisu, brownies* and the star dessert - *badam halwa*. Each dish, from the street-style treats to the exotic desserts, demonstrated the hotel's dedication to providing an extraordinary dining experience with a diverse range of flavours meticulously prepared by talented chefs. The culinary offerings were a standout feature of the event, showcasing Crowne Plaza's commitment to excellence with a



diverse and delectable menu that catered to all tastes and preferences, enhancing the overall wedding experience.

CRAFTING UNFORGETTABLE WEDDING EXPERIENCES

"At Crowne Plaza New Delhi Okhla, we believe in creating wedding experiences that are as unique and special as the couples themselves," said the General Manager. "This showcase was a glimpse into the endless possibilities we can offer, from personalised decor to gourmet cuisine, ensuring that every wedding is truly unforgettable." Wedding Showcase exemplified their commitment to creating exceptional wedding experiences. From the grand entrance to the diverse and delectable culinary offerings, every detail was designed to impress. As the General Manager noted, "We strive to make every wedding unique and unforgettable." The Wedding Showcase at Crowne Plaza exemplified luxury and attention to detail. With stunning venues, exquisite decor and a diverse culinary spread, the event demonstrated the hotel's dedication to crafting unforgettable wedding experiences. Crowne Plaza is ready to turn every couple's vision into a unique celebration, ensuring each moment is as special as their love story.

Photos: Pankaj Kumar

CANVAS OF HERITAGE AND CONTEMPORARY EXPRESSION

Artix 3.0, the much-awaited sequel in New Delhi, once again dazzled art enthusiasts by bringing a vivid fusion of indigenous and global art to the forefront. The event, held at *The Claridges Hotel*, showcased the power of creativity, seamlessly blending the worlds of tribal art, textiles and luxury and creating an unforgettable experience for both artists and visitors says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

Entering the transformed Spaces of The Claridges Hotel, attendees immediately sensed the magic in the air. Each room was thoughtfully curated to provide a distinct narrative, turning the venue into an immersive, multi-dimensional art gallery. The transformation was not just physical but also emotional, offering art lovers and connoisseurs a unique opportunity to engage deeply with the artworks, live installations and textile displays. It felt as if each room had its own story waiting to be discovered. The lineup of galleries was extraordinary, featuring established names like *Treasure Art Gallery, Artrise Art, 108 Art Projects, Bespoke Art Gallery, Ashvita's and Vision Art Gallery*, among others. These galleries, along with solo artists like *Aanchal Garg, Shobha Broota and Cholamandal*, created a vibrant mosaic of artistic expression that was both diverse and profound. Artists such as *Raza Husain, Sanjay Bhattacharyya, Anjolie Ela Menon and Prabhakar Kolte* showcased their works, alongside renowned names like *FN Souza, Laxma Goud and Manu Parekh*, adding depth and dimension to the event. The inclusion of luxury brands such as *Heeramaneck & Son Fine Jewellery, Lotus Arts de Vivre and Chayroot x Prabhu Viswanathan* further enriched the event,



creating a confluence of art, fashion, and design that was truly mesmerising. A special highlight of the opening was an engaging session featuring luminaries like *Satish Gupta, Prayag Shukla, Sanjay Bhattacharyya, Shobha Broota and Arpana Caur*, followed by a curatorial walkthrough by *Jyoti Kathpalia*. The discussions were insightful, providing a deeper understanding of the themes and ideas that shaped this year's Artix. Each day was packed with activities that encourage interaction and exploration, enriching a vibrant dialogue between artists, collectors, and art lovers. The exhibition also paid tribute to the lesser-known but equally captivating traditions of Indian art. *The Devi Art Foundation* presented "A Little Bird Told Me..." featuring artworks by the Tribal Women Artists Collective from Hazaribagh, Jharkhand. This collective has worked tirelessly to keep the centuries-old traditions of the Kohvar (marriage) and Sohrai (harvest) wall paintings alive, transitioning these from the mud walls of village homes to paper, ensuring their survival and giving women artists a means to sustain themselves. These panels, with their vivid



depictions of flora, fauna and life, evoked a deep connection to the past while providing a glimpse into the future of tribal art in India. Similarly, the work of *Usman Tirandaz* from Rajasthan, known for his intricate depictions using pigments on cloth, added another layer of cultural richness to the exhibition. *Shobha Broota*, one of India's most celebrated contemporary artists, showcased her ethereal canvases that possess a deceptive simplicity. Her works, characterised by abstract forms, rhythmic lines and rich textures, brought a sense of calm and introspection to the event. Broota's unique artistic journey, from portraiture to abstract and



her ongoing exploration of the spiritual and metaphysical, captivated visitors and provided a contemplative counterpoint to the more vibrant displays. The corporate social initiative AADYAM Handwoven, by the Aditya Birla Group, added another dimension to Artix 3.0 by showcasing the intricate craftsmanship of weavers from various parts of India, such as Varanasi, Pochampally, Bhuj, Kashmir and Bhadohi. Their efforts to create a self-sustaining ecosystem for artisans were evident in the quality and diversity of the textiles displayed, which celebrated age-old weaving techniques while appealing to contemporary tastes.



What made *Artix 3.0* truly special was its ability to humanise the experience of art. It went beyond just exhibition spaces and brought together a community, creating a dynamic space where art was not only viewed but felt. It challenged the conventional gallery model, making art more accessible and intimate. The organiser's, led by *Payal Kapoor, Malvika Poddar and Sethu Vaidyanathan*, envisioned a traveling art affair that not only defied traditional norms but also celebrated the multitude of forms that art can take. Their dedication and passion were visible in every corner of the exhibition, making Artix a unique and memorable experience.



Artix 3.0 succeeded in capturing the essence of what makes art truly powerful, its ability to connect people across boundaries, evoke emotions and inspire new ways of thinking. The atmosphere was electric, filled with conversations that ranged from the technical aspects of a painting to the deeper philosophical questions it raised. *Artix 3.0* was more than just an art exhibition - it was a celebration of creativity, a gathering of minds and a bold statement that art is for everyone. As *Artix 3.0* works to expand to other cities like Bangalore, Mumbai and Kolkata, it is hoped that it will continue to build on this momentum, bringing its unique blend of luxury, creativity and accessibility to new audiences. For those who had the chance to experience *Artix 3.0*, it was a reminder of why art matters and how it has the power to transform spaces, people and even our understanding of the world. *Artix 3.0* served as a vivid reminder that art is not just something to be looked at but something to be experienced, felt and lived. And that, in itself, is its greatest achievement.

Photos: Pankaj Kumar

