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वीर शहीदों की पावन भूमि झारखण्ड में

श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी

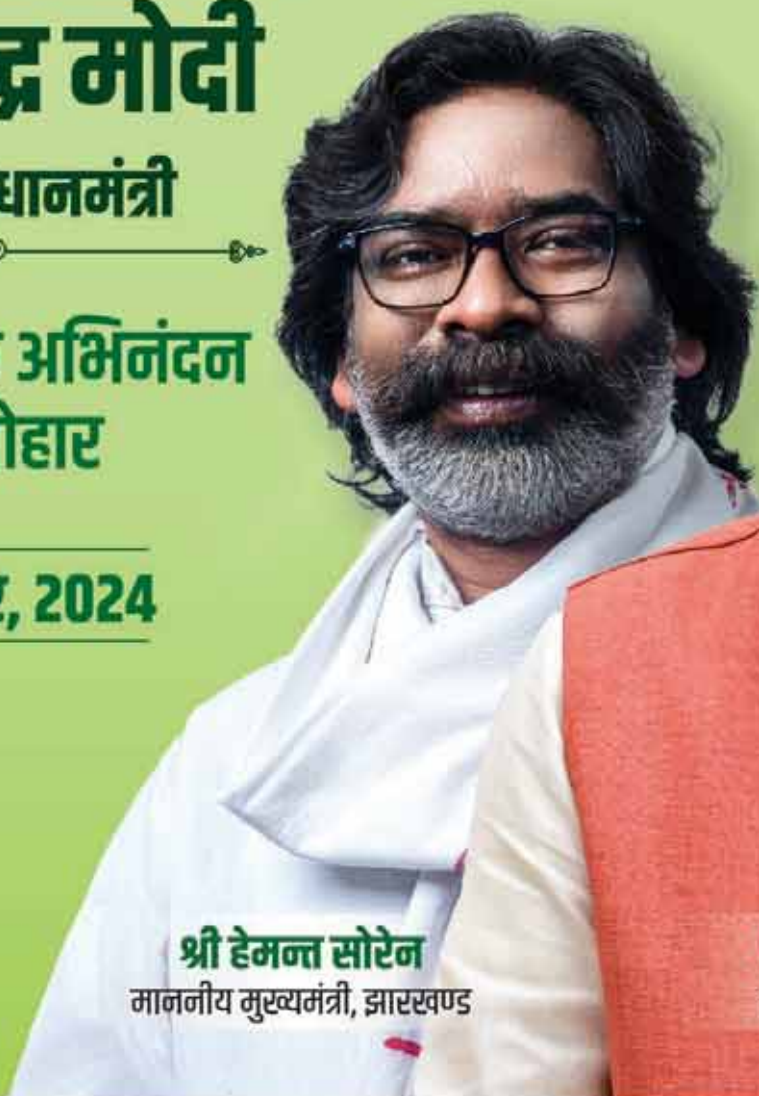
माननीय प्रधानमंत्री

जी का हार्दिक अभिनंदन
और जोहार

15 सितम्बर, 2024



श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी
माननीय प्रधानमंत्री



श्री हेमन्त सोरेन
माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, झारखण्ड



श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार
माननीय राज्यपाल, झारखण्ड

PM Modi to gift major schemes to Jharkhand, says Marandi

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has completed its preparations for the grand welcome of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is set to arrive in Jamshedpur for a road show and public meeting at Gopal Maidan. BJP State President and former Chief Minister Babul Marandi held a press conference on Saturday to brief the media about the arrangements. He also took the opportunity to criticize the Hemant Soren-led government, accusing it of corruption and mismanagement.

Marandi confirmed that PM Modi will arrive at Sonari Airport in the morning and head directly to Tatanagar Station, where he will participate in two key government programs, including an

event organized by the Rural Development Department and the Railways. During his visit, the Prime Minister is expected to announce several developmental projects and initiatives for Jharkhand, with a particular focus on Jamshedpur.

Following the programs at Tatanagar Station, the Prime Minister will lead a road show from the Voltas House roundabout in Bistupur to Gopal Maidan. Thousands of BJP supporters, social organizations, and local citizens are expected to line the streets, welcoming PM Modi with grand celebrations. The entire route has been decorated to showcase Jharkhand's rich cultural heritage, with folk artists from various communities set to perform along the way.

Babul Marandi urged



the people of Jamshedpur to expect a historic turnout, with lakhs of people coming from different parts of Jamshedpur to witness this momentous occasion," Marandi said. He empha-

sized that the road show would be a grand display of Jharkhand's diverse culture, calling it a "miniature India" that reflects the unity of different castes, religions, and communities.

During the press conference, Marandi also took aim at the state's Chief Minister, Hemant Soren. He accused Soren of failing to fulfill his election promises, such as providing financial aid to women, employment to youth, and pension for the elderly. Marandi alleged that most of these promises have either been abandoned or were poorly implemented.

"Five years have passed, and the Hemant Soren government cannot point to five concrete accomplishments. Their populist schemes are riddled with corruption, benefiting brokers and middlemen rather than the com-

mon people," Marandi stated. He criticized the government for mismanagement of public funds and accused them of failing to address the needs of Jharkhand's tribals and marginalized communities.

Marandi also expressed concerns about the changing demography in Santhal Pargana, alleging that illegal immigrants from Bangladesh are taking over tribal lands and resources with the government's tacit approval. He promised that if the BJP comes to power, they would implement a strict policy, similar to the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, to remove illegal immigrants from Jharkhand.

He further accused the Hemant government of prioritizing personal gain over the welfare of the state, claiming

that Soren's administration has been more focused on retaining power than addressing the real issues facing Jharkhand's citizens.

Marandi also pointed to the recent deaths of youths during the state's constable recruitment process, attributing the loss of lives to the government's lack of preparation and insensitivity. He condemned the hurried recruitment process, stating that insufficient planning led to the death of about two dozen candidates.

"The police force is being misused by this government for political gain, rather than serving the people. Law and order have deteriorated, and our sisters' safety is at risk under this administration," Marandi said, calling for a change in leadership to restore safety and order in the state.

Reinventing Poverty from 'Poor' to 'Ultra-Poor': Why Don't We Treat People as Humans?



BY PROF. ANANT KUMAR

A few days ago, I attended a seminar organised by an NGO, alongside other civil society organisations, to discuss poverty and the challenges faced by the ultra-poor. While the event was well-intentioned, I was astonished and stuck on their re-invented new term and idea of ultra-poor. The term felt like a new label for the voiceless and marginalised as if renaming them would solve their problems. What stood out most was that none of these so-called 'ultra-poor' individuals were present at the event. This reminded me of the early days of the HIV/AIDS epidemic when marginalised groups were blamed for the virus's spread. Female sex workers (FSWs), men who have sex with men (MSMs), injecting drug

users (IDUs), and even truck drivers were easy targets. It was difficult to identify them and easy to blame them. These groups lacked a collective voice, making them convenient scapegoats. It was not about addressing structural issues but labelling and blaming the vulnerable.

The term 'poor' is already laden with social, economic, and cultural meaning, enough to make a ground to do something for them. It conveys the need for help and development. So why degrade these individuals further by branding them 'ultra-poor'? This feels like a new form of casteism, promoted by NGOs, funding agencies, and development organisations. This should be questioned, objected to, and stopped. Language shapes how we see others and, crucially, how we treat them. By creating a hierarchy of poverty, we risk dehumanising those we claim to help. There are arguments in favour of such categorisation that it will help to address the issues of the poorest of the poor or ultra-poor, but those people can be helped even without demeaning them or creating a poverty hierarchy.

In development work, terms like 'ultra-poor' are often used to attract donors and to mobilise funds. While effective for fundraising, this language comes at the expense of the dignity of those it describes. The constant reinvention of terms turns

human lives into abstract concepts, suited for policy discussions but detached from reality. Even people suggest developing a paper on ultra-poor and teaching those in development studies, rural development, and other allied disciplines. Yes, it may help in mobilising funds but further demeans the people in the name of the ultra-poor.

This is not new. Marginalised communities have long been labelled and categorised in ways that strip them of their humanity. During colonial times, Indigenous peoples were called 'savages' to justify their exploitation. Today, we use terms like 'ultra-poor' to justify interventions, but these labels do not empower those they describe. Instead, they deepen the divide between the 'helpers' and the 'helped.'

Addressing extreme poverty is, of course, vital. But how we approach it is equally important. If we want to help, we need to treat people as humans, not categories. We must stop labelling them and start including them in conversations about their lives. How often do we see the ultra-poor themselves at these seminars? How often do we hear their voices in debates about their future? They are spoken about, not spoken with.

There is a need to change the paternalistic approach of deciding for people. Experts, NGOs, and policymakers often assume they know

best, ignoring the fact that those living in poverty understand their circumstances better than anyone. They are the most qualified to propose solutions. What they need is not more labels but platforms to voice their ideas and concerns.

Categorising poverty distracts from addressing its root causes. Poverty does not arise in a vacuum; it is the result of structural factors like economic policies, political corruption, social exclusion, and environmental degradation. Instead of debating whether someone is 'poor' or 'ultra-poor,' we should focus on why poverty exists and what can be done to dismantle the systems that sustain it.

The language we use to talk about poverty matters. It shapes our attitudes, policies, and interventions. To truly help, we must stop dehumanising people with labels and start addressing the root causes of poverty. Most importantly, we need to include those affected in these conversations, giving them the power to shape their futures. Only then can we create meaningful, lasting change.

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Religious event bring peace, prosperity, and happiness to Society: Neena Narayan



PNS : BOKARO

A 24-hour uninterrupted Hari Kirtan was ceremoniously inaugurated at the Kali Temple in Kunwar Singh Colony, Chas, by Bokaro MLA Biranchi Narayan. The event commenced with traditional prayers and rituals, filling the atmosphere with devotion as the Bhajan Mandali performed chants of "Hare Ram, Hare Krishna," echoing

throughout the area.

The gathering witnessed active participation from several prominent figures, including Sanjay Tyagi, Binod Singh, Utl Yadav, Pannalal Kandu, Roshan Singh, Harendra Singh, Jhadu De, Simpy Singh, Sunil Kumar, Mamta Devi, Asha Devi, Roshni Devi, Sita Rai, Anuj Kumar, Dilip Pal, Sagar Kumar, Raj Kumar, Ram Shankar Singh, and Ravi Shankar Kumar.

During the event, Legislator Biranchi Narayan's wife Neena Narayan emphasised the significance of religious gatherings, stating, "Religious events bring peace, prosperity, and happiness to society." The continuous Hari Kirtan not only fostered a spiritual ambience but also brought the community together, strengthening the bonds of harmony and devotion.

Robotic Surgery in Gynaecology revolutionizing women's healthcare with affordable, minimally invasive treatments at Apollo Hospital

R SHARMA : BOKARO

Apollo Multispeciality Hospitals, Kolkata, held a press conference at Hans Regency, Bokaro, to highlight its groundbreaking achievements in treating complex gynecological cancer cases. Renowned for its advanced oncology department, the hospital has built a reputation for providing high-success treatments at economical costs, with minimal pain, offering new hope to cancer patients, especially from the Jharkhand region.

The event showcased Apollo's pioneering use of robotic surgery, a cutting-edge technique that allows for highly precise, minimally invasive procedures, leading to faster recovery times. Dr. Monika Meena, an expert in Robotic Gynaecology and Gynaecology Oncology, led the discussion, stressing the importance of early diagnosis and timely intervention in managing gynecological diseases and cancers.

Dr. Meena highlighted the need for awareness around



early symptoms like painful urination, abnormal vaginal bleeding, or unusual discharge, which could be signs of serious conditions such as cervical or endometrial cancer. "Early diagnosis and intervention are key for women facing gynecological cancers," she emphasized. "Robotic surgery not only improves surgical accuracy but also reduces recovery time significantly, allowing patients to return to their normal lives much faster."

The hospital's commitment to accessible healthcare in Jharkhand was also a cen-

Loyola School celebrates Bagless Day with host of activities

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

Loyola School celebrated Bagless Day on Saturday, with students from classes 6 to 9 engaging in a series of experiential learning activities. The initiative aimed at breaking away from the traditional classroom setting, allowing students to participate in hands-on experiences that fostered creativity, teamwork, and critical thinking.

Class 6 students explored religious diversity through visits to mosques, churches, temples, and gurudwaras, promoting an understanding of different faiths and the importance of harmony. Meanwhile, Class 7 students engaged in a craft workshop with rural artisans from Purulia, learning traditional art forms such as sohrai and patkar painting, as well as making papier-mâché and grass mats, which fostered a respect for cultural heritage.

For Classes 8 and 9, a wellness session led by gynaecologist Dr. Manju Dubey focused on the physical and emotional changes of adolescence, offering valuable coping strategies. Alumnus Dr. Kailash Dubey provided further guidance on channeling energies during this transformative phase. Additionally, Class 9 students participated in a geological excursion to the P.N. Bose Geological Centre, exploring the fascinating world of rocks, minerals, and fossils.

Overall, the Bagless Day was a success in providing students with enriching, practical learning experiences that complemented their academic journey and supported their personal growth.



Top BJP leaders to visit Dhanbad ahead of assembly elections

PANKAJ : DHANBAD

Defence Minister Rajnat Singh and West Bengal BJP leader Subendu Adhikari woo voters of Dhanbad, Tundi, Baghmara and Nirsra assembly seats as part of the BJP campaign against the JMM led UPA government later this month.

While Rajnat is likely to hold a road show from Mahuda to Dhanbad and address a public meeting at Golf ground on September 28, Subendu too would hold another road show in Govindpur and later address a public meeting at Nirsra to woo voters in favour of party candidate on September 26.

Top party leaders including Smriti Irani and UP Chief minister Yogi Aditya Nath are to visit different assembly seats in Giridih and Bokaro districts as part of the drive against the Hemant government on different dates during the last week of the current month.

Diarrhoea affected hamlets under control : Dy Superintendent, SDH

PNS : DALTONGANJ

Episodes of diarrhoea at Kewal Tola, Ramgarh under Chhaterpur subdivision are now controlled, said the deputy superintendent of the Chhaterpur sub divisional hospital Dr Rajesh Agrawal.

This hamlet saw the death of two children belonging to the family of Dilip Prajapati, Dr Agrawal said.

Dilip's daughter Archana who died of diarrhoea was not brought to the sub divisional hospital, added Dr Agrawal. "She was taken down to some private nursing home from where she was referred to Daltonganj and there she died. Dilip's son Ravi was brought to our sub divisional hospital in an extreme and severe watery diarrhoeal condition. He was in shock. We gave him treatment and rushed him to the higher centre in Daltonganj where he died" he added.

Medical team was rushed to the Kewal Tola which treated a couple of more people there afflicted with fever, vomiting and loose motion. The afflicted ones have recovered. Dr Agrawal said "Residents of Kewal Tola have been advised to main-

tain hygiene and cleanliness. They have been asked to use safe drinking water."

Contamination to water is suspected behind this diarrhoeal death.

Dr Agrawal said the villagers told our medical team that they use tube well water.

It's not known if the tube well underground pipe is deep or not. Cow dung and dirt were found littering the areas around the houses, Dr Agrawal added.

A senior community member of the Prajapati Avinash Dev has urged the civil surgeon Dr Anil Kumar to provide adequate medical assistance to families afflicted with diarrhoea.

Avinash Dev said the death of two children in one family is very tragic and that there will be no repetition of it anymore with other families. Civil surgeon Dr Anil Kumar said "I have directed the DS sub divisional hospital Chhaterpur Dr Rajesh Agrawal to find out if the two children who died had their Rotavirus vaccines in their due ages." Civil surgeon said Rotavirus vaccine administration helps save children from the severity of diarrhoea.

Cleanliness Guardians: Heroes of the Workplace

AVINASH ANJAN : HAZ-ARIBAG

In the bustling world of offices, where ideas take shape and decisions chart the future, there is a crucial warrior—the cleaning staff or cleanliness guardian, cleanliness envoy, or cleanliness hero. Their work might be quiet, but their impact is felt in every corner. Without them, the efficiency of any office could be compromised, as they are the custodians of cleanliness, health, hygiene, and dignity.

They lay the foundation for a healthy and active office environment. Every

surface they clean and every corner they organize creates an atmosphere where people can focus and work to their full potential. More important than their physical contributions is the dignity and respect embedded in their work. Their role is essential. They help maintain the dignity of the workplace, and through their efforts, the dignity of everyone working there is enhanced. Just as they respect the workplace, their respect is reciprocated at NTPC Keredari. At that time, the cleanliness guardians expressed their sentiments towards the NTPC Keredari family.



Bilaspur Devi, Reena Devi, and Lakhia Devi, who work on a contract basis at the office, mentioned that being present at any program at NTPC Keredari is an honor, and we are becoming economically stronger, able to send our children to good schools.

Geeta Devi and Mohan Kumar expressed their sentiments by saying that all the employees at NTPC Keredari treat us like parents. We are able to support our parents financially. Cleanliness guardians remind us that a clean and organized space is the foundation on which creativity, productivity, and innovation thrive.

BSL conducts intensive Tree Plantation Drive under 'Swachhata Hi Seva' and 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign

PNS : BOKARO

Under the dual campaigns of 'Swachhata Hi Seva' and 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam,' Bokaro Steel Limited (BSL) conducted a large-scale tree plantation drive today. Director In-Charge of BSL, Birendra Kumar Tiwari, and Executive Director (Mines), Jaydeep Dasgupta, led the initiative by planting saplings at the Meghalaya Guest House located in the Meghahatuburu Iron Ore Mine area during their site visit. Similarly, another tree plantation drive under the same campaigns was carried out in Sector 6, Bokaro, in front of the main gate of City College. The plantation was led by BSL's Executive Director (Human Resources and Additional Charge for Works) Rajan Prasad, who



was joined by other senior officials. Present at the event were Chief General Manager (CED) Shaligram Singh, Chief General Manager (Town Administration) Kundan Kumar, along with other senior officials and employees of

BSL. These initiatives reflect BSL's commitment to environmental conservation and community welfare, promoting cleaner surroundings and honoring mothers with the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' drive.



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

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

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CONGRESS IS URBAN NAXAL: PM

RAJESH KUMAR ■ KURUKSHETRA/NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

Polling for the 90 Assembly seats in Haryana will be held on October 5 and the votes will be counted on October 8.

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

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

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



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

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

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

family's agenda against reservations. But let me make one thing clear, as long as Modi is here, not a single penny of Dr Ambedkar's reservation policy will be touched. SC/ST/OBC reservations are here to stay forever." Shifting focus to the efforts of the Government, the Prime Minister highlighted the support given to farmers, stating, "Our Government has taken many steps to reduce the burden on farmers. Take urea, for example. While a

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

homes once lacked water connections, today, Haryana is on track to achieve 100 per cent tap water connectivity." He said the new NDA government at the Centre is yet to complete 100 days but it has already started work worth nearly Rs 15 lakh-crore. The BJP Government has approved three crore 'pucca houses' for poor, he said.

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

were harbouring terrorism. They are responsible for ruining Jammu and Kashmir for decades," PM Modi said. The Prime Minister pledged that his Government would make a prosperous Jammu and Kashmir, stating that it was "Modi Ki Guarantee." Out of 24 Assembly seats that are going to witness polling on September 18, eight fall in the erstwhile Doda district and 16 Assembly seats are located in the south Kashmir districts of Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian, and Kulgam.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

Before the day ended, another



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

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

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

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

It is believed these Pakistani

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

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

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

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

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

Let us bring home the joy of Onam

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PM Modi in Jamshedpur today, Sonari Airport declared no-fly zone

PM to flag off new trains, launch new railway projects

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone and dedicate to the nation various Railway Projects worth more than Rs 660 crore through video conferencing from Jamshedpur on Sunday. He will lay the foundation stone for Madhupur Bye pass line in Deoghar district and Hazaribag Town Coaching Depot in Hazaribag district of Jharkhand. After completion, Madhupur Bypass line will facilitate in avoiding detention of trains on Howrah-Delhi mainline and will also help in reducing travel time between Giridih and Jasidih and Hazaribag Town Coaching Depot will help in facilitating maintenance of coaching stocks at this station.



Workers giving final touch to the pandal at Tatanagar Railway Station in Jamshedpur ahead of PM Narendra Modi's visit in Jamshedpur on Saturday. PNS

The PM will also dedicate to the nation Kurkura-Kanaroan doubling which is a part of Bondamunda-Ranchi single line section and part of Rourkela-Gomoh route via Ranchi, Muri and Chandrapura stations. The project will help in the increased mobility of Goods and Passenger traffic considerably. Apart from this, 04 Road under bridges (RUBs) shall also be dedicated to the nation for enhancing safety to common people. He will also flag off Six Vande Bharat

trains from Tatanagar Railway Station.

The East Singhbhum district administration and health department have ramped up preparations to ensure a smooth and secure visit. A mock drill was conducted on Saturday to simulate the arrival and movement of the PM's convoy, focusing on all key security protocols. A team of military officers, including personnel from the Army and Air Force,

arrived at Sonari Airport via military helicopters to inspect the arrangements.

The military team closely examined the security setup and helicopter landing arrangements at Sonari Airport. They meticulously reviewed the designated landing area for the Prime Minister's helicopter, ensuring all safety measures were in place. As part of the security protocol, no civilian flights will operate from

Sonari Airport during PM Modi's arrival and departure on September 15. The district administration has also declared a no-fly zone along the route the Prime Minister will take. An official order issued by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate has prohibited activities like drones, paragliding, and hot air balloons within a 200-meter radius of the airport. The security personnel have been directed to enforce strict measures and take immediate legal action against any violations.

The no-fly zone and flight restrictions were implemented to ensure the Prime Minister's security. This means no commercial or private aircraft will be permitted to take off or land from Sonari Airport during PM Modi's visit. The airspace surrounding his route will remain under strict surveillance by both the military and local law enforcement agencies. Officials have been placed on high alert to prevent any unauthorized aerial activity.

In addition to the district administration, the health department has also taken extensive measures to prepare for any medical emergencies during the Prime Minister's visit. Hospitals across Jamshedpur, including Ranchi's Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), have



Officials conduct mock drill ahead of PM Narendra Modi's visit in Jamshedpur on Saturday. PNS

been placed on high alert. At Jamshedpur's designated hospital, four ICU beds have been reserved specifically for the Prime Minister, and a dedicated medical team comprising specialist doctors has been formed to respond to any health-related emergencies.

RIMS in Ranchi, where some preparations have also been made for PM Modi's brief stopover, has taken similar steps. In addition to

the ICU readiness, RIMS has reserved units of the Prime Minister's blood group in its blood bank. Essential life-saving medicines and advanced medical equipment have also been stocked up to handle any critical situations.

Saturday's mock drill was a comprehensive rehearsal aimed at ensuring seamless coordination between various government agencies. Military officers, local

law enforcement, and health officials participated in the drill, which included a detailed simulation of PM Modi's arrival, road movements, and public engagements. The mock drill also reviewed crowd management strategies, with the district administration and BJP party workers expecting a large turnout for the Prime Minister's road show and public meeting at Gopal Maidan.

As part of the preparation, security personnel were briefed on crowd control measures, evacuation procedures, and emergency medical response protocols. The administration is taking extra caution to ensure that every aspect of the event—from the airport landing to the public rally—adheres to the highest security standards.

On Friday, a high-level meeting was held between officials of the district administration, police department, and health services in Ranchi. The meeting focused on ensuring that all preparations met the strict requirements of VIP protocol. Key officials conducted inspections at various designated points to identify any deficiencies and rectify them promptly. Continuous monitoring of security arrangements is ongoing, and officials are working round the clock to ensure that no loopholes are left unaddressed.

MLA Amit Yadav, ex MLA JP Verma, ex-DSP Navneet join BJP

Marandi targets ruling coalition for corruption, lawlessness

PNS: RANCHI

BJP state president and former Chief Minister Babul Marandi today fiercely targeted the ruling party of the State, JMM Congress and RJD. He was speaking today on the occasion of former MLA JP Verma, MLA Amit Yadav, and former DSP Navneet Hembram taking membership of BJP in the state office. He said that the ruling party of the state JMM is no longer a party of the family but has become only a party of husband and wife. He said that the government running under the leadership of Hemant Soren was not formed to work but to earn money. This government has not fulfilled even a single promise. This government does not even have five works to tell.

He said that the Hemant government did not provide jobs and unemployment allowance but till now it has definitely killed 17 youths in the name of jobs.

He said that the Yuvraj of the Congress party is now liking the dictatorship of China rather than India's democracy. Rahul Gandhi, the leader of the Congress party which killed thousands of Sikhs, is

giving false statements about the Sikh community on foreign soil. The Congress party neither loves the country nor the people. This Congress is now thinking of ending the reservation given to Dalits, backward classes and tribals in the Constitution of the country.

State in-charge Dr. Laxmikant Vajpayee said that today the inclination of the people towards BJP is increasing. He said that people like Navneet Hembram leaving good jobs in the police and becoming travelers on the difficult path of politics are auspicious signs for the country and the state.

He said that we have to take the public welfare schemes of the Modi government to the masses. Along with this, we have to be determined to form a strong BJP NDA government in the state by exposing the failures of the corrupt and useless state government. He said that the trust of the people of the country has increased under the leadership of Narendra Modi.

While accepting the membership, MLA Amit Yadav said that even though I am an independent, I have always been with the party. Today its constitutional formalities are



Barkatta MLA Amit Yadav, former MLA Jai Prakash Verma with his supporters, ex DSP Navneet Hembram join Bharatiya Janata party in presence of State BJP President Babul Marandi and State BJP in-charge cum Rajyasabha MP Laxmikant Bajpai during a programme at the party office in Ranchi on Saturday. Pix by Vinay Murmu

being completed. He said that whatever responsibility the party will give me, I will put all my strength to fulfill it.

Former MLA JP Verma said that I am feeling complete after coming to my home. This party is a vast ocean. He said that I have an old relation with the party. The days I was away from it are the darkest chapter of my life. Former DSP Navneet Hembram said that I have taken up politics with the resolve to remove the pain of the state and to make Jharkhand prosperous and developed. BJP is a development-oriented party understanding the public senti-

ments. The party is serving the country and society with clear ideas, policies and leadership of national service.

The program was conducted by state media in-charge Shivpujan Pathak and the vote of thanks was given by spokesperson Vijay Chaurasia. Those who took membership included Dinesh Verma, Amit Pandey, Virendra Mandal, Arun Rana, Raju Sharma, Vikas Pathak, Sunil Rawani, Dilchand Verma, Prayag Verma, Ratna Gupta, Raju Mandal, Jhandu Verma, Deepak Pathak, Jitendra Singh, Sachit Gupta, Jitendra Hazra, Basant Verma and hundreds of others from JMM.

13th death in Jharkhand Excise constable recruitment drive

Jamshedpur youth succumbs to exhaustion

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

The recruitment process for constables in the Excise Department has faced growing scrutiny as yet another life was lost during the ongoing physical fitness tests. The tragic death of Muramulla Suraya, alias Bala, a young man in his early twenties from the Burmahines locality of Jamshedpur, has brought the total number of fatalities during the drive to 13.

Bala, the eldest of three brothers, was among the many aspirants participating in the rigorous physical fitness tests, held as part of the



recruitment drive. These tests are known to be physically demanding, with the participants required to undertake various endurance tasks, including a strenuous run. Bala successfully completed the physical test held on Thursday afternoon, but later that evening, he fell critically ill. Organizers of the event rushed him to the

Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Ranchi for urgent medical attention.

Bala's condition deteriorated rapidly after he was admitted to RIMS. Despite receiving medical care, he struggled to recover from the exhaustion and complications caused by the test. His health worsened, and he eventually succumbed to his illness at around 5 a.m. on Saturday.

The exact cause of his death is believed to be related to the physical strain induced by the fitness test, though no official autopsy report has been released yet. It has been noted that Bala had shown no prior signs of

serious health concerns before participating in the test, raising concerns about the safety and adequacy of medical screenings before the event.

Bala's family was informed about his sudden demise early on Saturday morning. His death has left his family devastated, as he was a significant source of support. Bala, the eldest of his siblings, had been taking up petty jobs to help his family make ends meet. His untimely passing has left a massive void, with the family grappling not only with their loss but also the uncertainty of their future.

Territorial Army, CyberPeace Foundation to hold Terrier Cyber Quest

A National Cyber Challenge to Celebrate 75 Years of the Territorial Army



PNS : RANCHI

The Territorial Army, known as the citizens' army, marks its Platinum Jubilee this year, celebrating 75 years of service to the nation. As part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, the Territorial Army has joined forces with the CyberPeace Foundation, a leading nonprofit organization, to launch Terrier Cyber Quest 2024, a national cyber challenge aimed at fostering innovation in emerging technologies and cybersecurity. The competition seeks to engage the brightest minds across the country in shaping the future of India's cyber ecosystem.

Terrier Cyber Quest 2024 features three dynamic tracks designed to push the boundaries of technology, innovation, and cybersecurity:

Track 1: AeroQuest – A thrilling drone race where participants will test their aerial surveillance and tactical maneuvering skills.

Track 2: Capture the Flag (CTF) – A cybersecurity challenge where participants will race against the clock to solve realistic cybersecurity problems.

Track 3: DataThon – A data-driven chal-

lenge focused on developing solutions to detect and mitigate deepfakes, with significant implications for cybersecurity and public safety.

The Event will be launched on 10th September 2024 (Online at www.cyberchallenge.in), while the Registration Closure will be on 20th September 2024 (Online). The Announcement of Finalists will be on 25th September 2024 (Online), Final Round: 2nd - 4th October 2024 (USI, New Delhi) and the Prize Ceremony: 5th October 2024 (USI, New Delhi). Interaction with the Chief of Army Staff (COAS): 7th October 2024 (Manekshaw Centre)

Some of the major event attractions include Medallions and Certificates awarded by the Territorial Army. Attractive prizes for the winners, Boarding and lodging provided for finalists, opportunity to contribute to the Territorial Army Innovation Cell (TAIC). Also, winners of each track will be honoured separately by the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Indian Army.

This initiative encourages participation from Industry, Academia, Civil Societies, Government, Individuals, and Students. Terrier Cyber Quest 2024 aims to ignite innovation and secure the future of India's cybersecurity landscape, particularly in the era of emerging technologies like AI, drones, and deepfakes.

"We believe this national challenge will not only highlight India's brightest talents but also create meaningful solutions that could contribute to the nation's defense and security," said a representative from the Territorial Army.

For more information and to register, visit www.cyberchallenge.in and join us in shaping the future of cybersecurity and technological innovation in India.

Jharcraft Handloom and Handicraft Expo inaugurated in Chennai

PNS : RANCHI

Jitendra Kumar Singh, Secretary, Department of Industries, Jharkhand said that Jharkhand is a stronghold of handicraftsmen and Jharcraft is making efforts to give a place to the artists and heritage of its rich culture. Singh was speaking at the inaugural session of Jharcraft Handloom and Handicraft Expo in Chennai.

In this expo, which will run from September 14 to September 16, stalls related to handicrafts and artifacts of Jharkhand have been set up, as well as stalls related to handicrafts and art culture of Uttarakhnad, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu.

Addressing the inaugural program, the Industry Secretary said that Jharcraft is the industry partner of the Jharkhand government. Our aim is to give a new identity to the products of Jharcraft and to connect this link, we are organizing the expo for the second time in Chennai. He said that Tussar Silk and Dokra Art are famous in Jharkhand.

Singh said that when Jharkhand was separated from Bihar, the objective was to give an identity to the products of Jharkhand. "For this, the need for a platform was felt so that the skills of



Secretary Industry Department inaugurates Jharcraft Handloom Expo 2024 in Chennai on Saturday. PNS

Jharkhand could get an identity. Through Jharcraft, we have been providing a market for such a platform along with branding the products related to the culture and tribal traditions there. An attempt has been made to provide a platform to the products of Jharcraft through similar expos in many states. Of course silk clothes may be made in Bhagalpur but Jharkhand produces 75 percent of silk," he said.

Addressing the program, Jharcraft Managing Director Kirti Shri ji said that we are happy that Jharcraft expo is being held in Chennai. "Jharcraft was formed in 2006. With its formation, there was a challenge to provide a platform to the skills of the state. Efforts were made to inculcate the traditions of the tribals in their lives and today the products of Jharcraft have become a part of the global market. A large population of

women of the state is associated with handloom and handicraft products," he said.

Kirti Shri said that in the expo, the people of Chennai will be able to know the handicrafts of Jharkhand and will be able to get acquainted with its high quality as well as the culture of Jharkhand.

Jharcraft Ranchi, Kendua PWCS Mahgaon, Chaman SHG Godda, Jiajori SHG Godda, Barkatthi PWCS Ramgarh, Pokharikalan PWCS Latehar, Rural Youth Weavers SHG Godda, Youth Rural Development SHG Bhagayia, Sapna Silk Jharkhand, Youth Rural Development SHG Manikpur, Dhokra Jharkhand, Sukhdev Mahali Seraikela, Om Creation Jharkhand, Md Irfan Alam Ranchi, Meghnath Mahto Kharsawan, Sikni PWCS Ramgarh, Naresh Kumar Vishwakarma Bokaro, Upper Corner Chameli SHG Ranchi, CEDAR Dumka, Jharkhand State Khari.

Maoists torch BSNL and Jio towers in Latehar

Naxalites set fire to two mobile towers installed near Dauna-Durup village in Mahuadarn police station area of Latehar district. Villagers are in panic due to their entry in the village after a long time. A squad of Maoists reached Dauna-Durup village on Saturday afternoon at around 1:30 pm. Here the Maoists set fire to one mobile tower each of BSNL and Jio. Police are continuously running a campaign against Naxalites in Jharkhand. Due to this, the influence of Maoists has reduced considerably. Now their presence is seen only occasionally. CPI Maoists have registered their presence in Latehar district after a long time.

PVUNL Hindi Fortnight 2024 begins

PVUNL, Patratu organized an oath taking ceremony of Rajbhasha Hindi on Saturday on the occasion of Hindi Diwas. On this occasion, all the employees took an oath to use Hindi as a priority in their daily office work. With this event, Hindi Fortnight 2024 started, which will be celebrated from September 14 to September 28, 2024. On this occasion, Chief Executive Officer RK Singh administered the oath to all the present employees to use Rajbhasha Hindi as much as possible in their office work. Various competitions like Hindi Quiz, Essay Writing, and Calligraphy Writing will be organized during Hindi Fortnight. In this program, HR Head Mr. Zayaur Rahman discussed many new aspects and suggestions to promote the maximum use of Rajbhasha Hindi.

Cosmetology seminar cum camp at Women's College

Angellife Cosmetology and wellness Ranchi has Organised a Seminar cum free Hair, Skin and Dental Check Up camp at Women's college Ranchi on Friday, 13/09/24 in Association with Alumnae association of Ranchi Women's college (GARIMA). More than 100 students participated in the Seminar and benefited in the free camp. Pragya Parmita, Director Angellife Cosmetology and wellness emphasised on the importance of Cosmetology and aesthetics services, courses and how to maintain healthy hair and glowing skin. Dr. Anurag Pratyush described how to maintain oral health and hygiene. Dr.Ratna Singh, and a large number of alumni were present in the event.



Former J and K CM Omar Abdullah reacts strongly to accusations of PM Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and Vice President of the National Conference Omar Abdullah Saturday reacted strongly to the accusations made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi while addressing his maiden election rally in Doda ahead of the first round of polling on September 18. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi should focus on the 'deteriorating' security situation in Jammu and Kashmir instead of raising the bogey of dynastic politics", Omar hit back. In his over 40 minute long speech Modi said political dynasties in Jammu and

Kashmir have destroyed the region and not allowed new leadership to grow. On the other hand, Congress also accused the Centre of failing to end terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir and claimed that terrorism has returned stronger in union territory where it had been eliminated many years ago. Paying back in the same coin, Omar Abdullah said the BJP has no qualms in forming alliances with these parties and questioned the Prime Minister's silence over the death of two army soldiers in an encounter in Kishtwar. "The PM made a speech in Doda... It has not been 24 hours since the attack (in Kishtwar) in which two brave army soldiers lost their lives while an encounter is going

on in north Kashmir "He talks about dynasties to mislead people. He should have talked about the present situation," Abdullah told reporters in south Kashmir's Kulgam district. The NC leader said when Article 370 was revoked on August 5, 2019, the people of the country were told that the violence in Kashmir was because of the special status and that once it was revoked, the impact of the gun would "vanish". "It has been five years, but encounters are still going on," he said. Asked about Modi's attack on the "dynastic politics" of the NC, the Congress, and the PDP, Abdullah said the BJP does not see anything wrong in forming alliances with



these parties to come to power. "When the BJP needed one of these families, that time we were not responsible for the destruction (of J-K). When

the BJP had an alliance with the PDP, that time they did not see anything wrong with the PDP. When (former prime minister) (Atal Bihari) Vajpayee had to make a

minister and he picked me, there was nothing wrong with us. Now, during the elections, they say that we are wrong," Abdullah said. The NC leader said if the BJP does not have the required numbers to form the government after the polls in Jammu and Kashmir and the PDP decides to support them again, "Then they (BJP) won't see anything wrong in that". "It is a matter of time, such political rhetoric goes on, and then these things are forgotten after the elections are over," he added. Addressing a press conference at the party office in Srinagar, the party's spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said there have been 25 terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir in the 98 days since Prime Minister

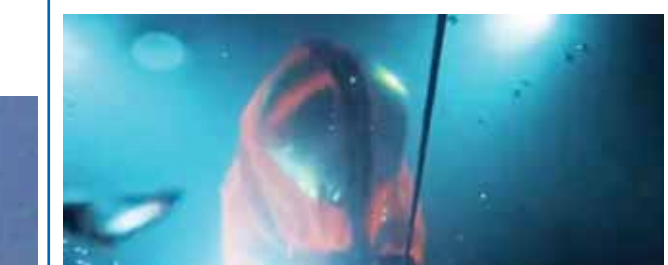
Narendra Modi was sworn in for his third term. "Huge claims were made that after August 2019, peace will be established in Jammu and Kashmir. I will not talk about the time since 2014 or 2019, but it has been 98 days since Modi was sworn in. In the last 98 days, there have been 25 terror strikes in J-K in which 21 security personnel were martyred, while 28 others were injured," she said. Shrinete said 15 citizens of the union territory have also lost their lives in these terror attacks, while 47 people were injured. "Who will answer for it? Jammu was peaceful, the insurgency had ended there, but now, we are again witnessing terror attacks in Jammu's Doda, Reasi, and

other areas," she added. The Congress spokesperson paid tributes to the two soldiers who lost their lives in an encounter with terrorists in the Kishtwar district of Jammu on Friday. She alleged the prime minister has not been offering his tributes to the fallen soldiers since 2019. "PM tweets on small issues, discovers new countries on the world map to travel to and wishes happy birthday to people, but since 2019, Modi has stopped sending tribute or sympathy messages. Our officers, and soldiers lost their lives, Jammu and Kashmir police personnel were killed, but Modi has not uttered a single word to offer tributes or sympathies after 2019," Shrinete alleged.

RAINS, WATERLOGGING MAKE LIVES MISERABLE



Vehicles pass through the waterlogged NH 24 after heavy rains, in Moradabad, Saturday



Indian Navy commissions Kalvari Submarine Escape Training Facility Vinetra in Visakhapatnam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Kalvari Submarine Escape Training Facility (Vinetra) was commissioned on Friday by Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, at INS Satavahana, Visakhapatnam, navy said here on Saturday. Giving details, officials said the facility aims to enhance the escape capabilities of crew from a distressed Kalvari-class submarine and has been indigenously designed and developed. Constructed by M/s L&T Defence as a turnkey project, the Kalvari Submarine Escape Training Facility is equipped with a five-meter

escape tower integrated with an adjacent diving basin. This state-of-the-art facility will be utilized for imparting both basic and refresher escape training to the crew of Kalvari-class submarines, ensuring that they are proficient in escape procedures in the event of a submarine distress situation. The facility "Vinetra" meaning "Trainer" represents a significant step forward in building confidence among submariners, ensuring that they are equipped with the skills and training necessary to escape in case of any underwater emergency. This training facility also reinforces the operational readiness, safety protocols and training infrastructure of the Indian Navy.

Maharashtra pivotal in spreading values of Buddha across India: Kiren Rijiju

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Union Minister for Minority Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju said here on Saturday that Maharashtra, where there is substantial Buddhist population, stood as a pivotal region for spreading the values of Lord Buddha across the country. Addressing a day-long conclave Buddha's Middle Path - Guide for Global Leadership' at Nehru Science Centre - hosted jointly by the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs and International Buddhist Conclave, Rijiju said that strengthening Buddhism in Maharashtra could reflect positively across the country. Dwelling upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent initiatives, including the extensive celebration of Buddha Purnima, Rijiju said that the Centre's initiatives underlined its commitment to promoting Buddhist values. "The Prime Minister's speeches at the United Nations and European Union consistently underscore the values of Buddha - benevolence and compassion join hands, a country can become a global leader and the absence of such values will only create global issues but not peace", the minister said that there significant Buddhist population in Maharashtra and urged for a concerted effort to influence more individuals to embrace the values of Buddha. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, whose meticulous drafting of the Indian Constitution remains a testament to his dedication to the country's



framework and people. He also outlined several government welfare schemes aimed at supporting the Buddhist community. Secretary General of the International Buddhist Confederation, Shartse Khensur Jangchup Choede expressed profound respect for the teachings of Buddha. Emphasizing the transformative power of Ahimsa (non-violence), the Secretary General spoke about delving deeply into this principle that leads to the cultivation of Daya (compassion) and Karuna (mercy and empathy). He also underscored the belief that only the teachings of Buddha offer a viable solution to the pressing problems faced by the world today. Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities, Iqbal Singh Lalpura spoke on how India has been the birthplace of many faiths and religions and how it always stood to preach love and compassion while the rest of the world were focussed on acquisition of power. Dr. Milind Kamble, Founder Chairman, Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry stressed on the need for adherence to the teachings of Buddha, emphasizing the principle of being one's own light. He said that late Dr. Ambedkar, despite facing numerous challenges, never endorsed violence throughout his life.

CBI-FBI bust advanced cybercrime syndicate, arrest one from Mumbai

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a major breakthrough, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) -working in tandem with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) USA -- has busted a sophisticated virtual asset and bullion-supported cybercrime network and arrested a key accused from Mumbai. After conducting raids in Mumbai and Kolkata on Thursday and Friday as part of the ongoing Operation CHAKRA-III, the CBI has arrested key accused Vishnu Rathi from the country's commercial capital. Having registered a case on September 9 2024 against Rathi and other accused under sections 120-B and 420 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), as well as Section 66D read with 75 of the Information Technology Act, 2000, the International Operations Division of the CBI launched investigation into the cyber crime network that was targeting victims in foreign countries since 2022. According to the CBI, Rathi



and other accused had -- between June and August 2022 -- conspired to target a U.S. citizen by gaining unauthorized remote access to the victim's computer and bank account. Under the pretext of offering tech support services, they falsely informed the US based victim that her bank account had been compromised. Claiming that the funds were at risk, they allegedly manipulated the victim into transferring USD 453,953 to crypto currency wallets controlled by them. After it registered the case, the CBI conducted extensive searches at multiple locations associated/ linked to the accused, which yielded substantial incriminating evidence. "Searches conducted by CBI at seven locations across Mumbai

and Kolkata on September 12(Thursday) and September 13, 2024 (Friday) have revealed that this transnational cyber-enabled financial crimes network was channeling proceeds of crime through virtual assets and bullion," the CBI said. During search at the residential premises of accused Vishnu Rathi, 57 gold bars of 100 gm each, cash amount of Rs.16 lakh, mobile phone, laptop used to manage crypto currencies, details of lockers and other incriminating documents were recovered. The CBI is continuing its investigations to identify victims of crime and proceeds of crime. It is coordinating with FBI and law enforcement agencies in multiple countries through INTERPOL for follow up on leads. Operation CHAKRA-III has been initiated by CBI to combat and dismantle organized cyber enabled financial crime networks through a globally coordinated law enforcement response leveraging INTERPOL channels.

Undiagnosed fever in Kutch, Gujarat; Centre sets up surveillance mechanism

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Alarmed at the undiagnosed fever claiming 15 lives in Gujarat's Kutch, the Centre has set up a surveillance mechanism to immediately respond to such outbreaks and alerts have been issued at the points of entry such as airports, land ports and seaports to monitor the disease. An effective surveillance mechanism through the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), IHIP network and also through the One Health Mission to immediately respond to any such outbreaks has been established. According to the Gujarat Government as many as 48 new cases of fever had been detected in the affected villages of Lakhpur and Abdasa talukas. The deaths, which occurred between September 3 and 10, included four children. To meet any emergency, the



ICMR's network of laboratories will take care of diagnostics and there is enough capability to step up the supply of diagnostic kits if required, said sources in the Union Health Ministry. Under the PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), the government has strengthened tertiary care across the country through AIIMS institutes, apart from bolstering emergency services through critical care blocks. Also, sufficient medical oxygen is available for any

such exigency, the sources added. The Gujarat government has deployed specialist doctors and 50 medical teams in and around seven villages of two talukas in Kutch district after the outbreak of the undiagnosed fever. Samples of the infected patients have been sent to the Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC) in Gandhinagar and at the National Institute of Virology in Pune to identify the exact cause of the fever and the subsequent deaths.

Congress names three as AICC senior observers for Haryana Assembly elections

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday named Ashok Gehlot, Ajay Maken and Partap Singh Bajwa as the AICC senior observers for the October five Assembly elections in Haryana. The party has announced the names of 89 candidates for the Haryana polls and left one seat, Bhiwani, for the CPI(M). A statement by the Congress

said party president Mallikarjun Kharge has appointed Gehlot, Maken and Bajwa as senior observers for the Haryana polls. While Maken is the party's treasurer, Gehlot is a former chief minister of Rajasthan and Bajwa is the Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab assembly. The 90-member Haryana assembly is scheduled to go to polls on October 5 and the counting of votes will be undertaken on October 8.

S Jaishankar takes a jibe at LoP Rahul Gandhi over his khata-khat in Geneva

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, in an apparent jibe at Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, has said life was not "khata-khat" (easy job), and it needed hard work and diligence. Rahul Gandhi had repeatedly used the "Khata-khat" phrase during the Lok Sabha elections while promising swift transfer of money into the accounts of women if Congress was voted to power. Jaishankar made the remark while he was speaking on the

infrastructural development undertaken by the Narendra Modi-led government at an event in Geneva. Addressing the Indian community, Jaishankar said, "Until you build infrastructure and human resources, have those policies in place, it is hard work. Life is not 'khata-khat', life is hard work and diligence." "Anybody who's held a job and laboured at it, knows it. So that's my message to you, that we have to work hard at it," he further said. Gandhi's 'khata khat' punch line had become a social

media trend and was used even by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attack the Congress over alleged lack of development during the UPA regime. Jaishankar said a country cannot be a major power without developing its manufacturing capabilities. "And there are...people who say that we are incapable of it, we should not even attempt it. Can you actually be a major power in the world without manufacturing? Because a major power needs technology. Nobody can develop technology without

developing manufacturing," he said. Recently, Rahul Gandhi, during an interaction with students at the University of Texas, said China's dominance in global manufacturing had shielded it from an unemployment crisis, which plagues India and most Western countries. "The West has an employment problem, as does India. But many countries, like China and Vietnam, don't face such a challenge because they are production hubs," Rahul Gandhi said.

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Sable finishes ninth in his maiden Diamond League final

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



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



champion Sable had finished sixth with a national record time of 8:09.91 -- bettering his own earlier mark -- in the Paris leg of the Diamond League on July 7. He was 14th at the Silesia leg with a time of 8:29.96 on August 25. Each Diamond League season finale champion is awarded a "Diamond Trophy", USD 30,000 prize money and a wild card for the World Athletics Championships. Hakimifard who left her Iranian citizenship. It was a bit of a technical game from the white pieces as Ghazal made some unforced errors and did not quite recover. Divya continued with her winning ways and clearly the Indian seemed to be having the time of her life on the chessboard. After recently winning the World junior girls' championship, Divya scored a regulation win against Sofia Hryzlova while on the fourth board Vantika proved much stronger than Mariia Manko. The day also provided the first major upset in the Olympiad as fifth seed Holland were outdone by Italy 1-3 in the open section. Top Dutch star Anish Giri was on the receiving end in this encounter and that triggered their collapse. With eight rounds still to come, as many as 16 teams maintained a clean slate and shared the lead with six points apiece. The Indian men will take on Serbia in the next round. With Alexandr Predke and Alexey Sarana on the top two boards, the Indians will likely have a tough fight on hands even though they still are favourites to win the match. In the women's section too, there are 16 teams sharing the lead with six points each. In the fourth round the Indian eves are pitted against France and should be able to breakthrough as they are likely to be rating favourites on all four boards.

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

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

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



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

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

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



Indian men outwit Hungary B; women go past Switzerland

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

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



MUSKURAYE JANAAB, AAP LUCKNOW MEIN HAIN!

A CELEBRATION OF RICH TRADITIONS AND FLAVOURS



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

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

AN AUTHENTIC LAKHNAWI EXPERIENCE

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

A FEAST OF FLAVOURS

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

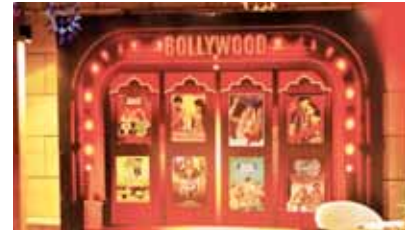
treated to signature dishes like Galouti Kebabs, which melted in the mouth with the perfect blend of spices. Accompanied by Awadhi classics such as Murgh Awadhi Qorma, Gosht Nalli Qorma and Aloo Bukhara Kofta, each bite celebrated the deep flavours and heritage of the Nawabs.

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

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



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



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

A TASTE OF LUCKNOW'S CULTURE

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



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

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

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

NEW OFFERINGS

OPHELIA LAUNCHES BOLD TURKISH MENU

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

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



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

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

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

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



sacred union to metallic reflections on societal facades, and mixed-media reimaginings of urban consciousness, the show challenges initial impressions and encourages a deeper engagement with the layers of artistic expression. Experience a thought-provoking journey through the complexity of surface and substance.

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



EXHIBITION: BEYOND THE SURFACE

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

Bumrah to Promote Healthy Snacking



PHOTO: PANKAJ KUMAR

TEAM VIVA

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

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

promoting a healthy lifestyle. Sumit Saran from APG remarked, "India is an important market for American pistachios, and with Jasprit Bumrah as our ambassador, we aim to raise awareness about their nutritional benefits among health-conscious consumers. This collaboration is expected to boost the popularity of pistachios as a nutritious snack option for both fitness enthusiasts and cricket fans. Dr. Siddhant Bhargava, a nutrition expert, also emphasized the value of pistachios, stating, "American pistachios are rich in antioxidants, protein, and essential fats, making them a great choice for muscle recovery and overall health. They can support optimal performance, which is especially important for athletes like Bumrah." With American pistachios now readily available through major e-commerce platforms and retailers across India, this partnership arrives at an opportune time. Whether you're enjoying a match or simply looking for a healthy snack, pistachios offer a nutritious option that aligns with Bumrah's approach to fitness and well-being.

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



PARIS PARALYMPICS

PARA ATHLETES BASK IN GLORY AND GOLD

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

The Paris 2024 Paralympics will go down as one of the most celebrated sporting moments in India's history. The Indian contingent's extraordinary performances were not just a display of athletic prowess but also a powerful reminder of human resilience, willpower, and the ability to triumph against all odds. From setting new records to inspiring millions, the Indian athletes left a remarkable imprint on the global stage. India's Paralympians wasted no time in making their presence felt at Paris 2024. In 12 days of competition India registered 29 medals includes 7 gold, 9 silver, and 13 bronze. India's medal count marked significant landmark and breakthroughs in Indian history of Paralympics.

India's first medal in the Paralympics came in the 1972 Games, with Murlikant Petkar winning a gold medal in swimming. Up to the recent 2024 Games, India have won 60 medals across all Paralympic Games, with the most successful Paralympic campaign being the Paris 2024 Games with 29 medals. Shooting has traditionally been one of India's strong suits in both the Olympic and Paralympic arenas. In Paris, India's para-shooters continued their stellar run from previous Games. Avani Lekhara, a name that had already become synonymous with Indian Paralympic shooting, won gold in the women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 category. Avani's calm demeanor and laser-focused concentration were on full display as she once again climbed to the top of the podium. This win made her a two-time Paralympic champion and reinforced her place among the world's elite shooters.

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

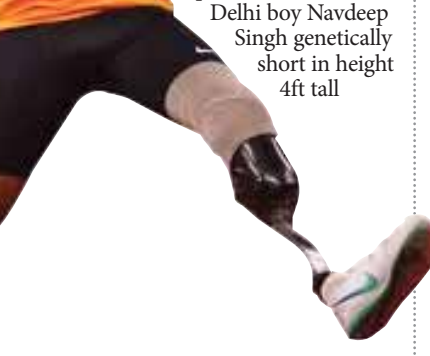
India witnessed some historic milestone in the paralympics event, For the first time India won 17 medals in athletics, with Dharambir winning gold and Pranav Soorma taking silver in the men's club throw F51 event. Dharambir also established a new Asian record of 34.92 metres. Later, Praveen Kumar set an Asian record by winning the high jump T64 championship, giving India its sixth gold medal at the Paralympics.

Mariyappan Thangavelu became the first Indian to win medals at three successive Paralympic Games when he won a bronze in the T42 high jump event. He took home silver in Tokyo 2020 and gold in Rio 2016. With a personal best time, Preethi Pal won bronze in the women's 100-meter T35 competition. It was the first-ever medal for India in a Paralympic track event. Being the only athlete from India to win two medals at the Games, her bronze in the 200m made her the most successful competitor. India finished the



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

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



Delhi boy Navdeep Singh genetically short in height 4ft tall

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



by huge numbers of supporters greeted with showering of flowers on them. The Indian contingent met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence on Thursday in New Delhi, where PM Modi interacted with all para-athletes of Indian contingent and congratulating the medal winners of Paris Paralympics 2024

Athletes shared their journeys and challenges to overcome the stereotypes of the society. Paralympic Gold Medallist Avani Lekhara gifted her signed jersey to PM Modi. Rewards were announced by Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya of 75 lakh to gold-medallists, 50 lakh to silver winners and 30 lakh to bronze-medallists in the games and pledges full support from Government for the LA 2028 campaign.

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

but surely starting to embrace diversity in all its forms. As India commemorates this new chapter in athletic prowess, the effect of these players will continue to resonate, pushing the Government to provide greater support, recognition, and growth for para-sports. India's achievement at the Paralympics is more than simply a moment of glory; it is the start of a future in which the country's differently-abled athletes will continue to smash barriers, demonstrating that with spirit and drive, nothing is impossible. Famous Columnist Akhileshwar Sahay stated in his article Khel Vaani India's Paralympic Rise: A Beacon for a More Inclusive Future

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



DUBLIN'S HIDDEN GEM

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

BY AKANKSHA DEAN

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

MODERN ELEGANCE AWAITS

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



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



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

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

STORIES OF DUBLIN

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

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

SIP, STROLL, EXPLORE

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

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

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

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF INDIAN ACCENT

A Journey Through Taste and Tradition

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

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

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



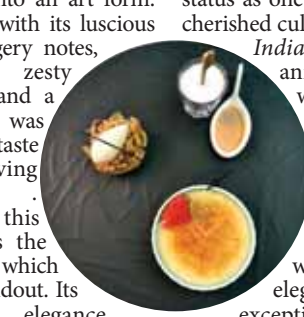
approach to blending traditional elements with modern sophistication. Chef Shantanu Mehrotra's talent was unmistakable throughout the tasting menu. His creations, such as the Paneer Tikka Chaat and Khakra Mille Feuille, were perfect examples of his ability to blend textures and flavours in imaginative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



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

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

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





FROM WHEELS TO WINGS

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE MONSOON'S WHISPER IN EVERY NOTE

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

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

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



Photo: Pankaj Kumar

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

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

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

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

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

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

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



LEO July 23-Aug 22

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

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



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

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

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



TAURUS April 20-May 20

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

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



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

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

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



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

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

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



GEMINI May 21-June 20

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

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



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

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

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



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

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

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



CANCER June 21-July 22

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

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



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

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

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



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

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

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

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Do you pray?

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

GURUSPEAK



Sri Sri Ravi Shankar
Spiritual Guru

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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