



Established 1865 Sunday Pioneer

BHOPAL, SUNDAY JANUARY 5, 2025; PAGES 12 ₹2

magazine



www.dailypioneer.com

PUBLISHED FROM DELHI | LUCKNOW | BHOPAL | BHUBANESWAR | RANCHI | RAIPUR | CHANDIGARH | DEHRADUN | HYDERABAD | VIJAYWADA



Verma, Bhiduri vs Kejriwal, Atishi: High stakes Delhi polls

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

With less than a week left before the announcement of Delhi assembly polls, the BJP has released its first list of 29 candidates, awarding tickets to four sitting MLAs, two former MPs, and eight former MLAs. The BJP's first list features eight prominent leaders who switched over from the Congress and AAP in recent months. Former West Delhi MP Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma will contest against AAP Chief Arvind Kejriwal in the New Delhi assembly constituency. The New Delhi seat, held by Kejriwal since 2013, will witness the former chief minister taking on the sons of two other former chief ministers. Verma is the son of Sahib Singh Verma, who had a two-year tenure as chief minister in the 1990s. Former West Delhi MP Verma started his preparations for contesting from the seat even before he was announced as the official candidate, saying he had been given the go-ahead by national leaders. The Congress candidate from the seat is former three-term chief minister Sheila Dikshit's son Sandeep Dikshit. "I thank my party's top leadership... I hope that the trust that the party has shown in me, I'll live up to it... When Delhi was facing COVID-19, when they needed Oxygen, Arvind Kejriwal Ji was distributing a 'free bottle on every bottle'... There are many works in Delhi - like cleaning



Yamuna, and curbing pollution... when the BJP forms the govt, we will do all these works," Verma said after the BJP released its first list. Former South Delhi MP Ramesh Bidhuri will face chief minister Atishi in Kalkaji. Congress has fielded Alka Lamba from here, making it a triangular contest. Four former Delhi ministers - Kailash Gahlot and Raj Kumar Anand, who served in the outgoing AAP government, along with Arvinder Singh Lovely and Rajkumar Chauhan, who held key portfolios during Sheila Dikshit's government from 2003 to 2013 - have also been given tickets. Gahlot's seat has been shifted from Najafgarh to

Bijwasan, while Anand will contest from the reserved constituency of Patel Nagar. The two-time Najafgarh MLA resigned as minister and quit AAP to join the BJP in November. Tarvinder Singh Marwah, a three-time former Congress MLA from Jangpura who joined the BJP in 2022, will contest from the same seat. He is pitted against senior AAP leader and former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia. Former Delhi minister Arvind Singh Lovely has been fielded from the Gandhi Nagar seat in east Delhi, replacing incumbent BJP MLA Anil Bajpai. Bajpai had defeated Lovely from the seat in the 2020 polls.

Kejriwal promises water bill waivers post elections

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) debt accumulated to over Rs 73,000 crore, former Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party convener Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday made another promise to the people of Delhi that his party would waive inflated water bills if his party was voted to power in the upcoming Delhi Assembly polls likely to be held next month. Addressing a press conference, Kejriwal urged the people not to pay inflated water bills and said that 12 lakh families got bills of zero amount. "But when I went to jail, I don't know what these people (BJP) did behind my back." He assured that these erroneous bills would be waived off after the elections, offering relief to affected residents. The AAP government is providing 20,000 litres of free water to Delhi households. Interestingly, Kejriwal's AAP is in the power in Delhi. This comes after announcing six freebies to the people of Delhi including Mahila Samman Scheme under which Rs 2100 per month to be given to every woman, Pujaris and Granthi's monthly salary and free treatment to senior citizens. Insiders say the DJB's financial losses have jumped from Rs 344.05 crore in the 2019-20 fiscal to Rs 1,196.22 crore in 2021-22, while the board has a debt of more than Rs 73,196.55 crore, which includes Rs 37,366.59 crore in principal amount and Rs 35,829.96 crore in interest.

Fresh violence erupts in Manipur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ IMPHAL

After the apologies by Manipur chief Minister N Biren Singh, fresh violence were reported from the north eastern State as security was beefed up in Kangpokpi district where the Superintendent of Police was injured in a mob attack for failing to "remove" the central armed forces as per the demands of Kuki groups. A mob on Friday evening attacked the office of M Prabhakar, throwing stones and other "projectiles" to vent their anger over the continued deployment of central forces, particularly the BSF and the CRPF, in the Saibol village. Vehicles of district police kept within the compound of the SP's office were vandalised. Prabhakar



Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla chairs meeting to review the state's security and law and order situation, at Raj Bhavan, in Imphal

was injured after being hit on the forehead by some projectile, officials said. Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla who took over the charge chaired a meeting with senior police, CRPF, BSF, Assam Rifles officials on Saturday and reviewed the comprehensive security situation in the state. The Governor of Manipur chaired a security meeting at Raj Bhavan in Imphal. Taking stock of the prevailing law and order situation, the Governor reviewed the security apparatus and its

arrangements throughout the state, with a particular focus on border areas," the release issued by Raj Bhavan said. More than 250 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Meitei and Kuki communities since May 2023. A senior officer in Imphal said a huge contingent of security forces have been deployed in the area. "Situation is now under control and being closely monitored," he added. In a statement, the police said that besides stones, the protestors attacked the SP office with petrol bombs. "Security forces retaliated against the mob and resorted to the use of adequate force to disperse the mob and the situation was brought under control," it said.

Nagaland CM calls for end to factionalism in Naga talks

PNS ■ KOHIMA

Nagaland deputy chief minister Yanthung Patton, while emphasising that the Centre is willing to offer only one solution to the longstanding Naga political issue, on Saturday urged Naga underground factions and people to come together for a permanent resolution. Addressing the 175th anniversary celebration of Lhisemia Thino, the amalgamation of different clans of Lhisemia Khel (sector) of Kohima village, Patton said, "The Centre,



under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is ready to give us a solution only if our Naga factions are united." The Centre has been holding political negotiations with the NSCN-IM since the signing of the ceasefire

agreement in 1997 and also inked the Framework Agreement in 2015. It also entered into parallel negotiations with the Working Committee of Naga National Political Groups (WC NNPGs), composed of at least seven Naga factions, in 2017. They signed the Agreed Position in November 2017. Negotiations between the Centre and Naga groups were declared to have concluded on October 30, 2019, by the then interlocutor and Governor of Nagaland, R N Ravi.



District hospital where injured army personnel are being treated after an army vehicle fell into a gorge in Bandipora district

Two Army accidents in two weeks: 8 soldiers dead

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Three Indian army jawans were killed and two others received injuries when their vehicle skidded off the road and fell into a deep gorge in the North Kashmir district of Bandipora on Saturday. According to preliminary reports, the accident occurred due to inclement weather and poor visibility conditions in the SK Payeen area of Bandipora. The locals in the area responded swiftly and launched rescue operations. This is the second incident in the last two weeks in which Indian army jawans lost their lives in a road accident. Five soldiers were killed in the Balnoi sector of Poonch when an army vehicle rolled down into a gorge on December 24, 2024. Srinagar-based Chinar Corps posted on X (earlier Twitter), "On 04 Jan 24, while performing duty in the Bandipora district, an Indian Army vehicle skidded and fell into the gorge due to inclement weather and poor visibility." Injured soldiers were promptly evacuated for medical care with assistance from Kashmiri locals, for which we express gratitude to the citizens for providing immediate succor. Tragically three bravehearts lost their lives in the unfortunate accident. Indian Army extends heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families."

Fog causes rail, air traffic disruption



A train moves on a Srinagar-Baramulla railway track amid snow on a foggy winter afternoon, on the outskirts of Srinagar

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi airport on Saturday saw 19 flight diversions, many cancellations and over 400 flight delays as low visibility conditions due to dense fog impacted operations for the second straight day, reducing the visibility to zero in several areas for an unprecedented nine-hour stretch, the longest spell of the season. "Zero visibility prevailed for nine hours at Palam between 6 pm and 3 am (UTC), marking the longest spell of the season. The city's primary weather station, Safdarjung, recorded eight

hours of zero visibility, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). India's largest airline, IndiGo, temporarily halted both arrivals and departures. Airlines, including IndiGo and Air India, issued travel advisories urging customers to check their flight status before heading to the airport and allow extra time for travel. An official said 19 flights were diverted at the airport between 12.15 am and 1.30 am due to reduced visibility. Of them, 13 were domestic, four international and two non-scheduled flights. More than

WEATHER

AQI	378
MAX	20°C
MIN	7.8°C

45 flights were cancelled due to bad weather conditions at Delhi as well as at the destination airports, the official said. As per information available on flight tracking website Flightradar24.Com, over 450 flights were delayed at the Delhi airport. "While landing and takeoffs continue at Delhi Airport, flights that are not

CAT III compliant may get affected. Passengers are requested to contact the airline concerned for updated flight information. "Any inconvenience caused is deeply regretted," the Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) said in a post on X at 6.56 am. CAT III facility allows aircraft to operate in low-visibility conditions. Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national capital is operated by DIAL, handles around 1,300 flight movements daily. "# 6 E T r a v e l A d v i s o r y : Departures and arrivals at #DelhiAirport are currently on hold due to reduced visibility," IndiGo said in a post on X at 1.05 am on Saturday. Air India said in an update on X at 1.16 am that poor visibility due to dense fog was impacting flight operations in Delhi and parts of northern India. A thick blanket of fog had enveloped Delhi on Friday as well, delaying more than 400 flights. In an update on X at 10.58 am, IndiGo said dense fog continued to affect visibility in Delhi, Chandigarh, Amritsar, Srinagar, Guwahati, and Patna, even during daytime. "We assure you that our teams are working diligently to assist all impacted customers, ensuring your journey resumes as soon as the weather improves," it said in another post at 11 am.

Delhi man scams 700 women using fake dating profiles

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested a 23-year-old man who allegedly scammed over 700 women after befriending them on dating applications by posing as a US-based model. The cyber police station of West district arrested Tushar Bisht on charges of exploiting online platforms such as Bumble and Snapchat to lure his victims, blackmail them using private photos and videos, and extort money. According to police, during the day, he works as a recruiter at a private company in Uttar Pradesh's Noida. At night he turns into a US-based model on a soul-searching trip to India. His day job offered him security, and his nocturnal activities brought in the money through manipulation and blackmail. Tushar Singh Bisht, 23, was arrested from the Shakarpur area of East Delhi on Friday for defrauding over 700 women by posing as a model on dating platforms. A resident of Delhi, Tushar has a bachelor's degree in business administration (BBA). For the past three years, he had been employed as a technical recruiter at a private company in Noida. His father works as a driver, his mother is a homemaker, and his sister is employed in Gurugram. "Posing as a US-based freelance model, the accused created fake identities using a virtual international mobile number and photographs of a Brazilian model," Deputy Commissioner of Police (West), Vichitra Veer, said in the statement. Bisht used the fake profiles to connect with women aged between 18 and 30 years on various online dating platforms. "His primary targets were users of Bumble, Snapchat and WhatsApp," the statement said. The DCP said Bisht gained his victims' trust by engaging in conversations, and convinced them to share private and intimate images and



REPRESENTATIVE PHOTO

videos."Once he obtained the content, he resorted to blackmail, threatening to leak the sensitive material online, or sell them to dark web unless the victims paid him," the DCP said. Preliminary investigation revealed that the accused interacted with over 500 women on Bumble and 200 others on Snapchat and WhatsApp, police said. The accused's mobile phone contained incriminating evidence, including objectionable data of victims, a virtual mobile number, and details of financial transactions involving extortion. The police also seized 13 credit cards linked to various banks, the statement said. The matter came to light on December 13, last year, when a Delhi University student filed a complaint with the cyber police station claiming that she had connected with the accused on Bumble earlier in the year. Posing as a US-based model visiting India for work, he gained her trust through consistent chats. As their interactions deepened, the accused persuaded her to share private photos and videos on Snapchat and WhatsApp. Despite repeated requests to meet in person, he always evaded with excuses, the DCP said.

Six Indian Americans sworn-in as members of US House of Representatives

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

In a momentous occasion for Indian Americans, six of their leaders on Friday were sworn-in as the members of the US House of Representatives, the largest so far for this minority ethnic community in the United States. "When I was first sworn in twelve years ago, I was the sole Indian American Member of Congress and only the third in US history. Now, our coalition is six strong! I am excited to welcome even more Indian Americans to the halls of Congress in the years to come!" Congressman Dr Ami Bera said in a post on X. Bera, the senior most of them, who has been sworn-in for the seventh consecutive term as a representative of the seventh Congressional District of

California, also posted a picture of all the six Indian American Congressman from the floor of the House. Suhash Subramanian, who represents the 10th Congressional District of Virginia is the newest Indian American to be a member of the House of Representatives. "First day of work! Honoured to be sworn into the #119th Congress, and excited to get to work to deliver results for VA10," he said as he posted a picture of him along with his family and House Speaker Mike Johnson. "Ready to Serve," said Congressman Shri Thanedar who represents the 13th Congressional District of Michigan as he posted a selfie of his from the House floor. All the six Indian American lawmakers are from the Democratic Party and voted for



(Left to right): Ami Bera, Pramila Jayapal, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Ro Khanna, Shri Thanedar and Suhash Subramanyam

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries in the election for House Speakership. Republican Mike Johnson was elected as the House Speaker. Congressman Ro Khanna represents the 17th Congressional District of California and Raja Krishnamoorthi represents the eighth Congressional District of Illinois. Congresswoman Pramila

Jayapal, representing the seventh Congressional District of Washington state, is the first ever Indian American woman to be elected to the House of Representatives. All the three - Khanna, Krishnamoorthi and Jayapal - have been sworn-in for a fifth consecutive term, during which they have emerged as powerful

lawmakers in their own way. Krishnamoorthi is a Ranking Member of the powerful China Committee and also a member of the House Intelligence Committee. Jayapal is leader of the highly powerful progressive group of lawmakers. Khanna is not only a member of several powerful House committees, but also is seen as a potential presidential candidate in

the years to some. All the six Indian Americans constitute an informal Samosa Caucus, a term coined by Krishnamoorthi. When sworn in for the first term in 2012, Dr Bera had then wished to have 10 Indian Americans in the House of Representatives. Several Indian Americans aspiring to be elected to the House lost

elections either during the primaries or in the November 5 general elections. At least three of them were women: Sushila Jaipal, Bhavani Patel and Krystal Kaul. Dalip Singh Saund was the first Indian American to be elected to the House of Representatives in 1957. Also, the first Sikh, he was elected for three consecutive terms. He was from the Democratic Party. It took nearly five decades for a second Indian American to enter the US House of Representatives. Bobby Jindal represented the First Congressional District of Louisiana from 2005 to 2008. He later went on to become the two-term Governor of Louisiana, making him the first Indian American to be elected as the governor of a US State. Jindal is the only Indian American to be elected to the House on a Republican ticket.

Serving persons with disabilities brings inner joy: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that the service and welfare of divyangs is a matter of inner joy. The experience and feeling of serving them is divine. To develop harmony with the divyangs, it is necessary to remove the ignorance prevailing in the society towards them. Every divyangs has some talent or the other, by identifying and enhancing it, their energy can be utilized for the benefit of society. As a result of the sensitivity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the word Viklang was changed to a more respectful Divyang. People facing disability are true heroes who accept challenges. It is the responsibility of the

society to accept and respect their ability. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav was addressing the programme after distributing e-cycles to orthopedic divyangs. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav distributed e-cycles in a programme organized in the auditorium of the Directorate of Social Justice Department in collaboration with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) on the initiative of Samdarshi Capacity Development and Research Board 'Saksham'. Louis Braille remembered on World Braille Day Chief Minister Dr. Yadav inaugurated the programme by lighting a lamp. On World Braille Day (January 4), he remembered Louis Braille, who developed the

Braille script, and paid floral tributes to him. On this occasion, visually impaired girl Tanya Sharma gave a soulful rendition of Saksham song. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav greeted Tanya with a bouquet. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav released a book developed in Braille script on the schemes and programmes run by the Social Welfare and Disabled Empowerment Department and also honoured social workers with shawls, shripah and certificates. Chief Minister Yadav distributed e-cycles symbolically to Anamika Solanki of Mandasaur, Rajni Dashore of Khandwa, Usha Garhwa of Jhabua, Om Tiwari, Sukhdev etc. e-cycles were distributed to 47 orthopedically divyangs of the state.

e-cycle can be used as a wheelchair at home and as tricycle outside home Chief Minister Yadav said that the Braille script is a great gift for the visually impaired. Also, Braille script is used by the armies of many countries for exchanging messages at night. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav praised the e-cycles being distributed on this occasion. He said that these cycles can be used as wheelchairs at home and as tricycles for commuting outside the house. He said that even after being divyangs, people have made significant contributions in various fields by using their ability and capacity. In the mythological context, the example of Ashtavakra, great musician late Ravindra Jain and Swami

Rambhadracharya ji in the field of religion and spirituality is especially noteworthy. Organization Saksham is dedicated to creating a harmonious environment for divyangs in the society. It was informed in the programme that 'Saksham'-Samdrishti Kshamata Vikas evam Anusandhan Mandal is an organization dedicated to the empowerment of divyangs, which was established in Nagpur in 2008. Saksham aims to create a harmonious environment for the divyangs in the society by employing such youth and women, protecting their rights, encouraging sports activities, and research, and through seminars and discussions at the state and national level.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav during distribution of free e-cycles to specially abled beneficiaries in a programme organised by MP Social Justice department, in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Flaws in health scheme need to be ironed out

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Launched with a lot of fanfare, the central government's Ayushman Bharat initiative to provide health security to senior citizens may still need to iron out inherent flaws in the process. Though the intent behind the initiative is commendable, the processes for treatment may end up denying welfare benefits to the elderly who choose to get treated at empanelled private medical facilities for ailments involving two or more organs. As per the procedure, private speciality hospitals are only empanelled to treat certain kinds of ailments, and if the primary diagnosis is accompanied by a secondary infection or disease, the hospital shifts patients to a different facility or charges them for the treatment, ren-

dering the Ayushman welfare scheme useless. It is rare for people aged 70 and above to have only one weak or infected organ. In most cases, a person suffering from a cardiac issue is likely to have several contributing factors, such as diabetes or pulmonary complications, which may require medical management of symptoms. Faced with such issues, most private health facilities—mid-scale nursing homes and hospitals—are left with no choice but to tell patients to either pay for services or shift to a hospital with blanket clearance for the health security scheme. Though those who can afford the costs prefer to pay the speciality medical facility, the process denies expert medical attention to the poor, who are supposedly at the heart of the welfare initiative. Responding to queries over

the matter, key health officials in the district confirm that blanket empanelment is not available to private health facilities in the city. They say that those with such ailments and financial constraints should seek treatment at tertiary facilities or government-run hospitals. Even if the officials must comply with the governmental fine print that only becomes clearer to the man on the street with the passage of time, the situation remains heartbreaking for caregivers looking after their elderly loved ones, who must be shuttled between facilities to fulfil requirements of the health welfare scheme. With the government expanding the welfare ambit of the Ayushman initiative, a little redesigning of processes—especially those for senior citizens—will definitely see the delivery of the welfare promise made by the government.

Healthy adolescent girl becomes a healthy mother: Shukla

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla stated that improving the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) requires regular health check-ups and care for adolescent girls, as well as monitoring women both during pregnancy and post-delivery. He emphasized that a healthy adolescent girl becomes a healthy mother in the future. Along with departmental efforts, support from social organizations and the general public is essential to ensure that pregnant women and adolescent girls remain health-conscious and receive family support. Public awareness is crucial to achieving 100% institutional deliveries.



Deputy Chief Minister Shukla visited the UNICEF Bhopal office and reviewed the various health and nutrition-related activities being carried out in Madhya Pradesh by UNICEF. Shukla assured UNICEF officials and staff of the government's full cooperation in their activities. He stated that through integrated efforts, health systems in the state would be strengthened, making

Madhya Pradesh a leading state in health standards across the country. He highlighted the state government's continuous efforts to improve MMR and IMR standards while maintaining close coordination with health experts from India and abroad. The Deputy Chief Minister noted that there is no shortage of resources, and continuous expansion of health infrastruc-

Two killed, 2 injured in road accident

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In a tragic accident near Gulmohar Garden near Airport Road, Bhopal, in the early hours of Saturday, a loading vehicle collided with a parked borewell machine around 1:30 AM, resulting in the death of a 25-year-old man and a 15-year-old boy. Two others sustained severe injuries and are undergoing treatment at Hamidia Hospital. The deceased have been identified as Setu Yadav (25), a resident of Lalitpur, and Naman Kaushal (15) from Nekan village in Vidisha district. Both worked at a canteen in Hamidia Hospital, operated by Shailesh Gupta. The other two individuals, also employees of the canteen, were seriously injured in the accident.



Bollywood veteran actors, TV artists Rajiv Verma (2R) Shahbaz Khan (R) film writer and director Saleem Arif (2L) and his wife and TV actress Lubna Salim (L) in a talk show during a programme 'Jashn-e-Urdu' organised by MP Urdu Academy at Gauhar Mahal in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Crime Branch arrest three miscreants in possession of 27.7 kgs of Cannabis

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Bhopal Crime Branch arrested three miscreants smuggling 27,200 kg Cannabis and seized two two-wheelers from their possession at Shahpura area. The accused are being questioned about the network of purchase and supply of Cannabis. Based on information about three boys standing in the parking tin shed in front of C Sector H.No. 682, Police Station Shahpura Bhopal. Out of which two boys are on a motorcycle and one boy is standing on a motorcycle with ganja kept in two blue plastic drums, who are standing and waiting for a customer to sell the ganja. The police team reached the spot and found the accused who were identified as Tara Singh Bhatia father Shambhu Bhatia, age 19 years, resident of Ekta Nagar, Police Station Sukhisewania, Bhopal 2. Deepak Takia father Kailash Takia, age 24 years, resident of Ekta Nagar, Police Station

Sukhisewania while third one was minor. Later, two blue colour plastic drums hanging on the motorcycle were searched from the possession of the three suspects Tara Singh, Deepak Takia and the juvenile delinquent. During the search, 14 packets each wrapped in brown tape were found inside both the plastic drums. When they were opened and checked, there was some substance inside them. On asking about it, all the three suspects said that it was the said material (ganja). The original weight of the said narcotic substance ganja was found to be 27 kg 200 grams. The cost of the said narcotic substance is approximately Rs. 2,80,000. And an NS Pulsar used in the incident was seized from the possession of accused Tara Singh and a black colour Splendor motorcycle was seized from the possession of the juvenile delinquent and taken into police custody. Later, a crime was registered against the accused and investigation was taken up.

Urdu festival gets underway at Gauhar Mahal

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Regaling Urdu aficionados, the three-day Jashn-e-Urdu festival got underway at the scenic Gauhar Mahal complex on the banks of the Upper Lake in the state capital on Saturday. Jointly organised by the Madhya Pradesh Urdu Academy, the Culture Council, and the Culture Department, the festival, which revolves around the central theme of inclusivity or 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', will continue until January 6. The festival includes Baitbaazi—an age-old literary game that requires participating teams to outdo each other with spontaneously created verses. Mushairas, discussions, a book fair, and an open mic session will also be organised as part of the event. Well-known literateurs and poets will attend and participate in the event, which aims to showcase the language, its literary traditions, and the role it has played in enhancing inclusivity to audiences in the state capital.

IGRMS highlights Buddhist symbolism with 'Dumkhar'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Indra Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS) in Bhopal showcased a unique cultural artifact, 'Dumkhar,' as the Exhibit of the Month in its Veethi Sankul indoor museum building. The exhibit was unveiled in the presence of former museum directors, Dr. K.K. Basa and Dr. Joshi, who attended as chief guests. Museum Director Prof. Amitabh Pande extended a warm welcome to the dignitaries with floral bouquets and a museum memento. 'Dumkhar,' a marine conch instrument associated with the Bhutia tribe of Darjeeling, West Bengal, is intricately adorned with white metal carvings of the Eight Auspicious Symbols of Buddhism. Historically significant, this instrument has been used in religious ceremonies and as a symbol of war and victory. Its sound is believed to dispel negative energy and foster positivity. The exhibit was curated by

Deptt of Obstetrics & Gynaecology presents annual statistics

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology of AIMS Bhopal conducted its Annual Statistics Presentation for the year 2024 on Saturday. Professor (Dr.) K Pushpalatha, Head of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, presented the annual statistics and details of clinical services rendered in 2024 as well as comparative statistical trends over last 3 years, including outpatient services such as Antenatal services, High-Risk Pregnancy Clinics, cancer screening, and treatment, as well as inpatient services like delivery services, caesarean deliveries, and high-risk pregnancy care. The event was chaired by Professor (Dr.) Shikha Malik, Head of the Department of Pediatrics, and Professor (Dr.) J.P. Sharma, Incharge Head of the Department of Anaesthesiology. The department also excelled in operative



services, including endoscopy and minimally invasive surgeries, along with diagnostic services like USG, CTG, Amniocentesis etc.; MTP services. Additionally, Prof. Pushpalatha highlighted the department's active participation in outreach programs and health camps, various CMEs, Foundation Day celebrations in the month of January, and workshops conducted throughout the year. She also elaborated on the successful implementation of the

improving the prenatal outcome. Prof. Pushpalatha expressed gratitude to the Executive Director of AIMS Bhopal, Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh, for his unwavering support and guidance. She also thanked Prof. Dr. Rajnish Joshi, Dean (Academics), Prof. Dr. Shashank Purwar, Officiating Medical Superintendent, and Prof. Dr. Saurabh Saigal, Incharge of ICU, for their continued encouragement. Prof. Singh emphasized the significance of the event, saying, "The Annual Statistics Presentation reflects the department's consistent efforts towards improving maternal and neonatal healthcare. Collaborative progress in clinical services and outreach programs is essential in reducing MMR and IMR, aligning with national healthcare goals." The meeting was attended by 80 participants, including faculty members, residents, nursing staff, and students from multiple departments.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Bhopal only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. This printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Govt working for welfare of all sections of society

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said India is moving towards becoming the best country in the world thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. Our government is working for the welfare of all sections. Youth, poor, farmers, and women are our priority. Madhya Pradesh is working at a fast pace to become the best state in the country. Yadav was addressing a huge gathering at the dedication and foundation laying of development works in Lateri (Vidisha) on Saturday. He dedicated the foundation of development works worth more than Rs 132 crore for the region. He conducted bhoomi puja for 54 development works worth Rs 80 crore 16 lakh and dedicated 198 development works worth

Rs 51 crore 96 lakh. The Chief Minister also distributed benefits to the beneficiaries of various schemes. A short film was also screened during the programme on freeing 505 hectares of Charnoi land of encroachments in Vidisha district. Yadav said that due to the efforts of our Prime Minister Modi, the modern-day Bhagirath, the state has two big irrigation projects in the form of Ken-Betwa and Parvati-Kalindh-Chambal link projects. This will provide irrigation and drinking water facilities in a large area not only in Bundelkhand but also in the Malwa and Chambal regions. Water will be available to 360 villages in this region too. Yadav said that we aim to provide water to every farmer's field. The life of the farmer will change with water coming to every field. We are going to surpass Punjab and

Haryana in agricultural production. Yadav said that the state is developing at a rapid pace in all areas like agriculture, animal husbandry, education, health, industry, employment, etc. Prime Minister Modi is determined to provide a permanent house to every poor. Treatment up to Rs 5 lakh is free under Ayushman Bharat Yojana. The government is continuously working to increase industry and employment. Investment proposals worth crores have been received in the Investors Summit held in Ujjain, Sagar, Rewa, Jabalpur, and Gwalior. For the youth, the government is soon going to make one lakh recruitments in the government sector and about 3 lakh posts in the private sector. The Chief Minister said that always remember the impor-

ance of education. Give good education to children, the government is making all the arrangements for education. PM Schools of Excellence are being opened in 55 districts of the state. To provide good transport facilities to the poor, the government is going to restart Madhya Pradesh State Transport. Yadav said that the government is promoting animal husbandry along with agriculture. The one who rears a cow is Gopal and the place they are reared is Gokul. The government is going to give bonuses on milk production and a subsidy will be given for rearing more than 10 cows. A large number of Gausshalas are being built in the state. Places where Lord Krishna visited in the state are being developed as pilgrimage sites. Lord Krishna pursued education in Sandipani Ashram, Ujjain, he got

Sudarshan Chakra in Janapav. Narrating the story of friendship between Krishna and Sudama, he said that true friendship is when a friend helps the other without his knowledge. Yadav assured to make special efforts for railway line in the area. He also announced the opening of a government college in Anandpur. Animal Husbandry and Dairy Minister (Independent Charge) and Vidisha District In-charge Minister Lakhman Patel said that due to the continuous efforts of the government, the area of irrigation in the state is increasing rapidly. Due to the efforts of Prime Minister Modi and Chief Minister Yadav, two river-linking projects of the country have started in the state. Yadav is working as a messiah of the farmers. We resolve to irrigate the entire state.



Students from Mizoram perform during the four day long 10th National Kala Utsav, at Regional Institute of Education in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo



People visit an exhibition during 31st National Children Science Congress, at Ravindra Bhawan in Bhopal on Saturday.

Students display their projects using models

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The second day of the 31st National Children's Science Congress was filled with scientific enthusiasm at the Ravindra Bhawan premises, with the evaluation of student projects, face-to-face programs, and workshops. Throughout the day, students from all states of the country presented their projects, using models and posters to explain their work. A workshop on "Aahar Kranti - Nutrition and Health through Diet" was organized for science teachers, with Mr. Sagar Bhide and Mr. Manohar Shivan as experts. The workshop focused on the traditional Indian dietary pyramid and a healthy lifestyle. Mr. Manohar Shivan emphasized that young people should maintain their

health through physical activities and a balanced diet. Mr. Sagar Bhide, a trainer from Gujarat University, highlighted the need for "Aahar Kranti" and stated, "Eat food for nutrition or as medicine, otherwise medicine will become your food." He also addressed issues such as dietary disorders among youth, the impact of social media, and the importance of nutrition. Under the Popular Science Lecture, Dr. Anand Madhukar, Assistant Professor at TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi, delivered a talk on sustainable development and climate change awareness. He elaborated on the 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established during the 2015 Paris Conference and stressed the importance of efficient utilization of water, energy, and agricultural

resources and the implementation of climate policies for a sustainable future. Additionally, Dr. Arvind Ranade, Director of the Indian Innovation Foundation, Ahmedabad, delivered an engaging lecture on astronomy and science. He provided detailed insights into planets, stars, the solar system, solar and lunar eclipses, and the history of astronomy in India. Students eagerly asked questions, and Ranade answered them with great enthusiasm. The event also featured a Science Film Show, which captivated the interest of students. A nature-based 'Snakes and Ladders' game brought joy to both students and teachers. Various exhibitions on wildlife, cheetahs, tigers, crafts, environmental awareness, and lightning protection were well-received.

Dance teacher commits suicide

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 22 year old married dance teacher committed suicide by hanging with the ceiling at Chhola road area, husband sleeping by her side did not get a clue and found wife hanging in the morning. A case of suicide of a married woman living in Chhola area of Bhopal has come to light. The husband saw the body of his wife hanging from the noose on the fan in the bedroom at 4 am on Saturday. His second marriage anniversary was on February 18 next month. Due to non-availability of suicide note, the real reason for suicide could not be revealed. In the case, the police have started investigation by registering a case. According to the police, Khushi Suryavanshi husband Akash Suryavanshi (22) resi-

dent of Shakti Gyan Colony, Chhola got married on 18 February 2023. Akash told that his wife used to run a dance class at home. There was no dispute between the two. He himself does a private job in an office located in MP Nagar. After returning from office on Friday night, he had dinner with his wife. Both were sleeping together in the bedroom. When he woke up at around 4 in the morning, he saw that his wife was hanging from the noose. The police have not found any suicide note from him. Before committing suicide, the woman did not send any message or call anyone. Her parents have also not made any allegations yet. Her birthday was celebrated with great pomp at her in-laws' house on 9 November.

Guv releases 'Computer Ek Parichay'

Bhopal: Governor Mangubhai Patel said an educated person's pride lies in making others great with his knowledge. It is the pride of his education. He said that 38 years ago, by writing the book 'Computer Ek Parichay' to disseminate computer knowledge, the author glorified his education. His efforts to benefit the entire society are commendable. Governor Patel was addressing the launch event of the 40th edition of the book 'Computer Ek Parichay' of AISECT Publication at the local Kushabhau Thackeray International Convention Center, Bhopal.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY		
Tender Notice		
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, Gati Shakti, N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and on behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.		
Description of work: Electrical General Service work for new building for Rest Rooms for operating staff at 14 Stations and basic facilities in old building of 13 Stations in Jhansi Division of North Central Railway		
E-Tender No.	Approx Cost	Earnest Money
JHS-GSU-ELG-2025-01	₹ 1131058.38	₹ 22600.00
Date of closing of Tender: 24.01.2025, Date of completion / period from issue of acceptance letter: 12 Months.		
Tender online can be submitted up to 15.30 hrs. on 24.01.2025. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in		
North central railways @CPNCR www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in		

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA		
DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)] TO BORROWER/ GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR		
Sub: Demand Notice Under Section 13(2) Of The Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002		
That Below mentioned borrowers has availed the following loans/credit facilities from our Tilhari Branch, from time to time:		
Name of Borrower/ Guarantor/Mortgagor	Demand Notice Date Outstanding	Description of Property
Borrower - 1. Mr.Vinod Sahu S/O Ramgopal Sahu Mrs. Sapna Sahu W/O Vinod Sahu House No 2741, Tripuri Chowk, Garha ward, Purwa Jabalpur-482003	21.10.2024 Rs. 2526801/- + Interest & Other Charges from 21.10.2024	Equitable mortgage of Lay out Plot No.42 Divya Jyoti Parisar Firm,Vill: Binaki, N.B 296,Tah Patan,Phase II, Admesuring Plot area 946 sqft bounded as follows : North - Plot No. 43, South - Road, East - Colony Road, West - Road CERSAI/ASSET ID: 200063761802
The above said loan/credit facilities are duly secured by way of mortgage of the assets more specifically described in the schedule hereunder, by virtue of the relevant documents executed by you in our favour. Since you had failed to discharge your liabilities as per the terms and conditions stipulated, the Bank has classified the debt as NPA on dates mentioned above in the table. Hence, we hereby issue this notice to you under Section 13(2) of the subject Act calling upon you to discharge the entire liability mentioned above in the table, with accrued and up-to-date interest and other expenses, within sixty days from the date of the notice, failing which we shall exercise all or any of the rights under Section 13(4) of the subject Act. Further, you are hereby restrained from dealing with any of the secured assets mentioned in the schedule in any manner whatsoever, without our prior consent. This is without prejudice to any other rights available to us under the subject Act and/or any other law in force. Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act 2002, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The demand notice had also been issued to you by Registered Post Ack due to your last known address available in the Branch record.		
Date : 05/01/2025 Place : Jabalpur		
		Authorised Officer Bank of Maharashtra

भारत सरकार Government of India
भाभा परमाणु अनुसंधान केंद्र
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
मानव संसाधन विकास प्रभाग
Human Resource Development Division

एचबीएनआई एकमदन विश्वविद्यालय के तत्वावधान में जुलाई-2025 से आरंभ होने वाले भापअ केंद्र के डीडीएफएस कार्यक्रम में प्रवेश के लिए इंजीनियरिंग स्नातकोत्तरों से पीएचडी करने के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।
Invites applications from Engineering Postgraduates for admission to DDFS Programme of BARC for pursuing PhD, commencing from July-2025 under the aegis of HBNI, a Deemed to be University.

चयन एक द्वि-चरण प्रक्रिया है: 1. ऑनलाइन कंप्यूटर आधारित परीक्षा (सीबीटी) और स्नातकोत्तर शैक्षणिक रिकॉर्ड के माध्यम से चयन साक्षात्कार के लिए स्क्रीनिंग और 2. चयन साक्षात्कार में प्रदर्शन। अंतिम चयन केवल चयन साक्षात्कार में योग्यता के आधार पर किया जाएगा। मैकेनिकल, केमिकल, मेटलर्जिकल/मैटेरियल्स, इलेक्ट्रिकल, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, कंप्यूटर, इंस्ट्रुमेंटेशन और सिविल इंजीनियरिंग में एम.ई./एम.टेक/समकक्ष डिग्री वाले अभ्यर्थियों से केवल ऑनलाइन आवेदन स्वीकार किए जाएंगे। एमसीए/आईटी डिग्री वाले अभ्यर्थी पात्र नहीं हैं। चयनित छात्रों को एचबीएनआई के चार संघटक संस्थानों (सीआई) में से एक में प्रवेश दिया जाएगा: भापअ केंद्र मुंबई, आईसीकार कल्याण, आईपीआर गांधीनगर एवं वीईसीसी कोलकाता। चयनित छात्रों को 80,000/- रुपये प्रति माह की अध्येतावृत्ति और 60,000/- रुपये का वार्षिक आकस्मिक अनुदान दिया जाएगा। डीडीएफएस अभ्यर्थियों (केवल शोध छात्रों) के लिए सीएएसएस के तहत चिकित्सा लाभ भी उपलब्ध हैं। पीएचडी कार्यक्रम के दौरान छात्रावास में रहना अनिवार्य है।

Selection is a two-step process: 1. Screening in to Selection Interview through online Computer Based Test (CBT) & post-graduation academic record and 2. Performance in Selection Interview. Final Selection will be based on Selection Interview merit only. Only online applications will be accepted from Candidates with M.E/M.Tech/Equivalent Degree in Mechanical, Chemical, Metallurgical / Materials, Electrical, Electronics, Computer, Instrumentation Civil Engineering. Candidates with MCA/IT degree are not eligible. The selected students will be admitted to one of the four Constituted Institutions (CI) of HBNI: BARC Mumbai, IGCAR Kalpakkam, IPR Gandhinagar and VECC Kolkata. The selected students will be awarded Fellowships of 80,000/- per month and an annual contingency grant of 60,000/-. Medical benefits under CHSS are also available for DDFS candidate (research scholar only). Hostel accommodation is mandatory during PhD programme.

अर्हता डिग्री: अभ्यर्थियों को भारत का नागरिक होना चाहिए और एम.ई./एम.टेक/समकक्ष डिग्री के साथ-साथ बी.ई./बी.टेक में न्यूनतम 60 प्रतिशत अंक होने चाहिए। एम.ई./एम.टेक के अंतिम सेमेस्टर के अभ्यर्थी भी आवेदन कर सकते हैं, लेकिन यदि ऐसे अभ्यर्थियों का चयन किया जाता है, तो उन्हें 30 दिसंबर, 2025 तक अपनी मास्टर डिग्री के प्रमाण पत्र और अंक पत्र उपलब्ध कराने होंगे।

Qualifying Degree: Candidates must be Indian citizen and have minimum 60% Marks in M.E/M.Tech./Equivalent Degree as well as B.E./B.Tech. Candidates in the final semester of M.E./M.Tech may also apply but such candidates, if selected, must provide certificates and mark sheets of their Master Degree, by December 30, 2025.

आयु सीमा: 1 अगस्त, 2025 को आयु सीमा 28 वर्ष है अतः सामान्य श्रेणी के अभ्यर्थी का जन्म 1 अगस्त, 1997 को या उसके बाद हुआ होना चाहिए। आयु सीमा में ओबीसी-प्रेसरील के लिए तीन वर्ष और एमसीए/एसटी आवेदकों के लिए पांच वर्ष की छूट है। इंजीनियरिंग महाविद्यालय में संकाय के लिए बिना अध्येतावृत्ति के पीएचडी करने के इच्छुक अभ्यर्थियों के लिए आयु सीमा 1 अगस्त, 2025 को 40 वर्ष है। सभी श्रेणियों के दिव्यांग व्यक्ति (40 प्रतिशत या उससे अधिक दिव्यांग) के लिए 10 वर्ष की अतिरिक्त आयु छूट के लिए पात्र हैं।

Age limit: The age limit is 28 yrs. as on Aug. 1, 2025 and hence should have been born on or after Aug. 1, 1997 for general category. Age limit is relaxable by three years for OBC-NCL and by five years for SC/ST applicants. The age limit for faculty in Engineering Colleges who are desirous of pursuing a PhD without Fellowship is 40 years as on Aug. 1, 2025. Persons with Disability (with 40% or more disability) of all categories are eligible for additional age relaxation of 10 years.

ऑनलाइन आवेदन करने के लिए, <https://www.barcosexam.com> को देखते रहें।

To Apply Online, visit the website <https://www.barcosexam.com>

* ऑनलाइन आवेदन पोर्टल आरंभ होने की तिथि: 1 जनवरी, 2025 * आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि: 26 जनवरी, 2025*
Launch of Online Application Portal: Jan. 1, 2025 * Last Date for Online Application: Jan. 26, 2025*
स्क्रीनिंग परीक्षा (सीबीटी): 8 एवं 9 मार्च 2025 * चयन साक्षात्कार: जून 2025 Selection
Screening Examination (CBT): 8 & 9 March 2025 * Interviews: June 2025*

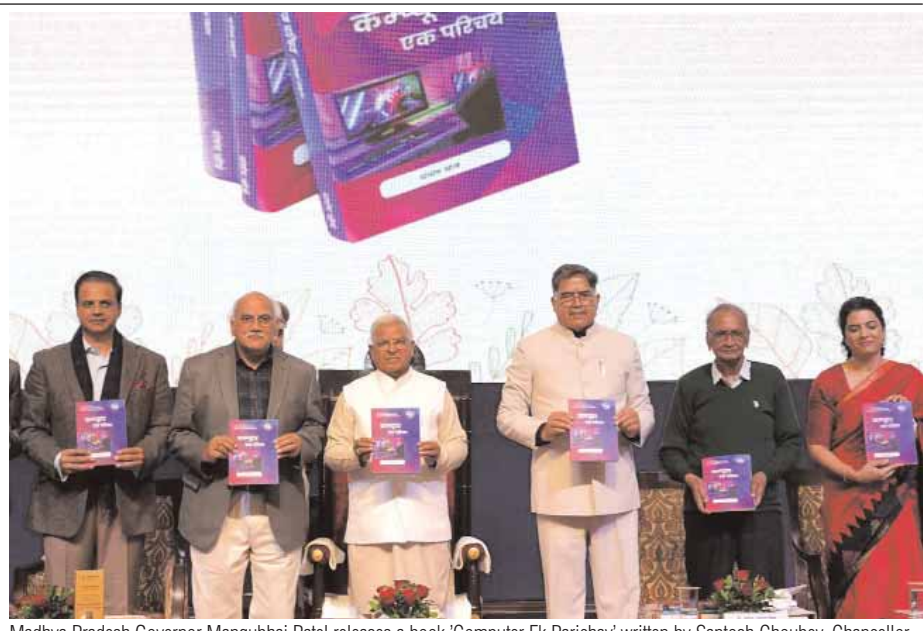
* सभी तिथियां संपादित तिथियां हैं और अभ्यर्थियों को अद्यतन सूचना के लिए नियमित रूप से वेबसाइट को देखते रहें।
<https://www.barcosexam.in> वेबसाइट पर विजिट करने की आवश्यकता है। All dates are tentative and candidates are required to regularly visit the website <https://www.barcosexam.in> for updates.

ED attaches properties of retd DIG Jail Umesh Kumar Gandhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Bhopal has attached movable and immovable properties worth Rs 4.68 crore belonging to the then DIG Jail late Umesh Kumar Gandhi, his family members and associates in a disproportionate assets case. The ED started the investigation on the basis of an FIR lodged by the Special Establishment Police (Lokayukta), after which this action was taken. According to the press note issued by the ED, Lokayukta Police Bhopal had taken action against Umesh Kumar Gandhi under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1860 and the Prevention of Corruption Act (PC Act). Gandhi was investigated on charges of accumulating disproportionate assets, and Lokayukta Police Bhopal has filed two charge sheets in this case. The first charge sheet has been filed in the Special Court under the PC Act and the second in the court of First Additional District and Sessions Judge Bhopal. In these cases, the then Jail DIG Umesh Kumar Gandhi, Ajay Kumar Gandhi (then Jail Guard, District Jail Sehore), and Archana Gandhi (wife of Umesh Kumar Gandhi) are accused of acquiring assets disproportionate to their income worth Rs 5.13 crore. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted an investigation under PMLA (Prevention

of Money Laundering Act) to trace the source of assets disproportionate to income. The investigation revealed that late Umesh Kumar Gandhi had acquired huge amount of movable and immovable assets in his name. A total of Rs 4.68 crore worth of immovable assets have been found in the name of his family members and associates. Out of this, 20 immovable properties were identified, which are located in Sagar, Katni, Sehore, Bhopal and Indore in Madhya Pradesh. Apart from this, movable assets like bank account balance, jewellery, insurance policies, mutual funds and Kisan Vikas Patra are also included. All these have been temporarily attached by the ED. The Lokayukta police raided the house of the then DIG of Bhopal Jail, Umesh Kumar Gandhi 12 years ago. At that time, property worth about Rs 25 crore was found with him. The Lokayukta also raided the houses of his two brothers, Ajay Gandhi (Sehore) and Ramgopal Gandhi (Sagar). FDs worth about Rs 8 lakh, Rs 35 thousand in cash and about 10 tola gold jewellery were seized from Ajay Gandhi's house. Umesh Gandhi was selected as the District Jail Superintendent in 1987. After promotion after 5 years, Gandhi became the Central Jail Superintendent. During this time he stayed in many districts. Two years ago he was appointed to the post of DIG Jail. His last salary was around Rs 70,000 per month. However, the case against him was still going on when he died.



Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel releases a book 'Computer Ek Parichay' written by Santosh Choubey, Chancellor of Rabindranath Tagore University during a programme in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

City fails to filter unchecked water supplies

KISHAN SINGH RANA ■ BHOPAL

At a time when an increasing number of people in the state capital are opting for packaged water bottles and water campers to fulfill drinking water needs, district food officials say there are no clear benchmarks to ascertain the quality of some of these supplies. Reports suggest that the city's water is contaminated in at least some areas due to a number of reasons. These water suppliers have sprung up to cater to the growing need for 'clean' drinking water. Households, commercial establishments, and party and wedding venues rely on these plastic campers, which are delivered to their doorsteps at a price that ranges between Rs 30 and Rs 40.

When approached, District Food Officer Devendra Dubey said that these camper suppliers do not fall under the purview of the Food Department. The department is only authorised to issue licences for packaged water and water vending machines, which are inspected periodically. Dubey adds that although there are no current orders regarding camper suppliers, the department may soon be tasked with conducting checks and regulating the quality of these water campers in the near future. Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) Assistant Engineer (Zone Three) Amrith Singh says that, to the best of his knowledge, there is no clear classification regarding water camper suppliers at the civic body.

The owner of a company supplying water campers in areas like Katara Hills and Bag Mungaliya revealed that licences are provided by the Madhya Pradesh government. However, the vendor fails to identify the department responsible for issuing such licences. He says that licences are obtained through touts at the District Court. When asked for details about the licence, they refused to share any information. Currently, there is no data available on the number of water camper suppliers operating in Bhopal, the rules governing them, or the source of their licences. Additionally, there is little information on the sanitation standards maintained at the places from which they supply water.

Delhi polls: BJP attacks AAP Govt over financial mismanagement, rising debt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi dubbed AAP an "aapda (disaster)" for Delhi, the BJP on Saturday said it would highlight daily the crisis the city government had inflicted on different sectors, and began with its alleged financial mismanagement. BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said Delhi used to be considered one of the better states and Union Territories in terms of its financial health but its budget was now likely to report overall losses under the AAP

government. Delhi had a budget surplus of 1.56 per cent in 2015-16, which has been falling since then and is now headed into the negative, he said. The city government has also been seeking more and more debt and has now proposed to take a loan of Rs 10,000 crore from the National Small Savings Fund, he claimed. Trivedi said the grant-in aid by the Centre to Delhi had also risen three times to 1.53 per cent of its GDP and accused former chief minister and AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal of setting a record in looting and emptying the treasury.

The BJP spokesperson said the city's revenue collection had seen a steady fall from 5.4 per cent during AAP's 10-year rule, adding that the national average stood at 6.27 per cent. AAP is all about financial irregularities and mismanagement of taxpayers' contribution, Trivedi alleged, claiming that things were in a bad shape in AAP-ruled Punjab as well. He noted that AAP claimed to have spent a lot of money in education and health sectors and questioned the output. If AAP comes to power again, there will be no money left, Trivedi said, adding that the



challenge for a BJP government, if elected to power, would be how to repair the damage caused by the Kejriwal-led party's rule. He said the central government led by Prime Minister Modi had shown how to provide electricity by creating a framework for solar power for domestic use. It will also cause no damage to the environment, he added. He also expressed confidence that voters would take the lead in ridding Delhi of this "aapda". Targeting Kejriwal after he questioned the BJP over its face for the Delhi polls, expected next month, Trivedi

said what was "amusing and peculiar" was that AAP had a chief minister in Atishi who was not its face for the chief minister's (CM) post. People are wise enough to know what AAP's face is and what its mask is, he said, taking a "super CM" jibe at Kejriwal. The BJP has not had a chief minister in Delhi since 1998, Trivedi said. Kejriwal, he added, made claims driven by political experience, noting that the AAP leader had sought pictures of Lord Ganesh and Goddess Lakshmi on currency notes during the Gujarat Assembly polls in

2022 and then forgot about it. People will take out their anger on AAP this time, he said. Trivedi, who was quizzed about the murder of a journalist in Chhattisgarh, said the state government would put out all the facts transparently and was handling the issue with sensitivity and alacrity. Three people have been detained in connection with the murder of a 33-year-old journalist whose body was found in a septic tank on a local contractor's property in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, police said on Saturday.

Some people trying to disturb peace in name of caste politics, says PM Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said some people are trying to disturb peace in the name of caste politics and called for thwarting such designs to preserve the social harmony in rural parts of the country. Inaugurating the Grameen Bharat Mahotsav, the Prime Minister exuded confidence that villages will play a key role in pushing forward the dream of Viksit Bharat by 2047. Without mentioning any names, Modi said certain people are trying to disturb peace by spreading the venom of caste politics. "We have to work to strengthen the heritage of peace and harmony of villages," he said. Recalling the steps taken by the NDA government since 2014, for rural development, Modi, quoting an SBI research report, said poverty in rural India came down to below 5 per cent from 26 per cent in 2012. He said the previous government had neglected the people living in rural India, and even after decades of independence, villages



were deprived of basic necessities. But his government is empowering villages, and focusing on those who were neglected before, the Prime Minister said. Speaking on the occasion, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said banks have undertaken saturation drive for 16 government schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Mudra and PM SVANidhi. The Mahotsav, through

various discussions, workshops and masterclasses, aims to enhance rural infrastructure, create self-reliant economies, and foster innovation within rural communities. Its objectives include promoting economic stability and financial security among rural populations, with a special focus on North-East India, by addressing financial inclusion and supporting sustainable agricultural practices.

Govt's draft protection rules create balance between regulation and innovation while completely protecting citizen rights: Ashwini Vaishnaw

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The draft protection rules released by the government create a balance between regulation and innovation while completely protecting citizen rights, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday. The Government issued draft rules for the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act on Friday for public consultation till February 18. "Rules have to be within four walls of the Act. It is within the ambit of the Act passed by Parliament. These rules have been framed to ensure a balance between regulation and innovation while completely safeguarding the rights of citizens," Vaishnaw told PTI in an interview. The minister said earlier there was only one template available to the world -- the European data protection rule with a high level of regulation. However, Indian rules have attempted to balance the regulation with innovation to safeguard the boom in the innovation ecosystem developing among startups in the country. He said extensive consultations have been held



with the industry and systems such as complaint registration, their handling and distribution, interaction with digital platforms, have been put in place. The minister said the final rules will be placed before Parliament in the monsoon session for approval and all entities handling data digitally will get two years to calibrate their systems as per the law. "All the entities covered under the Act will have to review existing consent within two years after the rules are in place," Vaishnaw said. He said the rules will be improvised based on the experience of the new data

government", as per the draft rules. "We have also kept graded punishments to protect the interests of micro, small and medium enterprises. It is to save businesses who may be running their business using a single computer. However, Big Techs have higher obligations under the rules. Minor breaches will attract small penalties and big breaches will lead to higher penalties," Vaishnaw said. He said the penal provision will be implemented as per the Act and the rules prescribe the way to implement them. The Act has the provision to impose penalty of up to Rs 250 crore on data fiduciaries. "There is a provision on voluntary undertaking under the Act where an entity can voluntarily disclose any breach to authorities and the Data Protection Board (DPB) will deal with it as per Act," Vaishnaw said. As per the DPDP Act, the acceptance of the voluntary undertaking by the Board will protect an entity from proceedings under the provisions of this Act. However, the protection will be subject to the approval of the DPB.

If a person fails to adhere to any term of the voluntary undertaking accepted by the DPB, it shall be deemed a breach of the provisions of the Act and the board after giving an opportunity of being heard to the person may proceed to act as per the penal provisions. The minister said utmost precaution has been taken to protect small businesses as per the basic principle laid down in the Act. Vaishnaw said the rules for data processing overseas will be implemented while keeping in mind citizen rights and national interests. "The country should be able to take benefit of all the new opportunities that are emerging out of the digital economy," Vaishnaw said. The rules will not have an impact on existing rules under which news media operate, he said, adding, "Media rights will continue to remain as it is. Press will continue to function as per the current framework." Digital platforms will also have to be informed and they will need to take consent of people in English or official languages as mentioned in the Constitution, Vaishnaw added.

Entire country needs MSP, says fasting farmer leader

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHANDIGARH

Fasting Punjab farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal on Saturday appealed to farmer outfits in other states to fight the agitation seeking legal guarantee to MSP strongly in their states to send a message to the Centre that it is not Punjab's fight alone. During his over 11-minute address at the "Kisan Mahapanchayat" at Khanauri, Dallewal tried to send across a message that his life was not more important than farmers. Seven lakh farmers have committed suicides in the country and he knows what their families have to go through, Dallewal said at the mahapanchayat called by the two forums which is spearheading the ongoing agitation. The 70-year-old farmer leader was brought out in a stretcher and addressed the gathering of farmers while lying on a bed from a stage at the protest site. He referred to farmers' demands, including the MSP guarantee, indicating that he understands the enormity of the task at hand but that does



not mean one will sit and do nothing. Dallewal, who is convener of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (non-political), has so far refused to take any medical aid despite his prolonged fasting which completed 40 days on Saturday, which has caused his health to deteriorate. During the past few days, Dallewal had made an address to the farmers via short video messages, but this was his first public appearance after several days when he began his fast on November 26. Dallewal, whose outfit was earlier part of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) during

its agitation against now repealed farm laws, said, "When we returned from Delhi (borders after the 2020-21 stir), farmer leaders from other states had said Punjab is going back after the repeal of three laws.... We had told them Punjab cannot betray anyone." "Now, Punjab is at the forefront again. I request organisations of other states with folded hands to fight agitation strongly in their states and send a message to the central government that this agitation is not of Punjab alone but of the entire country," he said. "The entire country needs MSP," said Dallewal, who in between took sips of water

and told doctors standing nearby to allow him to complete his speech and not worry about his blood pressure. He told the gathering, "The way you have come today in numbers. Now, from every village one trolley should reach Khanauri to strengthen this Morcha." "The battle which I am fighting, it is not me who is fighting. It is being said Dallewal is fighting... It is God's will. The way God wants one to do, we have to do accordingly," he said. During his brief address, Dallewal said, "The night we got information that police can evict us, the same night scores of youths reached Khanauri from Punjab and Haryana and took charge of the morcha..." The Punjab government recently made it clear that it had no intention to forcibly evict Dallewal from the present agitation site. "I have faith that we will win the Morcha. The government may try to use as much force, but they cannot defeat the morcha," he said. Then going into the enormity of the task at hand in fighting the farmers' battle for MSP guarantee and other

demands, Dallewal said, "It is not that I don't understand this... I have studied, and I know it is difficult. But seeing the difficulty or enormity of the task if we sit doing nothing, then how will things work". See how much loss we suffered, he said, referring to farmer suicides. "Seven lakh farmers have committed suicide in the country. If we sit and think it is a difficult task, it will not be achieved, should we let them die. We are farmer leaders, many of our colleagues are farmer leaders," he said. Dallewal said he does not even care about his life, but the battle has to be fought so that no farmer suicides happen again. "The Supreme Court recently said that Dallewal's life is important. I had said that day hon'ble Supreme Court I am also human, alright, but what about families of those 7 lakh farmers who have committed suicide. We have to stop suicides in future," he said. Dallewal thanked the farmers who came for the "Kisan Mahapanchayat" from far off places and said despite doctors not permitting, it was his desire to meet them all.

Eminent nuclear scientist R Chidambaram passes away

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Renowned nuclear scientist and crystallographer Dr Rajagopala Chidambaram - who played an integral role in the Pokhran-I and Pokhran-II nuclear tests - passed away on Saturday, following a brief indisposition. Dr Chidambaram, who had not been keeping well for some days, had been admitted to the Jaslok Hospital where he breathed his last in the early hours of Saturday. He was 89. A high-pressure physicist and internationally-renowned crystallographer, Dr Chidambaram will long be remembered for his contributions to establish India as a nuclear weapons power on the global stage besides and give a boost to India's nuclear power generation plan. He was a trailblazer, an inspirational leader, and a dedicated mentor to countless scientists and engineers in the country. His life's work has propelled India to the forefront of global science and technology, and his legacy will continue to inspire generations. Born

November 11, 1936, he was an alumnus of Presidency College, Chennai, and the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, from where he also later got his D.Sc Degree. Dr Chidambaram joined the Indian nuclear establishment in 1962, when Dr Homi Jehangir Bhabha, the father of the country's nuclear programme, helmed the affairs. During his illustrious career as a scientist, Dr Chidambaram worked as the Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) from 1990-93, Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and Secretary of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) from 1993-2000. He was also the chairman of the board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) during 1994-95. A Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India from 2001-2018, Dr Chidambaram also served as a member of the IAEA's Commission of Eminent Persons, contributing to the organisation's vision for 2020 and beyond. Apart from playing a pivotal

part in shaping India's nuclear capabilities, Dr Chidambaram played an integral role in the nation's first nuclear test in 1974, and led the DAE team during the Pokhran-II nuclear tests in 1998. He had worked with legends like Dr Vikram Sarabhai, Dr Homi Sethna, Dr Raja Ramanna, Dr M R Srinivasan, Dr P K Iyengar and groomed distinguished scientists like Dr Anil Kakodkar, who succeeded him. During the Pokhran-I test carried out on May 18, 1974 (Smiling Buddha), Dr Chidambaram worked closely with Dr Ramanna, Dr Sethna and Basanti Dulal Nag Chaudhuri, then then Director General of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). During Pokhran-II on May 11 and 13, 1998 (Operation Shakti), Dr Chidambaram worked with then DRDO chief Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, who later became the President and Dr Kakodkar. A visionary leader, Dr Chidambaram believed in the power of science and technology to drive national development.

Congress announces the launch of 'Jai Babu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan' campaign to press for resignation of Amit Shah

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress has announced the launch of a 'Jai Babu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan' campaign to press for the resignation of Union Home Minister Amit Shah for "insulting" BR Ambedkar, the principal architect of India's Constitution. Congress head of media and publicity Pawan Khera said under the campaign, party leaders will organise 'Chaupals' in every district and tell people how the BJP-RSS has been insulting Ambedkar and demeaning the Constitution for decades. Launched on January 3, the campaign will culminate on January 26 with a grand rally at Mhow in Madhya Pradesh,

the birthplace of Ambedkar, commemorating 75 years of the Constitution and the Republic, Khera said. "To safeguard his legacy and values, a 'Samvidhan Bachao Rashtriya Padayatra' will be held from January 26, 2025, to January 26, 2026 -- connecting villages and towns across India with a powerful message of unity and social justice. We reiterate our demand to sack Home Minister Amit Shah for his derogatory remarks against Dr Ambedkar," Khera told reporters. The Congress leader also accused the BJP leadership of trying to "normalise the demonisation" of national leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Babasaheb Ambedkar and Jawaharlal

Nehru, who left an indelible mark in the country's history. "Make-up artists' cannot replace national icons whose contributions to the nation are immense. Such people have certainly created a name for themselves in the country's history. Icons like Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar cannot be replaced," Khera said. He also said the campaign aims to awaken and tell the people of the country about BJP's actions and the "insult" to Ambedkar. Replying to a debate on the Constitution in the Rajya Sabha on December 17, Shah had criticised the Congress for repeatedly taking Ambedkar's name. "It has become a fashion to say Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar... Had



they taken God's name so many times, they would have got a place in heaven," Shah had said. "We hoped that the home minister would apologise and the prime minister would intervene in this matter. But Prime

Minister Modi supported the home minister and became a partner in insulting Ambedkar ji," Khera claimed. The Congress leader said this issue was also raised at the Belagavi meeting where it was decided that the party will

launch a 'Jai Babu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan' campaign across the country. "Under this campaign, we will organise 'Chaupals' in every district and tell people how the BJP-RSS has been insulting Ambedkar ji and demeaning the Constitution for decades," Khera said. The Congress leader also recalled how on November 30, 1949, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) described the Constitution as "un-Indian" in its mouthpiece 'Organiser'. "When Ambedkar ji talked about equal rights for women, RSS burnt his effigy at the Ramlila Maidan. Not just Ambedkar ji, but Gandhi ji's legacy is also being attacked today," he alleged. He also claimed that BJP was confident of

changing Ambedkar's Constitution by winning more than 400 seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, which didn't happen. "But, had this happened, not only would the Constitution have changed, even Mahatma Gandhi's picture would have been removed from currency notes. "Mahatma Gandhi, whom the whole world considers an ideal, is slowly being removed by the ruling party of his own country. That is why the Congress is moving ahead and preserving the legacy of Babasaheb Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi," he said. Khera also said the BJP cannot roam around speaking about the Constitution while keeping 'Manusmriti' in its armpit. "BJP not just openly

commits injustice against Dalits and Adivasis in the country, it also weakens their laws. The BJP is against constitutional and democratic institutions. It has always insulted Ambedkar ji, but we will not tolerate this anymore," he said. Khera also released a pamphlet for the 'Jai Babu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan' campaign, claiming the Congress seeks to reveal with historical background how the BJP has been conspiring against 90 per cent of India's population. "Insulting Babasaheb Ambedkar or conspiring against him is a violation of the rights of 90 per cent of the people of this country... It is an attack on them," Khera alleged.

MP Govt to appraise Court on Bhopal toxic waste shifting

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BHOPAL

Amid protests over the planned disposal of 337 tonnes of toxic waste linked to the Bhopal gas tragedy in the Pithampur industrial town of Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has decided to appraise the courts of the latest position on the issue and not proceed until further court orders. The decision was taken on Friday night during a high-level meeting to review the situation. "The state government stands firmly with the people. We will not allow any harm to the public. We will bring the matter before the court and proceed with any action only in compliance with the court's order," Yadav told reporters after the meeting. The chief minister has appealed to the citizens not to



Workers deployed for the collection of toxic waste for disposal from the Bhopal's Union Carbide factory at the Pithampur Industrial Waste Management Facility. PTI

believe in rumours. Yadav held discussions with senior public representatives, top officials from the administration and police, and legal experts in the meeting regarding the transportation of the Union Carbide waste and its dumping and disposal near Pithampur. He said that they have discussed various aspects of the work related to dumping of Union Carbide waste in the presence of deputy chief

ministers Jagdish Devda and Rajendra Shukla, senior MP and state president of the Bharatiya Janata Party Vishnu Dutt Sharma, Urban Development and Housing Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya, Chief Secretary Anurag Jain,

Additional Chief Secretary Dr Rajesh Rajora, Director General of Police Kailash Makwana, Principal Secretary Law and other senior officials in the Chief Minister's Office. Yadav said, "The Madhya Pradesh government is a government that gives top priority to the interests of the public. Therefore, we have always moved forward with the public interest in mind. In compliance with the Supreme Court's instructions and the High Court's order, the Union Carbide waste has been transported to Pithampur." He said they only transported it while complying with the safety parameters in line with the petitions and orders of the court. The court had given a deadline for the waste to be sent to the designated place before January 4. The court expected its report by January 6.

Bihar PSC exam retest held peacefully for 12,000 candidates amid paper leak allegations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PATNA

The retest for a select group of candidates who had appeared in the recent Bihar PSC exam, which has been embroiled over allegations of question paper leak, was held on Saturday afternoon at 22 centres here, officials said. Altogether, 12,000 candidates were scheduled to sit for the re-examination that started at 12 pm and continued till 2 pm, they said. The 70th Combined Competitive Examination (CCE) held on December 13 has been in the eye of a storm over allegations of leak of question papers, which has been denied by the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC), though a fresh test was ordered for 12,000 candidates, who had appeared for the exam at the Bapu Pariksha Parisar centre here. "The re-exam took place at 22 centres in Patna. Out of a total 12,000 candidates, around 8,200 aspirants had downloaded their admit cards. The authorities concerned will later provide the exact number



of students who appeared for the retest," District Magistrate Chandrashekhar Singh told reporters. "The retest was peacefully held at all the centres, where adequate arrangements were put in place. The district administration had issued strict guidelines. Unauthorised entry, gatherings and protests within a 200-metre radius of the centres were prohibited," he said after the exam. The clamour for cancellation of the Combined Competitive Examination held on December 13 by the BPSC has gained strength, as agitating aspirants found support from

various political parties, Independent MP Pappu Yadav and Jan Suraj founder Prashant Kishor. Yadav had on Friday led his supporters in blocking rail and road traffic in several areas of Patna as well as other parts of the state. Several MLAs and leaders of the Congress, CPI-ML (Liberation), CPI(M) and CPI also lent support to the protesting candidates, who have been demanding that fresh exams be held for all the five lakh candidates, who had appeared at more than 900 centres across the state, to ensure a "level-playing field".

Cold wave intensifies in Uttar Pradesh, dense fog disrupts normal life

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

The cold wave gripping Uttar Pradesh intensified on Saturday, with icy winds and dense fog plunging temperatures and disrupting daily life across the state. For the second consecutive day this season, a cold-day alert was issued in 10 districts, leaving residents shivering as they braved the harsh weather conditions. Kanpur recorded the lowest temperature in the state, with the mercury dipping to 4.6 degrees Celsius in the last 24 hours.



The cold snap was felt statewide, with temperatures in 20 cities falling below 10 degrees Celsius. The Meteorological Department issued a yellow alert for dense fog in 26 districts. In Lucknow, visibility dropped to less than 50 meters until 9 a.m., causing significant disruptions to air travel. Two flights to Lucknow from Bengaluru and Delhi were cancelled, while several outbound flights faced delays of up to eight hours. Visibility reached zero in

multiple cities, including Meerut, Auraiya, and Mainpuri, where vehicles struggled to navigate. Slow-moving traffic was reported in Sambhal, Ghaziabad, Hapur, and Ayodhya. In Agra, dense fog caused a tragic accident late Friday night in the Kiravali area, where three vehicles collided. One person died, and 30 passengers were injured in the mishap. In another accident, a passenger bus collided with a truck on the Agra-Jaipur

highway at 1 a.m. The bus, traveling from Gujarat, also struck a Max vehicle following the initial collision. Police arrived at the scene to rescue passengers trapped inside the bus. Four passengers and two individuals from the Max vehicle were critically injured. According to reports, the accident occurred after the driver of a trailer truck abruptly applied brakes, causing the bus to rear-end the truck amid low visibility. The police later used cranes to remove the damaged vehicles. Dr. S.N. Sunil Pandey, a meteorologist at CSA University in Kanpur, explained that the strong northwestern winds from the mountains have significantly intensified the cold. "The wind speed on Saturday is expected to range between 15 and 25 km/h, contributing to severe cold conditions," he said. Pandey predicted that Saturday would remain extremely cold, with minimal chances of sunshine. Some respite from the cold is expected on Sunday, with a slight rise in temperature and reduced fog. However, the cold wave is likely to return after Monday as a new western disturbance becomes active. This weather system could bring drizzle to parts of western Uttar Pradesh and the NCR, further intensifying cold winds. Authorities have urged residents to exercise caution while traveling and to stay indoors during peak fog hours to minimize risks associated with the severe weather.

Three arrested in connection with Chhattisgarh journalist Mukesh Chandrakar's murder

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ RAIPUR

Three persons have been detained in connection with the murder of a 33-year-old journalist whose body was found in a septic tank on a local contractor's property in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, police said on Saturday. Mukesh Chandrakar, a freelance journalist, went missing on January 1, and his body was found on Friday in the septic tank on a property owned by contractor Suresh Chandrakar at Chattanpara Basti in Bijapur town. "Three persons have been detained in connection with the murder and are being interrogated," an official here said. The police, however, did not disclose their names and said the details would be revealed later in the day. Mukesh worked as a freelance journalist for news channels, including NDTV, and ran a YouTube channel, 'Bastar Junction', which has some 1.59 lakh



subscribers. He had played a crucial role in the release of a CoBRA commando, Rakeshwar Singh Manhas, from Maoists' captivity in April 2021 following the Takalguda Naxal ambush in Bijapur, wherein 22 security personnel were martyred. He went missing on Wednesday evening, and his elder brother Yukesh Chandrakar lodged a complaint with the police the next day, a senior police official said. Tracking Mukesh's mobile number, police reached the property owned by Suresh Chandrakar and found the body in a septic tank, which was freshly cast with

concrete slab, he said. Police suspect the murder is linked to a recent report of irregularities in road construction work in the district the victim had covered. Suresh Chandrakar is said to be involved in the work. Journalists held a symbolic road blockade at Hospital Chowk on National Highway 36 in the city in the morning, demanding that the contractor's properties in Bastar division, including Bijapur, be attached and a case be registered against him. They also demanded a death sentence for the contractor and others involved in the murder, removal of security detail for him, and sealing of his bank accounts, among other demands. The protesting journalists also sought the suspension or transfer of the Bijapur superintendent of police. Protestors have warned of an indefinite road blockade from Sunday if their demands are not met.

UP Govt launches initiative to curb stubble burning, promotes sustainable farming

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Government has launched a unique initiative, "Parali Ke Badle Govansh Khaad" (cow manure in exchange for stubble) aimed at curbing stubble burning and promoting sustainable farming practices, officials said on Saturday. The initiative, launched on October 28, 2024, seeks to address environmental pollution caused by stubble burning while benefiting farmers through the distribution of cow manure for organic farming, a statement said. Under the campaign 2,90,208.16 quintals of straw were collected across the state and 1,55,280.25 quintals of cow manure were distributed to farmers. The manure is being used to enhance soil fertility and encourage sustainable agricultural practices, it said. Several districts including Varanasi, Banda, Budaun, Jalaun, Bareilly, Amethi, Siddharthnagar, and Bahraich performed notably well during the campaign with large-scale collection of straw and distribution of manure, the statement added. The campaign not only reduces environmental hazards but also lowers production costs for farmers contributing to long-term agricultural welfare and conservation efforts, the statement said. It also emphasizes the protection of destitute cows by facilitating the distribution of manure collected from cow shelters to farmers. This effort showcases the proactive and efficient functioning of the Animal Husbandry Department, the statement added. The 'Parali Ke Badle Govansh Khaad' campaign stands as a crucial step for the welfare of farmers, environmental sustainability, and society at large, the government said. It effectively curbs stubble burning and motivates farmers towards organic farming, this initiative marks a significant stride towards a greener revolution in the state, the statement added.

Devotees visiting Ayodhya during Mahakumbh should not face any inconvenience: CM Yogi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ AYODHYA

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Saturday, said that over 40-45 crore devotees are expected to attend Prayagraj Mahakumbh-2025, with many likely to visit Ayodhya as well. In Ayodhya, devotees will visit prominent temples and sites, including Ramlala, Hanumangarhi, and Suryakund. He instructed the local administration to ensure all preparations are complete, focusing on visitor safety, crowd management, worship arrangements, and shelter facilities. The CM held a review meeting with administrative officials after meeting with BJP workers. He said, "No devotee should face any inconvenience during the cold season. In addition to maintaining



cleanliness, proper arrangements for bonfires and other necessities must be ensured." In the auditorium of Acharya Narendra Dev Agricultural University Kumarganj, the Chief Minister along with district senior officials gathered information about the security of devotees coming to Ayodhya during Mahakumbh-2025, cloud management, shelter and

more. Divisional Commissioner Gaurav Dayal gave a presentation on the preparations in Ayodhya for Mahakumbh-2025. The Chief Minister issued necessary instructions to the officials. The review meeting was attended by local administration officials, police personnel, and senior district authorities.

Six MLAs from Lakhimpur Kheri meet CM Yogi demand removal of SP

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

The demand for the removal of Lakhimpur Kheri's Superintendent of Police (SP), Ganesh Prasad Saha, has reached Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. On Saturday, six Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLAs from the district met with the Chief Minister in Lucknow, alleging negligence and misconduct on the part of the SP. According to sources, the MLAs expressed their grievances, claiming that SP Saha does not address their concerns, frequently engages in phone conversations with mafia members, and has failed to maintain law and order in the district. "The SP does not listen to us. He prioritizes talking to the mafia and has deteriorated the city's security. We request



his immediate removal," one MLA reportedly said. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, after hearing the concerns of the MLAs, assured them that an investigation would be conducted, and appropriate action would follow. Lakhimpur Kheri district, which comprises eight assembly constituencies, saw six MLAs participating in the meeting, including Yogesh

Verma (Sadar), Vinod Shankar Awasthi (Dhaurahra), Saurabh Singh 'Sonu' (Kasta), Aman Giri (Gola), Manju Tyagi (Srinagar), and Shashank Verma (Nighasan). District BJP President Sunil Singh also accompanied them. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, MLA Saurabh Singh and District President Sunil Singh stated that their discussions with the CM also covered development initiatives in the district. "The Chief Minister assured us he would visit Lakhimpur on January 15 to review the progress of ongoing projects," said Singh. The MLAs had earlier raised their concerns with Principal Secretary (Home) Sanjay Prasad on Friday. During the meeting, they accused SP Saha of ignoring their calls and favoring mafia elements.

Sanjay Prasad, a trusted officer of CM Yogi, assured the MLAs that their complaints would be forwarded to the Chief Minister for review. SP Ganesh Prasad Saha, an IPS officer, took charge of Lakhimpur Kheri on January 12, 2023. Known for his sharp administrative skills, Saha has previously served as a Deputy Commissioner of Police in Noida and held positions in Gorakhpur, Banda, Prayagraj, and Deoria. He has also been awarded the prestigious Parakram Award for his service. Despite his accolades, Saha's tenure in Lakhimpur Kheri has been marked by allegations of favoritism and negligence. The MLAs have claimed that their inability to collaborate with the SP has hampered governance and development in the district.

Technological innovations likely to elevate 2025 Maha Kumbh

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 in Prayagraj is set to embrace the digital era with groundbreaking initiatives aimed at enhancing the experience of millions of devotees. From advanced navigation systems powered by Google to a state-of-the-art AI Generative Chatbot, the event is making significant strides toward becoming a high-tech spiritual gathering. Google Navigation for Seamless Pilgrimage For the first time, Google has integrated the temporary city of Mahakumbh into its navigation system, marking a historic policy shift. An MoU has been signed between Google and the Mahakumbh Mela Authority to develop a



specialized navigation system tailored to the fair. This system will enable visitors to locate various sites, Akharas,

and prominent saints with ease. This innovative feature is expected to go live by late

November or early December. Additional Mela Adhikari Vivek Chaturvedi highlighted that while

Google has provided navigation for established cities worldwide, this is the first time it has developed navigation for a temporary event of this scale. Over 450 million domestic and international devotees are expected to benefit from this technology, allowing them to effortlessly reach their destinations, whether it be Sangam Ghat, specific Akharas, or temples. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath emphasized the importance of leveraging digital technology to enhance the pilgrimage experience, aligning with his vision of a Digital Mahakumbh. With Google Maps, devotees will no longer need to ask for directions, making their spiritual journey smoother and more fulfilling.

AI Generative Chatbot: A Technological Marvel The Maha Kumbh will also feature the first-ever AI Generative Chatbot, an initiative championed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. This high-tech chatbot provides real-time assistance and information on facilities such as food, lockers, washrooms, and changing rooms. Accessible in 11 languages, including Hindi, English, Tamil, and Bengali, the chatbot ensures seamless communication by responding to both spoken and written queries in the user's preferred language. Visitors can also receive a personalized Mahakumbh certificate with their photo by scanning a QR code or

visiting the link (https://chatbot.kumbh.up.gov.in). This unique feature allows attendees to create a lasting memento of their visit, either digitally or as a printed keepsake. Regional Tourism Officer Aparajita Singh noted that under CM Yogi's guidance, preparations are in full swing to make the Mahakumbh a spiritually enriching and technologically advanced event. The AI chatbot initiative is being extensively promoted on social media platforms such as X, WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram, creating a buzz among tech-savvy devotees worldwide. Enhancing the Visitor Experience The AI Generative Chatbot is not just a tool for

convenience; it aims to foster a personal connection with the event. By providing detailed information about every major program and event, it ensures that visitors stay informed and engaged throughout their pilgrimage. This initiative underscores the Mahakumbh's commitment to blending tradition with innovation, offering devotees a unique and memorable spiritual experience. With these digital advancements, the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 is poised to set a new benchmark for religious gatherings, demonstrating how technology can enrich age-old traditions while catering to the needs of modern devotees.

Judge sets Trump's sentencing in hush money case for Jan 10

AP ■ NEW YORK
In an extraordinary turn, a judge Friday set President-elect Donald Trump's sentencing in his hush money case for January 10...

wrote. Trump was convicted in May of 34 counts of falsifying business records. They involved an alleged scheme to hide a hush money payment to porn actor Stormy Daniels...

the case while formally noting both his conviction and his undecided appeal — a novel idea drawn from what some state courts do while criminal defendants die while appealing their cases.

legitimately paid for legal services, and that Daniels' story was suppressed to avoid embarrassing Trump's family, not to influence the electorate.

Japanese woman, world's oldest person, has died

AP ■ TOKYO
Tomiko Itooka, a Japanese woman who was the world's oldest person according to Guinness World Records, has died, an Ashiya city official said Saturday.

Imran Khan claims he was given chance to leave country on exile for 3 years

AP ■ LAHORE
Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan has claimed that he was offered a chance to leave the country on exile for three years but he declined.



Enlightened people all over the world raise their voices against violation of basic rights. Khan said during this 'authoritarian era', the breach of personal freedoms, violation of fundamental legal rights, and destruction of institutions have not only disrupted the country's social and political systems but also its legal and economic frameworks.

On reports that the incoming Donald Trump administration will pressure the Shehbaz Sharif government for his release, he said: "I expect Trump to remain neutral, unlike Biden who, as the world knows, influenced by General Bajwa, played a role in ousting our government through a vote of no confidence, which was blatant interference."

Soldier who blew up Tesla at Trump hotel left note, called it 'wake up call' for US

AP ■ LAS VEGAS
A highly decorated Army soldier who fatally shot himself in a Tesla Cybertruck just before it blew up outside the Trump hotel in Las Vegas left notes saying the New Year's Day explosion was a stunt to serve as a 'wake up call' for the country's ills, investigators said Friday.

in the Army since 2006 and deployed twice to Afghanistan. "This was not a terrorist attack, it was a wake up call. Americans only pay attention to spectacles and violence. What better way to get my point across than a stunt with fireworks and explosives?"

international issues, including the war in Ukraine. He said in one letter that the U.S. was "terminally ill and headed toward collapse."

the president-elect's name. Livelberger harbored no ill will toward President-elect Donald Trump, law enforcement officials said. In one of the notes he left, he said the country needed to "rally around" Trump and Tesla CEO Elon Musk.

Biden to present Presidential Medal of Freedom to Hillary Clinton, George Soros and Lionel Messi

AP ■ WASHINGTON
President Joe Biden has named former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, fashion designer Ralph Lauren, football superstar Lionel Messi, former Defense Secretary Letitia Ashton Carter, and controversial investor George Soros, along with 14 others for the prestigious Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Biden believes great leaders keep the faith, give everyone a fair shot, and put decency above all else. These nineteen individuals are great leaders who have made America and the world a better place.

human rights, education, and social justice," the White House said. Soros, 94, in the recent past has spoken openly against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The ruling BJP believe that he tried to interfere in Indian elections.

ports healthcare and education programmes for children around the world through the Leo Messi Foundation and serves as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador," the White House said.

SUPERIOR FINLEASE LIMITED
CIN: L74899DL1994PLC061995
Regd. Off: NS-92, Kharsa No-33/21, Ranaji Enclave, Najafgarh, Near Arjun Park
BUSINESS NOTICE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING AND EVOTING INFORMATION

भारतीय प्रबन्धन संस्थान, रांची
Special Recruitment Drive for SC/ST/NC-OBC/EWS/PWD for Faculty Positions

भारतीय प्रबन्धन संस्थान, रांची
Faculty Recruitment Drive
IIM Ranchi invites applications from candidates with exceptional academic backgrounds for faculty positions in the following areas:

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that my clients Shri Rajendra Kumar S/o Shri Arun Datta and Smt. Neelam W/o Shri Rajendra Kumar both R/o C-194, Dayanand Colony, Lajpat Nagar-4, South Delhi-110024 has disowned/debarred their son Siddharth Badhan from all their movable & immovable properties and have severed all relations from him due to his misconduct.

German chancellor 'keeping cool'

AP ■ BERLIN
German Chancellor Olaf Scholz says he's staying "cool" against critical personal comments made by Elon Musk but finds it worrying that

the US billionaire makes the effort to get involved in Germany's general election by endorsing the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party. Scholz was reacting after Musk,

a close aide to US President-elect Donald Trump, called the chancellor a "fool" after his coalition government collapsed in November and later backed the AfD in an opinion piece he wrote for a major newspaper in Germany.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform the public at large that Mrs. Shashi Kala who is the owner of the Plot No. D-119, Block-D, measuring 95 Sq. Yards, Kharsa No.267, Shivam Enclave Phase-2, Village Achheja, Dadr, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. owner vide Sale Deed dated 03.11.2017 (Document No. 15851) executed by Mr. Arvind and same to be financed & mortgaged by Fedbank Financial Services Limited, that at 27/3/2018 (Document No. 3253) executed by Nakul (Minor 6 y/o) and Deepak (Minor 4 y/o) through their natural guardian Mrs. Annetta in favour of Mr. Arvind. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person having any type of claim/right/interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections within a week, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, liens etc. Last Legal LLP, B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank Sector 2, Noida, U.P. 201301 Contact No. 9120429379

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that Mrs. Renu Devi, wife of Mr. Dileep Kumar, intends to purchase the entire third floor, with roof rights, built on freehold property bearing No. 306-B, Block-C, Gali No. 09, measuring 111 square yards (i.e., 92.81 square meters), out of Kharsa No. 262/268/21/74, situated in area of Village Baraga, Cokerly known as 'Maljis Park', Delhi-110033, from Mrs. Ranjana Sharma, Mrs. Ranjana Sharma purchased by Mrs. Pramila Yadav through a sale deed dated 03/05/2016. The purchase will be financed by Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited, with its branch located in NSR New Delhi. The original Sale Deed, Doc. No. 11635, Book No. 01, Vol. No. 4359, on Pages 66-74, dated 01.10.2012, SRV-A, New Delhi, has been lost. An FIR (LR No. 2415736/2024) was registered on 20.12.2024 with the PS. Crime Branch, Delhi, regarding the loss of this document. Any person having information about the lost document is requested to inform the undersigned or the local police station. Any person found in possession of the original sale deed, then, kindly contact the undersigned along with original property document, within 07 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid sale deed shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property. ASHWINI KUMAR (Advocate) Chamber No. 122, Teshil Compound, Ghaziabad, U.P. 201085

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that we (1) SMT. INDIRA BISOL, W/o Late DR. BINOD BHARI BISOL, (2) SH. RAJESH KUMAR, W/o Late DR. BINOD BHARI BISOL, and (3) SH. AJIT BISOL, S/o Late DR. BINOD BHARI BISOL, have applied for Partition of SFS Flat No. 611, FIRST FLOOR, CAT-II POCKET-2, SECTOR-19, DWARKA, NEW DELHI from lease hold to free hold vide File No. F.171(8209)/1/DW/15/02 in ODA. The original documents i.e. DEMAND/ALLOTMENT LETTER, POSSESSION LETTER, NCR to Water Supply Deptt. and Site Possession Slip of the above said flat has been lost. An NCR/LR No. 2404444/2024 dated 16.12.2024 to this effect, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with the named person at above Address/Phone No. 9937067829 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person submitting this public notice shall be deemed to respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director LAB (H) SFS or Director (H) SFS, Block-3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that Mr. Amiruddin is the Owner of Plot of area measuring 35 sq. yds., i.e., 63 sq. mtrs. out of Kharsa No. 726, situated at 11/A, New Abadi, Daska Pergana, Tehsil Dadr, District Gurgaon, Haryana. Built on Regd. Sale Deed dated 06.06.2003 as doc. no. 2543 executed by Mr. Ruyajuddin in favour of Mr. Amiruddin in respect of said property. Mr. Amiruddin is in the process of mortgaging the said property with SMFG India Credit Co. Ltd. (Formerly Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd.). Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 07 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 07-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 07-days period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building Nos. A-44A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301. Phone: +910120-3101683, e-mail: accounts@lvnorth.in

न्यायालय अपर उपनिवारिकारी / सहायक कलेक्टर (प्रथम श्रेणी), गाजियाबाद
निम्न: 31/12/2024
पत्रक: 1319/पेनो-एएएसडीओ/2024
क्याम्पूदर दाद नरु डी 2024/11280000977
वर्द सेख्या-797/2024
श्रीयं दादर प्रालिओ आदि
ग्राम शाहपुर बन्देडा
बाम परनाम डाडना
अनन्त बारा- विवर्, उडको भूगोडोअधि,
1901 हरिदिन आदि
हाहलीव व पिता गाजियाबाद
1. श्रीयं दादर प्रालिओ जी-55, ईस्ट आफ केरला
2. श्रीयं दादर प्रालिओ 78 डी से डी-2 द्वितीय
डीपीए वर्द कडोडी वडोडी मयूर विहार फेस-3 दिल्ली
3. श्रीयं दादर प्रालिओ डीपीए वर्द कडोडी वडोडी मयूर विहार फेस-3 दिल्ली
4. नामपूर फौजदर फूड पार लिओ लाट नरु एक-4
आई डी सेरिओ डी पुरिया नामपूर द्वारा कर्मा शर्म
पूर सहाय मोहन शर्म निवारी एके 102 ओर
किमर राजनगर वरिस्ता गाजियाबाद
बाम
1. हरिदिन पुत्र हयन्द
2. जयचमन पुत्र कर्लू
3. रमन पुत्र कर्लू
4. श्रीतीराम श्रीपानी कर्लू
5. वेदराम पुत्र उदयराम
6. ऐताराम पुत्र उदयराम (मुक्त)
6/1 कर्मीरं यादव पुत्र ऐताराम
6/2 जयवीरं यादव पुत्र ऐताराम
6/3 जयवीरं यादव पुत्र ऐताराम
6/4 विमलेश पत्नी जयवीरं
6/5 गौरव यादव पुत्र जयवीरं
6/6 मनीष यादव पुत्र जयवीरं
7. इच्छा पुत्र हयन्द (मुक्त)
7/1 रामवीरं यादव पुत्र इच्छा/राम
7/2 सलपाल यादव पुत्र इच्छा/राम
7/3 ज्ञानेश यादव पुत्र इच्छा/राम
8. रामरिपु पुत्र हयन्द
9. लेखराम पुत्र हयन्द (मुक्त)
9/1 नदीपु पुत्र लेखराम
9/2 सुमन पत्नी लेखराम
समस्त निवासीयुग ग्राम शाहपुर बन्देडा परनाम डाडना हाहलीव व पिता गाजियाबाद।
10. नार निमम गाजियाबाद द्वारा नार अयुक्तर नार निमम गाजियाबाद।
.....वर्दीयम
Dhanyawad

LOST & FOUND
Mai shirpi sharma w/o Parnav sharma mera address : B/2/37A yamuna vihar north east delhi 110053 hai meri ek property maujpur mai hai jiska address khasra no.5077/177 shop no.385 main road maujpur delhi 110053 hai actually maujpur ki property wale paper missing ho gye hai. Jiski complaint maine online bhi kar di hai jiska LR no. : 2460702/2025 hai agr is property k paper kisi ko bhi milte hai kirpa karke 8800171821 is par sampark kare.

FORM NO. URC.2
Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI [Pursuant to section 374(b) of the companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(f) of the companies (Authorised to Register) Rules, 2014]
1. Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application is proposed to be made after 15 days hereof but before the expiry of thirty days hereinafter to the Registrar at NCT of Delhi and Haryana that Sparen Environmental LLP, a LLP may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act 2013, as a company limited by shares
2. The principal objects of the company are as follows:
i) To carry on the business of providing sustainable environmental services and solutions such as recycling and reuse of plant and equipment for wastewater treatment.
ii) To install, fabricate, manufacture, procure, purchase and sale of solar power plants, equipments, spares and accessories and its operation and maintenance services.
iii) To manufacture, sale, purchase, and indent chemicals and speciality chemicals, water/waste treatment plants.
iv) To act as dealer, importers, exporters of chemicals & speciality chemicals, water/waste treatment plants and allied products.
v) To act as consultant for water/waste treatment plant, chemicals & speciality chemicals.
vi) To carry out repair and maintenance and provide services related to water/waste treatment plant, chemicals and speciality chemicals.
3. A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office at F-38/5A, Sadh Nagar part - II, New Delhi - 110045.
4. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Registrar at Central Registration Center (CRC) Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, (IICA), Plot No. 6.7.8 Sector-5 (M.C), Manesar, Gurgaon, Haryana, India, 122050, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the company at its registered office.
Dated this 05th day of January 2025
Name(s) of Applicant
1 Abhishek Thakur
2 Ruchika Thakur
PD(1199)C

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS
CHANGE OF NAME
I, Iramma, Mother of W/o Dinesh Kumar Bhardwaj R/o 702-B, Gulmohur Greens, Mohan Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad (U.P.) 201007 have changed my name from Iramma to Iramma Hiremth, vide affidavit dated 04/01/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.
PD(1198)C
I, Deepika Bhardwaj, W/o Dinesh Kumar Bhardwaj R/o 702-B, Gulmohur Greens, Mohan Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad (U.P.) 201007 have changed my name from Deepika Bhardwaj to Deepika Bhardwaj. Henceforth I would be known by the name of Deepika Bhardwaj for all further purposes.
PD(1199)C

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is given to general public at large that Mrs. Gudiyu w/o Mr. Jasbir Singh who is/are purchasing the Built-up Ground Floor without Roof Rights THIS, area measuring 50 Sq. Yards, Built on Property No. 1453, out of Kharsa No. 93, Situated at Gali No. 13, Gopindpur Kalkaji New Delhi-110019, from Mrs. Priya Mahotra w/o Mr. Shammu Kumar Mahotra who was the owner of property by virtue of Sale Deed dated 15.01.2018 (Document No. 239) executed by Smt M. Raju/Sri Mohi Lal. Intend to mortgage the same against the financial assistance from Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited. (Original Sale Deed registered on dated 24.01.2008 (Document No. 1139) executed by Smt. Rajshama Dhillon w/o Sri R.K. Dhillan and Smt. Rajshama Dhillon w/o Sri R.K. Dhillan and Smt. Tejpal Dadr, Dadr, Gurgaon, Haryana. U.P. Har of the subject property are not available with Seller i.e. Mrs. Priya Mahotra w/o Mr. Shammu Kumar Mahotra. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from below address. U.P. NCR LAW ASSOCIATES Advocates & Consultants A-98, Sector-5, New Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad, (U.P.)-201009, Mob. 9939271152

Public Notice
This is to inform the general public that Smt. Vaishali Sharma and Sh. Raghu Sharma are the Owners of ODA Built-Up Flat No. 128, B. Flat No. 121, Block-I, MIG Category/Ground Floor situated in the layout plan of Housing Estate of Naraina Residential Scheme, Naraina Vihar, New Delhi. Smt. Vaishali Sharma and Sh. Raghu Sharma are the owners of said Flats through 2 (Sale Deed) i.e. Sale deed dated 30.12.2019 regd. as doc. 6414 executed by Sh. Sanjay Vj in favour of 1. Smt. Vaishali Sharma and 2. Sh. Raghu Sharma in respect of Flat No-128 MIG, Block-I/GF, said Flat and Sale deed dated 01.02.2020 regd. as doc. No. 945 executed by 1. Sh. SC Kanya (Subhash Chander Kanya) (75% Share) and 2. Sh. Anil Kanya (12.5% Share) and 3. Sh. Anushka Kanya (12.5% Share) in favour of 1. Sh. Raghu Sharma and 2. Smt. Vaishali Sharma in respect of Flat No-121 MIG, Block-I/GF, said Flat and Sale deed dated 01.02.2020 regd. as doc. No. 945 executed by 1. Sh. SC Kanya (Subhash Chander Kanya) (75% Share) and 2. Sh. Anil Kanya (12.5% Share) and 3. Sh. Anushka Kanya (12.5% Share) in favour of 1. Sh. Raghu Sharma and 2. Smt. Vaishali Sharma in respect of Flat No-121 MIG, Block-I/GF said Flat. Smt. Vaishali Sharma and Sh. Raghu Sharma are in the process of mortgaging the said property with HDFC Bank Limited. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 7 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 7-days period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 7-day period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building Nos. A-44A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301. Phone: +910120-3101683, e-mail: accounts@lvnorth.in

Public Notice
This is to inform the general public that Smt. Vaishali Sharma and Sh. Raghu Sharma are the Owners of ODA Built-Up Flat No. 128, B. Flat No. 121, Block-I, MIG Category/Ground Floor situated in the layout plan of Housing Estate of Naraina Residential Scheme, Naraina Vihar, New Delhi. Smt. Vaishali Sharma and Sh. Raghu Sharma are the owners of said Flats through 2 (Sale Deed) i.e. Sale deed dated 30.12.2019 regd. as doc. 6414 executed by Sh. Sanjay Vj in favour of 1. Smt. Vaishali Sharma and 2. Sh. Raghu Sharma in respect of Flat No-128 MIG, Block-I/GF, said Flat and Sale deed dated 01.02.2020 regd. as doc. No. 945 executed by 1. Sh. SC Kanya (Subhash Chander Kanya) (75% Share) and 2. Sh. Anil Kanya (12.5% Share) and 3. Sh. Anushka Kanya (12.5% Share) in favour of 1. Sh. Raghu Sharma and 2. Smt. Vaishali Sharma in respect of Flat No-121 MIG, Block-I/GF, said Flat and Sale deed dated 01.02.2020 regd. as doc. No. 945 executed by 1. Sh. SC Kanya (Subhash Chander Kanya) (75% Share) and 2. Sh. Anil Kanya (12.5% Share) and 3. Sh. Anushka Kanya (12.5% Share) in favour of 1. Sh. Raghu Sharma and 2. Smt. Vaishali Sharma in respect of Flat No-121 MIG, Block-I/GF said Flat. Smt. Vaishali Sharma and Sh. Raghu Sharma are in the process of mortgaging the said property with HDFC Bank Limited. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 7 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 7-days period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 7-day period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building Nos. A-44A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301. Phone: +910120-3101683, e-mail: accounts@lvnorth.in

India 141-6 at stumps, lead by 145 runs against Australia in fifth Test

PTI ■ SYDNEY
 Staying true to his aggressive style of play, generational talent Rishabh Pant conjured up a spectacular 33-ball-61 to somehow keep India afloat even as Australia remained in driver's seat in the fifth Test, which is poised for an intriguing finish. It was largely due to Pant's breathtaking knock that India finished the second day at 141 for 6 for an overall lead of 145. Pant entrained the packed SCG with four monstrous sixes and six boundaries. His back-to-back sixes off Mitchell Starc into the heritage Ladies Members Stands were for posterity. Pant's knock prevented Indian second innings from falling apart with the visitors top and lower order struggling to negotiate Aussie attack on a track that was aided seam and bounce. This was after unheralded bowling duo of Prasadidh Krishna (3/42) and Nitish Reddy (2/32) complemented Mohammed Siraj (3/51) and

Jasprit Bumrah (2/33) to shoot Australia out for 181. On a difficult track, Virat Kohli (6) and his top-order colleagues found Scott Boland (3/38) too hot to handle. Kohli lost his wicket on outside the off stump line for the eighth successive time in this series. The match is certain to end on the third day but if India will be able to defend the total will very much depend on whether skipper Jasprit Bumrah is fit to bowl full tilt. Bumrah underwent precautionary scans for an unspecified injury after he left the field in the post-lunch session in which he bowled just one over. If even a half-fit Bumrah bowls, it won't be easy for Australia to chase even a 175-run target on a track with variable bounce and widening cracks. **Pant Power** Having curbed his natural instinct to attack during a sedate 40 in the first essay after being torn to shreds by the most important member of



the Indian coaching staff for indiscreet shot selection at the MCG, Pant perhaps cleared his mind about what he needed to do. He came in at a time when not just Boland but even debutant Beau Webster was getting the ball to move a proverbial mile off the deck. There was steep bounce available at the Randwick End (far end) where Kohli got out. Boland pitched it on hard length and got both seam and bounce. The result was a now familiar dab towards slips as

coaching staff member, who despite knowing the dashing southpaw's game told him to play otherwise. At one point, a clueless Pat Cummins was forced to put six fielders near the boundary ropes. The skipper himself who saw the back of Pant, inducing edge from a ball that rose. Indian and Australian fans gave a standing ovation to the diminutive southpaw. **Third pacer steps up** In the post lunch session, Prasadidh and Reddy more than made up for skipper Bumrah's absence as India took 51 overs to bowl out the hosts. Steve Smith's (33) dismissal off Prasadidh just before lunch disturbed Australia's rhythm. Post lunch, Prasadidh came from round the wicket from the Paddington End and removed Alex Carey (21) with an angled-in delivery. Carey was looking good but once Karnataka speedster found his length, he was literally unplayable. Debutant Webster (57)

justified his selection with a half-century but it was Reddy, Prasadidh. He used the uneven bounce and cracks off the surface to get one bounce awkwardly at Webster and Jaiswal snaffled the catch. The final blow was dealt by Prasadidh. He used the uneven bounce and cracks off the surface to get one bounce awkwardly at Webster and Jaiswal snaffled the catch.

The general public notice is informed that the property is located at Ward no. 09, Survey no. part of 343/2/Min15/Min1, Behind of Govt. College, Tehsil & Distt. Sheopor. Total area of this Property is 92.04 Sq.mt., Boundaries in the East Side House Namonarayan, West Side Road 6.10 mt. wide, North Side Road 4.57 mt. wide, South Side Plot Daulat Singh which is named by Smt. Bhavna Jadon W/o Shri Dinesh Jadon R/O Old Chambal Colony, Pali Road Ward no. 07, Tehsil & Distt. Sheopor. is taking a loan, it is against the earlier registered sale deed no. 1286 dated 11.03.2008 title deed which has been lost. If it is owned by any other person or institution, government, of any kind in the said property or registered sale deed. If anyone is interested then he should submit his objection along with documentary evidence to my office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, otherwise in case no objection is received, the said property will be taken as equitable mortgage of the financial institution and the said. The said financial organization will have first charge on the property and no objection of any kind will be accepted after the period given in this information letter. **Ashish Puranik, Advocate Swastik Residency, Shivpuri.**

General Information
 The general public notice is informed that the property is located at Ward no. 09, Survey no. part of 343/2/Min15/Min1, Behind of Govt. College, Tehsil & Distt. Sheopor. Total area of this Property is 92.04 Sq.mt., Boundaries in the East Side House Namonarayan, West Side Road 6.10 mt. wide, North Side Road 4.57 mt. wide, South Side Plot Daulat Singh which is named by Smt. Bhavna Jadon W/o Shri Dinesh Jadon R/O Old Chambal Colony, Pali Road Ward no. 07, Tehsil & Distt. Sheopor. is taking a loan, it is against the earlier registered sale deed no. 1286 dated 11.03.2008 title deed which has been lost. If it is owned by any other person or institution, government, of any kind in the said property or registered sale deed. If anyone is interested then he should submit his objection along with documentary evidence to my office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, otherwise in case no objection is received, the said property will be taken as equitable mortgage of the financial institution and the said. The said financial organization will have first charge on the property and no objection of any kind will be accepted after the period given in this information letter. **Ashish Puranik, Advocate Swastik Residency, Shivpuri.**

Indian Bank
 INDIAN BANK
 Jiwaji University City Centre Branch, Gwalior

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002, (SARFAESI ACT)
 In respect of loans availed by below mentioned borrowers/Guarantors through Indian Bank, Jiwaji University City Centre Gwalior which have become NPA with below mentioned balance outstanding on dates mentioned below. We have already issued detailed demand notice dated below under Sec. 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 by Registered post with acknowledgement due to you. We have indicated our intention of taking possession of securities owned on one of you as per sec. 13 (4) of the Act in case of your failure to pay the amount mentioned within 60 days. Details are hereunder :-

Name of the Borrower/ Guarantor	Amount Outstanding Demand Notice Dt.	Details of Property & Property Owner
1. The estate of the deceased Shri Raghuveer Singh Parihar (deceased on 21.11.2024) represented by legal heirs viz (i) Mr. Manish Parihar s/o Lt. Raghuveer Singh Parihar (ii) Smt. Surekha Parihar w/o Lt. Raghuveer Singh Parihar (iii) Mr. Rohan Parihar s/o Lt. Raghuveer Singh Parihar	as on 01.12.2024 ₹ 3327307/- + Interest w.e.f. 02/12/2024 & Charges 02/12/2024 NPA Date: 29.11.2024	Free Hold Part of Survey No. 1577, 1578, House No. 2183, Ward No. 10/21, Pragati Vihar Colony, Gole Ka Mandir, Gwalior (M.P.) Area- 126.76 Sq. Mt. East- Plot of Mithlesh, West-Land Seller, North- Shop Radhe Parihar and Road, South- Property of Shri Satya Prakash Yadav and Ramesh Yadav Property Owner- Mr Raghuveer Singh Parihar

You all are advised (1) To collect the original notice/cover addressed to you and / if returned by Postal Authorities from the undersigned for more and complete details (2) To pay the outstanding amount interest and costs etc. within 60 days from the date of notice referred to above to avoid further action under the SARFAESI Act. & (3) To refrain from disposing of dealing with the securities without our prior written consent.
 Place: Gwalior
 Date : 05/01/2025
 Authorised Officer (Indian Bank)

Bank of Baroda
 Regional Stressed Asset Recovery Branch,
 Gau Mata Chowk, Wright Town,
 Beside Johri Hospital, Jabalpur- 482002
 Phone - +91-761-2409255, Email - sarjaha@bankofbaroda.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
"APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)]
 E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower, Mortgagor (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the **Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor**, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" and "Without legal recourse basis" for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s)/ Mortgagor (s)/ Guarantor (s)/ Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/E-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below-

S. No.	Name of Branch	Name & address of Borrowers / Guarantors	Total Dues	Description of the immovable property with known encumbrances, if any name of Property Owner / Nature of Possession	Date & Time of E-auction	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increase amt.	Status of Possession Constructive/ Physical	Property Inspection Date & Time
1	ROSARB JABALPUR	1. M/s Om Rice Mill Prop. Mr. Vikram Singh S/o Mr. Late Om Prakash Singh Address :- Village 14/Katauli, Tehsil and Distt. - Singrauli, (M.P.) 486886 2. Mr. Vikram Singh S/o Mr. Late Om Prakash Singh Address :- Village 14/Katauli, Tehsil and Distt. - Singrauli, (M.P.) 486886	Rs. 80,82,001/- + interest and charges	1. All that part and parcel of the property consisting of land and building and stock in Survey no. 2474/2513/6, Area of land - 0.24 + 0.12 hect = 0.360 hect., Village - Katauli, Post - Katauli, Patwari Halka - Katauli, Tehsil and Distt. - Singrauli (M.P.) 486886 belonging to Mr. Vikram Singh S/o Late Mr. Om Prakash Singh and Hypo. Of Plant and machineries (Rice Mill) and Stock. Boundaries :- North - Land of Lalit Singh, South - Land of Rajendra Singh, East - Road, West - Land of Vasant Singh	28/01/2025 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm	Rs. 32,04,900/- Rs. 3,20,490/- Rs. 10,000/-	Symbolic	24/01/2025

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://bankofbaroda.in/eauction.html> and <https://baanknet.com> portal. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer Ph.No.: 0761-2409255, 9109440636.
 Place: Jabalpur, Date: 05.01.2025
 Authorised Officer, Bank Of Baroda

Government of India
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
 Recruitment of
ENGINEERING GRADUATES AND SCIENCE POSTGRADUATES AS SCIENTIFIC OFFICERS
 Through the
BHABHA ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTRE TRAINING SCHOOLS
 For the
YEAR 2025 - 26

Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha
 1909 - 1966

The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) was established through a Presidential Order on August 3, 1954, to be administered directly by the Prime Minister. The vision of DAE is to empower India by the use of technology for creation of wealth leading to a better quality of life for her citizens. DAE is engaged in the design, construction and operation of Nuclear Power/Research Reactors and the associated Nuclear Fuel Cycle Technologies covering exploration, mining and processing of nuclear ores, production of heavy water, nuclear fuel fabrication, fuel reprocessing and nuclear waste management. It is also engaged in frontier cutting-edge research in advanced areas of Engineering and Science. The spin-off technologies, human resource being developed and technical services being rendered by DAE have been of great help to Indian industry. Since 1957, DAE has been recruiting Scientific Officers annually through the **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) Training Schools** to drive its various nation building programmes. This advertisement is to invite applications for the recruitment of Trainee Scientific Officers (TSOs) for the 2025-26 session of the BARC Training Schools. After successful completion of the Training Programme, the TSOs will be absorbed as Scientific Officers in Group-A Post of the Government of India.

WHY SHOULD I JOIN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY?
Scope of DAE Activities: DAE offers opportunities for a career in Research in frontier areas of Engineering and Science, Design and Development of Next Generation Reactors and associated Advanced Technologies and State of the Art Manufacturing Facilities. It has expertise and comprehensive capability in all aspects of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Technologies supported by an excellent infrastructure and unique facilities like the Research Reactors, Charged Particle and Ion Beam Accelerators, ultrashort high power Lasers etc. many of which are made available by DAE to the larger Indian scientific community through various national facilities operated by DAE at different locations across the country.
Benefits on Absorption: After successful completion of the Training Programme, the selected candidates will be absorbed as Scientific Officer in Group-A Post of the Government of India in the Level 10 (Basic pay- ₹ 56,100/-) of 7th CPC Pay Matrix. Total Emoluments, with three increments at the time of joining, will be approximately ₹1,34,000/-p.m. for candidates stationed at Mumbai. In addition, the officer would also be availing other benefits such as L.T.C., medical facilities for the Officer and his / her dependent family members, Children's Education Allowance, Professional Update Allowance and Performance Related Incentive Scheme (PRIS) as per Government norms subject to approval and revised from time to time. Scientific Officers in all units of DAE have ample opportunities for professional development and attractive career progression up to the highest echelons.
Educational Opportunities: Trainee Scientific Officers in Engineering disciplines who successfully complete the Training Programme and whose performance meets minimum eligibility criteria are allowed to enroll for M.Tech. in Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI), a Deemed to be University. Those not desirous of pursuing M.Tech. or those belonging to science disciplines are entitled to a Post-Graduate Diploma of HBNI provided their performance in the Training Programme meets minimum eligibility criteria. The Scientific Officers of DAE are also provided with an opportunity to pursue Ph.D. under the aegis of HBNI during their professional career, provided their academic performance is above a specified threshold.

WHAT ARE THE RECRUITMENT SCHEMES AND THE SELECTION PROCESS?
Orientation course for Engineering Graduates and Science Post Graduates (OCES)-2025 (Scheme-I): This is a one-year Training Programme for Engineering Graduates or Science Postgraduates. The Training Programme is conducted in the BARC Training Schools located at BARC, Mumbai / Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research, Hyderabad. Trainee Scientific Officers (TSOs) will be paid a stipend of ₹74,000/- p.m. and a one-time Book Allowance of ₹30,000/- during the Training period.
DAE Graduate Fellowship Scheme (DGFS)-2025 (Scheme-II): Under this scheme, Engineering Graduates who have excelled in the Selection Interview for the BARC Training Schools' programme and have independently secured M.Tech. admission in 2025, at DGFS Institutes (IIT Bombay / IIT Madras) in selected specializations, will be offered a two-year DAE Graduate Fellowship. DGFS Fellows will be reimbursed their tuition fee during M.Tech. and additionally, be paid a stipend of ₹ 74,000/-p.m., a Contingency grant of ₹60,000/- per annum for two years and additional funding up to a sum of ₹4,00,000 under the BRNS Fast Track Project scheme to purchase equipment/consumables deemed necessary for completion of M.Tech. project. On successful completion of M.Tech., the DGFS Fellows would join BARC /IGCAR as Scientific Officers, with additional increments (subject to conditions).
 The selection procedure, which is common for both schemes, has two stages. An initial screening will be done either by a GATE-2023/ GATE-2024 / GATE-2025 score in the applicable GATE discipline or by performance in an Online Test to be conducted on March 8 & March 9, 2025. As cut-off GATE scores for screening into Selection Interviews will be decided only after the Online Test has concluded, candidates are advised to maximize their chances of being screened into the Selection Interview stage by availing both the screening avenues (viz., BARC online exam and GATE). In the second stage, the screened in candidates will be called for Selection Interviews to be held in Mumbai and Hyderabad during May-June, 2025. Final Selection is solely on the basis of performance in Selection Interview, subject to medical fitness. #Only for Geology.

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFYING DEGREES? HOW DO I APPLY?
 A minimum of 60% aggregate (or minimum of 6.0 CGPA on the scale of 10.0 or equivalent) as per the ordinances of the respective university, in the qualifying degree is an essential eligibility requirement. Science postgraduates are further required to have secured a minimum of 60% aggregate in B.Sc., to make them eligible. The eligible disciplines and degrees are as follows:
 • **For Engineering Disciplines*:** B.E. / B.Tech. / B.Sc.(Engg.) / 5-year Integrated M.Tech. in Mechanical, Chemical, Metallurgical / Materials, Civil, Electrical, Electronics, Instrumentation Engineering, Computer Science / Computer Engineering / Computer Science & Engineering.
 • **For Science Disciplines*:**
 (a) M.Sc. in Physics, Applied Physics, Chemistry, Biosciences.
 (b) M.Sc. / equivalent M.Tech. in Geology, Applied Geology, Applied Geochemistry, 5-Year Integrated M.Tech. in Geological Technology,
 (C) B.E. / B.Tech./Integrated M. Tech. in Engineering Physics.
 * Candidates whose qualifying degree name includes the core degree name with any specialization are also eligible for OCES/DGFS-2025 programme. Also refer to names of the degrees which are not eligible for OCES/DGFS programme as provided in information brochure for OCES/DGFS-2025. Applicants may refer the Information Brochure available on the Online Application Portal (<https://www.barcocexam.in>) for the list of eligible qualifying degrees for various disciplines.
 To apply online, applicants should visit the website <https://www.barcocexam.in> and follow the instructions mentioned therein.
 Website will also provide additional detailed information, including eligibility conditions, for the present recruitment. DAE strives to have a workforce that reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply.
Other Opportunities: Candidates applying for OCES/DGFS-2025 may be considered for direct recruitment in Institute for Plasma Research (IPR). Such candidates will be governed by stipendiary norms of IPR and terms & service conditions of IPR on absorption.

ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS BEGINS: January 1, 2025**

ONLINE APPLICATION PORTAL: <https://www.barcocexam.in>

LAST DATE FOR REGISTERING ONLINE APPLICATION: January 26, 2025**

EXERCISING AUTHORITY: In all matters concerning the OCES/DGFS-2025 recruitment, the decision taken by the Competent Authority in BARC, Mumbai shall be final and binding on the Applicants and they shall abide by the decision in totality. The Applicants while representing the matter shall not directly approach the Courts and will wait till the outcome of the decision by the Competent Authority in BARC. In case of any claims or disputes arising with respect to the OCES/DGFS-2025 recruitment, the venue of such proceedings, suit, action, or proceedings arising out of or related thereto will be governed / maintained in accordance with the laws of Republic of India subject to exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of Mumbai, India.

**All dates are tentative and applicants are advised to regularly visit the website <https://www.barcocexam.in> for updates



Phool Khilein Hai Gulshan Gulshan

"Flowers are the music of the ground, from Earth's lips they speak" — Edwin Curran

Delhi's winter gardens bloom with vibrant colours, offering a peaceful, rejuvenating escape amid chilly mornings, writes **SAKSHI PRIYA**

As winter settles in, Delhi transforms into a canvas painted with nature's brightest colours. In January and February, the city bursts into bloom, with vibrant flowers filling the air with fragrance and painting the streets in shades of red, pink, white and yellow.

The cold breeze brushes against your face, but it's the sight of flowers scattered across parks, streets and gardens that brings warmth to the season. Wrapped in woollen layers, people venture out, eager to experience the charm of Delhi's winter gardens. The city, known for its bustling streets and busy markets, becomes a space of natural beauty, offering a tranquil escape for those who wish to experience the quieter side of life. The streets are alive with flower vendors, their carts brimming with bright blossoms. The colours of the flowers stand out against the grey of the streets, giving a joyful touch to the city's landscape. From *Daisies to roses*, every flower seems to tell its own story, contributing to the lively atmosphere. Parks and gardens are filled with families, children and friends, all taking time to marvel at nature's work.

Among the many spots where Delhiites gather, the *Brics Friendship Rose Garden* stands out. Its endless varieties of roses, red, pink, white, and yellow, fill the garden with their elegance. A walk through this garden feels like stepping into a painting, where every bloom is carefully placed to create a masterpiece. The roses, with their soft petals and vibrant colours, seem to tell the story of the



season, a season of beauty, growth, and renewal.

Not far from here, *Lodi Garden* offers its own magic. The soft winter sunlight filters through the trees, casting long shadows on the ground while highlighting bursts of colour from the flowers below. *Daisies*, with their cheerful white petals, brighten up garden beds, adding a light touch to the winter gloom. *Poppies* sway gently in the breeze, their bold red petals creating a striking contrast against the muted backdrop. *Dianthus barbatus*, with its detailed patterns, draws curious gazes from those who pass by. It's a place that invites

you to pause and appreciate the little things, like the texture of a flower's petals or the way the wind makes them dance. The quiet hum of the park, combined with the gentle presence of flowers, creates an atmosphere of calm, offering a break from the city's constant rush. One of the highlights of the season is *Amrit Udyan*, formerly known as the Mughal Gardens, at *Rashtrapati Bhavan*. Open to the public for a brief period at the end of January and the beginning of February, the garden offers a breathtaking experience. The garden, with its grand pathways and symmetrical design, is home to a variety of

flowers, each more stunning than the last. *Hyacinths*, with their soft pastel shades and soothing fragrance, line the walkways, offering a moment of tranquillity in the midst of the garden's grandeur. The *roses - carmosine, bonica and bush roses*, stand out as the garden's crown jewels. Their delicate petals, in varying shades of red, pink, and white, add an elegant touch to the space. The golden blooms of the *yellow sibiruna* trees brighten the garden, their cheerful colour lighting up even the quietest corners. Together, these flowers create a space where nature takes centre

stage, inviting visitors to slow down and immerse themselves in the beauty around them.

The flowers in *Amrit Udyan* and other gardens around the city don't just beautify the landscape, they also bring a sense of togetherness. Families walk hand in hand, children run along flower-lined paths, their laughter echoing through the air. Couples sit on benches, quietly enjoying the view, while elderly visitors bask in the warmth of the sun. The flowers provide a peaceful backdrop for these moments, adding a sense of calm to the busy lives of the city's inhabitants. It's a time when Delhi feels slower, gentler, and more inviting, with nature offering its own reminder to take a break from the fast pace of modern life.

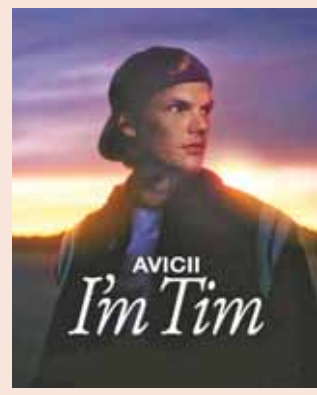
Even in the busiest corners of Delhi, there are small moments of beauty to be found. Flower vendors, with their colourful carts, brighten up the busiest streets. Roundabouts are dotted with flower beds, each one a small oasis of colour in the midst of the traffic. Trees adorned with golden flowers seem to lift everyone's spirits, their bright blooms creating a cheerful atmosphere even in the most crowded areas. These small touches of nature add an unexpected layer of beauty to the city, offering a gentle reminder of the season's charm.

While Delhi's streets can often feel chaotic, its gardens offer a peaceful reprieve. Whether you're in the *Brics Friendship Rose Garden*, *Lodi Garden* or *Amrit Udyan*, the flowers remind you to slow down, to appreciate the beauty around you and to find moments of stillness in the hustle of everyday life.

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR



SUGGESTED BINGES



AVICII - I'M TIM
IMDB Rating: 8/10
OTT: Netflix
Director: Henrik Burman
Cast: Tim Bergling, Chris Martin



CUNK ON LIFE
IMDB Rating: 7.9/10
OTT: Netflix
Director: Al Campbell
Cast: Diane Morgan, Michelle Greenidge, Charles Aitken



STAR WARS: SKELETON CREW
IMDB Rating: 7.2/10
OTT: Disney+ Hotstar
Cast: Jude Law, Robert Timothy Smith, Ryan Kiera Armstrong, Dominic Burgess, Tunde Adebimpe



MISSING YOU
IMDB Rating: 6.3/10
OTT: Netflix
Director: Sean Spencer
Cast: Rosalind Eleazar, Ashley Walters, Richard Armitage, Charlie Hamblett



GUNAAH SEASON 2
IMDB Rating: 7/10
OTT: Disney+ Hotstar
Director: Anil Senior
Cast: Gashmeer Mahajani, Tanmay Nagar, Surbhi Jyoti

In 1989, the movie *Khoj* brought together *Naseeruddin Shah* and *Rishi Kapoor* in a suspenseful tale of deceit and mystery. The story revolved around a man whose wife mysteriously vanished, only to have another woman claim to be his wife. While the film's climax fell flat, its premise remained exciting.

Fast forward to the present, and *Khoj - Parchaiyo Ke Uss Paar* attempts to reimagine the suspense in a web series format. Directed by *Prabal Baruah* and produced by *Juggernaut*, this *Zee5* thriller stars *Sharib Hashmi*, *Anupriya Goenka*, and *Aamir Dalvi* in pivotal roles. Unfortunately, it struggles to deliver the nail-biting tension audiences expect from such a genre. The story follows *Ved* played by *Sharib Hashmi*, a man desperately searching for his missing wife, *Meera*, played by *Anupriya Goenka*. As he goes deeper into her disappearance, *Ved* encounters bizarre events and clues that challenge his grip on reality. A sceptical police officer complicates matters, questioning *Ved's* narrative and leaving him to prove that the woman posing as *Meera* is not, in fact, his wife.

While the first three episodes, particularly *Aar Ya Paar*, maintain a semblance of intrigue, the series begins to lose steam soon after. The narrative feels unnecessarily stretched, adding little value to the plot. Despite a strong performance by *Sharib Hashmi* in a rare lead role, and *Anupriya Goenka's* stellar portrayal, the storyline fails to capitalise on its potential. The biggest letdown is the

IN KHOJ OF THRILL

Khoj - Parchaiyo Ke Uss Paar falls bland in the mystery and thriller genre despite commendable performances, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**



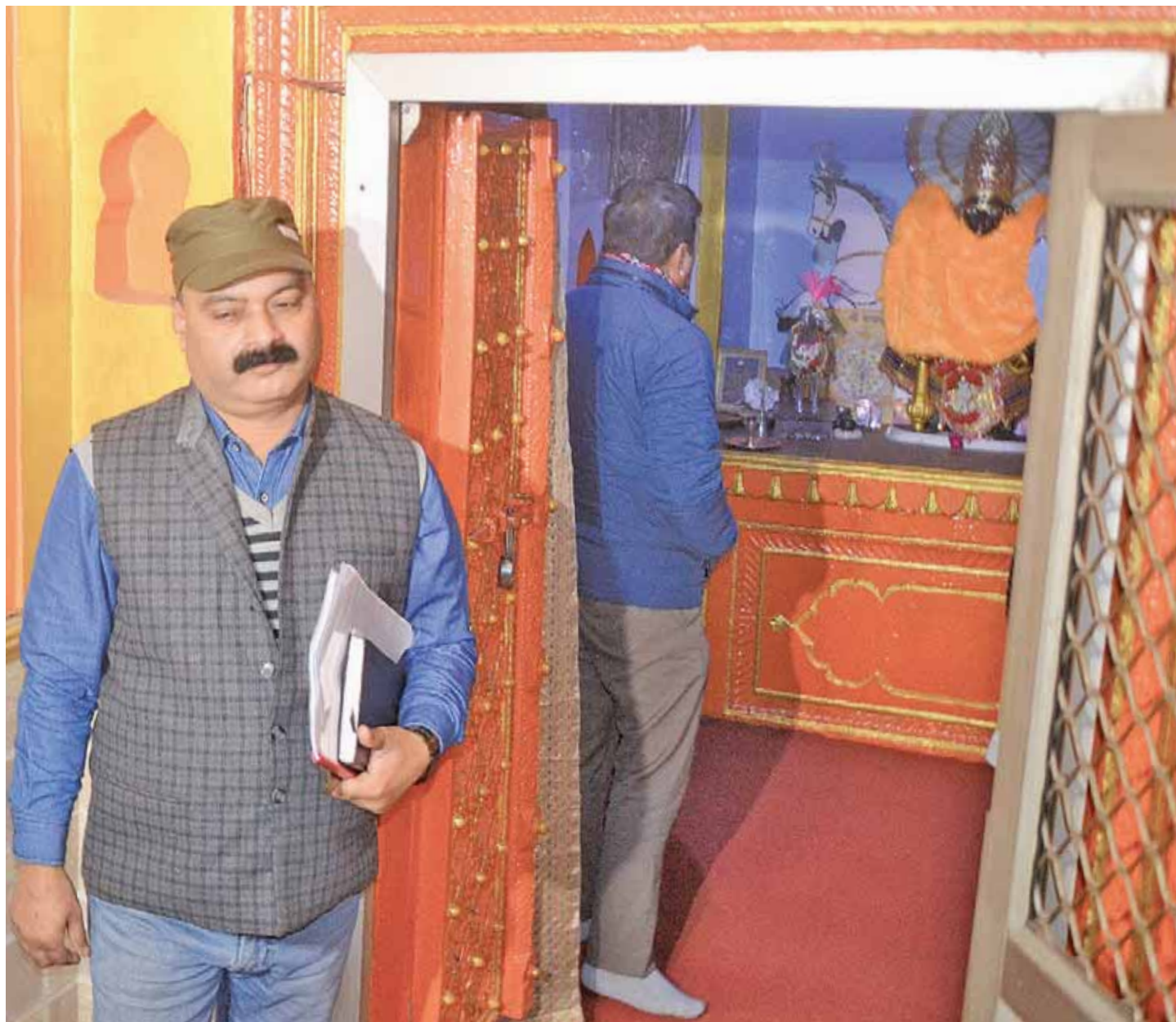
predictability of the plot. The absence of genuine twists and an underwhelming climax detract from what could have been an interesting watch. The final episode abruptly resolves the mystery, leaving viewers dissatisfied. Moreover, the police inspector's role is underdeveloped, adding little to the progression of the narrative. Another notable drawback is the lack of an impactful background score, which

could have significantly enhanced the suspense. The awkward cliffhanger endings to each episode feel forced, especially for a series with a mere 140-minute runtime, which would have been better suited as a film. Despite its flaws, the performances by *Sharib Hashmi* and *Anupriya Goenka* are the saving grace of the series, making it a tolerable one-time watch. However, the lack of originality and engaging drama keeps it from standing out.

Rating: 2/5

"If you want to understand today you have to search yesterday"

— Pearl S Buck



What began as a routine inspection by district officials to check noise levels from loudspeakers and illegal electricity connections in the Muslim-dominated *Khaggu Sarai* area of Sambhal has turned into a historic archaeological discovery. On 14 December, a team led by the District Magistrate (DM) and Superintendent of Police (SP) stumbled upon a locked structure. Breaking open its doors revealed not just an abandoned Shiva temple but also a wealth of history hidden beneath layers of soil and silt. The discovery of the temple, which had been locked for 46 years, has prompted a flurry of activity, including surveys by the *Archaeological Survey of India* (ASI). Early reports suggest the temple, and other relics unearthed nearby, may date back several centuries, providing invaluable insights into Sambhal's rich cultural and religious history.

Locked Temple, Unlocked History

Dr. *Rajendra Pansiya* recalled the unexpected nature of the find. "This discovery was purely accidental. We were investigating noise and electricity issues near a mosque, but what we found behind the locked doors was remarkable," he said. The temple, which had been shut since the 1978 communal riots, housed a Shiva idol and a statue of Hanuman. Nearby, a well contained three additional statues that were uncovered during excavation. The riots of 1978, which displaced many from the local Hindu community, had led to the temple being abandoned. "Local accounts suggest the temple is over 500 years old," Dr. *Pansiya* added. To confirm its antiquity, the district administration reached out to the ASI for carbon dating and further investigation.

The ASI Steps In

Following the DM's request, a four-member ASI team from Meerut and Delhi conducted an extensive eight-hour survey of the site last week. The team examined the temple, the adjacent well, and five other pilgrimage sites, including *Bhadrak Ashram*, *Swargdeep*, and *Chakrapani*. During their survey, they documented their findings through photography and collected evidence for further analysis.



DISCOVERY IN SAMBHAL: UNEARTHING ANCIENT TEMPLES AND WELLS

A historic discovery in Sambhal reveals ancient temples, wells, and stepwells, offering valuable insights into the region's cultural heritage, say **BISWAJEET BANERJEE** and **SAJID KHAN**



In addition to the temple, the ASI team identified 19 wells, including the historically significant *Chaturmukh Koop*, *Moksha Koop*, and *Dharma Koop*. The ASI's investigation aims to establish the historical and cultural significance of these sites. Dr. *Pansiya* expressed optimism about the findings. "Once we have the ASI's report, we will have a clearer picture of the historical importance of these sites. Based on their recommendations, we will prepare a plan for their preservation and development," he said.

The Stepwell of Laxman Ganj

Adding to the list of discoveries, a 250-foot-deep stepwell, believed to date back to the First War of Independence in

ONCE WE HAVE THE ASI'S REPORT, WE WILL HAVE A CLEARER PICTURE OF THE HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE OF THESE SITES. BASED ON THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS, WE WILL PREPARE A PLAN FOR THEIR PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT — DR. PANSIYA



administration plans to address this issue promptly. The site, once a vital part of the Sahaspur State, served as a rest stop for soldiers and the royal family during their travels. Shipra Gera, a relative of the royal family, recounted the historical importance of the *Bawdi*. "This place was a strategic stopover for soldiers travelling from Sahaspur (Bilari) to villages under the State's control, which now fall in the Badaun district. The royal family also used the underground complex during their journeys to escape the scorching summer heat," she said. The *Bawdi*'s corridors were manned by soldiers, and the site served both functional and leisure purposes. The underground chambers provided a cool retreat for the royals, while the stepwell itself ensured a steady water supply for their needs. As restoration and research continue, the *Bawdi* and its surrounding structures are set to become a beacon of Sambhal's historical legacy, offering locals and visitors alike a chance to reconnect with the region's storied past.

A Shared History Unearthed

The discoveries in Sambhal are a poignant reminder of the region's layered history, which is often obscured by present-day tensions. The proximity of the temple to the *Shahi Jama Masjid*, where violence had erupted during a protest against a court-ordered survey, underscores the intertwined histories of communities that have lived together for centuries. Local historian and archaeologist Dr. *Arvind Sharma* highlighted the significance of the finds. "These discoveries provide a window into the past, showcasing Sambhal's role as a cultural and religious hub. The preservation of these sites is not just about protecting relics but also about understanding our shared heritage," he said. The district administration, in collaboration with the ASI, is now focused on ensuring that these historical sites are preserved and developed responsibly. Plans include creating tourist-friendly infrastructure while maintaining the integrity of the sites. The discoveries have sparked excitement and curiosity among locals. "We've always heard stories about these places, but seeing them come to light is incredible. It feels like a part of our history has been revived," said Sunil Kumar, a Sambhal resident. As excavation and research continue, the findings in Sambhal are expected to shed more light on the region's past, offering lessons for the present and inspiration for the future. The accidental unearthing of the Shiva temple and subsequent discoveries serve as a reminder of the hidden treasures that lie buried beneath the surface, waiting to be rediscovered and celebrated.



1857, was unearthed in Sambhal's *Laxman Ganj* area last week. Named *Rani ki Bawdi*, the stepwell came to light after the ruins of an ancient *Banke Bihari temple* were discovered earlier this month. *Kaushal Kishore*, the state publicity chief of the *Sanatan Sevak Sangh*, had written to the DM, pointing out the historical significance of the site. "The stepwell and the ruins are remnants of the royal family of Sahaspur. These finds are a testament to our history," Kishore said. The excavation, which involved two bulldozers, also revealed a two-storey structure near the stepwell. Work at the site is ongoing, with authorities halting operations at night due to visibility issues. "Encroachments on the site have been identified, and notices will be issued to families occupying the land illegally," Dr. *Pansiya* said, adding that the administration is committed to restoring and beautifying the area. The discovery of the ancient stepwell, or *Bawdi*, in Sambhal has brought to light the rich history of the region, linked to the erstwhile royal family of *Sahaspur State in Bilari*. Official records list the *Bawdi* as a pond spanning 400 square metres. However, recent excavations have revealed much more—a well-preserved three-storey structure featuring intricate architecture and significant historical relevance. "The *Bawdi* was constructed during the reign of the king of Bilari and is believed to be approximately 150 years old," Dr. *Pansiya* said. The structure includes two marble floors and one brick floor, along with a well and four rooms, all part of an elaborate underground complex. Signs of encroachment on the site have also been identified, and the

“IF YOU REALLY WANT TO MAKE A FRIEND,
GO TO SOMEONE’S HOUSE AND EAT WITH
HIM... THE PEOPLE WHO GIVE YOU THEIR
FOOD GIVE YOU THEIR HEART”
—CESAR CHAVEZ

EXQUISITE DINING WITH A VIEW

When it comes to food that excites the senses, *Resaca* in the heart of Central Delhi offers an experience that perfectly balances sophistication with flavour. This newly opened 12,000 square-foot space is a culinary palace where every dish is designed to captivate both the eyes and the taste buds. Whether you're craving an intimate dinner or a lively gathering with friends, *Resaca* has it all.

The indoor dining area, affectionately known as the “Resaca Playground,” is a chic and stylish setting, offering sleek, modern furniture that's both practical and comfortable. With spacious tables thoughtfully arranged to cater to different dining styles, guests can enjoy private, intimate meals or social gatherings with equal ease. Each corner of the restaurant is designed to create a relaxed yet refined ambiance, perfect for any occasion.

However, what truly sets *Resaca* apart is its stunning rooftop – ‘Resaca Aero.’ This rooftop has quickly become the talk of the town, offering guests panoramic views of the Delhi skyline. Whether you're dining in the golden light of day or under the twinkling stars at night, the experience is nothing short of magical. The breathtaking views and elegant atmosphere create the perfect setting for a memorable dining experience.

Behind this visionary space is *Mayank Sehgal*, a renowned menswear designer who has brought his creative flair to the world of fine dining. As the creative director, *Mayank's* attention to detail and aesthetic sensibilities are

A sophisticated dining experience with flavours, stunning views and elegant ambiance for every occasion, says **TEAM AGENDA**

reflected in every aspect of *Resaca*, from the décor to the curated dining experience. *Resaca* is a destination where food lovers can indulge in both culinary delights and a beautiful atmosphere.

When it comes to the food, *Resaca* excels in offering an array of innovative and mouthwatering options. For those who enjoy small plates, the *Kataifi Dahi Kebab* (spiced yoghurt and crispy kataifi kebab) is a must-try. The *Magnum Kebab*, featuring panko crumbed assorted veggies with warm tomato chutney, promises a delightful burst of flavours. If you're a fan of rich and smoky flavours, try the *Lababdar Paneer Tikka*, silky chunks of cottage cheese served with house-special gravy and fried shallots. For a lighter yet equally satisfying option, the *Stuffed Mushrooms*, served with roasted red pepper coulis, are divine.

The menu also includes delectable platters for sharing. The *Arabic Mezze* is a fantastic choice for anyone who loves Mediterranean flavours, with an assortment of *falafel*, *hummus*, *baba ganoush* and warm *pita bread*. For a meatier version, the *Arabic Platter* with *chicken shish tawook* and *lamb fatayer* is equally tempting.

No meal at *Resaca* is complete without indulging in their sweet offerings. The *Rum-Based Tiramisu*, a no-bake dessert soaked in rum, offers a rich, indulgent finish to your meal. Other fan favourites include the *Mango Cheesecake*, *Banoffee Pie* and the innovative *Kunafa Cheesecake*, which combines the best of both worlds.

Of course, no visit to *Resaca* is complete without sampling their signature cocktails, such as the *Katana*, made with vodka, coconut and matcha or the refreshing *Green Park*, which features Hendricks Gin, celery infusion, and elderflower syrup. *Resaca* offers an experience that goes beyond a meal. From its stunning interiors to its carefully crafted cocktails and mouthwatering dishes, this restaurant has quickly become a go-to destination for those looking to indulge in style.

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR



FROM THE ITALIAN FEASTS

At *Toscano*, traditional flavours and premium ingredients transport you to Tuscany, writes **TEAM AGENDA**



With its gates in the centre of Saket's Select City Walk Mall, *Toscano* welcomes you on a Tuscan food adventure. *Toscano* offers a genuine dining experience that satisfies the sophisticated palates of its esteemed patrons by fusing traditional culinary methods with premium, fresh ingredients and unusual cheeses.

Toscano offers a warm and inviting atmosphere, where handcrafted pastas, carefully selected wines, and dishes inspired by Italy's heritage take the centre tables. The cosy setting is uplifted by soft yellow lighting, a striking wine wall, and painted patterned walls, creating the perfect backdrop to savour delightful moments with your loved ones.

You can initiate the tasty food by starting with the *Antipasti*, the small plates menu offering you *Arancini e Mozzarella Fritta* (Arborio rice balls & fried mozzarella) that has golden fried cheesy Italian rice balls, crumb fried fresh mozzarella, carrots, zucchini, broccoli and haricot verts served with arrabiata sauce as they melt in your mouth, enticing you to consume an increasing amount. Also, in *Bruschetta* you can go forward with *Pomodoro Classico* made out of fresh tomatoes, olive oil, basil & parmesan cheese.

From the *Insalata*, the salad menu, *Insalata di Quattro Fagioli con Cereali* (four bean salad with mixed grains) with selection of four beans, mixed grains, roasted pumpkin, cherry tomatoes, red onion, romaine lettuce, roasted

pumpkin seeds, feta cheese & sweet balsamic dressing to keep up with your fitness and taste. In the *Pane all'aglio*, the garlic breads menu you can go for *Classic Baguette Garlic Bread* with melting mozzarella cheese and *Rosemary Bread* with rosemary, pesto, olive oil made with rock salt pizza bread.

For pasta lovers, the *Artisan & Signature Special Pasta* menu is a feast of flavours that will leave you craving more. A recommendation is the *Ravioli di Spinaci e Ricotta*, featuring handmade spinach and ricotta ravioli, served in a fragrant basil-flavoured tomato sauce with olives, melting deliciously in every bite.

The *Dolce* (Dessert) menu at *Toscano* is a paradise for dessert lovers. The highlights include the *Classic Tiramisu*, perfectly paired with coffee ice cream, and the indulgent 55% *Couverture Chocolate Hazelnut Brownie*, served warm with creamy vanilla ice cream. Saving the best for last, the *Signature Chocolate Kahlua Mousse*, complemented by a delicate almond tuile and velvety crème anglaise, promises to be an unforgettable treat for your taste buds.

FACT SHEET

Restaurant Name: Toscano
Address: S-44, 2nd Floor, Nexus Select City Walk, MGF Saket Driveaway, Saket, New Delhi.
Price for 2: Approx. ₹1800

FACT SHEET

Restaurant Name: Resaca
Address: No. 7, 3rd Floor, Building, Pusa Rd, Block 11, WEA, Karol Bagh, Delhi, 110005
Price for 2: Approx. ₹2000
Cuisine: Multi-cuisine (Indian, Mediterranean, International)
Dining Experience: Indoor and Rooftop seating



SMALL PLATES LEAD THE WAY

Small eateries deliver bigger and tastier joys than mega restaurants



When it comes to dining out, bigger isn't always better. In a world where restaurants compete to offer a vast array of dishes, there's something uniquely charming and rewarding about *small eateries* that focus on just one or two specialties. They may lack the glitz of fine dining or the variety of a multi-page menu, but what they offer goes far deeper. Here's why these unassuming establishments are not only worth visiting but may also offer a far superior dining experience.

more attention on the quality and less temptation to rely on pre-made or frozen components. *Small eateries* usually shop locally and in small quantities, ensuring that what you eat was likely bought that very morning.

It's not uncommon to see these modest eateries sourcing their produce from the local market, even chatting with their vendors to get the best pick. This personal touch translates directly to the plate, where each ingredient retains its flavour, offering a sensory experience.

MASTERY OVER MEDIOCRITY: The biggest problem with an expansive menu is that it's almost impossible to do every dish justice. When a kitchen has to juggle diverse cuisines or multiple complex recipes, something inevitably gets lost in translation. Food often becomes standardised, stripped of any distinct personality, and made to cater to the average palate. Conversely, small eateries that specialise in a single dish or a couple of items have the luxury of focusing all their energy and skill on perfecting those few offerings. Each plate becomes a labor of love, honed through years of repetition and refinement.

CONSISTENT FLAVOURS, EVERY TIME: In smaller places, it's usually the same set of hands working in the kitchen day in and day out. There's no confusion, no passing the recipe from one chef to another. The cook knows exactly how much salt to sprinkle or how long to simmer the gravy. There's a sense of reliability, a promise that every time you visit, the dish will taste exactly as you remembered it. This consistency is one of the hardest things to achieve in a large restaurant where new chefs or cooks are frequently cycling in and out.

THE ART OF FRESHNESS: *Small menus* often mean fresher ingredients. When a kitchen isn't overwhelmed with a long list of ingredients for a sprawling menu, there's

THE PRICE OF CONVENIENCE: QUALITY VS. QUICK FIXES: In large eateries, the pressure to churn out diverse dishes at a rapid pace often means sacrificing freshness and authenticity. Many big restaurants, in an effort to streamline operations and manage



such extensive menus, have begun to rely on pre-made sauces and packaged ingredients laced with preservatives. These shortcuts may save time, but they take a serious toll on both flavour and nutritional value. A *small eatery*, with its focus on fresh, daily-prepared dishes, naturally provides a far more nourishing experience than the one that supports both health and taste without compromising quality.

A PERSONAL TOUCH THAT'S HARD TO FIND: Eating at a *small eatery* often means connecting with the person behind the food. They take pride in their craft, in the stories that accompany each dish, and in the relationships they build with regular customers. The proprietor might greet you by name, share the origins of a recipe, or remember just how spicy you like your curry. This connection adds a personal dimension to dining that large restaurants struggle to offer.

When you order from a restaurant with a lengthy menu, there's a transactional air to it. You're just another customer, another order to be fulfilled. But at a small, specialised eatery, you're part of a community, one of the lucky few who get to experience the authenticity that food can bring.

A UNIQUE DINING ADVENTURE: In an age where everyone seems to crave variety, the idea of returning to a place for the same

dish can seem limiting. But there's joy in simplicity. Knowing you're about to eat a dish that's the pride and focus of an establishment, there's an unspoken promise of quality.

SMALL IS THE NEW BIG: As the trend toward slow, intentional dining gains momentum, small eateries with limited menus are emerging as champions of true culinary craftsmanship. These spots may lack the expansive spaces and curated ambiance, but they don't need it. They deliver exactly what matters: real, unforgettable food, born from expertise and commitment, served with the kind of warmth you can't find on any restaurant's oversized menu.

In the end, it's about quality over quantity, simplicity over spectacle. And maybe, just maybe, finding the heart in what's on the plate over the number of options in a menu.



FOODFREAK



Pawan Soni
Food critic and founder of the Big F Awards

MEDIEVAL MARVEL IN BARCELONA



don't let that deter you—this serene sanctuary is worth the extra steps. Inside, the décor has evolved from vibrant, bold palettes and plush velvets to a soothing symphony of creams and greys adorned with elegant black and white photos. My lucky pick was an Apartment with a breath-taking medieval ambience and charming views of the cobbled street buzzing with tapas bars. Talk about living the fairy tale! The room's ambience, a mix of sophisticated neutrals and delicate fabrics, made the stay luxuriously cosy. The sleep preferences menu—offering sheets in cotton, satin, or linen, and a variety of pillows—felt like a dreamy personal touch. And the bathroom! A peaceful oasis with both a bathtub and rain shower, mood lighting, and Molton Brown products.

HISTORICAL CHARM AWAITS
Strolling through the Gothic Quarter, where the Romans once settled, feels like stepping into a storybook. Winding cobblestone streets lined with cosy shops, cafes, and residences lead to hidden plazas, each more picturesque than the last. *Hotel Neri's* central location is a dream for explorers. Just around the corner, the bells of the *Barcelona Cathedral* serenaded us from our room. Within a 5–10-minute stroll, we reached *Placa de Sant Jaume* and the iconic churches of *Santa Maria Del Mar* and *Santa Maria Del Pi*, famously featured in *Tom Holland's* 'Uncharted.' The waterfront and the bustling *Las Ramblas* were also close by, ensuring we never missed a beat of the city's vibrant life.

Hop on the metro, only five minutes away, and the rest of Barcelona unfolds at your feet. And for those with a sweet tooth, a quick five-minute amble took us to *Calle Petritxol*, a pedestrian haven brimming with chocolate and churro shops, including the famed *La Granja Dulcinea*. It is not just a place to stay; it's a historical adventure waiting to be experienced.

THE LITTLE LUXURIES
Dining at the A Restaurant was a gastronomic delight. The menu, brimming with Catalan dishes and global influences, featured gems like the 'fougasse and Rum Baba.' It was a true feast for the senses. The rooftop, *Roba Estesa*, transformed into a romantically lit, lush retreat, was the perfect spot to unwind under the stars. Living in a medieval castle, even for a short while, feels like a vibrant, whimsical dream. *Relais & Chateaux* boasts nearly 600 luxury hotels and fine dining restaurants worldwide, renowned for unique accommodations, exquisite cuisine, and impeccable service. President Laurent Gardinier aptly described them as paragons of 'excellence, food, experience, and culture.' After the delight of staying in *Hotel Neri*, I can confirm this commitment is nothing short of remarkable. If you crave a unique and romantic historical refuge in the lively heart of Barcelona, *Hotel Neri* is your match. Though it comes with a boutique five-star price tag, the magical experience it offers is simply priceless. It's the little things that elevate

a hotel stay from pleasant to unforgettable. At *Hotel Neri*, these thoughtful touches were on par with the world's finest hotels, such as the *Ritz Carlton*, *Four Seasons*, and *Six Senses*. From the cosy throw blanket on the bed—so handy when we left the heat off—to the fresh clementines awaiting us upon check-in, each detail made our stay special. Turn-down service with chocolates, and our stylish glass water pitcher refilled twice daily, all contributed to a feeling of home away from home. Though our next visit to

Barcelona might be a few years away, *Hotel Neri* will be my go-to choice. I wholeheartedly recommend this gem—and any *Relais & Chateaux* property—to fellow travellers seeking a truly memorable experience.
— She 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

By AKANKSHA DEAN

Imagine stepping back in time without sacrificing an ounce of modern comfort. At *Hotel Neri*, nestled in a 17th-century mansion and the only *Relais and Chateaux* property in Barcelona, my stay was a delightful blend of history and luxury. Picture this: a 17th-century mansion turned chic boutique hotel with just 22 rooms. This is *Hotel Neri*, where each corner oozes charm and every stay feels

like a time-travelling adventure. This enchanting 12th-century palace-turned-hotel, located beside the quaint *Placa de Sant Felipe Neri*, retains its historical charm with stone walls and archways that whisk you back in time. Though it lacks a gym, its distinct style and unbeatable location make up for it tenfold. The terrace overlooking a quaint, atmospheric square and the lush rooftop bar are just a couple of quirky touches you'll love. Given its quiet pedestrian street setting, you might have a slight hassle with heavy luggage, but

WINTER WONDERS OF DARJEELING



Darjeeling's misty mountains, scenic bus ride, and cosy Radhakunj Homestay offered the perfect winter escape amidst nature's charm, writes VISHESH SHUKLA

In winter, the mountains are always beautiful, and hill stations are also enjoyable. So, I decided to visit one of the most beautiful hill stations in India, *Darjeeling*, West Bengal. I boarded the *Falaknuma Express* from *Cuttack to Howrah*, and then I changed trains to the *Paharia Express*, heading to *New Jalpaiguri (NJP)*. The weather was very humid in nature, and for a moment, I thought I had chosen the wrong time to come to *Darjeeling*. But *Darjeeling* proved me wrong—cold waves and fog made me feel at ease. I took an auto to the *Siliguri* bus stand for ₹50, then boarded a bus to *Darjeeling* for ₹105. The 4-hour bus journey, with its beautiful views and

winding turns, made my heart swell with excitement. Finally, I deboarded and headed to my homestay, which was near *Batasia Loop*. I checked in at *Radha Kunj Homestay*, which offered very cheap accommodation, ₹4500 for three nights. The rooms were beautiful, and the window view in the morning, with *Kanchenjunga* in the distance, was nothing short of breathtaking. It was around 5 PM, so I decided to visit *Mall Road*. I took a taxi for ₹50 and went to explore the beautiful area. First, I roamed around the market, soaking in the lively atmosphere. Then, I visited the very famous *Glenary's Bakery* and enjoyed some delicious snacks



there. Coincidentally, the *Darjeeling Melotea Fest 2024* was happening nearby. I got to enjoy some amazing music by the famous singer *Girish Chand*. After that, I had dinner at a local restaurant near *Mall Road*. The meal was simple and tasty, costing me around ₹200. Feeling satisfied, I took a taxi back to my homestay for ₹100. Once I reached, I had a good sleep, ready and excited for the adventures the next day would bring.

MIRIK'S SERENE SHORES
On Day 2, I woke up early in the morning and rented a scooty from 'Bike Wale Bhaiya' for ₹1500 for two days. I planned to visit *Mirik*, 34 km away,

to see the famous *Sumendu Lake*. However, I missed the main route and ended up taking a secondary road, which stretched the distance to 50 km and took me around 4 hours to reach. The ride was not wasted, though, as I passed through beautiful tea gardens and stopped at a viewpoint called *Lepchajagat*. Finally, I reached *Mirik Lake*, spent some peaceful time there, and then started my journey back to *Darjeeling*. On the way, I also visited the Nepal border at *Pashupati Nagar* and enjoyed a quiet dinner before returning to my homestay.

DARJEELING'S ICONIC LANDMARKS

Day 3 was all about sightseeing in *Darjeeling*. I started my day at *Tiger Hill* to witness the stunning view of *Kanchenjunga*. Next, I visited the serene *Ghoom Monastery* and felt the peaceful vibes of Buddhism. After that, I stopped by the *Peace Pagoda*, built to promote harmony, and had my lunch. My next destination was the *Rock Garden*, located 3000 ft below the main road, which had some dangerous turns but was worth the experience. Finally, I ended my sightseeing with a visit to *Batasia Loop* to watch the toy train and the *Zoological Park*, which had some unique animals. In the evening, I did some shopping at *Mall Road*, treated myself to ice cream at *Keventer's*, and enjoyed delicious momos. I returned the scooty to the shop and headed back to my homestay to pack my bags because it was time to leave for home. On the last day, I took a shared taxi for ₹400 to *NJP*. From there, I boarded the *New Delhi Poorvottar Sampark Kranti Express* to *Kanpur*. The 17-hour journey brought me back home, and I ended my vacation with empty pockets but a heart full of beautiful and tremendous memories.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week presents numerous opportunities for joy, with financial gains expected from various endeavors. You may find yourself busy, perhaps with work-related travel, which could lead to some stress. Midweek brings sudden shifts that might challenge your current plans or expectations. It's a crucial time to release any unproductive bonds, clearing the path for a more meaningful existence. As the week progresses, you may feel a strong pull towards acquiring material possessions, which could lead to unrealistic expectations. Caution is advised against starting new projects or making impulsive decisions, as these could lead to setbacks. Maintaining a positive outlook will be challenging, yet essential to navigate this period effectively.

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Tuesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This period promises to be exceptionally favorable, marked by a profound sense of blessing and personal achievement. You'll find yourself at the center of your universe, reveling in a phase rich with joy, amazement, and rejuvenation. A harmonious alignment of mind, spirit, and body will emerge, enhancing your social standing. This time will usher in newfound bravery and inspiration, leaving you relieved as certain challenges conclude. Expect transformative shifts in your perspectives and plans, paving the way for a brighter future. Changes may include adopting a new routine, dietary adjustments, or exciting career opportunities. Fresh beginnings are indicated, perhaps in personal commitments or professional partnerships, bringing a refreshing change to your life's narrative. As the week closes, familial happiness will increase, and a feeling of complete fulfillment will envelop you emotionally and spiritually.

Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Thursday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week centers on inner resilience rather than physical prowess. Your strength will stem from a disciplined approach to your emotions and desires, grounded in a firm moral backbone. This foundational inner strength will navigate you through deceptive circumstances to clarity. You may find inspiration and guidance from a notable woman known for her deep understanding and intuition. Considering her advice or emulating her approach could be pivotal in shaping your life's direction. An urgent call to action encourages you to embrace spirituality—engage in meditation, practice yoga, and connect with your spiritual beliefs. It's a time to move away from idle fantasies and ground yourself in reality, letting go of unproductive daydreams to focus on what truly matters.

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Monday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week, those who are naturally resourceful will find themselves thriving financially through their inventive abilities. You possess the strength to transform your visions into reality. Choices made during this time are likely to lead to beneficial outcomes. Gifted with a flair for articulation, your words will captivate and persuade those around you, marking an exceptionally successful week. However, midweek may present some challenges with potential delays. Despite these obstacles, your perseverance and resolve will guide you through, ensuring you meet your objectives. Expect communication from afar that could influence your financial and emotional stability positively. This period promises both security and satisfaction as you navigate through the highs and lows with grace.

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Saturday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week begins with decisive actions on both personal and work-related fronts, reflecting your resilient nature as you navigate life's challenges with courage. Expect some confrontations and issues arising from stubborn attitudes, necessitating a thoughtful and tactful approach. Embracing new perspectives and letting go of outdated beliefs will be crucial. Changes could unfold in various areas, such as your job, living situation, and close relationships, and you might encounter health challenges that could lead to feeling overwhelmed. Despite these struggles, the latter part of the week heralds a shift toward positivity, bringing a sense of relaxation, improved well-being, and financial satisfaction. You will find yourself in a position to indulge in life's comforts and will likely extend your support to those in need due to your compassionate nature.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Wednesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week promises to be a whirlwind, touching every facet of your life—from personal finance and home life to social and professional engagements. It begins with a focus on household matters, and for those not currently in a partnership, significant life changes such as marriage may be on the horizon. Midweek, travel could play a role, adding variety to your routine. Professionally, expect to dive deep, as a drive for excellence pushes you to refine your abilities and commit fully to your projects, often extending your work into the night. Joyful family news, such as the arrival of a new member, may also grace the week. As the days progress, the fruits of your labor will become apparent, notably through substantial financial gains. Opportunities for career advancement are likely to emerge, featuring appealing terms.

Lucky number 1 | Lucky colour Rose
Lucky day Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week, individuals born under Gemini will find numerous reasons to smile. An aura of optimism surrounds you, illuminating your path and attracting positive vibes in all your endeavors. Your ability to highlight the positive aspects of life makes you a beacon of warmth, drawing others towards you. However, midweek might bring a few challenges that could disrupt your peace temporarily. Despite this, rest assured that this phase will pass swiftly, paving the way for abundant blessings and a sense of fulfillment. Your efforts toward your goals are bearing fruit, marking significant strides towards completing your success cycle. You'll likely notice substantial improvements in ongoing projects and may find opportunities for recognition, public acclaim, or international connections.

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour White
Lucky day Sunday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week brims with opportunities and inventive energy, marking a period of great enthusiasm and readiness to embrace new challenges. An inspiring new concept may captivate your imagination, reinforcing that you're following the right path. You'll find yourself adeptly handling both personal and professional responsibilities. Midweek brings family gatherings and celebrations, possibly related to home-related milestones, children's achievements, or exciting career developments. These events will add to the joyous atmosphere around you. As the week concludes, your resolve and tenacity serve as an inspiring testament to others, showcasing the foundation of your accomplishments. Enjoy this vibrant period, as it promises both fulfillment and success and remain open to the unexpected joys it may bring.

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Teal
Lucky day Friday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week, individuals born under the Aquarius sign can expect a vibrant period filled with personal satisfaction and grandeur. There will be significant progress in business ventures, accompanied by generous expenditures that not only meet family expectations but also bring joy. This generosity extends to caring for others, demonstrating a warm and compassionate nature. Relationship dynamics, especially with a partner, may involve some heightened demands, yet responses will be heartfelt and giving. Children are likely to bring joy into the household, with possible achievements in academics or career advancements for a son. However, there's a note of caution for Aquarian women to attend to their health, as they might face some challenges related to emotional well-being or other physiological concerns, which could affect their mood during this period.

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22

During this pivotal period, the actions you take will lay the foundation for future developments. Although progress may seem gradual, your perseverance will ensure that significant strides are made. Energize yourself to tackle necessary tasks effectively, as your hard work is likely to gain recognition and yield rewards. Utilize your diverse skills optimally this week, as your resolve and tenacity will leave a lasting impression on those around you. Your role as an inspirational figure will uplift others. Effective communication will enhance your relationships with both superiors and colleagues. As the week closes, a fresh burst of innovative thinking will illuminate your projects. Your productivity will soar in your chosen field, accompanied by vibrant energy and a zest for life. This is a time to relish and optimize the joyful moments.

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Monday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Despite your significant efforts across various sectors to secure employment, the outcomes you've anticipated have not yet materialized. Your dedication and zeal are commendable; however, financial gains may be challenging to come by this week. Fortunately, as the week unfolds, promising opportunities are likely to emerge, potentially leading to substantial achievements. Supportive figures in your life, such as father figures or mentors, are keen to see you succeed and will play a crucial role in your progress. Remember, patience will be your greatest ally during this period. Building on a solid foundation will inevitably lead to favorable results. Remain steadfast, as you are on the verge of a breakthrough, where success promises to be significant and enduring.

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week heralds a period of financial growth and satisfaction. You'll find yourself drawn towards seeking inner peace through practices like yoga, meditation, and chanting. Expect to feel compelled to arrange spiritually uplifting events at home, enhancing the serene atmosphere. However, midweek might present challenges in your personal relationships, possibly leading to misunderstandings or disagreements with a partner. Such conflicts may lead you to reflect on your deeper desires and life goals. Remember, your perspective may lean towards seeing the negative rather than appreciating what you have. This inclination could lead to a sense of being overwhelmed by negativity. It's crucial during these times to stay resilient and confront these challenges with courage rather than succumbing to despair.

Lucky number 16 | Lucky colour Mint
Lucky day Friday

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

Discovering the Purpose of Life

THE LIFE GUIDANCE



Seerat Kaur Marwaha

The interplay between karma and dharma is like a dance. To align with our life's purpose, we must first understand the karmic lessons presented to us

There are moments in life when the usual rhythm of existence comes to a halt—moments when a deep, unshakable question emerges from within: "Why am I here?" This question often arises not during our triumphs but in the quiet aftermath of loss, failure, or self-reflection. It is as though the universe gently nudges us to look beyond the surface of our achievements and seek a deeper truth. Ancient Vedic wisdom holds that the answer lies not in chasing fleeting goals but in understanding and aligning with our karma and dharma, our cosmic purpose and the path uniquely meant for us. Through this alignment, we embark on the sacred journey of discovering the true purpose of life. Karma, often misunderstood as mere cause and effect, is a deeper law of action and reaction. It is not just about the actions we perform but the intentions and energy behind them. Our karmic blueprint, shaped over lifetimes, serves as both a map and a mirror. It reflects the lessons we are here to learn and the experiences we must navigate to grow spiritually.

The challenges we face are whether in relationships, health, or career, are not random but karmic threads woven into the fabric of our existence. They are opportunities to confront our shadows, resolve past debts, and refine our souls. Recognising this truth transforms our perspective. Pain becomes a teacher, and every obstacle, a stepping stone to self-realisation. While karma represents the lessons we carry, dharma is the unique path we are meant to walk in this lifetime. Derived from the Sanskrit root "dhri," meaning to sustain, dharma is that which upholds the harmony of the universe. It is our duty, our responsibility, and our spiritual calling. Dharma is not a rigid set of rules but a dynamic expression of our true self. For one, it may manifest as nurturing a family; for another, it may mean creating art that inspires the world. When we align with our dharma, life feels purposeful and fulfilling. We experience a flow where our actions serve not just personal gain but contribute to the greater good. The interplay between karma and dharma is like a dance. To align with our life's purpose, we must



first understand the karmic lessons presented to us. This requires deep introspection, self-awareness, and a willingness to confront our fears and patterns. Astrology, a profound tool rooted in Vedic wisdom, offers a roadmap to our karmic imprints. The positions of the planets at the time of our birth reveal the energies influencing our journey and the areas of life that demand growth. For instance, Saturn often points to the karmic debts we must repay, while Jupiter illuminates the areas where dharma can flourish. Once we identify our karmic lessons, the next step is to align with dharma. This alignment is not an overnight process but a

journey of gradual awakening. Meditation, gratitude journaling, and practices like EFT tapping can help clear the emotional and mental clutter that obscures our path. Aligning with dharma requires inner work. It demands peeling back the layers of societal expectations, inherited fears, and self-imposed limitations. Practices such as chakra balancing and mindfulness allow us to connect with our authentic selves. For example, the throat chakra governs communication and self-expression. If this chakra is blocked due to past wounds, one may struggle to voice their truth, hindering alignment with their dharma. Healing this energy

centre through affirmations and meditation can restore balance and clarity. Similarly, gratitude is a powerful practice in this journey. When we appreciate life's blessings, no matter how small we shift our focus from lack to abundance. This shift creates a fertile ground for dharma to emerge, as we are no longer trapped in the narrative of unworthiness or scarcity. Discovering life's purpose begins with self-reflection. Journaling about one's strengths, passions, and the activities that bring joy can provide valuable insights. Reflecting on recurring challenges and patterns often points to unresolved karma. Meditation and silence are equally crucial. Quieting the mind allows one to hear the whispers of the soul. Tools like astrology or guidance from spiritual mentors can illuminate karmic lessons and dharmic paths. Acts of service also play a vital role. Serving something larger than oneself connects one with the universal rhythm of love and abundance. Trusting the process is perhaps the most vital step. Life's purpose is not a destination but a journey. Every experience, even the challenging ones, is part of this

unfolding story. Ultimately, the purpose of life transcends personal success or happiness. It is about contributing to the greater cosmic order, uplifting others, and leaving the world better than we found it. When we align with our dharma, we become instruments of divine will, radiating love, compassion, and wisdom. Every soul's journey is unique, yet interconnected. Your alignment with your karmic path and dharma not only brings you peace but also creates ripples of positivity in the collective consciousness. In this way, the purpose of life becomes a shared endeavour that is a dance of individual and universal harmony. Discovering the purpose of life is not about seeking answers but about aligning with the divine rhythm within us. By understanding our karma and embracing our dharma, we transcend the superficial and connect with the infinite. Life, then, becomes not just a series of events but a sacred journey that is a dance of the soul with the cosmos. And in that dance, we find not only purpose but also the deepest joy of simply being. — She is a Life Coach and Founder of Soulful Wellness

Now you can write to us at agendapioneer@gmail.com