



WORLD 6
BRAZIL JUDGE SETS FRESH TERMS FOR X TO RESUME SERVICES

SPORT 7
RAIN WASHES OUT SECOND DAY OF KANPUR TEST

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Terrorists burn Kashmir's dream



Security personnel stand guard after an encounter broke out between terrorists and security forces during cordon and search operation at Adigam village, in Kulgam district, Saturday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU

Ahead of the third and final round of polling on October 1, a joint team of security forces gunned down two unidentified terrorists on Saturday while five security personnel, including an officer, sustained injuries in an encounter in South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

Area is cordoned off. ADG Police, Jammu range Anand Jain said in a statement. The gunbattle broke out in Arigam village in the Devsar area of the district after security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation there early in the morning. Srinagar-based Chinar Corps in a post on X said, "Based on specific intelligence input, a joint operation was launched by the Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir police at Arigam, Kulgam. "During the search, terrorists fired indiscriminately and a firefight ensued. Two terrorists have been eliminated by the security forces in the ongoing Operation".

Confirming the recovery of two dead bodies from the encounter site, Kashmir Zone Police posted on X, "Two bodies recovered from the encounter site. Identification & affiliation are being ascertained. Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition recovered. Search in progress". The security forces also recovered two x AK Rifles, ammunition and other war-like stores from the terrorists. The security forces also suffered injuries during the firefight. According to official sources, three Army personnel and two police officers, including an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), were injured in a gunbattle with terrorists in

Arigam. Additional Superintendent of Police (Traffic) suffered minor injuries due to a stray bullet near the encounter site, officials said. Earlier on September 14, three terrorists were gunned down by the joint team of security forces in the Kreeeri area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district. The security forces were able to neutralise a group of hiding terrorists after identifying their exact locations inside the building with the help of drone cameras. In this month, so far nine terrorists have been eliminated during anti-terrorist operations across different parts of Jammu and Kashmir.



India slams Pakistan at UN

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

In a strong retort, India has slammed Pakistan in the UN General Assembly, saying its "fingerprints" are on terrorist incidents across the world and the country should realise that cross-border terrorism against India will "inevitably invite consequences". India exercised its Right of Reply in the UN General Assembly on Friday in response to Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif raising the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in his address at the General Debate of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly. "This Assembly regrettably witnessed a travesty this morning. A country run by the military, with a global reputation for terrorism, narcotics trade and transnational crime has had the audacity to attack the world's largest democracy," First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Bhavika Mangalananand said, delivering India's Right of Reply.

Israel decimates Hezbollah

AP ■ TEL AVIV

Lebanon's Hezbollah group has confirmed that its leader and one of its founders, Hassan Nasrallah, was killed in an Israeli airstrike. A statement on Saturday said Nasrallah "has joined his fellow martyrs." The statement says Hezbollah vows to "continue the holy war against the enemy and in support of Palestine." Nasrallah led the militant group for more than three decades. Earlier, Israel had said that it killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, dealing its most significant blow to the Lebanese militant group after months of fighting. Nasrallah is by far the most powerful target to be killed by Israel in weeks of intensified fighting with Hezbollah. Ali Karki, the Commander of Hezbollah's Southern Front, and additional Hezbollah commanders, were also killed in the attack, the Israeli military said. The military said it carried out a precise airstrike on Friday while Hezbollah leadership met at their headquarters in Dahiyeh, south of Beirut. Israel's Chief of Staff, Lt Gen Herzi Halevi, said Saturday that the elimination of Nasrallah was "not the end of our toolbox," indicating that more strikes were planned. He said that the strike targeting Hezbollah leadership was the result of a



Flames rise after an Israeli airstrike in the southern suburbs of Beirut, Lebanon, Saturday

long period of preparation. The Lebanese Health Ministry said six people were killed and 91 injured in the strikes Friday, which leveled six apartment buildings. The Israeli military said it was mobilising additional reserve soldiers as tensions escalate with Lebanon, activating three battalions of reserve soldiers to serve across the country. The call comes after it sent two brigades to northern Israel earlier in the week to train for a possible ground invasion. On Saturday morning, the Israeli military carried out several strikes in southern Beirut and eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. Hezbollah launched dozens of projectiles across northern

and central Israel and the Israel-occupied West Bank. In Beirut's southern suburbs, smoke rose and the streets were empty after the area was pummeled overnight by heavy Israeli airstrikes. Shelters set up in the city centre for displaced people were overflowing. Many families slept in public squares and beaches or in their cars. On the roads leading to the mountains above the capital, hundreds of people could be seen making an exodus on foot, holding infants and whatever belongings they could carry. At least 720 people have been killed in Lebanon over the past week from Israeli airstrikes, according to the Health Ministry.

'Hear grievances even at 2 am at night'

CM Majhi tells officials
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Saturday expressed concerns over the rising rate of crimes in the State and said police need to act on complaints immediately and win the trust of the people.



Speaking on the concluding day of the two-day Collectors and SPs' Conference, Majhi urged the senior police officials to treat those coming to police stations, especially women, properly and hear their grievances. "Be it day, afternoon or at 2 am in the night, it is our duty to provide them immediate assistance," he said. The women and child helpdesks need to be strengthened so that steps can be taken for investigation in such cases involving them, he said. He said police officials also need to make extensive use of technology to deal with rising

cases of cybercrime. The drive against illegal narcotics needs to be taken up in mission mode. Narrating an incident where a beggar visited his house and was not allowed by the security personnel, the CM said he always makes it a point to hear the grievances of such people. "Several of them had visited the CM's grievances cell several times but failed to meet the CM in the past. Now, they are able to meet the CM. Their concern and only hope is to get work done and get justice. We should work to record them. Sixteen years of record shows that in the CM's grievance cell, the CMO is there, but is there any provision for the absence of the CM," questioned Majhi. Things have changed now; the CM and ministers are hearing the grievances of people from 10:30 am to 6 pm. "I am staying at Lok Seva Bhawan till 12:30 am. The PM is working 18 hours a day and we should not confine ourselves to 8-hour or 12-hour work. The State Government will work round the clock for the people," said the CM.

Govt to strengthen Odisha Police: CM

9,000 motorcycles to be provided to police stations
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government is committed to modernisation of Odisha Police so that it becomes one of the best units in the country, said Chief Minister Mohan Majhi while talking to reporters on the sidelines of the Collectors-SPs' conference here on Saturday. Majhi said a massive roadmap has been drawn in this regard. A special battalion would come up for the security of Puri Jagannath Temple and 1,043 personnel would be recruited. The personnel would also be used for smooth conduct of Rath Yatra. Apart from this, the government has also decided to recruit 2,098 Home Guards. The government is also taking appropriate steps to ensure that the police officials are able to discharge their duties properly without facing

any problems as far as infrastructure is needed to respond during emergency situations. The CM further said that be it two-wheelers or four-wheelers, his government would provide adequate infrastructure to each police station so that there are no bottlenecks as far as carrying out investigation is concerned. "As many as 9,000 motorcycles will be provided and each police station will have an extra four-wheeler in this regard so that the officials can respond to emergency situations," said Majhi. Besides, 10 police outposts would be set up in medical colleges and the government would also set up 10 more ODRAF units. There would be one ODRAF unit for each district. At present, there are 20 ODRAF units in the State. Besides, three more battalions of Odisha State Striking Force would be set up and this would help the Odisha Police in a bigger way, said Majhi.

Elephant herd spreads panic in Keonjhar



Daring people take selfies and photos
NARESH PATTANAYAK ■ KEONJHAR

A 20-member herd of elephants roamed near Bijagoth village under the Bhuyan Juang Pirha Range obstructing the Suakati-Banspal road under Banspal block of Keonjhar district on Saturday.

The people of the surrounding area were scared and Forest Department staffs had to do their best to chase the elephants into the forest. The pachyderms could not move away in order to protect the baby elephants in the herd. Many people were taking pictures of the elephants and shooting away the animals. Even people traveling on the road stopped to take selfies; so the road was crowded.

Keonjhar DFO Dhanraj HD joined the elephant drive force. The people of the villages were on guard for fear of damage to their crops. Therefore, the elephants could not move away. Range Officer Nayankant Sahu said, "In the night the herd will go away from this area. Forest Department and police personnel are keeping a watch and warning people not to go near the animals."

Nurses hold talks with Minister, to end strike

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Nursing officers would end their cease-work agitation and resume work on Sunday, said Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling on Saturday. The nurses' leaders, who had a discussion with the minister, also confirmed this. The nurses had gone on strike to press for their 10-point charter of demands, leading to a disruption in the healthcare services across the State. The strike was spearheaded by the Odisha Nursing Employees' Association (ONEA) despite imposition of ESMA. Their demands include regularisation of contractual



workers and scrapping of outsourcing. The healthcare services at the paediatrics department of MKCG Medical College Hospital in Brahmapur had been affected. The scenes were no different in the Sambalpur Sadar hospital as well. As an alternate measure, the administration has deployed nursing students and pharmacists to provide healthcare

services to patients. "Our demands are not being fulfilled by the government? Though the Health Minister had made an appeal to us to end the strike, we want some written assurance regarding our demands," said an agitator in Sambalpur. In the Cuttack SCB Medical College Hospital, the patients were also at the receiving end owing to the strike

by nurses. The ONEA's demands also include regularisation of left-out contractual nursing officers, pay parity, promotion and other benefits on par with other State Government employees. Earlier on Thursday, the government had decided to constitute an inter-departmental committee to find solution to the nurses' demands.

Maniabandha awarded 'Best Tourism Village'

DINESH DAS ■ ATHAGARH

Maniabandha village of Athagarh subdivision in Cuttack district has been awarded as Best Tourism Village-2024 in the craft category by the Union Ministry of Tourism on the occasion of World Tourism Day. Almost all the family members of this village adjacent to State Highway-65 remain engaged in weaving, dyeing, bandha art, etc. One can find the villagers doing something on weaving handicrafts round the clock as part of their profession. You can even hear the sound of weaving during late night. Most of the female members are efficient enough



in weaving than their male counterparts. This weaving community is mostly Buddhist in religion and vegetarians. As per the tales, at least three hundred years ago, their predecessors had migrated from the Vardman district of

West Bengal and taken shelter in this area after the then Badamba king was kind enough to allow them to live and carry on their business of weaving in Maniabandha. Now, the State Textile Department is assisting these weav-

ers in many ways to keep up the business. Earlier, the Dalai Lama, great monk of Buddhism, had visited the village and discussed with the villagers on the religion and their profession of weaving. These bandha artisans presented Dalai Lama a saree in a piece of bamboo pipe. Former Prime Minister late Indira Gandhi was also presented a saree filled in a bamboo pipe in 1984 on her visit to Nuapatna to inaugurate the Jagannath Spinning Mill. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Badamba MLA Bijaya Kumar Dalabehera have congratulated the villagers on their recognition.

CM seeks dist-wise data of crimes against women

NALINI SAHU ■ BHUBANESWAR
Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Saturday sought a report from the DGP on dist-wise data of crimes against women, conviction pending status and other information within a week. After legal consultations, a future roadmap would be prepared, he said. While speaking on the concluding day of the two-day Collectors-SPs' Conference, Majhi addressed senior officials of Odisha Police and expressed concerns over the poor conviction rate in cases of

crimes against women in the State in the past 22 years. The CM said that such a thing implies two things: there are some lapses in police investigation or lack of intent on the part of the department for speedy trial. The government is also committed to ensuring zero tolerance against crimes against women and children. Stern action would be taken against even the powerful and influential people involved in such crimes, he said. Majhi said it is heartening to see from records that the cases of eve teasing have increased in the State. The po-

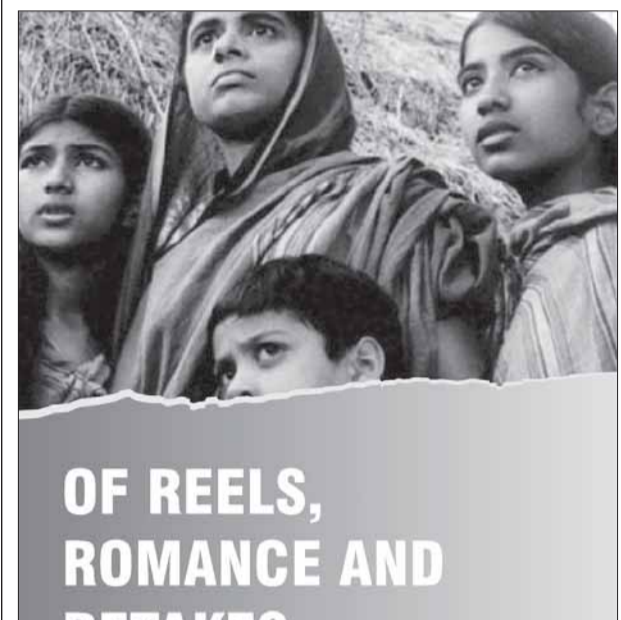


lice department should ensure that girls, students and women can move freely. He noted that the Odisha Police is a disciplined, efficient and people-friendly force. There could be some deviation, but Odisha has earned reputation of being a peaceful State. The CM said the fight against Maoists is continuing. The government is working hard to make the State free from Leftwing extremism and, hence, the required manpower and other infrastructures would be provided. He also appealed to the Maoists to shun violence and return to the mainstream or else face consequences.

For safe Durga Puja 57 anti-socials detained in BBSR

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
In a bid to make the festive season safe in Bhubaneswar, the Commissionerate police have launched a drive against anti-socials. As a part of the ongoing drive, at least a dozen persons were detained on Friday night by the police. Various suspected hideouts were raided and vehicles parked in public places were seized. Apart from this, criminal activities are being investigated and fines are being levied where necessary, a senior police official said. The Capital, Kharavel Nagar, Bharatpur, Laxmi Sagar, Badagada, Maitree Vihar, Nayapalli, Khandagiri, Chandrasekharapur and Infocity police jointly raided different places. "A total of 57 law-breakers were detained in different police stations' areas and Rs 28,500 was collected from them as fine under the Odisha Urban Police Act," the official said.

Book on Odia cinema to feature at NY Lit Fest



By author Sanjoy Patnaik
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
Author and commentator Sanjoy Patnaik's book 'Of Reels, Romance and Retakes: Social Narratives of Cinema in Odisha' published by Routledge Taylor and Francis Group will be one of the highlights at the Indo-American Arts Council's (IAAC) 2024 Literary Festival scheduled for November 9-10 in New York City, USA. The Council's focus is on performing arts including the visual, literary and folk arts. The literary festival is among the leading events on Indian-American arts and culture rapidly gaining recognition for celebrating diverse voices. In her email, Literary Festival Director, Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC) Preethi Urs expressed hope that the discussion on the book and Odia cinema will contribute to the vibrant literary discourse and provide audiences with the opportunity to engage with Patnaik's work and ideas directly.

Congress supports nurses' stir



PNS ■ CUTTACK
The Odisha Congress Steering Committee led by its member and former MLA Mohammed Moquim met the nurses, who are on strike in front of the SCB Medical College and its cluster hospitals at Cuttack. Moquim announced the support of the Congress party to the nurses. Moquim warned the government to take remedial action by Saturday, failing which the Congress would hit the street. He also said the government shall be responsible for any deaths of patients in hospitals. Moquim was accompanied by Steering Committee member Sasmita

Bhadrak tension Internet shutdown for 48 hours; 9 detained

PNS ■ BHADRAK
The Bhadrak district administration on Saturday imposed a complete shutdown on internet services for 48 hours in view of the communal violence in the district triggered by an 'objectionable' social media post on Friday. "Messaging platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, X and other such media have been banned for 48 hours as they have the potential to inflame communal tension thereby leading to acts causing disturbance of public order in Bhadrak district. Therefore, in order to prevent the spread of such inflammatory and motivated messages to circulate in the above mentioned media to disturb the public order in whole Bhadrak district and restore peace and amity," said Home Department Additional Chief Secretary Satyabrata Sahu in an official letter. Police detained nine persons in connection with the Friday violence. Meanwhile, Section 163 under Dhmanagar NAC and other nearby areas. At least 10 platoons of police forces have been deployed in Puruna Bazar while another four platoons of police have been deployed in Dhamnagar NAC and Dobl village, it was learnt. Speaking to the media, DIG (Eastern Range) Satyajit Nayak said, "It is very unfortunate that such an incident occurred due to a social media post. Both the police and district administration is in full alert mode. 10 platoon force is doing flag march in the riot-affected areas." "No one will be spared. Strong action will be taken against the culprits. I will also appeal to the people here to not believe in rumours. We have already registered an FIR and a probe is on. The Cyber Crime Cell is working to find out who posted the objectionable post," he stated. "Night patrolling will be there and flag marching is on. PCR and patrolling vans have been stationed in all major junctions. A peace committee is in talks with the religious leaders of both sides. I appeal to people of both the communities to maintain peace," he added. Meanwhile, as many as three senior police officials including Bhadrak Town SI, IIC and City DSP were seriously injured in stone pelting. The vehicle of Bhadrak Tehsildar was also damaged in the clashes.

State to have Forensic Varsity campus

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
A representative team of the National Forensic Science University met Chief Minister Mohan Majhi here on Friday. As per Odisha Government officials, there is a need for such an institution in the State in view of increasing cybercrimes. The State Government will reportedly provide all kinds of support to establish the campus. It will also be very helpful in creating skilled professionals in the field of crime investigation and crime prevention. This will facilitate training of police officers in the State on cyber security and also help meet the requirement of scientific officers in the State. CM Majhi said steps would subsequently be taken to develop it as a centre of excellence.

Cleanliness drive at Paikanagar by GSI



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
Under the Swachhata Hi Seva 2024 and Special Campaign 4.0 from September 17 to October 2, the officers and staff of Geological Survey of India here carried out a massive cleanliness drive at Paikanagar near Vivekananda Hospital, Baramunda on Thursday. The aim of the special drive was to carry out a cleanliness drive at a blind spot, which normally do not get attention to get cleaned on regular basis under the banner Swachhata in Cleanliness Target Unit (CTU) of Sampurna Swachhata including Swachhata Lakshit Ekayi. Under the activity, the area has got transformed from a garbage dumping site to a clean site, which can be further developed into a park for rejoice of nearby residents. In spite of heavy downpour, the employees of GSI, Bhubaneswar took part in the drive whole heartedly led by Pankaj Kumar, DDG in the presence of Dr Ashit Kumar Swain, Director and Head of Office, Dr JP Mohakul, Director (TC), PK Behera, Nodal Officer and many other officials. A plantation drive under the theme of 'Ek Ped Maakenaam' was also carried out during the drive.

ICMAI holds meet on role of RERA

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI), Bhubaneswar Chapter, in collaboration with the Odisha Real Estate Regulatory Authority (ORERA), organised a seminar on the theme "Role of RERA in the Real Estate Sector" on Saturday. Chairperson of Odisha RERA Siddhanta Das inaugurated the seminar. Member (Admin) Pradeep Kumar Biswal along with the Dist Judge (retired), Member (Judicial) was guests of honour. Damodara Mishra, secretary, ICMAI-EIRC, was a special guest. Ramesh Chandra Patra, chairman, ICMAI-Bhubaneswar Chapter, delivered the welcome address. All dignitaries highlighted on recent development of the rules under the Real Estate Act & Regulations. Barada Prasan Nayak, secretary, ICMAI-Bhubaneswar Chapter, coordinated the event. Over 150 participants including CMA members, executives from Odisha RERA, members of CREDAI, promoters, agents, home buyers, apartment associations, builders, advocates and other stakeholders participated.

Bharatpur PS case

Tweet war unfolds between Army veterans, ex-cops

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The alleged torture of an Indian Army officer and the sexual assault of his fiancée by five cops at Bharatpur police station has triggered outrage among Army veterans and retired IPS officers. While Army veterans, including General VK Singh, expressed shock and termed the incident 'shameful and horrendous', retired IPS officers have come out in support of the suspended cops and questioned the behaviour of the Major and his fiancée. The allegations and counter-allegations have sparked an online war between Army veterans and police personnel, particularly on social media. Commenting on the issue, former Army Chief General and ex-Union Minister VK Singh demanded immediate action against the police personnel and all those who are trying to shield 'the criminals in police uniform.' "Everyone must listen to the fiancée of the Army officer, daughter of ex-Army Officer. What happened to her in PS Bharatpur in Odisha is shameful and horrendous. Odisha CM should take immediate action against the police personnel and all who are trying to shield the criminal in police uniform," he tweeted. Similarly, Major Gaurav Arya (Retired) urged Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to intervene and tweeted, "The policemen who did this need to go to jail and their senior leadership held to account. Rajnath Singh sir, request you to step in and address this matter. I have spoken to many serving/retired officers and men. There is tremendous rage in the Army." "Odisha police misbehaved with an Army officer and that in itself is a crime. That they grossly mistreated, humiliated and tortured a lady, there is no forgiveness for this," he added. Similarly, Major General Harsha Kakar shared, "Drama by Odisha Police. They are protecting molesters, bribe takers, crooked police and abusers of women. They are not defending truth..." Similarly, many other Army veterans voiced their concerns on social media platforms and demanded stringent action against the 'errant' cops. On the other hand, the Odisha Retired Police Officers Welfare Association alleged the Army Major and his fiancée as being drunk on the time of incident. They were also accused of 'drunk driving.' Former CBI director M Nageswara Rao, through a tweet said that it was not right to castigate the Odisha Police. "In Bhubaneswar city, an Army officer and his fiancée consume 10 pegs of liquor and drive a car in the mid of night around 2 am, indulge in brawl with engineering students, and then land up in Bharatpur police station creating ruckus, so much so that the PS staff had to seek help of PCR. When sent to hospital for medical examination and blood test which is the standard protocol of investigation, they refused," Rao tweeted. He further replied to VK Singh's tweet and wrote, "Sir, we the Indian Police, respect and honour our Military because that is the last resort in defending the country from external enemies. A reciprocation from the Military towards Police which defends the country from internal enemies, is a normal expectation. Our work is complementary as we together protect the country from within and without." "Sir, it is not done that you, having been a Chief of Army Staff and later a Central Minister, jumped to conclusion and castigated Odisha Police for the drunken brawl and uncouth behaviour of an Army officer and his fiancée, and Odisha Police officers were not even at fault," he added. The Odisha Retired Police Officers Welfare Association also made similar allegations in an open letter.

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4 tourists die in bus mishap in B'swar



16 critically injured

PNS ■ BALESWAR
Four tourists, including a woman from Uttar Pradesh, were killed when the bus in which they were travelling overturned on NH-16 in Baleswar district late on Friday night.

near the Chalanti bypass under the Jaleswar police limits.

The deceased were identified as Rajesh Mishra, Santaram Yadav, Kamala Devi Yadav and Rajprasad Yadav. Twenty-two passengers sustained injuries in the mishap of which the conditions of 16 are stated to be critical and they are undergoing treatment at the Baleswar District Headquarters Hospital.

Jaleswar SDPO Dilip Sahu said, "The bus turned turtle between 1 am and 1:30 am on Friday."

5 hurt in mishap at Rourkela Steel Plant

Workers allege flouting of SOPs

PNS ■ ROURKELA

At least five persons, including an officer and four workers, were injured in an explosion at the SMS-1 of the Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) on Saturday. The workers sustained burn injuries after molten iron splashed on them.

The workers' association blamed the plant authorities for the mishap. Prasant Behera, general secretary, Rourkela Labour Union said, "The hood of SMS-1 usually gets cloaked and there was no problem in clearing it. However, as there was water leakage, hot molten iron fell on water which caused a blast, leading to the accident."

Behera further said that though there are various SOPs

and safety programmes, all such issues are neglected when it comes to meet production targets. "The officer has sustained around 35 to 40 per cent burn injuries and the injured were admitted to the Ispat General Hospital," Behera added. An employee of the SMS-1 said, "There was leakage of water and production is continuing. The clearing of the hood of the converter is done in operation as production needs to continue while it should have been cleared during cooling process. We had demanded to prevent the water leakage before the zonal safety committee and central safety committee." The RSP authorities were yet to comment on the incident or the allegations made by the workers.

In Keonjhar Man on mission for a greener Earth



PNS ■ KEONJHAR

At a time when global warming and climate change have emerged as major concerns, a man in Keonjhar is on a mission to ensure a greener Earth for the future generation.

Meet Trilochan Sahoo, a resident of Anandapur, who has been planting trees over the last one decade and turning barren lands into small forests.

A recipient of Prakruti Bandhu award, Sahoo has planted more than 1,600 trees

at various places in Anandapur subdivision this year alone. Besides, he has launched a campaign 'Mu Gachha Kahuchi' to create awareness about preservation of forests and wildlife.

As part of the campaign, Sahoo is urging people to plant at least one tree on their birthdays and take care of the plant.

Sahoo said he recently transformed a huge ditch into a small forest near the Baitarani river adjacent to a primary school in Fakirpur. He along with his friends planted more than 150 fruit and flower trees in the ditch.

In Boudh Man shot at by Sarpanch over old enmity



PNS ■ BOUDH

A man sustained critical bullet injuries after the Sarpanch of his village allegedly opened fire at him on Friday at Kasurbandh under the Mamamunda police station in Boudh district.

The victim was identified as Rajendra Karn. He was rushed to the local Community Health Centre and later shifted to the Subarnapur District Headquarters Hospital after his condition worsened.

The accused Sarpanch was identified as Saroj Karn. While no exact motive behind the attack was yet to be ascertained, locals said the incident was fallout of an old enmity.

The Sarpanch's family was at loggerheads with Rajendra

over some dispute. A fight broke out between the two over some matter at night and soon Saroj along with his brother and father attacked Rajendra.

The situation further escalated after Saroj, out of rage, took out a pistol and fired at Rajendra. Still not satisfied, Saroj fired two more rounds at Rajendra's legs, leaving him critically injured.

Also Saroj and his brother and father then beat up Rajendra with lathis as he lay in a pool of blood, Rajendra's family members alleged. Villagers intervened and rushed Rajendra to the Manmunda CHC. On being informed, the Manmunda police rushed to the village and began a probe into the incident.

'MSMEs are backbone of economy'



CII's MSME FinFest held at Jharsuguda

PNS ■ JHARSUGUDA

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) hosted the inaugural edition of the CII MSME FinFest 2024 here. The event focused on bridging the gap between MSMEs and financial institutions, providing easier access to credit.

Chairman, CII Odisha State Council Dr Pradipta Mohanty emphasised the role of MSMEs as the backbone of the economy, contributing to GDP growth, industrial output, and exports.

Chairman, CII West Odisha, Anil Kumar Singh highlighted Odisha's growth potential in various sectors but stressed the need for timely financial support to MSMEs.

The event saw participation from industry leaders, banks, and Government representatives, including Jharsuguda MLA Tankadhar Tripathy, who urged CII to create a roadmap for MSME growth in Odisha. Bank officials also discussed schemes designed to support MSMEs.

The conclave featured B2B sessions, fostering collaborations between MSMEs and financial institutions.

User fee scam: Venal B'garh civic body staffs face music

RAKEHS JOSHI ■ BARGARH

The Bargarh administration has taken strict action against the Bargarh Municipality staff members who tampered with user fee receipt books, embezzling lakhs of rupees.

While Sanitary experts Sushant Pradhan and Parthasarathy Sethi have been shifted from the workplace, district Collector Aditya Goyal suspended Cashier Debananda Rana. FIR was

also lodged against the staff members who committed the irregularities. On a formal complaint at Bargarh Town PS by Municipality Executive Officer Haraprasad Bhoi, the police filed a case under Sections 409 and 34 of BNS and initiated an investigation. Police also began a search operation to apprehend the suspect.

After a probe into the scam, it was found that the irregularities were going on for

many years. However, when it came to the fore, some big-wigs first attempted to cover it up.

Chairman Kalpana Majhi, Deputy Chairman Rajesh Agarwal, and other councillors demanded the district Collector Aditya Goyal to take strict action against the culprits.

According to sources, an accused employee collecting user fees from residences, businesses, malls etc. in Bargarh

Municipally area was hand in gloves with the cashier and the Sanitary Expert of the Municipal Council. The receipt copy was tampered with when depositing the cash. In this way, they managed to gulp 90 per cent of the collected user fees and distributed the butty among themselves.

Out of 78 receipt books issued in the financial year 2023-24, 50 receipt books were tampered with, while 10 receipt books were still missing.

'Deen Dayal revered icon of integral humanism'

PNS ■ BRAHMAMPUR

Hundreds of volunteers, BJP workers, students, intellectuals and scribes took part in the observance of the 108th Birth Anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya under the banner "Swatcha Bharat" programme. It was organised by the Ganjam NAC at the historic Potagada fort in Ganjam on Wednesday.

Prominent among the dignitaries who attended include Brahmampur MP Dr Pradip Panigrahi, former Deputy Speaker of Assembly and senior BJP leader Rama Chandra Panda, Chhatrapur MLA Krushna Chandra Nayak, Chairperson of Ganjam NAC Prativa Padhi, journalist



Lakshmi Padhi and Durga Panigrahi.

Speaking on the occasion, Panda said that Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya was a leading Indian philosopher, economist, sociologist, historian and political activist who pro-

pounded the concept of 'Antyodaya' which means the "rise of the last person". He stressed on 'Antyodaya' to rid the nation of extreme poverty which also formed a part of his core philosophy of "integral humanism". A revered icon of

integral humanism, he was an ideologue and a guiding force for an alternative model of governance and politics. He visualized for India a decentralized polity and self-reliant economy with the village as the base, he added.

Friends Club's 14th eye donation drive

PNS ■ BRAHMAMPUR

Vasadi Subarnamala (76), wife of late Vasadi Bhaskar Rao, died due to old age issues at her residence at Batcuvari Street of Bada Bazar area in Brahmampur.

Friends Club member E Laxmikant motivated the bereaved family for eye donation and the latter agreed. Dr Manish Oram, Dr Smriti Ranjan Dhar of Eye Department, MKCG Medical College Hospital, Brahmampur collected "both the eye balls" of deceased Subarnamala at her residence.

Subarnamala is survived by his two sons Badrinarayana



and Tirumula Rao and one daughter Konchada Madhuri.

The family members VV Rao, K Mohan Rao, Achyut, Pandab Patro, Bhusan Patro, Surjyanarayana Patro, Mohan Rao, Soubhagyam and Uma Rani among others were present on the occasion. This was the 14th case of eye donation drive by the Friends Club.

In Baleswar Man gets 20-yr RI for raping minor girl

PNS ■ BALESWAR

Special Judge, POCSO, Ranjan Kumar Sutar on Saturday convicted a person for raping a minor girl in Baleswar district and sentenced him to undergo 20 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI).

The court also ordered the convict to pay a fine of Rs 8,000 and in default to undergo another two years' RI.

The convict Pravat Sethi (28), a native of Kamakhyanagar in Dhenkanal district, had allegedly kidnapped a 15-year-old girl and sexually assaulted her after lodging her in Puri town.

Later, the father of the victim lodged a complaint against Pravat in the Khaira police station that the latter had kidnapped his daughter when she went to attend her computer classes.

An FIR was registered on July 29, 2023 and the accused was arrested.

The court after examining 12 witnesses and 18 exhibits pronounced the verdict. The court also ordered for a Rs 4-lakh compensation to be paid to the victim through the District Legal services authority (DLSA), said Special Public Prosecutor Pranab Kumar Panda.

Changes to be brought in Hirakud's rule curve

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Given the changing circumstances and drastic variations in the water inflow and demand from the Hirakud reservoir, the State Government has decided to bring some changes in the dam's rule curve to adapt it to the present-time need.

As per reports, the Water Resource Department has already started the process in this regard. A committee has been formed led by the Planning and Design Engineer-in-Chief of the department Lingaraj Gouda.

The committee would evaluate the existing rule curve and suggest necessary changes required in view of the conflicts in dam operation due to demands for water for various purposes and the effects of climate change.



The rule curves are generally derived by operation studies using historic or generated flows. Many times, due to various conditions like low inflow and meeting minimum requirements for demands, it is not possible to stick to the rule concerning storage levels.

As per sources, deliberation is underway for the desilting of the dam which is reducing the water storage capacity of the dam.

"Hirakud is a huge dam

and it has multi-purpose planning like irrigation, flood control and power generation. We do the inflow forecast of the dam as per the rain forecast. However, rain forecasting is not always accurate. Hence we face problems in water management. We don't have any more dams in the lower catchment area and as a result, we don't have any control over flood control after releasing water from Hirakud," said Gouda.

"Rule curve was prepared after the construction of the dam and it was once revised after 1972. It gives us a general guideline to keep how much water in the dam during heavy flow. But we can have certain exceptions to it. The new government has formed four committees including the rule curve and Mahanadi System Rejuvenation Committee. The committee will review the rule curve and bring necessary changes to it," he added.

BU hosts 'Tourism and Peace' talk

To mark World Tourism Day

PNS ■ BRAHMAMPUR

In a celebration of World Tourism Day 2024, Brahmampur University's Department of Tourism and Travel Studies organised a "Special Lecture" under the theme "Tourism and Peace" on Friday.

The event emphasized the role of tourism in promoting peace, cultural harmony, and global unity, with a special focus on the tourism potential with peace and beauty of Ganjam, Kandhamal and Gajapati districts.

Postgraduate Council Chairman Professor Sukanta Kumar Tripathy spoke on

how tourism can act as a bridge between cultures and foster peace globally.

Journalist Narayan Mahakud shared insights on developing south Odisha's tourism to foster regional peace and prosperity.

Keynote speaker, Dr Sunil Kumar Patnaik highlighted the possibilities of Buddhist tourism in Odisha and how it could influence peace and spirituality, drawing visitors from across the world.

Vice Chancellor Professor Geetanjali Dash's support ensured the programme's success, and first-year student Simran Sahu anchored the event with second-year student Ritupurna Palau delivering the vote of thanks.

Juhar Parivar B'lore holds Nuankhai Mahotsav

Thousands join

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

The Juhar Parivar Bangalore celebrated the 25th Nuankhai Mahotsav with great enthusiasm at KTPO, Whitefield. Over 10,000 people attended the event, making it one of the largest Odia festivals in the city. The festivities began with a traditional Samlei Puja, followed by captivating performances by more than 70 artists from western Odisha.

"We are proud to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the festival, preserving and promoting our culture," said Juhar Parivar Bangalore secretary Satyajit Chai. The event featured

popular singers Ruku Suna and Archana Padhi, along with comedian Jogesh Jojo, who entertained the crowd.

A highlight was the Sambalpuri dance led by Surya Guru, captivating the audience with its energy. Youth performers Harry and Jayashree also thrilled the crowd with Sambalpuri hits. The event also included a fashion show, showcasing traditional Sambalpuri textiles in modern designs.

Dr Byomkesh Dixit was honoured with the Juhar Samman for his contributions to society. President of Juhar Parivar Shobhan Dash expressed gratitude to all for the successful organisation of the event.

FIR against Siddaramaiah exposes Congress corruption: BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday asserted that the registration of a case on several criminal charges, including corruption, against Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has exposed the Congress, as it noted that the FIR was lodged following a court order and central agencies had no role in it. BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi told reporters that it is a rare case of a sitting chief minister being made an accused in a corruption case and has unmasked the "corrupt face" of the Congress. Siddaramaiah is the accused number one in the case, he said and took a swipe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, asking if he stood with the chief minister accused of corrupt practices. The Karnataka Lokayukta police on Friday registered an FIR against Siddaramaiah and others in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority



(MUDA) site allotment case, following the court order. A special court in Bengaluru on Wednesday ordered a Lokayukta police probe against Siddaramaiah in the case, setting the stage for filing an FIR against him. With the Congress leadership accusing the BJP of targeting the chief minister for political reasons, Trivedi noted that the central probe agencies had no role in this FIR.

He claimed that the case is an outcome of Siddaramaiah's own misdeeds, as he and his family abused government powers to acquire assets illegally. He said a Congress candidate in the Haryana assembly polls had recently said that his party leaders will use power to enrich themselves and their relatives, and alleged that the Karnataka chief minister had already been doing it.



While Congress leaders pocket thousands of crores of rupees, they give "lollypop" of a few thousands to people, he said. At the press conference, the BJP spokesperson also slammed the Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal for its "nexus" with criminals over the case of rape of an IAS officer's wife. He made a mention of the Calcutta High Court's critical observation of the police

investigation in the case to hit out at the regional party. It shows how dangerous the state has become for women, and a heinous nexus is visible between government officials and criminals, he alleged. Replying to a question about the poor had no place in the Ram temple inauguration ceremony, Trivedi accused the Congress of repeatedly disrespecting the temple and

noted that workers involved in its construction were felicitated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and showered with flower petals. He objected to the use of phrase like "naach gana" (song and dance) by Gandhi in the context of the temple's inauguration ceremony. He said three generations of Gandhi family had gone to Mughal king Babar's grave in Afghanistan to pay their respects, and claimed that their stand on the temple shows their real nature and contempt for Hinduism. Referring to Pakistani prime minister's comments in the UN targeting India over developments in Kashmir, Trivedi said the Congress-National Conference has also been speaking the same language. Noting that the anniversary of the surgical strikes targeting terrorists in Pakistan in 2016 fell on Saturday, he said the Congress and Pakistan have been echoing each other's views since then.

Youth will defeat BJP, says Kharge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Citing Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data, he said despite all efforts, this Government data is not able to hide the helplessness of the youth. "There is no bigger issue in the country than unemployment. Modi ji has the biggest contribution in ruining the future of the youth. If we take a closer look at the latest data of PLFS, despite all efforts, this Government data is not able to hide the helplessness of the youth," Kharge said in a social media post in Hindi. "Narendra Modi ji must answer — Isn't youth unemployment at a frightening 10.2% in 2023-24? Instead of giving colourful slogans and doing photo ops, what did Modi ji do to provide jobs to the youth?" he asked. Is it not true that the number of women who have regular



salaried jobs is now the lowest in seven years at just 15.9 per cent, Kharge asked. "Has not the number of women engaged in unpaid labour in rural areas increased from 51.9% (2017-18) to 67.4% (2023-24), which reflects rural unemployment? Why has the Modi Government, which makes a lot of noise about the manufacturing sector, not increased employment in it in the last seven years?" the Congress president posed. How did this figure fall from 15.85 per cent in 2017-18 to just 11.4 per cent in 2023-24, he asked.

BHISMA medical kits for Mahakumbh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh, which is readying to host one of the world's largest religious festivals, the Mahakumbh 2025, has sought at least 22 BHISMA kits—India's first indigenous state-of-the-art portable medical facilities housed in a cube—from the Centre to address medical emergencies and ensure prompt healthcare for the anticipated influx of devotees at the mega event. "The UP Government has requested at least 22 portable BHISMA (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog, Hita, and Maitri) Cubes to be installed at strategic locations during the event in Prayagraj which is expected to attract around 40 crore devotees and visitors. Two Cubes will be set up in each of the 11 zones, covering a total of 43 zones," said an official from the HLL lifecare Ltd, a PSU of the Union Health Ministry which has been tasked with assembling the equipments enclosed in the innovative product under the Government's Project Arogya Maitri. Tailored to save the 'Golden Hour' for up to 200 individuals at once, the BHISMA Cubes have already found successful deployments in countries like Laos, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and recently Ukraine when India had gifted four units during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the country. Back home in India, during Ram Mandir inauguration in Ayodhya, it emerged as a crucial lifesaver for a man during a medical emergency.

Dr Ankita, a member of the taskforce of the Union Defence Ministry for the Government's Project Arogya Maitri, shared that the Cubes are portable and rapidly deployable modular medical facilities intended to provide emergency lifesaving clinical care in event of disaster/public health emergencies. These can be deployed within minutes and entails operation theatre, mini-ICU, ventilator, blood test equipment, X-ray machine, cooking station, food, water, shelter, power generator and much more. Due to its modular design and ease of use, it can be transported by air, sea, land, or drone, ensuring timely medical assistance to even the most remote locations. The Cubes will help expedite treatment of the injured and save precious lives. These cubes can handle several severe injuries including 40 bullet injuries, 25 major bleeds, 25 major burns, around 10 head injuries, long limb fractures, spinal injuries, chest injuries and spinal fractures, she explained. The BHISMA cube is already finding huge takers. The Union Health Minister JP Nadda too recently announced that there are plans to set up BHISHM Cubes in 25 AIIMS and Institutes of National Importance (INIs) for rapid deployment in the respective region in case of disaster / health emergencies in the first phase. To enable operators to swiftly find items, track their usage and expiration dates, the cutting-edge BHISHM has a software system in a tablet along with the Cubes.



Modi pays tribute to Lata Mangeshkar on her birth anniversary

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday paid tributes to renowned playback singer Lata Mangeshkar on her 95th birth anniversary, and recalled his "special bond" with her. He said in a social media post, "Remembering Lata Didi on her birth anniversary. She will always live on in the hearts and minds of people due to her soulful songs. 'Lata Didi and I had a special bond. I have been fortunate to receive her affection and

blessings," he added. The Prime Minister also shared an article written by her brother and music composer Hridaynath Mangeshkar in a national daily, which highlighted the bond between Modi and the great singer. The unchallenged queen of playback singing for several decades, Lata Mangeshkar has been hailed by connoisseurs for her mastery of the intricacies of classical music and adored by the masses for her popular connect of her voice.

Justice system must respond to disabled children's vulnerabilities: CJI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud on Saturday said it must be ensured that the justice system, from the police stations to the courtrooms, understands and responds to the compounded vulnerabilities of children with disabilities. Speaking at the ninth National Annual Stakeholders Consultation on Child Protection, the CJI said the challenges faced by persons with disabilities extend far beyond issues of physical accessibility and they must also contend with entrenched societal biases, stereotypes and misconceptions that permeate nearly every facet of life. "We must ensure that the justice system, from the police stations to the courtrooms, understands and responds to the compounded vulnerabilities of these children. The incorporation of restorative justice approaches is one such solution. The JJ Act (Juvenile Justice Act) outlines various and



reintegration measures for children in conflict with the law such as counselling, education, vocational training and community service. For children with disabilities, these measures can be adapted to ensure they receive the specialised support they need to thrive," he said. The two-day programme was organised under the aegis of Juvenile Justice Committee of the Supreme Court in association with UNICEF, India. Union Minister for Women and Child Development Annpurna Devi

gave the special address for the two-day programme, while the opening remarks was given by Justice BV Nagarathna, who is also the chairperson of the Juvenile Justice Committee of the Supreme Court. Country representative of Unicef, India Cynthia McCaffrey, gave the introductory address on the topic. The CJI said the challenges faced by persons with disabilities extend far beyond issues of physical accessibility and "they must also contend with entrenched societal

biases, stereotypes, and misconceptions that permeate nearly every facet of life." "When we talk about juvenile justice, especially in the context of children with disabilities, we cannot ignore the concept of intersectionality. Disability often intersects with other marginalised identities such as gender, caste, socio-economic status, and ethnicity, amplifying the discrimination children face," he said, adding the doctrine of intersectionality highlights how multiple identities intersect to create unique experiences of discrimination. Highlighting that for children with disabilities, these compounded vulnerabilities can have devastating effects, the CJI stressed the state must ensure that children with disabilities are provided additional safeguards, recognizing that they face heightened risks and unique challenges. "We must ensure that our legal, social and institutional systems are designed not just to accommodate, but to actively protect and empower these children," he added.

Special Gram Sabhas to guide Panchayat development plans

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Special Gram Sabhas will be held on October two to guide panchayats on preparing their development plans for the 2025-26 financial year, officials in Panchayati Raj Ministry said. The sabhas (meetings) would engage over 2.55 lakh Gram Panchayats (GP) across the country, they said. The training and orientation programme is being conducted under the 'Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas' Abhiyan of the Panchayati Raj Ministry, which is aimed at fostering participatory planning and timely preparation of Panchayat Development Plans (PDPs) across all panchayats in the country. It would involve 20,000 college students who will assist in the handholding and preparation of PDPs across



various gram panchayats, the officials said. According to a ministry official, the special Gram Sabhas would involve over 2.55 lakh gram panchayats, 6,700 block panchayats, and 665 district panchayats. Ahead of the October two programme, the ministry will also organise a national

workshop on September 30, which will bring together representatives from various Union ministries and departments, state departments, faculty members from training institutes, and elected representatives from different levels of Panchayats to share best practices for adoption

across states and UTs. The officials said the workshop will be inaugurated by the Union Minister of Panchayati Raj Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan'. "The Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), coordinated by IIT-Delhi, will play a critical role this year by involving over 20,000 students in the 'Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas' Abhiyan,

also known as the People's Plan Campaign," another official said. These students will participate in the Special Gram Sabha on October two, and also assist in the handholding and preparation of GPDs across various Gram Panchayats, the official added. "The partnership between UBA and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj aims to engage young minds in grassroots-level planning, marking a first in the history of the campaign," the official said. Young Fellows working under the 'Project for Creating Model Gram Panchayat Clusters' as well as Fellows from Piramal Foundation, Aspirational Bharat Collaborative and Transforming Rural India Foundation will play a crucial role in co-facilitating the October 2 Gram Sabha, the official added. The sarpanchs (village head)

would be provided help in pre-planning and orientation on Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDG) and their themes, orienting Gram Sabha members on Panchayat Development Index (PDI) scores, and in identifying appropriate interventions. Additionally, special sabha-orientation programmes will be held in 750 Gram Panchayats, where senior citizens aged above 75 will share their experiences, the official said. A tree plantation campaign under the banner "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam", involving the planting of 75 trees in each Gram Panchayat will also be undertaken, during which the participants will take pledges on "swachhata" (cleanliness), "Nasha-mukt Bharat" (drug-free India), Fit India, and youth-driven visions for the future, according to the official.

Health Ministry drafts guidelines for passive euthanasia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Brainstem death declaration, medical consensus on the patient's prognosis, documented informed refusal from the patient or surrogate, and adherence to Supreme Court protocols are some of the major specific conditions that have been outlined in the Union Health Ministry's draft guidelines for withdrawing life support in terminally ill patients. The 'Draft Guidelines for Withdrawal of Life Support in Terminally Ill Patients' come weeks after the Supreme Court refused to grant an aged couple's plea to

allow "passive euthanasia" for their 30-year-old son, who has been lying comatose at home for 11 years after a fall from the fourth floor of a building. In 2018 also an elderly couple from Maharashtra had written to the President's office, seeking permission for "active euthanasia", where a person is killed, usually by administering an overdose of pain-killers. The legality of euthanasia varies across the globe, with a small number of countries like Belgium and Australia permitting it under strict conditions. As per the Ministry, these guidelines aim to ensure

ethical decision-making while recognizing that many patients in critical care may not benefit from continued life support. The Ministry is seeking feedback from the stakeholders before finalizing the guidelines. As per the draft, the conditions are whether the individual has been declared brainstem death, if there is a medical prognostication and considered opinion that the patient's disease condition is advanced and not likely to benefit from aggressive therapeutic interventions, patient/surrogate documented informed refusal, following prognostic awareness, to continue life

support and compliance with procedure prescribed by the Supreme Court. It also states that doctors should take a considered decision to not start a life supporting measure in a terminally ill patient that is unlikely to benefit the patient and is likely to lead to suffering and loss of dignity. In such a case, three conditions — on whether the individual has been declared brainstem death, if there is a medical prognostication and considered opinion that the patient's disease condition is advanced and not likely to benefit from aggressive therapeutic interventions, patient/surrogate



documented informed refusal, following prognostic awareness — has to be taken into account. It also discusses the importance of Advance

Medical Directives (AMD), which allow patients to specify their treatment preferences in advance. However, IMA's national President Dr R V Asokan

stated that the proposed guidelines expose doctors to legal scrutiny and put them under stress. "Such clinical decisions have always been taken in good faith by doctors. The patient's relatives are explained and given all information, taken into confidence in a given case and decision is taken on merit in every single case. Putting it down in sort of guidelines and also alleging that inappropriate decisions have been taken or they have been prolonged is misunderstanding the situation," Dr Asokan told a news agency. "First the perception and

assumption that unnecessarily machines are used and lives are prolonged is wrong. It exposes the doctors to legal scrutiny. "More so what is left of a doctor-patient relationship... Trying to define it in four corners of black and white documentation which is legally scrutinised is nothing but exposing the doctors to further stress," he said. Terminal illness in the draft guidelines has been defined as an irreversible or incurable condition from which death is inevitable in the foreseeable future. Severe traumatic brain injury which shows no recovery after 72 hours or more is also included.

Mumbai on high alert ahead of Navratri, Diwali festivities

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Mumbai police have placed the country's commercial capital on a high-alert on Saturday, after they received a tip-off from the central intelligence agencies about a possible threat of a terror strike in public places during the upcoming Navratri-Diwali festival season.

The police have beefed up security in and around the metropolis, particularly at the religious and crowded public places. The police stations across the city have been directed to maintain a strict vigilance at temples, tourist spots and other important locations.

The police on Friday conducted a mock drill at the Crawford Market area, where there are two famous religious sites including the Juma Masjid. "We are also conducting such mock drills in other parts of the city," a senior police officer said.

In a related development, the famous Siddhivinayak Temple at Prabhadevi in north-central Mumbai has come under a thick security blanket. Confirming that the Mumbai police had asked the temple management to beef up security in the temple, Sada Sarvankar, the chairman of the



Siddhivinayak Temple Trust, said: "We have been asked by Mumbai Police to increase the security at the temple. We have been told to pay attention to all the security arrangements." Similarly, the management of the major religious places including temples have been advised to increase their internal and external security detail. The Zonal Deputy Commissioners of Police have been asked to keep an eye in their juris-

dictions for any suspicious activities. Security has also been strengthened at railway stations and public installations keeping in view the safety and security of the people. Apart from the upcoming festivals like Navratri and Diwali, the authorities have also considered the forthcoming State Assembly as one of the reasons for increasing the security in and around Mumbai.

The Mumbai police are not taking any chances in matters relating to security in view of the recurring terror strikes that Mumbai has witnessed over the years. The country's commercial capital has witnessed 12 terror strikes ever since it had its first brush with international terrorism on March 12, 1993 when 257 people were killed and 713 others injured. The 12 terrorist strikes have collectively claimed a staggering 704 lives and left 2,300-odd people injured, besides a trial of destruction.

Among these terror strikes, the 1993 serial bombings, the twin blasts at Zaveri Bazar and Gateway of India on August 25, 2003, the July 11, 2006 suburban train bombings and the 26/11 Mumbai attack have been major ones both in terms of casualties and loss of property.

In all, 166 people were killed and 300 others injured in a brazen attack indulged in by the 10 Pakistani terrorists, including Kasab, on various prominent landmarks in the metropolis like Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Taj and Oberoi-Trident hotels, Jewish centre Nariman House, and popular eatery Café Leopold, between the night of November 26 and the morning of November 29, 2008.

Rahul Gandhi asks Jaishankar to help TN fishermen arrested in Sri Lanka

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Saturday raised with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar the issue of the arrest of 37 fishermen from Tamil Nadu and urged him to take up the matter with the Sri Lankan authorities to ensure the early release of the Indian nationals and their boats.

In a letter to Jaishankar, Gandhi said the "recurring incidents of small and marginal Indian fisherfolk being apprehended by Sri Lankan authorities and the unjust seizure of assets and imposition of hefty fines by them warrants strict condemnation". Referring to the arrest of 37 Tamil fishermen and the seizure of their boats by Sri Lankan authorities on September 21, 2024, the Congress leader said, "R Sudha, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) from Mayiladuthurai Parliamentary Constituency informed me that the arrested fishermen are small-scale fisherfolk operating close to the coast, and that



on the day of the incident they had attempted to rescue a Sri Lankan boat in distress." It was stated that despite contacting Sri Lankan authorities for assistance with the rescue, the fishermen were arrested on the grounds of crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line, he said. Furthermore, the fishing boats seized were community property purchased through pooled resources, he said. "A copy of Adv. R. Sudha's representation

is enclosed herewith..," he said. "I request you to kindly take up this matter with the Sri Lankan authorities and ensure the early release of the fishermen and their boats," Gandhi said in his letter to Jaishankar. Tamil Chief Minister M K Stalin had on Monday apprised Jaishankar of the arrest of the 37 Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy and the seizure of three boats while seeking measures for their release.



4.78 million tourist arrived in India this year 2024

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

During the first six months this year, India welcomed nearly 4.78 million foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs), with Bangladesh and the US being the top source countries, according to data available from the Union Tourism Ministry. This reflects a 9.1 per cent increase from the same period in 2023, although it still trails pre-pandemic levels from 2019, which recorded over 5.29 million FTAs.

The FTAs in June 2024 were 7,06,045 as compared to 6,48,008 in June 2023 and 7,26,446 in June 2019 registering a growth of nine per cent and a fall of 2.8 per cent with respect to 2023 and 2019 respectively, according to the data released by the Ministry on the occasion of the World Tourism Day marked on Friday.

"The FTAs during the period January- June 2024 were 47,78,374 as compared to 43,80,239 in January-June 2023 and 52,96,025 in January-June 2019 registering a growth of 9.1 per cent and -9.8 per cent with respect to 2023 and 2019 respectively," it added.

According to the data on the percentage share of FTAs in India during January-June 2024, among the top five source countries were -- Bangladesh (21.55 per cent), the US (17.56 per

cent), the UK (9.82 per cent), Canada (4.5 per cent) and Australia (4.32 per cent). The FTAs trend for the month of June 2024 was similar with Bangladesh (28.49 per cent) occupying the first spot among the top five source countries, followed by the US (22.59 per cent), the UK (6.10 per cent), Australia (3.74 per cent) and Canada (3.01 per cent), as per the data shared by the ministry. In June 2024 alone, FTAs reached 706,045, up from 648,008 in June 2023 but slightly down from 726,446 in June 2019. The increase in foreign exchange earnings, which rose to USD 15,339 billion for January-June 2024, suggests that spending per tourist is higher despite the overall lower number of arrivals.

Leisure travel remains the primary motivation for visitors, with the ministry emphasising the need for vigilance in monitoring and encouraging travellers to report symptoms of illnesses. Notably, recent geopolitical tensions could impact the recovery of inbound tourism. The Ministry also announced the winners of the Best Tourism Villages Competition 2024, recognising 36 villages for their contributions to tourism.

Overall, while inbound tourism is on the rise, it continues to face challenges in fully recovering to pre-pandemic levels, said the experts in the sector.

Yuva Sena sweeps Mumbai University Senate polls

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a mini elections of sorts held ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly polls, the Yuva Sena - the youth wing of the Shiv Sena (UBT) - swept the Mumbai University (MU) Senate polls from the Graduates' constituency by bagging all the 10 seats and handing a humiliating defeat to the ruling BJP's students wing Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) in the polls.

In a repeat of its sweep posted in the March 2018 Mumbai University Senate polls when it had won all the ten seats from the Graduates' constituency, the Yuv Sena - led by Sena MLA and former state minister Aadiya Thackeray - scored a perfect ten when the counting ended in a vast electoral constituency spread over 850-odd affiliated colleges Mumbai and neighbouring districts of

Thane, Palghar, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg. The ABVP drew a blank in the MU Senate polls - in which there were 28 candidates for the ten seats. Nearly 55 per cent of 13,406 graduate-voters had cast their votes in 38 polling stations and 64 polling booths. Candidates required a minimum of 1,114 votes to win in the open category. "Once again! 10 on 10 it is! We have not only repeated but bettered our performance at the Mumbai University Graduate Senate elections. 100 percent strike rate. From here we start the election victory stream," Aadiya Thackeray wrote on micro-blogging site "X" early today, thanking all his colleagues in the Yuva Sena and SS (UBT).

The Yuva Sena not only walked away with all the five open-category seats in the Graduates' constituency, but it also posted



a victory in all five reserved-category seats which included candidates from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Nomadic Tribes, Other Backward Classes, and women. The ten Yuv Sena candidates who romped home in the polls were: Sneha Gawli, Sheetal



Sheth Devrukkhar, Mayur Panchal, Dhanraj Kohchade, Kisan Sawant, Pradeep Sawant, Shashikant Zore, Milind Satam, Alshahi Bhoir and Paramatma Yadav. Yuva Sena supporters celebrated their victory, chanting slogans in favour of their leaders

after the Bombay High Court stayed a directive from Maharashtra's higher and technical education department seeking postponement of the elections.

The counting of votes that took place at the Cowasjee Jehangir Convocation Hall in Mumbai University's Fort campus ended in the small hours of Saturday. Accepting the defeat in the Mumbai University Senate polls, the ABVP's Konkarn region head Sankalp Phaldesai said: "It was an election between political giants and the student union.

We did our best. There may have been some strategic faults, which we will surely introspect. The ABVP congratulates the winning candidates and wishes them the very best. We hope they will now focus on solving the issues of the student fraternity rather than on political agendas."

Sitaram Yechury kept INDIA bloc united: Rahul Gandhi



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi paid emotional tribute to late CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury on Saturday terming him as a glue between

Congress and other parties in the INDIA bloc. Speaking at the condolence meet, Rahul said Yechury was 100% trustworthy person who never compromised. "It's rare to see politics bring out the best in someone. I saw Yechury from the first day I

started my political journey, and I observed him quite carefully. What I found was someone who was flexible and who listened," he said. Whatever he did, he always acted in the best interest of our country. Every single time, his

starting point was India, said Rahul. He shared memories of Yechury's habit of smoking cigarettes, something Yechury was never able to quit.

Rahul also reminisced on the time the two leaders would talk about BJP or the RSS and said that the late leader wouldn't say that they were doing this and that, just that "this is a danger to the country".

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge also paid tribute to Sitaram Yechury and noted his "huge role" in the formation of INDIA bloc.

Left leaders Prakash Karat, Brinda Karat, D Raja, Pinarayi Vijayan, Dipankar Bhattacharya, other opposition leaders Supriya Sule, Kanamozhi, Ferooz Abdullah, Gopal Rai and Ram Gopal Yadav also spoke on the condolence meet.



Three Mpx cases in India till October

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

This year till date India has reported three Mpx cases with two from Kerala who have been infected with the fast spreading Clade One B variant, all the three had traveled abroad.

The first case that the country reported was of a 26-year-old resident of Haryana's Hisar, who had tested positive last month for the West African Clade 2 strain, similar to the earlier 30 cases reported in India from July 2022 onwards. He was admitted to a government hospital in Delhi and later discharged after being fully recovered.

However, the two cases reported from the Southern State have been found to be infected with the fast spreading virus that led the WHO to issue an advisory about the public emergency about the outbreak of the pathogen.

The youth diagnosed with Mpx (Clade One B) in Ernakulam, Kerala, is reported to be in satisfactory condition while receiving treatment at a private hospital in Kochi, said the health official from the State Government.

He exhibited symptoms after returning from the UAE and tested positive following an examination at Kochi airport. This marks the second Mpx case in Kerala; the first involved

a 38-year-old resident of Malappuram who had tested positive for Mpx. Tests revealed that he was infected with the Clade One B variant. Both cases highlight the importance of monitoring and swift testing for travellers showing symptoms like Mpx.

In response to these cases, health authorities stress the importance of monitoring symptoms and encourage anyone feeling unwell after travel to seek medical attention. The World Health Organization has declared Mpx a public health emergency in Africa, with symptoms including fever, headache, sore throat, and muscle aches.

To enhance awareness, health camps have been set up at airports, and isolation facilities are established in 14 districts across the state. Kerala's Health Minister Veena George told reporters in the State. She confirmed that a contact list for the latest patient has been created and that preventive measures are in place. Since Mpx was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the WHO in 2022, India has reported a total of 30 cases. In view of the present situation, health authorities are emphasising on vigilance in monitoring symptoms and discouraging anyone feeling unwell after recent travel to seek immediate medical attention.

FIR against Nirmala Sitharaman over electoral bonds

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In an interesting development, Karnataka police on Saturday registered a case against Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and others on the directions of a court here, following a complaint relating to the now-scrapped electoral bonds scheme. According to police, an FIR was registered under IPC sections 384 (punishment for extortion), 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) against Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, ED officials, BJP leaders JP Nadda, BY Vijayendra, Nalin Kateel, based on the order of a special court.

The complaint was lodged by Adarsh R Iyer, Co-President of 'Janaadhikaara Sangharsha Parishath' (JSP) alleging that the accused "committed extortion under the guise and garb of electoral bonds and benefited to the tune of 8,000 and more crore of rupees. "The complainant further alleged that Sitharaman through the clan-



destine aid and support of ED officials facilitated extortion of thousands of crores of rupees for the benefit of others both at the state and national levels. "The entire extortion racket under the garb of electoral bonds has been

orchestrated hand in glove with officials of BJP at various levels." The Supreme Court in February had struck down the electoral bond scheme, saying it violates the right to information and the freedom of speech and expression under the

Constitution. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramiah, whose resignation is sought by the opposition BJP as an FIR was registered against him over the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment

case, said: "According to BJP leaders' argument, Nirmala Sitharaman should resign now, right?" Responding to this, JD(S) leader and Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy, said: "Why should Nirmala Sitharaman resign? Has electoral bond funds gone to Nirmala Sitharaman's personal account to resign? Has she misused power and benefited herself like you (Siddaramaiah)?" Leader of Opposition in Legislative Assembly and BJP leader R Ashoka said the Congress doesn't have moral right to comment on the Union Finance Minister, and there can be no comparison between the electoral bond issue against her and MUDA case against Siddaramaiah. "...[electoral bond] issue is over, it has been decided by the Supreme Court, and our leader will take necessary action in accordance with law (in connection with FIR). Where is the comparison to a case where you (Siddaramaiah) used the Government (land) for personal benefit, to this (electoral bonds case)..." he said.

Hurricane Helene kills at least 44, cuts a swath of destruction across Southeast US

AP ■ PERRY (FLORIDA)

Hurricane Helene has left an enormous path of destruction across Florida and the southeastern US, killing at least 44 people, snapping towering oaks like twigs and tearing apart homes as rescue crews launched desperate missions to save people from floodwaters.

Among those killed were three firefighters, a woman and her one-month-old twins, and an 89-year-old woman whose house was struck by a falling tree. According to an Associated Press tally, the deaths occurred in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

The Category 4 hurricane knocked out power to some hospitals in southern Georgia, and Gov. Brian Kemp said authorities had to use chainsaws to clear debris and open up roads. The storm had maximum sustained winds of 225 kph when it made landfall late Thursday in a sparsely populated region in Florida's rural Big Bend area, home to fishing villages and vacation hideaways where the state's panhandle and peninsula meet.

Moody's Analytics said it expects USD15 billion to USD26 billion in property damage.

The wreckage extended hundreds of miles northward to northeast Tennessee, where a "dangerous rescue situation" by helicopter unfolded after 54 people were moved to the roof of the Unicoi County Hospital as water rapidly flooded the facility. Everyone was rescued and no one was left at the hospital as of late Friday afternoon, Ballard Health said.

In North Carolina, a lake featured in the movie "Dirty Dancing" overtopped a dam and surrounding neighbourhoods were evacuated, although there were no immediate concerns it would fail. People also were evacuated from Newport, Tennessee, a city of about 7,000 people, amid concerns about a dam near there, although officials later said the structure had not failed.

Tornadoes hit some areas, including one in Nash County, North Carolina, that



critically injured four people. Atlanta received a record 28.24 centimetres of rain in 48 hours, the most the city has seen in a two-day period since record keeping began in 1878, Georgia's Office of the State Climatologist said on the social platform X. The previous mark of 24.36 cm was set in 1886. Some neighbourhoods were so badly flooded that only car roofs could be seen poking above the water. Climate change has exacerbated conditions that allow such storms to thrive, rapidly intensifying in warming waters and turning into powerful cyclones sometimes in a matter of hours.

All five who died in one Florida county were in neighbourhoods where residents were told to evacuate, said Bob Gualtieri, the sheriff in Pinellas County in the St. Petersburg area. Some who stayed ended up having to hide in their attics to escape the rising water. He said the death toll could rise as crews go door-to-door in flooded areas.

More deaths were reported in Georgia and the Carolinas, including two South Carolina firefighters and a Georgia firefighter who died when trees struck their trucks. Video on social media showed sheets of rain and siding coming off buildings in Perry, Florida, near where the storm hit land. A news station showed a home that was overturned, and many communities established curfews.

Also in Perry, the hurricane peeled off the new roof of a church that was replaced after Hurricane Idalia last year. President Joe Biden said he was praying for survivors, and the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

headed to the area. The agency deployed more than 1,500 workers, and they helped with 400 rescues by late morning. In Tampa, some areas could be reached only by boat.

Officials urged people who were trapped to call for rescuers and not tread floodwaters, warning they can be dangerous due to live wires, sewage, sharp objects and other debris. More than 3 million homes and businesses were without power in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas as of late Friday, according to poweroutage.us. The site also showed outages as far north as Ohio and Indiana due to Helene's rapid northward movement throughout the day.

In Georgia, an electrical utility group warned of "catastrophic" damage to utility infrastructure, with more than 100 high voltage transmission lines damaged. And officials in South Carolina, where more than 40% of customers were without power, said crews had to cut their way through debris just to determine what was still standing in some places. The hurricane came ashore near the mouth of the Aucilla River, about 20 miles (30 kilometers) northwest of where Idalia hit last year at nearly the same ferocity. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said the damage from Helene appears to be greater than the combined effects of Idalia and Hurricane Debby in August. Soon after it crossed over land, Helene weakened to a tropical storm and later a post-tropical cyclone. Forecasters said it continued to produce catastrophic flooding, and some areas received more than a foot of rain.

Forecasters warned of flooding in North Carolina that could be worse than anything seen in the past century. Evacuations were underway and around 300 roads were closed statewide. The Connecticut Army National Guard sent a helicopter to help. School districts and universities cancelled classes. Florida airports that closed due to the storm reopened Friday. Inspectors were examining bridges and causeways along the Gulf Coast, the state's transportation secretary said.

Iranian Gen also killed in Israeli strike in Beirut

AP ■ DUBAI

A prominent general in Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard died in an Israeli airstrike that killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut, Iranian media reported Saturday. The killing of Gen. Abbas Nilforushan marks the latest casualty suffered by Iran as the nearly yearlong Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip teeters on the edge of becoming a regional conflict. His death further ratchets up pressure on Iran to respond, even as Tehran has signalled in recent months that it wants to negotiate with the West over sanctions crushing its economy. Nilforushan, 58, was killed Friday in the strike in Lebanon that killed Nasrallah, the state-owned Tehran Times reported.

Ahmad Reza Pour Khaghan, the deputy head of Iran's judiciary, also confirmed Nilforushan's death, describing him as a "guest to the people of Lebanon," the state-run IRNA news agency said. Khaghan also reportedly said that Iran had the right to retaliate under international law. The US Treasury had identified Nilforushan as the deputy commander for operations in the Guard. It sanctioned him in 2022 and said he had led an organisation "directly in charge of protest suppression." Those sanctions came amid the monthslong protests in Iran over the death of Mahsa Amini following her arrest for allegedly not wearing her headscarf, or hijab, to the liking of police.

Nilforushan also served in Syria, backing President Bashar Assad in his country's decades-long war that grew out of the 2011 Arab Spring. Like many of his colleagues, he began his military career in the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s. In 2020, Iranian state television called him a "comrade" of Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the head of its expeditionary Quds Force who was killed in a US drone attack in Baghdad that year.



Smoke rises as a building collapses in Beirut's southern suburbs on Saturday.

AP/PTI

Brazil judge sets fresh terms for X to resume services

AP ■ SAO PAULO

Brazilian Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes has added conditions for Elon Musk's X to have its service reestablished in the country, one day after the social media platform said it had complied with all the judge's demands, including naming a legal representative.

De Moraes said in a ruling on Friday that X may only be reinstated in Brazil after another company linked to the billionaire, satellite-based internet service provider Starlink, withdraws its appeals related to the case. X has been blocked in Brazil for nearly a month. De Moraes ordered the shutdown after sparring with Musk for months over free speech, far-right accounts and misinformation. Earlier this month, de Moraes ordered Starlink's assets be used to cover X's fines that already exceeded USD3 million.

The Brazilian justice argued the two companies are part of the same economic group — a justification that has been questioned by some legal experts. His new ruling also established a fine of 10 million Brazilian reais (USD1.84 million). Experts examining X's IP addresses — numeric designations that identifies sites' location on the internet — said the company temporarily routed users through the servers of Cloudflare, a content delivery network. X said it changed its servers to service clients in Latin America, which inadvertently brought the social media network back online in Brazil. One source familiar with the judge's decision told The Associated Press that both de Moraes' conditions are new. The source spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak publicly. De Moraes also accepted X's newly designated legal representative, but fined her in 300,000 reais (USD55,000) for not complying with other decisions he made in August. The company's lack of a legal representative in the country was the trigger for his decision to suspend the social media channel on August 30. The company has clashed with de Moraes since earlier this year over free speech, accounts associated with the far-right and misinformation on the platform, and it claims to be a victim of censorship. Musk and his supporters have called de Moraes an authoritarian and a censor for his rulings, but those have been repeatedly upheld by his peers — including X's nationwide suspension. On August 28, X said it was removing all remaining Brazil staff in the country "effective immediately", saying de Moraes had threatened its legal representative in the country with arrest.

BRIDGE RENEWAL WORKS AT KATHIHAR DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No. KIR/Engg/39 of 2024 Dated: 20-09-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No. 1 Name of work:** Hatwar-Maldia Town (UP/DN)-TSR (P) Bridge Approach-13.400 Tkm & Bridge Approach Sleeper-66 sets under the jurisdiction of Sr. DENI/Kathihar. **Tender Value:** ₹3,23,01,499.77/- **Bid Security:** ₹3,11,500/- **Tender No. 2 Name of work:** (A) BG TRR (P) of the existing 60 kg Rail by 60 kg/90 UTS Rail on PSC-6 sleeper from Km 144.30 to 145.10 (UP line), from Km 149.20 to 152.40, 156.70 to 157.40, 157.60 to 158.40, 158.70 to 159.10, 162.60 to 164.70, 165.10 to 165.90, 166.00 to 167.00 (DN line) between Hatwar-Kumedpur section under the jurisdiction of Sr. DENI/Kathihar (Total = 9.80 Km) (B) BG TTR (P) of the existing 60kg rail in 12 (FS) by 60 Kg/1 in 12 (TWS) by 60 Kg/1 in 12 (TWS) Pt. No. 104, 110, 109, 103, 105, 101 at Kumarganj yard, Pt. No. 122 at Eklakhi under the jurisdiction of Sr. DENI/Kathihar (Grand Total = 7 sets). **Tender Value:** ₹95,25,423.56/- **Bid Security:** ₹1,90,500/- **Tender No. 3 Name of work:** (A) BG TTR(P) of the existing 60kg rail in 12 (FS) by 60 Kg/1 in 12 (TWS) Pt. No. 101 at Ambari Falakata Yard, Pt. No. 111, 113, 115, 116 at Belakoba Yard, Pt. No. 121, 122 at Raninagar Jalpaiguri Jn. Yard (Total = 7 Sets), BG TTR(P) of the existing 52kg rail in 8.5 (FS) by 60 Kg/1 in 8.5 (FS) Pt. No. 107, 108 at Panjipara Yard, Pt. No. 108, 111 at Gaisal Yard (Total = 4 Sets), BG TTR(P) of the existing 60kg rail in 12 (FS) by 60 Kg/1 in 12 (TWS) Pt. No. 101, 105, 102, 103, 104, 105, 107, 125, 124, 123, 122, 121, 127 at Ambari Falakata Yard, Pt. No. 101, 105, 106, 103 at Belakoba Yard, Pt. No. 101, 102, 103, 105, 106, 107, 126, 124, 125, 127, 131 at Raninagar Jalpaiguri Jn. Yard (Total = 26 Sets) under the jurisdiction of DEN/Line/Kathihar. (B) BG TTR(P) of the existing 60kg rail in 12 (FS) by 60 Kg/1 in 12 (TWS) Pt. No. 101, 105, 102, 110 at Mangurjan yard, Pt. No. 101, 103, 105, 102, 106 at Tin Mile Hat Yard, Pt. No. 101, 105, 102, 104, 106, 110 at Dumdangi Yard, Pt. No. 103, 105, 102, 106, 110 at Chatter Hat Yard under the jurisdiction of DEN/Line/Kathihar (Grand total = 20 sets). **Tender Value:** ₹2,52,16,656.79/- **Bid Security:** ₹2,76,100/- **Tender No. 4 Name of work:** New Jalpaiguri Jn. Kishanganj & Raninagar Jalpaiguri - New Jalpaiguri Jn. (UP/DN) - Cess Repair - 19.200 Tkm & 12.000 Tkm. **Tender Value:** ₹4,45,14,697.84/- **Bid Security:** ₹3,72,600/- **Tender No. 5 Name of work:** Kathihar-Replacement of Overhead tank at Old Pit line by RCC Over Head tank 30000 gallon under Sr. DENI/Kathihar. **Tender Value:** ₹2,61,27,528.39/- **Bid Security:** ₹2,80,600/- **Tender No. 6 Name of work:** Kathihar-Replacement of MG Loco tank No. 10 by RCC Over Head tank 50000 gallon under Sr. DENI/Kathihar. **Tender Value:** ₹4,58,90,853.67/- **Bid Security:** ₹3,79,500/- **Date & time of closing of tender:** 15.00 hrs. of 21-10-2024 & opening at 15.30 hrs. of 21-10-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15.00 hrs. of 21-10-2024 in website www.ireps.gov.in

Floods, landslides kill 59 in Nepal

Kathmandu (PTI): Floods and landslides caused by incessant rain killed at least 59 people and injured 36 others in Nepal, officials said on Saturday. Parts of Nepal have been inundated with rainfall since Thursday, prompting disaster

authorities to warn of flash floods. Nepal Police Deputy Spokesperson Bishwo Adhikari said that out of the 59 people killed in the Himalayan nation due to the continuous rainfall, 34 were killed in the

Kathmandu valley. As many as 36 people were also injured in the floods. A total of 44 people remain missing countrywide, with 16 missing in Kathmandu Valley. More than 1,000 people have also been rescued.

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

Tender Notice No.: S/21/2024-25, Dtd: 27-09-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following works.

SI.No.:1; Tender No.: 50/24/5162/OT/170/2024-25; **Closing/Opening Date:** 02-10-2024. **Brief Description:** 1) Schedule item No 1.Coral Flexicom 6000 Exchange 24 SLS Card [Warranty Period: 36 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [Item Type: Goods]. Qty-20 Nos for SSE/TELE/AUTO/Maligaon, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-539836680130. 2) Schedule item No2.Coral Flexicom 6000 Exchange 24 SFT Card [Warranty Period: 36 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [Item Type: Goods]. Qty-4 Nos for SSE/TELE/AUTO/Maligaon, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-501027190060. 3) Schedule item No 3.Coral Flexicom 6000 Exchange PPS Card [Warranty Period: 36 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [Item Type: Goods]. Qty-5 Nos for SSE/TELE/AUTO/Maligaon, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-539836680141. 4) Schedule item No 4. Coral Flexicom 6000 Exchange RPS Card [Warranty Period: 36 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [Item Type: Goods]. Qty-4 Nos for SSE/TELE/AUTO/Maligaon, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-501024960097. 5) Schedule item No 5. Coral Flexicom 6000 Exchange PB ATS Card [Warranty Period: 36 Month after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [Item Type: Goods]. Qty-6 Nos for SSE/TELE/AUTO/Maligaon, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-560608650050.

SI.No.:2; Tender No.: 30/24/0333/OT/171/2024-25; **Closing/Opening Date:** 03-10-2024. **Brief Description:** Head stock complete for BG/ICF, as per Drg. No. Drg. No.ICF/STD-1-2-001, Colum-III, alt-I/5 specn: Mat.Spec.-As per drg. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp. No, Stages: 0] [Item Type: Goods]. 1) Qty- 6 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty- 18 Nos for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-30126150.

SI.No.:3; Tender No.: 30/24/1275A/OT/172/2024-25; **Closing/Opening Date:** 07-10-2024. **Brief Description:** Primary Spring (INNER) for Power car (LWLRM), AC Three Tier Sleeper/EOG (LWACCN) to Drawing No. 1277143 Ver.01R or latest Mat Spec.- RDSO/2017/CG-01 (Rev-2) or latest [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [Item Type: Goods]. 1) Qty- 648 Nos for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty- 169 Nos for Pandu/GSD, NFR (Assam), 3) Qty- 100 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 4) Qty- 21 Nos for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal), 5) Qty- 47 Nos for Kathihar/GSD, NFR (Bihar). P.L.No- 33500356.

SI.No.:4; Tender No.: 30/24/0248/OT/173/2024-25; **Closing/Opening Date:** 14-10-2024. **Brief Description:** Decorative thermosetting synthetic resin bonded Laminated Sheet, Size:3x1220x2440 mm. IR marking as per drg. RDSO Shade Pattern NAC- SP05. Drawing - RDSO Drg. No.- SK-88143, alt-1. Mat. Spec. - C-K 514(With Amnd. Slip. No-7) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. 1) Qty-70 Nos for Kathihar/GSD, NFR (Bihar), 2) Qty- 4010 Nos for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 3) Qty- 126 Nos for Pandu/GSD, NFR (Assam), 4) Qty- 100 Nos for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, (West Bengal), 5) Qty-3020 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 30478200.

SI.No.:5; Tender No.: 37/24/0665/OT/174/2024-25; **Closing/Opening Date:** 14-10-2024. **Brief Description:** Draft gear assembly RF 361. Drawing - RDSO Drg. No. - WD-81010-S-3, Alt-12, item-19. Mat. Spec. - 71-BD-15 Rev-01 of November 2017. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [Item Type: Goods]. i) Qty-50 Nos for Pandu/GSD, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty- 1500 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 381344676

SI.No.:6; Tender No.: 37/24/0878/OT/175/2024-25; **Closing/Opening Date:** 14-10-2024. **Brief Description:** Flap door complete for BCNA Wagon Drg. No: RDSO, WD-90030-S-66 item-3, 13,14,15 & 16, alt-10. Mat. Spec: As per Drg. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [Item Type: Goods]. 1) Qty- 664 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty- 20 Nos for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal). P.L.No- 38450756.

SI.No.:7; Tender No.: 30/24/1094/OT/176/2024-25; **Closing/Opening Date:** 14-10-2024. **Brief Description:** Roller Blind Complete for LHB type coaches as per RCF specification No. MDT5 078 REV-03 Mat. Spec.-MDT5 078 REV-03. [Warranty Period: 36 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [Item Type: Goods]. i) Qty- 47 Nos for Pandu GSD, NFR (Assam), ii) Qty 2149 Nos for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR(West Bengal), iii) Qty-52 Nos for Kathihar GSD, NFR(Bihar). P.L.No-33556088.

SI.No.:8; Tender No.: 60/24/5013A/OT/177/2024-25; **Closing/Opening Date:** 14-10-2024. **Brief Description:** Supply, fitment and commissioning of Eddy Current Array Testing Equipment on turnkey basis with scope of supply and other parameters as per detailed specifications attached. [Warranty Period: 24 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [Item Type: Goods]. Qty-1 Set for SSE/MWS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-657929670011.

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

PCMM, Maligaon

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COURT OF SH. RAJESH MALIK I.D. DJ-06 CENTRAL DISTRICT, ROOM NO. 33 TIS HAZARI COURT DELHI CITATION UNDER SECTION 276 OF THE INDI SUCCESSION ACT, 1925 PC-38/2024

ASHISH GROVER VS. THE STATE & ORS. Whereas an Application under Section 276 of the Indian Succession Act 1925 for grant of Probate/Letter of Administration in respect of the Estate of LATE JAGTAR GROVER S/O LATE SH. HARDAVAL MAL, R/O HOUSE NO. D-42, SECOND FLOOR, RAJOURI GARDEN, NEW DELHI-110027 DIED ON 13.10.2021 AT HORTHURST HOSPITAL FORTSYTH (CUMMING CITY GEORGIA STATE, COUNTY FORTSYTH) HAS BEEN MADE BY ASHISH GROVER S/O LATE JAGTAR GROVER R/O 5765, WILLOW OAK PASS CUMMING, GEORGIA-30040 (U.S.A) LOCAL ADDRESS: J-56, FIRST FLOOR, VISHNU GARDEN, NEW DELHI-110018 THROUGH ATTORNEY HOLDER SHRI SUSHANT SUMAN S/O SHRI BHAGYA NARAYAN SINGH, FLAT NO. 504, SECTOR NO. 2 BRAIRG CROSSING, GOLF COURSE ROAD, PLOT NO. 24, SECTOR-43, SIKANDERPUR GHOSI, GURGAON, HARYANA-122002.

Whereas the 20.11.2024 has been fixed for hearing of the case, notice is hereby given that any person having any interest in the probate/Letter of Administration of the estate of the said deceased if he/she desire to appear in this court of the 20.11.2024 and show the Proceedings before the grant of letter of Administration.

Given under my hand and the Seal of this court, this 27TH day of SEPTEMBER 2024 (SH. RAJESH MALIK) DJ-06 (CENTRAL) DELHI. ROOM NO. 33 TIS HAZARI COURT DELHI

PUBLIC NOTICE

Reg: Entire Ground Floor, without roof rights (i.e. the said floor), on Built-up Property Bearing No. 196, area measuring 60.83 sq. mts. in Pocket No. 09, Sector No. 21, situated in Rohini Residential Scheme, Rohini, Delhi-110085; hereinafter referred to as "said property". Be it known to all that our client, Mr. Kundan Kumar Singh (hereinafter called the "Purchaser") intends to purchase the said floor from Mr. Abhishek Singh (hereinafter called the "Seller"). In this connection, the seller has informed the purchaser that he is the sole and absolute owner of the said floor. The seller has further informed the purchaser that the said floor was owned by Mrs. Anju Singh vide Sale Deed executed by Mr. Pramod Jain and registered as Document No. 2681 on 02/04/2009 (SRO-VI). Mrs. Anju Singh expired and the said floor devolved on her legal heirs viz. Mr. Harbans Singh and Mr. Abhishek Singh. Later on, Mr. Abhishek Singh relinquished his share in the said floor in favour of Mr. Harbans Singh vide Relinquishment Deed registered as Document No. 543 on 07/02/2019 (SRO-VI). Shri Harbans Singh also expired and the said floor devolved on his legal heir viz. Mr. Abhishek Singh. Thus, Mr. Abhishek Singh (present seller) became the sole and absolute owner of the said floor. The seller has also informed the purchaser that the said floor is not mortgaged anywhere and there is no charge or dispute or any litigation pending regarding the said floor. Any person including Banks, Financial Institutions/ relative/s having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever in or upon the aforesaid floor is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing, with documentary evidence, by Registered Ad Post, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 07 days of publication of this notice and in the event of no response having been received to the notice, the title of the seller to the said floor shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our client/Purchaser, in any manner whatsoever. Shivkant Arora, Advocate M/s Intellectual Law Offices A-74, LGF, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER , CONSTRUCTION UNIT, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM
GHINGARIKHAL, RANIKHET, DISTT.- ALMORA 263645

Letter No.: 01/Camp Dehradun/ E-Tender Notice Date : 28-09-2024

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Tender Value without GST (Rs. In Lakh)	Period of Completion
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF CONSERVATION OF ART OBJECTS OF G.B.PANT MUSEUM, ALMORA, DISTRICT- ALMORA	35.78	12 Months

3.Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal: 28-09-2024 (17.00 hrs)

4.Online Bid submission: End date :- 15-10-2024 (17.00 hrs)

5.Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 18-10-2024 (11.00 hrs)

6.Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid: - Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Ranikhet.

7.Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place :- 04-10-2024 (11.00 hrs) Project Manager Construction Unit Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Ranikhet.

8.For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in

PROJECT MANAGER

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

Tender Notice No.: S/66/09/24-25; **Dated:** 25-09-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:- **SN. 1; Tender No. NJ241269;** **Closing/Opening Date:** 15-10-2024

Brief Description & Qty: BRAKE PAD half 200cm*2 made of organic materials to RDSO Spec:-RDSO/2013/CG-01(Rev-2)amendment-1. Warranty-The composite brake pad will have warranty against any manufacturing defect noticed during the service before the condemning limit is reached or 24 months from the date of supply whichever is earlier. Consignee:- GSD/New Jalpaiguri, NFR. Qty : 1200 Pairs.

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

Dr. CMM/New Jalpaiguri
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

E-AUCTION FOR AWARDDING PARKING STAND CONTRACT

E-auction for awarding parking stand contract at following locations over Kathihar Division for a period of 03 (Three) years. **Description:** Parking Lot for Two Wheelers, Three Wheelers, Four Wheelers & Passenger Carrying Commercial Vehicles. **Auction Catalogue No.:** C-KNE-EKI-ARR24; **Auction Start Date & Time (All Lots):** 10:00 hrs. on 08-10-2024; **Auction Close Date & Time:** 11:20 hrs. on 08-10-2024; **Rate Unit:** Annual Licensing Fee; **Trips/Days:** 1095.

Seq No.	Lot No./Category	Location
AA/1	PARKING-KIR-AUB-MX-96-24-2 (Parking - Mixed)	Aluabari Road
AA/2	PARKING-KIR-ARR-MX-111-24-2 (Parking - Mixed)	Araria
AA/3	PARKING-KIR-KNE-MX-105-24-2 (Parking - Mixed)	Kishanganj/PRS Side
AA/4	PARKING-KIR-FBG-MX-125-24-3 (Parking - Mixed)	Forbesganj Station
AA/5	PARKING-KIR-EKI-MX-103-24-2 (Parking - Mixed)	Eklakhi Station
AB/1	PARKING-KIR-NJP-PCCV-104-24-1 (Passenger Carrying Commercial Vehicles)	New Jalpaiguri Goods shed

The press notification has already been uploaded in the IREPS website on 23-09-2024 through e-Auction portal www.ireps.gov.in Divisional Railway Manager (C), Kathihar

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

Public Notice

"General Public is hereby informed that my clients Sh. Lalchand S/o Sh. Ramnath and his wife Asha, both R/O C-337, GA, Indrapuri, Block-C, Loni Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201102, do hereby disown and disinherit their Elder Daughter, Soni Gupta from all their movable and immovable Properties for her unacceptable act & bad behaviour. Now, my clients will have no concern with their daughter Soni Gupta in future. Any person dealing or transacting with aforesaid daughter, will do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibilities and my clients will not be responsible for any act, deed, or dealing done by Soni Gupta."

Vishnu Verma & Laxmi(Advocate)
KKD Courts, Delhi-110092

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Harpreet Singh S/O Gurdev Singh R/O M-133-136, Raghubir Nagar, Tagore Garden, Delhi-110027 declares that name of my wife is wrongly mentioned in some of my minor daughter's namely Brahmaleen Kaur documents as Pawan Kaur were in her actual name is Pawan Kumari. Her Date of Death is 19/04/2021.

PD(789)C
I, Rahul Gupta S/O Dudh Nath Gupta R/O RZ-C-77A Pole No-1 Gali No-98, Kamal Park West Sagarpur, Nangal Raya, South West Delhi-46, Do here I declare that my father name is wrongly written i.e Rakesh Gupta on my driving licence-DL09 20160373069 And the correct name is Dhudh Nath Gupta.

PD(802)C



RAIN WASHES OUT SECOND DAY OF KANPUR TEST

PTI ■ KANPUR

The second day of the second Test between India and Bangladesh was on Saturday called off without a ball being bowled due to persistent downpour. The drizzle in the morning turned into heavy rain, not letting the action begin on day two at Green Park Stadium. The groundsman put the three super soppers to work around 11:15 am after the rain stopped. The visibility was also poor. As conditions did not improve, the second day's play was called off officially at 2:15pm. As per the weather forecast,

the city is expected to receive rain even on Sunday but Monday and Tuesday are likely to be sunny and warm. In that scenario, the match seems to be headed for a draw. Bangladesh had ended the rain-curtailed opening day at 107 for three as only 35 overs could be bowled.



NorthEast United FC aims to rebound against Kerala Blasters in ISL showdown

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

NorthEast United FC will look to bounce back from their recent defeat as they host Kerala Blasters FC in the Indian Super League at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium on Sunday. The Highlanders secured a 1-0 victory in their season opener against Mohammedan FC but faced a setback with a 2-3 loss to Mohun Bagan Super Giant in their last match. In contrast, Kerala Blasters come into this fixture after a 2-1 win over East Bengal FC. In their previous 20 encounters in the ISL, NorthEast United has won five matches, while Kerala Blasters have emerged victorious eight times, with seven matches ending in a draw. NorthEast United has previously kept clean sheets at home, with a 3-0 win over Odisha FC and a 2-0 victory against Kerala Blasters. However, they have never managed to achieve three consecutive clean sheets at home in the ISL, making this an important opportunity for the hosts.

"I'm really happy, and proud of my players because we have shown that we're growing," NorthEast United FC head coach Juan Pedro Benali said in a release. "My team needs to improve in many areas, from all the areas, we need to keep working, now we have another final (against KBFC) we will think about the next game." Kerala Blasters boast a positive track record against NorthEast United, having won three times and drawn twice in their last six encounters. Their aerial threat is evident, with five headed goals scored in the ISL since the start of the 2023-24 season, a factor that the home team will need to monitor closely. In their last match, Kwame Peprah came off the bench to score the winner against East Bengal FC. Notably, 14 goals have been scored in or after the 85th minute in the competition, underscoring the competitive nature of the matches. "The reason we won against EBFC is not only because of a strong starting line-up, but also because of a really good finishing line-up," head coach Mikael Stahre said.

Sinner rallies for win in Beijing as WADA appeals his steroid case

AP ■ BEIJING

Top-ranked Jannik Sinner rallied to beat Roman Safiullin 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 in the second round of the China Open on Saturday and learned afterward that his steroid case is far from over. While Sinner was on court in Beijing, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) announced it was seeking a ban of one to two years for the U.S. Open champion who tested positive twice for an anabolic steroid in March but was not suspended in a decision by an independent tribunal announced by the International Tennis Integrity Agency on Aug. 20 because the ITIA determined he was not to blame. Sinner's fate will now be determined by the Switzerland-based Court of Arbitration for Sport after WADA said it filed an appeal on Thursday. On court Saturday, the two-time Grand Slam champion again found himself behind in the Chinese capital after Safiullin broke serve twice to claim the opening set. Sinner's power and laser-like accuracy from the baseline gradually chipped away at his Russian opponent and helped the Italian to win seven straight games from 2-2 in the second set to take the ascendancy and close out a gritty win. Sinner, who has reached at least the quarterfinals at every



tour-level event he has played in 2024, will next play Jiri Lehecka, who earlier defeated Roberto Bautista Agut 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Also Saturday, Italy's Flavio Cabolli advanced after a 6-4, 6-2 win over Pavel Kotov. Third-seeded Daniil Medvedev played his second-round match against French veteran Adrian Mannarino later Saturday. In the women's draw, U.S. Open champion Aryna Sabalenka advanced to the third round with a 6-4, 6-1 win over Thai qualifier Mananchaya Sawangkaew. "In the first set, I was struggling a little bit with the rhythm," said Sabalenka, who's best run in Beijing has only been to the quarterfinals.

Kasatkina of Russia beat Croatian Jana Fett 6-1, 6-2. She will play Amanda Anisimova, who beat Camila Osorio of Colombia 1-6, 6-3, 6-4. Wimbledon champion Barbora Krejickova was upset 1-6, 6-4, 7-5 by Romania's Jaqueline Cristian. **JAPAN OPEN:** Tomas Machac upset fifth-seeded Tommy Paul 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (4) to advance to the quarterfinals and continued a disappointing week for the top-seeded players in Tokyo. Top-seeded Taylor Fritz, third-seeded Casper Ruud and fourth-seeded Stefos Tsitsipas were all beaten in the first round, before second-seeded Hubert Hurkacz was also eliminated as he lost to U.S. Open semifinalist Jack Draper 6-4, 6-4 in the second round. Sixth-seeded Holger Rune is the highest-ranked seed remaining in the draw. Rune, from Denmark, beat home favorite Yoshihito Nishioka 6-2, 6-4. Defending champion Ben Shelton, the No. 8 seed, is the only other seeded player left in the quarterfinal draw. Alex Michelsen of the U.S. Also advanced after a 6-1, 6-4 win over Australian Christopher O'Connell to set up a quarterfinal match against Machac. Kei Nishikori beat Jordan Thompson 6-2, 6-3 and will play Rune in the quarterfinals. Ninth-seeded Daria

Canadian striker Larin scores against old club as Mallorca win 2-1 to maintain good start to season

AP ■ MADRID

Canadian striker Cyle Larin scored against his old club as Mallorca kept up its promising start to the Spanish league season with a 2-1 win away at Real Valladolid. It was the third win in a row for Mallorca, which moved into fourth place with 14 points from eight games. Valladolid, meanwhile, has not won a league match since the opening day of the season and has now taken only two points from its last seven games. Although all five of its points this season have come at



home, the newly promoted side was unable to make much of an impact in front of 20,000 fans. Yet it took almost an hour for Mallorca to make its dominance count when Larin, who signed from Valladolid last month, controlled a nice ball from Dani Rodriguez and then converted with poise from close range. Substitute Valery Fernandez made it 2-0 with seven minutes remaining, before Iván Sánchez got one back in stoppage time for Valladolid. "We're very disappointed because we've been strong at home," Sánchez said.



Wimbledon's plans for expansion approved by London authorities despite residents' concerns

AP ■ LONDON

Organizers to expand the site of the Grand Slam tournament with 39 new tennis courts has been given the green light by local authorities. The All England Club's plans — which include a new 8,000-seat show court with a retractable roof — were approved Friday by the Greater London Authority despite protests by local residents. The planned expansion in Wimbledon Park, which is adjacent to the All England Club, would allow Wimbledon's qualifying tournament to be held on site rather than at nearby Roehampton Community Sports Centre. But some locals have objected to the plans over concerns about the environmental impact. Protesters assembled outside City Hall ahead of the hearing on Friday and a number spoke in the chamber during a morning session lasting more than three hours. But Jules Pipe, London's deputy mayor for planning, said "the proposed development would facilitate very significant benefits. I agree with my officers that these benefits clearly outweigh the harm." Debbie Jevans, the chair of the All England Club, promised that the project "will be delivered with a meticulous attention to detail and the utmost respect for both our neighbours and the environment." The All England Club says the benefits of the expansion will include a 23-acre public park where there used to be a private golf course, and a minimum of seven grass courts that will be open for community use. "We look forward to working with all parties to bring this vision to life, delivering one of London's greatest sporting transformations since the 2012 (Olympic) Games and securing Wimbledon's future at the pinnacle of world sport," Jevans said.

Barcola scores twice as PSG extends unbeaten run in France with 3-1 win over Rennes

AP ■ PARIS

Bradley Barcola scored two goals in each half and Lee Kang-in added a third as Paris Saint-Germain beat Rennes 3-1 to extend its unbeaten run in the French league. Barcola took a pass from Ousmane Dembélé after half an hour on Friday and steered a right-foot shot inside the far post. Lee got his third goal of the season to double the home side's advantage 12 minutes into the second half and Barcola added his second with a simple tap in after 68 minutes. Arnaud Kalimuendo scored a consolation goal for Rennes from the penalty spot. Rennes had a second goal chalked off by VAR with two minutes to end any hopes of a comeback. Barcola's fifth and sixth goals of the



season take him to the top of the Ligue 1 scoring charts, one clear of Marseille's Mason Greenwood. PSG has 16 points from its first six games. Marseille is also unbeaten and has 13 points from five games. The south coast club plays at Strasbourg on Sunday. Rennes is in eighth place with seven

points from six games. Auxerre beat Brest 3-0 to grab its second league win of the season and put the brakes on the visitor's recent run of form. Brest was coming off two consecutive victories, including a 2-1 win over Sturm Graz in its first ever Champions League match. But under the pouring rain in central France, Auxerre finally showed some of the form that won it promotion last year and staved off a fifth straight defeat in Ligue 1. Elisha Owusu put the home side ahead with a left-foot shot after 26 minutes and captain Jubal doubled the lead from the penalty spot 11 minutes later. Hamed Junior Traorè, on loan from Bournemouth, then got his second goal in two games 14 minutes into the second half.

Michael Andretti hands over control of race team to business partner

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Michael Andretti has restructured Andretti Global to give co-owner Dan Towriss control of the organization while Andretti will stay on as a strategic advisor of the team he has led since 2002. Andretti in early 2023 confirmed he'd sold part of the company to Towriss, owner of Gainbridge and holding company Group 1001. Gainbridge is one of the largest sponsors in IndyCar and also sponsors Andretti driver Colton Herta's car and the Indianapolis 500. The team has rapidly expanded with Towriss' influx of cash, and Towriss has been part of Andretti's push to join Formula 1. Andretti is still listed as CEO and chairman of Andretti Global, which is the name

the team changed to when Towriss became part of the ownership group. Towriss is listed on the team's official website as a partner who "with a genuine passion for motorsports and deep partnerships in the industry, Dan is changing the way people look at the business of motorsports." "Michael's goal has been to transition to a more strategic role with Andretti Global and focus less on the operational side of the race team," the team said in a Friday statement. "Michael and Dan Towriss have been working closely on developing this new structure, one which Michael is excited to see take shape under Dan's guidance. "Michael remains engaged and will continue to serve as a strategic advisor and key ambassador."



while winning at Gateway outside St. Louis. Andretti Global said it would share more details of the leadership changes "after Michael and Dan have had an opportunity to speak to the team." Andretti Global fielded three

admitted it is under investigation by the Department of Justice for possible antitrust violations in not allowing Andretti into F1. Andretti and his father, Mario, in 2021 formed a special purpose acquisition company (SPAC) that was separate from Andretti Global and called Andretti Acquisition. The SPAC was designed to raise cash in an IPO to buy and take public another business. Andretti in March closed a merger with Zapata Computing Holdings, a generative AI company. Andretti Global is Zapata's largest customer, while Zapata is a sponsor of the motorsports team. Zapata, per filings, is paying Andretti Global \$9 million under the agreements while Andretti Global is paying Zapata \$6 million. The agreements expire at the end of 2024, per Sportico. Liberty Media, which owns F1, has



ELEGANCE REDEFINED

Experience the joy of fashion

Ravi Bajaj, renowned for his elegance in fashion, recently unveiled his redesigned store at DLF Emporio, New Delhi. This event showcased his latest collection, celebrating the blend of traditional craftsmanship and modern design, writes SAKSHI PRIYA



From the Man Himself An Exclusive Interview with Ravi Bajaj

Ravi Bajaj's redesigned store is not just a new chapter in his fashion journey but also a clear example of his commitment to innovation and excellence. As he continues to shape the future of fashion with his unique vision, one thing is certain: his influence and creativity will remain at the forefront of the industry for years to come. He talked to Sakshi Priya about his passion. Excerpts: **What story do you want to convey through your new store?**

Well, it's somewhat art-inspired. You can see it up to the ceiling. It's art-inspired but very subtle - not in your face. If you notice it, you notice it. The entire ceiling features French and Italian masks, symbolising Mars and Venus. We also have Iris and Morpheus, the god of sleep, and the famous depiction of Adam and God. The rest is quite modern with clean lines - that's my style. There's a touch of grandeur as well, with handmade chandeliers combining elements from Firozabad and Swarovski. So, it's a blend of modernity and subtle artistry.

Which piece from your latest collection are you most excited about?

Oh, that's a tough one. It's like choosing a favourite child! I probably like about 20% of my work and not the other 80%. That's how you keep yourself motivated. The day you like 100% of your work, I think you're done.

What challenges did you encounter in shaping the final design?

Ravi Bajaj: There weren't any significant challenges in terms of ideas. The challenge usually comes with execution. Conceiving an idea is easy; the germ is always there. But translating it into reality - that's the tough part. Once it's done, it's beyond your control, and then it's about how it's perceived. What's in my control are the initial idea and its execution.

How do you foresee the intersection of fashion and retail experiences evolving over the next few years?

It's difficult to say. The biggest challenge is staying relevant. There's so much happening in the industry, and I've been in this business for 37 years. Staying persistent and maintaining your grit is essential.



Ravi Bajaj has always been synonymous with style and sophistication in the fashion industry. His unique ability to blend traditional craftsmanship with modern sensibilities has made his designs timeless and appealing to a wide audience. As the festive season approaches, there was a strong sense of excitement surrounding the grand unveiling of his newly redesigned store at DLF Emporio in New Delhi.

Upon entering, guests were welcomed by a warm and inviting atmosphere. The stunning wall art and soft, warm lighting created a comfortable yet elegant setting. The store's transformation was impressive, with every detail thoughtfully curated to highlight the exquisite fabrics and intricate designs on display. The ambience was perfect for an evening dedicated to celebrating fashion and creativity.

The new collection was nothing short of a visual delight, showcasing a captivating range of colours and designs. One standout piece was a beautiful blue saree adorned with intricate red lacework. Its vibrant shade and delicate detailing instantly captured the attention of the guests, who couldn't help but admire its elegance. Nearby, a striking black saree with white lacework also drew admiration. The classic contrast of black and white offered a timeless elegance that resonated with many. But it was a stunning lavender saree embellished with silver and gold embroidery that truly left a lasting impression. As it caught the light, one enchanted guest described it as "simply gorgeous," perfectly echoing the sentiments of those around. The teal colour of the sarees also captured attention, their



stunning shades receiving numerous compliments. One guest perfectly expressed the sentiment with a single word: "Outstanding."

The collection also featured a range of warm-toned kurtas in various colours, designed to beautifully blend traditional and modern styles. The bandis and coats, crafted with great attention to detail, provided a sophisticated touch to the ensemble. There was something for everyone, making it clear that these were not just garments but pieces meant to be treasured and worn with pride. As the evening unfolded, the atmosphere was filled with lively conversations and laughter. Guests moved around, appreciating the intricate details of the collection. One particular item that caught many eyes was a striking white saree, decorated with designs of

musical notes in black and shimmering glitter that sparkled beautifully in the store. At first glance, its simplicity was striking, but a closer look revealed delicate embroidery that showcased its craftsmanship. It served as a reminder that sometimes, the most understated designs leave the biggest impact.

As the night came to a close, it became evident that this event was about more than just launching a store. It was a celebration of elegance, creativity, and the joy of fashion, perfectly timed for the festive season ahead. Ravi Bajaj's redesigned store is more than a shopping destination; it's a place where people can experience the beauty and artistry of fashion in a welcoming environment. With his signature blend of tradition and modernity, Ravi Bajaj continues to be a favourite for those who appreciate style and craftsmanship.

NEW OFFERINGS

JOIN THE DJGF CELEBRATION!

Don't miss the 12th edition of the Delhi Jewellery and Gem Fair (DJGF) at Pragati Maidan! This premier B2B jewellery exhibition features over 650 exhibitors showcasing 150,000 stunning designs, including gold, silver, diamonds and more. Enjoy networking opportunities, informative sessions and the exciting DJGF Silver Show. Connect with industry leaders and explore the latest trends in jewellery.

EVENT DETAILS

Dates: 29th September-1st October, 2024
Location: Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
Time: 10 AM - 6 PM

SCULPTING MASTERCLASS

Atelier Della Firenze by Niyamat Mehta is hosting a Masterclass series led by renowned sculptor Niyamat Mehta. This four-session course offers personalised attention with only 7 seats per class, focusing on sculpting the human portrait. Perfect for anyone aged 16+, this is a unique opportunity to master the anatomy and proportion of the human skull. Don't miss out!

COURSE DETAILS

Dates: 5th, 12th & 19th October, 2024
Time: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Location: Top Floor Studio, Sector 3, Noida
Price: Rs. 50,000 (materials included)



YUDHRA: A HIT OR MISS ACTION

Action scenes come to the rescue for an unhooked plot for Yudhra, says ABHI SINGHAL

Yudhra is an action thriller film directed by Ravi Udyawar. Its script is done by Shridhar Raghavan and dialogues are written by Farhan Akhtar and Akshat Ghildial. The film stars Siddhant Chaturvedi in the title role, alongside Malavika Mohanan, Raghav Juyal, Gajraj Rao, Ram Kapoor, Raj Arjun and Shipra Shukla.

Yudhra, who is struggling with anger issues, is assigned an undercover mission to bring down a powerful drug syndicate headed by Firoz and his son Shafiq. Yudhra accepts the responsibility as he wants to exact revenge against Firoz for his parents's death.

The film commences with a loose narrative from the start and revolves around the character's anger issues. The movie opens with an over aggressive orphan kid played by Siddhant. It is the point from where action packed role of Chaturvedi as Yudhra starts. To counterbalance Yudhra's irascible demeanour and immense power, the film features Gajraj Rao as his foster father who plays his deceased father's friend. Gajraj is a senior and experienced actor but unfortunately his role does not add weight to the movie. Siddhant who made his electrifying debut in Gully Boy, tries to experiment with the action cinema.

The scenes in the film are set with a narrative of high octane action and Siddhant Chaturvedi is seen pushing his limits with the role. The bike chasing scene raises expectations but only to be dashed shortly after. The romantic subplot in the film between Yudhra and

Nikhat (Malavika Mohanan) remains underdeveloped and fails to resonate with the audience. Their chemistry does not work and disappoint to say the least. Yudhra lacks a distinctive quality that sets it apart from other action films. The storyline could have been more engaging to keep the audience interested. There are some violent scenes that captivate the audience.

Raghav Juyal, playing the antagonist in the film. His entry could be more powerful. His presence does help you to sit through the film. Siddhant could have shone but the sloppy storyline snatches away that from him. But Raghav Juyal does prove himself despite short screen time he gets and that too spaced by an hour. Gajraj Rao and Ram Kapoor have played their roles in a decent manner and have adjusted well to their roles. Raj Arjun as Firoz plays Yudhra's father's killer's rival and fits in well. The music of the film is also average, and was not expected from someone like Shankar Ehsaan Loy. He has composed two songs in the film. The film can be considered a one time watch but it lacks clarity to Siddhant Chaturvedi's character and is a bit blunt and intimidating to understand. The film's duration of two hours and thirty minutes is rather long and could have been much less.

That would have made it crisp and tight. As an action genre lover you would want to like Yudhra. Despite its fast-paced action sequences it fails to captivate audiences. While action lovers may watch it for its action but they could well be

disappointed with its storyline and mediocre performances.

Rating: 2/5



NATIONAL COFFEE FESTIVAL 2024!

Calling all coffee lovers! Join this October for the India International Coffee Festival featuring the National Barista Championship across three cities. Experience thrilling competitions, tastings and workshops celebrating coffee culture. Don't miss out on this caffeinated celebration!

EVENT DATES

Delhi: 4th-6th October, 2024 at Pacific Mall, Tagore Garden
Mumbai: 11th-13th October, 2024 at Phoenix Marketcity, Kurla
Bangalore: 28th-30th October, 2024 at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur

"The best way to approach Navratri is in a spirit of celebration. This is the secret of life: to be non-serious but absolutely involved"
— Sadhguru



Over the centuries, Durga Puja has evolved from a private affair of Zamindars to a mass celebration on a global scale. It is now much more than just a religious festival – it's a cultural spectacle, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

DURGA PUJA

A SYMPHONY OF TRADITION AND TRANSFORMATION

Come September and everyone is busy making plans for the 'Puja', a festival dedicated to Goddess Durga, in eastern India. Of course it is Kolkata which is the epicentre of all celebrations. Over the years, *Durga Puja* has evolved into a pan-Indian and global festival. With unmatched fervour and devotion, people across the world now come together to honour the goddess, celebrating her victory and divine power.

Durga Puja, one of the most revered and vibrant festivals in India, particularly in West Bengal, celebrates the victory of the goddess Durga over the demon Mahishasura, symbolising the triumph of good over evil. Rooted in Hindu mythology, the festival commemorates the goddess as the embodiment of Shakti, or divine feminine power. Over the years, *Durga Puja* has transformed from a primarily religious observance into a grand socio-cultural extravaganza that has few parallels.

Durga Puja marks the victory of Goddess Durga, a fierce yet compassionate deity, over Mahishasura, who threatened to disrupt the balance of the universe. According to legend, Mahishasura received a boon that no man could defeat him. As he unleashed terror, the gods united to create Durga, a divine warrior goddess, who fought and eventually killed Mahishasura. The festival celebrates Durga's strength, resilience, and protective nature, while also invoking blessings for peace, prosperity, and protection against evil forces. That is mythology for one and all but it is a metaphor which might have fewer takers but nevertheless the message is crystal.

The metaphor and hidden message of Goddess Durga lie in her embodiment of divine feminine power, resilience, and protection. As a multi-armed warrior goddess, Durga symbolises the shakti (cosmic energy) within all beings, representing the strength needed to overcome life's obstacles. Each weapon she holds signifies various tools required to defeat inner and outer evils like fear, ignorance, pride and injustice. Metaphorically, Durga's battle with Mahishasura, the demon king, is a reflection of the ongoing struggle between good and evil, not just in the cosmic realm but within individuals and society at large. Her victory underscores that evil - be it oppression, greed or violence - can only be defeated through righteous action, courage and the collective strength of the divine and human will.

It is the triumph of dharma (righteousness) over adharma (immorality), a reminder that good eventually prevails even in the face of insurmountable odds. Furthermore, Durga, as a motherly figure, embodies compassion and protection, highlighting the balance between fierceness and nurturing, teaching that strength does not negate love and compassion. Goddess Durga conveys the message of empowerment, particularly for women, demonstrating that power and authority lie in embracing one's true self and purpose. In a broader sense, Durga's story speaks to the need for balance between action and patience, destruction and creation, power and empathy.

The festival is observed during the Hindu Calendar month of Ashwin



DURGA PUJA IS AN ELABORATE AND COLOURFUL FESTIVAL, TYPICALLY SPANNING FIVE DAYS - SHASHTHI, SAPTAMI, ASHTAMI, NAVAMI AND VIJAYADASHAMI. EACH DAY IS MARKED BY RITUALS, PRAYERS, CULTURAL EVENTS AND, OF COURSE, THE UNVEILING OF THE IDOL OF GODDESS DURGA IN PANDALS (TEMPORARY, ARTISTICALLY DESIGNED STRUCTURES). THE CELEBRATION BEGINS WITH THE RITUAL OF BODHON, OR THE WELCOMING OF THE GODDESS, ON THE SIXTH DAY



(September-October), culminating on Vijayadashami, the tenth day when Durga's victory is celebrated and her idols are immersed in water, symbolising her return to Mount Kailash, her celestial home. *Durga Puja* is an elaborate and colourful festival, typically spanning five days - Shashthi, Saptami, Ashtami, Navami and Vijayadashami. Each day is marked by rituals, prayers, cultural events and, of course, the unveiling of the idol of Goddess Durga in pandals (temporary, artistically designed structures). The celebration begins with the ritual of Bodhon, or the welcoming of the goddess, on the sixth day.

FROM ZAMINDAR PUJA TO PUBLIC CELEBRATIONS

Historically, *Durga Puja* was a private affair, celebrated within the homes of wealthy zamindar (landlord) families. However, during the late 18th century, it began to shift towards community-based celebrations. In Kolkata, the first publicly organised *Durga Puja*, known as the Barowari Puja, was held in 1790, and since then, the practice has spread across Bengal and beyond. The first major move toward a community-based *Durga Puja* or Barowari Puja, took place in 1790 in Hooghly district, near Kolkata. A group of twelve friends organised this puja to make the festival more inclusive and community-oriented, free from the exclusivity of the zamindar class. This concept of collective worship was revolutionary at the time and set the foundation for public celebrations of the festival. The term "Barowari" comes from baro (twelve) and yari (friends), representing this group's efforts to democratise *Durga Puja*.

Raja Nabakrishna Deb, an influential zamindar of the Shobhabazar Rajbari in Kolkata, played a critical role in popularising *Durga Puja* beyond the private confines of aristocratic families. In 1757, following the British victory at the Battle of Plassey, Nabakrishna Deb invited British officers, including Robert Clive, to his *Durga Puja* celebration, creating a hybrid of Indian tradition and colonial influence.

In the late 19th century, Swami Vivekananda and the Ramakrishna Mission also played a pivotal role in giving *Durga Puja* a broader, more public dimension. Through the Ramakrishna Mission, *Durga Puja* became associated with nationalistic and cultural identity, with an emphasis on social service and community welfare. Swami Vivekananda himself performed

Durga Puja at Belur Math in 1901, marking the festival as both a spiritual and community event.

PANDAL HOPPING

The centrepiece of the festivities is the pandals, where elaborate idols of Durga, along with her children - Lakshmi, Saraswati, Kartikeya and Ganesha - are displayed. These pandals often feature intricate themes that range from mythological tales to contemporary social issues.

Durga Puja pandals have evolved far beyond simple religious displays, becoming powerful platforms for artistic expression and social commentary. Every year, these temporary structures turn into creative masterpieces that reflect not just devotion to Goddess Durga but also highlight contemporary issues ranging from politics to global events and pressing social concerns.

Some pandals artistically engage with local and national politics, offering thought-provoking critiques or support for political movements. For example, some recent themes have explored elections, portraying the goddess battling forces of greed and dishonesty, metaphorically addressing societal upheaval. Several pandals focus on international matters, such as climate change, world peace or refugee crises. They utilise innovative materials and designs to depict how these global challenges affect humanity. For instance, some recent installations have depicted the Amazon rainforest fires, the pandemic or refugee struggles, merging Durga's fight against evil with the global battle for environmental protection or humanitarian aid. Many pandals are now powerful vehicles for raising awareness about social issues. They have addressed women's rights, child labor, education and even mental health. Some pandals creatively use Durga's weapons to symbolise the tools needed to fight social evils like gender inequality or poverty, aligning the goddess's mythology with contemporary societal struggles. Themes such as women empowerment, gender justice and communal harmony are depicted with a blend of artistry and symbolism.

In recent years, with growing awareness about environmental conservation, eco-friendly pandals have gained popularity. Artists use biodegradable materials like clay, bamboo and jute to create these installations, while themes often focus on

sustainability and environmental consciousness. These efforts not only contribute to reducing pollution during idol immersion but also send a strong message about the urgent need to protect nature.

These innovative pandals transform *Durga Puja* into not just a religious celebration but a cultural forum where tradition and modernity intersect, sparking dialogue on critical societal and global issues. Through artistry, they encourage introspection, inspire change, and bring communities together in shared reflection.

RITUALS AND PRAYERS

Devotees perform elaborate rituals, such as the pushpanjali (flower offerings) and aarti (lamp offerings), invoking the goddess's blessings. On Ashtami, the main day of the festival, the Sandhi Puja, symbolising the transition from Ashtami to Navami, is performed with great fervour. Kumari Puja, where young girls are worshipped as manifestations of the goddess, is also a key ritual.

CULTURAL PERFORMANCES AND FEASTING

Beyond its religious aspect, *Durga Puja* is also a cultural celebration. Communities organise music and dance performances, theatrical productions and art exhibitions. The festival is a time for feasting, with special foods like bhog (a sacred offering) and traditional Bengali sweets such as sandesh, rasgulla, and mishti doi adding to the festive charm. While *Durga Puja* retains its core religious significance, the festival has undergone significant transformations over the centuries, evolving into a social, artistic, and commercial spectacle.

GLOBALISATION OF DURGA PUJA

Today, *Durga Puja* is not confined to Bengal. Thanks to the global Bengali diaspora, the festival is celebrated with grandeur in cities like London, New York and Dubai. Modern technology, social media and live streaming of rituals have expanded the reach of *Durga Puja*, allowing devotees from across the globe to participate.

Durga Puja has also seen commercialisation, with sponsorships and advertisements driving the festival economy. The shopping, food, and tourism sectors receive a massive boost during this time, as people from across the country and the world flock to experience the grandeur of the celebration. *Durga Puja* is more than just a religious festival; it is a vibrant, living tradition that has evolved with time. While the core message of the triumph of good over evil remains intact, the festival has grown to embody the cultural and social heartbeat of Bengal, touching the lives of millions across the globe. As *Durga Puja* continues to transform, it serves as a powerful reminder of the enduring strength of faith, community and creativity. In today's society, with the increasing disregard for women's dignity, the timeless message of Goddess Durga appears to be lost in the din. People seem more focused on indulging in the festive revelry rather than embracing the deeper significance of Durga's empowerment. Yet, this is the fate that most festivals eventually meet - a shift from reflection to celebration.

A TASTE OF HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Durga Puja brings feeling of home for everyone. For those in Delhi, *Oh! Calcutta* offers the flavours of Bengal. It Celebrates 25 years, serving authentic Bengali food, making it a perfect spot to enjoy the festival in all its grandeur, writes **SAKSHI PRIYA**



Photos: Pankaj Kumar



Durga Puja is more than just a festival; it's an emotion, a time when everyone feels an irresistible pull towards home. The smell of incense, the rhythm of the 'dhak' and the sight of the majestic idols fill hearts with nostalgia. For those who find themselves far from Kolkata during this time, there's a place that offers a slice of home: *Oh! Calcutta*.

Oh! Calcutta has been serving the flavours of Bengal for 25 years. As the city prepares to welcome Durga Maa, this iconic restaurant remains a favourite for all those hoping for the familiar taste of home-cooked Bengali food. Recently celebrating its silver jubilee, *Oh! Calcutta* has not only kept the essence of Kolkata's cuisine alive, showing that the spirit of Bengali food remains strong and proud, no matter where you are.

Established in 1992, *Oh! Calcutta* was born from a passion to showcase the unique flavours of Kolkata's 300-year-old culinary traditions. The restaurant's menu is a tribute to the city's gastronomic legacy, influenced by British, Armenian, French and Mughal cultures. This blend of influences captures Kolkata's essence as a melting pot of communities. The founder, *Anjan Chatterjee* and his team of chefs envision their cuisine as a tribute to the rich and diverse culinary heritage of Kolkata, which has been shaped over centuries. As they say, "Kolkatay khabar mane sudhu peth bhora noi, eta hriday bhora" (In Kolkata, food is not just about filling the stomach but the heart).

As part of its silver jubilee celebrations, *Oh! Calcutta* has introduced a special anniversary menu that beautifully captures Kolkata's culinary heritage. The menu, curated by *Chatterjee*, marries traditional recipes with a contemporary touch, ensuring that the authenticity of Bengali cuisine remains at its heart. Signature dishes such as *Aam Ada Grilled Bhetki*, *Jackfruit Tikki* and *Prawn Malai Curry* are shining examples of the restaurant's dedication to preserving the old while embracing the new.

One of the highlights is the crispy *Hilsa Fish Fingers*, served with a tangy mustard mayo that brings back memories of home-cooked meals. The *Calcutta Fish Fry* is another star, with its tantalising blend of spices that capture the essence of family gatherings. And, of course, there's the *Bhetki Machher Paturi*,



"KOLKATAY KHBAR MANE SUDHU PETH BHORA NOI, ETA HRIDYOY BHORA"
(In Kolkata, food is not just about filling the stomach, but the heart)

where fish marinated in mustard and coconut, wrapped in banana leaves, and steamed to perfection.

Mutton dishes hold a special place in Bengali cuisine, and *Oh! Calcutta's* offerings don't disappoint. The rich, slow-cooked *Kosha Mangsho* (mutton curry) is simmered with spices that warm the soul, while the *Railway Mutton Curry*, inspired by the classic railway-style preparation, evokes nostalgia and comfort.

These are dishes that remind you of home-cooked meals during Pujo and family journeys. The vegetarian fare at *Oh! Calcutta* is

equally delightful. Dishes like *Mochar Ghonto* (Banana Floret Subzi) and *Cholar Dal* (Bengal gram lentils cooked with coconut and spices) highlight the rich vegetarian tradition of Bengal.

And let's not forget the *Begum Bhaja*, deep-fried slices of eggplant that are the perfect accompaniment to the *Cholar Dal*.

For seafood lovers, there's the *Prawn Malai Curry*, a creamy and indulgent prawn dish cooked in coconut milk and lightly spiced. And for those seeking something lighter, the *Maacher Dom Jhol* (fish curry) with luchi offers a delicate blend of spices with fresh

vegetables and fish. This simple yet heartwarming dish is a staple in Bengali households and is often served during Durga Puja feasts.

No Bengali meal is complete without a sweet ending, and *Oh! Calcutta* makes sure this tradition is upheld. The restaurant offers a range of traditional sweets, including *Sandesh*, *baked Rasgulla* and *Mishti Doi* is a staple at the end of every Bengali meal.

As they say, "Bangalir mishti priyo, eta to shobar jana" (Everyone knows that Bengalis love sweets).

What sets *Oh! Calcutta* apart is its tireless commitment to authenticity. The restaurant sources key ingredients directly from Kolkata, ensuring that every dish retains its traditional flavour. From the *Kakra Chingri Bhapa* on the fragrant *Gobindobhogor Bhaat* (a special variety of rice), every ingredient is carefully chosen to maintain the integrity of Bengali cuisine. This attention to detail ensures that each dish not only tastes authentic but also evokes a sense of nostalgia.

The atmosphere at *Oh! Calcutta* further enhances the dining experience. The decor, featuring traditional Bengali art and nostalgic photographs of Kolkata, creates a warm and inviting setting. The staff, always attentive and knowledgeable, make sure that guests feel at home, guiding them through the menu and sharing the stories behind each dish.

As the festivities unfold, the connection between food, culture and family shines brightly at *Oh! Calcutta*. It's a place where both Bengalis and non-Bengalis can celebrate the rich and diverse cuisine of Kolkata. This Durga Puja, let the flavours of Kolkata fill your heart and your plate as you indulge in the culinary brilliance that has delighted guests for 25 years. As they say, "Banglar khabar mane sudhu taste noi, eta hriday er kotha" (Bengali food is not only about taste, but it's also a matter of the heart).

So, this Pujo, if you find yourself longing for the flavours of home, head over to *Oh! Calcutta* in GK-2, New Delhi. With dishes like *Kosha Mangsho*, *Mochar Chop* and *Gol Morich Chicken*, you will be treated to a culinary journey that's as close to Kolkata as you can get without leaving Delhi. Let the food fill your heart with joy, warmth, and a taste of home, reminding you that the spirit of Durga Puja can be felt wherever you are.

SIP THE ESSENCE OF ASIA: A UNIQUE BEVERAGES EXPERIENCE

Yauatcha's 'Asia In A Glass' is more than just a cocktail menu, it is an homage to the traditional flavours and modern techniques that define Asian cuisine, says **SHARMILA CHAND**

Yauatcha, the well-known contemporary Dim sum Tea House in Bengaluru is celebrating a unique cocktail menu, 'Asia In A Glass'. It is a vibrant celebration of Asian ingredients, masterfully crafted into exquisite cocktails that promise to transport guests on a sensory journey across the continent. I was thrilled to see how they have gone beyond their culinary fare to extend their philosophy seamlessly into the heart of their bar program, where mixology transforms into an art form.

THE DRINK'S NARRATIVE

Ranging from classic cocktails with a unique twist to refreshing fruit-forward and tea-infused concoctions, each libation at this London-style bar is a meticulously crafted narrative. The carefully designed cocktail menu embodies innovation and sophistication in showcasing Asian ingredients.

"When I was working on the 'Asia In A Glass' article, I had the pleasure of meeting with Merwyn and gained a deeper understanding of the evolution of Yauatcha's cocktail scene. Yauatcha has always been at the forefront of mixology trends, being one of the pioneers in implementing an innovative ice program. Sitting down with Merwyn provided invaluable insights that helped shape the story. It's truly gratifying to see this meticulously crafted menu come to fruition with this article," said **Aslam Gafoor**,



who inspired the creation of this cocktail menu with his article in the *Yauatcha Life* magazine, titled 'Asia In A Glass'. As the name suggests, Asian ingredients take the spotlight in Yauatcha's cocktail program philosophy, turning every cocktail into a distinctive masterpiece. From the invigorating zing of lemongrass to the

comforting warmth of ginger, Yauatcha's Head Mixologist, Merwyn Alphonso has curated a sensory experience that reflects Asian culinary heritage in every sip. Furthermore, the glassware and ice story transform into canvases for expression, enhancing visual allure and turning the bar into a dynamic masterpiece where flavours dance and

evolve. Sharing his excitement about the launch of the new cocktail menu, Merwyn said, "Discussing the beverage program at Yauatcha, it's clear that it's more than just a dim sum restaurant. When Allen Yau founded Yauatcha, it was built on the four pillars of hospitality, patisserie, dim sum, mixology and tea. To this day, these pillars

guide us in crafting every cocktail that we put on our menus. The 'Asia In A Glass' menu was created with this ethos in mind, and we hope our guests enjoy these beautiful libations. The cocktails draw inspiration from across the Asian continent, incorporating traditional Asian ingredients such as Yuzu, Lychee, Pandan and Lemongrass. The result is a series of exclusive beverages

that are as visually stunning as they are delicious, each one telling a story of its own."

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MENU

- **Tian Shang:** A refreshing blend of Gin, Vodka, raspberry liqueur, lemon, fresh raspberries, elderflower foam.
- **Jian Mei:** A tea twist with Gin, sake, floral tea liqueur.
- **Around The World:** A delightful concoction of White rum, limoncello, Aperol, lychee, homemade apricot compote, rosemary twig.
- **Ginger Martini:** A zesty, aromatic blend with White rum, ginger, green apple, orgeat, lime.

Each cocktail is a testament to the skill and creativity of Yauatcha's mixologists, who have drawn inspiration from the diverse culinary landscapes of Asia. Experience the vibrant flavours and innovative creations that set Yauatcha apart. The drinks echo Yauatcha's ethos, embodying innovation and sophistication in showcasing Asian ingredients. The concoctions are more than just drinks, they are conversation starters and memory makers. Step in, have your pick from the 'Asia In A Glass' menu and see how a world of flavours is waiting to be explored by you! Cheers!

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Sharmila Chand is an author and consulting editor. She writes on food, travel, lifestyle, Culture.

IF ATHEISM SOLVED ALL HUMAN WOE, THEN THE SOVIET UNION WOULD HAVE BEEN AN EMPIRE OF JOY AND DANCING BUNNIES INSTEAD OF THE LAND OF CORPSES
— JOHN C WRIGHT



MOSCOW

A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME: FROM SOVIET SHADOWS TO MODERN MARVELS

From the historical depths of Red Square to the majestic Kremlin, each corner of this sprawling metropolis reveals layers of history - burnt, rebuilt and revived - beckoning travelers to explore its rich tapestry of culture and heritage, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

As I step off the plane at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Alexander S. Pushkin International Airport, the brisk, cold breeze is a refreshing change from the humid warm air of Delhi. This is my second trip to Moscow; my first visit occurred shortly after the Soviet Union disintegrated and Russia emerged as a new entity. Indeed, Moscow has transformed significantly since then. The city's infrastructure has improved dramatically, making it almost unrecognisable; the roads and the cars on them wear a fresh look. Yet, amidst this change, Moscow retains its unique character—inviting yet inherently private. Over its 877-year history, the city has withstood a lot. Moscow lives fully, with its history woven into every brick and stone. Each regime has left its imprint, manifesting in monuments and relics scattered throughout the city, which now stand in contrast to modern architecture.

Moscow, the capital of Russia, boasts a rich and complex history that spans over 800 years. Founded in 1147 by Prince Yuri Dolgoruky, the city initially served as a minor trading post. Its strategic location on the Moskva River facilitated trade and communication, contributing to its gradual rise in importance. By the 15th century, under Ivan III (Ivan the Great), Moscow emerged as a significant political and cultural centre, ultimately overthrowing Mongol dominance. In 1547, Ivan IV (Ivan the Terrible) was crowned as the first Tsar of Russia, marking the official establishment of the Tsardom. This period was characterized by territorial expansion, the consolidation of power, and the construction of iconic structures like St. Basil's Cathedral, which symbolizes Moscow's architectural heritage.

Red Square, the iconic heart of Moscow, was established in the late 15th century, specifically during the reign of Ivan III (Ivan the Great). Originally, the area served as a marketplace and a central hub for various activities, but it gradually evolved into a political and cultural centre. It is now a must visit tourist attraction. And if one wants to understand Moscow brace up for a long walk.

Red Square transports you to the 15th century. Our guide, an enthusiastic and energetic lady tells us Red is not for colour though the bricks and stones used are Red, Red in Russian means beautiful so it is a beautiful square and I couldn't agree less. You have colourful St. Basil's Cathedral overlooking the square, commissioned by Ivan IV (Ivan the Terrible) in 1555 to commemorate the conquest of Kazan. Done in Disney style (or maybe it is the other way round). This style of structure painting is categorical of Russia and is called "Russian patterning." It is the place to click selfies.

Red square is also the place where Lenin's embalmed body is kept and many other Generals were buried. We don't get a chance to go inside as it is closed by the time we reach. Vladimir Lenin, leader of the October Revolution and the first leader and founder of the Soviet Union, died in Gorki aged 53 after falling into a coma on January 21,



“MOSCOW, THE CAPITAL OF RUSSIA, BOASTS A RICH AND COMPLEX HISTORY THAT SPANS AROUND 800 YEARS. FOUNDED IN 1147 BY PRINCE YURI DOLGORUKY, THE CITY INITIALLY SERVED AS A MINOR TRADING POST. ITS STRATEGIC LOCATION ON THE MOSKVA RIVER FACILITATED TRADE AND COMMUNICATION, CONTRIBUTING TO ITS GRADUAL RISE IN IMPORTANCE”

1924. It has been 100 years since he died. The GUM Department Store is a major shopping destination nearby. It is beautiful no doubt and has best brands on offer. I buy nothing but being it is an experience; the aura of the place is awesome. Nearby there is a souvenir shop which has a good collection of memorabilia and offers discounts and prices are negotiable, feels like home. I buy a few souvenirs. Red Square has been the site of numerous significant events throughout Russian history, including military parades, public gatherings, and political demonstrations, making it a symbol of both the historical and contemporary Russian state. Then there is a change of guards where every two hours Presidential guards change their duty. They say you have to be the best to be presidential guards. Three tough

looking guys come and replace the three guards on duty and walk beating their boots on the ground. The Moscow Victory Day Parade is an annual military parade of the Russian Armed Forces on Moscow's Red Square on May 9 during the Victory Day celebrations and is a big draw with the tourists and locals alike. The other most visited complex in the world is perhaps the Kremlin, the seat of power, where you still have the president's office. We walk through the door rather easily. Our guide is smart; tells us the President is not there else it would not be that easy. There is the president's office and a broken bell which never rang once as it broke while making it. Then there were buildings that were set on fire when Napoleon attacked. People abandoned them and went to jungles. All Bonapart found was

a smoking burning building. They were restored and did not look burnt now. We moved on to the churches where Tsars were baptised, crowned and laid to rest. All have shining brass tops. Don't know how they keep them so shiny. I can't keep my small Buddha statue that shiny anyway. Moscow became the capital of the new socialist state, undergoing rapid industrialisation and significant urban development, exemplified by the construction of grandiose structures like the Seven Sisters skyscrapers. These seven huge buildings still stand tall and are landmarks. They now house a university, a government ministry, a hotel and no idea about the others. Interestingly the underground in Moscow was used as bunkers by the Muscovites during the second world war. The stations are indeed nothing short of a palace with large murals exquisitely done and preserved. We decide to take a ride. The coaches are neat and people are friendly. We exchange smiles with fellow passengers. Our short but sweet journey comes to an end we are back to our hotel. The dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 marked another pivotal moment in Moscow's history. The city transitioned from a socialist regime to a market economy, leading to significant social and economic changes. Modern Moscow has seen extensive urban development and globalisation. Moscow has now become a business hub and opened to inter cultural relations and tourists from all over the world. Today, Moscow stands as a vibrant metropolis that beautifully blends its rich historical heritage with modernity, attracting millions of visitors each year who come to explore its vast cultural treasures, including historic churches, museums, and vibrant neighbourhoods. Each brick and stone of this ancient city tells a story of resilience and transformation, reflecting the enduring spirit of its people. Moscow is a foodie's paradise. I enjoyed Zhivago's food, excellent food served with a charming smile. Apart from Dr Zhivago there are many restaurants that dot the city and have amazing food and vibes. Moscow is a vibrant city where culinary culture thrives, offering a rich tapestry of dining experiences that

reflect both tradition and innovation. From elegant restaurants serving classic Russian fare like 'borscht' and 'pelmeni' to trendy eateries embracing global influences, the city's food scene is diverse and sophisticated. In the heart of Moscow, Café Pushkin stands as a symbol of elegance, offering a nostalgic ambiance reminiscent of 19th-century aristocratic Russia. For those seeking modern Russian cuisine with a twist, White Rabbit is a must-visit, famous for its innovative take on local ingredients and breathtaking views of the city. For a more casual yet equally delightful experience, LavkaLavka, a farm-to-table restaurant, emphasizes sustainable dining, offering dishes made from fresh, locally sourced ingredients. Meanwhile, Dr. Zhivago of course presents a chic, contemporary take on traditional Soviet-era dishes in a stylish setting. For travellers and locals alike, these eateries are more than just places to dine—they offer an immersive experience into Moscow's rich cultural heritage and evolving modern palate. Moscow has a good number of Museums too; they are a must visit if you have taste beyond Malls and Restaurants which Moscow has plenty. The guides are funny and knowledgeable at the same time. Moscow has a huge collection of paintings from bygone eras. Mostly of the Christ, kings but also of the people their life and woes. One could spend a day just watching the masterpieces. For the intellectually inclined, Moscow has a number of libraries with excellent collection of books. Russian libraries are not just repositories of books but vital cultural institutions that embody the country's rich literary and intellectual tradition. The most iconic among them is the Russian State Library in Moscow, one of the largest in the world. Founded in 1862, it holds millions of volumes, including rare manuscripts, maps, and other historical documents, making it a treasure trove for researchers and scholars. The library's architectural grandeur reflects its significance, with vast reading rooms and meticulously curated collections covering a wide range of disciplines. Beyond the Russian State Library, Moscow is home to numerous other libraries, such as the Lenin Library, which is also highly regarded for its expansive catalogue of works. But the best thing about Moscow is its people; friendly courteous and always willing to help. The warmth of the Russian people is often a pleasant surprise for those visiting the country for the first time. Once you break through the initial formalities, you'll find that Russians are deeply hospitable, warm-hearted, and generous, especially when it comes to welcoming guests into their homes. The tradition of hospitality runs deep—guests are treated with great respect, and hosts often insist on sharing hearty meals and meaningful conversations, making you feel genuinely at home. As we pack bags, they are filled with souvenirs and memories one would share back home. As you board the flight and bid goodbye to Moscow you are still yearning for more.

I HAVE BECOME MY OWN VERSION OF AN OPTIMIST. IF I CAN'T MAKE IT THROUGH ONE DOOR, I'LL GO THROUGH ANOTHER DOOR - OR I'LL MAKE A DOOR. SOMETHING TERRIFIC WILL COME NO MATTER HOW DARK THE PRESENT
—RABINDRANATH TAGORE

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week, focusing on financial discipline is crucial as managing your budget becomes a priority. Assess your spending habits and income, noting that while your earnings are substantial, your outlays may exceed them. Aim to establish equilibrium not just in your finances but across all areas of your life that are rapidly evolving and require your focus, such as home matters, property dealings, educational pursuits, and professional growth. Consider limiting social engagements and leisure activities for the majority of the week to concentrate on these pressing issues. As the week progresses, you'll find the weight of stress lifting, allowing you to move forward more freely. You'll end the week feeling vibrant, joyful, and full of zest, ready to embrace your journey with caution and awareness of potential challenges.

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Coral
Lucky day Tuesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week may present a series of challenges, including unexpected obstacles, misunderstandings with friends, and financial delays. Despite these difficulties, your resilience will shine through as you confront each issue with calm and determination. Financially, returns on past investments or repayments may be underwhelming, prompting careful consideration and planning. However, this is only a temporary setback. Prioritizing health through timely medical consultations, meditation, and yoga will contribute to overall well-being. Engaging in spiritual practices can provide additional solace and strength during this period. Stay proactive and remember that your choices have the power to alter your path forward. You are equipped to handle any disruptions, drawing strength from spiritual connections to navigate this complex time.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Tangerine
Lucky day Saturday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Individuals with boundless energy need to channel it effectively to achieve optimal results. There are some immediate adjustments required in your approach. Prioritize delegating tasks and organizing your schedule efficiently, as effective time and resource management is key. A career advancement may be on the horizon this week, accompanied by financial benefits. Work-related travel could be fruitful, providing opportunities to establish long-term connections. Confidence and determination will propel you toward success. By week's end, expect significant financial rewards and the satisfaction of tangible accomplishments. This period also presents a favorable opportunity for investing in assets, though cautious decision-making is advised. Don't be overly concerned about your professional trajectory; you're nearly at your goal. Maintain your focus to ensure you reach your full potential.

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Friday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week might start on a positive note with new possibilities ahead, but be prepared for some unexpected sharp exchanges from a coworker or a close one. Your romantic overtures could face setbacks, potentially leading to feelings of isolation and sadness. It's wise to keep your expectations realistic and maintain a practical outlook. You may find yourself on the brink of ending a relationship that hasn't fully begun. It's important to manage your emotions and keep your temper in check to avoid feeling overwhelmed and drained. Remember, this challenging period is only temporary, and you'll soon regain control of the situation. A maternal figure or a more experienced female relative in your life could offer the support and guidance you need during this time.

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Rufuchsia
Lucky day Sunday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week may find you feeling deeply emotional, with nostalgic thoughts urging you to reconnect with old friends or visit your family. You might find yourself exchanging gifts or reliving cherished moments with loved ones. However, matters of the heart could prove challenging, possibly leading to feelings of disappointment or heartache, especially for those anticipating significant commitments in romantic relationships. An inclination towards possessiveness might also surface, suggesting a need for emotional balance and calm. To navigate this period, consider engaging in meditation or other calming practices. Focusing on creative or spiritual activities can be particularly beneficial, offering a productive outlet for your emotions and helping to shift your perspective towards optimism.

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Thursday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week presents a spectrum of outcomes. Guidance from a mentor or family elder will help clarify your life direction. High ambitions may lead to confusion, especially concerning property matters. Beware of potential deception and criticism from others. Stay grounded to avoid complications, particularly in relationships. Practicality is key in overcoming these challenges. Give yourself and your significant other adequate space and time before making decisions. Emphasize honesty and use your intellect to discern realities. There's a need to cleanse a negative influence affecting your well-being, enabling you to embrace positivity. Trust in your own capabilities and proceed with confidence. Cultivating patience and resilience will fortify your journey through uncertain times. Focus on nurturing your inner peace to ensure you can make balanced and thoughtful choices.

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Thursday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week promises an uplifting journey filled with heartfelt connections and personal triumphs. The initial days bring a deepening bond with your partner, marked by a nurturing love that enhances your vitality and encourages your best efforts. Your positive outlook will help you overcome challenges that previously seemed overwhelming. Your abilities and determination are set to earn your admiration, even from those who have doubted you, marking a significant victory. Your inspiring presence motivates others, and your own well-being—both physical and emotional—sees significant improvement. As the week progresses, you will experience a profound sense of vindication and fairness that reaffirms your path and choices. This period culminates in a joyful realization of your desires and goals, illuminating the rewards of your perseverance.

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Lavender
Lucky day Wednesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week you're infused with a dynamic drive to excel in your career. An awaited piece of positive news from afar is likely to arrive, bringing joy and potential opportunities. Financial matters will demand your focus, with transactions, payments, and investments taking center stage. Remember, sharing your prosperity with those in need can bring profound rewards. You'll also find satisfaction in disseminating the knowledge you've accumulated, providing guidance to those around you. Embrace this phase of abundant possibilities, but consider a significant shift in your perspective or approach. Making these adjustments will lead to gratifying outcomes. Challenges may arise, yet your seasoned judgment and keen intellect will enable you to overcome them and thrive.

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Teal
Lucky day Monday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week presents promising opportunities for career advancement and personal connections. You might unexpectedly receive a promotion or pay increase. Be prepared for potential work-related travel, which is likely to yield significant benefits in the future. If you're renting, this period may also bring changes to your work or living spaces. Midweek, emotions run high, enhancing your romantic and passionate pursuits. However, you might find yourself conflicted about a particular relationship or decision, torn between differing inner voices. Trusting your instincts will serve you well. As the week closes, you'll find greater emotional equilibrium and control over your feelings, leading to a broader perspective on potential opportunities. These could be linked to professional growth, significant personal milestones, or creative inspiration, igniting a strong drive to achieve notable goals.

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Thursday



CANCER June 21-July 22

Regulate your emotions! Your emotional responses are currently heightened, possibly leading you to dwell on past mistakes or express frustration toward those close to you. To navigate away from disappointment and a gloomy mood, engaging in mental wellness activities can be very helpful. Consider practices such as meditation, yoga, breath work, or immersing yourself in inspiring literature. Remember, the past is behind you, and focusing on the present can illuminate the path to a brighter future. This week, embrace the closure of old chapters and start anew with a fresh perspective. Being proactive rather than avoiding issues will foster strength and wisdom. Embrace optimism and maintain faith to achieve your aspirations.

Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Monday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week brings a series of delightful events and laughter-filled moments. You'll find yourself deeply invested in a challenging project, pouring your energy and passion into it. This experience is unique as teamwork amplifies its benefits, enhancing your virtues and introducing you to new skills and untapped potential. Your focus and determination will make it easier to stay on track and meet your objectives. There may be opportunities for international connections, either through friendships or potential travel plans. Your ambitions keep you driven, and undistracted by romance or leisure as you aim for significant financial and professional achievements. Expect recognition for your dedication, possibly in the form of a raise or promotion. Be grateful for these blessings and savor the rewards of your hard work.

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Saffron
Lucky day Wednesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week starts with a focus on reflection and growth as recent efforts and challenges are reviewed. Despite considerable dedication, you may find that the rewards of your labor are yet to be fully realized. It's a period where doubts could cloud your judgment. By midweek, a sense of satisfaction emerges as unexpected professional opportunities present themselves, offering the potential for financial gains. This phase is ideal for initiating new ventures or investments. Throughout the week, various propositions will appear, necessitating careful selection to align with your goals. Financial prudence is advised to avoid unnecessary expenditures. As the week concludes, the desire for travel or leisure activities may arise, leading to plans for enjoyable outings or romantic escapades with a significant other.

Lucky number 1 | Lucky colour Mustard
Lucky day Sunday

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THE TUNING FORK



C V Srikanth

The Kriyamana Karma encapsulates theincrediblybrilliant dynamism of how Karma works. While living our Karmas, we continue to createmore in the present life, influencingour future

Actions Have Corresponding Consequences

One does not merely earn Karma. One seeds it and grows it. And then - it grows on you. Everything connects with everything else - and Karma is the connect. It is in thought - not only in action. Neither fate nor destiny. A matrix that includes our choices, samskaras and more. Our conscious and unconscious acts, ideas and deeds determine our karma. It is about ownership and deliverance. Simplistically it means the idea of cause and effect, where thoughts, emotions, actions (karma) have corresponding consequences (karma-phala). It comes around as an energy that originates with us. It shapes individual destinies, influences rebirths, and underscores the ethical framework of traditions. It is almost impossible to comprehend the cycle of Karma in a unidimensional way. The limitations of human comprehension restrict our understanding of this extremely complex but immensely beautiful concept.

With its roots in the intention of the action, Karma is also defined as our prescribed duties towards our ecosystem. Krishna asserts in the Bhagavat Gita ...

tasmād asaktaḥ satatam kārāṇa karma samūchara asakto hyācharan karma param āpnoti pūruṣhaḥ

"Therefore, always perform your duties efficiently and without attachment. By performing duties without attachment, a person attains the highest."

Performing duties conscientiously (Sattvik Karma) without attachment to the results, leads to liberation (Moksha). We travel through births, with our accumulated karma due to our past actions. This Sanchita Karma and plays a major role in shaping one's life circumstances. The portion of Sanchita Karma that has to be inescapably experienced in the present life is Prarabdha Karma. It determines the significant conditions and events of one's current life.



The Kriyamana Karma encapsulates theincrediblybrilliant dynamism of how Karma works. While living our Karmas, we continue to createmore in the present life, influencingour future. One of the purposes of spiritual study and growth is to discern right from wrong action. As Krishna explains in the Bhagavat Gita

karmaṇo hyapi boddhavyam

boddhavyam cha vikarmaṇaḥ akarmaṇaḥ cha boddhavyam gahanā karmaṇo gatih

"One must understand what is action, what is inaction, and what is forbidden action. The path of action is very mysterious."

We must understand the nature of different types of actions (karma) and inactions, discerning right actions (Dharma) from wrong

actions (Adharma). In daily life, understanding karma influences decision-making, virtuousconduct, and spiritualapplication in our actions and duties. It encourages us to uphold principles of righteousness (Dharma) and avoid harmful actions, perform our duties selflessly, and practice mindfulness by reflecting on our intentions. Karma grows with intention, and reflects in your volition. It is not merely the content but the context. It is complex. It is not linear and it is Real and authentic. We have the right to it through our choicesand yet are urged not to consider ourselves as the cause of the results. It is about staying connected to the action with commitment but not attached thereafter. One of the most popular shlokas of the Bhagavat Gita, that has been a guiding principle

karmaṇy-evādhikāras te mā phaleṣhu kadāchana mā karma-phala-hetur bhūr mā te saṅgo ṣtvakarmaṇi

"You have a right to perform your prescribed duties, but you are not entitled to the fruits of your actions. Never consider yourself to be the cause of the results of your activities, nor be attached to inaction."

Karma entwines spiritual evolution, and the interconnectedness of all beings. It is not a punishment. It is a consequence of our choices. It is a reminder to be mindful, conscious, aware, and selfless. As Lord Buddha asserted - it is not possible to avoid experiencing the result of a karmic deed once it has been committed. Karma has no standard Menu - you get served what you deserve.

— The writer is a versatile professional with 3 decades in corporate experience & leadership roles, excelling in several areas as a ICF Certified Mentor Life Coach, Corporate Coach, Spiritual Intelligence Coach & CXO Coach. Spiritual counselor, Astro & Vastu consultant (25+ years of grounding in Vedanta philosophy) and a Motivational speaker. He is a Dale Carnegie's T3 graduate