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Terror strikes IAF convoy in J&K, one soldier dead

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

In a stark reminder to the security personnel in February 2019 ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, an Indian Air Force (IAF) vehicle convoy was attacked in the similar fashion by terrorists in the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir late Saturday evening in which one soldier was killed and four seriously injured.



Security personnel stand guard after a militant attack on army vehicles, in Poonch district on Saturday. A search operation is going on in the woods amid inputs about the presence of the militants

The attack comes three weeks ahead of polling in Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency. Poonch is part of Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary constituency which is going to polls in the sixth phase on May 25. The border district of Poonch along with adjoining Rajouri has witnessed some of the major terrorist attacks over the past two years, signalling return of terror activities to the region, which was once cleared of terrorism and remained peaceful between 2003 and 2021.

Police have released pictures of two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists, including suspected Pakistani national Abu Hamza, involved in the murder of Razaq and announced a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh on his head. The Buzliab ambush in December last year came weeks after a major gunfight in the Dharsmal belt of Bajmaal forest in Rajouri that left five Army personnel, including two captains, dead a month earlier.



Former Delhi Congress president Arvinder Singh Lovely along with three former MLAs — Rajkumar Chauhan, Naseeb Singh, Neeraj Basoya — and Delhi youth Congress chief Amit Malik join the BJP in presence of BJP leaders Hardeep Puri, Vinod Tawde and Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva, in New Delhi on Saturday

Capital gains for BJP at Congress' expense

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Turmoil within the INDIA bloc continued in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls as former Delhi Congress president and senior leader Arvinder Singh Lovely along with former Delhi Minister Raj Kumar Chauhan, former MLAs Neeraj Basoya, Naseeb Singh and Delhi youth Congress chief Amit Malik joined the BJP on Saturday.

Priyanka's 'Shahenshah' retort to 'Shehzada' jibe

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/DARBHANGA (BIHAR)/ LAKHANI (GUJARAT)

The continuous jibe by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi by terming him "shehzada" (prince) reached a new zenith on Saturday with the latter's sibling and a general secretary in the grand old party, Priyanka Gandhi, calling the PM as "Shahanshah" (monarch).



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated during a public meeting for Lok Sabha polls, in Palamu, on Saturday

leaders are now praying that the Congress 'shehzada' becomes India's Prime Minister. "The new India knows how to enter enemy territory and strike... Shaken by the surgical and air strikes, leaders in Pakistan are now praying that the Congress 'shehzada' becomes Prime Minister of India... But, our strong nation wants a strong Government and leader," Modi said at the rally to campaign for BJP candidate from Palamu, V D Ram.

Troubles mount for Revannas

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BENGALURU/NEW DELHI

Former Karnataka Minister HD Revanna was arrested from his father and former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda's residence in Padmanabha Nagar on Saturday evening. The arrest came minutes after his anticipatory bail plea was rejected by the special court for elected representatives, Bengaluru.

victims of sexual abuse allegedly by JDS MP Prajwal Revanna, the Karnataka Government on Saturday said there is a possibility of the CBI issuing a "Blue Corner Notice" against the Hassan MP, who is said to have left the country. HD Revanna is father of Prajwal.



Gowda was also in the house even as high drama ensued outside the gates. Revanna has been taken to the SIT office, in the CID headquarters in the city. Revanna has been arrested in an abduction case booked against him in KR. Nagar Police Station, Mysuru

District on May 2. A victim of sexual abuse, who is seen in a video pleading to spare her but was raped, was allegedly abducted on the night of April 29, at the behest of Revanna allegedly to prevent her from testifying against his son.

complaint with KR. Nagar Police based on which a FIR was registered against Revanna and his close associate Satish Babu, who was arrested on May 3. Earlier in the day, the abducted woman was rescued by the SIT, hours before the court turned down the anticipatory bail plea of Revanna.

India's first female wrestler on new ground

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hamida Banu, an "Amazon of Aligarh", whose legacy as a renowned India's first professional woman wrestler transcends the confines of the wrestling ring triumphing in over 300 matches mostly against male wrestlers, was honoured by Google doodle on Saturday with Google celebrating her achievements with online users.



Pahalwan, defeating him in a match lasting just one minute and 34 seconds. As Hamida emerged victorious, Baba Pahalwan deemed fit to retire from the wrestling profession as was declared by him. This victory solidified Hamida's status as a trailblazer in the world of wrestling.

her exceptional skill and determination with which she broke the male dominated field. Throughout her career in the 1940s and 1950s, Hamida competed in over 300 wrestling competitions, astonishingly against both male and female wrestlers. Her prowess in the sport earned her widespread recognition, both nationally and internationally.

showcasing her exceptional talent and skill. Despite her success in wrestling, Hamida faced challenges, including attempts to dissuade her from pursuing her dreams. Her coach once reportedly beat her severely to prevent her from going to Europe for wrestling competitions, causing injuries that took years to heal.

Puri Cong nominee takes Surat route out of party

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BHUBANESWAR/NEW DELHI

Yet another Congress candidate this time for the Puri Lok Sabha constituency Sucharita Mohanty, has declined to contest the elections and returned the party ticket alleging lack of funding from the party.



Congress's Puri candidate Sucharita Mohanty, ex-Indore candidate Akshaya Karanti Bam, and ex-Surat nominee Nilesh Kumbhani

nomination enabling the BJP's Mukesh Dalal's unanimous win and the second was last week Akshay Bam of Indore who first withdrew his nomination as Congress candidate and then joined the BJP.

Former Congress MP Aggarwal files nomination from Chandni Chowk seat

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The former five time Congress MP Jai Prakash Aggarwal filed his nomination for the Chandni Chowk constituency on Saturday ahead of the Lok Sabha 2024 elections slated to be held in the national capital on May 25.

Congress and AAP are fighting together against the BJP, who has for two successive terms, swept all the seats. While the grand old party is fighting from three seats, AAP is contesting elections in the city from four seats.



The enthusiasm of Chandni Chowk constituency is telling that the people's mandate is for Congress. We will win all the seven seats of Delhi. Further, the workers and supporters claimed that they are poised to win all the seven seats in Delhi and that the former MP from the Chandni Chowk seat has the support of the people.

Khandelwal is contesting against Aggarwal, who filed his nominations on Friday in the presence of sitting MP from the seat Harsh Vardhan and Union Minister Piyush Goyal.

nomination, showing their strength to their voters, he said. Like BJP candidate Praveen Khandelwal, Agrawal also has an old ancestral mansion in Old Delhi, but on Saturday the Congress candidate did not consider it necessary to start his election campaign from there because Congress does not have workers, and ten AAP MLAs from the area are only with him for show.

Three AAP candidates file nominations amid fanfare

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

AAP candidates from East Delhi and West Delhi Lok Sabha seats filed their nomination papers amid fanfare and in the presence of senior party leaders on Saturday. The three AAP candidates - Kuldeep Kumar (East Delhi), Somnath Bharti (New Delhi) and Mahabal Mishra (West Delhi) - took out roadshows along with senior AAP leaders and volunteers of the party before going for filing nominations.

elections, he said. Only slogan of 'Jail ka Jawab Vote se' is echoing all over Delhi, Sanjay Singh said. He also said Mishra has filed his nomination from West Delhi Lok Sabha seat as part of the Aam Aadmi Party and the INDIA alliance and people of West Delhi ensure his victory.



from South Delhi Sahi Ram Pehalwan has already filed his nomination. Kumar, who hails from the Dalit community, sought blessings of his parents and jailed party leader Manish Sisodia's wife as well as offered tributes at Dr B R Ambedkar's statue before embarking on his nomination procession.

huge crowd gathered in support of Kumar shows he is going to be the next MP of East Delhi, a general constituency. Singh said Kejriwal has set a significant example by fielding a Dalit community member from the East Delhi seat. He claimed the BJP will lose all the seven Lok Sabha seats and the INDIA bloc will come to power at the Centre winning 300 seats across the country.

AAP releases list of 40 star campaigners

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday issued a list of 40 star campaigners for Lok Sabha polls in Delhi and Haryana, featuring party convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal who is in judicial custody and his wife Sunita Kejriwal.

Jawab Vote Se' centred around the arrest of the Delhi chief minister by Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case on March 21. The other star campaigners for the polls include Rajya Sabha MPs Sanjay Singh and Raghav Chadha -- who is currently abroad for an eye treatment.

INDI Alliance hit by lack of public support, says BJP



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday claimed here the Indu Alliance in Delhi is completely disturbed due to the lack of support from the general public towards the candidates' campaign, and therefore, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is considering changing its candidate from New Delhi and fielding Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal.

if AAP adopts all means to stay in the news, and this is also part of the same tactics. Delhi BJP spokesperson Harish Khurana said victory is certain for BJP on all seven seats in Delhi. Talking about the campaign, Indu Alliance candidates are neither visible on the ground nor is there any public support for them in New Delhi.

Former Assembly Speaker Yoganand joins Congress

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Former Delhi Assembly Speaker and Minister in then Sheila Dikshit regime, Dr Yoganand Shastri joined the Congress on Saturday in the presence of AICC General Secretary and In-charge of Delhi Congress Deepak Babaria and Delhi Congress interim president Devender Yadav.



said that he wanted to serve the party now. Shastri had left the Congress in 2020 and joined the NCP in 2021 after differences with Subhash Chopra who was then Delhi

Congress president. Shastri was Delhi assembly speaker between 2008 and 2013. Delhi Congress interim president Devender Yadav welcomed him in the party.

Five arrested for killing minor who threatened people for making reels

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Five people were arrested here for allegedly killing a man who used to threaten people and record the video of the act for his Instagram posts, police said on Saturday. Ashok alias Thanda Pani, 17, was found with multiple injuries near his residence in East Delhi's Trilokpuri area on April 17. He was beaten up by a group of people with rods and sticks, police said.



Anuj used to work in a private company, Pawan is a taxi driver, Abhinav Raj is a part-time physiotherapist, Sandeep Ghawari is a property dealer and Mukesh Kumar works at a courier company, Gupta said.

the locality. He would also put those videos on his Instagram account, which he ran with the name 'Thana Pani', he said. He had threatened and forced one of the accused to kneel down in front of people. He had also recorded a video of the act and uploaded it on Instagram.

Kareena named UNICEF India National Ambassador

ABHI SINGHAL ■ NEW DELHI

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on Saturday announced actor Kareena Kapoor Khan as UNICEF India National Ambassador and appointed the four UNICEF India Youth Advocates under the presence of Cynthia McCaffrey, UNICEF India Representative.



UNICEF now as India's National Ambassador. For every child deserves a childhood, a fair chance, a future." For the past 10 years, Kareena Kapoor has been UNICEF India's Celebrity Advocate for

girls' education, gender equality, foundational learning, immunization, and breastfeeding. She has been a support in several of UNICEF's global campaigns on #EveryChildRights. McCaffrey



said that UNICEF is delighted to welcome Kareena Kapoor Khan as their National Ambassador building on her years of commitment to advance children's rights. UNICEF India also appoint-

ed their first-ever Youth Advocates between 16 to 24 years. The four appointed advocates, Gauranshi Sharma from Madhya Pradesh on right to play and disability inclusion, Kartik Verma From

Uttar Pradesh on climate action and child rights advocacy, Nahid Afrin from Assam on mental health and early childhood development, and Vinisha Umashankar, from Tamil Nadu is a budding innovator and STEM pioneer. These youth advocates are part of UNICEF's global programme. "Youth can lead the change in India. As the UNICEF India Youth Advocate, I will use my voice to amplify the concerns and perspectives of children and young people," said Kartik Verma on his appointment as youth advocate.



Punjab & Sind Bank (A Govt. of India Undertaking)

E-AUCTION (Sale through E-Auction only)

ZONE - DELHI ZONE-I, SIDDHARTH ENCLAVE, ASHRAM CHOWK, NEW DELHI-110014

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES ON 29.05.2024 & 28.06.2024 (12.00 PM to 3.00 PM)

[APPENDIX-IV-A] Sale Notice For Sale Of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of immovable assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction and Enforcement of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) are Guarantor) that the be cw described immovable property mortgaged to the secured creditor, the physical / Symbolic possession of the which has been tar by the Authorised officer of Punjab & Sind Bark secured creditor will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is basis.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Table with columns: S1. No., Name of Borrower/ Guarantor & Branch, Description of the property, Demand Notice Date & Outstanding Amount (Rs.) as on + future interest & other expenses thereon, Reserve Price EMD Bid increase Amount, EMD SUBMISSION ACCOUNT DETAILS, Name & contact no. Branch, Property inspection date & Time, Last Date & Time of EMD Submission Status of Possession, Date/ Time of e-Auction, Ois Govt. dues, if any.

- 1. The e-Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"
2. To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer there is no encumbrance on any property except as mentioned above.
3. It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the asset and specification before submitting the bid
4. The intended bidders who have deposited the EMD and require assistance in creating Login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting bid, training on e-bidding process etc. may contact Help Desk: +91-7291981124, 7291981125, 7291981126, Helpline e-mail ID-support@bankesauctions.com and for any property related query may contact Authorised Officer.
5. Only bidders holding valid User ID/Password and confirmed payment of EMD through NEFT/RTGS shall be eligible for participating in the e-Auction process.
6. The interested bidders, who have submitted their EMD not below the 10% of Reserve Price through online mode before 28.05.2024 in respect of properties date of auction on 29.05.2024 & 27.06.2024 in respect of properties date of auction on 28.06.2024 upto 4.00 PM shall be eligible for participating in the e-bidding process.
7. The prospective qualified bidders may avail online training on Auction from Msc1 India Pvt.Ltd. Prior to the date of e-Auction.
8. The purchaser shall bear the applicable stamp duties/additional stamp duty transfer charges, fee etc. and also all the statutory / non-statutory dues taxes, rates, assessment charges, fees etc owing to anybody prior and future
9. The Authorised Officer is not bound to accept the highest offer and the Authorised Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any or all offer(s) or adjourn postpone/cancel the e-Auction without any reason thereof.
10. The bidders are advised to go through the detailed Terms & Conditions of e-Auction available on the Website (https://www.bankesauctions.com) of Msc1 India Pvt Ltd before submitting their bids and taking part in the e-Auction
11. 25% of sale price is to be paid immediately i.e. on the same day or not later than next working day including earnest money already deposited from the acceptance of bid price by the Authorised Officer in case of default property shall be sold again.
12. Balance 75% of the sale price to be paid on or before 19th day of the confirmation of sale of the immovable property. In default of payment within the period mentioned above, the deposit shall be forfeited and property shall be resold and defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claim to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may be subsequently sold

THIS NOTICE IS ALSO BE TREATED AS 15/30 DAYS STATUTORY SALE NOTICE TO BE BORROWER AND GUARANTORS (LRS) UNDER RULE 8(6) SARFAESI SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

"Disease is an experience of a so-called mortal mind. It is fear made manifest on the body"
— Mary Baker Eddy



Amid mounting concerns regarding Covishield's safety and the acknowledgment of potential adverse effects by its maker UK giant AstraZeneca, public unease is on the rise, with calls for accountability, says **ARCHANA JYOTI**

COVISHIELD'S SHIELD IN QUESTION

My CT scan result showed that they (doctors) had never seen anything like this before. Numerous blood clots were removed through surgery from my legs and lower abdomen, Alex Mitchell, a key litigant in the legal proceedings in the UK against British pharma giant AstraZeneca told a news channel in India about the side effects that he suffered after receiving the COVID vaccine.

Mitchell is not the only one who has been reeling under the side effects due to the COVID jab and taken up a legal battle against AstraZeneca over allegations linking its vaccine to fatalities and severe adverse effects.

The firm is facing at least 51 such cases and has recently conceded that its vaccine could, albeit exceedingly rarely, induce Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS), a medical condition characterized by abnormally low levels of platelets and the formation of blood clots.

With this admission by the UK pharma giant, in India, the Serum Institute of India (SII), headquartered in Pune, which was a licensee to AstraZeneca's vaccine formula may too find itself mired in potential legal ramifications with the parents of a young woman who died purportedly due to complications arising ten days post her inoculation with the vaccine in 2021 said that they are contemplating legal action against both SII and AstraZeneca.

Though a section of legal experts say that

Symptoms of TTS

A rare condition associated with Covishield, include severe headaches, abdominal pain, leg swelling, or shortness of breath, usually appearing two weeks post-vaccination. Timely identification and intervention are crucial in mitigating severe consequences.



SII may get clean chit in the case given it was a mere manufacturer of the jab, Venugopalan Govindan, bereaved father of the deceased Karunya has expressed profound dissatisfaction with AstraZeneca's belated admission, lamenting its timing vis-à-vis the lives already lost. He also castigated SII for its failure to suspend vaccine distribution following the restriction imposed by 15 European nations due to reported incidents of blood clot-related fatalities in March 2021.

Govindan has also implicated governmental agencies, regulatory bodies, and other stakeholders in the unfortunate demise of his daughter and numerous others post-vaccination. His sentiments have reverberated across social media platforms following AstraZeneca's acknowledgment of its COVID jab's potential to precipitate blood clotting.

Govindan spearheaded a petition titled 'Post-vaccination side effects - Blood clots, MIS-A, etc. Awareness was required' shortly after his daughter's tragic demise in 2021. As the petition gained traction, it served as a platform for individuals to share their own experiences, concerns, and opinions regarding COVID-19 vaccines.

For instance, one Shikha Bhalla, a netizen, has given her account of losing vision in her left eye due to a rare side effect underscoring the importance of thorough



BIG NUMBER

India's vaccination campaign began on January 13, 2021, administering Covaxin and Covishield. Covishield received approval for use in 49 other countries. As of April 29, 2024, India has administered 1,749,417,978 doses of Covishield, making it the world's largest vaccination program. India's vaccine arsenal during the pandemic included Covaxin, Covishield, Sputnik-V, Covovax, Corbevax, and ZyCoV-D, among others. Worldwide, 13.5 billion COVID-19 vaccines have been administered since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to science research organization Our World in Data. Around 71% of the world's population has received at least one dose of a Covid vaccine.

GLOBAL INSIGHT

According to global data on TTS available in the public domain, as of January 5, 2024, Canada had reported 89 cases of TTS, of which 56 cases were reported following vaccination with AstraZeneca's Vaxzevria/Covishield COVID-19 vaccine, and 24 cases were reported following vaccination with Pfizer-BioNTech's Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine. Eight cases were also reported following vaccination with Moderna's Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine. In the U.K., 122 instances of TTS following the administration of the AstraZeneca vaccine have been reported as of November 2023.

OPP MAKES A GIBE

Where is the Thank You Modi ji banner now? Why are the PM and Health Ministry silent? Is this the reason why deaths due to heart attack at young age occur? Was this the reason why BJP took electoral bonds worth Rs 50 crore from Serum Institute? This issue is not a matter of politics but of safeguarding people's lives." Srinivas Bhadravathi Venkata, the National President of the Indian Youth Congress in a post on X.

monitoring and reporting of adverse events. Another netizen Parikshit Suri has emphasized on the rigorous testing and transparency in vaccine development and echoed widespread calls for accountability and scrutiny in the approval process.

Dr. A Rajkumar Sreenivasan's plea for informed consent highlighted the ethical dimensions of healthcare decision-making, emphasizing the need for individuals to have agency and autonomy in vaccination choices. Michelle Zeh's skepticism about vaccine necessity and safety shed light on broader concerns surrounding pharmaceutical influence and the importance of evidence-based decision-making.

Manish Kumar's observation of increased heart attacks post-vaccination prompted calls for comprehensive investigation and surveillance to ensure the ongoing safety and efficacy of vaccination programs. While many doctors have said that benefits outweighs the downsides Dr Sankha Shubhra Chakrabarti, Head-Geriatrics, IMS-BHU posted on X, @these genius Indian doctors who are self consoling by saying it occurs within few weeks and cannot after 3 years probably do not know how the AdenoV delivery system is designed to work.

Amidst these concerns and controversy over the safety aspects of the Covishield vaccine, the matter has now reached the Supreme Court on May 1, 2024, with a petition led by advocate Vishal Tiwari adding a layer of complexity and urgency to the discourse. Tiwari has sought the constitution of an expert medical panel to study the risk factors.

"More than 175 crore doses of Covishield have been administered in India. After Covid 19 there has been an increase in deaths due to heart attacks and sudden collapse of persons. There have been several cases of heart attack even in youngsters. Now after the document filed in UK court by the developer of Covishield, we are compelled to think on the risk and hazardous consequences of Covishield vaccine which have been administered to the citizens at a large number," the petition filed by advocate Tiwari says.

The plea points out that AstraZeneca, the company that developed the vaccine, has said that its AZD1222 vaccine against Covid-19, which was made under license in India as Covishield, could cause low platelet counts and the formation of blood clots in rare cases.

The petition says the medical panel should

be headed by an expert from AIIMS and supervised by a retired Supreme Court judge.

Tiwari has further sought directions to the Centre to establish a 'Vaccine Damage Payment System' for citizens or families who have suffered debilitating health setbacks or even deaths after taking the vaccine.

The plea has also called for strict action against the circulation of spurious Covishield, an offshoot of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, which underwent extensive administration across India.

However, SII, conspicuously headquartered in Pune, has remained reticent in response to the looming specter of legal action.

Equally intriguing is the silence maintained by the Union Health Ministry, notwithstanding mounting apprehensions and criticisms voiced by recipients of Covishield on various social media platforms.

Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj has already raised the Centre's attention to these links, saying that it should work to urgently address the alleged side-effects of the Covidshield vaccine as millions of people in India were administered the shot during the Covid pandemic. Bharadwaj expressed concern over the alleged link between the vaccine's side effects and a series of sudden deaths in India, claiming that Covidshield was banned in several European countries, including Germany, France, Spain, Finland, Norway, and Denmark.

Despite the government's formation of a national committee to probe such occurrences, the determination of insufficient evidence linking her demise to the vaccine underscores the intricate challenge of establishing causality in rare adverse events. However, the narrative shared by individuals such as Govindan underscores the exigency for robust surveillance, reporting mechanisms, and support infrastructure to address post-vaccination complications comprehensively.

Against the backdrop of Covishield's legal conundrum, SII's competitor Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech, has underscored the efficacy of its jab, Covaxin, saying that it was meticulously evaluated and efficacy trials were held within India.



Study confirms higher risk of very rare clot with AstraZeneca Jab

The Global Covid Vaccine Safety Project conducted an extensive analysis of adverse events associated with COVID-19 vaccines across multiple regions, including Argentina, Australia (New South Wales and Victoria), Canada (British Columbia and Ontario), Denmark, Finland, France, New Zealand, and Scotland. They employed a method called observed versus expected (OE) ratios to compare the number of adverse events reported with the expected baseline rates.

In simple words, this means first healthcare providers have a baseline 'expectation' of how many adverse events are likely given a certain number of vaccinated people, and compare it with the number of events reported to health systems. Expectations are formed based on experience with the rates of vaccination, and reactions observed historically. However, COVID-19 vaccination was an outlier event that saw billions of vaccines administered over a relatively short span. OE ratios greater than 1.5, indicating 50% more adverse reactions than expected, were identified as potential safety signals requiring thorough investigation. Notable findings included elevated OE ratios for Guillain-Barré syndrome and cerebral venous sinus thrombosis following the first dose of the ChAdOx1 vaccine. Additionally, acute disseminated encephalomyelitis showed a high OE ratio following the first dose of the mRNA-1273 vaccine. Increased OE ratios for myocarditis and pericarditis were also observed following vaccination with BNT162b2 (Pfizer/BioNTech), mRNA-1273 (Moderna), and ChAdOx1 (AstraZeneca/Serum Institute of India) vaccines.

In India, as of December 6, 2022, a total of 92,003 Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI) were reported, accounting for approximately 0.009% of the population vaccinated against COVID-19. However, it's essential to note that the strength of adverse event reporting systems can vary



"There have been studies that show the baseline rate in European states (adverse events related to COVID-19 vaccines) is higher than Asia. This is a combination of both a better reporting system as well as physiological factors. Studies done in one country may not easily translate to another."
— CHANDRAKANT LAHARIYA
Physician and health policy expert

significantly between countries, influencing reported incidence rates.

The study also highlighted differences in adverse event reporting rates between regions. For example, the affidavit submitted by the Indian government to the Supreme Court cited higher AEFI rates in the United States (0.2%) and the United Kingdom (0.7%) compared to India. These variations may be influenced by reporting system robustness and physiological factors.

Despite confirming previously identified rare safety signals associated with COVID-19 vaccination, the study emphasized the need for further investigation to confirm associations and evaluate clinical significance. An affidavit by the government to the Supreme Court claimed that compared with India, nearly 0.2% of the people in the United States who received COVID-19 vaccines showed AEFI, as did 0.7% in the U.K.

These ratios are, however, significantly influenced by the strength of the adverse event reporting system in countries. This can significantly vary among countries. "While our study confirmed previously identified rare safety signals following COVID-19 vaccination and contributed evidence on several other important outcomes, further investigation is warranted to confirm associations and assess clinical significance," the study by the Global Covid Vaccine Safety Project said.

DOCTORS SPEAK

TTS is a very rare condition resulting from an abnormal immune response. While it has several causes, it has also been linked with adenovirus vector vaccines. The WHO has deemed the vaccine safe and effective for all individuals aged 18 and above. ...We are yet to fully understand the impact of coronavirus on people, also called long



Covid. The difficulty is to distinguish between the complications that are caused by Covid itself or the vaccine. That remains debatable. People who are vaccinated have an overall lower risk of complications such as post-Covid heart attacks and strokes among others.

— DR RAVI WANKHEDEKAR, Former national president of the IMA

"Like many things in medicine, the exact mechanism for this is also unknown. It is an unusual immune reaction to a particular vaccine genre which is called as adenovirus vector vaccine. Adenovirus vectors are not disease-causing viruses but these are artificially fitted with the spike of the virus that



our immune system needs to fight. In the case of AstraZeneca's adenovirus vector vaccine, a chimpanzee adenovirus - ChAdOx1 - has been modified to enable it to carry the Covid-19 (SARS-CoV-2) spike protein injected into the muscles of humans."

— DR RAJEEV JAYADEVAN, Co-Chairman, IMA Covid-19 task force

A NIGHT IN OSTELLO BELL

SHARED STORIES, SHARED SPACES



BY PAWAN SONI

After watching Kangana Ranaut's film, Queen which includes a scene where she stays in a hostel, I was intrigued and mentally noted to experience it at least once. This opportunity arose when I was traveling alone for work in Milan for a few days. Since my wife is not keen on such experiences, I could only do it while traveling solo. I myself was a bit hesitant and booked the hostel room for only one night post which I booked a luxury hotel room.

Staying in a hostel room with bunk beds shared by eight tourists from different countries and continents was an eye-opening experience. As someone accustomed to the privacy of hotels, the idea of sharing a room with strangers was initially daunting. However, the warmth and friendliness of my fellow travelers quickly put me at ease. Additionally, in India, we would never think of sharing a room with both guys and girls. Here, we were six guys and two girls sharing the dormitory room.

One of the most memorable aspects of my stay was the interactions with my roommates. Despite our diverse backgrounds, we found common ground in our love for travel and adventure. Each person had a unique story to share, from their reasons for travelling to their favourite destinations. I learned about different



cultures, traditions, and ways of life, broadening my perspective and igniting my curiosity about the world.

The hostel's facilities played a significant role in fostering a sense of community among guests. The small locked storage below the beds ensured that our belongings were safe, while the charging points were necessary for



the phone charging, individual reading lights provided convenience without disturbing others. The common bathroom, although shared, was always clean and well-maintained, a testament to the hostel staff's commitment to guest comfort and roommates ensuring to leave the washroom with the same hygiene level

they expected from others. The common kitchen was a hub of activity, with guests preparing meals and sharing recipes from their home countries. It was a delightful experience to taste dishes from around the world, each one infused with the flavours and spices of a different culture. The complimentary

fruits and groceries added a thoughtful touch, making us feel at home in this foreign environment. Beyond the practical amenities, the hostel's vibrant atmosphere made it a memorable stay. It served as a meeting point for young travellers, where friendships were formed over shared meals and late-night conversations. The hostel also organised social events, such as pub crawls and city tours, allowing guests to explore the city together and create lasting memories.

(Author is a food critic and founder of the Big F Awards. He can be reached at Pawan.Soni@indianfoodfreak.com)

EXPERIENCING CULTURE ONE COURSE AT A TIME POP-UP DINNERS

The industry's evolving nature is fostering a culture of shared knowledge, with chefs and restaurants collaborating more than ever. While the permanence of specific formats, like pop-ups, remains uncertain, the spirit of collaboration is undoubtedly a mainstay. It's a dynamic era where working together isn't just a trend; it's a fundamental shift shaping the future of the culinary landscape.

BY RUPALI DEAN

Pop-up restaurants are like culinary jazz performances, where chefs create impromptu meals in unconventional settings, such as dining rooms or even courtyards. These temporary dining experiences allow chefs to experiment freely with their cooking skills within a confined timeframe and for a select audience. For example, Chef Vladimir Mukhin recently hosted famous Chef Joan Roca from El Celler De Can Roca at Krasota restaurant in Dubai. They worked together to create a unique culinary experience, exploring the deep stories behind well-known dishes. By combining different textures, ingredients, and flavours, they presented a special event in Dubai that highlighted the perfect blend of artistry in both appearance and taste. Roca's 'Memories of a Neighbourhood Bar' paired with Deyneka's 'The Light of The Past' set the scene. This dish, from El Celler de Can Roca's cookbook, honours the family's legacy. The three brothers learned cooking early at Can Roca, perfecting their skills. Inspired by Roerich's 'Himalayas,' Mukhin's Artichoke Curry and Coconut Rice reflect the painting's colours. The Black Cod with Plum and Fig drew from Aivazovsky's art, symbolizing a shipwreck survival. Five Senses Bon Bons by Jordi Roca at Casa Cacao concluded the feast magically, blurring reality and fantasy.

THE WORLD IS GETTING SMALLER AND MORE INCLUSIVE

Engaging in pop-up events presents chefs with a valuable chance to acquire new skills and engage in the exchange of culinary knowledge amongst peers in the industry. "Pop-ups are a great platform of exchanging ideas and sharing our cooking philosophies and techniques. It's a true example of how the world is getting smaller and more inclusive. It's a sense of pride when I get an opportunity to cook Indian food for an audience that may not be well educated about Indian Cuisine, or when Chefs of the most renowned restaurants around the world join us at Trésind Studio to share their cooking philosophy with our guests. In the end it's a celebration of culture and creating new friendships. The ideas and brainstorming during pop ups sometimes create dishes that eventually



CHEF JOAN ROCA WITH CHEF VLADIMIR MUKHIN AND HIS TEAM AT KRASOTA, DUBAI



CHEF JOAN ROCA AND VLADIMIR AT A POP-UP COLLABORATION IN KRASOTA, DUBAI



CHEF HIMANSHU SAINI AND CHEF JITIN JOSHI

become part of our menu", says Chef Himanshu Saini of Trésind Studio (1 Michelin star), Dubai. Traditionally, pop-ups served as a stepping stone for aspiring restaurateurs to showcase their cooking prowess and test new concepts. However, nowadays, some chefs view pop-ups as standalone ventures, using them to delve into and share their cultural culinary heritage. "I myself have been doing pop up around the globe as a guest chef and this year I would be hosting a guest chef every month in our Private room at the Crossing Dubai. I think it is a great way to show a different and unique style of food philosophy with another chef in the same kitchen. It's not only a great showcase of talent, but also a great learning for the team. I don't think this trend will pass soon and personally would like to see more chefs collaborating and coming together", adds Jitin Joshi Director of Culinary, Lemon Butter, Dubai, U.A.E

THE LEARNING MUST NEVER STOP

These gatherings often feel like a blend of educational sessions and personal memoirs, weaving intimate tales through cherished recipes and unique ingredients. "As a chef, it's important to never stop learning. We love inviting chefs from various backgrounds into

our spaces for 4-Hands collaboration events. It's an excellent way for us to learn from each other and discover new possibilities. We've been fortunate to have the opportunity to travel overseas and meet fantastic people, learning and experiencing entirely new cultures, cuisines and ingredients. I always try to bring a few of my team with me on these trips, I believe that travel helps to widen one's perspective and encourage accelerated growth. It's fulfilling for me to groom and provide opportunities for my team to learn", says Julien Royer Chef Owner- Odette (3 Michelin stars), Singapore. These modern chefs charge for their dinners, yet none are earning vast fortunes from them. They often promote their events on Instagram and sell tickets digitally. Regardless of the practical details, pop-up dining enables them to innovate and test ideas with a small group of guests, fostering a fleeting sense of community. In a time where personal narratives hold greater significance in art and conversations, pop-ups provide chefs with a platform to express, through cuisine, "This is my heritage. This is my identity."



The Japanese celebrate the Hanami, the festival of Spring, with as much gusto as we Indians do. **SHOBORI GANGULI** participates in the gastronomical delights accompanying this ancient ritual at Guppy right here in Delhi

CHERRY BLOSSOMS, CHEER AND CAMARADERIE



This week I had the great fortune to partake of the Hanami festival at one of Delhi's finest Japanese restaurants Guppy (part of the Olive Chain). This is cherry blossom season of spring in Japan, a time to mark the Hanami festival — a unique cultural tradition of viewing flowers in full bloom, an ancient ritual which serves as a Japanese reminder of the transience of nature, the blossoms a metaphor for life, draped in the immortal philosophy of hope and renewal.

And no festival in the world is complete without its attendant share of feasts and festivities. Guppy, in an earnest attempt to keep this old Japanese heritage alive and robust in a faraway land from Japan, in the very heart of India in Delhi, laid out a sumptuous fare of what would typically be a part of a Hanami dining spread.

Among the salads on offer — Artichoke & Melon, Acvocado, Beet & Edamame and Chicken, Avocado & Greens — my friend and I settled for the first one which was a refreshing mix of

marinated artichoke, grapes, and seasoned melon served atop crisp rocket leaves and greens in a spicy Japanese wofu dressing. This salad was truly refreshing and welcome on a hot summer day working in perfect symphony with our Shinzuku Sour cocktail of Gin, fresh gooseberry, peach soju and stillabunt.

Skipping the Sushi selection, which we Indians are now quite familiar with, we opted for the translucent Tobanjan-spiced Chicken Steamed Dumplings, the filling a burst of minced chicken in a Japanese spicy tobanjan chili paste served with a ponzu dip.

Perhaps it is me and my changed taste buds over the years or a conscious attempt by Japanese kitchens based out of India, the element of spiciness has notched up a bit from what was often termed as a "bland" taste emanating from traditional kitchens, which may suit the Japanese palate even today, in Japan and elsewhere in the world, but were not embraced with the same degree of enthusiasm one has watched with Italian, Spanish, Chinese, West Asian and Mediterranean spreads across continents.

The fact that Guppy was brimming with people, almost all tables occupied, on a busy working week day, is perhaps testimony to the fact that Japanese cuisine has certainly found an innovative way to work around the Indian palate and its natural inclination for well-spiced food.

From their Small Plates offering we went past the vegetarian Stuffed Tofu Katsu to the Crisp Chicken Parcel, an oven-baked phyllo parcel with ginger flavoured chicken accompanied by soy apple salsa and a yuzu miso sauce.

For the Mains, while my friend settled for the undoubtedly healthy and delicious Grilled Yuzu Khoso Fish, marinated in Jaenese yuzu khoso and herb salsa, grilled and served with lemon butter soy, I ventured into the now universally forbidden territory of red meat. The Grilled Marinated Lamb Chop came with seasonal vegetables and was served with red wine miso. I must admit that while the flavours of the grill settled rather smoothly on my palate, the meat itself was on the rare side and a tad stringy. Red meat requires adequate time to be rested in its marination for it to step delicately away from the bone. In my opinion, the Lamb Chop needed some more attention.

That said, the experience was a rather cheerful one, given that the Japanese dedicate as much time to the aesthetics of the inanimate as to the animate. Guppy is that cheerful, pretty, comfortable Japanese place one would like to hang around at, with friends or family. Here's wishing everyone a happy Hanami, the Japanese spring festival so similar to our own spring festival of Basant Panchami.

Gurugram's latest Culinary Contender



BY **PAWAN SONI**

Nestled between two established dining spots at Two Horizon, Marieta emerges as Gurgaon's newest culinary contender, overtaking the space vacated by well-regarded Italian eatery Artusi. Although the name "Marieta" which is a popular female name hails from Greece, the restaurant's global menu lacks prominent Greek offerings. The start was a bit of a let down. Not being served a hard copy of the menu and asking diner to scan a barcode for the digital menu at a fine-dine restaurant with an excuse that they are new doesn't go well with me. May be I am an old timer who doesn't like reading the menu on mobile's small screen. The manager quickly impro-

vised and offered to share a b&w printed menu with which I was okay but it never came. However he later shared his laptop with me to read the menu. For a classy looking restaurant they can easily do with few Ipads if even after a month of their opening they are finding it difficult to get the printed menu.

I am here with my wife and like most men opt for "The Second Date". Don't get me wrong. It is a tequila and sake based cocktail with a bit of lychee and Jasmine tea. Its delightful aroma and soothing taste set a pleasant tone for the evening. As I perused the drinks menu, I noticed a variety of tequila and mezcal cocktails, signaling an interesting trend. Just as gin has surpassed vodka in popularity for cocktails, it seems tequila-based cocktails might be the next big trend.

While the food initially took some time to arrive, once it did, the dishes came out in quick succession. Most of the dishes we ordered were impressive. The Mushroom and Cream Cheese (Rs495), encased in crispy kataifi on a cauliflowerer sauce base, was particularly exciting. Similarly, the Habanero Butter Shrimp (Rs750), served with airy sourdough bread, was noteworthy, although I expected a bit more heat from the habanero, making the dish's name somewhat misleading. The Avocado Cream Cheese Uramaki (Rs750) sushi roll was



FACT SHEET

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Cuisine: Global with focus on Mexican

RATINGS

Food: 3.5/5
Drinks: 4.0/5
Service: 3.75/5
Ambience: 3.5/5
Overall: 3.5/5

enjoyable, with the added crunch of fried sweet potato crisps on top. However, the Spicy Sweet Potato Soft Shell Taco lacked the necessary spiciness to balance the sweetness of the potato. Adding a bit of spicy sauce on the side made it more enjoyable for me.

The only disappointment was the Neapolitan Margherita pizza, which fell short on the dough, kneading, and rolling. The edges didn't rise properly, the center wasn't thin enough, and the sauce was mediocre. However, the chef acknowledged the issue without making excuses, which in my view was commendable. Since we had no room for a main course, we opted for desserts directly. The Vanilla Bean Panna Cotta (Rs595) was exceptional, perfectly set and delicious. Topped with figs and caramel sauce, this dessert, an Artusi recipe, is reason enough to visit Marieta.

We arrived early for a Monday dinner and found the music to be too loud for an empty restaurant. However, as more guests arrived, the sound was absorbed, creating a more enjoyable ambience. The tables in alfresco settings are a bit small for four people; fitting more than two people would be a challenge. Despite minor initial hiccups, the service was good and well-informed. Overall, Marieta is worth a try, especially for the panna cotta.

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