



**WORLD 6**  
STARLINER RETURNS TO EARTH, WITHOUT CREW

**SPORT 7**  
INDIA LOOK TO START FRESH AFTER OLYMPIC BRONZE

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## PAKISTAN ADMITS KARGIL WAR FOUGHT BY ITS SOLDIERS, NOT MUJAHIDEENS



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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



Union Home Minister Amit Shah during a party worker meet ahead of Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, in Jammu, Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024. MoS Jitendra Singh was also seen

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

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Predicting the Assembly poll results in advance, Union Home Minister Amit Shah Saturday declared the National Conference and the Congress will never be able to form a government in Jammu and Kashmir. Shah said the BJP will contest and win these elections with full strength. He also emphasized that the election results will be decided by the people of Jammu. Addressing the 'Karyakarta Sammelan', a day after releasing the party's Sankalp Patra (Manifesto) here in Jammu Shah motivated the booth-level party workers to launch a door-to-door

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

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

## Brij Bhushan gloats Phogat's Olympic miss



(Left to right) Bajrang Punia, Brij Bhushan and Vinesh Phogat

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Fresh controversies have surrounded former Olympian wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia who has joined Congress to contest the forthcoming assembly elections in Haryana. While the wrestlers employer Indian Railways has given a notice seeking explanation to serve the three months notice period, their intentions to join politics were questioned by former BJP MP and Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh against whom wrestlers levelled sexual harassment allegations. Bhushan accused that the protests against him over sexual harassment allegations were nothing but a political conspiracy by Congress two years ago. In his first response Brij Bhushan accused Phogat of "cheating" by taking another wrestler's spot at the Olympics. He claimed Phogat the "face of the Congress conspiracy" and claimed that she was part of a

plot hatched against him by Congress leader Deepender Hooda and the Hooda family. He further added that Phogat of cheating to attend the games saying she could not win a medal because God had punished her. Hitting back, Punia said Singh's remarks reflect his mindset, adding, "It wasn't just Vinesh's medal, it was a medal for 140 crore Indians. He is taking satisfaction in her loss." Punia further alleged that Vinesh Phogat's failure to secure a medal at the Paris Olympics had been a moment of national sorrow, but the BJP's IT Cell launched a campaign to mock and belittle her. While Phogat has been fielded for the polls, Punia was appointed as the working chairman of the All India Kisan Congress. The BJP leader also alleged that Bajrang Punia participated in the Asian Games without completing the trials. Meanwhile, Punia questioned the patriotism of those who

celebrated Vinesh Phogat's disqualification, asking whether they could truly be considered "deshbhakts." He stressed that he and others had been fighting for the country since childhood, while those who criticise them "dare to teach patriotism" and are involved in "molesting girls," he alleged. Congress sources said the BJP's intention to prevent Phogat from contesting after she has resigned from her department will go futile since both the former railways employees have resigned with immediate effect and the railways have no choice but to either waive off the three months notice period or curtail financial benefits. Both have been served a show cause notice by Indian Railways and sources in the railways said as of now the resignations were not accepted and technically they continue to be a government servant. The election commission mandates that the contestant should not be a government employee.

## Fresh violence in Manipur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ IMPHAL

Five people were killed in fresh violence in Manipur's Jiribam district on Saturday. Security forces, on the other hand, destroyed three bunkers of militants in Churachandpur district on Friday after the insurgents launched rocket attacks in adjoining Bishnupur that killed one person and injured six others. Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh called an emergency meeting with

MLAs from the ruling coalition, which comprises the BJP, Naga People's Front, and National Peoples Party (NPP), on Saturday evening to discuss the prevailing law and order situation in the state, official sources said. The meeting, scheduled to take place at the Chief Minister's bungalow, is expected to focus on critical decisions concerning the recent attacks on civilians by armed men from elevated hill areas, sources added. Additionally, the legislators,

along with Singh, may also meet the governor, though this is yet to be confirmed. On Saturday, one person was shot dead in his sleep while four others were killed in subsequent exchange of fire between people of two communities in Jiribam district, a police officer said. Militants entered the house of the person who lived alone at an isolated location around 5 km from the district administration headquarters and shot him dead in his sleep, he said.

## GANESH CHATURTHI FESTIVAL KICKS OFF



Mumbai: Devotees offer prayers to Lord Ganesh at the Lalbaugcha Raja on Ganesh Chaturthi festival, in Mumbai, Saturday

## Make way for the remover of obstacles

KUMAR CHELLAPAN ■ KOCHI

Rationalists and atheists may not like this but the truth is that Lord Vinayaka (also known as Ganapathi or Vigneshwara) is an international figure who is respected and adored by believers of Sanatana Dharma spread across the world. Vinayaka Chaturthi is celebrated across India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, USA, Britain and many other countries. Devotees cutting across caste, class and religion pay obeisance to the God (who has the head of an elephant) to invoke his blessings. While Sanatana believes organize Ganesh Festivals across Maharashtra as a mark of unity and nationalism, the rest of the country follows suit with "Sarvajanic Ganeshotsav", immortalized by Bal Gangadhar Tilak, the greatest freedom fighter India has seen. The Dravidians led by Ramasami Naicker had insulted Vinayaka by garlanding his idols across Tamil Nadu with footweavers. Sri Lanka, which has 75 per cent Sinhala population and less than nine percent Tamil



population too comes alive with Vinayaka Chaturthi celebrations. The only difference is that many places in the island nation celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi on 6th and 7th September and immerse the colourful idols in lakes, rivers or in the mighty Indian Ocean. Employees, staff and management of ten tea plantations in Nuwara Eliya situated in central Sri Lanka had its Ganesh festivals on 6th and 7th of September which had a grand finale on Saturday. The devotees that included Sinhalese, Indian

island nation. The Government of Sri Lanka had deputed the secretary, department of Hindu Culture to coordinate the event that saw thousands of people from the district assembling for the two-day event filled with pujas, devotional songs and cultural events to propitiate Ganesh. Vijayabalan said Ganesh was no stranger in Sri Lanka as the Buddhists too worship the remover of all obstacles in their temples. Pandit Bhaskara Sharma led the pujas and distributed prasadam to all those who assembled to pay their obeisance to the God of Knowledge. The bhajan "Ganapati Bappa Morrya, Mangal Moorthy Morrya, Akhil Baras Thu Jaldi Aaa" reverberated across the plantations and during the procession to the Lake for the Holy Immersion. Ganeshotsav in Sri Lanka is not just a flash in the pan as the Elephant headed God is worshipped by the locals in many countries in Asia, said Ravi Kumar, Indian representative of SEWA based in Sydney.



## Puja Khedkar discharged unceremoniously

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Centre has discharged Puja Khedkar, former probationary civil servant, from the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) with immediate effect, official sources said on Saturday. Khedkar has been accused of cheating and wrongly availing Other Backward Classes (OBC) and disability quota benefits to ensure her selection in the service. She has denied all allegations.

The central government, vide order dated September 6, 2024, discharged Khedkar from the Indian Administrative Service under Rule 12 of IAS (Probation) Rules, 1954, with immediate effect, the sources said. The rules allow the central government to discharge probationers from service if they fail "to pass the re-examination..." or "if the central government is satisfied that the probationer was ineligible for recruitment to the Service or is unsuitable for being a member of the Service", among others. The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) had on July 31 cancelled her candidature and debarred her from future exams. Khedkar was serving as a probationary IAS officer in her cadre state Maharashtra. She had allegedly changed her name and parents' names to appear for the examination more times than what is allowed. "The UPSC has examined the available records carefully and found her guilty of acting in contravention of the provisions of the CSE-2022 Rules. Her provisional candidature for the CSE-2022 has been cancelled and she has also been debarred permanently from all the future examinations/selections of the UPSC," a UPSC statement has said.





# Banbasa case very sensitive, linked to nation's internal security: Harish Rawat

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Former chief minister and senior Congress leader Harish Rawat has said that considering the sensitivity of Indo-Nepal relationships, the brother of the BJP MLA from Ranikhet being caught for "smuggling" live cartridges in Banbasa is a very serious

and his driver at the Indo-Nepal border at Banbasa while they were trying to enter Nepal on Friday. The SSB handed over Nainwal and his driver to the local police.

Rawat said that the case

case. He said that the relationship between Nepal and India is very sensitive and viewed from this perspective, the matter should be taken very seriously. The former CM claimed that he is privy to the information that the Nepalese authorities had

ple having direct association with BJP are involved in the criminal activities in Uttarakhand. He said that the Congress party is keeping a close eye on the Banbasa case and added that if required, the party will approach the governor of the State for justice. "The BJP has denigrated every constitutional body including that of the governor. However, considering the fact that the governor of Uttarakhand is an armed forces veteran, we are sure that he would understand the sensitivity of the case and take measures to ensure that the issue is not hushed up," he said.

Targeting the ruling BJP Rawat said that the cases of rape, murder and sexual harassment are continuing to increase in the State and in most of the cases there is a clear involvement of people having links to the ruling party. He averred that if the police had succeeded in apprehending the VIP involved in the Ankita Bhandari murder case, the criminals would not have dared to commit crimes against women in Uttarakhand.



issue and is related to the internal security of the country. Satish Nainwal, the brother of Ranikhet MLA Pramod Nainwal was booked by the Champawat police under Arms Act on Saturday. The Sashstra Seema Bal (SSB) had apprehended Nainwal

also points out to consistent degradation of the politics and power in the State has undergone. Interacting with the media persons at his residence on Saturday Rawat said that it is learnt that efforts are being made from Dehradun to New Delhi to hush up the Banbasa

shared with administration of border districts that people with links to power are engaged in cross border smuggling. Rawat added that the area where the ammunition was recovered is near the Maoist affected area. The former CM alleged that the peo-

# CM should order strict action against Nainwal: Mahara

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Karan Mahara has congratulated the team of 57th battalion of Sashstra Seema Bal (SSB) for apprehending Satish Nainwal and his driver Dinesh Chandra with 40 live cartridges dur-

against the brother of the Ranikhet MLA.

Mahara said that the BJP MLA was also found involved in the multi-crore horticulture scam. The PCC president said that it appears as if the BJP gov-



ing checking in Banbasa while they were trying to enter Nepal. Satish Nainwal is the brother of BJP MLA from Ranikhet, Pramod Nainwal. He demanded that the chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama should take cognisance of the Banbasa case and strict action should be taken

ernment has given license to its ministers, MLAs, their relatives and workers to openly commit murder, robbery, rape and now smuggling. He alleged that the law and order situation in the State has collapsed and the BJP workers, intoxicated by power, are openly breaking the law.

# Rawat sensationalising case sans facts for political gains: BJP

## Prompt action taken by authorities without favouritism, says Joshi

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Bharatiya Janata Party has stated that the allegations levelled by senior Congress leader and former chief minister Harish Rawat, regarding the brother of the Ranikhet MLA are an attempt to sensationalise an issue for political gains. The BJP State spokesman Suresh Joshi said that the legal action taken so far in this case proves that the authorities are working in an impartial manner. Targeting the Congress on what he termed its stance of convenience on cow slaughter, he said that the people want to know whether it supports those involved in illegal cow slaughter. Refuting the allegations levelled by Rawat, the BJP spokesman said that the law and order is being maintained effectively by the State government under chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama with necessary action being ensured without any partiality. "The incident along the India-Nepal border which Rawat is referring to also substantiates the facts we are stating. Proper legal action was taken regarding anything wrong found at the scene without any special treatment to anyone unlike what was done under Congress governments," Joshi said. Terming Rawat's statement regarding

Maoism as irresponsible, he said that it is not proper for senior leaders to level such allegations without facts simply for sensationalism. The BJP government in Uttarakhand is working with complete transparency and strictness to maintain law and order in Uttarakhand. Immediate action is taken whenever any case comes to light. In the latest case too, the law is doing its work. All should avoid making statements on every issue just for political gains, he added. Joshi further said that the Congress' clarification on allegations of supporting those involved in cow slaughter is inadequate. "The Congress should give a straight answer instead of diversionary talk. The people of Uttarakhand simply want to know whether the Congress supports those who slaughter cows though the reply to this question is clear in their policy of appeasement. Rawat and all Congress leaders in the State should learn from the admission of Congress ministers in neighbouring Himachal Pradesh regarding unauthorised mosques. People in Uttarakhand will not accept those who provide protection to those involved in illegal cow slaughter," the BJP State spokesman said.

# Investigation underway, anyone found guilty to face action: BJP

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Bharatiya Janata Party has clarified that investigation is underway in the case of its Ranikhet MLA's brother Satish Nainwal being caught with 40 live rounds at the India-Nepal border, adding that action will be taken against anyone found guilty. BJP State president Mahendra Bhatt told mediapersons that he had talked to the Ranikhet MLA Pramod Nainwal regarding the matter. "His brother had gone to get labourers from Nepal and had left his licensed gun at home but ended up carrying the cartridges.

substantiate his claims. He provided documents to show the purchase of the bullets and his gun license. The original documents were submitted to the authorities," Bhatt said.

The party's State spokesman Suresh Joshi said, "According to what we know so far, he has also shown the authorities documents showing that he had purchased the cartridges legally and that he had no intention of doing anything unlawful. The matter is under investigation and legal action will be taken against anyone found guilty," Joshi said.

The Nepal government had sought documents to

# One more dengue patient found in Dehradun District

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The cumulative number of dengue patients in Dehradun district mounted to five with the district health department reporting one new case of the disease on Saturday. The sample of a patient admitted in the SPS hospital Rishikesh was found positive in the Enzyme Linked Immuno Sorbent Assay (ELISA) test on Saturday.

The district vector borne diseases officer Subhash Joshi told The Pioneer that the district now has three active cases of dengue as two patients have recovered from the disease.

He said that the department is currently engaged in a massive source reduction drive in which the larvae of the mosquito are being destroyed. Joshi

said that apart from ASHA workers the department has deployed 140 volunteers in the anti-dengue drive. He claimed that the department has so far searched 42,73,640 containers (small and large potential breeding places for mosquitoes) in the district and has found larvae in 51,120 containers so far. He said that the department is also engaged in spreading awareness in the society about the disease.

Dengue is a viral infection spread by the mosquito Aedes Aegypti popularly known as the tiger mosquito. The symptoms of the disease are persistent high fever, rashes, headache and pain in the joints. In the acute cases the platelets number decreases drastically which may prove fatal for the patient.

## Ways to prevent Dengue

- Don't allow water to collect in and near houses
- Regularly decant fridges, coolers, pots and cans
- Spread kerosene or other oils on small water bodies which are effective to destroy the larvae of Aedes mosquitoes
- Inform the district health authorities for fogging to kill mosquitoes
- Aedes strikes during day time and flies near ground level so wear full sleeved clothes at work places
- Immediately seek medical advice when someone develops a fever

# Notice issued to agency for maintaining hygiene in district hospital

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Following the direction of the newly appointed Dehradun district magistrate Savin Bansal, the administration of the Deen Dayal Upadhyay (Coronation) district hospital has issued a notice to the cleaning agency to ensure the maintenance of hygiene in the hospital. The DM had conducted a surprise inspection of the hospital on Saturday. After accessing the basic service at the hospital as a general citizen, Bansal issued necessary directions including the maintenance of cleanliness standards and increasing the number of medication counters at the hospital. Consequently, the hospital administration has become more vigilant on these aspects.

Informing about this, medical superintendent of the district hospital Dr VS Chauhan informed that in compliance with the DM's directions the hospital administration promptly issued a notice to the cleaning agency to guarantee that the hospital's cleanliness is maintained in accordance with the standards. He further stated that the cleaning staff at the hospital typically work in three shifts to maintain hygiene. Chauhan added that instructions have been given to the officials concerned to increase the number of medicine counters at the hospital. Presently, there are three medicine counters and with the proposed increase, the total will reach five. Chauhan further

emphasised that the administration will ensure punctuality among all staff members, including doctors, nurses and others. Tidiness of the staff will result in deductions from their monthly allowance. Further, he informed that after the DM visited the hospital, a meeting was held with the medical staff and instructions were issued to maintain a friendly and respectful demeanour towards the patients. Additionally, they were informed about the available facilities, such as the Ayushman card. Further, they were reminded to wear the appropriate uniforms and not to prescribe medications from outside the hospital, he said.

# ULB polls

# Govt likely to convene special session of Vidhan Sabha in October

## The Uttarakhand (Uttar Pradesh Municipal corporation 1959) Amendment Bill 2024 is with the Assembly's select committee

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Following the affidavit submitted by the State government in the Uttarakhand High Court stating that the notification for the elections of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in the State will be issued on November 10 and the process of elections and constitution of elected boards in them will be completed by December 25, the State government can now convene a special session of Vidhan Sabha for passage of the Uttarakhand (Uttar Pradesh Municipal corporation 1959) Amendment Bill 2024. It is likely that a one-day special session for passage of the bill will be convened in the month of October.

for determining Other Backward Classes (OBC) reservation in these bodies. However some of the BJP MLAs led by Vikasnagar MLA Munna Singh Chauhan raised objections to the recommendations of the one-member commission on OBC reservations and demanded sending the bill to the select committee for further scrutiny and discussion. The select committee is likely to submit its report to the speaker on September 23. Based on the recommendations of the select committee, the government will make some changes in the bill and convene a special session of Vidhan Sabha for passage of the bill.

A divisional bench of the HC comprising Chief Justice Ritu Bahari and Justice Rakesh Thapliyal held hearing of a PIL on holding of ULB elections on Friday. In the court the government expressed its inability to conduct the elections till the deadline of October 25. However, it submitted an

affidavit stating that the notification will be issued on November 10. The government counsel told the HC that the appointment to the vacant post of State Election Commissioner (SEC) has been made. There are 102 ULBs in the State and the elections for 99 ULBs (barring Kedarnath, Badrinath and Gangotri Nagar Panchayats) will be held.

The five year term of the elected boards in all the ULBs of the State ended on December 1, 2023. Since the State government could not conduct the elections last year due to the pending report of the Supreme Court constituted one-member dedicated commission on OBC reservation in the ULBs, it posted administrators in all the bodies by an order dated November 30, 2023. This tenure of the administrators was further extended by a period of three months on June 2, 2024. With the end of this extension on August 31 the government again extended the

tenure of the administrators till the constitution of new

boards by elections.

# Temporary police post established at district hospital

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Considering the importance of safety and security on the premises, the authorities have set up a temporary police post in the Deen Dayal Upadhyay (Coronation) district hospital. This action was taken in response to the recent alleged rape and murder of a female doctor at a government hospital in Kolkata.

Regarding this, the medical superintendent at the district hospital, VS Chauhan added that they have implemented various safety measures in response to the recent incident, especially focusing on

the security of female doctors. A temporary police post has been established on the hospital premises with the help of the Dehradun senior superintendent of police Ajai Singh. Four police personnel including two males and two females have been posted here. Additionally, they have increased the number of PRD security guards at the hospital from eight to ten, he added. It will be recalled that the hospital administration has recently conducted an inspection of all CCTV cameras to ensure they are

functioning properly.

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**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**  
"APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6(2) & 8 (6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Mortgagor (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s/Mortgagor/Guarantor/s/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below -

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers / Guarantors/ Mortgagors	Short Description Of The Immovable Property With Non Encumbrances, If Any	Total Dues.	Date & Time of E-Auction	A) Reserve Price B) EMD C) Bid Increase Amount	Property Inspection date & Time.
1.	Borrower: M/S Kisan Flour Mill, Khasra No.151, Add.- Vill. Bhurna, Pargana Manglaur, Tehsil Laksar, Distt. Haridwar Smt. Komal Sharma W/o Late Mr. Dinesh Kumar, (Proprietor) and all other Legal Heirs (if any) of Late Mr. Dinesh Kumar S/o Mr. Ram Singh, R/o- Adarsh Colony, Vill.- Bhurna, Laksar, Distt. Haridwar, Guarantor:- 1. Mr. Anuj Kumar S/o Mr. Rajpal, 2. Mr. Arjun Kumar S/o Mr. Rajpal, 3. Mr. Arun Kumar S/o Mr. Rajpal, 4. Mrs. Premo Devi W/o Mr. Rajpal, Guarantor's R/o- Village Bhurna, Pargana Manglaur, Distt. Haridwar	All that part and parcel of property non agriculture plot bearing khasra No.151, Measuring 0.0683 hectare i.e. 683 Sq.Mtr. Situated at village Bhurna Mangalaur, Tehsil Laksar, Distt. Haridwar standing in the name of Shri Anuj Kumar, Arjun Kumar & Arun Kumar all S/o Mr. Rajpal & Smt. Premo Devi W/o Shri Rajpal, vide regd. Lease Deed Dtd. 04-02-2016 in book No. 1 Vol 2277 page 269-286 at serial No. 836 in the office of Sub registrar Laksar. Boundaries:-North: Chak Road, East: Property of Meghraj, West: Property of Rajveer, South: Remaining Land of sureties (Arjun & Others)	Rs. 19,53,660.00 (Rupees Nineteen Lac Fifty Three Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Only) as on 04.09.2024, plus interest & Other Charges w.e.f 29.09.2018	03.10.2024 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM	A) Rs. 6,97,000/- B) Rs. 69,700/- C) Rs. 20,000/-	From 09.09.2024 to 01.10.2024 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM

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# Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi to visit India on Monday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in February 2022 and a Local Currency Settlement (LCS) System in July 2023 to promote the use of Indian Rupee and AED (United Arab Emirates Dirham) for cross-border transactions. The two countries are among each other's top trading partners with a bilateral trade of about USD 85 billion in 2022-23, according to official data. The UAE is also among the top four investors in India in terms of foreign direct investments in 2022-23. About 3.5 million strong and vibrant Indian community forms the largest expatriate group in the UAE.

The UAE was invited as special invitee for G20 during India's Presidency of the grouping. In February 2023, the India-UAE-France (UFI) trilateral was formally launched. With India's active support, the UAE joined SCO as dialogue partner in May 2023. The UAE also joined BRICS as a member on January 1 with India's support. The India-UAE defence cooperation has also witnessed a renewed momentum in the last few years. In January 2024, the first India-UAE bilateral army exercise 'Desert Cyclone' was held in Rajasthan.

# About 62000 cases pending in High Courts since 30 years



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

China's growing muscle-flexing in the region.

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

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

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

national capacities so that there are more options and contributions that benefit the world. We have seen this recently during the Covid pandemic in terms of vaccine production capacity," he said.

"Or in the Arabian Sea to strengthen maritime security. As indeed, the supply of food grains to those in great need. Second, to de-risk the global economy from pandemics, climate events and conflicts, help build more resilient, reliable and redundant supply chains," he said.

This, Jaishankar argued, means working with global partners more efficiently and create an environment where it is easier to do business. "Many of the recent infrastructure initiatives in India will make a difference in that regard. Third, in the digital domain, create trusted partnerships and trusted vendors," he said. This will ensure that the sensitivities at home that we have about our data are equally respected when they cross the borders, he noted.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

The teachers awarded were



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

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

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

around the country were selected for the award.

They included 50 teachers by the Department of School Education & Literacy, 16 by the Department of Higher Education and 16 by the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, an official statement said.

Modi suggested that the awardee teachers connect with each other on social media and share their best practices so that everyone could learn, adapt and benefit.

He highlighted the impact of the NEP and spoke about the significance of attaining education in the mother tongue. The Prime minister suggested that the teachers teach local folklore to their students in different languages so that they learn multiple languages and also get exposure to India's vibrant culture.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

# Over 500 wheelchair users participate in National Injury Prevention Week

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

This event, organized under the aegis of the Directorate General of Health Services of the Union health ministry, was held to mark the Spinal Cord Injury Day, which is held every year on the first Saturday of September. Director General of Health Services, Prof Atul Goel, underscored the significance of injury prevention and rehabilitation. Official coordinator for Injury Prevention Week, Dr Harvinder Singh Chhabra, said, "Prevention is the key to spinal cord health since it's cells, as in the case of brain, does not regrow and any damage has a debilitating effect."

Chhabra is also the chief of the Spine and Rehabilitation Centre at Sri Balaji Action Medical Institute, President of the Spinal Cord Society and Chairman of the Spine Wellness & Care Foundation, further said, "Our ongoing efforts in prevention, early intervention, and comprehensive management including rehabilitation are vital to improving the quality of life for those affected." The programme highlighted the importance of spinal cord injury awareness and the need for comprehensive care and rehabilitation. According to a report of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, as many as 16,397 persons lost their lives in road accidents in 2021 by not wearing seat belts, including 8,438 drivers and 7,959 passengers.

# South enjoys Vinayaka Chaturthi festivities, Telangana CM joins in celebration

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHENNAI/HYDERABAD/BENGALURU

Vinayaka Chaturthi is celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety across the south on Saturday, with prominent leaders, including Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy joining the celebrations in their respective states. A festive mood prevailed as people gathered in large numbers to offer worship in temples and grandeur marked the occasion with the installation of large Ganesha idols in Chennai and Hyderabad, among other cities. Prominent Ganesha temples such as the ones at Pillayarpatti in Sivaganga and Malaikottai in Tiruchirappalli, both in Tamil Nadu, and the Manakula Vinayakar temple in neighbouring Puducherry with devotees. Telangana CM Reddy participated in a well-attended Ganesh Puja at Khairatabad in Hyderabad. JD(S) leader and Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy held prayers at Bengaluru. Celebrations were also held in some temples in Kerala. In Tamil Nadu, the famous Ganesha temple (Malaikottai

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



At some places in the state, police denied permission to install Ganesha idols due to alleged violations, like failing to secure proper permission and flouting norms on ensuring environment friendly idols. In Chennai, the actors' association, (Nadigar Sangam-South Indian Artistes Association) held 'Annadhanam,' a distribution of food to the people. In neighbouring Puducherry, people thronged Manakula Vinayagar temple since early morning to offer worship to the presiding deity. Special poojas and other rituals were performed to Lord Ganesha. Chief Minister N Rangasamy, Home Minister A Namassivayam and leaders of political parties were among those who greeted the people on the occasion. In Telangana, the nine-day-long festivities commenced on a grand scale and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy attended the puja at the famous pandal at Khairatabad in Hyderabad, known for the giant size of the idol. This year a 70 ft idol was installed for worship at the pandal, which attracts thousands of devotees during the festival observed for nine days. Several pandals were set up across the state, especially in Hyderabad. The state government has made elaborate security arrangements for the festival and also for the immersion of idols in water bodies after the conclusion of the worship. Clay Ganesha idols are gaining more popularity with each passing year in the state, as part of initiatives to promote greener celebrations. At Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, a 63-feet Ganesha idol made of eco-friendly materials was set up on the banks of Tungabhadra river and Hubballi in Karnataka witnessed elaborate security arrangements for the festival. In a visual treat, at Koppal (Karnataka), 2,000 students came together and sat down and also stood in patterns to form specific shapes to create the form of a giant Ganesha. Tamil Nadu police said processions for the immersion of the idols will be held on different dates in the state. As many as 64,217 police personnel have been deployed to regulate traffic and maintain law and order during the installation and immersion of the idols.

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

PTI ■ PANAJI

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



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

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

PTI ■ BENGALURU

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



Puducherry. The lead researcher of the report Akanksha Singh said, "Clean air is fundamental to our health, yet this report reveals that particulate matter levels in all cities have surpassed the revised WHO guidelines. While current efforts are focused on cities not meeting the national ambient air quality standards, it is crucial to also address those cities that are currently in compliance. "Proactively managing air quality in these areas can help prevent them from falling into non-attainment." When compared with WHO guidelines, the annual average PM2.5 levels are found to be six to seven times higher in Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Kochi, Mangaluru, Amaravati, and Chennai. Additionally, comparing PM10 levels with WHO guidelines reveals that Bengaluru, Puducherry, and Mysuru have annual averages that exceed these guidelines by four to five times. "To address this, we continue urging the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to

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

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

PTI ■ PATNA

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



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

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

## 1 passenger killed, 16 injured after bus overturns in Pathankot



PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

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

## Odisha CM Mohan Majhi flags off Subhadra Yojana Awareness Rath

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

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



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

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

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

PTI ■ BHOPAL

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



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

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

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

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



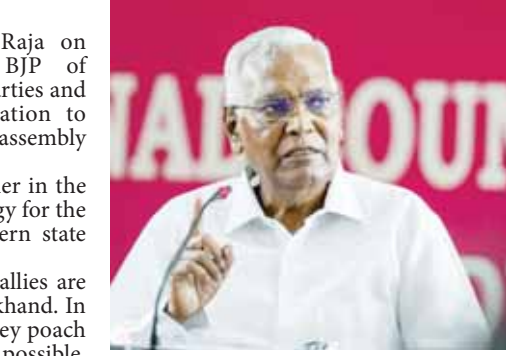
more people-centric places," he said. The CM was speaking at the first state-level conclave here of 'Nagarik Samitis' from all 307 police stations in the state. Maintaining that the long and difficult nature of duty of police personnel tend to make them tough in their regular dealings, he said the role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

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

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

PTI ■ RANCHI

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



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

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

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

PTI ■ RAEBARELI (UP)

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



police station area of Raebareli district. Shaileja died on the spot, while two other girls -- Kanchan (17) and Aarti (16) -- got injured and were admitted to the district hospital, they said. The victims were students of a government-aided school in Raebareli, they added. Family members of the girls and villagers started protesting on the Raebareli-Pratapgarh road. A large number of girl students of

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



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

PTI ■ PARIS

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



Limb Centre to take up shot put after seeing his fitness as he embraced the sport in 2016 at the age of 32.

That year, he travelled to Jaipur to compete in the National Para Athletics Championships. A silver at

the Morocco Grand Prix in 2022 was followed by a bronze medal at the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou.

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



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

PTI ■ HULUNBUIR (CHINA)

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

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



AP ■ LONDON

England fast bowler Mark Wood will miss the rest of 2024 because of a right elbow injury, ruling him out of the test tours of Pakistan in October and New Zealand in December. Wood, England's quickest

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

foot forward, using pad as the first line of defence while tucking the bat behind the pads. In pre-DRS days, the former West Indian batter Jimmy Adams employed this technique quite routinely to escape from lbw, so much that he received the moniker — "Padams". But now, the bowlers have the option of leaning on DRS to overturn the on-field decision, and the batters will have to adjust their style of play accordingly early in their career.

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

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

AP ■ ROME

Maybe the English Premier League teams struggling to contain Erling Haaland should consider employing the 5-4-1 formation that Kazakhstan used against Norway on Friday. Kazakhstan's yellow-clad defenders swarmed around Haaland for the full 90 minutes of a 0-0 draw in the Nations League and kept the striker scoreless following his consecutive hat tricks in the Premier League. Haaland failed to hit the target with any of his four shots during a match in which Norway had 65% of the possession and produced 19 shots to Kazakhstan's four. Haaland has seven goals in three Premier League matches for Manchester City this season and hadn't been held scoreless for nearly a month - since City won the Community Shield in a penalty shootout over Manchester United on Aug. 10. Haaland did find the target in the shootout of the Community Shield, though. Haaland has been the joint top scorer with six goals in each of the past two editions of the Nations League. Overall, he has 31 goals in 34 matches for Norway. He still needs two more goals to match Norway record-holder Jorgen Juve, who scored 33 from 1928-37. On Wednesday, Haaland was among the 30 players nominated for the Ballon d'Or. Norway is in League B of the Nations League, in a group with Austria and Slovenia, who drew 1-1 after both sides advanced to the knockout stages of the European Championship. ITALIAN STYLE: Italy turned on the style to beat France 3-1 in Paris for the first time in 70 years. After Bradley Barcola put France ahead 13 seconds in, Italy struck back with goals from Federico Dimarco, Davide Frattesi and Giacomo Raspadori. Barcola's first international goal came after Italy full back Giovanni Di Lorenzo lost



possession, allowing Barcola to advance on goal and shoot past the onrushing Gianluigi Donnarumma. DiMarco's equalizer was an extraordinary angled volley into the far corner following an exchange with Sandro Tonali, who provided the assist with a backheel flick. Frattesi scored his sixth goal in 20 appearances - impressive production for a midfielder - by redirecting a cross from Mateo Retegui. Then Raspadori, a substitute, sealed it by concluding a counterattack. Spalletti's youth movement After losing to Switzerland in the round of 16 at Euro 2024, Italy coach Luciano Spalletti eliminated over-30 players like Francesco Acerbi, Jorginho, Matteo Darmian and Stephan El Shaarawy from his squad. Dimarco is 26 and Frattesi and Raspadori are 24. "It was not easy to get back on track after the Euros," Dimarco said. "We needed this victory to raise the morale of the team." De Bruyne brace Kevin De Bruyne scored twice for Belgium in a 3-1 win over Israel in neutral Hungary. De Bruyne put Belgium ahead after being

set up by his Manchester City clubmate Jeremy Doku and converted a second-half penalty. Youri Tielemans restored Belgium's advantage following an own goal for Israel by Belgium full back Timothy Castagne. The game was in Debrecen after the Belgian soccer federation said in July "no local authority in Belgium considers it possible" to stage a game against Israel for security reasons. LEAGUE B: Euro 2024 quarterfinalist Turkey was held to 0-0 at Wales after playing the final half hour with 10 men after Baris Alper Yilmaz was sent off for two yellows. Former Wales captain Craig Bellamy made his debut as Wales coach - his first senior coaching role. Iceland beat Montenegro 2-0 with goals from Orri Steinn Oskarsson and Jon Dagur Thorsteinnsson. League C Romania won 3-0 at Kosovo and Cyprus beat Lithuania 1-0. The European qualifying groups for the 2026 World Cup will be drawn in Zurich in December, likely with seedings decided by FIFA world rankings updated in November after Nations League group play ends.

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

AP ■ NEW YORK

When Taylor Fritz, a 26-year-old from California, and Frances Tiafoe, a 26-year-old from Maryland, strode under the Arthur Ashe Stadium lights Friday night for the first U.S. Open semifinal matching two American men in 19 years, the crowd might have been forgiven for not knowing which to support. There was a burst of clapping right before the initial point, a curtain-raiser befitting the show about to unfold. Once the contest got going, maybe the momentum shifts made it tough to choose between a pair of close pals who've known each other since they were playing tournaments for kids younger than 14. In the end, the roars were for Fritz, who surged with a six-game run against a fading and frustrated Tiafoe to come out on top 4-6, 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 and reach his first Grand Slam final. "It's the reason why I do what I do," Fritz told the fans, his voice cracking during a post-match interview. "It's the reason why I work so hard." The No. 12-seeded Fritz's momentum-shift-filled victory against No. 20 Tiafoe earned a showdown against No. 1 Jannik Sinner for the championship on Sunday. "He was overwhelming from the baseline so much... And I just tried to tell myself to stay in it and fight," said Fritz, who was two games from losing in the fourth set. "I told myself



that if I didn't give it absolutely everything I had - to just stick with it and see if his level might drop a little bit - then I was going to regret it for a long time." He will be the first U.S. Man to appear in a major final since Andy Roddick lost to Roger Federer at Wimbledon in 2009. And if he can get past Sinner, Fritz would become the first U.S. Man to win a Slam trophy since Roddick got his 21 years ago at the U.S. Open. "It's a dream come true. I'm in the final. So I'm going to come out and give everything I can possibly give," Fritz said. "I can't wait." From 4-4 in the fourth set Friday, he seized control as Tiafoe's strokes and usual confidence betrayed him.

He got his left wrist massaged after falling during a point he managed to win; Draper needed medical attention after vomiting twice in a game with the temperature in the high 70s and the humidity above 60%. During that break in the action, a vacuum was used to clear the ground behind the baseline and finish the cleaning job Draper, a 22-year-old from Britain, tried to do himself by wiping his, um, mess with a towel. There was none of that sort of drama away from the actual play in Tiafoe vs. Fritz. The respective guest boxes seemed to reflect the players' contrasting personalities. The excitable Tiafoe would mark a key moment by shaking a raised fist or gritting his teeth or wagging his racket or nodding while strutting to the sideline, and his entourage - including coach David Witt, who worked with Venus Williams for many years, as well as Jessica Pegula, the American in the U.S. Open women's final Saturday against Aryna Sabalenka - stood and got noisy, point after point after point. The group in the more mild-mannered Fritz's corner was more selective in its celebrations. Fritz had never been past the quarterfinals at one of his sport's four most prestigious events until now, but this journey included wins over a trio of guys with a combined six Slam runner-up showings: Casper Ruud, Alexander Zverev and Matteo Berrettini.



# PAJAMAS AND PLATES

## A BLISSFUL BLEND OF COMFORT AND CUISINE

**The Grammar Room** in Khan Market turned up the cozy vibes with a pajama party that mixed laid-back comfort with mouthwatering treats and fun-filled ambiance, making it the perfect place to relax, sip and savour the moment, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**



Welcome to the new opening of *The Grammar Room* in Khan Market! Imagine walking into a cafe where the lights are soft and the vibe is pure comfort - all while everyone is dressed in their comfiest pajamas. This was the scene at *The Grammar Room's* pajama party in the heart of Khan Market, where a delightful fusion of food, fun and comfort created an unforgettable experience.

From the moment guests arrived, it was clear that *The Grammar Room* was not just another place to grab a bite. The cafe welcomed everyone with warm hues, inviting couches and stacks of books that practically begged them to sit down and relax. The ambiance was thoughtfully crafted, with soft pillows, rustic wooden accents and large windows offering views of lush greenery outside - an aesthetic that felt just right for a laid-back afternoon. Add to that a collection of board games and a perfectly curated playlist and it was the perfect setting to kick back and enjoy.

But, of course, the real highlight of the evening was the food. *Chef Dhruv Oberoi* treated everyone to a culinary journey that satisfied every craving. *The Cheese Platter* was a crowd-pleaser, featuring an assortment of cheeses that delighted the taste buds with each bite. *The Burrata & Co.* brought together the comfort of cheese and the crunch of toast in one irresistible dish. Meanwhile, the *BR-AVO!* - Avocado, roasted pepper, citrus, sun-dried tomatoes, jalapeño and cilantro, on toasted sourdough was both a visual and a gastronomic delight, ideal for the Instagram-loving crowd. *The Jackfruit Tostada* offered a crispy, flavourful bite, while the *Granola Bowl* catered to those looking for something fresh and healthy. The ever-popular *Truffle Fries* were served hot and perfectly seasoned, and the cleverly named *XO Fried Rice* added a playful and tasty twist to the menu. And then there were the desserts - each one more mouthwatering than the last. *The Crème Brulee Pancake* stood out as a masterpiece, with a fluffy pancake topped with butterscotch crunch, vanilla crème and port-soaked currants. It was the kind of dessert that made everyone close their eyes in sheer delight. Meanwhile, the *Affogato Tartine* provided a unique treat, combining espresso rum-soaked pound cake with vanilla mascarpone and coffee-flavoured toasted popcorn. This creation was so innovative and delicious that it could easily become a signature dish on its own.



No pajama party is complete without something special to drink and *The Grammar Room* delivered on that front as well. Their *Iced Latte* was the drink of choice, offering a refreshing blend of freshly brewed coffee that was just right for those needing an energy boost. It was the perfect companion for anyone looking to start their day, keep it going, or even survive an all-nighter. The atmosphere at *The Grammar Room* was another big draw, blending cozy charm with stylish decor to create a space that felt like home - only better. The music was just right, setting a mood that was both lively and relaxing, while the friendly staff made every guest feel welcome and at ease.

All in all, *The Grammar Room's* pajama party was a resounding success, combining delicious food with a cozy and inviting setting that encouraged everyone to relax and have fun. Whether stopping by for a leisurely brunch, a caffeine kick or a sweet treat, *The Grammar Room* proved to be the ultimate destination for anyone seeking a unique and memorable cafe experience. It's the kind of place that stays in the memory and has visitors planning their return before they've even left.

### FACTSHEET

NO RESERVATIONS, ONLY WALK INS.  
TGR KHAN MARKET  
Meal for two: 2600 with alcohol  
Address: The Grammar Room, 73B, Middle Lane, Khan Market, Rabindra Nagar, New Delhi 110003  
PHONE : 7304983920

## One more ratna in Navratna



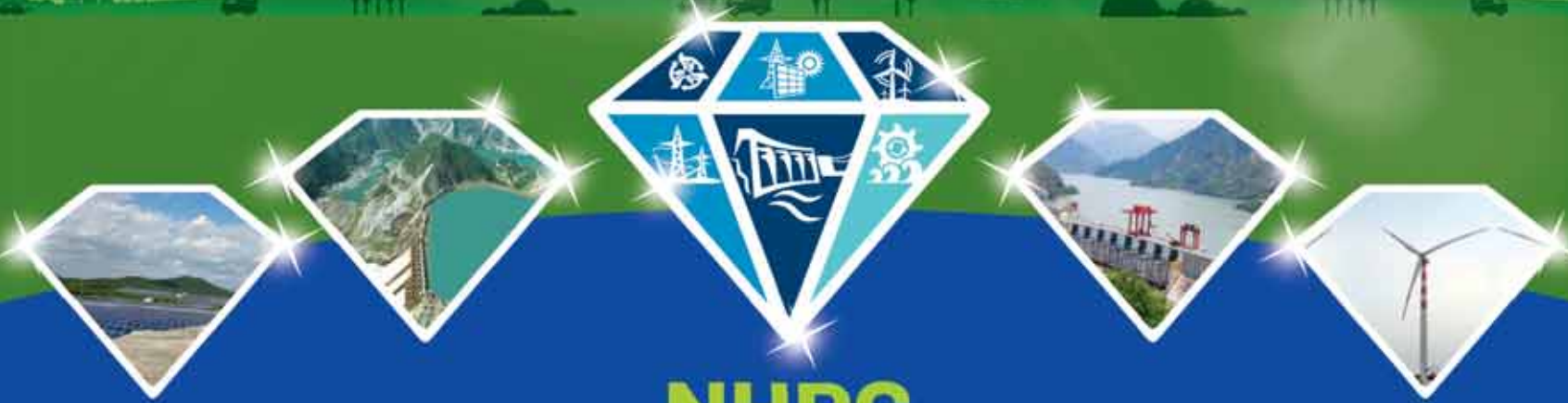
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"People say to me, 'You're so lucky. You get to see the world.' But I don't. I go to the hotel and to the pools and back again. That's it"  
— Michael Phelps



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

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



## INDIA'S TOURISM BOOM: A JOURNEY BEYOND THE ICONS

### UNVEILING THE FUTURE OF INDIA'S HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM INDUSTRY

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





BY SHARMILA CHAND

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

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

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

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

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

**Folding the Banana Leaf Is Important**

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

# CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF ONAM WITH SADHYA ROOTED IN TRADITION

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



**SADHYA CULINARY VOYAGE AT SANA DI GE, DELHI**

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

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



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



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

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

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

**ONAM SADHYA EXTRAVAGANZA AT TAJ RESORTS, GOA**

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

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

**ONAM SADHYA AT SANTOSHAM, MUMBAI**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**EXQUISITE SADHYA AT THE SHERATON GRAND PUNE BUND GARDEN HOTEL**

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

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

**GRAND SADHYA AT HILTON BANGALORE EMBASSY GOLFLINKS**

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

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

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



# A FUSION OF LUXURY, TRADITION AND CULINARY EXCELLENCE

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

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

## A GRAND WELCOME: SETTING THE TONE FOR ELEGANCE

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

## EMERALD BALLROOM: A GLAMOROUS COCKTAIL EVENING

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



can be tailored to the couple's preferences.

## JADE LAWN: A SERENE OUTDOOR CEREMONY

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

## OPAL BANQUET: A VIBRANT HALDI CEREMONY

The Opal Banquet was transformed into a lively venue for

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

## POOLSIDE: A FESTIVE MEHENDI CELEBRATION

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



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

## CHAOBELLA: A CHIC BOHEMIAN DINNER EXPERIENCE

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

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

## CULINARY EXCELLENCE: A FEAST FOR THE SENSES

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



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

## CRAFTING UNFORGETTABLE WEDDING EXPERIENCES

"At Crowne Plaza New Delhi Okhla, we believe in creating wedding experiences that are as unique and special as the couples themselves," said the General Manager. "This showcase was a glimpse into the endless possibilities we can offer, from personalised decor to gourmet cuisine, ensuring that every wedding is truly unforgettable." Wedding Showcase exemplified their commitment to creating exceptional wedding experiences. From the grand entrance to the diverse and delectable culinary offerings, every detail was designed to impress. As the General Manager noted, "We strive to make every wedding unique and unforgettable."

The Wedding Showcase at Crowne Plaza exemplified luxury and attention to detail. With stunning venues, exquisite decor and a diverse culinary spread, the event demonstrated the hotel's dedication to crafting unforgettable wedding experiences. Crowne Plaza is ready to turn every couple's vision into a unique celebration, ensuring each moment is as special as their love story.

Photos: Pankaj Kumar

## CANVAS OF HERITAGE AND CONTEMPORARY EXPRESSION

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

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



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



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



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



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



*Artix 3.0* succeeded in capturing the essence of what makes art truly powerful, its ability to connect people across boundaries, evoke emotions and inspire new ways of thinking. The atmosphere was electric, filled with conversations that ranged from the technical aspects of a painting to the deeper philosophical questions it raised. *Artix 3.0* was more than just an art exhibition - it was a celebration of creativity, a gathering of minds and a bold statement that art is for everyone.

As *Artix 3.0* works to expand to other cities like Bangalore, Mumbai and Kolkata, it is hoped that it will continue to build on this momentum, bringing its unique blend of luxury, creativity and accessibility to new audiences. For those who had the chance to experience *Artix 3.0*, it was a reminder of why art matters and how it has the power to transform spaces, people and even our understanding of the world. *Artix 3.0* served as a vivid reminder that art is not just something to be looked at but something to be experienced, felt and lived. And that, in itself, is its greatest achievement.

Photos: Pankaj Kumar



**YOUR WEEK AHEAD**

MADHU KOTIYA



**ARIES** March 21-April 19

This week, you're entering a phase where you'll experience the satisfaction of seeing your efforts pay off, leading to a more secure and prosperous situation. This is a perfect moment to enjoy the culmination of past diligence and smart choices. Your self-reliant nature will flourish, enabling you to appreciate your accomplishments and relish in your progress. This period is ideal for treating yourself to some well-deserved rewards and relaxation. It's also an opportune time to review your economic strategies and think about ways to enhance your financial security. The current cosmic energies are aligned to bolster your personal growth and solidify your achievements. Harness this favorable atmosphere to reinforce your position and revel in the stability that your hard work has afforded you.

**Lucky number** 20 | **Lucky colour** Lavender  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

This week could present some emotional hurdles, possibly linked to previous challenges or deep-seated pains. You may find yourself navigating a landscape of intense feelings that demand attention and resolution. This period calls for a direct approach to confronting and processing these emotions. Embracing introspection and nurturing self-care practices will be crucial. It's beneficial to lean on the support of trusted friends or family during this time. Although this phase might be demanding, it holds the potential for substantial personal development and enhanced emotional strength. Engaging with this process fully can pave the way for clearer insights and healing, turning a tough time into a transformative experience. Moving through these challenges, you'll emerge more robust and aware, ready to move forward with renewed purpose.

**Lucky number** 17 | **Lucky colour** Mustard  
**Lucky day** Friday



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

This week marks a period of transition and forward momentum. You may find yourself moving past previous challenges and stepping into new opportunities. This time signifies a shift toward more promising and stable circumstances, whether in personal or professional realms. View this transition as an opportunity for renewal and advancement. Your adventurous nature will be your guide through this changing landscape, steering you towards a more fulfilling future. Embrace the shifts occurring around you, as they are paving the way for growth and improvement. Your ability to adapt and explore will be key in navigating this period of change, leading you to brighter horizons and rewarding experiences. Use this time to streamline your goals and align your actions with your long-term vision. Harness this dynamic energy to propel yourself into a prosperous phase.

**Lucky number** 2 | **Lucky colour** Aqua  
**Lucky day** Friday



**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

This week presents a period of reflection, where you find yourself weighing multiple paths and ambitions. You may encounter a sense of being swamped by various potentialities or grand visions. It's crucial during this time to stay rooted and approach your choices with careful judgment. Resist the urge to wander into daydreams and concentrate on attainable objectives. Take this opportunity to organize your priorities and strategize effectively to transform these aspirations into tangible outcomes. Your inherent practicality will serve as a guiding light through any moments of uncertainty, helping you to select options that truly resonate with your core principles and future goals. Remember, patience is key as you navigate through this maze of options. Evaluating each carefully will ensure that your decisions are well-informed and aligned with your long-term success.

**Lucky number** 7 | **Lucky colour** Olive  
**Lucky day** Sunday



**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

This week focuses on enhancing your sense of security and stability. You may find yourself assessing your financial situation and material assets more critically. It's advisable to manage your resources wisely, being careful not to cling too tightly or become overly conservative in your approach. Consider striking a balance between maintaining security and exercising generosity. Now is an opportune moment to reevaluate your budget and financial strategies to ensure you are laying a robust groundwork for future expansion. Your attention to detail will serve you well, helping you to address both your current necessities and prepare for long-term objectives effectively. Taking proactive steps now can lead to significant rewards, reinforcing your path toward financial resilience and prosperity.

**Lucky number** 6 | **Lucky colour** Rose  
**Lucky day** Saturday



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

This week emphasizes structure, authority, and leadership. You may find yourself taking charge and establishing order in various aspects of your life. The focus is on setting clear goals and implementing practical strategies to achieve them. Embrace your natural leadership abilities and use this time to solidify your plans and assert your influence. Your disciplined and organized approach will help you create a stable foundation for future success and maintain control over your personal and professional realms. This period is ideal for consolidating your efforts and defining clear boundaries, ensuring you are well-prepared to handle challenges. Your ability to lead and plan effectively will be key to navigating this week successfully.

**Lucky number** 19 | **Lucky colour** Coral  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

This week, you may find yourself navigating scenarios where truthfulness and clever planning are crucial. You might feel tempted to sidestep direct confrontations or to manipulate situations to your advantage. However, this approach could lead to complications. Embrace transparency and strategic thinking instead. Being straightforward and thoughtful in your dealings will not only prevent potential missteps but also build stronger, more trustworthy relationships. Employ your analytical abilities to handle matters tactfully and steer clear of conflicts that could arise from misunderstandings. Keeping your interactions clear and your intentions pure will help you overcome obstacles effectively and enhance your reputation among your peers. This approach will prove beneficial, fostering an environment of respect and credibility.

**Lucky number** 4 | **Lucky colour** Scarlet  
**Lucky day** Thursday



**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

This week encourages forward-thinking and strategic planning. It's a favorable time to set new goals and explore fresh opportunities. You might find yourself considering long-term projects or contemplating new directions in your professional or personal life. This period is about taking the initiative and approaching your options with optimism and confidence. Embrace a proactive stance and use this energy to establish a solid foundation for future achievements. Your ability to mediate and your forward-looking attitude will serve you well in making strategic choices. Explore with enthusiasm, as this is a moment to expand your horizons and lay the groundwork for what's to come. Emphasize collaboration and gather insights from diverse sources to enrich your plans. Your thoughtful approach will pave the way for rewarding outcomes.

**Lucky number** 12 | **Lucky colour** Copper  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

This week finds you in a light, relaxed, and romantic mood, making it an ideal time to enjoy quality moments with your partner. Engaging in activities like shopping and dining out will be particularly appealing. Those who are single might encounter someone who feels like a breath of fresh air, possessing qualities of independence, sensuality, and ambition. Your natural charm and enthusiasm are likely to draw people towards you, enhancing your social circle with valuable allies and friends. Midweek, you may find yourself in a position where others seek your advice, allowing you to tackle challenging issues with vigor. Your leadership qualities shine, backed by a deep respect for others and an extensive compassionate reach.

**Lucky number** 5 | **Lucky colour** Tangerine  
**Lucky day** Thursday



**CANCER** June 21-July 22

This week, dedicate yourself to engaging deeply with traditions and gaining wisdom, ensuring everything aligns with your foundational beliefs. It's an ideal time to connect with experienced mentors or delve into practices deeply resonant with your core principles. Reflect thoughtfully on your long-term aspirations and the supporting structures that make them achievable. Turning to established wisdom or seeking guidance from seasoned advisors will provide profound insights and broaden your understanding. Embrace activities that promote stability and strengthen your connection to your inner self. This time is pivotal for solidifying your spiritual and emotional foundations, enabling you to navigate life with renewed purpose and clearer vision. Cherish this period as an opportunity for significant personal growth and spiritual enrichment.

**Lucky number** 9 | **Lucky colour** Teal  
**Lucky day** Monday



**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

This week heralds a period of inner fortitude and resilience. You'll find yourself tackling challenges with heightened confidence and determination, displaying courage and grace under pressure. This time encourages you to draw upon your inner strength and face situations with patience and compassion. Whether you're navigating personal issues or professional obstacles, maintaining calm and focused composure will be your greatest asset. Embrace this period as a chance to showcase your emotional strength and perseverance. By doing so, you'll find yourself emerging from the challenges not just intact, but stronger and more empowered. This is a time to reinforce your resolve and demonstrate the depth of your resilience. Let this phase of growth be a testament to your enduring spirit and ability to thrive under any circumstances.

**Lucky number** 3 | **Lucky colour** Peach  
**Lucky day** Monday



**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

This week unfolds with an infusion of romance, creativity, and deep emotional exploration. You may find yourself increasingly drawn to artistic endeavors or deepening your emotional bonds. The period is ripe for following your heart and passionately pursuing what truly moves you. Whether in relationships or in creative projects, let your emotions steer your actions and embrace the opportunities to express yourself genuinely. Your empathetic nature will come to the forefront, enhancing both your personal fulfillment and your connections with others. Allow this time to nurture your creative spirit and strengthen your emotional ties, as you explore and express the depths of your feelings. Use this time to reflect and perhaps recalibrate, ensuring your pursuits align closely with your deepest desires.

**Lucky number** 10 | **Lucky colour** Ivory  
**Lucky day** Monday

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Behave like a child when Nature is your Mother ...

THE TUNING FORK



C V Srikanth

Is climate change here? Is it on its way? Is it still some time away? Or is it ...?

So ... how long does one wait, for the inflection point to be reached. Or ... have we just started tipping over and we want to safely wish it away. And stay in denial. The jury is still out in the open. However, two things are in our face - the enormity of the situation (if it is here or for others when it will be) and the pivotal role Nature has in our life and existence on earth. Our ancient texts have always given the highest status to Nature - The Maternal status. Devoted. Nurturing. Pliable (to the maximum extent). Warm. Affectionate. Effusing warmth and care. Protecting. Tender. Strict when rules bend beyond a point. Gentle. And perhaps the most important - Trusting. Nature signified as the Maa Prakriti or Mother Nature and the consequent behaviour of the Child (the inhabitants) plays a key role in Vedic philosophy. The Indian scriptures give precious insights and reflect a deep philosophical significance to this. This concept and understanding are rooted in the Vedas, Upanishads and Smritis elucidate the relationship between us humans' conscious beings and the natural world, personifying nature as a fostering mother. The oldest of scriptures available to us (The Vedas) depict the portrayal of Nature as The Divine Mother form. This portrayal



encourages the reverence for the natural elements and the understanding that they have been and continue to be the main sustaining force for all life forms. One of the earliest mentions can be found in the Rig Veda, where various hymns celebrate the Mother Earth (Prithvi) as a maternal figure who caters to the sustenance and nourishment of all living beings.

स धाता पृथ्वी भवत्यजायमानायां विश्वायुः कवयाम अग्रभूर्देवा विवस्वानमानमृतयेमे sa dhāta pṛthvī bhavatyajāyamānāyām viśvāyuh kavayām agrabhūrdēvāīm vivasvānamāmūṭayeme

'He is the establisher of the Earth when she was being born, the Sage, the lord of what

has been and what will be, all-seeing, the light of lights.' This hymn compliments Mother Earth as the provider and sustainer of life. It emphasizes its role akin to a nurturing mother who supports and nourishes all living beings. If Nature and the Earth are The Mother ... we palpably are Her children, often having to be brought to book because of frequent infringements with Mother Nature. The spiritual analogy of behaving like a child in the context of Vedic interpretation symbolizes qualities such as innocence, trust, spontaneity, and a sense of awe and wonder. I wish I could add the word 'simple' here. If only we were simple, tolerant, and sensitive to the value of coexistence with Mother Nature. The Chandogya Upanishad (7.26.2)

explores the nature of reality and self and uses the metaphor of a child to illustrate the point.

तं विद्याकर्म शान्तः समः प्रज्ञानं ब्रह्म। ताम् विद्याकामाहं सान्ताहं समाहं प्राज्ञानाम् ब्रह्मा Desiring that wisdom, he becomes tranquil, disciplined, restrained, self-controlled, patient, and refined.' This verse underscores the qualities of tranquility, patience, and wisdom that a seeker of truth cultivates, qualities that are often compared to those found in a child who is innocent and trusting - What we need to imbibe as inhabitants (children of Mother Nature) Integration of Concepts The Vedic construal highlights this integration as a holistic worldview where we humans are inseparably interconnected with the Nature and the It encourages humility, sensitivity, veneration, a sense of responsibility towards nature, viewing it not merely as a resource but as a living entity deserving reverence and care. The Bhagavad Gita, reflects these principles (9.17)

पिताहमस्य जगतो माता धाता पितामहः वेद्यं पवित्रमोकार ऋक्साम यजुर्वे च।? pitāhamasya jagato mātā dhāta pitāmahāḥ vedyaṃ pavitraṃ oṃkāra ṛksāma yajureva ca

"I am the father of this world, the mother, the support, and the grandsire; I am the object of knowledge, the purifier, the syllable Om, and also the Rig, the Sama, and the Yajur Vedas." Here, Lord Krishna identifies himself with various aspects of creation, reinforcing the idea of divinity permeating all existence and nurturing it, akin to a loving parent. Nature and its inhabitants are indivisible, like mother and her child entwined in a spiritual understanding. It lends not only reverence for life and existence but for spiritual growth and self-understanding. It urges us to embrace sublime qualities with every resource existent on earth - not as a tool for survival always but as a vital coexistent partner. The gorgeous connect invites embodies the spiritual journey fostering a harmonious relationship with the environment. Where we are now may not be sustainable. Where we are headed needs to be.

— 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+ year s of grounding in Vedanta philosophy) and a Motivational speaker. He is a Dale Carnegie's T3 graduate