



WORLD 6
UKRAINE CALLS ON WEST TO APPROVE LONG RANGE STRIKES ON RUSSIAN TERRITORY

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

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CONGRESS IS URBAN NAXAL: PM

RAJESH KUMAR ■ KURUKSHETRA/
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

Addressing the rally, Modi said, "Polling for the 90 assembly seats in Haryana will be held on October 5 and the votes will be counted on October 8."

Addressing the rally, Modi said, "Two years ago, the Congress Government was formed in Himachal Pradesh. But what is the situation there today? No citizen of Himachal is happy today. Congress fed lies to every section there but none of the promises made were fulfilled."

Under the Kissan Samman Nidhi, more than Rs 3.25 lakh crore has been deposited in farmers' accounts, he said while highlighting his Government achievements. "See what is happening in Karnataka. During a short period of Congress' rule in that State, about 1,200 farmers have committed suicide there," the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister added, "When the nation exposed their lies, they stopped talking about the Old Pension Scheme altogether. In contrast, BJP has introduced the New Pension Scheme, guaranteeing a secure future for employees. Government



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

employees have widely appreciated this scheme."

He also shared an emotional moment with the crowd, "Just a few days ago, we completed the third revision of the One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme, and starting this October, my ex-servicemen brothers will begin receiving its benefits. For Congress, appeasement is their only agenda. In Karnataka, under Congress rule, even Lord Ganpati is being disrespected."

Modi also addressed the issue of

reservations, stating, "Remember, when Nehru was the Prime Minister, he opposed reservations, claiming that hiring through reservations would lower the quality of Government services. Indira Gandhi also blocked OBC reservations, and it wasn't until the Janata Party Government that the Mandal Commission was formed. But when Congress returned, they buried the report. Rajiv Gandhi too opposed OBC reservations and insulted the community. Even today, Congress continues its royal

agenda against reservations. But let me make one thing clear, as long as Modi is here, not a single penny of Dr Ambedkar's reservation policy will be touched. SC/ST/OBC reservations are here to stay forever."

Shifting focus to the efforts of the Government, the Prime Minister highlighted the support given to farmers, stating, "Our Government has taken many steps to reduce the burden on farmers. Take urea, for example. While a

bag of urea costs Rs 3,000 internationally, we provide it to our farmers for less than Rs 300." Expressing confidence in his party's future, Modi added, "In Haryana, BJP is working with full dedication, transforming the State into a top performer in investment and revenue. Remember when Congress limited development funds to just one district? Haryana saw how those funds vanished into the wrong hands. But the BJP has connected the entire State to the stream of progress. Where half the

homes once lacked water connections, today, Haryana is on track to achieve 100 per cent tap water connectivity."

He said the new NDA government at the Centre is yet to complete 100 days but it has already started work worth nearly Rs 15 lakh-crore. The BJP Government has approved three crore 'pucca houses' for poor, he said.

Attacking the Hooda family and previous Congress Governments in Haryana, Modi said, "We have seen that period of the Congress Government when money for development used to be limited to one district only. Not only that, in whose pockets that money used to go? Everyone in Haryana knows that."

He praised Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini for his humility and said he has dedicated himself for the State's progress. Modi said people gave him a third term at the Centre in the Lok Sabha elections, and going by their enthusiasm, the BJP is set to score a hat-trick in Haryana too. "I have come once again to ask for your support to form a BJP Government on this sacred land. You have entrusted me with the opportunity to serve in Delhi for the third consecutive time, and the enthusiasm I see here today makes it clear, BJP's hat-trick is inevitable," he urged.

The BJP is contesting the Haryana assembly polls alone after parting ways with Dushyant Chautala-led Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) last year. Meanwhile, the Congress and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) are also contesting the polls solo as the two members of the INDIA bloc could not finalise a seat-sharing deal.

PM in Doda: Terror on death bed Fresh assault in J and K

PNS ■ JAMMU

Counting the sins committed by three dynastic families namely Congress, National Conference, and the Peoples Democratic Party Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday, the upcoming Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir will be a fight between these "three dynasties" and the youth of the Union Territory.

Modi also asserted that terrorism is taking its last breath in Jammu and Kashmir and will be completely wiped out by the security forces. Before the arrival of the Prime Minister, jaws of the security forces were engaged in an intense firefight in the Keerri area of Baramulla. Three terrorists were gunned down in the anti-terrorist operation. Since September 9, a total number of seven terrorists were eliminated in three separate operations while two bravehearts of the Indian army sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.

On the occasion, Modi reiterated his Government's promise of restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and cautioned people against bringing the NC, Congress, and the PDP back to power.

The Prime Minister while addressing his maiden election rally ahead of the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a public meeting ahead of the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, in Doda district, Saturday PTI

first round of polling on September 18 asserted these three political dynasties have destroyed the region and not allowed new leadership to grow.

Launching a scathing attack on these three political dynasties Modi said they indulged in corruption and made you struggle for your basic needs.

"These three families prepared the necessary ground for separatism and terrorism here. Who benefited from it? The enemies of the nation! They

were harbouring terrorism. They are responsible for ruining Jammu and Kashmir for decades," PM Modi said.

The Prime Minister pledged that his Government would make a prosperous Jammu and Kashmir, stating that it was "Modi Ki Guarantee."

Out of 24 Assembly seats that are going to witness polling on September 18, eight fall in the erstwhile Doda district and 16 Assembly seats are located in the south Kashmir districts of Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian, and Kulgam.

The BJP campaign managers organised the mega poll rally, also the first by any Prime Minister in the last 42 years in the land-locked Doda district, to sway the voters in support of the BJP to come closer to the magic numbers needed to form the Government. The mega rally was attended by senior BJP leaders and all eight BJP candidates in the fray.

Before beginning his over 40-minute long speech Modi also offered prayers in the name of local deities. "This time, the (Assembly) election will decide the future of Jammu and Kashmir, which has remained the target of foreign powers since Independence." The political parties you trusted never cared for your children. They only cared for and projected their children and did not let new leadership grow," Modi added.

The Prime Minister said his Government focused on carving out a young leadership in Jammu and Kashmir soon after "we came to power at the Centre in 2014."

"The youths of J and K used to face the brunt of terrorism. The parties that encouraged familism by misleading people enjoyed power and did not allow young leaders to take root.

"I can see that our sisters and daughters have come here in big numbers to bless us. I am

thankful to you all. I will repay this love and blessings of yours by working twice and thrice as hard for you and the country. Together we will build a safe and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir and this is Modi's guarantee," PM Modi said.

These people have never allowed new Leaders to emerge anywhere in J-K. You also know that panchayat elections were not held here after 2000," PM Modi said.

He further said that "Pariwarwad" did not allow the youth to come forward and that is why, after coming to power in 2014, I have tried to bring forward the new leadership of the youth in Jammu and Kashmir."

"In 2018, panchayat elections were held here. In 2019, BDC elections were held and in 2020, DDC elections were held for the first time. Why were these elections held? So that democracy reaches the grassroots level in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

The Prime Minister referred to the remark by then Congress' Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde in which he said that he was scared to visit Lal Chowk "There was a time when there used to be an undeclared curfew after evening. The situation was such that the Union Home Minister used to be scared to visit Lal Chowk," he said.

Continued on Page 5

PNS ■ JAMMU

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

In another overnight operation launched in the keerri area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district, three terrorists were gunned down by the joint team of security forces on Saturday.

The security forces were able to neutralise a group of hiding terrorists after identifying their exact locations inside the building with the help of drone cameras. With this, the number of terrorists eliminated in the last three anti terrorist operations have gone up to seven.

Chinar Corps of the Indian army in a post on X confirmed, "Three terrorists have been neutralised by the security forces in the ongoing Operation. Weapons and warlike stores have been recovered.

The Chinarcorps has dealt some crippling blows to the terror network in North Kashmir over the past few days with significant recoveries and elimination of terrorists, inspiring confidence and assurance for upcoming events scheduled in the region."

Before the day ended, another



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

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

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

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

It is believed these Pakistani

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

An Indian army captain along with three other soldiers was 'killed in action' during a fierce firefight in the area.

Meanwhile, the mortal remains of the soldiers were dispatched to their native places after a solemn wreath laying ceremony.

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

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

Let us bring home the joy of Onam

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Onam, the biggest festival for Malayalees all over the world is being celebrated this Sunday with merriment. This is despite the Kerala Government's decision to do away with Onam festivities in the backdrop of the landslides and floods in Wayanad district that claimed more than 400 lives in July 2024.

The festival falls in the Malayalam month of Chingam (August-September) to mark the annual visit of King Mahabali to Kerala to greet his citizens. It is widely believed that Mahabali ruled the State for decades before he was sent to

the netherworld by the Gods who felt threatened by the goodwill and affection enjoyed by the former among his countrymen.

The story is that Lord Mahavishnu disguised as a bhikshu approached Mahabali and requested him for three measures of land which was granted immediately. The bhikshu measured the entire kingdom with his first two steps and stood searching for a space to keep his foot to acquire the third measure. Since there was no more land, the King, known for his honesty, offered his own head for Mahavishnu to keep his feet. Thus, the Lord sent Mahabali

to the netherworld by pushing the latter down.

The belief among Malayalees is that the region which is known by the name Kerala was carved out of Arabian Sea by Parashurama who threw his axe from Gokarnam in Karnataka towards the south. The land thus reclaimed was known as Kerala. What does not fit in this recounting is that Parashuram was the sixth avatar of Mahavishnu while Vamana, who approached Mahabali with request for land was the fifth out of the ten avatars!

Rama Chandran, author and chronicler of Kerala's history, says there are glaring mismatches that prove there



never existed a king by name Mahabali at any point of time. Contrary to the claims that Mahabali was a popular ruler,

there is no memorial in his honour anywhere in the State. But there is a big temple dedicated to Vamana, the

reincarnation of Mahavishnu at Thrikakkara, a suburb of Ernakulam where thousands gather every year to observe Vamana Jayanthi.

Historians like S Sanku Iyer and Neelakanta Sasthrikal are silent about Mahabali or Onam in their works. Rama Chandran recounted verses from Bhagawata, one of the great Puranas of Sanatana Dharma that discusses a wide range of topics including cosmology, astronomy, geography and legend. The Bhagawata is silent about the Mahabali. "The Ashtama Skandam in Bhagawata and verses from Rig Veda (Vishnu Sooktham), the Skanda Puranam all reject the theory

of Mahabali. Though there are proofs of the existence of a Mahabali, the grandson of Prahlada, his kingdom was on the banks of Narmada and he had nothing to do with Kerala," said Rama Chandran.

The story of Mahabali and Vamana suits the convenience of modern day politicians for obvious reasons, late Thuravoor Viswambaran had said in his speeches. What stands out now is that Onam has become Kerala's biggest shopping festival with each manufacturer of household articles setting target of thousands of crores during the season. Mahabali is portrayed as a comic character who evokes

laughter by his physique as well as troubles he faced with a myriad crowd during his annual trip to the State.

Those who swear by scientific temper maintain a stoic silence over the veracity of Mahabali's story. The ambrosial Onam feasts by the likes of chef Suresh Pillai and the unbelievable discounts offered by shopping malls have bowled over even the toughest among cynics. The Onam which we see in TV is nothing but commercial events. "The new clothes that we wear for the festival and the feast we prepare are by products of the commercialisation of Onam," says Mankombu Gopalakrishnan, lead poet.

LACONES to analyse blood samples of 5 captured wolves

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

The blood samples of the five wolves recently captured by the Forest department in Bahraich will be sent to the Lab for the Conservation of Endangered Species (LACONES) at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in Hyderabad. Chief Wildlife Warden and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Sanjay Srivastava announced on Saturday that the samples would be analysed to understand the unusual behaviour of these wolves. This study is part of a long-term research plan, with the current priority being the capture of the remaining lone wolf. For the past 45 days, a pack of six wolves has caused terror in Bahraich, resulting in ten fatalities and injuries to more than 40 people. The Forest department has successfully captured five of these wolves. Srivastava stated that clear thermal drone images of the wolves show them moving through their original village area and remaining in their island habitat. "We will conduct detailed analyses of their blood and stool samples to determine their DNA composition and understand why they began attacking humans, particularly children,"

he said. He added that LACONES, with its expertise in DNA mapping and analysis, would be instrumental in this investigation. The analysis aims to identify any potential cross-breeding with feral dogs in the area. "Wolves typically form strong family bonds, with males and females staying together. Older wolves are often expelled from packs. Given the presence of feral dogs, cross-breeding is a possibility. By comparing the captured wolves' DNA with known wolf DNA, we hope to determine if they are cross-breeds," Srivastava explained. Following this, researchers from the Wildlife Institute of India will be involved in studying the wolves' behaviour. Regarding the wolves now housed in zoos, Srivastava noted that they exhibited aggressive behaviour when captured, including biting the bars of their cages. "Compared to zoo-born wolves, these are remarkable for their agility and strength. Although they have settled into their new environments, they remain in quarantine and will undergo disease testing and vaccinations before being fully integrated," he added. Currently, the focus is on capturing the lone wolf. "We are receiving many false reports and the public is frightened. We verify each claim of wolf attacks, and to our knowledge, the last fatal incident occurred on September 1. Wolves are intelligent predators that consume their prey, so recent reports of attacks may involve dogs or jackals. Jackals are scavengers and do not kill their own prey," he explained. Srivastava emphasised that the Forest department is concentrating on containing the situation and preventing further deaths. "Our goal is not to eradicate wolves but to ensure safety. If the attacks had not occurred, we would have allowed the wolves to coexist peacefully with the local community, as wolves generally do not attack people," he said.



NOTICE

I Harsh Saxena S/o Shyam Kanhaiya R/o Flat No.7D/E2-810 Saryu Enclave Lucknow hereby informed that the Original Allotment Letter Dated 24.09.2021, S.No.6878 has been lost and FIR 20240000746591 was lodged on dated 14.09.2024, If anyone has any objection then contact the Branch Manager State Bank of India Branch Indira Nagar, Lucknow (Mobile No 9451059040), within 15 days

NOTICE

Be it known to all that my correct name is Sharda W/o Radheshyam Yadav. My name wrongly mentioned as Sarita in some documents Sharda, W/o Radheshyam Yadav, R/o village Mirzapur post Mumtaz Nagar police station Cantt, district Ayodhya

NOTICE

I Sanchita Somani daughter of Sri Om Prakash Somani Resident of 277/36-37, Balrampur Quarters Aishbagh Road Lucknow -226004 U.P. inform to all that my name inadvertently mentioned as "Sanchita" in the Senior School certificate examination 2022. My actual name is Sanchita Somani as per certificate of secondary school examination 2020 and Aadhar Card. Passport etc. Therefore my name be read and understand as Sanchita Somani in all the records of senior school certificate examination 2022.

NOTICE

I am Mirza Shahid Beg son of Kifayat Ullah Beg resident of 631/032 (K-1097) Patel Nagar 1 to 3 Ismailganj 1. The original copy of the chain deed dated 07/04/2003 of my residence building number 631/032 (K-1097) Patel Nagar which is plot number 32 Kharsa number 1097 Patel Nagar 1 to 3 Ismail Ganj Lucknow has fallen somewhere on the way from Kapurthala to Ismail Ganj on 02/05/24 at 2 pm which could not be found even after a lot of searching. Whose original chain deed dated 07/04/2003 book number 1 section number 4111 page number 355/374 serial number 5392 which is registered in Lucknow sub-registrar. Mirza Shahid Beg- Mob. - 9838040733

NOTICE

I, MERAJ ALI, have changed my daughter's name from NOOR BUSRA SHEIKH to NOOR BUSRA. Now in future, my daughter should be known and known as NOOR BUSRA. D/O MERAJ ALI R/O HAMIRAPUR KASMANDI KALAN MALIHABAD,LUCKNOW

NOTICE

Be it known to all that I, Aparna Bose, daughter of Late Ex. W.O. Shanti Kumar Bose, resident of 22 A/7D, Chak Mundera, Near Mother's Public School, Bamrauli, Prayagraj (U.P.) - 211012, have changed my name from Aparna Bose to Aparna Aash which is mentioned in my Adhar Card also. Now I be known and regarded as my correct name for all future purposes. Aparna Aash W/o Late Sudip Aash R/o 22 A/7D, Chak Mundera, Near Mother's Public School, Bamrauli, Prayagraj

Woman tortured by husband, in-laws over dowry demand

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A woman was tortured allegedly by her husband and in-laws for the lack of dowry in Mohanlalganj police station area, police said on Saturday. The victim is undergoing treatment at a hospital in New Delhi, they added. As per reports, Kalpana Pal, a resident of Mohanlalganj, married Bal Krishna Pal of Rae Bareilly, a railway employee, in 2019. Her parents reportedly spent Rs 18 lakh on jewellery and household articles demanded by her husband and his family members. "From day 1, my husband Balkrishna Pal, father-in-law Vijay Shankar Pal, brothers-in-law Ram Krishna Pal & Surendra Pal, and sister-in-law Mamta have been harassing me mentally and physically for not giving them enough dowry," she alleged. "I was forced to bring Rs 7 lakh more in cash and a four-

wheeler. I was threatened with intensified harassment if I failed to do as directed. I was forced to live in our village's home with my in-laws, cook food for and take care of them even as my husband was staying at his work place. My father-in-law and brothers-in-law made obscene gestures and even attempted to rape me," she alleged. "When I fell sick, no medical treatment was provided to me. After a lot of persuasion, they brought herbal medicines, which did not work and I ended up suffering a miscarriage. I later came to know that my in-laws had given me drugs so that I would never be able to conceive again," she alleged. "My haemoglobin level plummeted to 4.3 due to maltreatment and lack of food. A lump developed in my uterus and my

husband and in-laws did not take care of me," she alleged. She also alleged that her husband cheated on her by having an extramarital affair. She also alleged that her husband pushed her down the stairs and she suffered grievous injuries. "I called police and my husband apologised in front of all the neighbours and promised not to do it in future," she said. According to the victim, in May 2023, Balkrishna Pal, Vijay Shankar Pal and Ram Krishna Pal came to her house to take her to Ramakrishna's 'tilak' and marriage. When I refused, they abused me and forcibly entered the house. I was beaten with kicks and punched when I raised an alarm. They threatened to kill me before fleeing the scene," she alleged. She is currently undergoing treatment at AIIMS, Delhi. It is also alleged that in March 2024, the accused reached to her house and beat her again.

Class 3 student dies of cardiac arrest in city school

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

A 9-year-old student of Montfort School here died of cardiac arrest while playing in the premises, the school principal said on Saturday. According to a statement issued by the school principal on Thursday, after receiving information that a student of Class 3, Manvi Singh, fell unconscious in the playground, she was rushed to the nearby Fatima Hospital. The girl's family took her to Chandan Hospital, where the doctors said that she died due to cardiac arrest, the principal said. The matter also came to the notice of the police, but the girl's family has said that no action will be taken, they said. After receiving information about the girl's death, a holiday was declared in the school on Friday.

Woman dies in wall collapse in Gonda

PTI ■ GONDA/MEERUT

A 40-year-old woman died after one of the walls of her thatched house collapsed in the Itiyathok police station area of Gonda district, police said on Saturday. The woman's infant child was seriously injured in the incident, which took place on Friday. The deceased was identified as Sajida (40), a speech and hearing-impaired person, SHO Shesh Mani Pandey said. Sajida, the wife of Riaz, a resident of Bharhotaia under Itiyathok police station, was at the back of the house with her daughter Halima (two months) late on Friday evening. During this time, the old mud wall of her thatched house suddenly collapsed on her. The family members, who reached the spot, took out the mother and daughter and immediately took them to the local community health centre, where the doctor pronounced

the mother dead, police said, adding that the girl was undergoing treatment. Meanwhile, over six people were feared trapped under the rubble of a three-storey house that collapsed in Meerut on Saturday evening. The incident occurred around 5:15 PM, and emergency services were immediately alerted, police said. District Magistrate Deepak Meena confirmed that a three-storey house in Zakir Colony collapsed. He said six to seven people were believed to be trapped under the debris and rescue operations were underway. There are no immediate reports of fatalities yet, Meena added. Teams from the NDRF, fire brigade and police were working to rescue the victims from the rubble. Some people have been rescued safely. The exact cause of the collapse is yet to be ascertained and authorities are investigating the matter.

LU rehearses for 67th convocation

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The 67th convocation of the University of Lucknow is set to take place on Monday. A rehearsal for the event was conducted on Saturday, where university faculty members assumed the roles of distinguished guests. The rehearsal commenced with the 'shobha yatra' featuring LU professors in ceremonial procession. This was followed by a mock medal distribution and concluded with the arrangement of a group photograph for the professors. During the rehearsal, various professors took on the roles of key figures for the ceremony. The rehearsal comprehensively covered all aspects of the convocation ceremony, including the professors' procession, the entry and seating of guests, and the procedures for honoring students with medals, degrees, and prizes. In the lead-up to the convocation, the Botany department at the University of Lucknow organised debate and music competitions in Birbal Sahni Hall. The debate, themed



'Should GM Crops Be Used to Address Food Security', sparked insightful discussions among participants. Under the patronage of Vice-Chancellor Prof Alok Kumar Rai and hosted by HoD Prof

Gauri Saxena, the event highlighted the academic and creative spirit of the university community. Anshu Ruth Peters from MSc (Botany) won first place in the debate for her performance.

In the music competition, MSc (Botany) Semester-1 students excelled: Aditi Mishra secured first prize, Akansha Ojha took second, and Avantika Rai received third prize.

Girl falls prey to cyber bully

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a case of cyber extortion, the perpetrator used the victim's Instagram account, posted objectionable photos and demanded Rs 1 lakh for their removal. The girl's sister filed a complaint with the police on September 2, revealing that the photos and videos were sent along with a demand for the ransom. During the investigation, it was discovered that the crime was being committed using a Maharaja Agrasen Public School student's mobile number. Further inquiries revealed that the accused, a Class XI student, was part of a group involved in the extortion. The victim's sister, who learned the identity of the accused from her sister's classmate, said that she had been severely distressed, leading to a suicide attempt.

Meanwhile, a Merchant Navy officer was defrauded of over Rs 22 lakh by scammers posing as investment advisors. The incident took place in the Gomti Nagar Extension police station area. The officer's wife filed a complaint with the Cyber Crime police station in Vibhuti Khand. According to the complaint, the officer was lured into a WhatsApp group where he was advised to invest in stocks. The fraudsters provided guidance and directed him to deposit funds into various accounts. Over time, the officer deposited a total of Rs 22.35 lakh into these accounts based on the fraudulent advice. The complaint said that Rs 1 lakh was specifically used for stock purchases, leading to a total financial loss of Rs 22.35 lakh. The police have registered a case and started investigations.

Salary delayed, restaurant workers abduct manager

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Workers at a restaurant in Takrohi area were arrested on Friday for abducting their manager Vinay Dixit on September 11, allegedly due to delayed salaries. The police apprehended six individuals, including a worker and his wife, following the incident. According to the police, Santosh Kumar Tripathi, the restaurant owner from Ghazipur (Indiranagar), was unable to pay his staff on time this month due to financial difficulties. The delay triggered dissatisfaction among the workers, including confectioners Laxminarayan and his wife

Babli, along with Ramu Gupta and Sunil Gupta. On the evening of September 11, the disgruntled employees, joined by accomplices Sonu Lal and Vivek Yadav, abducted manager Vinay Dixit from the restaurant. They forced him onto a motorcycle and took him away. Santosh Kumar Tripathi reported the incident to the Ghazipur (Indiranagar) police station, leading to the registration of an FIR. Initially, Dixit claimed he had not been abducted but had visited his maternal uncle's house. However, inconsistencies in his statement raised suspicions.

Further investigation revealed that Babli, who had accompanied Dixit to the police station, confessed to the abduction. She admitted that the kidnapping was in response to the delayed wages. Babli disclosed that Sonu and Vivek had used a motorcycle to carry out the abduction. The group used threats to coerce Dixit into changing his statement, but these tactics were uncovered during the investigation. The police arrested all six suspects, including Laxminarayan, Babli, Ramu Gupta, Sunil Gupta, Sonu Lal, and Vivek Yadav, on charges of abduction and criminal intimidation.

Student held in road accident death case

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Gautampalli police on Friday arrested 21-year-old Manish Kaja, a student from the Agriculture College, following a road accident. Kaja, who was driving the car involved in the incident, was taken into custody and is currently being interrogated. According to a police spokesperson, Kaja was travelling from Parivartan Chowk to Bandariyabagh after attending a birthday party with friends in Aiganj. All involved are students of the Agriculture College in BKT. During questioning, Kaja revealed that he had borrowed the car from his senior and friend Vikrant, a resident of BKT. The police are in the process of gathering additional evidence and taking legal action. The accident occurred on Tuesday night when the speeding car ran over an ice cream vendor and collided with an e-rickshaw at the 1090 crossing. The ice cream vendor, Rajendra Yadav, succumbed to injuries, while the e-rickshaw driver, Pankaj from Nilmatha, was seriously injured. Upon receiving the report, the police arrived at the scene, secured the accident-har, and transported the injured to the hospital. Eyewitnesses noted that the car's airbags deployed, which helped the driver and his female passenger escape with minor injuries. The duo fled the scene, leaving the car behind. The impact of the collision was so intense that it was heard by many in the vicinity, causing a crowd to gather. According to witnesses, a youth and a girl were in the car at the time of the accident.

They took advantage of the chaos following the crash to escape. The police transported Yadav and the injured e-rickshaw driver to the hospital, where Yadav was pronounced dead, and the e-rickshaw driver received first aid and was later discharged. The police are currently tracking down the driver and occupants of the car using the vehicle's registration number.

TWO GIRLS MOLESTED

Two Inter college girl students were allegedly molested by three men in Kaushambi district while returning home, police said on Saturday. Two of the accused have been arrested, they said. The two Class 10 girls lodged a complaint alleging that three men molested them while they were on their way to home from college, Kaushambi's Police Circle Officer (CO) Abhishek Singh said. An FIR was registered at West Sharira police station on Saturday against Sandeep Dubey, Amol Mishra and Arun Tiwari under relevant sections of the Bhattiya Nyaya Sanhita, Singh said.

First flight from Lucknow to Kuala Lumpur takes off

Lucknow (PNS): The inaugural flight connecting Lucknow with Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia, took off from Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport (CCSIA) on Saturday. The flight, operated by AirAsia Malaysia, an affiliate of the AirAsia Aviation Group, departed with 165 passengers on board. AirAsia Malaysia is the second airline from the AirAsia Aviation Group to commence operations from Lucknow. In December 2022, Thai AirAsia began flights between Lucknow and Don Mueang International Airport in Bangkok. Commenting on the new route, a CCSIA spokesperson said, "There has been significant demand for enhanced international connectivity from Lucknow. We are pleased to introduce the Lucknow-Kuala Lumpur flight and extend our thanks to AirAsia Malaysia for linking the City of Lights. With this thrice-weekly addition, there are direct flights to 10 international destinations."

Meerut DM orders probe after claims of Hanuman temple on 'mazar' site

PTI ■ MEERUT

The Meerut district magistrate has formed a committee to probe into claims that a Hanuman temple was established on the site of a 'mazar' in the Kankarkheda area, police said on Saturday. Police and administration officials took note of the matter after a video of the new temple became widely circulated on social media a few days ago. District Magistrate Deepak Meena has formed a committee to investigate the site's history and determine whether it was a 'mazar' (shrine). Senior Superintendent of Police Dr Vipin Tanda said, "There was no 'mazar' there, there was an empty room. To investigate what was there before, a 'mazar' or a temple, the district magistrate has handed over the investigation to the circle officer and the subdivisional magistrate." "A report has been sought from the investigation team within seven days. Further action will be taken after

receiving the report," he added. Some locals allegedly placed an idol of Lord Hanuman in a small room outside the Adarsh Colony locality of Kankarkheda and began its worship. A few residents claimed that the room was once a 'mazar', the police said. The idol's installation and subsequent ceremonies sparked tensions in the area, they added. After a video of the temple emerged, local authorities, including Circle Officer (Daurala) Suchita Singh, visited the site to investigate the matter. The police also reviewed footage from nearby CCTV cameras. As a precautionary measure, police personnel have been deployed to maintain law and order.

उत्तराखण्ड आयुर्वेद विश्वविद्यालय
रेलवे रोड, हर्षाबाला, देहादून (उत्तराखण्ड)-248001
ई-मेल- uttarakhhandayurved@gmail.com से संबंधित- www.uau.ac.in
स्थापक: 2005 / ए.एम.टी. / स्नातकोत्तर / 2024 दिनांक: 12 सितंबर 2024

यू.ए.यू.सी. यू.जी.-2024
उत्तराखण्ड आयुर्वेद विश्वविद्यालय के-दीक्षाकृत काउंसिलिंग सूचना (हेल्थलाईन 8791611636)

शैक्षणिक सत्र 2024-25 के लिए राज्य में विद्यार्थियों को प्रवेश/सम्बद्ध आयुर्वेद महाविद्यालयों में BAMS/BHMS/ BUMS परीक्षाओं की उपलब्ध सीटों पर नीचे-2024 की मेरिट के आधार पर अर्ह अभ्यर्थियों से दिनांक 16.09.2024 (सोमवार 12:00 बजे) से काउंसिलिंग की प्रक्रिया प्रारंभ होगी। काउंसिलिंग संबंधी विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए विश्वविद्यालय की वेब-साइट www.uau.ac.in का अवलोकन करें। कुल सचिव

इंडियन बैंक (भारत सरकार का उपक्रम) **Indian Bank** (A Govt. of India Undertaking) **इलाहाबाद** **ALLAHABAD**

POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property)
[Under Rule-8 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3, 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice as detailed here in below calling upon the borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers/Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/ Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/ her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said Rules. The Borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charges of the Indian Bank.

The Borrower's / Guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

This Possession Notice is being served to the Borrower (s), Guarantor (s) & Mortgagee (s) to deposit the said dues. Details as under:

S. N.	Name & Address of the Borrower (s)/ Guarantor (s)/ Proprietor / Mortgagees	Description of the Immovable Property	Dt. of Demand Notice Dt. of Possession Outstanding Amount
Branch: Hazratganj Branch			
1.	Sri Ankur Singh Chauhan S/o Sri Vijay Beer Singh (Borrower), Dundpur, Lahooriwan, Ganga Ganj, Sitapur-261303	All the part and parcel of property situated at Plot No. 35, Part of Kharsa No. 220, measuring land area 168.68 sq.mtr, Village- Saidpur Jageer, Pargana- Lucknow, Tehsil- Bakshi Ka Talab, District- Lucknow, Boundary as per deed: East: Arazi Deegar, West: 18 feet wide road, North: Arazi Deegar, South: Plot No. 34	04.07.2024 11.09.2024 Rs. 80,24,374.00 and interest thereon.
2.	Smt Neha Singh W/o Sri Ankur Singh Chauhan (Guarantor), Dundpur, Lahooriwan, Ganga Ganj, Sitapur-261303		
3.	Sri Ankur Singh Chauhan S/o Sri Vijay Beer Singh (Mortgagor), Dundpur, Lahooriwan, Ganga Ganj, Sitapur-261303		

Date : 15.09.2024 Place: Lucknow Authorised Officer Indian Bank

'Unfortunate' to refer to Gyanvapi as mosque: Yogi 'Shrimad Bhagwat Katha explains mysteries of truth'

PNS ■ GORAKHPUR

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said that Gyanvapi in Varanasi was an embodiment of Lord Vishwanath himself and it was "unfortunate" to refer to Gyanvapi as a mosque. The chief minister made this remark while addressing the inaugural session of an international seminar on the "Contribution of Nath panth in the creation of a harmonious society" at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University, where he also highlighted the spiritual significance of Kashi and the revered site of Gyanvapi. The Gyanvapi issue has been at the centre of a long-drawn legal battle with the Hindu side arguing that the Gyanvapi mosque was allegedly built on the remains of a pre-existing temple, and the Muslim side contesting this claim. The two-day seminar was jointly organised by Gorakhpur university and Hindustani Academy, Prayagraj. Yogi Adityanath elaborated on the tradition of saints and sages, describing it as a force that unites society and the nation. He spoke in detail about Adi Shankar, born in Kerala, who established key Peethas for religion and spirituality across the country. "It is unfortunate that some people refer to Gyanvapi as a mosque while it is the embodiment of Lord Vishwanath himself," he said, and also made a detailed reference to legendary sage Adi Shankar, narrating an anecdote about his "encounter" with Lord Vishwanath in Kashi. "When Adi Shankar arrived in Kashi, Lord Vishwanath sought



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath addressing the inaugural session of an international seminar on the 'Contribution of Nath panth in the creation of a harmonious society' at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University on Saturday

to test him. As Adi Shankar went to bathe in the Ganga during Brahma muhurta, Lord Vishwanath appeared before him disguised as an untouchable. When Adi Shankar asked him to step aside, Lord Vishwanath, still in that form, challenged him, asking, "If you are truly full of Advaita knowledge, you should not see only the physical body. If Brahma is the ultimate truth, then I possess the same Brahma as you," he stated. Continuing the narrative, the chief minister added, "When the stunned Adi Shankar asked the untouchable Lord for his identity, he revealed, 'I am the

very one for whose worship (Adi Shankar) has come to Kashi — Gyanvapi." The chief minister emphasised that Gyanvapi is an embodiment of Lord Vishwanath. Stating that the tradition of Indian sages and saints has always been a force for unity, the chief minister remarked that this tradition has valued an egalitarian and harmonious society since ancient times. "Our saints and sages have consistently emphasised that physical untouchability is not only a barrier to spiritual practice but also an obstacle to national unity and integrity," he said.

The chief minister further noted that if more attention had been given to eliminating untouchability, the country might never have been enslaved. "The tradition of saints never prioritised untouchability within society, and this is also the ethos of the Nath panth. The Nath panth respects all castes, sects, religions and regions, striving to bring everyone together," the chief minister said. He added that the Nath sect, on one hand, focuses on spiritual elevation through physical purification, while on the other, it makes efforts to unify every

section of society. Chief Minister Yogi highlighted that the words, verses, and couplets of Mahayogi Guru Gorakhnath emphasise societal connection and harmony, adding that his leadership is well-known for enhancing social cohesion. He cited Malik Muhammad Jayasi's lines: "Binu guru panth na paye, jo bhule se bheth, Jogi siddh hoi tad, jab Gorakh saun bheth," and mentioned how Saint Kabir Das praised his glory, while Goswami Tulsiidas wrote, "Gorakh jagayo jog, bhakti bhagayo log nigam niyog se". The chief minister noted that

the enduring influence of the Nath panth tradition is evident not only across India but also internationally. He recounted his meeting with a prominent saint from Tamil Nadu in Ayodhya, who provided manuscripts of the Nath panth from remote areas of Tamil Nadu. "Many places of worship and traditions linked to Gorakhnath Ji still exist," he remarked. He observed that Maharashtra maintains a tradition of reading Navnaths similar to the Ramcharitmanas, and predicted that the Nath panth tradition would continue to expand in states like Punjab, Sindh, Tripura, Assam, Bengal and beyond Greater India, including Nepal, Bangladesh, Tibet, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Emphasising the importance of preserving Nath panth symbols, Chief Minister Yogi suggested that the Mahayogi Guru Gorakhnath Shodhpeth at Gorakhpur University could lead efforts to create a museum to document and store these traditions. He urged the shodhpeth to compile all aspects and symbols of Nath panth into an encyclopaedia. The chief minister stated that Nath panth has always adapted its role to fit the country's needs, times and circumstances. "When external threats began to emerge in the country, the yogis of Nath panth raised awareness about these dangers through their music. Similarly, Nath panth has led efforts in challenging social stereotypes. It is indeed a great fortune that Mahayogi Gorakhnath Ji blessed Gorakhpur with his spiritual practices," he said.

PNS ■ GORAKHPUR

Chief Minister and Gorakshapethadhiswar Yogi Adityanath said on Saturday that the Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapurana narrates a 'katha' that reveals the mysteries of truth and life. "It is a 'katha' that guides one toward the pinnacle of success and the ultimate truth of existence. Our daily, familial, social and practical experiences seem to revolve around the teachings of the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha," he stated. The chief minister shared these thoughts during the inauguration of the Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapurana Katha Gyan Yagna at Gorakhnath temple, marking the 55th death anniversary of Yugpurush Brahmaaleen Mahant Digvijaynath Ji Maharaj and the 10th death anniversary of Rashtasath Brahmaaleen Mahant Avaidyanath Ji Maharaj. Addressing devotees after offering prayers to the Vyaspeeth in the Digvijaynath Smriti Bhawan auditorium, Chief Minister Yogi referred to the Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapurana as a book of salvation. "Salvation is not merely about liberation from life. The Mokshadaiy Bhagwat Katha teaches how one can master their field, understand its intricacies and attain the highest level of success," he explained. He further noted that the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha and the stories surrounding the leelas of Lord Shri Ram are deeply revered by the followers

of Sanatan dharma. He emphasised that the influence of Shri Ram and Shri Krishna, the two deities of Sanatan sharma, is unparalleled across the world. He noted that even in today's busy times, devotees continue the tradition of dedicating hours to the 'katha' throughout the week. The Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapurana also provides a meaningful opportunity to reflect on our heritage and past, he added. Chief Minister Yogi stated that salvation is not something that can be achieved instantly. To attain it, one must earn a living through ethical means, adhering to religious principles. By following this righteous path, if one's desires are fulfilled, the journey towards salvation becomes successful, he added. He explained that the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha reveals this secret of attaining salvation. While the Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapurana narrates the divine acts (leela) of Lord Shri Krishna, its language, crafted by Ved Vyas Ji, unfolds the mysteries of life, the values of Sanatan dharma, and the principles of progress, he added. Following the chief minister's address, devotees experienced the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha presented by the Katha Vyas, Jagadguru Anantanand Dwaraacharya Kashipeethadhiswar Swami Dr Ram Kamal Das Vedanti, who traveled from Shri Ram Mandir Gurudham Kashi. The katha will take place daily from 3 pm to 6 pm and will conclude on September 20.

SP MLA booked for 'torturing' minor maid

Bhadohi (PTI): A case has registered against Samajwadi Party MLA from the Bhadohi Assembly constituency and his wife for allegedly torturing and assaulting a minor maid, who was recovered from their house recently, police said on Saturday. According to police, the Labour Department registered the case against MLA Zahid Beg and his wife Seema Beg late on Friday night on the recommendation of Child Welfare Committee chairman PC Upadhyay. The action comes following the suicide of another teenager at the MLA's residence on Monday and the subsequent rescue of the 17-year-old girl during a raid conducted by Bhadohi Police and the Labour Enforcement Department personnel on Tuesday. Bhadohi SP Meenakshi Katayyan said that after the questioning of the teenager, who was freed from Beg's residence in Malikana Mohalla of the city by the joint team of the Labour Department and police and subsequently on the complaint lodged by Labour Enforcement Officer Jai Prakash Singh, a case was registered against the SP MLA Zahid Beg

and his wife Seema Beg. The case was registered at the city police station on Friday under relevant sections of the BNS, Juvenile Justice Act and Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, the SP added. Citing the registered case, she said the 17-year-old minor had been working as a domestic help at the MLA's house for the past eight-nine years, while the teenager rescued on Tuesday had been working there for the past two years. According to the Labour Enforcement Officer, the SP MLA and his wife were making the teenagers, who were less than 14 years of age, work which is a clear violation of laws. He said the rescued teenager was sent to the government children's home (for girls) in Prayagraj. Earlier, a notice was issued to SP MLA Beg and his wife for allegedly subjecting a minor girl to child labour at their residence for two-and-a-half years. "The Labour Department has served a notice on Beg and his wife, accusing them of holding the 17-year-old captive and forcing her to work without pay," Labour Enforcement Officer JP Singh had earlier said.

UPITS to become global Maha Kumbh for traditional products

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show-2024 (UPITS-2024) is set to become the global Maha Kumbh for traditional state products from the micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) sector. As part of his mission to transform Uttar Pradesh into an 'Udyam Pradesh', Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is relentlessly promoting the state's local products on every possible platform. Supporting this vision, the upcoming UPITS-2024, scheduled from September 25 to 29, is poised to become a global Maha Kumbh for traditional entrepreneurs from across the state, providing them a major platform to showcase their unique products to an international audience. The event will provide a unique opportunity for local businesses to showcase their products to a global audience. So far, entrepreneurs representing over 270 local and traditional products from Varanasi, Ayodhya, Gorakhpur, Prayagraj and Jhansi divisions have registered

to participate in the trade show under various categories. This process is expected to gain further momentum in the coming days. Entrepreneurs from various sectors, including handloom, terracotta, handicrafts, small-scale industries, MSMEs, and those under the One District One Product scheme have registered to participate in the upcoming grand event. New exporters, artisans and women entrepreneurs are equally enthusiastic about joining the event. They collectively praise Chief Minister Yogi's policies, stating that they not only preserve the state's rich traditions but also open doors to global markets for their products. According to them, these initiatives have enabled their products to reach international destinations, significantly boosting their earnings. Notably, a total of 44 handicrafts, new exporters and women entrepreneurs from the Varanasi division have registered for the UP International Trade Show. Joint Commissioner of Industries department Umesh Singh shared that 20 entrepreneurs from the One District

One Product (ODOP) initiative, representing the districts of Varanasi, Chandauli, Jaunpur and Ghazipur, will participate in the event. Additionally, 16 entrepreneurs from micro, small, and medium enterprises involved in industries such as wooden toys, pink meenakari, carpets, beverages, medical products, biofertilisers, masala noodles, and Banarasi silk, will showcase their products. Among them, eight new exporters from the Banarasi silk saree and carpet industries have also registered for the event. In addition to this, a total of 134 handicraftsmen, new exporters and women entrepreneurs from the Agra division have registered to participate in UPITS 2024. This includes 51 participants from Agra, 23 from Mathura, 56 from Firozabad, and four from Mainpuri. Notable exporters such as Dawar Footwear, Gupta Overseas and Stoneman from Agra will be part of the event. The trade show is expected to provide a significant platform for both traditional handicrafts and modern products from the Braj region.

Ayodhya major hotspot as 33 crore tourists visit UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh has achieved a significant milestone in the tourism sector, recording an unprecedented number of tourists in the first six months of the year. A staggering 33 crore tourists visited the state, with Ayodhya emerging as a major hotspot, even surpassing Varanasi in popularity. Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh announced these figures, underscoring Uttar Pradesh's growing status as a global tourist destination. The surge in visitors follows the installation of the Ram Lalla idol at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi temple in Ayodhya, which has driven an extraordinary increase in tourism. In just six months, Ayodhya attracted 11 crore domestic and international tourists, marking a significant rise from previous years and highlighting the city's strong cultural and spiritual appeal to both Indian and global travellers. Overall, Uttar Pradesh's tourism numbers have reached a record high, with a total of 32.98 crore tourists visiting various parts of the state in the first half of 2024. This figure surpasses the 31.86

crore who visited throughout the entire year of 2022. The latest data includes 32.87 crore domestic tourists and 10.36 lakh international visitors, reflecting a substantial increase from the 19.60 crore tourists recorded in the first six months of the previous year. Ayodhya led the list with 10.99 crore tourists, including 2,851 foreign visitors. Varanasi followed with 4.61 crore tourists, including 1,33,999 international travellers. Prayagraj, Mathura, and Agra also remained major attractions, each drawing millions of visitors. According to the data, Ayodhya welcomed 10,99,69,702 domestic and 2,851 foreign tourists, while Varanasi saw 4,59,82,313 domestic and 1,33,999 foreign tourists in the first six months of 2024. Other districts with notable tourist numbers included Prayagraj, which had 4,53,94,772 domestic and 3,668 foreign tourists; Mathura, with 3,07,02,513 domestic and 49,619 foreign travellers; Lucknow, which hosted 35,06,981 domestic and 7,108 foreign tourists; and Agra, with 69,84,352 domestic and 7,03,860 foreign tourists.

Mangesh Yadav encounter a conspiracy of UP Police: AKY

Lucknow (PNS): Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday accused the Uttar Pradesh Police of conspiring in the encounter of Mangesh Yadav, who was shot dead by the Special Task Force in Sultanpur on September 5 in an alleged encounter. Speaking to reporters on Saturday, Yadav claimed that Mangesh's family had alleged that the police deliberately orchestrated his killing. "Mangesh Yadav was picked up from his house and killed," Akhilesh Yadav said on Saturday following his meeting with the family on Friday, to hear their version of the events. Referring to the family's statement to the police, Akhilesh Yadav remarked that people might be compelled to say anything under duress or pressure from the authorities. Mangesh Yadav was suspected to be involved in a robbery at a jewellery store in Sultanpur on August 28. The SP chief's remarks follow growing controversy over alleged police encounters in the state.

Uttar Pradesh sets record in consolidation works

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh has set a record in consolidation works, achieving results equivalent to a decade's worth of work in just the last year. In the first eight months of the current financial year, land consolidation has been successfully completed in 82 villages across 40 districts. During the previous fiscal year (2023-24), consolidation was carried out in 781 villages in 74 districts. These efforts are helping to resolve long-standing disputes over land boundaries, making way for village development and ensuring that farmers benefit from government schemes. In addition to the consolidation works, the state has held 705 Gram Adalats (village courts) since September of last year. These courts have helped resolve 25,523 cases, furthering the government's commitment to swift and transparent dispute resolution for farmers. This progress aligns with the directives issued during a high-level meeting in September 2023, where the Yogi Adityanath government instructed the Consolidation department to focus on resolving land boundary disputes, promoting rural development, ensuring access to government schemes, and free-

ing government land from encroachments. Consolidation Commissioner GS Naveen said that consolidation was done to settle the agricultural land related disputes of the farmers in a transparent and quality manner. He also instructed the launch of dedicated campaigns and the establishment of Gram Adalats (village courts) for effective dispute resolution. As a result, in the current financial year alone, consolidation has been completed in 82 villages across 40 districts within just eight months. However, 51 villages were excluded from the process under Section 6 (1) of the relevant Act, as consolidation was deemed unfeasible in these areas. In the fiscal year 2023-24, consolidation was successfully completed in 781 villages across 74 districts, including 330 villages that had been awaiting resolution for over a decade. The process was also completed in 463 villages in 2022-23 and 231 villages in 2021-22, marking a new record compared to the past decade. The consolidation process was finally completed in eight villages where disputes had been pending for more than 50 years, 72 villages with disputes of 30 to 50 years, and 296 villages with pending issues of 10 to 30 years.

Notably, in Azamgarh district, the consolidation process in villages Mahuva and Gomadih, which had been pending for 63 years and 56 years respectively, was finally completed. Similarly, the villages of Sawana and Bareji in Ghazipur had been waiting for consolidation for 59 years, and village Belasadi for 55 years. These longstanding issues have now been resolved under the Yogi government's leadership. The consolidation commissioner further highlighted the significant developments of long-pending consolidation processes across several villages in Uttar Pradesh. He informed that the villages of Suwabojh in Lakhimpur Kheri, Malapur Jagdishpur in Sultanpur, and Dhema in Jaunpur, where consolidation had been pending for 53 years, 54 years and 52 years respectively, have finally seen the process completed. Additionally, the consolidation process has been concluded in villages with longstanding delays, including 48 years in Andarapur of Sultanpur, 41 years in Mohanpur of Bareilly, 35 years in Chhachari Teep of Bijnor, 33 years in Rahedia of Budaun, 31 years in Aldemou of Mau, and 30 years in Yakubpur and Mustafabad Daduwa of Bulandshahr.

Water leakage in main dome of Taj; ASI says no damage to arched roof

Agra (PTI): The main dome of the Taj Mahal here witnessed water seepage due to incessant rains for the past three days but there is no damage to the arched roof, a senior Archaeological Survey of India official said on Saturday. Superintending chief of the Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI) Agra circle Rajkumar Patel said a drone camera was used to check the main dome. A purported video of a submerged garden on the premises of the ivory-white marble mausoleum was doing the rounds on social media since Thursday after heavy rains. The UNESCO World Heritage Site apart, the entire city has grappled with waterlogging. Main roads were flooded and rainwater entered homes in many areas. On water seepage in the Taj dome, Patel told PTI, "Yes, we have witnessed the leakage in the main dome. After that when we checked, it was due to seepage and there was no damage to the main dome. We have checked the main dome through a drone camera." A local resident, who is working as a government-approved tour guide, said the Taj Mahal is the pride of Agra and the entire nation. "The Taj provides employment to hundreds of locals and those who are working in the tourism industry. Proper care should be taken of the monument as it is a big hope for tourism industry people," said guide Monika Sharma. One of the national highways in the past few days was choked with rain water and posh localities of the city also witnessed water logging. The Agra administration has ordered the closure of all schools due to rain.

Six monkeys electrocuted in Budaun

Budaun (PTI): The Forest department has ordered a probe into the case of six monkeys being electrocuted to death and were buried without notifying the department, officials said on Saturday. The incident took place at the camp office of a private construction firm employed in the construction of Ganga Expressway in Papad Hamzapur village. Forest department sources said that the employees of the firm had installed a separate electric wire to protect a cooler, which inadvertently caused the monkeys' deaths on Friday night. The situation escalated when the Ganga Expressway employees buried the dead monkeys on the camp office premises without informing the authorities. Forest department Ranger Akanksha Gupta said that as soon as the information about the incident was received, "A team led by the forest guard of our department reached there and dug a pit with a JCB and took out the carcass of the monkeys and got their post-mortem done. According to the post-mortem report, the monkeys died of electrocution." A case has been registered against two employees of the firm, Lakhjan Singh and Kamlesh Bahadur Singh, under sections of Wildlife Protection Act 1972, Ranger Akanksha Gupta said.

Several dists get new DMs

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government at the late hours of Friday transferred IAS officers in a significant rejig in the state bureaucracy. Several district magistrates have been changed and administrative officers have been given new charge. Ravindra, Principal Secretary, Agriculture and Agriculture Research, has been given additional charge of UP Mandi Parishad. DM of Agra, Bhanu Chandra Goswami, has been posted as in-charge Relief Commissioner. DM of Mainpuri, Avinash Krishna Singh, has been posted as Director General Technical Education. Secretary, Revenue, Navin Kumar GS goes as Secretary, Irrigation. DM of Azamgarh, Vishal Bhardwaj, has been shifted to Kushinagar in same capacity. DM of Kushinagar, Umesh Mishra, has been shifted as DM of Muzaffarnagar. DM of Prayagraj, Navneet Singh Chahal, goes as DM of Azamgarh. DM of Shamli, Ravindra Singh, has been shifted to Fatehpur in same capacity. DM of Jaunpur, Ravindra Kumar Mandar, has been shifted as DM of Prayagraj while DM of Muzaffarnagar, Arvind Malappa Bangri, has been sent to Agra in same capacity. Special Secretary, Urban Development, Dharmendra Pratap Singh, has been posted as the DM of Shahjahanpur while Dr Dinesh Chandra, Special Secretary, Sugarcane, has been sent to Jaunpur as DM.

DM of Fatehpur, C Indumati, has been posted as Special Secretary, Sugarcane. Arvind Kumar Chauhan, Vice-Chairman of Prayagraj Development Authority has been posted as DM of Shamli. Ghanshyam Meena, Municipal Commissioner of Firozabad, goes as DM of Hamirpur, replacing Rahul Pandey, who goes as DM of Hathars. Nidhi Gupta, Municipal Commissioner of Bareilly, has been posted as DM of Amroha. Anjani Kumar Singh, Director, Mandi Parishad, has been shifted as DM of Mainpuri. Umesh Pratap Singh, DM of Shahjahanpur, has been posted as Special Secretary, Geology and Mining. Rajesh Kumar Tyagi DM Amroha has been posted as Special Secretary, Panchayati Raj department. Ashish Kumar, DM of Hathars, has been posted as Special Secretary, Stamps and Registration. Amit Pal, Municipal Commissioner of Meerut has been shifted as Vice-Chairman of Prayagraj Development Authority. Mannan Akhtar, Special Secretary, Geology and Mining, has been posted as Special Secretary, Medical Education. Rishi Raj, Chief Development Officer of Ayodhya, goes as Municipal Commissioner of Firozabad. Sanjeev Kumar Maurya, Chief Development Officer of Balrampur goes as Municipal Commissioner of Bareilly. Saurabh Gangwar, Chief Development Officer of Sonbhadra, goes as Municipal Commissioner of Meerut.

Advisory issued as rising Ganga poses flood threats

PNS ■ VARANASI

With the water level of the river Ganga rising speedily due to heavy rains in western UP and Bundelkhand regions and some North Indian states, the district administration has issued an advisory to the people, especially those living in the flood-prone localities.

The heartbeats of the residents of low-lying areas, especially on both sides of river Varuna, have increased once again as the water level of river Ganga continued to rise for the third day here on Saturday. It is the sixth time in this rainy season when such a rising trend is being seen. Just a few back when the water level of the Ganga was close to the warning level of 70.262 metres, many localities in Varuna river side like Saraiyya and Salarpur faced flood, forcing the residents to shift to relief camps. The danger mark of water level of the Ganga is 71.262 metre in Kashi. As the Ganga crosses the 69-metre mark, the river Varuna starts reverse flow from its confluence point near Adi Keshav Ghat in the northern parts of the city.

As per the report of the Middle Ganga Division-III of the Central Water Commission (CWC), at 8 am, the water level of river Ganga was recorded at 68.34 metres. With the water level of the river rising at the rate of 100 mm per hour, during the last 24 hours it had increased by an alarming 2.82 metres, rising from 65.52 metres to 68.34 metres.

Besides, the river was rising right from upstream Phaphamau to downstream Ballia, including Prayagraj, Mirzapur, Varanasi and Ghazipur, where it was rising at the rates of 90, 80, 100 and 150 mm per hour respectively during the day. The water level was also rising by 100 mm per hour at Phaphamau and 50 mm at Ballia.

Issuing the advisory, the district



Ganga water enters Subeh-e-Banaras stage at Assi Ghat in Varanasi on Saturday

administration said that it was fully prepared to deal with the flood. For any kind of problem, help or information related to flood, the residents can contact on the telephone numbers 0542-2508550; 0542-2504170 or 91400371374.

Before the flood situation turns grim, the district administration has appealed to the residents of low-lying areas to identify high places in advance; keep important documents like ration cards, bank passbooks, voter ID cards, Aadhaar cards etc, safely in a waterproof bags; collect food items like biscuits, lai, roasted gram, jaggery, chuda, salt, sugar, sattu etc. as per requirement; keep chlorine, ORS packets and necessary medicines in the first aid kits to prevent diseases, apart from dry grains and fodder for cattle, safely at a high places. The residents should also keep jerrycan, umbrellas, tarpaulin, ropes, air filled tubes, first aid kits, mobile phones and chargers, battery operated radios, torches, emergency lights, matchsticks etc. ready in advance.

To prevent diseases in ani-

mals, get the animals vaccinated on time, the administration advised, appealing to the residents not to stay in dilapidated buildings.

The residents were also advised that as soon as they get flood warning, they should immediately take pregnant women, children, elderly, handicapped and sick people to safe places and leaving the houses, turn off the main switches and regulators and cover the toilet seats with a sack filled with sand. They should not consume water from hand pumps submerged in floods; use boiled or chlorinated water; not consume food items that have come in contact with flood water; arrange safe delivery of pregnant women with the help of ASHA and ANM workers; stay away from electric wires, poles and transformers; check the depth of water with a stick and not try to cross it if they do not know the depth; be cautious of poisonous animals like snakes, scorpions etc. and in case of snake bite, immediately take the victims to the nearest health centres.

Besides, it was also advised that

after the flood, one should not enter houses and structures damaged by flood; not to use damaged electrical equipment or try to cross a damaged bridge or culvert by vehicle.

To prevent epidemics, people have been advised to spray bleaching powder around flood-affected areas and houses and to prevent infectious diseases, collect dead animals and debris at one place and bury them in the ground apart from using mosquito nets while sleeping.

Meanwhile, in the city, the Ganga water has already entered the famous Sheela Mata Mandir at Old Dashashwamedh Ghat forcing the devotees to reach the temple through the water. Most of the 'chowkis' of pandas have been submerged in the water. Dozens of low-lying temples located at internationally famous 84-odd ghats are either submerged in the water fully or partially. The people are facing difficulty in consigning bodies of near and dear ones to the flames at Manikarnika and Harishchandra cremation ghats.

River water submerges Shri Bade Hanuman Temple

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The waters of the Ganga entered the Shri Bade Hanuman temple at Bundwa Sangam late on Friday night, leading to an evocative scene filled with chants of 'Har Har Mahadev', 'Jai Bajrang Bali', and 'Jai Maa Gange'.

Mahant Balbeer Giri conducted rituals and performed the aarti to honour 'Maa Ganga' as the temple began to submerge under the rising waters. Thousands of people gathered to witness the event.

The Ganga's rising waters bathed the Lete Hanuman deity as they reached the temple. Mahant Balbeer Giri Maharaj greeted 'Maa Ganga' at the temple's entrance and conducted Ganga aarti following traditional rituals.

Heavy rains in western Uttar Pradesh and the hills have caused a significant rise in the water levels of the Ganga and Yamuna rivers in Sangam city. The water level in both rivers surged by approximately two metres within 12 hours. Consequently, priests stationed at the ghats have moved their belongings to higher ground near the Lete Hanuman temple, and access to deeper water has been restricted for devotees. The rising water levels are also impacting preparations for the upcoming Maha Kumbh.

Recent rains in Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, western Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand have contributed to the increased water flow into the Ganga and Yamuna.

On Friday morning, the Yamuna's water level in Naini was recorded at 79.35 metres, rising by 1.93 metres to 81.28 metres by 8 pm.

Similarly, the Ganga's water level at Chhatnag Ghat increased from 78.10 metre at 8 am to 80.07 metres by 8 pm. The Irrigation department has reported rapid increases in the water levels of the Yamuna's tributaries, Ken and Betwa, and is closely monitoring the situation. Further rises in water levels are expected in the coming days.

The fluctuating water levels are complicating preparations for the Maha Kumbh. In early August, the Ganga's water level had



Mahant Balbeer Giri worshipped Ma Ganga as per rituals and performed aarti. (Right) Shri Bade Hanuman temple at Bundwa

surged dramatically, submerging the Lete Hanuman once more.

Although water levels had decreased a week later, recent increases have disrupted the Mela Authority's preparations for setting up the tent city and other infrastructure.

Mela officer Vijay Kiran Anand noted that while temporary preparations are complete, ongoing water level rises are hindering the progress of land surveys and other preparatory work.



Maurya: Modi gave new direction to women empowerment

PNS ■ VARANASI

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said that women empowerment got a new direction under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He was addressing the participants online in the last session of the three-day National Livelihood Conclave at Rudraksh Convention Centre (Srigra) here on Saturday. He congratulated the employees of all sections of Uttar Pradesh National Rural Livelihood Mission, SMMU, DMMU, BMMU for the successful conduct of the programme and also praised the dedication of all the managers, organisers, employees of NRLM and the participants from various departments.

While praising the products made by the 'Didis' (sisters), he talked about giving a new position to the quality of the products.

To make India a developed India by 2047, he suggested making livelihood strong and self-reliant. He stressed on focusing on the farming being done by the farmers of the state and the products made, "so that we do not have to depend on other states".

He gave a call to make the 'Didis' stronger and focus more on the quality of the products made by them, so that they could be ready for the Maha Kumbh Mela of 2025 and get a large market.

With these suggestions, Maurya congratulated everyone on Hindi Diwas and wished for the achievement of the goals set by the prime minister. Additional Secretary (Rural Development) Charanjit Singh, while talking about making the products made by the states available in every state through the e-Saras portal, suggested organising such livelihood conferences twice a year.

Joint Mission Director of Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission Janmejaya Shukla thanked the entire team of National Mission Management Unit (NMMU) and honoured all the organisers.

The conclave was held with the initiatives towards the vision-ary goal of the prime minister to make three crore 'Lakshpati Didis' in the coming years. To achieve this goal, the pro-



UP Deputy CM KP Maurya addressing the concluding function of National Livelihood Conclave online in Varanasi on Saturday

gramme focussed on creating a long-term vision for sustainable rural livelihoods of women of self-help groups (SHGs), which are linked with the broader goals of the government.

In addition, the conclave aimed to promote the establishment of 50 unicorn producer organisations with a valuation of \$1 billion or more, integrating 75 lakh women into value growth chains that promote productivity and financial independence. Earlier, Joint Secretary (Rural Development) Swati Sharma addressed gave a presentation about the goals of the conclave and long-term goals such as integrating 75 lakh women into value addition chains. She made the participants aware of the livelihood register of 'Lakshpati Didi' and highlighted the updated progress of the states towards identifying 'Lakshpati Didi' and filling the online livelihood register for them to collect the current level of livelihood of 'Lakshpati Didi'.

National Director Rajeshwari and Deputy Director, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, Raman Wadhwa discussed the challenges, requirements and upcoming roadmap of the business of self-help groups to meet the challenges of this year.

RK Mander is new DM of Prayagraj

Prayagraj (PNS): Jaunpur District Magistrate Ravindra Kumar Mander has been sent to Prayagraj in the same capacity. The transfer of several IAS officers was announced late on Friday night, including the change in the DM of Prayagraj. Mander will now oversee the preparations for the world's largest Maha Kumbh, scheduled to take place on the banks of the Sangam in Prayagraj in a few months.

Mander is known to be a trusted officer of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The outgoing DM, Navneet Singh Chahal, has been shifted to Azamgarh in the same capacity.

Chahal had taken charge of Prayagraj from Agra on September 3, 2023.

Additionally, former vice-chairman of Prayagraj Development Authority Arvind Kumar Chauhan has been appointed as the District Magistrate of Shamli.

Amit Pal, previously the municipal commissioner of Meerut, has been appointed as the new Vice-Chairman of Prayagraj Development Authority.

DNA of Indus Valley also spread in Iran: Prof Shinde

PNS ■ VARANASI

The DNA study of the 4,200-year-old skeleton of Rakhigarhi has made it clear that the biggest genetic component of the people of entire South Asia came from the Indus Valley. Along with this, in the study of skeletons from other places of the world, this component was also found in the people of Shahr-e-Sokta archaeological site of Iran. This gives information about the spread of people of Indus Valley in wide areas.

This groundbreaking information was given by Prof Vasant Shinde (Bhatnagar Fellow and Advisor of Ministry of Port Shipping and Waterways), on the occasion of Hindi Day organised by Hindi Prakashan Samiti at SS Joshi auditorium of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) here on Saturday.

Prof Shinde spoke on the topic 'Contribution of Indian knowledge tradition and origin of Hindu culture'.

He started his talk from the Stone Age and talked about the technology and need behind the manufacture of stone tools of that period. In his speech on the evidence found from the excavation of Mehrgarh, Prof



Bhatnagar Fellow Prof Vasant Shinde delivering a lecture on DNA study at BHU in Varanasi on Saturday

Shinde discussed the discovery of ornaments, utensils, burial grounds, tools of that period. He expressed his views on the evidence of the Indian knowledge system through trade with distant areas.

He further said that the initial evidence of knowledge and science prevalent in the current civilisation and culture was

related to the Indus civilisation. Indus civilisation shows the evidence of the world's largest civilisation spread over two lakh square kilometres. The excavation of Rakhigarhi is still incomplete, and what has been discovered till now is only a brief introduction of this site, more mysteries will be revealed in the future, he

added. Emphasising on the fact that evidence of the world's oldest tandoor has been found from this civilisation, he compared it with modern tandoor technology. Evidence of the world's oldest playground, water conservation is also found from the Indus civilisation. This is the gift of Indus civilisation, which we today call 'English Bond Method', although it was in use thousands of years ago.

Another evidence of the science of that time, the scale of measurement method, is the invaluable contribution of Indus civilisation in the field of mathematics.

Prof Shinde said that the oldest evidence of the tradition of Namaskar in Indian culture was also found from Indus civilisation. He said that Harappan civilisation was the Hindu civilisation, which was existing for the last 9,000 years.

"Indian knowledge tradition is not only useful for India but for the entire world," he said, adding that India and Oman have an old bond. Prof Shinde has been the former vice-chancellor of Deccan College, Pune and the founder director of Maritime Heritage Complex and Museum, Lothal.

Evidence of the world's oldest port has been found from Lothal, the site of Indus civilisation. Prof Shinde is currently actively working in the world class museum being built in Lothal. A book titled 'Kshemkuthalam' written by Dr Daya Shankar Tripathi was also released in the programme.

Science Faculty Director Prof Sanjay Kumar, its head Prof Sukh Mahendra Singh and other prominent teachers of the faculty were present in this programme. Prior to this programme, workshops on science writing in Hindi, speech competition, Hindi poetry recitation were organised in which students of all faculties of the university participated enthusiastically.

Dr Manish Mohan More, Dr Raghav Kumar Mishra, Dr Sameer Gupta, Prof Pratyush Shukla, Dr Dayashankar Tripathi and Dr Rahul Singh played an important role in this workshop. All the department heads were present. The key speaker was introduced by Prof Gyaneshwar Chaube while the programme was conducted by Dr Chandrasekhar Pati Tripathi and the vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Archana Tiwari.

UPCYTOCON-2024 gets underway at IMS-BHU

Varanasi (PNS): The director of the Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (IMS-BHU) Prof SN Sankhwar, inaugurated the two-day UPCYTOCON-2024, the annual conference of Indian Academy of Cytologists (UP chapter) in BHU here on Saturday.

He said cytopathology was a diagnostic technique in which the cytopathologist examines cells extracted from tissues or fluids and makes a diagnosis by examining these cells under a microscope.

More than 200 doctors from all over the country attended the conference and were able to interact with the guest faculties from premiere institutes of India, present their research and get updated with the latest developments in cytopathology. Prof Bharat Rekhi (TMH Mumbai) was awarded the prestigious Prof PK Agarwal Oration. Prof Nalini Gupta gave a stellar lecture highlighting the role of FNAC in thyroid lesions. Prof Nuzhat Husain in her lecture addressed one of the

most common types of cancers in females - cervical cancer. Prof RN Rao gave insights on diagnosis of rare breast lesions. Prof Neelaaiah Siddaraju, in his speech, updated the doctors about the diagnostic technique and interpretation of endoscopic ultrasound guided FNAC of pancreaticobiliary lesions.

WORKSHOP

The two-day national meet-cum-workshop on implementation of Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) organised by the Faculty of Education, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), concluded here on Saturday.

The second day saw productive discussions and deliberations aimed at refining the integrated BEd programmes. The event, coordinated by Prof Sunil Kumar Singh, Prof Madhu Kushwaha, Dr Alok Gardia, Dr Lalita Prasad and Dr Somu Singh brought together a diverse group of academicians and experts in the field.

7-foot python found inside car engine

Prayagraj (PNS): A 7-foot-long python was discovered inside a car in Prayagraj on Saturday. The python was found hidden in the car's engine compartment.

When the mechanic opened the bonnet, he was startled to find the python resting inside the engine. He immediately alerted the car owner.

The incident occurred in the Civil Lines area near Hotel Ajay International, where several garages are located. The car, a Scorpio, had been brought in for an air-conditioning repair. Mechanic Imran, who was assigned to the car, was shocked to find the python and ran away, shouting loudly. This attracted a crowd, although people initially hesitated to approach due to fear. Once they observed that the python was calmly resting, they began filming the scene. Imran promptly contacted emergency services by dialling 112. A rescue team arrived at the scene and removed the python.

Hindi Week kicks off at IFFCO

Prayagraj (PNS): Hindi Week was inaugurated at the training centre auditorium at IFFCO, Phulpur unit on Saturday. Senior executive director (unit head) Sanjay Kudesia emphasised the importance of not only celebrating Hindi Diwas but also integrating Hindi into daily life.

He highlighted the need to take pride in mother tongue and to promote its use. This year's theme focuses on connecting the significance and utility of Hindi with artificial intelligence.

Hindi Working Committee coordinator Anil Kumar Gupta said efforts should be made to develop Hindi into a global language. The event featured essay and quiz competitions, which saw participation from numerous IFFCO employees. The programme was conducted by Hemlata Sijoria, and the vote of thanks was delivered by PRO and IFFCO Officers Association general secretary Swayam Prakash.

The event was attended by general managers Sanjay Vaish, MD Mishra and Sanjay Bhandari; joint general managers Ratnesh Kumar,



Arvendra Kumar and SK Singh; HR head Shambhu Shekhar, president of IFFCO Officers Association Anurag Tiwari, general secretary of IFFCO Employees Sangh Vijay Kumar Yadav and a large number of IFFCO officers and employees.

MOTIVATIONAL TALK

The Central Library of Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHUATS) recently hosted a Hindi motivational talk as part of the ongoing Hindi Pakhwada. The event highlighted the library's dedication to the holistic development of its patrons. Librarian Christopher Sudhir George underscored the

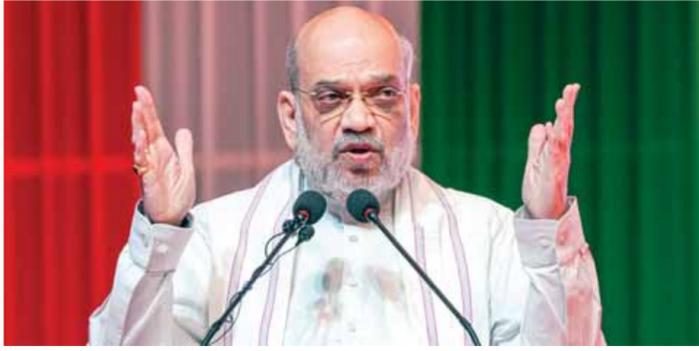
library's commitment and introduced the guest speaker, Dr Sugriv Singh, librarian and counsellor at the Model Career Center, University of Allahabad.

Singh delivered an inspiring talk, encouraging students to direct their thoughts positively and capitalise on opportunities as they arise. The talk also featured contributions from Shweta Chaurasia, Navneet Hambroane, Leena John, and Rekha Patel, who shared their insights and experiences. Christopher Sudhir George recited the renowned Hindi poem 'Nar Ho, Na Nirash Karo Man Ko' by Maithili Sharan Gupt, further inspiring attendees with its powerful message.

Hindi, other Indian languages are friends: Shah PM to visit three states to inaugurate various projects

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

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

The home minister said the Hindi Diwas is an occasion to take a pledge to make Hindi a communication language, a common language, a technical language and now an international language.

Gujarati, Marathi, Telugu, Malayalam, Tamil or Bangla, every language strengthens Hindi and Hindi strengthens every language," he said. Shah said if the Hindi movement is looked at carefully whether it is Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Lala Lajpat Rai, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose or Acharya J B Kriplani, all of them hailed from the non-Hindi speaking areas.

He said the committee formed under the leadership of N Gopalaswamy Ayyangar and K M Munshi had presented a report to the Constituent Assembly to recognise Hindi as the official language and give strength to Hindi and all other languages.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

road under-bridges (RUBs) will also be dedicated to the nation. The Prime Minister will flag off six Vande Bharat trains. These trains will improve the connectivity on the Tatanagar-Patna, Bhagalpur-Dumka-Howrah, Brahmapur-Tatanagar, Gaya-Howrah, Deogarh-Varanasi and Rourkela-Howrah routes.



PM welcomes a calf, 'Deepjyoti' at his house

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

The calf at his residence. "It is said in our scriptures - 'Gaavh Sarvasukh Pradaah'. A new member has auspiciously arrived at the Prime Minister's residence premises at Lok Kalyan Marg."

"A new member at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg! Deepjyoti is truly adorable," he said in another post. The prime minister also shared photographs in which he is spending time with the calf at his residence.

Onion prices drop amid Government intervention

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

It has already commenced in Delhi, Mumbai, and Chennai, with plans to extend to Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Kolkata and eventually all state capitals. A dual transportation strategy involving both road and rail networks is being implemented to improve logistics efficiency and reduce post-harvest losses.

No floor price for basmati rice, onion exports

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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



rice which will enable the farmers producing Basmati rice to earn more profits by exporting it. "Also, the Modi government has decided to increase the import duty on crude palm, soya and sunflower oils from 12.5 per cent to 32.5 per cent and the duty on their refined oils from 13.75 per cent to 35.75 per cent. This will help India's soyabean farmers get better prices for their crop and increase their income," he said.

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

Shahi calls for increased agricultural innovation



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

"Technology is the cornerstone of agricultural prosperity. With UP contributing a third of the nation's wheat production, we aim to establish a seed park and a common resource center for advanced research, in line with PM Modi's vision for a Viksit Bharat," said Shahi.

He also announced the creation of a state-of-the-art seed park in Lucknow, which will span 200 acres and focus on providing farmers with high-quality, climate-resilient seed varieties.

PM in Doda: Terror...

From Page 1

PM Modi referred to the changing situation in Jammu and Kashmir in recent years and said that terrorism is at its last breath in Jammu and Kashmir and pointed to the changing scenario of stone pelting incidents and said that the time has arrived for the development of the region.

last. The changes seen here in the last 10 years are nothing short of a dream. The stones that were once picked up to be thrown at the police and army are now being used to build a new Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

few years, the BJP Government has inaugurated various schools and colleges in J&K for the betterment of the youth. The long-standing demand for a medical college in Doda was also fulfilled recently by the BJP Government," he said.

citizen of Jammu and Kashmir, regardless of his religion, region and cultural affiliation, is a priority for the BJP government. I guarantee to safeguard your rights. It's only the BJP that can reinforce statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

behind the boards of "mohabbat ki dukaan" (shops of love). "Congress, PDP and NC want to restore Article 370. That would mean that the three families will once again snatch the reservation of the Pahadis. If their manifestos are implemented, the schools will once again be burnt, children will have stones in their hands, and there will be strikes. They talk about the Constitution. Ye nafrat ki dukaan pe mohabbat ki dukaan ka board laga kar ke ghumte hai," he said.

Activists demand disability, transgender rights in medical curriculum

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing concerns over the exclusion of key provisions from the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPDA), 2016, and the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act (TPA), 2019, in the National Medical Commission's revised Competency-Based Medical Education (CBME) Curriculum, activists in the sector have sought intervention of Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar in the matter.



marginalized groups. They pointed out that it was outdated and in contradiction with Supreme Court judgments and previous guidelines.

Although the revised curriculum was re-released, the activists said they were disheartened as it has failed to reintegrate essential disability competencies and address transgender health issues adequately.

tional curricula for medical professionals, and the omission of these competencies undermines India's commitment to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 10), which aim to reduce inequality. It also emphasises the importance of addressing transgender-specific health issues as required by the TPA, 2019, including the creation of a health manual for sex reassignment surgeries.

Ukraine renews calls on West to approve long-range strikes on Russian territory

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine made a new call Saturday on the West to allow it to strike deeper into Russia after a meeting between US and British leaders a day earlier produced no visible shift in their policy on the use of long-range weapons. "Russian terror begins at weapons depots, airfields, and military bases inside the Russian Federation," Ukrainian presidential adviser Andriy Yermak said Saturday. "Permission to strike deep into Russia will speed up the solution."

The renewed appeal came as Kyiv said Russia launched more drone and artillery attacks into Ukraine overnight. Ukrainian officials have repeatedly called on allies to greenlight the use of Western-provided long-range weapons to strike targets deep inside Russian territory. So far, the US has allowed Kyiv to use American-provided weapons only in a limited area inside Russia's border with Ukraine. Discussions on allowing long-range strikes were believed to be on the table when US President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer met in Washington DC Friday but, no decision was announced immediately after the meeting. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has been pressing the US and other allies to allow his forces to use Western weapons to target air bases and launch sites further afield as Russia has stepped up assaults on

Ukraine's electricity grid and utilities before winter. He did not directly comment on the meeting Saturday morning, but said that more than 70 Russian drones had been launched into Ukraine overnight. The Ukrainian air force later said that 76 Russian drones had been sighted, of which 72 were shot down. "We need to boost our air defence and long-range capabilities to protect our people," Zelenskyy wrote on social media. "We are working on this with all of Ukraine's partners." Other overnight attacks saw one person killed by Russian artillery fire as energy infrastructure was targeted in Ukraine's Sumy region. A 54-year-old driver was killed and seven more people were hos-

pitalised, Ukraine's Ministry of Energy said. A KAB aerial bomb also fell on a garage complex in the eastern city of Kharkiv, said regional Gov. Ihor Terekhov. No injuries were reported. Meanwhile, officials in Moscow have continued to make public statements warning that long-range strikes would provoke further escalation between Russia and the West. The remarks are in line with the narrative the Kremlin has promoted since early in the war, accusing NATO countries of de-facto participation in the conflict and threatening a response. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told state news agency TASS Saturday that the US and British governments were

pushing the conflict, which began when Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, toward "poorly controlled escalation". Similar comments of Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday, where he said that allowing long-range strikes "would mean that NATO countries, the United States and European countries, are at war with Russia," were brushed off by Biden Friday. Asked what he thought about Putin's threat, Biden answered, "I don't think much about Vladimir Putin." Elsewhere, Russia's Defence Ministry said that 19 Ukrainian drones had been shot down over the country's Kursk and Belgorod regions. No casualties were reported.

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pak govt to table judicial reforms in Parl soon

The Pakistan government is preparing to roll out a comprehensive judicial reforms package in Parliament amid speculation about legislation to extend the retirement age of superior court judges, according to a media report on Saturday. With at least 22 amendments on the docket, these changes are set to overhaul the justice system and revamp the process of appointing the chief justice of the Supreme Court, The Express Tribune newspaper reported, quoting sources. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)-led government has plans to introduce these reforms as early as Sunday, according to the report.

The proposal's centrepiece is introducing a new appointment process for the chief justice. Under the proposed changes, the parliamentary committee and judicial commission could be merged. Instead of automatically appointing the senior-most judge, a panel of five senior judges would be sent to the prime minister, who would have the final say. The government believes the current practice of appointing the senior-most judge encourages lobbying within the judiciary, allowing the Chief Justice to manipulate the seniority list to favour his preferred successors. By giving this decision-making power to the prime minister, the government hopes to curb internal politicking within the judiciary.

The reform package also includes a proposal to allow transfers of judges from one high court to another, a move that would increase flexibility within the judicial system. However, one key issue raising the retirement age of judges remains a bone of contention, with no agreement reached as of yet. Despite some disagreements, all coalition parties are reportedly in agreement on the core judicial reforms. In a recent statement, right-wing Islamic leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) indicated that if a reform package on judicial matters is presented, it will be carefully considered. Sources indicate that the government is keeping its cards close to its chest. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has discussed the package with a tight circle, including senior Pakistan Peoples Party leadership, but the rest of the coalition has yet to receive a full briefing.

Successful satellite launch by Tehran

AP ■ TEHRAN

Iran launched a satellite into space Saturday with a rocket built by the country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, state-run media reported, the latest for a programme the West fears helps Tehran advance its ballistic missile programme. Iran described the launch as a success, which would be the second such launch to put a satellite into orbit with the rocket. There was no immediate independent confirmation of the launch's success, nor did Iranian authorities immediately provide footage or other details.



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer (right) and Foreign Secretary David Lammy, second right, during a meeting with US President Joe Biden (centre left) in the Blue Room at the White House in Washington. AP/PTI

Imran booked for inciting govt officials to mutiny: Report

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's top investigating agency has registered a case against jailed former prime minister Imran Khan for allegedly inciting government officials to mutiny through his social media posts, according to a media report. A Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) team comprising investigation and technical officers visited the Adiala Jail to question Khan, the founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, in connection with a controversial post on his official X account. A case has been reg-

istered against Khan by the FIA for inciting government officials to mutiny, the Dawn newspaper said citing sources. The FIA personnel returned empty-handed after Khan, 71, insisted that he would not join the interrogation without the presence of his lawyers. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar in a statement earlier said the FIA would probe into the handling of the PTI founder's social media accounts, which were being used allegedly to "create chaos and anarchy" in the country, and "undermining the national security".

Tarar said it would be ascertained who was the handler of his social media accounts, and whether such posts were being made at his behest or it was done on directives of someone else. He said a botched attempt had been made to conspire against the sitting chief justice and heads of other institutions. Through these posts, he tried to mobilise the people against two major state institutions. His acts were highly condemnable, Tarar said. Khan, who has been incarcerated at the Adiala Jail since last year, has often criticised the powerful establishment through his longish posts on X.

Pak NA speaker declares Parliament Lodges as sub-jail for arrested lawmakers of Imran's party

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

The speaker of Pakistan's national assembly has declared the Parliament Lodges here as sub-jail for jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party's lawmakers who were arrested under the Anti-Terrorism Act and newly imposed Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Act 2024. On the other hand, Dawn News reported that the Islamabad High Court set aside the physical remand of the 10 arrested PTI lawmakers and sent them to jail on

judicial remand. "I am directed to refer to the production order issued on September 11 by the national assembly speaker with respect to the 10 PTI lawmakers arrested recently to enable them to attend the sitting of 9th Session of National Assembly... The speaker has been pleased to declare the Parliament Lodges in Islamabad as sub-jail for their custody after each assembly sitting," a National Assembly Secretariat official said in a letter to the secretary of the Interior Ministry on Friday. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

(PTI) lawmakers who were arrested on different charges following the party's public gathering at Sangjani were Sher Afzal Khan, Malik Mohammad Amir Dogar, Mohammad Ahmed Chhattha, Makhdoon Zain Hussain Qureshi, Waqas Akram, Zubair Khan Wazir, Awaish Haider Jakhar, Syed Shah Ahad Ali Shah, Nasim Ali Shah, and Yousaf Khan. Police officials said the MNAs were detained at the suites allocated to them at the Parliament Lodges. These MNAs were arrested in connection with cases regis-

tered at Sangjani and Noon police stations under several charges, the officials said. There are no special arrangements and no deployment in and outside the sub-jails as police were already present there, the officials said, adding that services of the available police officers were being utilised. They said that under the written directives of the speaker issued to the interior secretary, the suites were declared sub-jail, and so far any necessary notification in this regard was yet to be issued from the capital administration or police.

Sunita Williams, Butch Wilmore plan to vote in US election from space

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Stranded on the International Space Station through February, NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore plan to vote in the November 5 US presidential election from space. "It's a very important duty that we have as citizens and (I am) looking forward to being able to vote from space, which is pretty cool," Williams, who is of Indian origin, said on a call with reporters on Friday afternoon. Williams, 58, and Wilmore, 61, participated in a press conference on Friday from the International Space Station (ISS), which has been their home since June. Their Boeing Starliner spacecraft ran into several problems midflight and could not bring them home from a planned 8-

day voyage. "I sent down my request for a ballot today," Wilmore said. "It's a very important role that we play as citizens including those elections, and NASA makes it very easy for us to do that," he said. They, however, did not indicate which presidential candidate — either former President Donald Trump or Vice President Kamala Harris — would get their vote. American astronauts have been voting from space since 1997 when the Texas legislature passed a bill allowing NASA employees to vote from space, New York Post reported. That year, NASA astronaut David Wolf became the first American to vote from space on the Mir Space Station. In 2020, NASA astronaut Kate Rubins also performed her civic duty from space on the

ISS. Election officials in Harris County, Texas — where NASA's Johnson Space Station is located — told NBC News that they work with NASA to send astronauts a PDF with clickable boxes to make their choices. The PDF is password-protected to ensure a secret ballot. Friday's press conference came exactly one week after the Starliner returned to Earth — without its crew — to make room on the space station for SpaceX's Crew Dragon, which is now due to bring the two astronauts home in February. Williams and Wilmore are living on the ISS with seven other astronauts. They said they feel "grateful" to spend more time in space, despite difficulties. When asked if it was difficult to see the Starliner leave without them, Williams said they were tasked with ensuring it left

the ISS safely. "We were watching our spaceship fly away," she said. Williams said she and Wilmore used to work in the Navy, they are "not surprised when deployments get changed". "It's risky and that's how it goes in the business," she said. When asked if they feel let down by NASA and Boeing, Butch said, "Absolutely not." Pointing to Williams' t-shirt with a NASA logo, he said: "That represents something that we stand for as an agency — we go beyond, we do things that are out of the ordinary." "This is not easy," he added. He said that 90 per cent of their astronaut training is about preparing for "the unexpected". Williams, who has just been named the commander of the International Space Station, said she was in good spirits.

Trump calls Loomer a 'free spirit' after her remarks against Harris

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Donald Trump has defended his ties with Laura Loomer, who has drawn fire from some of his Republican allies for embracing conspiracy theories and making racist comments, including against Kamala Harris. "Laura has been a supporter of mine. Just like a lot of people are supporters, and she's been a supporter of mine. She speaks very positively of the campaign," Trump, the former president, said on Friday at a news conference in Southern California. He was responding to a question from a reporter about his allies expressing concern about his close relationship with Loomer in recent days. "I don't control Laura. Laura — she's a free spirit. Well, I don't know. I mean, look, I can't tell

Laura what to do," Trump said. "She is a strong person, she's got strong opinions, and I don't know what she said, but that's not up to me," he added. Several of Loomer's posts on social media this week came under fire, including one where she nodded to a conspiracy theory about the 9/11 attacks. "23 years later, and there's still a lot of unanswered questions," Loomer posted on Friday, alongside a video of Trump in 2001 questioning whether airplanes could cause explosions like the ones that happened at the Twin Towers on 9/11, Loomer wrote. Loomer, often seen as a right-wing conspiracy theorist, in another post on Sunday, said the "White House will smell like curry & White House speeches will be facilitated via a call centre" if Harris wins the November 5 presidential elec-

tion. Harris, a Democrat, will take on Trump in the November election. NBC News asked Trump whether he'd been informed of Loomer's conspiracy theories. "I don't know that much about it. No, I don't," he said, adding, "I know she's a big fan of the campaign, but I really don't know." Trump later sought to distance himself from Loomer's statements, though without specifying which ones. In a Truth Social post, Trump said that Loomer "doesn't work for the Campaign. She's a private citizen and longtime supporter." Even in that post, Trump defended Loomer and said: "Like the many millions of people who support me, she is tired of watching the Radical Left Marxists and Fascists violently attack and smear me."

Israel strikes Gaza as friends, family of slain Turkish-American activist prepare for funeral

AP ■ DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA)

Israeli airstrikes hit central and southern Gaza overnight into Saturday, killing at least 14 people as the friends and family members of a Turkish-American activist killed by an Israeli soldier prepared to honour her in a funeral. The airstrikes in Gaza City hit

one home housing 11 people, including three women and four children, and another strike hit a tent in Khan Younis housing Palestinians displaced by the Israel-Hamas war, Gaza's Civil Defence said on Saturday. They followed airstrikes earlier this week that hit a tent camp on Tuesday and a United Nations school housing dis-

placed people on Wednesday. They hit as a campaign to inoculate children in Gaza against polio dived down and the World Health Organisation said about 560,000 under 10 have recovered from their first dose, seven out of every eight children the campaign aimed to vaccinate. The second doses are expect-

ed to begin later this month as part of an effort for which the WHO said parties had already agreed to. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus described the campaign as "a massive success amidst a tragic daily reality of life" in a post on X on Friday. Meanwhile, the body of Aysenur Ezgi Eygi, the Turkish-

American activist killed September 6 by an Israeli soldier, was returned to her hometown late Friday accompanied by a police honour guard, the official Turkish news agency reported. Draped in a Turkish flag, the coffin carrying her remains was carried from a hearse to a hospital in Didim by six officers

in ceremonial uniform. Her funeral is due to be held in the coastal town in western Turkey later Saturday. The 26-year-old activist from Seattle, who held United States and Turkish citizenship, was killed after a demonstration against Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, according to an Israeli protester who wit-

nessed the shooting. The Israeli military said on Tuesday that Eygi was likely shot "indirectly and unintentionally" by Israeli forces. Turkey announced it will conduct its own investigation into her death. Anadolu Agency reported her body arrived in Didim after an autopsy at the Izmir Forensic

Medicine Institute. As Eygi's family watched the coffin being unloaded, her mother had to be helped by medics, the agency said. Her death earned condemnation from US Secretary of State Antony Blinken as the United States, Egypt and Qatar push for a cease-fire and the release of the hostages.

Harmanpreet brace hands India 2-1 win over Pakistan in ACT hockey

PTI ■ HULUNBUIR (CHINA)

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

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



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

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

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



PTI ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ DUBAI

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

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



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

Sable finishes ninth in his maiden Diamond League final

PTI ■ BRUSSELS

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



athletes ranked higher than him — Lamecha Girma (injured) of Ethiopia, Geordie Beamish of New Zealand, Ryuji Mura of Japan and Hillary Bor of the USA — pulled out, allowing him to sneak inside the top 10 cut-off. Five meetings out of the 14 in the DL series across the world this season had men's 3000m steeplechase event. Reigning Asian Games

champion Sable had finished sixth with a national record time of 8:09.91 -- bettering his own earlier mark -- in the Paris leg of the Diamond League on July 7. He was 14th at the Silesia leg with a time of 8:29.96 on August 25. Each Diamond League season finale champion is awarded a 'Diamond Trophy', USD 30,000 prize money and a wild card for the World Athletics Championships.



Indian men outwit Hungary B; women go past Switzerland

PTI ■ BUDAPEST (HUNGARY)

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

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

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

AP ■ WASHINGTON

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

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



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

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

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



MUSKURAYE JANAAB, AAP LUCKNOW MEIN HAIN!

A CELEBRATION OF RICH TRADITIONS AND FLAVOURS



The Lakhnawi Dastarkhwan at Crowne Plaza Mayur Vihar offered an immersive journey into Lucknow's rich culinary and cultural heritage, recreating iconic locations and combining traditional dishes with cultural elements for an authentic experience, writes **SAKSHI PRIYA**

The Lakhnawi Dastarkhwan Food Festival at Crowne Plaza Mayur Vihar was nothing short of a culinary journey, expertly designed to transport visitors straight to the heart of Lucknow. What made this event truly exceptional was how it went beyond merely serving food, it embraced the cultural depth of Lucknow, bringing together flavours, ambiance and tradition in an immersive way.

AN AUTHENTIC LAKHNAWI EXPERIENCE

Upon entering the festival, guests found themselves amidst a scene straight out of Lucknow. The ambiance meticulously recreated iconic locations like Hazratganj Chowk, the Qaisar Bagh Palace and Aminabad's bustling food streets. Visitors could not help but feel like they had stepped back in time, transported to the regal and storied city, complete with a charming vintage single-screen theater that paid homage to Lucknow's cinematic legacy.

A FEAST OF FLAVOURS

At the heart of the festival lay a menu that was a tribute to Lucknow's culinary richness. Diners were

treated to signature dishes like Galouti Kebabs, which melted in the mouth with the perfect blend of spices. Accompanied by Awadhi classics such as Murgh Awadhi Qorma, Gosht Nalli Qorma and Aloo Bukhara Kofta, each bite celebrated the deep flavours and heritage of the Nawabs.

But it wasn't just the dishes that stole the show, traditional breads like Sheermal, Warqi Parantha and Ulta Tawa Parantha provided the perfect pairings. Especially intriguing were the varieties of rotis: the Biscotti Roti, with its biscuit-like texture; Bakarkhani Roti, thick and rich and the sweet Khandari Roti, each adding a unique twist to the meal.

Street food lovers weren't left out either, as the festival brought Lucknow's bustling bazaars to life with delicious snacks like Tokri Chaat, Aloo Tikki and Pani Ke Bataashe, offering a taste of the city's vibrant food markets right in the heart of Delhi. And to wrap up the feast, guests indulged in traditional sweets like Shahi Tukda, Badnam Kulfi, Malai Gilauri and hot Jalebis, offering a delightful sweet ending to an unforgettable culinary journey.

The Lakhnawi Dastarkhwan



festival was a rich exploration of Lucknow's culinary and cultural heritage. Guests enjoyed melt-in-your-mouth Galouti Kebabs and relished main courses like Arvi Ki Nematli, Ameer Handi Lazeez, Chingri Shabnam and the iconic Shahi Biryani. The drinks menu added a playful twist, with Chulbuli Begum offering a tangy, bold flair, Lalla Ki Lemonade serving as a refreshing burst of tradition and Pyaar Ka Panchnama presenting a sweet, rosy charm. Nawab Ka Ghoonghat brought a minty, spicy surprise reminiscent of Nawabi secrets, while Aangan Ki Chai provided the comforting warmth of a Lucknowi home. Together, the food and drinks created a truly immersive experience, making guests feel as though they had stepped right into the heart of Lucknow.



The festival's theme, "Mezban Kadardan Khansam," was a nod to Lucknow's Nawabi culture, Mezban represented the gracious hosts, Kadardan symbolised those who appreciate the art of food and Khansam honoured the master chefs of Lucknow. Executive Chef Roushan Sharma, who curated the menu, fondly shared his childhood memories of Lucknow and the intricate process of perfecting dishes like the Galouti Kebab.

A TASTE OF LUCKNOW'S CULTURE

But the Lakhnawi Dastarkhwan festival went beyond just serving exquisite food, it truly immersed guests in the vibrant culture of Lucknow. As they entered, they were warmly greeted by a traditional Paan counter, where the sweet meetha paan quickly became a favourite, setting a delightful tone for the evening. Nearby, a Pandit Ji added a touch of



authenticity with complimentary hand readings and astrological insights, offering a unique and engaging experience for those curious about their fortunes. A Bollywood cinema corner, featuring posters from films shot in Lucknow, brought a touch of nostalgia, evoking the spirit of the city's cinematic history.

The festival also featured colourful stalls bursting with jhumkas and bangles, perfectly recreating the bustling shopping streets of Lucknow. These vibrant displays contributed to a rich, immersive atmosphere that made guests feel as though they had been transported directly to the heart of the city. Adding to the charm, a vintage letterbox that echoed Lucknow's postal history provided a nostalgic touch, making the event not only entertaining but also deeply memorable. Each thoughtfully curated detail helped create an experience that celebrated the essence of Lucknow's culture, making it a truly unforgettable evening.

In wrapping up, the Lakhnawi Dastarkhwan Food Festival at Crowne Plaza Mayur Vihar was a delightful dive into Lucknow's heart and soul. The festival was more than just a feast - it was a warm, immersive experience that captured the spirit of Lucknow perfectly. If you missed it, don't worry, keep an eye out for the next one. It's definitely worth the experience!

NEW OFFERINGS

OPHELIA LAUNCHES BOLD TURKISH MENU

Ophelia, located in The Ashok Hotel, Delhi, introduces an exciting Turkish-inspired menu that merges traditional flavors with modern flair. As a member of the esteemed Campbell India family, Ophelia is celebrated for its elegance and culinary expertise. The new menu, crafted in collaboration with renowned Turkish chef Mehmet Emin Yalcin, features highlights like Turkish Potato and Mezze Platter, Lamb Nazik Kebab, and Turkish Garlic Roast Chicken. Complementing the dishes are signature cocktails by Head Mixologist Avesh Negi. Ophelia's vibrant Turkish decor and immersive experiences make it a must-visit for food enthusiasts.

Location: Ophelia, Hotel Ashok, 50-B, Diplomatic Enclave, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, Delhi 110021
Timings: 12:30 PM to 1 AM



GUPPY'S 11TH BIRTHDAY: SPECIAL MENU & FESTIVE FUN!

Join Guppy, part of the Olive Group, as it marks its 11th anniversary with a vibrant celebration of Japanese culinary artistry. Enjoy a special birthday menu curated by Head Chef Saurabh Sharan, featuring fresh, inventive dishes. Toast with unique dessert cocktails crafted by Nishant K Gaurav. Celebrate with fun

activities, including live music, a tarot card session, DIY sushi kits, and a Japanese pottery workshop. The little Japanese haven is offering a flat 25% off and a bottle of wine if the number '11' is in the birthdate or birth month of the guest! Discover why Guppy remains a beloved culinary gem!

Dates: August 19 - September 30, 2024
Address: 28, Main Market, Lodhi Colony, New Delhi
TIMINGS:
Lunch: 12 PM - 4 PM
Dinner: 6 PM - 12 AM
Price for Two: INR 3000 (without alcohol), INR 5000 (with alcohol)
Reservation: 011 24690005 / 6, +91 9650185005

Date: September 13, 2024 - September 30, 2024
Time: 6 PM onwards
Venue: A29/5, DLF Phase 1, Gurugram, Haryana 122002



EXHIBITION: BEYOND THE SURFACE

Beyond the Surface : A Journey Through Form and Abstraction invites viewers to explore the intersection of form and abstraction in contemporary art. This exhibition features the works of Vinod Daroz, Somu Desai, Himanshu Joshi, Tapas Biswas, Gaurishankar Soni, and Bhuwal Prasad, each pushing the boundaries of their media. From ceramic interpretations of



Bumrah to Promote Healthy Snacking



PHOTO: PANKAJ KUMAR

TEAM VIVA

Indian cricket star Jasprit Bumrah joins hands with American Pistachio Growers for the 2024-25 season. The partnership aims to highlight the nutritional benefits of pistachios, aligning Bumrah's focus on fitness. Jasprit Bumrah, the celebrated Indian fast bowler, has been announced as the new brand ambassador for American Pistachios Growers (APG) for the 2024-25 season. This collaboration highlights a focus on healthy snacking, aligning Bumrah's athletic achievements with the nutri-

tional benefits of California-grown pistachios. Bumrah, known for his precision and fitness on the cricket field, will now represent a snack rich in protein and healthy fats. Speaking about the partnership, Bumrah shared, "I'm pleased to work with American Pistachio Growers. As an athlete, good nutrition is key to maintaining performance, and pistachios offer an ideal balance of protein and healthy fats. They've become my go-to snack to stay at my best." The association between Bumrah and American pistachios underscores a shared commitment to promoting a

healthy lifestyle. Sumit Saran from APG remarked, "India is an important market for American pistachios, and with Jasprit Bumrah as our ambassador, we aim to raise awareness about their nutritional benefits among health-conscious consumers." This collaboration is expected to boost the popularity of pistachios as a nutritious snack option for both fitness enthusiasts and cricket fans. Dr. Siddhant Bhargava, a nutrition expert, also emphasized the value of pistachios, stating, "American pistachios are rich in antioxidants, protein, and

essential fats, making them a great choice for muscle recovery and overall health. They can support optimal performance, which is especially important for athletes like Bumrah." With American pistachios now readily available through major e-commerce platforms and retailers across India, this partnership arrives at an opportune time. Whether you're enjoying a match or simply looking for a healthy snack, pistachios offer a nutritious option that aligns with Bumrah's approach to fitness and well-being.

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the pioneer agenda

"Despite hanging up my racing wheels over a decade ago, I still get a buzz when we enter an Olympic and Paralympic year"
— Tanni Grey-Thompson



PARIS PARALYMPICS

PARA ATHLETES BASK IN GLORY AND GOLD

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

The Paris 2024 Paralympics will go down as one of the most celebrated sporting moments in India's history. The Indian contingent's extraordinary performances were not just a display of athletic prowess but also a powerful reminder of human resilience, willpower, and the ability to triumph against all odds. From setting new records to inspiring millions, the Indian athletes left a remarkable imprint on the global stage.

India's Paralympians wasted no time in making their presence felt at Paris 2024. In 12 days of competition India registered 29 medals includes 7 gold, 9 silver, and 13 bronze. India's medal count marked significant landmark and breakthroughs in Indian history of Paralympics.

India's first medal in the Paralympics came in the 1972 Games, with Murlikant Petkar winning a gold medal in swimming. Up to the recent 2024 Games, India have won 60 medals across all Paralympic Games, with the most successful Paralympic campaign being the Paris 2024 Games with 29 medals.

Shooting has traditionally been one of India's strong suits in both the Olympic and Paralympic arenas. In Paris, India's para-shooters continued their stellar run from previous Games. Avani Lekhara, a name that had already become synonymous with Indian Paralympic shooting, won gold in the women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 category. Avani's calm demeanor and laser-focused concentration were on full display as she once again climbed to the top of the podium. This win made her a two-time Paralympic champion and reinforced her place among the world's elite shooters.

India's shooting success didn't end there. Manish Narwal, competing in the men's 10m air SH1 pistol event, clinched silver, narrowly missing out on gold. His performance was another testament to India's dominance in precision sports, along with Rubina Francis in the same women's 10m air pistol category clinched bronze in shooting.

India witnessed some historic milestone in the paralympics event, For the first time India won 17 medals in athletics, with Dharambir winning gold and Pranav Soorma taking silver in the men's club throw F51 event. Dharambir also established a new Asian record of 34.92 metres. Later, Praveen Kumar set an Asian record by winning the high jump T64 championship, giving India its sixth gold medal at the Paralympics. Mariyappan Thangavelu became the first Indian to win medals at three successive Paralympic Games when he won a bronze in the T42 high jump event. He took home silver in Tokyo 2020 and gold in Rio 2016. With a personal best time, Preethi Pal won bronze in the women's 100-meter T35 competition. It was the first-ever medal for India in a Paralympic track event. Being the only athlete from India to win two medals at the Games, her bronze in the 200m made her the most successful competitor. India finished the



Paris 2024 track season with four medals overall. Among them was Deepthi Jeevanji, who won a bronze in the women's 400m T20 class to become the first intellectually disabled Indian athlete to earn a Paralympic medal. In archery, records were also broken. In the ranking round, armless archer Sheetal Devi in short time broke the world record before coming in second. However, she later joined up with Rakesh Kumar to win the compound mixed team qualifying event with a world record score. Together with Rakesh, Sheetal, at just 17 years old, won bronze in the mixed team event to become the youngest medalist from India ever. Eventually, Harvinder Singh became the first-ever Paralympic

archery champion for India. Another athlete who made headlines was Sumit Antil, the javelin thrower who had previously set a world record in Tokyo 2020. In Paris, Sumit not only defended his title but also shattered his own record, throwing an unbelievable 70 meters in the F64 category. His performance earned him his second consecutive Paralympic gold, establishing him as a global force in the sport.

Delhi boy Navdeep Singh genetically short in height 4ft tall



“ DELHI BOY NAVDEEP SINGH GENETICALLY SHORT IN HEIGHT 4FT TALL (DWARFISM) NAVDEEP WHO HAILS FROM HARYANA EMPLOYED AS INSPECTOR IN THE INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT. THE 23 YEAR OLD WON A HISTORIC GOLD IN DAY BEFORE THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF PARIS PARALYMPICS. FROM BEING BULLIED TO NATIONAL CHAMPION AT F41 JAVELIN THROW EVENT WHICH WAS A ASTONISHING TURN OF EVENT BEFORE THE PODIUM AFTER HE WAS CONFIRMED TO SILVER MEDAL HIS IRANIAN COMPETITOR GOT DISQUALIFIED BEFORE HIS THROW WHICH AUTOMATICALLY UPGRADED HIM TO GOLD MEDAL. ”

(Dwarfism) Navdeep who hails from Haryana employed as Inspector in the Income Tax Department. The 23 year old won a historic gold in day before the closing ceremony of Paris Paralympics. From being bullied to national champion at F41 Javelin throw event which was a astonishing turn of event before the podium after he was awarded to silver medal his Iranian competitor got disqualified before his throw which automatically upgraded him to gold medal. There are ups and downs, there are also descents, Suyash Jadhav, (Asian para games gold medalist) in the men's 50m butterfly (S7) fell short in the competition finished fifth in Heat 1 with time 33.47 although he didn't qualify for final but his fight against the strong contenders from the U.S. and Ukraine gave a solid remark of ginger to younger athletes. IAS officer Suhas Yathiraj came in paris to achieve the previous best in Tokyo Paralympics 2020 but restricted to silver medal in SL4 badminton. After returning from Paris on Tuesday with India's best ever medal tally ever (29) and ranked 18th on team's tally athletes received grand welcome surrounded



by huge numbers of supporters greeted with showering of flowers on them. The Indian contingent met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence on Thursday in New Delhi, where PM Modi interacted with all para-athletes of Indian contingent and congratulating the medal winners of Paris Paralympics 2024. Athletes shared their journeys and challenges to overcome the stereotypes of the society. Paralympic Gold Medalist Avani Lekhara gifted her signed jersey to PM Modi. Rewards were announced by Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya of 75 lakh to gold-medallists, 50 lakh to silver winners and 30 lakh to bronze-medallists in the games and pledges full support from Government for the LA 2028 campaign.

While the Paris 2024 Paralympics was a roaring success for India, it also showed the challenges that continue to plague the country's para-sporting ecosystem. Access to training, medical support, and sponsorships remains uneven, with athletes in rural areas particularly disadvantaged. A Movement, not just Medals Paris 2024 Paralympics should not be seen as an isolated success but as part of a larger movement towards inclusion, empowerment, and equality. India's Paralympians have shown that they are not defined by their disabilities but by their abilities. Their victories are symbolic of a changing India, one that is slowly

but surely starting to embrace diversity in all its forms.

As India commemorates this new chapter in athletic prowess, the effect of these players will continue to resonate, pushing the Government to provide greater support, recognition, and growth for para-sports. India's achievement at the Paralympics is more than simply a moment of glory; it is the start of a future in which the country's differently-abled athletes will continue to smash barriers, demonstrating that with spirit and drive, nothing is impossible.

Famous Columnist Akhileswar Sahay stated in his article Khel Vaani India's Paralympic Rise: A Beacon for a More Inclusive Future

NEXT STOP: MISSION TOP FIVE AND MISSION INCLUSIVE REVOLUTION

It's time to jumpstart two missions to be accomplished in four years: Mission Top Five Rank at Los Angeles and Mission Inclusive Revolution to make India disabled-friendly. For the first mission, India must broaden its participation base across the 550 events—both in terms of events participated in and the number of sportspersons per event. No country has a larger pool of disabled individuals than India, with "55 to 90 million," according to a recent World Bank estimate. This demographic presents a potential goldmine of "Khojo-Paralympians" and a driving force for "Khelo Paralympics". The lowest-hanging fruit? Track and field events, where the investment per sportsperson is low and the potential return high. All Bharat needs to join the elite Top 5 club is 100 medals at the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympics. It's eminently doable, and the time starts now. Considering that in the last three years (2021-2024), between Tokyo and Paris, Indian Paralympians have amassed 48 medals, 100 medals in 2028 is not a far-fetched dream.



DUBLIN'S HIDDEN GEM

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

BY AKANKSHA DEAN

MODERN ELEGANCE AWAITS

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

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



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



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

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

STORIES OF DUBLIN

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

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

SIP, STROLL, EXPLORE

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

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

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

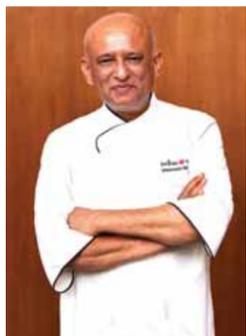
CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF INDIAN ACCENT

A Journey Through Taste and Tradition

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

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

sensation. Reflecting on those early days, Chef Mehrotra recalls the excitement and challenges of the original menu. While some dishes met with mixed reviews, others quickly captured the hearts of diners. Today, Indian Accent is celebrated for its pivotal role in bringing modern Indian cuisine to the global stage. The celebration commenced with a sensory feast, beginning with the Blue Cheese Naan. This dish was a revelation, a delightful twist on a classic favourite. The crisp texture combined with the bold, creamy blue cheese offered a unique start to the evening. Paired with the Mushroom Shawarma, subtly spiced with garam masala, it was a comforting yet adventurous introduction that set the tone for the meal to come. The evening begins with a nod to the beloved classics that had been instrumental in shaping the restaurant's journey. Dishes like the Whole Wheat and Semolina Puchkas Chaat and Khakra Mille Feuille served as a heartwarming reminder of the restaurant's evolution and enduring appeal. The journey began with Chef Shantanu Mehrotra at the helm, who crafted a menu that would soon become a



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



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

things got even sweeter with the Kinnaur Apple Shakarpara Crumble. Imagine the crunch of perfectly baked apple crumble mingling with the smooth, homemade vanilla bean ice cream—every bite was a joyous celebration of texture and flavour. And just when you thought it couldn't get any better, the Coconut and Jaggery Brulee with Ruby Grapefruit Pops Amarula Ki Chuski arrived, turning dessert into an art form. The rich brulee, with its luscious coconut and jaggery notes, paired with zesty grapefruit pops and a hint of Amarula, was an explosion of taste that left us craving more. Complementing this sweet finale was the Daulat Ki Chaat, which emerged as a standout. Its saffron-infused elegance, adorned with almonds and a hint of sugar, was both a visual delight and a burst of refined flavours. This dish exemplified the restaurant's commitment to creative excellence and its ability to elevate even the most familiar flavours into something extraordinary. Each dessert was a playful, indulgent end to a meal that was nothing short of spectacular! Reflecting on this milestone, it became clear that the 15th

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





Photo: Pankaj Kumar

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

Nestled in the heart of Gurugram, the Heritage Transport Museum offers a vivid glimpse into India's rich transport history. It is not merely a museum but a living narrative of how India's transportation systems have evolved over the years. From early bullock carts to vintage cars, each display in the museum is a portal to a time when travel wasn't just about the destination but the experience itself.

India's transport history offers a vivid reflection of the country's broader cultural and social transformations. The evolution of transportation—from traditional bullock carts and hand-pulled rickshaws to modern vehicles and advanced public transit—parallels significant societal, technological, and economic changes. Various modes of transport illustrate the evolution of cultural practices and daily life. For example, traditional transport methods like palanquins and bullock carts reveal historical social structures and regional customs, while the advent of motorized vehicles signifies a shift toward modernization and globalization. The Heritage Transport Museum is a treasure trove of historical gems, each piece providing a unique window into India's transport legacy. The Museum in Gurugram offers a fascinating glimpse into the evolution of transportation in India. As India's first comprehensive transport museum, it showcases a wide array of unique items that reflect the country's rich history in this sector.

Among the standout exhibits is an extensive collection of vintage cars, including iconic models like the Ford Model T and the Rolls-Royce Phantom. Each vehicle tells a story, with plaques detailing their origins, ownership histories, and their journeys through India's roads.

The museum also houses an impressive collection of two-wheelers, featuring everything from early Royal Enfield bikes to classic Vespa scooters. These vehicles capture the changing dynamics of transportation in India, from rural commutes to urban lifestyles.

A particularly unique feature is the railway exhibit, which includes vintage carriages,

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

Tarun Thakral, the founder & managing trustee of Heritage Transport Museum is also the Executive Director at CJ International Hotels Ltd, New Delhi that owns and manages Le Meridien New Delhi. Tarun started his career in the Hospitality business in 1986. In 1990, he won the French Government scholarship to pursue MBA program in International Hospitality Management from 'Institut de Hotelier Management International', Paris.

To pursue his hobby and passion in vintage and classic cars, in 1996 Tarun founded Heritage Transportation Trust (HTT) - a registered not-for-profit trust to promote the preservation of modes of transportation that have been used in India. As its Founder and Managing Trustee, HTT has developed India's first comprehensive Transport Museum, Heritage Transport Museum, which opened to visitors in December 2013.

Since its opening Museum won many prestigious awards - The National Tourism Award for being the most innovative and unique tourism project in the country, the 2016 and 2018 Travellers Choice Award by TripAdvisor, International PATWA award for innovation at ITB, Germany, the BITB Tourism Excellence Award, SATTE Tourism award for innovation, and more. He talked to Gyaneshwar Dayal about his

passion and labour of love, The Heritage Transport Museum: **What inspired you to create the Heritage Transport Museum? Was there a specific moment or experience that ignited your passion for preserving India's transport history?**

India did not have a comprehensive transport museum until the Heritage Transport Museum opened its doors to visitors. Given the presence of remarkable transport museums worldwide, I often wondered why India didn't have one of its own. As my personal collection of transport memorabilia expanded, managing it became increasingly difficult. We launched the Heritage Transport Museum in December 2013, and it remains India's sole transport museum to this day.

How did you go about collecting such an impressive and diverse array of transport artefacts? Were there any particularly challenging or memorable acquisitions?

In 1994, I purchased my first vintage car from Ramgarh Shekhawati, Rajasthan, which was in a state of disrepair. The process of restoring this vehicle over nearly a year brought me immense joy and ignited a passion for collecting and preserving vehicles from being scrapped. My collection soon grew to include cars, two-wheelers, bicycles, carriages, and carts. In 2002, I came across an advertisement from Indian



Railways about scrapping several 1930s railway saloons. I quickly contacted the Railway Board, expressing my interest in purchasing and preserving one of these saloons. Since the Railways had never before sold such items to private individuals, it took over a year of negotiations. Ultimately, I succeeded in acquiring and restoring the saloon, which now proudly stands at the museum on a recreated vintage railway platform.

What criteria do you use to select the items displayed in the museum?
The Heritage Transport Museum features a diverse array of transportation modes used for both private and public transport throughout history. Our aim is to display the full range of transportation, encompassing cars,

buses, two-wheelers, traditional transport methods, non-motorized vehicles, railways, trams, aviation, and maritime. We choose items based on their historical importance, popularity, and how they complement our existing collection. We also carefully evaluate how each object will engage and benefit our visitors.

What are the biggest challenges you've faced in preserving and restoring some of the older or more delicate items in the museum's collection?
Many items, especially those that are decades or even centuries old, face natural deterioration over time. Components can become fragile or worn, making the restoration process both meticulous and delicate. For vintage vehicles and machinery,

locating original or compatible parts can be extremely challenging, often necessitating custom fabrication or innovative solutions to replace missing or damaged components. Restoring complex items, such as early aviation or railway equipment, requires specialized knowledge and skills, and finding experts with the necessary experience can be difficult.

What are your future plans for the Heritage Transport Museum? Are there any upcoming exhibitions or expansions that visitors can look forward to?

We have several exciting initiatives in store for the Heritage Transport Museum to enrich its offerings and continue captivating our visitors. One of our key plans is to introduce an experience centre that will provide a unique, multisensory experience. We're also expanding our exhibitions to feature rare artefacts that showcase various aspects of transportation history. To keep up with the latest technological advancements, we aim to incorporate more interactive and immersive technologies, such as virtual reality, augmented reality, and advanced simulation tools, to make the exploration of transport history even more engaging.

What drives your passion for curating and expanding the museum's collection? How do you stay motivated in continuing this labour of love?

A deep passion for history, culture, and education, coupled with a strong commitment to preserving and sharing important stories and artefacts for future generations. The continual excitement and inspiration of discovering new ways to present these treasures and enhance the museum's narrative. The joys of seeing visitors engage with, learn from, and appreciate the museum's offerings. The profound personal fulfilment derived from working in a field I genuinely love and enjoy. And, of course, the pride in contributing to the museum's enduring legacy.

What kind of experience do you hope visitors take away from the museum? Is there a particular message or feeling you want them to leave with?

One of the greatest compliments we've received is being recognized as a world-class museum in India. Many visitors leave with a profound sense of nostalgia, feeling moved, inspired, and reflective. They depart with a deeper understanding of the evolution of transport, and the museum continues to ignite curiosity and further interest in its visitors. We hope to instil a respect for our heritage, encouraging visitors to think about ways to preserve it for future generations. For younger visitors, we aspire to inspire them to develop hobbies that bring them fulfilment and satisfaction.

signaling systems, and detailed replicas of early Indian trains. Visitors can explore the interior of these carriages and get a sense of the grandeur of rail travel during the colonial period.

For aviation enthusiasts, the museum features models and artifacts from India's early civil aviation history, including scaled replicas of early Indian aircraft. Another intriguing exhibit is a full-size 1950s Piper J3C Cub aircraft, providing a rare close-up view of mid-20th-century aviation.

One of the more immersive experiences is the display of

maritime memorabilia, with detailed models of ships and boats that were integral to India's naval history and trade routes.

The museum's art and design installations also deserve mention, with sections devoted to the design evolution of vehicles, showcasing how aesthetics and functionality have shaped modern transport. Besides, the Museum has also a 3D virtual reality ride on a rickshaw over the China wall which is a big hit with the children and elders alike.

The development of transportation also mirrors India's economic progress. The transition

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

The Heritage Transport Museum plays a crucial role in enriching our understanding of India's

history by preserving and showcasing these transportation milestones. Through its diverse collection of transport artifacts, the museum offers visitors insights into how transportation has both shaped and been shaped by the broader socio-cultural context. It effectively connects the past with the present, providing a tangible link to India's rich history and its ongoing evolution.

The museum houses an impressive collection, thoughtfully curated to spark fascination. The assortment ranges from classic vintage cars to steam engines, traditional

bicycles, and even airplanes. Visitors can explore artifacts that depict the evolution of transport—centuries old, others representative of the industrial age. There is also a segment dedicated to maritime history, complete with beautifully preserved models of ships, giving the experience an almost encyclopaedic richness.

What truly sets the Heritage Transport Museum apart is the meticulous passion with which it has been curated. The layout of the museum is designed not just to showcase relics but to narrate stories. Interactive displays,

lifelike dioramas, and thematic galleries transport visitors into the very eras these machines were part of. Each exhibit is placed within a larger cultural and social context, enabling visitors to appreciate its significance beyond the mechanics.

It's not just a collection of vehicles; it's a carefully woven tapestry of India's transport evolution, enhanced by attention to detail. For anyone with an interest in history, innovation, or transport, the Heritage Transport Museum is a must-visit, where every exhibit is a labour of love, offering a journey through time.

THE MONSOON'S WHISPER IN EVERY NOTE

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

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

Sharma, a vocalist of the Banaras Gharana, captivated her audience with her soulful

voice that seemed to capture the very essence of the rainy season. Each note felt like a raindrop, each melody a breeze dancing through the trees. She was accompanied by a gifted ensemble, including Pt. Vinay Mishra on the harmonium, Pt. Mithilesh Kumar Jha on the tabla and U. Ghulam Ali on the sarangi, who together created an atmosphere that was almost spiritual. Their performance reminded everyone present of the unique power of live music to evoke deep emotions and transport listeners to another world.

What stood out most was not just the technical excellence on display but the depth of



Photo: Pankaj Kumar

feeling in every note. There was a genuine joy and emotional connection to the monsoon season that resonated throughout the performance, making the audience feel the beauty and poignancy of the rains. In a world that often feels dominated by digital and impersonal entertainment, this concert was a poignant reminder of the impact of live music and its ability to make people feel truly alive.

The evening was also a celebration of India's rich cultural heritage. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's reflections on Varanasi's spirit and its deep-rooted connection to the classical

arts underscored the importance of preserving these traditions. Sunanda Sharma's commitment to her craft and her work with the Girija Darshan Trust, named after her revered Gurus, Smt. Girija Devi ji and Pt. Sudarshan Sharma, is commendable. Through her efforts to nurture young talent and provide a platform for established artists, she ensures that this exquisite form of music remains vibrant and relevant, not just a relic of the past.

More than just a concert, 'Boondan Phuhaar' felt like a journey into the heart of the monsoon - a gentle escape from the rush of daily life.

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



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

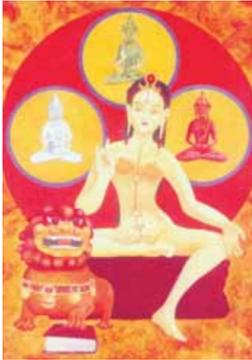
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

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

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



LEO July 23-Aug 22

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

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



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

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

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



TAURUS April 20-May 20

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

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



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

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

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



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

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

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



GEMINI May 21-June 20

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

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



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

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

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



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

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

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



CANCER June 21-July 22

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

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



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

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

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



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

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

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

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Do you pray?

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

GURUSPEAK



Sri Sri Ravi Shankar
Spiritual Guru

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Be sincere in your prayers. Do not try to outsmart the Divine. The mind has the tendency to forget the Divine. What type of time do you give the Divine? Usually, you give the leftover time; when you have nothing else to do, no guests to attend to, no parties to attend to, you go to the Divine. This is not quality time. Give prime time to the Divine. You will be rewarded. If your prayers are not answered, it is because you have never given quality time.

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

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