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**SHAHI CALLS FOR INCREASED AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION**

**SPORT 7**  
**HARMANPREET DOUBLE DRIVES INDIA 2-1 WIN OVER PAKISTAN IN ACT HOCKEY**

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# CONGRESS IS URBAN NAXAL: PM

**RAJESH KUMAR ■**  
 KURUKSHETRA/ NEW DELHI

In a scathing attack on Congress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said now it is not the same old party and has become new form of urban Naxal. Modi also dubbed the Congress as the biggest "dishonest and deceitful" party in the country. Slamming the grand old party, Modi said "its politics today has reduced to spreading 'falsehoods and anarchy' in the country".

Terming the party anti-Dalit and anti-farmer, Prime Minister Modi stated, "Congress family is the biggest anti-OBC, anti-ST and anti-SC; they always hated Babasaheb Ambedkar. Who knows Congress's anti-Dalit stance better than Haryana? Every time Congress forms a Government in Haryana, Dalits face hardships." He said the Congress feels no shame in defaming the country for defaming the BJP. "So you have to be wary of the Congress and their associates."

Kicking off his party's campaign in Haryana by addressing a poll rally in Kurukshetra, he questioned the track record of Congress and said it talks big when it comes to farmers. "If the Congress has the guts, why don't they implement their farmer schemes in Karnataka

and Telangana," Modi said. Modi said the Congress has come to power in Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana by making false promises, and has now "destroyed" the States which used to be prosperous. People now repent voting for the Congress in these States, he said.

"The Congress made hue and cry over Minimum Support Price (MSP), I ask them how many crops they buy at MSP in Congress ruled States- Karnataka and Telangana? Those who trusted Congress are now regretting it. Their only agenda is to empty public coffers to win elections. Just witness the condition of Punjab. The people of Haryana must keep such parties far from power," Modi said. "Did any farmer receive money in their accounts during Congress rule?" Prime Minister asked.

Polling for the 90 assembly seats in Haryana will be held on October 5 and the votes will be counted on October 8. Addressing the rally, Modi said, "Two years ago, the Congress Government was formed in Himachal Pradesh. But what is the situation there today? No citizen of Himachal is happy today. Congress fed lies to every section there but none of the promises made were fulfilled." Under the Kissan Samman Nidhi, more than Rs 3.25 lakh crore has been deposited in farmers' accounts, he said while highlighting his

Government achievements. "See what is happening in Karnataka. During a short period of Congress' rule in that State, about 1,200 farmers have committed suicide there," the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister added, "When the nation exposed their lies, they stopped talking about the Old Pension Scheme altogether. In contrast, BJP has introduced the New Pension Scheme, guaranteeing a secure future for employees. Government employees have widely appreciated this scheme." He also shared an emotional



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini and others during a public meeting ahead of the upcoming Haryana Assembly elections, in Kurukshetra, Saturday

PTI

moment with the crowd, "Just a few days ago, we completed the third revision of the One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme, and starting this October, my ex-servicemen brothers will begin receiving its benefits. For Congress, appeasement is their only agenda. In Karnataka, under Congress rule, even Lord Ganpati is being disrespected." Modi also addressed the issue of reservations, stating, "Remember, when Nehru was the Prime Minister, he opposed reservations, claiming that hiring through reservations would lower the quality of Government

services. Indira Gandhi also blocked OBC reservations, and it wasn't until the Janata Party Government that the Mandal Commission was formed. But when Congress returned, they buried the report. Rajiv Gandhi too opposed OBC reservations and insulted the community. Even today, Congress continues its royal family's agenda against reservations. But let me make one thing clear, as long as Modi is here, not a single penny of Dr Ambedkar's reservation policy will be touched. SC/ST/OBC reservations are here to stay forever."



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Security personnel during an encounter with militants at Chak Tapper Kreeri Pattan area, in Baramulla district, Jammu and Kashmir, Saturday

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# Fresh assault in J and K

**PNS ■ JAMMU**

Ahead of the maiden visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to address an election rally in the land-locked Doda district on Saturday, two soldiers of the Indian army sacrificed their lives while two others received injuries during a counter-terrorism operation in the Chatroo area of Kishtwar on Friday.

In another overnight operation launched in the kreeri area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district, three terrorists were gunned down by the joint team of security forces on Saturday. The security forces were able to neutralise a group of hiding terrorists after identifying their exact locations inside the building with the help of drone cameras. With this, the number of terrorists eliminated in the last three anti terrorist operations have gone up to seven.

Chinar Corps of the Indian army in a post on X confirmed, "Three terrorists have been neutralised by the security forces in the ongoing Operation. Weapons and war-like stores have been recovered. The Chinarcops has dealt some crippling blows to the terror network in North Kashmir over the past few days with significant recoveries and elimination of terrorists, inspiring confidence and assurance for upcoming events scheduled in the region."

Before the day ended, another army personnel was injured in an encounter with terrorists attempting to infiltrate across the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district.

According to a spokesman of the Nagrota-based White Knight Corps of the Indian army, "Based on the intelligence inputs, a joint operation with J and K Police was launched in Chatroo at Kishtwar. A contact was established and a scout leading the patrol exchanged heavy volume of fire with the terrorists at around 3.30 pm on Friday.

In the ensuing firefight, four army personnel were injured. Later two soldiers who have been identified as Naib Subedar Vipan Kumar and Sepoy Arvind Singh succumbed to their fatal injuries during treatment at the military hospital.

It is believed these Pakistani terrorists belong to the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorist outfit and were responsible for the terror attack on the Indian army in the Desa forest area of Kishtwar on 16 July.

An Indian army captain along with three other soldiers was 'killed in action' during a fierce firefight in the area. Meanwhile, the mortal remains of the soldiers were dispatched to their native places after a solemn wreath laying ceremony.

"GOC (General Officer Commanding) White Knight Corps and all ranks salute the supreme sacrifice of the bravehearts; offer deepest condolences to the families," the Army said.

Naib Subedar Vipan Kumar, hailed from village Patrara in Sunderbani area of Rajouri district and Sepoy Arvind Singh is a resident of Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh.



## Joshi takes up issue of pay disparity in Armed forces with Rajnath Singh

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Soldier Welfare minister of Uttarakhand Ganesh Joshi met the Defence minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi on Saturday. In the meeting Joshi took up the issue of salary disparity in different ranks in the Indian army. Joshi requested that the salary multiplication factor of the basic pay as mentioned in the 7th pay commission form Jawans to the Junior Commissioned Officers (JCO) should be revised. He informed the Union minister that in the 7th pay commission a multiplication factor of 2.57 is used for salary calculation of the armed forces personnel below the officer ranks. Joshi said that for Lieutenant, Captain, Major and Lt Colonel a factor of 2.62 is used and for the ranks above lieutenant colonel



a multiplication factor of 2.72 is used. Joshi said that the gap in the salaries of Jawans and officers in the army has increased due to less multiplication factor of Jawans and JCOs. He requested Singh to examine the issue and take

necessary corrective measures. He also invited the Union minister to visit Uttarakhand. Joshi presented a kit of organic products of Uttarakhand, a silk shawl and sapling of Tulsi to Singh.

## Streamline process of claim payment in SHA: Hyanki

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State Health Authority (SHA) is planning to streamline the process of payment of the claims made by the hospitals under the Ayushman scheme. In a meeting of the SHA held on Friday, the newly appointed chairperson AS Hyanki directed the officers that the payment of the claims made by the hospitals should be done within the stipulated time period. He said that the pending cases of claims of the listed hospitals under the Ayushman scheme should be disposed of as early as possible. On a stern note the chairperson said that laxity at any level will not be tolerated. In the meeting Hyanki reviewed the progress of the Ayushman Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana, Atal Ayushman Yojana and State government health scheme.

On the issue of disposal of pending cases of claims, Hyanki said that the hospital concerned should be asked to submit their reply in the claims in which the SHA has made some objections.

It was decided in the meeting that efforts of capacity building of the hospitals should be made. The SHA will keep a special focus on the hospitals which were recently included in the list of paneled hospitals.

The chairperson also directed the officers to expedite the process of making golden cards of the employees of the autonomous bodies.

The director (Administration) Dr VS Tolia, Finance director Abhishek Anand and others attended the meeting.

## Oral & maxillofacial surgeons bringing positive change in society: Governor

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The governor Lieutenant General (retd) Gurmit Singh attended the 5th conference of the Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons of India (AOMSI) here on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that the work of oral and maxillofacial surgeons is not limited to medical treatment only but they bring a positive change in the society. "All of you are not only improving the smile on people's faces, but are also motivating patients and their families towards living a better life," he said.



The governor said that the doctors should ensure that the treatment and implants are within the reach of the common man while using the latest technology. He also emphasised on the importance of spreading awareness in the society about oral health and suggested that medical camps in rural areas should be organised for the purpose. "We need to encourage people to visit dentists from time to time to maintain proper oral hygiene and ensure a healthy society," he said.

The national President of AOMSI, Dr Manikandan

gave information about the importance of dental implants and oral maxillofacial surgery.

The president of Uttarakhand chapter of AOMSI Dr Sumit Chopra, office bearers of the association and dentists and oral surgeons from across the country attended the conference.

## ITBP jawan and porter rescued after 36 hour in cave near Indo-China border

PNS ■ BAGESHWAR

A jawan of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police and a porter who had gone missing while patrolling near the Indo-China border were rescued after 36 hours on Saturday. The soldier and porter, who got lost after patrolling with their comrades, spent more than a day in a cave during snowfall in the high altitude region. The rescue team found them 84 kilometres from Munsyari and brought them to Milam.

A team of ITBP soldiers left from Munsyari on Thursday to patrol the stretch of the Indo-China border from Pithoragarh to Milam in Kumaon to Malari in Garhwal. ITBP jawan Anil Ram and porter Devendra Singh from Valthi in Munsyari went miss-

ing during the patrol. Both of them could not be found anywhere amid heavy snowfall. The rescue team continued searching for them in vain.

The rescue team finally reached them after 36 hours on Saturday morning. According to information received, the duo lost their way due to heavy snowfall in the high altitude region. They spent the night in a cave near Bamras amidst heavy snowfall. Both were rescued and brought to Milam. Sub divisional magistrate Shrestha Gulsola said that the two men are safe now. The ITBP team conducted the search and rescue operation in an area covered in more than four feet of snow.

## Seed fund to boost entrepreneurship system in Uttarakhand: Rawat

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Higher Education minister Dhan Singh Rawat said that the entrepreneurship culture in Uttarakhand will be strengthened with the seed fund initiative. He said this while this statement was made while commending the 20 students selected from across the State to receive a seed fund of Rs 75,000 under the Devbhoomi Udymita Yojana (DUY). Commenting about the seed fund, the project officer of DUY Avaneesh Khanna said that last year the department concerned collaborated with the Higher Education department to offer a seed fund of Rs 75,000 to university and college students in the state for their entrepreneurial pursuits. This initiative elicited 653 applications for the seed fund and after careful consideration, 20 students were chosen to receive the fund this year, he added. He further emphasised that that following an exhaustive selection process, a total of 20 outstanding students—comprising 11 girls and nine boys—were selected for their innovative business concepts. These concepts range from millet-based bakeries, Pahadi Pithiya and honey production to Kandali chutney, scented candles and organic cosmetic products, he said. Khanna also added that the received amount under the seed fund will not be required to be repaid by students to the government, similar to a loan. Considering this, Rawat extended his congratulations to the selected candidates and stressed on the need for fostering young talent. He added that this seed fund is designed to empower students by furnishing them with the necessary financial backing to kickstart and scale their startups. This initiative stands as a testament to our unwavering dedication towards constructing a resilient entrepreneurial environment in the state, he said. Rawat further added that the selected students' ideas were praised

for not only showcasing their creativity but also offering potential to enhance local industries and sustainability. Initiatives like creating decorative items from recyclable materials and manufacturing natural, organic products demonstrate promise for both economic growth and environmental conservation, Rawat said. Additionally, secretary of Higher Education, Ranjit Kumar Sinha expressed his admiration for the students, emphasising that the seed funding would empower them to bring their ideas to life, facilitating the development of future entrepreneurial endeavours.

## Hindi connects Indian society, enriches our culture: CM Dhama

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama has said that Hindi is not only a language but is also the soul of the country. Hindi has connected Indian society and has enriched its culture.

Identity. Hindi is also a symbol of culture and Indianness and it has tried to bind our diverse society into one thread, the CM said.

that the State government presents 'Uttarakhand Gaurav Samman' to eminent authors of Hindi every year. The CM said that today when India is moving towards becoming the world leader the promotion of Hindi has become even more important. He added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made great efforts to establish Hindi on the global platform.



Cabinet minister Subodh Uniyal said that the State government is taking measures to encourage budding authors. He said that recently a request was made to the CM to increase the amount of Sahitya Bhushan Award to Rs five lakh, which he has approved.

The CM attended a programme organised by the Uttarakhand Bhasha Sansthan on the occasion of Hindi Diwas on Saturday. Greeting people on the occasion of Hindi Diwas, the CM expressed his gratitude to the people who have made a significant contribution for the promotion of Hindi. He said that the day is an occasion to celebrate the pride of our culture. Dhama said that Hindi has given us a special place on the world stage and it is not only a medium of communication for us but also our

He added that Hindi is full of spontaneity, simplicity and power and has a wonderful capacity for coordination.

The CM said that from the time of India's freedom struggle till date Hindi has remained the main medium of social consciousness. He said that the State government is continuously working for the encouragement of Hindi. The CM praised the efforts of Uttarakhand Bhasha Sansthan for the promotion of Hindi language. He said

Rajpur MLA Khajan Das, noted author and former Vice Chancellor Sudha Rani Pandey, VC Doon University Surekha Dangwal, Secretary Vinod Raturi, Director Bhasha Sansthan Swati Bhadoria and others attended the programme.

## Sanjay presents Swami Brahmanand Award to Khan Sir

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Dehradun-based orthopaedic surgeon Dr BKS Sanjay presented the Swami Brahmanand Award to Faizal Khan, popularly known as 'Khan Sir' at a function held in Bundel-

the person. Education is a good, easy and cheap medium to achieve this change. He said that Brahmanand ignited the spirit of education in the Bundelkhand region at a time when

started a novel mission with a door to door awareness campaign on education. The work he did is not only commendable but also incomparable which has been acknowledged by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the current Prime Minister Narendra Modi who also remembered his works and paid tribute to him.



hand area of Uttar Pradesh on Saturday. Sanjay said that change is a universal truth and changing the thoughts of a person is vital to bring about the desired change in

people did not understand the value of education. He believed that poverty will be eradicated only when children are educated and

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मेरे पुत्र के सैन्य अभिलेखोंनुसार, मेरा गलत नाम शांति सिंह दर्ज किया गया है, मेरे मतदाता पहचान पत्र (No.NUG2974871) के अनुसार सही नाम संतराजी देवी M/o आर्मी नं. 15346196H लांस हवालदार घनंजय सिंह, ग्राम-बंजरिया सुवि, पोस्ट- कटरिया, तह- हरैया, जिला-बरती, उ.प्र.- 272128 है।

### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

**See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Risalat Ali, Arman Packaging through its Partners, R/o: Khasra No. 217, Village - Sherpur, Mohitpur, Bhagwanpur, Roorkee, District - Haridwar, Uttarakhand** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **Court Case NI ACT 6109/2021, U/s 138 NI ACT, P.S.: Naraina, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Risalat Ali** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Risalat Ali** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Risalat Ali** accused of **Court Case NI ACT 6109/2021, U/s 138 NI ACT, P.S.: Naraina, New Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **12.11.2024**.

**By Order**  
**Ms. Bharti Beniwal**  
**Judicial Magistrate First Class-01**  
**Patiala House Court, New Delhi**

DP/12131/WD/2024  
(Court Matter)

### NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Dy. Chief Engineer/Const., Northern Railway, Moradabad for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under **Two Packet System** for the under noted work:-

1. Name of work and location	Construction of (02-lane) ROB (Span 1x52.366m +1x49.508m) (Composite steel girder) in lieu of Level Crossing no. 51 ('spl' class) at km: 78.130 in Sitapur City Station Yard on RAC-SPC section, Construction of (02-lane) ROB (Span 1x36.0m+1x18.0m) (Composite steel girder) in lieu of Level Crossing no. 352/C ('spl' class) at km: 1288/17-19 in Pitambarpur Station Yard on LKO-MB section and Construction of Super structure span (Span 1x36.0m) (Composite steel girder) (Over Canal) of approach portion of (02-lane) ROB in lieu of Level Crossing no. 249/C ('spl' class) at km: 1124/13-15 near Sandila Station Yard on LKO-MB section under the jurisdiction of Dy CE/C/MB of Moradabad Division.
2. Completion period	12 (Twelve) months
3. Approx. Cost of the work	Rs. 4606.94 Lakhs
4. Bid Security	Rs. 24,53,500.00
5. Detailed Tender Notice & Documents	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> . Above tender document will be available on IREPS website i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> from 13.09.2024 upto 11:30 Hrs. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender documents. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.
6. Date & Time for uploading of tender and Opening of tender	Tender may be uploaded from 25.09.2024 to 09.10.2024 upto 11.30 Hrs. on IREPS website i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> . The bidders can participate in the e-tender. Technical cum commercial bid will be opened immediately after close of uploading of tenders on 09.10.2024 at 11:30 Hrs. Financial bids of the eligible tenderers would be opened subsequently on the date and time to be notified later on.

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## Demographic change: U'khand to intensify verification drive

State government committed to protect the basis structure of U'khand's demography: CM

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has said that the ongoing verification drive to address the problem of demography change in Uttarakhand would be further intensified. Interacting with the media persons here on Saturday, the CM said that the State government is committed to ensure that the basic structure of the State's demography is maintained. He said

change does not affect the culture of Uttarakhand and the concept of the State remains unchanged.

The CM averred that the verification drive undertaken by the State has yielded positive results and added that the drive will be intensified with resoluteness. He said that the State government has started a campaign against

mitted to ensure that daughters and sisters are safe in the State.

In response to a question, the CM said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir will vote for peace and development in the ensuing Assembly elections. Dhami who is one of the star campaigners of the BJP for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls said that the people are enthusiastic about the upcoming elections and after abrogation of Article 370 of constitution the incidents of stone pelting have become a thing of past and now there is 'minimum terrorism and maximum tourism' in Kashmir. He said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has fulfilled the dream of 'Ek Desh, Ek Vidhan and Ek Nishan' of Shayama Prasad Mukerjee. Dhami said that earlier only 10 per cent people used to participate in elections in Jammu and Kashmir but in the Lok Sabha elections of 2024, the voting percentage increased to 58.

## State to get relief from heavy rain from today

Light rain and thunder-showers likely in some mountainous parts today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Following two days of consistent rain which was heavy in some parts of the State, resulting in at least seven deaths due to disasters and accidents, the weather in the State is likely to calm down from Sunday. The State meteorological centre has forecast that very light to light rain/thundershowers are likely to occur at isolated places in the mountainous districts of the State. Apart from this, dry weather is likely to prevail over the plain districts of the State today.

The provisional State capital Dehradun is forecast to witness a partly cloudy sky on Sunday. Thunder cloud development is likely to occur in some areas. The maximum and minimum

temperatures are likely to be about 30 degrees Celsius and 21 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun today.

Meanwhile, the rainy weather coupled with light snowfall in some mountainous regions, caused a considerable drop in the maximum temperature in Dehradun and other places. The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded on Saturday were 28.1 degrees Celsius and 21.3 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun, 29 degrees Celsius and 23 degrees Celsius in Pantnagar, 17.9 degrees Celsius and 11 degrees Celsius in Mukteshwar and 22.5 degrees Celsius and 14.2 degrees Celsius in New Tehri.



that efforts are being made to ensure that the demographic

encroachments and added that the government is com-

## Restore blocked rural roads on priority basis, says secretary

Kedarnath and 15 other locations being monitored live by authorities

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Disaster Management and Rehabilitation secretary Vinod Kumar Suman said that rural roads should be restored on a priority basis. He said this while visiting the State emergency operations centre (SEOC) at the Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority on Saturday. He checked the level of various rivers, the status of blocked roads and the impact of rain across the State during his visit to the SEOC.



Suman discussed the impact of the rains, damaged roads, water and power connection along with the condition of the Char Dham Yatra routes with experts of the USDMA and nodal officers. He directed all the nodal officers in the control room to exchange information related to their department concerned on time. He directed the officials of the Public Works Department to ensure that the rural motor roads are reopened at the earliest. The rural motor roads getting blocked considerably affects the supply of essential

commodities to villages, so these roads must be reopened on a priority basis, he said.

Suman also directed that the district disaster management officers should study the disasters this monsoon in detail. Stating that various agencies have done commendable relief work, he said that the gaps which remain must be evaluated so that better planning can be ensured for the future.

Meanwhile, officials informed that live monitor-

ing of Kedarnath and 15 other locations in the State is being done at the SEOC at USDMA. The USDMA system expert Hemant Bisht informed that the back side of Kedarnath temple, Bhairav Pul, Rudra Point, Lincholi, Bhimbali, Junglehatti, Shuttle Bridge, Munkatia, Gaurikund, Sonprayag and other areas are being monitored live. The authorities are monitoring these locations live from the feed from CCTV cameras installed in these locations, he said.

## Experts deliberate on constitutional rights and climate change

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A panel discussion on constitutional rights against the adverse effect of climate change was organised at the Doon Library and Research Centre (DLRC) on Saturday. The event was organised under the aegis of the Social Development for Communities (SDC) Foundation. Experts of different fields deliberated on the implications of the recent Supreme Court judgment in MK Ranjitsinh versus Union of India (2024), which recognised fundamental rights of citizens against the adverse effects of climate change. The legal advisor to the Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board, Aman

menting these rights but lauded the judgment as a positive step for climate litigation in India. Senior journalist Varsha Singh elaborated on the impact of climate change particularly on school children. She also highlighted the gendered effects of climate change, noting that women are disproportionately affected. Visiting professor at Doon University Harsh Dobhal said that different social groups are disproportionately affected by climate change. He highlighted the increasing necessity of cooling systems in Uttarakhand, where heat waves are becoming more common. Dobhal also focused on the need for effective climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. The founder of the SDC Foundation, Anoop Nautiyal delivered the vote of thanks. He said that there is a need for continued dialogue on climate-related constitutional rights in Uttarakhand. The director, State Environment Conservation and Climate Change Directorate (SECCCD) SP Subudhi, HC Purohit, SP Sati, Rajendra Kathait and others attended the programme.



Rab gave insights into the legal dimensions of the judgment. He explained that the SC has recognised an existing right under Articles 14 and 21 of the constitution in its judgment. Rab noted the challenges the state would face in imple-

tutional rights in Uttarakhand. The director, State Environment Conservation and Climate Change Directorate (SECCCD) SP Subudhi, HC Purohit, SP Sati, Rajendra Kathait and others attended the programme.

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This should be the best wishes to the public on the occasion of Nanda Devi Festival

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आप सभी भक्तों का हार्दिक स्वागत

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# Hindi, other Indian languages are friends: Shah

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

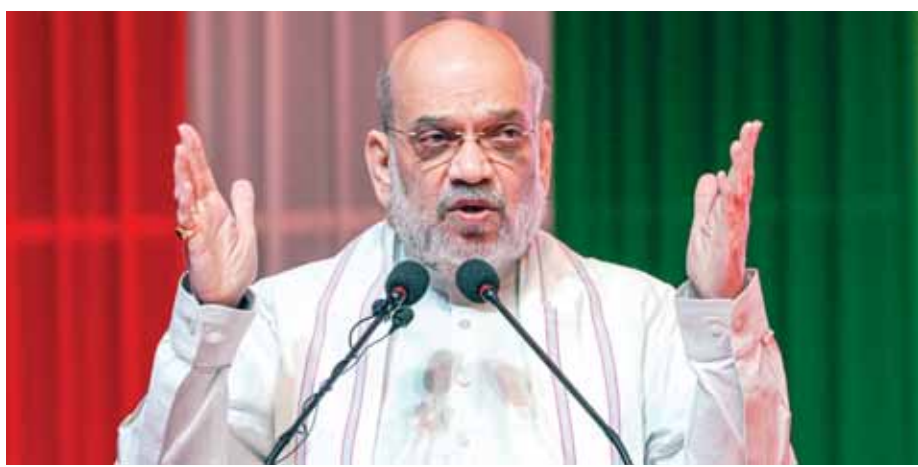
There can never be a competition between Hindi and other Indian languages because official language Hindi is their friend and they complement each other, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday on the occasion of Hindi Diwas.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted the people of the country on this occasion. "Best wishes to the people of the country on Hindi Diwas," Modi said in a social media post in Hindi.

Hindi Diwas is celebrated every year on September 14 to mark the adaptation of Hindi as the official language by the Constituent Assembly on September 14, 1949.

Addressing the fourth Akhil Bhartiya Rajbhasha Sammelan on the occasion of Hindi Diwas, Shah also said the promotion of the official language Hindi cannot happen until all other Indian languages are strengthened and the official language does not establish a dialogue with all of them.

The home minister said the Hindi Diwas is an occasion to take a pledge to make Hindi a



communication language, a common language, a technical language and now an international language.

"We are celebrating Diamond Jubilee to mark the completion of 75 years of Hindi as the official language. By accepting Hindi as the official language and connecting all the local languages of the country through Hindi, we are moving towards preserving and promoting our culture, languages, literature, art and grammar," he said.

Shah said Hindi is more of a geo-cultural language rather than a geo-political language.

He said all communications through files of his two ministries. Home and Cooperation are done through Hindi. "It took three years to reach this stage," he said. Earlier, extending greetings on the occasion of the Hindi Diwas, Shah also said it was the spirit of the Constituent Assembly that all citizens of the country should communicate with each other in an Indian language, be it Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam or Gujarati. "By strengthening Hindi, all these languages will also become flexible and prosperous and with the practice of integration,

all languages will also take forward our culture, history, literature, grammar and the 'sanskrit', he said in a video message. The home minister said the Hindi Diwas this year is very important for everyone because on September 14, 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India accepted Hindi as the official language of the Union. "Hindi has seen many ups and downs in 75 years but at this juncture, I can definitely say that Hindi has no competition with any local language. Hindi is a friend (sakhi) of all Indian languages and they complement each other. Whether it is

Gujarati, Marathi, Telugu, Malayalam, Tamil or Bangla, every language strengthens Hindi and Hindi strengthens every language," he said. Shah said if the Hindi movement is looked at carefully whether it is Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Lala Lajpat Rai, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose or Acharya J B Kriplani, all of them hailed from the non-Hindi speaking areas. He said the committee formed under the leadership of N Gopalaswamy Ayyangar and K M Munshi had presented a report to the Constituent Assembly to recognise Hindi as the official language and give strength to Hindi and all other languages.

"Both these leaders also hailed from non-Hindi speaking areas," he said. The home minister said under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, a lot of work has been done to strengthen Hindi and local languages in the last 10 years. Shah said Prime Minister Modi has given a new life to Hindi and all Indian languages by giving an important place to imparting primary education in mother tongue in the new education policy.

# PM to visit three states to inaugurate various projects

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Jharkhand, Gujarat and Odisha from September 15 to 17 during which he will lay the foundation stone and inaugurate various projects worth more than Rs 12,460 crore.

On September 15, Prime Minister Modi will travel to Jharkhand and flag off the Tatanagar-Patna Vande Bharat train at Tatanagar Junction Railway Station around 10 am, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement.

Around 10:30 am, he will lay the foundation stone and dedicate to the nation various railway projects worth more than Rs 660 crore through video conference and also distribute sanction letters to 20,000 Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) beneficiaries in Tatanagar.

He will also lay the foundation stone for the Madhupur Bypass line in Deoghar district and the Hazaribag Town Coaching Depot in Hazaribag district. After its completion, the Madhupur Bypass line will facilitate avoiding the detention



of trains on the Howrah-Delhi mainline and also help in reducing the travel time between Giridih and Jasidih. The Hazaribag Town Coaching Depot will help in facilitating the maintenance of coaching stocks at this station, the statement said.

Prime Minister Modi will also dedicate to the nation the Kurkura-Kanaroon doubling which is a part of the Bondamunda-Ranchi single-line section and part of the Rourkela-Gomoh route via Ranchi, Muri and Chandrapura stations.

The project will help in the increased mobility of goods and passenger traffic considerably. Apart from this, four

road under-bridges (RUBS) will also be dedicated to the nation.

The Prime Minister will flag off six Vande Bharat trains. These trains will improve the connectivity on the Tatanagar-Patna, Bhagalpur-Dumka-Howrah, Brahmapur-Deoghar, Gaya-Howrah, Deoghar-Varanasi and Rourkela-Howrah routes.

On September 16, at around 9:45 am, Modi will interact with the beneficiaries of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in Gandhinagar. Thereafter, he will inaugurate the 4th Global Renewable Energy Investor's Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST) at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar.

Around 1:45 pm, the prime minister will inaugurate the Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project and take a metro ride from Section 1 to GIFT City station.

Around 3:30 pm, he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more than Rs 8,000 crore in Ahmedabad. The prime minister will lay the foundation stone of several key projects.



# PM welcomes a calf, 'Deepjyoti' at his house

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 7, Lok Kalyan Marg residence has a new resident - a calf named 'Deepjyoti'.

In a social media post, the Prime Minister informed that 'Gau Mata (cow)' has given birth to a calf at the PM's 7, Lok Kalyan Marg residence premises. He also shared a video of himself spending time with

the calf at his residence. "It is said in our scriptures - 'Gaavh Sarvasukh Pradaah'. A new member has auspiciously arrived at the Prime Minister's residence premises at Lok Kalyan Marg." "At the Prime Minister's residence, the beloved mother cow has given birth to a new calf, on whose forehead there is a mark of light. Hence, I have named it 'Deepjyoti'," Modi said in a social media post in Hindi.

"A new member at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg! Deepjyoti is truly adorable," he said in another post. The prime minister also shared photographs in which he is spending time with the calf at his residence. In the video montage put out on his X handle, the prime minister is seen carrying the calf at his residence, sitting with it at his temple in the house and taking it out to the garden.

# Onion prices drop amid Government intervention

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs on Saturday said the government's subsidised onion sale initiative, launched on September 5, has led to price drops in major cities within days.

In Delhi, retail onion price fell from Rs 60 to Rs 55 per kg, while Mumbai saw a decrease from Rs 61 to Rs 56 per kg. In Chennai, the retail price reduced from Rs 65 to Rs 58 per kg, the ministry said in a statement. The government initiated the sale of onions at a subsidised rate of Rs 35 per kg through mobile vans and outlets of NCCF and NAFED. The program, which began in Delhi and Mumbai, has since expanded to other major cities including Chennai, Kolkata, Patna, Ranchi, Bhubaneswar, and Guwahati. Responding to the growing demand, the government has decided to increase the quantity of subsidised onion and expand distribution channels to include e-commerce platforms, Kendriya Bhandar outlets, and Mother Dairy's SAFAL stores. The government has also initiated wholesale disposal of onion in major cities.

It has already commenced in Delhi, Mumbai, and Chennai, with plans to extend to Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Kolkata and eventually all state capitals. A dual transportation strategy involving both road and rail networks is being implemented to improve logistics efficiency and reduce post-harvest losses. The Department of Consumer Affairs is working closely with state governments to ensure targeted supply based on demand and price trends. With a buffer stock of 4.7 lakh tonne of onions and increased kharif sowing area compared to the previous year, "the government expects onion prices to remain under control in the coming months," the ministry said. The combination of enhanced retail and bulk sale strategies is anticipated to stabilize prices and ensure widespread availability of affordable onions, it added. The department has been monitoring price for 22 essential commodities (rice, wheat, atta, gram dal, tur (arhar) dal, urad dal, moong dal, masur dal, sugar, gur, groundnut oil, mustard oil, vanaspati, sunflower oil, soya oil, palm oil, tea, milk, potato, onion, tomato and salt).

# No floor price for basmati rice, onion exports

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a significant step to boost export of basmati rice, a premier GI variety rice of India, the government has removed the floor price on export of basmati rice and onions, a move that will ensure good returns to farmers, ministry of commerce and industry said in a notification on Saturday.

Hailing it, Home Minister Amit Shah said the Narendra Modi government is increasing exports to ensure fair price to the farmers for their crops so that they can get maximum price for their crops. Shah also said keeping the interests of farmers paramount, the government has taken three important decisions, including removing the minimum export price (MEP) of onions and Basmati rice.

"The Modi government has decided to remove the minimum export price (MEP) on onions and reduce the export duty from 40 per cent to 20 per cent. This will increase onion exports, which will increase the income of the onion producing farmers," he wrote on social media in Hindi. The home minister said the government has also decided to abolish the MEP on Basmati



rice which will enable the farmers producing Basmati rice to earn more profits by exporting it.

"Also, the Modi government has decided to increase the import duty on crude palm, soya and sunflower oils from 12.5 per cent to 32.5 per cent and the duty on their refined oils from 13.75 per cent to 35.75 per cent. This will help India's soyabean farmers get better prices for their crop and increase their income," he said. According to the ministry communication, it has been decided to remove the current minimum export price (MEP) of \$950 MT for issuing registration-cum-allocation certificates (RCAC) for export of Basmati rice. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) will closely monitor export contracts to prevent any non-realistic pricing

of basmati rice and ensure transparency in export practices, according to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The decision came in response to ongoing trade concerns and adequate domestic availability of rice.

A floor price of \$1,200 per metric tonne (MT) was introduced in August last year as a temporary measure in response to rising domestic rice prices in the wake of tight domestic supply situation of rice and to curb any possible misclassification of non-basmati rice as basmati rice during exports, in view of the export prohibition on non-basmati white rice. After discussions with the trade bodies and stakeholders, the government had then rationalised the floor price to \$950 per MT in October 2023, amid concerns that higher prices were hurting outward shipments.

# Shahi calls for increased agricultural innovation



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a call for greater collaboration and investment, Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi highlighted the critical need to enhance agricultural innovation during a conference organized by the Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII).

Held as part of FSII's 8th Annual General Meeting, the event gathered experts to discuss key agricultural issues, including self-reliance in oilseeds, cotton, and maize, as well as intellectual property rights (IPR) implementation. Shahi highlighted the importance of modern agricultural technologies in transforming farming practices, emphasising the unique role of Uttar Pradesh in India's agriculture sector.

"Technology is the cornerstone of agricultural prosperity. With UP contributing a third of the nation's wheat production, we aim to establish a seed park and a common resource center for advanced research, in line with PM Modi's vision for a Viksit Bharat," said Shahi. He also announced the creation of a state-of-the-art seed park in Lucknow, which will span 200 acres and focus on providing farmers with high-quality, climate-resilient seed varieties. "This initiative will not only boost productivity but also contribute to a prosperous future for our farmers," Shahi added, inviting the private sector to collaborate through public-private partnerships (PPP). Experts at the event stressed the necessity of aligning poli-

cies between the state and central governments to leverage new technologies. Ajay Vir Jhakar, Chairman of Bharat Krishak Samaj, noted, "Investments in agricultural R&D are crucial for sustainable progress, as is the development of climate-resilient crops." FSII Chairman Ajai Rana emphasised the role of policy and regulatory frameworks in fostering agricultural growth. "Strengthening IPR and encouraging public and private investments are essential to achieving India's agricultural goals," said Rana. As India strives for agricultural self-reliance and resilience during the transformative Amrit Kaal, collaborative efforts in research and innovation will be key drivers in shaping the future of the sector.

# BJP terms Mamata meeting with doctors a photo opportunity

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday termed West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's surprise visit to the protest site of junior doctors as "photo-op" and alleged that she was there to sow the "seeds of suspicion" among the medical fraternity. The remarks came after Banerjee made a surprise visit

to the protest site and assured the junior doctors that she would look into their demands and take action if anyone was found guilty. Addressing the protesting doctors amid chants of 'we want justice' outside the Swasthya Bhawan in Salt Lake, Kolkata, Banerjee said she was spending sleepless nights as the medics were agitating on the road amid rains. "Mamata Banerjee went to



the site of junior doctors' protest on her way to Swasthya Bhawan, made a 5 minute speech, only to be accosted by slogans for justice," said BJP co-in-charge for West Bengal Amit Malviya on social media. She did not interact or for that matter even heard the protesting doctors, he claimed. "This was just a media photop to sow seeds of suspicion among the medical fraternity"

Malviya added. The BJP leader accused Banerjee of being "sly and insincere" and said that she must be condemned for this in the strongest possible terms. "She clearly lacks intent to resolve the impasse and deliver justice to the rape and murder victim of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. Her inflated ego is damaging West Bengal's public health-care sector," he added.

# Activists demand disability, transgender rights in medical curriculum

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing concerns over the exclusion of key provisions from the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPDA), 2016, and the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act (TPA), 2019, in the National Medical Commission's revised Competency-Based Medical Education (CBME) Curriculum, activists in the sector have sought intervention of Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar in the matter. In a letter to the Minister, Central Advisory Board on Disability Chairperson Dr Satendra Singh and Association for Transgender Health in India CEO Air Commodore (Retd.) Dr. Sanjay Sharma, lamented that the new curriculum fails to address critical issues affecting



marginalized groups. They pointed out that it was outdated and in contradic-

tion with Supreme Court judgments and previous guidelines.

Although the revised curriculum was re-released, the activists said they were disappointed as it has failed to reintegrate essential disability competencies and address transgender health issues adequately. Despite a senior NMC member acknowledging the oversight, the curriculum remains unchanged on these fronts. Also, they rued, key terms such as "dignity" and "transgender" are absent from the 466-page document, and while the curriculum now includes eight hours dedicated to sports, it has removed the previously mandated seven hours of disability competencies. "Outdated terms like "gender identity disorders" persist in psychiatry, and intersex variations are still described as "abnormalities," they said. The letter underscores that the RPDA mandates integrating disability rights into educa-

tional curricula for medical professionals, and the omission of these competencies undermines India's commitment to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 10), which aim to reduce inequality.

It also emphasises the importance of addressing transgender-specific health issues as required by the TPA, 2019, including the creation of a health manual for sex reassignment surgeries. The current curriculum's focus on a binary understanding of gender neglects the health needs of transgender individuals entirely, they added. Activists have now urged Dr Kumar to ensure the reintroduction of mandatory disability competencies before the new MBBS session starts on October 14 and to incorporate case studies on disability, transgender, and queer persons into the longitudinal ethics curriculum.



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**16 दिवसीय दक्षिण भारत यात्रा**  
प्रथम टूर - 28 दिसम्बर से 11 जनवरी के मध्य  
द्वितीय टूर - 4 फरवरी से 20 फरवरी के मध्य  
मुख्य आकर्षण : त्रिनेन्द्र, कोकीर, कोयलम, कन्याकुमारी, तोंगेयारम पाम, मडुरई, मैसूर, तिरुपति बालाजी, मदुरस एवं महाबलीपुरम

**18 दिवसीय दक्षिण भारत यात्रा**  
29 दिसंबर से 13 जनवरी 2025 के मध्य  
मुख्य आकर्षण : उज्जैन महाकाल मंदिर, ओकारेश्वर, नागेश्वर एवं सोमनाथ, बरीध, श्री द्वारिकाधीश पाम, भेट द्वारिका, पोखण्डर, उदयपुर, श्रीमधुपारा, स्टेचु ऑफ गुफ्टी, पुकार तीर्थ एवं जयपुर

**15 दिवसीय जम्मू-काश्मीर, पूर्वी भारत यात्रा**  
18 जनवरी से 1 फरवरी 2025 के मध्य  
मुख्य आकर्षण : वाराणसी, पंच, बनारस, गयासागर, जम्मू-काश्मीर पाम, योगेश्वर एवं भुवनेश्वर

**17 दिवसीय गोवा-मुंबई मध्य भारत यात्रा**  
21 जनवरी से 8 फरवरी 2025 के मध्य  
मुख्य आकर्षण : ईटासाद, विष्णुपीथी, मल्लिकार्जुन पुष्कराभर, श्रीमधुपारा, ब्रह्मकेसर, एलास, शिरडी, पारिक, मुम्बई एवं गोवा

**12 दिवसीय उत्तर पूर्वी भारत NORTH EAST यात्रा**  
8 नवंबर 24 से 19 नवंबर 2024 के मध्य  
मुख्य आकर्षण : चाईलिंग, त्रिभुवन की राजधानी पण्टोय, मॉन्गलख देवी मंदिर, गुवाहाटी, आसम, तिसान (मियासा), चेरापुंजी

**7 दिवसीय दुबई एवं अरुबाही टूर**  
8 अप्रैल 25 से 14 अप्रैल 25 के मध्य  
मुख्य आकर्षण - डिजिट ससारी, दुर्ग खलीफा, मिरकल गार्डन एवं दुबई और अरुबाही में नवीनिमित्त हिन्दू मंदिर। अरुबाही कि प्रांड रोड जयद मंजिम।

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Since ancient times, Nanda Devi is being venerated in Uttarakhand as the patron goddess and the Naina Devi Mandir cradled in Nainital is a sacred shrine dedicated to the goddess.

The present temple came up in 1883 after the old one was razed in the devastating landslide of 1880. Since its foundation, it saw repeated expansions till it became what it is now. Devotees in their hordes

brought to the Naina Devi temple and ritually installed in consonance with the hoary traditions. After being kept in the temple for the devotees to offer puja, these representations are immersed in the Naina lake following a mammoth devotion-charged procession attended by one and all of the lake town.

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from across India and even abroad through this sacred shrine to pay obeisance to the goddess and the Nanda Devi Mahotsav sees the collective devotion for the Divine Mother reach its pinnacle. The 122th edition of the festival is now underway with sister goddesses Nanda and Sunanda being worshipped with devotion and dedication. The facial representations of goddesses Nanda and Sunanda are made from Kadli (plantain stems) and bamboo while organic colours are used. Bamboo is used to craft the eyebrows. Appropriate and attractive natural colours are used to paint the deities.

Thereafter, the faces are adorned with ornaments. These include crowns made of silver, gold crafted ornaments for forehead, earrings and nath (traditional nose ring) among other items. After the crafting and decorating processes are completed, the idols are reverentially

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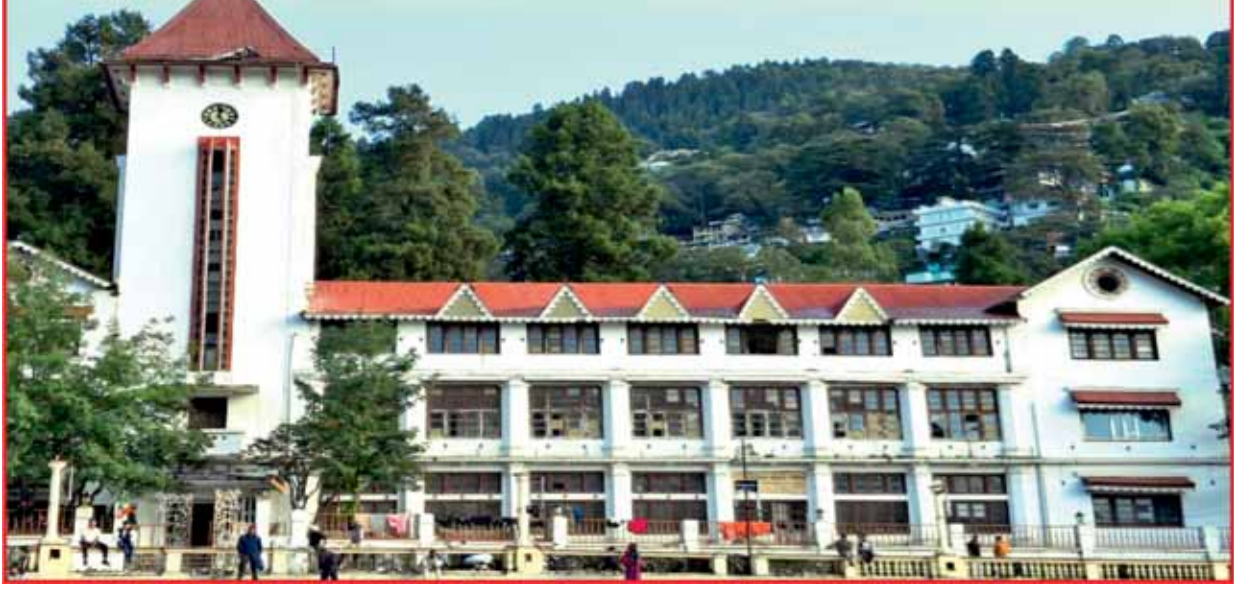
- : आवश्यक संदेश :-
- श्री माँ नन्दा देवी महोत्सव-2024 को स्वच्छ भारत मिशन के तहत Zero Waste Event बनाये जाने में सहयोग प्रदान करें।
  - नैनीताल नगर आपका है, स्वच्छता वॉलेन्टियर के रूप में नगर को स्वच्छ बनाने में आपका अमूल्य सहयोग अपेक्षित है।
  - कूड़ा कूड़ेदान में ही डालें। कूड़ेदानों व अन्य स्थलों पर कूड़ा न जलाएँ, न जलाने दें।
  - सिंगल यूज पॉलिथीन का प्रयोग कदापि न करें। (यथा थर्मोकॉल प्लास्टिक, पॉलीथीन कैरी बैग, थर्मोकॉल एवं प्लास्टिक कप, थर्मोकॉल एवं प्लास्टिक प्लेट, थर्मोकॉल एवं प्लास्टिक फूड कन्टेनर आदि)
  - नगरपालिका के समस्त करों का समय भुगतान कर छूट का लाभ उठाएँ।
  - नगर में प्रवेश करने वाले वाहन स्वामियों/चालकों से अनुरोध है कि वह अपने वाहन निर्धारित पार्किंग स्थल पर ही पार्क करें।
  - अपने प्रतिष्ठानों एवं व्यवसाय हेतु पालिका से नियमानुसार निर्धारित शुल्क जमा कर ट्रेड लाईसेंस प्राप्त करें।
  - अपने पालतू कुत्तों का लाईसेंस नगरपालिका परिषद, नैनीताल में निर्धारित शुल्क जमा कर प्राप्त करें।
  - पालिका सीमान्तगत सार्वजनिक स्थलों पर अतिक्रमण न करें।
  - भवन स्वामी अपने भवनों की मरम्मत इत्यादि का मलुवा शहर से बाहर निस्तारित करें।

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# Harmanpreet double drives India 2-1 win over Pakistan in ACT hockey

**PTI ■ HULUNBUIR (CHINA)**  
Skipper Harmanpreet Singh made the difference as he converted two penalty corners to hand unbeaten India a close 2-1 win over arch-rivals Pakistan in their final league match of the Hero Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Saturday. It was India's fifth consecutive win in the six-team round-robin competition. Pakistan took the lead through Ahmad Nadeem (8th minute) before Harmanpreet (13th, 19th) converted two penalty corners to lead India to win. It was Pakistan's first loss in this tournament. Both India and Pakistan have already qualified for the semifinals. The victory also enabled India to maintain their supremacy over Pakistan since 2016. In their previous meeting at the Hangzhou Asian Games last year, India thrashed Pakistan 10-2. A few months before that, the Indians beat

Pakistan 4-0 during the Chennai edition of the ACT. At the Asia Cup in Jakarta (2022), a relatively young Indian side held Pakistan to a 1-1 draw while at the 2021 ACT in Dhaka, India defeated Pakistan 4-3 to clinch the bronze medal. As like any Indo-Pak hockey match, the first quarter saw end-to-end action with both the teams giving their all to gain the bragging rights. The Indians started brightly dominating the early share of exchanges but Pakistan grew in confidence as the match progressed. India were at the receiving end for the first time in the tournament when Pakistan drew the first blood. It was a selfless Hannan Shahid whose brilliant work from the midfield split the Indian defence and Nadeem found himself at the right place to direct the ball into the Indian goal. A stunned India kept up their composure and patiently built their attacks and secured their first penalty corner in the 13th



minute and skipper Harmanpreet scored with a powerful drag-flick to the left of a hapless Pakistan goalkeeper Munneeb. The Indians continued to press in the second quarter and gained their second penalty corner in the 19th minute and once again Pakistan defence had no answer as Harmanpreet was bang on target as India went up 2-1. While India were the better side in terms of possession in the second quarter, Pakistan also had their chances, penetrating the rival circle on quite a few occasions. Just 45 seconds from half-time Pakistan had an opportunity to draw level through a penalty corner but they wasted the chance as Sufyan Khan's flick, which hit the top of the bar, was rejected for a raised ball. The Indians sustained possession after the change of ends and secured their third penalty corner in the 37th minute, but Pakistan defended bravely.

Thereafter, a sustained spell of attacks helped Pakistanis to bag four penalty corners in quick succession but lacked the firepower to breach the Indian defence. In the last quarter, both the sides stitched relentless attacks and India secured three more penalty corners but failed to convert. The match also witnessed a heated encounter between Harmanpreet and Pakistan's Ashraf Waheed Rana after the latter shouldered Jugraj Singh inside the Indian circle. Jugraj was felled by the impact and was seen grimacing in pain. Harmanpreet and Jarmanpreet Singh were quick to counter the offender. The on-field umpires and Pakistan captain Butt and other players of both teams rushed in to control the situation but Rana was shown yellow card, which resulted in a 10-minute suspension after the umpire went for a referral for a serious misconduct. Meanwhile, in the first match of the day, Malaysia and Korea played out a 3-3 draw.

## Indian set-up operates by itself and goal will be to protect that: Morne Morkel



**PTI ■ CHENNAI**  
What isn't broken shouldn't be mended" is the mantra of new India bowling coach Morne Morkel, who loves how the Indian cricket set-up runs on autopilot, and says his new assignment will involve helping that system "get better in small ways". Morkel, who has worked with current head coach Gautam Gambhir in Lucknow Super Giants (LSG), has been in India enough times and seen it from close quarter to understand how it works and where he would fit into the ecosystem. "Coming here, this is a set-up that operates by itself and so to protect that and make it better in small ways is going to be the goal," Morkel told BCCI-TV, making it clear that his focus is on minor tweaks rather than overhauling what works. He also feels that super seniors like Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin and Jasprit Bumrah will always lead the charge and his job will be to be the sounding board as part of the support staff. "We are quite lucky to have quality senior players and they will lead the charge. Our responsibility is to support them and give them best sort of advice that we can give," said Morkel, who turns 40 soon and has played alongside

legendary Dale Steyn. Morkel, who has 544 international wickets across three formats with 309 of them coming in Tests, was "blown away" by how Indian cricketers went about things and "how professional they were". "That's a good sign and hope we can build on that," Morkel said. He joined the pre series camp in Bangladesh and currently, he wants to build a trust with players and see how he can help them. "For me, this is important to connect well with the guys, played a lot against some of the players, seen and connected with some of the guys during IPL and to be in the camp and form friendships and relationships with players is very important," said the former Proteas speedster. "...Trying to understand the guys and their strengths and weaknesses and help them set goals for the upcoming series." He hoped that he can channelise the enormous level of talent that Indian cricketers possess. "It's one thing having talent and skill and how can you make those guys feel welcome in an intimidating environment. India playing in blue shirt is a lot of expectations, so for me, having the experience, going through that, passing that sort of knowledge and helping

them settle in will be the goal," Morkel said. "As soon as players have that comfort and feel they belong here, that's when the performance comes. I am looking forward to that and obviously up-skill them and get them up to the standard. "I understand that there will be expectations of winning and luckily I have experienced that in my playing days and I can share that knowledge," he added. Morkel said that after his discussions with the BCCI about the bowling coach's job were finalized, it took some time for the confirmation to sink in. "So when I ended the call, I sat for about five minutes in the room. I spoke to my dad first and didn't even go to my wife. Normally, they say you tell the wife first, so quite a special moment for me," he said in jest. "I enjoyed it 5-7 minutes with myself and then shared with the family about the opportunity and about eventually what might happen, so happy that we eventually got things over the line and this happened, looking forward to great journey and time with India." Morkel is also a fan of Indian cuisine. "I love Puri, breakfast I love my dosas, malai chicken but as a coach you need to show players that you eat healthy, players would follow," he said.

## Corruptors are looking at entry through leagues managed by home boards: Outgoing ICC ACU chief

**PTI ■ DUBAI**  
Elite cricket is mostly "safe and clean" but outgoing ICC Anti Corruption Unit (ACU) chief Alex Marshall feels that potential corruptors are eyeing entry through local T20 leagues which are outside global body's ambit managed by respective boards of member nations. The former British cop didn't specify which particular local leagues or which member nation he was referring to. "I am confident that the cricket you watch is safe and clean," Marshall told ESPN Cricinfo. "But I am also absolutely sure that corruptors are constantly looking for a route into the game, particularly in badly-run lower-level franchise leagues. The threat to the game is corruptors won't go away while there

is always money to be made and they will look for weakness in the system to get in." Marshall said that he is happy to find that more and more players are reporting corrupt approaches with the ICC ACU, ensuring them to keep the game clean. "I am proud of the significant increase in trust from players who now report approaches to us frequently whereas there was a time when they lacked confidence in confidentiality and the action that will be taken," Marshall said. "They have now seen corruptors being disrupted, named, banned when they get involved in cricket. And the education we now do with players shows them who the corruptors are, what their methods are, so everyone is much better equipped and protected to keep corruption away from the game."



During his seven years in ICC, some of the significant milestones of ICC ACU under Marshall would be to ensure punishment for former Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan, who didn't report a corrupt approach by Indian bookie Deepak Aggarwal and former Zimbabwe skipper late Heath Streak. One thing that gave Marshall satisfaction was weeding out corruption from Sri Lankan cricket with the help of local authorities with multiple cases of former international and domestic players being involved in alleged shady dealings. "Sri Lanka turned out to be a good news story because there were serious issues which were addressed locally and with ICC," he said. "Now with the legislation and stronger measures Sri Lanka is in a much better place to keep the corruptors away."

## Sable finishes ninth in his maiden Diamond League final

**PTI ■ BRUSSELS**  
National record holder Avinash Sable finished ninth in the season-ending Diamond League final with a below-par time here on Friday. Birthday boy Sable, who turned 30 on Friday, clocked 8 minutes and 17.09 seconds to finish ninth in the 10-man field in his debut DL final. Amos Serem of Kenya emerged as the Diamond League champion with a time of 8:06.90, while reigning Olympic and world champion Soufiane El Bakkali (8:08.60) of Morocco was second in the season-ending finale. Mohamed Amin Jhinaoui of Tunisia was third with 8:09.68. World champion and Paris Olympics silver medalist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra will be in action on Saturday. Sable had finished 11th in the Paris Olympic Games with a time of 8:14.18. He had finished 14th in the overall Diamond League standings with three points from two meetings. But four



athletes ranked higher than him — Lamecha Girma (injured) of Ethiopia, Geordie Beamish of New Zealand, Ryuji Mura of Japan and Hillary Bor of the USA — pulled out, allowing him to sneak inside the top 10 cut-off. Five meetings out of the 14 in the DL series across the world this season had men's 3000m steeplechase event. Reigning Asian Games champion Sable had finished sixth with a national record time of 8:09.91 -- bettering his own earlier mark -- in the Paris leg of the Diamond League on July 7. He was 14th at the Silesia leg with a time of 8:29.96 on August 25. Each Diamond League season finale champion is awarded a "Diamond Trophy", USD 30,000 prize money and a wild card for the World Athletics Championships.



## Indian men outwit Hungary B; women go past Switzerland

**PTI ■ BUDAPEST (HUNGARY)**  
India men dropped their first point, but carried enough steam to beat Hungary 'B' 3.5-0.5 to maintain a clean slate in the ongoing 45th Chess Olympiad here. In the open section, the hero for the Indian men was Arjun Erigaisi who played a brilliant attacking game against Peter Prohazka and ended with a checkmate after a queen sacrifice. However, Vidit Gujrathi had to settle for a quick draw against Papp Gabor and it was the first time an Indian men's player failed to notch a win in this event. But D. Gukesh outclassed Adam Kozak, while R. Praggnanandhaa made most of his chances in the endgame as Tamas Banusz was gradually outplayed. Earlier, a shock defeat for D. Harika on the top board did not deter the other Indian girls as R Vaishali, Divya Deshmukh and Vantika Agarwal scored crushing victories to ensure a 3-1 victory for the team that kept them in joint lead on six match points. Harika lost to recent-migrant Alexandra Kosteniuk who gave up her Russian citizenship and joined the Swiss team. A former world women's champion Kosteniuk was in her elements and scored the full point after Harika misplayed the middle game that appeared even from the bird's-eye-view. Vaishali gave no chances to other migrant Ghazal

Hakimifard who left her Iranian citizenship. It was a bit of a technical game from the white pieces as Ghazal made some unforced errors and did not quite recover. Divya continued with her winning ways and clearly the Indian seemed to be having the time of her life on the chessboard. After recently winning the World junior girls' championship, Divya scored a regulation win against Sofia Hryzlova while on the fourth board Vantika proved much stronger than Mariia Manko. The day also provided the first major upset in the Olympiad as fifth seed Holland were outdone by Italy 1-3 in the open section. Top Dutch star Anish Giri was on the receiving end in this encounter and that triggered their collapse. With eight rounds still to come, as many as 16 teams maintained a clean slate and shared the lead with six points apiece. The Indian men will take on Serbia in the next round. With Alexandr Predke and Alexey Sarana on the top two boards, the Indians will likely have a tough fight on hands even though they still are favourites to win the match. In the women's section too, there are 16 teams sharing the lead with six points each. In the fourth round the Indian eves are pitted against France and should be able to breakthrough as they are likely to be rating favourites on all four boards.

## A new era in Asian soccer begins Monday when the AFC Champions League Elite debuts

**AP ■ WASHINGTON**  
The first edition of the AFC Champions League Elite begins Monday with stars such as Cristiano Ronaldo, Neymar and Riyad Mahrez looking to lead their Saudi Arabian clubs to success in Asia. Al-Nassr, Al-Hilal and Al-Ahli are among the favorites to win next May's final and reinforce the ambitions of the Saudi Pro League (SPL) of becoming one of the best in the world. In the summer transfer windows of 2023 and 2024, SPL clubs spent over \$1 billion on transfers to bring top-level players from the big European leagues. Al-Hilal midfielder Ruben Neves joined Al-Hilal in 2023 from Wolverhampton Wanderers of the English Premier League for a fee of around \$60 million and has no doubt that the SPL has enough quality. "I have said this a few times - if you

compare my data from English football to Saudi football, I run even more, but with the difference that I run in 40 degrees (Celsius, 104 Fahrenheit)," Neves said after helping Portugal to a 2-1 Nations League win over Scotland on Tuesday when Ronaldo scored the winning goal. "I am in good shape physically. Both Cristiano and I proved today that Saudi football has quality." Al-Hilal is the most successful team in Asia with four continental titles and starts its campaign against Al-Rayyan of Qatar. Ronaldo won five UEFA Champions Leagues but has yet to win a major trophy with Al-Nassr and he will face Iraq's Al-Shorta while Mahrez and Al-Ahli hosts Persepolis of Iran in Jeddah. As well as the big stars, also reinforcing the chances of the giants from Jeddah and Riyadh, is that from the quarterfinal stage on, all games will take place in Saudi Arabia.



There are bigger changes however. The Elite version replaced the AFC Champions League as the continent's top tournament. The number of teams participating has reduced from 40 to 24. Instead of

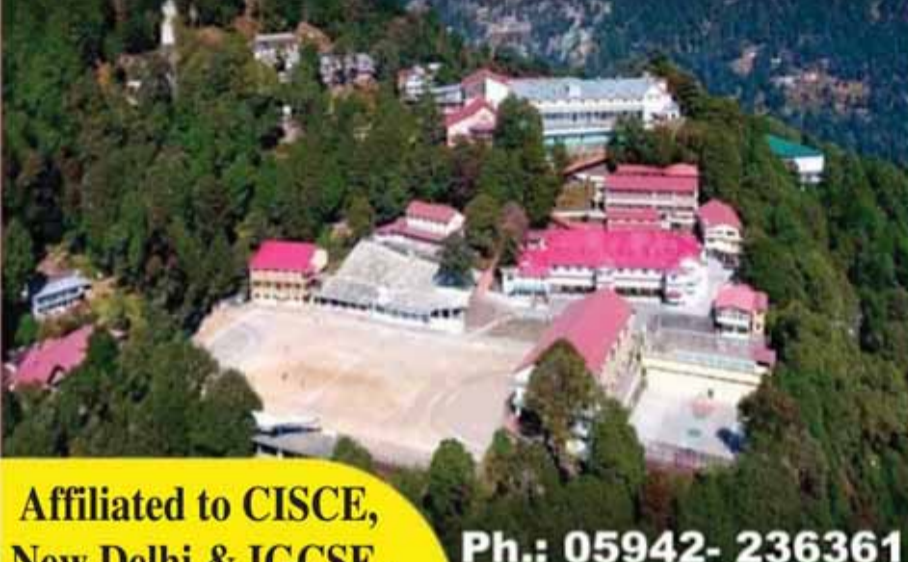
10 groups of four, there are two groups of 12, divided into east and west geographic zones, with teams playing eight games with the top eight progressing to the second round.

In the east zone, China, South Korea and Japan all have the maximum allocation of three teams though Australia has only the Central Coast Mariners. Clubs from the A-League have struggled in the Champions League in recent years but if the Mariners can succeed, there may be more places for Australian teams in the future. "We know if we perform and we carry out our game plan and play our way, we know we can compete," Central Coast head coach Mark Jackson said. "We've shown that. Whether we can compete consistently on that front, again with the size of squads these teams have, how they can travel because I'm sure these teams travel in a different way to how we travel." The Elite tournament has become more lucrative with the winner receiving \$10 million in prize money, an increase from \$4 million last season.

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## PARIS PARALYMPICS

# PARA ATHLETES BASK IN GLORY AND GOLD

The accomplishments of para athletes at Paris Paralympics are not just sporting success but a story of grit and determination, a story of indomitable spirit that soars high despite hardships and challenges, writes RISHABH MALIK

The Paris 2024 Paralympics will go down as one of the most celebrated sporting moments in India's history. The Indian contingent's extraordinary performances were not just a display of athletic prowess but also a powerful reminder of human resilience, willpower, and the ability to triumph against all odds. From setting new records to inspiring millions, the Indian athletes left a remarkable imprint on the global stage. India's Paralympians wasted no time in making their presence felt at Paris 2024. In 12 days of competition India registered 29 medals including 7 gold, 9 silver, and 13 bronze. India's medal count marked significant landmark and breakthroughs in Indian history of Paralympics. India's first medal in the Paralympics came in the 1972 Games, with Murlikant Petkar winning a gold medal in swimming. Up to the recent 2024 Games, India have won 60 medals across all Paralympic Games, with the most successful Paralympic campaign being the Paris 2024 Games with 29 medals. Shooting has traditionally been one of India's strong suits in both the Olympic and Paralympic arenas. In Paris, India's para-shooters continued their stellar run from previous Games. Avani Lekhara, a name that had already become synonymous with Indian Paralympic shooting, won gold in the women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 category. Avani's calm demeanor and laser-focused concentration were on full display as she once again climbed to the top of the podium. This win made her a two-time Paralympic champion and reinforced her place among the world's elite shooters. India's shooting success didn't end there. Her performance was another testament to India's dominance in precision sports, along with Rubina Francis in the same women's 10m air pistol category clinched bronze in shooting. India witnessed some historic milestone in the Paralympics event, For the first time India won 17 medals in athletics, with Dharambir winning gold and Pranav Soorma taking silver in the men's club throw F51 event. Dharambir also established a new Asian record of 34.92 metres. Later, Praveen Kumar set an Asian record by winning the high jump T64 championship, giving India its sixth gold medal at the Paralympics. Mariyappan Thangavelu became the first Indian to win medals at three successive Paralympic Games when he won a bronze in the T42 high jump event. He took home silver in Tokyo 2020 and gold in Rio 2016. With a personal best time, Preethi Pal won bronze in the women's 100-meter T35 competition. It was the first-ever medal for India in a Paralympic track event. Being the only athlete from India to win two medals at the Games, her bronze in the 200m made her the most successful competitor. India finished the



Paris 2024 track season with four medals overall. Among them was Deepthi Jeevanji, who won a bronze in the women's 400m T20 class to become the first intellectually disabled Indian athlete to earn a Paralympic medal. In archery, records were also broken. In the ranking round, armless archer Sheetal Devi in short time broke the world record before coming in second. However, she later joined up with Rakesh Kumar to win the compound mixed team qualifying event with a world record score. Together with Rakesh, Sheetal, at just 17 years old, won bronze in the mixed team event to become the youngest medalist from India ever. Eventually, Harvinder Singh became the first-ever Paralympic archery champion for India. Another athlete who made headlines was Sumit Antil, the javelin thrower who had previously set a world record in Tokyo 2020. In Paris, Sumit not only defended his title but also shattered his own record, throwing an unbelievable 70 meters in the F64 category. His performance earned him his second consecutive Paralympic gold, establishing him as a global force in the sport. Delhi boy Navdeep Singh genetically short in height 4ft tall

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DELHI BOY NAVDEEP SINGH GENETICALLY SHORT IN HEIGHT 4FT TALL (DWARFISM) NAVDEEP WHO HAILS FROM HARYANA EMPLOYED AS INSPECTOR IN THE INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT. THE 23 YEAR OLD WON A HISTORIC GOLD IN DAY BEFORE THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF PARIS PARALYMPICS. FROM BEING BULLIED TO NATIONAL CHAMPION AT F41 JAVELIN THROW EVENT WHICH WAS A ASTONISHING TURN OF EVENT BEFORE THE PODIUM AFTER HE WAS CONFIRMED TO SILVER MEDAL HIS IRANIAN COMPETITOR GOT DISQUALIFIED BEFORE HIS THROW WHICH AUTOMATICALLY UPGRADED HIM TO GOLD MEDAL.  
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(Dwarfism) Navdeep who hails from Haryana employed as Inspector in the Income Tax Department. The 23 year old won a historic gold in day before the closing ceremony of Paris Paralympics. From being bullied to national champion at F41 Javelin throw event which was a astonishing turn of event before the podium after he was awarded to silver medal his Iranian competitor got disqualified before his throw which automatically upgraded him to gold medal. There are ups and downs, there are also descents, Suyash Jadhav, (Asian para games gold medallist) in the men's 50m butterfly (S7) fell short in the competition finished fifth in Heat 1 with time 33.47 although he didn't qualify for final but his fight against the strong contenders from the U.S. and Ukraine gave a solid remark of ginger to younger athletes. IAS officer Suhas Yathiraj came in Paris to achieve the previous best in Tokyo Paralympics 2020 but restricted to silver medal in SL4 badminton. After returning from Paris on Tuesday with India's best ever medal tally ever (29) and ranked 18th on team's tally athletes received grand welcome surrounded

by huge numbers of supporters greeted with showering of flowers on them. The Indian contingent met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence on Thursday in New Delhi, where PM Modi interacted with all para-athletes of Indian contingent and congratulating the medal winners of Paris Paralympics 2024. Athletes shared their journeys and challenges to overcome the stereotypes of the society. Paralympic Gold Medallist Avani Lekhara gifted her signed jersey to PM Modi. Rewards were announced by Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya of 75 lakh to gold-medallists, 50 lakh to silver winners and 30 lakh to bronze-medallists in the games and pledges full support from Government for the LA 2028 campaign. While the Paris 2024 Paralympics was a roaring success for India, it also showed the challenges that continue to plague the country's para-sporting ecosystem. Access to training, medical support, and sponsorships remains uneven, with athletes in rural areas particularly disadvantaged. A Movement, not just Medals Paris 2024 Paralympics should not be seen as an isolated success but as part of a larger movement towards inclusion, empowerment, and equality. India's Paralympians have shown that they are not defined by their disabilities but by their abilities. Their victories are symbolic of a changing India, one that is slowly

but surely starting to embrace diversity in all its forms. As India commemorates this new chapter in athletic prowess, the effect of these players will continue to resonate, pushing the Government to provide greater support, recognition, and growth for para-sports. India's achievement at the Paralympics is more than simply a moment of glory; it is the start of a future in which the country's differently-abled athletes will continue to smash barriers, demonstrating that with spirit and drive, nothing is impossible. Famous Columnist Akhileshwar Sahay stated in his article Khel Vaani India's Paralympic Rise: A Beacon for a More Inclusive Future  
**NEXT STOP: MISSION TOP FIVE AND MISSION INCLUSIVE REVOLUTION**  
It's time to jumpstart two missions to be accomplished in four years: Mission Top Five Rank at Los Angeles and Mission Inclusive Revolution to make India disabled-friendly. For the first mission, India must broaden its participation base across the 550 events—both in terms of events participated in and the number of sportspersons per event. No country has a larger pool of disabled individuals than India, with “55 to 90 million,” according to a recent World Bank estimate. This demographic presents a potential goldmine of “Khojo-Paralympians” and a driving force for “Khelo Paralympics”. The lowest-hanging fruit? Track and field events, where the investment per sportsperson is low and the potential return high. All Bharat needs to join the elite Top 5 club is 100 medals at the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympics. It's eminently doable, and the time starts now. Considering that in the last three years (2021-2024), between Tokyo and Paris, Indian Paralympians have amassed 48 medals, 100 medals in 2028 is not a far-fetched dream.





# DUBLIN'S HIDDEN GEM

Discover a hidden gem in the Irish capital overlooking the water in the revitalised Silicone Docks. Here, a unique facet of Dublin unfolds, where the historic charm of the city seamlessly intertwines with modern vibrancy

BY AKANKSHA DEAN

Even for locals, this area feels distinctly refreshing, offering a different perspective of Dublin while ensuring that all of its iconic landmarks remain conveniently accessible. Embrace the fusion of old and Dublin's Docklands, affectionately dubbed the 'Silicon Docks,' serve as the European headquarters for tech giants like Facebook, Google, and Airbnb. At the heart of this dynamic district stands Anantara The Marker Hotel, a striking geometric marvel that has become its unofficial emblem. The name 'The Marker' pays homage to the Grand Canal's rich trading history. The canal, stretching 82 miles, was once adorned with cast iron markers indicating the distance to the journey's end. The hotel stands proudly at the site of the last of these markers. Situated on the south bank of the river Liffey, the hotel commands stunning views of Grand Canal Dock and the vibrant Grand Canal Square, featuring the striking Bord Gais Energy Theatre, designed by Daniel Libeskind. At night, the plaza comes alive, illuminated in captivating hues of red and green. This dynamic locale is at the heart of Dublin's thriving tech industry, with one area even dubbed 'Googletown'. Conveniently, the hotel is just a 20-minute drive from Dublin Airport and a mere 15-minute stroll to the city centre, making it an ideal base for exploring the capital's rich offerings.

**MODERN ELEGANCE AWAITS**

All the design elements at Anantara The Marker tell a story, much like the vibrant neighbourhood surrounding it. The Docklands continues to evolve as a thriving part of the city. As I step into The Marker, I'm immediately struck by its vibrant atmosphere that resonates throughout. The luminous lobby leads into colour-infused bedrooms, each exuding modern elegance. I notice young Dubliners gathering in the atrium for drinks, fostering a lively social scene that pulses with energy. On sunlit days, the rooftop bar becomes a buzzing hub, offering breath-taking views—a perfect retreat amid the city's bustle. Originally opened in 2013 and recently rebranded under Anantara in 2023 after an extensive renovation, this hotel stands as a beacon of modernity. Its striking chequerboard façade, inspired by the Cliffs of Moher, welcomes me into a mesmerizing 67-meter-long atrium with a cantilevered ceiling reminiscent of the Giant's Causeway, where public spaces, including a bar, lounge, and restaurant, invite relaxation and enjoyment. Embodying the Anantara philosophy, the hotel seamlessly integrates the brand's three core pillars—Indigenous, Expertise, and Authentic Luxury—throughout its offerings. Each of the 187 rooms and suites offers breath-taking views of the city, Grand Canal, Dublin Bay, or the mountains, enhanced by floor-to-ceiling windows. The accommodations are thoughtfully designed with ergonomic furnishings,



technology, and luxurious bathrooms for an indulgent experience. The Junior Corner Suite proved to be the perfect refuge for my stay. With ample space to work, unwind, or simply relax, I enjoyed the gentle sunlight streaming onto my Eames-style chair at the desk. A freshly brewed espresso awaited me, a delightful touch to start my day. I was pleasantly surprised to find a bar of Co Wexford's Bean and Goose chocolate by my bedside, boxy on the breakfast menu, and an 'Irish Wine Geese' section on the wine list. The fusion of striking architecture and local storytelling in this 187-bed haven feels refreshingly new. I balanced work and rejuvenation effortlessly. Prioritizing wellness, the award-winning spa provides an array of rejuvenating body treatments and massages, complemented by a 75-foot indoor infinity pool, a steam room, a eucalyptus-infused sauna, and a whirlpool tub. This was the perfect way to begin my mornings before venturing out. One of my favourite retreats was the chic rooftop bar and terrace, which



boasts breath-taking panoramic views. Each evening, I found myself captivated by the skyline, capturing the stunning sunsets that bathed the city in warm orange hues. At the heart of Marker's culinary journey is the vibrant new Forbes Street by Gareth Mullins. As a fan of Gareth's weekly cooking segment, I eagerly anticipated the experience. I began with exquisite Flaggy Shore oysters on crushed ice paired with a delightful Bloody Mary. Next, the marbled rib-eye, flawlessly seared, accompanied by zingy Chimichurri, house-cut chips, and a rocket salad, was a delight. For dessert, creatively

presented North County Dublin rhubarb, with smoked vanilla and crispy potatoes, encapsulated the essence of simple yet exceptional dining.

**STORIES OF DUBLIN**

Unlike the traditional luxury of the Merrion, Westbury, and Shelbourne, The Marker embraces bold architecture while ensuring substance accompanies its style. Anantara's mantra, 'Life is a journey,' resonates through its various activities like docklands walks and sea swimming. What truly distinguishes are its unforgettable bespoke experiences, meticulously designed to immerse visitors in the local culture and lifestyle. For food enthusiasts, the signature Spice Spoons journey with Executive Chef Gareth Mullins is a delightful highlight. Guests spend the day with Mullins exploring the charming fishing village of Howth, just 30 minutes from Dublin, and embark on a chartered fishing boat around Dublin Bay, where they might spot dolphins and seals. Afterward, a visit to Kish Fish, one of Ireland's

premier salmon smokehouses, precedes an enriching lesson in baking traditional Irish soda bread back at the hotel. Other curated experiences include Wild Swimming in a popular local spot under the guidance of an open-sea coach, an insightful deep dive into equine culture at the Irish National Stud and Gardens with a renowned horse trainer, and Afternoon Tea: Poetry and Places, which celebrates Ireland's literary heritage. For me, the highlight was the Docklands Storytelling Tour led by Derek Brennan, the hotel's Irish storyteller and guest experience manager. His captivating narratives weave together the rich history of the Docklands, bringing the area's past to life through his engaging tales, a connection forged since the hotel's inception in 2013.

**SIP, STROLL, EXPLORE**

A trip to Dublin is incomplete without exploring its rich offerings. A must-visit is EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, conveniently located within walking distance of the hotel. This interactive museum delves into the history of the Irish

diaspora and emigration. Just around the corner lies The Ferryman Townhouse, a lively pub where locals warmly welcome visitors, eager to share a table and demonstrate the art of enjoying a pint in under ten seconds. For those with a sense of adventure, Grafton Street, The Temple Bar, and Trinity College Dublin are a leisurely 30-minute stroll away. Be sure to reserve an evening for the renowned Guinness Storehouse, where a guided tour reveals the brewing process, and guests can even create a 'stoutie,' a selfie on the frothy beer head. This fusion of modernity and community encapsulates the essence of Dublin's evolving urban landscape, making it a must-visit destination for locals and travellers alike.

Akanksha Dean is an independent food & travel writer, a chef and a catalyst and is the first Indian to have trained at Osteria Francescana, in Modena, Italy, rated as the world's best restaurant in the World's 50 Best Restaurants, in 2016 and 2018 and currently in the Best of The Best Category.

## CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF INDIAN ACCENT

# A Journey Through Taste and Tradition

Indian Accent's 15th anniversary marked a memorable evening, celebrating its rich legacy with a blend of nostalgic classics and inventive culinary creations, says SAKSHI PRIYA

As Indian Accent New Delhi celebrated its 15th anniversary, the occasion paid tribute to its remarkable culinary journey. With softly dimmed lighting and elegant candlelit tables, the ambiance set a warm and inviting tone for the evening. The sophisticated atmosphere, combined with a touch of nostalgia, created a perfect backdrop for a dining experience that was both refined and memorable. Walking into Indian Accent felt like stepping into a space where the charm of tradition and the excitement of modernity seamlessly merged, crafting an unforgettable experience. The evening featured a nostalgic look back at Indian Accent's inaugural tasting menu from 2009, allowing guests to revisit beloved classics that had been instrumental in shaping the restaurant's journey. Dishes like the Whole Wheat and Semolina Puchkas, Paneer Tikka Chaat and Khakra Mille Feuille served as a heartwarming reminder of the restaurant's evolution and enduring appeal. The journey began with Chef Shantanu Mehrotra at the helm, who crafted a menu that would soon become a

sensation. Reflecting on those early days, Chef Mehrotra recalls the excitement and challenges of the original menu. While some dishes met with mixed reviews, others quickly captured the hearts of diners. Today, Indian Accent is celebrated for its pivotal role in bringing modern Indian cuisine to the global stage. The celebration commenced with a sensory feast, beginning with the Blue Cheese Naan. This dish was a revelation, a delightful twist on a classic favourite. The crisp texture combined with the bold, creamy blue cheese offered a unique start to the evening. Paired with the Mushroom Shawarma, subtly spiced with garam masala, it was a comforting yet adventurous introduction that set the tone for the meal to come. The evening begins with a nod to the past through a selection of appetisers that have become icons of Indian Accent's innovative approach. The Whole Wheat and Semolina Puchkas provided a playful yet refined take on street food. The trio of waters - mint and coriander, tamarind and jaggery and buttermilk - offered a delightful balance of flavours, beautifully encapsulating Indian Accent's



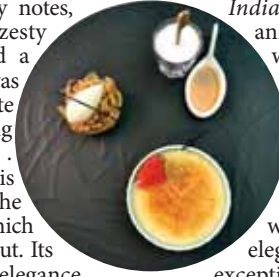
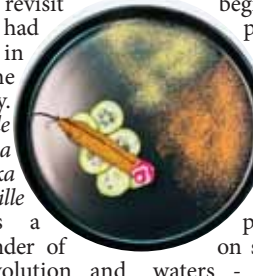
approach to blending traditional elements with modern sophistication. Chef Shantanu Mehrotra's talent was unmistakable throughout the tasting menu. His creations, such as the Paneer Tikka Chaat and Khakra Mille Feuille, were perfect examples of his ability to blend textures and flavours in imaginative and delightful ways. The Beetroot and Peanut Tikki with Caper Wasabi Chutney was particularly memorable, showcasing his knack for transforming humble ingredients into something truly remarkable. The main courses continued to impress with their inventive twists on both classic and global flavours.



The Bharwan Mirch with Goat Cheese Mousse and Chilli Aam Papad Chutney was a revelation, blending bold flavours with finesse. The Paneer Lasagna with Smoked Aubergine and Goji Berry Makhni offered a creative and comforting take on a beloved classic. The Turkish Sultanas and CousCous Ki Tahiri with Anar Avocado Raita was a brilliant example of how global influences can be seamlessly integrated into modern Indian cuisine. The grand finale of the evening was nothing short of a dessert lover's dream come true. The Indian Accent Kulfi Sorbet was like a refreshing burst of icy goodness, cleansing the palate with a playful,

creamy touch. But hold on tight, things got even sweeter with the Kinnaur Apple Shakarpara Crumble. Imagine the crunch of perfectly baked apple crumble mingling with the smooth, homemade vanilla bean ice cream—every bite was a joyous celebration of texture and flavour. And just when you thought it couldn't get any better, the Coconut and Jaggery Brulee with Ruby Grapefruit Pops Amarula Ki Chuski arrived, turning dessert into an art form. The rich brulee, with its luscious coconut and jaggery notes, paired with zesty grapefruit pops and a hint of Amarula, was an explosion of taste that left us craving more. Complementing this sweet finale was the Daulat Ki Chaat, which emerged as a standout. Its saffron-infused elegance, adorned with almonds and a hint of sugar, was both a visual delight and a burst of refined flavours. This dish exemplified the restaurant's commitment to creative excellence and its ability to elevate even the most familiar flavours into something extraordinary. Each dessert was a playful, indulgent end to a meal that was nothing short of spectacular!

Reflecting on this milestone, it became clear that the 15th anniversary was not just a celebration of Indian Accent's rich history but also a vibrant showcase of its future. The event honoured the restaurant's legacy while highlighting its ongoing dedication to culinary excellence and innovation. Chef Shantanu Mehrotra's passion and creativity were evident in every dish, underscoring the restaurant's status as one of New Delhi's most cherished culinary destinations. Indian Accent's 15th anniversary celebration was a memorable reflection on its past, with a touch of nostalgia, while also offering a glimpse into its future. The evening was all about elegance, creativity and exceptional flavours. Chef Shantanu Mehrotra's innovative approach and remarkable talent shone through in every dish, proving that Indian Accent is more than just a restaurant - it's a symbol of innovation and sophistication in the culinary world. This anniversary wasn't just a milestone, it was a celebration of a remarkable journey filled with flavour, creativity and lasting excellence.



THE BEST COMEDY COMES FROM A SPECIFIC VIEW POINT, AND THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE INDIAN CULTURE HAS ITS OWN TAKE ON THE WORLD  
— BRIAN QUINN



Photo: Pankaj Kumar

The story of transport through time is showcased meticulously at the *Heritage Transport Museum* and is a nostalgic journey for the grownups and curious potent for the young, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

Nestled in the heart of Gurugram, the Heritage Transport Museum offers a vivid glimpse into India's rich transport history. It is not merely a museum but a living narrative of how India's transportation systems have evolved over the years. From early bullock carts to vintage cars, each display in the museum is a portal to a time when travel wasn't just about the destination but the experience itself. India's transport history offers a vivid reflection of the country's broader cultural and social transformations. The evolution of transportation—from traditional bullock carts and hand-pulled rickshaws to modern vehicles and advanced public transit—parallels significant societal, technological, and economic changes. Various modes of transport illustrate the evolution of cultural practices and daily life. For example, traditional transport methods like palanquins and bullock carts reveal historical social structures and regional customs, while the advent of motorized vehicles signifies a shift toward modernization and globalization. The Heritage Transport Museum is a treasure trove of historical gems, each piece providing a unique window into India's transport legacy. The Museum in Gurugram offers a fascinating glimpse into the evolution of transportation in India. As India's first comprehensive transport museum, it showcases a wide array of unique items that reflect the country's rich history in this sector. Among the standout exhibits is an extensive collection of vintage cars, including iconic models like the Ford Model T and the Rolls-Royce Phantom. Each vehicle tells a story, with plaques detailing their origins, ownership histories, and their journeys through India's roads. The museum also houses an impressive collection of two-wheelers, featuring everything from early Royal Enfield bikes to classic Vespa scooters. These vehicles capture the changing dynamics of transportation in India, from rural commutes to urban lifestyles. A particularly unique feature is the railway exhibit, which includes vintage carriages,

## We hope to instil a respect for our heritage: Tarun Thakral

**T**arun Thakral, the founder & managing trustee of Heritage Transport Museum is also the Executive Director at CJ International Hotels Ltd, New Delhi that owns and manages Le Meridien New Delhi. Tarun started his career in the Hospitality business in 1986. In 1990, he won the French Government scholarship to pursue MBA program in International Hospitality Management from 'Institut de Hotelier Management International', Paris. To pursue his hobby and passion in vintage and classic cars, in 1996 Tarun founded Heritage Transportation Trust (HTT) - a registered not-for-profit trust to promote the preservation of modes of transportation that have been used in India. As its Founder and Managing Trustee, HTT has developed India's first comprehensive Transport Museum, Heritage Transport Museum, which opened to visitors in December 2013. Since its opening Museum won many prestigious awards - The National Tourism Award for being the most innovative and unique tourism project in the country, the 2016 and 2018 Travellers Choice Award by TripAdvisor, International PATWA award for innovation at ITB, Germany, the BITB Tourism Excellence Award, SATTE Tourism award for innovation, and more. He talked to Gyaneshwar Dayal about his

passion and labour of love, The Heritage Transport Museum: **What inspired you to create the Heritage Transport Museum? Was there a specific moment or experience that ignited your passion for preserving India's transport history?** India did not have a comprehensive transport museum until the Heritage Transport Museum opened its doors to visitors. Given the presence of remarkable transport museums worldwide, I often wondered why India didn't have one of its own. As my personal collection of transport memorabilia expanded, managing it became increasingly difficult. We launched the Heritage Transport Museum in December 2013, and it remains India's sole transport museum to this day. **How did you go about collecting such an impressive and diverse array of transport artefacts? Were there any particularly challenging or memorable acquisitions?** In 1994, I purchased my first vintage car from Ramgarh Shekhawati, Rajasthan, which was in a state of disrepair. The process of restoring this vehicle over nearly a year brought me immense joy and ignited a passion for collecting and preserving vehicles from being scrapped. My collection soon grew to include cars, two-wheelers, bicycles, carriages, and carts. In 2002, I came across an advertisement from Indian



Railways about scrapping several 1930s railway saloons. I quickly contacted the Railway Board, expressing my interest in purchasing and preserving one of these saloons. Since the Railways had never before sold such items to private individuals, it took over a year of negotiations. Ultimately, I succeeded in acquiring and restoring the saloon, which now proudly stands at the museum on a recreated vintage railway platform. **What criteria do you use to select the items displayed in the museum?** The Heritage Transport Museum features a diverse array of transportation modes used for both private and public transport throughout history. Our aim is to display the full range of transportation, encompassing cars,

buses, two-wheelers, traditional transport methods, non-motorized vehicles, railways, trams, aviation, and maritime. We choose items based on their historical importance, popularity, and how they complement our existing collection. We also carefully evaluate how each object will engage and benefit our visitors. **What are the biggest challenges you've faced in preserving and restoring some of the older or more delicate items in the museum's collection?** Many items, especially those that are decades or even centuries old, face natural deterioration over time. Components can become fragile or worn, making the restoration process both meticulous and delicate. For vintage vehicles and machinery,

locating original or compatible parts can be extremely challenging, often necessitating custom fabrication or innovative solutions to replace missing or damaged components. Restoring complex items, such as early aviation or railway equipment, requires specialized knowledge and skills, and finding experts with the necessary experience can be difficult. **What are your future plans for the Heritage Transport Museum? Are there any upcoming exhibitions or expansions that visitors can look forward to?** We have several exciting initiatives in store for the Heritage Transport Museum to enrich its offerings and continue captivating our visitors. One of our key plans is to introduce an experience centre that will provide a unique, multisensory experience. We're also expanding our exhibitions to feature rare artefacts that showcase various aspects of transportation history. To keep up with the latest technological advancements, we aim to incorporate more interactive and immersive technologies, such as virtual reality, augmented reality, and advanced simulation tools, to make the exploration of transport history even more engaging. **What drives your passion for curating and expanding the museum's collection? How do you stay motivated in continuing this labour of love?**

A deep passion for history, culture, and education, coupled with a strong commitment to preserving and sharing important stories and artefacts for future generations. The continual excitement and inspiration of discovering new ways to present these treasures and enhance the museum's narrative. The joys of seeing visitors engage with, learn from, and appreciate the museum's offerings. The profound personal fulfilment derived from working in a field I genuinely love and enjoy. And, of course, the pride in contributing to the museum's enduring legacy. **What kind of experience do you hope visitors take away from the museum? Is there a particular message or feeling you want them to leave with?** One of the greatest compliments we've received is being recognized as a world-class museum in India. Many visitors leave with a profound sense of nostalgia, feeling moved, inspired, and reflective. They depart with a deeper understanding of the evolution of transport, and the museum continues to ignite curiosity and further interest in its visitors. We hope to instil a respect for our heritage, encouraging visitors to think about ways to preserve it for future generations. For younger visitors, we aspire to inspire them to develop hobbies that bring them fulfilment and satisfaction.

signaling systems, and detailed replicas of early Indian trains. Visitors can explore the interior of these carriages and get a sense of the grandeur of rail travel during the colonial period. For aviation enthusiasts, the museum features models and artifacts from India's early civil aviation history, including scaled replicas of early Indian aircraft. Another intriguing exhibit is a full-size 1950s Piper J3C Cub aircraft, providing a rare close-up view of mid-20th-century aviation. One of the more immersive experiences is the display of

maritime memorabilia, with detailed models of ships and boats that were integral to India's naval history and trade routes. The museum's art and design installations also deserve mention, with sections devoted to the design evolution of vehicles, showcasing how aesthetics and functionality have shaped modern transport. Besides, the Museum has also a 3D virtual reality ride on a rickshaw over the China wall which is a big hit with the children and elders alike. The development of transportation also mirrors India's economic progress. The transition

from horse-drawn carriages to trains and automobiles highlights the country's industrial growth and enhanced connectivity, which has facilitated trade and mobility. Additionally, transportation innovations have been crucial in driving social change. The introduction of public transportation systems such as buses and metro rails has influenced urbanization, accessibility, and social integration, affecting how people live and work. The Heritage Transport Museum plays a crucial role in enriching our understanding of India's

history by preserving and showcasing these transportation milestones. Through its diverse collection of transport artifacts, the museum offers visitors insights into how transportation has both shaped and been shaped by the broader socio-cultural context. It effectively connects the past with the present, providing a tangible link to India's rich history and its ongoing evolution. The museum houses an impressive collection, thoughtfully curated to spark fascination. The assortment ranges from classic vintage cars to steam engines, traditional

bicycles, and even airplanes. Visitors can explore artifacts that depict the evolution of transport—some centuries old, others representative of the industrial age. There is also a segment dedicated to maritime history, complete with beautifully preserved models of ships, giving the experience an almost encyclopaedic richness. What truly sets the Heritage Transport Museum apart is the meticulous passion with which it has been curated. The layout of the museum is designed not just to showcase relics but to narrate stories. Interactive displays,

lifelike dioramas, and thematic galleries transport visitors into the very eras these machines were part of. Each exhibit is placed within a larger cultural and social context, enabling visitors to appreciate its significance beyond the mechanics. It's not just a collection of vehicles; it's a carefully woven tapestry of India's transport evolution, enhanced by attention to detail. For anyone with an interest in history, innovation, or transport, the Heritage Transport Museum is a must-visit, where every exhibit is a labour of love, offering a journey through time.

## THE MONSOON'S WHISPER IN EVERY NOTE

Vidushi Sunanda Sharma's *Boondan Phuhaar* concert celebrated the monsoon with enchanting Indian classical music, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

There is something undeniably timeless and evocative about Indian classical music, especially when performed by an artist as deeply rooted in tradition as Vidushi Sunanda Sharma. On a beautiful evening at the Stein Auditorium in New Delhi, Sharma brought the monsoon season to life with her performance, 'Boondan Phuhaar.' The concert was not merely a display of musical mastery but a heartfelt celebration of nature, tradition and the human spirit. Sharma, a vocalist of the Banaras Gharana, captivated her audience with her soulful

voice that seemed to capture the very essence of the rainy season. Each note felt like a raindrop, each melody a breeze dancing through the trees. She was accompanied by a gifted ensemble, including Pt. Vinay Mishra on the harmonium, Pt. Mithilesh Kumar Jha on the tabla and U. Ghulam Ali on the sarangi, who together created an atmosphere that was almost spiritual. Their performance reminded everyone present of the unique power of live music to evoke deep emotions and transport listeners to another world. What stood out most was not just the technical excellence on display but the depth of



Photo: Pankaj Kumar

feeling in every note. There was a genuine joy and emotional connection to the monsoon season that resonated throughout the performance, making the audience feel the beauty and poignancy of the rains. In a world that often feels dominated by digital and impersonal entertainment, this concert was a poignant reminder of the impact of live music and its ability to make people feel truly alive. The evening was also a celebration of India's rich cultural heritage. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's reflections on Varanasi's spirit and its deep-rooted connection to the classical

arts underscored the importance of preserving these traditions. Sunanda Sharma's commitment to her craft and her work with the Girija Darshan Trust, named after her revered Gurus, Smt. Girija Devi ji and Pt. Sudarshan Sharma, is commendable. Through her efforts to nurture young talent and provide a platform for established artists, she ensures that this exquisite form of music remains vibrant and relevant, not just a relic of the past. More than just a concert, 'Boondan Phuhaar' felt like a journey into the heart of the monsoon - a gentle escape from the rush of daily life.

The performance offered a rare chance to slow down, to be present and to savour the profound beauty of music that is so intricately connected to nature. Sunanda Sharma's devotion to her heritage and artistry was evident in every note, making the evening a memorable and moving experience. In an age where life often moves at a relentless pace, this event was a timely reminder of the importance of taking a moment to appreciate the simple, yet profound joys - a rain-soaked evening, a beautiful melody and a shared experience that brings people closer to the essence of life itself.

I'M A CULINARY GANGSTA WITH A VERY SPIRITUAL SIDE, SO WHEN I WAS INTRODUCED TO THE 'SPIRITUAL GANGSTER' LINE, I HAD TO HAVE IT — GUY FIERI

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



**ARIES** March 21-April 19

This moment marks a significant phase of transformation and opportunity, signaling a time when momentum swings in your favor, particularly in endeavors where you've been actively investing your efforts. You may encounter opportunities for financial advancement or serendipitous gains, underscoring your knack for realizing ambitions and cultivating prosperity. It's essential to approach this period with boldness, as the conditions are ripe for pursuing significant goals. Yet, remember the inherent fluctuations of life's cycles; what ascends will eventually find its balance. Capitalize on this favorable phase by consolidating your strategies, and setting a foundation for enduring achievement. Anticipate and adapt to any rapid changes, relying on your adeptness to manage them. This week, your influence over your circumstances is amplified, making it an excellent time to embrace opportunities that resonate with your objectives.

**Lucky number** 15 | **Lucky colour** Blue  
**Lucky day** Monday



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

This period suggests a phase of introspection and reconsidering your usual approach. It often marks a moment where forward motion might feel paused, yet this is actually an opportunity for deeper reflection and discovering fresh perspectives. For someone known for their dynamic and confident demeanor, this week is a call to adopt a more relaxed and open-minded stance. It's an invitation to release tightly held plans and explore different viewpoints. This shift can feel uncomfortable or counterintuitive but embracing this time of stillness can lead to significant personal growth and a better understanding of your aspirations. Approach this phase with curiosity and openness, rather than frustration. By welcoming new ideas and embracing flexibility, you'll uncover insights that will assist in advancing with renewed clarity and purpose after this reflective pause.

**Lucky number** 9 | **Lucky colour** Yellow  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

This period highlights a phase where your internal fortitude and compassion are crucial in shaping your experiences. It's essential to harness this inner vigor with elegance and understanding, focusing on the equilibrium between assertiveness and tenderness. The current time encourages you to confront challenges with tranquility and persistence, utilizing your inherent charm and resilience to manage obstacles effectively. This week, your capacity to exhibit care and affection, for both yourself and others, will play a pivotal role in surmounting difficulties and achieving your aspirations. The influences at play suggest that your genuine intentions and empathetic approach will navigate you through any adversities. Embrace this opportunity to showcase your internal robustness and to motivate those around you with your sympathetic and brave spirit.

**Lucky number** 20 | **Lucky colour** White  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

This week marks a crucial phase of introspection and overcoming self-imposed barriers. It's a period where you might feel hindered by negative thought loops and detrimental habits. Often, these obstacles manifest as feelings of entrapment or limitation, which can stem from emotional, mental, or practical issues in your life. You might be battling with self-doubt, persistent worry, or feeling stuck in a repetitive cycle that seems insurmountable. Now is the time to scrutinize areas in your life where fear or insecurity may be dictating your choices. Recognizing and confronting these discomforts is vital, as they can skew your decisions and hinder your true potential. This phase encourages you to face these challenges directly, perhaps by seeking support or adopting healthier routines to free yourself from these binds.

**Lucky number** 6 | **Lucky colour** Fuchsia  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

This week marks a pivotal moment for harnessing your inner strength and determination to drive forward towards your aspirations. It's a time to effectively manage your focus and direct your energies toward your goals. You are called upon to resolve any conflicting interests or divergent paths by adopting a disciplined and strategic approach. This period challenges you to utilize your extensive knowledge and analytical prowess to navigate through potential obstacles. By aligning your actions with your clear intentions, you are set to make substantial progress. Embrace the momentum that surrounds you, as it aids in propelling you towards achieving your ambitions. This is an excellent opportunity to assert your resolve and make decisive advancements in both your personal and professional journeys.

**Lucky number** 11 | **Lucky colour** Teal  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

This period may feel like a time of emotional turmoil, marked by an emphasis on what feels lacking rather than what has been accomplished. During this phase, there's a tendency to dwell on past setbacks or areas where expectations weren't met, leading to feelings of emptiness or dissatisfaction. This reflective mood can make it difficult to see the gains you've made or the opportunities still available. It's crucial to confront these feelings, yet it's important to pivot your attention towards the constructive aspects of your situation. Encourage yourself to focus on the support and success that still exist in your life. By seeking a more balanced outlook and appreciating the present assets, you can begin to overcome feelings of shortfall and direct your energies toward actions that foster growth and renewal.

**Lucky number** 22 | **Lucky colour** Rust  
**Lucky day** Monday



**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

This period may be marked by challenges and rivalries that bring differing viewpoints into sharp focus. You could find yourself in the midst of debates or disputes in various areas of life, from professional environments to personal relationships. These situations, filled with tension and disagreement, also offer a chance for growth and enhanced understanding. Embrace these challenges constructively and handle conflicts with a mindset geared towards resolution. Although such disagreements can induce stress, they also provide opportunities for gaining valuable insights and developing innovative solutions if handled with patience and tact. Instead of succumbing to frustration, strive to find common ground and work collaboratively to resolve any underlying issues. Your capacity to effectively communicate and navigate through diverse perspectives will be essential.

**Lucky number** 10 | **Lucky colour** Plum  
**Lucky day** Sunday



**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

This week, you are poised to tap into a profound source of personal power, enabling you to realize your ambitions effectively. This period highlights your capacity to utilize your intrinsic resources and connect with your unique energies to shape significant outcomes. You possess the necessary abilities and insight to transform your dreams into tangible results. Your enhanced persuasive skills and strategic mindset will play pivotal roles in guiding scenarios to your advantage, fostering the achievement of your objectives. It is crucial, however, to exercise this influence with integrity, steering clear of any unethical tactics. Emphasize genuine intentions and align your actions accordingly. Harness the dynamism of this time by directing your energies with intention and clarity, allowing you to not only fulfill your goals but also achieve a deep sense of personal satisfaction and growth.

**Lucky number** 13 | **Lucky colour** Mustard  
**Lucky day** Monday



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

This week heralds a period of fresh beginnings and a vibrant pursuit of personal ambitions. You find yourself at the early stages of accomplishment, with promising opportunities for advancement in your financial and professional life. There's a wave of enthusiasm and a readiness to absorb new knowledge, making it a prime time to set forth new intentions and establish a foundation for future achievements. A prevailing sense of discipline enhances your ability to take decisive, practical steps toward your goals, securing a robust framework for lasting success. You may discover blessings in the guise of new resources or chances that bolster your ambitions, encouraging you to delve into your capabilities and undertake new responsibilities confidently. Furthermore, maintaining your ethical standards is crucial, ensuring your actions consistently reflect your deepest values.

**Lucky number** 7 | **Lucky colour** Orange  
**Lucky day** Saturday



**CANCER** June 21-July 22

Your hard work and efforts are about to be recognized and celebrated, drawing you into gatherings with friends, family, or colleagues. It's an ideal time for social events and joyful reunions, whether you're celebrating a personal milestone, a professional accomplishment, or simply the pleasure of shared experiences. This period encourages you to indulge in these moments of triumph, to embrace the positive atmosphere, and to fully enjoy the sense of accomplishment and togetherness. It's also a time to express gratitude and acknowledge the support of your loved ones. By embracing your achievements and strengthening your bonds, you will improve your relationships and increase your overall sense of joy and satisfaction.

**Lucky number** 2 | **Lucky colour** Green  
**Lucky day** Thursday



**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

This period marks a significant emphasis on heritage and established beliefs, steering you towards a deeper exploration of time-honored traditions and spiritual frameworks. You might find yourself more inclined to connect with authoritative figures or institutions that can offer guidance and support. This phase is ripe for introspection, urging you to contemplate how your personal principles align with long-standing practices. Engaging with mentors or participating in community rituals could provide the clarity and direction you seek. Your keen desire to delve deep into these subjects will be beneficial, as it allows you to absorb and respect the wisdom shared by seasoned paths. By dedicating yourself to this journey of understanding and respect, you set the stage for substantial personal growth and equilibrium.

**Lucky number** 1 | **Lucky colour** Brown  
**Lucky day** Friday



**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

This period may feel like you're sailing through misty waters, where emotions swirl unpredictably, and clarity seems just out of reach. You might find yourself wrestling with doubts and fears that are difficult to pinpoint as if navigating a landscape obscured by fog. These feelings can lead to a sense of restlessness, urging you to question what's real and what's merely a reflection of your inner uncertainties. During this time, it's crucial to engage deeply with your inner self, peeling back the layers of your emotions to confront what lies beneath. Trusting your inner voice becomes essential, as it will help you discern truth from illusion. By embracing introspection and patience, you can turn this challenging phase into a profound journey of personal discovery, leading to a newfound sense of balance and insight.

**Lucky number** 10 | **Lucky colour** White  
**Lucky day** Friday

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# Do you pray?

Divine dawns within you when you pray. A deep prayer can work miracles. Be sincere when you pray, pray for the happiness of all!

GURUSPEAK



**Sri Sri Ravi Shankar**  
Spiritual Guru

Prayer is a vital tool to improve your life. Wherever you can put your effort, put it. Where you cannot, pray for it! Whatever you do, know that a Higher Power has the final say and you can tap that power through your prayers.

You don't need any special qualifications or abilities to pray. Whether a fool or a wise person, whether rich or poor, anybody can pray. Prayer doesn't mean just sitting and chanting some words. It's about being in that serene, calm, and meditative state. That is why, in the Vedic tradition, dhyana (meditation) is done before prayer as well as afterward. When the mind is focused, the prayer becomes far more powerful.

Prayer is the cry of a soul. To whom you pray is not important. Whereas religion puts words to the prayer, and adds symbols and rituals to it, the prayer itself transcends them. It happens on the subtle level of feelings; and feelings transcend words and religion. The act of praying itself has



the power to bring transformation. When you pray there should be total involvement. If the mind is preoccupied elsewhere then that is no prayer at all. When there is pain, there is more involvement. That's why people

turn to prayer when they are in pain. Prayer happens when you feel grateful or when you feel utterly helpless. In either case, your prayers will be answered. When you feel helpless, prayer happens by itself. That's why in

Hindi we say 'Nirbal toh Balam'. If you are weak, God is your strength. Prayer is that moment when you come in touch with your limitations and your boundaries.

In today's fast-paced world, people often pray out of fear and greed. Usually, when you love something, you want to possess it and you pray for it. True prayer, however, is just the opposite of wanting to possess. It's about honouring and offering everything to the Divine. Honouring brings devotion and leads to surrender. Devotion brings a healing touch to life.

Devotion and faith are at the core of a sincere prayer. A true prayer can't happen without devotion and faith. Having faith is to realize that God's protection is there for you. Devotion is inner flowering. Devotion starts from where you are. Unless you are lit in devotion to the Divine, your life will remain restless. In devotion, longing will arise in you. And when there is longing, true prayer happens by itself.

Be sincere in your prayers. Do not try to outsmart the Divine. The mind has the tendency to forget the Divine. What type of time do you give the Divine? Usually, you give the leftover time; when you have nothing else to do, no guests to attend to, no parties to attend to, you go to the Divine.

This is not quality time. Give prime time to the Divine. You will be rewarded. If your prayers are not answered, it is because you have never given quality time.

Four types of people go to God. One, is those who seek the truth (knowledge and freedom). Two, the wise ones (gyanis). Three, the ones who seek material comforts (wealth). Four, the ones who are in misery. The wise one does not pray for something. His life itself is a prayer.

If at all you have to pray for something, pray for the happiness of all the people in the world. 'Loka Samastha Sukhinou Bhavantu' (May Everybody Be Happy).