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Oh Canada! Student Direct Stream service scrapped

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Indian students dreaming of studying in Canada may face hardship now, as it has ended the fast track visa programme. The decision came in the backdrop of ongoing diplomatic tension between the two countries. The decision to cancel the fast-track visa service known as Student Direct Stream (SDS) raised concerns over delays in processing and uncertainty for many international students from India. In 2023, nearly 200,000 Indian students received study permits. The SDS was launched in 2018 to provide faster processing for eligible post-secondary students. It was introduced to simplify the visa application process for students from 14 countries, which included India.



In the latest measure targeting international students planning to study at a Canadian institution, Ottawa has announced that it is immediately ending the SDS initiative. According to a notice from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) late on Friday, SDS was launched in 2018 to "provide faster processing for eligible post-secondary students" and "eventually opened to legal residents" of 14 nations including India. It stated that "Canada's goal is to strengthen program integrity, address student vulnerability, and give all students equal and fair access to the application process, as well as a positive academic

experience' to "meet this commitment" the SDS was scrapped on November eight. Study permits applied for after the announcement will be processed under the regular stream. The Canadian government has refrained from giving an explanation for ending the fast-track visa service. The move comes at a time when India and Canada's ties are strained due to the Trudeau government blaming the Indian government agents for the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Indian aspirants are now likely to face extended waiting times for their study permits, which can be a significant setback. Indian students now have to navigate additional hurdles to

Modi's government in Canada, but they do not represent all Hindu Canadians," Trudeau said. The relations between the two countries came under severe strain following Trudeau's allegations in September last year of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in Nijjar's killing. New Delhi rejected Trudeau's charges as "absurd". India expelled six Canadian diplomats and withdrew its high commissioner Sanjay Verma and other "targeted" officials from Canada after strongly dismissing Ottawa's charges. India has been maintaining that the main issue between the two countries is that of Khalistan elements operating from Canadian soil with impunity. Last week, Khalistani supporters disrupted a consular event co-organised by the Hindu Sabha temple in Brampton and the Indian Consulate. The incident was condemned by Trudeau who said every Canadian has the right to practise their faith freely and safely. In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said that New Delhi remains "deeply concerned" about the safety and security of Indian nationals in Canada. The Indian consulate in Toronto said it was scrapping some of the planned consular events this month because of Canadian "security agencies conveying their inability to provide minimum security protection" to organisers.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to the gathering during an election rally for the upcoming Maharashtra Assembly elections, in Akola district

Congress turns states into its ATMs: PM Modi

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Citing the examples of Himachal Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday charged that "wherever the Congress forms the government, that state becomes an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) of the party's shahi parivar" and said that the BJP would not allow the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) to turn Maharashtra into the ATM of the grand old party. Addressing an election rally at Akola in Vidarbha region of Assembly poll-bound Maharashtra, Modi accused the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government of collecting Rs 700 crore from liquor shop owners in Karnataka. "Wherever Congress forms the government, that state becomes an ATM of the 'shahi parivar' of the Congress. These days, states like Himachal Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka have become the ATMs of the royal family of Congress," the Prime Minister said. "People are saying that these days with elections in Maharashtra, the Congress has doubled the quantum of 'vasooli' (extortion) in Karnataka and neighbouring Telangana. The BJP will not allow MVA to turn Maharashtra into the Congress' ATM for

'Mahaghotalebaaj'," PM Modi said. Singling out the grand old party for allegedly indulging in corruption in states ruled by it, the Prime Minister said that the MVA - comprising the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) - "stands for multi-crore scams, for extortion and token money. It stands for transfer posting racket and is completely immersed in scandals, loot, and corruption." Repeating the allegations that he had made in his election speeches on Friday that the Congress was dividing the SCs, STs and OBCs, PM Modi said: "The Congress knows the weaker the country becomes, the stronger the Congress will be.. That's why the Congress has all along been resorting to the tactics of divide and rule. Over the years, the Congress created rifts within the SC-Dalits, ST-Adivasis and OBCs" Describing the BJP as "ek hai toh safe hain" party, Modi said: "For a safe and united Maharashtra, people should choose BJP-led Maha Yuti...ek hai toh safe hain". A day after he dared the MVA to get Rahul Gandhi to speak in praise of Veer Savarkar, Modi invoked Dr. BR Ambedkar's legacy to tear into the Congress to prove its respect for the architect of the constitution and his contributions to the country. Continued on page 2

AMU does not exclusively belong to Muslims, says Yogi Adityanath

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, responding to the recent Supreme Court decision on Aligarh Muslim University's (AMU) minority status, asserted that AMU "does not exclusively belong to Muslims." He also invoked his controversial "batenge to katenge" (If Hindus are divided, they will be slaughtered) statement, calling for unity among Hindus to prevent historical divisions.



The Supreme Court recently overturned the 1967 Azeem Basha judgement, with a regular bench set to make the final determination on AMU's minority status. "AMU doesn't belong solely to Muslims," Adityanath stated at an election rally in Khair, Aligarh, questioning AMU's plans to reserve 50 per cent of its seats for minorities despite receiving central government funding. "If AMU is funded by the government, Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC) should also have reservation there," he added. Adityanath accused opposition parties - Samajwadi Party (SP), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), and Congress - of denying reservations at AMU to SCs, STs, and OBCs, alleging that these parties prioritised vote bank politics. "These people are playing with your sentiments. Don't be blinded by them. If we are divided, we will be slaughtered," he said, referring to historical incidents of Hindu oppression through division. Continued on page 2

Delhi AQI is likely to worsen



RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The air quality index (AQI) in Delhi remained in the "very poor" category with an average AQI of 352 on Saturday, marking the ninth consecutive day of smog due to calm wind, and local factors including vehicular emissions. The AQI is likely to worsen in the coming days as per the forecast by the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Meanwhile, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has held a meeting with Delhi Chief Secretary and directed to intensify efforts to remove highly polluting end-of-life (EoL) vehicles (petrol vehicles older than 15 years and diesel

vehicles older than 10 years) that are still in use in Delhi. The PM2.5 concentration is currently 32 times the World Health Organization (WHO) annual PM2.5 guideline value. The transport sector is the most significant contributor at 11.43 per cent, as per the Decision Support System data by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM). While the residential sector contribution is 2.872 per cent, industries contributed 2.537 per cent, construction 1.492 per cent, energy sector 1.317 per cent, waste burning 1.043 per cent, and road dust 0.82 per cent. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), numerous areas across Delhi still registered AQI levels between 370 and 400, with some zones even surpassing the 400 mark. Nehru Nagar recorded AQI at 431, New Moti Bagh at 411 and Bhawana at 409. In contrast, other locations like Dilshad Garden (220) and Chandni Chowk (257) reported relatively lower AQI readings. Continued on page 2

Oops! A Diwali greeting that shocked Varanasi



BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ VARANASI

In an unusual incident, around 40 unmarried girls from Ramna village in Varanasi received messages meant for pregnant women from the Ministry of Child Development on Diwali, sparking confusion and concern among villagers. Following complaints, the Chief Development Officer (CDO), Himanshu Nagpal, acknowledged the error and launched an investigation into the matter, delegating it to the District Panchayati Raj Officer (DPRO). The CDO confirmed that all erroneous data entries have been removed from the portal and attributed the incident to a "human error." Nagpal explained that complaints from the village

indicated that 40 unmarried girls were registered incorrectly as pregnant women on a government portal. As a result, these girls received a message from the Ministry of Child Development on Diwali, stating, "Welcome to Poshan Tracker. As a breastfeeding mother, you can avail services like hot cooked meals or ration, consultation, child health monitoring, and breastfeeding support through home visits with the help of Anganwadi Center." The message, designed to promote services for pregnant and breastfeeding women, caused confusion and anxiety among the girls and their families. The CDO traced the error to an Anganwadi worker from Ramna village who also serves as a Booth Level Officer (BLO). Currently, as part of the ongoing voter list summary revision, BLOs are required to visit households, collect Aadhaar information for residents above 18 years, and help register them for voter ID cards. Continued on page 2

From Tihar, Sukesh Chandrashekar keeps his Bollywood fantasy alive

Offers 1,500 Crore, in cash for 50 per cent stake in Karan Johar's Dharma Productions

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI



In a development that has left both Bollywood and business circles in shock, alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekar, currently in Tihar Jail on charges of extortion, has made an audacious offer to buy a significant stake in one of India's most prestigious film production houses, Karan Johar's Dharma Productions. In his revised offer to Karan Johar, submitted through the legal firm Anantam Legal, Sukesh said it has been brought to his notice that you (Karan Johar) have finalised

the sale of a 50 per cent stake for Rs 1000 Crore at a company valuation of Rs 2000 Crore. "I am valuing Dharma at a 3,000 Crore valuation. Hereby, I am willing to acquire a 50 per cent stake at 1,500 Crore, all cash deal, this very day. As I mentioned before in my first offer letter to you, I did not want to put a

number as movies are a passion and Dharma comes a legacy, and that is prime to me, and not the value," the letter states. Sukesh said if the 50 per cent stake is not possible, Dharma could consider offloading a 20 per cent stake. "I am offering Rs. 600 Crore for the 20 per cent stake, at a valuation of 3000 Crores of your company. If the above mentioned offer is accepted or even under considerations, as of today we could Escrow the amount in full for you to understand our seriousness for this deal. If you consider our offer, the structure of your organisation will remain exactly the same, the way you want it to be, there would not be any riders, as we only want to associate and have no interest in the way the company operates, nor we want to appoint any person from our side in the

company," the letter, shared by Sukesh's legal team, states. "Kindly consider this offer of ours by either offloading the 50 per cent or at least the 20 per cent stake at a valuation, which is way above than anything offered to you. Once again to remind, all our Financials, legality could be produced for your full satisfaction and Due Diligence". This is the second time that Sukesh has sent a 'letter of Intent', to Dharma Productions. The bid, which Chandrashekar claims is motivated by his admiration for Jacqueline Fernandez, has sparked widespread curiosity, scepticism, and controversy across the country. While Sukesh's reputation is mired in controversy and legal issues, his letter portrays a deep-seated passion for films. Continued on page 2

Conspiracy against Yoga and Ayurveda EXPOSED!

Rumours of ban on medicines:

There is no ban, whatsoever, on Swasari Gold, Swasari Vati, Bronchom, Swasari Pravahi, Swasari Avaleha, Mukta Vati Extra Power, BPGrit, Madhugrit, Madhunashini Vati Extra Power, Livamrit Advance, Livogrit, Eyegrit Gold, and Patanjali Drishti Eye Drops.

Jealousy and misleading propaganda:

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Fallacy about side effects of Ayurvedic medicines:

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Allegation of lack of research and evidence:

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Tata symbolised finest traditions of Indian enterprise: PM Modi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has described industry doyen Ratan Tata, who died on this day last month, as the epitome of the finest traditions of Indian enterprise with a steadfast commitment to integrity, excellence and service.

Penning a tribute to the widely respected former Tata Group chairperson, Modi said his absence since his passing has been deeply felt not only in India but across the world.

Tata remains alive in the lives he touched and the dreams he nurtured, and generations will be grateful to him for making India a better, kinder and more hopeful place, the prime minister said in an article -- "Tribute to Shri Ratan Tata" -- on his website.

From bustling cities and towns to villages, his absence is deeply felt across every segment of society, Modi said, adding that seasoned industrialists, budding entrepreneurs and hardworking professionals have mourned his loss.

Those passionate about the environment and devoted to philanthropy are equally saddened, he said, citing Tata's investment in these fields, including in numerous start-ups.

Tata, the prime minister said, envisioned a society where business can serve as a force for good, where every individual's potential is valued and where progress is measured in the wellbeing and happiness of all.

For the youth, he was an inspiration, a reminder that dreams are worth pursuing and that success can coexist with compassion as well as humility, Modi said.

For others, he represented the finest traditions of Indian enterprise and a steadfast commitment to the values of integrity, excellence and service, the prime minister said.



He noted that under his leadership the Tata Group ascended to new heights, embodying respect, honesty and credibility worldwide.

Despite this, the industrialist wore his achievements lightly, with humility and kindness, Modi said.

One of Tata's most defining qualities was his unwavering support for the dreams of others, Modi said, mentioning his mentoring of India's startup ecosystem and investing in many promising ventures.

"He understood the hopes and aspirations of young entrepreneurs and recognised the potential they had to shape India's future. By backing their efforts, he empowered a generation of dreamers to take bold risks and push boundaries. This has gone a long way in creating a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship," Modi said.

It will continue to positively impact India for decades to come, he said. Modi said Tata championed excellence, urging Indian enterprises to set global benchmarks. This vision, he hoped, will inspire the country's future leaders to make India synonymous with world-class quality. The prime minister also recalled Tata's love and compassion towards animals. "His life was a reminder to us all that true leadership is measured not just by one's achievements, but by one's ability to care for the most vulnerable," he said.

Paying tributes to his patriotism, Modi said it shone brightest in times of crisis. His swift reopening of the iconic Taj Hotel in Mumbai after the 26/11 terror attacks was a rallying call to the nation "India stands united, refusing to yield to terrorism", he said.

Having enjoyed warm personal equation with Tata, who died at 86, Modi noted that they worked closely in Gujarat where he invested heavily. Modi was the state's chief minister between 2001-14 before becoming prime minister.

Mentioning the inauguration of an aircraft manufacturing facility in Vadodara by him and the Spanish prime minister Pedro Sanchez, Modi said it was Tata who began working on the project.

"Needless to say, Shri Ratan Tata's presence was greatly missed," Modi said.

"I remember Shri Ratan Tata Ji as a man of letters. He would frequently write to me on various issues, be it matters of governance, expressing appreciation for government support, or sending congratulatory wishes after electoral victories."

The prime minister said their close interactions continued when he moved to the Centre, and Tata remained a committed partner in nation-building efforts.

Tata's support for the 'Swachh Bharat Mission' was particularly close to his heart, Modi said.

"He was a vocal advocate of this mass movement, understanding that cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation are vital for India's progress. I still remember his heartfelt video message for the Swachh Bharat Mission's tenth anniversary at the start of October. It was among his final public appearances," he said.

Another cause close to his heart was healthcare and especially the fight against cancer, he added.

Modi said, "As we remember him today, we are reminded of the society he envisioned where business can serve as a force for good, where every individual's potential is valued and where progress is measured in the well-being and happiness of all."

Congress CMs hit back at "fake claims" of BJP leaders

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The chief ministers of Congress-ruled states of Telangana, Himachal Pradesh and a deputy chief minister of Karnataka on Saturday hit back at the BJP-led MahaYuti for making "fake claims" that the grand old party had not implemented the guarantees it had given to the people ahead of the Assembly polls in their respective states.

On a day when Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused the Congress for using the states ruled by it as ATMs for loot, scams and corruption, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhwinder Sukhu, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Deputy CM of Karnataka D. K. Shivakumar slammed Modi and BJP for spreading 'lies and falsehoods'.

Sukhu, Reddy and Shivakumar, accompanied by AICC Media and Publicity Chairman Pawan Khera, tore into what they called "fake claims" made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP leaders and listed out the implementation of their party's guarantees in their respective states.

Shivkumar said that the Congress' six guarantees were not announced overnight but were unveiled after a careful study of the peoples' problems during Rahul Gandhi's two-phased Bharat Jodo Yatra undertaken two years

"As soon as we came to power, Chief Minister D Siddaramaiah started immediately rolling out the promised guarantees. Over 1.22 crore women are getting Rs 2,000 every month under the Grihalakshmi Scheme, 1.64 crore families are getting the benefits of 200 units free electricity through the Gruha Jyothi Scheme and

4.08 crore falling Below Poverty Line are getting 10 kg free rice under the 'Annabhagya Scheme,' Shivkumar said.

"Another 3.20 crore women travelled free on State Transport buses vide the Shakti Scheme, and the Yuva Nidhi Scheme has extended Rs 3000 every month to over five-lakh students," Shivakumar said, adding that the Mahayuti leaders should visit Karnataka to see how the Congress' welfare guarantees were benefiting people.

"Whenever the Congress comes to power, it implements one or the other scheme for each section of the society. None of the schemes announced since the days of Jawaharlal Nehru to Manmohan Singh has been withdrawn. We are not looking at votes but development of the state," Shivakumar said.

"In Karnataka, all the schemes were implemented within 60 days after coming to power. A provision of Rs 52,000 crore has been made from Karnataka's budget of Rs 3,65,000 crore, which is higher than many BJP-ruled states," Shivkumar said.

Castigating Modi for "spreading lies" about the performance of the Congress-ruled states in the country, Reddy said: "We are implementing all our guarantees systematically... After coming to power, we have waived farm loans worth Rs 17,869 crore taken by 22,22,067 farmers"

"In 10 months, our government has provided 50,000 government jobs to the youth, while 50 lakh families have benefitted from the 200 units free electricity scheme, Reddy said. Dismissing the "fake

narrative" being spread by Modi and the BJP, Reddy said: "The BJP does not have any success story to boast of. Even in Maharashtra, the party has moved out big investment projects to Gujarat. I urge the people of Maharashtra not to believe in the BJP's false propaganda and defeat the MahaYuti in a big way," Reddy said.

Explaining the manner in which his government had gone about implementing its promises to the people in Himachal Pradesh, Sukhu said that his government's decision to implement the old pension scheme had benefitted people immensely.

"Any person who was getting a pension of Rs 5,000 per month under the New Pension Scheme is getting Rs 50,000 under the Old Pension Scheme. We are giving commodities at Minimum Support Price rates --Rs 30 per kg of maize, Rs 40 per kg for wheat, Rs 45 per litre for cow milk and Rs 50 per litre for buffalo milk," he said.

Sukhu, Reddy and Shivkumar slammed the Prime Minister for writing off nearly Rs 12-lakhs-crore loans of rich industrialists.

"See the irony, on one hand the Prime Minister waives loans worth Rs 12 lakh crores taken by the industrialists. On the other hand, the BJP criticises the governments in the Congress-ruled states for utilising the peoples' money for public welfare schemes in line with its guarantees.

Apart from Sukhu, Reddy, Shivkumar and Khera, Mahila Congress President Alka Lamba, AICC Secretary BM Sandeep, UB Venkatesh, state Mahila Congress chief Sandhya Savvalakhe and Charanjit Singh Sapra were among those present on the occasion.

Another encounter in J and K

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

A day after eliminating two terrorists in the Panipura area of Sopore another encounter broke out late Saturday evening in the Rampora area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district. Kashmir Zone Police posted on X: "Acting on a specific input regarding the presence of #terrorists in Rampora #Sopore area of #Baramulla, a joint anti-terrorist operation was launched by Police and security forces on Saturday. During the search operation, an exchange of fire took place. Further details shall follow".

Meanwhile, Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi, visited forward units of Rising Star Corps deployed in Kathua, and was briefed on the existing security situation. The Army Chief also interacted with troops & commended them for their high standards of professionalism & devotion to duty.

Delhi AQI is likely to worsen

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According to the Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, mainly smog conditions with predominant surface wind from variable directions with wind speed reaching 04-06 kmph prevailed during daytime and calm winds during night. Predicted maximum mixing depth is likely to be 1900 m on November 9. "The

maximum mixing depth of wind was recorded at 1750 m on Saturday. The ventilation index lower than 6000 m2/s with average wind speed less than 10 kmph is unfavourable for dispersion of pollutants. Meteorological conditions are likely to be extremely unfavourable for dispersion of pollutants," it said. The CAQM meeting also focused on strict discipline and measures to guard

against unauthorised/haphazard parking of private vehicles on metaled roads, markets, public spaces etc. leading to vehicular congestion and high levels of pollution, particularly in winters and called for strict action against violators including for violations of Pollution Under Control (PUC) Certificate regime. Delhi has been witnessing high levels of air pollution

for the past few weeks which has been primarily blamed on stubble-burning in neighbouring states, Diwali fireworks and low wind speed. Notably, the Centre for Science and Environment has claimed that vehicular pollution is the main reason for Delhi pollution. Interestingly, the National Capital Region is currently experiencing four degrees

above normal temperature due to no snowfall in the Himalayan region and lack of Western disturbances. The year 2023 was also the warmest year in 73 years. The Commission has called for a more proactive approach to addressing complaints, saying that delays in resolving issues hinder the effective implementation of air quality management measures. The AQI classifications are

as follows: 0-50 is 'good,' 51-100 is 'satisfactory,' 101-200 is 'moderate,' 201-300 is 'poor,' 301-400 is 'very poor,' and 401-500 is 'severe.' On Friday, it had reached 380, on a scale 0-500, which was the worst of this season as of now. The AQI had reached 390 at 10 am, 387 by noon, and settled at 382 by 3 pm, which increased the concerns of the residents and health officials.

UP seeks list of corrupt in tax department, sparking division among officials

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has initiated a rigorous crackdown on corruption within the State Tax Department, directing top officials to identify officers with questionable conduct and poor performance records. M Devraj, Principal Secretary (State Tax) has ordered all zonal commissioners and joint commissioners to compile a list of officers with tarnished reputations, particularly within the Flying Squad and Special Investigation Branch (SIB). During a recent review meeting, Devraj instructed that each district submit the name of at least one officer from the Flying Squad and SIB who has a history of corruption or poor performance.

Devraj conducted a zone-wise assessment of the department and urged the additional commissioners of Grade-1 and Grade-2 (SIB) to immediately report the names of the most corrupt or poorly performing officers within their zones.

He specified criteria to evaluate SIB and Flying Squad personnel, emphasising the need for accountability. This directive includes identifying officers with inadequate performance at the zonal level and categorizing them for further action.

For transparency and consistency, Devraj outlined performance standards specific to each department. SIB officers will be assessed on tax collection effectiveness, quality of case profiles, accuracy in reporting, and overall reputation. Similarly, the Flying Squad will be evaluated on the volume of tax collected, the ratio of detected tax-evasive vehicles to those inspected, and the impact of e-way bill verification on tax collection. Additionally, officers' reputations within their zones

will influence evaluations. Zonal officers are permitted to implement supplementary criteria to ensure accurate assessments.

The order has stirred anxiety and division among tax officials across the state. Officers argue that by targeting specific positions - Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, and Commercial Tax Officers - the directive implies that senior officials are exempt from scrutiny. This perception has fostered tension between level officers and their superiors.

Adding to the discord is the language used in the directive, particularly the term "bad." Officers expressed concern that the lack of a clear, standardised definition for "bad" performance leaves room for subjective interpretation. Some officials believe that alleged corruption cases should be substantiated through a formal investigation process, as detailed in their annual confidential reports. Officers contend that accusations of corruption should undergo due investigation before any label is affixed.

The controversy centers on the need for fair evaluation processes that distinguish between documented misconduct and mere allegations. Some senior officials argue that the broad criteria may undermine morale within the department and potentially overlook the need for systemic reforms. As the state's fight against corruption in the State Tax Department intensifies, this directive marks a significant move towards greater accountability but also reveals underlying tensions. How this list will impact the careers of implicated officers and the department's operational morale remains to be seen.

Oops! A Diwali greeting...

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In the process, the Anganwadi worker mistakenly entered the Aadhaar details of these unmarried girls on the pregnancy and childcare portal. This unintended crossover of roles appears to have led to the registration error, which has since been corrected. The CDO confirmed that, so far, there is no evidence suggesting that the Anganwadi worker distributed nutritional supplements to the unmarried girls. However, an investigation led by the DPPO is underway to clarify all aspects of the incident. "Though this was a mistake, we are thoroughly investigating it to prevent future errors," Nagpal said.

The issue came to light after Ramna village Pradhan, Aarti Patel, received complaints from the affected families. When Patel approached the Anganwadi worker for clarification, the worker reportedly responded unprofessionally, prompting Patel to escalate the complaint to the District Magistrate (DM). The Anganwadi worker's conduct is now under review as part of the ongoing investigation. "This incident highlights the importance of accurate data handling in government schemes and the need for clarity in responsibilities, especially when employees handle multiple roles. The state has assured that appropriate action will be taken based on the investigation findings," Nagpal said.

AMU does not...

From page 1

In his address, Adityanath also referenced the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi-Ilgah Mosque in Mathura and the Kashi Vishwanath Temple-Gyanvapi Mosque disputes, attributing "humiliation" on these issues to Hindu disunity. The Chief Minister highlighted improvements in Uttar Pradesh's law and order since the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) assumed power, crediting his administration for the progress. Adityanath's remarks were made in Khair, one of nine Uttar Pradesh constituencies facing Assembly bypolls on November 20. The Khair bypoll was triggered when BJP MLA Anoop Valmiki, elected in 2022, won a Lok Sabha seat from Hathras, necessitating his resignation from the Assembly

From Tihar, Sukesh Chandrashekar keeps Bollywood fantasy alive

From page 1

In his earlier offer, Sukesh has expressed his desire to acquire a controlling stake, between 50-70%, in Dharma Productions. Sukesh emphasised that the deal was non-negotiable and could be finalised within 48 hours if Karan Johar agreed to the terms.

"This is a letter of intent regarding acquiring a major portion of the stake in your company, Dharma Productions," the letter states. According to the letter, the offer is backed by Suksh's financial advisor, who reportedly informed him that Dharma Productions was seeking investments. Sukesh's

company, LS Holdings, is said to be interested in supporting Dharma's expansion plans. Adar Poonawalla led Serene Production recently acquired 50 per cent stake in Karan Johar's Dharma Productions and Dharmatic Entertainment, for Rs 1,000 crore, the company said in a press release. Earlier, it was reported Saregama would be doing the same but the reports were refuted. Earlier, on Diwali, Sukesh sent a letter to Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandes expressing his love and wrote, "Baby you know I would do everything to make you feel special, irrespective of what the situation is, I hope when you Read this

letter and See your Cute missing to see. I love you like Crazy my Baby Boo. Thank you for loving me and giving me the strength. I can feel every Second around me. Missing you my Baby Can't Wait, Love you My Bomma." He also revealed that he has named a star after Jacqueline and even praised her Cannes 2024 look. "My Baby Girl, Jacqueline, Baby firstly I have been missing you, Super Crazy, falling in love with you Crazier. Baby you Stole the Show in Cannes, your look in Gold, was Jazzy and Super Classy Too Pretty to handle my love. Through your other photoshoot pictures, you stole My heart over Again, my CupCake," he wrote.

Congress turns states into its ATMs: PM Modi

From page 1

"I challenge the shahi parivar of the Congress to prove if its members had ever visited Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's Pantheerth (a term he coined in 2017) the birthplace of late Ambedkar at Mhow in Madhya Pradesh, his residence in London (Sikhsha Bhoomi), Deeksha Bhoomi in Nagpur where he embraced Buddhism, Mahaparinirvan Sthal in Delhi, and Chaitya Bhoomi in Mumbai," PM Modi said.

Accusing the Congress of insulting the late Ambedkar for years on end, the PM said: "From the time of Nehru till today, the top family of the Congress has repeatedly insulted Baba Saheb Ambedkar. It did not give Baba Saheb Ambedkar credit for any major work done by him" Dwelling upon the achievements of the BJP government at the Centre and the MahaYuti government in the state, PM Modi said that the Centre had given a boost

to industry and infrastructure for cotton cultivators by laying the foundation stone of a textile park in Amravati. The textile park will pave the way for the prosperity of cotton farmers. Charging that the previous MVA government had stalled the irrigation projects undertaken by the previous Devendra Fadnavis-led government, the PM said: "After Mahayuti Alliance came to power in the state, the Wainganga Nalganga and Painganaga interlink projects

were sanctioned. The inter-link projects will bring all 5 districts in Western Vidarbha including Nagpur and Wardha District under irrigation." The PM said that his government accorded the classical language status to the Marathi language which had raised the prestige of Maharashtra. Referring to a slew of schemes launched by the Centre and MahaYuti government for empowering farmers in the state, Modi said: "Our effort

has been to empower the farmers. If the farmer is empowered, he becomes the hero of the country's progress... We are therefore increasing the farmers' income and reducing their expenditure. The Centre introduced the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi for which the Mahayuti government gave its support. The result is that farmers of Maharashtra are getting Rs 12,000 annually." Touching upon the Ram Mandir issue, the PM said: "I

have come to seek your blessings for the BJP-led Mahayuti (grand alliance) in the Maharashtra assembly elections. You should remember the significance of November 9. It was on this day, the Supreme Court gave its ruling in favour of the construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya. After the Supreme Court's verdict, the people from all the religions accepted it and showed great sensitivity in facilitating the Ram temple without any hinderance".

Gun violence in Capital: One dead, another injured

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 24-year-old man was killed and another injured in two incidents of firing carried out by three juveniles in separate areas of northeast Delhi within a span of 10 minutes. According to the police on Saturday, the accused first fired at a person in Welcome's Kabir Nagar around 1 am, looted his scooter and rode it to a location in neighbouring Jyoti Nagar and fired at a house. While Nadeem and Shah Nawaz received bullet injuries in the first incident, nobody was harmed in the second. Police

said the two injured were taken to a hospital where Nadeem was declared dead, while Shah Nawaz is recuperating. Deputy Commissioner of Police (northeast) Rakesh Paweriya said the three suspects have been apprehended and are being interrogated. "They first received information about firing in Kabir Nagar and when a team was sent, it found three empty cartridges and a motorcycle lying on the roadside," he added. When they enquired about it, police found that the motorbike belonged to the accused who left it there and fled with the

scooty that belonged to one of the victims. Meanwhile, another PCR call was received at 1.26 am from the neighbouring Jyoti Nagar area about firing at a house by three men on a scooter. The caller, identified as Rahul, said the accused came on a scooter and opened fire at his house but no one was injured in the incident. Six empty and a live cartridge were found at the spot. Another officer said the accused were later apprehended from the same area. It is suspected that the accused had a financial dispute involving Rs

10,000 with Nadeem. They wanted to target him but Shah Nawaz also received bullet injury in his leg as he was standing nearby. The accused are being further interrogated to ascertain the exact cause of shooting at both the places. A case under section 103 (1) and 3 (5) of the BNS and 27 of the Arms Act has been registered at the Welcome Police Station and under section 109 (1) and 3(5) of the BNS and 25 and 27 of the Arms Act has been registered in Jyoti Nagar as well. Senior AAP leader and Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on

Saturday criticised the BJP over twin firing incidents in Delhi, saying the city has given the party seven MPs but it thinks it is not responsible at all for law and order in the city. A man was killed and another injured in two incidents of firing carried out by three people in separate areas of northeast Delhi in a span of 10 minutes during the early hours of Sunday. Addressing a press conference here, Bharadwaj said the BJP thinks it has no responsibility as far as Delhi's law and order is concerned. "That is why we do not see any statement by any of their lead-

ers or the LG (lieutenant governor) on such incidents." "The BJP thinks that they have no responsibility of law and order in Delhi. The people of the city give them seven MPs, but still they don't issue any statement regarding such incidents or any plan to improve law and order," he said. The common people and businessmen are living in fear in the national capital, the minister added. Meanwhile Delhi BJP Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor lambasted the AAP government saying it is unfortunate that Delhi Government ministers who have failed Delhi

on every front are trying to portray that Delhi's law and order situation has collapsed. Delhi BJP Spokesperson has said most of the crime incidents reported during last few months are actually incidents of crime not for extortion but for personal enmity. Even the incident on Friday at Welcome Colony was result of business monetary dispute. The victim knew the assailants as was in earlier incident at Farsh Bazar. Delhi BJP Spokesperson has said incidents of firing need to be checked but Delhiites appreciate the almost 100% crime detection rate of Delhi Police.

Man stabs mother over disagreement on emigration

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 31-year-old man allegedly stabbed his mother multiple times for refusing to fund his move to Canada. The incident took place in Molarband village in southeast Delhi's Badarpur area. After killing his mother on the evening of November 6, the accused, Krishna Kant (31), called his father Surjeet Singh (52) and asked him to come home, the police said. When Singh reached home, the accused apologised and asked him to go upstairs and see for himself what he had done, Ravi Kumar Singh, Deputy Commissioner of Police (southeast) said. Upon reaching the first floor of the house, Singh found his wife Geeta lying in a pool of blood with multiple stab injuries on her body, he said, adding that during this time the accused managed to flee. Singh immediately took Geeta to Apollo Hospital, where she was declared brought dead, the police said. The DCP added Singh has two sons. While his younger son, Sahil Bholi (27), works in a bank, Kant was unemployed and addicted to drugs. "Both sons are unmarried and at the time of incident only Geeta and the accused were present at home," the Kumar added. Kant was later arrested from the same area and a case of murder was registered against him, the officer added. During interrogation, he revealed that he wanted to migrate to Canada but his family wanted him to marry first. On the day of the murder, an argument broke out between the mother and the son and Kant ended up stabbing Geeta with a knife he bought some time back, the police said. The father of the accused deals in properties and has an office located at Tanki Road in Jaitpur, the officer said.

LG administers oath of office to new NDMC team



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

VK Saxena, Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Delhi on Saturday administered the oath of faith and allegiance to the new team of New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), led by Keshav Chandra as chairman and Kuljeet Chahal as vice-chairperson with others nominated members in a ceremony held at Raj Niwas.

NDMC has been reconstituted by the notifications issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on September 17 and November 5, in which three elected representatives from NDMC area constituencies, four official members and four non-official members have been nominated. Accordingly, the LG also administered the oath to Bansuri Swaraj, MP, New Delhi,

Virendra Singh, MLA, Delhi Cantonment, Anil Valmiki, Sarita Tomar and Dinesh Partap Singh, and Niharika Rai, secretary (finance), Delhi, as members of NDMC. Among them, Kuljeet Chahal has been nominated as the vice chairperson of the NDMC as per the notification of MHA. The oath taking ceremony was also attended by Atishi Marlena, chief minister, Delhi.

10,000 volunteers reinstated in Delhi to fight against pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The AAP government here has approved the reinstatement of 10,000 Civil Defence Volunteers and Bus Marshals in Delhi. These volunteers and marshals will be deployed within a week to join the fight against pollution. Blaming the BJP and officers controlled by it for hardships of out-of-job bus marshals, Delhi Chief Minister Atishi on Saturday sharing details saying the AAP government has approved a proposal to re-engage 10,000 Civil Defence Volunteers (CDVs) and Bus Marshals as pollution sentinels. Atishi added, "Bus marshals will be crucial in monitoring pollution hotspots, preventing open burning, and following up on complaints." Their responsibilities will include monitoring pollution control centres and hotspots, preventing open burning, managing construction waste to curb dust, stopping the illegal use of diesel generators, and following up on complaints received on the Green Delhi app. While sending the file for approval to Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, the Chief Minister hit out at the



BJP for allegedly forcing the bus marshals out of work in October 2023 and compromising women's security in public transport buses by abruptly ending the marshals' engagement. The political blame game erupted last month after the LG slammed the unnecessary politicisation of the matter by AAP leaders and wrote to CM Atishi to send a proposal for re-engagement of the CDVs. "Unfortunately no concrete proposal has been sent to me by the government," he wrote in

the letter addressed to the CM. Seeking immediate intervention from the CM on the matter, the LG said she should direct officials to draft a proposal to be sent to Raj Niwas for CDVs' long-term engagement. After LG's intervention, Delhi BJP picked it up and staged protests across the city, accusing the Kejriwal government for dismissal of CDVs. Reacting to Atishi's decision, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said that under pressure from BJP leaders, the AAP government has been

forced to order the reinstatement on duty starting from November 11. Addressing a press conference, Atishi said for the next four months, bus marshals and civil defence volunteers will contribute to the fight against pollution. "Call-out notices for the marshals will be issued from Monday, and they can proceed to register at different DM offices. Deployment for pollution control efforts will follow within 2-3 days of registration," she explained. Atishi stated, "The appointment process for bus marshals will start on Monday, and the Delhi Government will soon send a proposal for their permanent appointment to the Lieutenant Governor. No matter how many plots the BJP devises, under the guidance of Arvind Kejriwal, we will resolve every problem faced by the people of Delhi." She highlighted that in 2017-18, the Delhi Government deployed bus marshals to enhance women's safety in buses, ensuring protection for women, children, and the elderly travelling on DTC buses. "Every stalled project will be completed in the same manner," Atishi said.

HCS officer arrested for sexually exploiting Dalit worker

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Kulbhushan Bansal, a Haryana Civil Services (HCS) officer, was arrested on Sunday following a complaint by a Dalit contractual male worker, who complained of sexually exploitation at gunpoint. Rajesh Kumar Mohan, Additional Superintendent of Police, Hisar, said Bansal was sent to a one-day police remand. Bansal's arrest came after a Dalit worker posted at Haryana's public health department lodged a complaint against him. The worker accused the officer

of making casteist remarks and exploiting him for six months. Bansal was booked under sections 377 (unnatural offences) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code and sections of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The case was registered under the IPC as the incident had taken place six months ago. The officer, who was serving as the Hansi sub-divisional magistrate, was suspended on Thursday. The complainant claimed that the HCS officer had hired him as a peon on a contract.

DDA issues SoP for upgrading schools

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

VK Saxena, Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Delhi, has approved upgrading primary and middle schools in the capital to senior secondary level without paying any additional charges to the Delhi Development Authority (DDA). The decision follows a high court order. Giving details on Saturday, the LG's office, noted converting or upgrading primary and middle schools to senior secondary schools has become easier in Delhi now. The decision comes as a relief to registered societies, which are exempted from Income



Tax, and are running schools in the national capital. The decision will exempt societies and schools from paying additional Floor Area Ratio (FAR) charges, in the process, liberating them from red tape and the harassment of running

around to the education department and the DDA. The LG has also directed that the DDA modifies its lease deeds with the societies to this effect. Accordingly, the DDA has issued a SoP for conversion or upgrading primary and middle schools to senior secondary schools. As per the SoP, while such schools will be able to avail the additional FAR for such upgrades, they will not be required to pay any charges for the same. As per the SoP issued by the DDA, societies and schools will now have to apply for a no objection certificate with the authority for availing of additional FAR. They will also

require permission of the state education department for upgrading from primary and secondary to secondary and senior secondary level, certificate of Income Tax exemption and certificate of affiliation from education boards such as the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) or the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE), etc. The DDA will thereafter ascertain whether the applicant has any pending dues towards ground rent, etc. and whether any additional area has been occupied. Subsequently, the authority will provide NOC for upgrades without any additional FAR charges.



SC to hear plea restraining felling of trees without its nod

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has agreed to hear a plea seeking to restrain the Delhi government from allowing felling of trees in the national capital without the court's permission. The application, which stated that five trees are felled in Delhi every hour, also sought to restrain the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change from permitting diversion of forests in Delhi without the SC's nod. The matter came up for hearing before a bench of Justices AS Oka and AG Masih on Friday. The court asked the Delhi government and others to respond to the application by November 22. The application has also sought the constitution of an expert committee, headed by a retired judge of the SC or the Delhi High Court, to assess the tree protection regimen in the national capital. A report containing its recommendation for the protection and preservation of existing trees and forests in Delhi should be submitted by the committee before the court, it said. The application referred to a February 2023 order of the Delhi High Court and said it was recorded that five trees were felled every hour in the national capital, based on the data provided by the forest department of Delhi. It sought to restrain the Delhi government from allowing felling of trees in the national capital

without the apex court's permission. The preamble of the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act (DPTA), 1994 clearly states that it is "an Act to provide for the preservation of trees in the National Capital Territory of Delhi", the court noted. "There are procedural safeguards provided within the DPTA which are clearly visible in the flow of the Act wherein protection and preservation of trees precede the regulatory mechanism for felling of trees. These procedural safeguards have been grossly violated," it added. Referring to Section 7 of the DPTA, the SC said it is clearly enshrined in the Act that it shall be the responsibility of the tree authority to "preserve all trees within its jurisdiction" and also undertake critical study of the proposals of various government departments for construction of buildings, roads and factories with regard to the protection of the existing trees and planting more. "A comprehensive study of all the meetings of the tree authority revealed that the tree authority has met a total of only eight times since its inception in 1995 till March 2021. Whereas, the tree authority had an obligation to meet once every three months," the application said. It said the importance of preserving fully grown trees, including generational trees or heritage trees, cannot be undermined and it was the need of the hour. The law laid down by the SC has great significance for Delhi.

FIR against fashion designer's ex-employees

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police told a court here that an FIR has been lodged against two former employees of fashion designer Pallavi Mohan for criminal breach of trust for allegedly running a parallel business and using her brand name and clients to sell their own products. According to the police on Saturday, they made the submissions before Judicial

Magistrate Akshay Sharma on October 18. A senior police official said, "The judge directed the police to file the case on a complaint filed by 'Not So Serious Trading LLP', owned by Mohan." He added that the advocates Sumit Gehlot and Nikhil Bhalla, representing the company, however, claimed that police lodged the FIR after a delay of 13 days since the court order. The officer said that the complaint alleged that the accused

secretly accepted orders from Mohan's clients. "Thereafter, the accused persons manufactured 'high-end' ladies' garments using the 'Not So Serious' brand name, design, and materials, and diverted payments to their own accounts and those of their family members and associated companies," another senior police official said, adding that the complaint also includes allegations of forgery and record fabrication.

Camps held to register new voters for Delhi polls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In another chance for eligible people to enroll as voters ahead of the upcoming Delhi Assembly polls due in February, a special two-day camp began on Saturday. All eligible people can get their names registered in the electoral roll at special camps, said a notice issued by chief electoral officer (CEO), Delhi. The camps have been set up at all the polling stations across

the city where people can go for registration from 10 am to 5 pm, officials said. The camps have been held as part of the ongoing special summary revision of electoral rolls. "All the citizens of Delhi who have already attained the age of 18 years or attaining the age of 18 years as on January 1, 2025 can apply in Form-6 at these special camps," the notice said. Any eligible citizen, who is going to attain the age of 18

years on or before any of the subsequent qualifying dates (beyond January 1) in the year 2025, may also file his or her claim for inclusion of name in the roll in advance, through Form-6, the notice stated. All new applicants attaining the age of 18 years by October 1, 2025 can apply through Form-6. Correction or replacement of electoral photo identity card (EPIC), shifting can be accomplished through Form-8, it said.

Pets shops, breeding centres in Delhi must register in a month, else face closure: Animal Board

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

All pet shops and dog breeding centres in the national capital have to register with the Delhi Animal Welfare Board within one month or face closure for non-compliance, according to a public notice. The move comes in the wake of the Delhi High Court order to ensure accountability and compliance with the laws of the land, and has been welcomed by animal rights activists. In its public notice dated November 6, the Delhi Animal Welfare Board has mandated that all pet shops and dog breeding centres in the National Capital Territory of

Delhi register their establishments within one month. Failure to comply will result in the shutdown of non-registered establishments, as per rules outlined in the Dog Breeding and Marketing Rules, 2017, and the Pet Shop Rules, 2018, both under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, it said. The Board has enabled online registration via the e-district portal for ease of access, the notice reads. The move is aimed at bolstering animal welfare and ensuring compliance with legal standards, according to the Board. Speaking about the notice, Asher Jesudoss, Member of

the Executive Committee of the Board, told PTI, "The Dog Breeding & Marketing Rules, 2017, and the Pet Shop Rules, 2018, make it mandatory for pet shops and dog breeding institutions across the country to be registered with the State Animal Welfare Board. It is illegal for any such institution to operate without this registration." "Our team visited several pet shops and noted numerous violations in these establishments, including inadequate safety measures, poor hygiene, and inhumane living conditions for animals," Jesudoss said. Following an order from the

Delhi High Court to ensure accountability and compliance with the laws of the land, the department has intensified its efforts through newspaper advertisements, he said. He also mentioned that the department plans to broadcast this information on radio and FM channels to reach as many establishment owners as possible, encouraging them to register with the Board. "Any establishment that fails to register within one month of this notice will face closure and sealing as per the rules framed under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960," Jesudoss added. Meanwhile, Kartick

Satyanarayan, Co-founder of Wildlife SOS and executive member of Friendicoes, said it "is a welcome move for pet owners as it will help eradicate cruelty and the illegal trafficking of exotic pets, and ensure better welfare and care for animals housed in pet shops as well as with breeders". "Mandatory registration of dog breeders will also help streamline health checks and promote ethical pet ownership. Unethical breeding in puppy mills often produces puppies with birth defects, genetic issues, and compromised health, leading to pain and suffering for the animals and burdening pet owners with costly

vet care," he said. "This sometimes results in large-scale abandonment of pets with health and behaviour issues at shelters like Friendicoes, which then become financially burdened." "Therefore, mandatory registration for dog breeders and pet shops by the national regulatory body will help address these unethical practices that plague our community. This is the need of the hour," Satyanarayan emphasised. Animal activist Ridhima Saraswat also highlighted the urgency of enforcing registration for pet shops and dog breeding centres across the city.

Shah likens Jharkhand Govt to 'burnt transformer'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ RANCHI

Taking a jibe at the JMM-led coalition in Jharkhand, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday equated it with a "burnt transformer" that "failed" to relay the power of prosperity sent through the "high tension line" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Centre.

He also appealed to the people to vote for the BJP for peaceful Ram Navami celebrations, promising that he would participate in such festival in Hazaribag if the BJP government was voted to power. "Narendra Modi's government is like an HT (high tension) power line. An HT line cannot supply electricity directly to your homes; a transformer is needed. The Hemant Soren government (Jharkhand CM) is like a burnt transformer. The Centre sends lakhs of



crores of rupees through its HT line for development, but it is not transmitted to you. The time has come to change this burnt transformer," Shah claimed addressing a poll rally in Hazaribag.

Shah alleged that the JMM-led regime was involved in multiple scams, including Rs 1,000 crore in MGNREGA, Rs 600 crore in land deals, and Rs 1,000 crore in mining and liquor. He further accused the state

Water quality of Ganga in UP deteriorating due to discharge of sewage, observes NGT

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has observed that the water quality in the Ganga in Uttar Pradesh is deteriorating because of the discharge of sewage or sullage into the river.

Earlier, while considering the prevention and control of pollution in the Ganga, the green body sought compliance reports from various states, including Uttar Pradesh.

In an order dated November six, a bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava said according to the report from Uttar Pradesh, there was a gap of 128 million litres per day (MLD) in sewage treatment in Prayagraj district.

Also, 25 untapped drains discharged untreated sewage into the Ganga in the district and 15 untapped drains discharged the sullage into the Yamuna, the bench, also comprising judicial member Justice Sudhir Agarwal and



expert member A Senthil Vel, said. "We find that out of the 326 drains disclosed in the report of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) dated October 22, 247 drains are untapped (in the state) and discharging 3,513.16 MLD of waste water into the river Ganga and its tributaries," the tribunal said.

Expressing dissatisfaction, it directed the state's chief secretary to file an affidavit disclosing the information regarding each drain across different districts, the sewage generated from those, the sewage treatment plants (STP) to which those were proposed to be connected and the timeline for making the STPs functional.

"The affidavit will also disclose the short-term measures that will be adopted to prevent the discharge of untreated sewage in the river in respect of each of the districts and drain till STPs are made fully functional and 100 per cent household connectivity is achieved," the bench said.

It also took note of the CPCB report disclosing the status of 41 STPs across 16 Ganga-front towns, which said six plants are non-operational and of the 35 operational STPs, only one complied with the rules.

Demonising Constitutional institutions pastime for some, cautions VP Dhankhar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Demonising constitutional institutions and sermonising people is fast becoming a "pastime", Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Saturday and cautioned that such actions are a recipe for chaos.

He also said even those who "constitutionally matter in the political arena" are "sermonising all and demonising our constitutional institutions".

Addressing an event of an educational institution here, the vice president said it is time to "bid adieu to this".

"Also, I say with utmost restraint -- time for our elites to be elites. To them, I appeal -- to be a worthy elite, you have to be spurred by the fervour of nationalism," he said, without naming anyone.

Dhankhar also spoke on the crucial role of the alumni in strengthening the educational ecosystem, urging for active participation and



contributions to alumni associations.

"The alumni of an institution are in several ways its lifeline.... I strongly urge to have an alumni fund. Making annual contributions is all important. Some of the best institutions globally have been on an upward trajectory because these institutions are fuelled by alumni energy," he said.

The vice president said associations of trade, industry, business, and commerce must also come forward to fuel research and spur innovation through liberal financial contributions.

BJP claims Congress' Maharashtra unit has assured Muslim body of 10 per cent reservation, other demands

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday here claimed that the Maharashtra unit of Congress has assured a Muslim body that it will take steps to fulfil its demands including a 10 per cent quota for the minority community in jobs and education and a ban on the RSS if Maha Vikas Aghadi is voted to power in the state assembly polls.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters, senior party

leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said that the All India Ulama Board (AIUB) has written to Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) offering its conditional support in the assembly elections.

"In its letter, the organisation has said that if Nana Patole (Congress), Uddhav Thackeray (Shiv Sena-UBT), Sharad Pawar (NCP-SP) and other parties want their support they will have to fulfil their demands which include opposition to Waqf Bill, 10 per cent reservation to Muslims in jobs and education..." he



claimed. It has also demanded a ban on the RSS if the MVA is voted to power in Maharashtra, Prasad claimed, terming the organisation's demands as "divisive and a charter for the disintegration of the country".

What is "painful" here is that the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee in its reply to the organisation has assured that it will "definitely" take steps to fulfil their demands if voted to power in Maharashtra, the BJP leader

Prasad said that Muslims cannot be given a 10 per cent quota on the basis of religion as it is not permissible under the Constitution.

If a 10 per cent quota is given to Muslims on other grounds it will slash the existing share in reservations meant for the OBCs, SCs and STs, he said and asked Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi if it is acceptable to them.

"What has happened to you, Uddhav Thackeray? You forgot your own legacy. Balasaheb Thackeray had struggled so much against these things... You are his son."

"We vehemently condemned

founded by late Bala Saheb Thackeray. It's now an organisation out to grab power by making all compromises."

He said the RSS is a nationalist organisation that has done "historic work" in the service of the nation and society, and slammed Uddhav Thackeray.

"What has happened to you, Uddhav Thackeray? You forgot your own legacy. Balasaheb Thackeray had struggled so much against these things... You are his son."

"We vehemently condemned

it. It's very painful because we were once together," the BJP leader said as he accused Uddhav Thackeray of deviating from his party's original ideology.

Prasad also took on Sharad Pawar, asking why he has kept silent on the issue. "You are a seasoned player. I know you understand the Constitution. You are 80 plus and you command a lot of respect there. Did you make them understand that it's not possible (to fulfil AIUB's demands)... How far will you go for votes," he said.

Congress poses questions to PM Modi on his vision for Marathwada region

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress on Saturday posed questions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his vision for the Marathwada region including his solution for water scarcity and inadequate rail infrastructure.

"The non-biological PM is in Nanded and Akola. Four questions for him - Where does the BJP stand on the issue of a caste census and raising the cap of 50% once 50 percent cap reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and OBCs imposed by the Supreme Court?" Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a statement.

He claimed the Congress government in neighbouring Telangana is starting its door-to-door caste survey on Saturday and will cover 1.17 crore households.

"Meanwhile, the non-biological PM will be in Vidarbha - which has played such a central role in the struggle for social justice in the country - and will likely be entirely silent on the pressing issue of a caste census and the raising of the cap of 50% on reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and OBCs.

Why is the non-biological PM so silent? What is he afraid of?" he asked.

Congress leader also asked whether the PM will deliver on his promise to put the BJP's Rajya Sabha MP Ashok



Chavan in jail. Ramesh said while campaigning in Nanded on March 30, 2014, Modi had announced he would send Ashok Chavan to jail "within six months" if he became PM.

Ten years later, Ashok Chavan has joined the BJP and been rewarded with a Rajya Sabha seat.

His daughter is now a BJP contestant from the Bhokar assembly seat, he noted.

"Will this prove to be a promise delayed but not denied - or has the BJP Washing Machine cleared Mr. Chavan of any alleged wrongdoing?" Ramesh asked. The Congress leader also asked why has the Indian Railways performed so poorly in the Nanded division.

The Congress leader said the railway infrastructure in the Nanded division, which serves many areas in Marathwada, has been subjected to blatant neglect by the Modi government.

According to data furnished by the South Central

SC agrees to hear plea seeking to restrain felling of trees in Delhi without its nod

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has agreed to hear a plea seeking to restrain the Delhi government from allowing felling of trees in the national capital without the apex court's permission.

The application, which stated that five trees are felled in Delhi every hour, also sought to restrain the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change from permitting diversion of forests in Delhi without the top court's nod.

The matter came up for hearing before a bench of Justices A S Oka and A G Masih on Friday. The court asked the Delhi government and others to respond to the

application by November 22. The application has also sought the constitution of an expert committee, headed by a retired judge of the SC or the Delhi High Court, to assess the tree protection regimen in the national capital. A report containing its recommendation for the protection and preservation of existing trees and forests in Delhi should be submitted by the committee before the apex court, it said.

The application referred to a February 2023 order of the Delhi High Court and said it was recorded that five trees were felled every hour in the national capital, based on the data provided by the Forest Department of Delhi. It sought to restrain the Delhi



government from allowing felling of trees in the national capital without the apex court's permission.

The preamble of the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act (DPTA), 1994 clearly states that it is "an Act to provide for the preservation of trees in the National Capital Territory of Delhi", it said.

"There are procedural safeguards provided within

the DPTA which are clearly visible in the flow of the Act wherein protection and preservation of trees precede the regulatory mechanism for felling of trees. These procedural safeguards have been grossly violated," it added.

Referring to Section 7 of the DPTA, it said it is clearly enshrined in the Act that it shall be the responsibility of the tree authority to "preserve all trees within its jurisdiction" and also undertake critical study of the proposals of various government departments for construction of buildings, roads and factories with regard to the protection of the existing trees and planting more.

"A comprehensive study of all the meetings of the tree authority revealed that the tree authority has met a total of only eight times since its inception in 1995 till March 2021. Whereas, the tree authority had an obligation to meet once every three months," the application said.

It said the importance of preserving fully grown trees, including generational trees or heritage trees, cannot be undermined and it was the need of the hour.

The law laid down by the apex court has great significance for Delhi as the National Forest Policy mandates that one-third of the total land area of the country should be under forest or tree cover, it said.

BRGavai nominated as executive chairman of NALSA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Supreme Court judge B R Gavai has been nominated as the executive chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), which is mandated to provide free legal services to the weaker sections of society.

A notification issued by the Department of Justice on Friday said Justice Gavai's nomination as the executive chairman of NALSA will be effective from November 11. While the chief justice of India is the patron-in-chief of NALSA, the seniormost judge after the CJI is its executive chair.



As of now, CJI D Y Chandrachud is its patron-in-chief and Justice Sanjiv Khanna is the executive chairperson. Justice Chandrachud demits office as the CJI on Sunday and Justice Khanna will assume office on Monday. Justice Gavai will be the seniormost judge after the CJI from Monday.

Indian Navy set to demonstrate its maritime capabilities in Odisha on Navy day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy is set to demonstrate its formidable maritime capabilities and operational strength at the Blue Flag Beach of Puri in Odisha on the occasion of Navy Day on December four, officials said on Saturday.

President Droupadi Murmu has consented to be the chief guest for the event, a Navy spokesperson said in a statement.

This event showcases the Navy's multifaceted competencies, enhances maritime awareness among citizens and honours India's

rich seafaring heritage. The 2024 'Operational Demonstration' or 'Op Demo' is set to be held against the backdrop of the pristine Blue Flag Beach that symbolises the connection between the Indian Navy and the maritime legacy of the state of Odisha, the statement said.

Puri received the Blue Flag Beach certification a few years ago.

The Blue Flag designation signifies an eco-tourism model aimed at providing beachgoers with clean and hygienic bathing facilities, a safe environment, and sustainable development practices.

The Indian Navy said it is

working closely with the Odisha government and local authorities to ensure the smooth execution of the event. Seating arrangements would be made to accommodate local spectators and tourists, offering everyone a chance to witness the live demonstration from the beach.

The event will also be broadcast live on national television and streamed via the Indian Navy's YouTube channel to reach a wider audience, it added. In 2022, President Murmu witnessed the operational demonstration by the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam on December 4.

LJP (Ram Vilas) to counter RJD's 'MY' combine in Bihar with own support base: Chirag

Tarari (Bihar), Nov 9 (PTI)

Union minister Chirag Paswan on Saturday claimed that his Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) would counter the RJD's formidable 'MY' (Muslims and Yadavs) combine in Bihar with its own support base of women and the youth.

The NDA partner was talking to reporters in Tarari assembly constituency, on the sidelines of a rally he addressed for BJP candidate Vishal Prashant along with Chief Minister and JD(U) president Nitish Kumar,

among others. "I am glad at the candidature of Vishal Prashant who is young. My party had contested and won five seats in Lok Sabha polls. Four of our candidates were young", said Paswan, who himself clinched Hajipur, the pocket borough of his late father Ram Vilas Paswan.

The 42-year leader, who did not mention the RJD by name, said "There are some who speak of an MY combination which is just mobilisation along the lines of cast and religion. My party, too, has its own MY

combination which stands for mahila and yuva. Our stance towards women is obvious with two of our MPs being females".

Paswan, who is known to have excellent personal relations with the family of RJD supreme Lalu Prasad, extended birthday greetings to the latter's son and heir apparent Tejashwi Yadav, calling himself a "big brother" of the young leader.

When asked whether he would like to give any political advice to Yadav, the third-term MP broke into a sheepish grin and remarked



"Given his family background, he has no dearth of good advisors".

Paswan, however, deplored a statement by RJD's Buxar MP Sudhakar Singh who

recently threatened to "beat up with sticks" BJP workers in Ramgarh assembly constituency where assembly by-poll has been necessitated by his election to Lok Sabha and his party has fielded his younger brother Ajit. Paswan said, "This is the type of language and behaviour that is always associated with RJD, a reason why the party is blamed for jungle raj in Bihar while it was in power. I was a teenager back then and still remember how much the bad reputation of the state used to rile its self-

respecting people". Responding to another query, the Union minister said "Hindus are being targeted, in countries where they are a minority, by extremists from other faiths. Canada is an example. But, it is disgusting that when Narendra Modi government brought the CAA for persecuted Hindus, the opposition criticized it".

"Fear-mongering has become the defining trait of INDIA bloc. They claimed CAA would deprive a section of population of citizenship though there was

no such provision in the Act. They also said Modi, in his third term, will do away with quotas and scrap the Constitution. That too has been proven false", Paswan said.

Asked about Independent MP Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav's claims of getting threatening calls from people posing as aides of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, the Union minister "if he is making such complaints, these must be investigated and he must be provided with adequate security".

Safety must get highest priority while constructing roads: Gadkari

PTI ■ RAIPUR

Union minister Nitin Gadkari has drawn attention to the rising number of road accidents and consequent deaths, and stressed on giving safety the highest priority while constructing pathways in the country. Addressing the 83rd annual session of the Indian Roads Congress at Pt Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium here on Friday, he said if anyone dies in an accident due to road engineering fault in the future, then he will hold himself guilty for it. Highlighting the Centre's

efforts to prevent road accidents, he urged government engineers to quit their jobs and start a good DPR (detailed project report) making company, assuring them to give work on a priority basis. The Minister of Road Transport and Highways emphasized on production of bitumen and CNG from stubble in agriculture-dominated Chhattisgarh, arguing the move will cut dependence on fossil fuels and check pollution. He announced a slew of road projects for Chhattisgarh and said he believes the state will have a road network

similar to that of America in the next two years. "Every year 1.50 lakh deaths due to road accidents are reported which has now increased to 1.68 lakh. Efforts are on to improve the shortcomings in road engineering and automobile engineering but defective DPR has created a major problem," the minister maintained. He advised government engineers to quit their jobs and start a good DPR-making company. "We have been making serious efforts to prevent road accidents. Nearly 60 per cent victims of road



accidents are aged between 18 and 34 years. I would like to urge you to build roads where no accidents take place (due to defective engineering works)," he said.

Improvement in road engineering will curb accidents and save lives, Gadkari asserted. "We have made rules in automobile engineering. If anyone dies in an accident due to road engineering in the future, then I will feel that I am guilty for it," he told participants at the event. Pointing at the gathering of officials and engineers, the minister said no tenders should be issued without carefully examining DPR for projects. Road safety should be given the highest priority to prevent accident deaths, he added.

Gadkari emphasized the significance of waste-to-energy technologies and urged Chhattisgarh to work on producing CNG and bitumen using paddy straw. The Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) and the Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun, have developed bio-bitumen from paddy straw and it is being used in Meghalaya, he told the gathering. "It (paddy straw) can be used up to 35 per cent in bitumen. The country's requirement of bitumen is 90 lakh metric tonnes and capacity of refinery is 40-50 lakh metric tonnes. We are importing 50

lakh metric tonnes," Gadkari said. If Chhattisgarh starts producing bitumen from stubble, it will be a waste-to-wealth move, he said. Similarly, 400 projects for producing bio-CNG and bio-LNG from paddy straw have started in Punjab and Haryana. If Chhattisgarh will do the same, no petrol and diesel will be required in the state, the Union minister opined. Gadkari underlined the need to develop robust infrastructure to realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India).

Indian Army flags off motorcycle expedition in Arunachal Pradesh

PTI ■ ITANAGAR

A motorcycle expedition organised by the Indian Army was flagged off from Mipi in Arunachal Pradesh's Dibang Valley, an official said on Saturday. The expedition was organised to honour the soldiers who fought for the nation during the 1962 Sino-India conflict and commemorate the Battle of Walong, defence spokesperson Lt Col Mahendra Rawat said. Dao Division's General Officer Commanding Major General VS Deshpande flagged off the expedition on Friday in the presence of Anini MLA Mopi Mihi and state government officers. The expedition team, comprising 10 personnel of the Army's Spear Corps and 10 civilians, have scheduled halts at Roing in the Lower Dibang Valley district and Hayuliang in the Anjaw district. Lt Col Rawat said the motorcyclists will ride through the Mishmi ranges and cross the pristine Dibang and Lohit valleys. The ride will end at the historic Walong War Memorial in Anjaw district on November 11, he said. The fierce Battle of Walong unfolded in the unforgiving terrain of Kibithu, Namti Tri Junction (famously known as



Tiger's Mouth), Walong and adjoining features in the easternmost parts of Arunachal Pradesh, according to the Army. "In October 1962, as Chinese forces advanced aggressively into Indian territory, the responsibility of defending the strategically crucial Walong sector fell upon the gallant 11th Infantry Brigade of the Indian Army's esteemed 2nd Infantry Division," the Army earlier said. This brigade, comprising the battle-hardened units of 6 Kumaon, 4 Sikh and 3/3 Gorkha Rifles, was tasked with holding their ground against an adversary that was not only numerically superior but also better equipped and entrenched in advantageous positions, it added. The valiant stand of the 11th Infantry Brigade delayed the Chinese advance, providing a

critical morale boost to the nation and demonstrating the unyielding courage of the Indian soldiers, the Army said. The route, tracing a historic path through the beautiful landscapes of Arunachal Pradesh, symbolises the Indian Army's commitment to fostering unity and promoting adventure tourism in border areas, Lt Col Rawat said. Each halt will be an opportunity for the riders to connect with the local communities, highlighting the strength, resilience and solidarity that define the spirit of the region, and promote national integration, he said. The motorcycle expedition is a part of the month-long celebrations that started on October 17 to mark the 62nd anniversary of the Battle of Walong fought during the 1962 Sino-Indian War.

India has effective mechanism to monitor oceans: Navy Chief

PTI ■ KANNUR

India has a highly effective mechanism for monitoring the oceans, known as maritime domain awareness, and is fully aware of "who is where and who is doing what" to ensure the country's interests are not compromised, Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi has said. The Navy Chief also dismissed the dual carrier operation by China in the South China Sea as "nothing we should be concerned of". Addressing the media after the grand finale of THINQ 2024, a nationwide quiz competition organised by the Indian Navy on Friday evening, Tripathi also said India keeps a "close watch" on activities in its "area of interest". He made these remarks at the Ezhimala Naval Academy here in response to a question on China's growing influence in the region through its cooperation with Sri Lanka. "What China does in any part of the globe, let them do it. What they do in our area of interest, we are keeping a close watch. Nothing happens in our part of the world which we do not know," CNS added. He said the Navy is keeping a very close watch in our areas so that India's national interests are not



compromised in any way, anywhere. "When their units, whether military or non-military, operate in the Indian Ocean region, we do ensure that our national interests are not compromised. We have got a fantastic organisation to keep the oceans under watch, which is maritime domain awareness, and we know exactly who is where and who is doing what," the Navy Chief said. He said the dual carrier operation is nothing concerning India. "We have done these dual carrier operations for many years now," he added. Tripathi also said the Indian Navy is very proud of the two young women Naval officers who are now on a mission to circle the globe in a boat as part of the Navika Sagar Parikrama-2. "They are reaching their first port of call in Australia on Saturday. During the voyage, they will only touch four ports across the globe. It is a very challenging journey, as

they will have to face rough seas and weather. But they are well-equipped and well-trained. They already have training for 36,000 nautical miles," Tripathi said. Talking about the initiatives like THINQ quiz competition, he said that the Navy has several such initiatives to popularise the force among the countrymen, especially youths, and educate them on what the Navy does during peace and during 'not-so-peaceful times'. He said innovation is one of the top priorities for the Navy, and the Indian Navy always wanted to remain on top of the technology curve. "There is a process in which we recruit our officers and cadets. We assess the suitability. I am not worried about the quality (of resources) which we are getting," he added. He said the Navy also involved big public sector undertakings, medium, small, and micro establishments, and start-ups for technology sessions in an initiative to popularise the Navy's pursuit of technological mastery. For the THINQ 2024 editions, as many as 12,600 schools from 3,800 cities and towns in the country participated. Sixteen teams entered the semifinals, and eight teams contested in the grand finale held here.

Odisha DCM announces date for three-phase disbursement of Subhadra Yojana's first installment

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida on Saturday said that around 20 lakh more beneficiaries under the Subhadra Yojana are likely to receive their first instalment of Rs 5,000 by November end in the third phase of disbursement. The state government so far has disbursed Rs 5,000 each to about 60 lakh beneficiaries in two phases. Parida told reporters that about 20 lakh women beneficiaries during the third phase of disbursement are likely to get the money in their bank accounts on November 24 at a function to be held at Sundergarh. Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Jual Oram are scheduled to attend the function. The remaining eligible beneficiaries will get the money in the 4th phase of disbursement sometime in December, she said. The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 17. The state government's flagship Subhadra Yojana is aimed at empowering women under which each beneficiary is entitled to get Rs 50,000 over a period of five years. The beneficiaries will receive



Rs 10,000 in two instalments in a year. While around 25 lakh women received the money in the first phase, the amount was credited to the bank accounts of 35 lakh beneficiaries in the second phase on October 9. Asked about the applications rejected so far, Parida said that every panchayat office has been asked to publish the rejection list. "We also have a list of those with problems in their bank details. They can be included in the subsequent phase," she said adding that applications of around 2.67 lakh women beneficiaries have reportedly been rejected for various reasons. Stating that about 1 crore women would be covered under the Subhadra Yojana, Parida said the government would expand its coverage, extending the benefits to Anganwadi workers, without a government employee in their family.

AP CM launches demo seaplane flight from Vijaywada to Srisailem

PTI ■ AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday launched a seaplane demo flight from Prakasam Barrage in Vijaywada to Srisailem in Nandyal district. Within an hour, he landed on water at Srisailem project (reservoir) in Nandyal. After disembarking from the flight, the chief minister, who was also accompanied by Union Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu, was received by the district officials. Later, the CM took a ropeway to reach the top of a hill at Srisailem project and boarded



a bus to visit Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy Varla Devasthanam (temple). Earlier, addressing a meeting during the launch of the demo flight at Punnami Ghat on the Krishna river in Vijaywada, the CM said, "This is a new experiment (seaplane demo flight). I am very happy. If anything new happens in the country, it should happen in Amaravati. We are going ahead with that motto." According to Naidu, seaplane services would be an innovative opportunity which will promote economic activities to create employment.

Air quality poor in large parts of Punjab, Haryana; Chandigarh very poor

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

The air quality in several parts of Punjab and Haryana was recorded in the 'poor' category on Saturday, while it was worst in the joint capital city of Chandigarh with an AQI of 322 which falls in the 'very poor' band. According to the Central Pollution Control Board's Sameer App, which provides hourly updates, Haryana's Bahadurgarh recorded an Air Quality Index of 314 -- also in the 'very poor' category -- at 9 am. Among other places in Haryana, the AQI at Sonapat was 290, Hisar (285), Bhiwani (277), Jind (275), Charkhi Dadri (258), Gurugram (259), Faridabad (220), Yamunanagar (213), Rohtak (238), Kurukshetra (202), Kaithal (205), Fatehabad (198), Ambala (160), Sirsa (181), and Karnal (144). In Punjab, the AQI was registered at 264 in Mandi Gobindgarh, 258 in Amritsar, 257 in Rupnagar, 248 in Jalandhar, 197 in



Ludhiana, 183 in Bathinda, 176 in Khanna, and 133 in Patiala. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', 401 and 450 'severe', and above 450 'severe plus'. The rise in air pollution levels in the two states and Delhi during this time of year is often blamed on farm fires. Punjab reported 730 farm fire incidents on Friday, taking the total count to 6,029 in the state this season. As the window for the Rabi crop -- wheat -- is very short after paddy harvest, some farmers set their fields on fire to quickly clear off the crop residue for sowing of the next crop.

I-T raids Soren's aide ahead of Jharkhand polls

PTI ■ RANCHI

The Income Tax Department on Saturday conducted searches at multiple locations in poll-bound Jharkhand, including on the premises of a person linked to Chief Minister Hemant Soren, as part of a tax evasion probe, official sources said. A total of nine premises in the state's capital Ranchi and Jamshedpur are being raided in an operation that started early morning. A security team of the CRPF is assisting the I-T sleuths, the sources said. The locations linked to Sunil Shrivastava, an aide to the CM, are also being searched, they said. The action is linked to recent probes launched by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) over alleged illegal liquor trade and mining in the state, the sources said. The assembly elections are scheduled for November 13 and 20, and the counting of votes will take place on November 23.

IAS officer in dock for Mallu Hindu Officers WhatsApp Group

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The controversial WhatsApp groups-Mallu Hindu Officers and Mallu Muslim Officers-- were created using the same phone, according to the Forensic Science Laboratory of the Kerala Police. Sources in FSL said that a serious scrutiny of the phone belonging to IAS officer K Gopalakrishnan has shown that the phone number was not at all hacked and the groups would not have been formed without the concurrence of the person who owns the phone. On 30th October two WhatsApp Groups were set up based on communal lines from the phone used by Gopalakrishnan, director of industries, government of Kerala. When some of the officers whose names figured in the WA Group Mallu Hindu Officers questioned the admin (none other than Gopalakrishnan) about the propriety of including their names in the Group, the IAS officer washed his hands off the controversy and said that his phone has been hacked. He also said that he had filed



a police complaint against the hacking of his phone. Both the Groups have been taken off the cyberspace following widespread condemnation of the same. Initial investigation by the Kerala Police with WhatsApp, Google and the Internet Service Provider proved that Gopalakrishnan's phone was not hacked. They also established the fact that the Mallu Muslim Officers' Group too was formed making use of the same phone and that too hours after the formation of the Hindu Officers Group. "It has been done to ward off any adverse comments arising out of the charge that a WA Group was formed to create a communal

divide among the officers," said a police official. The initial investigation found that no unauthorized applications have been installed in the handset. Dr M G Gireeshan, a cyber expert and hackathon specialist, had said that hacking was possible when strange and unfamiliar applications were installed by the phone users. If the findings of the FSL are true, Gopalakrishnan stands facing serious charges of attempting to divide the bureaucracy on communal lines destroying the secular fabric of the society. The officer remained incommunicado while his office staff said that he was travelling.

VHP demands liberation of Sabarimala shrine from Government control, wants Vavar mosque to go

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

In a major development akin to the agitation for the control of Kasi Viswanatha Temple and Lord Krishna Temple, Mathura, a demand has been made by the Kerala wing of Viswa Hindu Parishad (VHP) to "liberate" the holy shrine of Lord Ayyappa atop the Western Ghats from the shackles of government control and hand over the administration to the devotees. Viji Thampi, president, Kerala VHP, told the media after a daylong conclave of the "Save Sabarimala Action Committee" at Chengannoor

that political parties like the CPI(M) and Congress are working overtime to make Sabarimala Temple a milch cow to harvest the income received by the shrine to fill their party coffers. "It has been thrice proved through Deva Prasnam (astrological probe) that there never was a character by name Vavar in the history associated with Lord Ayyappa whose birth is recorded in Bhagavata Purana. Ayyappa was born out of the union between Lord Shiva and Mohini (the female form of Lord Vishnu) and there never was an Islamic character named Vavar in

this chronicle," said Thampi while addressing the media after the deliberations. The VHP as well as the Save Sabarimala Action Committee demanded that the ritual of worshipping at Vavar Mosque by Ayyappa devotees should be stopped forthwith. "There is no evidence of any connection between Vavar and Lord Ayyappa. The Ayyappa devotees paying obeisance at the Mosque during the pilgrimage to Sabarimala shrine is against tradition and customs. Vavar is part of created history by vested interests," said Thampi. Interestingly, this demand



has been made a week ahead of the annual 41-day festival (Mandala Pooja) in the holy shrine which commences on 16th November. This is the period when lakhs of devotees assemble at the shrine after observing a stringent 41-day observation of fasting, celibacy and prayers. The VHP also alleged that mainline political parties are trying to create a wedge among the followers of Sanatana Dharma. Those who attended the conclave and addressed the gathering include Kummanam Rajasekharan, former governor of Mizoram

and the representative of the Pandalam Royal Family, the traditional trustee of the shrine. Thampi exhorted the devotees making the pilgrimage to the shrine not to make any financial offerings at the temple as the entire income generated in the temple is diverted to non-spiritual purposes. "The Travancore Devaswam Board that administers the shrine is charging exorbitant rates for the prasadam which has not been blessed by Lord Ayyappa. The Board is cheating the believers," said Thampi. This is the first time Ayyappa

devotees, who through the shrine from India and abroad cutting across caste, communities, religions and nations, coming out with a statement openly condemning the concept of Vavar and 'mismanagement' of the temple administration. A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court is all set to hear a petition filed by believers challenging the earlier order of the apex court allowing women devotees between the age group of 12-55 from worshipping at the sanctum sanctorum of the temple situated in the dense forests of the high ranges.

27 killed, 62 hurt in suicide attack on railway station in Pakistan

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD/KARACHI

At least 27 people, including 14 security forces, were killed and 62 others injured on Saturday in a suicide bombing at a railway station in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province...



people on the platform when the blast occurred. 'So far, we have received 27 bodies and at least 62 people are injured, with some in critical condition,' said Dr Wasim Baig of the Quetta Trauma Centre...

son coming with an intention to carry out a suicide attack. Earlier, SSP Operations Muhammad Baloch had also said that initial findings point to a possible suicide bombing...

ic act targeting innocent civilians", and ordered an immediate investigation. He said that terrorists are increasingly aiming civilians, labourers, women, and children...

B'desh interim govt not to allow Awami League rally

PTI ■ DHAKA

Terminating Awami League as "fascist", Bangladesh's interim government on Saturday said it will not permit the deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's party to hold Sunday's planned rally...

verified Facebook page, urging supporters to gather at Shaheed Noor Hossain Chattar, or Zero Point, in Gulistan on Sunday to protest what they described as "misrule"...

1987 during a demonstration against the autocratic rule of the then military dictator General HM Ershad. The interim government earlier banned Awami League's student front Bangladesh Chhatra League over allegations of its "fascist role" during and before the July-August Anti-Discrimination Students Movement...

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is informed that the cars with the following Vehicle numbers which have completed their Life Petrol Cars 15 Years Diesel Cars 10 Years. The Delhi Traffic Police Drive was confiscated by Pine View Technology Pvt Ltd and has not been claimed by anyone till now...

Table with vehicle registration numbers and names, such as UP14P4888, DL6S13708, DL11D1156.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to all general public that my client Sukhinder Singh S/o Sh. Ajit Singh R/o H. no. 49, Road no. 42, Punjabi Bagh West, New Delhi-110026 have disowned & debarred his son Aminder Singh and his wife Deveen Sawhney from all his moveable & immovable properties and severed all relations with them...

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients (1) Sh. Vikas Sharma S/o Sh. Shivam Sharma (2) Smt Deepthi Sharma W/o Sh. Vikas Sharma Both R/o 129 SFS, ODA Flats, Vasant Enclave, Delhi-110057, have disowned, debarred their Daughter Kaya Sharma from their moveable and immovable properties and have further severed all their relations and ties with her...

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sh. Subhash Sain & Sh. Satish Sain both sons of Late Sh. Nand Kishore Owner of Residential House no. 14/11 measuring 97.25 sq. yds., having total covered area 2501 sq. ft. comprising in Khasra no. 68-89-81, situated in the Revenue Estate of Westpargah Oldhamabad known as Subhash Nagar Gurgaon Haryana through Registered Relinquishment Deed Dated 24.09.2024 executed by (1) Smt. Lakshmi Devi (2) Ms. Savita Sain & (3) Ms. Anam Sain in favour of Sh. Subhash Sain and Sh. Satish Sain vide Reg. no. 7856, at SR-Gurgaon and Rectification Deed Dated 24.10.2024 executed by (1) Smt. Lakshmi Devi, (2) Ms. Savita Sain & (3) Ms. Anam Sain in favour of Sh. Subhash Sain and Sh. Satish Sain vide Reg. no. 9056 at SR-Gurgaon...

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mr. Sunny Bhatti S/o Mr. Prakash Bhatti is the owner of a Residential Property area measuring 240 sq. yds. i.e. 200.66 sq. mtrs. out of Khasra no. 62, situated in the old abadi of Village Yakub Pur Fargana & Tehsil Dabri District Gautam Budh Nagar through Registered Relinquishment Deed Dated 19.10.2024 executed by Mr. Prakash S/o Mr. Rajgaur in favour of Mr. Sunny Bhatti S/o Mr. Prakash Bhatti vide Reg. no. 13538, Vol. no. 13252, Book no. 1, page- 205-222 on dated 19.10.2024, at SR-Noida (Gautam Budh Nagar). The above mentioned property is going to be mortgaged with Fec Bank Financial Services Limited. If any person/bank/financial institution having any claim/right, lien, any objection whatsoever in regard to the above property, should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehra, E-713, Karhadooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived...

PUBLIC NOTICE

Known to all that my client SMT. SUDHA RANI owner of the ONE FLAT ON UPPER GROUND FLOOR BEARING PVT. NO.UG-4, (Back-RHS) AREA 50 SQ. YARDS PROPERTY BEARING NO. U-161, KHASRA NO. 140, U-BLOCK, VILLAGE SHAKA RPUR KHAS SHAHADRA DELHI-110092 and SMT. SUDHA RANI purchase plot from Sh. Ashoo Goid vide Notarized GPA, ATIS and will (ATS) and will in favor of Anurag Mittal (ated) 09.02.2004 Now SUDHA RANI and Sh. Anurag Mitta as witness wants to sell aforesaid property. And it is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person having any claim/right in said property then he may contact and handover the same and appraise his claim to undersigned within 7 days of this publication...

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all GAURAV GUPTA, S/O SH. SC GUPTA, R/O 91, Mall Apartments Mall Road, Delhi-110054 Co-owner of Flat No 91, Mall Apartments Mall Road, Delhi-110054. I have lost my FIFTH AND FINAL DEMAND LETTER in respect of Property Bearing No. Flat No. 91, Cat-I, SPS Flats, Mall Apartments, Mall Road, Delhi-110054, File Reference No. F1198A182/SFS/NAV/R in dated 22/28/24/2024. Date 08/11/2024 to this effect has been lodged in PS Crime Branch Delhi. Any person (sclaiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original document mentioned above may write/contact with above person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (Housing) or Director (Housing), Delhi Development Authority, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi-110023.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS CHANGE OF NAME I, Vishal Singh S/o Surennder Kumar Singhal R/o 2C-234, First Floor, Sector-2C, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad (U.P) 201012 have changed my name to Vishal Singhal for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Sh. Devashish Sengupta S/o Biraj Mohan Sengupta was the allottee of a flat no. H-10, Jalvayu Vihar, Sector-25 Noida, who has died on 20/09/2024. During his lifetime allottee Sh. Devashish Sengupta had executed a will in dated 03/08/2020 in favour of Sh. Man Mohan Mathur S/o PN. Mathur, which is registered in SR-3 Noida on dated 03/08/2020. Also allottee had transferred the allotment of the said flat H-10 Sector 25 Noida to Sh. Man Mohan Mathur. An application is being submitted to Noida Authority for Mutation/execution of Sub Lease Deed of the said property H-10 Sector 25 Noida on the basis of registered will in favor of Sh. Man Mohan Mathur S/o PN Mathur R/O H-10 Sector 25 Noida. Therefore, the general public is being informed that if anyone has any objection to the mutation or execution of Sub Lease Deed of the said property in favor of Sh. Man Mohan Mathur, then they can register their claim in the Group Housing Department of Noida Authority within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mr. Abhay Bhatti S/o Mr. Ravindra is the owner of Freehold House Land Area measuring 390 sq. yds. i.e. 326.08 sq. mtrs. out of Khasra no. 62, Situated at Village Yakub Pur, Fargana & Tehsil Dabri, District Gautam Budh Nagar Uttar Pradesh through Gift Deed Dated 18.10.2024 executed by Mr. Ravindra S/o Mr. Lakshmi Chaudh in favour of Mr. Abhay Bhatti S/o Mr. Ravindra in respect of Residential House Land Area measuring 390 sq. yds. i.e. 326.08 sq. mtrs. out of Khasra no. 62, old Registered in the office of S.R.II, Noida, Vide Doc. No. 8131, Vol. no. 10252, Book no. 1, on Pages 349-366, Dated 18.10.2024. The above mentioned property is going to be mortgaged with Fec Bank Financial Services Limited. If any person/bank/financial institution having any claim / right, lien, any objection whatsoever in regard to the above property, should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehra, E-713, Karhadooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived. Adv. Vishal Mehra, E-713, Karhadooma Court, Delhi-110092. Mobile No. 9811215181.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Sh. Devashish Sengupta S/o Biraj Mohan Sengupta was the allottee of a flat no. H-10, Jalvayu Vihar, Sector-25 Noida, who has died on 20/09/2024. During his lifetime allottee Sh. Devashish Sengupta had executed a will in dated 03/08/2020 in favour of Sh. Man Mohan Mathur S/o PN. Mathur, which is registered in SR-3 Noida on dated 03/08/2020. Also allottee had transferred the allotment of the said flat H-10 Sector 25 Noida to Sh. Man Mohan Mathur. An application is being submitted to Noida Authority for Mutation/execution of Sub Lease Deed of the said property H-10 Sector 25 Noida on the basis of registered will in favor of Sh. Man Mohan Mathur S/o PN Mathur R/O H-10 Sector 25 Noida. Therefore, the general public is being informed that if anyone has any objection to the mutation or execution of Sub Lease Deed of the said property in favor of Sh. Man Mohan Mathur, then they can register their claim in the Group Housing Department of Noida Authority within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Justice Dept brings criminal charges in Iranian plot to kill Donald Trump

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Justice Department on Friday disclosed an Iranian murder-for-hire plot to kill Donald Trump, charging a man who said he had been tasked by a government official before this week's election with planning the assassination of the Republican president-elect. Investigators were told of the plan to kill Trump by Farhad Shakeri, an accused Iranian government asset who spent time in American prisons for robbery and who authorities say maintains a network of criminal associates enlisted by Tehran for surveillance and murder-for-hire plots. Shakeri told the FBI that a contact in Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard instructed him this past September to set aside other work he was doing and assemble a plan within seven days to surveil and ultimately kill Trump, according to a criminal complaint unsealed in federal court in Manhattan.

The official was quoted by Shakeri as saying, "We have already spent a lot of money" and that "money's not an issue." Shakeri told investigators the official told him that if he could not put together a plan within the seven-day timeframe, then the plot would be paused until after the election because the official assumed Trump would lose and that it would be easier to kill him then, the complaint said. Shakeri is at large and remains in Iran. Two other men were arrested on charges that Shakeri recruited them to follow and kill prominent Iranian-American journalist Masih Alinejad, who has endured multiple Iranian murder-for-hire plots filed by law enforcement. "I'm very shocked," said Alinejad, speaking by telephone to The Associated Press from Berlin, where she was about to attend a ceremony to mark the arrival of the tearing down of the wall. "This is the third attempt against me and that's shocking."

In a post on the social media platform X, she said, "I came to America to practice my First Amendment right to freedom of speech — I don't want to die. I want to fight against tyranny, and I deserve to be safe. Thank you to law enforcement for protecting me, but I urge the US government to protect the national security of America." Lawyers for the two other defendants, identified as Jonathan Loadholt and Carlisle Rivera, did not immediately return messages seeking comment. Iran's UN Mission declined to comment. Shakeri, an Afghan national who immigrated to the US as a child but was later deported after spending 14 years in prison for robbery, also told investigators that he was tasked by his Revolutionary Guard contact with plotting the killings of two Jewish Americans living in New York and Israeli tourists in Sri Lanka.

AD REM LEGAL NOTICE

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice WORKS DEPARTMENT Bid Identification No. CCEKC - 26 / 2024-25 e-mail : ccekon/jharpwdcircle@gmail.com or sivekcpwd_jeonhar@yahoo.com Letter No. 5049 dt. 30.10.2024

- 1. Name of the work: Construction of S Plus 1 of 4 nos. E type quarter at Panposh, Rourelka for the year 2024-25. 2. Estimated cost: Rs. 1400.00 Lakhs. 3. Class of Contractor: "B" Class & "A" Class. 4. Period of completion: 6 (Six) Calendar Months. 5. Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal: From 11.00 Hours of 12.11.2024 to 16.00 Hours of 26.11.2024. 6. Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal: 16.00 Hours of 26.11.2024. 7. Date of opening of Bid from Portal: 11.30 Hours on 27.11.2024. 8. Name and address of the officer inviting Bid: Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001.

- 1. Total income from operations: 3.37 45.07 13.50. 2. Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Exceptional Items and tax): -3.11 3.11 5.97. 3. Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional Items): -3.11 3.11 5.97. 4. Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax and Exceptional Items): -3.11 2.30 5.97. 5. Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive income (after tax)): -3.11 2.30 5.97. 6. Paid-up equity share capital (Face value of ₹ 10/-): 3460.92 3460.92 3460.92. 7. Other Equity: - -2560.73 -. 8. Earning Per Share (of ₹ 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations): (a) Basic: -0.01 0.01 0.02. (b) Diluted: -0.01 0.01 0.02.

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF MRS. RUCHIKA SINGLA, LD DJ-3, N/W ROOM NO. 311, 3rd FLOOR, ROHINI COURTS, DELHI. PROCLAIMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT (Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure) CS DJ-1066/2022 SMT. POOJA ARORA VS. SANJEEV KUMAR AND OTHERS

ESAF GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold ornaments pledged with ESAF Small Finance Bank and not redeemed by borrowers, despite repeated reminders and notices, of our branches, are listed below. This will be auctioned as per the details given below: DATE OF AUCTION: 26-11-2024 TIME: 2 PM TO 5 PM AUCTION VENUE: Through e-Auction AUCTION ADDRESS: https://egold.auctiontint.com/ Contact Number: 909913705/6351896640 To register as bidder for the e-Auction with terms and conditions, and full details of e-Auction please visit the above site. BRANCHES & LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBERS FARIDABAD: 75240001013219

Customers who are interested to release the ornaments by paying the total due amount may do so, at the respective branches, on or two days before the date of the auction. Bidders who wish to participate in the auction shall produce their KYC documents. GST No. is mandatory for registered firms/companies. Bidders shall deposit a sum of Rs. 50,000 as EMD before participating in the auction. Thrisur Date: 10-11-2024 Sd/ Authorized Signatory

RAGHU GARG S/O SH. RAMESH CHAND GARG R/O D-107, SECTOR - 49 NOIDA, UTTAR PRADESH. Whereas you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on 01-11-2024 the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined Ex-Parte. Given under my hand & seal of the court on this 23.10.2024

SPACE INCUBATRICS TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED

REGD. OFF. PAWAN PURI, MURADNAGAR, DISTT. GHAZIABAD (U.P.) CIN : L17100UP2016PLC084473, Phone : 01232- 261288 Web : www.spaceincubatics.com, Email: spaceincubatics@gmail.com

Table with columns: S. No., Particulars, STANDALONE 3 months ended 30.09.2024 Unaudited, Year ended 31.03.2024 Audited, 3 months ended 30.09.2023 Unaudited. Includes financial results for Q3 and YTD.

Chinese jailed for trying to enter Mar-a-Lago estate

AP ■ FORT LAUDERDALE

A Chinese national was ordered held Friday on trespassing charges after police say he tried to enter President-elect Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in violation of a court order that he stay away following previous attempts. Zijing Li, 39, is being held without bond at the Palm Beach County Jail after being arrested Thursday when he arrived at Mar-a-Lago's entrance gate in an Uber, the latest in a series of contacts he's had with police and Secret Service agents at or near the estate since July. Li, who lives in suburban Los Angeles on a student visa, had just been released from a mental hospital, where he had been placed in late October after police found him near the estate. He is now facing two counts of misdemeanor trespassing. Li's arrest comes after a sniper nearly killed Trump at a July rally in Pennsylvania and an alleged would-be assassin stalked him in September at his Palm Beach County golf course. On Friday, the US Justice Department announced it had broken up an Iranian plot to kill Trump. During Trump's term as president, there were numerous illegal incursions at Mar-a-Lago, including two by Chinese nationals, but none were attempts to harm him. According to Town of Palm Beach police reports, Li first tried to enter Mar-a-Lago in July, telling Secret Service agents he had information tying China to the Pennsylvania assassination attempt. He was told to leave and not return.

DOUBTED HIS ABILITY AFTER FAILURES BUT SKY, COACH'S SUPPORT HELPED HIM: SAMSON

PTI ■ DURBAN

India batter Sanju Samson reflected on his early struggles in international cricket, saying that a string of failures made him doubt his ability, but self-belief and support of the captain and coach helped him stage a strong comeback. Samson hit back-to-back centuries in T20 Internationals with a breathtaking 50-ball-107 to headline India's comfortable 61-run win over South Africa in the opening game here on Friday.

"I have faced a lot of failures in my career. I think when you go through that failure, you have lot of doubts in your mind. People definitely say that social media definitely plays a role," Samson told reporters in the post-match press conference. "But you also think a lot about yourself. Sanju, are you not made for international level? I think you are doing well in IPL. Why are you not doing well internationally? So I have a lot of such thoughts. But after so many years of experience, I know what my ability is.

"If I spend some time in the wicket, then I have a shot-making ability in spin and pace and I know that I can

definitely contribute well to the team. I can win the match. This is also a reality. There are definitely a lot of downs happening but the upside is also really good. So I kept telling myself that." Samson, who turns 30 on Monday, has often been criticised for not fulfilling his potential despite abundant talent. He had scored successive ducks in Sri Lanka but responded with a 111 against Bangladesh in the third T20I and followed it up with another ton on Friday.

The Kerala batter acknowledged the crucial support he received from Captain Suryakumar Yadav and Coach Gautam Gambhir during his low phase. "When you have a supporting captain like Suryakumar Yadav and Gautam bhai and VVS Laxman sir, they all support you during failures. The way they communicate with you in your failures is very important. Everyone knows that if we are going through a negative phase, then the player can get lost there," he said.

"So at that time, I received a lot of phone calls from Gautam bhai and Surya, telling me what to work on. Your spin is a little bit like that. You collect all the



spinners in Kerala and practice in rough wickets there. You do this, you do that. "So if your Indian team's captain is calling you and telling you how to practice after a duck, then

you have confidence that the captain is trusting you. He wants you to do well. So I think all those small, small things plays a huge role, I think, coming back here," Samson said.

"I'm very grateful about the trust shown on me. I think I've been able to give it back to my team management. I feel that it's just a start. I would like to just practice hard, train hard, just be very

grateful walking out to play for my country and just look to contribute and win games for my country every time I walk in." His innings included as many as 10 monstrous sixes which

propelled India to 202 for 8 in 20 overs. "When you score 100 for your country, it's definitely a very special feeling. The wicket was a little more bounced, a little spongy in the beginning. It's

been raining here for 3-4 days, so I think it was a bit more challenging condition," Samson said.

"So according to that, we are talking to the team and we are preparing accordingly. Even when it rained for 3-4 days, our team came here and practiced. We did batting for 2-3 hours, so it was a little beneficial." "We're the World Champions and we need to play like that," Samson said they are focused on playing an aggressive brand of cricket, regardless of conditions, to live up to their reputation as world champions.

"What we have been talking in the dressing room from so many seasons right after winning the World Cup or even from last 2-3 years is even if you lose the toss and even the conditions are tough, we have to go all in." "We can't think that we will have to look for something like 160-170 in these wickets because I think chasing becomes a bit easier. We were just looking to attack even knowing that the condition is slightly helping the bowlers," he said.

"We are definitely the world champions at the moment. So I think we have to play like that and just keep on looking to dominate in this format," he said.



Stewart Cink maintains lead in PGA Tour Champions finale, with 67-year-old Langer 2nd after a 64

AP ■ PHOENIX (US)

Stewart Cink shot a 5-under 66 to maintain a three-stroke lead in the PGA Tour Champions' season-ending Charles Schwab Cup Championship. Bernhard Langer, the 67-year-old German star who has a Champions-record 46 career victories, was second after a 64 on Friday. He shot his age or better for the 21st time on the tour.

"Every once in a while I look back at my career and have to almost pinch myself and say, 'Man, that's pretty amazing what you've done the last whatever so many years,'" Langer said. "Like a day today, to shoot 64 - 3 under my age - not a whole lot of people can do that." The 51-year-old Cink had a 12-under 130 total at

Phoenix Country Club, shooting a 64 of his own in the first round. The Ally Challenge winner in August in Michigan for his first senior title, Cink entered the week 12th in the season standings.

"It was actually probably a cleaner round than yesterday as far as just my processes and the quality of the shots was probably a little bit better overall," Cink said. "I just didn't have the hot long putts going in today quite as much, but it was a really solid round. I would love to play golf like that every day."

Langer birdied five of the first seven holes and closed strong with birdies on 17 and 18. He's trying to win at least one event for the 18th consecutive year.

"It's fun to make some putts,

that's what the game is all about," Langer said. "If you want to score low, you've got to make some putts."

Alex Cejka was third at 7 under after a 66. Defending champion Steven Alker, second behind Ernie Els in the season standings, was tied for fourth at 4 under after a 68 - putting himself in position to pass Els for the \$1 million bonus. Vijay Singh (65), Miguel Angel Jimenez (68), Jerry Kelly (70) and Cameron Percy (68) also were 4 under. Els was 3 under after a 70. Stephen Ames, third in the standings, was 2 under after a 72.

The top 36 players on the points list qualified for the event, with Steve Stricker the lone qualifier not in the field.

Czech legend Zelezny comes on board as Neeraj's coach ahead of 2025 season

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra on Saturday roped in three-time Olympic champion and world record holder Jan Zelezny as his coach, setting the ball rolling for the upcoming season, where he will defend his World title.

The star Indian athlete said he was a great admirer of Zelezny, 58, is widely considered the greatest javelin thrower of the modern era. The Czech won three Olympic gold medals (1992, 1996, 2000) and as many world titles (1993, 1995, 2001) in his illustrious career. Zelezny holds the world record of 98.48m in the event.

Chopra till recently worked with German biomechanics expert Klaus Bartonietz, who also doubled up as his coach. Neeraj, after becoming the first Indian athlete to win a gold at the Tokyo Olympics, finished second best at the 2024 Paris Games.

The star Indian athlete said he was a great admirer of Zelezny in his formative days and watched the Czech legend's videos to hone his skills.

"Growing up, I admired Jan's technique and precision and spent a lot of time watching videos of him. He was the best in the sport for so many years, and I believe that working



with him will be invaluable because our throwing styles are similar, and his knowledge is unmatched," Neeraj said. "It's an honour to have Jan by my side as I push towards the next level in my career, and I can't wait to get started," he added.

Neeraj, who has not crossed

the 90m mark in competition so far, would be eager to break the 'barrier' and Zelezny's experience could come in handy.

The collaboration also symbolises a fusion of generations, with the young champion drawing inspiration and expertise from what many consider the greatest javelin thrower of all time.

Zelezny expressed his happiness, saying he was always looking forward to train the Indian star as he still has a lot of potential. "I have already spoken about Neeraj as a great talent many years ago. When I saw him

early in his career, I realised great possibilities for top results," Zelezny said in a statement.

"I also said that if I should start to coach somebody from outside Czechia (Republic), my first choice would be Neeraj. I like his story and I see big potential, as he is young and able to improve. There have been many athletes contacting me for coaching, so for me to take this up means that it is a great honour to have him in my team. We are getting to know each other more closely and will start in person at a traditional winter camp in South Africa.

India needs top-order to bat better in second T20I against South Africa

PTI ■ GQBERHA

Sanju Samson will look to continue his domination of the bowlers but India need more stability in the top order when they clash with South Africa in the second T20I South Africa, aiming to extend their superior run in the shortest format, here Sunday. Samson's stunning 107 off 50 balls powered India to a commanding 61-run victory in the series opener, but the lack of runs from other key batters remains a concern for the visitors.

India need address this issue to ensure that the burden doesn't fall too heavily on their in-form keeper-batter.

The continued failure of opener Abhishek Sharma, who has squandered multiple opportunities, would be worrying the team management.

Apart from his memorable 47-ball century against Zimbabwe in Harare earlier this year, Sharma has struggled



for runs with scores of 0, 10, 14, 16, 15, 4, and 7 in recent outings. The dashing left-hander's lack of consistency at the top of the order could prompt India to rethink their options moving forward.

While the team management is unlikely to make changes to the playing XI, it

will be disappointed with Sharma's continued failure, especially as India look for second-line opening option after Yashasvi Jaiswal following Rohit Sharma's retirement from the format. Tilak Varma showed promise with a quick-fire 33 off just 18 balls in the first match but will need to convert such

cameos into bigger knocks. Varma has been largely off the radar since his last appearance against Afghanistan in January, and with competition for spots in the middle order heating up, the young batter will want to cement his place in the side.

Skipper Suryakumar Yadav also got a start but fell cheaply, while all-rounder Hardik Pandya was unable to live up to his potential in the opening match.

India's middle-order, which looked solid on paper, struggled to build partnerships as they lost six wickets for just 36 runs, slipping from a commanding 166/2 to 202/8 by the end of their 20 overs.

This collapse highlighted the fragility of India's middle and lower order, something that they will aim to address before the second T20I.

In the bowling department, India were clinical as they restricted South Africa to just 141 in 17.5 overs in the opening match.

Busquets, once ruled out, now may play alongside Messi for Inter Miami against Atlanta United

AP ■ FORT LAUDERDALE (US)

Inter Miami practiced thinking there was no way Sergio Busquets was going to play in its win-or-else playoff match against Atlanta United. A few hours later, the team got quite the surprise on Friday.

Busquets - who coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino said was ruled out for Saturday's game - received medical clearance on Friday afternoon to play and is being listed as questionable. Busquets went through a training session on his own after the rest of the team worked out Friday, meaning Lionel Messi could have one of his most trusted teammates alongside him with the season on the line.

"We're confident in the progression of his recovery, and are hopeful he'll be available for (Saturday's)

match," the team said. Busquets was struck somewhere around his midsection in Game 1 of the best-of-three series and developed pneumonia-like symptoms. He didn't play in Game 2 last week - a 2-1 Atlanta win - and Inter Miami has to win Saturday just to extend its season and reach the second round of the MLS Cup playoffs.

"At best, there are four finals left," Martino said on Friday morning, in the same interview session during which he revealed that Busquets wouldn't play - because that's what he truly thought at the time.

"Each of the remaining games has the characteristics of a final game and we, with the expectations we have, are ready to face it in the best way."

Inter Miami hopes to have four games left this season -



Saturday's conclusion to Round 1, and then a conference semifinal, conference final and the MLS

Cup final. If Inter Miami keeps winning, all four of those matches would be at home. If it loses a match, the

season ends there for the team that won the Supporters' Shield and posted the best regular-season

record in MLS history. Atlanta has already won four elimination games this season - their two must-win

matches to keep hope alive at the end of the regular season against the New York Red Bulls and Orlando City, then a wild-card match at Montreal and Game 2 of this series against Inter Miami.

The difference is that this one is an elimination match for Messi as well. And when asked this week about how Messi's numbers haven't been great in this series - no goals and one assist in the two matches - Atlanta interim coach Rob Valentino wanted no part of that storyline.

"Messi is fantastic," Valentino said.

"There is no slander on my end. He's a fantastic player. Whether people say he's produced, not produced, I don't want to hear it because he's fantastic."

Atlanta is the only MLS team to beat Inter Miami twice this season, and both wins came with Messi in the lineup; the

club is 2-1-1 so far this season against the No. 1 overall seed.

The rest of MLS, combined, went 0-12-5 against Inter Miami when Messi was in the lineup. But Atlanta's plan against Messi seems to have worked; he has one goal on 19 shots, eight of which were on target, in the four matches between the clubs this season. "What he brings to a game, what he brings to a team, just him standing on the field it requires your attention," Atlanta United goalie Brad Guzan said.

"There's very few times that Plan A works. It's Plan B and Plan C and Plan D and you have to adjust very quickly," Busquets, the team said, will be listed as questionable, which typically means that the club's medical staff will see how he is feeling on game day before making a final determination.



ROHIT BAL A TRAILBLAZER WHO REDEFINED INDIA'S FASHION

As the fashion world mourns his loss, his legacy lives on in the countless designers, artisans, and fashion enthusiasts inspired by his pioneering spirit and dedication to Indian craftsmanship, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

Rohit Bal's name is synonymous with elegance, luxury, and a unique fusion of traditional Indian aesthetics with modern sophistication. Over the course of his illustrious career, Bal has not just defined fashion but also revolutionised how India perceives style. His journey, marked by innovation and passion, is one of resilience and unparalleled creativity, shaping not just the Indian fashion scene but also placing it firmly on the global map.

THE EARLY DAYS: DISCOVERING FASHION

Born in 1961 in Srinagar, Kashmir, Rohit Bal's early influences came from the serene beauty of his homeland. The majestic valleys, the rich heritage, and the intricate craftsmanship of Kashmiri artisans were integral to his formative years. Little did he know, these elements would later form the core of his designs. Initially, Bal pursued a degree in science before realising that his true calling was in fashion. In the late 1980s, he moved to Delhi to study at the prestigious National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), where he refined his skills and honed his vision.

In a pivotal moment during his early career, Bal was encouraged by a family friend, the iconic model and former Miss India, Madhu Sapre, to create his first collection for the fashion circuit. His debut at the Indian Fashion Week in the 1990s marked a milestone, both for him and the industry. It was a time when the Indian fashion scene was still finding its identity, and designers like Rohit Bal were about to change the game.

THE RISE TO FAME: PIONEERING LUXURY FASHION IN INDIA

Rohit Bal's first collection was a masterful blend of contemporary design with classical Indian elements. His signature style, which combined luxurious fabrics, intricate embroideries, and a sharp, modern sensibility, quickly set him apart from his contemporaries. His work showcased a perfect juxtaposition between the old and the new, a unique touch that made his designs instantly recognisable.

One of the defining episodes in his career was the launch of his haute couture collection in the early 2000s. His show, featuring garments embroidered with intricate Kashmiri motifs, paid homage to his roots and captured the essence of India's rich textile traditions. Bal's use of luxurious materials like silk, brocade, and velvet created a new kind of opulence that spoke to the Indian elite. His designs were not just clothes; they were expressions of heritage reimagined for the modern world.

What truly set Bal apart from his peers was his ability to blend the modern with the traditional. He took Indian textile traditions, from Kashmiri shawls to Rajasthan's mirror work,

Rohit Bal's Last Show at Lakmé Fashion Week

BY SAKSHI PRIYA

No one could have imagined that Rohit Bal's show at Lakmé Fashion Week would be his last. But after witnessing his breathtaking final collection, *Kaaynaat: A Bloom in the Universe*, it's clear this was a farewell like no other.

The grand finale was a celebration of nature's timeless beauty, as Rohit Bal's signature craftsmanship unfolded on the runway. *Kaaynaat* was a poetic tribute to the delicate elegance of flowers and the boundless beauty of the universe. Inspired by the Lakmé Rouge Bloom launch, the collection embraced the slow, graceful unfolding of life, much like a flower blooming in full glory. The runway featured a beautiful mix of flowing fabrics, detailed embroidery, and bright colours, with each piece reflecting the wonders of the universe. Every garment had a story to tell, with delicate floral motifs symbolising the cycle of life, from the tiniest bud to the full bloom under



the starry sky. The collection's use of colour was bold yet serene, capturing both the wildness and tranquillity of nature.

Lakmé muse Ananya Panday walked the ramp as the showstopper, embodying the essence of the collection's celestial beauty. Her presence perfectly complemented the theme of the collection. The entire show was a fusion of fashion, beauty and nature, with Rohit Bal's expert tailoring and design sensibility meeting the elegance of Lakmé's Beauty X Fashion philosophy. It wasn't just a grand finale to Lakmé Fashion

Week, but a tribute to a designer who has shaped India's fashion landscape for decades.

Rohit Bal's words about the collection now resonate even more deeply: "*Kaaynaat* was a journey through the wonders of nature, celebrating the bloom of life and beauty. Partnering with Lakmé has been an incredible experience, and this collection reflects both the grace of nature and the enduring power of beauty." This show was not only a fitting farewell but a lasting memory of the artistry and vision of a true icon.

immense talent coming out of India, challenging global perceptions of what Indian fashion could be.

A LEGACY OF INNOVATION: ROHIT BAL'S LASTING IMPACT

Rohit Bal's influence on the Indian fashion scene cannot be overstated. Over the years, he has played an integral role in redefining how India's fashion identity is perceived—both at home and abroad. From his breakthrough collections that fused the traditional with the modern, to his innovative designs that have kept his work relevant through decades, Bal remains at the forefront of Indian luxury fashion.

What makes Bal's legacy even more special is his commitment to the artistry of India. He has continually worked with local craftspeople, helping preserve and promote India's textile traditions. His designs are often crafted using handloom fabrics, making them not just products of high fashion but also instruments of cultural preservation.

Today, as the Indian fashion industry continues to evolve, Rohit Bal's name stands as a symbol of what can be achieved when passion, creativity, and heritage come together. He not only helped put India on the world fashion map but also created a space for future designers to draw from the country's rich history while embracing global trends.

CONCLUSION: A FASHION VISIONARY

Rohit Bal's journey from a young boy in Srinagar to a global fashion icon is a testament to his talent, perseverance, and love for his country's heritage. His impact on the Indian fashion scene has been profound and far-reaching.

Through his creativity, he has reshaped the way the world views Indian fashion, blending artistry with tradition, while continually setting new benchmarks for the industry. Rohit Bal is not just a designer; he is an institution, and his influence on the fashion world will continue to inspire generations to come.

Photos: Pankaj Kumar

It Ends With Us

The emotional story of love and abuse, enhanced with the courage of leaving, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**

Starring *Blake Lively* and *Justin Baldoni* as the lead actors, *It Ends With Us* is all set to release on Netflix after a phenomenal box-office response from the cinema in August. The film is the cinematic adaptation of the best-seller novel *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover.

Keeping the book aside, and talking about the film baldly for those unfamiliar with the book, the film gives a complete glimpse of a relationship with physical abuse with what comes with mental instability. It is a complete package initially starting from the butterflies of a relationship to the phase of its exciting and it then beyond.

The characters fit in their role perfectly watching from the movie purpose *Blake Lively* as *Lily Bloom*, *Justin Baldoni* as *Ryle Kincaid*, *Jenny Slate* as *Allysa* (Ryle's sister) and *Brandon Sklenar* as *Atlas Corrigan*.

The plot starts with the dreamy relation between *Lily* and *Ryle*, even after *Lily* being informed about the record of *Ryle* in relationships and his nature with girls. With the movement of the story, *Lily* starts to face abuse from *Ryle*. The temper and aggression is linked to some past experiences in his life and the first abuse incident comes after the first half. Things get worse between *Lily* and *Ryle* when *Atlas* (played by *Brandon Sklenar*) is made to enter their life.



The story beautifully describes *Atlas*, *Lily* having a past and understanding each other without uttering words meeting after years. The unsaid love in the last scenes between *Atlas* and *Lily* is the core strength of the film.

The many songs and the background scores in the film add life to the shot scenes categorising

them as sad, loving and broken. The scores like *Opening*, *It Was Nice Meeting You*, *Lily's Past*, *Seeing Atlas* add the needed depth to the scenes with the sensual and reciting tunes.

The dialogues in the film, talking about my favourite one by *Atlas* to *Lily*, "*In the future, if you ever find yourself in the position to fall in love again, fall in love with me*". The dialogue will make your heart heavy and touch your emotional quotient. The characters have well fitted into the frame except *Lily*. *Blake* could have played more with expressions and body language. *Blake's* dressing in the movie seemed like a fashion disaster. *Ryle* aced the game with his reactions and attitude playing an aggressive man.

The climax with *Lily* having a baby and finally deciding if she would continue it with *Ryle* or not (continue to watch the film for the answers) is the whole sort of courage depicted in the film. The film addresses the social issue with the beauty of giving a message of having courage and stepping up to speak up for the steps that personally affect your mind and life.

Overall, the film depicts a journey of physical abuse initiated with romantic days in a relationship. *It Ends With Us* is a must watch with learning and lessons.

Rating - 3.5/5

SINGHAM AGAIN A MIXED COP UNIVERSE CLASH

Singham Again is entertaining but falls short of the high standards set by previous sequels, says **ABHI SINGHAL**

Director *Rohit Shetty* expands his cop universe with yet another high-octane sequel, *Singham Again*. This latest installment stars *Ajay Devgan* reprising his iconic role as *DCP Bajirao Singham*, with *Kareena Kapoor Khan* returning as his wife, *Avni*.

Joining them in cameo roles are *Akshay Kumar* as *DCP Veer Sooryavanshi* and *Ranveer Singh* as *ACP Sangram "Simmba" Bhalerao*, adding familiar faces to the cop universe. The film introduces many fresh elements, linking its storyline loosely to the epic *Ramayana*, blending it spiritually with its typical action-packed spectacle. New characters include *Arjun Kapoor* as the antagonist, and *Deepika Padukone* as *DCP Shakti Shetty*, along with *Tiger Shroff* as *ACP Satya Bali*.

Ajay Devgan, the hero, felt a little undermined from his role if compared to the super hit cop film *Singham*. *Kareena* played her role well in the movie. The characters have somewhere done justice to their characters except some. The entry of *Jackie Shroff* as *Omar Hafeez* and *Arjun Kapoor* playing *Zubair Hafeez*, dominate the first half of the film and bring intensity and menace to their roles as the villainous duo. *Jackie Shroff* could have been better in his little time on



the screen. *Deepika Padukone's* role wasn't of much need and looked forceful just to introduce the character to the film.

Tiger Shroff playing *Satya Bali* looked too flat for the film. Enhancement of these two strong actors could have changed the outcome of the film. *Akshay Kumar* comes with a dashing helicopter entry in the very end fitting into the well said cameo role. *Ranveer Singh* enters later in the

film, and his comedy grips the audience giving a reason to hold on till the end.

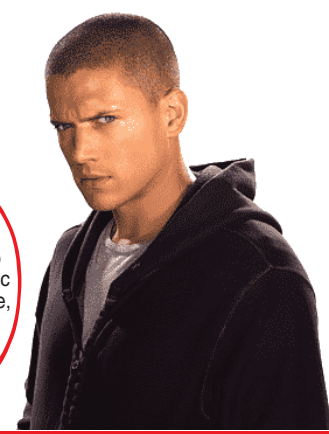
Ranveer as *Simmba* single handedly takes off the second half. His entry linking to the past movie *Simmba* was accepted by whistles and cheers in the cinema hall. The comedy doesn't look forced due to his past introduction as a naughty cop in the cop universe.

The climax with a major action sequence will be loved by the audience as all the characters get

along for the final scene to get *Avni* back from *Zubair Hafeez's* abduction giving it the Sita angle. While *Singham Again* is a visually impressive film with well-executed action sequences, it suffers from a rushed screenplay and inconsistent character development. It misses the demanded depth in the characters and misses the element of *Rohit Shetty* to be honest.

Rating - 3.5/5

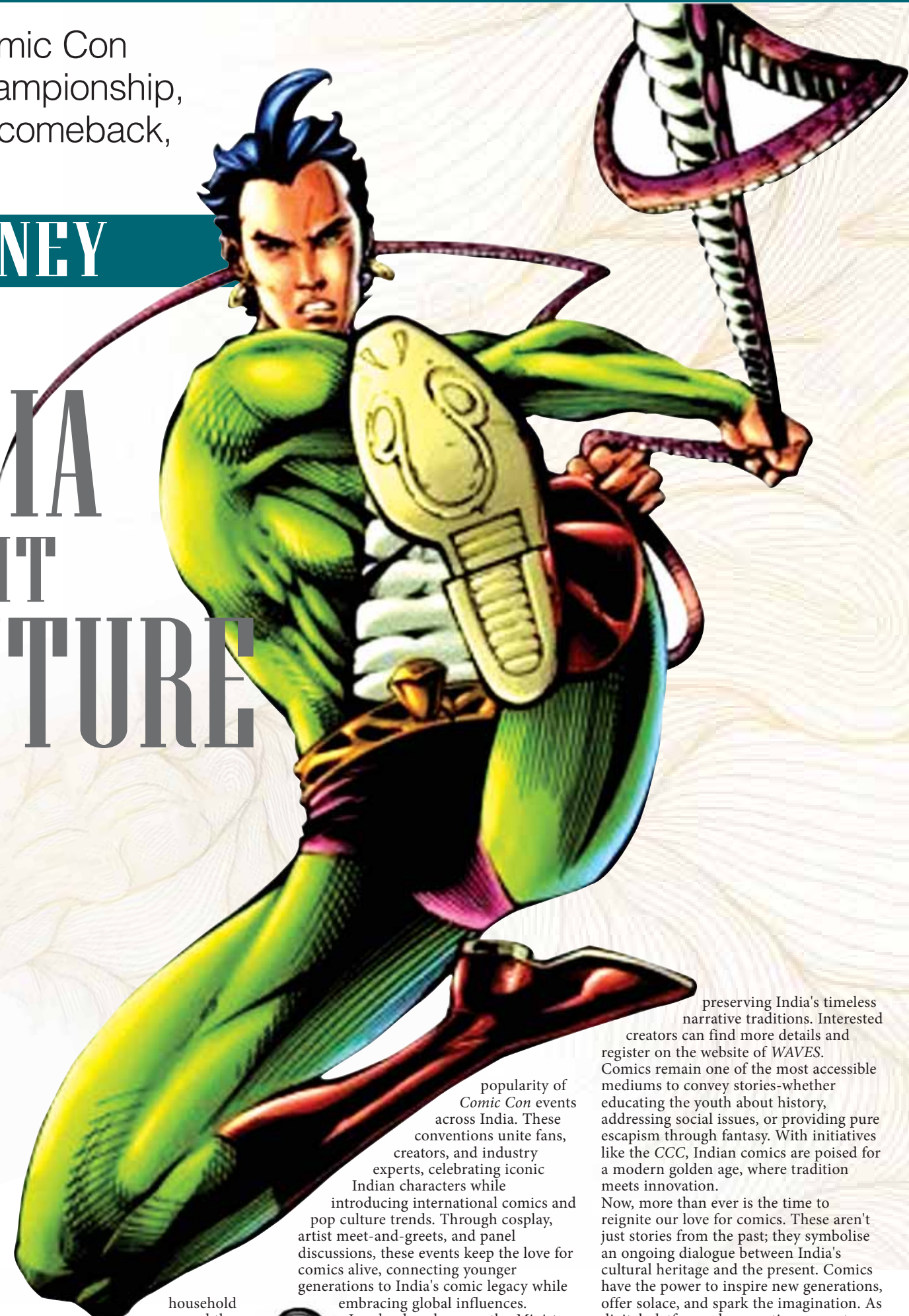
"My family put a lot of emphasis on homework, so there weren't too many comic books or video games for me, when I was growing up"
— Wentworth Miller



With a resurgence fueled by events like Comic Con India and the upcoming Comic Creator Championship, Indian comics are making a powerful comeback, writes SUPRIYA GHAYTADAK



A COMIC JOURNEY FROM NOSTALGIA TO A BRIGHT NEW FUTURE



Growing up, comics were an integral part of my life. My brother and I would save every bit of our pocket money just to buy our favourite comics. Whether it was *Champak*, *Amar Chitra Katha*, *Super Commando Dhruv*, *Nagraj* or *Chacha Chaudhary* stories fueled our imagination and became a key part of our reading journey. Whenever someone asked what we wanted for our birthdays, the answer was always the same-comics! Those colourful pages, filled with heroes and adventures, were more than just entertainment; they were treasured gifts that we eagerly awaited and cherished.



SUPRIYA GHAYTADAK

There was a time when streetside stalls, bookstores, bus stands, and railway stations buzzed with the vibrant display of comic books. The chatter of children and adults alike, poring over pages that transported them to fantastical worlds, was a common scene. Comics like *Amar Chitra Katha's* mythological tales, *Chacha Chaudhary's* wit, or *Raj Comics'* heroic sagas, invoked a sense of wonder and excitement. For many of us, these stories were more than just a form of entertainment; they were an integral part of our childhood—a gateway to imagination and learning. As years passed, digital platforms gradually replaced the physical charm of these marvels. Yet, in this fast-paced world, the nostalgia for these stories remains strong. Many long for the days when characters like *Bahadur*, *Super Commando Dhruv*, *Parmanu*, *Tenali Raman*, *Suppandi*, and *Shikari Shambu* lived not just in our imagination but in the comic strips that shaped our understanding of bravery, wit, and justice. For older generations, these comics represent a simpler time, filled with cultural knowledge and entertainment. For the younger generation, revisiting them now holds the potential to rediscover India's rich folklore and mythologies while connecting with modern interpretations of these beloved characters.

The Indian comic industry, once a booming sector from the 1970s to the 1990s, produced iconic characters and stories that captured the hearts of millions. The 'Golden Age' of Indian comics brought us legendary creators like Pran, whose *Chacha Chaudhary* became a household name, and the rise of superhero giants from *Raj Comics*.

“THE INDIAN COMIC INDUSTRY, ONCE A BOOMING SECTOR FROM THE 1970S TO THE 1990S, PRODUCED ICONIC CHARACTERS AND STORIES THAT CAPTURED THE HEARTS OF MILLIONS. THE 'GOLDEN AGE' OF INDIAN COMICS BROUGHT US LEGENDARY CREATORS LIKE PRAN, WHOSE CHACHA CHAUDHARY BECAME A HOUSEHOLD NAME, AND THE RISE OF SUPERHERO GIANTS FROM RAJ COMICS.”

household name, and the rise of superhero giants from *Raj Comics*. It was an era when *Indian superheroes*, mythological epics, and social commentary blended seamlessly, creating relatable content that resonated with generations. However, at the turn of the millennium, the industry witnessed a decline. Changing reading habits, the rise of television, and the flood of digital content pushed these comics to the background. Yet, despite this downturn, the comic book medium is quietly experiencing a resurgence, aided by digital platforms and a renewed interest in India's rich storytelling tradition. The resurgence of Indian comics is further boosted by the growing



popularity of *Comic Con* events across India. These conventions unite fans, creators, and industry experts, celebrating iconic Indian characters while introducing international comics and pop culture trends. Through cosplay, artist meet-and-greets, and panel discussions, these events keep the love for comics alive, connecting younger generations to India's comic legacy while embracing global influences. In a landmark move, the *Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B)*, Government of India has partnered with the *Indian Comics Association (ICA)* to spearhead the first-ever *Comic Creator Championship (CCC)*, a centrepiece event at the upcoming *World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES)*. This three-phase comic-making competition is designed to nurture emerging talent and showcase India's creative potential on a global stage. By providing a platform for both amateur and professional creators, the CCC encourages fresh voices to engage in storytelling that tackles contemporary issues while

preserving India's timeless narrative traditions. Interested creators can find more details and register on the website of *WAVES*. Comics remain one of the most accessible mediums to convey stories—whether educating the youth about history, addressing social issues, or providing pure escapism through fantasy. With initiatives like the CCC, Indian comics are poised for a modern golden age, where tradition meets innovation. Now, more than ever is the time to reignite our love for comics. These aren't just stories from the past; they symbolise an ongoing dialogue between India's cultural heritage and the present. Comics have the power to inspire new generations, offer solace, and spark the imagination. As digital platforms democratize access to these narratives, an entire world of possibilities opens up for creators and readers alike. As we look to the future, let us celebrate this revival by participating in the *World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES)*, to be held in New Delhi from February 5th to 9th, 2025. This summit promises to be a landmark event, uniting industry experts, creators, and fans. It will also host the final round of the *Comic Creator Championship*, where India's brightest new talents will be showcased. Together, we can ensure that the stories of the past continue to inspire, innovate, and captivate audiences in the future. India's comic industry stands on the threshold of a renaissance, and all are invited to be a part of it. Now is the time to turn the page and start a new chapter in the vibrant world of Indian comics. Let's revive and elevate Indian comics to their rightful place in popular culture. Will you join this journey?

(The writer is an Indian Information Service officer, Ministry of I&B; views are personal)



THE ABILITY TO DEAL WITH PEOPLE IS AS PURCHASABLE A COMMODITY AS SUGAR OR COFFEE AND I WILL PAY MORE FOR THAT ABILITY THAN FOR ANY OTHER UNDER THE SUN
— JOHN D ROCKEFELLER

A TASTE OF CHINA, PAINTED

IN RED

At 'RED', Radisson Blu MBD Hotel Noida, the new menu brings the vibrant flavours of authentic Chinese cuisine to life. A perfect mix of traditional and modern dishes, it's a dining experience that's bound to excite your taste buds, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

Step into 'RED' at Radisson Blu MBD Hotel Noida and you're instantly transported to the heart of China, where every dish tells a story. With a fresh new menu that celebrates authentic Chinese flavours, the restaurant brings together traditional recipes and innovative twists, promising a dining experience unlike any other. Whether you're a vegetarian or a meat lover, the culinary journey here is one that caters to all tastes, with bold flavours and unforgettable textures that will leave you craving more. The ambience of 'RED' is equally remarkable. With its dark, red-lit interior, the space exudes a cosy, intimate vibe, evoking the feel of an authentic Chinese restaurant. As you settle in, you know you're in for something special. Ms. **Sonika Malhotra Kandhari**, Joint Managing Director of MBD Group, shares, "The RED menu has been meticulously crafted with our guests in mind. This menu reengineering underscores our commitment to authentic Chinese flavours. We look forward to welcoming guests to explore this exciting new offering." At the heart of this dining experience are the sauces, a crucial part of any authentic Chinese meal. 'RED' offers a variety of carefully crafted options, including the classic *Chilli Black Bean*, the *Soya Chilli*

Coriander and their signature special sauce made with onion, tomato, chilli and garlic. And for those who enjoy a bit of spice and fermentation, the kimchi adds a delightful punch to any dish. The sauces truly elevate the experience and don't forget to master the art of eating with chopsticks - a fun and authentic way to enjoy the full flavours. Next up, I moved on to the *Dim Sum & Bao* section. The *Truffle Edamame* offered a delightful twist on the classic, with a subtle truffle flavour that complemented the beans beautifully, giving them a soft yet earthy taste. However, the *Tofu Bao with Chilli Bean Relish* turned out to be my absolute favourite. The silken tofu paired with the chilli bean relish was a perfect blend of soft and spicy, all encased in a delicate, fluffy bao bun. This dish encapsulated the balance of textures and flavours that make Chinese cuisine such a treat. Moving into the Appetisers, the *Chilled Mould Tofu with Peanut Sauce* was a refreshing change, delicate, smooth tofu dressed in a creamy, slightly tangy peanut sauce. As someone who isn't a big tofu fan, I found it intriguing. It's a dish that might take some getting used to, but the pairing of tofu with peanut sauce certainly creates a unique, palate-expanding experience. This dish left a lasting impression, as did the *Mogu with Dry Red Chili* and *Sichuan Pepper*, a crispy fried button mushroom stir-fry that managed to stay crunchy even as it cooled. This level of attention to texture and flavour is a hallmark of authentic Chinese cooking, blending tradition with a modern twist. The bold, balanced flavours in each appetiser felt like a true celebration of Chinese culinary heritage. Moving on to the main course, the *Mapo Tofu* was a definite standout. Known for its bold, spicy flavours, the tofu here was incredibly silky,



Photos: Pankaj Kumar

go-to. This fragrant dish, infused with exotic vegetables and bamboo shoots, was packed with flavour and left a lasting impression. While 'RED' offers a delightful selection of vegetarian dishes, the restaurant's non-vegetarian options are known to truly shine. As a vegetarian, I haven't tried them personally, but from what I've heard, 'RED' delivers on authentic Chinese non-vegetarian flavours. Crafting exceptional Chinese cuisine in a vegetarian style is no easy feat, but **Chef Sachin Malik** and his team have truly excelled in creating vegetarian dishes that rival their meat counterparts. From *Shandong Style Seafood Soup* to *Kung Pao Chicken* and *Braised Lamb*, each dish offers a window into authentic Chinese cuisine. Reflecting on the culinary vision, **Chef Sachin Malik**, Executive Chef, reflects, "We aim to celebrate the vibrant flavours of China. Our new menu is a tribute to this culinary heritage, blending traditional elements with modern techniques, with **Chef Ghanshyam Thapa's** expertise." The dessert menu is a lovely, light way to end the meal. The *Matcha Baked Cheesecake* stands out, with its creamy, indulgent dessert with

earthy matcha notes that balance the sweetness. It's rich, so sharing it with someone is a great idea to end the meal on a satisfying note without it feeling too heavy. Beyond the food, the drinks at 'RED' deserve a special mention. The beverages selection is inspired by China's rich cultural heritage, with classics like the *Lion's Tail* and innovative creations like the *Dragon on the Sky* and *Junshan Island Sundowner*. For those preferring non-alcoholic options, the *Chinese Tonic*, with lychee, star anise and lime juice is refreshingly fragrant. Meanwhile, the *Silver Tips*, a ginger-infused drink garnished with dragon fruit, is the perfect quencher, ideal for pairing with the rich flavours of RED's menu. 'RED' offers a dining experience that celebrates both authenticity and creativity. The vegetarian options are exceptional, proving that creating perfect Chinese dishes without meat is possible. **Chef Sachin Malik** and his team have truly outdone themselves, making this a must-visit spot for anyone craving a true taste of China. Whether you're a fan of vegetarian or non-vegetarian dishes, the menu offers something for everyone, ensuring that your journey through Chinese flavours will be a memorable one.

Cranberry Coffee and Beyond

Through Cranberry Coffee, Roastery Coffee House is redefining how the world experiences Indian coffee, placing India firmly on the global coffee map, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

In an impressive feat that showcases Indian ingenuity, **Roastery Coffee House** has become the first Indian brand to invent and trademark a specialty coffee: *Cranberry Coffee*. This unique drink—a refreshing combination of cranberry juice, sparkling water, and espresso—has not only captivated coffee lovers across India but is also gaining international attention. With its signature *Cranberry Coffee* now protected by a trademark, **Roastery Coffee House** is setting new standards in the coffee industry and redefining how the world experiences Indian coffee.

THE RISE OF CRANBERRY COFFEE: A REFRESHING INNOVATION
A playful yet refined twist on traditional coffee, *Cranberry Coffee* combines the boldness of espresso with the tartness of cranberry juice and a splash of sparkling water, creating a refreshing, versatile drink suitable for any time of the day. In the last six months alone, over 100,000 cups of *Cranberry Coffee* have been sold across **Roastery** outlets, making it one of the fastest-selling specialty coffees in India. Its popularity spans all age groups and has even become a staple on many café menus, signalling a growing demand for creative coffee options in India and beyond. **Roastery Coffee House's** founder, **Nishant Sinha**, is thrilled by the response, noting how *Cranberry Coffee* has quickly become a customer favourite. "It's very heartwarming to see how positively everyone has responded to this beverage," he said. "The success of is undeniable, and almost every



Photos: Pankaj Kumar



order across our chains includes it. Many coffee brands have drawn inspiration from **Roastery's** innovative creation, and we are very proud that people have embraced it."

ROASTERY COFFEE HOUSE: PIONEERS OF INDIA'S SPECIALTY COFFEE SCENE
Since opening its doors in 2017, **Roastery Coffee House** has continuously pushed the boundaries of India's coffee culture. Expanding across six cities, the brand has built a strong reputation for offering diverse, high-quality coffee options paired with mouth-watering snacks and light meals, creating an inclusive space for coffee enthusiasts. The introduction of *Cranberry*



“ THE SUCCESS OF CRANBERRY COFFEE IS UNDENIABLE, AND ALMOST EVERY ORDER ACROSS OUR CHAINS INCLUDES IT. MANY COFFEE BRANDS HAVE DRAWN INSPIRATION FROM ROASTERY'S INNOVATIVE CREATION, AND WE ARE VERY PROUD THAT PEOPLE HAVE EMBRACED IT ”

Coffee exemplifies the brand's mission to innovate and cater to the evolving preferences of coffee drinkers while staying rooted in authenticity and quality. Beyond its local success, **Roastery Coffee House** has recently set its sights on the international stage, opening its first flagship store in *Helsinki, Finland*. The move reflects **Roastery's** vision of not only sharing Indian coffee with a global audience but also positioning India as a significant player in the specialty coffee industry. The *Cranberry Coffee* trademark marks a pivotal milestone, as it is the first Indian-origin coffee to secure a global trademark—a



groundbreaking achievement for an Indian brand in this competitive market. **AN INSPIRING FUTURE FOR INDIAN COFFEE**
With *Cranberry Coffee*, **Roastery Coffee House** has demonstrated how Indian coffee can resonate

on the global stage by combining local creativity with a deep understanding of customer preferences. This achievement is not just a victory for the brand but for India's coffee industry as a whole, setting a powerful example for other Indian brands and creating opportunities for international recognition. **Roastery Coffee House** has truly redefined Indian coffee culture and continues to chart a new course for the industry. As it expands internationally, it carries with it a legacy of innovation, quality, and passion, firmly establishing India's place on the global coffee map.

MY FILMS PLAY ONLY IN BENGAL, AND MY AUDIENCE IS THE EDUCATED MIDDLE CLASS IN THE CITIES AND SMALL TOWNS. THEY ALSO PLAY IN BOMBAY, MADRAS AND DELHI WHERE THERE IS A BENGALI POPULATION
—SATYAJIT RAY

THE TIMELESS ALLURE OF DELHI BAZAARS

Delhi's bazaars are more than just places to shop, they're vibrant, historical hubs where the city's past and present blend seamlessly, writes KANISHKA SRIVASTAVA



Delhi's bazaars, pulsing with life, colour, and history, are much more than marketplaces. They are a blend of heritage and modernity, places where the past and present meet in a seamless confluence of aromas, sounds, and sights. From the labyrinthine lanes of Chandni Chowk to the bustling avenues of Dilli Haat, Delhi's markets tell stories of centuries gone by and reflect the city's evolving culture.

Delhi's bazaars have been central to the city's identity since its days as the capital of empires. Mughal emperor Shah Jahan established Chandni Chowk in the 17th century as a marketplace that would rival any in the world. Its name, meaning "Moonlight Square," was inspired by a water canal that once reflected the moonlight, lending a magical glow to the surroundings. Chandni Chowk became the heart of trade in Mughal India, where merchants from across Asia brought in silk, spices, and jewels, turning the area into a melting pot of cultures.

As the years passed, other bazaars sprang up, each with its own speciality and charm. For instance, Khari Baoli, the spice market, emerged as a go-to for spices and dried fruits, its intense aromas filling the air and adding a signature fragrance to Delhi's streets. Over time, bazaars like Daryaganj, which once hosted booksellers and publishers, and Sarojini Nagar, famous for its affordable fashion, have added layers to Delhi's shopping culture.

Every festive season, Delhi transforms into a radiant hub of celebration, where joy, traditions, and community take centre stage. Festivals like Diwali, Navratri and Dussehra infuse the city with vibrant energy, filling its streets with lights, colours, and shoppers in search of the perfect outfits, decorations, and gifts. From historic bazaars rich in tradition to modern malls showcasing top designer brands, festival shopping in Delhi is an experience that beautifully combines heritage and contemporary flair.

CHANDNI CHOWK: WHERE HERITAGE MEETS STYLE

Steeped in history, Chandni Chowk is the ultimate destination for exploring Delhi's cultural roots. With narrow lanes lined with shops, this iconic market offers an impressive selection of traditional wear, including bridal lehengas, sarees, and intricate jewellery. The new Omaxe Chowk adds modern amenities to the shopping experience, blending historic charm with contemporary conveniences. Chandni Chowk is a must-visit for



anyone looking to immerse themselves in Delhi's rich heritage during the festive season.

LAJPAT NAGAR: A FESTIVAL SHOPPER'S PARADISE

Known for its affordability and variety, Lajpat Nagar is a favourite among festival shoppers. This lively market offers everything from ethnic wear to home décor and accessories, all at competitive prices. Whether you're after an elegant saree or bridal outfit, Lajpat Nagar's vibrant atmosphere and wallet-friendly options make it a popular spot for families prepping for the festive season.

KAROL BAGH: THE HEART OF TRADITION

Karol Bagh is famous for its mix of traditional and contemporary attire,

making it a top destination for wedding and festival shopping. With stores packed into narrow, bustling streets, shoppers can explore an extensive range of bridal wear, textiles, and unique jewellery. The energetic vibe and variety make Karol Bagh ideal for those seeking traditional attire and festive accessories.

GREATER KAILASH: ELEGANCE IN EVERY CORNER

If you're looking for a more luxurious shopping experience, Greater Kailash is the place to be. Home to designer boutiques and high-end stores, this area is perfect for finding exclusive bridal wear, premium jewellery, and sophisticated trousseau outfits. With its upscale ambience, Greater Kailash attracts festival-goers who want to celebrate in style.

DOWNTOWN BY MANSAN – SOUTH DELHI'S MODERN SHOPPING DESTINATION

Soon to open, Downtown by Mansan Group brings a new shopping experience to South Delhi, conveniently located near the Sarojini Nagar Metro Station. Spread over 2.18 acres, this modern retail complex combines high-street brands with luxury outlets, offering a blend of shopping and contemporary office spaces. With ample parking and a range of dining options, Downtown is set to become a favourite for festival shoppers seeking convenience and a touch of sophistication.

KHAN MARKET: THE UPSCALE MARKET

One of Delhi's upscale markets, Khan Market presents a more sophisticated experience. Although it originated as a market for refugees from Pakistan after Partition, Khan Market has evolved into a high-end shopping hub, known for designer boutiques, international brands, and posh eateries. Its ambience strikes a balance between global trends and Indian tastes, attracting the city's elite and expatriates.

Delhi's bazaars are not just shopping destinations—they are cultural institutions that hold a mirror to the city's diverse population. During festivals like Diwali and Eid, bazaars take on a life of their own, with streets decked in lights, special offerings at every stall, and an air of celebration all around. Vendors and shoppers, coming from varied cultural and economic backgrounds, interact with warmth and camaraderie, making these spaces truly inclusive.

Besides, the food scene in Delhi's markets is an experience in itself. From Paranthi Wali Gali's fried delights to the chaats of INA Market and the kebabs of Jama Masjid, the bazaars have something to tantalise every palate. Street food vendors, often in families for generations, have honed their craft, turning simple snacks into icons of Delhi's culinary landscape. The Future of Delhi's Bazaars: Balancing Heritage with Modern Needs.

As Delhi modernises, its bazaars are also evolving. The government has initiated efforts to preserve historical markets, restoring facades and improving infrastructure to cater to tourists and preserve heritage. However, challenges persist: rapid urbanisation, increased footfall, and modernisation pressures can sometimes erode the traditional spirit of these markets. Yet, the resilience of Delhi's bazaars lies in their adaptability.



Photo: Ranjan Dimri

A Soulful Sojourn in Puri and Konark

Puri and Konark, two jewels of Odisha, offer a rich tapestry of spirituality, history, and culture that captivates the soul of every traveler, writes VISHESH SHUKLA

In quest of spiritual enlightenment, I embarked on a spiritual journey to Jagannath Puri, the revered abode of Lord Krishna. Boarding a local train from Dhenkanal railway station at dawn, I felt a thrill of excitement for the adventure ahead. The weather was beautiful, with the sun just beginning to rise, casting a warm glow over everything. As the train moved along, I found myself pondering my plans for the day once I reached Puri, eagerly anticipating the experiences that awaited me.

After a few hours of the train's rhythmic motion, I finally arrived at my destination. Upon exiting the station, I immediately started looking for a place to stay. Fortunately, I found Hotel Nemili nearby. I settled on renting 1400 to the hotel reception to get a room. The room was cosy and inviting, a perfect spot to rest after my journey. After resting and freshening up for a while, I felt rejuvenated and ready to explore.

Eager to soak in the local ambience, I grabbed a cup of tea from a nearby stall, enjoying the vibrant atmosphere around me. The streets buzzed with life, filled with locals and tourists alike, all making their way to the temple. Soon, I decided to take a shared auto to the famous Jagannath Temple. The driver charged me Rs. 20 and dropped me a short distance from the temple entrance.



TEMPLE

As I walked along Chakratirtha Road, I noticed a significant crowd gathering, likely due to the weekend and the special occasion of Govardhan Puja. A police officer stationed nearby mentioned that it would take at least three hours to have darshan due to the rush. Many brokers approached me, promising faster entry for a fee of Rs. 500, but I decided not to engage with them and continued on my way, determined to experience the authentic essence of the pilgrimage.

The heat was intense, and I felt a bit uneasy, the sun bearing down as I moved through the throngs of people. After a while, I reached the temple's entrance, where I stored my mobile and shoes in the locker provided by the temple trust. I joined the long line for darshan, the anticipation building with

each step. After two hours of waiting and moving through the crowd, I finally had darshan of Lord Jagannath, along with visits to the Sakshi Gopal and Ganesh temples within the premises. The atmosphere was electric with devotion, and I took a moment to soak in the spiritual energy that filled the air. I also made sure to visit the Mahalakshmi Temple before leaving the complex, feeling grateful for the blessings received.

As I emerged from the sacred precincts of the Jagannath Temple, I was blessed with a profound spiritual experience witnessing the live installation of the Patitapabana Bana, a revered flag atop the temple's majestic spire. This sacred ritual, steeped in tradition and significance, left an indelible mark on my soul, with a sense of serenity and connection to the divine. By the time I exited the temple, my stomach growled in protest. I walked down Chakratirtha

Road again and stopped at Ram Lalla restaurant, where I enjoyed a satisfying meal. The flavours were delicious, and I found myself reflecting on the incredible experience of the day—the vibrant sights, the sounds of prayers, and the palpable sense of community. To make the evening even better, I set out for Puri's popular Golden Beach, where many people were already present. After sitting there for a while, I felt a deep sense of peace watching the waves crash against the shore. The sight of the ocean calmed my mind, and I enjoyed an ice cream being sold nearby.

savouring the moment. After spending some more time lost in thought and tranquillity, I decided to call it a day and returned to my hotel to rest.

DISCOVERING KONARK

The next morning, I woke up early, checked out of the hotel, and placed my luggage in the locker room near the station. With excitement bubbling within me, I made my way to Vatika Restaurant for breakfast, relishing the local flavours before setting off for Konark. I took a shared auto to reach there, and as soon as I arrived, I was greeted by intense heat, much stronger than in Puri. My first stop was the Sun Temple, an incredible historic site under the Archaeological Survey of India, which required an entry ticket for Rs. 35. Thankfully,

tickets can be easily purchased online, making it convenient for travellers. The temple's architecture was mesmerising, a true marvel of ancient Indian craftsmanship. I spent some time exploring the intricacies of the carvings and the grandeur of the structure, feeling a sense of reverence as I walked through the sacred grounds.

After immersing myself in the history of the Sun Temple, I continued to Chandrabhaga Beach, just 4 kilometres away. The beach is very popular among tourists and offers fun activities like ATV bike rides and boat rides. I spent a while enjoying the beach, feeling the soft sand beneath my feet and the refreshing sea breeze against my skin. The vibrant energy of the beach was infectious, and I could see families enjoying picnics, children building sandcastles, and friends laughing together.

As the day went on, I checked the time and decided it was best to head back. I knew I had to catch the 5 PM local train back to Dhenkanal. Returning to Puri, I caught the train and settled in, watching the scenery change outside the window. I reached home with a heart full of cherished memories and stunning sights that stayed vividly in my mind, knowing that this journey had deepened my connection to my spirituality and left me yearning for more adventures in the future.



EXPERIENCING JAGANNATH



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week is promising for financial prospects, showcasing notable career advancement and a rewarding sense of monetary gain which contributes to overall satisfaction.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Thursday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week, you may find yourself drawn to spiritual activities, embracing them with enthusiasm. Despite your positive engagement, you could encounter opposition and negativity from those around you.

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour White
Lucky day Tuesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week, you embody remarkable vitality and resilience. Your intellectual prowess peaks, allowing you to envision grand possibilities. Exhibiting courage and the ability to master desires, you demonstrate a resolute spirit.

Lucky number 15 | Lucky colour Teal
Lucky day Saturday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week holds the promise of delightful surprises, including joyful personal milestones that can reshape your future. At your core, you embody romance, exhibiting gentleness and a deep compassion that draws tranquility into your life.

Lucky number 19 | Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Monday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week calls for quick and decisive action on your part. A fresh surge of clarity is on the horizon, sweeping away any obscurity and negativity. This newfound clarity will enhance your interactions and set important activities in motion.

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Friday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week heralds a period of exceptional favor, where your path aligns with the unfolding of fortunate events. Embrace your innate capacity to seize these moments, bolstered by an unwavering trust in higher powers.

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Maroon
Lucky day Monday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week, you will find yourself deeply immersed in your professional commitments, leaving little room for personal or home life. Your dedication to your responsibilities is commendable, yet you may feel that your objectives are still out of reach.

Lucky number 16 | Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Sunday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week, you may find yourself wrestling with unresolved feelings that are hard to shake off, leading to nights filled with restlessness and a lack of sleep. There's a sensitive area in your life that feels particularly exposed to potential distress.

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Wednesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

There's no reason to feel disheartened, as unseen support seems poised to guide you through upcoming challenges. Embrace moments of solitude; these quiet times often lead to profound insights and spur your innovative spirit.

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Olive
Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week, those of you who resonate with being perceptive and empathetic may find yourselves deeply absorbed in your inner worlds, engaging with vivid imaginations and exploratory thoughts. It's a time where your ability to tap into your subconscious could feel akin to having psychic abilities.

Lucky number 22 | Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Friday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week, you might find yourself in a reflective mood, feeling a bit introspective and possibly downtrodden. During this period, fostering positive relationships with close family members, particularly female relatives, could be particularly beneficial.

Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Monday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

There's no cause for dismay, as help seems to be on the horizon, guiding you forward. Moments of solitude could bring profound insights and enlightenment, fueling a surge of creativity within you.

Lucky number 21 | Lucky colour Sea Green
Lucky day Friday

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THE INDEBTED LIFE

THE TUNING FORK

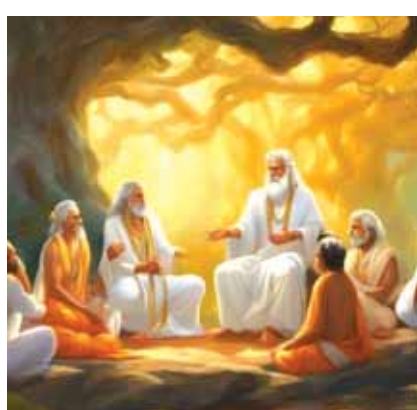


C V Srikanth

Devotion to our rishis, sages, Gurus and following their guidance, one must unfold the meaning of and uphold their teachings, and sacred wisdom

Just like a Financial Balance sheet, Vedic traditions look at another balance sheet - analysing the Karmas of an individual with a focus on our Rina or Debts. Rina (debts) a key concept in Vedic tradition, emphasises the accountabilities and obligations each individual is born with and is compelled to repay-as an obligation towards the karmic inheritance to help understand one's duties for spiritual & material progress.

The first 3 one is born with Debt to the Gods (Deva Rina) Debt to the Ancestors (Pitru Rina) Debt to the Sages (Rishi Rina) Debt to Fellow Humans (Manushya Rina) Debt to Nature and All Living Beings (Bhuta Rina) Deva Rina: The debt to the Gods emphasizes Bhakti devotion, worship, performing rituals and Yajnas sacrifices paying obeisance to the Divine power seen as nourishing and sustaining the cosmic order.



अथैतानिप्राणधाराश्चवर्चस्रितचिन्तियस्त्वयमुक्त्वा । सर्वअपामथसन्तुस्त्वापिभूतास्थितातस्त्वाऋत्विजयस्त्वेानुत्तम् ॥ Atha itānīprāṇādhāraścha varchastishṭhanti yas tvayānī bhuktvā Sarvā apāmātha santu svāpi bhūtā sthitā-tastva rtvijaṇi yastevānṛttam

seers. It is about engaging in jigyasa - inquiry and learning the scriptures and living by their teachings. Gुरुवितर्चसिद्धं च स्वधर्मण्योबलत् । सर्वमूलविमुञ्चत्यस्मिन्गुह्ये तु सदा हिता ॥ Gurun pitaram vasishṭham cha svadhar-menayobalāt Sarvamūlaṇ vimuchatyasminguhye tu sadā hitā

balance. Bhuta Rina: The debt to Mother Nature and the elements, is key to our sustenance and evolution. Being sensitive & considerate to all life forms. विवेकदृष्टिप्रजानांपुण्यायेतवयं यथा । गुणानामुपतिष्ठन्तिसन्तःसन्तो च हितात् ॥ Rīṇaṇ tu pṛthivyaḥ pitṛṇāṇ ca sarvada Pitarāṇ ca vṛṣṭivyāghraṇ dānaṇ ca tuyat-nataḥ