



TRAGEDY STRIKES DELHI'S HEART, ELEVEN DEAD

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

In a tragic incident, a nightmare unfolded in Mustafabad area of North East Delhi in the early hours of Sunday when a four-storey building came crashing down like a stack of cards, leaving 11 people dead including two women. At least 11 of them were pulled out alive by rescue teams and rushed to a hospital, where five are undergoing treatment, while six have been discharged. Using cranes and thermal cameras, rescue teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), fire services, Delhi Police and other volunteers carried out rescue efforts for over 12 hours at the site of the 20-year-old four-storey structure that collapsed in the Mustafabad area of the national capital around 3 am, trapping several under the rubble. The congested bylanes of Mustafabad are making it

harder to move heavy equipment. Reacting to the incident, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta expressed her condolences and ordered a probe into the incident, assuring that strict action will be ensured against the culprits. "May God grant peace to the departed souls and give strength to the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss," she said on social media. CM Gupta said the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Delhi Fire Service (DFS), and other agencies are engaged in relief and rescue efforts. "Arrangements have been made for proper treatment of all the injured," she said. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi, in a statement, said that the structure was around 20 years old and was fully occupied. According to police, there were 22 people at the building, most of them



Rescue operation underway after a building collapsed at Shakti Vihar area in New Delhi. 11 died and several others are feared trapped after the four-storey building collapsed. RANJAN DIMRI/THE PIONEER

families. The owner of the building, Tehseen, and six from his family were among the 11 who died in the building collapse. Police said they received information about the building collapse around 3.02 am at Dayalpur police station. A police team rushed to Gali No. 1, Shakti Vihar, where the building was found to have collapsed. Rescue teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Delhi Fire Services (DFS), and ambulance services were immediately pressed into action. Police said around 22 people were reported to be trapped when the building collapsed. According to Rajender Atwal, Divisional Fire Officer of the Delhi Fire Service, the office was alerted about the incident at 2.50 am. When the fire officials reached there, they found the entire building had collapsed and some were trapped, he said. CCTV in an adjacent

alley has captured the moment the building collapsed. The footage showed a sudden spark and a thick cloud of dust filling the alley, preventing any further recording. The police said that several families were suspected to be staying inside the building on rent and the tragedy occurred when the occupants were sleeping. It was a harrowing experience for neighbours living next to the ill-fated building as some of the residents said it felt as if an earthquake had hit them. Even before they could comprehend as to what was happening, everything was covered in dust, shaken survivors recounted. "It felt like an earthquake. The floor shook beneath us and before we could understand anything, everything was covered in dust," said Shiv Vihar local Ryan who lives next to the building that collapsed on Saturday morning.

MHA issues digital fraud alert for pilgrims, tourists

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre, under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, has alerted the public about online booking frauds, especially those targeting Char Dham pilgrims and tourists, across the country. These frauds are being perpetrated through fake websites, deceptive social media pages, Facebook posts, and paid advertisements on search engines such as Google, the home ministry said in a statement. The scams involve the creation of professional-looking but fake websites and social media profiles and WhatsApp accounts offering various services. These include helicopter bookings for Kedarnath, guest house and hotel bookings for Char Dham pilgrims, online cab or taxi reservation, holiday packages

and religious tours, according to the statement. Unsuspecting individuals, upon making payments through these portals, often realise they have been duped when no confirmation or service is received and the contact numbers become unreachable. People are advised to exercise extreme caution, the ministry said in the statement. "Always verify the authenticity of websites before making any payments. Verify before clicking on 'sponsored' or unknown links on Google, Facebook or WhatsApp. Cross-check bookings only through official government portals or trusted travel agencies," it added. The Ministry also urged the public to report such websites immediately on the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal at cybercrime.gov.in or call 1930 in case of any fraud.

Protect minorities without excuses: India tells Bangladesh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

India on Saturday condemned the alleged abduction and killing of a Hindu minority leader in Bangladesh and called on the interim government in Dhaka to live up to its responsibility of protecting the minorities. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the "brutal killing" of Bhabesh Chandra Roy follows a "pattern of systematic persecution" of Hindu minorities in Bangladesh. "We have noted with distress the abduction and brutal killing of Shri Bhabesh Chandra Roy, a Hindu minority leader in Bangladesh," he said in his social media post. "This killing follows a pattern of systematic persecution of Hindu minorities under the interim government even as the perpetrators of previous such events roam with impunity," Jaiswal said. "We condemn this incident and once again remind the interim government to live up to its responsibility of protecting

all minorities, including Hindus, without inventing excuses or making distinctions," he added. The Congress also condemned the killing and demanded that the government take up the matter with Dhaka, saying "There has been a sharp downturn in India-Bangladesh relations after Sheikh Hasina fled Dhaka in August last year in the face of a massive anti-government protest". Silence and inaction were not options when such targeted violence was being allowed to take root. Reacting to the killing, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the party stood in solidarity with the Hindu community in Bangladesh and added the government should ensure efforts were made to ensure

transparent action to bring the culprits to book. "The Indian National Congress strongly condemns the brutal killing of Bhabesh Chandra Roy, a prominent leader of the Hindu community in Dinajpur, Bangladesh. The abduction and assault leading to his tragic death is a chilling reminder of the growing sense of insecurity among religious minorities in the region," he said in a post on X. Noting that this was not an isolated incident, he said there had been repeated and deeply disturbing instances of attacks on minority communities in Bangladesh over the past months — from desecration of Hindu temples to targeted attacks on the homes and businesses of minorities. "This pattern of intimidation and brutality cannot be ignored," Ramesh said. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said that according to the government's reply in Parliament, there were 76 attacks on Hindus in the previous two months, leading to the deaths of 23 Hindus.

"Recently the chief advisor of Bangladesh made a very condemnable and disappointing comment about the north-eastern states of India. The atrocities against religious minorities in Bangladesh, human rights violations and the attempt to eliminate the memories of the 1971 Liberation War are efforts to weaken the relations between India and Bangladesh," Kharge said. From 1971 to today, the Congress president said, India had always sought peace and prosperity for all the people of Bangladesh as it was in the best interest of the subcontinent. "There has been a sharp downturn in India-Bangladesh relations after deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina fled Dhaka in August last year in the face of a massive anti-government protest. The relations nosedived dramatically after the interim government headed by Muhammad Yunus failed to contain attacks on minorities, especially Hindus, in that country."

Indian team to visit US ahead of BTA negotiations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Indian and US officials will hold three-day talks from April 23 in Washington for a proposed trade pact with terms of references (ToRs) covering around 19 chapters such as tariffs, non-tariff barriers, and customs facilitation, official sources said. The Indian official team is visiting the US to give further impetus to the negotiations in the 90-day tariff pause window and discuss these ToRs to iron out differences on certain issues before formally launching talks for the bilateral trade agreement (BTA). India's chief negotiator, Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce Rajesh Agrawal, will lead the team for the first in-person talks between the two countries. Agrawal was appointed as the next commerce secretary on April 18. He will assume office from October 1. "Both sides will discuss the level of ambition. The ToRs will be further developed and discussed. What will be the pathway for talks? The ToRs will include issues like tariffs, non-tariff barriers, rules of origin, goods, services, custom facilitation and regulatory issues," the official said, adding general contours of the pact will be discussed, besides scheduling, so that things can be finalised in 90 days. The three-day deliberations assume significance, as a senior government official had recently stated that an interim trade agreement between the two countries could be finalised in the 90-day tariff pause announced by the Trump administration if it is a "win-win" for both sides.

In international trade parlance, the level of ambition refers to the extent to which two countries are willing to commit to specific trade liberalisation measures. The visit also follows senior official-level talks held between the two countries last month here. Brendan Lynch, the Assistant US Trade Representative for South and Central Asia, was in India from March 25 to 29 for crucial trade discussions with Indian officials. The two sides are keen to utilise the 90-day tariff pause, announced by US President Donald Trump on April 9, to push the talks. On April 15, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal had stated that India will try to close the negotiations as quickly as possible with the US. India and the US have been engaged in negotiating a bilateral trade agreement since March. Both sides have targeted to conclude the first phase of the pact by the fall (September-October) of this year, with an aim to more than double the bilateral trade to \$ 500 billion by 2030, from about \$ 191 billion, currently. In a trade pact, two countries either significantly reduce or eliminate customs duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them. They also ease norms to promote trade in services and boost investments. While the US is looking at duty concessions

in sectors like certain industrial goods, automobiles (electric vehicles particularly), wines, petrochemical products, dairy, and agriculture items such as apples, tree nuts, and alfalfa hay; India may look at duty cuts for labour-intensive sectors like apparels, textiles, gems and jewellery, leather, plastics, chemicals, oil seeds, shrimp, and horticulture products. From 2021-22 to 2024-25, the US was India's largest trading partner. In the last fiscal, India's exports to the US rose by 11.6 per cent to \$ 86.51 billion as against \$ 77.52 billion in 2023-24. The imports were up by 7.44 per cent in 2024-25 to \$ 45.33 billion against \$ 42.2 billion in 2023-24. With America, India had a trade surplus (the difference between imports and exports) of \$ 41.18 billion in goods in 2024-25. America accounted for nearly 19.78 per cent of India's total exports and 6.29 per cent of the total imports. To address the gap and boost manufacturing, the Trump administration announced sweeping tariffs on April 2, including 26 per cent on India. It was later suspended for 90-day till July 9. In 2024, India's main exports to the US included drug formulations and biologicals (\$ 8.1 billion), telecom instruments (\$ 6.5 billion), precious and semi-precious stones (\$ 5.3 billion), petroleum products (\$ 4.1 billion), gold and other precious metal jewellery (\$ 3.2 billion), ready-made garments of cotton, including accessories (\$ 2.8 billion), and products of iron and steel (\$ 2.7 billion). Imports included crude oil (\$ 4.5 billion), petroleum products (\$ 3.6 billion), coal, coke (\$ 3.4 billion), cut and polished diamonds

(\$ 2.6 billion), electric machinery (\$ 1.4 billion), aircraft, spacecraft and parts (\$ 1.3 billion), and gold (\$ 1.3 billion). Meanwhile, imposition of high tariffs to protect domestic industries, once criticised by developed nations, is back in global trade and the rationale for levying such duties, which was earlier championed by developing countries, is also making a comeback in trade talks, sources said. Without naming countries like the US, they also said that now the advanced economies are also talking about protecting livelihood of fishermen and farmers. Now, the whole concept that livelihood fishing and farming are different from commercial activities is making a comeback. The same principles once raised by developing countries - previously dismissed - are now resurfacing in global discussions, they added. "Developed countries are using tariffs which they had left during GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) to come back and say that tariffs are necessary for protection. We have been arguing about this when we gave the infant industry argument that developing countries' industries require some kind of tariff protection, the whole world went against this and they stated that your tariffs are very, very high and now the same sectoral tariffs are being used," one of the sources said. The US imposed sweeping tariffs on April 2 which were later suspended for 90-days except on China, which is facing 245 per cent duty on steel, aluminium and auto components.



For the first time in Ranchi, Indian Air Force's prestigious Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) enthralled the audience with a breathtaking show at the Namkung Army Ground on Saturday. Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, senior defence and administrative officials were present at the event, which was split into two phases. The event will continue in Ranchi on Sunday as well, followed by an air show in Patna on April 22-23. PTI

India rings happiness, warmth for army men at high-altitude Siachen

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ Jammu

In the cold desert region of Ladakh, the Indian Army is 'warming up' hearts and 'ringing in happiness' for thousands of families of soldiers, standing guard at the Siachen glacier — the world's highest battlefield and several other high-altitude forward locations, both in the eastern and western Ladakh sector, by providing round-the-clock seamless high-speed mobile connectivity thereby enabling them to stay in touch with each other. For a long time, soldiers deployed in high-altitude forward locations, including the Galwan valley, used to wait for their turn to make a return call to speak to their loved ones and ask about their well-being. Due to adverse weather conditions and inhospitable terrain, they even failed to make calls and returned to their barracks with a heavy heart. Senior Army officials deployed in the Ladakh region said the Indian Army has

fulfilled its long-pending commitment by bridging the digital divide and providing high-speed mobile connectivity across the remote and high-altitude areas of Ladakh, including forward locations in eastern Ladakh, western Ladakh, and the Siachen Glacier. The Indian army has successfully completed the installation of a 5G mobile tower on the Siachen Glacier — the highest battlefield in the world — showcasing India's technological prowess and resolve. Following this, the mobile tower network was further expanded to provide 4G and 5G mobile connectivity to the foot soldiers deployed in some of the world's most inhospitable terrains — such as Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO), Galwan, Demchok, Chumar, Batalik, Dras and the Siachen Glacier. By extending this facility, the Indian Army has brought soldiers closer to their families in such inhospitable forward locations.



A senior Army officer observed that ever since we have extended this high-speed mobile connectivity, the morale of the soldiers deployed in remote locations is relatively high. "We have also observed that their emotional health has improved as they can regularly speak to their loved ones and share their emotions." The pioneering effort has been made possible through a collaborative approach under the Whole-of-Government framework, wherein the Indian Army — leveraging its robust optical fibre cable infrastructure — has partnered with Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and the UT administration of Ladakh. Ladakh-based Fire and Fury Corps has also played a leading role in enabling this synergy, resulting in the installation of multiple mobile towers on Army infrastructure, including four key towers in Ladakh and Kargil districts alone, the Army officials said. By extending this facility in the region, the Indian Army is already reaping rich

dividends. Its impact can be felt beyond the troop welfare. It is a significant nation-building endeavour transforming the socio-economic fabric of remote border villages. By integrating 'First Villages' into the national digital network, this effort is bridging the digital divide, boosting local economies, promoting border tourism, enhancing medical aid and emergency services, and enabling educational access. The officials said local populations have welcomed this initiative with overwhelming gratitude. Mobile connectivity is not just a communication tool; it is now a lifeline for remote communities, fostering inclusion, opportunity, and dignity. This visionary initiative by the Indian Army stands as a testament to its enduring commitment to national integration and development, echoing the spirit of 'Viksit Bharat' - India@2047, the officials added.



Girls' shine in UVSP board examination results

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Ramnagar/Dehradun

Girls students passed with flying colours in the Uttarakhand Vidyalaya Shiksha Parishad (UVSP) results of the classes X and XII board examinations released on Saturday. The board chairman Mukul Sati

Similarly, in class XII, 83.23 per cent of students cleared the exam, with passing percentages of 80.10 per cent for boys and 86.20 per cent for girls.

Tehri, Garhwal secured second position, while Divyanshu from Uttarkashi, Priya of Rudraprayag and Deepa Joshi from Udhm Singh Nagar jointly secured third position in class X.

Additionally, Anushka Rana from Dehradun achieved the top position in the class XII exams with a score of 98.60 per cent. Keshav Bhatt from Dehradun and Komal Kumari from Uttarkashi jointly secured second position, while Ayush Singh Rawat from Rishikesh took third position.

The board further informed that 1,09,859 students appeared for the high school exams, and 1,06,345 students appeared for the intermediate board exams this year.

Additionally, this year, the overall result for the Intermediate was 0.60 per cent higher than last year, and the result for High School was 1.63 per cent higher than last year.

In response to the results, chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama extended hearty congratulations and best wishes to all the students who passed the class X and Class XII board exams under UVSP. He expressed his hopes that all students continue to reach new heights of success. He also encouraged those who did not succeed this time, reminding them that failure is not the end but the beginning of a new resolution. He urged them to try again with confidence and determination.



Students celebrate in Dehradun after declaration of UVSP board exam results on Saturday

announced that in class X, 90.77 per cent of students passed the exam, with a passing percentage of 88.20 per cent for boys and 93.25 per cent for girls.

Singh Chauhan and Jatini Joshi from Bageshwar and Haldwani topped the state with a score of 99.20 per cent. Apart from this, Kanak Lata from New

UVSP class X result, Kamal & Jatini share top position

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Bageshwar/Haldwani/New Tehri

Students Kamal Singh Chauhan from Bageshwar and Jatini Joshi from Haldwani secured the top position in class X, under the Uttarakhand Vidyalaya Shiksha Parishad (UVSP). The UVSP declared the results for classes X and XII on Saturday.

Kamal's father, Harish Singh Chauhan, expressed gratitude for the support from teachers and acknowledged Kamal's hard work in achieving this success. Kamal stated that his goal is to pass the NDA exam and serve in the Indian Army. His friends, teachers and family members are all thrilled about his accomplishments.

Additionally, Joshi credited his achievement to his regular studies, confidence and the guidance of his teachers. Meanwhile, the joy of Joshi's parents was evident as tears of happiness filled their eyes. Further, a student at Saraswati Vidya Mandir Inter College in New Tehri Kanaklata Bisht, has achieved second rank by securing 99 per cent in her examinations through her dedication and hard work. She credited her success to the support of her teachers, parents and friends. Kanak expressed her desire to study Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics (PCM) further and aims to join the National Defence Academy (NDA).

CM directs prompt action to resolve public grievances

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama listened to the grievances of people from various parts of the State at the Mukhya Sewak Sadan at the chief minister's residence here on Saturday. After listening to the public, the CM directed the officials concerned to ensure that the issues communicated by the citizens are resolved at the earliest.

According to officials, people from various parts of the State communicated their personal, social and regional issues to Dhama. The CM directed the officials to take prompt action in all the cases. The grievances raised by the people with the CM included issues related to electricity and water supply, road, encroachment, requirement for financial assistance and cases related to land, among other subjects. The CM said that the State government is working with the service of the public as its priority. He told the officials to ensure that time-bound and effective action is taken to resolve the cases communicated

by the citizens on Saturday. Secretary Shailesh Bagauli, Dehradun district magistrate Savin Bansal and senior superintendent of police Ajai Singh, along with other officials were also present on the occasion.

NOTICE

Property 1. Jitendra Shah son of Shri Murari Lal, 2. Smt. Kusumlata wife of Jitendra Shah's chain registry which is Mauza Gudi Patti Maniyar Tehsil Tehri District Tehri Garhwal Account No. 49 and 78 Fasl Year-1425 to 1430 Khatauni Account No. 49 Field Number-1728 Area-0.005 ha and Account No. 78 Field Number-1736 M Area-0.012 ha, 1737 M 0.003 ha Total Area-0.020 ha Land and building constructed thereon which is registered in Registry Sub-Registrar Tehri on 23rd July 2021 at number 1366 on page 135 to 150 of Book No. 1 Volume 984, the chain registry of the above property has been lost somewhere, which may not be recovered by anyone in future should not be misused. The proposed buyer of this property is Shri Kaptan Singh S/o Shri Badshah Singh Village and Post Alekh District Tehri Garhwal who has applied for loan from State Bank of India, Ladoli Rudraprayag Branch Code No. 09954.

University student arrested for accidentally shooting friend

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The police have arrested a university student for allegedly shooting his friend accidentally in Dehradun some days ago. According to the police, information was received on April 16 about a youth Shashi Shekhar (21) being shot in the head under suspicious circumstances. He is a BSc second year student in a private institute in the Premnagar area and was staying at a paying guest accommodation. Police investigations revealed that Shekhar's friend Shashi Ranjan (21) was also present in the room with the victim. During questioning, Ranjan, who is also a BSc second year student in the same institute said that on the day of the incident, both of them were sitting in the room.

He said that Shekhar used to keep a handgun on his bed's headrest. Shekhar reportedly took the firearm out and showed it to Ranjan. According to the police, Ranjan said that he accidentally pulled the trigger of the gun while handling it. The bullet hit Shekhar in the head. He started bleeding from the head and fell down injured on the bed. Ranjan said that he got scared, put the firearm and its magazine back where Shekhar had kept it.

He left the room and later Shekhar was brought to the hospital with the help of other friends. Considering Ranjan's involvement in the incident, the police arrested him and booked him under various sections of BNS.

Rana tops State in UVSP class XII board examination

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

A student from Government Inter College Badasi in Dehradun, Anushka Rana, attributed her success in securing the top position in the class XII board examination results under the Uttarakhand Vidyalaya Shiksha Parishad (UVSP) to her

examinations. She added that her father is a teacher and his new techniques for explaining each topic have been beneficial. Moreover, during this preparation period, she had distanced herself from social media. Rana expressed her aspiration to



become a doctor and is currently preparing for the NEET exam. She encourages other students to maintain consistency and focus on understanding the material rather than relying solely on rote memorisation to achieve good grades at every level. Additionally, Rana's parents share her excitement and take pride in her accomplishments.

decision to avoid social media during her studies. The UVSP announced the results for both class X and class XII on Saturday, in which she became the State topper. Rana expressed her excitement about achieving the state topper position with an impressive score of 98.6 per cent in class XII. She said that her dedication to her studies led to this achievement and she also received a phone call from Education Minister Dhan Singh Rawat, who congratulated her on her success.

She said that her achievement is a result of her passion for her studies. She typically dedicated an average of seven to eight hours each day to prepare for the board

Lekhah Gaon and Gujarat Sahitya Academy to collaborate for enrichment of Indian languages

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Retired IAS officer and president of Gujarat Sahitya Academy Bhagvesh Jha visited Uttarakhand on a two-day trip to participate in a programme titled "Memory and Enrichment of Indian Languages" held at Lekhak Gaon in Dehradun. On this occasion, he was conferred with the "Lekhah Gaon Srijan Samman" for his outstanding contribution to literature and language preservation.

Speaking on the occasion, Jha described the concept of Lekhak Gaon as a unique and visionary initiative. He announced that in the near future, the Gujarat Sahitya Academy and Lekhak Gaon will jointly work towards the preservation, promotion, and enrichment of Indian languages. Emphasising the importance of traditional knowledge, he remarked that while internet-based knowledge is increasingly seen as the primary source of learning today, India's rich intellectual heritage lies in the Vedas, Puranas and other ancient texts. He stressed the need to present this traditional wisdom through innovative means to the people of India and to establish its recognition on global platforms.

Former chief minister and ex-Union minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' had recently visited Gujarat, where he had mentioned the concept of

Lekhah Gaon during a programme organised by the Gujarat Sahitya Academy. Inspired by the idea, the chief minister of Gujarat had also expressed interest in visiting Lekhak Gaon. Following this, Jha and the academy's secretary Jayendra Yadav visited Lekhak Gaon. Nishank highlighted that Uttarakhand is the birthplace of the Vedas, Puranas and Upanishads, and is known as the land of Ayurveda. He described Uttarakhand as not only the spiritual capital of India but also a source of life-giving air. He emphasised that Lekhak Gaon is evolving into a creative hub for literary work as well as a center for nurturing future generations of writers. He shared that under the first phase of the Nalanda Library and Research Centre at Lekhak Gaon, the target is to collect one million books. Over 60,000 books have already been gathered. This library is set to become a milestone for scholars and students alike.

Padma Shri recipient Pritam Bhartwan appreciated Lekhak Gaon as a cultural asset of Uttarakhand. The event also witnessed the presence of Padma Shri recipients Dr BKS Sanjay, Dr Yogi Aeron, Madhuri Barthwal, Kalyan Singh Rawat 'Maiti' and others.

IN BRIEF

Enraged wife sets husband on fire

RUDRAPUR: In a chilling crime, a woman in a state of rage following a domestic dispute allegedly poured petrol on her husband and set him on fire. This happened at Badabhoj village in Bazpur of Udhm Singh Nagar district. Relatives present at the house rushed in and tried to douse the flame. The critically injured man with extensive burns was first rushed to a government hospital and then referred to a higher centre, given his worsening condition. The wife who allegedly committed the crime is learnt to have fled. The Beria Daultal police station officers said that though they had received no written complaint they had started a probe on their own.

AHTU nabs minors during raids on mall, spa centres

RUDRAPUR: An anti-human trafficking unit (AHTU) raided several cafes and spa centres operating in Kashipur of Udhm Singh Nagar district and detained two minor boys and two minor girls who were found in compromising positions during the raid in a spa centre. Cases have been registered against the accused under POCSO and some other acts. However, the operator of the centre fled. Providing information, the in-charge of the AHTU, Vasanti Arya said that they were on the lookout for the absconding operator.

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Corporate Office: Chola Crest, C54 & 55, Super B-4, Thiru V Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai 600032. Branch Office: 2nd Floor, J.J Tower, 59-Rajpur Road, Adjoining Ram Tirath Ashram, Opp. Sachivalaya Main Gate, Dehradun-248001. Branch Office: 2nd Floor, Kharsa No 945, Railway Road, Jwalapur, Opp. Jwalapur Railway Station, Haridwar (U.K.) 249407. Contact No: Mr. Varun Partap Vohra, Mob. No. 8477000713, 9056555002

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagee (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of CholaMandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited the same shall be referred herein after as CholaMandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited. The Secured Assets will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis through E-Auction.

It is hereby informed to General public that we are going to conduct public E-Auction through website <https://chola-lap.procure247.com>

Account No. and Name of Borrower, Co-Borrower, Mortgagees	Date & Amount as per Demand Notice U/s 13(2)	Descriptions of the Property/Properties	Reserve Price, Earnest Money Deposit & Bid Incremental Amount (In Rs.)	E-Auction Date & Time, EMD Submission Last Date, Inspection Date
Loan No. X0HEHRA00002055623	15-01-2024, Rs. 34,66,587/- AS ON 09/01/2024 With Further Interest And Charges Thereon.	Property measuring 92.283 sq. meters registered as per sale deed bearing document number 11,813 dated 29/10/2007 situated in Chao Mandi, Roorkee Tehsil Roorkee, Distt. Haridwar	₹ 47,00,000/- ₹ 4,70,000/- ₹ 50,000/-	09-05-2025 11:00 AM to 1:00 P.M. 08-05-2025 10:00 AM to 5:00 P.M. As Per Appointment

THIS IS ALSO A STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

1. All interested participants/bidders are requested to visit the website <https://chola-lap.procure247.com/> & <https://www.cholaMandalam.com/news/auction-notice>.

2. For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact Mr. Muhammed Raheem - 812400030 / 6374845616. For email: CholaAuctionLAP@chola.murgappa.com. For eAuction training alone, contact M/s. Procure247; Vasu Patel - 9510974587

3. For further details on terms and conditions please visit <https://chola-lap.procure247.com/> & <https://cholaMandalam.com/news/auction-notice> to take part in e-auction.

Date: 20-04-2025, Place: Haridwar/Dehradun M/S CholaMandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL LIMITED

Registered Office: Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat - 362266. Corporate Office: 12th Floor, R Teck Park, Nirlon Complex, Near Hub Mall, Goregaon (East), Mumbai-400 063, MH.

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

15 days Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

On account of the amalgamation between Aditya Birla Finance Ltd. and Aditya Birla Capital Ltd. vide the Scheme of Amalgamation dated 11.03.2024 duly recorded in the Order passed by the National Company Law Tribunal - Ahmedabad on 24.03.2025, all SARFAESI actions initiated by Aditya Birla Finance Ltd. in relation to the mortgaged property mentioned, stands transferred to Aditya Birla Capital Ltd., the amalgamated company.

Accordingly, the Authorized Officer of Aditya Birla Capital Limited / Secured Creditor had taken possession of the following secured assets pursuant to notice issued under Sec. 13(2) of Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI) for recovery of the secured debts of the secured creditor, for the dues as mentioned herein below with further charges and cost thereon from the following Borrowers and Co-Borrowers. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers and Co-Borrowers that e-auction of the following property for realization of the debts due to the Aditya Birla Capital Limited will be held on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis.

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION : 09.05.2025, BETWEEN 11:00 A. M. TO 01:00 P. M.

LAST DATE OF RECEIPT OF KYC & EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT (EMD) : 08.05.2025

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrowers & Co-Borrowers	Description of Properties / Secured Assets and Date of Possession	Reserve Price (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs.)/ Incremental Value (in Rs.)	Demand Notice & Total Amt. (in Rs.)
1.	M/s. Wellmed Biotech Through Its Proprietor Sneha Lata Gupta,	A Property 2 BHK Flat No. B-4, Without Roof Rights At Second Floor, Having Total Area 910 Sq. Ft. Lr. 64.55 Sq.m., Situated At Mohalla New Adarsh Nagar, Village Malakpur Latfour (Within Municipal Limits Roorkee) Pargana & Tehsil Roorkee District Haridwar, Having Its Khata No.443, Kharsa No.276 & 277, Bounded & Butted In East-By Property Sunil Kumar Jain, West-By Property Sunil Kumar Jain (Than Passage 22 Feet Wide, North-By Property Sunil Kumar Jain, South-By Mala	Rs. 31,60,000/- (Rupees Thirty One Lacs and Sixty Thousand only)	Rs. 3,16,000/- (Rupees Three Lacs Sixteen Thousand Three)	22.04.2024 & Rs. 95,92,498.71 (Thirty Five Lacs Ninety Two Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Eight And Seventy Nine Paise Only) due as on 12.04.2024
2.	M/s. Fresh N Fine Homestead Soap, Through Its Proprietor Deepali Goel,				
3.	M/s. Vipul Goyal				

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Aditya Birla Capital Limited / Secured Creditor's website i.e. <https://abfi.adityabirlacapital.com/Pages/IndividualProperties/E-Auction-Under-SARFAESI-Act.aspx> or <https://BidDeal.in>

Contact Nos.: Aditya Birla Capital Limited, Authorized Officer - 1) Mr. Apoorva Thomas Dhanthi - apoorva.dhanthi@adityabirlacapital.com, M. No. 9930909725 You may also visit nearest Branch or contact Aditya Birla Capital Limited 2) Mr. Jahirul Laskar - (Jahirul.Laskar@adityabirlacapital.com) M. No. +91 97060 03075, 3) Pameet Singh - (pameet.singh@adityabirlacapital.com) M. No. +91 97200 29337, 4) Ved Prakash Mishra - (vedprakash.mishra@adityabirlacapital.com) M. No. +91 90040 26790.

Place: Haridwar, Uttarakhand Date : 20.04.2025

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Aditya Birla Capital Limited

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

In my service record my Wife's name Mehk Maya Rana Magar and DOB 30.05.1979 wrongly recorded. Her correct name is Mehk Maya Rana & Correct DOB is 31.07.1979. It should be update for future purposes. JC-No 603453N Sub Yam Bahadur Rana Magar Unit 5/1 GR, C/o 56 APO S/o Jaman Singh Rana Magar

मैं रेखा देवी, जन्मतिथि 10.11.1991 (मौजूदा जन्मतिथि) W/o आर्मी नं. 4093223A नायक कुलदीप सिंह, ग्राम-क्योली, पोस्ट-मगनरी, तहसील-देवप्रयाग, जिला- दिहरी गढ़वाल, यूके-249161, ने अपनी गलत जन्म तिथि 10.11.1991 से 10.06.1991 (सही) कर ली है। हलफनामा IN-UK87048716173285X दिनांक 19.04.25 सम्झ नोटरी GoI-U-K

मेरे सैन्य रिकॉर्ड के अनुसार मेरे पुत्र का गलत नाम कालयीन फुकन दर्ज है, उसका सही नाम कल्याण फुकन आधार नंबर 309452139046 S/o आर्मी नं. 18010553Y नायक जीवन फुकन, गांव- रूपही बाम, पोस्ट-उड़ोई पुर, तहसील: पानीपत, जिला: शिवसागर, असम- 785662 है।

मेरे पुत्र के आधार कार्ड नं. 854246949050 में त्रुटिवश उसका चरुलू नाम मानकु (MANKU) दर्ज हो गया है। जबकि मेरे पुत्र का वास्तविक नाम मयंक (MAYANK) है। जो उसके जन्म प्रमाण-पत्र पंजीकरण सं B-2018: 5-07769-000043 में भी दर्ज है। भविष्य में मेरे पुत्र को मयंक (MAYANK) पुत्री राजन कश्यप के नाम से जाना पहचाना व पुकारा जाए। निवासी अनन्तपुर नन्हेड़ा हरिद्वार उत्तराखण्ड।

मेरी पुत्री के आधार कार्ड नं. 313072067964 में उसका नाम मिस्ट्री (MISHTRI) दर्ज है। लेकिन अब निजी कारणों से मैंने अपनी पुत्री का नाम मिस्ट्री (MISHTRI) से बदलकर नया नाम उन्नति (UNNATI) कर लिया है जो उसके जन्म प्रमाण-पत्र पंजीकरण सं B-2021: 5-90069-005945 में भी दर्ज है। भविष्य में मेरी पुत्री को उन्नति (UNNATI) पुत्री श्री अरुण कुमार के नाम से जाना पहचाना व पुकारा जाए। निवासी निकट शनिदेव मंदिर, गंगोत्री पुरम, मलकपुर लतीफपुर, हरिद्वार, उत्तराखंड -247667।

मेरे पुत्र के आधार कार्ड नं. 982696614350 में उसका नाम शुभ (SHUBH) दर्ज है। लेकिन अब निजी कारणों से मैंने अपने पुत्र का नाम शुभ (SHUBH) से बदलकर नया नाम शुभ श्रेष्ठ कुमार (SHUBH SHRESTH KUMAR) कर लिया है जो उसके जन्म प्रमाण-पत्र पंजीकरण सं B-2018: 5-07755-000126 में भी दर्ज है। भविष्य में मेरे पुत्र को शुभ श्रेष्ठ कुमार (SHUBH SHRESTH KUMAR) पुत्री श्री अरुण कुमार के नाम से जाना पहचाना व पुकारा जाए। निवासी निकट शनिदेव मंदिर, गंगोत्री पुरम, मलकपुर लतीफपुर, हरिद्वार, उत्तराखंड -247667।

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is informed that I had following original documents a) Sale deed dated 12.12.1986, No. 9913/86, Bahi no.1, 2lid no. 2593 page no. 95 to 99, Seller Mrs. Sharda Tandon, Buyer- Tandon Resorts Pvt. Ltd. b) Sale deed dated 12.12.1986, No. 9914/86 of Bahi no. 1, 2lid no. 2594 page no. 348 to 360, Seller Mrs. Sharda Tandon, Buyer- Tandon Resorts Pvt. Ltd. c) Tandon Resorts Pvt. Ltd./ Hotel Wild Flower, Map No. 40/M/86, Date-24.04.1987 Approved by MDDA. d) Some other documents related to Sarai Act and Tandon Resorts Pvt. Ltd./ Flower House under the Hotel Registration. The above mentioned original documents are actually lost somewhere. Whoever finds, kindly send to the following address: Mrs. Shashi Netzie Pretorius, D/O Late Lt. Colonel Ram Singh Thapa, resident of 236/2 Vasant Vihar, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Mobile No. - 880009040

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abhinay Negi, son of Shri T.S. Negi, am a native of Ward 59 Gujrada Mansingh Sahasradhara Road, Dehradun. My daughter Saanvi Negi was born on 24.04.2016 but due to an error in the records of the Municipal corporation of dehradun, the date of birth was Changed to 20.03.2016. It would be appropriate to correct it in the interest of justice

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CM announces new fire stations at Bhimtal, Dwarahat, Gauchar, Purola & Sahastradhara

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The State government will set up new fire stations at Bhimtal, Dwarahat, Gauchar, Purola and Sahastradhara. The government will also establish a world-class training centre for the Fire Services in the State. These announcements were made by chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami in a programme organized on the occasion of Fire Service week at Police Line, Dehradun on Saturday.

property worth more than Rs 53,000 crore, saved more than 27,000 humans lives and about 7,000 animals from fire since the creation of Uttarakhand. He said that the women are also contributing as fire-fighters in Uttarakhand Fire Services, which makes everyone proud. Dhami said the State government is working on strengthening the infrastructure related to fire and emergency services and modernisation of fire fighting equipment. He said that the Union government has approved a sum of Rs 71 crore for Uttarakhand Fire and

Emergency Services. At present, efforts are underway to build 18 fire stations in the State and purchase world-class equipment to deal with fire emergencies.

The CM said that mapping of fire stations is being done in accordance with the geographical conditions and requirements of Uttarakhand, after which fire stations can be opened in remote areas. He said that the role of fire services becomes more important during natural disasters. Last year, during the disasters in Kedarnath, Tanakpur, Khattima, Arakot and Raini, the fire service employees worked with diligence and dedication. The CM directed that the Forest and Fire Service departments should respond promptly to prevent forest fires. He said that Fire Services will also play an important role in the successful and efficient conduct of the upcoming Char Dham Yatra.

In the programme, the CM felicitated seven fire-fighters who won medals during the Third All India Fire Service Games and two fire-fighters who won DGFS Disc Medal of Home Ministry, Government of India. He also flagged off 20 new fire tenders and fire fighting vehicles which were included in the fleet of the State Fire Services.

Dehradun mayor Saurabh Thapliyal, secretary Shailesh Bagauli, director general of police Deepam Seth, UPSC chairman Ravi Dutt Godiyal, chairperson of State Commission for Protection of Child Rights Dr Geeta Khanna and others attended the programme.



Speaking on the occasion, the CM said that the personnel of Uttarakhand Fire and Emergency Services have saved

equipment. He said that the Union government has approved a sum of Rs 71 crore for Uttarakhand Fire and

CM pitches for Yoga campaign up to village level in U'khand

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has directed the State administration to start a Yoga campaign up to the village level in the State. He said that Yoga is an ancient tradition of our country and it is an effective medium of striking a balance between today's lifestyle and health. The

fairs should be organised at districts and Yog should be connected with employment.

Dhami said that Uttarakhand has a special place globally as Devbhoomi and Yoghoomi and efforts should be made to present the spiritual aspect of Yoga.

One more dengue case reported in Dehradun

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

One new case of dengue was reported in the Dehradun district on Saturday. Stating this, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Dehradun, Dr Manoj Kumar Sharma, said that the total number of hospitalisations related to dengue now stands at one patient being treated at Shri Mahant Indresh Hospital.

He said that this latest report increases the total count of ELISA-positive dengue cases so far to 22, including 14 patients from Dehradun and eight from other districts or States. Currently, there are 10 patients hospitalised, with eight at Shri Mahant Indresh Hospital, one at Graphic Era Hospital and one at Himalayan Hospital. Dr Sharma added that 53 dengue samples were collected on Saturday, bringing the overall total to 1,009 samples collected to date.

Notably, the typical symptoms associ-



ated with dengue include stomach pain, vomiting, headaches, fever and, in more severe cases, a drop in platelet count. Earlier, the CMO advised that while coconut water and other items can be consumed during dengue illness, they should not be relied upon exclusively. Consulting health-care professionals is crucial when dealing with dengue.



CM presided over a meeting held at the State secretariat on preparation for International Yoga Day (June 21) on Saturday. He directed that the youth, students, government employees and general public should be included in this programme.

The CM said that on June 21, programmes on large scale should be organised at all the religious centres and mountainous areas. He directed the AYUSH, Education, Youth Welfare, Tourism, Health and Information departments to work in coordination for the successful organisation of the Yoga campaign.

Chief secretary Anand Bardhan, principal secretary RK Sudhanshu, R Meenakshi Sundaram, secretaries Shailesh Bagauli, Ravinath Raman, Sachin Kurve and ADG AP Anshuman, additional secretary Vijay Jogdande and director general of Information Banshidhar Tiwari attended the meeting.

MDDA to focus on enhancing greenery and rainwater harvesting

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The Mussoorie Dehradun Development Authority (MDDA) will strictly implement the standards related to rainwater harvesting and green buildings. MDDA vice chairman Banshidhar Tiwari issued this and other instructions while chair-

ing a meeting here on Saturday. Considering the rising temperatures in Dehradun, the meeting held by Tiwari with the architect and draftsman association, map cell and senior officials was part of the authority's efforts to focus on greenery, improving the groundwater level and other aspects.

be laid on greenery in all new projects with priority being accorded to planting as many fruit and shade trees as possible. The use of solar power should be maximised for street lights and other electrical equipment in such projects to also enable energy conservation. Those who are constructing new buildings should be encouraged to leave as much open area as possible and use interlocking tiles which will also help in conservation of groundwater. The MDDA vice chairman also sought the cooperation of the builders and architects for tree plantation of no-man's land. Tiwari said that the green buildings approved by the MDDA in the city receive special relaxation, adding that the observance of green building standards must be ensured without fail. He directed officials to establish coordination with other departments concerned for this purpose. Strict action will be taken against those violating the green building standards, he added.

MDDA secretary Mohan Singh Barniya, joint secretary Gaurav Chatwal, chief engineer SC Rana and other officials were also present in the meeting.



ing a meeting here on Saturday. Considering the rising temperatures in Dehradun, the meeting held by Tiwari with the architect and draftsman association, map cell and senior officials was part of the authority's efforts to focus on greenery, improving the groundwater level and other aspects.

public awareness on this issue to prevent the groundwater level from dropping further. The construction of the recharge pit must be ensured along with rainwater harvesting in order to bring about the desired improvement in groundwater level, he said. The MDDA vice chairman further said that special focus should

Alerts issued- thunderstorms & hail likely across State today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

All districts of the State are forecast to witness rainfall today with the State Meteorological Centre also issuing thunderstorms and hail warnings. The centre has issued an orange alert regarding the possibility of thunderstorms accompanied with lightning/hail/gusty wind (50-60 kmph) likely to occur at isolated places in Dehradun, Tehri, Pauri, Champawat and

districts and at a few places in the plain districts of the State. The provisional State capital Dehradun is forecast to witness a partly cloudy sky with light to moderate rain/thunderstorms accompanied with lightning /gusty wind (40-50 kmph) also likely to occur. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be about 34 degrees Celsius and 22 degrees Celsius respectively in



Nainital districts on Sunday. The centre has also issued a yellow warning regarding the possibility of thunderstorms accompanied with lightning/gusty wind (40-50 kmph) likely to occur at isolated places in Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Rudrapur, Pithoragarh, Bageshwar, Almora, Udham Singh Nagar and Haridwar districts today. Apart from this, light to moderate rainfall is likely to occur at many places in the mountain

Dehradun today. Meanwhile, the maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in various places on Saturday were 34 degrees Celsius and 22.1 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun, 32.5 degrees Celsius and 20.2 degrees Celsius in Pantnagar, 25.5 degrees Celsius and 11.4 degrees Celsius in Mukteshwar and 23.8 degrees Celsius and 14.8 degrees Celsius in New Tehri. Very light rain was reported in Badrinath and at a few other places.

DCF requests President to keep Rashtrapati Ashiana free from concrete

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Dehradun Citizens Forum (DCF) has written a letter to the President of India to keep Rashtrapati Ashiana in Dehradun free from concrete. The letter of the DCF to the President Drupadi Murmu bears the signatures of more than 60 individuals.

In the letter, the signatories have requested that the proposed Rashtrapati Ashiana be developed without cutting any trees and that it be kept free from cement and concrete construction. The letter also appeals to the President for the creation of bird and butterfly parks within the premises.

The authorities had recently decided to open the Rashtrapati Ashiana covering an area of 132 acres to the general public. Terming the decision as a commendable measure, the DCF said that it would offer citizens the opportunity to enjoy lush green spaces. However, it strongly emphasises on the need to preserve the park's

natural greenery and ecological balance during the renovation process.

In its letter to the President, the forum points out that in recent years, Dehradun's natural beauty has been significantly disrupted due to road construction, housing and other infrastructure projects. Given Dehradun's unique geography and ecological fragility, the region cannot sustain large-scale concretisation. Unscientific and unplanned urban development has led to extensive concretisation, resulting in a consistent drop in groundwater levels and rising temperatures in Dehradun.

The letter urges the President to ensure that no trees are harmed under any circumstances during the park's re-development. Any such harm would worsen the environmental imbalance that Dehradun is already grappling with.

The DCF recommends that the park's new design be centred around nature. Existing natural trails should be retained,

Blood Garuda service to ease access to blood for patients at district hospital

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Uttarkashi

With the commencement of the blood Garuda service, accessing blood from different hospitals for attendees at the Deen Dayal Upadhyay District Hospital will become more convenient, according to medical superintendent Dr VS Chauhan. He said that a meeting was held recently with the district magistrate Savin Bansal during which the DM directed the hospital administration to initiate the blood Garuda service. Following this, the hospital administration submitted a proposal for approval to the DM, which is expected to be granted in the next two to three days, he said.

He added that once approved, the hospital administration plans to purchase a small electric vehicle for the blood Garuda service. Funding for this vehicle will come from the hospital's annual budget, with an estimated cost of Rs six to seven lakh rupees. Additionally, the chief development officer will appoint a driver for the vehicle. Dr Chauhan emphasised the service's importance, noting that the hospital currently does not have a blood bank. As a result, attendees must visit different hospitals to arrange blood for their patients. The blood Garuda service will facilitate this process by transporting attendees to hospitals where blood is available. A fee of Rs 50 will be charged for this service, while it will be provided free of cost to underprivileged attendees.

Dr Chauhan also informed that the construction of the blood bank is underway. Out of the planned two floors, one has already been completed and the entire project is expected to be finished within six months.

It will be recalled that following the laying of the foundation stone by Health minister Dhan Singh Rawat, the construction of the blood bank at Deen Dayal Upadhyay District Hospital has officially commenced on the hospital premises in February.

VHP protests against Bengal violence, seeks President's rule

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad staged a protest against the violence and persecution of Hindus in West Bengal. The VHP members staged the protest and submitted a memorandum addressed to the President of India demanding the imposition of President's rule in West Bengal. They stated in the memorandum that under the guise of protests against the Waqf Act, violence is being spread across the State of West Bengal and the Hindus there are being persecuted, which is not tolerable.



should be replaced. The VHP State president Ravi Dev Anand said that the violence which started in Murshidabad was spreading across the entire State of West Bengal. "The government machinery there is not simply remaining

a mute spectator in front of the rioters but in some cases either assisting or motivating such elements. The Union government must take over the control of the administration before the situation gets out of control. The anti-national and anti-Hindu elements must also face stern legal action for their crimes," he said.

The protesters also demanded that the violence in West Bengal should be probed by the National Investigation Agency. The guilty must face legal action without delay and central forces must be deployed to maintain law and order in the State. Further, Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltrators must be identified and deported without any further delay, the protesters stated in their memorandum.

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL
PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVISING

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL LIMITED
Registered Office: Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat - 362266.
Corporate Office : 12th Floor, R Teck Park, Nirlon Complex, Near Hub Mall, Goregaon (East), Mumbai-400 063, MH.

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

30 days Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

On account of the amalgamation between Aditya Birla Finance Ltd. and Aditya Birla Capital Ltd. vide the Scheme of Amalgamation dated 11.03.2024 duly recorded in the Order passed by the National Company Law Tribunal - Ahmedabad on 24.03.2025, all SARFAESI actions initiated by Aditya Birla Finance Ltd. in relation to the mortgaged property mentioned, stands transferred to Aditya Birla Capital Ltd., the amalgamated company.

Accordingly the Authorized Officer of Aditya Birla Capital Limited / Secured Creditor had taken possession of the following secured assets pursuant to notice issued under Sec. 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI) for recovery of the secured debts of the secured creditor, for the dues as mentioned herein below with further charges and cost thereon from the following Borrowers and Co-Borrowers. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers and Co-Borrowers that e-auction of the following property for realization of the debts due to the Aditya Birla Capital Limited will be held on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis:

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrowers & Co-Borrowers	Description of Properties / Secured Assets and Date of Possession	Reserve Price (In Rs.)	Earned Money Deposit (EMD) (In Rs.) / Incremental Value (In Rs.)	Demand Notice Date & Total Amt. (In Rs.)
1.	Mr. Ashok Kumar, S/O. Mr. Ganpat Ram	All Three Shops Situated On First Floor Forming Party Property Bearing No. 254, Ramnagar Roorkee, Haridwar Area Measuring 373.728 Sq.ft., With The Roof Right, Which Is Bounded & Butted As Under - East : 12 Ft. Wide Road, Side Measuring 13 Ft. 6 Inch, West : Shop Of Mona Lakhani, Measuring 13 Ft. 6 Inch, North : 16 Ft. Wide Road On Ground Floor, Measuring 27.48ft., South : Property Of Shri Om Prakash Seth, Measuring 27.48ft.	Rs. 55,000,000/- (Rupees Fifty Five Lacs Only)	Rs. 5,50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Five Lacs Only)	15.06.2024 & Rs. 55,81,507/- (Rupees Fifty Five Lakh Eighty One Thousand Five Hundred And Seven Only) Due As On 07.06.2024
2.	Mrs. Jyoti Taneja, W/O. Ashok Kumar				
3.	Mr. Manav Taneja, S/O Mr. Ashok Kumar				

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Aditya Birla Capital Limited / Secured Creditor's website i.e. <https://abfl.adityabirlacapital.com/Pages/IndividualProperties-for-Auction-under-SARFAESI-Act.aspx> or <https://BidDeal.in>

Contact Nos.: Aditya Birla Capital Limited, Authorized Officer - 1) Mr. Apoorva Thomas Danti - apoorva.danti@adityabirlacapital.com, M. No. 993099725 You may also visit nearest Branch or contact Aditya Birla Capital Limited 2) Mr. Jahirul Laskar @ adityabirlacapital.com M. No. +91 97060 03075, 3) Parneet Singh @ parneet.singh@adityabirlacapital.com M. No. +91 97200 29337, 4) Ved Prakash Mishra - (vedprakash.mishra@adityabirlacapital.com) M. No. +91 90040 26790.

Place: Haridwar, Uttarakhand
Date: 20.04.2025

Sd/
Authorised Officer
Aditya Birla Capital Limited

PM Modi to visit Saudi Arabia for bilateral talks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pay a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia beginning Tuesday with focus on further expanding bilateral cooperation in several key areas including energy, trade and defence.

The visit will provide an opportunity to build on the already strong strategic partnership between the two countries, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said here on Saturday at a media briefing.



FILE PHOTO

The Prime Minister and Crown Prince share a strong personal bond, marked by mutual respect, which has greatly benefited the bilateral relationship.

Prime Minister Modi is visiting Saudi Arabia at the invitation of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. This will be the third visit of the Prime Minister to the Kingdom after his previous visits in 2016 and 2019.

Inherited truth, courage from Nehru: Rahul Gandhi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Jawaharlal Nehru's greatest legacy was giving Indians the courage to resist oppression and claim freedom, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Saturday and added he inherited "truth and courage" from his great-grandfather.

style conversation with Sandeep Dikshit, I speak about what drives me — the pursuit of truth — and how that pursuit is inspired by my great-grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru.

Centre engages fishermen to combat pollution in Ganga

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

In a bid to combat escalating plastic pollution in the Ganga, a government-funded study has proposed a "cash-for-nets" scheme aimed at incentivising fishermen to return worn-out or abandoned fishing nets.

ically endangered' gharial with 11. However, the study cautioned that these figures likely underrepresented the actual scale as it was limited to incidents observed during the brief survey window (30 days per year) or reported by local communities.

Low level of education among fishing communities was identified as a key barrier to awareness and access to information about the environmental and economic impact of ghost gear.

ing incentives could encourage eco-friendly practices," the Wildlife Institute of India said in its study report.

BJP steps up attack on Supreme Court

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, one of the more vocal party members in the Lok Sabha, launched a broadside against the Supreme Court on Saturday, saying Parliament and state assemblies should be closed down if the apex court has to make the laws.

The SC's decision to set a timeline for the President to take a decision on the bills sent to them has triggered a fresh round of debate, with VP Dhankhar voicing strong disapproval of the judgement.

considering it wrong and that Section 66(A) was required to curb the increasing misuse of online platforms to send objectionable contents.

Railway added more facilities since 2014

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ New Delhi

With no facility of on-board lavatories for the railway loco pilots in 2014, the Indian Railways enhanced with more than 9,000 facilities to improve the working conditions of train pilots.



FILE PHOTO

nology for braking systems are further improving safety. Onboard facilities, better technologies, and better rest timings are also improving the working conditions, claimed the officials.

use toilets at terminal stations. Crew of passenger trains use toilet of train when train is standing at station and also use this time for snacks.

Waqf by user issue deliberately raised by Centre to bring properties to dispute: Mallikarjun Kharge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday said the Supreme Court has given importance to the points raised by the Congress and other opposition parties on the Waqf (Amendment) Act and alleged that the government had raked the 'Waqf by user' issue deliberately to create a dispute over such properties.



Herald case. "You must have noticed how, as part of a big conspiracy, the names of CPP Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi have been put in the charge sheet in the National Herald case.

Amit Shah urges Naxals to surrender, join mainstream

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday asked all underground Naxals to surrender as soon as possible and join the mainstream, saying the government is determined to free the country from the scourge of Naxalism before March 31, 2026.

The Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) is a specialised unit of the CRPF, known for its proficiency in guerrilla and jungle warfare, particularly in combating the Naxal menace.

Bhutan King visits Assam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Guwahati

Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk arrived at Jogighopa in Assam's Bongaigaon district on Saturday to inspect India's first International Multimodal Logistics Park (MMLP), a state minister said.

He arrived by a royal helicopter and landed inside the MMLP, where the King was received by Assam Minister for Public Health and Engineering Department Jayanta Malla Baruah.

"This morning, as per the directives of Hon'ble CM Dr @himantabiswa dangoriya (respected senior), I had the honour of welcoming His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk ji, the King of Bhutan, to Assam for his visit to inspect India's first-ever International Multi-Model Logistics Park (MMLP), currently in its final stages of construction under the Bharatmala Project (sic); Baruah said in a post on X.

Besides the MMLP, the King also visited the Inland Water Transport (IWT), which is under construction on the Brahmaputra river, he said.

"I am truly overwhelmed by His Majesty's affection towards Assam and extend my heartfelt gratitude to him for this gracious visit to our state," Baruah said.

Constructed by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL), the park



Bhutan king Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk visited India's first International Multi Model Logistics Park at Jogighopa in Assam on Saturday. PIONEER PHOTO

will seamlessly integrate road, rail, air and waterways upon completion, the minister said.

"Spread across 317 acres on the banks of Brahmaputra, this project will unlock immense economic potential for our state by facilitating trade with neighbouring countries like Bhutan and Bangladesh," the minister said. "The strategic proximity of Bhutan's visionary urban development

initiative — The Gelephu Mindfulness City, will also undoubtedly contribute to the success of the MMLP," Baruah added. Security has been tightened in and around the MMLP, with the local police and personnel from Bhutan deployed in the area, officials said.

The King's visit took place amid strict diplomatic protocol and mediapersons were barred from entering the park.

Akhilesh Yadav condemns attack on SP MP Ramjilal Suman's residence in Agra

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ Agra

Samajwadi Party (SP) president and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav strongly condemned the recent attack on the residence of SP Rajya Sabha MP Ramjilal Suman in Agra, allegedly carried out by members of the Karni Sena. Calling it a "planned conspiracy," Akhilesh said the assault was not just an act of political aggression but a targeted attempt to instill fear among Dalits and the broader PDA (Pichhda, Dalit, Alpsankhyak) communities.

"This was not an ordinary incident. The attack on a Dalit leader's home is a message — a dangerous one — to those who dare to speak up for the rights of the backward, Dalits and minorities. It is a calculated attempt to silence their voices and create an atmosphere of terror," Akhilesh said after meeting Suman at his residence in Sanjay Place.

Akhilesh alleged that the attack was carefully orchestrated and carried out with full knowledge of its implications. "This was not a sudden outburst. The attackers came with a clear intention — to cause harm, to intimidate and to send a message to the PDA communities that they should remain silent. This is part of a larger, sinister design to divide society and

crush dissent," he added. The attack reportedly took place days after a controversial remark was made in Parliament regarding historical figure Rana Sanga. The Karni Sena, known for its aggressive stance on issues related to Rajput pride, held Suman responsible for the remark and allegedly vandalised his property.

The incident has sparked a fresh political storm in Uttar Pradesh, where caste and identity politics continue to dominate the political discourse

Akhilesh was quick to dispel any notion that his visit was meant to mobilize political support or display the party's street power. "I did not come here to demonstrate political strength. I came to meet a senior leader of my party, to stand by him during a difficult time. We had made it clear from the beginning that this visit would be peaceful — no protests, no sloganeering," he said.

Despite this, hundreds of SP supporters gathered near Suman's residence even before Akhilesh's arrival. Anticipating possible unrest, the Agra administration

had made heavy security arrangements from Hariparvat Chauraha to Speed Color Lab. Police personnel were deployed in large numbers and kept on high alert. Thankfully, the visit remained peaceful and no incidents of violence or disruption were reported.

Reiterating his party's commitment to the PDA communities, Akhilesh said the Samajwadi Party will not be deterred by such attacks. "We will continue to speak up for justice, for equality, and for the rights of every marginalised person in this country. Those who think they can silence us through violence are mistaken. We will not be intimidated," he asserted.

The incident has sparked a fresh political storm in Uttar Pradesh, where caste and identity politics continue to dominate the political discourse.

SP leaders have demanded strict action against those involved in the attack and accused the ruling BJP of tacitly encouraging such groups for political gain. As tensions remain high, the spotlight is now on how the administration and political parties respond to the growing discontent among marginalised communities who see the attack on Suman as an attack on their voice and representation.

CM Nitish using public funds for JD(U) campaign: RJD

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Patna

Opposition RJD on Saturday accused Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar of "institutionalising" corruption in the state and using government funds for electoral campaign ahead of the assembly polls due later this year. It also alleged that the NDA government in Bihar was responsible for "financial anarchy" in the state. The ruling JD(U), however, termed the allegations "baseless".

"Nitish Kumar is responsible for institutionalising corruption in Bihar, the CM is using state government funds for his party's poll campaign," RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said at a press conference here. He also alleged that the recently launched 'Mahila Samvad' initiative to

connect with and inform women about welfare measures was a part of the JD(U)'s electoral campaign "by using government funds." "The cabinet approved ₹225 crore for it.

Reacting to Yadav's allegations, JD(U) national working president Sanjay Kumar Jha said people of the state are well aware of the development work undertaken by CM Nitish Kumar

The state government is using public money for its campaign, there is nothing concrete on the ground for women of the state, but crores are being spent for propaganda," Yadav asserted. The former

deputy chief minister also hit out at the state government over "global tenders" for construction work. "The cabinet has cleared proposals for ₹76,622-crore funds for construction activities in the state from December 2024. Surprisingly, for the first time, the government has floated global tenders for such work, what was the reason for floating global tenders?" the young RJD leader said.

"Also, we have seen that bridges have been constructed without approach roads, several buildings are ready but the departments concerned were not taking possession, (new) hospital buildings are without equipment or doctors, several crores were spent on the 'Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal scheme' but there is no supply of water," Yadav said. He also claimed that ministers in the state government were paid

hefty commissions in lieu of projects. "I have heard that around 30 per cent commission of the total amount is paid to the ministers concerned for each project, and through this, the NDA government is trying to cover election expenses," alleged Yadav. The RJD leader criticised the Bihar government over rising liabilities of the state, too. "The government's wasteful spending of public funds on campaigns for elections is highly condemnable, liabilities are increasing day by day. The Bihar government is paying at least ₹25,000-30,000 crore annually as interest for its loans," he said.

Reacting to Yadav's allegations, JD(U) national working president Sanjay Kumar Jha said people of the state are well aware of the development work undertaken by Nitish Kumar across Bihar.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma during a meeting in New Delhi. PFI

Assam CM invites PM Modi to Hazarika centenary launch

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Guwahati

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Saturday and invited him to the year-long celebration of Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika's birth centenary, beginning in September.

Hazarika was born on September 8, 1926, and the Assam cabinet had recently decided to hold a year-long celebration of the music maestro.

"It was my privilege to meet Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji in New Delhi today. I had the honour of inviting him to Assam as the Chief Guest for the inaugural ceremony of the year-long celebration of Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika's birth centenary," Sarma posted on X.

Events across India, release of Hazarika's biography and commemorative

coin among others, have been planned. "I also took the opportunity to request his gracious presence for the inauguration of the Assam Bio-Ethanol Plant, with a production capacity of 49 KTPA ethanol, using 300 KTPA bamboo as feedstock," the Chief Minister said.

Assam Bio Ethanol Private Ltd (ABEPL) is the first bio-refinery to produce fuel-grade ethanol from bamboo biomass and has been formed as a joint venture company between Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) and two Finnish companies, Fortum and Chempolis Oy.

"In addition, I also requested him to lay the foundation stones of two key infrastructure projects: the ₹5,700 crore Guwahati Ring Road project and the Darrang Medical College and Hospital," Sarma said.

The CM said the prime minister has "agreed to grace these important occasions on September 8, 2025".

Delay in MP BJP chief appointment worries party cadre

GIRISH SHARMA ■ Bhopal

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Madhya Pradesh finds itself at an organizational crossroads as the long-anticipated appointment of a new state president continues to face delays. As per the original timeline, the election for the state unit chief was to be completed by January 15, 2025, but as April nears its end, there has been no official movement—fueling speculation and unease within party ranks.

The absence of a new president has created a leadership vacuum in the state unit and is now being seen as a bottleneck in the BJP's national organisational roadmap, particularly the selection of a new national president, which is to follow the completion of state-level appointments. VD Sharma, the incumbent state president, has been at the helm since February 2020. Though his term formal-

ly ended in February 2023, he was granted an extension to steer the party through the November 2023 assembly elections. Despite earlier indications that a successor would be announced by mid-January, the process remains stalled.

Party insiders attribute the delay to several factors, including the central leadership's preoccupation with the Delhi Assembly elections, ongoing internal deliberations, and the challenge of choosing a candidate who can uphold the party's organisational goals while navigating Madhya Pradesh's intricate caste dynamics.

Traditionally, the BJP has maintained a strategic caste balance in Madhya Pradesh by selecting a Chief Minister from the Other Backward Classes (OBC) and appointing a state president from the upper castes. This formula has helped consolidate the party's support base across communities. With Chief Minister

Mohan Yadav belonging to the OBC category, expectations point toward an upper caste or minority community leader taking over the state unit to maintain this equilibrium.

However, there is also growing pressure on the party to enhance representation for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and women, reflecting the evolving political and social landscape of the state.

Several names have surfaced as contenders for the top post, including Narottam Mishra, Gajendra Singh Patel, Alok Sharma, Raghendra Sharma, and Hemant Khandelwal. Among them, Hemant Khandelwal—a legislator from Betul and a prominent Vaishya community leader—is reportedly emerging as a consensus candidate, acceptable to multiple factions within the party.

He is seen as a strong contender with cross-sectional appeal. Sources suggest that the party high command is cautious

about appointing a leader who could evolve into an alternative power centre in the state, particularly in parallel to Chief Minister Mohan Yadav. This strategic consideration is believed to be one of the key reasons behind the prolonged decision-making process.

The delay has also disrupted the party's internal organisational framework. Although elections at the booth and mandal levels have been completed, the finalization of district presidents has faced multiple hiccups.

Some appointments were even revoked due to non-compliance with internal guidelines, further slowing down the structure-building process.

Rajneesh Agrawal, State Co-Election Officer for the BJP's organisational elections, told The Pioneer that the state unit is fully prepared for the election and is currently awaiting approval from the central leadership.

Principal Secretary to PM envisions \$5 trillion economy to eradicate poverty

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Sambalpur (Odisha)

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr P K Mishra, on Saturday said the vision of a \$5 trillion economy is not just a GDP figure — it is about millions lifted from poverty, world-class infrastructure, energy security, and digital empowerment.

Addressing the graduate students during the ninth Annual Convocation of the Indian Institute of Management at Sambalpur, Mishra drew inspiration from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's grand vision of Amrit Kaal. Mishra reiterated PM wants all of us to take the country to the next level through the process of



"reform, perform and transform". In this endeavour all of us will be playing a critical role in ensuring that India becomes a developed country by 2047. Speaking on a theme "Opportunities and Challenges in the Current Geopolitical and Economic Context", Mishra opined that we are living in an interesting and challenging time as the global economy is at a critical juncture, facing an array of complex challenges including disruptions in global supply chains, protectionist policies, heightened geopolitical tensions, and changing global trade patterns.

Mishra exemplified India's prowess in becoming a global innovation powerhouse. He mentioned that with over 100 unicorns, we are the third-largest start-up

ecosystem in the world. Talking about Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes across sectors such as electronics, pharma and solar are driving manufacturing resurgence, Mishra highlighted that this opens up exciting roles in operations, logistics, supply chain strategy and manufacturing excellence.

Dr Mishra encouraged the students to be courageous and resilient in adversity. In line with the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — "The world is one family", Dr Mishra concluded his deliberations by saying that leaders who think beyond profits and positions. He exhorted the students to be managers who can manage not only businesses but also values, diversity and change.

Punjab police bust two ISI-backed Khalistani terror modules

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Chandigarh

With the arrest of 13 people, Punjab Police on Saturday claimed to have busted two major ISI-backed Khalistani terror modules that were being run from abroad and seized two rocket-propelled grenades, two hand grenades, IEDs and RDX along with other munitions.

The first terror module was operated by France-based Satnam Singh alias Satta and the second by Greece-based Jaswinder alias Mannu Agwan, Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said.

These modules, which were backed by Pakistan's spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), were being operated by a proscribed terrorist outfit Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) from abroad, Yadav said. This is a major blow to transnational terror networks targeting peace and stability in Punjab, said Yadav in a post on X. Sharing details, the DGP said the police seized two rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) including a launcher, two IEDs (2.5 kg each), two hand grenades with detonators, two kg RDX with remote control, five pistols (Beretta and Glock), six magazines, 44 live cartridges, one wireless set and three vehicles.

The arrested have been identified as Jatinder alias Honey, Jagjit alias Jagga, both residents of Kapurthala, Harpreet and Jagroop, both from Hoshiarpur, said the DGP, adding their terror module was operated Satta. He said a case has been registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Explosives Act in Amritsar.

VHP demands President's rule in West Bengal after Murshidabad violence

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi/Kolkata

The Vishva Hindu Parishad on Saturday staged protests in different parts of the country against the recent communal violence in West Bengal's Murshidabad over the amendments made to the Waqf law, demanding immediate imposition of President's Rule in the state.

The protests were held in Murshidabad, Delhi and Noida, among other places, with VHP members claiming a complete breakdown of law and order in the Mamata Banerjee-ruled state where clashes claimed at least three lives last week. In Delhi's Nanangli Chowk, Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) general secretary Bajrang

Bagda led a protest condemning the violence in West Bengal. In Noida, the VHP took out a rally raising slogans against the Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal led by its national spokesperson Vinod Bansal.

"Protests were held at multiple locations across the country, barring Punjab, because the Trinamool Congress is carrying out a cycle of oppression and repression of Hindus in connivance with Bangladeshi-Rohingya infiltrators," Bansal said.

"The recent incident of violence in Murshidabad was only a 'gruesome form' of the ongoing oppression (of Hindus) in Bengal under Trinamool's watch. In Bangladesh, what began as protests against reservation eventually went on to

target Hindus. But we will not tolerate such Bangladeshi mindset in our country," Bansal said. The VHP demands immediate imposition of President's Rule in West Bengal, fencing of borders in the state, adequate compensation to the victims of violence in Murshidabad and ensuring the safety of Hindus in Bengal, the VHP leader said. "The VHP also demands that land grabbing in the name of Waqf be immediately stopped and a high-level inquiry be ordered into the properties acquired in the name of Waqf," Bansal said. "We also demand that authorities identify the Bangladeshi-Rohingya infiltrators in West Bengal and drive them out. Strictest action should be taken against the perpetrators of violence in Murshidabad," he said.

Ricky Rai shot near Bidadi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Ramanagara (Karnataka)

The son of late underworld don N Muthappa Rai was allegedly shot at by unidentified assailants near his residence in Bidadi here, police said on Saturday. Ricky Rai is currently undergoing treatment at Manipal hospital in Bengaluru, they said.

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said he was aware of the incident and sought details from the police. "I was told that the incident happened at 1:30 or 2 am. I have asked for details. He (Ricky) has been admitted to Manipal Hospital and I'm told he is out of danger. Police have begun the investigation at the spot by deploying extra force," he told media. The incident occurred between 1 am to 1.30 am (late Friday night) near his residence when he

was travelling from Bidadi to Bengaluru in his car. According to police, some unidentified people allegedly opened three rounds of fire and a bullet struck the vehicle. He was seated in the rear along with his gunman when the bullet pierced through the driver's seat, injuring both the driver and Rai.

Citing preliminary inquiry, a senior police officer said Ricky, who usually drives himself, sustained injuries to his nose and arms. Both the driver and the Ricky are stated to be out of danger. Initially, Ricky was taken to a private hospital in Bidadi and later referred to Manipal Hospital in Bengaluru for advanced treatment. Based on the complaint of his driver, a case has been registered against Muthappa Rai's second wife Anuradha, entrepreneur Rakesh Malli (close associate of Muthappa) and Niketan trust, the senior police officer said.

US airstrike on Yemen escalates Trump's campaign

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Dubai

A US airstrike on an important oil port held by Yemen's Houthi rebels killed more than 70 people and wounded many others, the Iranian-backed rebel group said Friday, marking a major escalation in the military campaign President Donald Trump launched against the faction last month.

The overnight strike on the Ras Isa port sent massive fireballs billowing skyward and turned tanker trucks into burning wrecks. It was the first American attack on a Houthi-controlled oil facility since the US began its new bombing campaign.

It also came just before the resumption of negotiations in Rome between the US and Iran over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear programme, which Washington has linked to its Yemen campaign.

The US is targeting the Houthis because of the group's attacks on shipping in the Red Sea, a crucial global trade route, and on Israel. The Houthis are the last militant group in Iran's self-described 'Axis of Resistance' that is capable of regularly attacking Israel.

The port serves as a major hub for incoming fuel shipments that power areas of Yemen held by the Houthis, and analysts say the airstrike could seriously affect daily life there.

The Houthis, who said the attack killed at least 74 people and wounded 171 others, aired graphic footage of the aftermath on their al-Masirah satellite news channel, showing corpses strewn about the port and

smashed tanker trucks. They denounced the strike as a "completely unjustified aggression."

"It targets a vital civilian facility that has served the Yemeni people for decades," the group said in a statement.

US Central Command declined to answer any questions about possible civilian casualties but referred to a statement in which it said "this strike was not intended to harm the people of Yemen."

"US forces took action to eliminate this source of fuel for the Iran-backed Houthi terrorists and deprive them of illegal revenue that has funded Houthi efforts to terrorise the entire region for over 10 years," it said in its statement.

A US official said the attack sent a message to those supplying fuel to the Houthis despite sanctions. The official spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity to provide details not yet made public.

Hours after the US strike, the Houthis launched a missile toward Israel that was intercepted, the Israeli military said. Sirens sounded in Tel Aviv and elsewhere. Meanwhile, the Houthis said they shot down another American MQ-9 Predator drone, which the US official acknowledged.

The Ras Isa port is a collection of oil tanks and equipment that sits in Yemen's Hodeida governorate along the Red Sea. It is just off Kamaran Island, which has been targeted by intense US airstrikes in recent days. Before the Houthis took control of Yemen's capital, Sanaa, in 2014 and sent the government into exile, oil from the



country's energy-rich Marib governorate moved through Ras Isa for export. But since the Houthis don't control that region, the port now serves as an import hub for gasoline, diesel and liquefied petroleum gas that help power those parts of Yemen the Houthis control.

The new US operation against the Houthis under Trump appears more extensive than attacks on the group were under President Joe Biden, an AP review found. The new campaign started after the rebels threatened to begin targeting "Israeli" ships again over Israel blocking aid from entering the Gaza Strip.

From November 2023 until this January, the Houthis targeted more than 100 merchant vessels with missiles and drones,

sinking two of them and killing four sailors. That has greatly reduced the flow of trade through the Red Sea corridor, which typically sees \$1 trillion of goods move through it. The Houthis also launched attacks targeting American warships without success.

Assessing the toll of the month-old US airstrike campaign has been difficult because the military hasn't released information about the attacks, including what was targeted and how many people were killed. The Houthis, meanwhile, strictly control access to attacked areas and don't publish complete information on the strikes, many of which likely have targeted military and security sites.

The Ras Isa port airstrike is the deadliest known attack yet in the month-old campaign. The actual cost in lives is hard to assess, said Luca Nevola, the senior analyst for Yemen and the Gulf at the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, a think tank.

"Since they are targeting civilian areas, there's a lot more victims. But it's also difficult to assess how many because the Houthis are releasing these umbrella statements that cover all the victims. Or tend to stress only the civilian victims," Nevola said. Further complicating the situation is the U.S. Strikes hitting military targets, said Mohammed al-Basha, a Yemen expert at the Basha Report risk advisory firm. He pointed to an American attack that Trump highlighted online with black-and-white satellite footage, which might have killed about 70 fighters.

"Although the Houthis claimed it was a tribal gathering, they neither released any footage nor named a single casualty, strongly suggesting the victims were not civilians but affiliated fighters," al-Basha said. "However, the overnight strike on the Ras Isa Fuel Port marks the first mass-casualty incident the Houthis have openly acknowledged and publicised."

The AP analysed satellite images of the port provided by Planet Labs PBC that showed destroyed oil tanks and vehicles, and what appeared to be oil leaking into the Red Sea. Wim Zwijnenburg, an analyst with Dutch peace organisation PAX, said it appeared at least three fuel storage tanks had been destroyed and that oil had leaked from mooring pipelines.

The US accuses a Chinese company of aiding Houthi attacks. A US State Department spokesman, Tammy Bruce, accused a Chinese commercial satellite image provider, Chang Guang Satellite Technology Co. Ltd., of "directly supporting Iran-backed Houthi terrorist attacks on US interests."

During a briefing with reporters, Bruce did not elaborate in detail. But she acknowledged a report by The Financial Times that quoted anonymous American officials saying the company linked to the People's Liberation Army has provided images allowing the rebels to target U.S. Warships and commercial vessels travelling through the Red Sea corridor.

Bruce said "Beijing's support" of the satellite company "contradicts their claims of being peace supporters."

Responding to a question about the allegation, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said Friday: "I am not familiar with the situation you mentioned." However, he insisted China is seen as urging countries "to make more efforts conducive to regional peace and stability."

"Since the escalations in the Red Sea situation, China has been playing a positive role in de-escalating the situation," Lin said. "Who is promoting talks for peace and deescalating the tensions, and who is imposing sanctions and pressure?"

The company didn't respond to request for comment. The US Treasury sanctioned it in 2023 for allegedly providing satellite images to the Russian mercenary force the Wagner Group as it fought in Ukraine.

Trump to invoke 'Schedule F' to fire some federal workers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Washington

President Donald Trump is preparing to make one of the controversial personnel changes laid out in the conservative Project 2025 blueprint for his second term.

He plans to reclassify 50,000 federal employees under what's known as Schedule F, which means they'll have less civil service protection. The proposal follows an executive order signed at the beginning of



his term, and it's expected to be published in the Federal Register on Friday afternoon.

Trump announced the move on social media before the rule was published Friday. "If these government workers refuse to advance the policy interests of the President, or are engaging in corrupt behavior, they should no longer have a job," he wrote on his Truth Social platform. "This is common sense, and will allow the federal government to finally be run like a business."

Administration officials argue that it's necessary to increase accountability in the workforce. The change is expected to make it easier to replace career employees who have "important policy-determining, policy-making, policy-advocating, or confidential duties," according to a White House fact sheet. Details were first reported by Axios.

Once the rule is finalised, the president plans to sign another executive order to conclude the process. It's the latest step in Trump's battle against what he describes as "the deep state," which frustrated his goals in his first term.

Now he's moving more swiftly to fire people and reshape the government bureaucracy, steps that have alarmed labour unions and political opponents who worry about him consolidating power and violating worker rights. The fact sheet said the plan "empowers federal agencies to swiftly remove employees in policy-influencing roles for poor performance, misconduct, corruption, or subversion of presidential directives, without lengthy procedural hurdles." Everett Kelley, president of the American Federation of Government Employees, criticised the move.

Member of Ahmadi community lynched in Pakistan TLP rally

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Karachi

A mob of Islamists allegedly beat to death a member of Pakistan's minority Ahmadi community Friday while demonstrating near an Ahmadi place of worship in Karachi, a member of the community said. Police said they were investigating the killing.

The victim, identified as Laeeq Cheema, died before he could receive medical treatment at a hospital in the southern port city, said Amir Mahmood, a spokesman for the Ahmadi community. Government Civil Hospital spokesperson Summayia Tariq confirmed the death of Cheema, saying he had multiple injuries.

Mahmood blamed the attack on a mob of people from the Tehreek-e-Labbaiq Pakistan, or TLP, a radical Islamist party, and said they had rallied outside the Ahmadi place of worship and tried to damage it. Senior Karachi police officer Asad Raza told local media outlets that they had deployed additional police to

avoid any unrest in the city ahead of the TLP rally. He said Cheema was killed away from the Ahmadi worship site, and that police were still trying to confirm who attacked him. Karachi police rescued community members from the worship site after it was surrounded by demonstrators, Mahmood said, but he also complained that police have been slow to take action against TLP protests nationwide.

There are about half a million of Ahmadis in Pakistan, which has a population of 250 million. The Ahmadi religion is an offshoot of Islam, but Pakistan declared Ahmadis non-Muslims in 1974. Ahmadi homes and places of worship are often targeted by Sunni militants who consider them heretical.

Video footage that Mahmood shared with The Associated Press showed crowds chanting anti-Ahmadi slogans outside the worship site.

He said TLP supporters had been holding such protests every Friday and that police had not taken any action in previous weeks.

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Dated, the 17/04/2025

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Sl. No.	Post	Number of Post	Honorarium per month	Age	Education Qualification
01	Headmistress	01	15,000/-	30-40	Graduation with at least 50% Marks and B.Ed or Two year Diploma in Elementary Education or B.T.C or equivalent and five years teaching experience in Basic School.
02	Teacher	04	12,500/-	21-40	Graduation with at least 50% Marks and B.Ed or Two year Diploma in Elementary Education or B.T.C or equivalent.
03	Aaya	04	10,000/- (2 post for Creche)	18-30	Passed class V or equivalent examination with Hindi.

Note:- The number of above mentioned posts can be reduced and increased at any time without informing.

02. Application form/mode of application:- (A) Application form has to be submitted in the following format (1) Name/piece photo of applicant (2) Name of the father/husband of the applicant (3) The post for which the application is made (4) Applicant's permanent address (5) Applicant's current correspondence address and mobile number (6) Applicant's citizenship (7) Applicant's date of birth (8) Applicant's caste (9) Applicant's education (10) Applicant's class nursery educational experience (11) Any other information (12) Signature of the applicant (B) Method of applying:- Application of interested candidates, for the appointment to the said posts can till date **03/05/2025** till 1600 hrs. to Office of Deputy Inspector General of Police, Group Centre, Central Reserve Police Force, Dadri Road, Greater Noida-201306 and Candidates qualifying to the post will be called appear for the interview on **09/05/2025** at 10:00 hrs at the Office of Deputy Inspector General of Police, Group Centre, CRPF, Dadri, Greater Noida- 201306. Note - Detailed advertisement can be on the website of CRPF: www.crpfg.in.

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Deputy Inspector General of Police,
Group Centre, CRPF, Greater Noida

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform General Public and others that my client Radhey Shyam Vijay S/o Late Sh. Ram Swarup Vijay R/o RZ-421 Gali No. 13 Tughlakabad Extn. New Delhi - 110019 presently residing at H.No. 20/1 Gali no. 3, Malik Colony, Udhampur Singh Nagar, Ultrahand-263153 has severed his all relation with his son Om Vijay and his family and Disowned from all movable and immovable properties with immediate effect. If someone deals with him he shall be responsible himself and for all consequences.

Ganpat Singh (Advocate)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is hereby informed that Mr. Lokesh Kumar has claimed to the DDA LG Flat No. A-4C/164. Situated in the layout plan of Housing Estate, Janakpuri New Delhi. And now, Mr. Lokesh Kumar and Mrs Jagtamba Devi has approached the IDBI Bank Ltd. for loan against mortgage of above said property, if any person has any right, claim, title or interest in any manner over the said property then intimate within 5 days to **Vikas Shokeen, Advocate, H-20, BASEMENT, BALI NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110015**. Thereafter any kind of claim will not be accepted.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all, that my client Ms Manik Motors India LLP intends to purchase the property being Freehold Industrial Plot No. A-7, situated at Mohan Co-operative Industrial Estate, Mathura Road, New Delhi, measuring 1004.88 Sq. Yards, from its present owner Mrs Mirza International Limited (formerly Mirza Tanners Limited).

The public at large, Financial Institutions or if any party has interest, right, title, encumbrance, mortgage, lien or any other claim over the said property, the same shall be informed to the undersigned within a period of Seven (7) days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the party, if any, will be left with no interest, right, title, encumbrance, mortgage, lien over the said property.

MANSOOR ANSARI (Advocate)
B-43A, Kalkaji, New Delhi-19 Mob. 97111 77423

MPL MAITHON POWER LIMITED
Registered Office: Corporate Center, 34 Sant Tukaram Road, Carnac Bunder, Mumbai 400 009, Tel: 91 22 67711232
Website Address: www.tatapower.com/mpl
E-mail: angshuman.c@tatapower.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice Inviting Suggestions/ Objections on Petition of Maithon Power Limited in compliance with Clause (7) of Regulation 23 of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2023 for determination of supplementary tariff for ECS (De-Nox System) for Control Period FY 2024-29.

- The Petitioner, Maithon Power Limited (MPL), has submitted a Petition before the Hon'ble Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi ('Hon'ble CERC') for determination of supplementary tariff for ECS (De-Nox System) under Section 62 and 79(1)(b) of the Electricity Act, 2003 ('Act') read with Regulations 29 (4) of the CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2024 (2024 Tariff Regulations) and other relevant provisions of the Act and 2024 Tariff Regulations, read with Regulation 15 (a) of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2023, for the 2x525 MW Maithon Right Bank Thermal Power Project of MPL.
- Beneficiaries of the generating station:**
The Long-term Beneficiaries of the MPL Generating Station are:
 - Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited 'TPDDL'
 - Damodar Valley Corporation 'DVC'
 - West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited 'WBSEDC'
 - Kerala State Electricity Board Limited 'KSEB Ltd.'
 - Tata Power Trading Company Limited 'TPTCL'
- Capacity of the Generating Station is 1050 MW (2x525 MW Coal-fired Units)
- Approved Capital Cost (Rs. Lakh)

Sr. No	Proposed Year-wise Supplementary Tariff		2026	2027	
	13.01.2025 to 31.03.2025	01.04.2025 to 30.12.2025			
1	Approved Capital Cost	3866.00	49560.00		
ii	Authority which has Approved the Capital Cost	Board of Directors, Maithon Power Limited	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission		
* Excluding IDC, IEDC, Taxes and opportunity cost					
5. Scheduled date of Commercial Operation: --- NA ---					
6. Actual date of Operation of De-Nox System: Unit 2: 31.03.2025, Unit 1: 31.12.2025 (Anticipated)					
7. Capital Cost (Rs. Lakh) as on Date of Operation (ODE) of De-Nox System:					
Particulars		As on Actual ODE (13.01.2025) for De-Nox System (Unit-2)	As on anticipated ODE (31.12.2025) for De-Nox System (Unit-1)		
Capital Cost		1181.30	3028.69		
8. Details of Supplementary Generation Tariff					
MPL (2x525 MW) De-Nox System	13.01.2025 to 31.03.2025	01.04.2025 to 30.12.2025	31.12.2025 to 30.12.2026	2026 -27	2027 -28
Capacity Charges (Rs Lakh)	55.70	229.74	155.21	616.74	605.95
Additional Energy Charges (Rs/ kWh)	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026
9. A copy of the above Petition can be downloaded from the website of the Petitioner at www.tatapower.com/mpl					
10. The suggestions and the objections, if any, on the above Petition may be filed by any person including the beneficiary(ies) before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 6 th , 7 th & 8 th Floors, Tower B, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi- 110029 with a copy to the Petitioner (Address: Tata Power Company Limited, B-12/13, Shatabdi Bhawan, Sector - 4, Noida - 201301; E-mail: angshuman.c@tatapower.com) within 30 days of publication of this notice.					
Place: New Delhi	(Angshuman Chakrabarti)				
Date: 20.04.2025	CFO - Maithon Power Limited				

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Bijender Singh, Father of No.10137044F Rfn Sonu, R/o Vill- Koth Kalan, PO- Koth Khurd, Teh- Narnaund, Dist- Hisar, Haryana**, have changed my name from **Bijender Singh** to **Bijender Sharma**, vide affidavit dated 19/04/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1863)C
I, **Kanta Devi, Mother of No.10137044F Rfn Sonu, R/o Vill- Koth Kalan, PO- Koth Khurd, Teh- Narnaund, Dist- Hisar, Haryana**, have changed my name from **Kanta Devi** to **Kanta Devi**, vide affidavit dated 19/04/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1864)C
I, **Laxmi Devi W/o- No. 6395722Y Hav Ravindra Singh, R/o- Vill- Adhurbpur, PO- Bishenmu, Teh- Bighapur, Dist- Unnao, U.P.-229503**, have changed my name from **Laxmi Singh** to **Laxmi Devi**, vide affidavit dated 19/04/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1865)C

Iran, US to hold second nuclear talks in Rome

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Rome

Iran and the United States prepared Saturday for a second round of negotiations over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear programme in Rome. The talks in Italy over Easter weekend again will hinge on US billionaire Steve Witkoff, the US Mideast envoy of President Donald Trump, and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

Whether the two men find common ground in the high-stakes negotiations could mean success or failure in the talks.

That talks are even happening represent a historic moment, given the decades of enmity between the two countries since the 1979 Islamic Revolution and US Embassy hostage crisis.

Trump in his first term unilaterally withdrew from Iran's nuclear deal with world powers in 2018, setting off years of attacks and negotiations that failed to restore the accord that drastically limited Tehran's enrichment of uranium in exchange for the



US special envoy Steve Witkoff PFI

lifting of economic sanctions. At risk is a possible American or Israeli military strike on Iran's nuclear sites, or the Iranians following through on their threats to pursue an atomic weapon.

Meanwhile, tensions in the Middle East have spiked over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip and after US airstrikes on targeting Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels killed more than 70 people and wounded dozens more.

"I'm for stopping Iran, very simply, from having a nuclear weapon," Trump said Friday. "I want Iran to be great and prosperous and terrific."

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei wrote Saturday on the social platform X that Iran "always demonstrated, with good faith and a sense of responsibility, its commitment to diplomacy as a civilized way to resolve issues."

"We are aware that it is not a smooth path but we take every step with open eyes, relying also on the past experiences," he added.

Both men have been traveling in recent days. Witkoff had been in Paris for talks about Ukraine as Russia's full-scale war there grinds on.

Araghchi will be coming from Tehran, Iran, after a visit to Moscow where he met with officials including Russian President Vladimir Putin.

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Group sues Costa Rica over rights of 81 deported children

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mexico City

A group of human rights lawyers is suing Costa Rica, alleging the Central American nation violated the rights of dozens of migrant children by detaining them in a rural camp for nearly two months after they were deported from the US in February.

The children, some as young as 2, are part of a group of hundreds of migrants from mostly Asian countries - Afghanistan, China, Russia and others - who were deported from the US as part of a wider effort by the Trump administration to ramp up deportations. Many had hoped to seek asylum in the US and expressed fear over returning to their own countries. Instead, they were dropped in Costa Rica and Panama, where they don't speak the local language. The countries were originally intended as a kind of deportation layover, but the migrants have now spent 50 days in limbo.

Critics described it as a way for the US to export its deportation process, while human rights groups have warned that the two countries were turning into a "black hole" for deportees. In Costa Rica, around 200 migrants, 81 of them children, were driven out to a rural migrant processing centre along the Costa Rica-Panama border and detained in a former factory building.

The lawsuit from the Global Strategic Litigation Council and other human right groups was filed before the UN committee that monitors the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on Thursday night, and alleges that Costa Rica violated the convention.

Silvia Serna Roman, one of the attorneys filing the

suit, said the migrants were held in detention without legal status, with no access to educational services or mental health services in their native language. It has fuelled concern the long-term impacts that extended detention could have on the children as many parents have reported their children appearing isolated or sad.

"The kids are in a very crucial part of their development, and they are all fleeing complicated contexts in their countries. And now they're subjected to detention for different, but long periods of time and inhumane treatment," Serna Roman said Friday. "The parents are concerned."

Serna Roman said migrants have had little access to legal counsel. The Costa Rican government has said migrants could leave the detention facility if they agree to return to their countries of origin or seek asylum in Costa Rica.

But the lawyer said many families fear they would have nowhere to go and potentially end up on the street, so they've remained in "indefinite detention" in the facility known as CATEM.

"Many people are afraid to leave CATEM because at least it means shelter, means three meals a day, means a roof over their heads," Serna Roman said. "The Costa Rican government hasn't been upfront about how they plan to further protect these people."

The Associated Press has repeatedly been denied access to the detention facility since the migrants arrived, but when journalists visited the camp in 2023, families were sleeping on cardboard or in tents on the ground where some say liquid from portable toilets leaks with sparse food.

Lack of resources hinder recovery after Myanmar's deadly earthquake

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Bangkok

Basic services have yet to be restored to the areas of Myanmar worst hit by a huge earthquake three weeks ago, and emergency workers recovering bodies and clearing debris are contending with regular aftershocks and lack of resources, humanitarian services say.

A situation report issued late Friday by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, or OCHA, said frequent strong aftershocks continue to shake central Myanmar almost daily, increasing fear and uncertainty among affected residents, disrupting pressure on already limited resources and services.

"Three weeks after catastrophic twin earthquakes hit Myanmar on March 28, the worst-affected communities are still without safe shelter, clean water and sanitation, stable electricity, health care and essential services," the report said.

The epicentre of the 7.7 magnitude quake was near Mandalay, Myanmar's second-largest city, but it hit a wide swath of the country, causing significant damage to six regions and states including the capital, Naypyitaw.

IPL: CSK take on Mumbai Indians

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

Chennai Super Kings' (CSK) poor form may take the sheen off the return leg of this year's IPL Clasico but for Mumbai Indians (MI), the contest will present a challenge to change strategy in order to maintain their winning run here on Sunday.

Mumbai Indians have done well to resurrect their faltering campaign with two consecutive wins over Delhi Capitals and Sunrisers Hyderabad, but Hardik Pandya's seventh-placed side still needs to steer through mid-table traffic with several other teams in a similar situation.

Mumbai Indians were spot on with their planning an execution on a tricky pitch here at the Wankhede Stadium on which they took apart SRH's explosive batting style with precision.

That surface, an uncharacteristic one for Wankhede, had turn and grip for spin as well as pace off the ball for seamers which took the fight out of SRH batters.

But such an approach against the spin-heavy CSK would not be the right way and has the potential to backfire.

Noor Ahmad has thrived in CSK colours with 12 wickets in seven matches which includes his three wickets against MI earlier this season, while the five-time winners also have two seasoned exponents in Ravichandran Ashwin (5 wickets) and Ravindra Jadeja (4).

MI, however, would still have the upper hand given their current form despite having lost to CSK in their season-



opener in Chopak. Rohit Sharma has not notched up a big score yet but his brisk start against SRH gave MI the impetus they needed. Tilak Varma has been on a roll and so has Suryakumar Yadav, with Ryan Rickelton's contribution at the top and Will Jacks' all-round show giving MI the fuel for their win. MI would be pleased with how their bowling department is finding its rhythm with Trent Boult causing a lot of trouble with his perfect execution of the yorkers in recent outings, and Jasprit Bumrah also finding his lengths in the contest against SRH.

Pandya has floated well through his roles as a bowler and batter but he will continue to rely on Naman Dhir for some

aggressive batting in death overs.

Karn Sharma suffered a finger webbing split while fielding against SRH and given the lack of turnaround time between matches, he is an injury concern.

On their part, there are no signs yet that CSK have been able to end their troublesome run of four consecutive losses with a five-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants. But MS Dhoni's return to the Wankhede — the venue for many battles between these teams — should spur the visiting side. Dhoni was the difference between MI and CSK the last time these two teams clashed here in 2024, with his four-ball 20 with three sixes off Pandya. Dhoni's return as full-time skipper for

the remainder of the season and CSK finding "manoeuvrability" with their bowling line-up was one positive sign for the old warhorse, who faces the task of reviving their disappointing campaign, contribute with the bat in death overs, and manage his knee injury amid all this.

CSK have added former MI player Dewald Brevis but it remains to be seen if the South African batter, as well as young Mumbai recruit in Ayush Mhatre, would slide into the playing XI immediately given their limited knowledge of conditions and pitch here.

Teams

Mumbai Indians: Hardik Pandya (c), Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Robin Minz, Ryan Rickelton (wk), Shrijith Krishnan (wk), Bevon Jacobs, Tilak Varma, Naman Dhir, Will Jacks, Mitchell Santner, Raj Angad Bawa, Vignesh Puthur, Corbin Bosch, Trent Boult, Karn Sharma, Deepak Chahar, Ashwini Kumar, Reece Topley, VS Pemmetta, Arjun Tendulkar, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Jasprit Bumrah.

Chennai Super Kings: MS Dhoni (C&wk), Dewald Brevis, Devon Conway, Rahul Tripathi, Shaik Rasheed, Vansh Bedi, Andre Siddharth, Ayush Mhatre, Rachin Ravindra, Ravichandran Ashwin, Vijay Shankar, Sam Curran, Anshul Kamboj, Deepak Hooda, Jamie Overton, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Ramakrishna Ghosh, Ravindra Jadeja, Shivam Dube, Khaleel Ahmed, Noor Ahmad, Mukesh Choudhary, Nathan Ellis, Shreyas Gopal, Matheesha Pathirana.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru eye comeback against PBKS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mullanpur

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have very little time to pick up the pieces after a debilitating loss as they eye a much-improved display from their batting unit in a return Indian Premier League match against in-form Punjab Kings (PBKS) here on Sunday.

With the exception of Tim David, the RCB batters had a night to forget as they slipped to 95 for nine against PBKS in Bengaluru on Friday, losing the match by five wickets. In a rain-curtailed 14-over-a-side match, the RCB batters cut a sorry figure with the likes of Phil Salt, Virat Kohli, skipper Rajat Patidar and Liam Livingstone failing miserably in front of their home crowd.

Patidar acknowledged the batters' failure at the Chinnaswamy Stadium.

"Initially it was sticking and two paced, but we could have done far better as a batting unit. Partnerships are important, we have lost wickets in quick intervals and that's a big lesson for us," Patidar had said after the loss against Punjab Kings.

Come Sunday, and RCB, who are placed fourth in the points table, would bank on Salt and Kohli to provide an explosive start and the onus would be on Patidar, Livingstone, Jitesh Sharma, Krunal Pandya and David to lend stability in the middle-order. On the bowling front, Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar will be spearheading the attack but they

will need a lot more support from people like Yash Dayal, Krunal and Suyash Sharma.

Despite their third loss at home, Hazlewood sought to look at the positives. "Quite unreal schedule in the last few days, well, we are playing again tomorrow. Yeah it is something different and I think the way we went about it (defending the total) on the field was a positive, to take wickets and put them under a little pressure and we can take that momentum to the next game," he said.

PBKS, on the other hand, are going great guns under Shreyas Iyer's leadership and are currently placed second in the standings with five wins in seven games behind table toppers Delhi Capitals.

What has stood out for PBKS this season is their bowling department.

Arshdeep Singh, Xavier Bartlett and Marco Jansen have been brilliant on the pace front, while leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal has reignited himself, taking crucial wickets in the middle overs.

Chahal's attacking bowling has reaped rich dividends for Punjab Kings, something which the team's skipper Iyer acknowledged.

"Personally I had a chat with Chahal. I told him you are a match winner and you need to get us wickets as much as possible. You do not need to be safe in your approach and he has got the capability of bouncing back. That's what we appreciate of him as a leggie," Iyer said.

It is great to learn from Bhuvi: Josh Hazlewood

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Bengaluru

Josh Hazlewood smiled wistfully as he ran past a dumbstruck Punjab Kings skipper Shreyas Iyer after dismissing him with a climbing delivery in the channel just outside the off-stump. The moment had two layers of significance to it.

It was the third time Hazlewood had the number of Shreyas in four IPL innings, conceding just eight runs.

So, it was a personal victory for the Royal Challengers Bengaluru pacer. But more than stamping the authority over a familiar rival, it signalled the Australian's ability to learn from past mistakes.

His previous two spells at the Chinnaswamy Stadium were ordinary — 1/43 against Gujarat Titans and 0/40 against Delhi Capitals where Jos Buttler and KL Rahul took him to cleaners despite the track here offering more assistance to the bowlers.

For a master netronome like Hazlewood, those punishments would have hurt his pride immensely.

But he changed the script on his third visit to the venue — 3/14 off three overs but it was a travesty that such an excellent effort ended up in a losing cause.

However, the spell was an underliner of Hazlewood's efficiency across the formats and it's based on relentlessness rather than magic. If you have a keen eye, then shades of Australian legend Glenn McGrath is unmistakable.

Like the 'Pigeon', Hazlewood too is a master of the 6-metre length and it's not surprising that he has close to 60 dot balls in this edition of the IPL alone.

It's an incredible stat as the 34-year-old bowls at least 12 balls in the Power Plays, and his dot ball percentage during that phase is approximately 73 per cent.

"I find if you really hit the wicket hard on that six to eight metres, it's quite tough to bat. I think it's just about trying to read

the play, read the batter," Hazlewood said in the post-match press conference.

"I think sometimes you get that sense that they're either going to come at you or sit deep and you can just make subtle changes of that length and can make a big impact," the Aussie detailed his modus operandi.

Along with his ability to adapt, the high release point makes Hazlewood a tricky customer to deal with on any kind of surface, as it allows him to find that disconcerting extra bounce.

Shreyas will vouch for that. The ball pitched slightly behind the good length but it bounced above the batter's midriff, robbing him of space to execute the cut/slash past the point fielder.

All the PBKS skipper could manage was a tame edge for Jitesh Sharma behind the stumps and now Hazlewood shares the Purple Cap with Chennai Super Kings' spinner Noor Ahmad with 12 wickets.

"Yeah, it's just, I think, trying to sense the batter and what mindset he's had and just those subtle changes when required. Yeah, potentially, I think it just could have been that balance of how hard to go," he noted.

Hazlewood has also benefited from the presence of the vastly experienced Bhuvneshwar Kumar at the other end, and the two have been the acoustic hearts of RCB new ball attack.

They operate rather similarly too — troubling batters with hard-to-notice changes in line and length. Hazlewood accepted that. "I think to bowl with someone like Bhuvi, who's been around for so long, so skilful at the start and at the end, it's great to learn from as well.

"But I think just the variety, we are all a little bit different, complement each other really well. So yeah, it's exciting," he said.

Perhaps, Hazlewood will be rewarded more suitably when RCB face Rajasthan Royals here on April 24.

Yuzvendra Chahal one of the best bowlers in IPL: Iyer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Bengaluru

Punjab Kings (PBKS) captain Shreyas Iyer has called Yuzvendra Chahal "one of the best bowlers" in the Indian Premier League and said he has asked the seasoned leg-spinner to always look for wickets instead of worrying over leaking runs during a "personal chat."

After a subdued start to the this edition of the T20 tournament, the Punjab Kings spinner has found his rhythm and took the wickets of Rajat Patidar and Jitesh Sharma in PBKS' five-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru here on Friday. "Personally I had a chat with Chahal. I told him you are a match winner and you need to get us wickets as much as possible. You do not need to be safe in your approach and he has got the capability of bouncing back. That's what we appreciate of him as a leggie," Iyer said.

"He is one of the best bowlers in the IPL, probably the best bowler in the IPL so far. You to back that all the time," he said after the win over RCB.

Punjab Kings produced an inch-perfect bowling effort to restrict RCB to 95 for nine in a rain-curtailed 14 overs-a-side match at the Chinnaswami Stadium.

In reply, PBKS competed the chase in 12.1 overs with Nehal Wadhra making a match-winning 19-ball 33.

Personally I had a chat with Chahal. I told him you are a match winner and you need to get us wickets as much as possible

— SHREYAS IYER, PBKS CAPTAIN

The Player of the Match award, however, went to RCB's Tim David who proved to be their lone-ranger in an otherwise forgettable batting display, with a blazing 50 off 26 balls.

"As they say variety is the spice of life. We are able to experience all kinds of games over here. It is a great challenge," Iyer said. "There was no thinking to be honest. I was making instinctive moves and obviously we were getting wickets. I didn't want the new batsman to come in

and settle straightaway," the skipper said of his decisions on the field.

Asked to bat first, RCB lost wickets at regular intervals with the likes of Arshdeep Singh, Chahal, Marco Jansen and Harpreet Brar doing the bulk of the damage for the visiting team.

"Marco was able to extract little bit of bounce on this wicket. He was bowling lethal. He basically steadied the ship. And the rest of the bowlers they helped him.

"To be honest, we did not know how the wicket was going to play and I personally feel the bowlers they adapted according to it," Iyer said.

"When I had a chat with Arshdeep, he said, the hard length balls were very difficult to hit on this wicket because I did not see a single six off a fast bowler hit down the ground. That was the chatter going around and they were fantastic in executing it."

On expected lines, Iyer lavished praise on Wadhra for his attacking knock.

"Yes absolutely, you need one batsman to take the charge. Nehal was brilliant in

his approach today. The attitude was top notch. I hope he continues the same form."

Could have done better as batting unit: Rajat Patidar

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) skipper Rajat Patidar acknowledged that his batters left a lot to be desired, especially those slotted in the middle-order as the pitch eased up a bit in the second half of their innings.

"Initially it was sticking and two paced, but we could have done far better as a batting unit. Partnerships are important, we have lost wickets in quick intervals and that's a big lesson for us," Patidar said.

Asked about leaving out Devdutt Paddikal from the playing XI, he said the decision was made taking into account the conditions. We have had to make that change due to conditions. The wicket was not that bad, it was under covers for a long time, it helped their bowlers, credit goes to them. No matter how the wicket plays, we need to bat well and get a winning total," Patidar said.

Indian hockey has great depth, says Craig Fulton

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Impressed with talent on show at the National Championship, Indian men's hockey team chief coach Craig Fulton on Saturday said the country has great depth but the players' ability to adapt to new tactics quickly will be key, going forward. He emphasised that the next 18 months will be crucial for creating a squad with sufficient bench strength.

Fulton, who closely monitored the recently-concluded Nationals, highlighted the competitiveness of the matches when the top teams clashed.

"When we put strength on strength, the games were very, very close. There's good depth — particularly in goalkeeping and

across the board — which was great to see. It was also encouraging to spot players who haven't featured in the league before," Fulton was quoted as saying in a Hockey India release.

Asked about positional gaps, Fulton acknowledged the need for improvement in scoring field goals and handling various tactical scenarios. "We want players who can move the ball effectively against both man-to-man and zonal defenses, press intelligently, and outlet under pressure. Versatility is not the main focus — it's more about athleticism, game awareness, and the ability to quickly adapt to new tactics," Fulton remarked.

Commenting on regional performances, the coach observed that while

winners Punjab stood out with a strong representation of international players, the top four teams overall demonstrated good balance and quality. "Some regions were definitely stronger than others. Punjab, for instance, stood out with the highest number of international players, which gave them an edge. At the same time, there was a healthy balance of talent across the top four teams. Beyond that, however, the depth and overall quality did dip a bit."

With a new core group being formed for the Asia Cup cycle, Fulton emphasised that the primary focus is not on age but on finding the right players for specific roles. "It's not about bringing in more youth — it's about identifying the right

players for the right positions," he said.

"A training camp with 54 probables is scheduled soon, from which a core group of 40 players will be selected. We have been speaking about creating depth for a while now. The next 18 months are crucial in building a squad with sufficient bench strength," Fulton explained.

The coach also shed light on his scouting criteria. "We looked at individuals, of course, but also how they operated with their team's tactical framework. The biggest attribute we assessed was defense — both one-on-one and group defence."

With PR Sreejesh being the only retiree after the Paris Olympics, Fulton confirmed that the core group will largely remain intact.

Super Cup: East Bengal vs Kerala Blasters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Bhubaneswar

Defending champions East Bengal face Kerala Blasters FC in the opening match of the Kalinga Super Cup here on Sunday, with 15 teams vying for the trophy and a lone slot available for next season's AFC Champions League 2. Unlike the last two years, when the tournament witnessed a group stage followed by semi-finals, this season will be played in a knockout format like in 2018 and 2019, meaning every game is a do-or-die affair.

Last year, East Bengal FC snatched the silverware, defeating Odisha FC 3-2 after a thrilling period of extra-time in the final. The Red and Gold brigade ended their 12-year wait for a national trophy, and are out to defend their crown on the same pitch.

East Bengal are no strangers to defending cup titles, having won back-to-back Federation Cups in 2009-10 and 2010, while Kerala Blasters are seeking their first-ever trophy at the national level.

Both sides had underwhelming Indian Super League campaigns, ending in ninth and eighth place respectively, and this tournament presents them with a shot at glory. The winner of this clash will face Mohun Bagan Super Giant, who received a bye after I-League side Churchill Brothers' withdrawal, in the first quarter-final on April 26.

On April 21, another ISL side FC Goa, champions from 2019, will take on Gokulam Kerala FC in an inter-league showdown. The Gaurs couldn't make it past the group stage in the last two edi-

tions and will be eager to not only win the trophy again, but also mark a return to the continental stage for the second time after the 2021 AFC Champions League.

Gokulam Kerala are also eyeing a second Asian campaign after the 2022 AFC Cup, but the Malabarians have never gone past the round of 16 of the Kalinga Super Cup. They finished without a win in the last two tournaments, including a 0-1 loss to Goa in 2023 group stage.

East Bengal are no strangers to defending cup titles, having won back-to-back Federation Cups in 2009 and 2010, while Kerala Blasters are seeking their first-ever trophy at the national level

Later on Monday, hosts Odisha FC will face Punjab FC. Ever since making their Super Cup debut in 2023, the Juggernauts have been the team to beat in the competition. Champions in 2023 and runners-up in 2024, the Super Cup has been their favourite tournament. It also opened their doors for a maiden AFC Cup appearance in 2023-24.

Punjab FC also debuted in 2023, but have never made it past the group stage, winning just one of their six matches in the two seasons.

Blues ran out 3-0 winners in the Durand Cup group stage in August last year.

The hurt of losing the ISL final is still fresh for Bengaluru FC. But that will only add to the hunger of the first-ever winners of the Super Cup in 2018 as they look to become the first club to win the tournament twice, and also end their four-year absence from Asian competitions. Inter Kashi made their Super Cup debut last year, coming through the qualifying round, but ending the group stage without a win.

On Wednesday, Mumbai City FC and Chennaiyin FC will face off for the fourth time in the Super Cup, making it the most-played fixture in the tournament's brief history. The Islanders won 1-0 in each of the last two seasons' group stage, while the Marina Machans were 2-0 victors in the round of 16 in 2019.

Mumbai City have a 13-game unbeaten streak across all competitions against Chennaiyin, who haven't tasted victory in this fixture since February 2020. Both sides have played continental football before — Mumbai City in the 2022 and 2023-24 AFC Champions League, and Chennaiyin FC in the 2019 AFC Cup.

NorthEast United FC and Mohammedan Sporting will lock horns on April 24. It's already been a historic season for the Highlanders, who won their first-ever silverware in the form of the Durand Cup last August, and made it to the Indian Super League play-offs.



ACA announces 1st North East Little Masters Trophy 2025

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Guwahati

The Assam Cricket Association (ACA) has announced the commencement of the 1st North East Little Masters Trophy 2025 for under-14 boys. The Opening Ceremony and Trophy Unveiling were hosted at the 91 Yards Club Auditorium, ACA Stadium premises, Guwahati.

This tournament brings together eight teams from the northeastern states for the first time, competing in a 40-over format. With matches set to take place across two venues in Guwahati starting on April 19 to April 30, providing a fantastic opportunity for young cricketers to showcase their talent.

Assam Cricket Association extends its best wishes to all the participating teams. May the best team emerge victorious and lift the 1st North East Little Masters Trophy 2025 for under-14 boys.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia as Chief Guest and Member of the BCCI Apex Council MKJ Majumdar along with ACA Secretary Tridib Konwar, Tournament Director of the 1st North East Little Masters Trophy Romen Dutta and representatives from North Eastern State Cricket Associations, District Sports Associations and other distinguished guests.

Nayar returns to KKR after exit as India assistant coach

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Kolkata

Abhishek Nayar, who was recently removed as India's assistant coach, has joined Kolkata Knight Riders' support staff team, the IPL side announced on Saturday but his exact role and position has not been specified. "Welcome back home, Abhishek Nayar," KKR posted on X, conforming his re-entry into the team setup. Nayar was part of the KKR support staff as assistant coach and mentor when they lifted their third IPL title in 2024, a decade after their previous triumph in 2014.

He also played a pivotal role in player development at the KKR Academy. In an earlier post KKR revealed that he was back as assistant coach but soon deleted it from X. Nayar's exit from the Indian team setup comes in the wake of a performance review by the BCCI, following India's dismal run in Test cricket late last year. India suffered an unprecedented 0-3 whitewash at home against New Zealand, followed by a 1-3 series defeat — first in a decade — in Australia during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Closely associated with India head coach Gambhir, Nayar had joined the national team in July 2024. Despite earning praise for his work with players like KL Rahul, Rohit and Shreyas Iyer, his future became uncertain after the BCCI brought in Sitanshu Kotak as batting coach for the England white-ball series earlier this year.



When Walls Hold Stories

These homes show how vintage design can make spaces feel warm, lived-in and personal, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

Step inside a home that tells a story and time slows down. The scent of polished wood, the soft glow of aged brass, the weight of a mirror with history in its frame—these are not impulse buys. They are chosen, kept and remembered. In a world driven by constant novelty, vintage interiors offer something far deeper: character. The design world has begun to shift. Clean, modern lines may still dominate, but they are often softened by a velvet armchair with studded legs or a table with claw feet. One, shaped by Anjaleka Kriplani through Angie Homes and the other, the deeply personal residence of Ragini Mehra, CEO of Silhouette Salon de Beauté at The Oberoi, New Delhi. Each holds a unique voice, yet both embrace history through objects and design choices that elevate lived experience over surface styling.

Vintage as a Way of Life

Anjaleka Kriplani approaches vintage interiors with a sense of permanence. Her curated collections feature teak sideboards, carved headboards, and low tables with intricate brass inlay. Spaces feel collected, not styled. Nothing is hurried; every element adds to the room's quiet confidence.

Textiles create warmth—mustard velvets, deep indigos, and brocade with gold tassels. Colours hold depth, often bold but never brash. Curtains fall with a certain weight. Armchairs in mohair or linen invite pause. Perfection is not the goal. Slight irregularities bring charm. A crack in a table leg, the worn polish of a wooden bench—these details add presence, not flaws. Lighting is selected with restraint. Linen lampshades cast a warm glow, echoing the gentle angles of mid-century design. Wooden rafters, carefully preserved, lend a lived quality to the room. This approach treats interiors as layered narratives rather than stage sets.

A Home That Holds Memory

Ragini Mehra's residence is where every corner tells a story, as she is a professionally trained Interior Architect. Known for her impeccable taste and strong design sensibilities, Ragini Mehra's home is a visual diary of textures, memories and artistic expression. Her journey began with a degree in Interior Architecture from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), where she honed her keen eye for aesthetics and detail.

From heritage-inspired statement pieces and modern minimal elements to unique décor accents sourced from her travels, the home strikes a balance between luxury and character. Persian rugs and Indian Carpets further enrich the space, adding texture and a sense of timeless elegance. The spaces are large, where both the empty and filled areas



blend to create an aesthetic and serene environment allow the design to breathe without feeling overcrowded. Furniture includes exquisite pieces from Bo Concept, Maitland-Smith, Baker and Henredon, each contributing its own character to the overall aesthetic. Each room is designed to look beautiful and feel lived-in, layered, and deeply personal. The unmistakable individuality of the space is shaped by her experiences, intuitions and affections.



THE BEAUTY LIES IN THE DETAILS, A TURNED LEG, A WORN HANDLE, AN OLD LIGHT SWITCH. THESE ARE HOMES THAT WELCOME, NOT IMPRESS. AT A TIME WHEN SPEED DEFINES MOST CHOICES, SPACES LIKE THESE CALL FOR THOUGHT



Wear What Reflects, Not Just Shines

BY TEAM VIVA

Is jewellery still about luxury or is it becoming something deeply personal? This is a question worth asking as more women turn to jewellery as a means of self-expression. No longer tied to tradition, ritual or display, jewellery has entered a new space of individuality.

This shift reflects a cultural change in how women engage with design. Jewellery is selected for its alignment with personality and purpose. Jewellery has become part of how women see themselves and how they wish to be seen.

Designer Janvi Sachdeva has embraced this evolving sensibility. Her new collection, **The Symphony of Wild Flowers**, captures a gentle strength. Working in 92.5 silver, she creates forms inspired by nature, floral shapes, delicate birds, textured leaves, shaped into pieces that are both elegant and wearable. There is no excess here, only attention.

A triangular purple gemstone necklace is one of the collection's highlights, where design precision meets a striking palette. Elsewhere, vivid birds set in silver pendants suggest joy and movement. These are thoughtful pieces, crafted for those who value detail and delicacy.

The collection stands out for its adaptability. Emerald-toned chokers pair with



matching bracelets and rings, creating harmony without repetition. Each stone, each clasp, each engraving is part of a larger dialogue between the wearer and the world around her. This kind of jewellery does not depend on excess or volume. It invites interpretation. It's a question worth asking: Are we entering an era where the value of jewellery is measured less in carats and more in character?

If so, the answer lies not in market trends but in the mirror. Woman is no longer waiting to be adorned — she selects, she curates, she defines. Jewellery, then, becomes her punctuation, graceful, sharp and entirely her own.



WHAT SHE WEARS, SHE MEANS — NOT FOR SHOW, BUT TO FEEL LIKE HERSELF, ALWAYS

A Bold Sequel Unmasking the Perils of Totalitarian Ideologies

BY TEAM VIVA

Crimson Crescent — The Last Quarter, a riveting 105-minute feature film by acclaimed filmmaker Mayank Jain, emerges as a powerful and timely sequel to the 2005 documentary **Bangla Crescent — ISI, Madrasas & Infiltration**.

The original film, launched by senior IPS officers Late KPS Gill, Prakash Singh and Late R.K. Ohri, was a path-breaking exposé of indoctrination and infiltration in the Indian subcontinent. Twenty-five years later, **Crimson Crescent** arrives with undiminished urgency. These 25 years have been largely wasted. Infiltration has not ceased. Indoctrination through madrasas has not slowed. And most alarmingly, the threats identified in **Bangla Crescent ISI, madrasas & Infiltration** have only metastasised — spreading far beyond borders.

A Global Canvas: From South Asia to Europe and the Middle East While **Bangla Crescent — ISI, madrasas & Infiltration** focused sharply on Bangladesh and Pakistan's role in radicalisation and infiltration, **Crimson Crescent — The Last Quarter** greatly expands its scope. The film explores the rising aggression in many European countries grappling with mass immigration from Middle Eastern, African and Pakistani regions. It captures the social unrest, ideological clashes and erosion of public safety emerging from these demographic and cultural shifts.



The documentary also covers the volatile Middle East, diving into the complex dynamics of Saudi Arabia, Iran, Syria and Israel. Here it examines not only the geopolitics but also the internal ideological conflicts and state-sponsored radical narratives that continue to destabilise the region. Encouragingly, signs of rationality and scientific thinking are beginning to emerge within the highest echelons of power—a welcome and much-needed development.

Crimson Crescent draws a provocative and compelling parallel between three major ideological threats of the past and present: Nazism, Communism and Jihadism. All three, the film argues, are driven by a thirst for absolute control and the destruc-

tion of dissent. Each has claimed millions of lives and eroded the moral foundations of societies they have touched.

Mayank Jain asserts that these ideologies thrive by silencing reason, glorifying violence and promoting absolute truth claims — often using religious or revolutionary fervour as a shield. The film is a cautionary tale of what happens when indoctrination replaces education and belief systems abandon dialogue in favour of dogma.

A central theme of the film is the insidious power of indoctrination through institutions like madrasas. It reveals how such education systems instil rigid ideological thinking, leading to intolerance, polarisation and often violent radicalisation. The film critiques societies that fail to challenge these systems and instead allow radical narratives to flourish in the name of tradition or religious freedom. A lesser-acknowledged but crucial aspect the film highlights is that Muslims themselves are often the first victims of Islamist extremism. From Shia Muslims targeted in Pakistan to the marginalisation and persecution of other minority Muslim sects, **Crimson Crescent** explores the deep fractures within the Muslim world.

Amidst the bleak landscape, **Crimson Crescent** also offers hope. It recognises the growing internal reform movements within radical Islam where bold voices from within the community are challenging violence and calling for rationality in discourse. The film uplifts these efforts, urging both policymakers and civil soci-

ety to support rational reformers rather than extremists. "Reason is humanity's shield against ideological tyranny," says Jain, reinforcing the film's core message: that education, critical thinking and open dialogue are the only long-term antidotes to radicalisation.

Resist Absolutism, Embrace Dialogue

This is not just a documentary. **Crimson Crescent — The Last Quarter**, is a call to action. It appeals to governments, communities and individuals to resist the growing appeal of absolutism and divisive ideologies. It advocates for education policies that foster rational thought and for a cultural shift toward Universalism, intellectual freedom and unity.

Mayank Jain is a renowned filmmaker with over 27 years of experience and more than 50 critically acclaimed films to his credit. His work spans governance, national security, public health and social reform and is known for tackling complex issues with intellectual rigour and cinematic clarity.

He rose to national prominence with **India Tomorrow — The Gujarat Miracle**, a documentary on Gujarat's development model under Narendra Modi. As Content Head of NaMo TV during the 2012 Gujarat elections, he shaped political communication strategies with high-impact visuals. Mayank's portfolio includes politically resonant films like **Gujarat Fast Track**, **Gujarat Tomorrow** and **No to Terror** and public health documentaries.

SUGGESTED BINGES



Logout
OTT — ZEE5
Cast — Babil Khan, Rasika Dugal



Khauf
OTT — Amazon Prime Video
Cast — Monika Panwar, Rajat Kapoor, Geetanjali Kulkarni, Shilpa Shukla, Chum Darang



Daveed
OTT — Zee5
Cast — Antony Varghese, Mo Ismail



Stranger Things: The First Shadow
OTT — Netflix
Cast — Kate Trefry, Stephen Daldry, Justin Martin

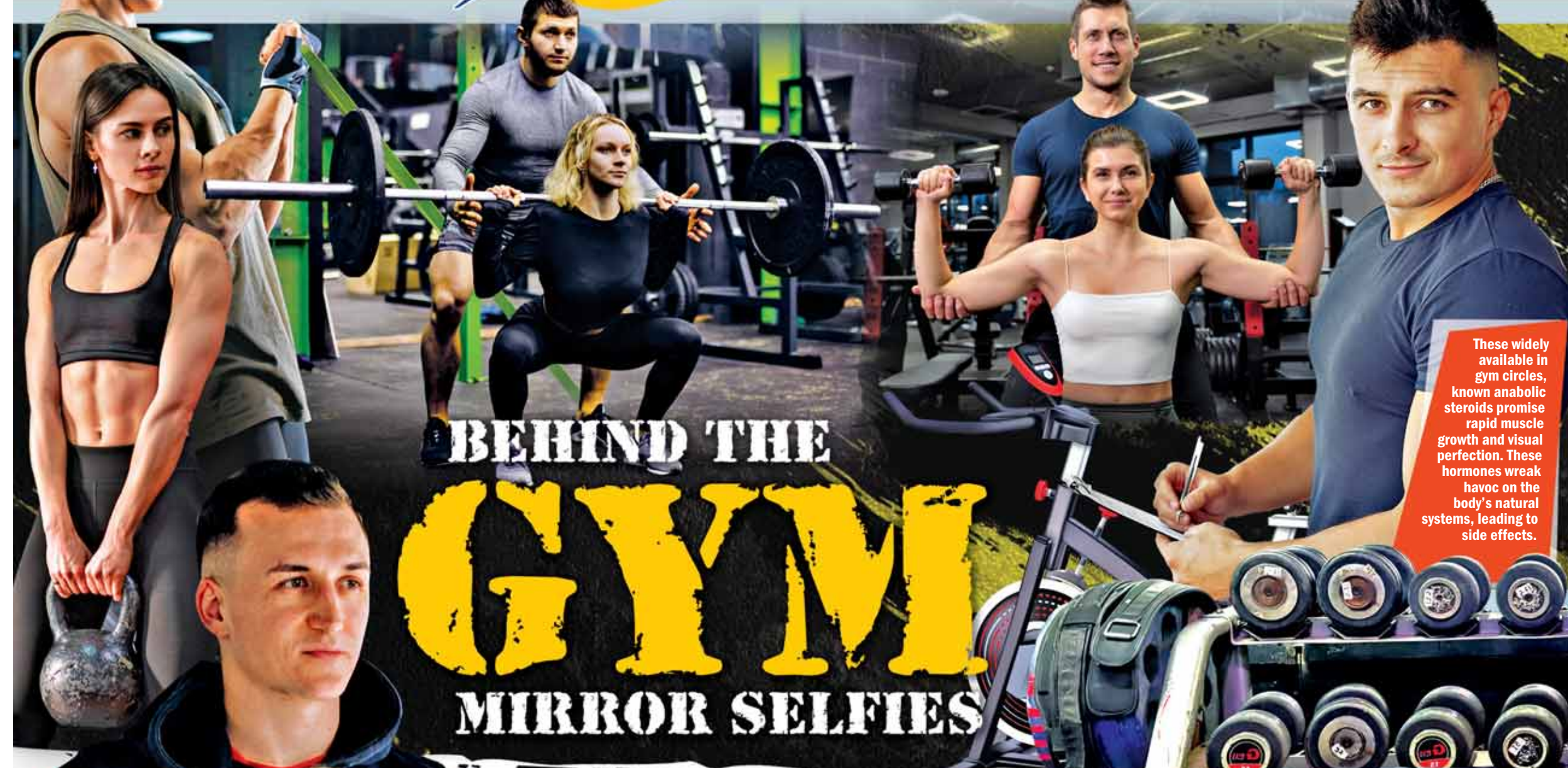


The Stolen Girl
OTT — JioHotstar
Cast — Denise Gough, Beatrice Cohen, Robyn Betteridge, Jim Sturgess



AGENDA

"Don't worry about what other people are doing. Worry about your own training"
— Ronnie Coleman



BEHIND THE GYM MIRROR SELFIES

These widely available in gym circles, known anabolic steroids promise rapid muscle growth and visual perfection. These hormones wreak havoc on the body's natural systems, leading to side effects.

Beneath the neon lights and monthly memberships of the gyms, lies a reality we're not talking about enough, says ABHI SINGHAL

It is always talked about certified things while you train or build your body but it is equally important to choose the right place while you workout. The clang of iron plates, LED-lit workout zones, and neon signage screaming "TRANSFORM NOW", the gyms have become the modern sanctuaries of fitness. Across every urban block, new fitness centres sprout like cafés, each promising better bodies and faster results. What was once affair with morning walks in parks, yoga under the tree, or evening strolls around the neighbourhood with family or friends is steadily being replaced by treadmills and protein shakes.

More and more people are signing up for gym memberships, not just for health but often for aesthetics, validation and a fast track to physical change. The idea of fitness has shifted from functionality to form. The motto has shifted from feeling good to looking good within some years. But beneath the curated Instagram reels and sculpted abs lies a more pressing concern: *Are we choosing the right places to work out? And more importantly, are we trusting the right people to guide us through it?*

Gyms Are Everywhere, but Quality Isn't

Like not all that glitters is gold, not every gym with flashy equipment and discount deals is built for real fitness. The explosion of gyms across cities has brought with it a mixed bag — some well-equipped and guided by the certified professionals, others run by underqualified enthusiasts with little understanding of body or the process involved.

This boom in numbers doesn't guarantee quality or safety. While the fancy lighting and trending playlists may attract the crowd, the real test lies in the integrity of the space and the credentials of the trainers. A wrong choice can do more harm than good, both physically and mentally.

Fitness should energise the mind as much as it does the body. There are people who depend on external validation often spiral into cycles of anxiety, social withdrawal, or aggressive behaviour. The perfect body becomes a trap rather than a triumph. Unfortunately, many gyms are chosen based on popularity, influencer promotion, or peer pressure—not research or reliability. "People come to us saying, I just want a physique like a fitness influencer or a filmstar, they don't come in the gym for

fitness or health. The main purpose of today's generation is just getting a good physique," said Piyush Aggarwal, Owner of HAMR Fitness Centre at Shankar Chowk, Northwest Delhi for the past 16 years.

It is important that people keep a check on the trainers and advice provided by them. Piyush Aggarwal further added that there are cases where people don't even talk to trainers or experienced people and start following diets and steroids on their own for cost cutting, which leads to cheap quality items and, in turn, affects their body.

A Trainer Can Make or Break Your Body

This brings us to the second part of the question: Do we trust the right people to guide us through it? Trainers are your fitness compass. The right trainer knows when to push, when to pull back, and when to say rest. Yet, many gym-goers fall into the trap of trusting unqualified trainers who hand out one-size-fits-all workout plans and unrealistic expectations.

A certified trainer doesn't just have the responsibility of guiding; they have the responsibility of assessing and educating. They chart workouts based on your goals, physical limitations and lifestyle. More importantly, they know how to prevent injuries and manage progression before it's too late. Talking to Ayush Singh, a certified trainer practising in Delhi, he said, "Qualified trainers make a customised plan for different body types. But if you go to unqualified trainers, they will go on with the same plan they have learned from someone else or used on their own body. This is a major difference. If a product is not suitable to you, a qualified trainer will switch it, but an unqualified one will keep pushing the same because he doesn't have alternatives."

It's easy to get lost in filters and reels but fitness, was never meant to be a popularity contest. It was meant to empower and to strengthen the body and the mind. Prioritise your health over haste and don't fall for dangerous shortcuts. So, yes join the gym. Push yourself. Challenge your limits.

Fitness should be a celebration of your body. So, most importantly train for life, not for likes. Because strength built the right way doesn't just change your body, it transforms your life.

THE ILLUSION OF FAST RESULTS: THE STEROID SHORTCUT

In this pressure-filled ecosystem, where transformation pictures and social media likes serve as reward systems, people chase fast results and fall into darker traps. One of the most alarming trends is the misuse of steroids. "Nonprescription doses are usually many times higher than the doses prescribed for health conditions by your doctor. These doses have short and long term side effects when misused like high blood pressure, liver damage, heart attack, increased aggression, acne, and even depression. Young adults get attracted to improve body appearance which should not be done. These medicines should only be taken under medical supervision," said Dr Paras Agarwal, Clinical Director & Head - Diabetes, Obesity & Metabolic Disorders, Marengo Asia Hospitals.



CHECKLIST

It was equally important to speak to someone experienced who has practised gymming for years and competed at various levels. Akshay Tyagi, a fitness enthusiast, winner of many body building competitions like - Mr. Delhi, National Dead Lift Championship, 7th Amberprix Mr. India, said, "You have to keep a check from the start. The most important thing is the equipment. It should not be outdated, must be serviced regularly, and shouldn't be broken. Faulty machines can cause serious injuries. It's not always important to choose expensive gyms but to go to the right one where you can work out properly." Before signing up, consider these: verify gym credentials, observe the environment, ask for an assessment and listen to your body.



FITNESS FOR LIFE, NOT JUST FOR SOCIAL FEED

True fitness isn't built in 30-day challenges or shortcut supplements. It's a lifelong journey rooted in discipline, consistency, and informed choices. A healthy lifestyle isn't a trend but it's a personal investment. Dr Indramani Upadhyay, MPT (Ortho), HOD Physiotherapist at The Centre for Knee & Hip Care, says, "Overtraining or poor guidance from unqualified trainers can lead to both short- and long-term health issues. Some red flags in your gym trainer's guidance will be seen as persistent fatigue, recurring injuries, lack of recovery days and sleep disturbances."

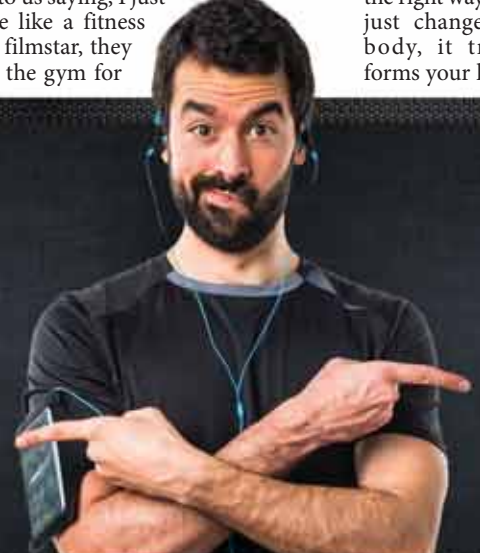


THE SIDE EFFECTS OF THE WRONG PROCESS ARE NOT JUST PHYSICAL; THEY CAN LEAD TO MENTAL, EMOTIONAL AND LONG-TERM HEALTH CHALLENGES THAT AREN'T WORTH THE TEMPORARY HIGH OF A PERFECT PHYSIQUE TO SHOW OFF

The most disgracing factor is that all the joiners are asked to do the personal training just for the money factor regardless the fact that they actually don't need it. People don't even ask for certification and follow routines that look effective on someone else.

MOVES TO KEEP IN MIND FOR YOUR GYM SUCCESS

- Your body is unique. Follow a plan that suits your fitness level, body type, goals and lifestyle and is ideally one crafted by a certified trainer or coach.
- Progress in fitness doesn't come overnight. Consistency beats intensity. Show up regularly, even if some days are light.
- Nutrition is key. Focus on balanced meals like protein, good fats, complex carbs, fibre. Stay away from fad diets or extreme calorie deficits.
- Learn the basics of anatomy, movement, and nutrition. It helps you make informed decisions and avoid blindly following trends.
- Stick to basic, tested supplements like whey protein, creatine, multivitamins — and only if needed. Always consult a trainer or a nutritionist.
- Seek guidance only from certified trainers (ACE, ISSA, ACSM, etc.). They are trained to guide you smartly — not push you into ham.
- Focus on your routine and stick to your plan. Avoid getting distracted by others or feeling pressured to do what they're doing.
- Ask questions from the trainers if you're unsure about how to use a machine or do an exercise, ask a trainer instead of guessing.
- Keep a track of your progress by using a journal, app, or progress pictures for your own self to stay motivated and track improvements over time.
- Dress comfortably and wear flexible gym clothes.



WORKOUT BLUNDERS YOU SHOULD SKIP IN GYM

- Steroids may promise faster gains, but they bring irreversible side effects — liver damage, hormonal imbalances, mood disorders, infertility, and more. They're not worth the risk.
- Avoid following gym "bros" or influencers who aren't qualified. What works for someone may harm you.
- Pro bodybuilders have years of experience and often unnatural aids. Their routines are not meant for beginners or average fitness goals. Don't try to be like them and follow them.
- Pain, dizziness, exhaustion, loss of motivation — these are all signs that something's wrong. Don't push through blindly.
- Starving your body will only weaken your immunity and metabolism. Long-term health always wins over quick fixes.
- Don't skip warm-ups or cool downs as this leads to stiffness, soreness, or worse that is injuries.
- Avoid texting or scrolling between sets as it disrupts your focus and slows your routine.
- Don't compare yourself constantly as everyone's fitness journey is unique. Celebrate your own progress, no matter how small.
- Don't rely on supplements alone as supplements are just the support systems but not the actual solutions. Real nutrition comes from real food.
- Don't neglect cleanliness. Always wipe sweat off equipment after use as it's basic hygiene.



A Toast to Taste

BY TEAM AGENDA

Somewhere between a laid-back hangout and a full-sensory culinary voyage, *Dos Delhi* is shaking up the city's bar culture, one artfully crafted cocktail at a time. Tucked into a lively corner of New Delhi, it is a mood. With its high-energy vibe, edgy design, and a menu that's unapologetically adventurous, this hotspot is redefining what it means to dine and drink in the capital. Now, the creative minds behind the concept — *Chefs Jatin Mallick and Julia Carmen De Sa* are raising the bar with the launch of a brand-new Beverage & Bar Snack Pairing Menu.

This isn't just about snacks that accompany your drink. It's a thoughtfully curated sensory experience where bold cocktails and inventive bites come together in a masterful dance of balance and contrast.

A sleek glass of *Truffle Spy*, made with gin, Martini Extra Dry, Cointreau, Campari, and a touch of truffle, paired with golden, crispy *Truffle Parmesan Fries* makes a day. What is refined, decadent, and almost too good to share are the fiery *Dos Me Up*, where tequila combines with wasabi, sour cream, cilantro, and basil. Its punch is balanced by the earthy calm of *Charcoal Grilled Snack Peppers with Yam Hummus*.

Each pairing feels like a little world of its own. The *Smirking Cacao*, with its heady mix of dark rum, vanilla liqueur, spiced vermouth, and cacao nibs, is like dessert in a glass. It is perfectly complemented by *Buttered Edamame with Thai Herbs and Lemongrass Ketchup*. Then there's the refreshing

Hot Russian Zombie, a vodka-apple-citrus-based drink that comes alive with Potato Lavash topped with Avocado, Salsa Macha, and Chipotle Cheese Sauce. And if tropical and smoky is your flavour, the *Sexy Lady Stunner*, a blend of whisky, Martini Bianco, and roasted pineapple, pairs beautifully with Mustard Marinated Fish Belly Fingers and lemon marmalade.

However, *Dos Delhi* isn't only about the drinks. The bar snack menu is a genre of its own - part street-style comfort, part global fusion, and entirely packed with surprises. Take the *Guntur Chilli Glazed Crispy Chicken Wings* for instance, bold and spicy, and ideal with whisky. Or the *Flash-Fried Sweet & Sour Green Candy Tomatoes* served with Yoghurt Tahina and Flour Crispies, which offer a tangy, crunchy contrast to citrus-forward cocktails. If you love bold umami flavours, the *Dos Magic Spiced Cassava Chips* with *Sriracha Cheese Ketchup* deliver a satisfying punch. And of course, there's the ever-popular Cheese Garlic Bread, warm, gooey, and comfortingly familiar — especially when enjoyed with red wine sangria or a smooth whisky spritzer.

The ambience is as much a part of the experience as the food and drink. Spread over two floors, with both indoor and outdoor seating, the space pulses with a modern, welcoming energy. Contemporary artwork adds visual intrigue, while live DJs set the tone, with music that shifts seamlessly from laid-back evening grooves to weekend party anthems.

At its core, *Dos Delhi* is about slowing down, enjoying good company, and celebrating the pleasures of flavour and connection. So whether you're winding down after work, reconnecting with friends, or seeking your next great cocktail discovery, Beverage & Bar Snack Pairing Menu invites you to sip and savour.

FACT SHEET:

Name: Dos By Tres
Address: Shop No. 9 & 10, Fourth Avenue Road, Lodhi Colony, New Delhi
Price for Two: ₹2,500/-
Timings: Mon - Thu, Sunday: 12:00pm to 12:00am
Fri - Sat : 12:00pm to 01:00am

Chill Mornings with Light Breakfast

BY TEAM AGENDA

Breakfast is often called the most important meal of the day and for all the good reasons. A wholesome breakfast fuels your body, sharpens your focus, and sets the tone for a productive day. Especially during summer, starting your morning with light, nourishing, and refreshing meals becomes

all the more essential to keep your energy up without feeling heavy.

In this spirit, we bring you two delightful breakfast recipes that are both satisfying and summer-friendly. First up is *Poha*, a light and flavourful dish made from flattened rice perfectly with a cup of chai. Then *Curd Upma*, a unique twist on the classic Upma that blends roasted semolina with curd.

CURD UPMA

Curd Upma, a dish combining the cooling effects of curd with the nutritional benefits of Upma, offers several advantages during the summer months. It helps to regulate body temperature, promotes digestion, boosts immunity, and provides hydration, making it a refreshing and healthy summer meal.

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 Cups sooji
- 1 tsp mustard seeds
- 10-12 Curry leaves
- 1 tsp urad dal
- 1 tsp chana dal
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup vegetables of your choice, chopped
- 1 cup curd
- 1 tbsp ginger-garlic paste
- 2 Green chillies (slit)
- to taste salt
- to taste Red chilli powder
- for garnishing coriander leaves

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Roast sooji till fragrant. Keep aside.
- Heat ghee in a pan. Add mustard seeds, curry leaves, urad dal and chana dal. Wait till they splutter.
- Sauté onion and ginger-garlic paste.
- When onion browns, add the
- vegetables, cover the pan and let the vegetables cook.
- Add curd water and sauté for a minute. Add roasted sooji, 4 cups of water and let everything cook.
- Garnish with coriander leaves and serve hot.

POHA

Poha is a dish made from flattened rice, which is lightly steamed and cooked with onions, spices, and herbs. The term 'poha' refers both to the ingredient-flattened rice flakes, also known as beaten or

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup poha (flattened rice)
- 1 medium onion (finely chopped)
- 1-2 green chillies (slit or chopped)
- 1/4 tsp mustard seeds
- 5-6 curry leaves
- 1/4 tsp turmeric powder
- Salt to taste
- 1 tsp oil
- 1 small potato (optional, peeled and chopped small)
- 1-2 tsp sugar (optional, for a slight sweetness)
- 2 tbsp roasted peanuts
- Fresh coriander leaves (chopped, for garnish)
- Juice of half a lemon

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Rinse 1 cup poha in a colander under running water.
- Gently fluff it with your fingers and let it sit for 5-10 minutes to soften. (Make sure it doesn't become mushy)
- Heat 1 tsp oil in a pan, add mustard seeds and let them crackle.
- Add curry leaves, green chillies, and peanuts.
- Sauté for a minute and add chopped onions and sauté until translucent. (If adding potatoes, cook them until soft before adding onions)
- Sprinkle turmeric powder and mix well.
- Add the softened poha, salt, and sugar. Mix everything gently.
- Cover the pan and cook for 2-3 minutes on low heat.
- Turn off the flame, squeeze lemon juice, and garnish with coriander.
- Enjoy your poha with a hot cup of tea!



Brewing Innovation: Microbreweries

BY AJAY GOWDA

The craft beer industry thrives on passion, innovation, and an ever-evolving consumer palate. In a dynamic market like India, where beer culture is rapidly evolving, microbreweries must continuously adapt to remain relevant. This evolution goes beyond brewing exceptional beer as it requires innovation in menu offerings, immersive experiences, and customer engagement strategies. Leading microbreweries recognise that craft beer is more than just a beverage; it is an experience that fosters a deeper connection between consumers and the craft. Reinvention is not merely a business strategy but it is a commitment to consistently enhancing the customer journey, offering authenticity, novelty, and lasting impressions.

Craft beer lovers seek a holistic experience that extends beyond the pint glass. At our brewing company we have always believed that a microbrewery is more than just a place to drink — it's an immersive experience. This means that while our beer remains at the core, our food menu, ambience, and service must evolve to keep guests excited and engaged. Food and beer pairing is an area where we see constant innovation. The modern beer drinker wants to explore beyond traditional bar snacks, which is why we consistently experiment with our menu. A well-thought-out food pairing can enhance the flavours of a beer. Our recent menu refresh, inspired by global flavours while keeping our Viking



spirit alive, is a testament to this philosophy. Beyond food, microbreweries are also diversifying their beverage offerings. Craft cocktails, beer-based drinks, and even house-made non-alcoholic options ensure that there is something for every guest, making the microbrewery experience more inclusive and engaging.

The modern beer seeks variety. The rise of unique beer styles such as hazy IPAs, barrel-aged stouts, and fruit-infused sours, demonstrates that consumers are open to experimentation. Reinvention is about adapting to what our consumers want before they even know they want it.

— The author is Managing Director of Byg Brewski Brewing Company

THE FUTURE

The microbrewery industry in India is at an exciting juncture. With evolving tastes, rising consumer expectations, and a growing appreciation for craft beer, reinvention is no longer an option but it is a necessity. As we look to the future, our focus remains on pushing boundaries while staying true to our core values of quality, craftsmanship, and experience.

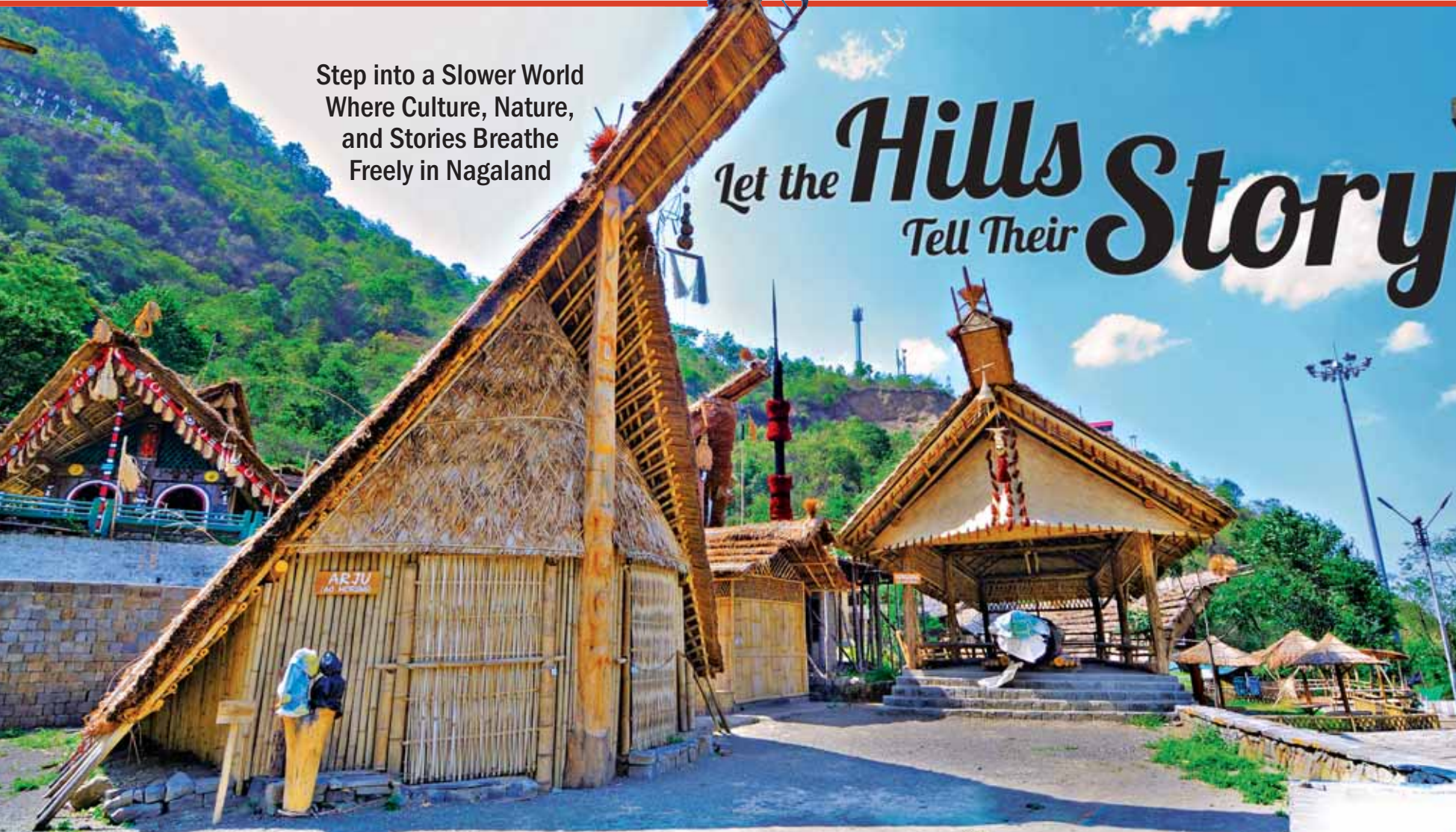
Step into a Slower World
Where Culture, Nature,
and Stories Breathe
Freely in Nagaland

Let the Hills Tell Their Story



CRAFTED MEMORIES

Souvenirs That Tell a Story Don't leave without picking up a bottle of Infamous-its bold character and striking design make it a gift worthy of your shelf. Handwoven Naga shawls, each tribe with its distinct pattern, ideal as a wrap or a wall accent. Tribal jewellery made from beads and brass-rustic, sustainable, and deeply symbolic. Bamboo and cane artefacts, from baskets to lampshades, crafted by local artisans. Smoked pork or dried bamboo shoot, vacuum-packed and available at select markets in Kohima. Locally grown wild Naga chillies, both fresh and in pickled form, for those who like their food fiery. Why Go Slow?



If you're weary of Insta-itineraries and whirlwind checklists, perhaps it's time to let Nagaland happen to you—slowly, deliberately, and with the grace of a place untouched by frenzy. This Northeastern gem invites not a race, but a pause. Here, you don't "do" a holiday; you dwell in it. The gateway to Nagaland is surprisingly accessible—courtesy of a direct flight from Delhi to Dimapur. No layovers, no fuss. From Dimapur, it's a picturesque 90-minute drive to Kohima, the state's capital, where the hills roll in like a lullaby and time decides to take the long road. For those who prefer to stay in Dimapur, you're still in the heart of it all—with the added advantage of being just 20 minutes from Khatkhati in Assam, where the spirit flows a little more freely (more on that in a bit).



PAWAN SONI
COLUMNIST
Food critic and founder of the Big F Awards



PANKAJ KUMAR

A Walk Through History

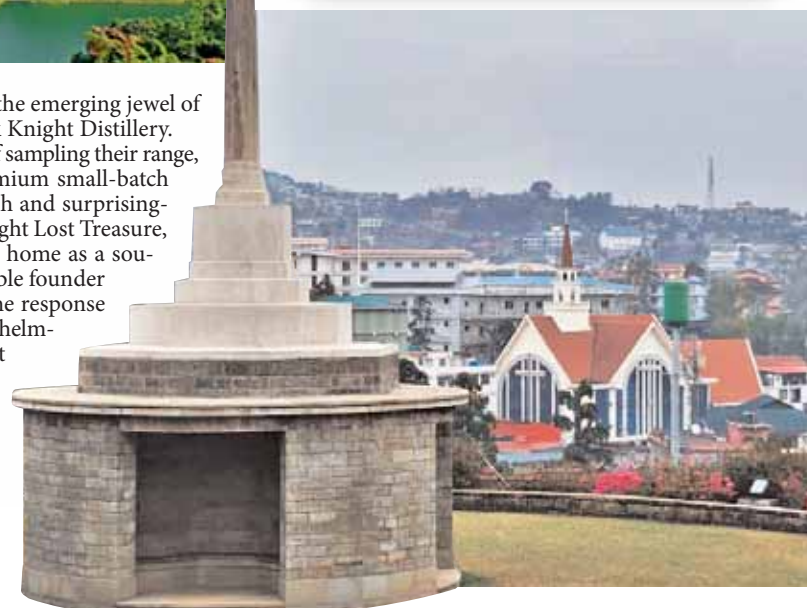
Kohima holds within it the whispers of the past. The Kohima War Cemetery, perched gracefully over green slopes, honours the brave who fought in one of the Second World War's fiercest battles. It's not just a site; it's a silenced storyteller. The epitaph that reads "When you go home, tell them of us," is reason enough to spend a moment longer in reflection. In December showcases all this and more—dance,

folklore, crafts, and cuisines that are as layered as the land. Now, here's the delightful surprise: while Nagaland's indigenous cuisine is a delight of lightly spiced, easy-to-digest dishes—think bamboo shoot pork, fresh river fish, sticky rice—there's no dearth of North Indian comfort food either. Craving choley bhature, jalebi, or a good old paratha? You'll find it in Kohima's modest eateries and hotels, served with the warmth of familiarity and a view to match.

Nagaland may be officially dry, but that doesn't mean you're cut off from your evening pour. A short ride to Khatkhati, across the Assam border, brings

you to a clutch of bars and the emerging jewel of the local spirits scene—Dark Knight Distillery. Here, I had the pleasure of sampling their range, including Infamous, a premium small-batch whisky with a smooth finish and surprisingly nuanced profile, and bought Lost Treasure, a cold-brew coffee rum for home as a souvenir. Dani Chand, the affable founder of Dark Knight, stated, "The response to Infamous has been overwhelming. We're still keeping it small-batch to retain quality, but expansion plans are definitely brewing."

This place is about learning to savour again, whether it's a bite of Naga stew or a verse of war history. So, take that flight. Take your time. Let Nagaland linger.



HORNBILL VILLAGE AND THE 16 TRIBES OF NAGALAND

Nagaland is home to over a hundred tribes, each with its own dialect, traditions, and legacy. Among these, 16 are officially recognised as major tribes, and their presence is vividly brought to life in the Hornbill Village—a living museum where tradition stands tall. Here, tribal architecture tells you as much as the elders do. You can walk through authentically built morungs, see traditional weaponry once used in headhunting days, and witness daily practices that have survived centuries.

Luxury Beyond the Ocean's Horizon

BY AKANKSHA DEAN

As I boarded, the promise of an enchanting journey ahead filled the air. Flying Business Class with SriLankan Airlines transformed the journey into a memorable escapade. As I settled into my plush seat, the friendly flight attendants welcomed me with warm smiles and a glass of sparkling champagne that shimmered like the Indian Ocean below. Soon enough, we glided into Colombo, a city alive with culture and hues. Upon my arrival at the Anantara Peace Haven Resort, I was instantly lulled by the gentle sound of waves crashing against the shore.

The brutal noise of everyday life faded away, replaced by a peaceful ambience suffused with the fragrance of tropical flowers and fresh seafood grilling nearby. My luxurious villa had a private plunge

WAVES, WELLNESS AND WONDERS

My adventurous side thrived during watching a thrilling surf lesson with an extraordinary instructor, who transformed missteps into pointers—by the end of it, you could be riding waves like a pro. A session of restorative yoga against the backdrop of the sun dipping into the ocean was the perfect balance, allowing me to connect both mentally and physically with nature. It was a moment of pure zen. Every treatment I enjoyed led me deeper into tranquility, leaving me blissfully void of any worldly stress. Between flavours, surf and spa, I truly felt the essence of Sri Lanka's welcoming charm.

pool, which beckoned me for a refreshing dip. As I settled in, excited for what lay ahead, I could feel Sri Lanka's rich culture and bright spirit spilling from the very walls of this oasis.

CULINARY BLISS BY THE SEA

Let's start with the food—where do I even begin? My culinary journey kicked off at Journey's, the resort's breakfast haven. The vibrant buffet was as impressive as an art gallery, boasting an array of dishes from traditional egg hoppers to decadent pastries.

My taste buds danced with delight at the first bite of savoury fish curry paired with that unique hopper texture. Post breakfast, I lounged by the infinity pool, which effortlessly merged into the horizon—each glance towards the ocean felt like I was shifting between reality and a surreal painting.

The true joy of dining at Anantara lies not only in casual meals between sun-soaked hours but in the mystical dinner experience that awaited me at Verele, the beachside teppa-

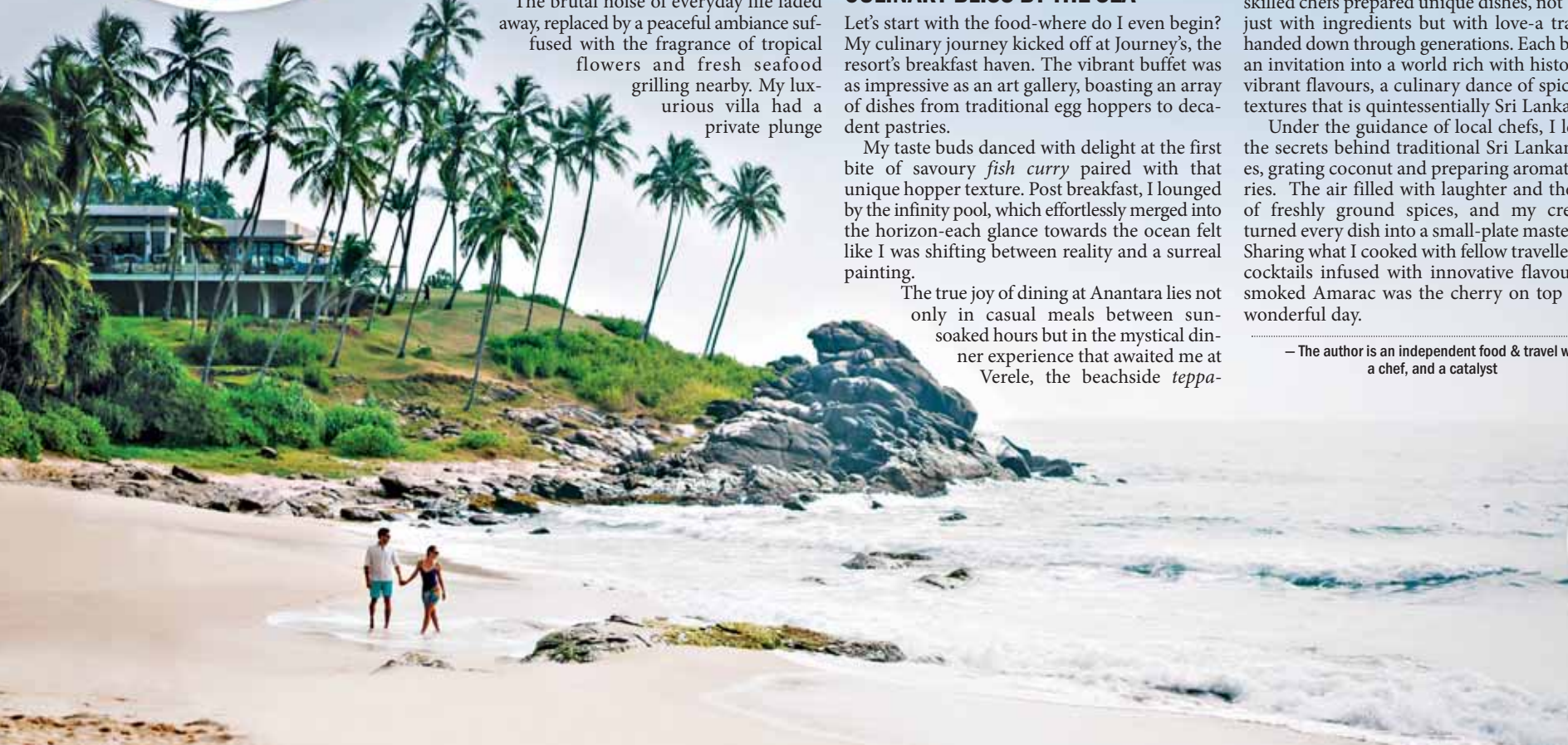
nyaki restaurant. As the sun slipped below the horizon, live folk music curated a soothing backdrop to my BBQ feast.

I relished every moment as the skilled chefs prepared unique dishes, not just with ingredients but with love—a tradition handed down through generations. Each bite was an invitation into a world rich with history and vibrant flavours, a culinary dance of spices and textures that is quintessentially Sri Lankan.

Under the guidance of local chefs, I learned the secrets behind traditional Sri Lankan dishes, grating coconut and preparing aromatic curries. The air filled with laughter and the scent of freshly ground spices, and my creativity turned every dish into a small-plate masterpiece. Sharing what I cooked with fellow travellers over cocktails infused with innovative flavours like smoked Amaranac was the cherry on top of this wonderful day.

— The author is an independent food & travel writer, a chef, and a catalyst

IN THE END, IT'S THE LAUGHTER SHARED OVER SPICES, WAVES RIDDEN, AND PEACE FOUND AMIDST VEILS OF PALM TREES THAT MAKES THE ANANTARA EXPERIENCE TRULY UNFORGETTABLE





YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week may bring some financial disappointments for you. If you've set high expectations, you might find that things don't unfold as anticipated. In your work environment, confusion prevails, leaving you unable to make decisive moves. Tasks remain unfinished, and your organizational efforts feel scattered. Procrastination may take over, especially regarding work or travel plans. However, by midweek, you'll find a renewed sense of stability, and you will begin to approach your tasks with a clearer mindset. Connections from distant places could offer some benefits. Your colleagues and subordinates will expect more involvement from you, and you will rise to the occasion. But the week concludes on a challenging note, with family issues or health concerns demanding your attention, which might affect your professional commitments and result in some losses.

Lucky number 17 | Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Thursday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Work is the primary focus of your energy this week. You could feel overloaded with work and unable to find time for even small breaks. The feeling of working towards something seems permanently out of reach, and slow advancement only exacerbates the feeling. Midweek, your stability might be shaken by unexpected factors like the arrival or departure of someone important. It is essential not to make hasty choices, particularly when one is muddled or burned out. Travel of some sort is probable, providing a refreshing shift. When uncertainty grips you, a few minutes of quiet contemplation can invoke poise. Even though facing tough decisions with fairness is your forte, acting too quickly might make your efforts null—it's wisest to avoid needless expenditure.

Lucky number 29 | Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week emphasizes the need for organization, focus, and discipline. However, confusion may cloud your thoughts, and there could be a rift between partners. In some situations, answers are available, yet fear may prevent you from accepting the truth. You might hesitate to confront reality, worried that acknowledging it could worsen things. Midweek may bring legal challenges or situations beyond your control, potentially leading to disappointment. Be mindful of your health and avoid unnecessary confrontations. It's best to hold back from arguments and take some time to rest. Reflect on your actions in solitude, heal, and approach your challenges with renewed strength. Patience is key—this is just a temporary setback, and things will improve with time.

Lucky number 21 | Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Sunday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week, a wave of positive energy surrounds you, bringing blessings from all directions. If you have children, expect their academic efforts to bear fruit, and any long-awaited projects will finally come to fruition. There's also a strong possibility of a new home entering your life, whether through a lucky break or a new opportunity. Your family and peers will be celebrating together further fortifying relationships and filling you with joy. You showcase personal magnetism, a trait which draws people toward you, making you an automatic leader within your community. With progression in the week, practices like meditation, prayer, or chanting will enable you to feel a greater connection to the divine, which in turn will increase the flow of creativity and also enhance further growth on the spiritual level.

Lucky number 30 | Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Monday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Analyse the upcoming days as them bringing growth, personally satisfaction and financial gains all in one. Your work ethic and application of knowledge is noteworthy. Everything about your work endeavors right now starting from discipline, attitude towards time, and fairness ensures a solid financial foundation which offers safety and comfort. Inheritances or windfalls, expected or unexpected, could come your way. Increased recognition will accompany your confidence through promotions and salary boosts, delivering them at this time. Taking the time to contemplate past accomplishments is recommended. In closing, new projects, tasks, or roles which are around the corner will enable the effective usage of resources. Welcome those insights and put them into action for your professional life. This along with youthful energy from your kids and younger individuals surrounding you will elevate your overall wellbeing.

Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Tuesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Your hard work will soon bear fruit. You are likely to focus on work-related issues during the first part of the week, paying attention to personal development as well. Your ability to progress and succeed will be determined by your attention to detail, how persistent you are, and how focused you are while handling what looks like overly complex challenges. Moreover, through this process, unwavering devotion will be rewarded, allowing you to appreciate the knowledge gained along the way, giving you a renewed sense of pride. This time frame also supports spiritual development and reconnection with higher guidance. Towards the week's end, you may undergo deep healing on a personal level and with others. This can mean finding acceptance within oneself in love, or for some, being proposed to—which marks a major milestone.

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour White
Lucky day Wednesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week encourages you to embrace all aspects of life: emotionally, spiritually, and materially. Initially, your financial goals will also be achieved, and there will be an increase in profits as the week progresses. Your bold approach, coupled with your caring nature, will allow you to foster warm relationships in the workplace. There's also a chance of travel for work or pleasure, which might include international or water-based travel. Midweek, you will focus on personal and professional life balance, handling household matters with a gentle touch. Toward the end of the week, you will gain the fruits of your toils which will manifest as good health, vitality, and creativity. The weekend leaves you a peaceful, pleasant time with to spend with family so you can recharge.

Lucky number 23 | Lucky colour Blue
Lucky day Saturday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week, you will begin with a mini period of self-exploration to find answers that help you mitigate problems and help you achieve your desired outcomes. You have a few more hurdles to overcome, but you are standing right at the precipice of success. Romance is bound to make an appearance midweek, so expect a surge of it which will help further bond with your partner or spouse. You will likely, by week's end, find yourself in favorable scenarios concerning your most crucial property decisions like buying a new home or an automobile. In this week, you will be one of many who are placed in a fortunate position where favorable opportunities are abundant. With the full support of your family, you are healthy, feeling vibrant, and energized.

Lucky number 26 | Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Friday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Utilize this week as a timeline to achieve your goals and let your mental framework enhance your self-organization, gut feelings, and mental sharpness. Prepare yourself to receive an increase of love and joy as you are showered with riches and blessings. You can make remarkable strides in your goals and shift business outcomes magically. Claims and loved ones will become a main focus this week because all in your strife will finally come together. Fresh opportunities in your vocation or enterprise can come up too. Expect to feel vibrant and self-assured. Be at peace knowing that the universe is there to champion all your endeavors. Expect this week to provide richness not just in terms of finances, but your emotional, and personal development too.

Lucky number 27 | Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Thursday



CANCER June 21-July 22

Different shifts will give way to an undeniable feeling of amazement within your life. Suddenly, you find yourself in a situation where you feel composed, proud, and ready to accept the world. You will receive success in areas where there was once no hope of ever triumphing. You will gain respect for your achievements which will make you famous, winning both admiration and envy. True supporters will celebrate your progress. All areas that resonate best will align in your interests observing much progress. A challenge is now behind you, receiving the recognition of others towards your goals accomplished. You will be delighted because of the past, and by the end of the week, you will still revisit the positive moments and spend them with loved ones and younger people.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week, focus primarily on work and embracing the opportunities it brings. There's a strong potential to earn through your efforts, as the risk now presents itself as an opportunity. With a surge of creativity, you're equipped to push past any limitations. A challenge that has seemed insurmountable now becomes an achievable task, and your confidence will lead you to success. Midweek, expect guidance from a wise female figure in your life, such as a mother or mentor. Heed her advice, as it will bring valuable benefits. Strengthen your mind by engaging in intellectual activities like reading or puzzles, and prepare for a breakthrough that will deepen your spiritual understanding.

Lucky number 19 | Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Wednesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Success stems from collaboration and cooperation, fostering improved relations and understanding in your professional environment. This will allow you to appreciate your self-esteem and recognize your value, rejuvenating both your career and lifestyle with energy and creativity. Promising opportunities awaiting you look optimistic, including positive results from a recent endeavor. If you are working, perhaps a new employment opportunity will arise. Integration will be essential from a cooperation standpoint, and negotiations should go favorably. Spirituality and further divine creation are very relevant during this timeframe as well. For those waiting for joyful news, a happy family announcement for a new addition may be on the way. You, as a spearhead, are prepared to take on fresh challenges boldly and wholeheartedly without hesitation.

Lucky number 16 | Lucky colour Lemon
Lucky day Monday

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THOUGHTFUL INSIGHTS



Dr. Tanu Jain

The beauty of life lies in meaningful, long-lasting relationships. True happiness does not come from material success or fleeting pleasures, but from deep, fulfilling connections with those around us

Steps to Reconnect: Healing Relationships with Love

Have you ever experienced a friend suddenly stopping communication with you? Have you seen a loved one become distant, with no conversations for weeks or even months? Were these relationships always like this from the beginning? No. Every connection starts with warmth, affection, and mutual understanding. However, over time, misunderstandings, unresolved emotions, and changing circumstances can create distance, making communication difficult and eventually leading to broken ties.

Have we ever paused to reflect on why this happens? Is it simply because change is a natural part of life? What really transforms a relationship from closeness to estrangement? More often than not, we blame the other person for their changed behavior. But in reality, the root cause lies within the restless nature of our own minds. The human mind is inherently unsettled, untamed, and constantly moving from one thought to another. This restlessness influences how we perceive relationships, leading us to react impulsively, hold grudges, and drift away from people who once meant a lot to us.

Yet, deep within our hearts, we do not want our relationships to turn stale or bitter. We long for them to remain fresh, full of warmth and understanding. We wish to preserve the love and care that once brought joy into our lives. The good news is that it is possible to bring back the same delight and freshness we once had in our



relationships. But this requires us to train our minds, overcome inner resistance, and take conscious steps toward reconciliation and emotional maturity.

So, how can we nurture our relationships and restore lost connections? Here, are some essential steps to cultivate spiritual maturity in relationships:

Train Your Mind to Stay Present The mind is always wandering, overanalyzing the past or worrying about the future. Teach your mind to stay in the present moment. If you consciously ask it to stay, it will listen. Allow yourself to go with the flow rather than

resisting change.
Be Mindful of Your Thoughts Observe how your mind functions. Meditation is a powerful tool to bring awareness to your thoughts and emotions. Instead of being consumed by mental restlessness, direct your focus to your surroundings, nature, or even the simple joys of life.
Let Go and Forgive Holding onto resentment only burdens your heart. Remember, life is fleeting — why waste it on grudges? Forgiveness liberates not only the other person but also yourself. It allows you to move forward with peace and clarity.

Overcome Prejudices and Assumptions Many relationships suffer not because of real harm done by others, but due to our own assumptions and prejudices. Our mind often magnifies problems, making them seem bigger than they actually are. Let go of unnecessary judgments and look at situations with an open heart.

Express Your Emotions in a Healthy Way Suppressing emotions leads to inner turmoil. Share your thoughts and feelings with someone you trust. If that is not possible, write them down or confide in nature. Releasing pent-up emotions helps in clearing mental clutter.

Take the Initiative to Reconnect If a relationship has turned cold, don't wait for the other person to take the first step. Muster the courage to reach out. A simple message, a phone call, or a heartfelt conversation can rekindle lost connections.

Free Yourself from Expectations One of the biggest barriers in relationships is the weight of expectations. We expect others to behave in a certain way and feel disappointed when they don't. Release yourself from the need for constant validation. Instead, focus on giving without expecting in return.

Respect People for Who They Are Every individual is unique. Instead of trying to mold others into what we want them to be, appreciate them for who they truly are. Accepting people as they are strengthens relationships and fosters deeper understanding.

Adopt a Positive Mindset Train your mind to see the good in people. Constantly finding faults leads to dissatisfaction and negativity. Make a conscious effort to switch to a no-complaint attitude, focusing on what is right rather than what is wrong.

Appreciate Strengths Instead of Focusing on Weaknesses Nobody is perfect. Instead of dwelling on a person's shortcomings, recognize their strengths. Celebrate their positive qualities, and you will find that relationships naturally become more fulfilling.

The beauty of life lies in meaningful, long-lasting relationships. True happiness does not come from material success or fleeting pleasures, but from deep, fulfilling connections with those around us.

Spiritual maturity in relationships requires self-awareness, patience, and a willingness to nurture bonds despite challenges. By training our minds and letting go of ego-driven conflicts, we can create a life filled with love, understanding, and harmony. In the end, relationships thrive not on perfection but on the effort we put into keeping them alive. Choose peace, choose connection, and above all, choose love. As Lao Tzu wisely said: "Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage."

— The author's views are personal. The author is a civil servant at the Ministry of Defence and a spiritual speaker