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# **Health department issues** new safety guidelines

The UP Health department has issued new safety guidelines in response to the recent rape and murder of a doctor in Kolkata. These directives come under the Supreme Court's orders and include instructions from Health Minister Brajesh Pathak to hospital managements across the state. Pathak, who is also the Deputy CM, said that the safety of hospital staff is a top priority. He outlined several key measures that hospitals must implement.

First, there is a need to regulate individuals who are not patients and who stay overnight in hospitals. Such individuals should be monitored, and action should be taken against them.

Entry passes should be required for attendants accessing wards, ICUs, resting rooms, emergency wards, and IPD departments

wards, and IFD departments during the night. Enhancing security for staff working night shifts is also cru-cial. Female doctors and staff nurses, who may need to move between blocks and wards during their shifts, should have strengthened security arrange-

ments for their safety.

Proper lighting must be arranged in hospital premises, residential areas, and hostels at night to deter anti-social elements.

Additionally, security officers should conduct surprise inspections at night to ensure safety, and attendants sleeping on hospital premises should be period-

## No female doc or staff should be assigned night duties alone: DM

PNS LUCKNOW

District Magistrate Surya Pal Gangwar emphasised the need to ensure the safety and facilities for women across all health units.

Addressing a meeting of the District Health Committee, the DM issued directions for separate and functional toilet facilities for women. He also stated that no female

doctor or worker should be assigned night duties alone; instead, shifts should be scheduled so that both female and male workers are present, allowing them to work without fear. The safety of women at workplaces was highlighted as a top priority for the govern-ment. The district magistrate conducted a comprehensive review of various national programmes, including regular vaccinations, child health initiatives, the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan, Janani Suraksha Yojana, Janani Shishu Suraksha Programme, Family Welfare Programme,

ically questioned.

A 24-hour operational control room is to be established for hospital security. Adequate securi-

should be kept updated to provide accurate data on regular vaccinations. Additionally, the district magistrate called for the implementation of 'Badi Vyavastha' which ensures that someone else covers for an employee on leave, to prevent disruptions in work. The meeting also addressed the National Leprosy Eradication Programme, with a leprosy patient search cam-

and the National TB

Regarding regular vaccinations, the DM instructed that

all children aged 0-5 years must be vaccinated, ensuring

that the necessary human resources, infrastructure, and

He also noted that the UWIN

portal, modelled after the Covid system, is monitored from the central level and

equipment are available.

Eradication Programme.

paign scheduled from September 2 to 15. To ensure the success of this campaign, 4,500 teams and 1,857 supervisors have been organised.

ty personnel, including retired army personnel, should be deployed in the control room. There should also be regular communication and coordination with the nearest police stations. Furthermore, an internal sexual harassment committee should be formed for women doctors and staff to address any issues that arise.

The CCTV cameras installed in hospital premises should be regularly checked to ensure they are functional and that their number is adequate.

Police verification of contract and outsourced staff is also necessary. In the event of violence against doctors or medical staff, an FIR will be lodged by the hospital incharge or an authorised person, known as an institutional FIR. This FIR will be reported by the hospital rather than the affected individual.

### **Petrol pump** employees assaulted

**Lucknow (PNS):** A group of SUV-borne men allegedly attacked the staff members at a petrol pump and attempted to rob them of cash, in Para area on Friday night. The employees were assaulted when they resisted the robbery bid, resulting in one employee suffering severe head injuries. A CCTV footage shows 10-12 men acting aggressively and physically assaulting the petrol pump employees. According to reports, Rohit Jaiswal, son of Amritlal Jaiswal and resident of Napier Road

and resident of Napier Road Colony in Thakurganj, owns the petrol station in the Sarosa Bharosa locality of Para. On Friday night, a group of 10-12 armed people arrived at the petrol station in an SUV (Scorpio) and on motorcycles. The attackers targeted an employee named Milan, who was struck on the head with the butt of a gun when he resisted. He sustained grievous injuries. The miscreants, who were said to be drunk, beat other employees when they intervened.

Unable to complete the robbery, the group then attempted to steal items from the manager's office at the station. Meanwhile, a woman, along

with her sons, alleged attacked her husband's second wife with a knife due to ongoing disputes between the two women in Gudamba police station area on Friday afternoon. The injured woman was rushed to a hospital by her family with the assistance of neighbours, and her condition is reported to be critical. The attack occurred in Mishrapur village within the Gudamba police station area. The police have taken the accused woman into custody, and the investigation is ongoing. Both women live in separate houses. According to reports, Ali Ahmed, a property dealer from Mishrapur, is married to two women. His first wife Ishrat alias Shirkat Jahan had ongoing disputes with his second wife

Naseem Bano. Ali Ahmed stated that he was at work on Friday. Around 10 pm, Ishrat and her sons — Afzal and Iqbal — went to Naseem Bano's house.

Following an argument, they attacked her with a knife, inflicting serious injuries to her throat

# CM thanks PM for gifting three Vande Bharat Express trains



Meerut: BJP MP Arun Govil with other party leaders during the flag off ceremony of the Vande Bharat train between Meerut and Lucknow, in Meerut, on Saturday

PNS LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for gifting three new Vande Bharat Express trains.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Saturday, flagged off three new Vande Bharat Express trains one of which will run between Meerut and Lucknow.

Following the virtual launch event, the chief minister took to social media to extend his gratitude to the prime minister for this new addition for the people of the state.

On his social media account. Chief Minister Yogi wrote, "Under the able guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the visionary behind

in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', the nation's economic, social and cultural development continues to thrive. Today, the prime minister has further advanced this journey by introducing three new Vande Bharat Express trains. The Prime Minister has virtually launched the state-of-the-art, world-class Vande Bharat Express trains between Meerut-Lucknow, Madurai-Bengaluru and Chennai-Nagercoil. Heartfelt thanks to the prime minister for this gift, which will enhance tourism, boost business and

improve connectivity."
The introduction of the Vande Bharat Express train between Meerut and Lucknow brings high-speed connectivity to western Uttar Pradesh, significantly enhancing travel

options for residents. This new addition will provide a pleasant, smooth and comfortable journey for passengers. Prior to this, Uttar Pradesh already had six Vande Bharat Express trains operating between Delhi-Varanasi, Ranchi-Varanasi, Lucknow-Dehradun, Patna-Lucknow, Anand Vihar-Ayodhya and Gorakhpur-Prayagraj. With the addition of the Meerut-Lucknow Vande Bharat Express, the state's high-speed rail network has expanded even further.

Before flagging off the trains, Prime Minister Modi remarked that a new chapter is being added to the country's development journey from north to south.

'Today, we are launching the Vande Bharat train service between Meerut and Lucknow.

This expansion marks a significant step towards achieving our goal of a developed India. The three new Vande Bharat trains will connect three key cities, with the Meerut-Lucknow route being particularly notable for the people of western UP," he said. "Meerut and western UP have long been centres of revolution and today they are experiencing a new surge in development. While Meerut is being connected to Delhi through the RRTS, the introduction of the Vande Bharat Express train will also reduce the distance to state capital Lucknow. The NCR region exemplifies how modern trains, expressways, expanded air services, and the PM Gati Shakti vision are transforming the country's infrastructure," he

#### **NOTICE**

I, Anjali Sinha Kumar W/o Gautam Kumar R/o E- 708, Ratan Orbit, Indiranagar, Kalyanpur, Kanpur -208026 have changed the name of my son from Giyansh Kumar to Giyansh Sinha Kumar for all future purposes.

#### **NOTICE**

I Sanjay S/o Jagannath R/o 127/578 W BLOCK, Keshav Nagar, Juhi colony Kanpur 208012 Have changed my name to Sanjay Kumar for all future

#### **NOTICE**

I Naseem Bano W/o Farid Baig R/o 96/21, Siddiqui Miya Ka Hata, Colonelganj Kanpur Nagar Uttar Pradesh-208001 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known Aabida Begum

#### **NOTICE**

My name was Kamal Narayan and now my name is Kamlesh Kumar Bajpai, my date of birth is 6-6-1971, in future I will be known as Kamlesh Kumar Bajpai, son of late Babu Ram Bajpai, Resident Ramnagar Mandhana Kanpur

#### NOTICE

DUE TO MISTAKE IN CLASS X MARKSHEET OF MY SON SAMAR RAI HIS DATE OF BIRTH WRITTEN AS. 14-06-2007 WHICH IS WRONG, HIS CORRECT DATE OF BIRTH IS 14-10-2007 (AS PER ADHAR CARD) PLEASE CORRECT ACCORDINGLY, RAJKISHORE 403/91 CHAUPATIYA, KATRA VIJAN BEG, LUCKNOW-3

#### NOTICE

I Army No.15339518P Hav Shulendera Bahadur Singh S/0 Devi Baksh Singh R/o- Vill-Nevti Bisramau Post - Pokhari Bisramau, The-Bihar Distt-Unnao (UP) in my army records by mistake my mothers DOB 12.12.1958 is wrongly mention, whearas correct mothers DOB should be mention as 01.01.1958

#### **NOTICE**

I. SHUBHAM NAGER holding Indian Passport No: M5050431 issued at LUCKNOW on 01/01/2015, Permanent Resident of MARIA NAI BASTI PARAO KUSTH ASHRAM CHANDAULI PIN 232101 UTTAR PRADESH INDIA, presently residing at DUBAI UAE do hereby change my name from SHUBHAM NAGER to SHUBHAM (Given name) NAGAR(Surname) with immediate

#### **NOTICE**

NOTIFY THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY DAUGHTER'S NAME FROM TAIBA TO TAIBA FUZAIL FOR ALL PURPOSES & RECORDS. FUZAIL AHMAD R/o 250/86, CHAMAR TOLA, CHOWK, LUCKNOW

#### **NOTICE**

I, Neelam Dwivedi W/o Udai 20240000707732 Dt. 31.08.2024

#### NOTICE

This is to bring to the Notice of all concerned that my ICSE PASS CERTIFICATE & STATEMENT of MARKS/MARKSHEET bearing INDEX No. T/491/083, of the Year 1990 of Methodist High School, Kanpur, has been lost somewhere. Manyendra Swarup.

#### NOTICE

I Army No.15339518P Hav Shulendera Bahadur Singh S/0 Devi Baksh Singh R/o- Vill-Nevti Bisramau Post - Pokhari Bisramau, The-Bihar Distt-Unnao (UP) in my army records by mistake my Father's name Devi Bux Singh and DOB is 12.05.1956 wrongly mention whereas correct fathers name should be mention as Devi Baksh

#### सूचना

Shankar Dwivedi R/o Azad Nagar Bazar Shuklaganj, Unnao, I have lost my original chain deed which is executed by Mr. Sone Lal S/o Sobha Lal in favour Lala Ram S/o Om Prakash Regd. at SRO, Unnao in Book No. 1 Jild No. 1152 P-351 to 382 SINo. 62740 dt. 04.11.1996, I have not used the said sale deed in any financial institution. FIR/LAR No.

I, Mahmuna M/o 14953031N Sep Rijwan Ali R/o Vill & Po. Saraiya, Teh. Akbarpur, Distt Kanpur Dehat have changed my name from Mumena Begam to Mahmuna vide affidavit dated

#### **NOTICE**

Singh and DOB 01.01.1948.

सूचित हो कि मैं आर्मी न. 13933102 EX - TS - NK प्रदीप त्रिवेदी, निवासी--ES-1B /197, सीतापुर रोड योजना, निकट-इं0 कालेज चौराहा, लखनऊ, मेरे आर्मी सर्विस रिकार्ड./ PPO न. S/020165/88 में मेरी पत्नी मिथलेश त्रिवेदी की उम्र त्रुटिवश 34 वर्ष अंकित हो गयी है। जबकि सही जन्मतिथि 24.05.1958 है ,मेरे आर्मी सर्विस रिकार्ड / PPO न. S/020165/88 में मेरी पत्नी की सही जन्मतिथि 24.05.1958

# **Mastermind behind ₹120-crore fraud** involving AKTU lands in police net

PNS LUCKNOW

Tn connection with the Rs 120 crore fraud case involving Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU), the Cyber Crime police claimed to have arrested the mastermind behind the scam.

The accused, Ajay Sureshbhai Patel from Gujarat, was apprehended following a detailed investigation.

Patel, a resident of Bharuch in Gujarat, is alleged to have purchased and faked a domain to impersonate AKTU and Union Bank. He created a fraudulent website and played a crucial role in diverting the stolen funds into various bank accounts. Inspector Brijesh Kumar Yadav stated that Patel's arrest came after the investiga-

tion focused on him. According to the police, Patel was a key figure in the fraudulent operation. The gang had set up fake websites for both the bank and the university, sharing these details among its members.

Previously arrested accused Anurag had posed as a bank manager during a visit to AKTU officials, using the fake website and presenting a visit-

ing card with false information. The website was designed to display Anurag's photo and details as a bank manager. The fraudulent operation

involved embezzling Rs 120 crore, of which Rs 60 lakh was funnelled to Lucknow through hawala channels. This amount was distributed

among gang members, with approximately Rs 25 lakh used to purchase an SUV Patel disclosed these details

during his interrogation. Inspector Yadav revealed that a sum of Rs 100 crore of the stolen funds was deposited into a trust account, while Rs 20 crore was transferred to other accounts.

Trustee Devendra Prasad Joshi was implicated in this scheme, and Patel played a significant role in the scam.

The conspiracy was in the planning stages for a year. Patel admitted during interrogation that he created the fake websites last year and took part in multiple meetings in Mumbai, Delhi, Ahmedabad, and Lucknow to finalise the scheme. Members of the gang, including Kapil Muni and Shivansh Bajaj from Bengaluru, were involved in these meetings. Patel himself attended four meetings held in Lucknow. The police discovered that the SUV, purchased with the fraudulent funds, was found parked at Pune Airport.

Patel had initially used his nephew's account to pay for the domain, which led investigators to his nephew and eventually to Patel. Patel had been avoiding contact

with his family for two months due to the fear of arrest. The fraud case, involving a fake FD scheme purportedly from AKTU, led to an FIR being registered at the cyber police sta-

tion on June 18. So far, nine arrests have been made in the case. In addition to Patel, those previously arrested include Girish Chandra, Shailesh Raghuvanshi, Joshi Devendra Prasad, KK Tripathi, Dastagir Alam, Uday Patel, Rajesh Babu, and Anurag

Srivastava. Meanwhile, a businessman from Indiranagar was defrauded of Rs 30 lakh by an accused who claimed to be the owner of a steel manufacturing factory in Bhopal, a major scrap dealer for the railways, and holder of two mining contracts in Fatehpur district, Uttar

Pradesh.

The victim, Manish Soni, reported that he was shown

According to Soni, the accused

forged documents and deceived into investing a large sum of money. Soni said he had met Madan Gupta from Bhopal and Hariveer Singh alias Kake Sardar from Punjab in Lucknow in 2020. They falsely claimed to own a steel factory, have mining allotments in Fatehpur, and operate a significant scrap business with the railways.

promised substantial profits in return for an investment. Believing their claims, he deposited Rs 30 lakh into their bank account. When he later requested a refund, the accused told him that the business was experiencing losses. Soni applied pressure for his

money to be returned, at which point Madan Gupta issued three cheques from his bank account and provided a Rs 100 affidavit as a guarantee. However, when Soni deposited the cheques, they bounced due to insufficient funds in Gupta's account. The complainant alleged that the fraudsters used forged mining allot-ment letters to deceive him.

## mules to defraud SGPGI doctor PRABHA SHANKER ■ LUCKNOW The gang that defrauded an assistant professor at Sanjay

Gang used money

Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences of Rs 2.81 crore used unsuspecting individuals as money mules to transfer their ill-gotten funds before converting them into cryptocurrency.
According to their confession,

the accused lured impoverished or vulnerable people to open bank accounts in their names using the victims' documents. The gang then directed their stolen money into these accounts, adopting this method to evade detection by authorities and avoid getting caught. However, the police and Special Task Force (STF) traced the accounts and apprehended them. The accused were found to

have used pre-activated SIM cards on their mobile phones, which they destroyed after each major operation. Further investigation revealed

that those arrested by the STF were students pursuing Masters in Computer Applications from a local institute.

They were managed by a female gang leader, who is believed to be the primary orchestrator of the operation. The police are currently probing how this secondary group of criminals came into contact with the female gang leader and whether they were recruited by others on her behalf. It is suspected that the entire network operates through

THE ACCUSED LURED IMPOVERISHED OR **VULNERABLE PEOPLE** TO OPEN BANK **ACCOUNTS IN THEIR** NAMES USING THE VICTIMS' **DOCUMENTS** 

social media, with each participant receiving a fixed commission. Transactions were carried out through the accounts of those arrested, based on bank details obtained during the investigation.

The main masterminds behind the fraud have yet to be identified. The arrest of the accused appears to be just the tip of the iceberg. Further revelations are expected as the investigation progresses, sources said. The accused, who defrauded the SGPGI doctor of Rs 2.81 crore, had "digitally arrested" her at her home, intimidating her with threats of police action and falsely accusing her of complicity in money laundering with a notorious

money launderer. After the funds were transferred to the bank accounts of the money mules, they were quickly drained and converted into cryptocurrency before being moved to other accounts. Despite a swift response, the police were only able to freeze Rs 30 lakh, with the remaining amount proving challenging to

## सन्त बैरागी बाबा महाविद्यालय

(2) सहायक आचार्य बी.एस.सी. : भौतिक विज्ञान, रसायन विज्ञान, गणित, जन्तु

एवं वनस्पति विज्ञान। सहायक आचार्य एम.ए. हिंदी एवं शिक्षा शास्त्र अर्हता : सम्बन्धित विषय में स्नातक 45 प्रतिशत, स्नातकोत्तर 55 प्रतिशत के साथ नेट/स्लेट/पी.एच.डी.। सभी प्रपत्रों व 2 पासपोर्ट साइज फोटो सहित 10 दिनों में आवेदन करें।

मुझ्या, घाटमपुर, कानपुर नगर, मो. नं. : 9450123055 आवश्यकता है-(1) स्ववित्तपोषी राजाज्ञानुसार देय वेतनमान पर बी.एड. पाठ्यक्रम हेतु विभागाध्यक्ष एवं सहायक आचार्यों की। योग्यता: यू.जी.सी./एन.सी.टी.ई./राज्य सरकार के नियमानुसार।

#### Secondary hypertension cases on rise managed with one or two as hypertension that develops

before the age of 30 to 40 years.

PNS LUCKNOW

Utension, which occurs in individuals under the age of 40, are on the rise in the city. Dr Narayana Prasad, head of the nephrology department at Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, emphasised the importance of identifying the underlying causes of secondary hyper-tension before initiating treatment. He noted that many patients begin taking antihypertensive medications without addressing the root cause of their condition, which is not an effective approach.

Dr Prasad explained that sec-

ondary hypertension is defined

ases of secondary hyper-

tension. He further said that about 80

The primary causes of secondary hypertension include kidney disease, where renovascular hypertension occurs due to constricted kidney nerves. Hormonal changes associated with the endocrine system can also contribute to secondary hypertension. Additionally, prolonged use of

oral contraceptives by women may lead to secondary hyper-

per cent of patients with kidney diseases who come to their facility have secondary hypertension. A significant concern is that while primary hypertension can often be medications, secondary hypertension may remain uncon-trolled even with multiple medications. However, the positive aspect is

that if the underlying cause of secondary hypertension is identified and treated, the hypertension can also be effectively managed, leading to controlled blood pressure. Dr Prasad highlighted that

doctors often prescribe antihypertensive medications without investigating the underlying cause of secondary hypertension, which does not benefit the patients. He also pointed out that secondary hypertension is more prevalent in women compared to men.

#### van hits bikes Deoria (PTI): Three people died and four more were injured here when a pickup

3 killed after

van hit three motorcycles, police said on Saturday. They said the accident occurred in the Gauri Bazar police station area of the district on Friday

night.

investigation.

Local Station House Officer DK Misra identified the deceased as Ratnesh (24), Raju (28) and Sahil (17). The injured were rushed to a hospital where their situation was said to be critical, he added. Police have sent the bodies for post-mortem examination and initiated an

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# In Memorian +

# BOSS KAUN THA? DR CHANDAN MITRA

By SIDHARTH MISHRA

It has been three years since Chandan Mitra is gone. I left the *Pioneer* in 2012 summer but my phone still has his number saved as Editor. I last met him on January 19, 2019. I presented him a copy of my book Delhi Political 1947-2013 and clicked a picture together. Since we both had French beards and sported similar glass frames, some commented that I was indeed a true disciple, since I did not simply follow him in his writings but also the style of his beard.

Covid followed, poor health got the better of Chandan's physical charm and our interactions got limited to exchange of messages on the phone. My last message to him was on 24 July 2021, on Guru Purnima. Somewhere I had this gut feeling that he may not be there to receive the customary message on Teachers' Day. September the 5th. It turned out

with both hands.

to be true. In 1992, I was working as a district correspondent in the Patna edition of the Hindustan Times. I remember reading a front-page review of Mani Ratnam's film Roja sitting in the dingy district bureau office. It was sometime then that somewhere inside me the thought arose, if I were to make a career in journalism,

Chandan Mitra was the writer to follow. Soon after, I came to Delhi and found a job at the newsdesk in *The Pioneer*. The newspaper then had a good number of feature and theme pages. The newspaper's then Editor, Ashok Bhattacharya, gave me somewhat of a license to write on these pages if it would not compromise with my desk work. I grabbed the opportunity

In 1996, Chandan came as the Editor to Link House, the office of *The Pioneer*. In the first meeting with the newsdesk, then officiating editor Ajoy Bose introduced me saying that I was some kind of a specimen, who despite working till late in the night on the desk could still find time to write. Chandan responded, "I am surprised as I always thought of you to be in someone in the writing departments.'

Soon he made me jump the fence, and I was part of the City reporting team. In less than two years' time I was heading the City unit. When I took over, my friends told me that the job was jinxed as, since the launch of the paper in Delhi, nobody completed a year as the Chief Reporter.

When I completed a year, I wrote a thanksgiving note to the Editor, and Chandan in a hand written reply said I survived not because of his benevolence but because of my work. He said I would have many more years in the office. I worked in *The Pioneer* for 18 years on a trot and of which 16 years were with Chandan. We were ideologically not much aligned. Given my military school background I was never much amused by the life of glamour which he enjoyed but still we managed to work together. With time I came to look after the newspaper's editions in Dehradun, Chandigarh and Ranchi in addition to the Delhi City unit charge. Those were tumultuous years. The Thapars gave up on the newspaper and Chandan brought it back from the brink of closure. In those years many left for better opportunities; sometimes I ask myself what held me back. The charm of attending the evening news meetings with Chandan in the chair, things never got boring. They used to be great gatherings with Swapan Dasgupta and Kanchan Gupta, all *mahapandits* of right wing ideology, with poor me fighting to justify my sympathies for the then Sheila Dikshit Government. Chandan would face a lot of heat from Delhi BJP leaders like Madanlal Khurana for having me as the head of the

paper's City unit. The majority of the years that Chandan held the reigns of *The Pioneer*, the paper was in an adversarial role vis-à-vis the Government at the Centre.

Not that under the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government, Chandan mortgaged his right to criticise. There was this instance of a border skirmish with Bangladesh in which a BSF officer was killed. His corpse was returned in a most undignified manner. The images made one baulk and at the same time angry even as the Government talked of peace. The front page editorial in the paper said, Bend, don't genuflect. Now this was a startling criticism coming from a newspaper known for its ideological proximity to the Government of the day. This must have required a lot of courage on the part of Chandan, and a real large heart on the part of the Government to take the criticism in the right spirit.

During those 16 years, Chandan gave me the freedom to make my team. The team had to be made every six months as someone who had just started to shine would be poached by bigger media houses. Today these 'freshers' are the strength and backbone of many a media house across the country.

Whenever one gets to meet them, they show gratitude for giving them the break but I could do so because Chandan allowed it. That was Chandan!

Sidharth Mishra is author & president Centre for Reforms, Development and Justice

# PM Modi assures women of swift action against male predators

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

In the backdrop of the rape and murder of a Kolkata doctor and sexual assault on two kindergarten girls in Maharashtra's Thane region, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday reiterated the need and urgency to ensure safety of women, particularly at the workplace and called for quick disposal of cases of crimes against women. He said, "The faster iustice is done in such cases, the greater will be the assurance of safety for half the population." Speaking at the National

Conference of District Judiciary in Delhi, the Prime Minister emphasised that atrocities against women and the safety of children were a serious concern in society today. On this occasion, the Prime Minister also unveiled the stamp and coin commemorating 75 years of the establishment of the Supreme Court of India. The two-day conference was organised by the Supreme Court of India to discuss the issues related to the district judiciary such as infrastructure and human resources, inclusive courtrooms for all, judicial security and judicial wellness, case management and judicial training.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud during the inauguration of the National Conference of District Judiciary, in New Delhi, on Saturday

Modi pointed out that many strict laws were enacted to ensure the safety of women in the country. He added that in 2019, the Government had planned to establish fast-track special courts. Explaining further, he said that there was a provision for a deposition center for important witnesses under the fast-track special courts. He further emphasised the important role of district monitoring committees under fast-track special courts, consisting of the district judge, district magistrate and

superintendent of police. "Judiciary is considered as the committees more active. He

Guardian of our Democracy", said the Prime Minister. Referring to the role of judiciary in protecting the Constitution and the spirit of law, the Prime Minister said the judiciary is considered the guardian of the Constitution, and that the Supreme Court and the judiciary have measured up to this responsibility. He added that measured the committee's role was important in promoting coordination between various aspects of the criminal justice system. Modi stressed on the need to make these

added that the quicker the decisions in cases related to atrocities against women, the greater will be the assurance of safety for half the population. The Kolkata incident has also become a flashpoint between the TMC Government in West Bengal and the BJP-led NDA Government at the Centre. On Friday, West Bengal Chief Minister Bengal Mamata Banerjee wrote to Modi, reiterating her request stringent Central legislation and exemplary punishment for heinous crimes like rape and murder.

Continued on Page 6



## Anguished women of Kerala cry for help

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

 $R^{
m adhika}$  Sarathkumar, a highly respected movie artist in South India, dropped a bombshell on Saturday by accusing some of the leading stars of the Malayalam film industry of making nude visuals of female artists with hidden cameras and blackmailing them later.

Speaking to the media, Radhika, who is married to Tamil superstar Sarath Kumar and is daughter of the iconic Tamil actor M R Radha, said that she has seen the these film stars videographing nude visuals with hidden cameras in the caravans hired for exclusive use by the female artists.

"It is done while the artists change their costumes or use the washrooms. I saw this with my own eyes and ever since stopped using the caravans. Though I alerted the director and other crew members, nothing happened. Malayalam film industry is not safe

for female artists," said Radhika.

The revelations by the actress come in the wake of the #Me Too movement getting intensified after the release of the Justice K Hema Committee report about the murky happenings in Malayalam film industry. The committee was appointed by the CPI (M)-led Government in 2017 following reports of sexual harassment suffered by female film

It may be recalled that a leading actress of Malayalam films was kidnapped by gangsters led by Pulsor Suni and raped as per the directive of reigning superstar Dileep.

Continued on Page 6

# Haryana polls rescheduled

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Keeping in mind a centuries-old festival of the Bishnoi community, the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Saturday deferred the polling date for Haryana Assembly elections to October 5. Earlier, voting was India Bishnoi Mahasabha in this scheduled to be held on Octo ber 1. There has been no change in the polling date for the third phase of the decision while the Opposition Jammu and Kashmir elections slated for October 1. The election results for both Jammu & Kashmir and Harvana will be now declared on October 8 instead of October

The change in the schedule prompted by the ECI's decision to honour the centuries-old tradition of the Bishnois. The Bishnois, a prominent community in the region, observes the Asoi Amavasya festival, which holds religious importance as it commemorates Guru The Jambheshwar. ECI

recognised the need to ensure that the community could fully participate in this important cultural and religious event without forgoing their voting rights. The poll body cited representations from national and State political parties, as well as the All regard

> Congress and Aam Aadmi Party have slammed the move.

BJP MP Biplab Kumar Deb who is also the incharge of Haryana BJP said, "...It is the duty of the Election Commission. At that time the main festival of the Bishnoi community takes place, so the Election Commission wants maximum voting in the elections and we welcome it... We have worked honestly in the State and the people will decide who will win...?

Continued on Page 6

#### Jammu votes on September 18 in first phase win their support. Out of 24 districts. They include 27 in

**MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU** 

With the completion of the scrutiny of the nomination papers for the first phase of the polling on September 18, the electioneering in According to the Election Assembly segments of Jammu and Kashmir has Commission of India, 64 Inderwal and Banihal were ntensified. Different political

Assembly seats going to the polls in the first phase, 16 fall in the Kashmir valley and eight in the erstwhile Doda district of

Jammu province. candidates are left in the fray won by the Congress party parties have stepped up efforts for eight seats in Doda, to reach out to the voters to Kishtwar Ramban and

Doda district, 22 in Kishtwar and 15 in Ramban district. In 2014, the BJP had won four Assembly segments of Kishtwar, Doda, Bhaderwah and Ramban while two According to the Election Assembly segments of

> candidates in the region. Continued on Page 6



Dr T R Paarivendhar

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Remembrance of things past

Chandan Mitra, pursuing his doctorate at Oxford, with son Kushan

By KUSHAN MITRA

Three years ago, on the night of the first of September, 2021, my father, Chandan Mitra, breathed his last. The last few months of his life had been hard for him, and also hard for those around him. Watching the cognitive decline of possibly one of the most intelligent human beings you have ever known is extremely tough and when that person happens to be your own father, it is so so much worse. I write a lot, but I haven't ever written about Baba's passing or my relationship with him. Three years on, I think it is time.

As I rode with his body in an ambulance to the cremation grounds, those 45 minutes gave me a lot of time to contemplate. Well, 45 minutes is nothing when you're trying to think over a 40-year relationship but there was some solitude inside the vehicle. I recall my fathers childhood friend from La Martinere, Paranjoy Guha Thakurta being in the van with me, but I think that we were both lost in thought.

I will be honest, ours was not a simple relationship. Most sons, particularly in India have deeply complicated complicated But as a result of that, Baba was later teens and early twenties,





relationships with their fathers, but I would like to think mine was more complex than most. As many know, my parents were divorced and had separated when I was around 13 years old. While that is not something easy for a young teenager to process, as a 45year old man today, I understand how relationships can wither away and die.

not always around. However, my younger brother and I did spend time with him and also stayed nights at his place in Vasant Vihar. I would also like to thank his landlady, the iournalist Shiveshwarkar, who herself passed away earlier this year,

narrow. That said, through my

Shymala for helping him and keeping him on the straight and

we were barely on talking terms, Baba's place was a place I only dropped into to party. Could it have been better or different? I don't know, but I do know that by this time, he had found companionship with the first of his many Labradors, Loin. As I begun my career as a

writer and journalist, Baba was always there to provide advice, and as he went beyond dipping his toes into politics, and started his time as a Member of Parliament, visits to his bungalows at Humayun Road and then Ferozeshah Road were common. He was someone I could always turn to for career advice and also talk about life and love. It was here I decided that I would help him in The Pioneer.

This newspaper was his soul by then, he had revived it from a moribund newspaper, to one of Delhi's most reliable and trusted newspapers, and when the rest of the Indian english media had bent over during the UPA-era, which they have all conveniently forgotten today, The Pioneer, remained steadfastly rightwing, despite the newspaper

paying a severe commercial price for that, although my father maintained strong relationships with many on the other side of the aisle. Many journalists across the media today got their start with

The Pioneer and worked with my father and many of those keep on reaching out to me, from India and abroad to have a proper memorial service for 'Boss' because he passed away while Covid restrictions were on. This December would have been his 70th Birthday, and God willing, if things go right, I, along with many of those who loved him, hope to celebrate his life. A lot of what has happened in

the past few years is water under the bridge, and I hope a decision or resolution that honours the memory of my father is found soon. Unfortunately his trusting nature in some people allowed them to take advantage of him. I wish he was that trusting of me and others who had the best interests of the newspaper in mind, but it is what it is. And it is a damn crying shame, and that is all I will say other than to hope that the stag can jump high again in the near future in memory of the man who kept

#### LUCKNOW | SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

# Police recruitment exam ends

 $T^{\text{he largest police recruit-}}_{\text{ment exam in the history-}} \\ \text{of Uttar Pradesh concluded on}$ Saturday, setting a new standard for secure andtransparent examinations.

The Yogi Adityanath government's meticulous and robust preparations ensured that the examination process became a benchmark forthe entire country. To ensure the integrity of the examination, thegovernment deployed an array of resources, combining manpower with cutting-edgetechnology. The security arrangements, both inside and outside the examinationcentres, kept cheaters and solver gangs at bay. The enforcement of the newly i m p l e m e n t e d PublicExamination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, aimed at preventing paperleaks, had a significant impact, contributing to the smooth conduct of theexam.

The UP Police maintained vigilant monitoring acrossvarious platforms, including WhatsApp and social media, with intelli-genceagencies on 24-hour alert to preempt any potential issue. Over 32 lakh candidates participated in this exam, which was conducted over five days in two shifts. The Yogi government upheldtransparency and integrity through unprecedented measures, including holdingthe exam exclusively in gov-ernment schools to further ensure fairness. Every necessary measure was taken to prevent anyinconvenience to the candi-

dates. To achieve this, 2,300 magistrates and 1,97,859 police personnel were deployed, while CCTVs equipped with artificialintelligence were installed to monitor the proceedings. Following instructionsfrom Chief Minister Yogi, the Uttar Pradesh Police Recruitment and PromotionBoard installed CCTV cameras equipped with artificial intelligence in 16,440rooms across 1,174 centres to ensure a smooth examination process.

Thistechnology ensured any



Candidates coming out after taking the exam at Islamia College in Lucknow on

tion. To ensure the safety and

integrity of the examination an

extensive security apparatus was put in place. A total of

1,97,859 policemenwere deployed, including 25 compa-

nies of PAC and eight compa-nies of CAPF. Thedeployment also included 137 additional superintendents of police, 522

deputysuperintendents of

police, 47,587 head constables,

86,844 constables, and 26,582

Additionally, 3,876 inspectors, comprising 3,740 maleand 136 female inspectors, and 32,311 sub-inspectors, including 30,220 male and 2,091 female

sub-inspectors, were assigned to oversee the examination.

Tofurther bolster the examina-

tion's security, 74 observer police officers were stationed

at the examination centres.To

ensure the transparency and integrity of thepolice recruitment examination, advanced technology was employed at everystage. At the examina-

tion centres, rigorous procedures for candidateverification

were implemented, including

physical frisking, security checkswith Hand-held metal

detectors and biometric verifi-

cation through fingerprintand

facial recognition. For cases

where facial recognition failed, additional verification methods,

women constables.

irregularities, such as the absence of room inspectors, were promptly addressed by the Police Recruitment and Promotion Board's controlroom. In addition to stringent surveillance,

PoliceRecruitment and Promotion Board conducted Aadhaar verification for over 48 lakhcandidates before the exam. While 85 per cent of the candidates' Aadhaardetails were confirmed, the remaining 15 per cent were required to undergo eKYCverification at the exam centres, deterring those with fraudulent intentions.

Data analysis was also a key part of the exam'sintegrity measures. Candidate data was matched within half an hour of the paper's start in each shift. Any discrepancy led to immediate action, with lists of suspects provided to nodal officers for follow-up. This thorough approach notonly minimised cheating, but also resulted in the arrest of individualsattempting to game the system, reinforcing the examination's integrity.

The vigilant and stringent security measuresimplemented by the Uttar Pradesh Police Recruitment and Promotion Board were soeffective that not a single unauthorszed activity occurred during theexamina-

including capturing FRIS, were utilised. If any discrepancyarose in facial recognition, Aadhaar authenti-

cation was carried out to confirmthe candidate's identity. Moreover, jammers were deployed at all centres toblock electronic devices such as mobile phones and Bluetooth equipment. Special surveillance was implemented aroundphotocopy shops, cyber cafes, and motorcycle stands near the centers. Forsecurity reasons, these photocopy shops and cyber cafes were temporarily closedto prevent any misuse. Uttar Pradesh Police Recruitment and Promotion Board (UPPRPB) Chairman Rajiv Krishna highlightedthe extensive preparations made for the examination. He said at the district level,the District Magistrate served as the district supervisor (magistrate), overseeing various administrative tasks including the deployment of sector and static magistrates at each examination centre.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath extended his congratulationsto the candidates on the successful completion of the UP Police RecruitmentExamination.

The hotspots were checked

with 67 drone cameras.

Specialfocus was on crowded

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Police Recruitment andPromotion Board Chairman Rajiv Krishna expressed his gratitude to ChiefMinister Yogi Adityanath for the successful execution of the recruitmentexamination. He also extended his best wishes to all the candidates. In a message posted on the social media platform X,the board stated: "Under the dynamicleadership and guidance of Honorable Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ji, theUttar Pradesh Police Recruitment and Promotion Board successfully thefive-day conducted Constable Recruitment-2023 examination. We extend our heartfelt thanksto all candidates for their discipline and seriousness throughout this important event."

PNS LUCKNOW

services.

ing the delivery of various ser-

vices. Building on this founda-

'Sarathi Faceless Services'.

# Govt to launch 4 specialised e-boats in Yogi govt crackdown on consolidation officers e-boats in Ayodhya and Varanasi

PNS LUCKNOW

The Yogi Adityanath gov-ernment, dedicated to enhancing religious tourism in Uttar Pradesh, is set to expand electric-based adventure water activities and boat ride facilities in Ayodhya and Varanasi. In a new step towards this goal, the government is focusing on completing the process of operating four specialised electric boats in both cities

Under the scheme, one airconditioned electric boat with a 50-seat capacity and two electric boats with 30-seat capacities each will be operated from Nayaghat on the Sarayu river in Ayodhya. In Varanasi, a 50-seater air-conditioned electric boat will soon be available for tourists at Ravidas Ghat on the Ganga

These electric boats will be state-of-the-art and equipped with a range of features. The air-conditioned boats will have a steel catamaran hull, while the non-air-conditioned boats will feature an FRP catamaran hull. Docking and charging facilities for these boats will be provided at the respective

The Uttar Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation (UPSTDC) will manage the operation of these boats through agency determination and work allocation. Initially, the boats will operate under a 10-year lease, adhering strictly to the guidelines set by the Tourism department, the Inland Vessel Act, and international standards. Additionally, the Adventure Tour Operators Association of India's guidelines will be followed to promote electricbased adventure water activities in Ayodhya and Varanasi.

Prayagraj, Varanasi, Mirzapur, Azamgarh, The Uttar Pradesh government is intensifying its Gorakhpur, Basti, Ayodhya and Devipatan. Notably, settlement crackdown on misuse of power, negligence and corruption in officers from Bareilly, Hardoi, Lalitpur, Unnao, Chitrakoot and Jaunpur — Pawan Kumar Singh, Shriprakash Chandra the Consolidation department. Following Chief Minister Yogi

Uttam, Rakesh Kumar, Suresh Adityanath's firm stance, a series of actions have been Kumar Sagar, Manohar Lal taken against officers for their and Swatantra Veer Singh failure to address consolidation Yadav — have been summoned to explain their lack of progress matters efficiently and ethicalin consolidation tasks. In recent developments, as many as 28 consolidation offi-Director Deputy Director Consolidation/Chief Revenue cers across eight divisions have faced punitive measures. This Officer Rakesh Kumar Gupta of Pratapgarh has been asked to includes suspension, issuing clarify his failure to fulfill supervisory duties, while a letof show-cause notices and ini-

tiation of disciplinary actions against 13 settlement officers.

Furthermore, a deputy director consolidation has been

removed from position, while

another has been instructed to

have also faced disciplinary

actions. In a notable case, a pro-

posal for a 20 per cent reduc-

tion in pension was sent to the

government concerning a

retired assistant consolidation

officer due to service irregular-

Consolidation department GS

Naveen mentioned that under

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's zero tolerance pol-

icy, regular review meetings are

held to address and curb cor-

ruption in the department. In a recent review, significant

negligence, irregularities and

corrupt practices were identi-

fied among many officers. The

findings were reported to Chief Minister Yogi, who directed stringent actions against those

As a result, measures have

been taken against consolida-tion officers in eight divisions

responsible.

Commissioner

negligence.

viding necessary work progress give an explanation for his updates. Additionally, a proposal has been submitted to the govern-Additional measures include disciplinary action against a consolidation officer, and withment to reduce the pension of holding the salary of an assisretired assistant consolidation tant consolidation officer pendofficer Ramesh Pal Singh Rana ing an explanation. Three more by 20 per cent due to service assistant consolidation officers

ter has been sent to the

Appointment department rec-

ommending the removal of Gorakhpur's Deputy Director

Consolidation Officer Raj

Narayan Tripathi for not pro-

irregularities. Naveen further highlighted significant disciplinary actions against several consolidation officers for their negligence and irregularities. Settlement Officer (Consolidation) Santosh Kumar of Kushinagar has been suspended for negli-gence of work and a letter has been sent to the government recommending further departmental action.

Disciplinary action has also against Officer been initiated Settlement (Consolidation) Pawan Kumar Sidhu of Varanasi for failing to complete the consolidation work in village Ajgara, as man-dated under the relevant law and for not releasing the transferred consolidation lekhpals. His salary has been withheld as part of the action.

Further, Settlement Officers Mohan Lal, Narendra Singh, Shashikant Shukla and Pawan Pandey, stationed in Shahjahanpur, Mirzapur, Gorakhpur and Deoria respec-tively, have faced disciplinary action for their laxity in performing their duties. In addition, Settlement Officer

(Consolidation) Dharmendra Kannauj, Singh of Consolidation Officer Shiv Narayan Gupta of Barabanki and junior assistant Umashankar of Barabanki face disciplinary action for irregularities in their investigations. Assistant Consolidation Officer Mahendra Singh's salary has been withheld for failing to meet the target for village Lalauti in Fatehpur and an explanation has been sought from him.

Disciplinary action has also been taken against Assistant Consolidation Officer Sandeep Yadav of Balrampur for not completing the work in village Mosque.

In response to delays and incomplete work in various villages, the Uttar Pradesh government has taken decisive disciplinary actions against several consolidation officers. In Prayagraj, disciplinary measures have been taken for failure to complete work in village Rajepur Sarai Arjani. Similarly, in Pratapgarh, action has been taken following incomplete work in village Dhami. The assistant consolidation officers in both cases have faced disciplinary action.

In Jaunpur, Assistant Consolidation Officer Sanjay Assistant Maurya, along with the consolidator and consolidation lekhpal, has been suspended due to the incomplete work in village Tiira. Additionally, instructions have been issued for further departmental action. In Azamgarh, the assistant consolidation officer responsible for village Mahua has been asked to provide an explanation for the failure to complete the assigned work. Disciplinary action has also been taken against the consolidator and consolidation lekhpal involved.

# NMCG approves 5 projects for UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW/NEW DELHI

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) approved five projects worth 73 crore for Uttar Pradesh in its 56th executive committee meeting held in New Delhi on Saturday.

The approved projects are pivotal to the improvement of the river's ecosystem as these ensure minimised level of pollution in the river Ganga, thereby maintaining its cleanliness and ensuring its conservation. National Mission for Clean Ganga Director General Rajeev Kumar Mital chaired the meeting.

The committee approved the 'Establishment of secretariat for smart laboratory on clean rivers (SLCR)' project at Varanasi. The project intends to deploy global expertise and adopt sustainable practices to rejuvenate and give a facelift to all the small rivers spread across the country. This, it does by creating the right balance between the environment, the economy and societv as a whole.

Another crucial project on 'Faecal sludge management for abatement of pollution of river Ganga at Dalmau, Rae Bareli, Uttar Pradesh' was approved as part of the Namami Gange Mission to reduce the pollution of the

river Ganga. Under this project, an 8 KLD faecal sludge treatment plant will be established, along with a 15 KW solar power plant and one solar inverter. Based on the DBOT model, the project is approved at an overall cost of Rs 4.40 crore which covers operations and management of the project for a stipulated period of five years. The sewerage project focusing on cleaning the river Ganga has been officially approved for implementation in Gulaothi, located in the Bulandshahr district of Uttar Pradesh. This project aims to prevent pollution in the East Kali river, a tributary of the river Ganga which flows through eight districts of Uttar Pradesh.

Approved at an estimated cost of Rs 50.98 crore, the project is dedicated to the interception and diversion of drains and sewage treatment ment, making this project a works with a capacity of 10

The approved projects are pivotal to improvement of river's ecosystem as these ensure minimised level of pollution in the river Ganga, thereby maintaining its cleanliness and ensuring its

conservation

MLD (million litres per day)

at Gulaothi town of Uttar Pradesh. This project draws focus on the operation and management of the sewage treatment plants (STPs) for a stipulated period of 15 years. 'Construction of Arth Ganga centre and branding of railway station Chheoki, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh' and in-principal approval of development of Arth Ganga centres in Ganga basin states' is yet another pivotal project that will see the light of the day. The establishment of the Arth Ganga centre at Chheoki railway station in Prayagraj is an attempt to create awareness about the river Ganga and the environment during the Maha Kumbh Mela-2025 and thereafter. The total cost of this project will be Rs 1.80 crore. Additionally, 'Restoration plan of lower order streams and tributaries in the Upper Gomti river basin through nature-based solutions' is another initiative approved by the executive committee. Proposed by the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Central University, Lucknow, the project lays emphasis on the rejuvenation of lower-order streams and tributaries in the Upper Gomti river basin through nature-based solutions to improve the health of

the river Ganga. This project, costing approximately Rs 81.09 lakh, holds immense significance as small rivers and streams are vital to the water flow and ecosystem of larger rivers. Also, river restoration is significant for sustainable water manage-

## Liquor trader cheated by associates

PNS LUCKNOW

An Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) trader runon in Manak Naga police station area has accused his associates of cheating him by becoming partners in the business and later deceiving him. He has filed a written complaint, alleging that his business associates embezzled business associates embezzled Rs 1.5 crore by taking a bank loan through fraudulent means in his name and using his property as surety.
On the orders of senior offi-

cials, the police have registered a case and started investiga-

As per reports, one Narendra Singh of Hata Surat Singh in Chowk runs a liquor shop, the licence of which is in the name of his sister-in-law Mamta Singh. The shop is located in Bhola Khera and is being run since 2019.

Narendra Singh alleged that his friend Sunil Jaiswal and his wife Meenu Jaiswal introduced him to one Munni Lal Jaiswal and his son Ashish Jaiswal who are in liquor business. They told Narendra Singh that Munni Lal and his son had a huge experience of running shops selling liquors and lured him to hand over the shop to Munni Lal.

"I talked to my sister-in-law Mamta Singh and she was also convinced with the plan. As we had no experience of running a liquor shop, we agreed to hand over the responsibility of running the shop to both of them," the complainant said.

Narendra Singh alleged that in a planned manner, and in connivance with the employees of Excise department, the Jaiswals procured foreign liquor worth Rs 1.22,71,000 from one distiller, liquor worth 20,96,000 from another distiller, Rs 5,49,000 from the third and Rs 3,29,000 from yet another distiller and sold liquor worth Rs 1,52,45,000 from their shop and usurped

all the money.
"Not only this, they secured a loan of Rs 15.9 lakh in my name from a bank in Chowk and swindled all the money. On coming to know about this, when I asked for the money, they started abusing and threatening," he alleged.

at modernising the information technology (IT) infra-The Uttar Pradesh government is set to expand structure and service delivery in India's transport sector. modern e-transport services This mission is designed to enhance the efficiency, transacross the state to enhance people's convenience. These services will be entirely faceless and contactless, streamlinvices through an online platon regional transport offices (RTOs) by expanding the availability of online services. form. This initiative aims to provide a 'one stop solution' for citizens, eliminating the The e-Transport Mission provides automated RTO operaneed to visit government tions, a nationwide transport offices for transport-related database, and over 150 services Already, the Transport departtailored for citizens and busiment of Uttar Pradesh has implemented advanced facilnesses. Flagship programmes under this mission include ities such as the Integrated Vahan, Sarathi, e-Challan and Traffic Management System (ITMS) and e-challan serpollution certificates, which play a crucial role in streamlining transport-related tion, the state is now accelerprocesses across the country. ating efforts to introduce Through Vahan e-services, the project offers a range of services including vehicle Aadhaar authentication-based 'Vahan Faceless Services' and homologation, registration, fitness and inspection, vehicle The e-Transport Mission, spearheaded by the National conversion and alteration, tax-Informatics Centre (NIC), is ation modules, national permits, smart card issuance, and an ambitious initiative aimed

Govt to expand e-transport services across UP online fancy number checks. It also facilitates the management of check posts for vehicles from other states, payment gateway interfaces, and the national register of registration parency, accountability and reliability of transport ser-ers. Similarly, Sarathi focuses vices, with a key focus on reducing the public's reliance offering services such as new learning licences, online tests, international permits, appointment management, driver training enrollment, conductor licences, driving test tracks, and access to the national register of driving licences (DLs). The range of initiatives being implemented across the state to modernise its transport infrastructure includes the integration of smart cities such as Saharanpur, Firozabad, Shahjahanpur, Moradabad, Jhansi, Gorakhpur and Ayodhya with the Integrated Traffic Management System (ITMS) and the e-challan por-

Additionally, ITMS-based overloading challan systems are being introduced in key locations like Noida, Agra and

Mathura, along with a CCTVbased challan system on the Purvanchal and Agra-Lucknow expressways. The project also encompasses the establishment of vehicle scrapping facilities, automated

vehicle fitness centres, automated driving test tracks and approval of special permits. The issuance of digitally signed stage carriage permits by the state transport authority and the implementation of Aadhaarbased authentication and face recognition technology in the learning licence service are further steps toward enhanc-ing the state's e-transport services.

Moreover, the e-Transport Mission Project includes the rollout of the Vahan Green Seva Portal, the integration of driving licence services related to Sarathi with the e-District portal under the Business Reforms Action Plan, and the incorporation of the Electric Vehicle Subsidy Portal of the Uttar Pradesh Transport department.

The project also addresses the implementation of electric vehicle (EV) tax and duty exemptions, as well as the one-time settlement of tax and penalties for commercial vehicles registered in the state. To ensure seamless service delivery, the project is automating proc vehicle model approval certificates, providing instant access to these certificates for ARTOs, and linking additional services in a faceless mode with the consideration of autoapproval mechanisms. Services will also be made

available through the M Parivahan app, with efforts to strengthen e-transport services on the CSC and e-District District platforms. Furthermore, the project includes dealer authorisation for used vehicles, introduction of refresher courses for drivers through Sarathi, and enhancement of automated driving test tracks - all aimed at restructuring and improving service delivery across Uttar

# Sub-classification of SCs, STs divisive, says Maya

 $S^{\text{ub-classification of SCs and}}_{\text{STs for reservations is divi-}}$ sive for these classes, BSP president Mayawati said on Saturday and asserted that her party, which "united" the "persecuted" castes, would make no compromise on the issue. The former Uttar Pradesh chief

minister also targeted the Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana and Tamil Nadu governments over their handling of the issue in light of the Supreme Court's August 1 verdict on the matter.

"The issue of classification of Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs) reservation and creamy layer is also divisive for these classes, whereas the BSP is a humanitarian movement to unite these people who have been divided and persecuted on the basis of caste for centuries and create a 'Bahujan Samaj', and hence no compromise is possible. The party is extremely serious about this issue," Mayawati said in a series of posts in Hindi on X.



The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief also criticised the actions of several state governments on the matter.

"The politics of dividing SCs and STs being done by the gov-ernments of Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu even before the Supreme Court's decision is not right. Especially the attitude of the Congress governments here is highly condemnable in this matter," she said.
Taking aim at members of her

party who supported the classification policies, she said, "Those who, while being in the BSP, support the classification of SCs/STs and creamy layer like the Congress and do not have the missionary thinking of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, they have no place in the BSP. That is, it is not right to ignore the interests of the rest of the Bahujan Samaj for the benefit of one person."

In her final post, she suggested that members with conflicting views should leave the party. "Therefore, if people with such a mentality leave the party on their own or are separated, then it will be good for the BSP and the movement. Anyway, the divide-and-rule strategy of the Congress-INDIA alliance will not work under the guise of this. People should be alert," she said.

In a landmark verdict on August 1, the Supreme Court held that states were constitutionally empowered to make sub-classifications within SCs, which formed a socially heterogeneous class, for granting reservation for the uplift of castes that were socially and educationally more backward among them.

# **CPI (ML) condemns NIA** raid at room of student activist

PNS LUCKNOW

The Communist Party of **I** India (Marxist-Leninist) has condemned the National Investigation Agency (NIA) raids on Friday at the residences of a student activist in Prayagraj and an independent journalist in Delhi.

The party said the NIA action was undemocratic and an attempt to silence the voices of criticism and dissent.

Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) state secretary Sudhakar Yadav said in a statement that harassment of social workers and those who talked about people's rights was going on for a long time under the Bharatiya Janata

Party regime. "Bharatiya Janata Party's misuse of investigative agencies to harass opposition parties and dissenting personalities is not new. Democratic intellectuals and writers and journalists who disagree with its policies are urban Naxals in the eves of the government. It even implicates them in false cases," he said.

The CPI (ML) leader said the NIA raided the room of Devendra Azad, a meritorious student activist of Allahabad University, and the search there lasted for four and a half hours. "Not being satisfied even with this, the student activist has been called to National Investigation Agency campus in Lucknow for questioning on September 15. This has been done to mentally harass him. This is part of the actions taken to send a message to political opponents and intimidate them. When the government is proving to be a failure on all fronts, has failed in maintaining law and order and is unable to provide justice to the deprived and the victims, the National Investigation Agency conducts raids to divert attention from these issues," he

# **DRM** inspects Maha **Kumbh preparations**



DRM VK Srivastava inspecting Maha Kumbh-2025 preparations on Saturday

cerned.

PNS VARANASI

In view of the huge crowd of devotees expected in the upcoming Maha Kumbh Mela-2025 to be held at Sangam in Prayagraj, Divisional Railway Manager of Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway, Vineet Kumar Srivastava, on Saturday, conducted a window trailing inspection of Banaras-Prayagraj Rambagh rail section along with officials concerned to provide ease and proper passenger facilities to the devotees coming to the fair.
The DRM also conducted a

thorough inspection of Jhunsi and Prayagraj Rambagh stations to provide ease and prop-er passenger facilities to the

ed the passenger reservation centre, unreserved ticket counters, temporary food and water rail bridge number 111 being vending stalls, waiting rooms, additional entry and exit routes,

benches, foot over bridge, temporary waiting rooms, CCTV surveillance, boundary walls and control room for proper crowd management and pas-senger facility development works for the convenience of passengers and gave necessary instructions to the officers con-

Earlier, during the inspection of Jhunsi station, the DRM thoroughly inspected the passenger waiting room, boundary walls, high mast lights, temporary toilets, approach road for night movement being constructed in the circulating area of ??the second entry gate of the station and directed the officials concerned to complete all the work within the time limit

devotees.

During the inspection of Prayagraj Rambagh station, Srivastsva thoroughly inspect
With full quality.

He also conducted a safety inspection of level crossing number 67 between Jhunsiconstructed on the Ganga river between Jhunsi-Daraganj,)

Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). The bridge is under construction in the Jhunsi-Daragani section with a span of 24x76.2 metres (about 2=km length). All girders have been launched. The girder launching work has been completed through duct on both ends. About 95 per cent of the formation work has been completed in the Jhunsi-Prayagraj rail section. Besides, bridge number 118 is complete while work is in progress on bridge number 120.
On this occasion, Senior

Divisional Engineer (Coordination) Rakesh Ranjan, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Shaikh Rehman, Senior Divisional Signal and Telecommunication Engineer Rajat Priya, Senior Divisional Security Commissioner S Ramakrishnan, Divisional Engineer-III Anuj Verma, Divisional Electrical Engineer Ramdayal, Assistant Divisional Operations Manager (Coaching) Heera Lal and Public Relations Officer Ashok Kumar along with senior offi-

# Experts discuss healthcare challenges

Under the joint auspices of the MSFB (MSME Startup Forum Bharat) Healthcare Committee, the School of Biomedical Engineering, and the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at IIT-BHU, a brainstorming session focused on 'Healthcare for Viksit Bharat 2047' during which challenges were also discussed here on Saturday. A vision document containing the thoughts of experts on healthcare services for 2047 will be sent to the Central and state governments, following state governments, following this brainstorming session held in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary constituency, Varanasi. TM Mohapatra, the chief guest and professor at the Institute of Minister Stranger (IMS) of Medical Sciences (IMS-BHU) stated that public health services are essential for all and present a significant chal-

lenge. "Strengthening primary health centres and community health centres is necessary to ensure that patients receive quality medical care within their local areas. Regarding health policies for a developed India in 2047, we need to develop short-term, mediumterm and long-term strategies from now, along with enhancing technological quality."
"Only through this approach

can quality medical services be made available in remote areas," he said.

areas, ne said.
Special guest and IMS-BHU
Director, Prof SN Sankhwar,
highlighted the need for longterm strategies to develop technologies related to quality healthcare services in this era of technological advancement. He emphasised the need to find new pathways. IIT-BHU Director Prof Amit

Patra, who was chairperson of the session, said that medical



Distinguished IMS Professor TM Mohapatra throwing light on healthcare challenges at IIT-BHU in Varanasi on Saturday

services should be affordable. He stressed the need to promote the development of indigenous technology in the medical field, reduce the cost of medical equipment, and ensure quality usage. He noted that the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in medical equipment was underway at IIT-BHU.

Prof Sanjeev K Mahato, coordinator of the School of Biomedical Engineering at IIT-BHU, emphasised the importance of integrated par-

ticipation. Prof Neerai Sharma elaborated on the role of the School of Biomedical Engineering in the dynamism of establishing the Centre of Excellence. Prof Sanjay Kumar Singh, head of the computer science and engineering department, emphasised the enhancement of healthcare services through technology. Dr Manoj Kumar Shah, chair-man of MSFB, highlighted the relevance of the programme. Prof Ashish Verma, former

head of the radiology and

imaging department, IMS-BHU, emphasised the need for a patient-friendly environ-ment to improve healthcare services. He suggested the inclusion of entrepreneurs from various sectors. He stated that the use of artificial intelligence can simplify treatment processes.

The programme saw participation from experts from differ-ent states, including Prof Kaushik Chatterjee, Prof GS Mahobia, Dr Ajay Pratap, Dr Priya Ranjan, Dr Atul Kumar, Dr Prasanjit Chanak, Dr Gyan P Modi, Dr Pranjal Chandra, Aditya Vikram Shah, Jitendra Parihar, Dr Krishna Kumar, Arjun Thakkar, Yash Shah, Pankaj Chaudhary and Divyanshu Sinha, who shared their thoughts through power-

point presentations. Dr Anshuman Banerjee and Ruchi Bhargava welcomed the guests. Dr Shiru Sharma proposed the vote of thanks.



A farewell ceremony was organised by IFFCO Officers Association in the honour of Chief Manager (Electrical) MP Sharma, and Deputy Manager (Transport) Ashok Kumar, who retired from IFFCO Phulpur unit here on Saturday. General Manager (Technical) Sanjay Vaish wished the outgoing officers a healthy, happy and long life. The programme was conducted by Sanjay Awasthi. General Manager (Production) Sanjay Bhandari, HoD (Human Resource) Shambhu Shekhar,

HoD (Transport) AK Srivastava, IFFCO Officers Association General Secretary Swayam Prakash and other officials were present

# permanent and temporary plat-forms, passenger sheds, RCC with divisional officers and officials and engineers of Rail **Attachment process** begins for Rs 7-cr benami property

linked to Atiq PNS PRAYAGRAJ

Authorities have initiated nostage, beaten, and forces to sign documents for the propbenami property worth Rs 7 riated with slain mafia don-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed and his brother

The property, located in Naini, was acquired in the name of a servant of Atiq's close relatives. A report has been submitted to the Police Commissioner Court seeking permission for the attachment of this property. The property was disclosed earlier this year in April.

Shyamji Saroj, a resident of Karoli in Nawabganj, reported to the police that Atiq and Ashraf used his name to create benami properties.

Saroj, who worked as a sweeper for Atiq's brothers Javed and Kamran (residents of Atrasuiya), alleged that he was coerced into this arrangement. He claimed that the land was registered in his name in 2021, despite his modest salary of Rs

8,000 per month at the time. Saroj claimed he was held uthorities have initiated hostage, beaten, and forced to erty. Following the deaths of Atia and Ashraf, Javed and Kamran allegedly pressurised Saroj to transfer the properties in their names.

The Atrasuiya police have filed a case against four individuals in connection with this matter. Five pieces of land were fraudulently transferred in Saroj's name, including three in Mirkhpur Uparhar, Arail (Naini), and two in Phulpur and Handia.

After investigating the 0.6475-hectare plot in Arail, police confirmed it belongs to Saroj. Considering these assets were acquired through criminal means, a report has been submitted to the Police Commissioner Court for their attachment.

DCP (Nagar) Deepak Bhukar stated that the properties would be attached as soon as the court granted permission.

### UPMASICON kicks off at IMS-BHU PNS VARANASI

cers were present.

The UPMASICON-2024, a Conference for surgeons hosted by the general surgery department of the Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, was inaugurated in KN Udupa Auditorium on Saturday.

This mid-term state conference of the UP Chapter of the Association of Surgeons of India (UPASI) is witnessing a remarkable gathering of over 700 surgeons from Pradesh and about 30 cities across India. Around 10 surgeons from adjoining SAARC nations also participated in the conference and delivered their talks.

The welcome address was delivered by Prof Puneet and Prof Seema Khanna. They emphasised the significance of this gathering in shaping the future of surgical practices. The vote of thanks was pro-posed by Dr Shashi Prakash Mishra, the organising secretary, who expressed gratitude to the guests and participants and all supporting members of the mega conference for their contributions to the success of the event.

On this occasion, Dr SK Gupta, Dr Rahul Khanna, Dr Vaibhav Pandey, Dr RN Meena, Dr SK Tiwary, Dr



Sumit Sharma, Dr Vivek Katiyar and others were also present, lending their support and expertise to the event.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by the president of the Association of Surgeons of India (ASI), Dr Probal Neogi, who was the chief guest. Dr Sunil Kumar Sharma, president of the SAARC Surgical Society, and Dr SN Shankwar, director of IMS BHU, also graced the occasion as guests of honour. UPMASICON 2024 is dedicated to showcasing the latest advancements and innovations in surgical care, with a special emphasis on specialty-specific treatments. The event kicked off with a thought-provoking discussion on gall bladder stone treatments and cutting-edge surgical techniques aimed at

enhancing patient safety and

outcomes. Dr Praveen Suryavanshi from Aurangabad, Maharashtra, captivated the audience with his expert insights into laparoexpert insights into laparo-scopic surgery for CBD stones, highlighting the transformative impact of minimally invasive

surgery. Renowned surgeons from Nepal, Dr Romeo Kansakar and Dr Sandeep Raj Pandey, provided an international perspective on the ongoing advancements in surgical treat-ments, adding a global dimension to the conference.

The day was further enriched by stimulating talks on a range of topics, from robotic surgery to vascular surgery, with experts delving into the latest breakthroughs in these cuttingedge fields. Dr VK Kapoor led a comprehensive session on the treat-

ment of acute pancreatitis, while Dr Shaleen Agarwal pre-sented groundbreaking insights into the management of gall-bladder cancer, underscoring the importance of continuous learning and innovation in surgical practices.
Dr SK Mishra from Kanpur

delivered a thought-provoking address on the roles, responsibilities and ethical behaviour of surgeons, while eminent surgeon from Mysuru Dr G Sidhesh, shared invaluable insights into surgical asep-

The event also featured detailed discussions on the latest advancements in the surgical treatment of breast and thyroid diseases.

In recognition of their extraordinary contributions to the field of surgery, Dr VK Malhotra and Dr Anand Kumar were honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the UPASI Committee. With over 700 participants, including senior surgeons, professors, and surgical trainees, UPMASICON 2024 promises

to be a milestone event in the

surgical community, providing an unparalleled platform for

knowledge exchange, collabo-

ration, and innovation.

# Direct train to Vaishno Devi Katra to be flagged off on September 5

Phulpur MP Praveen Patel will flag off the new direct train service from Prayagraj to Vaishno Devi Katra on September 5. The train, which has been in the planning stages for several days, will depart from Subedarganj station at 10:35 am and is scheduled to arrive in Katra the following day at 9:15 am.

Previously, there was no direct train connecting Prayagraj to Mata Vaishno Devi Katra. Instead, direct trains were available to Muri and Udhampur for Jammu. From September 5, the Jammu Mail will provide direct service to Mata Vaishno Devi Dham.

Currently, the Jammu Mail operates between Delhi and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra. The Railway Board approved an extension of this train to Subedarganj, Prayagraj, two months ago. The Railways has announced that it will start operating from Subedarganj station on September 5, with its timetable released on Saturday. The train will depart from Subedarganj at 10:35 am, mak-

ing stops at Fatehpur, Govindpuri, Tundla, and Aligarh before reaching Old Delhi Railway Station at 7:50 pm. After a 15-minute halt, it will continue to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, departing

Delhi at 8:10 pm.
The train will also stop at Sabzi Mandi, Narela, Sonipat, Ganaur, Samalkha, Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Ambala Cantt, Rajpura Junction, Ludhiana Junction, Phagwara Junction, Jalandhar Cantt, Tanda Urmar, Dasuya, Mukrain, Pathankot Cantt, Kathua, Hiranagar, Vijaypur Jammu, Jammu Tawi, and Major Captain Tushar Maĥajan.

PRO, NCR, Amit Malviya said that the train would feature a 22-coach LHB rake, including four general class coaches, seven sleeper coaches, six AC three-tier coaches, two AC two-tier coaches, one AC firstclass coach, and two SLR class coaches. On its return journey, the train will leave Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra at 3:20 pm and is expected to reach Subedarganj at 12:35 pm the following day.

## Gang robbing people on marriage pretext busted

**Prayagraj (PNS):** Four men and five women involved in a gang that targeted outsiders under the pretense of marriage were arrested in Prayagraj late on Friday evening, police said on Saturday. The gang would invite victims with promises of marriage, only to rob them of their cash, jewellery, and other

valuables, they said. The police recovered from the gang's possession a gold mangalsutra, a necklace, a pair of earrings, a pair of silver anklets, a pair of toe rings, a mobile phone, and Rs 5,500 in cash. Those arrested were identified as Monu Bhartiya (28), Saurabh Prajapati (25), Ashish Bhartiya (18), Bhanu (20), Kajal Bhartiya (22), Mansi Sharma (19), Gauri, Saroj, and Preeti. All are said to be resi-

**Prof Birinchi Kumar Sarma** 

dents of Dhoomanganj police station area and nearby regions of Prayagraj.

They were apprehended from under the Naini Yamuna Bridge. During interrogation, the accused admitted to using fake marriage rituals to deceive victims. They said they would show photos of other women from the gang as potential brides, then, during the vidai, they would stage a robbery of the victims' belongings, the police said. Naini SHO Vaibhav Singh noted that the gang had carried out numerous similar incidents without being caught. On Friday night, they were in the process of planning another such crime under the Naini Yamuna Bridge when the police team intervened and

arrested them.

# Air Marshal Kapoor relinquishes office

PNS PRAYAGRAJ

ir Marshal RGK Kapoor Air Marshal RGK Kapoor relinquished command of the Central Air Command on Saturday after rendering 38 years of service to the nation. Air Marshal Kapoor was com-missioned in the fighter stream of Indian Air Force on June 7, 1986. The air officer is a Cat 'A' qualified flying instructor with a flying experience of more than 5,000 hours on a variety of fighter and trainer aircraft in the inventory of IAF. He is an alumnus of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, and College of Air Warfare.

During his career, he has held many important field and staff appointments at Operational Commands, Joint Training Establishments and Air Headquarters. He was the Assistant Chief of the Air Staff Operations (Space) and the Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Intelligence) at Air Headquarters. The Air Marshal was India's Defence and Air Attaché at the Embassy of India in Washington DC, USA. Prior to taking over the appointment Commander-in-Chief of the Strategic Forces Command.

During his career, in recognition of his service to the



of Air Officer Commandingin-Chief, he was the Deputy

nation, the Air Marshal was awarded with the Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM), Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) and Vayu Sena Medal

# Workshop for women rly staff held at BLW PNS VARANASI The women employees

A special workshop was organised at Technical Training Centre in Banaras Locomotive Works here on Friday for the officers and employees of the Stores department on 'Cleanliness, Safety and Sexual Harassment of Women Railway Employees' under the chairmanship of Principal Chief Materials Manager Rajneesh Gupta.

The aim of the workshop was to create awareness on sexual harassment of women railway employees and ensure a safe workplace apart from providing information about the rights of women at the workplace, laws and policies related to sexual harassment and making the women aware of their rights.

A lecture on 'Safety of Women at Workplace' was delivered by Senior Materials Manager (Loco) Ankit Jain. He discussed in detail the types of sexual harassment, their ill effects and the legal measures available to deal with them.

The women employees were also told that if they face any kind of harassment, what kind of help they can get and which channels they can use for this. Jain highlighted various aspects related to women's safety through powerpoint presenta-tion. He also motivated them to work with full caution at the workplace. The women employees were also told that in case of any complaint, their identity will be kept confidential and their case will be dealt with sensitivity.

CMM (Headquarters) SK Mishra, CMM (Loco) Trilok Kothari, CMM (Engine) Atul Saxena, CMM-I Ashish Kumar Agarwal and DCMM Bhupendra Kumar were also present. The employees who did excellent work in the stores department were awarded certificates by Rajneesh Gupta. The vote of thanks was proposed by Senior Materials Manager (Engine)-I Deepak Agarwal and the programme was conducted by Chief

Shipping Inspector Akhilesh

Prof Birinchi Kumar Sarma of the mycology and plant pathology department of the Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has been selected for the prestigious National Awards to Teachers The award will be conferred on

him on the occasion of Teacher's Day on September 5 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The award has been conferred on Prof Sarma for his contributions and impact in the areas of pedagogical teaching, research and innovation, and outreach activities. Prof Sarma has contributed

significantly in the field of agriculture, particularly in understanding plant-pathogen interactions in climate change regimes and their sustainable management. He is also engaged with several national and international assignments and has contributed to differ-



ent spheres of science and society. In addition to his reg-ular teaching, research and outreach activities, Prof Sarma is also serving the BHU as the coordinator of the Intellectual Property Rights & Technology Transfer Cell and chairman of the Student Leadership and Life Skills Development Initiative Committee of the Institute of Agricultural Sciences.

At national level policy making forums, he has been contributing as member of the Sectorial Expert Committee (SEC) on

Biomanufacturing for 'Emerging Agri-Biologicals' for climate resilient agriculture, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), New Delhi; and is engaged in formulating policies for enhancing bioeconomy of India through biomanufactur-ing of agri-biologicals. As member of the 'Technology Vision 2047' draft committee

on the thematic area 'Food & Agriculture' for North-East India, he has contributed to developing vision for North-East India for the next 25 vears. As a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), Tea Research Association, Tocklai Tea Research Institute, he has contributed to research and development policies for improving research and development activities in order to meet the requirements of the tea growers in India. Recently, Prof Sarma was elected as a fellow of the prestigious National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi.

# PM Modi flags off three new Vande Bharat trains, says nation advancing

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

The railways have made big ■ strides in addressing longstanding issues and will not stop till it becomes a guarantee of comfortable travel for all sections of society, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on

Flagging off three new Vande Bharat Express trains via video-conferencing, the Prime Minister said the nation was inching towards the goal of Viksit Bharat with modernisation and expansion of Vande Bharat trains. The three trains flagged off by the Prime Minister connect Meerut with Lucknow, Madurai with image.

Bengaluru, and Chennai with Through its hard work over

the years, the railways have made big strides in addressing long-standing issues and offered new hopes and solutions. We will not stop until the Indian Railways becomes a guarantee of comfortable travel for everyone," Modi said. The Prime Minister said modern rail infrastructure was a strong pillar of the vision of Viksit Bharat. He said more than Rs 2.5 lakh crore was allocated to the railways in this year's Budget and the Government was connecting Indian Railways with high-tech

services to transform its old

He underlined that the rapid development of southern States the goal of Viksit Bharat.

"Southern India is the land of immense talent, resources and opportunities," the Prime Minister said adding that the development of Tamil Nadu, along with the entire southern India, was the Government's priority.

He said the development journey of the railways was an example of the Government's commitment.

Modi said more than Rs 6,000 crore was allocated for Tamil Nadu's rail Budget this year, seven times more than in 2014. Similarly, a Budget of more than Rs 7,000 crore was allocated for



Karnataka in this year's Budget, which was nine times higher than in 2014. Eight Vande

Bharat trains are connecting different parts of Karnataka, he

**Expect rainy** 

September

this year

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

After a wetter than normal August, India is likely to

experience above normal rain-

fall in September too, with

heavy to very heavy precipitation expected in Northwest

India and the surrounding

areas. Addressing a virtual

Press conference, IMD

Director-General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said that the coun-

try was expected to receive

The Prime Minister drew parallels from Budgets of the past increase in allocations further strengthened rail traffic in southern States, including Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. He said railway tracks were being improved, electrification of tracks taking place, and stations modernised. The Meerut City-Lucknow Vande Bharat Express will help passengers save around an hour compared to the current fastest train between the two cities. The Chennai Egmore-Nagercoil Vande Bharat Express and the Madurai-Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express will cut down travel time by more than two hours and around one-and-ahalf hours, respectively.

The Prime Minister said while and said the multiple-fold the Regional Rapid Transit

System (RRTS) has helped connect Meerut with New Delhi, the distance to Lucknow has also been reduced with the introduction of the Vande Bharat Express. "The National Capital Region (NCR) is becoming an example of how PM Gatishakti's vision will change the country's infrastructure with modern trains, network of expressways, and expansion of air services," Modi

Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, her Tamil Nadu counterpart RN Ravi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, among others, were virtually present on the occasion.

# A wetter than usual August got 16 per cent more rain: IMD

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

**▼**n what remains a key factor in I growth of the economy, India received around 16 per cent more rainfall than normal in August, with above normal rains forecast for September as well. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Saturday that in addition to 16 per cent surplus rainfall in August, the Monsoon precipitation over Northwest India was recorded at 253.9 mm, the second highest in August since

Addressing a virtual Press conference, IMD Director-General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said the country recorded 287.1 mm of rainfall in August, compared to the normal 248.1 mm. Overall, India has received 749 mm of precipitation against the normal 701 mm since the start of the monsoon season on June 1.

The lifeblood of a nearly \$3.5trillion economy, the annual monsoon brings almost 70 per cent of the rain India needs to water farms and replenish reservoirs and recharge aquifers. Without adequate irrigation facility, nearly half the farmland in the country depends on the rain that is usually received from June to September.

Several districts in the foothills of the Himalayas and the Northeast experienced belownormal rainfall as most of the low-pressure systems moved south of their usual position, and the monsoon trough also remained south of its typical position, the IMD chief said.

Many States in the Northeast along with Kerala and the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, experienced deficient rainfall, he added. The IMD chief said that six low-pressure systems formed in August, two of which intensified into monsoon depression

Modi also spoke about

Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam

and said that electronic and

digital records have been

recognised as evidence

under the new laws. He also

mentioned the Bhartiya

Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita and

said that a system is in place

electronically to reduce the

burden of pending cases on

the judiciary.
The Prime Minister also

judges and lawyer colleagues

become a part of this

campaign. "Our lawyers and

important role in making the

public familiar with this new

Throwing light on the efforts

in the past 10 years to

facilitate delivery of justice,

the Prime Minister referred

to the work being done for

the modernisation of courts

at the mission level and

Supreme Court and the

Pointing out the pendency of

about 4.5 crore cases in the

district courts, PM Modi said that work has been

carried out at multiple levels

eliminate this delay in justice. He said that the

country has spent about Rs

added that 75 percent of the

years took place only in the

last 10 years. "In these 10

years, more than 7.5

thousand court halls and 11

thousand residential units

have been built for the

system", he added.

highlighted

judiciary.

contributions

send

summons



or deep depression. There were 17 low-pressure system days this August, compared with the normal 16.3

From August 10 to August 22, the monsoon trough remained along its normal position, resulting in good rainfall over northern and adjacent central India, parts of eastern India, and the extreme southern peninsula, especially Tamil Nadu. From August 23 to August 31, the trough shifted south of its normal position, causing very heavy rainfall over central and western parts of India.

No-break monsoon conditions were observed in August this year despite an increasing trend of break days during the month, Mohapatra said. He said the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) was very active during the second half of the month, leading to good rainfall across the country.

MJO is a large-scale atmospheric disturbance originating in tropical Africa and travelling eastward, typically lasting 30 to 60 days.

Monsoon rainfall in September and October could be influenced by La Nina weather conditions, which are likely to develop from the next month, said another IMD official.

In the past, when La Nina develops during the second half of the monsoon season, it has led to a delayed monsoon withdrawal said the official, adding that "this year, we could see a similar pat-

#### above normal rainfall in September, at 109 per cent of the long-period average of 167.9 mm. Heavy to very heavy rainfall is anticipated in the Northwest including

Uttarakhand, parts of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu

and Kashmir, Rajasthan, and the adjoining areas of Madhya

"Above normal rainfall is likely over most parts of India, barring some areas in the extreme Northwest, many parts of the southern peninsula, northern Bihar, and northeastern Uttar Pradesh, as well as most of the Northeast India, where below normal rainfall is expected," the IMD chief said. The monsoon trough is expected to remain position with the possibility of several lowpressure systems developing in the Bay of Bengal, which may travel towards westnorthwest up to Rajasthan. The trough could also shift towards the foothills of the Himalayas, and there is a potential for a western disturbance to affect the region in September, Mohapatra said.

# District judiciary crucial component of rule of law: CJI **NEW DELHI**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

Chief Justice of India (CJI)
D Y Chandrachud on Saturday said district judiciary is the "backbone of the judiciary" and thus a crucial component of the rule of law and calling it subordinate must be stopped.

Referring to the increasing number of women joining the district judiciary in the past few years, he highlighted that judges, despite being professionals, are affected by their own "brush with reality" and their mental health may suffer as a consequence. Speaking at the 'National Conference of the District Judiciary', which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here, Justice Chandrachud said district judiciary is the first point of con-

tact for a citizen in search of The district judiciary is a crucial component of the rule of law," he said, adding, "Data on the NJDG (National Judicial Data Grid) reveals a basic truth - the district judiciary is not just the first but is also the final point of contact for citizens". The CJI said the reasons may be numerous - many citizens are unable to afford legal representation, they have a lack of awareness about statutory rights, and there are geographical difficulties in physi-

accessing Courts "The quality of our work and the conditions in which we provide justice to citizens determine whether they have confidence in us and is a test of our own accountability to society,"

"The district judiciary is therefore called upon to shoulder tremendous responsibility and is aptly described as the 'back-

bone of the judiciary," Justice Chandrachud said, adding, The spine is the core of the nervous system. To sustain the spine of the legal system, we must stop calling the district judiciary the 'subordinate' judiciary". He said 75 years after independence, the time has come to bury one more relic of the British era - the colonial mindset of subordination. Referring to the "multifarious

responsibilities" of judges, the CJÍ said it was difficult for a judge not to be affected by the actual face of suffering that each of us encounters every day a family which has faced a gruesomé crime, an undertrial who is languishing for years or the children in a parental matrimonial dispute.

Judges, despite being professionals, are affected by their own brush with reality. Their mental health may suffer as a consequence.

This aspect is of great consedoes not receive the attention that it merits," he said.

Justice Chandrachud said as a step towards a more open discussion on the topic, the third session of the conference on Saturday was on judicial wellness, with a focus on holistic wellness, stress management, mental health, and quality of life. Referring to the aspect of

adoption of technology in the legal system, he said in 2023-24, 46.48 crore pages of court records have been scanned or digitised and 714 district court websites have been hosted on the SwaaS of the Government of India.

He said the NJDG is a mine of data not only for lawyers but also for citizens and it reflects real time data of over four crore cases across the district Courts and the High Courts.

The CJI said 970 e-sewa kendras were fully functional in district Court complexes, besides 27 in the High Court premises.

He said e-sewa kendras assist lawyers and litigants with eprocesses by providing assistance for e-filing, providing information regarding the case status and so on.

He said e-Courts project has been responsible for computerisation of over 3,500 court complexes and more than 22,000 court rooms. The CJI also spoke about data

on the changing demography of judiciary. "An increasing number of women have been joining the district judiciary in the past few years.

Women consisted of 58 per cent of the total recruitment for civil judges in Rajasthan in 2023," he said.

He said 66 per cent of judicial officers appointed in Delhi in 2023 were women while in Uttar Pradesh, 54 per cent of appointments for civil judge (junior division) in the batch of

2022 were women. "In Kerala, 72 per cent of the total number of judicial officers are women in the latest recruitment. These are a few examples which paint the picture of a promising judiciary of the future," Justice Chandrachud

From Page 3

In response, Union minister Annapurna Devi asserted that existing laws were stringent enough to tackle violence and crimes against women and urged the West Bengal Government to implement the same in "letter and spirit".

The Government launched the Fast Track Special Court (FTSC) scheme in 2019 to tackle pending cases of crimes against women and urged to take necessary steps those filed under Protection to train the district judiciary of Children from Sexual in this new system under the Offences (POCSO) Act, guidance of the Supreme 2012. Since its inception, these courts have disposed of more than 2.53 lakh cases. Prime Minister Modi highlighted the crucial role of policies and laws along with infrastructural and technological advancements in the transformational journey of the nation. Therefore, Modi said, the nation has made such big and important changes in the legal framework for the first time in 70 years of Independence. Referring to the new Indian judicial system in the form of

Prime Minister said that the spirit of these laws is 'Citizen First, Dignity First and Justice First. He pointed out that India's criminal laws have been in the last decade to freed from the colonial mindset of rulers and slaves. He gave the example of 8,000 crore for the development of judicial infrastructure. He further repealing a colonial-era law like sedition. Throwing light on the idea behind the Nyaya Sanhita being to not punish citizens but protect funds spent on judicial them, PM Modi mentioned infrastructure in the last 25

Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, the

against women and children, and provisions of community service as crimes for the first time.

the implementation of

stricter laws for crimes

## NBCC board recommends bonus share in 1:2 ratio

PNS NEW DELHI

The Board of Directors of NBCC (India) Limited in meeting held on 31.08.2024 has recommended the issuance of Bonus Shares to the Shareholders of the Company in the ratio of 1:2 i.e. 1 (One) new fully paid-up Equity Share of ? 1/- (Rupees One Only) each for every 2 (Two) existing fully paid-up Equity Share of? 1/- (Rupees One Only) each to the eligi-Court. He also suggested Company as on Record Date, subject to the approval of the Shareholders in the forthcoming Annual General Meeting. This decision reflects the Company's strong bar associations have an financial health and its commitment to rewarding its shareholders. The Board has also fixed Monday, October 07, 2024 as Record date to

determine the eligibility of members to receive bonus shares. The eligible shareholders,

whose names appeared in the Register of Shareholders or the List of Beneficial Owners maintained by Depositories as of August 31, 2024, will receive these bonus shares.

Consequently, the paid-up equity share capital of the company will increase from Rs. 180,00,00,000 to Rs.

The newly allotted bonus shares will hold equal status with the existing shares. They will be directly credited to the shareholders' demat accounts. The Company has a balance of Rs. 1,959 Crore being reserves & surplus available for capitalization as per Audited Financial Statements on March 31, 2024.

# Haryana polls...

From Page 3

In a notification, the EC "Subsequently, representations have been received from national political parties, State political party and All India Mahasabha Bishnoi regarding mass movement of people of Bishnoi community of Haryana to Rajasthan to participate in old centuries festival Amavasya celebration."

"It may deny voting rights to large number of people and may lead to reduce voters' participation in general legislative election Assembly of Haryana," notification read. district judiciary," he added. | This year, the festival falls

on October 2 and thousands of Bishnoi families residing in Sirsa, Fatehabad and Hisar will be travelling to Rajasthan on the day, denying them their voting

rights. The Haryana unit of the BJP had earlier written to the EC requesting to postpone the polling for Assembly elections. In a letter dated August 22, BJP Haryana chief Mohanlal Badoli outlined concerns that the polling date would coincide with an extended holiday period, including the weekend of September 28-29 and Gandhi Jayanti on October 2. Badoli argued that this extended break could lead to a decrease in voter turnout as many

residents might be away or on vacation.

The BJP also pointed out that the Bishnoi community, which forms a significant voter base in Haryana, would likely be absent on October 1 due to their annual pilgrimage to Mukam village in Rajasthan. He had urged the Election Commission to consider rescheduling the polls to a later date to ensure maximum voter turnout, citing past instances where election dates had been changed for similar reasons. The EC had also received a representation from the national president of All India Bishnoi Mahasabha, Bikaner, Rajasthan for rescheduling the date for

the Haryana Assembly elections. generations of families from Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana visit their native village Mukam in Rajasthan on "amavas" in the month of 'Asoj' for the annual festival in Bikaner in the memory of Guru Jambheshwar.

The Opposition Congress and Aam Aadmi Party had slammed the move. Former Chief Minister Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda had hit out at the BJP, saying that the party's stand showed it already accepted defeat. The BJP is eyeing a third consecutive term while the Congress is looking to wrest power from the ruling

# Anguished women of...

From Page 3

Since Dileep was busy raping other artists, he had other artists, he outsourced the sexual abuse job to Sunil. Dileep was arrested by the Kerala Police and remained behind bars for three months before managing to get bail and come out of jail. The disclosures by some of the female artists in the wake of the release of Hema Committee report has seen the police registering nearly 20 cases against actors including Siddique, Mukesh, a CPM legislator, Jayasoorya, Edavela Babu and Babu Raj. Interestingly, Siddique and Babu Raj were elected as general secretary and vice president of AMMA Association of Malayalam Movie Actors) last month.

Both have quit following the allegations. Meanwhile, Mohan Lal, who

was the president of AMMA

till last week broke his silence when he met the Press on Saturday and asked the journalists not to bay for the blood of some of the artists on the basis of isolated allegations. "Since I was busy fulfilling certain commitments, I could not meet you people earlier. I myself have appeared before the Hema Committee, which had asked me for some details. What I feel is that all should sit together, discuss the findings of the Hema Committee and present our version of the story to the Chief Minister and the civil society," said Lal while

## **Jammu** votes on **September** 18 in...

From Page 3

This time, the BJP will have to walk a tightrope to cross the hurdles before hitting the victory milestone. On partners Congress and the

up a united fight to defeat the BJP. The candidates of the Peoples Democratic Party are also gearing up to improve their past performance while the rebel candidate of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party, GM Saroori, who won the Inderwal seat in 2014, is also aiming to retain the seat despite facing a credibility crisis after failing to get the mandate from the DPAP.

The Kishtwar Assembly segment is turning out to be the real battleground as it is witnessing the the other hand, alliance interesting contest in the

poll arena. Kishtwar is set to witness a

BJP's Shagun Parihar, Sajjad Kitchloo of the National Conference and Firdous Tak Shagun Parihar is the

daughter of Ajeet Parihar, the elder brother of BJP leader Anil Parihar. Both the brothers were killed by terrorists in November 2018. While the BJP is hoping to retain the seat. Kitchloo, on the other hand, is aiming to wrest the seat from the BJP. He remained a two-time MLA in 2002 and 2008 but lost to BJP's Sunil Sharma in 2014. After delimitation, Sharma has shifted to the newly created seat of

cards between Sunil Sharma and NC's Pooja Thakur, the sitting chairperson of Development District Council (DDC) Kishtwar though the PDP has also fielded Sandesh Kumar. Rakesh Goswami, a BJP rebel is also in the fray and he refused to withdraw on

the last date of filing of nomination papers. The Inderwal Assembly segment in Kishtwar is also gearing up for the multicorner contest.

Three-time MLA and former Minister GM Saroori is contesting the election as an Independent candidate National Conference are Kishtwar is set to witness a Paddar-Nagseni. after being denied the BSP are also in the fray. trying their level best to put triangular fight between A straight contest is on the mandate by Azad's DPAP. Nadeem Sharief is the son of

Saroori is facing Sheikh Zafarullah of Congress, Tariq Hussain Keen (BJP), Nasir Ahmed Sheikh (PDP) and National Conference rebel Pyare Lal Sharma. Saroori scored a hat-trick from the Inderwal seat by winning Assembly polls of 2002, 2008 and 2014 in a

On the Bhaderwah seat, the contest is expected to be triangular among 2014 BJP MLA Daleep Singh Parihar, Nadeem Sharief (Congress) and Sheikh Mehboob Iqbal (NC). Vikram Rathore of Jammu Kashmir Apni Party and Meenakshi Bhagat of

Mohammad Sharief Niaz, who won the Bhaderwah seat in 2002 for the Congress and was made the Cabinet Minister. Later, Niaz quit the seat and Ghulam Nabi Azad won it in the by-poll. NC's Mehboob Iqbal is a retired IAS officer.

BJP's 2014 MLA and former Minister Shakti Raj Parihar is facing Pardeep Kumar (Congress), Tanveer Hussain (PDP) and Abdul Ghani (DPAP) among others in the multi-cornered contest from the newly created seat of Doda West.

Doda Assembly segment also is facing a multicornered contest with two former Ministers Khalid District

Najib Suhrawardhy (NC) and Abdul Mujeed Wani (DPAP) in the fray along with Gajay Singh Rana (BJP), Riaz Ahmed (Congress) and the PDP.

Suhrawardhy won the seat in a by-election after the death of his father and NC strongman Attaullah Suhrawardhy. However, he failed to retain it in 2002 when Majid Wani won the seat as an Independent candidate and in 2008 as the Congress candidate. BJP's Shakti Parihar wrested the seat in 2014.

Parihar this time has shifted to the newly created seat of Doda West. He had lost the Development Imtiyaz Shan (PDP).

Council election from two seats in Doda in 2020. In Ramban district, eight

answering queries by a hostile

candidates are now left in the fray but the main contest is expected to be among Rakesh Singh Thakur (BJP), Arjun Singh Raju (NC) and Suraj Singh Parihar, a BJP rebel contesting the election as an Independent candidate.

Banihal constituency in Ramban district is also expected to witness a fourcornered contest among Vikar Rasool Wani, a twotime MLA of Congress, Sajjad Shaheen (National Conference), Mohammad Saleem Bhat (BJP) and

# **Brazil bans X after disinformation row**

AP SAO PAULO

Brazil started blocking Elon Musk's social media platform X early Saturday, making it largely inaccessible on both the web and through its mobile app after the company refused to comply with a judge's order.

X missed a deadline imposed by Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes to name a legal representative in Brazil, triggering the suspension. It marks an escalation in the monthslong feud between Musk and de Moraes over free speech, far-right accounts and misinformation.

To block X, Brazil's telecommunica-

tions regulator, Anatel, told internet service providers to suspend users' access to the social media platform. As of Saturday after midnight local time, major operators had begun doing so. De Moraes had warned Musk on Wednesday night that X could be blocked in Brazil if he failed to comply with his order to name a representative, and established a 24-hour deadline. The company hasn't had a representative in the country since earlier this month.

"Elon Musk showed his total disrespect for Brazilian sovereignty and, in particular, for the judiciary, setting himself up as a true supranational entity and immune to the laws of each

sion on Friday.
The justice said the platform will stay suspended until it complies with his orders, and also set a daily fine of 50,000 reais (\$8,900) for people or companies using VPNs to access it. In a later ruling, he backtracked on his initial decision to establish a 5-day deadline for internet service providers themselves - and not just the telecommunications regulator — to block access to X, as well as his directive for app stores to remove virtual private networks, or VPNs.

Brazil is one of the biggest markets for X, which has struggled with the loss of advertisers since Musk purchased the former Twitter in 2022. Market research group Emarketer says some 40 million Brazilians, roughly one-fifth of the population, access X at least once per month. "This is a sad day for X users around the world, especially those in Brazil, who are being denied access to our platform. I wish it did not have to come to this – it breaks my heart," X's CEO Linda Yaccarino said Friday night, adding that Brazil is failing to uphold its constitution's pledge

to forbid censorship.

X had posted on its official Global
Government Affairs page late
Thursday that it expected X to be shut down by de Moraes, "simply because we would not comply with his illegal

STANDOFF CONTINUES



orders to censor his political oppo-

"When we attempted to defend our-selves in court, Judge de Moraes threatened our Brazilian legal representative with imprisonment. Even after she resigned, he froze all of her bank accounts," the company wrote. X has clashed with de Moraes over its reluctance to comply with orders to block users.

Accounts that the platform previously has shut down on Brazilian orders include lawmakers affiliated with former President Jair Bolsonaro's rightwing party and activists accused of undermining Brazilian democracy. X's lawyers in April sent a document to the Supreme Court in April, saying that since 2019 it had suspended or blocked 226 users.

In his decision Friday, de Moraes' cited Musk's statements as evidence that X's conduct "clearly intends to continue to encourage posts with extremism, hate speech and anti-democratic discourse, and to try to withdraw them from jurisdictional control."

In April, de Moraes included Musk as a target in an ongoing investigation over the dissemination of fake news and opened a separate investigation into the executive for alleged obstruction. Musk, a self-proclaimed "free speech absolutist," has repeatedly claimed the justice's actions amount to censorship, and his argument has been echoed by Brazil's political right. He has often insulted de Moraes on his platform, characterizing him as a dictator and tyrant.

De Moraes' defenders have said his actions aimed at X have been lawful, supported by most of the court's full bench and have served to protect democracy at a time it is imperiled. He wrote Friday that his ruling is based on Brazilian law requiring internet services companies to have representation in the country so they can be notified when there are relevant court decisions and take requisite action specifying the takedown of illicit content posted by users, and an anticipated churn of misinformation during October municipal elections.

The looming shutdown is not unprecedented in Brazil. Lone Brazilian judges shut down

Meta's WhatsApp, the nation's most widely used messaging app, several times in 2015 and 2016 due to the company's refusal to comply with police requests for user data. In 2022, de Moraes threatened the messaging app Telegram with a nationwide shutdown, arguing it had repeatedly ignored Brazilian authorities' requests to block profiles and provide informa-tion. He ordered Telegram to appoint a local representative; the company ultimately complied and stayed online. X and its former incarnation, Twitter, have been banned in several countries

— mostly authoritarian regimes such as Russia, China, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea, Venezuela and Turkmenistan. Other countries, such as Pakistan, Turkey and Egypt, have also temporarily suspended X before, usually to quell dissent and unrest. Twitter was banned in Egypt after the Arab Spring uprisings, which some dubbed the "Twitter revolution," but it has since been restored.

A search Friday on X showed hun-A search Friday on A showed hundreds of Brazilian users inquiring about VPNs that could potentially enable them to continue using the platform by making it appear they were logging on from outside the country. It was not immediately clear how Brazilian authorities would police this practice and impose fines cited by

# Indian embassy in Laos rescues 47 Indians from cyberscam centres

PTI VIENTIANE

t least 47 Indians trapped At least 47 Indians trapped in cyber scam centres in Laos have been rescued from the Bokeo province of the country, the Indian embassy in the Southeast Asian country said on Saturday.

Indian authorities have been cautioning its nationals against fake job offers in Laos and urged them to conduct thorough due diligence to avoid being deceived. The Indian mission has so far rescued 635 Indians from the country and ensured their safe return to India. In the latest case, the embassy rescued 47 Indians trapped in cyber scam centres at the Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Bokeo province, a statement from the Indian Embassy in Laos said.

"Of these, 29 were handed over to the Embassy by Laos authorities after their crackdown on illegal activities in Golden Triangle SEZ, while other 18 had approached the Embassy in distress, seeking help," the statement, which was posted on X said

was posted on X, said.
It said the embassy officials travelled from the capital Vientiane to Bokeo to liaise with local authorities for their

The statement added that

Prashant Agrawal, the Ambassador of India to Laos, met the group upon their arrival to discuss the challenges they faced and to advise further course of action.

The embassy has undertaken and completed all procedural requirements of Laos authorities for their repatriation to India, the statement said, adding that 30 of those have already safely returned to India or are on their way, while the remaining 17 are only awaiting travel arrangements to be firmed up and would be leaving the country soon.

Agrawal emphasised that "ensuring safety and wellbeing" of Indians was a matter of top priority for the Embassy, the statement said.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar last month discussed the issue of trafficking of Indian nationals with Laos Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone during his visit to the Southeast Asian nation. The Indian embassy in Laos

last month rescued 13 Indians, who were lured into certain cyber-scamming centres in the country and sent them back home.

In Saturday's statement, the Indian Embassy urged the Laos government to take action at their end against unscrupulous

# 5 killed by Russian strike in Donetsk region

**AP** MOSCOW

Five people were killed by Russian shelling in the town of Chasiv Yar on Saturday as Moscow's troops continue their push on Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region.

The attack struck a high-rise building and a private home, said regional governor Vadym Filaskhin, who said the victims were men aged between 24 and 38. He urged the last remaining residents to leave the frontline town, which had a pre-war population of 12,000.

Normal life has been impossible in Chasiv Yar for more than two years," Filaskhin wrote on social media. "Do not Russian target evacuate.'

Meanwhile, Russia's Ministry of Defence said that it had captured the town of Pivnichne, also in Ukraine's Donetsk region. The Associated Press could not independently veri-

fy the claim. Russian forces have been driving deeper into the partly occupied eastern region, the total capture of which is one of the Kremlin's primary ambitions. Russia's army is closing in on Pokrovsk, a critical logistics hub for the Ukrainian defence

in the area.

sent its forces into Russia's Kursk region in recent weeks in the largest incursion onto Russian soil since World War II. The move is partly an effort to force Russia to draw troops away from the Donetsk front. Elsewhere, the number of injured following a Russian attack on the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv on Friday continued to

At the same time, Ukraine has

Six people were killed, including a 14-year-old girl, when glide bombs struck five locations across the city, said regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov. Writing on social media Saturday, he said that the number of injured had risen from 47 to 96 Syniehubov also confirmed

that the 12-story apartment block that was hit by one bomb strike, setting the building ablaze and trapping at least one person on an upper floor, would be partly demolished. The number of injured also continued to rise in the Russian border region of Belgorod, where five people were killed Friday by Ukrainian shelling, said Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov. He said Sunday that 46 people had been injured, of whom 37

were in the hospital, including

seven children.

### Helicopter with 22 onboard missing

missing in Russia's far east on Saturday with 22 people on board. The Mi-8 helicopter took off close to the Vachkazhets volcano

# Trump continues personal attacks against Harris

**PTI** WASHINGTON

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has launched a fresh personal attack on his Democratic rival Kamala Harris, calling her "defective".

His latest attacks come after Harris sat for her first major interview with CNN as her party's presidential nominee on Thursday. Fifty-nine-year-old Harris,

who is of Indian and African descent, is the Democratic Party candidate in the November 5 presidential election in which she will contest against Trump, 78.
"I think she would've been

better off if she just did interviews, even if they weren't great it would have been better ... because now everyone's Trump has unleashed personal attacks on Vice President Harris as her political star has

watching and now we see, she's defective," Trump said on Friday at the annual gathering of Moms for Liberty, a conservative nonprofit.

"She's a defective person." "And we don't need another defective person as president of the United States," Trump said, likely referring to President Joe Biden who dropped out of the race last month and endorsed Harris. He also said Biden was "sharp as a tack," during the presidential debate in June and complained that it was "unfair" he had to spend millions going after the wrong person during the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee (RNC) last month.

risen since she rose to the top of the Democratic ticket in recent weeks. Earlier, Trump disparaged

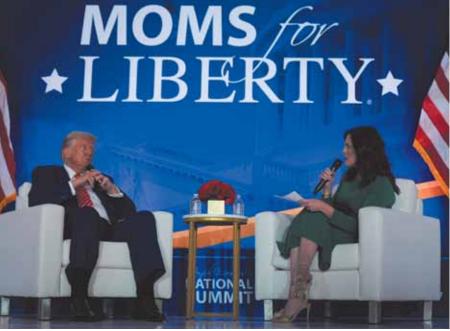
Harris' physical appearance and insisted that he was "much better looking than

Trump earlier this month said he was "entitled" to personally attack Harris because he doesn't "have a lot of respect for her".

He has also questioned her racial identity.
Harris in the interview with

CNN on Thursday brushed off Trump's remarks questioning her race.
"Same old, tired playbook.
Next question, please," Harris

responded. During an election campaign in Pennsylvania earlier Friday, Trump briefly commented on



Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump speaks with Moms for Liberty co-founder Tiffany Justice during an event at the group's annual convention in Washington

the interview.

"Did you see her on television last night? This is gonna be interview in its entirety, the president of our country? Trump and his allies criticised

I don't think so," he said. While the outlet aired the

CNN for pre-taping the interview instead of airing it live as a way to cover up potential Harris slipups.

# **Polio vaccine** campaign begins in Gaza

A campaign to inoculate children in Gaza against polio and prevent the spread of the virus began on Saturday as Palestinians in both the Hamas-governed coastal enclave and in the occupied West Bank reeled from Israel's ongoing campaigns in both regions.

Children in Gaza began receiving vaccines on Saturday, the Strip's health ministry announced in a news conference, a day before the largescale rollout and planned pause in fighting agreed to by Israel and the United Nations World Health Organisation.

Associated Press reporters saw roughly ten infants receiving doses of vaccine in the Nasser hospital in Khan Younis on Saturday afternoon. Hours earlier, Gaza's Health

Ministry said hospitals received 89 dead on Saturday, including 26 who died in an overnight Israeli bombardment, and 205 wounded — one of the highest daily tallies in months.

Meanwhile, parts of the West Bank remained on edge Saturday as Israel's military continued its largescale military campaign, the deadliest since the Israel-Hamas war began, and two car bombings by Palestinian militants near Israeli settlements left three soldiers injured.

Two car bombs exploded early Saturday in Gush Etzion, a bloc of Israeli settlements in the West Bank. Israel's military killed both Palestinian attackers after the bombs exploded in a compound in Karmei Zur and at a gas station, Israel's military said. Three Israeli soldiers sustained minor injuries.

Palestinian health officials said Israel was holding the bodies of the attackers, naming the men as Muhammad Marqa and Zoodhi Afifeh.

Hamas did not claim the men as its fighters but called the attack a "heroic operation" and a "new slap to the occupation's security system" in a statement early Saturday. The Palestinian militant group said earlier this month after a bombing attack in Tel Aviv that it would continue such attacks. The bombings took place as Israel continued its largescale raid — which includes destruction of infrastructure, airstrikes and gunbattles — into urban refugee camps in the cities of Jenin and Tulkarem, in the north of the volatile West Bank. About 20 Palestinians have been killed since Israel's incursion started Tuesday, causing alarm among the international community that the war might widen beyond the Gaza Strip. Israel has described the operation as a strategy to prevent attacks on Israeli civilians, which since the start of the war have increased in the West Bank, including near settlements that the international community largely considers illegal. In return, the Palestinian Health Ministry noted a surge in Palestinian deaths by Israeli forces, with 663 killed in the West Bank in the nearly 11 months since the war began. In central Gaza, Israeli airstrikes hit a multi-story building housing displaced people in and around Nuseirat, a built-up refugee camp in central Gaza, further south in

Saturday morning. Among the dead were a physician and his family and a child whose right leg had been previously amputated, according to an initial list of casualties from the hospital and footage released on Saturday by civil defense officials who operated under Gaza's Hamas-run gov-

Khan Younis and northward in

Gaza City, officials at hospitals

in the three areas said on

# 7 US troops hurt in raid with Iraqi forces targeting Islamic State group militants

The United States military and Iraq launched a joint raid targeting suspected Islamic State group militants in the country's western desert that killed at least 15 people and saw seven American troops hurt, officials said Saturday.

For years after dislodging the militants from their selfdeclared caliphate across Iraq and Syria, US forces have fought the Islamic State group, though the casualties from this raid were higher than in previ-

ous ones. The US military's Central Command alleged the militants were armed with "numerous were arrived with numerous weapons, grenades, and explosive suicide' belts' during the attack Thursday, which Iraqi forces said happened in the country's Anbar Desert.

"This operation targeted ISIS leaders to disrupt and degrade ISIS' ability to plan, organise, and conduct attacks against

Iraqi civilians, as well as US citizens, allies, and partners throughout the region and beyond," Central Command said, using an acronym for the militant group. "Iraqi Security Forces continue to further exploit the locations raided." It added: "There is no indica-

tion of civilian casualties." An Iraqi military statement said "airstrikes targeted the hideouts, followed by an airborne operation."

"Among the dead were key ISIS leaders," Iraq's military said, without identifying them. "All hideouts, weapons and logisti-cal support were destroyed, explosive belts were safely detonated and important documents, identification papers and communication devices were seized."

A US defence official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss details of the operation yet to be made public, told The Associated Press that five American troops were wounded in the raid, while two others suffered injuries from falls during the operation. One who suffered a fall was transported out of the region, while one of the wounded was evacuated for further treatment, the official

"All personnel are in stable condition," the official said.

It wasn't immediately clear why it took two days for the US to acknowledge it took part in the raid. Iraq did not say the US took part in the operation when initially announcing it, as politicians debate the future of having American troops in the country. There are approximately 2,500 US troops in Iraq. Since the US toppled dictator Saddam Hussein with its 2003 invasion of Iraq, the country has struggled to balance relations between America and neighbouring Iran. Since the Israel-Hamas war broke out, Iraqi militias allied to Iran have targeted US forces there, leading to American airstrikes

targeting them. At its peak, the Islamic State group ruled an area half the size of the UK. It attempted to enforce its extreme interpretation of Islam, which included attacks on religious minority groups and harsh punishment of Muslims deemed to be apos-

A coalition of more than 80 countries led by the United States was formed to fight the group, which lost its hold on the territory it controlled in Iraq in 2017 and in Syria in

However, the militants have continued to operate in the Anbar Desert in Iraq and Svria, while claiming attacks syria, while claiming attacks carried out by others elsewhere in the world inspired by the group. That includes the two suspects in a foiled plot to attack Taylor Swift shows in Vienna. Meanwhile, the IS branch in Afghanistan is known to carry out intense-

## Moscow (AP): Rescuers are searching for a helicopter that went

in the Kamchatka region, but did not arrive at its destination as scheduled, Russia's Federal Air Transport Agency said in a statement. It said it believed that 19 passengers and three crew members were on board.

The Mi-8 is a two-engine helicopter designed in the 1960s. It is widely used in Russia, where crashes have been frequent, as well as in neighbouring countries and many other nations.

# British Sikh MP defends record as landlord amid tenant complaints

Anewly elected British Sikh Labour Member of Parliament has defended his record as a landlord after UK media reports highlighted anonymous complaints from his tenants of being subjected to poor living conditions in properties owned by him.

Jas Athwal, elected to Parliament in last month's general election from Ilford South constituency in east London, said he was "shocked" and "profoundly sorry" to hear of residents' issues after the BBC reported on mould and ant infestations on Friday. Athwal, 60, is said to own 15 rental flats and says he had not been aware of the issues due to the properties being managed by an agency. He has now promised that repairs and maintenance will be completed through immediate action. "I am a renters champion. I'm proud to rent out homes with secure tenancies at below-market rents," Athwal said in a detailed statement. "I want every one of my tenants

to have excellent accommodation; I'm shocked at the reported condition of a number of the properties and have asked the managing agent for an explanation and immediate action to rectify any issues. I know it's my responsibility to have issues addressed as soon as they arise and have met with the property management company to understand failures in communication," he said. "I'm profoundly sorry that tenants have been let down and will be reviewing the property management and how matters are escalated going forward,"

Athwal, previously a local politician as leader of Redbridge Council, is also required to have a selective property licence in order to rent out a block of seven flats – a system he introduced in 2017 when he was in charge of the council. However, the BBC found the council's public licence register indicated that none of the seven properties had a licence. Athwal admitted that he had "recently seen an email" which said the licences were due to expire. He added: "I am in the process of renewing all licences. As council leader I implemented the most rigorous landlord licencing scheme in London in 2017, and expanded the scheme in 2023 and 2024 – the scheme would've been even stronger if Conservative housing secretaries had not repeatedly watered it down. "In 2019, I led a campaign

calling on the government to abolish Section 21 evictions, further protecting tenants' rights, which was again blocked by the Conservatives.

According to the BBC investigation, in one block of seven flats owned by Athwal nearly half the tenants said they had to regularly clean their bathroom ceilings to remove mould.

The news corporation said it also saw evidence of ant infestations in a number of the seven properties. Andrew Boff, a Conservative member of the London Assembly who also visited the flats, is calling on the governing Labour Party and local Redbridge Council to investigate as the party's 2024 general election manifesto included a commitment to "prevent private renters being exploited and discriminated against".

# **Houthi rebels fire missiles** at container ship

AP DUBAI

Two missiles suspected to have been fired by Yemen's Houthi rebels targeted a Liberian-flagged container ship in the Gulf of Aden late Friday, splashing down nearby without causing any damage, authorities said.

The attack comes after the Houthis repeatedly assaulted and then boarded a Greekflagged oil tanker in the nearby Red Sea, planting explosives on it they later detonated. That attack, the worst in weeks, risked a major oil spill as the rebels' campaign disrupts the USD 1 trillion in goods that pass through the Red Sea each year over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip, as well as halting some aid shipments to conflict-ravaged Sudan and

The attack Friday saw two missiles "exploding in close proximity to the vessel" some 240 kilometres east of Aden, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre said.

The ship "reports all crew are safe and proceeding to next port of call," the UKMTO said. "Investigations are ongoing."
The Joint Maritime

Information Centre, a multinational body overseen by the US Navy, on Saturday identified the vessel targeted as the Liberian-flagged container ship Groton. The Groton came under attack August 3 as well in a similar Houthi assault off Aden that included two missiles fired at the vessel, with one causing minor damage.



# Bhambri and Bopanna win with respective partners, Balaji exits

ndia's Yuki Bhambri and Albano Olivetti advanced to the men's doubles third round of the US Open with a hard-fought win over 15th seeds Austin Krajicek and Jean-Julien Roger here.
The Indo-French

defeated the USA-Dutch team 4-6 6-3 7-5 in the second round that lasted two hours and five minutes on Friday.

This is only the second time that Bhambri has reached the third round at a Grand Slam, having reached the same stage at the Australian Open back in 2014.

Second seeds Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden also moved to third round with a 6-2 6-4 win over Spain's

Federico Coria Argentina.

Bopanna also won in the doubles mixed Indonesian partner Aldila Sutjiadi. Seeded eighth, they won 7-6 (7) 7-6 (5) against Germany's Tim Puetz and Dutch player Demi Schuurs

in the opening round. However, another Indian in the fray, N Sriram Balaji and his Argentine partner Guido Andreozzi exited the US Open after losing to Michael Venus of New Zealand and Neal Skupski of Great Britain. The Indo-Argentine pair lost 6-7 (4), 4-6 in the secondround match that featured iust one break of serve in the second set.

In total, Venus and Skupski

and converted one, while Balaji and Andreozzi failed to capitalise on their lone opportunity for a service

"The first step is to consistently play at this level. It's starting from here. Now the next step is to get my ranking higher slowly," Balaji told PTI, reflecting upon his

campaign. campaign.
"Game wise I'm feeling confident and moving in the right direction. I also have to keep working on certain aspects of my game and keep getting better. This year the main difference was a coach/trainer travelling with coach/trainer travelling with me almost every other week, thanks to the doubles program," he said.

# Defending champion Novak Djokovic is shocked at the US Open one night after Carlos Alcaraz's loss

AP NEW YORK

Novak Djokovic did not go easy on himself when assessing the listless way he performed from the start of the U.S. Open, pointing to his sloppy serving as the main reason the defense of his 2023 title surprisingly ended in the third round.

"I have played some of the worst tennis I have ever played, honestly," Djokovic said, just after midnight as Friday turned to Saturday. "Serving - by far the worst ever."

With 14 double-faults, raising his tournament total to 32, Djokovic bowed out with a 6-4, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 loss to 28th-seeded Alexei Popyrin of Australia, another shocking result at Flushing Meadows one night after Carlos Alcaraz exited.

"It was just an awful match for me," the No. 2-seeded Djokovic said. "I wasn't playing even close to my best. It's not good to be in that kind of state where you feel OK physically, and of course you're motivated because it's a Grand Slam, but you just are not able to find your game. That's it. The game is falling apart, and I guess you have to accept that tournaments like this happen." Not often for him, though.

After all, Djokovic was trying to become the first player in tennis history with 25 Grand Slam singles titles. Instead, after knee surgery in June, he finishes a year without claiming at least one major championship for the first time since 2017. Before that, it hadn't happened since 2010. Also of note: 2024 now becomes the

first season since 2002 in which none of the Big Three of men's tennis -Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger

Federer - earned a Slam trophy.
The third-round exit equals Djokovic's worst showing at Flushing Meadows; the only other occasions he was beaten



that early at the U.S. Open came in 2005 and 2006. The man who defeated Djokovic 18 years ago, International Tennis Hall of Fame member Lleyton Hewitt, is now Australia's Davis Cup captain and was sitting in Popyrin's guest box in Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Diokovic, who is 37, has reached the final in Ashe 10 times, leaving with the title in 2011, 2015, 2018 and 2023.

On Friday, though, he was sluggish and emotionally flat, perhaps residual fatigue after collecting his first Olympic gold medal for Serbia by beating Alcaraz in the final at the Paris Games cooling in August earlier in August.

"Obviously, it had an effect," Djokovic said. "I spent a lot of energy winning the gold, and I did arrive to New York just not feeling fresh mentally and physically. But because it's the U.S. Open, I gave it a shot and I tried my best. I mean, I didn't have any physical issues. I just felt out of gas. And you could see that with the way I played." The No. 3-seeded Alcaraz entered the U.S. Open as the tournament favorite having won the French Open and Wimbledon, and acknowledged his energy was lower than he realized after

getting eliminated by 74th-ranked Botic van de Zandschulp 6-1, 7-5, 6-4 on Thursday night. Djokovic then replaced Alcaraz as the money-line pick to take the men's title, according to BetMGM Sportsbook, but that status didn't last long at all. For the 25-year-old Popyrin, this represents a real breakthrough: He had been 0-3 against Djokovic and 0-6 in third-round matches at majors.

But the strong-serving Popyrin is playing as well as ever, coming off the biggest title of his career less than three weeks ago at a hard-court tournament in Montreal, where he picked up five wins against opponents ranked in the

Everything was working against Diokovic.

Popyrin was terrific at the net, going 10 for 10 on serve-and-volley approaches and 25 for 36 overall on points when he pushed forward. Djokovic, in contrast, only won the point on 19 of his 40 trips to the net, in part because Popyrin kept

flipping passing shots by him.

Popyrin took big cuts with his powerful forehand, accumulating 22 of his 50 total winners with that shot.

And he broke Djokovic five times, including for a lead of 3-2 in the fourth. That game felt titanic, lasting more than 10 minutes and including four break chances for Popyrin, who converted the last with an inside-out forehand to close a 22-stroke exchange, then rocked back on his heels, clenched both fists and let out a roar. He took Diokovic's next service game, too, to make it 5-2.

The first time Popyrin served for the match, he faltered, allowing Djokovic to break. The second time, Popyrin finished the deal, holding at love when

Djokovic sent a forehand long. Now Popyrin will try to reach his first Grand Slam quarterfinal by getting past No. 20 Frances Tiafoe, who advanced Friday with a 4-6, 7-5, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-3 win over No. 13 Ben Shelton in a matchup between two Americans.

"If he serves well, plays well, he can beat anybody," Djokovic said about Popyrin. "Look, Alcaraz is out.

Pistol shooter

at Paralympics

**PTI** ■ CHATEAUROUX

Saturday.

Swaroop finishes 14th,

fails to qualify for final

Indian shooter Swaroop Unhalkar finished a dismal

14th in the men's 10m air rifle

standing (SH1) qualification

round to miss the eight-player

final by quite a distance at the Paralympic Games here on

The 38-year-old Unhalkar,

who had missed a bronze

medal by a whisker at the

Tokyo Paralympics three years

ago, was far from impressive

in an 18-shooter field on



# Samit Dravid in India U19 squad to face Australia in multi format series

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Samit Dravid, son of former India captain and head coach Rahul Dravid, was on Saturday drafted into the India under-19 squad for the upcoming multi-format series against Australia.

The three-match one-day series will be held in Puducherry on September 21, 23 and 26, and India will be led by Uttar Pradesh's Mohammad Amaan.

The series will then roll to Chennai for two four-day matches beginning on September 30 and October 7. The India squad for this leg of the tour will be captained by Soham Patwardhan of Madhya Pradesh.

Samit, a pace-bowling all-rounder, is currently playing for Mysore Warriors in the ongoing KSCA Maharaja T20 trophy in Bengaluru.

However, his outings so far have been underwhelming with the bat - 82 runs from seven innings with a highest of 33, and he is yet to bowl in the tournament.

But earlier this year, Samit had a productive time in the Cooch Behar Trophy, playing an important role in Karnataka's maiden title triumph in the

The 18-vear-old made 362 runs from eight matches and his 98 against Jammu and Kashmir stood out for its quality and fluency.

Samit also had a memorable tournament with the ball, where he claimed 16 scalps in eight matches, including two in the final against Mumbai.

INDIA Ŭ19 SQUAD FOR ONE-DAY SERIES: Rudra Patel, Sahil Parakh, Kartikeva KP, Mohd Amaan (Captain), Kiran Chormale, Abhigyan Kundu (wk), Harvansh Singh Pangalia (WK), Samit Dravid, Yudhajit Guha, Samarth N, Nikhil Kumar, Chetan Sharma, Hardik Raj, Rohit Rajawat, Mohd Enaan.

INDIA U19 SQUAD FOR FOUR-DAY SERIES: Vaibhav Suryavanshi, Nitya Pandya, Vihan Malhotra, Soham Patwardhan (Captain), Kartikeya KP, Samit Dravid, Abhigyan Kundu (WK), Harvansh Singh Pangalia (WK), Chetan Sharma, Samarth N, Aditya Rawat, Nikhil Kumar, Anmoljeet Singh, Aditya Singh, Mohd

## Man United signs Uruguay midfielder Ugarte from PSG for \$55M to take summer spending to \$240M

**AP** MANCHESTER

Manchester United signed Uruguay defensive midfielder Manuel Ugarte from Paris Saint-Germain for an an initial 50 million euros (\$55.7 million) on Friday, with the transfer announced only in the final hour of the summer transfer window.

Ugarte is United's fifth signing of the window - after striker Joshua Zirkzee, center backs Leny Yoro and Matthijs de Ligt, and full back Noussair Mazraoui and takes the club's summer spending on new players to around \$240 million.

The 23-year-old Ugarte, who has signed a contract until 2029, has been a target of United throughout the summer and looks set to be the long-term replacement for Casemiro, who is 32.

"Signing Manuel was another of our primary targets for this summer. He is among the very

best ball-winning midfield players in the world," United sporting director Dan Ashworth said. United manager Erik ten Hag said Ugarte will bring "controlled aggression" to the team. "I will sacrifice and give everything for my teammates," Ugarte said. "Together we will fight to win trophies and reach the level where this club needs to be." The deal for Ugarte includes the potential for 10 million euros (\$11 million) in bonuses, subject to performance and success. Ugarte spent just one year at PSG after joining from Portuguese team Sporting. Earlier Friday, United sold Scotland midfielder Scott McTominay to Napoli for 30 million euros (\$33 million), a transfer which created space in the squad for Ugarte.

Mali youth international Sekou Kone also joined United from Guidars FC in his homeland and will initially play in the academy.

Group B, enters SL3 singles quarterfinals Indian shuttler Mandeep Kaur entered the entered quarterfinals of the women's singles SL 3 category in the Paralympics

defeating Australia's Vinot Celine Aurelie in the women's singles SL 3 event on Saturday. Mandeep regrouped to win her last group B match 21-23 21-10 21-17 against her Australian rival. She had lost her opening match to Nigeria's Bolaji

The Indian finished second in the three-player group B to book a quarterfinal spot. Mariam topped the group to enter the semifinals.

The toppers of group A and C directly advanced to the semifinals. The top two teams in group B as well as secondplace finishers in group A and C compete in the quarterfinal the two remaining for semifinal spots. SL3 class is for players with severe lower limb disability. They compete on half-width

Shuttler Mandeep wins first match in

In Friday's late night matches, Suhas Yathiraj and Palak Kohli lost their opening mixed doubles SL3 contest 11-21 17-21 to top seeded Indonesian pair of Hikmat Ramdani and Leani Ratri Oktila.

In another group A SL3 mixed doubles contest involving Indians, Nitesh Kumar and Thulasimathi Murugesan lost 22-24 19-21 to the French team of Faustine Noel and Lucas

The only win in the mixed doubles came through Nithya Sivan Sumathy and Sivarajan Solaimalai, who defeated Natthapong Thailand's

Kumar, Krishna Nagar, Manoj Sarkar, Sukant Kadam, Sivarajan Solaimalai and Tarun will compete in different categories of men's singles. In women's singles, Manisha Ramdass and Nithya Sivan Sumathy will present their challenge.

Saturday, aggregating 613.4 7 21-17 in group B. Later on Saturday, Nitesh points. South Korea's Park Jinho topped the qualification with a score of 624.4, a clear 10.5

points ahead of Unhalkar. Unhalkar never rose beyond the 13th rank, and at one point during the contest had slipped to 16th. The Kolhapur marksman,

who was diagnosed with polio at an early age that left him paralysed in both the legs, did manage a decent second series of 103.0 but again slipped back into mediocrity.

He had scores of 101.8, 103.0, 101.7, 101.8, 102.4, 102.7 to

aggregate 613.4. The SH1 category is for para shooters who can hold their gun without difficulty and shoot from a standing or sitting position (in wheelchair or chair).

The disappointment comes just a day after women's 10m air rifle shooter Avani Lekhara came up with an extraordinary performance to become the first Indian woman to win two Paralympic gold medals with a record-breaking performance.

India had also won a silver medal through Manish Narwal in the men's 10m air pistol (SH1) final, and a bronze through 37-year-old late-bloomer Mona Agarwal, who finished third in the same

### Jadeja is a complete all-round fielder, Raina too was brilliant: Rhodes use your legs and be there at the right

South African cricket legend Jonty Rhodes on Saturday called Ravindra Jadeja a "complete all-round" fielder in the world right now, and also spoke highly about former India player Suresh Raina's abilities on the ground.

The 55-year-old Rhodes, regarded as one of the greatest fielders of all time who became the first South African cricketer to take 100 ODI catches, played for the national team from 1992

Post retirement, Rhodes became associated with several IPL teams, including Mumbai Indians, Punjab Kings and most recently Lucknow

Super Giants, as fielding coach.
"I am a big fan of Suresh Raina. I enjoyed his playing days but now he has retired. In the past in India, the cricketing infrastructure wasn't there to support the passion and love for cricket. Suresh Raina was someone who used to throw himself around the field," said



Rhodes, who was roped in as the brand ambassador of Hero Pro Corporate League cricket tournament on Saturday.

"Unlike Raina, I had a very fortunate upbringing. I played football, hockey and cricket on good grounds. So I was very fortunate.

"I think Jadeja is at the next level, he

the ball. And his accuracy at throwing down the stumps is somewhat like Ricky Ponting. He fields on the boundary, he fields on the circle. He is a complete all-round fielder," added Rhodes. Rhodes also gave a meaningful insight on what it takes to become a good fielder.

"It has nothing to do with the hands; it's doesn't dive as much but he is so fast to actually all about the legs because if you

time, you can get your hands in good position. You can have the best hands in the world and the most magnetic hands but if you don't have the legs you cannot get there.

"It's more about quick body positions. It' all about technique," he added. Rhodes said that at 55 he still doesn't think twice about diving on the field. "Flying is not the problem for me right now, the landing is the problem. When I am on the field I am not thinking about 'should I dive or should I not'. I think that's what made me successful

on the field," he said. "So, if you are thinking about (not) diving you can never stop the ball. My father, who was my coach, and and a school principal used to tell me that the saying practice makes perfect is not correct but what matters is perfect practice. Practice like you play in the match." he added. Former India pacer Chetan Sharma is

the commissioner of the league.

event as Avani, on Friday.

# Kimi Antonelli named as Lewis Hamilton's replacement at Formula 1's Mercedes

**AP** MONZA (ITALY)

Teenager Kimi Antonelli has been named as Lewis Hamilton's replacement next year at Mercedes, a day after his Formula One debut ended in the 18-year-old Italian driver hitting the wall.

Monza.

first appearance lasted fewer than two laps, and only 10 minutes, after he lost control of his Mercedes at the Parabolica, sliding backward

have no impact on Antonelli's But his much-anticipated first appearance lasted fewer of his elevation as a junior driver with the team was confirmed ahead of final practice at his home event. It is an amazing feeling to be

opening practice session for Team principal Toto Wolff George for 2025," Antonelli faith they've shown in me. I Sunday's Italian Grand Prix at said Saturday the crash would in Saturday's am still learning a lot, but I announcement. "Reaching F1 is a dream I've had since I was a small boy." Antonelli has been with Mercedes since he joined its junior program when he was 12.

"I want to thank the team for Antonelli took over for through the gravel and into George Russell in the the tire barrier.

Antonelli took over for through the gravel and into announced as a Mercedes the support they've given me works driver alongside in my career so far and the

am still learning a lot, but I feel ready for the opportunity," said Antonelli, who only turned 18 last

Sunday.
"I'm also really excited to become George's teammate. He came through the team's junior program just like myself and is someone I have

a huge amount of respect for." After titles in Karting and Formula 4, Antonelli only made the step up to F2 this year, winning two races.

There were promising signs for the limited time he was on the track on Friday, with Wolff labelling it "astonishing." But Antonelli Wolff was keen to impress, perhaps

seemingly taking too much speed into the final corner of his second lap. The debutant had just set the

fastest middle sector of the session and was looking to reclaim the fastest time from Hamilton, who had just beaten Antonelli's first lap by 0.6 seconds.

too keen, and he crashed after It is Hamilton he is replacing with the seven-time F1 champion departing for Ferrari at the end of the season.

> "Our new lineup is perfect to open the next chapter in our story," Wolff said. "It is also a testament to the strength of our junior program and our belief in homegrown talent.

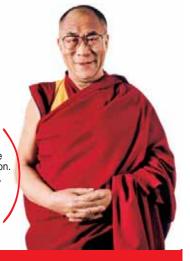
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"If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion"

— Dalai I ama









# MOSCOW FILM FESTIVAL KICKS OFF WITH FOCUS ON INDIAN CINENA

Laapata ladies and Kalki resonate with Russian audience, opening up huge possibilities for Indian cinema in Russia, writes GYANESHWAR DAYAL



he Moscow International Films Week, an event that has become a significant cultural bridge between Russia and the world opened up in Moscow with much fanfare at Khudozhestvenny Cinema and with people from film fraternity from around the world in attendance at the gala event. On the first day of the Film Week, screenings of both foreign and domestic films took place, including the nationwide premieres of the Indian sports drama Field and the philosophical-mystical drama Alzheimer from Iran. This year it is an Indian-themed week with focus on Indian cinema and celebrating Indian art of storytelling on celluloid. The film festival is hosting films from more than 40-countries but the flavour of the

festival is completely Indian. The second day was completely dedicated to Indian cinema, with Russian artists performing on Indian songs and Indian cuisine being served at the venue with Bollywood songs playing in the background. The Indian segment of the festival is dedicated to celebrating the richness and diversity of Indian cinema, offering Russian audiences a taste of India's cinematic brilliance through a curated selection of films. Among the highlights are two remarkable Indian films, Laapata Ladies and Kalki, which have captivated the Russian audience with their unique storytelling and cultural nuances.

Indian cinema has long been admired in Russia, with classics from Bollywood making their mark in the past. Ra Kapoor was a household name in Russia and 'mera joota hai Japani, an all-time hit. The Indian-themed week at the Moscow International Films Week is a testament to the enduring connection between the two cultures. This year's selection is not just about showcasing films; it's about highlighting the shared human experiences and emotions that transcend borders. As one Russian

filmmaker quipped, "Indian and Russian films are made with heart, the most striking similarity between Indian and Russian films is that the songs are woven into the storyline."

This is despite the fact that much is lost in translation and language barrier remains a significant impediment. But that is about to change as Swapna

Dutt, the co-producer of Kalki, told the Pioneer that they would be releasing the film dubbed in Russian.
"Indian films were once very popular in Russia, we want to open that bracket again. I am sure Indian

THE INDIAN SEGMENT OF THE
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HIGHLIGHTS ARE TWO
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"LAAPATA LADIES" AND "KALKI,"
WHICH HAVE CAPTIVATED THE
RUSSIAN AUDIENCE WITH THEIR
UNIQUE STORYTELLING AND
CULTURAL NUANCES

Laapata Ladies, a film that delves into the complexities of womanhood in contemporary India, has struck a chord with Russian viewers. The film's narrative, which intertwines humor with social commentary, offers a glimpse into the challenges and aspirations of Indian women. The Russian audience, known for its appreciation of nuanced storytelling, has responded positively to the film's portrayal of universal themes such as identity, freedom, and societal expectations.

films have a huge market here," said

Swapna Dutt.

Kalki, another standout film screened on the second day, explores themes of mythology and modernity, blending way that is both though provoking and visually stunning. The film's exploration of Indian mythology, set against the backdrop of modern societal issues, has intrigued Russian viewers. The film's ability to weave together the old and the new, the mythical and the real, resonates deeply with a culture that values its own rich historical and cultural heritage. The success of Laapata Ladies and Kalki at the Moscow International Films Week highlights the growing appeal of Indian cinema in Russia. These films, while rooted in Indian culture, address universal themes that resonate with audiences across the world. The Russian viewers have found a connection

> with the characters and their stories, appreciating the films for their depth, creativity, and the way they tackle complex social issues.

The Indian-themed
week has also opened
doors for cultural
exchange, with discussions
and workshops that allow
Russian audiences to
engage more deeply with
Indian cinema. This
exchange of ideas and
cultural narratives fosters a
deeper understanding
between the two nations,
reinforcing the importance of art

in bridging cultural gaps. As Indian films continue to gain popularity in Russia, the Indian-themed week at the Moscow International Films Week is likely to become a regular feature, showcasing the best of Indian cinema to Russian audiences. The success of Laapata Ladies and Kalki is not just a win for the filmmakers but also a testament to the universal appeal of Indian stories that, while deeply rooted in their own cultures, speak to the shared human experience. The Moscow International Films Week's Indian-themed week is more than just a showcase of films; it's a celebration of the cultural connections between India and Russia. The warm reception of films like Laapata Ladies and Kalki by the Russian audience is a reflection of the power of cinema to transcend borders and bring people together through the shared language of storytelling.





I DON'T SMOKE, DON'T DRINK MUCH, AND GO TO THE GYM FIVE TIMES A WEEK. I LIVE A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE AND FEEL GREAT. I CAN RUN A MARATHON, YOU KNOW - SARAH MICHELLE GELLAR



From leading corporate giants to shaping culinary excellence, PAWAN SONI'S journey is a celebration of passion and innovation in the food industry, says SAKSHI PRIYA

PAWAN SONI

Food critic and founder

of the Big F Awards

# FROM CORPORATE SUCCESS TO CULINARY STARDOM

# A JOURNEY INTO THE WORLD OF FOOD BLOGGING AND AWARDS

n the culinary world, where flavours tell stories and meals become cherished memories, Pawan Soni has forged an extraordinary path. A former Vice President at global giants like HSBC and GE Capital, Soni made a bold yet passionate shift from the corporate boardroom to the vibrant food scene. Driven by his love for discovering hidden gastronomic gems, he founded Indian Food Freak, a blog that has since grown into one of India's most influential food and travel platforms. His journey took a remarkable turn in 2014 when he launched The Big F Awards, a celebration of culinary excellence hat has now become one of Delhi NCR's most prestigious events. Now entering its 11th year, The Big F Awards have distinguished themselves with an unwavering

commitment to transparency and integrity. Built on the principle of not imposing any financial burden on nominees, these awards have earned a reputation as a fair and respected platform for recognising excellence in the food industry. Over the past decade, they have become synonymous with culinary credibility, highlighting the region's finest dining establishments and championing new telepte including championing new talents, including home chefs and bakers who bring fresh flavours and creativity to the This year, The Big F Awards embark

on an exciting new chapter by expanding their reach to encompass the entire Delhi-NCR region, reinforcing their vision of inclusivity and growth. This grand event will showcase a diverse array of culinary talent, with new categories that reflect the latest trends and celebrate the art of both dining out and home cooking. Attendees can look forward to an immersive experience where innovation, artistry, and passion are celebrated in a truly memorable way. At the heart of this celebration is a distinguished jury, featuring some of India's most renowned culinary experts, such as Chef Kunal Kapur, Chef Nita Mehta, Rocky Singh, and many others. These esteemed judges will rigorously evaluate each nominee, visiting the restaurants and sampling the dishes before casting their votes. This commitment to fairness ensures that the awards remain a beacon of trust and excellence in the food industry. For Pawan Soni, The Big F

Awards are more than just an event, they are a community and a platform for supporting genuine connections and inspiring culinary creativity. As he prepares for the upcoming awards in September, Soni envisions an evening that brings together the best of Delhi NCR's food scene, offering an opportunity to celebrate, connect and elevate the standards of culinary excellence. With a legacy of integrity and innovation, The Big F Awards continue to shine as a cornerstone of the region's

vibrant food culture. Founded in 2014, The Big F Awards have become a symbol credibility and fairness, consistently upholding the highest standards in the industry. This year's edition promises to build on this legacy, with new surprises, new talents, and new stories to be told. Join Pawan Soni and his esteemed panel in this grand celebration of culinary brilliance, where the finest in food

#### A CONVERSATION WITH PAWAN SONI

Pawan Soni shares insights into his transition from corporate life to food blogging, the challenges he faced in

the early days and his commitment to transparency and excellence in The Big F Awards. He provides valuable perspectives on the growth of his blog, the influence of his corporate background and what to expect from this year's prestigious

You left a successful career as Vice President at MNCs like HSBC and GE Capital to follow your passion for food. What motivated this career shift, and how did your corporate experience shape your approach to food blogging and awards?

Back in our day, social media wasn't conventional route-completing an MBA and then diving into the corporate world. But food was my escape. Traveling the world, I discovered hidden culinary gems and started writing for newspapers and magazines. Eventually, I launched my own blog, Indian Food Freak. Before I knew it, my passion for food had grown into a full-blown

MY CORPORATE **EXPERIENCE WAS THE** YEAST THAT HELPED INDIAN FOOD FREAK RISE. THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN ORGANISING THE AWARDS WAS SECURING SPONSORS WHO BELIEVED IN THE VISION **BUT DIDN'T INFLUENCE** THE RESULTS.

In foodie terms, my corporate career was a recipe for success, but my love for food was the secret ingredient. I traded PowerPoint for paprika and now, I'm serving up a plate of purpose. Jokes aside, my corporate experience was invaluable. It taught me critical skills in sales, operations, and more, which I still use in my second career. Having worked with ethical companies, I've always prioritized transparency. Even after 11 years of running the food awards, I ensure there's no money exchange involved, whether for nominations, attending the awards or in any other

When you started Indian Food Freak food blogging was relatively new in India. How did you introduce the concept to an unfamiliar audience, and what strategies did you use to build your

initial following?
Introducing food blogging to India
was like adding a new spice to a
recipe—initially
indiapensable. I unfamiliar, but now indispensable. I focused on creating content that was relatable, authentic, and sprinkled

with humor. I remained honest and objective in all my reviews, even if it meant ruffling a few feathers among friends in the industry. By avoiding fancy jargon and staying true to my readers, I built trust and loyalty. My guiding principle has always been to write for my readers, not for the restaurants.

How did you address the skepticism or resistance from both the public and industry professionals during the early days of food blogging, especially when it was an emerging

Skeptics are like stale spices - they need to be replaced with fresh perspectives. I proved that food perspectives. I blogging wasn't just a flash in the pan by consistently delivering quality content and building a loyal community. Facebook played a significant role in this, as I created a space where food enthusiasts could exchange opinions and learn from each other.

What were some of the biggest challenges you faced in creating content for your blog in the early days, and how did you overcome issues related to resources, technology engagement?

The early days were like cooking with limited ingredients-creativity was key. I tackled challenges by storytelling, leveraging social media, and engaging with my audience like a master chef. Content was never an issue because food is something we encounter daily. To improve the visual appeal, I invested in a DSLR. As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words.

Indian Food Freak has grown into one of the largest food and travel blogs in India. What were some of the initial challenges you encountered when starting your blog and organising The Big F Awards, and how did your corporate experience help you navigate these obstacles?

My corporate experience was the yeast that helped Indian Food Freak rise. The biggest challenge in organizing the awards was securing sponsors who believed in the vision but didn't influence the results. My sales and marketing skills were crucial here. Convincing people of the brand visibility that our awards could offer was key, and looking back, I'm proud to say that I delivered on those promises.

This year, The Big F Awards has expanded to cover the entire Delhi-NCR region. What motivated this expansion, and what new opportunities and challenges do you anticipate?

Expanding The Big F Awards to Delhi-NCR was like adding a new course to the menu—a natural progression. Since it takes nearly six months to organize the awards, with our jury visiting each restaurant to taste the food before delivering a verdict, venturing into other cities wasn't feasible. However, Delhi-NCR should be treated as one city, with people frequently traveling for work and pleasure. Including Delhi has given us broader and, in some cases, better choices, helping foodies make informed decisions when they dine out.

The introduction of categories for home bakers and home chefs is a unique and thoughtful addition. What inspired these new categories, and how do they reflect current trends in the food industry?

Home bakers and home chefs are the new spice merchants-they're driving innovation and shaping trends. These categories reflect the democratisation of food and the rise of culinary entrepreneurship. I'm pleased to see that home chefs and bakers are now taken seriously. Not only have their businesses expanded, but many new ventures are focused solely on this segment, helping them grow by organising pop-ups at fivestar hotels, developing apps for delivery, and introducing them to wider audiences.

Winning the Best Influencer Award by BBC Good Food in 2018 is a significant achievement. How did this recognition impact your career and the growth of Indian Food Freak and The Big F Awards?

We all seek acknowledgment and appreciation. Winning the award was a validation that I was on the right path. It boosted my morale and increased confidence in the products and content I deliver.

The Big F Awards are known for their transparency and integrity. How are you ensuring these values are upheld in this year's expanded edition, especially with the

addition of new categories? Transparency and integrity are the secret ingredients in The Big F Awards' recipe. We ensure fairness by using a robust judging process, clear criteria, and a commitment to accountability. From selecting the right jury to deliberating each result, we remain steadfast in our dedication to honesty and transparency.

As you prepare for the 11th edition of The Big F Awards, what are your personal goals for the event, and what do you hope attendees and participants will take away from this year's awards?

My personal goal for The Big F Awards is to foster a culinary community that's the icing on the cake. I hope attendees and participants leave inspired, with new connections and a renewed passion for the food industry. People don't mind losing as long as they know they lost to a worthy opponent. Our aim is to be fair and just while building camaraderie among all industry professionals.

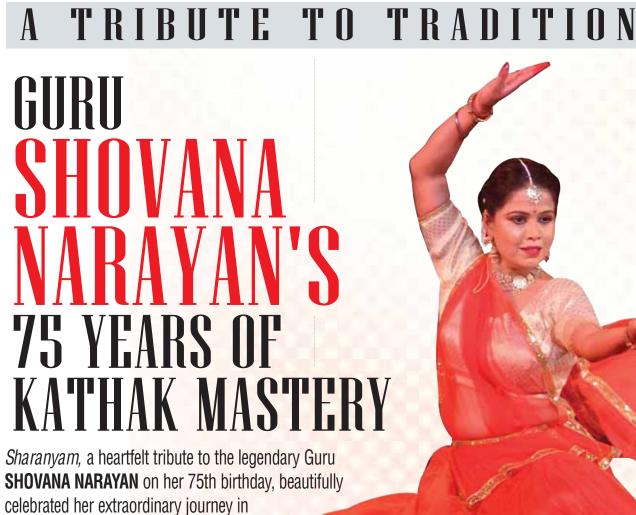




WE ARE WHAT OUR THOUGHTS HAVE MADE US; SO TAKE CARE ABOUT WHAT YOU THINK. WORDS ARE SECONDARY. THOUGHTS LIVE; THEY TRAVEL FAR — SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

art & culture 11

Lucknow, September 1, 2024



Kathak. The evening was a touching tribute to her life's work, showcasing the profound impact she has had on the art form and her disciples, says SAKSHI PRIYA

n the world of Indian classical dance, few names resonate with as much reverence as Padmashri Guru Shovana Narayan. Her journey is not just a tribute to her unparalleled dedication to Kathak but a living legacy that has inspired generations. As she steps into her 75th year, the Asavari Centre for Kathak honoured this icon with an evening titled "Sharanyam," a celebration as vibrant and profound as Guruji herself.

Padmashri Guru Shovana Narayan is a celebrated icon in Kathak, with a remarkable career spanning over six decades. Her innovative approach and deep understanding of Indian culture have redefined the art form. With prestigious awards like the Padma Shri and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, her influence extends beyond performance to

visionary choreography, dedicated teaching, and cultural leadership.

On this unforgettable evening, the Stein Auditorium at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi was transformed into a space of dance and devotion. The evening was not just an event; it was a vibrant expression of love, respect and admiration from her disciples worldwide. Each performance honoured not just Kathak but the essence of Guru Shovana Narayan - the artist, the mentor and the visionary.

From the moment the lights dimmed and the

first note echoed through the auditorium, it was clear that this evening was extraordinary.
The performance of "Taal Pancham Sawari"
was a masterful display of rhythm and
precision, perfectly embodying the
discipline and expression that Guruji has always emphasised. Beyond the technical brilliance, it was the sheer emotion that captivated the audience. "Chaand" was not just a dance; it was a poetic journey that moved everyone present. Similarly, "Malika" seamlessly fused song and dance, creating a blend of beauty that felt almost otherworldly. One of the most memorable moments of the night was "Moonling ht Impressionism," a performance that seemed to slow time itself. The dancers moved with such became a peaceful space, where the silence of moonlight was captured in every

gesture and step. The

soft strains of the piano

added an extra layer of

elegance, making it feel as though the audience was witnessing a dream come to The evening was a reflection of the profound bond between Guruji and her disciples, a connection that was evident in every movement and gesture on stage. This wasn't just a series of performances; it was a living reflection of the relationships built through years of passion, dedication, mutual respect. As the video presentation played, featuring heartfelt birthday messages from her students. emotion in the auditorium was

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overwhelming. These messages were more than just words of admiration; they were living proof of the deep, enduring love and gratitude that have grown over the years - a love that extends far beyond the art of Kathak.

Photo: Pankaj Kumai

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As the evening drew to a close with the powerful performance of "Dhwani-Pratidhwani," the energy in the auditorium reached its zenith. The audience's applause was more than just appreciation; it was a collective outpouring of respect, love, and admiration for a woman who has devoted her life to the pursuit of art and the nurturing of others.

others. In the words of Guruji's first disciple, Shruti Gupta Chandra, "Sharanyam is a small tribute from all of us who have learned so much from Shovana Didi - dance in its purest form and, with it, many life lessons. And the learning continues..." Guruji herself reflected on the evening with emotion, saying, "The air rebounded with the pure love and sublime devotion of all the disciples that touched every devotion of all the disciples that touched every heart and left everyone emotional. The programme was meticulously planned and

As her disciples paid tribute through their performances, it was clear that Guru Shovana Narayan's influence extends far beyond the stage. She has touched lives, instilled values, and inspired a generation of dancers who carry forward her legacy with pride and reverence. For them, she is not just a guru; she is a mother, a confidante, and a guiding star. Guru Shovana Narayan represents both tradition and innovation. She embodies the continuity of creativity, demonstrating that art is not just about preserving the past but about creating a future rooted in tradition yet open to new possibilities. As we celebrate her 75th year, it's evident that Guru Shovana Narayan is much life has been dedicated to Kathak. Her legacy extends beyond performances to the hearts of her students and the countless lives she has touched. She is not just a mentor and guide but an inspiring figure whose dedication continues to elevate the art form and inspire those who learn from her.

# A CELEBRATION OF INDIA'S TIMELESS CRAFTSMANSHIP

Naayaab highlights India's rich craftsmanship through over 100 masterpieces by renowned artisans. This exhibition blends tradition with innovation, presenting a unique cultural celebration, writes SAKSHI PRIYA

to create a piece that is both

Taayaab, a groundbreaking exhibition platform, is set to become a beacon of India's rich heritage, showcasing over 100 masterpieces by the nation's most celebrated artisans. Spanning three major cities New Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai. This exhibition is more than just an exhibition, it is a profound celebration of India's artistic legacy, bringing together over 40 traditional art forms under one roof.

#### A SHOWCASE OF INDIA'S **ARTISTIC DIVERSITY**

Naayaab's significance lies in its ability to bring together an extraordinary collection of art forms, each representing a unique aspect of India's cultural fabric. With works from over 70 master artisans, including several Padma Shri and Shilp Guru awards, this exhibition is a rare opportunity to witness the pinnacle of Indian craftsmanship.

The exhibition highlighted the exceptional craftsmanship of renowned artisans. several Sudarshan Sahoo captivated with his intricate stone carving while Jai Prakash Lakhiawal impressed with his detailed miniature paintings. Khaleel Ahmad showcased his exquisite kilim carpets and Bhuri Bai presented her vibrant Bhil art. Durga Bai Vyam contributed her intricate Gond paintings. The visionary leaders behind Naayaab were Ajay A Singh, Founder Director and Akansha Dixit, Founder & Chief Curator.

One of the most captivating pieces is the Inlay Artistry Chest by



Rupan Matharu, a work that exemplifies the exhibition's ethos of blending tradition with modernity. Crafted from Indian rosewood using traditional Hoshiarpur inlay techniques, Matharu's chest replaces the historically used ivory or bone with acrylic, making it both environmentally conscious and a stunning piece of art. The intricate patterns and meticulous detailing make it a true testament to the mastery of Indian artisans. Another powerful piece is Durga Bai Vyam's Gond Painting "Climate in Crisis", which uses symbolic imagery to address the resilience of nature in the face of human activity. This painting not only showcases the intricate detailing typical of Gond art but also delivers a poignant message about environmental conservation. Jai Prakash Lakhiawal's Shrinathji in Tanjore and Miniature Fusion painting is another highlight, merging Tanjore and Pichwai styles

to create a resplendent depiction of the Hindu deity. The use of gold leaf and natural pigments elevates this piece to a new level of artistic brilliance. The Heritage Red Sozni Shawl by Bashir Ahmed Bhatt is a must-see for those interested in traditional Indian textiles. This exquisite shawl, with its intricate embroidery of 600 stitches per centimeter, took four years to complete and is a tribute to the time-honored skills of Kashmiri Sozni artisans.

#### **MASTERPIECES OF**

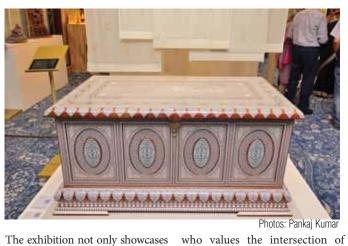
**CRAFTSMANSHIP** Among the many remarkable pieces, Shiva Kumar's Tri Panel Mythic Tales stands out as a masterpiece of wood inlay and carving. Spanning six years in the making, this wooden set depicts narratives from the lives of Lord Rama and Lord Krishna across three panels, showcasing scenes like Sri Rama Pattabhishekam,



Vishwaroopa and Krishna Leela. along with the use of vibrant The craftsmanship is so intricate enamel colors, reflect the rich that concealed handles reveal a tradition of Meenakari, an art form hidden third panel, an passed down through generations engineering feat in itself. The use since the Mughal era. of different woods and seashells A PLATFORM FOR PRESERVATION for vibrant hues, along with **AND INNOVATION** hand-carved Yali motifs on the outer frame, make this artwork Naayaab is more than just an

a true marvel. exhibition; it is a movement Another notable piece is aimed at preserving and reviving India's traditional Mukesh Kumar Soni's Maharaja Brooch art forms. The long-term Pendant, a stunning vision of making Naayaab example of Meenakari an annual event, both in India and globally, is commendable. By doing on gold. Inspired by the regal bearing of so, the organizers hope to inspire the next Rajput personages, this pendant cum brooch combines uncut diamonds, b a r o q u e freshwater pearls, glass, spinels, and gold

Naayaab offers a rare opportunity generation of artisans to connect with the soul of Indian and ensure that these culture, to witness the legacy of its invaluable skills continue to thrive. As artistic heritage, and to support the enthusiast, artisans who dedicate their lives to art preserving these traditions. It is an witnessing Naayaab is both a unmissable event that promises to opulent and refined. The privilege and a profound reminder intricate designs on both sides, of the richness of Indian heritage. leave a lasting impact on anyone



the exceptional talent of Indian

artisans but also serves as a

platform to elevate these crafts to

the global stage, ensuring they are

celebrated for generations to come.

Naayaab is not just an exhibition, it

is a celebration of India's artistic

heritage, a platform for master

artisans and a beacon of hope for

the future of traditional crafts. In

an age where digital and mass-

produced art often takes center

stage, Naayaab stands as a beautiful

contradiction, a reminder of the

beauty of handcrafted excellence

and the importance of preserving

cultural legacies. For collectors, connoisseurs and art lovers alike,

history, culture and creativity. Naayaab is not just an exhibition

but a profound celebration of India's rich artistic heritage. By bringing together over 100 masterpieces from acclaimed artisans across the country, it offers a unique platform that honors and revives traditional crafts. The intricate works displayed, from the innovative Inlay Artistry Chest to the evocative Gond Painting, illustrate the extraordinary skill and creativity of Indian artisans. This event is a tribute to the enduring significance of these art forms and serves as an inspiring reminder of the beauty that emerges when tradition meets innovation. Naayaab stands as a pivotal moment for both art lovers and cultural enthusiasts, marking a significant step in preserving and promoting India's invaluable artistic legacy.





















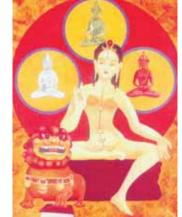






This week, you'll experience a surge of emotional renewal and inspiration, leading to significant personal growth and the opportunity for meaningful connections. Embrace the new beginnings in your life with confidence and enthusiasm, allowing yourself to be open and vulnerable. This openness will deepen your relationships and enhance your sense of fulfillment. The current energies are encouraging you to explore your emotional needs and desires more deeply, guiding you toward a greater understanding of yourself. Engage in activities that truly resonate with your values and bring you joy. To maintain balance, take time for introspection, ensuring that your excitement and drive are rooted in authentic, meaningful

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucký day Friday



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

This week, focus on maintaining fairness, balance, and accountability in your actions and decisions It's an opportune time to resolve any disputes and strive for harmony in your relationships and projects. Be mindful of the importance of acting with integrity, as this will be crucial in your interactions and endeavors. You may encounter situations that require careful consideration of your options or addressing imbalances. Trust in your ability to advocate for what is right and true. Reflect on how your actions impact others and ensure that you proceed with honesty and clarity. By aligning your goals with a commitment to fairness, you'll navigate any challenges that arise with grace and effectiveness.

Lucky number 15 | Lucky colour Ivory Lucky day Monday



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

This week invites you to balance multiple responsibilities effectively. Embrace the challenge of managing various tasks with flexibility and adaptability. It's a time to harness your enthusiasm and organizational abilities to keep everything moving smoothly. The current cosmic influences emphasize the importance of maintaining equilibrium in your busy schedule. By prioritizing and adjusting as needed, you can handle the demands of the week without becoming overwhelmed. Stay focused on your goals while remaining open to making necessary adjustments. Your resourcefulness and ability to adapt will be key in navigating through the week with efficiency and maintaining a sense of harmony among all your commitments. Keep a steady pace, and you'll find that your efforts align beautifully with your

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Palm Lucky day Saturday



#### **TAURUS** April 20-May 20

This week, you're stepping into a role that demands leadership and ambitious endeavors, making it a perfect time to take charge of your goals with confidence and creativity. You'll find yourself exuding a magnetic energy that draws others to your ideas, giving you the opportunity to inspire and guide those around you. This is a time to harness your inner drive, pushing forward on important projects with a mix of passion and practicality. While your determination is strong, remember to balance your ambitions with a steady, grounded approach. Your natural perseverance will serve you well as you navigate this dynamic period, allowing you to lead with both vision and stability. This is your moment to shine in your pursuits with unwavering determination

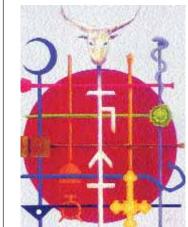
Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Brown Lucky day Wednesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week highlights a period of recognizing and addressing personal barriers and unhealthy behaviors. You might find yourself grappling with issues of control or repetitive negative patterns that are limiting your growth. The influence of current cosmic energies encourages you to identify and confront these challenges, urging a break from the constraints of fear or excessive desire. This period is crucial for regaining your independence and strength. Reflect on any habits or situations that may be limiting you and make a concerted effort to release them. Though the process might be demanding, it provides a substantial opportunity for personal evolution and development. Seize this moment to free yourself and cultivate a more wholesome and balanced life approach.

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Emerald Lucky day Friday



#### CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week calls for a period of deep reflection and navigating through areas of uncertainty. It's a time when hidden aspects of your life or underlying emotions may surface, requiring careful exploration. The influences surrounding you are pushing towards relying on your inner instincts and looking beyond obvious appearances. You might face situations filled with ambiguity or even deceptive information, making it crucial to evaluate circumstances with a keen sense of awareness. This phase is ideal for delving into your deeper self, addressing any underlying anxieties or misconceptions. Embrace these moments for self-exploration and foster a connection with your own guiding voice. Although this time may feel unstable, it presents an opportunity to gain significant personal insights and growth. Let your internal compass lead you through less clear paths

Lucky number 1 | Lucky colour Amber Lucky day Thursday



#### **GEMINI** May 21-June 20

This week, focus on establishing order and discipline in your life. You'll benefit from setting clear boundaries and creating a structured approach to your tasks. The current energies support your efforts to take control and make strategic decisions, allowing you to lead with confidence. This is an opportune time to take charge of projects or situations that require a strong and authoritative presence. Utilize this time to establish long-term objectives and apply practical approaches.By balancing your need for intellectual engagement with a disciplined approach, you can achieve greater stability and success. Trust in your ability to organize and guide others, and you'll find it easier to navigate any challenges that arise.

Lucky number 19 | Lucky colour Coral Lucky day Sunday



#### LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week promises a period of emotional satisfaction. harmony, and strengthened connections. You may find a profound sense of joy and completeness in your personal relationships and household. The current influences are conducive to fostering closer ties with those close to you. It's an ideal time to nurture your family dynamics and cultivate a nurturing atmosphere. Enjoy the benefits of positive exchanges and collective joy. Additionally, this is a favorable moment to pay attention to your emotional health and explore methods to develop enduring happiness. Appreciate the splendor of these experiences and utilize them to enhance the love and delight in your life. These enriching experiences can be a foundation for future stability and joy

Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Mint Lucky day Tuesday



#### AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week ushers in a period marked by intense curiosity and the birth of fresh ideas, presenting an excellent opportunity for intellectual growth. You are poised to make remarkable discoveries due to your heightened analytical abilities. This is the perfect time to immerse yourself in research projects or initiate stimulating intellectual pursuits. The current influences inspire you to look at things from innovative angles and engage in meaningful dialogues. Your ability to think critically will serve you well, but it's important to avoid being overly sharp in your interactions. As you navigate through this period of dynamic thinking, remember to balance your keen enthusiasm with tact and patience. Let your inquisitive nature guide your journey of exploration and

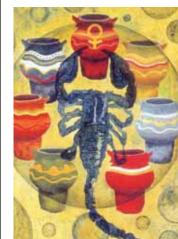
Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Turquoise Lucky day Monday



#### CANCER June 21-July 22

This week brings a surge of mental clarity and a strong drive to take swift action. You may find yourself propelled into new ideas or projects with a sense of urgency, feeling a heightened determination to get things done. This is a time to approach tasks with a clear and assertive mindset. making the most of the dynamic energy around you. However, it's important to remain mindful of the impact of your words and actions; avoid being overly reactive or impulsive. Strive to balance your focused determination with a sense of emotional awareness. By doing so, you'll be able to navigate this active period effectively, embracing the momentum while staying connected to your inner

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Pink **Lucky day** Thursday



#### SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week may bring moments of conclusion and opportunities for significant breakthroughs. It's a time when you might encounter challenging situations or harsh truths. These experiences suggest a need to address and let go of elements that no longer contribute positively to your life. While this period can be demanding, it offers a valuable chance for closure and rejuvenation. Take this opportunity to release any old grievances or burdensome circumstances. Confronting these issues directly allows for healing and transformation. Although the process may be intense, it is clearing the way for fresh starts and personal advancement. Use this period to reevaluate your direction and emerge more robust and adaptable.

ucky number 5 | Lucky colour Silver Lucky day Wednesday



#### PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week is rine with opportunities for fresh beginnings and the pursuit of exciting ventures. You are encouraged to embrace your imaginative side and take bold steps toward your goals. You may find yourself inspired by new ideas or projects that ignite your passion. This is an excellent period for launching new endeavors or diving into creative interests. However, it's important to balance your enthusiasm with practical considerations to ensure your plans are well-founded. Embrace this time of exploration and allow your curiosity and creativity to guide you. Trust in your capabilities and remain open to the possibilities that unfold. This approach will help you harness the energy of the moment and channel it into productive and fulfilling

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Saffron Lucky day Sunday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331

# HETUNINGFORK

C V Srikanth

From the disciplined learning of youth to the ultimate renunciation of worldly attachments, thefour stages enunciated in the scriptures offer a blueprint for balancing our worldly duties with our spiritual aspirations

#### he one constant from my School, to my Corporate, to my family has been- hearing You are not thinking' | 'You are not applying yourself' | 'You are not invested enough in what you are doing' phrases we have all grown up listening to and perhaps continue to. *Manasa Budhi Chitta Ahankara.* - embodied in the quotients - IQ | EQ | SQ.

**IQ** (**Intelligence Quotient**): A relative measure of the Intelligence of the person expressed in number. Can be seen as the ability to understand complex conceptsand apply it effectively. Aligns with the concept of 'Buddhi' the higher intellect or discrimination (Viveka). It includes intellectual discernment, wisdom (Prajña) through practise

EQ (Emotional Quotient): Relative measure of Emotional intelligence having a heightened sense of emotional and social awareness, including skills like ability to understand, use, manage your own emotions in positive ways, communicate empathetically, selfregulation. Indian ancient texts see it as qualities like emotional balance, compassion (karuna), non-attachment (vairagya), and equanimity (samata). SQ (Spiritual Quotient): Relative measure of Spiritual intelligence. Encompasses placing our actions and our

#### lives in a wider, richer, meaningful context. mindfulness, self-awareness, and connection to a higher purpose or reality. Indian scriptures describe it as the work towards and capacity for transcending the ego and realizing one's true nature (atman) or universal consciousness (Parabrahman), the aptitude to enter into heightened spiritual states of consciousness, the ability to invest in everyday activities, events, and relationships with a sense of the devotion (bhakti) and non-attachment (aparigraha), to engage in virtuous behavior (forgiveness, gratitude, humility, modesty, compassion).

They are distinct concepts - but inseparable by nature for any holistic development or application. Only a judicious combination of Intellectual clarity + emotional maturity + spiritual insight (SQ) can result in fulfilment. Our scriptures emphasize the need to cultivate and practise these through self-discipline and self-inquiry ( $Jij\tilde{n}$  s ) Ultimately, the goal is defined by us -a comprehensive embracing awakening to the Universe. Krishna teaches us in The Bhagavad Gita that both EQ and SQare integral aspects of a balanced and meaningful life.

कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन। मा कर्मफलहेतुर्भूमां ते सङ्गोऽस्त्वकर्मणि।। ४७।।

karma1y-ev dhik ras te m phale" hu kad chana m karma-phala-hetur bh rm te sa1go 'stvakarma1i (2.47)

EQ and SQ

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

योगस्थः कुरु कर्माणि सङ्गं त्यक्त्वा धनञ्जय। सिद्धयसिद्धयोः समो भूत्वा समत्वं योग उच्यते।। yoga-stha"kuru karm 1 i sa1ga tyaktv dhanañjaya

siddhy-asiddhyo "samo bh´tv samatva yoga uchyate

Be steadfast in the performance of your duty. Abandon attachment to success and failure. Such equanimity is called Yoga. These2 shlokas are an example of EQ. Applying our emotional balance to our actions and duties with a sense of equanimity

प्रजहाति यदा कामान्सर्वान्पार्थ मनोगतान। आत्मन्येवात्मना तुष्टरू स्थितप्रज्ञस्तदोच्यते।। prajah ti yad k m n sarv n p rtha mano-gat n tmany-ev tman tu"h' a"sthita-

(2.55)

When one discards all selfish desires and cravings of the senses that torment the mind, and becomes satisfied in the realization of the self, such a person is said to be transcendentally situated.

दूरेण ह्यवरं कर्म बुद्धियोगाद्धनञ्जय। बुद्धौ शरणमन्विच्छ कृपणाः फलहेतवः।। d´re1a hy-avara karma buddhi-yog d dhanañjaya buddhau śharalam anvichchha k^ipal phala-hetava" (2.49)

The recourse is divine knowledge and insight. Discard reward-seeking actions that are certainly inferior to works performed with the spiritual intellect established in divine knowledge. Miserly are those who seek to enjoy the fruits of their works.

These 2 Shlokas are examples of SQ. When we tune in and nurture our SQ, we move towards happiness, peace and a tranquil state of mind because we do everything in s ate of gratitude and devotion.

None of the 3 - IQ EQ or SQ can be underestimated and under rated. They compliment each other. We need to farm their working together in coherence and balance. IQ helps rational and logical thinking. Emotional stability and

maturity help individuals maintain equanimity amidst life's apparent contradictions or dualities, facilitating focused spiritual practice. The Spiritual quotient is the provides the overarching context and purpose for life. Understanding one's true nature as a spiritual being (atman) and cultivating faith and devotion (shradhha), sensitivity and detachment helps us transcend to lasting inner tranquillity, gratitudeandcontentment. Emotional stability supports spiritual practice by reducing distractions and mental turbulence, while spiritual understanding provides a higher perspective that enriches emotional experiences with depth and meaning.
As someone said 'The world is a contradiction and the Universe is Paradox.' To understand, navigate and rise above - Deep Breathe, Soak in, Experience Life!!

- The writer is a versatile professional with 3 decades in corporate experience & leadership roles, exceling in several areas as a ICF Certified Mentor Life Co ach, Corporate Coach, Spiritual Intelligenc

e Coach & CXO Coach. Spiritual counselor, Astro & Vastu consultant (25+ years of grounding in Vedanta philosophy) and a Motivational speaker. He is a Dale Carn egie's T3 graduate

prajñas tadochyate