



जीवन की सुरक्षा के लिए मध्यप्रदेश सरकार की संवेदनशील पहल



आपातकालीन एयर एम्बुलेंस सेवा का शुभारंभ



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री



डॉ. मोहन यादव, मुख्यमंत्री

मुख्यमंत्री
डॉ. मोहन यादव
द्वारा

2 मार्च 2024 - दोपहर 12:30 बजे - शासकीय इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज, उज्जैन

मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. मोहन यादव की मानवीय पहल और विजन से प्रदेश में
आपातकालीन एयर एम्बुलेंस सुविधा के रूप में स्वास्थ्य सेवा के क्षेत्र में एक बड़ा कदम

सड़कों और औद्योगिक स्थलों पर होने वाली दुर्घटनाओं, हृदय रोगी अथवा जहर से प्रभावित व्यक्तियों को अब मिल सकेगा अच्छे चिकित्सा संस्थानों में समय पर इलाज।

एयर एम्बुलेंस सेवा में हृदय रोग, श्वास और तंत्रिका संबंधी बीमारियों, नवजात शिशुओं की स्वास्थ्य समस्याएं, उच्च जोखिम वाले गर्भधारण तथा आपदाओं की स्थिति को संभालने के लिये प्रशिक्षित एवं सुसज्जित टीमें।

अस्पताल द्वारा मरीज की स्थिति की गंभीरता की जांच के उपरांत मिल सकेगी एयर एम्बुलेंस की सुविधा।

स्वास्थ्य विभाग, चिकित्सा शिक्षा, आयुष संस्थाओं तथा निजी अस्पतालों को समन्वित करते हुए प्रदेश के सभी जिलों और विकासखंडों में बेहतर चिकित्सा सुविधा उपलब्ध करवाने के लिए रोडमैप विकसित किया जा रहा है। साथ ही प्रत्येक जिले से एयर एम्बुलेंस का संचालन भी शुरू किया जा रहा है, जिससे गंभीर रोगियों को बेहतर चिकित्सा संस्थानों में उपचार के लिए हवाई सुविधा का लाभ प्राप्त होगा।
- डॉ. मोहन यादव, मुख्यमंत्री

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Chief Minister inaugurates Vikramotsav-2024 Ujjain

PNS ■ UJJAIN

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that in the changing cycle of time, the world's first Vedic clock established in Ujjain will make Madhya Pradesh and the country renowned in the world. Now India's time will be known to the entire world. The state government is also trying to create literature centered on Samrrat Vikramaditya. We have always been proud of Samrat Vikramaditya. This was stated by Chief Minister Dr. Yadav in his address after inaugurating the Vikramotsav-2024, Regional Industries Conclave Ujjain-2024 and Ujjaini Trade Fair-2024 organized by Culture Department, Swaraj Sansthan and District Administration at Kalidas

Chief Minister Yadav said that the civilization established by Samrat Vikramaditya has gained recognition in the world. Samrat Vikramaditya is known as the first person to have established a civil system

Academy, Ujjain on Friday. Chief Minister Yadav, along with the guests on stage, inaugurated the programme by lighting the lamp and garlanding the pictures of Maa Saraswati and Samrat Vikramaditya. MSME Minister Chetan Kashyap, Minister of State for Tourism and Culture Dharmendra Lodhi, MP Anil Firozia and MLA Anil Jain Kaluhera, Satish Malviya, Chintaman Malviya and Mayor Mukesh

Tatwal were present on stage. Chief Minister Yadav said that the civilization established by Samrat Vikramaditya has gained recognition in the world. Samrat Vikramaditya is known as the first person to have established a civil system. He said that Vikramotsav is a festival run by the government which takes society along. Ujjain is a city of time calculation. Besides, Ujjaini is also the city of Mahakal. We are the carriers of Sanatan culture

and we are proud of it. Great poet Kalidas has described the glory of Ujjain through his treatise and epics. On this occasion, Chief Minister Yadav also released Arsh Bharat, Veer Bharat, Sankalp Nyas and books focused on freedom fighters of Mandla, Dindori, Jabalpur, Satna districts, books published under the title Ramraja and a CD focused on Ramraja of Orchha. Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia participated virtually in the programme. He said that Ujjain is an ancient city. It is an ancient heritage not only of Madhya Pradesh but of the entire world. It is a matter of pride that Chief Minister Dr. Yadav is not only working for the development of Ujjain but the entire state. Efforts are being

made by them to make Ujjain not only a religious and spiritual center but also a trade, business and major industrial center. Referring to the contribution of Scindia family in the development of Ujjain, Union Minister Scindia said that Mahakal Temple was constructed by Maharaja Ranoji Scindia and Madhav Maharaj II had established the Free Trade Fair in Madhavganj. He said that there is immense potential in Ujjain. The opening of Ujjain Trade Fair is an important step for the state. Along with agriculture, there are immense possibilities in the field of pharma industry and textile in Madhya Pradesh. Scindia said that after Indore, Ujjain will also be recognized as Mini Bombay in the coming times.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav addresses during 'Vikramotsava -2024' at Kalidas Academy in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh on Friday. Pioneer photo

10 years' RI to accused of minor's abduction, rape

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Special Judge, POCSO Act Rashmi Mishra sentenced 10 years' of rigorous imprisonment to accused who kidnapped and raped a minor girl. The Special Judge, POCSO Act, convicted Mahesh Ahirwar, the accused of rape, under sections 376, 366 of the Indian Penal Code and 5/6 of the POCSO Act. Finding the accused guilty, a decision has been passed punishing the accused with 10 years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 5000 under Section 376 Indian Penal Code and 5/6 POCSO Act and 5 years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 1000 under Section 366 Indian Penal Code. In the case, the government has been represented by Special Public Prosecutor Divya Shukla and Jyoti Kujur. In the incident on May 20,

The deceased Sonu had an old acquaintance with the sister of the accused. The girl had filed a case of atrocities against Sonu about one and a half years ago

2016, the father of the accused appeared at the police station Khajuri Road, Bhopal and lodged complaint about his missing minor daughter. On the basis of the information regarding the incident, a missing person report was registered by the police. On June 4, 2016, police has booked the accused. After the verification victim revealed that Mahesh Ahirwar and she both are good friends and in May

2016 Mahesh took her with him to his home in Berasia district, Bhopal and he promised marriage but did not marry and accused Mahesh kept me with him for 15 days and sexually assaulted her many times without her consent. The police registered case under section 363, 366, 376 (2) of Indian Penal Code 3/4 POCSO Act. After completing the investigation, the charge sheet was presented before the court. Agreeing with the evidence, arguments and documents and scientific evidence of the prosecution, the Court sentenced the accused Mahesh Ahirwar to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment under Section 376 of the Indian Penal Code and 5/6 POCSO Act and a fine of Rs 5000 and to 5 years of rigorous imprisonment under Section 366 of the Indian Penal Code. And the decision has been passed punishing him with a fine of Rs 1000.

Guv addresses AGM of Red Cross Society

Bhopal: Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that service to suffering humanity is true service to God. He said that the work being done by Red Cross in the state is a medium of service to humanity. District units should try to do better service in this campaign. The Red Cross should take special steps to provide medical services to the poor and the suffering. Patel was addressing the annual general meeting of State Red Cross at Sandipani Auditorium of Raj Bhavan today. Principal Secretary to the Governor, Sanjay Kumar Shukla and Chairman of Red Cross Society, Dr. Gagan Kolhe were also present. Patel said that Red Cross plays a significant role in providing health services to the poor, deprived and needy of the society. The rich class should also extend its support in the supply of modern treatment resources in Red Cross government hospitals. A campaign should be

launched to register new colleges with Youth Red Cross. Values should be instilled in the youth and they should be provided opportunities to contribute towards social concerns. He said that the making of Nikshay Mitras in the T.B. awareness campaign is commendable. He expressed the need to run a public cooperation campaign to help sickle cell anemia patients. Patel said that sensitization among doctors and medical staff is very important to eradicate sickle cell anemia. To eradicate sickle cell anemia by the year 2047, the identification, treatment and counseling in tribal dominated districts should be speeded up. At the outset, Patel was given a warm welcome and a memento. The Governor also honoured the Red Cross units of various districts for their excellent performance. State Red Cross Society President Dr. Gagan Kolhe delivered the welcome address.

BMHRC now equipped with Phaco machine, Endoscope and 6 other advanced machines

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In order to provide best treatment to the gas victim patients and people at large, various medical devices and equipment, are being upgraded in BMHRC. For the painless cataract surgery, an advanced Phaco machine has arrived in the hospital. Endoscopy machines required for the diagnosis and treatment of various gastrointestinal diseases, CUSA machines required for brain tumour surgery and C-Arm machines required in operation theatres have also been procured. Dr. Manisha Shrivastava, Director In-charge, BMHRC said that all these machines were available in BMHRC earlier also, but some of them are either very old or out of order. For this reason, the need to

purchase new machines was felt. A Phaco machine required for cataract surgery has arrived. Through this machine, cataract operation is done through a very small incision, hence the patient experiences little or no pain during and after the operation and is also discharged early from the hospital. Dr Shrivastava said that the Endoscopy machine necessary for the diagnosis and treatment of various gastrointestinal diseases has also arrived. The new Endoscopy machine is ultra-modern, which will not only enable procedures like Endoscopy, Colonoscopy, Sigmoidoscopy, but will also facilitate the ERCP procedure for the treatment of CBD stones and diseases of gall bladder, pancreas and liver. The CUSA machine, helpful in

removing brain tumors, spinal cord tumours and other delicate procedures of central nervous system has also arrived. Apart from this, two C-Arm machines which are used for surgical procedures in operation theatres, allowing the surgeon to see real time images of the operation area. A Lithotripsy machine used to remove kidney stones and Harmonic Scalpel used in surgery have also been procured. Procured machines are – Endoscope, Phaco machine, CUSA Machine, C-arm, Lithotripsy machine, Harmonic scalpel. The undermentioned machines have arrived earlier- EMG—NCV machine, Digital EEG Video Machine, Blood bank refrigerator, Steam Stabilizers, laser diode machine.



BJP State President VD Sharma with suggestion boxes to invite suggestions from the public on PM Modi's five-year development plan during the launch of 'Viksit Bharat Modi Guarantee' campaign, at BJP State headquarters in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo

IGRMS organises traditional making of Baiga tribe's drink

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS) organized the traditional technique of making drink of Baiga tribes from village Dhurkura in Dindori district Madhya Pradesh making Ponga Turri and Pana drink Techniques related exhibits have been installed at open air Exhibition traditional technology park of the museum About this exhibit professor Amithabh pande Director IGRMS said that –Through these we want to introduce the audience to the intellectual and creative skills of simple societies and underline the fact that traditional technology has played an important role in contemporary splendor The Baigas the primitive tribe of Madhya Pradesh depend on nature's resources for their daily needs Many methods of preparing local beverages by evaporation for community and personal use are prevalent among the Baigas which was demonstrated today in the Traditional Technology park open air Exhibition. In this regard Dr. Pritam

Chaudhary Museum Associate told that the extract is made by evaporating Mahua fruit by Ponga Turri and Pana methods After evaporation in the Ponga the purified liquid substance is collected in another vessel through a bamboo tube Similarly the liquid purified from Turri and Pana is produced at home level for personal or family use The effect of the liquid purified by the above three different methods is also different and accordingly they are used as local medicines. While giving information Dairam Rathudiya, representative artist of Baiga tribe said that when the Mahua fruit is completely ripe and falls from the tree after that this fruit is dried completely After this all the fruits are mixed with water in an earthen pot and kept soaked for a few days After that the vessel is heated on fire and the steam that comes out when heated is collected in another vessel through a pipe When the steam cools down what is obtained in liquid form is the extract of Mahua.

Killer of 22-year-old youth arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Shahjahanabad police have arrested the accused who killed a 22-year-old youth due to old rivalry in Idgah Hills area on Thursday. Police said that at around 2.15 in the afternoon information was received that a youth was fatally attacked with a sharp weapon by an unknown person in Neelkanth Colony, Idgah Hills. As soon as the information was received, the police team reached the spot. Where Sonu Suryavanshi was found injured and was taken to Hamidia Hospital where he died during treatment. On the basis of the evidence and preliminary investigation case under section 302 of the IPC was registered. A team was formed under and the accused identified as Sonu Athiya was nabbed near Kamal Floor Mill, Regiment Road Shahjahanabad, Bhopal The accused was arrested within few hours of the crime and sharp edged weapon used in the crime was seized by the police. The accused was produced in the court on Friday and has been sent under judicial custody.

AIIMS Bhopal treats 9-year-old girl suffering with the rare HUS

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Doctors at AIIMS Bhopal have triumphantly treated and discharged a 9-year-old girl afflicted with the rare Atypical Hemolytic Syndrome (HUS). Initially presenting symptoms of body swelling, persistent fever, and reddish-colored urine, the child's challenging medical journey unfolded across multiple hospitals. Despite earlier interventions in local hospitals, her condition worsened, leading to admission to three more hospitals with severe symptoms. Three weeks into the onset of symptoms, the patient reached the Pediatric Nephrology Unit at AIIMS Bhopal. Diagnosed with Atypical HUS with elevated anti Factor H auto-antibody titres, the child was critically ill, requiring non-invasive ventilator support due to pulmonary edema. Dedicated medical team, led by Prof Girish Bhatt, Dr Amber, residents and dialysis staff skillfully managed the challenging aspects of treatment for children, incorporating 8 cycles of hemodialysis

Despite earlier interventions in local hospitals, her condition worsened, leading to admission to three more hospitals with severe symptoms

and 17 settings of Plasma Exchange Therapy (TPE). This involved passing the patient's blood through a plasma filter to remove disease-causing antibodies, showcasing a significant improvement in the patient's condition. Prof (Dr.) Ajai Singh, executive director of AIIMS Bhopal, underscored the success of this case, emphasizing the hospital's commitment to timely and expert intervention in managing complex pediatric conditions. The institution continues to pursue excellence in pediatric care through advanced treatments and multidisciplinary approaches, ensuring positive outcomes for young patients.



Participants during a traditional day event at a students' fair organised as a part of annual day celebrations at Government Sarojini Naidu Girls College in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo

AIIMS Bhopal's third convocation to be held today

PNS ■ INDORE

The third convocation of AIIMS Bhopal will be celebrated on Saturday at 4 pm in Atal Bihari Vajpayee Auditorium. Professor (Dr) Ajai Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal, believes that the convocation ceremony has special significance in the life of any student. When he successfully completes his

prescribed course and obtains a degree. Therefore, special preparations have been made to make this convocation grand. Padmabha Bhushan awardee Dr Ashok Laxman Rao Kukde of Vivekananda Hospital and Research Centre, Latur, Maharashtra will be the chief guest at the convocation, while Professor Satya Narayan Sankhwar, Director of the

Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University will be present as the special guest. On this occasion, Vice Chancellor of Era University, Lucknow, Professor Abbas Ali Mahdi will be honored with an honorary doctorate. In this third convocation, degrees will be awarded to 273 students including MBBS, MD, MS, DM, B.Sc (Nursing) and MSc (Nursing).



Modi Presides Over Lok Sabha Probables



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, BJP National President JP Nadda, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and others during the BJP's Central Election Committee (CEC) meeting to finalise the first list of candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, in New Delhi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP's Central Election Committee (CEC) convened a meeting late Thursday night at its Delhi headquarters, with deliberations led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, regarding their first list of candidates running late into the night, suggesting the inclusion of several high-profile leaders in the first list. The CEC members, including Modi, the party's national president JP Nadda, and Union Ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, deliberated on potential candidates for States like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, and

Uttarakhand, among others, to finalise the nominees. The CEC meeting, which began around 10:30 pm on Thursday, lasted for more than five hours. Before that, Shah and Nadda had met Modi at his residence to hold consultations, sources said. According to sources, the party may announce a list of 100-120 candidates in its first list. The party is likely to announce its candidates on "weak seats" in Uttar Pradesh before the Election Commission releases dates for the Lok Sabha elections.

In Uttar Pradesh, the BJP will not contest from all 80 seats and will reserve some for its potential allies like Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD). In the last poll body meet, 56 UP seats were finalised.

The BJP, according to sources, employed a multi-layered and exhaustive process, encompassing public feedback, internal evaluations, and high-level strategic discussions, to select the candidates poised to represent the party in the upcoming electoral battle.

Sources said the BJP has harnessed technology to solicit feedback from the grassroots level.



BJP to strengthen alliance, Yogi to revamp Cabinet

PNS ■ LUCKNOW/GUWAHATI

Ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP is set to maintain good relations with its existing allies by offering them more space in Assam and accommodating them in the Uttar Pradesh Government. Sources said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath may expand his Cabinet and Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party president Om Prakash Rajbhar may be included in the Cabinet. Similarly the ruling BJP will contest 11 Lok Sabha seats in Assam, leaving three for its allies Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL). Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma AGP will contest from Barpeta and Dhubri, while UPPL will field its candidate in Kokrajhar. The allies will support each other candidates in all the 14 constituencies. In the Yogi Government, JP leader Dara Singh Chauhan and an MLA from Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) may also get entry in Team Yogi. It is also speculated that one Jat and one Muslim from RLD may get a place in the Yogi Government. Sources said Yogi took the approval from the party high command on Thursday in the midst of CEC meeting.

India Intent on National Defence

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India on Friday sealed five major defence acquisition contracts worth ₹39,125 crore, including the procurement of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, radars, weapon systems, and aero-engines for MiG-29 jets, as part of efforts to boost the combat capabilities of the armed forces. The mega procurement projects were finalised amid India's lingering border row

with China in eastern Ladakh, and they will be implemented under the broad framework of the Government's policy to enhance domestic defence manufacturing. The contracts for the procurement of the platforms and weapon systems were signed in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane, under whose guidance these deals were finalised, according to an official statement.



"These deals will further strengthen indigenous capabilities, save foreign exchange, and reduce dependency on foreign-origin equipment manufacturers in the future," the statement said. Two separate deals were finalised for the procurement of BrahMos missiles. The first one is for the procurement of BrahMos missiles from the BrahMos Aerospace Private Ltd (BAPL) at a cost of ₹19,518.65 crore. "These missiles would be

utilised to meet combat outfit and training requirements of the Indian Navy," the Defence Ministry said. The second contract is for the procurement of the ship-borne BrahMos system from the BAPL at a cost of ₹988 crore. These missiles will serve as the Indian Navy's primary weapon for maritime strike operations, fitted onboard various frontline warships. Capable of hitting land or sea targets from extended ranges with pinpoint accuracy at

supersonic speeds, the system enhances the Navy's combat capabilities. The deal for procurement of RD-33 Aero Engines for MiG-29 aircraft was signed with State-run aerospace giant Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), costing ₹5,249.72 crore. The aero engines, to be produced by the Koraput Division of HAL, will sustain the operational capability of the MiG-29 fleet for its residual service life, fulfilling the Indian Air Force's needs.

EC urges parties to maintain decorum

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Taking note of the concerning trends and cases of declining levels of political campaign discourse in recent elections, the Election Commission (EC) has urged political parties and their leaders to refrain from seeking votes based on caste, religion, or language. Additionally, they are warned not to insult the devotee-deity relationship or suggest any divine curse. The poll watchdog has emphasised the need for maintaining decorum in public campaigning, placing additional responsibility on star campaigners and candidates, particularly those who have been issued notices in the past. This advisory comes just days before the



model code is expected to come into effect with the announcement of the Lok Sabha and four State Assembly polls later this month. In its advisory, the EC has stated that candidates and star campaigners will face stern action for any violation of the Model Code of Conduct, replacing the previous practice of only 'moral censure'.

Furthermore, the EC has prohibited the use of temples, mosques, churches, gurdwaras, or any other place of worship for poll propaganda or electioneering. The EC's advisory also emphasises that references ridiculing devotee-deity relations or suggesting divine curse should not be made. Any surrogate or indirect

violation of the Model Code of Conduct will be dealt with sternly by the Commission. Star campaigners and candidates have been put on notice by the EC regarding violations, following previously known methodologies during elections to avoid breaches of the Model Code of Conduct. The commission will assess any indirect violations of the Model Code of Conduct as per the advisory to ensure fair and appropriate notices are issued in terms of timing and content for the forthcoming elections. For the General Election to Lok Sabha and to four State Legislative Assemblies, all phases and geographical areas of elections shall be considered for determining "repeat" offenses.

Bengaluru Blasted

PTI ■ BENGALURU

A bomb blast at a popular eatery in the city on Friday left nine persons injured and police have launched a probe from all angles after it emerged that an earlier suspected gas leak was not the cause of the explosion. Police suspect that a bag at the eatery with a possible improvised explosive device (IED) could have exploded, even as the NIA and the IB have been apprised of the matter. Officials from the local unit of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) later arrived at the spot. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said investigation is on to ascertain the cause and nature of the explosion at the popular Rameshwaram Cafe in Whitefield, and added it might have been caused by an



Security officials and others at the Rameshwaram Cafe after a fire caused by a suspected cylinder explosion, in Bengaluru, on Friday

"improvised explosive" device. The incident should not be politicised and everyone should cooperate, Siddaramaiah said, adding strict action would be taken against those involved. State police chief Alok Mohan described the explosion as a "bomb blast" and said nobody was seriously injured.

"At 1 pm, a bomb blast occurred at the hotel (cafe), nine people are injured, and no one is serious. We are investigating. FSL (forensic) teams have come and are checking. City police Commissioner and other officers are at the spot. We will certainly identify who did it," he said after visiting the spot.

Yeh Badalta Mausam: India hit by freak weather

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India is expected to witness high minimum temperatures in March, sounding alarms for the vital wheat crop, as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicts above-average day and night temperatures from March through May across the nation, attributed to El Niño conditions. Exceptions are noted in isolated regions of the northwest, northeast, central, and peninsular India, sparking concerns for agricultural yields. This could impact agricultural

activities and crop growth, particularly for wheat. The minimum or night temperatures are also likely to be above normal over most parts of the country, the IMD said on Friday. According to the IMD, the first half of March may see above-normal rainfall in north-western parts of the country, while the second half is likely to experience higher-than-normal temperatures. Monthly maximum temperatures for March are expected to be above normal over most areas of peninsular India, the northeast, the west central region, and the



northwest. Normal to below-normal maximum temperatures are likely to persist over most parts of east and east-central India and some parts of northwest India. During the season (March, April, and May), above-normal minimum temperatures are most likely over most parts of the country. IMD director general Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said at a press conference that India is likely to see above-normal maximum and minimum temperatures in most parts of the country during the "Hot Weather Season 2024" between March

and May, with El Niño conditions predicted to continue through the summer season and neutral conditions likely to develop thereafter. The El Niño conditions in 2023 ed to patchy and erratic monsoon in 2023, reducing India's foodgrain production by 6.1 per cent in the 2023-24 crop year (July-June). "During March, April, and May, an above-normal number of heatwave days are likely over most parts of the country except over Northeast India, Western Himalayan Region, Southwest Peninsula, and West Coast," he said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during a meeting, in Kolkata, on Friday

India must build deep national strengths: Jaishankar

PTI ■ PUNE

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said that in the next 25 years, India must build “deep national strengths” that will drive its transition towards a developed economy and leading power. Flagging the dangers of dependence on a limited number of suppliers, challenges of technology, and “weaponisation of market dominance”, he asserted that the country’s goals and ambitions cannot be determined by “the goodwill of others”. The minister’s recorded video message was played on Thursday during the inaugural event of the 5th Asia Economic Dialogue, a three-day annual geo-economics conference organised jointly by the

Ministry of External Affairs and Pune International Centre. The theme of the conference this year is ‘Geo-economic challenges in the era of flux’. Jaishankar said the present geo-economic challenges fall in three categories — supply chain challenge, technology challenge, and the challenge of “over-concentration stemming from the nature of globalisation”. Whether it is finished products, intermediates or components, the world is dangerously dependent on a limited number of suppliers, he said. “Even as importers, the production centres have built their own sourcing chains. How to introduce greater resilience and reliability is central to de-risking the global economy. All of us need more

options and must work to create them,” he said. The technology challenge is growing by the day given our reliance on technology for more and more aspects of daily life, he said. “The digital era has given it altogether a different connotation because it is so intrusive. It is not just our interests that are at stake, but often the most personal of our decisions and choices. Such an era demands more trust and transparency, but in fact we are seeing the reverse where technology providers are concerned,” he said. “Over-concentrations” which stem from the nature of globalisation are heightened by unpredictability and opaqueness, the minister said. “We discovered this more sharply in the Covid times, but



from time to time we’re also reminded when market dominance is weaponised for the global South and this is

particularly serious given the extent of this dependence,” Jaishankar added. “We all know that this is

indeed the era of AI, EVs, chips, green and clean technologies. What we are confronting is no longer a

matter of comparative economic advantage, if it ever was. We are actually talking about the future of the global order,” he said, adding that there are no easy solutions to the challenges posed by this era. Only greater international cooperation can mitigate unilateral demands and “economic domination of technology assertions”, the minister said. For India, this means moving across broad front domains that contribute to comprehensive national power, and it requires a massive upgrade of our skills base which suggests an environment that promotes start-ups and talent, he said. “It will benefit from ease-to-do-business and modern infrastructure, but most of all it

demands robust manufacturing that alone can provide the foundation for technology development,” he added. “As the most populous country that will be the third largest economy very soon, our goals and ambitions cannot be determined by the goodwill of others. We must build deep national strengths during the ‘Amrit Kaal’ that will drive the transition towards becoming a developed economy and the leading power. This is the vision of the (Narendra) Modi government and our initiatives and programs of the last decade are aimed to this very end,” he said. The Modi government refers to the 25-year period culminating in the nation’s centenary of independence in 2047 as ‘Amrit Kaal’

Reconsider Indo, Myanmar border fencing plan: Nagaland to Centre



PTI ■ KOHIMA

The Nagaland Assembly on Friday adopted a resolution urging the Centre to reconsider its decision to fence the Indo-Myanmar border and scrap the Free Movement Regime (FMR) with the neighbouring country. The assembly also resolved to appeal to the central government to work out regulations for movement of people across the boundary in consultation with the people inhabiting the border areas, and for suitably bringing in the village council authorities concerned in the entire system of regulations.” The Centre earlier this month ended the FMR, which allows people residing close to the India-Myanmar border to venture 16 km into each other’s territory without visa. The 1643 km stretch of the Indo-Myanmar border is spread over four North Eastern states - Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland. The resolution stated that the Centre’s decision to suspend the FMR and fence the Indo-Myanmar boundary would disrupt the age-old historical, social, tribal, and economic ties of the Naga people living on both sides of the international border. It also said that the measures would cause immense inconvenience to the Naga people living in border areas as a number of people of Nagaland have agricultural land across the border. The resolution moved by Deputy Chief Minister Y Patton was adopted unanimously in the House.



Flood of development in Barak Valley if NDA retains power: Himanta

PTI ■ SILCHAR/ KARIMGANJ

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday pledged a “flood of development” for Barak Valley if BJP-led NDA retains power at the Centre. He appealed people to elect BJP candidates for the sake of development as he inaugurated and laid foundation for projects worth over Rs 2,000 crore for the three Barak Valley districts at different functions. “Today, projects worth over Rs 2,000 crore have come for Barak Valley. During Congress regime, they would declare special package of Rs 1,000 crore but no one knew where the money went,” Sarma said after the ‘bhumi puja’ of Karimganj Medical College. Referring to Congress legislators, particularly Karimganj North MLA Kamalakhya Dey Purkayastha who extended support to the BJP government, the CM said it is good for the people of the district that leaders have come together. “A lot of work is happening here now. But according to us, lot more needs to be done. If we don’t indulge in any other politics but only do politics of development and ensure victory of BJP candidates, development will be ensured,” Sarma said. More development can be done for Barak Valley if Narendra Modi becomes the prime minister for the third straight term, the BJP leader added.

“People have seen floods triggered by the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers. If a BJP MP is elected from here, they will see a flood of development,” he said. The CM also listed various development and welfare schemes being pursued by his government, and added that he was mooted expanding them to grant more benefits to the people. Providing 97,000 government jobs in a transparent manner, expanding Orunodoi scheme to 27 lakh women, new roads and 16 lakh new houses under PMAY are among the work done by his government since coming to power in May 2021, Sarma added. Earlier in the day, Sarma inaugurated a cancer care unit at Silchar Medical College and Hospital (SMCH) and claimed that the state’s cancer care model is being emulated across the country. “We have inaugurated the cancer care unit here today, which is part of the network of 17 hospitals in the state under a joint initiative of the state government and Tata Trusts,” he said. Three categories of cancer care units are being set up in government-run hospitals under the project, of which the one at SMCH is in category 2, which will provide patients with comprehensive care, Sarma said. “The lone category-1 facility, which will be the apex cancer care hospital, is being opened at Guwahati,” the chief minister said.

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu BJP President K Annamalai on Friday termed as ‘speculations’, him contesting the upcoming Lok Sabha polls but said he will abide by any decision the party takes. The former IPS officer said he had no “personal prejudice or any likes and dislikes in BJP”. “Whatever the party tells me I have to obey, that is the nature of the party. Today the party has asked me to complete the state level yatra (En Manna En Makkal) and we have just finished that,” he told reporters here. He said the BJP has “given me some responsibility” to ensure the growth of the party in the state and he was doing that. Apparently referring to the upcoming Lok Sabha contest, he said, “tomorrow morning if the party tells me, do that, I will do that.” “I am not going to respond to speculations. Whatever our

Will not respond to speculations: Annamalai on contesting LS poll

senior national leadership decides, my duty is to obey and make sure it is implemented on the ground,” the state BJP chief added. To a question on Udhayanidhi’s strident criticism of BJP, indicating it could hardly make any impact in the elections, Annamalai said the state minister is a “failed actor,” referring to the DMK leader’s cinema stint. Udhayanidhi was in politics “with his grandfather (the late M Karunanidhi) and father’s (MK Stalin) name...What social service has he done...Did he help the poor?” Annamalai asked. To a question on the TN BJP greeting Stalin in ‘Chinese’ on his birthday, Annamalai said he



did not find anything offensive about it. “On behalf of @bjptnmediacell, here’s wishing our Honourable CM Thiru @mkstalin avargal a happy birthday in his favourite language! May he live a long and healthy life!” it said, with an

image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP leaders including JP Nadda and Annamalai, besides that of the TN CM with some message in what seemed to be in Chinese. It appeared to an apparent dig at the recent controversy over a

‘China flag’ in a DMK advertisement issued in connection with an ISRO launch complex coming up in the state. Asked about this, Annamalai said DMK leader and MP “Kanimozhi said China is not an enemy country. So, what’s wrong in wishing our Chief Minister in Chinese. That is what our IT wing people have done. I don’t find anything offensive,” Annamalai added. At a rally in Tirunelveli on Wednesday, PM Modi strongly criticised the DMK for being ‘oblivious’ to the nation’s achievements in space sector, after the newspaper advertisement by a state minister on the spaceport kicked up a row over what the BJP claimed had a ‘Chinese flag’.

Sales tax official, 16 traders booked for ₹175 crore fraud

PTI ■ MUMBAI

A sales tax official and 16 others were booked in an alleged fraud that caused a loss of Rs 175.93 crore to the Maharashtra government, the Anti Corruption Bureau said on Friday. The alleged scam took place between August 2021 and March 2022 at the state Goods and Service Tax (GST) department building in Mazgaon, the official said. “Amit Giridhar Lalage (42), posted as sales tax officer at GST Bhavan with charge of Ghatkopar Zone, Nodal 11 at the time, allegedly conspired with 16 traders who created forged and fake rent agreements and obtained GST numbers,” he said. “These traders did not pay any kind of tax to the state in the form of GST, but submitted 39 applications to get Rs 175.93 crore as tax returns. Lalage deliberately did not verify these claims even though the GST portal showed they were dubious,” he added.

Himanta downplays threat by pro Khalistani leader

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday downplayed a purported threat by a pro-Khalistani leader, demanding shifting of radical outfit ‘Waris Punjab De’ (WPD) members, including its chief Amritpal Singh, from Dibrugarh central jail to Amritsar. Speaking to reporters, Sarma said, “Why should you be so afraid of Khalistanis? You seem to have been more frightened whereas the threat was for me.” The purported threat was issued by a person who identified himself as Gurpatwant Singh Pannu, head of an unlawful association called ‘Sikhs for Justice’, via recorded messages sent to journalists’ mobile phones. In the message, Sarma was asked to order the transfer of Amritpal Singh and his associates to Amritsar jail, warning of ‘consequences’ if he failed to comply.



It also said ‘Sikhs for Justice’ is filing a case in the United Nations against India. Ten members of the pro-Khalistani outfit, including Amritpal and one of his uncles, have been kept in Dibrugarh central jail since March last year under the National Security Act (NSA), following their arrest from various parts of Punjab as part of a crackdown on the outfit. Similar threats were made to the chief minister in April last year, leading to the state police launching an investigation into the matter. DGP GP Singh said a case had

been registered under appropriate sections of the IPC and the UAP Act at the Special Task Force (STF) police station. He also mentioned that the security arrangements for the CM had been heightened in response to the emerging threat. Last month, electronic devices, including a smartphone, were discovered in the cells of NSA detainees at Dibrugarh Central Jail. Though the DGP did not specify which detainees were involved, it is believed that the items were found in the cells of WPD members.



Another RJD MLA sits with ruling side in Bihar Assembly

PTI ■ PATNA

RJD MLA Bharat Bind on Friday sat with members of the ruling NDA inside the Bihar assembly, becoming the fifth legislator to have deserted the party in less than a month. Bind, who represents Bhabua in Kaimur district, reached the Vidhan Sabha premises in the post-lunch session with Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, who is also the state BJP president. He entered the House with Murari Gautam, a former minister who had turned his back on Congress a couple of days ago, and the two sat together. The development comes on the final day of the budget session when the House was through with legislative business and taking up private members’ bills. Earlier, RJD MLAs Chetan Anand, Neelam Devi and Prahlad Yadav had switched over to the ruling side, voting against party leader and the then Speaker Awadh Bihari Chaudhary in a no-confidence motion, and supporting the NDA in the trust vote. Besides, on Wednesday, RJD MLA Sangita Kumari, along with Murari Gautam and Siddharth Saurav of the Congress, were felicitated inside the premises by Samrat Choudhary, whom they followed into the assembly hall, and amid thumping of desks in approval by NDA members, they sat beside the ruling coalition MLAs. However, the two Congress MLAs’ disqualification has been sought by the party which has called them “traitors”. The RJD has also said it will approach the Speaker seeking disqualification of its turncoats while warning Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who heads the JD(U) and returned to the NDA only last month, that the BJP was now carrying out the proverbial “operation lotus” in Bihar.

NPP to field 30 candidates for Arunachal Assembly polls

PTI ■ ITANAGAR

The National People’s Party (NPP) will field 30 candidates for the upcoming assembly elections in Arunachal Pradesh, party’s state unit president Thangwang Wangham said here on Friday. He said the primary criteria for candidate selection would be their potential for winning. “The main criteria for issuing tickets will be winnability factor of candidates. We will support the BJP government in the state and our chief ministerial candidate will be Pema Khandu,” Wangham told PTI in an exclusive interview. The NPP, led by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, is an ally of the North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA) and extends support to the Khandu government. Wangham outlined the party’s focus on development, youth employment, healthcare, education, and combating the drug menace. He emphasized the goal of creating a drug-free society by raising awareness among addicts about the consequences of narcotics. “We will work for a drug-free society and will reach the addicts to make them aware of the ill effects of narcotics. Addicts should be given a second chance to lead a normal life,” he said adding, drugs are a major cause for illiteracy, unemployment, social restlessness and growth of insurgency, which are the socio-economic and political burdens for the state. Wangham, who was a three-time MLA



from Longding-Pumao constituency but lost the electoral battle in 2019, said his party would work to make society free from drug abuse. He added that the party would also work on productivity and industrial development which is lacking in the state. “Any state or society without productivity is a dumping ground for consumers. There are no central allocations to the industry sector in the state we are entirely dependent on central funds,” he said adding, efforts should be made to set up industrial units to attract central allocations. On February 25, two NPP legislators out of four in the 60-member assembly, along with two Congress MLAs, joined the BJP. Mutchu Mithi from Roing constituency and Gokar Basar from Basar constituency, both from NPP along with Congress MLAs Wanglin Lowangdong

representing Borduria-Bogapani seat and Ninong Ering from Pasighat West joined the saffron party. Responding to recent shifts in political alliances, where two NPP legislators joined the BJP, Wangham said such changes might be due to political dynamics in their constituencies and voter preferences. He asserted that the NPP’s alliance with the BJP through NEDA remains intact and unaffected by these developments. “Their joining BJP will have no impact as NPP has extended support to the BJP government in the state being an ally of the NEDA,” Wangham added. The ruling BJP in the state has 53 MLAs followed by Congress and NPP with two each. There are also three independent members. In the 2019 elections, the NPP had fielded 30 candidates, with five emerging victorious. However, one of its candidates, Tirong Aboh, was killed by suspected militants before the results were declared. Forty-five-year-old Aboh was travelling from Assam’s Dibrugarh to his constituency, when he along with ten others including his son, was killed at 12th Mile, 20km between Khonsa and Deomali road, by armed militants. Meanwhile, the party has released its election manifesto with major emphasis on people-centric political and administrative reforms, excellence in education system, better health policy, a robust agriculture and allied sector, new opportunities for unemployed youth among others.

Shinde announces implementation of revised NPS

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Friday announced implementation of a revised National Pension Scheme (NPS) for state government employees who joined service from November 1, 2005 onwards. Making a statement in both Houses of the Legislature, Shinde said, as per the decision, if employees opt for the revised pension scheme, they will get 50 per cent of their last salary as pension and dearness allowance, and 60 per cent of this amount as family pension and dearness allowance. The NPS is being implemented in the state from April 1, 2015. There are 13.45 lakh employees in the state and NPS is applicable to 8.27 lakh of them. The state government had set up a committee in March 2023 to make a comparative study of the old pension scheme and the NPS. The committee looked into means of providing sustainable financial relief for employees who joined service on and after November 1, 2005.

Former Sikkim Speaker assaulted, CM condemns

PTI ■ GANGTOK

Former speaker of Sikkim Assembly and senior Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) leader KN Rai and party spokesperson SK Timshina were assaulted by unidentified men in Namchi district on Friday afternoon, police said. Rai and Timshina were assaulted at Mazi Gaon, Melli, around 2.30 pm. Rai sustained facial injuries in the incident, they said. Soon after the incident, his party, the SDF, strongly condemned the attack and labelled it as a heinous crime and demanded the immediate arrest of the perpetrators. The party submitted a memorandum to the Election Commission, urging it to impose President’s Rule in the state to ensure free and fair Lok Sabha and assembly elections, which are expected to be held simultaneously. Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang said, “I strongly condemn the unpleasant and anti-social act of assault on former speaker Shri KN Rai in Malli, Namchi district today.” “Rai, a respected politician and senior citizen, should never have been subjected to such mis-



treatment,” the CM said and added that strong actions against the perpetrators will be initiated. “Our state thrives on peace and harmony, and such despicable acts will not be tolerated. I urge everyone to uphold peace, unity, and tranquillity, rejecting violence and strife,” Tamang added. CM’s political secretary Jacob Khaling, while expressing his solidarity with the senior leader, assured that action will be taken against all those who are involved. “Murderous assault on a senior leader be it in the ruling or opposition party is condemnable. Such politics of violence is not acceptable in any form,” he said in a Facebook post. BJP Sikkim president DR Thapa also condemned the attack on Rai and Timshina. “Such incidents have no place in a society aspiring for progress,” he said in a press statement.

Destination Uttarakhand: Leading the way



“Under the visionary leadership of Hon’ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are committed to the holistic development of our state, leveraging its natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, and immense potential. Through sustainable policies and strategic initiatives, we aim to foster economic growth, improve infrastructure, and enhance the quality of life for all our citizens. Our goal is to make Uttarakhand a model of progress, where tradition meets innovation, and every individual can thrive in a conducive environment for prosperity and well-being.”

-Pushkar Singh Dhami, Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

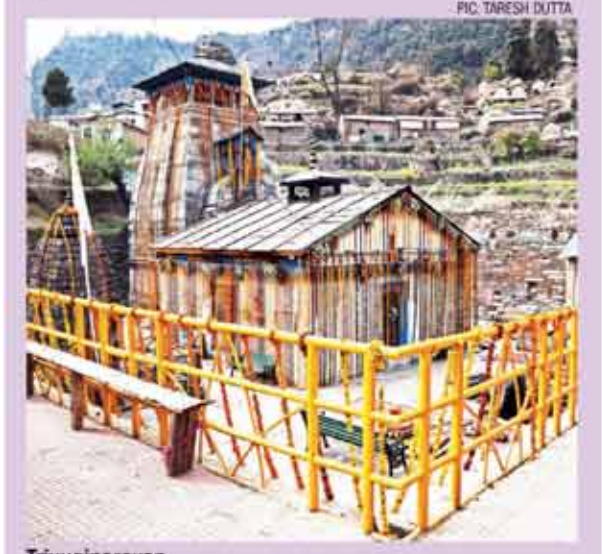
Uttarakhand shines as the ultimate wedding destination

Under the visionary guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Uttarakhand is poised to become the next premier destination for weddings worldwide

Uttarakhand, which lies amidst the magnificent Himalayas, is a northern state known for its spiritual importance, spectacular terrains, and rich cultural legacy. Also known as the land of gods – ‘Devbhoomi’, Uttarakhand has forever known as one of the most revered pilgrimage destinations for lakhs of devotees. The state has, however, seen a change in recent years, developing much more than a spiritual destination. In a recent development, Uttarakhand is on the path of emerging as the next best destination when it comes to the world of destination weddings. All thanks to the visionary guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The notion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make Uttarakhand the next best wedding destination reflects the views of numerous who acknowledge the state’s endless prospects. The Prime Minister encouraged the youth to embark upon the campaign ‘Wed in India’ at the inauguration of the Uttarakhand Global Investors Summit in Dehradun back in December 2023. During his address, he urged wealthy families to pick Uttarakhand as the destination for their celebrations.

The distinctive natural magnificence and myriad cultural tapestry depict the charm of Uttarakhand as the perfect wedding destination. From the serene lake of Nainital to the snow-capped mounts of Auli, each part of the state exhibits a feel of charisma and allure. Partners looking for a truly memorable experience can host their marital ceremonies amid the serene lake in Tehri, the beautiful hills of Mussoorie, or the age-old temples of Haridwar.



Triyuginarayan

What makes Uttarakhand a unique destination for weddings is not only its stunning places, but also its rich legacy and lively rituals. Weddings hosted in the state are not simply ceremonies but detailed experiences imbued with ancient traditions and rituals. From the spiritual atmosphere of Rishikesh to the holy flame at Triyuginarayan, every place presents a remarkable glimpse into the state’s cultural tapestry.

Furthermore, the notion of Prime Minister Modi stretches beyond the celebration of togetherness. He looks forward to strengthening the local economy and supporting the denizens of Uttarakhand by encouraging destination weddings in the state. The inflow of visitors and investment prospects will in turn help in generating employment, enriching infrastructure, and promoting overall development.

Some of the famous places in Uttarakhand to host destination weddings include Triyuginarayan, Rishikesh, Joshimath, Shantikunj Haridwar, Golden Temple, Chakrata, Harisi, Dehradun, Kanatal, Mussoorie, Auli, Tehri Lake, Ramnagar, Narendranagar, Brahmatal, Nainital, Almora, Rankhet, Bhimtal, Ramgarh, Mukteshwar, Ranigat, Naukuchiat, and Ghoralghat, among others.

The vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make Uttarakhand the best preference for destination weddings is a depiction of everything that makes this state remarkable. Uttarakhand is all set to evolve into a global leader in the tourism sector, as the state moves ahead towards emerging as one of the most favoured wedding destinations. Tourists, adventurers, and entrepreneurs are attracted to the state as it offers the best of yoga retreats, adventure sports, and cultural experiences.



PM Narendra Modi along with Pushkar Singh Dhami, CM, Uttarakhand, visiting Badrinath Dham

The picturesque northern state of Uttarakhand is well-known for its spiritual importance and stunning natural magnificence. Among the various destinations that attract devotees and visitors alike, Badrinath and Kedarnath stand out as emblems of devotion and serenity. At the vanguard of restoring these consecrated places and uplifting their prospect for spiritual tourism is Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose relentless dedication and commitment have prompted transformative tasks in Uttarakhand.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi shares a deep-rooted affinity with Uttarakhand, especially Badrinath and Kedarnath, and this is apparent through his multiple visits and visionary endeavours aimed at uplifting these venerated pilgrimage sites. The picturesque northern state of Uttarakhand is well-known for its spiritual importance and stunning natural magnificence. Among the various destinations that attract devotees and visitors alike, Badrinath and Kedarnath stand out as emblems of devotion and serenity. At the vanguard of restoring these consecrated places and uplifting their prospect for spiritual tourism is Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose relentless dedication and commitment have prompted transformative tasks in Uttarakhand.

The reconstruction measures, associated with PM Modi’s focus on maintaining its spiritual significance, have reformed Kedarnath to its previous glory, drawing pilgrims from across the world

The most important aspect of this vision of PM Narendra Modi is the complete reconstruction of Kedarnath Dham, an undertaking close to his heart since the beginning of his tenure as the Prime Minister. The wrecking floods of 2013 initiated a revitalised emphasis on revamping Kedarnath, with PM Modi spearheading measures to assure that the reconstruction showcases brilliance and divinity befitting its essence. From building the statue of Adi Guri Shankaracharya to observing the progress first-hand, PM Modi’s hands-on strategy highlights his dedication to maintaining the sanctity of Kedarnath.

Furthermore, strategic endeavours by PM Modi spread beyond Kedarnath to enclose the holistic growth of the

Prime Minister Narendra Modi shares a deep-rooted connection with Uttarakhand, especially Badrinath and Kedarnath, and this is apparent through his multiple visits and visionary endeavours aimed at uplifting these venerated pilgrimage sites

Boosting spiritual tourism in Uttarakhand through Badrinath and Kedarnath

ate and emotional association with Kedarnath, prominent in his genuine talk, echoes with devotees and strengthens the importance of these religious places.

The transformative effect of such enterprises by PM Modi grows beyond infrastructure growth, facilitating inclusive development and sustainable tourism methods in Uttarakhand. His focus on policy incentives and sectoral priority, especially on tourism and renewable power, has placed Uttarakhand as a beam of sustainable evolution. The advancement of the state in infrastructure expansion and its dedication to utilising natural resources have not only supported the economy, but also presented its prospects on the international level.

The unwavering faith of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Badrinath and Kedarnath has instigated a revival of spiritual tourism in Uttarakhand. By means of far-sighted endeavours and innovative interventions, PM Modi has restored these religious places, maintaining their sanctity while steering into a new period of prosperity and expansion.

“I extend my sincere congratulations to the Government of Uttarakhand for the incredible accomplishments achieved in recent years. This admirable progress stands as a testament to the sustained enactment of strategic approaches, with a sharp focus on paramount sectors such as tourism and renewable energy. It brings me happiness to see the significant improvements in infrastructure growth, establishing superior benchmarks for sustainable development.

Uttarakhand’s aggressive strategy towards harnessing its natural resources and boosting tourism not only strengthens its economy but also showcases its potential on the global level. I wholeheartedly admire the state’s relentless dedication to promoting inclusive expansion, and I eagerly foresee its persistent conquest in the years to come,” said Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Devotees throng Kedarnath Temple to seek divine blessings



Paragliding in Tehri

The northern state of India, Uttarakhand, is famous for its eclectic landscapes and a plenitude of exciting activities that cater to the most spirited hearts. Adventure and raw magnificence entwined within the heart of Uttarakhand to provide an exceptional experience to adventure aficionados from across the globe. Adventure junkies travel here to partake in numerous adventure sports and activities ranging from river rafting, trekking, hiking, and bungee jumping, among many more.

SKIING
Auli, situated in the Chamoli district, is known as a hub for skiing buffs. With its immaculate gradients decked in fine snow, adventure enthusiasts travel to Auli to carve their way through its winter wonderland. The majestic destination is also famous for hosting the National Winter Games, where athletes get a chance to exhibit their prowess.

RIVER RAFTING
The rivers in Uttarakhand offer more than simply a picturesque background; they offer an adrenaline-fueled playground for lovers of white water rafting. Visitors are sure to have a thrilling experience as they conquer the rapids through white water rafting or drift above the waters during a tranquil canoeing or kayaking excursion in the Ganges, Teesta, and Alaknanda rivers.

PARAGLIDING
Adventure lovers can take to the skies and enjoy the magnificence of Uttarakhand from a bird’s eye view through paragliding. Takeoff from panoramic locations in Nainital, Mukteshwar, or Pithoragarh and glide high above the splendid Himalayan terrains.

Apart from offering the exhilaration of adventure, Uttarakhand’s tourism sector has brought prosperity to local residents, providing job prospects and promoting the development of adventure tourism infrastructure.



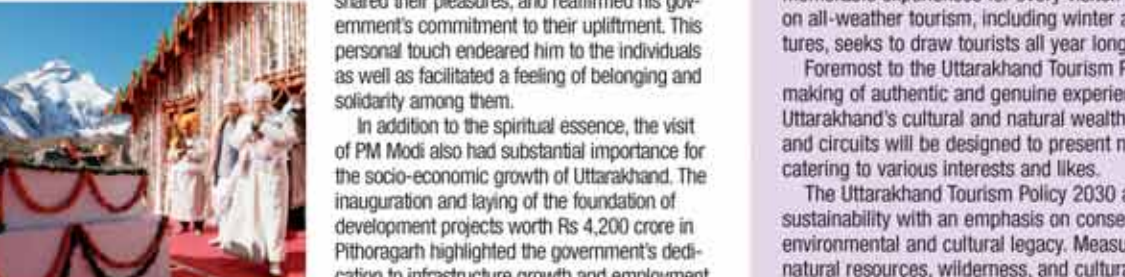
Trekking

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s journey included visits to religious sites like Parvati Kund and Adi Kailash Parvat, depicting the deep-rooted spiritual inheritance of the land and emphasising its possibility for expansion and tourism

PM Modi’s visit strengthens tourism and socio-economic growth in Uttarakhand

The visit of PM Narendra Modi to Pithoragarh district in October 2023 has memorialised an important landmark in the history of Uttarakhand, along with highlighting the cultural and spiritual richness of the state. The PM’s journey included visits to religious sites like Parvati Kund and Adi Kailash Parvat, depicting the deep-rooted spiritual inheritance of the land and emphasising its possibility for expansion and tourism.

PM Modi initiated his spiritual journey at Parvati Kund, a venerated pilgrimage place enrobed amid the scenic landscapes of Uttarakhand. Attired in traditional local dress, the Prime Minister engaged himself in the spiritual aura, offering devotees with utmost reverence. His participation in the traditions, including playing the power drum and conch shell, demonstrated his respect for the local customs and rituals, resounding with the beliefs



PM Narendra Modi meditating at Parvati Kund, district Pithoragarh, during his visit to Uttarakhand

dents, both at Parvati Kund and in the border village of Guri, echoed his compassion and his concerns for their welfare. Engaging with the locals, he listened to their grievances, shared their pleasures, and reaffirmed his government’s commitment to their upliftment. This personal touch endeared him to the individuals as well as facilitated a feeling of belonging and solidarity among them.

In addition to the spiritual essence, the visit of PM Modi also had substantial importance for the socio-economic growth of Uttarakhand. The inauguration and laying of the foundation of development projects worth Rs 4,200 crore in Pithoragarh highlighted the government’s dedication to infrastructure growth and employment generation in the region. These endeavours are aimed at boosting development, improving connectivity, and enhancing the quality of life for the citizens of Uttarakhand.

Moreover, the historic visit of Prime Minister Modi to Adi Kailash Parvat carries huge importance for the tourism sector of Uttarakhand. Being the first Indian Prime Minister to visit this sacred site, PM Modi has attracted awareness to the area’s untapped prospect as a tourist destination. His exploration of the local art, craft, and products, as well as his engagement with the Indo-Tibetan trade center in Guri village, has demonstrated the cultural multiplicity and commercial possibilities of Uttarakhand.



PM Narendra Modi along with Pushkar Singh Dhami, CM, Uttarakhand, during their visit to Jageshwar Dham Temple, a part of Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission

Rekindling religious splendour: Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission

The heart of ‘Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission’ lies in the dedication to reviving and restoring the essence of 48 mythological temples, with a special emphasis on 16 notable ones spread across various districts of Kumaon

Uttarakhand is abode to a number of ancient temples and sacred sites. These temples are spread across the Kumaon area and have served as a source of belief and faith for a long time, attracting believers from various parts of the world.

However, over the course of time, several of these religious places aren’t known to devotees as their magnificence is shadowed by disrepair and a dearth of connectivity. In a favourable turn of events, Pushkar Singh Dhami, CM, Uttarakhand, has acknowledged tremendous cultural and spiritual importance of these temples and has ventured on a visionary initiative known as the ‘Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission’, to restore and rejuvenate these architectural wonders across the state.

The core of this enterprising endeavour lies in the dedication to reviving and restoring the essence of 48



Baijnath, Garjiya Devi Temple, Gurudwara Nanakmatta Sahib, Jageshwar Dham Temple, Kasar Devi Temple

pilgrimage for visitors, enhanced road infrastructure will also make way for more significant economic prospects for the local residents living in these remote locations.

Integration of contemporary conveniences with traditional spirituality is paramount to the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission. This idea of CM Dhami expands beyond just infrastructure expansion; it contains the establishment of a facilitative atmosphere for devotees and visitors alike. The allotment of budgets for the expansion of encompassing locations and the provision of hospitality services highlights the government’s dedication to assuring an unforgettable and enriching experience for tourists.

In his goal of realising this notion, CM Dhami, during his meeting with PM Narendra Modi in January 2024, had requested support for the ongoing work of the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission. In the meeting, CM Dhami presented a detailed proposal summarising the purposes and essentials of the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission. This depicted his resolution to garner the required resources for a successful under-

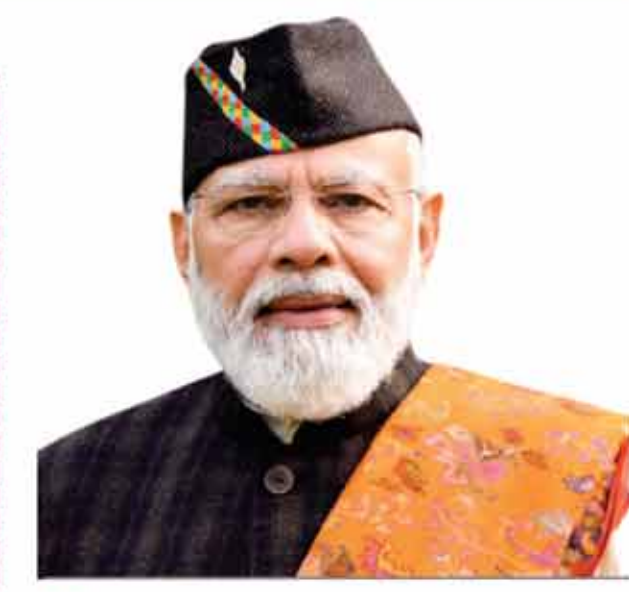


Bagnath Temple

taking of the mission, as well as highlight the urgency and importance of this initiative in boosting the economic and cultural landscape of Uttarakhand.

MANASKHAND EXPRESS

In a recent development that observes an important landmark in the completion of CM Dhami’s vision, the launch of the Manaskhand Express is nearing its scheduled date. Manaskhand Express is a special train service being launched under the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission that will connect Kalkata to Tanakpur. This upcoming long-route train is scheduled to begin operations on April 15 and will function as a robust connection between the temples of the Kumaon area and devotees from across the nation. The Manaskhand Express will be supported by local and regional transportation services and hospitality arrangements and represents the essence of inclusivity and accessibility that underpins the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission. Furthermore, the Uttarakhand government’s dedi-



“I congratulate the Uttarakhand government on the remarkable progress achieved in the last few years. This has been made possible by sustained policy push and focus on key sectors such as tourism and renewable energy. Alongside, the state has made significant strides in infrastructure development, setting new benchmarks for sustainable growth. Uttarakhand’s commitment to harnessing its natural resources and promoting tourism has not only bolstered its economy but also showcased its potential on the global stage. I applaud the state’s dedication to inclusive development and look forward to its continued success in the years ahead.”

-Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

cation to conserving the legacy and cultural heritage of the state is apparent in its measures to frame a Heritage Act for the preservation and advancement of historical sites and temples. By launching individual master plans for each of the 16 temples recognised under the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission, the government is laying the groundwork for their exhaustive revival. The confluence of different departments and divisions beneath a cooperative mission emphasises the collective exuberance pushing this transformative endeavour.

As the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission picks up speed, it bears the assurance of not just restoring religious sites but also reviving the socio-economic sector of the region. The conjunction of custom and modernity, spirituality, and infrastructure expansion, showcases the vision of CM Pushkar Singh Dhami for a resurgent Uttarakhand. By utilising the rich cultural legacy of the state and directing it into sustainable growth endeavours, the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission stands as an example of the ability of visionary leadership to shape the future of a country.

Scouring Uttarakhand’s untapped tourism potential: Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2030

With the introduction of the Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2030, the state sketches a transformative approach towards recognition at a global level as a diverse tourism hotspot while prioritising sustainable development and inclusive growth

Uttarakhand is famous among tourists for its abundance of natural wonders. Even today, the state holds an untapped potential ready to be utilised. With the introduction of the Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2030, the state sketches a transformative approach towards recognition at a global level as a myriad tourism hotspot while prioritising sustainable development and inclusive growth.

The main principle of the Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2030 lies in empowering all stakeholders within the tourism sector, assuring that each contributes to and benefits from Uttarakhand’s journey towards evolution. By means of a suitable framework, the policy seeks to facilitate goals and interests, promoting holistic expansion.

Apart from its traditional essence of a spiritual and wellness destination, Uttarakhand strives to present its multi-faceted allure. From heritage and nature tourism to wilderness adventures and wellness retreats, the state pledges memorable experiences for every visitor. Further, the focus on all-weather tourism, including winter and Alpine ventures, seeks to draw tourists all year long.

Foremost to the Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2030 is the making of authentic and genuine experiences, leveraging Uttarakhand’s cultural and natural wealth. Tourism clusters and circuits will be designed to present new destinations, catering to various interests and likes.

The Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2030 also prioritises sustainability with an emphasis on conserving the state’s environmental and cultural legacy. Measures to preserve natural resources, wilderness, and cultural assets are vital, assuring Uttarakhand stays unspoiled and inviting for future generations.

In line with the digital era, Uttarakhand seeks to fulfill growing visitor anticipations through technology integration. Online platforms will be operated for advertising bookings, and data dissemination, improving comfort and trust for visitors.

Private sector involvement is promoted, with the government encouraging ease of doing trade for hospitality and tourism undertakings. This combined strategy is anticipated to propel innovation and development.

The Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2030 also emphasises high-value tourism to minimise adverse effects on the environment and civilisation while spreading benefits to local neighborhoods. The Hub & Spoke model strives for balanced regional growth, improving infrastructure and

PM Modi’s ‘Vibrant Village Programme’ bolsters Uttarakhand’s rural economy

PM Modi’s enterprising ‘Vibrant Village Programme’ has arisen as a silver lining for the isolated border villages, marking a transformative period of comprehensive growth and economic upliftment

Spanning across 19 border regions, including Uttarakhand, the programme strives to revive 3,000 villages over a 10-year-long course. It bears an important goal of preventing migration by furnishing fundamental conveniences and promoting socio-economic sustainability, in the infancy stage of the program, 662 villages with a total population of 1,42,000 are being supported by means of an investment of Rs 4,800 crore.

Focus on infrastructure and connectivity growth is one of the key elements of the Vibrant Village

Programme. The allotment of Rs 2500 crore for building roadways and improving connectivity will give a boost to economic activities in various villages across the country where the geographical landscape constitutes steep difficulties. It will foster access to markets, and enhance the overall quality of life for locals.

Along with bolstering the nation’s financial stability, the programme also supports the importance of inclusive growth as a cornerstone of India’s advancement by prioritising the development of

With the launch of the Vibrant Village Programme, the border villages in Uttarakhand and as well as other states will benefit greatly, eventually steering in a fresh phase of endless possibilities for the state’s future while reflecting the spirit of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas.



Meenakshi Sadan Homestay based at Mussoorie under Uttarakhand Government scheme

CM Pushkar Singh Dhami at one of the homestays

Homestays in Uttarakhand have also been recognised by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. In the year 2022, Samauli Village in Pithoragarh district was awarded the Best Rural Homestay by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. Several initiatives such as the Goast Villages, Sendul, and homestays in the Kumaon region have also won accolades. The Government has realised that with increasing awareness about hygiene and the diverse food habits of travellers, it is essential that the homestays of Uttarakhand constantly upgrade themselves to provide the required services to tourists. Hence, in addition to developing homestay infrastructure, the Government is also providing training to the local youth in the management and upkeep of these Homestays through professional agencies.

The Government of Uttarakhand is poised to provide the necessary support to proliferate homestays in all districts of the state with a focus on providing alternative sources of employment to the villagers and preventing migration from the original place of dwelling. At present, there are more than 5,000 homestays registered with Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board. The department provides necessary support in terms of marketing and training to the homestay owners. The Government also provides financial support to Homestay owners through the Deen Dayal Upadhyay GRI-Awas (Homestay) Yojana, through which local residents get financial support in rehabilitating/renovating rooms to upgrade them for use by tourists.



PM Modi and CM Dhami with local people during their visit to Pithoragarh

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Boosting tourism in lesser-known Uttarakhand destinations

The combined initiative by UTDB and IRCCT seeks to highlight the lesser-known treasures of the state

The Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB) and Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) have come to a remarkable understanding to further enhance tourism in the picturesque state of Uttarakhand. This endeavour seeks to highlight the lesser-known treasures of the state, like Manaskhand, by launching special tourist trains from different regions of the country.

This special tourist train is intended to begin operations in April 2024 and will accommodate up to 500 tourists per journey in Second AC coaches, providing an easy-going travel experience. The tourists will benefit from the numerous extensive excursion packages which will have everything from onboard conveniences to lodging, transportation, and sightseeing, and will be meticulously handled by IRCTC. The endeavour by UTDB and IRCTC seeks to exhibit the vast cuisine of the state during travels, along with generating occupation prospects for residents by giving them an opportunity to work as guides.

Text: Tanya Dutta
CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE

A spot of good news

India's leopard population surges despite facing challenges from humans and Nature

Amid rising environmental and human-animal conflict challenges, India's leopard population has recorded an increase to reach the enviable count of 13,874. This rise underscores the resilience of these magnificent creatures and the success of conservation efforts in our country. Leopards in India inhabit diverse landscapes, from dense forests to even urban areas. However, this proximity to human settlements often leads to conflict as leopards venture into villages in search of food or territory, resulting in attacks on livestock and occasionally on humans. Such encounters pose a significant threat to both leopard populations and human communities. Climate change exacerbates these challenges by altering natural habitats and prey availability. Besides, forest fragmentation, loss of biodiversity and other changes contribute to the stress on leopard populations. Besides, poaching is a lucrative business and many influential people engage in it by employing locals while themselves remaining anonymous; they must



be identified and brought to book. Despite these adversities, the surge in India's leopard population can be attributed to various factors, including conservation initiatives and stricter wildlife protection laws. The Government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have been actively involved in habitat preservation, anti-poaching efforts and raising awareness among local communities about leopard conservation. Techniques such as camera trapping and satellite tracking provide valuable insights into leopard behaviour, habitat usage and population dynamics, aiding conservation strategies. Community-based conservation approaches have shown promising results. Engaging local communities in conservation efforts fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility in them. To ensure the continued growth of leopard populations, there is a need for concerted Government efforts. Though the rise in leopard population is welcome, it cannot be at the cost of human lives. Awareness campaigns must be launched in leopard-inhabited areas about their behaviour, conservation importance and conflict prevention strategies. Low-cost innovative ways can be employed so that human lives are not lost: In Sundarbans, for example, they wear masks at the back of their heads to dodge the Royal Bengal Tigers. Then there is an immediate need to strengthen habitat conservation efforts, including reforestation, establishment of wildlife corridors and curbing human encroachment into natural habitats. There is also a need to dispel the misconceptions that rural communities are hostile towards animals; they have been living with wild animals for centuries. Law enforcement agencies must rigorously enforce wildlife protection laws to combat poaching, illegal wildlife trade and habitat destruction. Collaborating with international organisations and neighbouring countries to address transboundary conservation issues will also help. We need a new wildlife policy that takes into account the prevailing conditions and balances human-animal interests.

PICTALK



Theyyam artistes perform at Chala Kadankottu Makkam Bhagavathi temple, in Kannur

PTI

Why do Indians do better abroad than in India?

The root cause of this paradox can be attributed to the lamentable state of public education in the country

Regarding global achievements, Indians have left an indelible mark across diverse fields, from technology and entrepreneurship to academia and healthcare. Yet, an intriguing paradox persists – why do Indians often find unparalleled success on foreign lands but encounter unique challenges within their homeland? This thought-provoking question demands immediate attention and the exploration of the multifaceted challenges. Why do Indian minds shine bright internationally, but systemic deficiencies mar the domestic educational landscape? Well, there lies a critical anomaly – the failure to replicate this success on home soil is primarily due to the state of public education. The EW story "Why Indians Succeed Everywhere Except in India" adeptly dissects the paradox of Indian success on the global stage against a backdrop of domestic struggles, attributing this paradox to the unfortunate state of public education, which is accurate.

Education and Governance: Thought leaders underscore the symbiotic relationship



between the quality of education and the overarching progress of the nation. Recognizing education as a catalyst for effective governance and economic prosperity, it is crucial to position education at the forefront of national development strategies. **The Crisis in Primary and Secondary Education** One cannot help but ponder the intricacies of the connection between education and our nation's destiny. If education is the bedrock upon which a society is built, then what does the current state of our primary and secondary education system is a sad reflection of the systemic challenges faced by graduates and the subsequent migration of talent abroad. **The Brain Drain Dilemma:** While we proudly export our talent to foreign shores, the

It's not just about rote learning or lack of infrastructure; it's a systemic failure that threatens the very foundation of our future. Yet, as we traverse the proposed solutions and underlying assumptions, a more discerning response is required to navigate the intricacies with utmost scrutiny. **Higher Education: A Crisis of Quality** You throw that graduation cap in the air, but does it open doors to a world of opportunities? India is tackling the woes of higher education – the mismatch between degrees and employability. What's the deal with most engineering, arts, science, and commerce graduates being deemed unemployable? It's time to question the very essence of what higher education institutions are delivering and whether they're preparing graduates for the dynamic job market. The portrayal of India's higher education system is a sad reflection of the systemic challenges faced by graduates and the subsequent migration of talent abroad. **The Brain Drain Dilemma:** While we proudly export our talent to foreign shores, the

numbers reveal a disconcerting truth – a drain on our intellectual capital that could have been harnessed for national growth. Is it a necessary sacrifice or a symptom of deeper issues within our educational framework? A thought-provoking analysis probes the migration patterns of Indian graduates and school leavers to foreign shores, challenging the conventional narrative of brain drain. Balancing the discourse on brain drain by acknowledging the positive impact of the diaspora would bring a more nuanced perspective to the debate. **A Vision for Change: A Unified Call to Action** The portrayal of the emigration of skilled individuals as a loss for India is correct. While the emigration of skilled individuals is sometimes portrayed as a positive development, the reality is that India loses out on valuable talent. India needs a detailed program to reverse this trend, attract exceptional scientists and researchers back home, and invest more in R&D. *(The writer is an educator; views are personal)*



RADHIKA SHRIVASTAVA

lamentable state

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Indian diplomacy: Leveraging soft power

India is strategically positioning itself on the global stage, leveraging soft power elements to deepen diplomatic ties and foster regional stability

In today's geopolitical landscape, the traditional metrics of national power are transforming. Policymakers and diplomats are increasingly recognizing the importance of soft power elements in shaping international relations, shifting their focus from sheer military might to cultural influence and moral authority. India, in particular, has adeptly utilized its cultural assets to assert itself on the global stage. Religion plays a crucial role in shaping politics. As Niall Ferguson has said, "Faith, then, is perhaps as important a component of power as material resources... Faith cannot move mountains. But it can move people." A recent exemplification of India's strategic cultural diplomacy was witnessed in the inauguration of the first Hindu temple in the UAE, presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It marked a significant milestone in bilateral relations between the two countries. With the inauguration ceremony of the Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan (BAPS) Mandir, India is set to deepen bilateral ties with the UAE while also having proactive engagement within the region. This event demonstrates a diplomatic approach that, while rooted in faith, culture, and religion, aims to foster cooperation across a spectrum of critical areas, including security, energy, maritime affairs, and infrastructure. The discussions held during the visit focused on enhancing cooperation in various fields, including trade, investment, and security. This isn't the only instance that indicates the changing diplomacy of India with the Gulf. In a triumph for India's diplomatic endeavours, Qatar released eight Indian nationals who had been detained since 2022. The release came after extensive diplomatic efforts by the Indian government, highlighting the effectiveness of India's diplomatic channels in securing the freedom of its citizens abroad. Through meticulous negotiation and strategic dialogue, our government has once again proven its dedication to protecting the interests of



every Indian, no matter where they may be in the world. India's historical and close relations with Qatar were also reiterated by Prime Minister Modi ahead of his visit to Doha. The strong bonds of diplomatic engagement have aided in fostering mutually beneficial partnerships and enhancing regional stability. These diplomacy initiatives by Narendra Modi are not only events to establish closer ties with the Gulf leaders but also strategic plans to accelerate the economic growth of India. India, with long-term economic cooperation with the Middle East, can leverage the Gulf's capital potential while aiding them with defence cooperation. India's cultural diplomacy extends beyond the realm of Hinduism, as evidenced by the Buddhist Circuit, aimed at revitalizing Buddhist heritage sites and boosting tourism in the region. This pilgrimage circuit, introduced under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, covers the four major sacred places according to Buddhist traditions, namely Bodhi Gaya, Sarnath, Kushinagar, and Lumbini. It is one of India's first transnational tourist circuits. Beginning from the place of birth of Buddha, Lumbini in Nepal, it serves as an initiative of Buddhist Diplomacy (strengthening a nation's soft

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI HAS STRATEGICALLY LEVERAGED BUDDHIST HERITAGE AS CULTURAL ASSETS TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH ASIAN COUNTRIES

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POLITICAL POACHING

Sir — The editorial, 'Himachal crisis' (29-2-24) carries the sentiments of everyone. Of course, this is not the first time the country has witnessed such shabby scenes of one party poaching the elected representatives and the elected representatives belying the mandate of the voters to satisfy their thirst for power and purse. These repeated happenings are nothing but a mockery of democracy. Legislative bodies being converted into a mere market to buy and sell lawmakers project a very shabby image of the democracy being practised in the country. The party engaged in poaching and those who offer themselves to be sold for power or purse also should have some respect for the mandate of the people. If this trend continues the country is likely to fall into the hands of dictators yielding to the concept of 'Might is Right' and the Might will be decided by Money power. It is time to bring legislation to stop elected representatives from crossing the floor just like that for some benefit or the other. If they want to shift their loyalty they should resign their post and contest again to get re-elected. Similarly, the role of money in the election process should also be curtailed to keep democracy alive. Voters should be educated to boycott both the poachers as well as the prey. Leaders speaking about the fight against corruption are being laughed at as nothing else could be more blatant corruption than poaching and yielding. India needs electoral reforms to address these basic issues.

AG Rajmohan | Anantapur

TAMIL NADU'S CONTROVERSIAL AD

Sir — It is a matter of shame and eyebrow-raising to see the Tamil Nadu Government display an advertisement for the new Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam featuring a rocket with the flag of China. When the mat-

Mission Gaganyaan



PM Modi has announced the selection of four astronauts for the Gaganyaan mission, marking a historic moment as they will be the first Indians to travel to space in an indigenous space vehicle. These astronauts were chosen and selected for the mission four years ago and have undergone extensive training in Russia. Currently, the training programme is underway at the ISRO training centre in India. Before the astronauts set foot in the crew capsule, a humanoid named Vyommitra will be launched on Gaganyaan to ensure safety.

The crew members will be on a three-day mission, reaching a 400km orbit. This achievement serves as an inspiration and aspiration for all 140 crores Indians. The mission not only aims to send four astronauts into space but also to instil pride in every Indian. It represents India's capabilities in human spaceflight, technological development, and scientific advancement, and lays the groundwork for future missions. As Indians, we are expecting further scientific developments in the days to come.

Preetiyukta Mohakud | Bhubaneswar

ter turned controversial the ruling party and its bigwigs came out with excuses and explanations. Is it not the responsibility of the government and its concerned department that came out with this advertisement to scrutinise it before publishing it? The Prime Minister on a visit to this region of the state has lambasted that the ruling party has insulted Indian scientists and the space sector, giving impetus to the BJP to lampoon the state government.

M Pradyu | Kannur

THE SUCCESS OF SAGAR MANTHAN

Sir — The tactfulness of our Indian Security agencies is so impressive in terms of their activeness for their stringent actions, especially for seizing the Nacro products from the Arabian Sea. This time, it was codenamed as 'Sagarmanthan-1'. It is a point of con-

cern as well as appreciation on both nodes. Appreciation because, our Navy is actively vigilant in addressing these concerns, at the same time concerning because India is pumped with such contraband of 3,132 kg which costs around Rs. 2000 crores, as per international market valuation, which is huge and applaudable. We must cherish the alertness of the trio the Gujrat Police, NCB and the Indian Navy. But this very incident raised eyebrows that still in the eye of Narco Dealers and smugglers, the route of the Arabian Sea is fragile and easy to breach. We must not forget the incident of 26/11. Strengthening the eastern and western coast of India is the utmost responsibility of our Naval forces.


Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

CHERISH THE INSTRUCTIONS OF GOD

The verses of the Bhagavad Gita offer profound insights into life's purpose



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Let me start with verse # 3.8 of the Bhagavad Gita, which is, "You should always do your duty. Because action is superior to inaction. Maintenance of the body will also not be possible through inaction." We all know what our duties are according to time, place and circumstances. We also know that neglecting our duties impacts our maintenance. For example, a student does not pay attention to his studies. What happens subsequently? He finds it hard to maintain himself. For whose benefit was this verse spoken? Let me take another verse, which is very famous. I am referring to verse #2.47, which goes like this, "You have a right only in action, not ever in predetermining fruits. You should not speculate about the fruit of action; your attachment to inaction also should not be there." For whose benefit was this verse spoken? Do we have any other right except to do our duties? And we must not neglect to do them. As regards the results of our actions, the right to decide them has been kept by God with Himself. The third verse chosen by me is very telling, in which Lord Krishna promises, "People who worship Me with undivided attention, meditating on Me, for these regular practitioners of yoga, I help in getting what one does not have and provide security of what one has." Verse after verse the Lord is cajoling us to do what will fulfil all our desires, which are according to dharma. God couldn't be a party to anything against dharma. Could He? The fourth verse in this connection is: "Where there is yogeshwara Shri Krishna and where there is Arjuna (meaning us), there will be opulence, victory, wealth and morality." (18.78) What are our desires generally? That we should succeed in our endeavours. We would if we were aiming for what is according to morality, i.e. dharma. The same is about



wealth. Don't we need enough resources for our maintenance? Not only wealth, there will be 'saubhagya' (good fortune). Who benefits from all these? We do; God doesn't because He is complete in all respects. (3.22) The next verse is about gaining peace and a perfect destination. Lord Krishna instructs, 'In all respects, take My shelter only. By My mercy, you will achieve supreme peace and the eternal abode.' What is it that we lack after gaining material needs, comforts, etc.? It is peace, which is what God is promising. Not only that, God is also assuring eternal abode, which is free from the defects of this material world. How nice it will be to not be subjected to repeated birth and death? God is prepared to grant this also. God is always wanting to give. He has so much to give if we become deserving. Isn't that fair? How do we become deserving? Lord Krishna describes, 'Develop My consciousness; become My devotee; make sacrifices for Me; and offer obeisance to Me.' (18.65) One may feel that all these activities relate to God. Yes, they do but do they benefit Him? No, far from it; they only purify our existence. And God had to set some conditions to qualify for His special favour. How else was He to reward anyone? Just focus on how easy they are to do. I will take up one more verse, which is, 'Having My consciousness, you will cross all impediments by My grace.' (18.58) This is quite an amazing offer from God. Aren't we all struggling with one problem or another throughout our lives? We do, but our ego comes in the way. We are not prepared to accept that somebody can be superior to us and to such an extent that we have to take His shelter and His alone. (18.66) We would rather suffer but won't do as instructed by God. Do we realise that our acts will benefit the world if we obey God's instructions? We will become better persons by following dharma – the rules for proper behaviour. We will fit in the System created by God, which is required for the creation to exist eternally. (The writer is a spiritual teacher, views are personal)

MSP methodology and farmer demands



UTTAM GUPTA

Questions arise about the rationale and implications of adopting Dr Swaminathan's proposed methodology for MSP calculation



Co-terminus with the legal guarantee for Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all crops, another demand raised by the farmers relates to how the MSP is fixed. They want it to be calculated based on the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers (NCF) under Dr MS Swaminathan (2006). All along, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) - a statutory body under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare - has been setting MSP at the level of the so-called comprehensive cost or C2 cost. C2 is arrived at by adding three components viz. A2 covers all paid-out expenses, both in cash and in kind, incurred by farmers on seeds, fertilizers, chemicals, hired labour, fuel and irrigation; FL is the imputed value of unpaid family labour; and rental value of owned land and imputed cost that would be incurred on owned fixed capital assets (OFCA), call it to return on assets or RoA. Put simply, MSP is equal to A2 + FL + RoA. It takes care of all the costs incurred by the farmer for growing the crop - both paid out and own - besides including an element of profit i.e. RoA. That is why it is bandied as 'comprehensive'. The formula was used for determining MSP till FY 2017-18. The Government normally accepts recommendations made by CACP. In its fifth report submitted in October 2006, the NCF recommended that MSP should be "at least 50 per cent more than the weighted average cost of production". The recommendation did not specifically mention what 'measure of costs' would be used. However, Dr Swaminathan clarified: "When we recommended 50 per cent over costs, we meant complete costs called C2, which includes all assumed costs". Can the clarification given by him many years after the report was finalized and submitted be taken to mean that the Commission had meant it that way? A recommendation emerges from deliberations and is based on consensus among



IN ITS FIFTH REPORT SUBMITTED IN OCTOBER 2006, THE NCF RECOMMENDED THAT MSP SHOULD BE 'AT LEAST 50 PER CENT MORE THAN THE WEIGHTED AVERAGE COST OF PRODUCTION.' THE RECOMMENDATION DID NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION WHAT 'MEASURE OF COSTS' WOULD BE USED

members. This also applies to a clarification given on an important aspect of the recommendation. That would not have been possible as you can't expect Dr Swaminathan to go back to other members and check. The big question is: Is giving the farmer at least 50 per cent more than the 'C2' costs logical? The purported rationale for giving 50 per cent extra is that she should get a handsome profit after covering all paid-out costs. Profit as it is understood in business parlance is essentially meant to give a return to the owner for her invested capital. In the case of a farmer, her investment in crop growing business is by way of 'land' and 'OFCA' besides her labour. But, remuneration/return for all these is already incorporated under C2. To give a further sweetener (read: 50 per cent profit) over and above these would be illogical. Let us understand this with the help of an example. In the case of paddy, the all-India weighted average A2 cost for the 2017-18 Kharif season, as estimated by the CACP, was Rs 840 per quintal; A2+FL cost: Rs 1,117 per quintal and C2 costs: Rs 1,484 per quintal. In the total cost of Rs 1,484 per quintal, the amount going towards the farmer's income was Rs 644 per quintal (1484-840). Of this, Rs 277 per quintal (1117-840) was for FL and Rs 367 per quintal (1484-1117) for RoA. If one were to go by NCF recommendation as clarified by Dr Swaminathan, the farmer would have to be given Rs 742 per quintal (0.5x1,484) in addition to an income of Rs 644 per quintal already built into C2 thus taking the total to Rs 1386 for each quintal of paddy. This translates to 93 per cent of C2 costs. Taken as a proportion of the revised MSP of Rs 2226 per quintal, this will be 62

per cent. Where does one get such a fantastic return? This is happening because the farmer is being remunerated twice over first under C2 and then a further profit of 50 percent. Furthermore, the way profit is calculated '50 per cent of C2; you end up giving a 'return on return': RoA component under C2 being Rs 367 per quintal, she gets a fortuitous gain of Rs 183.5 (0.5x367). Unequivocally, there is a flaw in the above method. Either, the government should continue with the extant method of using C2 for fixing MSP. On the other hand, if it wants to go for 50 per cent profit, then this should be applied only to the paid-out costs namely A2. In other words, MSP should be set at A2+FL plus 50 per cent of A2. On this basis, in the above example, the MSP would be Rs 1537 per quintal (1117+0.5x840). What did the Modi - government do? In its poll manifesto for 2014, the BJP had promised to implement NCF recommendations on MSP. The announcement in this regard was made by the then Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in his Budget speech for FY 2018-19. Later, while replying to a debate in Parliament, Jaitley clarified that 'the production cost would be taken as actual paid A2 plus FL'. In other words, it decided to set MSP at A2+FL plus 50 per cent of A2+FL; it comes to Rs 1675 per quintal (1117x1.5). The formula adopted by the incumbent government also suffers from a flaw to the extent that 'it also adds return on the imputed cost of family labor' which is unjustified. Have received wage/income for the work done on the field, how can a farmer also earn a profit on it? In the above example, this fortuitous amount is Rs 138 per quintal (277x0.5).

Moreover, the very approach of the Dr Swaminathan committee of arriving at a profit by taking a percentage of the cost is susceptible to sharp increases in payments to farmers. With every rupee increase in the cost, farmers' profit will increase by 0.5 rupees. At present, most of the agricultural inputs are subsidized. On fertilizers, there is a massive subsidy (urea is sold at about 1/10th of its cost). If the subsidy is slashed leading to a steep rise in the cost of fertilizers, the formula will give an unwarranted bonanza to the farmers by a corresponding increase in profit. At a fundamental level, profit is meant to reward an entity for the capital invested in any enterprise. This is precisely what was being done before the FY 2018-19. That formula (read: C2 for fixing the MSP) ought to have been continued. The MSP setting exercise suffers from another aberration. The cost of producing a crop varies from place to place depending on the soil conditions, weather, irrigation, price of inputs and so on. However, to arrive at MSP, the CACP takes the 'weighted average' (WA) cost of production. When the price determined in this manner is given to all farmers, those producing at a higher cost stand to lose whereas others with lower cost make a fortuitous gain. Today, the government is trapped in the vicious cycle of having to procure farmers' produce at ever-increasing MSP, now under pressure to pick up 'all of it' at MSP which can denude the exchequer. This, in turn, is because it is trying to substitute the role of the market. It should disentangle from this trap and focus on agri-market reforms which alone can help farmers get a good price. (The writer is a policy analyst, views are personal)

Delhi's floral splendour: A tale of tulips and traditions

The Delhi Tulip Festival stands as a testament to resilience, beauty and the enduring spirit of life's eternal dance

Nestled within the heart of New Delhi's diplomatic enclave of Chanakyapuri, Shanti Path emerges as a mesmerizing canvas painted with vibrant hues, adorned by a tapestry of tulips in an array of colors - red, white, pink, yellow, and purple. The 'Delhi Tulip Festival', now in its second consecutive year, came to a close on February 21, 2024, having commenced on February 10. Visitors, drawn from distant lands, stood in awe at the spectacle of nature's grandeur, echoing the immortal verses of poets like P. B. Shelley and John Keats. As the festival unfolded, the city's roundabouts and parks, maintained by the New Delhi Municipal Council and the Delhi Development Authority,



RAJDEEP PATHAK

bloomed with the arrival of Spring, welcoming all with renewed grandeur. But what is the story behind these tulips? Originating centuries ago in the ancient lands of Persia, tulips held significance as symbols of love and prosperity. Their journey along the silk routes carried tales of exotic lands and distant horizons, captivating hearts from Istanbul to Amsterdam. It was

in the fields of the Netherlands during the Dutch Golden Age that tulips blossomed into a cultural icon. Despite uncertainty surrounding its introduction to Western Europe, the efforts of individuals like Botanist Carolus Clusius in the late 16th century popularized tulips, leading to the famous 'tulip mania' of the 17th century. By the 19th and 20th centuries, tulip cultivation flourished in the Netherlands, solidifying its position as the world's leading producer. The association between tulips and the Netherlands was further immortalized with the iconic song 'Tulips from Amsterdam' in the 1950s. Intriguingly, it was through diplomatic channels that tulips found their way into the gardens of New Delhi.



Indo-Dutch relations provided fertile ground for this botanical ambassador to take root, inspired by festivals like the 'Amsterdam Tulip Festival' and Srinagar's Tulip Garden. Imported from the Netherlands, these tulips have been lovingly nurtured by skilled gardeners trained by the NDMC's horticulture department.

As the sun casts its golden rays upon the city, tulips burst into bloom, transforming every corner into a canvas of nature's masterpiece. From the picturesque avenues of Shanti Path to the vibrant Tulip Festival Garden, each location becomes a testament to the enduring cycle of life and beauty. Engaging citizens through various competitions

and events, the festival fosters a deeper connection to nature's rhythms and the bonds of community. Sh. Amit Yadav, the NDMC Chairman, revealed that seven types of tulips were planted, with three lakh bulbs sourced from the Netherlands and an additional 40,000 bulbs donated by the Dutch Embassy. From early to late bloomers, each tulip whispers tales of resilience and renewal. This festival not only celebrates beauty but also underscores the importance of stewarding and protecting nature for future generations. The Delhi Tulip Festival epitomizes the fusion of urban elegance and ecological consciousness, enchanting visitors and serving as a beacon for sustainable tourism. Beyond

its aesthetic charm, it stands as a testament to the power of beauty and art in fostering global connections and enhancing a city's allure. As visitors from around the world gather to admire the kaleidoscopic beauty of tulips, the festival becomes a celebration of global heritage, transcending cultural barriers and fostering understanding and appreciation among people of diverse backgrounds. In more ways than one, the festival symbolises the resilience and endurance of nature, standing tall amidst the chaos of urban life. As the curtains draw to a close on the Tulip Festival, the flowers continue to adorn the cityscape with their vibrant hues. Amidst the bustling rhythm of urban life, the tulip

stands as a silent sentinel of hope, its petals a testament to the enduring spirit of life's eternal dance. Today, the tulip serves as a symbol of resilience and endurance, having traversed oceans and centuries to become a cherished emblem of beauty worldwide. While the curtains have been drawn on the Tulip Festival, the flowers continue to stand tall, adorning the cityscape with their vibrant hues. This festival is more than just a local event; it's a part of global heritage, a celebration where visitors from around the world gather to admire the kaleidoscopic beauty of colors spanning far and wide. (The writer is programme executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Sansthan, views are personal)

KAPIL BACKS BCCI STRICTNESS ON DOMESTIC CRICKET

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A few players will suffer, but let it be,” said legendary former India captain Kapil Dev on Friday as he backed the BCCI’s decision to terminate central contracts for lack of commitment to domestic cricket, calling it a much-needed step to protect marquee first-class events like the Ranji Trophy.

Ishan Kishan and Shreyas Iyer were on Wednesday excluded from the BCCI’s central contracts after ignoring the board’s diktat to play in the Ranji Trophy. The decision evoked mixed reactions with some former players like Kirti Azad and Irfan Pathan backing the out-of-favour duo.

Kapil refrained from taking names but said the BCCI’s decision to assert the importance of domestic cricket was long overdue.

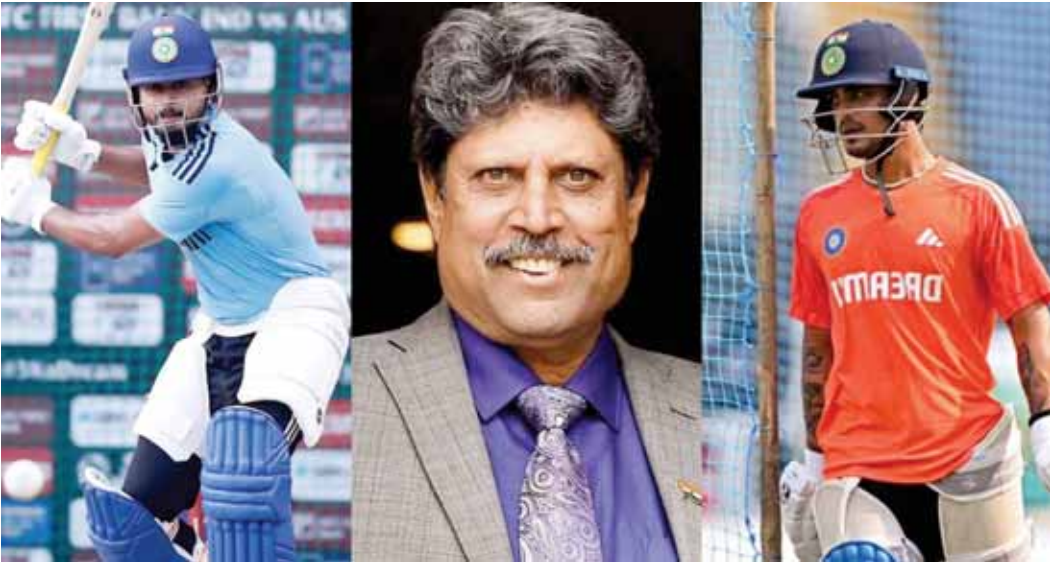
“Yes, few players will suffer, much

logon ko taqleef hogi, hone do lekin desh se badhkar koi nahi hai (some people will feel hurt but let it be because nobody is bigger than the country). Well done,” he said.

“I congratulate the BCCI for taking the much needed step to protect the status of domestic cricket. I was sad to see domestic cricket being given the skip by players once they had established themselves in international cricket,” the captain of the 1983 World Cup-winning side observed in his statement.

The BCCI, while announcing the central contracts, urged the players to give due importance to domestic competitions.

The 25-year-old Kishan did not turn up for Jharkhand throughout the team’s campaign in Ranji Trophy despite not being on national duty after leaving the tour of South Africa in December citing personal reasons. He instead focussed on preparing for the IPL



next month for his franchise Mumbai Indians. Iyer, on the other hand, did not make himself available for Mumbai’s Ranji quarterfinal against Baroda after being excluded

from the Indian team after the second Test against England. He, however, has been picked for Mumbai’s Ranji semifinal against Tamil Nadu starting March 2.

“It was high time the message was given and this strong step by the BCCI will go a long way in restoring the prestige of domestic cricket,” he added.

Kapil asserted that it was the duty of established stars to play domestic cricket as they owe their success to their respective states.

“I have always believed in the process of international players making themselves available to play for their respective states. It helps them extend their support to domestic players. Also it is a nice way to pay back for the services rendered by the state association in grooming a player,” he said.

Kapil also expressed his gratitude to the BCCI for enhancing the pension of former cricketers, saying

it has come as a major relief to families of several yesteryear players.

In 2022, the board had announced a hike in the monthly pensions of former cricketers — both men and women.

Former first-class men’s cricketers, who earlier got Rs 15,000 per month are now getting Rs 30,000, while former Test players, who got Rs 37,500, are now getting Rs 60,000.

Women international players, who received Rs 30,000 prior to the revision are now receiving Rs 52,500, while first-class cricketers who retired before 2003 and were getting Rs 22,500 are now getting Rs 45,000.

“I am also happy that the BCCI has increased the pension amount of the players. This was a much needed boost to those whose family depends on the pension received,” added Kapil.

We are thrilled to have Shreyas in team for Ranji semifinal: Rahane

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai captain Ajinkya Rahane on Friday backed Shreyas Iyer to put the contractual turmoil behind him and deliver a punchy performance for the team in the Ranji Trophy semifinal against Tamil Nadu, beginning here on Saturday.

Shreyas along with Jharkhand’s Ishan Kishan were not considered for the annual central contracts after both the players skipped the Ranji matches of their respective teams in violation of BCCI’s diktat.

Shreyas sat out of Mumbai’s quarterfinal against Baroda here while complaining of back pain.

“He’s an experienced player. His contribution has been amazing whenever he turned up for Mumbai. We are thrilled to have him in our team for the semifinal,” Rahane told the media here at the BKC Ground.

Rahane said Shreyas would not require any extra motivation to do well for Mumbai against TN.

“I don’t think he needs any encouragement or advice. He has always contributed with the bat for Mumbai, and him being around other players in the dressing room will also help the team’s cause,” said Rahane.

However, Rahane himself is waging a personal battle after scoring just 115 runs from six matches at an average of 12.77 with a lone fifty.

But the 35-year-old did not read much into those anaemic numbers.

“It’s just a phase and you have to respect it (not scoring runs). When you’re batting well and scoring runs, it happens consistently. There’s nothing wrong with my batting. I just have to remain positive and back my game and instinct,” he said.

Rahane said he needed to bat freely to get back into his run-



scoring ways. “I just have to go out there and play freely. I feel as a player you have to be confident and respect a phase, move forward and learn whatever you can. You don’t want to go too far ahead,” he added.

Rahane confirmed that opener Prithvi Shaw has recovered from a finger injury which had forced him to bat in the middle-order during the quarterfinal.

“His finger was hurt, that’s why he came down the order. We wanted him to go before Musheer (Khan). But obviously, because of the injection’s effect, he had to go after him,” Rahane said.

Rahane hoped that Shaw, who has made 389 runs from four matches at an average of 64.83, would find his A game against Tamil Nadu.

“Prithvi is really aggressive and he gets those runs very quickly. As a batsman, I don’t think he (has) changed much. He’s hungry to score runs. That’s what we want from Prithvi. We don’t want him to change his game,” Rahane said.

He said Mumbai will adopt a pressure-free approach in this game.

“We are playing really well. We don’t want to think about the quarterfinal, semifinal or final. It is just another game for us. If we can do that and be in the moment as a team and individuals, it will help us,” Rahane noted.

Rahane was obviously pleased with the hundreds Tanush Kotian and Tushar Deshpande, the No 10 and 11, made in the last outing and said such efforts will add a lot of meat to the whole batting unit.

“Everyone is working really hard, especially the bowlers, with their batting. I think when No. 8, 9, 10, 11, contribute with the bat, it becomes really crucial for the team.

Those guys have worked really hard throughout the season on their batting, you know, those extra 15-20 minutes after they bowl (at nets). It’s paying off.”

Rahane said Kotian has the potential to become an all-rounder.

“I’m happy for Tanush because earlier he has made those crucial 70s, 80s and 90s. But I think the hundred he got is a benchmark (for him). He has the calibre to become a good all-rounder,” Rahane signed off.

PTI ■ LONDON

Former England captain Michael Vaughan feels England have discovered a “world-class superstar” in young off-spinner Shoaib Bashir, who has the skills to emulate the success of India’s Ravichandran Ashwin.

Despite England’s five-wicket loss in Ranchi, 20-year-old Bashir, playing only his second Test, impressed as he returned with a match haul of eight wickets. His magnificent performance included a five-wicket haul in the first innings.

Ashwin, on the other hand, is regarded as one of the best off-spinners in the history of Test cricket.

The senior spinner recently became only the second Indian bowler to snare 500 wickets in the longest format and is set for his 100th Test in Dharamsala next week against England.

“One of the great weeks, celebrating another world-class superstar that we’ve unearthed, Shoaib Bashir. That’s what we’re celebrating. Second Test match, eight wickets, he’s the new Ravi Ashwin, and we’ve unearthed him.

“So, we’re celebrating a new superstar in English cricket,” Vaughan said on Club Prairie Fire’s YouTube channel.

India handed England their first series defeat under coach Brendon McCullum and



skipper Ben Stokes after winning the fourth Test in Ranchi to take a 3-1 lead in the ongoing series.

Vaughan backed England to win the dead rubber in Dharamsala.

“They will go with their best XI. It’s going

to be cold in Dharamsala and it will suit England. I expect England to win,” Vaughan said.



NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Letter No.: JHS/Commercial/e-Auction/24/08**Dated:** 27.02.2024



E-Auction Notice

On Behalf of The President Of India, The Divisional Railway Manager, (Commercial) Jhansi invites e-auction as per categories given as under :-

Category: PAY & Use	Catalogue No.: JHS- PAYSE-24- 1
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Asset Details : Manning of Pay & Use Toilets on O & M basis at Railway Station i.e. MRPR of Jhansi Division.

E-Auction Start Date and Time: Date:- 13.03.2024, Time: 10:30 hrs	E-Auction End Date and Time: Date:- 13.03.2024, Time: 11:00 hrs
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Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit E-Auction Leasing Module on IREPS website. (www.ireps.gov.in). The Lot-wise details are available therein under the above mentioned Catalogue Number.

354/24 (ADM)

North central railways

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www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in



कार्यालय कलेक्टर, जिला इन्दौर (म.प्र.)

क्रमांक/10/70/अ.क.उ.व.क.उ.रे./2024 :: विज्ञप्ति ::**इन्दौर, दिनांक 01/03/24**



मध्यप्रदेश पंचायत राज एवं ग्राम स्वराज अधिनियम 1993 (क्रमांक 1 सन् 1994) और उसके अधीन बनाए गए मध्यप्रदेश ग्राम पंचायत (कालोनियों का विकास) नियम 2014 के अधीन एलट द्वारा ग्राम-हिंगोनिया तहसील-कर्नाडिया जिला-इंदौर में अवासीय भूखण्डीय विकास प्रयोजन हेतु कालोनी विकसित करने की अनुज्ञा दी जाती है :-

अ	कालोनाईजर का नाम व पता	स्थान जहाँ के लिये विकास अनुमति जारी की गई है	धरोहर के रूप में बंधक रखे गये भूखंडों का विवरण
1	1. भूमिसवामी श्री दिनेश, श्री सुशील, श्री देवेन्द्र झांगी पिता श्री दलपत सिंह खांडा, मेहसाँ स्वर्ण डेक्कलर्स तर्फ पाटनर श्री केदार ऐन पिता श्री अशोक ऐन एवं विकासकर्ता मेहसाँ स्वर्ण डेक्कलर्स तर्फ पाटनर श्री केदार ऐन पिता श्री अशोक ऐन पता - 403 ए, विक्रम इस्टेट्स, 25/2, वाय. पर. रोड, इन्दौर (म.प्र.)	ग्राम-हिंगोनिया तहसील- कर्नाडिया जिला-इंदौर स्थित भूमि खसरा नंबर 303/4/1/1 खसरा 0.251 हे., खसरा नंबर 303/2/6/2 खसरा 0.1305 हे., खसरा नंबर 303/2/6/1 खसरा 0.7435 हे., खसरा नंबर 303/2/2/2 खसरा 0.253 हे., खसरा नंबर 303/2/7/2 खसरा 0.083 हे., खसरा नंबर 303/4/1/2/1 खसरा 0.054 हे., खसरा नंबर 303/4/1/2/2 खसरा 0.197 हे., खसरा नंबर 303/4/3 खसरा 0.458 हे., खसरा नंबर 307/1/1/1 खसरा 0.404 हे., खसरा नंबर 307/1/2 खसरा 0.404 हे., खसरा नंबर 307/1/3 खसरा 0.211 हे., खसरा नंबर 307/2/4 खसरा 0.193 हे., खसरा नंबर 303/4/2 खसरा 1.003 हे. कुल किता 13 कुल खसरा 4.385 हे. भूमि पर।	बंधकनामा पंजीकरण क्र. एमपी 179132022413249212 इंदौर दिनांक 29.03.2022 से भूखण्ड क्र. टी-1, टी-3, टी-7, टी-10, टी-14, टी-15 से टी-21, टी-31, टी-33 से टी-42 तक; टी-44, टी-53 से एस-56, टी-68, टी-81 से टी-84, टी-122 से टी-124 तक, टी-130 इस प्रकार कुल 37 भूखण्ड जिसका कुल क्षेत्रफल 6408.17 वर्गमीटर भूमि बंधक रखे गये थे तथे ग्राम हिंगोनिया तहसील कर्नाडिया जिला इंदौर (म.प्र.) के पत्र-क्रमांक 4404/एस.पी.-आई-62/गमापि/2023 इन्दौर, दिनांक 30.11.2023 के अनुसार पूर्व में बंधक रखे गये 37 भूखण्डों के स्थान पर संशोधित बंधकनामा पंजीकरण क्रमांक एमपी 179132023ए/12721470 इंदौर दिनांक 29.12.2023 से भूखण्ड क्र. टी-6 से टी-12, टी-32 से टी-38, टी-54 से टी-57, टी-69, टी-82 से टी-93, टी-122 से टी-134 इस प्रकार कुल 44 भूखण्ड जिसका कुल क्षेत्रफल 6149.26 वर्गमीटर भूमि है।

उपरोक्त कालम नंबर-4 में उल्लेखित 44 भूखण्ड इस कार्यालय में धरोहर के रूप में बंधक रखे गये है अतः सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि उपरोक्त भूखंडों का क्रय, विक्रय आगामी अंदोल तक नहीं किया जावेगा।

(सहस्र प्राधिकारी द्वारा स्वीकृत)

अपर कलेक्टर
कालोनी सेल शाखा, जिला इंदौर



NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender No.: JHS-M-DSL-WC-T-05- 2023-24**Date:** 28.02.2024



TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (Diesel) North Central Railway, Jhansi invites open tenders through online (E- Tendering) for the following work: **Description:** Yearly calibration of Electrical and Mechanical measuring & test equipments and Lab equipments of Diesel Loco Shed, Jhansi for three years. **Tender value (₹):** 7,88,889.00/-, **Earnest Money (₹):** 15800/-, **Cost of tender Document (₹):** 0.00/- **Closing date of tender:** 28.03.2024, **Completion period:** 36 Months., ● Tenderers will submit the tender online up to 28.03.2024 (15:00 Hrs.). Complete details & for submission of tenders can be seen in Indian Railway website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. 362/24 (ADM)

www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in

CPRONCR



कार्यालय कलेक्टर, जिला इन्दौर (म.प्र.)

क्रमांक/1062/क.उ.रे./2024 :: विज्ञप्ति ::**इन्दौर, दिनांक 01/03/2024**



मध्यप्रदेश पंचायत राज एवं ग्राम स्वराज अधिनियम 1993 (क्रमांक 1 सन् 1994) और उसके अधीन बनाए गए मध्यप्रदेश ग्राम पंचायत (कालोनियों का विकास) नियम 2014 के अधीन एलट द्वारा ग्राम-सोनवाय, तहसील-राऊ, जिला-इंदौर में अवासीय भूखण्डीय विकास प्रयोजन हेतु कालोनी विकसित करने की अनुज्ञा दी जाती है :-

अ	कालोनाईजर का नाम व पता	स्थान जहाँ के लिये विकास अनुमति जारी की गई है	धरोहर के रूप में बंधक रखे गये भूखंडों का विवरण
1	1. आवेदक श्री कृति डेवलपर्स तर्फ पाटनर श्री राकेश गार्ग पिता श्री रमेशचंद्र गार्ग पता :- सी-4/5, शिवकुश कालोनी, साजन नगर, इन्दौर (म.प्र.) कालोनी का नाम "पार्थ टाउन"	ग्राम-सोनवाय, तहसील- राऊ, जिला- इन्दौर स्थित भूमि खसरा नंबर 405/2 खसरा 0.512 हे., सर्वे नंबर 406/2/2 खसरा 0.175 हे., सर्वे नंबर 408/2 खसरा 0.132 हे. कुल खसरा 0.819 हेक्टेयर भूमि पर।	बंधकनामा पंजीकरण क्रमांक MP179092023A12596400 इंदौर दिनांक 28.11.2023 से भूखण्ड क्र.1, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22 व 32 इस प्रकार कुल 11 भूखण्ड है जिसका कुल क्षेत्रफल 1221.28 वर्गमीटर है।

उपरोक्त कालम नंबर-4 में उल्लेखित 11 भूखंड इस कार्यालय में धरोहर के रूप में बंधक रखे गये है अतः सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि उपरोक्त भूखंडों का क्रय, विक्रय आगामी अंदोल तक नहीं किया जावेगा।

(सहस्र प्राधिकारी द्वारा अनुमोदित।)

अपर कलेक्टर
कालोनी सेल शाखा जिला इंदौर

Online Tender Document for M.P. Police

POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL

No. PHQ/15/GPC/1255-1/2024

Bhopal, Dated 27/02/2024

“ONLINE TENDER NOTICE”

Online tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police (Provisioning) Police Head Quarter, Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for FSL Items on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>

Equipments for Chemistry Lab of Ratlam, Rewa, Jabalpur

Sr	Name of Equipment	Quantity	EMD Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in	Tender Fees (Rs.)
1	Refrigerators	9	10,800	1,000
2	Hot plate with Magnetic stirrer	6	4,500	1,000
3	Fuming chamber	3	18,000	2,000
4	Oven	6	13,500	1,000
5	Ultrasonic bath	3	900	1,000
6	pH meter with accessories (bench top)	6	9,000	1,000
7	Heating mental	6	900	1,000
8	Digital balance upto 2kg	6	9,000	1,000
9	Hot water bath	3	4,500	1,000
10	UV Chamber	6	9,000	1,000
11	Air Conditioner (2 Ton) Safekeeping of equipments	6	9,000	1,000
12	Computer (PC with wifi Facilities)	6	10,800	1,000
13	Multifunctional Printer with Photocopier and scanner	6	7,200	1,000
TOTAL EMD & Tender FEES			107,100	14,000

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>.

2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)

3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>

4. Critical Date Sheet:

Published Date	27/02/2024 Time 18:00 PM
Bid Document Download Start Date	28/02/2024 Time 12:00 PM
Bid Submission Start Date	02/03/2024 Time 11:00 AM
Bid Submission End Date	11/03/2024 Time 14:00 PM
Bid Opening Date	12/03/2024 Time 16:00 PM

5. Intending Bidders are advised to visit this website regularly till closing date of submission to keep themselves updated as any change/modification in the tender will be intimated through this website only by cor-rigendum/addendum/amendment.

6. Bids will be opened as per date/time as mentioned in the Tender Critical Date Sheet. After online open-ing of Technical-Bid the results of their qualification as well Price-Bid opening will be intimated later.

(ARVIND TIWARI)

A.I.G. (Provisioning)

PHQ, Bhopal

G-25215/23

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद् बेगमगंज, जिला-रायसेन (म.प्र.)

क्रमांक/ई-टेण्डर/2024/374

बेगमगंज, दिनांक 01.03.2024

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

नगर पालिका परिषद् बेगमगंज द्वारा निम्न कार्यों हेतु ई-निविदा का आमंत्रण किया गया है, जिसका विवरण निम्नानुसार है।

ई-निविदा क्रमांक	कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत	अमानत राशि	ई-निविदा प्रारंभ का मूल्य	समयावधि
2024_UAD_337993	सागर-भोपाल रोड में फुटपाथ में फ्लोरिंग एवं फ्रेड्रिकेशन कार्य तथा निकाय एवं विभिन्न स्थानों पर पार्क एवं ज्विम निर्माण कार्य।	2,04,03000/-	1,02,015/-	15,000/-	06 माह
2024_UAD_337997	वार्ड क्रमांक 04 में कम्प्यूटि हॉल निर्माण कार्य।	91,92,0,00/-	66,940/-	10,000/-	06 माह
2024_UAD_337995	निकाय एवं विभिन्न स्थानों पर बस स्टाप, एवं सौंदर्यीकरण कार्य।	1,15,7,9000/-	57895/-	12500/-	06 माह
2024_UAD_337993	निकाय में 05 स्थानों पर मूर्ति निर्माण कर स्थापन कार्य।	68,80,600/-	51600/-	10,000/-	06 माह

निविदा प्रपत्र क्रय, डाउनलोड करने एवं निविदा से संबंधित समस्त शर्तें एवं जानकारी mptenders.gov.in से एवं नगर पालिका परिषद् बेगमगंज की लोनिवि शाखा से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। इसके बाद किसी भी प्रकार का संशोधन होने पर वेबसाईट पर या कार्यालय से की प्राप्त होगी। संशोधन का प्रकाशन समाचार पत्र में नहीं किया जावेगा।

(संदीप लोधी)

अध्यक्ष

नगर पालिका परिषद् बेगमगंज



BANK OF MAHARASHTRA

Jabalpur Zonal Office: Wright Town, Jabalpur- 482001, Tele: 0761-2480065 E-mail: cmmarc_jab@mahabank.co.in



[Rule-8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Bank of Maharashtra under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sub-section (2) of Section 13 read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, Notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession symbolic of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with the Rule 8 of the said rules.

S No.	Name & Address of Borrower & Guarantor	Amount due to the bank as per notice	Details of Immovable Property of which possession taken by the bank	Demand Notice Date Possession Date
1.	Borrower - Ms. Varsha Soni Mr. Heera Soni	Rs.14,04,958/- + Interest & Other Charges w.e.f. 16/11/2023	DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: All those pieces & parcel of property with construction & fixture there being & lying at House no.18/4. old Sardar Ballav Bhai Patel Ward, New Hanuman Tai Ward Nazul, Block no.47 Iq. Jabalpur/ survey No. Nazul Block No.47 Khasra No-47 Plot No. 65 area admeasuring 1270sqft Bounded as- North-Proprety of Dhanker Datt, South-land of Radhika Charan Khare, East- Land of Sonji ji, West - 8 feet galli Owner of Proprety- Smt. Varsha Soni	16/11/2023 28/02/2024

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank Of Maharashtra for an amount hereinabove mentioned. The details of the properties mortgaged to the Bank and taken possession by the Bank are as above. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

CHIEF MANAGER & AUTHORIZED OFFICER
BANK OF MAHARASHTRA

Place: Jabalpur, Date: 02/03/2024



OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, BHOPAL

Water Work Department

Municipal Corporation Rest House, Shyamla Hills, Bhopal Ph. No. 0755-2701669



NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Online tenders are being invited for the following works. The bidder can obtained detailed information and tender documents on website <https://mptenders.gov.in>

Corrigendum for this NIT shall not be issued separately in newspapers. Corrigendum regarding correc-tion can be seen on the website <https://mptenders.gov.in>

S. No.	NIT No.	Tender ID.	Details of Work	Estimated Cost (INR)	Earnest Money (EMD)	Bid Submission End Date
1.	09/T.Sec/EE/ W.W.D./ 2023-24	2024_UAD_340280_1	PROVIDING, LAYING, JOINTING TESTING COMMISSIONING, INTERCONNECTION & SHIFTING OF DIFFERENT SIZE D.I. AND H.D.P.E. WATER SUPPLY PIPE LINE FROM SHAITAN SINGH SQUARE TO BANSAL HOSPITAL, BABA NAGAR, VIRASA HEIGHTS TO C.I. SQUARE.	2,71,01,607/-	135508/-	01.04.2024

Executive Engineer (H)

Municipal Corporation, Bhopal

T.N.1728/023/024



PLAY ON

SHOBORI GANGULI takes an indulgent plunge into a theatrical restaurant pool that proves to be a novel immersive culinary experience

Along the winding fine dining streets of South Delhi's heart and lungs, Mehrauli, you must stop at a place that literally invites you to come in and Play. Yes, Play is all about a delectable indulgence in all things heady about Asian and Mediterranean confluence. I find fusion too limiting a term for the entity Play has created. The unique decor, the theatrical culinary presentation, the awesome open air terrace, everything about Play exudes the kind of warmth you so desire on a frosty winter evening. Of course, in the company of good friends. Standing out in all its opulence at the Qutub Complex, Play has carefully sought to extend the norms of conventional wining and dining to forge a cocktail bar and restaurant with innovation writ large. Kanishk Tuteja, the creative force behind Play, envisions a space where culinary artistry seamlessly meets theatrical elegance. As the founder, he expresses that "Play transcends the traditional definition of a



restaurant — it's a stage for unforgettable experiences. The fusion of diverse flavours, mirrored illusions, and dynamic ambiance invites guests to embark on a journey of luxury and delight at Play, where every moment is meticulously crafted for those who seek the extraordinary." To dwell briefly on the décor, which while being overwhelming is only a part of what Play has on offer, we are informed that the interior design has drawn inspiration from the "theatrical elegance" and "blending" influences of Asian and Mediterranean cultures. Mirrored elements on the walls indeed create mesmerising spatial illusions, promising to cast a magical spell even before the heady spirits and aromatic flavours flow in to gently lure you into wonderland. As explained by Play's General Manager Kunal Kumar, the place promises to remain etched in our memories well beyond the moment of our departure. The special menu crafted by Chef Rishi Prakash for us indeed continues to linger on even now. As I mentioned, the Asian and

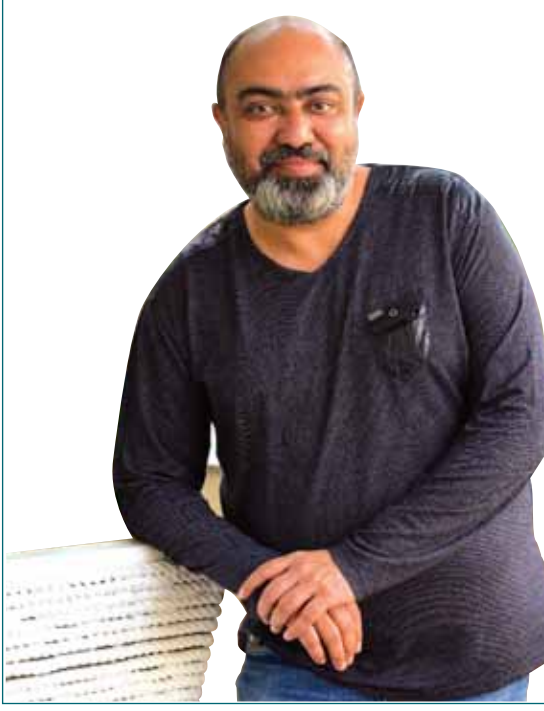


Mediterranean confluence of cuisine and culture is Play's signature touch. From specially infused sushi to inventive tapas, each dish has a unique narrative. Chef Bulut's theatrical presentation skills were on full display which elevated the dining experience to another realm altogether. Alongside Play's signature gems Black Cod Miso and the irresistible Baklava, Chef Bulut's mastery of a visually stunning and theatrical presentation certainly made the evening special. The specially crafted menu for us included a Leaks and Chicken soup alongside an option of Vietnamese Banh Pho. We savoured an array of appetizers — Soy Caramel Mushroom, Guaca Beets Tart, a Mock Meat Stir

Fry. The meat eaters were of course treated to an Arabic Lemon Garlic Fish, Char Siu Chicken and a scrumptious Shrimp Avocado Tart. The salads comprised a healthy mix of Moroccan Carrot and Quinoa, with Beet Root Carpaccio. From the Chef's Theatre came Lamb Adana and Cottage Cheese Shish Touk. The main course was a refined amalgamation of Buck Wheat Pancake, Sundried Tomato Barley, Japanese Katsu Curry, Tofu and Chicken Cutlet, and River Sole. For desserts, we literally dug into the Mixed Berry Cheesecake and Chocolate Forest. I and my friends resolved to return for more fun at Play. Highly recommended for an evening or afternoon of guilt-free indulgence.

Talking Tokyo

For a city known for its love for butter chicken, Guppy celebrates a decade of educating Delhiites about Japanese flavours, writes PAWAN SONI





In the hospitality industry, where employee turnover is high, encountering someone who has remained with a group for 15 years and been with the brand since its inception 10 years ago is rare. I had the pleasure of meeting Chef Saurabh Sharan at Guppy, which is celebrating its tenth anniversary. Hailing from a humble background and raised in Bihar, I was intrigued to learn about Chef Saurabh Sharan's journey from Bihar to managing one of Delhi's finest Japanese restaurants. The chef, with a smile, shared that he always remained open to learning. Starting at a junior level, he had the opportunity to work with some of the best chefs, and today, he has risen through the ranks. We began our lunch eagerly. The first one was Yo! Guppy, which had a subtle hint of wasabi with a sour



mix. It was so delightful that we ordered another round. On the culinary front, we began with the fried calamari. I was expecting the typical breaded calamari, but what arrived was a delightful surprise. The calamari was pan-fried a la plancha style, seared in high heat, and served with quality olives, cherry tomatoes, and pepper coulis. Absolutely delicious, though it reminded me more of Spanish tapas. A side of garlic bread would have perfected this dish for me. The salmon tartare is another dish worth trying, with fresh avocado, tobiko for crunch, and umami flavors from bonito mayo. The braised eel on top of pan-fried sushi rice was delightful, though I would have preferred it served in smaller pieces for easier eating with chopsticks. The only disappointing dish on the



menu was the Ramen burger, where the noodles were shaped into a bun. Once a popular trend on the internet and globally, I found the ramen to be overly crispy, and the pork belly, bacon, and tomatoes overloaded the burger. While it may be visually appealing for Instagram, consuming all the ingredients in one bite proved to be a challenge. The meal ended on a sweet note with a deconstructed banoffee cake, featuring toffee sauce and caramelized banana served with fresh cream alongside banana cake. In a world where most brands struggle to survive even a few months, Guppy is celebrating its 10th anniversary. For a city known for its love of butter chicken, Guppy not only serves but also educates many Delhiites about Japanese flavors, becoming a favorite among its patrons. This achievement is truly commendable. Author is a food critic and founder of the Big F Awards



हर जरूरतमंद को मिल रहा गरिमापूर्ण जीवन



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री



प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में मध्यप्रदेश में 'गरीब कल्याण' के मिशन एवं विजन को सार्थक स्वरूप मिल रहा है। प्रदेश का विकास, बच्चों का उज्ज्वल भविष्य, हर वंचित को सम्मान और गरीब की जिंदगी बेहतर बनाना ही हमारा लक्ष्य है।

- डॉ. मोहन यादव, मुख्यमंत्री

जनहित योजनाओं की राशि का अंतरण तथा विकास कार्यों का भूमिपूजन एवं लोकार्पण राशि ₹ 700 करोड़

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689 गांवों को प्रधानमंत्री
आदि आदर्श ग्राम योजना
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2 लाख से अधिक
जनजाति बहनों को
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अमझेरा में भगवान श्रीकृष्ण लीला के विशिष्ट स्थान अमका-झमका माता मंदिर के दर्शन

मुख्यमंत्री

डॉ. मोहन यादव

द्वारा

2 मार्च, 2024 - अपराह्न 3:00 बजे - धार, मध्यप्रदेश

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खाते में अब तक
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