



WORLD 6
BRAZIL JUDGE SETS FRESH TERMS FOR X TO RESUME SERVICES

SPORT 7
RAIN WASHES OUT SECOND DAY OF KANPUR TEST

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Terrorists burn Kashmir's dream



Security personnel stand guard after an encounter broke out between terrorists and security forces during cordon and search operation at Adigam village, in Kulgam district, Saturday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Ahead of the third and final round of polling on October 1, a joint team of security forces gunned down two unidentified terrorists on Saturday while five security personnel, including an officer, sustained injuries in an encounter in South Kashmir's Kulgam district. The gunbattle broke out in Arigam village in the Devsar area of the district after security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation there early in the morning.

Srinagar-based Chinar Corps in a post on X said, "Based on specific intelligence input, a joint operation was launched by the Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir police at Arigam, Kulgam. "During the search, terrorists fired indiscriminately and a firefight ensued. Two terrorists have been eliminated by the security forces in the ongoing Operation". Confirming the recovery of two dead bodies from the encounter site, Kashmir Zone Police posted on X, "Two bodies recovered from the encounter site. Identification & affiliation are being

ascertained. Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition recovered. Search in progress". The security forces also recovered two x AK Rifles, ammunition and other warlike stores from the terrorists. The security forces also suffered injuries during the firefight. According to official sources, three Army personnel and two police officers, including an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), were injured in a gunbattle with terrorists in Arigam. Additional Superintendent of Police (Traffic) suffered minor

injuries due to a stray bullet near the encounter site, officials said. Earlier on September 14, three terrorists were gunned down by the joint team of security forces in the Kreeeri area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district. The security forces were able to neutralise a group of hiding terrorists after identifying their exact locations inside the building with the help of drone cameras. In this month, so far nine terrorists have been eliminated during anti-terrorist operations across different parts of Jammu and Kashmir.



India slams Pakistan at UN

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

In a strong retort, India has slammed Pakistan in the UN General Assembly, saying its "fingerprints" are on terrorist incidents across the world and the country should realise that cross-border terrorism against India will "inevitably invite consequences". India exercised its Right of Reply in the UN General Assembly on Friday in response to Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif raising the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in his address at the General Debate of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly. "This Assembly regrettably witnessed a travesty this morning. A country run by the military, with a global reputation for terrorism, narcotics trade and transnational crime has had the audacity to attack the world's largest democracy," First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Bhavika Mangalanandan said, delivering India's Right of Reply.

Continued on page 6

Israel decimates Hezbollah

AP ■ TEL AVIV

Lebanon's Hezbollah group has confirmed that its leader and one of its founders, Hassan Nasrallah, was killed in an Israeli airstrike. A statement on Saturday said Nasrallah "has joined his fellow martyrs." The statement says Hezbollah vows to "continue the holy war against the enemy and in support of Palestine." Nasrallah led the militant group for more than three decades. Earlier, Israel had said that it killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, dealing its most significant blow to the Lebanese militant group after months of fighting. Nasrallah is by far the most powerful target to be killed by Israel in weeks of intensified fighting with Hezbollah. Ali Karki, the Commander of Hezbollah's Southern Front, and additional Hezbollah commanders, were also killed in the attack, the Israeli military said. The military said it carried out a precise airstrike on Friday while Hezbollah leadership met at their headquarters in Dahiyeh, south of Beirut. Israel's Chief of Staff, Lt Gen Herzi Halevi, said Saturday that the elimination of Nasrallah was "not the end of our toolbox," indicating that more strikes were planned. He said that the strike targeting Hezbollah leadership was the result of a



Flames rise after an Israeli airstrike in the southern suburbs of Beirut, Lebanon, Saturday

long period of preparation. The Lebanese Health Ministry said six people were killed and 91 injured in the strikes Friday, which leveled six apartment buildings. The Israeli military said it was mobilising additional reserve soldiers as tensions escalate with Lebanon, activating three battalions of reserve soldiers to serve across the country. The call comes after it sent two brigades to northern Israel earlier in the week to train for a possible ground invasion. On Saturday morning, the Israeli military carried out several strikes in southern Beirut and eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. Hezbollah launched dozens of projectiles across northern

and central Israel and the Israel-occupied West Bank. In Beirut's southern suburbs, smoke rose and the streets were empty after the area was pummeled overnight by heavy Israeli airstrikes. Shelters set up in the city centre for displaced people were overflowing. Many families slept in public squares and beaches or in their cars. On the roads leading to the mountains above the capital, hundreds of people could be seen making an exodus on foot, holding infants and whatever belongings they could carry. At least 720 people have been killed in Lebanon over the past week from Israeli airstrikes, according to the Health Ministry.



Gang shootouts on the rise in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Poising a serious threat to law and order situation, the national capital witnessed three separate firing incidents linked to escalating extortion bids by notorious gangs in the last 24 hours with the shooters attacking a luxury car showroom, a hotel, and a sweets shop. Fortunately, no injuries were reported in any of the incidents. While some unidentified shooters targeted a hotel at south Delhi's Mahilpalpur area early Saturday, some assailants opened fire at a sweets shop in Sultanpur Mor in Nangli later. According to a police officer, around 9.30 am on Saturday, two men with their faces covered came on a bike and opened three to four rounds of fire at 'Roshan Halwai'. No one was injured in the incident but there were some shattered glasses in the shop, the officer said. Police suspect the shooting was related to protection money of some gangsters. After the firing at the sweets shop, a note with "Deepak Boxer Bhai, Ankesh Lakra Bhai and Vishal Bhai" -- the names of gangsters -- written on it, police said. CCTV footage has been collected and a probe was underway, they said.

Earlier around 2.30 am, two men came on a motorcycle and fired around five to six bullets at the main entrance gate of Impress Hotel in south Delhi. No one was injured in the incident but some glasses were damaged, police said. Hotel staff and some guests were present in their rooms when the incident took place. Police has initiated a probe into the case. The hotel's receptionist, Khalida said that she was not present during the firing as her shift started in the morning. She added, "They did not target anyone but they opened fire at the gate. Five to six rounds were fired they and fled," Khalida said. This attack is also believed to be part of an extortion attempt to take over the hotel. Last year, the hotel owner had been threatened by a man claiming to be connected to Canada-based gangster Goldie Brar. Brar, along with Lawrence Bishnoi -- currently in custody in Gujarat--has been linked to previous high-profile extortion cases, including a shooting outside actor Salman Khan's Mumbai residence.

Continued on page 6

PM Modi confident of winning Haryana, J and K

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU/HISAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his whirlwind rallies in polling states exuded confidence to retain BJP in Haryana and form first Government in Jammu and Kashmir. Seeking a decisive mandate from the people of the Jammu region ahead of the last round of polling on October 1, declared that BJP's first Government with full majority will be formed in Jammu and Kashmir. While speaking in Haryana, Modi said stability is a far-fetched thing for the Congress because of its infighting and now everyone in the party is jostling among themselves to become Chief Minister in Haryana with "Bapu" (Bhupinder Singh Hooda) and "Beta" (Deepender Hooda) also the contenders. Stakes are high for the BJP in the third and final round of polling in Jammu and Kashmir. The party is locked in a straight fight with the Congress on the majority of seats. A handful of independent candidates in the fray are also giving a tough competition to the BJP. The party's performance in this crucial phase is going to make or mar the chances of Government formation. BJP won 25 Assembly seats in the 2014 Assembly polls, the highest-ever tally so far. This time, the party is hoping to gain an absolute majority. Out of 40 Assembly segments, voting is scheduled to take place on the 24 seats spread across the four districts of Jammu, Samba, Kathua,



Supporters during a public meeting to be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi amid the ongoing Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, at the Maulana Azad Stadium, in Jammu, Saturday

and Udhampur on October 1. Addressing Vijay Sankalp Maharally in support of BJP candidates at MAM Stadium, the Prime Minister said this assembly election has given the people of Jammu a historic opportunity to decide on the next Government. They need to seize this moment and choose the BJP, Modi said. During the month-long campaign period, the Prime Minister himself led from the front addressing four election rallies in Doda, Srinagar, and Katra in which he communicated directly with the voters to elect a BJP Government in the maiden Assembly polls after the Abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A in August 2019.

"This election is going to write a new chapter. Previously Congress, NC, PDP leaders and their families benefited from their Governments while you faced destruction," Modi told the rally. Modi said ceasefire violations used to be a routine along the borders in Jammu because "they (Congress) used to show them white flags". "The BJP government responded to their bullets with mortar shells to set their mind in the right position." "Today is September 28 and you know a surgical strike took place on this day (in 2016). India sent a message to the world that this is a new India, and it strikes inside their homes," he said. Accusing the Congress of being

under the influence of "urban Naxals", the Prime Minister alleged. "When intruders come from outside, they feel good because they see them as a vote bank. But for the problems of our own people, they crack jokes." Addressing his second poll rally in the day at Hisar in Haryana, the PM recalled the days when he worked for party organisation in Haryana and said, "It has been my fortune that Haryana has given me a lot, taught me a lot." As voting day draws near, the Congress is falling, Modi said. Congress leaders have started to say that in Haryana they will face the same situation what the grand old party had to face in Madhya Pradesh, he said and attacked the grand old party on several issues. In the polls in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, the Congress took support of lies, but the balloon of their lies burst and in Haryana too same thing is going to happen, he said. Modi also said some people are those who dedicatedly served Delhi's royal family and now even they are asking what fault they committed. "See, atrocities on Dalits (referring to Cong gov't's time in Haryana) which took place in Gohana, but Congress remained silent. During Congress' rule, Mirchpur incident took place, but they remained silent, there were atrocities and injustice with Dalit daughters, but they remained silent," he said in presence of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and Union minister ML Khattar among others.

Cockroach in meal shocks Air India passenger

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

Railway tracks to be made cattle and reel free

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

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

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

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

Retd IAS officer robbed of gold chain, suffers shoulder fracture

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A retired IAS officer was robbed of his gold chain during an evening walk in the Vikas Nagar Sector-3 area. The incident, which occurred around 7:30 pm on Friday, left the officer with a fractured shoulder after he was pushed to the ground while attempting to resist the robbery. Prem Narayan Dwivedi, the victim, had gone out for a walk when an unknown accused on a bike approached him and attempted to snatch his chain. Despite his efforts to fight back, he was pushed down, resulting in his injury. Witnesses reported hearing a commotion, and a crowd quickly gathered. Taking advantage of the chaos, the robber fled the scene. Dwivedi's family took him to a private hospital for treatment. ADCP (North) Jitendra Kumar Dubey, in a video statement, confirmed that police are reviewing CCTV footage and have registered a case in connection with the incident. He assured that three teams have been formed to investigate the case.

Meanwhile, a serving IAS officer posted in Lucknow was allegedly threatened to be shot on the way if he did to cough up extortion money. The officer was asked to pay Rs 5 crore first and then Rs 1.5 crore. The officer has filed a complaint with the police but the cops have yet to get any lead. As per reports, the officer got a video call around 10 pm on September 24. Thereafter, he got several calls from different mobile numbers and was threatened to pay Rs 5 crore or his video would be made viral on social media platforms. The revelation by the victim that he is an IAS officer failed to deter the miscreants making extortion calls. According to police, the IAS officer was demanded Rs 5 crore as ransom and he was threatened. According to the IAS officer, on September 25 and 27, he received calls and messages from different numbers and the miscreants demanded Rs 1.50 crore. He said he was abused by the caller, who threatened to send his purported video to his wife, daughter and relatives. The accused threatened to kill him in the middle of the road. The officer complained to the Hazratganj ACP on Friday and

Woman 'trapped' in love affair, marriage by man faking religious identity

Lucknow (PNS): A woman accused her husband and his friend of trapping her in a love with a fake name to hide his religious identity, police said on Saturday. The woman alleged in her complaint that her husband, Salman, who identified himself as Abhay, forcibly married her and forced her to undergo abortion three times. The woman, who is a resident of Indiranagar, also alleged that her husband divorced her and forced her into 'halala'. "My husband's friend, who is an officer in Secretariat, threatened me with dire consequences. He played the role of an instructor in this matter," she alleged, adding: "Many of Salman's friends have raped me with his consent." National spokesperson of All India Hindu Mahasabha Shishir Chaturvedi likened the case to

'Kerala Story', a film that explores themes related to alleged religious conversion. "Behind the atrocities committed on this Hindu girl, the review officer was playing the role of director. A similar case had come to the fore in Sarojini Nagar a few days back," he added. "Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is requested to order the police to register an FIR in such cases and arrest the accused to ensure the safety of Hindu women," he added. The woman also alleged that Salman and his family tortured her mentally and physically to force her to convert. "I have three children but I am not allowed to meet them unless I convert," she added. The police said a case had already been registered at Vikas Nagar and her fresh complaint would be merged with the previous FIR.

on his direction, a case was registered at the Hazratganj police station. However, the police tried to sweep the incident under the

carpet since the complainant is an IAS officer. The police said that the location of the accused was being traced with the help of surveillance.

Police identify woman found dead; rape, murder suspected

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Police on Saturday, confirmed the identity of a woman whose body was discovered in a field in Akdariya Khurd village, Itaunja. The victim, a 35-year-old resident of Saidapur in Mall, was reportedly killed by blunt force trauma to the head. A panel of doctors is currently preparing tests to confirm whether she was raped or gang-raped. The body was found on Friday afternoon in the field of farmer Ramkaran. Reports indicate that the woman's blouse was clutched in her hand, while her saree and petticoat lay nearby. She suffered multiple injuries to her head, face, and body, and there were noticeable scratches on her skin, suggesting she had been dragged. A resident of the Saidapur area, who works at an engineering college, identified the body. The postmortem, conducted on Saturday, revealed head injuries as the cause of death, leading investigators to believe she was murdered. The forensic lab will analyse slides prepared by the medical panel to further investigate the possibility of sexual assault. According to her husband, the woman had been working in the fields. On September 22, a man from Lasa village visited her on a motorcycle. After a subsequent evening visit, their daughter informed her father that the woman had left with this man. When she failed to

return home that night, the husband rushed back from work, but their search yielded no leads. Desperate for answers, the husband filed a missing report at Mall police station on September 24, alleging that the Lasa resident had abducted his wife. Villagers suggested that the two had been involved in a relationship for the past four to five years, with the woman frequently meeting the man while her husband was away at the engineering college. In his complaint, the husband noted that their daughter had witnessed inappropriate interactions between her mother and the Lasa resident multiple times. Concerned, the son had previously destroyed the woman's mobile phone upon discovering the relationship, but the Lasa resident had returned it to her on several occasions. The investigation is ongoing as authorities work to piece together the circumstances surrounding this tragic incident. Meanwhile, police on Saturday, announced the arrest of seven accused linked to the murder of Sher Khan, a loan and insurance facilitator from Hasanagar. Khan was killed following a dispute over his commission with his associates, Brijesh Sharma (aka Saurabh Gupta) and Vikas Rastogi (aka Vikky Rastogi), both residents of Indiranagar.

Brijesh and Vikas are among those arrested. The other suspects include Ravi Balmiki (50), Kapil Balmiki (33), Amit Kumar Soni (alias Nana, 50), Monu Gaud (alias Manish Gaud, 35), and Bablu (alias Sohni Soni, 33), all from Indira Nagar. Sher Khan, 35, the son of the late Ilyas, went missing from his home on September 14. When he could not be found, his brother Ejaz filed a missing report with the police. Although investigators questioned Brijesh and Vikas, they lacked sufficient evidence to proceed further at that time. During their investigation, the police gathered extensive details about Sher Khan, who facilitated the processing of Aadhaar cards and other documents for Brijesh and Vikas. They used these falsified documents to fraudulently secure loans and insurance, sharing the commissions with Khan. While searching for Sher Khan, police received a report of a human skeleton discovered in Kukrail Forest. ADCP (Central) Manisha reported that the recovery of the skeleton marked a turning point in the case, as an Aadhaar card belonging to Sher Khan was found, despite the remains being largely decomposed. Identification was further supported by medical records showing that Khan had steel rods implanted in his leg and hand due to a previous accident, which matched findings from the autopsy.

Government empowers women through Krishi Sakhis

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A distinctive initiative is underway in Uttar Pradesh to empower women in agriculture. The Krishi Sakhi scheme aims to promote self-reliance among women by linking them to agricultural practices. To date, 7,634 women have been trained under this programme, enabling them to enhance their economic status through the adoption of modern agricultural techniques. Krishi Sakhis are being chosen from self-help groups established in villages under the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission. Through the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana, these women are being trained as para-professionals. To date, 7,634 women have been trained and verified across the state through 269 training programmes, with Bijnor district leading with the highest number of 670 trained women. The Yogi government has facilitated coordination between the selected Krishi Sakhis and various government departments to enhance their financial stability. These Krishi Sakhis are being trained to promote and expand initiatives from the Agriculture and Horticulture departments, Silk Directorate, and Ground Water department. Specific selection criteria have been set up for the women, including an age range of 21 to 45 years and a demonstrated interest and experience in agricultural work. The National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, is responsible for training the Krishi Sakhis. MANAGE has conducted 269 training programmes across the state, resulting in the training of 7,634 Krishi Sakhis. These women are being educated on various aspects of natural, organic, and agroecology-based farming. Krishi Sakhis are currently playing an important role under the Lakhpati Mahila Programme. They are organising agricultural and animal husbandry schools for women farmers and developing plans for season-based agricultural and animal activities. Additionally, they provide guidance on sustainable agricultural practices and assist farmers in connecting with suppliers to ensure the timely availability of inputs. Krishi Sakhis are making significant contributions not only in agriculture but also in livestock management. They are training farmers on effective livestock management practices and providing assistance with basic management techniques. Under the Lakhpati Mahila Programme, they are identifying potential Lakhpati Didis, creating livelihood promotion plans, and gathering demands for livelihood enhancement under the Gram Samridhi and Sakshamta Yojana.

the pioneer CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

It is to inform the general public that my name has been erroneously recorded as SALMA BANO in some records instead of SALAMA BANO whereas my correct name is SALAMA BANO. Therefore, my correct name should be recorded, written and read in all the records as SALAMA BANO. SALAMA BANO W/O RIJWAN ALI ASANA DISTRICT. CHANDAULI (U. P.)

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Archana Kumari to Archana Kaur. Archana Kaur W/o Paramjeet Singh 166/10, Shastri Nagar, Kanpur Nagar.

NOTICE

My name is Aatmik Mishra my High School Examination Year 2022 Rollno. 7680657 [ICSE BOARD] In my marksheet my mother name was mistakenly written as ANUPMA MISHRA but correct spelling of my mother name is ANUPAM MISHRA . Aatmik Mishra S/O Manoj Kumar Mishra. 5/13 Gandhi Nagar Shuklaganj Unnao

NOTICE

Be it known to all that before marriage my name was Milan Singh which I have now changed to Milan Dutta. Now I be known and recognized by the name of Milan Dutta. Milan Dutta wife of Anil Dutta R/o 227/1M/1 Jagmal Ka Hata Chak Niratul Prayagraj

Woman loses ₹1L in job fraud, case registered after DGP intervenes

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A woman, who lost Rs 1 lakh in a job fraud, was allegedly mocked by police who refused to register a case based on her complaint. As per reports, Shubham Sharma, said to be a KGMU PRO office employee, has been accused of defrauding the woman, Suman Devi Gautam from Alamnagar, Talkatora. Suman had to navigate multiple police stations to get her case registered, finally succeeding only after intervention from the director general of UP Police. She reported that a sub-inspector at the KGMU Trauma Centre police outpost reacted insensitively, questioning whether she sought his permission before transferring the money and mockingly asking if she would have informed him if she had secured a job. Suman explained that she paid Rs 70,000 online and Rs 30,000 in cash, mortgaging her jewellery to do so, and is now burdened with Rs 2,000 monthly interest from a money lender.

"The accused works at the PRO office of KGMU. I gave him money, hoping to secure a job, but he is neither returning my money nor providing me with employment. When I ask for my money, he threatens me, boasting of connections with political leaders," she alleged. Despite her efforts to file a complaint at the Talkatora police station, she was redirected to Bazaarkhala, then to Chowk, and finally to the Trauma Centre police outpost. There, she was told to gather information about the accused from hospital staff before any action could be taken. Suman alleged that the sub-inspector dismissed her situation by questioning her judgment in the matter. She stated, "I have submitted a complaint and appealed for action, but there has been no investigation or hearing," she said. The accused continues to contact her, asking her to meet in Chowk. Suman is now appealing for a high-level investigation into the case. A police spokesperson confirmed that a case has been registered and that an investigation is underway.

27K hectares of pastures freed from illegal occupation

Lucknow (PNS):

Following the directives of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Uttar Pradesh Revenue department has launched a large-scale campaign to free pastures from illegal occupants across the state. So far, over 27,000 hectares have been reclaimed, with 12 districts achieving complete clearance of encroachments on pastures. The chief minister has instructed that the campaign be accelerated in other districts to ensure similar results. In Ayodhya alone, over 2,000 hectares of illegally occupied land has been cleared. Apart from Ayodhya, the campaign has recovered 27,688 hectares of land in Agra, Firozabad, Kasganj, Barabanki, Sant Kabir Nagar, Siddharthnagar, Chitrakoot, Shravasti, Rampur, Ghazipur and Varanasi districts. The chief minister has also directed district officials to create a village-wise list of pastures. After the monsoon rains, a large-scale campaign will be launched to free any remaining grazing land from encroachment. Once cleared, the land will be used by the Animal Husbandry department for productive use, benefiting livestock across the state.

Congress gearing up for UP bypolls

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In view of the success in the Lok Sabha elections, Congress is preparing to enter the assembly by-elections with full force. The party has decided to set up 'war room' for in the by-elections as it did in the Lok Sabha polls. War room in-charges have been appointed in the districts where by-elections are to be held for 10 assembly seats. This responsibility has been entrusted to the officials who have played the role of coordinator in the Lok Sabha elections. The preparations to be made for the 10 constituencies will be monitored through the war room located at the party headquarters. There will be special emphasis on creating agents at the booth level and activating them. During the Lok Sabha elections, Congress had appointed its BLAs (booth level agents) in about 30 per cent of the constituencies. Now a target has been set to appoint BLAs within 10 days in all the assembly constituencies where the by-elections are to be held. The Congress has also instructed the newly-appointed war room in-charges to contact the social organisations of their respective districts, identify

important issues, assess caste equations and inform the war room located at the party headquarters. War room in-charges have also been asked to keep an eye on the potential candidates of other parties and their strategy. UP Congress president Ajay Rai has appointed Sudhir Parashar as war room in-charge for Bijnor's Meerapur assembly seat, Atif Hasan for Sambhal's Kundarki constituency, Dinesh Awana for Ghaziabad assembly seat, Subhash Sharma for Aligarh's Khair seat, Prakash Pradhan for Mainpuri's Karhal constituency, Devendra Pandey for Kanpur's Sisamau seat, Dinesh Singh Yadav for Prayagraj's Phulpur seat, Dharmendra Chaudhary for Ayodhya's Milkpur seat, Karmaraj Yadav for Ambedkarnagar's Katehari seat and Rajesh Dwivedi for Mirzapur's Majhawan seat. Congress is preparing to try its luck in alliance with Samajwadi Party in the by-elections. Congress is staking its claim on the seats that were with the Bharatiya Janata Party. However, the seats have not been divided between the two parties yet. Congress has already appointed its observers for all 10 seats.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Mohammad Nazim Ahmad To Mohd Nazim In Future I Shall Be Known As Mohd Nazim S/o Shamsul Haq R/o 133, Kheldar Kotwali Fatehpur.

NOTICE

I Sanjay Saroj S/O Mr. Kallu Prasad R/O 06, Gaura Bagh, Jahirpur, Sai Hospital, Gudamba, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, 226026 have lost the receipt 1744476 and 1744474 Plot no OMCL/G/P/8/183, Omaxe Metro City, Lucknow issued by Garv BuildTech Pvt. Ltd. If any found contact 9997571805

NOTICE

I have changed my name from ARMAN AIJAZ to ARMAAN AIJAZ S/O FAISAL AIJAZ for all future purpose R/O H.No. 203 39/18, Meston Road , Kanpur Nagar.

NOTICE

I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM SHAHID ALIM QURAISHI TO SHAHID ALIM S/O ABDUL ALIM QURAISHI R/o 14/145, COMMERCE CENTER 6th FLOOR FLAT NO. 2, CHUNNI GNAJ KANPUR

NOTICE

The name of the daughter of Mohd. Miya Sayeed S/o Sayeed Ali, Recorded earlier in all educational records, was Umme Habiba Mohd Miya Sayeed, which is incorrect, whereas the correct name of my daughter is Umme Habiba Sayeed and the correct name of my wife is Farhina Khatoon. my daughter is known and recognised by the name of Umme Habiba Sayeed, which is correct. address. Flat no. 194 Baraura Husain Badi, Balaganj Lucknow

NOTICE

I, Have Changed My Name From Shavana Begam to Sabana Ali. In Future I shall be Known as Sabana Ali. Sabana Ali w/o Shahid Ali, 170/355, Jahangirpur, Post Shahjahanpur, Kanpur Dehat. 209115

NOTICE

I have changed my name from ANUPAM to ANUPAM PANDEY. In future I shall be known as ANUPAM PANDEY. ANUPAM PANDEY, S/o Ram Manohar Sharma, 10/1, Manbhawan Indalpur Road Ganpat Gangotri Nagar, Naini, Prayagraj UP.

NOTICE

This is to declare and announced for all concerned that my real and correct name is SUBHAVATI SHUKLA (सुभवती शुक्ला) W/O Late Naresh Kumar Shukla permanent address village Dihorah Mazara Bauna Bhari , Police Station Atariya, Block and Tehsil Sidhauri District Sitapur U.P. presently residing at 537Bha309, Bharat Nagar, Police Station Madiyoon, District Lucknow Uttar Pradesh. Wherever my name recorded i.e. government records and/or any document like I.D. card etc. it should be read and known as SUBHAVATI SHUKLA (सुभवती शुक्ला) W/O Late Naresh Kumar Shukla instead of SOBHAVATI, SOBHAVATI, SOBHAVATI SHUKLA, SOBHAVATI SHUKLA, SOBHRANI, SOBHRANI SHUKLA.

NOTICE

It is informed to the general public that I have changed my name from Mohini Devi to Mohini. Hence I should be known and identified by this name only. Mohini M/O Shailendra Pratap Singh Village Pure Nanda, Post-Beta Gushi Tehsil and District Raebareilly.

NOTICE

It is informed to the general public that I have changed my name from Mohini Devi to Mohini. Hence I should be known and identified by this name only. Mohini M/O Shailendra Pratap Singh Village Pure Nanda, Post-Beta Gushi Tehsil and District Raebareilly.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Monu Chauhan S/o Ram Tirath R/o Koro Atar Suma Kalan Sultampur Uttar Pradesh-228211 Changed My Name To Manu Raj Chauhan. PD/803/C

INFORMATION

It is informed to the general public that in the records, my wife's name has been recorded as Neelam and sons' names as Manish and Vijay which is incorrect. The correct names are Neelam Soni, Manish Kumar Soni, Vijay Kumar Soni. And my son Vijay Kumar Soni's date of birth has been erroneously recorded as 24/11/2000 which is wrong, the correct date of birth is 24/11/2001. Hence, he should be known and identified by this name only. Dinesh Kumar son of late Panna Lal resident of III/149 NTPC Colony Unchahar Raebareilly.

the pioneer CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

Notice
This is to declare and announced for all concerned that my real and correct name is SUBHAVATI SHUKLA (सुभवती शुक्ला) W/O Late Naresh Kumar Shukla permanent address village Dihorah Mazara Bauna Bhari , Police Station Atariya, Block and Tehsil Sidhauri District Sitapur U.P. presently residing at 537Bha309, Bharat Nagar, Police Station Madiyoon, District Lucknow Uttar Pradesh. Wherever my name recorded i.e. government records and/or any document like I.D. card etc. it should be read and known as SUBHAVATI SHUKLA (सुभवती शुक्ला) W/O Late Naresh Kumar Shukla instead of SOBHAVATI, SOBHAVATI, SOBHAVATI SHUKLA, SOBHAVATI SHUKLA, SOBHRANI, SOBHRANI SHUKLA.

NOTICE

NOTICE
HDFC Bank Limited It is being informed to the general public that the property Freehold Bhukhand no. B-3/203, measuring 300 Sq. Mtr., Situated at Vikas Khand, Gomti Nagar Scheme, Lucknow is in the name of (1) Sri Lalji Rai S/O Late R.N. Rai, (2) Sri Shantaram Kumar S/O Sri Lalji Rai, (3) Sri Rahul Rai S/O Sri Lalji Rai which they have obtained through registered freehold deed bearing document no. 5704, Dated on 28/12/2022 in which the property number was mentioned as V-3/203, while the correct number is B-3/203. The above mentioned property owners are going to mortgage the aforesaid property in HDFC Bank Limited. If any person or any financial institution of bank has objection/claim in this regard, kindly inform within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice and after the completion of above time period, no claim of any kind will be considered. B.N. Tripathi Advocate, Res: C-15, Nehru Vihar, Kalyanpur, Lucknow, Mob: 9336127853

Books on Lko attract readers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Books on Lucknow are drawing significant interest at the National Book Fair underway at Balrampur Gardens. Vendors reported that residents are naturally inclined to explore literature that highlights their own city. Rahul Srivastava from Setu Prakashan introduced a new publication titled 'Nawabi Badshah Kaal, Lucknow', authored by Rajgopal Singh Verma. He explained that the history of Awadh is vast and complex, and this book chronicles the region's journey from its origins, through the era of the East India Company, to becoming a crucial province of the British Empire. "It tells the story of the long

struggle from the Sheikhzadas to the Nawabi era and the Emperorship of 1857. This narrative vividly captures the historical heritage, culture, and civilisation of North India, which is essential to any historical discourse," he stated. "This book recounts the glorious history of Saadat Khan and Safdarjung from the Sheikhzada period, detailing their rise to prominence and eventual decline until the reign of the last emperor, Wajid Ali Shah. Since 1801, as the British East India Company expanded its influence over major princely states in North India, Awadh remained vigilant, partly due to its strategic location and wealth, and partly because of its proximity to Delhi. Thus, this book also provides a his-

torical analysis of the events that compelled the East India Company to integrate Awadh into its empire," he explained. In addition, Srivastava highlighted another book by the same author, 'Chinhat Battle 1857', which discusses the significance of the Chinhat encounter in history. "The Chinhat struggle played a crucial role. On June 30, 1857, a military clash occurred at Chinhat, resulting in a decisive defeat for the British army, as Barkat Ahmed's fighters triumphed over the Firangi forces, forcing the British to retreat to the Residency," he noted. Following the events of June 30, 1857, the Lucknow Residency became the epicentre of political and diplomatic activities.

Forest dept proposes vet cadre to prevent man-animal conflicts

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

In response to the rising instances of man-animal conflict in the state, the Forest department has proposed establishing a dedicated veterinary cadre for improved wildlife management. Chief Wildlife Conservator of Forest (PCCF) Sanjay Srivastava announced this initiative on Friday, highlighting its potential to strengthen the department. "The proposal has been submitted to the state government, and processes are underway. Once approved, recruitment will begin," he stated. Srivastava emphasised that managing wildlife without veterinary doctors presents significant challenges. Currently, the department relies on temporary assignments of veterinarians. While veterinarians are stationed at zoos and wildlife reserves—such as the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Kanpur Zoo, Gorakhpur Zoo, and Lucknow Zoo—he noted that there is a greater need for veterinarians in the field. "In zoos, animals receive daily care and annual vaccinations. However, in the

field, especially during human-animal conflicts, veterinary doctors must tranquilise and transport animals," he explained. The department is moving forward with plans for a veterinary cadre, similar to those in states like Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. Srivastava emphasised the urgency, as human-animal conflicts are increasingly occurring in previously unaffected areas. The proposal includes appointing a veterinary doctor in regions facing these challenges, particularly at the four upcoming rescue centres and key conflict points such as Bahraich, Lakhimpur Kheri, Maharajganj, and Gonda. He said that the state government would determine the number of veterinary positions. "Currently, we have six veterinary posts—one each at Gorakhpur Zoo, Kanpur Zoo, and Etawah Lion Safari, and three at Lucknow Zoo, in line with CZA norms. These positions are filled through temporary assignments, with individuals receiving wildlife training before returning to their parent departments. Wildlife veterinarians require different expertise than general veterinarians," he noted.

Command Hospital observes World Heart Day

Command Hospital organised a two-day event aimed at raising awareness about heart diseases. The event featured a patient awareness programme, a lecture titled 'Heart disease in 2024: Myths and realities', and a 'Run for Fun' event to encourage physical activity and promote heart health. The patient awareness programme was aimed at educating

patients and their families about heart health, prevention of cardiovascular diseases, and the importance of a healthy lifestyle. The lecture presented by the cardiologist of Central Command Hospital focused on current trends in heart diseases, debunking common myths, and discussing realistic approaches to prevention and management of heart diseases. Attendees were engaged with

valuable insights on the impact of lifestyle choices, importance of early detection, and advancements in treatment options. An interactive session allowed participants to ask questions, fostering a greater understanding of heart health. The 'Run for Fun' was joined by serving personnel and families of the hospital. The event saw enthusiastic participation, with individuals running or walking to promote a heart-healthy lifestyle.

Those who once opposed India now greet with 'Ram-Ram': Yogi

PNS ■ FARIDABAD/
MAHENDRAGARH/YANUNANAGAR

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath remarked on Saturday that those who once criticised India and challenged its sovereignty are now greeting with 'Ram-Ram'.

Addressing voters during his election campaign in Haryana, the Chief Minister Yogi recounted an experience from his recent campaign in Jammu and Kashmir. He shared, "At the airport, I heard someone saying 'Ram-Ram'. I didn't initially see who it was, but the voice called out again, 'Yogi sahab, Ram-Ram'. When I looked, it was a maulvi. I felt this is the impact of the removal of Article 370. Those who once cursed India and questioned its sovereignty are now greeting with 'Ram-Ram'." He added, "Hum bate the toh kate the" (When we were divided, we were slaughtered). If we hadn't been divided, the Ram temple would never have been demolished, no structure of slavery would have been built on Krishna's birthplace, and the country would never have been enslaved. Those who opposed the Ram and Shri Krishna temples, if the Bharatiya Janata Party grows stronger, will one day be seen chanting 'Hare Rama, Hare Krishna' on the streets."

Yogi Adityanath addressed four public meetings in support of BJP candidates in Haryana. During these rallies, he urged voters to support Satish Phaguna from Faridabad NIT, Moolchand Sharma from Ballabgarh, Tekchand Sharma from Prithla, Dhanesh Adalkha from Badkhal, Aarti Singh Rao from Ateli, Shyam Singh Rana from Radaur, Kanwar Pal Gurjar from Jagadhari, Ghanshyam Das from Yamunanagar and Chaudhary Balwant Singh from Sadhora. The UP chief minister also commended the efforts of Kurukshetra MP Naveen Jindal in Radaur and urged voters to ensure victory for all BJP candidates in all assembly segments of this parliamentary constituency.

Emphasising the historic significance of Ram Lalla's enthronement in his birthplace, Ayodhya, on January 22, 2024, Yogi stated, "Hindus fought 76 significant battles for the Ram temple. Countless Hindus – saints, Nihangs, ascetics, common people, kings, princes, women and youth – sacrificed their lives at the feet of Lord Ram. Under the rule of the Mughals and the British, Hindus were denied justice, and even after Independence in 1947, the Congress government could have constructed the Ram temple but instead it chose to create a controversy."



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during the election campaign in Haryana on Saturday

Continuing his criticism, Yogi said Congress was the primary obstacle to the Ram temple's construction. He highlighted that the issue, which had remained unresolved during Congress' tenure, was finally addressed in 2019 after

Narendra Modi became the prime minister in 2014 and the BJP came to power in Uttar Pradesh in 2017. Launching a fierce attack on the opposition, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath asserted that Congress was the root of the

country's problems, while the BJP was the solution. "Congress has burdened the nation with its issues. It has weakened the country by exploiting the tragedies of partition, caste, region and language. This has pushed the

nation into a furnace of terrorism, extremism, Naxalism and anarchy. Corruption and nepotism are also legacies of Congress," he said.

Yogi noted that over the past seven and a half years, Uttar Pradesh has not experienced any riots, contrasting it with the past when disturbances were commonplace. He cited the Muzaffarnagar, Bareilly and Aligarh riots, as well as the Jawahar Bagh incident in Mathura, as reminders of the violence that plagued the state. "Since 2017, riots in UP have been buried. The rioters are either in jail or on their way to hell (Ram naam satya)," he remarked.

He further emphasised that Article 370 could not have been abrogated while Congress was in power, but the BJP successfully removed it, thereby ending terrorism and securing a better future for India.

Yogi Adityanath remarked that Haryana faced significant challenges due to Congress' corruption and exploitation just a decade ago. He noted that various mafias – mining, forest, cow, animal, land and organised crime – were closely linked to the Congress party, taking advantage of Haryana's resources.

"In the past 10 years, Haryana has embarked on a new journey of development. While the Congress government claimed

that only Muslims had rights to the country's resources, the BJP and Prime Minister Modi advocate for 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'. The BJP is essential for security, national unity and a developed India," he stated.

The UP chief minister added that under the guidance of Prime Minister Modi and the leadership of Nayab Singh Saini, Haryana is progressing toward new avenues of development. He stressed the importance of maintaining the momentum of growth driven by the double-engine government. Yogi accused Congress, Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) and Aam Aadmi Party of opposing development, asserting that progress would threaten their divisive politics and interests.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath emphasised that a developed India begins with its villages, farmers, youth and women. He urged voters in Ateli to support Aarti Singh Rao, highlighting the importance of demonstrating respect for women's power ahead of the Nari Shakti Vandan Act, which is set to take effect in 2029.

"While Haryana is witnessing advancements like metro connectivity, job creation, and investment, 80 crore people in India are benefiting from free ration. In stark contrast, there are struggles for a single roti in

Pakistan. Under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, our nation is becoming prosperous. When a double-engine government operates under his guidance, the speed of development and benefits is significantly enhanced. A powerful country stands united with India in the world," he stated.

Accusing Congress of spreading rumours, Yogi Adityanath remarked, "The INLD's troubled history prevents them from achieving meaningful progress. While the BJP, under the leadership of Modi ji, guarantees security, development, employment, good governance, and respects faith, 'Jhaadu lagane walon ne Dilli ko gandagi ke dher mein badal diya hai', (those who wield a broom have turned Delhi into a heap of filth)."

He criticised Rahul Gandhi for his controversial statements, stating, "Rahul goes to one state to speak ill of another and defames India when abroad. In times of national crisis, he recalls his grandmother in Italy instead of focusing on India. The youth of Haryana must recognise that Congress' divisive politics harms our nation." Yogi highlighted ongoing development in Mathura-Vrindavan, mentioning the upcoming grand Shakambhari temple and the completed Kartarpur corridor.

CM to inaugurate PepsiCo's GIDA unit in Gkp today

PNS ■ GORAKHPUR

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is set to inaugurate PepsiCo's Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority (GIDA) unit, operated by M/s Varun Beverages, PepsiCo's largest franchisee and manufacturer, on Sunday. This facility marks a significant milestone for the global soft drink brand.

M/s Varun Beverages has invested Rs 1,071 crore to establish PepsiCo's unit in Sector 27 of GIDA. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath performed the bhoomi puja and laid its foundation stone on April 8, 2023. Remarkably, the construction was completed within a year, and commercial production began in April 2024. Chief Minister Yogi will officially inaugurate

the unit on Sunday. The facility has already provided employment to 1,500 people.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will also inaugurate four newly constructed rooms and a multipurpose auditorium in Mewalal Gupta Gurukul Vidyalaya, Gorakhnath on Sunday. These rooms have been constructed by Gorakhpur Development Authority (GDA).

As part of his Gorakhpur visit, Chief Minister Yogi will participate in the celebrations marking the 132nd birth anniversary of Bhaji Hanuman Prasad Poddar at Geeta Vatika on Sunday. In addition to paying tribute to Bhaji, he will address the Shradhdharchan Sabha at the event. The programme is scheduled to begin at 3 pm.

UP govt drive transforms healthcare landscape

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In 2017, when Yogi Adityanath assumed office as the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, a state once labeled as 'BIMARU', he made a bold pledge to establish one medical college in each district, aiming to transform the state's healthcare landscape.

Today, after seven and a half years of relentless efforts, that vision is steadily becoming a reality.

Making this claim here on Saturday evening, an official spokesman of the UP government said that prior to 2017, many students from Uttar Pradesh were compelled to seek medical education in other states, or even abroad, due to a shortage of local institutions. However, the scenario has dramatically changed. Now, aspiring doctors can pursue their medical degrees within the state, a development that has significantly reduced the outflow of students and improved the overall availability of medical professionals.

Under Chief Minister Yogi's leadership, the number of medical colleges in Uttar Pradesh has doubled from 39 in 2017 to 78 today. This expansion has also led to a 108 per cent increase in MBBS seats and a remarkable 181 per cent rise in post-graduate medical seats over the same period. These advancements have not only addressed the state's shortage of doctors but have also resulted in substantial improvements in healthcare services across Uttar Pradesh.

Director General of Medical Education and Training Kinjal Singh highlighted the significant progress made under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's 'One District, One Medical College' initiative. In 2016-2017, Uttar Pradesh had a total of 39 medical colleges – 14 government-run and 25 private. However, thanks to the Yogi government's dedicated efforts, this number has doubled over the past seven and a half years, with 78 medical colleges now operational. Of these, 43 are govern-

ment medical colleges and 35 are private.

This expansion has also led to a dramatic increase in both MBBS and postgraduate (PG) seats. In 2016-2017, the state had 5,390 MBBS seats, with 1,840 in government institutions and 3,550 in private colleges. By the 2024-25 academic year, the total number of MBBS seats has risen to 11,200, including 5,150 in government medical colleges and 6,050 private seats.

Similarly, the number of PG seats has seen significant growth. In 2016-17, there were 1,344 PG seats, comprising 741 government and 603 private seats. As of 2024-25, this number has increased to 3,781 – 759 government and 2,022 private seats.

DGME Kinjal Singh further provided an update on the ongoing developments in the state's medical education sector for the current 2024-25 session. She mentioned that counseling under the All India Quota is currently in progress for 15 per cent of the seats in 12 newly

established autonomous state medical colleges across Bijora, Kushinagar, Sultanpur, Gonda, Lalitpur, Lakshimpur Kheri, Chandauli, Bulandshahr, Pilibhit, Auraiya, Kanpur Dehat and Kaushambi. Meanwhile, 85 per cent of the seats have already been filled through the state-level UG NEET first cycle counseling.

In addition, a second appeal is being planned to the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare for the recognition of the medical college in Sonbhadra. The construction of the autonomous state medical college in Amethi is progressing, with 34 per cent of the work completed. An application for the approval of 100 seats for the 2025-26 academic year will be submitted once the National Medical Commission (NMC) portal in New Delhi opens.

Further developments include the fast-paced construction of the Kalpana Rai Institute of Medical Sciences in Mau, being built under the public-private partnership (PPP) mode.

Skill training provided to one lakh students

Lucknow (PNS): The Uttar Pradesh government has set an ambitious target of training one lakh students this year under its flagship Project Praveen initiative, aimed at enhancing skill development among students and preparing the youth for future challenges.

In the upcoming academic session of 2024-25, the programme will be expanded to selected secondary schools across UP, allowing a broader reach of the initiative. Project Praveen is playing a key role in equipping the state's youth with essential skills, making them more competitive in the job market. By offering this training, the government aims to bridge the gap between education and employability, ensuring that young people have access to better job opportunities. Minister of State for Vocational Education, Skill Development, and Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge) Kapil Dev Agarwal emphasised the government's

efforts to integrate skill training with formal education, in line with the National Education Policy 2020. As part of this vision, the Project Praveen initiative is providing free skill training to students in government secondary schools and girl students in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyayas, alongside their regular academic curriculum. To date, more than 63,000 students across 315 government schools have benefited from this programme. The initiative offers short-term skill training sessions of 90 minutes per day to students from classes 9 to 12. The goal is to equip them with essential vocational skills, enhancing their employability and fostering self-reliance.

Each participating school will focus on one or two job roles, with 35 students trained per batch, ensuring flexibility based on student interest and potential employment opportunities in different sectors.

Massive crowd flocks to trade show

PNS ■ GREATER NOIDA

A large crowd thronged the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show at India Expo Mart on Saturday, making the most of the holiday to immerse themselves in the event's splendour and variety. Visitors were not only impressed by the elaborate displays but also delighted in the diverse flavours offered by different districts of the state.

The wide array of products on display has captivated the visitors, bringing joy to local business owners, with the turnout exceeding expectations and creating a lively atmosphere at the fair.

A particular buzz was noticeable around stalls showcasing handicrafts, technology, agricultural products, textiles and food processing items. The exhibition of organic agricultural products has also garnered significant attention, with an extensive assortment of fruits, vegetables and grains on display. Traditional handicrafts from Uttar Pradesh, including pottery, weaving and embroidery, are drawing a lot of interest from visitors.

The food and beverage pavilion is one of the main attractions at the trade show. A wide variety of food items, spices, and local delicacies are on display, with a special focus on traditional dishes from Uttar Pradesh. This pavilion offers visitors a chance to reconnect with their cultural roots through the rich culinary heritage of the state.

Exhibitors are thrilled with this initiative by the state government, as it has provided a platform to showcase their products at a global level. They expressed excitement about the opportunity to meet new customers and showcase their offerings, describing it as a

rewarding experience that opens new avenues for growth and recognition.

The trade show is successfully attracting not only domestic but also international buyers. Products from the One District, One Product scheme, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and various other categories have garnered significant interest from foreign buyers. Many exhibitors are receiving substantial orders from countries like Australia, Zimbabwe, Cuba and Somalia.

This surge in international orders has created a wave of enthusiasm among exhibitors. New participants, in particular, are pleasantly surprised by the impact of this state government initiative, which is proving to be a game-changer in their business journeys.

The advancements in the state's police force under the Yogi government are reflected not only in the security arrangements, but also in the UP Police stall at the trade show. The stall showcases various aspects of smart policing, with officers on hand to provide valuable information to the public – information that is essential for every citizen to know about the police force.

Where departments once struggled with piles of paperwork, the Yogi government's efforts to modernise and make them hi-tech are clearly visible at the trade show. The ease with which departmental work is now being carried out was once unimaginable, but thanks to the relentless efforts of the state government, this transformation is gaining momentum. Each department has set up a stall at the show, drawing crowds eager to see how technologically advanced these departments have become. In addition, numerous technology and innovation startups are capturing attention at the event.

These companies are showcasing their latest products, which include smart devices, artificial intelligence-based solutions, and industrial machinery. Exhibits featuring robotics, drone technology and smart farming solutions offer a glimpse into the industrial needs of the future, reflecting the cutting-edge advancements shaping tomorrow's industries.

OVER 1.7 LAKH VISITORS IN 3 DAYS

The second edition of the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show at India Expo Mart in Greater Noida is shaping up to be just as successful as the first. With over 1.7 lakh visitors in just three days, the event's growing impact is clear.

More than 50,000 business-to-business (B2B) visitors and approximately 1.25 lakh business-to-consumer (B2C) attendees visited the expo between September 25 and 27. It is important to note that the International Trade Show is being held across 15 halls at the India Expo Mart in Greater Noida, featuring participation from 2,550 exhibitors.

According to the information provided, on the first day of the mega event, which began on September 25, the India Expo Mart saw 14,222 business-to-business (B2B) visitors and 25,589 business-to-consumer (B2C) visitors, totaling 40,811 participants on the opening day.

On the second day, September 26, the trade show recorded a total of 62,937 visitors, with 16,385 B2B and 46,552 B2C attendees. On the third day, Friday, a total of 71,545 people attended, including 20,210 B2B and 51,335 B2C visitors. The number of visitors has increased each day, and this trend is expected to continue over the last two days of the event.

CULINARY DELIGHTS STEAL SPOTLIGHT

Attendees not only enjoyed shopping, but also indulged in a diverse array of regional delicacies from across Uttar Pradesh. Food stalls from cities like Noida, Ghazipur, Mathura, Prayagraj, Agra, Aligarh, Moradabad, Ghaziabad, Gorakhpur, Kanpur, Ballia, Banaras and Lucknow witnessed long queues of eager customers.

One of the major highlights of the show was Noida's Gurjari thali, made from coarse grains such as jowar and bajra, which has garnered immense attention for its health benefits. The thali includes jowar and bajra rotis, mustard greens, and dal, paired with buttermilk and curry rice, offering a wholesome experience to visitors.

Similarly, Khurja's famous Khurchan also proved to be a crowd favourite, with food enthusiasts lining up to sample the sweet, creamy dish. Known for its popularity in the Delhi-NCR region, Khurchan made a strong impression on attendees.

Lucknow's biryani, a timeless delicacy, attracted long lines as the fragrant aroma lured visitors to the stall.

Spinach leaf chaat, an innovative offering from Ghazipur, drew attention for its unique blend of crispy leaves and tangy chutneys, with visitors praising the irresistible flavour. Meanwhile, Mathura's iconic pedas and other sweets were packed and taken home by many customers.

The dahi jalebi and kulhad lassi from Prayagraj also stole the show, offering flavours unique to the city that captivated the audience.

The famous Panchhi Petha from Agra was another hit, with its variety and sweetness drawing in customers.

In the savory category, Gorakhpur's chhole samosa and Ghaziabad's tilla kulfi became the stars of the show. Stalls offering regional favourites like litti=chokha from Ballia and Jain Shikanji from Modinagar also saw brisk business, with the eco-friendly thali sold at an affordable Rs 70 drawing long lines as well.

UPITS MAKES WAVES ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The UP International Trade Show has also gained significant traction on social media platforms. Various hashtags were employed to promote this mega event, reaching millions of people over the past 179 days. The hashtag #UPITS2024 achieved a social media reach of 32 million (3.2 crores), while #UPInternationalTradeShow reached 27 million (2.7 crores). Additionally, #Upinternationaltradeshow2024 garnered 4.8 million (48 lakhs), #UPITS reached 71.9 thousand, and #GlobalBizHubUP achieved a reach of 65.9 thousand.

FORMER CS VISITS TRADE SHOW

Both prominent figures and the general public continue to visit the UP International Trade Show 2024. On Saturday, former Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra also attended the event. During his visit, he toured the pavilion of the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) and was warmly welcomed by its CEO Dr Arunvir Singh. He was briefed on the progress of various YEIDA projects, including the Medical Devices Park, Toy Park and Apparel Park and was provided information about upcoming initiatives, such as the proposed Semiconductor Park, IT and Software Park, Fintech City, Heritage City, mixed land

Goyal: Multifaceted development model of Uttar Pradesh inspiring



PNS ■ GREATER NOIDA

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, on Saturday, said that Uttar Pradesh had emerged as a model of multifaceted development under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's leadership, significantly contributing to India's status as the fastest-growing economy globally.

Speaking as the chief guest at the UP Industrial Trade Show's valedictory ceremony, Goyal said, "The success of this trade show showcases Uttar Pradesh's increasing strength."

The Union minister stated that the influx of buyers expressing interest in the products will elevate the country's industrial development to new heights. He emphasised the state government's commitment to skill

development, stating that the rise in skilled employment is benefiting entrepreneurs. "The effective implementation of Central schemes by the Yogi government is also noteworthy," he added.

Goyal further pointed out that the state's focus on skill development, improving the ease of doing business and developing smart cities has made Uttar Pradesh a source of pride for the nation.

During the event, UP's Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Khadi and Village Industries, Handloom and Textiles, Rakesh Sachan, remarked that the current atmosphere in the state is attracting investors.

He stated, "In 2017, exports stood at just Rs 88,000 crore, but today that figure has more

than doubled. The government has set an ambitious target of reaching Rs 3 lakh crore in exports within the next two years. This growth is driven by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative. Under Yogi's leadership, the state is creating new avenues for development across all sectors, including law and order, infrastructure, rail connectivity, and new airports."

He further added that the policies implemented by the state government in 2022 will undoubtedly benefit entrepreneurs, positioning Uttar Pradesh as both an 'Udyam Pradesh' and 'Uttam Pradesh', with the aim of achieving a one-trillion dollar economy by 2025.

Senior citizens get Ayushman cards

PNS ■ VARANASI

The issuance of Ayushman cards to senior citizens of 70 years or above age under Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana was started in the divisional commissionerate auditorium on Saturday by Minister of State for Stamp and Court Registration Fees (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal. He provided Ayushman cards to three eligible beneficiaries namely 71-year-old Kedar Pandey, Sitabala Singh and 72-year-old Gauri Sen Gupta. He also wished them good health.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said the Central and state governments were constantly making efforts for the better health of all. "All the people with low income are being given the benefit of various schemes. The prime minister has been adding people to the Ayushman Bharat scheme from time to time and providing them benefits. Labour card holders and Antyodaya card holders are being given benefits. Similarly, people



UP Minister Ravindra Jaiswal giving Ayushman card to woman in Varanasi on Saturday

above 70 years of age will be given the benefit of free treatment under the Ayushman scheme," he said, adding that through Ayushman card, free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh would be provided in a year. At Pindra primary health centre, MLA Dr Awadhesh Singh

provided Ayushman cards to 50 beneficiaries above 70 years of age and encouraged them to take advantage of the scheme. He said that the benefit of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana was now being given to all

senior citizens of 70 years of age and above, so that they could get free treatment for serious diseases. Chief Medical Officer Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said Ayushman cards for persons of 70 years of age and above were being made by the

District Implementation Unit (DIU) of Ayushman Bharat Scheme in the district. He added that Ayushman cards would be made under the scheme by enrolling all eligible beneficiaries.

On this occasion, Deputy Chief Medical Officer Dr RK Singh, Dr Amit Kumar Singh, DHEIO Harivansh Yadav, Urban Health Coordinator Ashish Singh, DISM Navendra Singh, DGM Sagar Kumar, MOIC, BDO, health education officer along with other officers and health workers were also present.

At the Community Health Centre in Misirpur under Kashi Vidyapeeth block, Rohania MLA Dr Sunil Patel distributed Ayushman cards to 20 people, including Ghasiram Prajapati, Nanhu, Ramchandra Pal, Jairam Prajapati, Rambali Singh, Sudama Devi, Laxmina Devi and Lalchand Rajbhar. Medical Superintendent Dr Rambali Singh said that Ayushman cards of all the elderly people above 70 years of age would be made in their village by the panchayat assistant with the help of ASHA workers.

Downpour disrupts life



PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

A heavy downpour in Prayagraj on Saturday disrupted daily life for residents. The day began cloudy with light drizzle, but by afternoon, intense rain accompanied by strong winds set in. Thunder rumbled as the rain continued, causing areas around Prayagraj Junction to become submerged. The heavy rainfall affected not only the city but also Gangapar

and Yamunapar, leading to significant waterlogging in various neighborhoods. This was compounded by rain that had fallen the previous evening.

Over the last 24 hours, 33 mm of rain was recorded, with temperatures ranging from a minimum of 26 degree Celsius to a maximum of 29 degrees. Residents faced considerable difficulties due to waterlogged streets in areas such as Niranjan Dot Bridge, in front of the rail-

way station, Gudiya Talab, Leader Road, Nakhaskohna, Kidgani, Muthiganj, Daraganj, Bakshi Bazaar, Ranimandi, Dariyabad, and Hans Manzil.

Many markets were deserted, and vehicle movement on the roads was notably reduced. The rain has also brought a noticeable chill to the air. The Meteorological department has predicted more rain in Prayagraj and surrounding areas in the coming days.

Ganga water to be clean in Kashi by December: ACS



ACS Anurag Srivastava reviewing progress of the Namami Gange scheme in Varanasi on Saturday

PNS ■ VARANASI

To clean the Ganga river in the city, all the drains falling into the river will be closed. Additional Chief Secretary (Namami Gange and Rural Water Supply) Anurag Srivastava gave this information in the review meeting of Namami Gange scheme held at Circuit House here on Saturday. The additional chief secretary said that by December 2024, the water of Ganga would start appearing clean in Varanasi. He pointed out that sewerage lines have not been laid in some areas of Varanasi yet and instructed the municipal corporation officials to lay sewerage lines in those areas. Srivastava instructed the offi-

cial of the Urban Development department in Varanasi to remove all the deficiencies of sewerage and drainage in the city so that the Ganga could be made clean. For this, he set a deadline of December. He pointed out that Maha Kumbh would be organised in early 2025 when the people from all over the world would come to Prayagraj and a large number of people would also come to Varanasi, because it was a religious city. He said that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's intention was that all the people who come to Varanasi for Kumbh should find the river Ganga completely clean. He stressed that this work should be completed by December at any cost. The additional chief sec-

retary reprimanded officials for not providing sewerage connection to all the houses yet. The municipal commissioner said that different agencies had laid pipelines in many areas and due to which problems were arising. He said that at some places, the sewerage had been designed incorrectly. To deal with these problems, the municipal commissioner suggested hiring an agency skilled in this work. He said first of all a survey should be conducted and a correct project report should be made before its implementation. District Magistrate S Rajalingam, Chief Development Officer Himanshu Nagpal, Municipal Commissioner Akshat Verma and other departmental officers were present in the meeting.

ICAR DDG: India will develop when farmers become entrepreneurs

PNS ■ VARANASI

Deputy Director General (Extension Division) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, Dr Udhm Singh Gautam, said that the dream of a developed India by 2047 would be realised only when farmers become entrepreneurs along with farming. He was presiding over the 34th Foundation Day function of ICAR-Indian Institute of Vegetable Research (IIVR) here on Saturday.

Dr Gautam also highlighted schemes like Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA), Farmers First, NARES being run by the ICAR for agricultural technology dissemination and capacity building. He also called for organising training programmes to train 10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and 3,000 self-help groups (SHGs) and entrepreneurs by the institute. The function was inaugurated by the chief guest and member of Agricultural Scientist Recruitment Board (ASRB) Dr Major Singh, who, in his address, expressed happiness over the remarkable progress being made in the institute over the past few years. He narrated the establishment of ASRB, its history and the recruitment reforms executed in recent times. Varied publications of the institute namely Sabji Kiran,

Annual Report, Vegetable Science Journal, Vegetable Newsletter, Technical Bulletin were also released on the occasion. Other special guests at the function included Director of Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) Prof SVS Raju, and Director of Directorate of Mustard Research (Bharatpur, Rajasthan) Dr PK Rai. The programme started with planting of trees in the institute premises. On this occasion, renovated laboratories and committee rooms were also inaugurated in various divisions of the institute.

IIVR Acting Director Dr Nagendra Rai welcomed the guests and highlighted the achievements of the institute, and gave details of the efforts made towards bringing prosperity in the lives of farmers through modern vegetable production. Dr Prabhakar Mohan Singh and Dr DR Bhardwaj in the scientific category, Ram Asare in the technical category, Sudip Singh in the administrative category, Shiv Kumar in the skilled assistant category and Dr Rekha Singh of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (Bhadohi) were awarded best worker certificates for this year. The scientists, technical and administrative officers, skilled support staff and research students of the institute were also present in the function.

AISA celebrates 117th birth anniversary of Bhagat Singh

Prayagraj (PNS): The 117th birth anniversary of revolutionary Bhagat Singh was commemorated on Saturday with a march organised by the All India Students Association (AISA). Participants honoured Bhagat Singh's legacy while raising awareness about ongoing challenges in education, employment, and democracy. Marching from the Allahabad University student union building to the statue of Chandrashekhar in Azad Park, AISA activists voiced their concerns and aspirations for a society reflective of Bhagat Singh's dreams.

During a meeting held at Azad Park, various activists shared their perspectives. Graduate student Kanchan emphasised the importance of striving for an exploitation-free, equality-based society, urging students to take initiative in this cause. Postgraduate student Swetank noted the escalating attacks on education and employment in the current capitalist landscape. Sujit criticised the government for implementing policies that undermine social justice, stating, "The present government is enacting Manuvard through its actions."

Former unit president Vivek highlighted the privatisation of education driven by the new education policy, asserting that fighting against this trend is essential for the country's future.

Meet on clinical aspects of Tridosha from tomorrow

PNS ■ VARANASI

The Kriya Sharir department of Ayurveda faculty of the Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (IMS-BHU) will organise a two-day national conference on physiological and clinical aspects of Tridosha in health and disease (NCT 2024) at KN Udupa Auditorium of IMS-BHU from September 30. Giving this information here on Saturday, organising chairman Prof Sangeeta Gehlot and secretary Dr Vandana Verma said that Ayurveda was the ancient system of indigenous medicine practised in India.

They pointed out that understanding of human physiology and disease processes and their management in Ayurveda was based on Tridosha that is Vata, Pitta and Kapha. They said that this conference aims to bridge the traditional wisdom of Ayurveda with modern scientific research, exploring the fundamental principles, clinical applications and physiological foundations of Tridosha. They said that their collective goal was to highlight the relevance of Vata, Pitta and Kapha doshas in diagnosing, managing and preventing diseases while opening new pathways for research and clinical applications.

More than 200 participants have registered for the conference, including PG, PhD schol-

ars, and faculties of Ayurveda colleges representing different states of India like Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Raipur, Odisha.

A total of 15 scientific sessions will be conducted, which include 10 keynote lectures by distinguished scholars of Ayurveda, and approximately 150 papers will be presented (110 oral, 40 posters) displaying the various aspects of Tridosha, including the assessment of dosha, the concept of Prakriti (psychosomatic constitution) and its application in therapeutic and preventive medicine.

The studies presented in the scientific sessions and discussions will explore new collaborations and promote novel approaches to diagnose, prevent, and treat numerous diseases based on Tridosha, by combining traditional Ayurvedic medicine with modern medical science, thus helping human health on a larger scale. Prof Abhimanyu Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of the International University of Vedic Wellness (IUVW), former VC, UAU, Dehradun and DSRRA University, Jodhpur, Director of All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi (AIIA), will be the chief guest of the inaugural session and Dr Bhawana Prasher, senior principal scientist, CSIR, IGBI, will be the guest of honour.

3 IIT-A alumni honoured at silver jubilee meet

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Indian Institute of Information Technology Allahabad (IIIT-A) organised its silver jubilee global alumni meet on the Jhalwa campus on Saturday and honoured three distinguished alumni: Satish Kumar, Shivam, and Rohit Srivastava. In his inaugural address, IIIT-A Director Prof Mukul S Sutaone urged alumni to actively participate in building the institute by nurturing younger students and fostering values of patience and compassion.

He encouraged the alumni to help establish Google labs on campus and emphasised the importance of innovative educational models, including initiatives for working professionals to enhance the institute's brand and improve its NIRF ranking. Prof Sutaone noted that IIIT-A ranks first in placement records and highlighted the New Gen IEDC entrepreneurship project, motivating students and alumni to become job creators rather than job-seekers. He concluded by expressing gratitude to the alumni and encouraging frequent visits to the campus.

Prof Anupam Agrawal, Dean of Alumni Affairs, called on the association of over 7,000 graduates to contribute through mentoring student projects and fostering industrial-academic collaborations. He discussed the institute's 25-year journey



and recent developments within the alumni affairs office. Former IIIT-A Director Prof Somnath Biswas, in a video message, celebrated the institute's ascent as one of the nation's top institutions. He urged a focus on AI-based research to meet market and educational needs and praised the alumni for their ongoing support. Prof GC Nandi recognised the institute's growth and placed importance on the global implications of AI. Rohit Srivastava highlighted his and his wife's success in founding one of India's largest millet industries. Ashish Pappu, a research staff member at Meta AI and an alumnus, encouraged students to explore generative AI and natural language processing, advocating for active industry engagement.

Former IIIT-A Director Prof P Nagabhushan expressed pleasure in the institute's recent accomplishments and hoped it would strengthen ties with alumni. Satish Kumar reflected on his journey from the early days of IIIT-A to becoming a scientist at ISRO and entering the government sector. Shivam expressed gratitude to the institute for its research development and discussed the global implications of AI. Rohit Srivastava highlighted his and his wife's success in founding one of India's largest millet industries. Ashish Pappu, a research staff member at Meta AI and an alumnus, encouraged students to explore generative AI and natural language processing, advocating for active industry engagement.

CLEANLINESS DRIVE
In a concerted effort to promote cleanliness and environmental sustainability, Headquarters Central Air Command (HQ CAC) conducted a mass cleanliness drive on Saturday along the Grand Trunk Road near HQ CAC as part of the 'Swachhata Hi Sewa 2024' campaign. A large number of air warriors and civilians, including members of the IAF's Saganis, participated in the event. The initiative aims to engage all personnel and their families in collective action to foster a cleaner and healthier community. In addition to the cleanliness drive, Central Air Command also organised a dengue prevention drive in Umri village, featuring educational lectures, demonstrations, and the distribution of informative pamphlets in Hindi to local residents.

Fresh case against brothers linked to cow smuggling gang

Prayagraj (PNS): A new case has been registered against two brothers, Akram and Ashraf, associated with the Kaudihar block pramukh and identified as leaders of a cow smuggling gang, along with Muzaffar. The victim has accused them of extortion, claiming they demanded Rs 1 crore and threatened him to abandon his case. Ramjivan, a resident of Bhagwanpur in the Sarai Akil police station area of Kaushambi district, reported that on September 3, while travelling to Prayagraj, he was intercepted near the glass factory in Bamhrauli by Akram and Ashraf, who arrived in a four-wheeler. They allegedly forced him into their vehicle and demanded he withdraw his complaint against their associates.

During the encounter, the brothers reportedly coerced Ramjivan into signing a blank document, which he could not read due to fear of retaliation. After several days of deliberation, he approached the authorities to file a complaint. Puramuffi police station in-charge Manoj Kumar Singh confirmed that a case has been registered and an investigation is underway. Previously, on May 28, Ramjivan had lodged a complaint against Muzaffar, Akram, Ashraf, and five others for extortion and related offences.

Rajbhasha Fortnight concludes

PNS ■ VARANASI

The closing and prize distribution ceremony of the Rajbhasha Fortnight organised by the Rajbhasha department of Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) was held with enthusiasm under the chairmanship of General Manager Sushil Kumar Srivastava at the Technical Training Centre, BLW here on Saturday. The GM, in his presidential address, highlighted the importance of official language Hindi and said, "The medium of original thinking can only be one's own language. In this age of modern technology, the proper application of language is a powerful medium to keep the society united."

During the ceremony, officers and employees who made outstanding contributions in the use and dissemination of Rajbhasha were honoured with certificates. Apart from this, those who performed well in various competitions like Rajbhasha quiz, essay writing, note and format drafting, speech competition and book discussion were also awarded. Apart from this, Hindi workshop, technical seminar on medical subjects and Bharatendu Smriti Diwas programme were also organised during the fortnight. The programme started with the welcome address of Chief Rajbhasha Officer Praveen Kumar, in which he presented the details of all the activities organised during the fortnight.

He said that the Rajbhasha Fortnight had not only increased the awareness of Hindi among the employees but has also enhanced their language skills. A theatrical presentation of Munshi Premchand's famous story 'Sahyatra Ka Rahasya' was also made at the function. It was directed by Neeraj Upadhyay. Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer Subrat Nath, Principal Chief Engineer Vinod Kumar Shukla, Principal Chief Personnel Officer Janardan Singh, Chief Vigilance Officer Ankur Chandra, Additional Chief Medical Officer Dr SK Sharma and Deputy General Manager Anuj Katiyar were also present.

IM-BHU ORGANISES MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS SESSION
The Institute of Management Studies, Banaras Hindu University (IM-BHU) hosted a mental health awareness session - yoga for inner peace and outer dynamism - for MBA and MBA-IB students at the Bharat Adhyayan Kendra in BHU here on Saturday. The event, organised by the Student Well-being Committee, was chaired by Dr Shashi Srivastava, with the active participation of committee member Dr Ram Shankar Uraon. Dr Geeta Yogesh Bhatt, a yoga and meditation expert, led a session on mental wellness, emphasising a balanced lifestyle, mindfulness, and reconnecting with India's cultural roots.

She taught students meditation techniques to manage stress, improve focus and enhance emotional resilience, promoting mental clarity, lower anxiety and higher productivity. MBA and MBA-IB students and research scholars, namely Niru Nisha Bharti, Harsh Kumar and Ravikanti Nikhil Kumar attended the session which saw enthusiastic participation from students, who discussed their experiences with stress and mental health challenges. They were also allowed to practice meditation and mindfulness exercises under the guidance of Prof Bhatt, experiencing firsthand the positive effects of these techniques in managing stress and improving focus.

The session highlighted IM-BHU's commitment to the holistic well-being of its students. By fostering awareness and providing practical tools for mental wellness, IM-BHU continues to support the overall development of its students, preparing them not only for academic success but also for a balanced and healthy life. The session highlighted the importance of reconnecting with India's cultural heritage through yoga, promoting mental and physical health alongside inner peace. Dr Shashi Srivastava spoke on mental health awareness in high-stress academic environments, while Dr Ram Shankar Uraon emphasised that maintaining mental well-being is crucial for academic and career success.

FIR against Siddaramaiah exposes Congress corruption: BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday asserted that the registration of a case on several criminal charges, including corruption, against Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has exposed the Congress, as it noted that the FIR was lodged following a court order and central agencies had no role in it. BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi told reporters that it is a rare case of a sitting chief minister being made an accused in a corruption case and has unmasked the "corrupt face" of the Congress. Siddaramaiah is the accused number one in the case, he said and took a swipe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, asking if he stood with the chief minister accused of corrupt practices. The Karnataka Lokayukta police on Friday registered an FIR against Siddaramaiah and others in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority



(MUDA) site allotment case, following the court order. A special court in Bengaluru on Wednesday ordered a Lokayukta police probe against Siddaramaiah in the case, setting the stage for filing an FIR against him. With the Congress leadership accusing the BJP of targeting the chief minister for political reasons, Trivedi noted that the central probe agencies had no role in this FIR.

He claimed that the case is an outcome of Siddaramaiah's own misdeeds, as he and his family abused government powers to acquire assets illegally. He said a Congress candidate in the Haryana assembly polls had recently said that his party leaders will use power to enrich themselves and their relatives, and alleged that the Karnataka chief minister had already been doing it.



While Congress leaders pocket thousands of crores of rupees, they give "lollypop" of a few thousands to people, he said. At the press conference, the BJP spokesperson also slammed the Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal for its "nexus" with criminals over the case of rape of an IAS officer's wife. He made a mention of the Calcutta High Court's critical observation of the police

investigation in the case to hit out at the regional party. It shows how dangerous the state has become for women, and a heinous nexus is visible between government officials and criminals, he alleged. Replying to a question about Rahul Gandhi's allegation that the poor had no place in the Ram temple inauguration ceremony, Trivedi accused the Congress of repeatedly disrespecting the temple and

noted that workers involved in its construction were felicitated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and showered with flower petals. He objected to the use of phrase like "naach gana" (song and dance) by Gandhi in the context of the temple's inauguration ceremony. He said three generations of Gandhi family had gone to Mughal king Babar's grave in Afghanistan to pay their respects, and claimed that their stand on the temple shows their real nature and contempt for Hinduism. Referring to Pakistani prime minister's comments in the UN targeting India over developments in Kashmir, Trivedi said the Congress-National Conference has also been speaking the same language. Noting that the anniversary of the surgical strikes targeting terrorists in Pakistan in 2016 fell on Saturday, he said the Congress and Pakistan have been echoing each other's views since then.

Youth will defeat BJP, says Kharge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Citing Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data, he said despite all efforts, this Government data is not able to hide the helplessness of the youth. "There is no bigger issue in the country than unemployment. Modi ji has the biggest contribution in ruining the future of the youth. If we take a closer look at the latest data of PLFS, despite all efforts, this Government data is not able to hide the helplessness of the youth," Kharge said in a social media post in Hindi. "Narendra Modi ji must answer — Isn't youth unemployment at a frightening 10.2% in 2023-24? Instead of giving colourful slogans and doing photo ops, what did Modi ji do to provide jobs to the youth?" he asked. Is it not true that the number of women who have regular



salaried jobs is now the lowest in seven years at just 15.9 per cent, Kharge asked. "Has not the number of women engaged in unpaid labour in rural areas increased from 51.9% (2017-18) to 67.4% (2023-24), which reflects rural unemployment? Why has the Modi Government, which makes a lot of noise about the manufacturing sector, not increased employment in it in the last seven years?" the Congress president posed. How did this figure fall from 15.85 per cent in 2017-18 to just 11.4 per cent in 2023-24, he asked.

BHISMA medical kits for Mahakumbh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh, which is readying to host one of the world's largest religious festivals, the Mahakumbh 2025, has sought at least 22 BHISMA kits—India's first indigenous state-of-the-art portable medical facilities housed in a cube—from the Centre to address medical emergencies and ensure prompt healthcare for the anticipated influx of devotees at the mega event. "The UP Government has requested at least 22 portable BHISMA (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog, Hita, and Maitri) Cubes to be installed at sensitive locations during the event in Prayagraj which is expected to attract around 40 crore devotees and visitors. Two Cubes will be set up in each of the 11 zones, covering a total of 43 zones," said an official from the HLL lifecare Ltd, a PSU of the Union Health Ministry which has been tasked with assembling the equipments enclosed in the innovative product under the Government's Project Arogya Maitri. Tailored to save the 'Golden Hour' for up to 200 individuals at once, the BHISMA Cubes have already found successful deployments in countries like Laos, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and recently Ukraine when India had gifted four units during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the country. Back home in India, during Ram Mandir inauguration in Ayodhya, it emerged as a crucial lifesaver for a man during a medical emergency.

Dr Ankit, a member of the taskforce of the Union Defence Ministry for the Government's Project Arogya Maitri, shared that the Cubes are portable and rapidly deployable modular medical facilities intended to provide emergency lifesaving clinical care in event of disaster/public health emergencies. These can be deployed within minutes and entails operation theatre, mini-ICU, ventilator, blood test equipment, X-ray machine, cooking station, food, water, shelter, power generator and much more. Due to its modular design and ease of use, it can be transported by air, sea, land, or drone, ensuring timely medical assistance to even the most remote locations. The Cubes will help expedite treatment of the injured and save precious lives. These cubes can handle several severe injuries including 40 bullet injuries, 25 major bleeds, 25 major burns, around 10 head injuries, long limb fractures, spinal injuries, chest injuries and spinal fractures, she explained. The BHISMA cube is already finding huge takers. The Union Health Minister JP Nadda too recently announced that there are plans to set up BHISHM Cubes in 25 AIIMS and Institutes of National Importance (INIs) for rapid deployment in the respective region in case of disaster / health emergencies in the first phase. To enable operators to swiftly find items, track their usage and expiration dates, the cutting-edge BHISHM has a software system in a tablet along with the Cubes.



Modi pays tribute to Lata Mangeshkar on her birth anniversary

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday paid tributes to renowned playback singer Lata Mangeshkar on her 95th birth anniversary, and recalled his "special bond" with her. He said in a social media post, "Remembering Lata Didi on her birth anniversary. She will always live on in the hearts and minds of people due to her soulful songs."

"Lata Didi and I had a special bond. I have been fortunate to receive her affection and blessings," he added. The Prime Minister also shared an article written by her brother and music composer Hridaynath Mangeshkar in a national daily, which highlighted the bond between Modi and the great singer. The unchallenged queen of playback singing for several decades, Lata Mangeshkar has been hailed by connoisseurs for her mastery of the intricacies of classical music and adored by the masses for the popular connect of her voice.

Justice system must respond to disabled children's vulnerabilities: CJI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud on Saturday said it must be ensured that the justice system, from the police stations to the courtrooms, understands and responds to the compounded vulnerabilities of children with disabilities. Speaking at the ninth National Annual Stakeholders Consultation on Child Protection, the CJI said the challenges faced by persons with disabilities extend far beyond issues of physical accessibility and they must also contend with entrenched societal biases, stereotypes and misconceptions that permeate nearly every facet of life. "We must ensure that the justice system, from the police stations to the courtrooms, understands and responds to the compounded vulnerabilities of these children. The incorporation of restorative justice approaches is one such solution. The JJ Act (Juvenile Justice Act) outlines various rehabilitation and



reintegration measures for children in conflict with the law such as counselling, education, vocational training and community service. For children with disabilities, these measures can be adapted to ensure they receive the specialised support they need to thrive," he said. The two-day programme was organised under the aegis of Juvenile Justice Committee of the Supreme Court in association with UNICEF, India. Union Minister for Women and Child Development Annpurna Devi

gave the special address for the two-day programme, while the opening remarks was given by Justice BV Nagarathna, who is also the chairperson of the Juvenile Justice Committee of the Supreme Court. Country representative of Unicef, India Cynthia McCaffrey, gave the introductory address on the topic. The CJI said the challenges faced by persons with disabilities extend far beyond issues of physical accessibility and "they must also contend with entrenched societal

biases, stereotypes, and misconceptions that permeate nearly every facet of life." "When we talk about juvenile justice, especially in the context of children with disabilities, we cannot ignore the concept of intersectionality. Disability often intersects with other marginalised identities such as gender, caste, socio-economic status, and ethnicity, amplifying the discrimination children face," he said, adding the doctrine of intersectionality highlights how multiple identities intersect to create unique experiences of discrimination. Highlighting that for children with disabilities, these compounded vulnerabilities can have devastating effects, the CJI stressed the state must ensure that children with disabilities are provided additional safeguards, recognizing that they face heightened risks and unique challenges. "We must ensure that our legal, social and institutional systems are designed not just to accommodate, but to actively protect and empower these children," he added.



Special Gram Sabhas to guide Panchayat development plans

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Special Gram Sabhas will be held on October two to guide panchayats on preparing their development plans for the 2025-26 financial year, officials in Panchayati Raj Ministry said. The sabhas (meetings) would engage over 2.55 lakh Gram Panchayats (GP) across the country, they said. The training and orientation programme is being conducted under the 'Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas' Abhiyan of the Panchayati Raj Ministry, which is aimed at fostering participatory planning and timely preparation of Panchayat Development Plans (PDPs) across all panchayats in the country. It would involve 20,000 college students who will assist in the handholding and preparation of PDPs across



various gram panchayats, the officials said. According to a ministry official, the special Gram Sabhas would involve over 2.55 lakh gram panchayats, 6,700 block panchayats, and 665 district panchayats. Ahead of the October two programme, the ministry will also organise a national

workshop on September 30, which will bring together representatives from various Union ministries and departments, state departments, faculty members from training institutes, and elected representatives from different levels of Panchayats to share best practices for adoption

across states and UTs. The officials said the workshop will be inaugurated by the Union Minister of Panchayati Raj Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan'. "The Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), coordinated by IIT-Delhi, will play a critical role in co-facilitating the October 2 Gram Sabha, the official added. The sarpanchs (village head)

also known as the People's Plan Campaign," another official said. These students will participate in the Special Gram Sabha on October two, and also assist in the handholding and preparation of PDPs across various Gram Panchayats, the official added. "The partnership between UBA and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj aims to engage young minds in grassroots-level planning, marking a first in the history of the campaign," the official said. Young Fellows working under the 'Project for Creating Model Gram Panchayat Clusters' as well as Fellows from Piramal Foundation, Aspirational Bharat Collaborative and Transforming Rural India Foundation will play a crucial role in co-facilitating the October 2 Gram Sabha, the official added.

would be provided help in pre-planning and orientation on Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDG) and their themes, orienting Gram Sabha members on Panchayat Development Index (PDI) scores, and in identifying appropriate interventions. Additionally, special sabha-cum-orientation programmes will be held in 750 Gram Panchayats, where senior citizens aged above 75 will share their experiences, the official said. A tree plantation campaign under the banner "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam", involving the planting of 75 trees in each Gram Panchayat will also be undertaken, during which the participants will take pledges on "swachhata" (cleanliness), "Nasha-mukt Bharat" (drug-free India), Fit India, and youth-driven visions for the future, according to the official.

Health Ministry drafts guidelines for passive euthanasia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Brainstem death declaration, medical consensus on the patient's prognosis, documented informed refusal from the patient or surrogate, and adherence to Supreme Court protocols are some of the major specific conditions that have been outlined in the Union Health Ministry's draft guidelines for withdrawing life support in terminally ill patients. The 'Draft Guidelines for Withdrawal of Life Support in Terminally Ill Patients' come weeks after the Supreme Court refused to grant an aged couple's plea to

allow "passive euthanasia" for their 30-year-old son, who has been lying comatose at home for 11 years after a fall from the fourth floor of a building. In 2018 also an elderly couple from Maharashtra had written to the President's office, seeking permission for "active euthanasia", where a person is killed, usually by administering an overdose of pain-killers. The legality of euthanasia varies across the globe, with a small number of countries like Belgium and Australia permitting it under strict conditions. As per the Ministry, these guidelines aim to ensure

ethical decision-making while recognizing that many patients in critical care may not benefit from continued life support. The Ministry is seeking feedback from the stakeholders before finalizing the guidelines. As per the draft, the conditions are whether the individual has been declared brainstem death, if there is a medical prognostication and considered opinion that the patient's disease condition is advanced and not likely to benefit from aggressive therapeutic interventions, patient/surrogate documented informed refusal, following prognostic awareness, to continue life

support and compliance with procedure prescribed by the Supreme Court. It also states that doctors should take a considered decision to not start a life supporting measure in a terminally ill patient that is unlikely to benefit the patient and is likely to lead to suffering and loss of dignity. In such a case, three conditions — on whether the individual has been declared brainstem death, if there is a medical prognostication and considered opinion that the patient's disease condition is advanced and not likely to benefit from aggressive therapeutic interventions, patient/surrogate



documented informed refusal, following prognostic awareness — has to be taken into account. It also discusses the importance of Advance

Medical Directives (AMD), which allow patients to specify their treatment preferences in advance. However, IMA's national President Dr R V Asokan

stated that the proposed guidelines expose doctors to legal scrutiny and put them under stress. "Such clinical decisions have always been taken in good faith by doctors. The patient's relatives are explained and given all information, taken into confidence in a given case and decision is taken on merit in every single case. Putting it down in sort of guidelines and also alleging that inappropriate decisions have been taken or they have been prolonged is misunderstanding the situation," Dr Asokan told a news agency. "First the perception and

assumption that unnecessarily machines are used and lives are prolonged is wrong. It exposes the doctors to legal scrutiny. "More so what is left of a doctor-patient relationship... Trying to define it in four corners of black and white documentation which is legally scrutinised is nothing but exposing the doctors to further stress," he said. Terminal illness in the draft guidelines has been defined as an irreversible or incurable condition from which death is inevitable in the foreseeable future. Severe traumatic brain injury which shows no recovery after 72 hours or more is also included.

Hurricane Helene kills at least 52, cuts a swath of destruction across Southeast US

AP ■ PERRY (FLORIDA)

Hurricane Helene has left an enormous path of destruction across Florida and the southeastern US, killing at least 52 people, snapping towering oaks like twigs and tearing apart homes as rescue crews launched desperate missions to save people from floodwaters. Among those killed were three firefighters, a woman and her one-month-old twin, and an 89-year-old woman whose house was struck by a falling tree. According to an Associated Press tally, the deaths occurred in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. The Category 4 hurricane knocked out power to some hospitals in southern Georgia, and Gov. Brian Kemp said authorities had to use chainsaws to clear debris and open up roads. The storm had maximum sustained winds of 225 kph when it made landfall late Thursday in a sparsely populated region in Florida's rural Big Bend area, home to fishing villages and vacation hideaways where the state's panhandle and peninsula meet. Moody's Analytics said it expects USD15 billion to USD26 billion in property damage.

The wreckage extended hundreds of miles northward to northeast Tennessee, where a "dangerous rescue situation" by helicopter unfolded after 54 people were moved to the roof of the Unicoi County Hospital as water rapidly flooded the facility. Everyone was rescued and no one was left at the hospital as of late Friday afternoon, Ballad Health said. In North Carolina, a lake featured in the movie "Dirty Dancing" overtopped a dam and surrounding neighbourhoods were evacuated, although there were no immediate concerns it would fail. People also were evacuated

from Newport, Tennessee, a city of about 7,000 people, amid concerns about a dam near there, although officials later said the structure had not failed. Tornadoes hit some areas, including one in Nash County, North Carolina, that critically injured four people. Atlanta received a record 28.24 centimetres of rain in 48 hours, the most the city has seen in a two-day period since record keeping began in 1878, Georgia's Office of the State Climatologist said on the social platform X. The previous mark of 24.36 cm was set in 1886. Some neighbourhoods were so badly flooded that only car roofs could be seen poking above the water. Climate change has exacerbated conditions that allow such storms to thrive, rapidly intensifying in warming waters and turning into powerful cyclones sometimes in a matter of hours. All five who died in one Florida county were in neighbourhoods where residents were told to evacuate, said Bob Gualtieri, the sheriff in Pinellas County in the St. Petersburg area. Some who stayed ended up having to hide in their

attics to escape the rising water. He said the death toll could rise as crews go door-to-door in flooded areas. More deaths were reported in Georgia and the Carolinas, including two South Carolina firefighters and a Georgia firefighter who died when trees struck their trucks. Video on social media showed sheets of rain and siding coming off buildings in Perry, Florida, near where the storm hit land. A news station showed a home that was overturned, and many communities established curfews. Also in Perry, the hurricane peeled off the new roof of a church that was replaced after Hurricane Idalia last year. President Joe Biden said he was praying for survivors, and the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency headed to the area. The agency deployed more than 1,500 workers, and they helped with 400 rescues by late morning. In Tampa, some areas could be reached only by boat. Officials urged people who were trapped to call for rescuers and not tread floodwaters, warning they can be dangerous due to live wires, sewage, sharp objects and other debris.

More than 3 million homes and businesses were without power in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas as of late Friday, according to poweroutage.us. The site also showed outages as far north as Ohio and Indiana due to Helene's rapid northward movement throughout the day. In Georgia, an electrical utility group warned of "catastrophic" damage to utility infrastructure, with more than 100 high voltage transmission lines damaged. And officials in South Carolina, where more than 40% of customers were without power, said crews had to cut their way through debris just to determine what was still standing in some places. The hurricane came ashore near the mouth of the Aucilla River, about 20 miles (30 kilometers) northwest of where Idalia hit last year at nearly the same ferocity. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said the damage from Helene appears to be greater than the combined effects of Idalia and Hurricane Debby in August. Soon after it crossed over land, Helene weakened to a tropical storm and later a post-tropical cyclone. Forecasters said it continued

Iranian Gen also killed in Israeli strike in Beirut

AP ■ DUBAI

A prominent general in Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard died in an Israeli airstrike that killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut, Iranian media reported Saturday. The killing of Gen. Abbas Nilforushan marks the latest casualty suffered by Iran as the nearly yearlong Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip teeters on the edge of becoming a regional conflict. His death further ratchets up pressure on Iran to respond, even as Tehran has signalled in recent months that it wants to negotiate with the West over sanctions crushing its economy. Nilforushan, 58, was killed Friday in the strike in Lebanon that killed Nasrallah, the state-owned Tehran Times reported. Ahmad Reza Pour Khaghan, the deputy head of Iran's judiciary, also confirmed Nilforushan's death, describing him as a "guest to the people of Lebanon," the state-run IRNA news agency said. Khaghan also reportedly said that Iran had the right to retaliate under international law. The US Treasury had identified Nilforushan as the deputy commander for operations in the Guard. It sanctioned him in 2022 and said he had led an organisation "directly in charge of protest suppression." Those sanctions came amid the monthlong protests in Iran over the death of Mahsa Amini following her arrest for allegedly not wearing her headscarf, or hijab, to the liking of police. Nilforushan also served in Syria, backing President Bashar Assad in his country's decades-long war that grew out of the 2011 Arab Spring.



Smoke rises as a building collapses in Beirut's southern suburbs on Saturday.

AP/PTI

Brazil judge sets fresh terms for X to resume services

AP ■ SAO PAULO

Brazilian Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes has added conditions for Elon Musk's X to have its service reestablished in the country, one day after the social media platform said it had complied with all the judge's demands, including naming a legal representative. De Moraes said in a ruling on Friday that X may only be reinstated in Brazil after another company linked to the billionaire, satellite-based internet service provider Starlink, withdraws its appeals related to the case. X has been blocked in Brazil for nearly a month. De Moraes ordered the shutdown after sparring with Musk for months over free speech, far-right accounts and misinformation. Earlier this month, de Moraes

ordered Starlink's assets be used to cover X's fines that already exceeded USD3 million. The Brazilian justice argued the two companies are part of the same economic group — a justification that has been questioned by some legal experts. His new ruling also established a fine of 10 million Brazilian reais (USD1.84 million). Experts examining X's IP addresses — numeric designations that identifies sites' location on the internet — said the company temporarily routed users through the servers of Cloudflare, a content delivery network. X said it changed its servers to service clients in Latin America, which inadvertently brought the social media network back online in Brazil. One source familiar with the

judge's decision told The Associated Press that both of de Moraes' conditions are new. The source spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak publicly. De Moraes also accepted X's newly designated legal representative, but fined her in 300,000 reais (USD55,000) for not complying with other decisions he made in August. The company's lack of a legal representative in the country was the trigger for his decision to suspend the social media channel on August 30. The company has clashed with de Moraes since earlier this year over free speech, accounts associated with the far-right and misinformation on the platform, and it claims to be a victim of censorship.

Floods, landslides kill 66 in Nepal

Kathmandu (PTI): Floods and landslides caused by incessant rain killed at least 66 people and injured 60 others in Nepal, officials said on Saturday. Parts of Nepal have been inundated with rainfall since Thursday, prompting disaster authorities to warn of flash floods. Nepal Police Deputy Spokesperson Bishwo Adhikari said that out of the 66 people killed in the Himalayan nation due to the continuous rainfall, 34 were killed in the Kathmandu valley.

As many as 60 people were also injured in the floods. A total of 44 people remain missing countrywide, with 16 missing in Kathmandu Valley. More than 1,000 people have also been rescued. Adhikari said the main highways have been blocked in 44 locations across the country. Meanwhile, Acting Prime Minister and Minister for Urban Development Prakash Man Singh has called an emergency meeting involving various ministers, including the Home Minister, Home

Secretary, and chiefs of security agencies, instructing them to expedite search and rescue operations. Kathmandu was out of power the entire day as the main transmission line was obstructed due to the floods, but power resumed in the evening. Police reported that 226 houses have been submerged in Kathmandu, and a rescue team of around 3,000 security personnel has been deployed from the Nepal Police in the affected areas.

Kamala Harris vows to fix US' broken immigration system

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris has vowed to impose tougher security measures at the border and fix America's broken immigration system, as she sought to counter frequent political attacks on the issue from her Republican rival Donald Trump ahead of the November election. Vice President Harris' comments came during her visit to the US-Mexico border in Douglas, Arizona, on Friday. Despite taking a hardline stance on border security, Harris said she also supports a "pathway to citizenship" for undocumented migrants currently in the US. "As President, I will work with Congress to create, at long last, a pathway to citizenship for hardworking immigrants who have been here for years," Harris said. Harris was in Arizona to get a first-hand assessment of the security situation at the southern borders. Slamming former president Trump, she said politicians have refused to come together and fix the broken immigration system. Illegal immigration is an issue that Americans have grown increasingly worried about in recent years amid record levels of migrant crossings at the southern border. "Well, as President, I will put politics aside

to fix our immigration system and find solutions to problems which have persisted for far too long...These issues are highly consequential for our nation," she said. Harris, 59, will take on Trump, 78, in the November 5 presidential election. Observing that the contrast in the 2024 election is clear, Harris said it is a choice between common sense solutions and the same old political games. "In the four years that Donald Trump was President, he did nothing to fix our broken immigration system. He did not solve the shortage of immigration judges and border agents or create lawful pathways into our nation. He did nothing to address our outdated asylum system. And did not work with other governments in our hemisphere to deal with what is clearly a regional challenge," she alleged. Harris slammed Trump for wanting to run on a problem instead of fix a problem. "The American people deserve a President who cares more about border security than playing political games," she said. As a former border state Attorney General, Harris noted that she understands what security and enforcing the law at the border means, prosecuting transnational criminal organizations for the trafficking of guns, drugs, and human beings. As such she unveiled her approach to "target the entire global fentanyl supply chain"

"to significantly reduce the flow of precursor chemicals from China" and protect Americans from the "unimaginable destruction" it is causing. "On behalf of all communities across our nation that want to see these problems solved I say: We cannot accept Donald Trump's failure to lead. We should not permit scapegoating instead of solutions. Or rhetoric instead of results," she said. In his remarks earlier in the day, Trump hammered Harris for having an unsecured border. "This is bad timing for Kamala to show up today at the border. She didn't go there for four years. Now today she shows up," Trump said. Trump said Harris had betrayed her oath. "She let our cities fail violent gangs. She let our American sons and daughters be raped and murdered at the hands of vicious monsters. She let American communities be conquered. You go out to Aurora in Colorado, where they're taking over with AK-47s. They're taking over real estate. Kamala turned cherished small towns into blighted refugee camps," he said. "What Kamala Harris has done is unforgivable. It's a crime what she did. It's got to be criminal. There's no greater act of disloyalty than to extinguish the sovereignty of your own nation, and that's what she's done. She's ruined our nation. She's ruined our nation," Trump alleged.

Hindu minority in Bangladesh mulls idea of political party

PTI ■ DHAKA

Hindu community leaders in Bangladesh are advocating the formation of a dedicated political party, reflecting a call for political representation to protect their rights and ensure their safety. Hindu leaders from the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council (BHB-COP) and other groups are now discussing the possibility of establishing a separate political party or demanding reserved parliamentary seats. "There are currently three opinions that are being discussed in detail: first, going back to the separate electorate system from 1954; second, establishing a separate political party for Hindus; and third, reserving seats in Parliament for minorities," BHB-COP president member Kajal Debnath told PTI. The discussions came after the violence against the Hindu community following the resignation of the Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina as prime minister on August 5 following a stu-

dent movement. Debnath said the data collected by the BHB-COP points to 2,010 incidents of attacks on the Hindu community, ranging from murder and physical assaults to sexual assaults, attacks on temples, and destruction of property. There are no official figures from the Bangladesh government on the number of attacks. "The discussions and exchanges of opinions regarding forming a political party are at the top of our priority. Although nothing has been finalised, let's see how it pans out," said Ranjan Karmakar, a leader from the Hindu community. "The proposed political party could serve as a critical vehicle for change, ensuring their concerns are represented and addressed," he pointed out. Historically, Hindus made up about 22 per cent of Bangladesh's population during the 1971 Liberation War, but today they represent only approximately 8 per cent. The community members attributed this decrease in the Hindu population to socio-

political marginalisation and sporadic violence, intensifying the urgency for political mobilisation. However, Debnath said that forming a party for Hindus may not work in favour of minorities, as it might divide the secular votes and not result in victory. "The Hindu population is scattered across Bangladesh. In some areas, it comprises 35 per cent of the voters, while in most places it is 6-8 per cent of the voters. Those Hindu leaders from the Awami League who won in the last election garnered both Hindu votes and votes from Awami League supporters of other communities." "But if the same person contests as a candidate of a Hindu party, he or she may not be able to garner votes from other communities. So, the goal of sending representatives to Parliament won't be served," he said. There are different opinions within the community on whether to form a separate political party or to collaborate with existing secular parties. "We must focus on our common

goals. Only by standing united can we make a significant impact. This is our moment to rise and reclaim our place in the political landscape. But as a large section of Hindus are identified with the Awami League, we too are facing attacks," said Gobinda Chandra Pramanik, also general secretary of the Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Mohajote. Debnath said that reserving parliamentary seats similar to how it is done for women could be a solution. The demand for reservations is not new, as the government has previously allocated seats for women in both national and local politics, and Hindu community leaders argue that similar reservations for Hindus would give them a platform to influence policies that directly impact their safety and rights. "If we have representatives in Parliament, they can actively advocate for our safety, security, and cultural preservation. Without representation, we risk being forgotten in political discussions, left to navigate a hostile environment alone," he said.

FROM PAGE 1

India slams Pak at UN

She asserted that as the world knows, Pakistan has long employed cross-border terrorism as a weapon against its neighbours. "It has attacked our Parliament, our financial capital Mumbai, marketplaces and pilgrimage routes," she said, referring to the 2001 Indian Parliament attack and the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks carried out by Pakistan-based terror groups. "The list is long. For such a country to speak about violence anywhere is hypocrisy at its worst," Mangalanandan said. In his address, Sharif raised the Kashmir issue, as expected, and said that to "secure durable peace", India should reverse the Abrogation of Article 370 and enter into a dialogue for a "peaceful" resolution of the issue. He said India has spurned Pakistan's proposals for a mutual "Strategic Restraint Regime". Responding to this reference "to some proposal of strategic restraint", India asserted that there "can be no compact with terrorism. In fact, Pakistan should realise that cross-border terrorism against India will inevitably invite consequences." Reminding the international community

that this was a nation that for long hosted Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, Mangalanandan said Pakistan's "fingerprints are on so many terrorist incidents across the world, whose policies attract the dreads of many societies to make it their home. "Perhaps it should come as no surprise that its Prime Minister would so speak in this hallowed hall. Yet we must make clear how unacceptable his words are to all of us. We know that Pakistan will seek to counter the truth with more lies. Repetition will change nothing. Our stand is clear and needs no reiteration," she said. India stressed that it is even more extraordinary for a country with a history of rigged elections to talk about political choices, that too in a democracy. "The real truth is that Pakistan covets our territory, and in fact, has continuously used terrorism to disrupt elections in Jammu and Kashmir, an inalienable and integral part of India," the young Indian diplomat said. She said it is ridiculous that a nation that committed genocide in 1971 and which persecutes its minorities relentlessly even now, "dare speak about intolerances and phobias. The world can see for itself what Pakistan really is." A Pakistani diplomat went on to respond to

Mangalanandan with a Right of Reply. Describing India's assertions as "baseless and misleading", the Pakistani diplomat said the United Nations Security Council, through numerous resolutions, has unequivocally called for a free, impartial plebiscite to enable the people of Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. Every year, Pakistan's leaders, on expected lines, make references to Jammu and Kashmir in their UNGA speeches and India fields its young diplomats to deliver hard-hitting retorts to Islamabad's rants.

Gang shootouts on the rise in Delhi

On Friday night, three men opened fire at a second hand luxury car show room called Car Street Mini in southwest Delhi's Naraina, situated just a kilometre away from the Naraina police station. In this case also, no one was injured but the attackers targeted the cars in the showroom. Witnesses reported hearing at least 20 rounds being fired by three men, causing widespread panic. The shooters fled the scene after

damaging four luxury cars - two BMWs, a Mercedes, and a Mini Cooper. They also snatched the phone of a salesman and tossed it 100 meters away from the showroom. A slip reading "Bhau Gang, Since 2020" was found at the site, referencing the notorious gangster Himanshu Bhau, who fled to Portugal in 2022 and is suspected of orchestrating extortion attempts from abroad. The gangster has demanded Rs 5 crore from the owner of the car showroom as protection money, they said. According to police, the assailants fired more than two dozen bullets inside and outside the showroom. In a purported CCTV footage of the incident which was surfaced on social media on Saturday, three men are seen firing at the cars in the showroom. In the video, a shooter is also seen pointing his gun at a customer and employee sitting inside the showroom. In a similar attack in May, the Fusion Cars showroom in Tilak Nagar was targeted, and Rs 5 crore was reportedly demanded by the Bhau Gang. The gang is primarily involved in extortion, demanding large sums of money from business owners in exchange for protection. Police have identified the three suspects involved in the Naraina shooting and have registered a case.

50 killed in tribal clashes in northwest Pakistan

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

At least 50 people have been killed and 120 others injured in clashes between two warring tribes over a piece of land during the last eight days in Pakistan's restive northwestern Kurram district, bordering Afghanistan, police said on Saturday. According to police, the clashes started over a land dispute in the Upper Kurram area of Boshhehra, leading to gunfire and triggering clashes. A temporary ceasefire was implemented in the violence-hit areas on Saturday with the cooperation of tribal elders, Kurram Deputy Commissioner Javedullah Mehsud said. The situation in the Kurram district has now come under control. Clashes have ceased in all areas of the district, including Piwar, Tari Mangal, Kunj Alizai, Muqbil, and Para Chamkani Karman, Mehsud said, adding that security forces have been deployed in the areas. As many as 50 people were killed and

120 others injured in the eight-day clashes, he said. According to police, heavy and automatic weapons were used in the clashes. The intensity of the fighting had led to the closure of the Parachinar-Peshawar main road and the Pak-Afghan Kharlachi border, disrupting transportation and movement. The road blockade has caused a shortage of essential items, including food, fuel, and medicines, worsening the situation for residents. The fighting had spread to areas such as Balishkhel, Sadda, Khar Kallay, Peewar and Maqbal in the district, which borders Afghanistan's Khost, Paktia, Logar and Nangarhar provinces, which are considered strongholds of the ISIS and the Pakistan Taliban. Tribal leaders from the Turi tribe, Jalal Hussain and Syed Tajammul Hussain, and leaders from the Bangash tribe, Malik Fakhar Zaman and Haji Saleem Khan, have emphasised the importance of public participation in maintaining peace in the area.



RAIN WASHES OUT SECOND DAY OF KANPUR TEST

PTI ■ KANPUR

The second day of the second Test between India and Bangladesh was on Saturday called off without a ball being bowled due to persistent downpour. The drizzle in the morning turned into heavy rain, not letting the action begin on

day two at Green Park Stadium. The groundsman put the three super soppers to work around 11:15 am after the rain stopped. The visibility was also poor. As conditions did not improve, the second day's play was called off officially at 2:15pm. As per the weather forecast,

the city is expected to receive rain even on Sunday but Monday and Tuesday are likely to be sunny and warm. In that scenario, the match seems to be headed for a draw. Bangladesh had ended the rain- curtailed opening day at 107 for three as only 35 overs could be bowled.

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

Sinner rallies for win in Beijing as WADA appeals his steroid case

AP ■ BEIJING

Top-ranked Jannik Sinner rallied to beat Roman Safiullin 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 in the second round of the China Open on Saturday and learned afterward that his steroid case is far from over. While Sinner was on court in Beijing, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) announced it was seeking a ban of one to two years for the U.S. Open champion who tested positive twice for an anabolic steroid in March but was not suspended in a decision by an independent tribunal announced by the International Tennis Integrity Agency on Aug. 20 because the ITIA determined he was not to blame. Sinner's fate will now be determined by the Switzerland-based Court of Arbitration for Sport after WADA said it filed an appeal on Thursday. On court Saturday, the two-time Grand Slam champion again found himself behind in the Chinese capital after Safiullin broke serve twice to claim the opening set. Sinner's power and laser-like accuracy from the baseline gradually chipped away at his Russian opponent and helped the Italian to win seven straight games from 2-2 in the second set to take the ascendancy and close out a gritty win. Sinner, who has reached at least the quarterfinals at every



tour-level event he has played in 2024, will next play Jiri Lehecka, who earlier defeated Roberto Bautista Agut 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Also Saturday, Italy's Flavio Cabolli advanced after a 6-4, 6-2 win over Pavel Kotov. Third-seeded Daniil Medvedev played his second-round match against French veteran Adrian Mannarino later Saturday. In the women's draw, U.S. Open champion Aryna Sabalenka advanced to the third round with a 6-4, 6-1 win over Thai qualifier Mananchaya Sawangkaew. "In the first set, I was struggling a little bit with the rhythm," said Sabalenka, who's best run in Beijing has only been to the quarterfinals.

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

Kasatkina of Russia beat Croatian Jana Fett 6-1, 6-2. She will play Amanda Anisimova, who beat Camila Osorio of Colombia 1-6, 6-3, 6-4. Wimbledon champion Barbora Krejckova was upset 1-6, 6-4, 7-5 by Romania's Jaqueline Cristian. **JAPAN OPEN:** Tomas Machac upset fifth-seeded Tommy Paul 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (4) to advance to the quarterfinals and continued a disappointing week for the top-seeded players in Tokyo. Top-seeded Taylor Fritz, third-seeded Casper Ruud and fourth-seeded Stefaos Tsitsipas were all beaten in the first round, before second-seeded Hubert Hurkacz was also eliminated as he lost to U.S. Open semifinalist Jack Draper 6-4, 6-4 in the second round. Sixth-seeded Holger Rune is the highest-ranked seed remaining in the draw. Rune, from Denmark, beat home favorite Yoshihito Nishioka 6-2, 6-4. Defending champion Ben Shelton, the No. 8 seed, is the only other seeded player left in the quarterfinal draw. Alex Michelsen of the U.S. Also advanced after a 6-1, 6-4 win over Australian Christopher O'Connell to set up a quarterfinal match against Machac. Kei Nishikori beat Jordan Thompson 6-2, 6-3 and will play Rune in the quarterfinals.



NorthEast United FC aims to rebound against Kerala Blasters in ISL showdown

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

NorthEast United FC will look to bounce back from their recent defeat as they host Kerala Blasters FC in the Indian Super League at the Indra Gandhi Athletic Stadium on Sunday. The Highlanders secured a 1-0 victory in their season opener against Mohammedan FC but faced a setback with a 2-3 loss to Mohun Bagan Super Giant in their last match. In contrast, Kerala Blasters come into this fixture after a 2-1 win over East Bengal FC. In their previous 20 encounters in the ISL, NorthEast United has won five matches, while Kerala Blasters have emerged victorious eight times, with seven matches ending in a draw. NorthEast United has previously kept clean sheets at home, with a 3-0 win over Odisha FC and a 2-0 victory against Kerala Blasters. However, they have never managed to achieve three consecutive clean sheets at home in the ISL, making this an important opportunity for the hosts.

"I'm really happy, and proud of my players because we have shown that we're growing," NorthEast United FC head coach Juan Pedro Benali said in a release. "My team needs to improve in many areas, from all the areas, we need to keep working, now we have another final (against KBFC) we will think about the next game." Kerala Blasters boast a positive track record against NorthEast United, having won three times and drawn twice in their last six encounters. Their aerial threat is evident, with five headed goals scored in the ISL since the start of the 2023-24 season, a factor that the home team will need to monitor closely. In their last match, Kwame Peprah came off the bench to score the winner against East Bengal FC. Notably, 14 goals have been scored in or after the 85th minute in the competition, underscoring the competitive nature of the matches. "The reason we won against EBFC is not only because of a strong starting line-up, but also because of a really good finishing line-up," head coach Mikael Stahre said.

Canadian striker Larin scores against old club as Mallorca win 2-1 to maintain good start to season

AP ■ MADRID

Canadian striker Cyle Larin scored against his old club as Mallorca kept up its promising start to the Spanish league season with a 2-1 win away at Real Valladolid. It was the third win in a row for Mallorca, which moved into fourth place with 14 points from eight games. Valladolid, meanwhile, has not won a league match since the opening day of the season and has now taken only two points from its last seven games. Although all five of its points this season have come at



home, the newly promoted side was unable to make much of an impact in front of 20,000 fans. Yet it took almost an hour for Mallorca to make its dominance count when Larin, who signed from Valladolid last month, controlled a nice ball from Dani Rodriguez and then converted with poise from close range. Substitute Valery Fernandez made it 2-0 with seven minutes remaining, before Iván Sánchez got one back in stoppage time for Valladolid. "We're very disappointed because we've been strong at home," Sánchez said.

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

AP ■ PARIS

Bradley Barcola scored one goal in each half and Lee Kang-in added a third as Paris Saint-Germain beat Rennes 3-1 to extend its unbeaten run in the French league. Barcola took a pass from Ousmane Dembélé after half an hour on Friday and steered a right-foot shot inside the far post. Lee got his third goal of the season to double the home side's advantage 12 minutes into the second half and Barcola added his second with a simple tap in after 68 minutes. Arnaud Kalimuendo scored a consolation goal for Rennes from the penalty spot. Rennes had a second goal chalked off by VAR with two minutes to end any hopes of a comeback. Barcola's fifth and sixth goals of the



points from six games. Auxerre beat Brest 3-0 to grab its second league win of the season and put the brakes on the visitor's recent run of form. Brest was coming off two consecutive victories, including a 2-1 win over Sturm Graz in its first ever Champions League match. But under the pouring rain in central France, Auxerre finally showed some of the form that won it promotion last year and staved off a fifth straight defeat in Ligue 1. Elisha Owusu put the home side ahead with a left-foot shot after 26 minutes and captain Jubal doubled the lead from the penalty spot 11 minutes later. Hamed Junior Traore, on loan from Bournemouth, then got his second goal in two games 14 minutes into the second half.



Wimbledon's plans for expansion approved by London authorities despite residents' concerns

AP ■ LONDON

A proposal by Wimbledon organizers to expand the site of the Grand Slam tournament with 39 new tennis courts has been given the green light by local authorities. The All England Club's plans — which include a new 8,000-seat show court with a retractable roof — were approved Friday by the Greater London Authority despite protests by local residents. The planned expansion in Wimbledon Park, which is adjacent to the All England Club, would allow Wimbledon's qualifying tournament to be held on site rather than at nearby Roehampton Community Sports Centre. But some locals have objected to the plans over concerns about the environmental impact. Protesters assembled outside City Hall ahead of the hearing on Friday and a number spoke in the chamber during a morning session lasting

more than three hours. But Jules Pipe, London's deputy mayor for planning, said "the proposed development would facilitate very significant benefits. I agree with my officers that these benefits clearly outweigh the harm." Debbie Jevans, the chair of the All England Club, promised that the project "will be delivered with a meticulous attention to detail and the utmost respect for both our neighbours and the environment." The All England Club says the benefits of the expansion will include a 23-acre public park where there used to be a private golf course, and a minimum of seven grass courts that will be open for community use. "We look forward to working with all parties to bring this vision to life, delivering one of London's greatest sporting transformations since the 2012 (Olympic) Games and securing Wimbledon's future at the pinnacle of world sport," Jevans said.

Michael Andretti hands over control of race team to business partner

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Michael Andretti has restructured Andretti Global to give co-owner Dan Towriss control of the organization while Andretti will stay on as a strategic advisor of the team he has led since 2002. Andretti in early 2023 confirmed he'd sold part of the company to Towriss, owner of Gainbridge and holding company Group 1001. Gainbridge is one of the largest sponsors in IndyCar and also sponsors Andretti driver Colton Herta's car and the Indianapolis 500. The team has rapidly expanded with Towriss' influx of cash, and Towriss has been part of Andretti's push to join Formula 1. Andretti is still listed as CEO and chairman of Andretti Global, which is the name

the team changed to when Towriss became part of the ownership group. Towriss is listed on the team's official website as a partner who "with a genuine passion for motorsports and deep partnerships in the industry, Dan is changing the way people look at the business of motorsports." "Michael's goal has been to transition to a more strategic role with Andretti Global and focus less on the operational side of the race team," the team said in a Friday statement. "Michael and Dan Towriss have been working closely on developing this new structure, one which Michael is excited to see take shape under Dan's guidance. "Michael remains engaged and will continue to serve as a strategic advisor and key ambassador."

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



while winning at Gateway outside St. Louis. Andretti Global said it would share more details of the leadership

changes "after Michael and Dan have had an opportunity to speak to the team." Andretti Global fielded three

IndyCar teams this season - for Herta, Marcus Ericsson and Kyle Kirkwood - and won the season finale with Herta at Nashville Superspeedway. Herta scored the only two victories of the year for the team, which has not won an IndyCar championship since 2012. With Herta's win in the season finale, he surged to second in the final IndyCar standings. Andretti drivers have won the Indianapolis 500 five times. Michael Andretti's 42 career IndyCar victories ranks fifth on the all-time list. It was not immediately clear what happens next with Andretti's ongoing effort to enter F1, which has been heavily blocked by both the owners of F1 and the majority of the 10 existing teams on the F1 grid. Liberty Media, which owns F1, has

admitted it is under investigation by the Department of Justice for possible antitrust violations in not allowing Andretti into F1. Andretti and his father, Mario, in 2021 formed a special purpose acquisition company (SPAC) that was separate from Andretti Global and called Andretti Acquisition. The SPAC was designed to raise cash in an IPO to buy and take public another business. Andretti in March closed a merger with Zapata Computing Holdings, a generative AI company. Andretti Global is Zapata's largest customer, while Zapata is a sponsor of the motorsports team. Zapata, per filings, is paying Andretti Global \$9 million under the agreements while Andretti Global is paying Zapata \$6 million. The agreements expire at the end of 2024, per Sportico.



ELEGANCE REDEFINED

Experience the joy of fashion

Ravi Bajaj, renowned for his elegance in fashion, recently unveiled his redesigned store at DLF Emporio, New Delhi. This event showcased his latest collection, celebrating the blend of traditional craftsmanship and modern design, writes SAKSHI PRIYA



Ravi Bajaj has always been synonymous with style and sophistication in the fashion industry. His unique ability to blend traditional craftsmanship with modern sensibilities has made his designs timeless and appealing to a wide audience. As the festive season approaches, there was a strong sense of excitement surrounding the grand unveiling of his newly redesigned store at DLF Emporio in New Delhi.

Upon entering, guests were welcomed by a warm and inviting atmosphere. The stunning wall art and soft, warm lighting created a comfortable yet elegant setting. The store's transformation was impressive, with every detail thoughtfully curated to highlight the exquisite fabrics and intricate designs on display. The ambience was perfect for an evening dedicated to celebrating fashion and creativity.

The new collection was nothing short of a visual delight, showcasing a captivating range of colours and designs. One standout piece was a beautiful blue saree adorned with intricate red lacework. Its vibrant shade and delicate detailing instantly captured the attention of the guests, who couldn't help but admire its elegance. Nearby, a striking black saree with white lacework also drew admiration. The classic contrast of black and white offered a timeless elegance that resonated with many. But it was a stunning lavender saree embellished with silver and gold embroidery that truly left a lasting impression. As it caught the light, one enchanted guest described it as "simply gorgeous," perfectly echoing the sentiments of those around. The teal colour of the sarees also captured attention, their



stunning shades receiving numerous compliments. One guest perfectly expressed the sentiment with a single word: "Outstanding."

The collection also featured a range of warm-toned kurtas in various colours, designed to beautifully blend traditional and modern styles. The bandis and coats, crafted with great attention to detail, provided a sophisticated touch to the ensemble. There was something for everyone, making it clear that these were not just garments but pieces meant to be treasured and worn with pride. As the evening unfolded, the atmosphere was filled with lively conversations and laughter. Guests moved around, appreciating the intricate details of the collection. One particular item that caught many eyes was a striking white saree, decorated with designs of

musical notes in black and shimmering glitter that sparkled beautifully in the store. At first glance, its simplicity was striking, but a closer look revealed delicate embroidery that showcased its craftsmanship. It served as a reminder that sometimes, the most understated designs leave the biggest impact. As the night came to a close, it became evident that this event was about more than just launching a store. It was a celebration of elegance, creativity, and the joy of fashion, perfectly timed for the festive season ahead. Ravi Bajaj's redesigned store is more than a shopping destination; it's a place where people can experience the beauty and artistry of fashion in a welcoming environment. With his signature blend of tradition and modernity, Ravi Bajaj continues to be a favourite for those who appreciate style and craftsmanship.

From the Man Himself
An Exclusive Interview
with Ravi Bajaj

Ravi Bajaj's redesigned store is not just a new chapter in his fashion journey but also a clear example of his commitment to innovation and excellence. As he continues to shape the future of fashion with his unique vision, one thing is certain: his influence and creativity will remain at the forefront of the industry for years to come. He talked to Sakshi Priya about his passion. Excerpts:

What story do you want to convey through your new store?

Well, it's somewhat art-inspired. You can see it up to the ceiling. It's art-inspired but very subtle - not in your face. If you notice it, you notice it. The entire ceiling features French and Italian masks, symbolising Mars and Venus. We also have Iris and Morpheus, the god of sleep, and the famous depiction of Adam and God. The rest is quite modern with clean lines - that's my style. There's a touch of grandeur as well, with handmade chandeliers combining elements from Firozabad and Swarovski. So, it's a blend of modernity and subtle artistry.

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

Oh, that's a tough one. It's like choosing a favourite child! I probably like about 20% of my work and not the other 80%. That's how you keep yourself motivated. The day you like 100% of your work, I think you're done.

What challenges did you encounter in shaping the final design?

Ravi Bajaj: There weren't any significant challenges in terms of ideas. The challenge usually comes with execution. Conceiving an idea is easy; the germ is always there. But translating it into reality - that's the tough part. Once it's done, it's beyond your control, and then it's about how it's perceived. What's in my control are the initial idea and its execution.

How do you foresee the intersection of fashion and retail experiences evolving over the next few years?

It's difficult to say. The biggest challenge is staying relevant. There's so much happening in the industry, and I've been in this business for 37 years. Staying persistent and maintaining your grit is essential.



NEW OFFERINGS

JOIN THE DJGF CELEBRATION!

Don't miss the 12th edition of the Delhi Jewellery and Gem Fair (DJGF) at Pragati Maidan! This premier B2B jewellery exhibition features over 650 exhibitors showcasing 150,000 stunning designs, including gold, silver, diamonds and more. Enjoy networking opportunities, informative sessions and the exciting DJGF Silver Show. Connect with industry leaders and explore the latest trends in jewellery.

EVENT DETAILS

Dates: 29th September-1st October, 2024
Location: Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
Time: 10 AM - 6 PM



SCULPTING MASTERCLASS

Atelier Della Firenze by Niyamat Mehta is hosting a Masterclass series led by renowned sculptor Niyamat Mehta. This four-session course offers personalised attention with only 7 seats per class, focusing on sculpting the human portrait. Perfect for anyone aged 16+, this is a unique opportunity to master the anatomy and proportion of the human skull. Don't miss out!

COURSE DETAILS

Dates: 5th, 12th & 19th October, 2024
Time: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Location: Top Floor Studio, Sector 3, Noida
Price: Rs. 50,000 (materials included)



YUDHRA: A HIT OR MISS ACTION

Action scenes come to the rescue for an unhooked plot for Yudhra, says ABHI SINGHAL

Yudhra is an action thriller film directed by Ravi Udyawar. Its script is done by Shridhar Raghavan and dialogues are written by Farhan Akhtar and Akshat Ghildial. The film stars Siddhant Chaturvedi in the title role, alongside Malavika Mohanan, Raghav Juyal, Gajraj Rao, Ram Kapoor, Raj Arjun and Shilpa Shukla.

Yudhra, who is struggling with anger issues, is assigned an undercover mission to bring down a powerful drug syndicate headed by Firoz and his son Shafiq. Yudhra accepts the responsibility as he wants to exact revenge against Firoz for his parents's death. The film commences with a loose narrative from the start and revolves around the character's anger issues. The movie opens with an over aggressive orphan kid played by Siddhant. It is the point from where action packed role of Chaturvedi as Yudhra starts.

To counterbalance Yudhra's irascible demeanour and immense power, the film features Gajraj Rao as his foster father who plays his deceased father's friend. Gajraj is a senior and experienced actor but unfortunately his role does not add weight to the movie. Siddhant who made his electrifying debut in Gully Boy, tries to experiment with the action cinema.

The scenes in the film are set with a narrative of high octane action and Siddhant Chaturvedi is seen pushing his limits with the role. The bike chasing scene raises expectations but only to be dashed shortly after. The romantic subplot in the film between Yudhra and

Nikhat (Malavika Mohanan) remains underdeveloped and fails to resonate with the audience. Their chemistry does not work and disappoint to say the least. Yudhra lacks a distinctive quality that sets it apart from other action films. The storyline could have been more engaging to keep the audience interested. There are some violent scenes that captivate the audience.

Raghav Juyal, playing the antagonist in the film. His entry could be more powerful. His presence does help you to sit through the film. Siddhant could have shone but the sloppy storyline snatches away that from him. But Raghav Juyal does prove himself despite short screen time he gets and that too spaced by an hour. Gajraj Rao and Ram Kapoor have played their roles in a decent manner and have adjusted well to their roles. Raj Arjun as Firoz plays Yudhra's father's killer's rival and fits in well.

The music of the film is also average, and was not expected from someone like Shankar Ehsaan Loy. He has composed two songs in the film. The film can be considered a one time watch but it lacks clarity to Siddhant Chaturvedi's character and is a bit blunt and intimidating to understand. The film's duration of two hours and thirty minutes is rather long



NATIONAL COFFEE FESTIVAL 2024!

Calling all coffee lovers! Join this October for the India International Coffee Festival featuring the National Barista Championship across three cities. Experience thrilling competitions, tastings and workshops celebrating coffee culture. Don't miss out on this caffeinated celebration!

EVENT DATES:

Delhi: 4th-6th October, 2024 at Pacific Mall, Tagore Garden
Mumbai: 11th-13th October, 2024 at Phoenix Marketcity, Kurla
Bangalore: 28th-30th October, 2024 at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur

"The best way to approach Navratri is in a spirit of celebration. This is the secret of life: to be non-serious but absolutely involved"
— Sadhguru



Over the centuries, Durga Puja has evolved from a private affair of Zamindars to a mass celebration on a global scale. It is now much more than just a religious festival – it's a cultural spectacle, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

DURGA PUJA

A SYMPHONY OF TRADITION AND TRANSFORMATION

Some September and everyone is busy making plans for the 'Puja', a festival dedicated to Goddess Durga, in eastern India. Of course it is Kolkata which is the epicentre of all celebrations. Over the years, *Durga Puja* has evolved into a pan-Indian and global festival. With unmatched fervour and devotion, people across the world now come together to honour the goddess, celebrating her victory and divine power.

Durga Puja, one of the most revered and vibrant festivals in India, particularly in West Bengal, celebrates the victory of the goddess Durga over the demon Mahishasura, symbolising the triumph of good over evil. Rooted in Hindu mythology, the festival commemorates the goddess as the embodiment of Shakti, or divine feminine power. Over the years, *Durga Puja* has transformed from a primarily religious observance into a grand socio-cultural extravaganza that has few parallels. *Durga Puja* marks the victory of Goddess Durga, a fierce yet compassionate deity, over Mahishasura, who threatened to disrupt the balance of the universe. According to legend, Mahishasura received a boon that no man could defeat him. As he unleashed terror, the gods united to create Durga, a divine warrior goddess, who fought and eventually killed Mahishasura. The festival celebrates Durga's strength, resilience, and protective nature, while also invoking blessings for peace, prosperity, and protection against evil forces. That is mythology for one and all but it is a metaphor which might have fewer takers but nevertheless the message is crystal.

The metaphor and hidden message of Goddess Durga lie in her embodiment of divine feminine power, resilience, and protection. As a multi-armed warrior goddess, Durga symbolises the shakti (cosmic energy) within all beings, representing the strength needed to overcome life's obstacles. Each weapon she holds signifies various tools required to defeat inner and outer evils like fear, ignorance, pride and injustice. Metaphorically, Durga's battle with Mahishasura, the demon king, is a reflection of the ongoing struggle between good and evil, not just in the cosmic realm but within individuals and society at large. Her victory underscores that evil - be it oppression, greed or violence - can only be defeated through righteous action, courage and the collective strength of the divine and human will.

It is the triumph of dharma (righteousness) over adharma (immorality), a reminder that good eventually prevails even in the face of insurmountable odds. Furthermore, Durga, as a motherly figure, embodies compassion and protection, highlighting the balance between fierceness and nurturing, teaching that strength does not negate love and compassion. Goddess Durga conveys the message of empowerment, particularly for women, demonstrating that power and authority lie in embracing one's true self and purpose. In a broader sense, Durga's story speaks to the need for balance between action and patience, destruction and creation, power and empathy.

The festival is observed during the Hindu Calendar month of Ashwin



DURGA PUJA IS AN ELABORATE AND COLOURFUL FESTIVAL, TYPICALLY SPANNING FIVE DAYS - SHASHTHI, SAPTAMI, ASHTAMI, NAVAMI AND VIJAYADASHAMI. EACH DAY IS MARKED BY RITUALS, PRAYERS, CULTURAL EVENTS AND, OF COURSE, THE UNVEILING OF THE IDOL OF GODDESS DURGA IN PANDALS (TEMPORARY, ARTISTICALLY DESIGNED STRUCTURES). THE CELEBRATION BEGINS WITH THE RITUAL OF BODHON, OR THE WELCOMING OF THE GODDESS, ON THE SIXTH DAY



(September-October), culminating on Vijayadashami, the tenth day when Durga's victory is celebrated and her idols are immersed in water, symbolising her return to Mount Kailash, her celestial home. *Durga Puja* is an elaborate and colourful festival, typically spanning five days - Shashthi, Saptami, Ashtami, Navami and Vijayadashami. Each day is marked by rituals, prayers, cultural events and, of course, the unveiling of the idol of Goddess Durga in pandals (temporary, artistically designed structures). The celebration begins with the ritual of Bodhon, or the welcoming of the goddess, on the sixth day.

FROM ZAMINDAR PUJA TO PUBLIC CELEBRATIONS

Historically, *Durga Puja* was a private affair, celebrated within the homes of wealthy zamindar (landlord) families. However, during the late 18th century, it began to shift towards community-based celebrations. In Kolkata, the first publicly organised *Durga Puja*, known as the Barowari Puja, was held in 1790, and since then, the practice has spread across Bengal and beyond. The first major move toward a community-based *Durga Puja* or Barowari Puja, took place in 1790 in Hooghly district, near Kolkata. A group of twelve friends organised this puja to make the festival more inclusive and community-oriented, free from the exclusivity of the zamindar class. This concept of collective worship was revolutionary at the time and set the foundation for public celebrations of the festival. The term "Barowari" comes from baro (twelve) and yari (friends), representing this group's efforts to democratise *Durga Puja*. Raja Nabakrishna Deb, an influential zamindar of the Shobhabazar Rajbari in Kolkata, played a critical role in popularising *Durga Puja* beyond the private confines of aristocratic families. In 1757, following the British victory at the Battle of Plassey, Nabakrishna Deb invited British officers, including Robert Clive, to his *Durga Puja* celebration, creating a hybrid of Indian tradition and colonial influence. In the late 19th century, Swami Vivekananda and the Ramakrishna Mission also played a pivotal role in giving *Durga Puja* a broader, more public dimension. Through the Ramakrishna Mission, *Durga Puja* became associated with nationalistic and cultural identity, with an emphasis on social service and community welfare. Swami Vivekananda himself performed

Durga Puja at Belur Math in 1901, marking the festival as both a spiritual and community event.

PANDAL HOPPING

The centrepiece of the festivities is the pandals, where elaborate idols of Durga, along with her children - Lakshmi, Saraswati, Kartikeya and Ganesha - are displayed. These pandals often feature intricate themes that range from mythological tales to contemporary social issues. *Durga Puja* pandals have evolved far beyond simple religious displays, becoming powerful platforms for artistic expression and social commentary. Every year, these temporary structures turn into creative masterpieces that reflect not just devotion to Goddess Durga but also highlight contemporary issues ranging from politics to global events and pressing social concerns. Some pandals artistically engage with local and national politics, offering thought-provoking critiques or support for political movements. For example, some recent themes have explored elections, portraying the goddess battling forces of greed and dishonesty, metaphorically addressing societal upheaval. Several pandals focus on international matters, such as climate change, world peace or refugee crises. They utilise innovative materials and designs to depict how these global challenges affect humanity. For instance, some recent installations have depicted the Amazon rainforest fires, the pandemic or refugee struggles, merging Durga's fight against evil with the global battle for environmental protection or humanitarian aid. Many pandals are now powerful vehicles for raising awareness about social issues. They have addressed women's rights, child labor, education and even mental health. Some pandals creatively use Durga's weapons to symbolise the tools needed to fight social evils like gender inequality or poverty, aligning the goddess's mythology with contemporary societal struggles. Themes such as women empowerment, gender justice and communal harmony are depicted with a blend of artistry and symbolism. In recent years, with growing awareness about environmental conservation, eco-friendly pandals have gained popularity. Artists use biodegradable materials like clay, bamboo and jute to create these installations, while themes often focus on

sustainability and environmental consciousness. These efforts not only contribute to reducing pollution during idol immersion but also send a strong message about the urgent need to protect nature. These innovative pandals transform *Durga Puja* into not just a religious celebration but a cultural forum where tradition and modernity intersect, sparking dialogue on critical societal and global issues. Through artistry, they encourage introspection, inspire change, and bring communities together in shared reflection.

RITUALS AND PRAYERS

Devotees perform elaborate rituals, such as the pushpanjali (flower offerings) and aarti (lamp offerings), invoking the goddess's blessings. On Ashtami, the main day of the festival, the Sandhi Puja, symbolising the transition from Ashtami to Navami, is performed with great fervour. Kumari Puja, where young girls are worshiped as manifestations of the goddess, is also a key ritual.

CULTURAL PERFORMANCES AND FEASTING

Beyond its religious aspect, *Durga Puja* is also a cultural celebration. Communities organise music and dance performances, theatrical productions and art exhibitions. The festival is a time for feasting, with special foods like bhog (a sacred offering) and traditional Bengali sweets such as sandesh, rasgulla, and mishti doi adding to the festive charm. While *Durga Puja* retains its core religious significance, the festival has undergone significant transformations over the centuries, evolving into a social, artistic, and commercial spectacle.

GLOBALISATION OF DURGA PUJA

Today, *Durga Puja* is not confined to Bengal. Thanks to the global Bengali diaspora, the festival is celebrated with grandeur in cities like London, New York and Dubai. Modern technology, social media and live streaming of rituals have expanded the reach of *Durga Puja*, allowing devotees from across the globe to participate. *Durga Puja* has also seen commercialisation, with sponsorships and advertisements driving the festival economy. The shopping, food, and tourism sectors receive a massive boost during this time, as people from across the country and the world flock to experience the grandeur of the celebration. *Durga Puja* is more than just a religious festival; it is a vibrant, living tradition that has evolved with time. While the core message of the triumph of good over evil remains intact, the festival has grown to embody the cultural and social heartbeat of Bengal, touching the lives of millions across the globe. As *Durga Puja* continues to transform, it serves as a powerful reminder of the enduring strength of faith, community and creativity. In today's society, with the increasing disregard for women's dignity, the timeless message of Goddess Durga appears to be lost in the din. People seem more focused on indulging in the festive revelry rather than embracing the deeper significance of Durga's empowerment. Yet, this is the fate that most festivals eventually meet - a shift from reflection to celebration.

A TASTE OF HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Durga Puja brings feeling of home for everyone. For those in Delhi, *Oh! Calcutta* offers the flavours of Bengal. It Celebrates 25 years, serving authentic Bengali food, making it a perfect spot to enjoy the festival in all its grandeur, writes **SAKSHI PRIYA**



Photos: Pankaj Kumar



Durga Puja is more than just a festival; it's an emotion, a time when everyone feels an irresistible pull towards home. The smell of incense, the rhythm of the 'dhak' and the sight of the majestic idols fill hearts with nostalgia. For those who find themselves far from Kolkata during this time, there's a place that offers a slice of home: *Oh! Calcutta*.

Oh! Calcutta has been serving the flavours of Bengal for 25 years. As the city prepares to welcome Durga Maa, this iconic restaurant remains a favourite for all those hoping for the familiar taste of home-cooked Bengali food. Recently celebrating its silver jubilee, *Oh! Calcutta* has not only kept the essence of Kolkata's cuisine alive, showing that the spirit of Bengali food remains strong and proud, no matter where you are.

Established in 1992, *Oh! Calcutta* was born from a passion to showcase the unique flavours of Kolkata's 300-year-old culinary traditions. The restaurant's menu is a tribute to the city's gastronomic legacy, influenced by British, Armenian, French and Mughal cultures. This blend of influences captures Kolkata's essence as a melting pot of communities. The founder, *Anjan Chatterjee* and his team of chefs envision their cuisine as a tribute to the rich and diverse culinary heritage of Kolkata, which has been shaped over centuries. As they say, "Kolkata's khabar mane sudhu peth bhora noi, eta hridayo bhora" (In Kolkata, food is not just about filling the stomach but the heart).

As part of its silver jubilee celebrations, *Oh! Calcutta* has introduced a special anniversary menu that beautifully captures Kolkata's culinary heritage. The menu, curated by *Chatterjee*, marries traditional recipes with a contemporary touch, ensuring that the authenticity of Bengali cuisine remains at its heart. Signature dishes such as *Aam Ada Grilled Bhetki*, *Jackfruit Tikki* and *Prawn Malai Curry* are shining examples of the restaurant's dedication to preserving the old while embracing the new.

One of the highlights is the crispy *Hilsa Fish Fingers*, served with a tangy mustard mayo that brings back memories of home-cooked meals. The *Calcutta Fish Fry* is another star, with its tantalising blend of spices that capture the essence of family gatherings. And, of course, there's the *Bhetki Machher Paturi*,

where fish marinated in mustard and coconut, wrapped in banana leaves, and steamed to perfection.

Mutton dishes hold a special place in Bengali cuisine, and *Oh! Calcutta's* offerings don't disappoint. The rich, slow-cooked *Kosha Mangsho* (mutton curry) is simmered with spices that warm the soul, while the *Railway Mutton Curry*, inspired by the classic railway-style preparation, evokes nostalgia and comfort.

These are dishes that remind you of home-cooked meals during Pujo and family journeys. The vegetarian fare at *Oh! Calcutta* is

equally delightful. Dishes like *Mochar Ghonto* (Banana Floret Subzi) and *Cholar Dal* (Bengal gram lentils cooked with coconut and spices) highlight the rich vegetarian tradition of Bengal.

And let's not forget the *Begum Bhaja*, deep-fried slices of eggplant that are the perfect accompaniment to the *Cholar Dal*.

For seafood lovers, there's the *Prawn Malai Curry*, a creamy and indulgent prawn dish cooked in coconut milk and lightly spiced. And for those seeking something lighter, the *Maacher Dom Jhol* (fish curry) with *luchi* offers a delicate blend of spices with fresh

vegetables and fish. This simple yet heartwarming dish is a staple in Bengali households and is often served during Durga Puja feasts.

No Bengali meal is complete without a sweet ending, and *Oh! Calcutta* makes sure this tradition is upheld. The restaurant offers a range of traditional sweets, including *Sandesh*, *baked Rasgulla* and *Mishti Doi* is a staple at the end of every Bengali meal. As they say, "Bangalir mishti priyo, eta thob shobar jana" (Everyone knows that Bengalis love sweets).

What sets *Oh! Calcutta* apart is its tireless commitment to authenticity. The restaurant sources key ingredients directly from Kolkata, ensuring that every dish retains its traditional flavour.

From the *Kakra Chingri Bhapa* to the fragrant *Gobindobhogher Bhaat* (a special variety of rice), every ingredient is carefully chosen to maintain the integrity of Bengali cuisine. This attention to detail ensures that each dish not only tastes authentic but also evokes a sense of nostalgia.

The atmosphere at *Oh! Calcutta* further enhances the dining experience. The decor, featuring traditional Bengali art and nostalgic photographs of Kolkata, creates a warm and inviting setting. The staff, always attentive and knowledgeable, make sure that guests feel at home, guiding them through the menu and sharing the stories behind each dish.

As the festivities unfold, the connection between food, culture and family shines brightly at *Oh! Calcutta*. It's a place where both Bengalis and non-Bengalis can celebrate the rich and diverse cuisine of Kolkata. This Durga Puja, let the flavours of Kolkata fill your heart and your plate as you indulge in the culinary brilliance that has delighted guests for 25 years. As they say, "Banglar khabar mane sudhu taste noi, eta hridayo er kotha" (Bengali food is not only about taste, but it's also a matter of the heart).

So, this Pujo, if you find yourself longing for the flavours of home, head over to *Oh! Calcutta* in GK-2, New Delhi. With dishes like *Kosha Mangsho*, *Mochar Chop* and *Gol Morich Chicken*, you will be treated to a culinary journey that's as close to Kolkata as you can get without leaving Delhi. Let the food fill your heart with joy, warmth, and a taste of home, reminding you that the spirit of Durga Puja can be felt wherever you are.



"KOLKATAY Khabar Mane Sudhu Peth Bhora Noi, Eta Hridayoy Bhora"
(In Kolkata, food is not just about filling the stomach, but the heart)

SIP THE ESSENCE OF ASIA: A UNIQUE BEVERAGES EXPERIENCE

Yauatcha's 'Asia In A Glass' is more than just a cocktail menu, it is an homage to the traditional flavours and modern techniques that define Asian cuisine, says **SHARMILA CHAND**

Yauatcha, the well-known contemporary Dim sum Tea House in Bengaluru is celebrating a unique cocktail menu, 'Asia In A Glass'. It is a vibrant celebration of Asian ingredients, masterfully crafted into exquisite cocktails that promise to transport guests on a sensory journey across the continent. I was thrilled to see how they have gone beyond their culinary fare to extend their philosophy seamlessly into the heart of their bar program, where mixology transforms into an art form.

THE DRINK'S NARRATIVE

Ranging from classic cocktails with a unique twist to refreshing fruit-forward and tea-infused concoctions, each libation at this London-style bar is a meticulously crafted narrative. The carefully designed cocktail menu embodies innovation and sophistication in showcasing Asian ingredients.

"When I was working on the 'Asia In A Glass' article, I had the pleasure of meeting with Merwyn and gained a deeper understanding of the evolution of Yauatcha's cocktail scene. Yauatcha has always been at the forefront of mixology trends, being one of the pioneers in implementing an innovative ice program. Sitting down with Merwyn provided invaluable insights that helped shape the story. It's truly gratifying to see this meticulously crafted menu come to fruition with this article," said **Aslam Gafoor**,



who inspired the creation of this cocktail menu with his article in the *Yauatcha Life* magazine, titled 'Asia In A Glass'. As the name suggests, Asian ingredients take the spotlight in Yauatcha's cocktail program philosophy, turning every cocktail into a distinctive masterpiece. From the invigorating zing of lemongrass to the comforting warmth

of ginger, Yauatcha's Head Mixologist, Merwyn Alphonso, has curated a sensory experience that reflects Asian culinary heritage in every sip. Furthermore, the glassware and ice story transform into canvases for expression, enhancing visual allure and turning the bar into a dynamic masterpiece where flavours dance and evolve. Sharing his

excitement about the launch of the new cocktail menu, Merwyn said, "Discussing the beverage program at Yauatcha, it's clear that it's more than just a dim sum restaurant. When Allen Yau founded Yauatcha, it was built on the four pillars of hospitality, patisserie, dim sum, mixology and tea. To this day, these pillars guide us in crafting every cocktail

that we put on our menus. The 'Asia In A Glass' menu was created with this ethos in mind, and we hope our guests enjoy these beautiful libations. The cocktails draw inspiration from across the Asian continent, incorporating traditional Asian ingredients such as Yuzu, Lychee, Pandan and Lemongrass. The result is a series of exclusive beverages that are as visually stunning as they are delicious, each one

telling a story of its own."

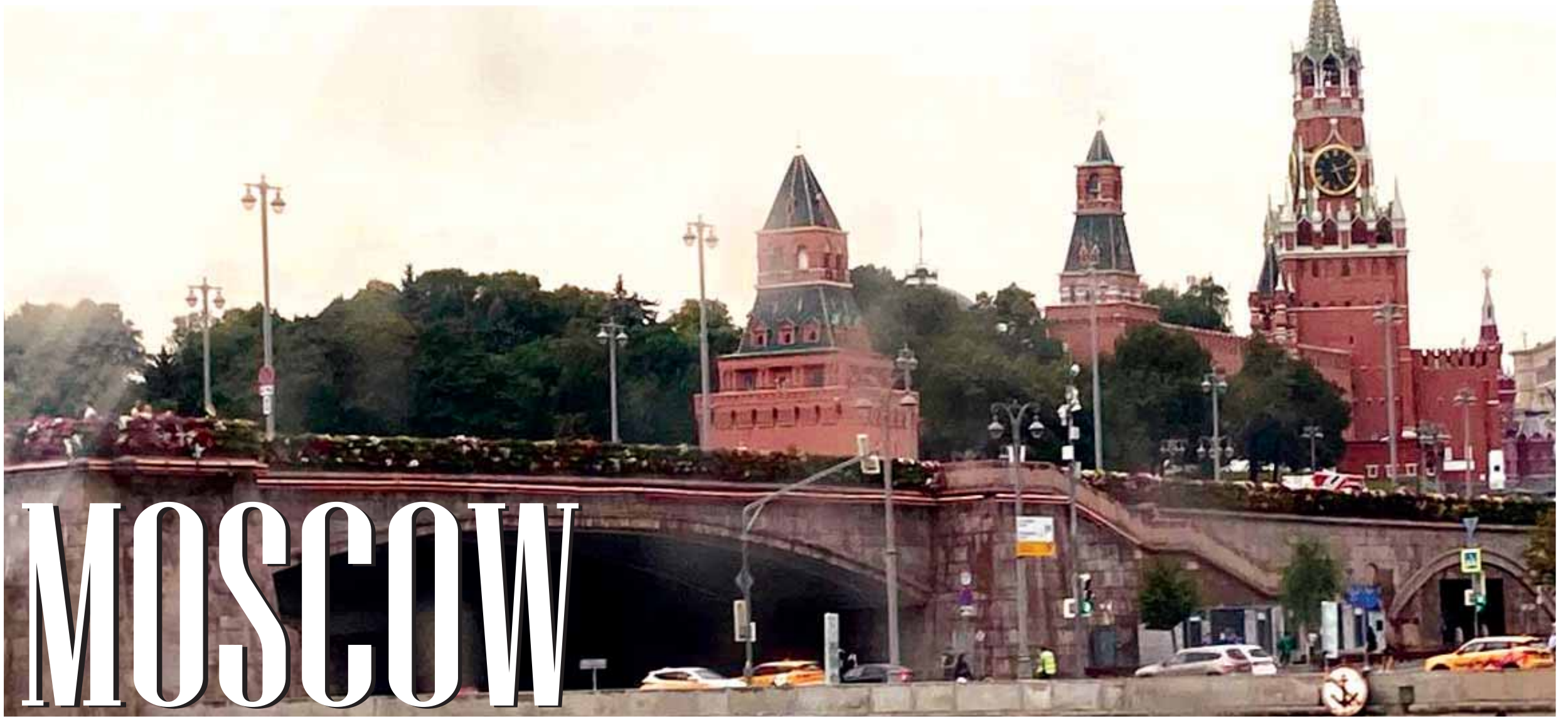
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MENU

- **Tian Shang:** A refreshing blend of Gin, Vodka, raspberry liqueur, lemon, fresh raspberries, elderflower foam.
- **Jian Mei:** A tea twist with Gin, sake, floral tea liqueur.
- **Around The World:** A delightful concoction of White rum, limoncello, Aperol, lychee, homemade apricot compote, rosemary twig.
- **Ginger Martini:** A zesty, aromatic blend with White rum, ginger, green apple, orgeat, lime.

Each cocktail is a testament to the skill and creativity of Yauatcha's mixologists, who have drawn inspiration from the diverse culinary landscapes of Asia. Experience the vibrant flavours and innovative creations that set Yauatcha apart. The drinks echo Yauatcha's ethos, embodying innovation and sophistication in showcasing Asian ingredients. The concoctions are more than just drinks, they are conversation starters and memory makers. Step in, have your pick from the 'Asia In A Glass' menu and see how a world of flavours is waiting to be explored by you! Cheers!

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Sharmila Chand is an author and consulting editor. She writes on food, travel, lifestyle, Culture.



MOSCOW

A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME: FROM SOVIET SHADOWS TO MODERN MARVELS

From the historical depths of Red Square to the majestic Kremlin, each corner of this sprawling metropolis reveals layers of history - burnt, rebuilt and revived - beckoning travelers to explore its rich tapestry of culture and heritage, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

As I step off the plane at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Alexander S. Pushkin International Airport, the brisk, cold breeze is a refreshing change from the humid warm air of Delhi. This is my second trip to Moscow; my first visit occurred shortly after the Soviet Union disintegrated and Russia emerged as a new entity. Indeed, Moscow has transformed significantly since then. The city's infrastructure has improved dramatically, making it almost unrecognisable; the roads and the cars on them wear a fresh look. Yet, amidst this change, Moscow retains its unique character—involving yet inherently private.

Over its 877-year history, the city has withstood a lot. Moscow lives fully, with its history woven into every brick and stone. Each regime has left its imprint, manifesting in monuments and relics scattered throughout the city, which now stand in contrast to modern architecture.

Moscow, the capital of Russia, boasts a rich and complex history that spans over 800 years. Founded in 1147 by Prince Yuri Dolgoruky, the city initially served as a minor trading post. Its strategic location on the Moskva River facilitated trade and communication, contributing to its gradual rise in importance. By the 15th century, under Ivan III (Ivan the Great), Moscow emerged as a significant political and cultural centre, ultimately overthrowing Mongol dominance.

In 1547, Ivan IV (Ivan the Terrible) was crowned as the first Tsar of Russia, marking the official establishment of the Tsardom. This period was characterized by territorial expansion, the consolidation of power, and the construction of iconic structures like St. Basil's Cathedral, which symbolizes Moscow's architectural heritage.

Red Square, the iconic heart of Moscow, was established in the late 15th century, specifically during the reign of Ivan III (Ivan the Great). Originally, the area served as a marketplace and a central hub for various activities, but it gradually evolved into a political and cultural centre. It is now a must-visit tourist attraction. And if one wants to understand Moscow brace up for a long walk.

Red Square transports you to the 15th century. Our guide, an enthusiastic and energetic lady tells us Red is not for colour though the bricks and stones used are Red. Red in Russian means beautiful so it is a beautiful square and I couldn't agree less. You have colourful St. Basil's Cathedral overlooking the square, commissioned by Ivan IV (Ivan the Terrible) in 1555 to commemorate the conquest of Kazan. Done in Disney style (or maybe it is the other way round). This style of structure painting is categorised of Russia and is called "Russian patterning." It is the place to click selfies.

Red square is also the place where Lenin's embalmed body is kept and many other Generals were buried. We don't get a chance to go inside as it is closed by the time we reach. Vladimir Lenin, leader of the October Revolution and the first leader and founder of the Soviet Union, died in Gorki aged 53 after falling into a coma on January 21,



1924. It has been 100 years since he died. The GUM Department Store is a major shopping destination nearby. It is beautiful no doubt and has best brands on offer. I buy nothing but being it is an experience; the aura of the place is awesome. Nearby there is a souvenir shop which has a good collection of memorabilia and offers discounts and prices are negotiable, feels like home. I buy a few souvenirs. Red Square has been the site of numerous significant events throughout Russian history, including military parades, public gatherings, and political demonstrations, making it a symbol of both the historical and contemporary Russian state. Then there is a change of guards where every two hours Presidential guards change their duty. They say you have to be the best to be presidential guards. Three tough

looking guys come and replace the three guards on duty and walk beating their boots on the ground. The Moscow Victory Day Parade is an annual military parade of the Russian Armed Forces on Moscow's Red Square on May 9 during the Victory Day celebrations and is a big draw with the tourists and locals alike. The other most visited complex in the world is perhaps the Kremlin, the seat of power, where you still have the president's office. We walk through the door rather easily. Our guide is smart; tells us the President is not there else it would not be that easy. There is the president's office and a broken bell which never rang once as it broke while making it. Then there were buildings that were set on fire when Napoleon attacked. People abandoned them and went to jungles. All Bonapart found was



a smoking burning building. They were restored and did not look burnt now. We moved on to the churches where Tsars were baptised, crowned and laid to rest. All have shining brass tops. Don't know how they keep them so shiny. I can't keep my small Buddha statue that shiny anyway. Moscow became the capital of the new socialist state, undergoing rapid industrialisation and significant urban development, exemplified by the construction of grandiose structures like the Seven Sisters skyscrapers. These seven huge buildings still stand tall and are landmarks. They now house a university, a government ministry, a hotel and no idea about the others. Interestingly the underground in Moscow was used as bunkers by the Muscovites during the second world war. The stations are indeed nothing short of a palace with large murals exquisitely done and preserved. We decide to take a ride. The coaches are neat and people are friendly. We exchange smiles with fellow passengers. Our short but sweet journey comes to an end we are back to our hotel. The dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 marked another pivotal moment in Moscow's history. The city transitioned from a socialist regime to a market economy, leading to significant social and economic changes. Modern Moscow has seen extensive urban development and globalisation. Moscow has now become a business hub and opened to inter cultural relations and tourists from all over the world. Today, Moscow stands as a vibrant metropolis that beautifully blends its rich historical heritage with modernity, attracting millions of visitors each year who come to explore its vast cultural treasures, including historic churches, museums, and vibrant neighbourhoods. Each brick and stone of this ancient city tells a story of resilience and transformation, reflecting the enduring spirit of its people. Moscow is a foodie's paradise. I enjoyed Zhivago's food, excellent food served with a charming smile. Apart from Dr Zhivago there are many restaurants that dot the city and have amazing food and vibes. Moscow is a vibrant city where culinary culture thrives, offering a rich tapestry of dining experiences that

reflect both tradition and innovation. From elegant restaurants serving classic Russian fare like 'borscht' and 'pelmeni' to trendy eateries embracing global influences, the city's food scene is diverse and sophisticated.

In the heart of Moscow, Café Pushkin stands as a symbol of elegance, offering a nostalgic ambiance reminiscent of 19th-century aristocratic Russia. For those seeking modern Russian cuisine with a twist, White Rabbit is a must-visit, famous for its innovative take on local ingredients and breathtaking views of the city.

For a more casual yet equally delightful experience, LavkaLavka, a farm-to-table restaurant, emphasizes sustainable dining, offering dishes made from fresh, locally sourced ingredients. Meanwhile, Dr. Zhivago of course presents a chic, contemporary take on traditional Soviet-era dishes in a stylish setting. For travellers and locals alike, these eateries are more than just places to dine—they offer an immersive experience into Moscow's rich cultural heritage and evolving modern palate.

Moscow has a good number of Museums too; they are a must visit if you have taste beyond Malls and Restaurants which Moscow has plenty. The guides are funny and knowledgeable at the same time. Moscow has a huge collection of paintings from bygone eras. Mostly of the Christ, kings but also of the people their life and woes. One could spend a day just watching the masterpieces. For the intellectually inclined, Moscow has a number of libraries with excellent collection of books. Russian libraries are not just repositories of books but vital cultural institutions that embody the country's rich literary and intellectual tradition. The most iconic among them is the Russian State Library in Moscow, one of the largest in the world.

Founded in 1862, it holds millions of volumes, including rare manuscripts, maps, and other historical documents, making it a treasure trove for researchers and scholars. The library's architectural grandeur reflects its significance, with vast reading rooms and meticulously curated collections covering a wide range of disciplines. Beyond the Russian State Library, Moscow is home to numerous other libraries, such as the Lenin Library, which is also highly regarded for its expansive catalogue of works. But the best thing about Moscow is its people; friendly courteous and always willing to help. The warmth of the Russian people is often a pleasant surprise for those visiting the country for the first time. Once you break through the initial formalities, you'll find that Russians are deeply hospitable, warm-hearted, and generous, especially when it comes to welcoming guests into their homes. The tradition of hospitality runs deep—guests are treated with great respect, and hosts often insist on sharing hearty meals and meaningful conversations, making you feel genuinely at home. As we pack bags, they are filled with souvenirs and memories one would share back home. As you board the flight and bid goodbye to Moscow you are still yearning for more.

“MOSCOW, THE CAPITAL OF RUSSIA, BOASTS A RICH AND COMPLEX HISTORY THAT SPANS AROUND 800 YEARS. FOUNDED IN 1147 BY PRINCE YURI DOLGORUKY, THE CITY INITIALLY SERVED AS A MINOR TRADING POST. ITS STRATEGIC LOCATION ON THE MOSKVA RIVER FACILITATED TRADE AND COMMUNICATION, CONTRIBUTING TO ITS GRADUAL RISE IN IMPORTANCE”



YOUR WEEK AHEAD



MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week, focusing on financial discipline is crucial as managing your budget becomes a priority. Assess your spending habits and income, noting that while your earnings are substantial, your outlays may exceed them. Aim to establish equilibrium not just in your finances but across all areas of your life that are rapidly evolving and require your focus, such as home matters, property dealings, educational pursuits, and professional growth. Consider limiting social engagements and leisure activities for the majority of the week to concentrate on these pressing issues. As the week progresses, you'll find the weight of stress lifting, allowing you to move forward more freely. You'll end the week feeling vibrant, joyful, and full of zest, ready to embrace your journey with caution and awareness of potential challenges.

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Coral
Lucky day Tuesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week may present a series of challenges, including unexpected obstacles, misunderstandings with friends, and financial delays. Despite these difficulties, your resilience will shine through as you confront each issue with calm and determination. Financially, returns on past investments or repayments may be overwhelming, prompting careful consideration and planning. However, this is only a temporary setback. Prioritizing health through timely medical consultations, meditation, and yoga will contribute to overall well-being. Engaging in spiritual practices can provide additional solace and strength during this period. Stay proactive and remember that your choices have the power to alter your path forward. You are equipped to handle any disruptions, drawing strength from spiritual connections to navigate this complex time.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Tangerine
Lucky day Saturday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Individuals with boundless energy need to channel it effectively to achieve optimal results. There are some immediate adjustments required in your approach. Prioritize delegating tasks and organizing your schedule efficiently, as effective time and resource management is key. A career advancement may be on the horizon this week, accompanied by financial benefits. Work-related travel could be fruitful, providing opportunities to establish long-term connections. Confidence and determination will propel you toward success. By week's end, expect significant financial rewards and the satisfaction of tangible accomplishments. This period also presents a favorable opportunity for investing in assets, though cautious decision-making is advised. Don't be overly concerned about your professional trajectory; you're nearly at your goal. Maintain your focus to ensure you reach your full potential.

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Friday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week might start on a positive note with new possibilities ahead, but be prepared for some unexpected sharp exchanges from a coworker or a close one. Your romantic overtures could face setbacks, potentially leading to feelings of isolation and sadness. It's wise to keep your expectations realistic and maintain a practical outlook. You may find yourself on the brink of ending a relationship that hasn't fully begun. It's important to manage your emotions and keep your temper in check to avoid feeling overwhelmed and drained. Remember, this challenging period is only temporary, and you'll soon regain control of the situation. A maternal figure or a more experienced female relative in your life could offer the support and guidance you need during this time.

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour RFuchsia
Lucky day Sunday



VRIGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week may find you feeling deeply emotional, with nostalgic thoughts urging you to reconnect with old friends or visit your family. You might find yourself exchanging gifts or reliving cherished moments with loved ones. However, matters of the heart could prove challenging, possibly leading to feelings of disappointment or heartache, especially for those anticipating significant commitments in romantic relationships. An inclination towards possessiveness might also surface, suggesting a need for emotional balance and calm. To navigate this period, consider engaging in meditation or other calming practices. Focusing on creative or spiritual activities can be particularly beneficial, offering a productive outlet for your emotions and helping to shift your perspective towards optimism.

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Thursday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week presents a spectrum of outcomes. Guidance from a mentor or family elder will help clarify your life direction. High ambitions may lead to confusion, especially concerning property matters. Beware of potential deception and criticism from others. Stay grounded to avoid complications, particularly in relationships. Practicality is key in overcoming these challenges. Give yourself and your significant other adequate space and time before making decisions. Emphasize honesty and use your intellect to discern realities. There's a need to cleanse a negative influence affecting your well-being, enabling you to embrace positivity. Trust in your own capabilities and proceed with confidence. Cultivating patience and resilience will fortify your journey through uncertain times. Focus on nurturing your inner peace to ensure you can make balanced and thoughtful choices.

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Thursday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week promises an uplifting journey filled with heartfelt connections and personal triumphs. The initial days bring a deepening bond with your partner, marked by a nurturing love that enhances your vitality and encourages your best efforts. Your positive outlook will help you overcome challenges that previously seemed overwhelming. Your abilities and determination are set to earn you admiration, even from those who have doubted you, marking a significant victory. Your inspiring presence motivates others, and your own well-being—both physical and emotional—sees significant improvement. As the week progresses, you will experience a profound sense of vindication and fairness that reaffirms your path and choices. This period culminates in a joyful realization of your desires and goals, illuminating the rewards of your perseverance.

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Lavender
Lucky day Wednesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week you're infused with a dynamic drive to excel in your career. An awaited piece of positive news from afar is likely to arrive, bringing joy and potential opportunities. Financial matters will demand your focus, with transactions, payments, and investments taking center stage. Remember, sharing your prosperity with those in need can bring profound rewards. You'll also find satisfaction in disseminating the knowledge you've accumulated, providing guidance to those around you. Embrace this phase of abundant possibilities, but consider a significant shift in your perspective or approach. Making these adjustments will lead to gratifying outcomes. Challenges may arise, yet your seasoned judgment and keen intellect will enable you to overcome them and thrive.

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Teal
Lucky day Monday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week presents promising opportunities for career advancement and personal connections. You might unexpectedly receive a promotion or pay increase. Be prepared for potential work-related travel, which is likely to yield significant benefits in the future. If you're renting, this period may also bring changes to your work or living spaces. Midweek, emotions run high, enhancing your romantic and passionate pursuits. However, you might find yourself conflicted about a particular relationship or decision, torn between differing inner voices. Trusting your instincts will serve you well. As the week closes, you'll find greater emotional equilibrium and control over your feelings, leading to a broader perspective on potential opportunities. These could be linked to professional growth, significant personal milestones, or creative inspiration, igniting a strong drive to achieve notable goals.

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Thursday



CANCER June 21-July 22

Regulate your emotions! Your emotional responses are currently heightened, possibly leading you to dwell on past mistakes or express frustration toward those close to you. To navigate away from disappointment and a gloomy mood, engaging in mental wellness activities can be very helpful. Consider practices such as meditation, yoga, breath work, or immersing yourself in inspiring literature. Remember, the past is behind you, and focusing on the present can illuminate the path to a brighter future. This week, embrace the closure of old chapters and start anew with a fresh perspective. Being proactive rather than avoiding issues will foster strength and wisdom. Embrace optimism and maintain faith to achieve your aspirations.

Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Monday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week brings a series of delightful events and laughter-filled moments. You'll find yourself deeply invested in a challenging project, pouring your energy and passion into it. This experience is unique as teamwork amplifies its benefits, enhancing your virtues and introducing you to new skills and untapped potential. Your focus and determination will make it easier to stay on track and meet your objectives. There may be opportunities for international connections, either through friendships or potential travel plans. Your ambitions keep you driven, and undistracted by romance or leisure as you aim for significant financial and professional achievements. Expect recognition for your dedication, possibly in the form of a raise or promotion. Be grateful for these blessings and savor the rewards of your hard work.

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Saffron
Lucky day Wednesday



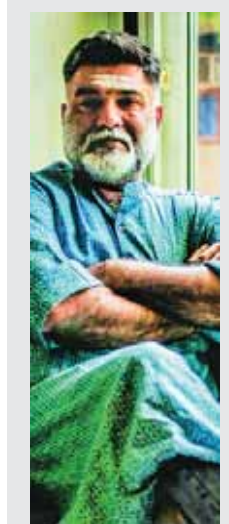
PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week starts with a focus on reflection and growth as recent efforts and challenges are reviewed. Despite considerable dedication, you may find that the rewards of your labor are yet to be fully realized. It's a period where doubts could cloud your judgment. By midweek, a sense of satisfaction emerges as unexpected professional opportunities present themselves, offering the potential for financial gains. This phase is ideal for initiating new ventures or investments. Throughout the week, various propositions will appear, necessitating careful selection to align with your goals. Financial prudence is advised to avoid unnecessary expenditures. As the week concludes, the desire for travel or leisure activities may arise, leading to plans for enjoyable outings or romantic escapades with a significant other.

Lucky number 1 | Lucky colour Mustard
Lucky day Sunday

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THE TUNING FORK



C V Srikanth

The Kriyamana Karma encapsulates the incredibly brilliant dynamism of how Karma works. While living our Karmas, we continue to create more in the present life, influencing our future

Actions Have Corresponding Consequences

One does not merely earn Karma. One seeds it and grows it. And then - it grows on you. Everything connects with everything else - and Karma is the connect. It is in thought - not only in action. Neither fate nor destiny. A matrix that includes our choices, samskaras and more. Our conscious and unconscious acts, ideas and deeds determine our karma. It is about ownership and deliverance. Simplistically it means the idea of cause and effect, where thoughts, emotions, actions (karma) have corresponding consequences (karma-phala). It comes around as an energy that originates with us. It shapes individual destinies, influences rebirths, and underscores the ethical framework of traditions. It is almost impossible to comprehend the cycle of Karma in a unidimensional way. The limitations of human comprehension restrict our understanding of this extremely complex but immensely beautiful concept.

With its roots in the intention of the action, Karma is also defined as our prescribed duties towards our ecosystem. Krishna asserts in the Bhagavat Gita ...

tasm d asakta "satata k ra karma sam chara asakto hy charan karma param pnoti p" ru" ha"

"Therefore, always perform your duties efficiently and without attachment. By performing duties without attachment, a person attains the highest."

Performing duties conscientiously (Sattvik Karma) without attachment to the results, leads to liberation (Moksha). We travel through births, with our accumulated karma due to our past actions. This Sanchita Karma and plays a major role in shaping one's life circumstances. The portion of Sanchita Karma that has to be inescapably experienced in the present life is Prarabdh Karma. It determines the significant conditions and events of one's current life.



The Kriyamana Karma encapsulates the incredibly brilliant dynamism of how Karma works. While living our Karmas, we continue to create more in the present life, influencing our future. One of the purposes of spiritual study and growth is to discern right from wrong action. As Krishna explains in the Bhagavat Gita

karma1o hyapi boddhavya

boddhavya cha vikarma1a " akarma1as'h cha boddhavya gahan karma1o gati"

"One must understand what is action, what is inaction, and what is forbidden action. The path of action is very mysterious."

We must understand the nature of different types of actions (karma) and inactions, discerning right actions (Dharma) from wrong

actions (Adharma). In daily life, understanding karma influences decision-making, virtuous conduct, and spiritual application in our actions and duties. It encourages us to uphold principles of righteousness (Dharma) and avoid harmful actions, perform our duties selflessly, and practice mindfulness by reflecting on our intentions. Karma grows with intention, and reflects in your volition. It is not merely the content but the context. It is complex. It is not linear and it is Real and authentic. We have the right to it through our choices and yet are urged not to consider ourselves as the cause of the results. It is about staying connected to the action with commitment but not attached thereafter. One of the most popular shlokas of the Bhagavat Gita, that has been a guiding principle

karma1y-ev dhik ras te m phale" hu kad chana m karma-phala-hetur bh" r m te sa go "stvakarma1i

"You have a right to perform your prescribed duties, but you are not entitled to the fruits of your actions. Never consider yourself to be the cause of the results of your activities, nor be attached to inaction." Karma entwines spiritual evolution, and the interconnectedness of all beings. It is not a punishment. It is a consequence of our choices. It is a reminder to be mindful, conscious, aware, and selfless. As Lord Buddha asserted - it is not possible to avoid experiencing the result of a karmic deed once it has been committed. Karma has no standard Menu - you get served what you deserve.

— The writer is a versatile professional with 3 decades in corporate experience & leadership roles, excelling in several areas as a ICF Certified Mentor Life Coach, Corporate Coach, Spiritual Intelligence Coach & CXO Coach. Spiritual counselor, Astro & Vastu consultant (25+ years of grounding in Vedanta philosophy) and a Motivational speaker. He is a Dale Carnegie's T3 graduate