



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. Based on specific intelligence about the presence of terrorists, a joint search operation was launched by security forces at village Kog (Mandli) (J/D of P/S Billawar) at Kathua. Contact has been established and a few rounds have been fired from both

sides. 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 Mangalanandan 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.

Stalin to succeed Stalin

A fresh political chapter?

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

In a late night development on Saturday, Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi has promoted Udhayanidhi Stalin, son of chief minister M K Stalin as the deputy chief minister and was allocated additional portfolios of planning and development. In addition to the promotion of Udhayanidhi as deputy chief minister, the Governor has inducted Senthil Balaji, who was released on bail by the supreme court after an incarceration of 471 days in jail in connection with prevention of money laundering case. It may be noted that Stalin is nit in the best of health if political grapevine is to be believed. Three more ministers have been inducted along with Balaji in the council of ministers and they would be sworn in on Sunday afternoon at Raj Bhavan Chennai, said a release by the Governor's office. It also said that three ministers were dropped from the council of ministers as per the recommendation of the chief minister Stalin. The promotion of Udhayanidhi Stalin as deputy chief minister was expected for quite sometime. There were reports that the elevation would happen prior to the foreign



tour of Stalin last month by it was rescheduled as per astrological directives. With Udhayanidhi Stalin getting elevated as deputy chief minister, the DMK and the Government has come under the full control of the Stalin family. Udhayanidhi, a first-time MLA was inducted in the council of ministers with the portfolio of Youth and Sports Affairs. Though there were resentment in the DMK senior leaders over the haste with which Stalin Junior was made a minister overlooking many seniors in the party, the Stalin clan has managed to hush up the issues.

"Now, Stalin will get enough time and space to revamp the DMK as well as the Government as there were many serious allegations about the functioning of the government. Moreover, small parties like VCK led by Thol Thirumavalavan have started as king for a share in the power," said Gauthaman Ramakrishnan, political critic and chief editor of Sree TV, a popular Tamil news channel. With the AIADMK, the main opposition, in total disarray and the BJP plagued with major infightings, Stalin hopes to make a smooth return to

power in the 2026 assembly polls which is less than two years away. The party is also getting ready to go for a clean sweep of the local body elections which are round the corner. The DMK's Delhi face is controlled by Stalin's step sister Kanimozhi with his grand nephew Udhayanidhi Maran acting as cheerleader. The revolt raised by senior leaders like T R Balau and Durai Murugan has been blown out as son Udhayanidhi Stalin has emerged as the DMK's new Raising Sun, the party's emblem.

Cockroach in meal shocks Air India passenger

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a shocking mid air discovery, an Air India passenger has complained of finding a cockroach in an omelette served onboard the flight from the national capital to New York, with the airline saying the matter has been taken up with the catering service provider for further investigation. The incident occurred on flight AI 101 on September 17, 2024, and was reported by the passenger on social media platform X. The incident has raised concerns about food safety standard prompting Air India to review its catering protocols. This is the second incident of a potentially dangerous foreign object being discovered by passengers in meals served on Air India flights over the past four months. In the statement, the spokesperson said the airline is concerned about the experience of the customer in the said instance and has taken it up with the catering service provider to investigate further. "Air India works with reputed caterers who supply to leading airlines globally and have stringent SOPs (standard operating procedures) and multiple checks to ensure quality of meals served to our guests. We are concerned about the experience of the customer in the



said instance and have taken it up with our catering service provider to investigate it further," the spokesperson said in a statement. "We will take necessary actions to prevent any recurrence of such instances in future," the spokesperson said. In a post on X, the passenger said a cockroach was found in the omelette served on the flight from Delhi to New York. "My 2 year old finished more than half of it with me when we found this. Suffered from food poisoning as a result," she said. The passenger also shared a short video and pictures of the food items served during the flight. She tagged Air India, aviation regulator DGCA and Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoohan Naidu in the post. In June, a passenger flying to San Francisco from Bengaluru on an Air India flight had found a blade-like metal piece in one of the meals served to him.

Gang shootouts on the rise in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Poising a serious threat to law and order situation, the national capital witnessed three separate firing incidents linked to escalating extortion bids by notorious gangs in the last 24 hours with the shooters attacking a luxury car showroom, a hotel, and a sweet shop. Fortunately, no injuries were reported in any of the incidents. While some unidentified shooters targeted a hotel at south Delhi's Mahilpalpur area early Saturday, some assailants opened fire at a sweets shop in Sultanpur Mor in Nangloi later. According to a police officer, around 9.30 am on Saturday, two men with their faces covered came on a bike and opened three to four rounds of fire at 'Roshan Halwai'. No one was injured in the incident but there were some shattered glasses in the shop, the officer said. Police suspect the shooting was related to protection money of some gangsters. After the firing at the sweets shop, a note with "Deepak Boxer Bhai, Anکش Lakra Bhai and Vishal Bhai" --the names of gangsters -- written on it, police said. CCTV footage has been collected and a probe was underway, they said. Earlier around 2.30 am, two men came on a motorcycle and fired around five to six bullets at the main entrance gate of Impress Hotel in south Delhi. No one was injured in the incident but some glasses were damaged, police said. Hotel staff and some guests were present in their rooms when the incident took place. Police has initiated a probe into the case. The hotel's receptionist, Khalida said that she was not present during the firing as her shift started in the morning. She added, "They did not target anyone but they opened fire at the gate. Five to six rounds were fired they and fled," Khalida said. This attack is also believed to be part of an extortion attempt to take over the hotel. Last year, the hotel owner had been threatened by a man claiming to be connected to Canada-based gangster Goldie Brar. Brar, along with Lawrence Bishnoi - currently in custody in Gujarat - has been linked to previous high-profile extortion cases, including a shooting outside actor Salman Khan's Mumbai residence.

Railway tracks to be made cattle and reel free

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

In order to tackle the rising incidents of cattle straying on to the railway tracks and two-wheelers crossing over, the Indian Railways has designed a new metal fencing termed as the W-Beam. It has been developed in such a way that it would also be difficult for humans to sneak and hence curb the menace of 'reel making' which is growing each passing day. These will be framed abreast the tracks that pass through the populated areas, railway officials said. "The gaps from the ground level and between the two beams have been designed in such a way in the new W-Beam metal fence



that cattle or two-wheelers cannot cross it and move over to the tracks," railway officials said. The decision has been taken since the concrete railway boundaries have been found not

be effective in preventing incidents, particularly the cattle run over. As of now the plans are to complete fencing of the New Delhi-Howrah and New Delhi-

Mumbai route to facilitate passenger train operations at a maximum speed of 160 kmph. The railways is mulling to increase the average speed of the passenger trains between 90

kmph to 110 kmph across its networks and the speed can be enhanced only after ensuring there are no animals and two-wheelers intrusion on the tracks. The new model W-Beam type metal fencing has been developed and being installed on Mumbai-Ahmedabad route where the train speed is being augmented to 160 kmph. All zonal Railways have also been advised to adopt the new fencing model. Further, to make train journey safer the latest version of Automatic Train Protection system, Kavach 4.0 is being finalised to work across railway network. While the officials claim, ever since specific safety measures have been taken, there has been a drop in accidents per day on the

railway network. An average of 2.6 accidents per day was recorded during 2012-14, which has come down to 0.5 (1 accident in 2 days) during 2022-24. The Centre is already working to secure the national highway network and work on bamboo crash barrier has been going on since last year which been named 'Bahu Balli'. The bamboo crash barrier underwent "rigorous testing" at various Government-run institutions like the National Automotive Test Tracks (NATRAX) in Pithampur, Indore and was rated as Class 1 during the Fire Rating Test conducted at the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) in Roorkee and it has also been accredited by the Indian Road Congress.

Besides tackling social & educational backwardness, cow vigilantism remains key electoral issue in Nuh

Congress promises to bring law against lynching in name of cow protection

MANOJ KUMAR ■ CHANDIGARH

Once in the spotlight for violent clashes between the two communities during a religious procession organised by Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal in the last year, the Muslim-dominated Nuh Assembly Constituency is witnessing a pitched triangular battle among Congress, Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Besides tackling social and educational backwardness, cow vigilantism remained a key electoral issue in the Nuh Assembly constituency.

As per available reports, Nuh, which is situated near the Gurugram-Sohna-Alwar highway, is one of the most underdeveloped districts in Haryana with a 54.08 per cent literacy rate, way below the state average of 75.6 per cent; infant mortality rate of 32 per 1,000 births as compared to 28 across the State; and per capita income of Rs 45,934 as compared to Rs 3.25 lakh for the State. Muslims constitute 79 per cent of the population, as per the 2011 Census.

Here, Congress party has fielded its sitting MLA Aftab Ahmed against the BJP's Sanjay Singh, the sitting MLA from Sohna constituency. The Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) has fielded Tahir Hussain. Tahir Hussain is the son of Zakir Hussain, a three-time MLA from the constituency and chairperson of the Haryana Waqf Board. He has recently joined the INLD. Other main contenders in this constituency are Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Rabia Kidwai and Jannayak Janata Party's (JJP) Birender. The JJP is in an alliance with the Aaz Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) in the state, while the INLD has tied up with the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP).

Nuh is the only constituency in the Muslim-dominated district where the BJP has not fielded a Muslim candidate this time. The BJP has never won from Nuh and the voters here have historically supported the Congress and the INLD.

Moreover, the chronic water shortages, dilapidated infrastructure, lack of healthcare facilities, and a high unemployment rate dominate the political discourse. According to local residents of the constituency, neither the Congress nor INLD, and BJP had done anything

substantial for the development of Nuh over the years. They are facing problems of lack of irrigation facilities and access to clean drinking water, scanty staffing in schools and colleges and the absence of a university and a railway station in the district. They also complained that National Highway 248A that traverses Rajasthan and Haryana is unsafe and too narrow.

Furthermore, since its formation, the seat has been occupied primarily by Rahim Khan Clan and Khurshid Ahmed Clan from the political families in the region. Chaudhary Rahim Khan and Chaudhary Khurshid Ahmed have been elected to the Legislative Assembly the most number of times.

In the 2019 Assembly Elections, Congress candidate Aftab Ahmed won the Nuh seat with a margin of 4,038 votes, securing 52,311 votes (41.77 per cent of the votes polled). He defeated BJP candidate Zakir Hussain, who received 48,273 votes. The JJP candidate Tayyab Hussain finished third with 17,745 votes, while INLD candidate Nasir Husain came fourth with 3,583 votes. In the 2014 elections, INLD candidate Zakir Hussain won the seat with 64,221 votes, defeating Congress candidate Aftab Ahmed who was runner up with 31,425 votes. BJP candidate Sanjay Singh finished third with 24,222 votes and HALP candidate Niyamat Pahelwan came fourth with 1,536 votes.

Meanwhile, BJP's Sanjay Singh has focused his campaign on bringing infrastructure projects and a tough stance on law-and-order, seeking to overcome the party's weak traditional base in this Muslim-majority region. Talking to reporters, Singh said, "Our poll campaign is centered on development of infrastructure and industrial growth. Our Government is building Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, which passes through Nuh district. Works related to building dozens of educational institutes and upgrading of hospitals have been completed."

He further said that after enlisting Nuh in the Aspirational Districts Programme, the government has done a lot of developmental works in the district. Roads, hospitals and schools have improved. Corruption has reduced. Bribery for jobs has gone down. "Government has built new roads that have made Nuh better connected with other districts. The development in Nuh is visible like never before. All roads are paved and every village has a drinking water supply, the BJP candidate added.

Tahir Hussain from the INLD-BSP alliance and JJP's Birender add further complexity to the race. Hussain has called for a return to basics, focusing on agricultural reforms and minority rights, while Birender's focus on youth employment and small-scale industries resonates with a specific section of voters.

AAP's Rabia Kidwai is the first woman candidate contesting from this constituency. Kidwai, a 34-year-old business-woman from Gurugram, comes from a prominent political lineage as the granddaughter of Akhlaq Ur Rehman Kidwai, the 13th Governor of Haryana,

Haryana Assembly election

known for his development work in the region, including the establishment of Shaheed Hasan Khan Mewati Medical College. She is banking on this familial connection as she faces an electorate historically loyal to local political figures.

Talking to reporters, she said, "People here are frustrated with years of neglect. I will bridge the gap between the government and the people, offering a new beginning with development as my core focus." She further said that both men and women are supporting her, driven by a desire for change, particularly after the Nuh riots, which left many feeling abandoned by the political class. "People here have endured enough—whether it was during the Nuh riots, the cruelty of cow vigilantes, or being tagged as cyber criminals. It's time we rewrite Nuh's story with development and inclusiveness," she says. She also talks about improving employment opportunities and pushing for better healthcare and educational facilities.

An INLD leader said that Nuh is one of the most underdeveloped districts of the country. Congress has failed to develop this region. Since 2014, the BJP has often stirred up communal tension here due to its majority Muslim population. Several developmental works and educational institutions were built here during the INLD's government regime. The Congress and BJP Government have not done anything noteworthy similar to that, he added.

'Will bring law against lynching in name of cow protection when Congress Govt is formed'

Congress candidate Ahmed, the incumbent, is known for his accessibility and deep-rooted connections in Nuh. He is counting on his long-standing relationship with the community to retain his seat. "People know me and the work I have done over the years. Nuh needs consistent efforts, and I have always been accessible to my constituents," said Ahmed.

Senior Congress leader Ahmed further said that he has pledged to introduce a law against lynching in the name of cow protection. He would demand a judicial inquiry into last year's communal violence.

Talking to reporters, Ahmed, the Deputy Leader of Opposition in the outgoing Haryana assembly, said, "The communal violence that rocked Nuh district last year was because of the BJP's propagation of anti-social elements in the garb of 'gau rakshaks'. There were warnings ahead of the communal violence and he had raised concerns with the administration beforehand but they 'let it happen', not only causing loss of lives and property but also faith."

"We cannot let these vigilante groups run riot. We will ensure that these cow vigilante groups are not allowed to enter Nuh," said Aftab Ahmed. He said cow vigilantes have created an atmosphere of fear in the community with "innocent" people involved in cow trade getting assaulted and, in some cases, even killed.

However, Ahmed faces criticism for the slow pace of development. Issues like unemployment, poor infrastructure, and erratic water supply continue to plague the district, and his challengers are quick to point out that progress has not matched the expectations set during his tenure.

Political Observers opined that despite being part of the National Capital Region and located in one of the most prosperous states in the country, Nuh is the most underdeveloped district in the country. Additionally, over the last one year, the district's experience with communal tensions and the rise of cow vigilante groups has left many residents feeling marginalised. Locals in Nuh -- identified as both economically and educationally backward -- have been demanding improved infrastructure and the setting up of a university. Besides chronic water shortages, dilapidated infrastructure, lack of healthcare facilities, and a high unemployment rate dominate the concerns of voters in the district, Observers added.

Congress manifesto for Haryana promises free electricity, MSP guarantee, caste census

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

With Assembly elections says away, the Haryana Congress on Saturday rolled out its detailed poll manifesto for the October 5 polls, making a host of promises, including setting up of a commission for farmers' welfare, Rs 2 crore for families of martyred soldiers, promoting labour-intensive units for generating employment and reconstitution of the Haryana Minority Commission.

Haryana Congress chief Uday Bhan, Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda, and former Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot among other leaders were present on this occasion.

The Congress had already announced seven 'guarantees', including the promises of a legal guarantee for an MSP, a caste survey, gas cylinders for Rs 500, monthly Rs 2,000 to every woman between 18-60 years, Rs 6,000 monthly pension for the elderly, disabled, and widows, two lakh permanent government jobs and 300 units of free electricity and free medical treatment of up to Rs 25 lakh.

Addressing the media,

Gehlot said the manifesto was prepared after consulting all sections of the society. "The Congress has the credibility that whatever it promises, it fulfills," he said, exuding confidence that the Congress will form the government after the polls.

Haryana Congress leaders claimed they considered the financial implications of each poll promise they made in the manifesto. Sharing details of the manifesto, Congress MLA and in-charge of the state manifesto committee Geeta Bhukkal said a farmers' commission will be formed for their welfare. She said problems of the state's farmers will be resolved on priority basis. Small farmers will be given diesel on subsidy and farmer diesel card will be issued for that, Bhukkal said.

A memorial for the farmers who died during the movement against the three now-repealed farm laws will be set up and a government job will be given to one family member of each farmer who died during the agitation, she said. A total of 736 farmers who died during the stir will be given the "martyr" status, Bhukkal said.

On the issue of the Satluj Yamuna Link canal, Bhukkal said the SYL canal is the state's lifeline, adding, "efforts will be made to get the Supreme Court's verdict, which was made in favour of Haryana, implemented."

Replying to a question on giving monthly Rs 2,000 to women under the Indira Ladi Behan Yojna, Bhukkal said income tax payees will not be covered under this scheme. The Congress has also promised to shut the Parivar Pechhan Patra (PPP) or the family ID portal, the BJP government's flagship programme.

It will also review the property ID scheme and 'Meri Fasal Meri Byora' portal, according to the poll manifesto. All other portals due to which the general public is "facing difficulties" in availing government facilities will be reviewed, it said.

The Congress has been taking on the BJP government over the issue of portals, claiming they caused hardships to the public with Hooda dubbing the ruling dispensation as 'portal ki sarkar'. The party has also vowed that the scheduled caste commission will be reorganised

and constitutional and administrative powers will be given to it. The creamy layer limit for the backward classes will be raised from Rs 6 lakh to Rs 10 lakh, the Congress promised. It also promised to set up a backward-class welfare commission for the upliftment of OBC.

The Congress promised reconstitution of the Haryana minority commission, it said. For the Sikh community, the party has promised to hold the elections of the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, it said.

In Mewat, a university will be set up and skill centres will also come up in each block of the district, it said. A new industrial policy for industrial development in the state will be introduced and labour-intensive industrial units will be encouraged to provide employment, it said.

The party promised that Rs 2 crore will be given as 'Shaheed Samman Rashi' to the family of any soldier who sacrificed his life for the country. It also pledged a job to one family member of a martyr and financial assistance for the education of their children, it said.

Himachal govt employees to get salaries on October 1

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Pradesh government employees, who experienced a five day delay in their salaries in September, will receive their pay on October 1, a state government spokesperson said on Saturday.

In a statement issued here, he informed that following a review of the state treasury's cash flow by the Finance department, it has been decided that the salaries for September will be disbursed on October 1 while pensions will be paid on October 9. He noted that salaries for August were released on September 5 and pensions on September 10, reflecting the government's commitment to utilizing financial resources judiciously.

The present state government was actively working to minimize the gap between receipts and expenditures to ensure timely borrowing, there-



by reducing the interest burden on state loans, he added.

Chief Minister Sukhinder Singh Sukhu had informed the Vidhan Sabha on September 4 that the state requires Rs 2,000 crore monthly to cover the payment of Rs 1,200 crore in salaries and Rs 800 crore in pensions. The CM had said that the Revenue Deficit Grant (RDG) of Rs 520 crore and the state's share in central taxes, amounting to Rs 740 crore, are received on the sixth and tenth of every month, necessitating the raising of loans.

Sukhu had also said that borrowing from the market at 7.5 per cent interest to meet salary payments on the first day of each month could be deferred to save about Rs 3 crore every month, amounting to Rs 36 crore annually in interest payments. The decision to release the salaries for September was made after reviewing the state's financial situation, with consideration for employees who have Equated Monthly Installments (EMI) scheduled for the first of the month, the CM had said.

Punjab CM Mann tests positive for leptospirosis

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was on Saturday diagnosed with bacterial infection leptospirosis, with doctors saying he is being given antibiotics. The 50-year-old AAP leader was admitted to the Fortis Hospital Mohali on Wednesday for a routine check-up. "At present, all vitals of the Chief Minister are completely stable. As suspected at the time of admission for tropical fever, his blood tests for leptospirosis came back positive," according to a health bulletin issued by the hospital. It said the chief minister has already been put on appropriate antibiotics. "All clinical features and pathological tests have shown satisfactory improvement."

Triangular contest on cards in Ambala Cantt; Ex-Hry Home Minister Anil Vij aims at 7th win

MANOJ KUMAR ■ CHANDIGARH

Even as former Home Minister and BJP heavy-weight Anil Vij is eyeing a seventh term in the Haryana Assembly, Congress rebel Chitra Sarwara, has made the electoral battle interesting in Ambala Cantonment. With her move, the contest has become triangular on the seat, as she will pose a challenge for Vij, who is eyeing fourth consecutive win and total seventh win, and Congress Candidate Parvinder Singh.

Chitra, whose father Nirman Singh, the Congress candidate from Ambala City is close to former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda was among the top contenders for Congress ticket from Ambala Cantt, but it went to Parvinder Singh, who is close to senior Congress leader and Sirsa MP Kumari Selja.

After being denied a ticket from the Congress party, Chitra is contesting the election as an independent candidate. Congress suspended her for six years for anti-party activities.

Vij, who is confident of retaining his seat, has been slamming the Congress for ignoring Ambala Cantonment constituency during its regime. He recently sparked a controversy when he said he would stake a claim for the Chief Minister's post if the party returns to power in Haryana. The BJP, however, scuttled his bid, saying Nayab Singh Saini will remain the chief minister.

Amid a fierce battle in the Ambala Cantonment, some new contestants have been trying hard to make their presence felt in the field. Aam Aadmi Party's Raj Kaur Gill and Jannayak Janta Party's Avtar Singh are in the field from the Ambala Cantonment

Constituency. Indian National Lok Dal has fielded Onkar Singh as its candidate from this constituency.

In the 2024 Ambala Lok Sabha election, BJP candidate Banto Kataria got a lead in Ambala Cantonment segment. Kataria bagged 61,177 votes while Congress candidate Varun Choudhary got 58,200 votes here.

Even in the 2019 Assembly elections, after the Congress denied party ticket, Chitra contested as an Independent and stood runner-up with over 44,400 votes against Vij. Congress candidate Venu Singh secured the third spot. In 2019, Vij bagged 64,571 votes while Chitra got 44,406 votes, a margin of 20,165.

With just a week left for the polls, the candidates of all political parties and the Independent candidates who are testing their fate have intensified their poll preparations and campaigning. From slamming the other parties and making promises to resolve local issues, the candidates are leaving no stone unturned to woo the voters. Besides holding corner meetings, workers meetings and door-to-door campaigns, the candidates are developing personal contacts to strengthen their positions.

While the BJP is seeking votes in the name of work done, and has been slamming the Opposition for alleged irregularities in its previous tenure, the Congress is raising concerns about farmers, unemployment and the law and order situation.

Talking to reporters, Vij listed an array of development projects which he said were started during his stewardship of the constituency, including a "grand martyrdom memorial dedicated to the heroes of 1857, the first war of

Independence." "Ambala had slipped into a dark zone (for groundwater depletion). I ensured it got canal water, a new 'Anaj Mandi' came up, a science centre is coming up, we are building a bank square complex, fire brigade building and 'homoeopathic college,' he said.

He further said, "A park named after Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose came up three years ago and people from neighbouring areas come to see this park. Construction of the domestic airport is progressing rapidly and it will boost trade." Vij said: "People have elected me six times on the basis of the work done and I am confident they will elect me for the seventh time too."

Hitting out on the internal feud in the Haryana Congress, he said, "To defeat them, we do not have to do anything. It will be their infighting that will sink their ship."

INLD Candidate Onkar Singh, who is testing his fate from this constituency, has been raising local issues to grab the voters' attention. "The government claims to have spent crores of rupees in the development of Ambala Cantonment but poor roads, waterlogging and defunct lights narrate a different story. I remain among the people and fight for their issues. I have appealed to the people to support me and I will get the issues resolved," said Onkar Singh.

Talking to reporters, Chitra said "As an Independent candidate, I have been getting support from all sections of the society. While the government claims that over Rs 3,000 crore has been

spent on the development of Ambala Cantonment, things at the ground level haven't changed. The drainage system and roads are in poor condition. The local industry and residents are struggling. We have been raising the voice of people of Ambala and we will fulfil the expectations of the people."

"I have been doing issue-based politics in the constituency for a long time. Last time also, I received good support from the people and this time I hope to win," she said. Chitra further said that there are many issues in the constituency related to sewage, garbage, roads, infrastructure, and flaws with some of the big projects. "Development here is more cosmetic than real. The industry, which once flourished here, what is its condition today?" she asked. "Ambala is looking for a change," she said. Chitra is also often seen taking digs at Vij's moniker "Gabbar", as many of his supporters call him. "So, I tell people to vote for Chitra, nahi toh 'Gabbar' aa jayega," she said.

Talking to reporters, Congress candidate Parvinder Singh said that the people of Ambala will vote for change and he will win this seat for the party. "People know me and my style of working. I have raised civic issues and the problems of the people of Ambala effectively. I have been a dedicated worker of Congress. Due to the wrong policies of the BJP, youth are sitting unemployed, farmers are sitting at Shambhu border and the law and order situation has deteriorated. Projects are lying incomplete in the Sadar area causing inconvenience to residents. I assure people that if given the opportunity, I will resolve the long-pending issues."

Pb Tourism Minister inaugurates In uilab Mela

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/KHATKAR KALAN

Punjab Tourism and Cultural Affairs Minister Tarunpreet Singh Sond on Saturday inaugurated a two-day Inquilab Mela dedicated to the birth anniversary of Shaheed Bhagat Singh at Khatkar Kalan. He said that Shaheed-e-Azam Sardar Bhagat Singh is the pride of not only India but the whole world and the Punjab government is fully committed to carve out a country of his dreams.

Congratulations the entire nation on the birthday of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, he said that today entire Punjab is remembering this great martyr of the country. He said that under a special initiative, the Punjab government has started celebrating fairs/Mela again in the state and accordingly, a two-day 'Inquilab Mela' has been dedicated to the birth anniversary of Sardar Bhagat Singh at Khatkar Kalan. This Mela would be very helpful in making the young generation of Punjab aware of the ideology of their revolutionary heroes.

He said that earlier Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann also took oath at Khatkar Kalan and today the pictures of the real heroes of freedom struggle are displayed in the government offices of the state.

Earlier, Sond inaugurated the Mela by lighting the lamp. Cabinet Ministers Harbhajan Singh ETO and Mohinder Bhagat, Lok Sabha Member Malwinder Singh Kang, Deputy Speaker Jai Krishna Singh, MLA Santosh Kataria and Sukhwinder Sukhi were present.

Singers and artists, and students of various schools and colleges will present cultural programs. Apart from the presentation of dramas related to Shaheed Bhagat Singh, various exhibitions and stalls have also been set up during the fair.

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3. 5,00,000	50,000	5,000	20,000
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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



salariied 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.

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.

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.

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.



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.

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).

tative, 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.

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.

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.

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-Malda Town (UP/DN)-TSR (P) Bridge Approach-13.400 Tkm & Bridge Approach-Sleeper-66 sets under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/II/Kathihar.

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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 INDIAN 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 FORSYTH (CUMMING CITY GEORGIA STATE, COUNTY FORSYTH) 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 GARDA, NEW DELHI-110018 THROUGH ATTORNEY HOLDER SHRI SUSHANT SUMAN S/O SHRI BHAGYA NARAYAN SINGH, LAT NO. 504, SECTOR NO. 2, BRAHMA GHS, GOLF COURSE, ROAD, PLOT NO. 24, SECTOR-43, SIKANDERPUR GHOSI, GURGAON, HARYANA-122002.

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. Name of the work: CONSTRUCTION OF CONSERVATION OF ART OBJECTS OF G.B.PANT MUSEUM, ALMORA, DISTRICT-ALMORA. Tender Value (Without L&T) (Rs. In Lakh): 35.78. Period of Completion: 12 Months.

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.

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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.

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 groundsmen 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.

India pacer Akash Deep accounted for Bangladesh's openers — Zakir Hasan and Shadman Islam — while off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin sent back rival skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto. India are leading the two-match series 1-0, having won the Chennai.

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

AP ■ PARIS

Bradley Barcola scored one goal 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



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.

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

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 Traoré, 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." The transition was first reported by Sportico, a publication owned by Roger Penske's son. Andretti and Penske have been at odds the entire season with Andretti complaining at the March season-opening race that Penske was not spending enough to properly market the series and if he wasn't willing to pump in the needed cash, he said Penske should sell IndyCar and Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The comments infuriated Penske, and his leadership group slowly began dealing more directly with Towriss instead of Andretti. The amplification of the resentment between Andretti and Penske grew as the season went on and in late August, Andretti leadership noted there was a clear conflict of interest when Penske driver Josef Newgarden was not penalized for various maneuvers 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 IndyCar teams this season - for Herta, Marcus Ericsson and Kyle Kirkwood - and won the season finale with Herta at Nashville Superspeedway.

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 four-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 Caboli 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.

"In the second set, seems like everything started working much better. I think that's why it was more smooth and better quality." The second-ranked Sabalenka is the top seed in Beijing in the absence of Iga Swiatek. Next up for the three-time major winner is American Ashlyn Krueger, who beat New Zealand's Lulu Sun 6-1, 7-6 (4). Third-seeded Jasmine Paolini of Italy rallied from a poor first set to beat Denmark's Clara Tauson 1-6, 7-5, 6-4. Paolini will play Poland's Magda Linette after the 31st-seeded player also needed three sets to progress past Moyuka Uchijima 6-4, 4-6, 6-3. Ninth-seeded Daria Kasatkina of Russia beat Croatia 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 Stefaos 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.



NHPC conferred with 'Honorary Award' for Outstanding Contribution towards Development of Renewable Energy in Uttar Pradesh

NHPC, a 'Navratna' Enterprise of the Government of India has been conferred with 'Honorary Award' in recognition of its Outstanding Contribution to the Development of Renewable Energy in Uttar Pradesh during State Leadership Meet at Lucknow (UP) on 27th September 2024. Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh, Director (Projects), NHPC received the award on behalf of NHPC. Shri Singh also delivered a keynote address wherein he gave a deep insight into NHPC's crucial role in the development of green energy and the initiatives being undertaken by NHPC towards achieving the same. During the Meet CEO, BSUL and other senior officials of NHPC and BSUL were also present.



Harco Bank's 57th Annual General Meeting was held in the auditorium of Sector-17 B, Chandigarh. On this occasion, the Managing Director of Bank Dr. Prafull Ranjan welcomed Chairman of Harco Bank, Shri. Hukam Singh Bhati.



SBI Conducts Walkathon to Mark Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign-2024

State Bank of India, Local Head Office Chandigarh organized Walkathon in Chandigarh to mark Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign-2024 and to create public awareness for cleanliness. The Walkathon comprising more than 300 people was flagged off by the Chief General Manager of SBI Shri Krishan Sharma and other senior executives of the Bank. The event was organised along with the active support from Desh Bhagat University. Dr. Tejinder Kaur, Pro-Chancellor of the university also graced the occasion with her presence and motivation to the participants. Several SBI staff members, students, professionals, men and women from all walks of life participated in the Walkathon.



Bank of Baroda organised cleanliness activity at surrounding area of Offices near Bank square sector 17 Chandigarh under the ongoing campaign "Swachhata Hi Seva 2024". Mr. Rajay Bhasker DGM, Rajesh Sharma DGM alongwith other staff of Zonal Office and Regional Office Chandigarh participated actively in the cleanliness drive.



Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh present alongwith Shri R.K. Chaudhary, CMD, NHPC and Shri K.V.N. Chakradhar Babu, MD, APGENCO during signing of Joint Venture Agreement between NHPC and APGENCO for implementation of PSPs and other RE Projects in Andhra Pradesh. Shri Gopinath Ravi Kumar, Hon'ble Energy Minister, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Shri K. Vijayanand, Special Chief Secretary (Energy), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Shri R.P. Goyal, Director (Finance), NHPC, Shri Rajat Gupta, Executive Director (SBD&C), NHPC and Smt. Kirithi Chekuri, JMD, APTRANSCO were also present on the occasion.



The Poster Making Competition was held on the topic "Swachhata He Seva" by National Insurance Company Limited Regional Office S.C.O 332-334, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh in Government Model Senior Secondary (Smart) School, Sector 22-A, Chandigarh on 27.09.2024.

Declaration about criminal Cases Format C-1

(As per the judgement dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.) Name and Address of Candidate : Pradeep, R/o Vill Kathura Teh Gohana Distt Sonipat Name of Political Party : Indian National Congress Name of Election : Legislative Assembly Election, Haryana Name of Constituency : Bawani Khera-59. I Pradeep, a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents :

(A) Pending Criminal Cases

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Case No. and dated	Status of case(s)	Section(s) of Act concerned and brief description of offence(s)
1.	MS.Manu Shree M.M. Pataila House Court, New Delhi	FIR No.116 of 2022 fixed for 20.01.2025 PS Tughlak Road, New Delhi Criminal Case no.8870/2022	Pending for Charge	Under section 426,283,188,435, 285,120B,34 IPC
2.	Sh.Devender Kumar Jangala Ld.ASJ Pataila House Court, New Delhi	FIR No.142 of 2023 fixed for 28.09.2024 PS Tughlak Road, New Delhi Case No. SC/33/2023 Pending for Charge	Pending for Charge	Under Section 3(1)(r)(S) & 3(2) (Va) of SC & ST(Prevention of Atrocities) Act and 354,323,506, 509,34 IPC

(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences

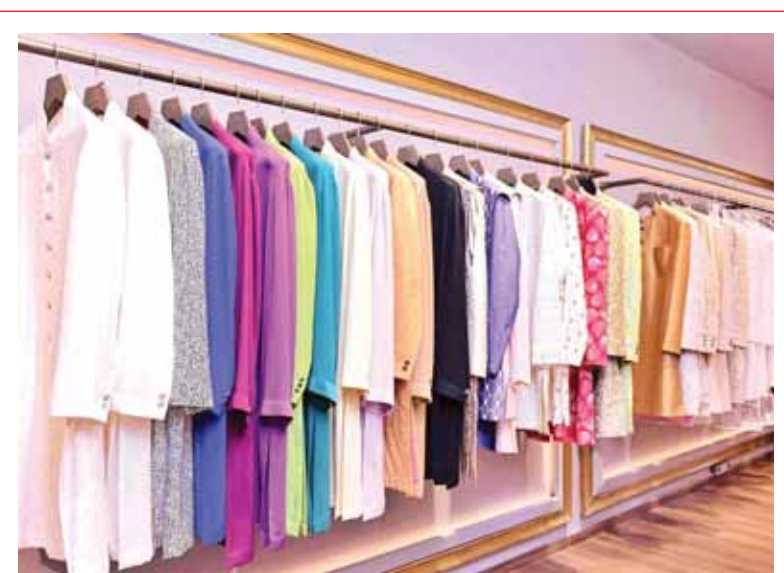
Sl.	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed	Maximum punishment Imposed
1.	NIL	NIL	NIL



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?**

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.



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

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 Shilpa 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

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 toh 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* in the fragrant *Gobindobhoger 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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"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 Baroyari 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.

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 Rufous
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 kārati karma samāchara 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 gatiḥ

"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