Mahila Samridhi Yojana gets green signal in Delhi

RAJESH KUMAR New Delhi

ekha Gupta-led BJP government in Delhi on Saturday approved the 'Mahila Samridhi Yojana' a welfare scheme aimed at providing monthly financial assistance of ₹2,500 each to poor women, with a Budget allocation of ₹5,100 Crore. Opposition Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) slammed the delay in fulfilling the promise made in the run up to the Assembly elections last month.

Announced on International Women's Day, the decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by the Chief Minister Rekha Gupta. The scheme will be overseen by a committee of three ministers led by Gupta. It is estimated that 20-25 Lakh women will benefit from the scheme.

The formal announcement was made by BJP National President JP Nadda at an event organised by the BJP Mahila

Morcha at Jawaharlal Nehru stadium to mark the Women's Day after the Delhi Cabinet meeting at Delhi Secretariat.

The Delhi government, in a statement following the announcement, said a committee of three ministers Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma, Kapil Mishra and Ashish Sood has been formed for implementation of the scheme. The committee will also decide the criteria and other things of the scheme.

The scheme will leverage advanced technology to ensure transparency, efficiency, and seamless disbursement of financial benefits. Aadhaar-based e-KYC will be used. The application process is linked to the Aadhaar numbers of the applicants. Eligible applications are required to provide details such as name, location, address and bank account linked with the Aadhaar card, along with information about family

'This initiative is a step towards fulfilling our promise to the women of Delhi. By providing direct financial assistance, we are ensuring economic security, greater independence and empowerment for women across the city. This scheme is not just a financial benefit but a commitment to building a stronger, more self-reliant community of women in Delhi," it added.

The eligible beneficiaries should be the residents of Delhi and should be between the ages of 18-60, with a family income less than ₹3 Lakh per annum and are non-tax payers.

The scheme cannot be availed by gov ernment employees or any individual already getting financial help from other schemes run by the government like widow pension, old age pension or any similar assistance.

India agreed to cut tariffs 'way down': Donald Trump



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting with US President Donald Trump at the White

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New York/

S President Donald Trump said that India has agreed to cut its tariffs "way down" as he reiterated his claim that the country charges America massive tariffs that make it difficult to sell products there.

"Our country, from an economic standpoint and financial standpoint and a trade standpoint, has been absolutely ripped off by almost every country in the world," Trump said in remarks from the Oval Office on Friday.

"Canada, Mexico and then you just go right down the line. India charges us massive tariffs, massive, you can't even sell anything into India. It's almost, it's almost restrictive. It is restrictive. We do very little business inside," he said.

'They've agreed, by the way, they want to cut their tariffs way down now because somebody's finally exposing them for what they've done. And the same thing with China, same thing with a lot of other countries, and the EU has been a terrible abuser of this country," Trump added. Trump's comments came following Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal's visit to the US for trade talks with his counterpart Howard Lutnick. This was the third time this week that

Trump has criticised the high tariffs charged by India.

On Thursday, Trump said India is a very high-tariff nation and reiterated that reciprocal tariffs on countries that impose levies on American goods will kick in on April 2. In his address to the joint session of Congress on Tuesday, the first of his second term in the White House, Trump criticised the high tariffs charged by India and other countries and termed them as

Addressing lawmakers from the US Capitol, Trump announced that reciprocal tariffs will kick in next month.

In the past, Trump has called India a "tariff king" and a "big abuser".

Last month, during a joint press conference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the White House, Trump said that India has "been very strong

Death penalty for forced conversion in Madhya Pradesh

GIRISH SHARMA ■ Bhopal

n a move that has intensified political debates and ideological clashes, ▲ Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has vowed to introduce the death penalty for those found guilty of forced religious conversions. The announcement, made on International Women's Day, underscores the BJP's escalating campaign against what it terms 'love jihad', a controversial narrative alleging a conspiracy to convert Hindu women under the pretense of marriage.

"Our government is committed to protecting our daughters from forced conversions. Such individuals have no right to live in society. Through the Religious Freedom Act, we are working towards introducing the death penalty for those guilty of such crimes," Yadav declared, making it clear that his administration intends to take stringent action against religious conversions deemed coerced.

The Congress, has strongly criticised the move, with party MLA Arif Masood accusing the BJP of exploiting religious sentiments and selectively targeting minority communities. "Is the government trying to alter the very essence of the Indian Constitution? If forced conversion is a concern, the law should apply equally to all religions. However, BJP's pattern of targeting a particular community is evident. There are multiple cases of missing girls from various religious backgrounds in Bhopal alone, yet the focus remains singularly on Muslims," Masood argued.

Legal experts and civil rights activists have also raised concerns over the proportionality of the proposed punishment. While the existing Madhya Pradesh Religious Freedom Act, enacted in 2021, already imposes strict penalties including up to 10 years imprisonment and an ₹50,000 fine the proposed amendment could set a precedent for capital punishment in cases of religious conversion, a move that has little legal precedent in democratic societies.

'Our merger with Odisha a big mistake'

BJP MLA Jaynarayan courts controversy

PNS SAMBALPUR

Senior BJP leader and MLA Jaynarayan Mishra on Saturday stirred a controversy with his remarks regarding the formation of Odisha.

Speaking at an event organised for the disbursement of second instalment of BJP government's flagship programme Subhadra Yojana in Sambalpur, Mishra stated that the merger of Koshala during the formation of Odisha was a mistake.



According to Mishra 'Utkal' primarily refers to Cuttack, Puri and Baleswar while the State of Odisha was created by the merger of Utkal, Koshala and Kalinga.

He alleged that regions like Koshala and Kalinga have been neglected and exploited while only Utkal receives recognition.

Mishra also expressed dissatisfaction over the lack of representation for Koshala and Kalinga in Odisha's cultural and political discourses.

"The people of Sambalpur

must know that Utkal refers to Cuttack, Puri and Baleswar. Odisha was formed after the merger of Utkal, Koshala and Kalinga. We are being exploited. We participated in the movement for our merger with Odisha, but this was our biggest mistake," Mishra said.

While his statement has triggered a political debate, the State Government has yet to issue any official response to his remarks.

CM calls BJD regime's 'women empowerment' claims 'hollow' ■ Disburses second Subhadra money

■ Beneficiaries cross 1-crore mark

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi launched a sharp attack on the previous Biju Janata Dal (BJD) government on Saturday, accusing it of failing to deliver on its promises regarding women empowerment.

Speaking at an event in Brahmapur, where he oversaw the disbursement of the second instalment of the Subhadra Yojana money, Majhi alleged that the former administration had only indulged in rhetoric while neglecting real progress in uplifting women.

"The Naveen Patnaik government frequently spoke about women empowerment, but their promises remained unfulfilled. Their actions never translated into meaningful change, and the women of Odisha responded by voting

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ BRAHMAPUR for a change in the 2024 elections," the CM remarked.

"We have a clear vision to enhance the status of women. Within just 24 minutes of taking charge on June 12, 2024, we announced the Subhadra Yojana, providing financial aid of Rs 50,000 in ten equal instalments over five years. Within three months, we implemented the scheme, and today, over one crore women, including adolescent girls, have received Rs 10,000 each,"

"The Opposition is in shock seeing how our government achieved in just 24 minutes what they couldn't in 24 years," he said.

Majhi also lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for launching the Subhadra Yojana on September 17 last year and highlighted its growing impact. "I have exciting news-five lakh beneficiaries of



regard," he said. In a major announcement, the Chief Minister unveiled plans for the implementation of the 'Mukhyamantri Kanyadan Yojana,' introduced in the 2024-25 State Budget. Under this initiative, the government would organise mass weddings, covering all associated costs, including wedding

processions and community

feasts, he said.

"Each event will see 50 couples getting married with full State support. From bands to baarats, everything will be arranged to ensure that underprivileged families can celebrate their children's weddings with dignity," Majhi announced, drawing loud cheers from the audience.

Issuing a firm warning against crimes against women, the Chief Minister vowed strict legal measures. "I appeal to everyone in Odisha

to respect women. Those involved in crimes against women will face stringent punishment, including imprisonment," he asserted.

The event, which was also marked by the presence of Deputy Chief Ministers Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo and Pravati Parida, saw a massive turnout, with thousands of women beneficiaries attending and applauding the government's initiatives aimed at empowering them financially and socially.

Mineral transport scam

EOW raids Raja Chakra's house again



PNS BHUBANESWAR

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Crime Branch on Saturday once again conducted a raid at the residence of BJD leader Raja Chakra in connection with the large-scale financial irregularities Gandhamardhan Loading Agency at Suakati in Keonjhar district.

According to sources, a special team, led by an Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP), carried out the raid at Chakra's house in Jagannathpur in Keonjhar.

The search operation continued for several hours. Be-

edly investigating various locations in the Joda mining The EOW is said to have

sides, another team is report-

gathered significant information and laid its hands on many incriminating documents during the raids. Investigators are focusing

on three companies linked to and Chakra the Gandhamardan Loading Cooperative Society scam. Evidence suggests manipulated transport records, fraudulent documents and illicit money flow through shell companies

over several years. The authorities have detected a ?25 lakh-Harley-

Davidson motorcycle, luxury SUVs, 18-wheeler trucks and 20 mineral transport vehicles. The farmhouse contained imported furnishings, five-star style cottages, artificial ponds and stone sculptures. Over 200 bank accounts and suspected benami properties are under scrutiny. As of March 6, the EOW

continued forensic audits of financial trails while sealing the disputed properties. The STF's involvement indicates possible organised crime linkages. No official charges have been filed yet, but case details suggest impending money laundering and corruption

In Karnataka Odisha tourist dies after thrown into canal

2 women also raped by miscre-

PNS BHUBANESWAR

In a horrific incident, unidentified miscreants raped two women after throwing three men, including a native of Odisha, into a canal under the Gangavathi Rural police station close to the UNESCO heritage site Hampi in Karnataka on Thursday night.

The two women victims were an Israeli tourist and a homestay owner. Out of the three men thrown into the canal, two managed to swim back to the shore but the tourist from Odisha drowned and died.

The body of the tourist from Odisha was found in the Tungabhadra Left Canal near Sanapura village near Gangavathi town on Saturday.

The deceased was identified as 40-year-old Beebas of Kandhamal district.

The incident had taken place on Thursday night when the homestay owner had taken the women tourists from Israel, America, a male tourist from Odisha and another person to the banks of Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal near Sanapura village near Gangavathi town for stargaz-

Police claimed that they have identified the accused persons and two special teams have launched a hunt for them.

Farmers' problems



PNS BHUBANESWAR

A democratically-elected government always functions taking the people's views into consideration. But it is unfortunate that the Odisha Government is taking the life-death situation of farmers very lightly, said the Navnirman Krushak Sangathan (NKS) on Saturday.

The millers and the officials are cutting five to 10 kg from the farmers' produce during paddy procurement. But the government is silent over the matter. The concerned minister and the bureaucrats are saying that there is no Katni-Chhatni, but this irregularity is being carried out for months. The NKS has appraised the officials about the corruption from the district to State level, but a deaf ear has been turned into it, said Sangathan convenor Seshadev Nanda. On March 11, NKS leader

Akshay Kumar, who is holding a dharna for the last 22 days, would lead a Padyatra and meet the government to press for their demands.

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Once a core support base, the women voters shifted allegiance and withdrew their support, for which the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) lost the 2024 election battle, indirectly admitted Opposition Chief Whip and senior BJD leader Pramila Mallik.

She was addressing an event to commemorate the International Women's Day here in the presence of party president Naveen Patnaik on Sat-

Mallik said Naveen Patnaik's role in women's empowerment has been signifi-



cant, which they have not forgotten. However, she questioned why women seemed to forget this during the elec-

She further raised concerns, asking why the women voters got influenced by offers of Rs 5,000 and Rs 10,000 and whether they would overcome their disappointment.

"How could we forget everything for a mere 5,000 or 10,000 rupees?" Mallick asked, hinting at financial factors that may have swayed the women voters' allegiance.

Mallick urged party members to move beyond such issues and focus on future unity and development. Her candid observations brought to light the party's challenges in retaining their female vote bank.

'BJD lost polls as women withdrew support' NHRC team also visits KISS for probe

Report to be submitted by March 10

PNS BHUBANESWAR

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) team probing the death of Nepalese student Prakriti Lamsal at KIIT University in Bhubaneswar visited the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) here on Saturday

as part of a broader investigation into various allegations.

The NHRC has directed the probe team to submit the investigation report by March

On Thursday, the NHRC had requested the institution's students as well as the general public to come forward with any information that they might have to help in the investigation.

Subsequently, an RTI activ-

ist had brought allegations including the poor welfare of students at the KISS, land encroachment by the institution.

Taking possible note of it, the NHRC team visited the KISS campus on the day and took stock of the situation. But the team members did not reveal the exact nature and angles probed.

"We recorded statements of multiple people at KIIT University as per the orders of the NHRC. We have interrogated as many people as we deemed fit for the case. Today marked the third and final day of our probe and details of it will be released by the council," said NHRC Law Registrar Joginder

For three consecutive days, the NHRC's independent team conducted an on-site investigation into the incident, recording statements from KIIT authorities and students.

AIIMS mourns Prof Bag's demise | 8 mines in S'garh, Keonjhar put to auction



The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhubaneswar is deeply saddened by the untimely demise of Prof Dr Nerbadyswari Deep Bag, former Head of the Radiodiagnosis Department and Senior Professor at the

Her passing away on March 5 has left a void that will be hard to fill, but her legacy will live on for decades to come, said the speakers at a condolence meeting here.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar Ex-

BHUBANESWAR

▲ he Indian Institute of

Bhubaneswar organised a

special Hindi workshop dur-

ing the visit of a three-mem-

ber inspection team from the

Union Ministry of Education

on Friday. The inspection

team was led by Jagdish Ram

Pauri, Director (Official Lan-

guage), accompanied by

Rekha Rani, Assistant Direc-

tor, and Neetu Kumari, Junior

The workshop on "Official

Language Policy and its

Implementation" was held by

the Official Language Unit of

the institute. Keynote speaker

Jagdish Ram Pauri delivered a

detailed lecture on the impor-

Translation Officer.

(IIT)

Technology

said, Nerbadyswari Deep Bag was more than a colleague; she was an inspiration for all of us. A pioneer in her field, she played a pivotal role in shaping AIIMS Bhubaneswar and its future. Her passion for excellence and her spirit of empowerment will continue to inspire generations."

Dr Biswas, along with Dean Dr PR Mohapatra, Dr Dillip Kumar Parida, and the entire AIIMS Bhubaneswar family, paid floral tributes to Dr Bag, recalling her immense contributions to the institution and the field of medical sciences.

ecutive Director, Ashutosh

BJP govt

PNS BHUBANESWAR

regard by new

First step in this

The State government has invited tenders for auction of 8 major mineral blocks in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015.

This is the first time after the BJP came to power in Odisha that the State government has issued Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) for auction of eight major mineral blocks

The Directorate of Mines and Geology has issued the NIT on March 7 for electronic auction of four iron ore, three iron ore and manganese (associate minerals that co-occur) and one manganese

blocks for the purposes of granting mining lease.

Out of the eight mineral blocks put for auction, four are virgin blocks while the licences of another four blocks have expired.

The mines are Koira iron ore block, Jhumka-Pathiriposhi West iron ore block, Orahuri manganese and iron ore block and Bhanjikusum manganese block, all located in Sundargarh district and Roida-I iron ore and manganese block, Putulipan iron ore block, Jalahuri iron ore and manganese block and Roida-D manganese block, all located in Keonjhar district.

Among the eight blocks-Jhumka-Pathiriposhi West iron ore block, Orahuri man-

ganese and iron ore block, Bhanjikusum manganese block and Roida-D manganese block are virgin mines, officials said.

Last date for purchase of the tender document after payment of a tender fee of Rs 5 lakh on the website of e-auction platform provider is April 16 and the last date for submission of the bid is April

Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves on the above website. On successful registration, eligible bidders will obtain login ID and password necessary for participation in the e-auction process. The model tender document and mineral block summary are available free of cost on the website MSTC Ltd.

'A Various World' by Bal launched



PNS BHUBANESWAR

Book "A Various World: People, Places, Perspectives' by Ashok Kumar Bal was launched on Friday at the Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF) in association with Penguin Random House India.

The book was unveiled by Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo alongside Padma Vibhushan Sudershan Sahoo, KLF founder Rashmi Ranjan Parida and literary figures SN Mishra and Siba Swain.

"A Various World' takes readers on a profound journey through diverse human experiences, bringing forth compelling narratives of people, places and perspectives. The book is priced at Rs.400.

Ashok Bal shared insights into his creative process and the inspiration behind the book, stating, "This book is a tribute to the multitude of perspectives that shape our world.

It is an attempt to bridge stories, cultures and emotions that define human existence."

SN Mishra and Siba Swain spoke about the book's relevance in contemporary litera-

Singh Deo emphasised the importance of storytelling in shaping cultural narratives.

With its compelling narratives and rich storytelling, 'A Various World' is set to leave a lasting impact on readers across generations.

Cong to hold stir, seek justice for women



concept that can play an Observes equally effective role in both administration and teaching. Women's Day The workshop was chaired PNS BHUBANESWAR

by Bamadev Acharya, Regis-Members of Pradesh Contrar of IIT Bhubaneswar. Members of the Town Offigress Committee (PCC) and cial Language Implementation Mahila Congress observed the (TOLIC), Committee International Women's Day Bhubaneswar also particiat Master Canteen Square here pated in this workshop. The on Saturday by sporting black programme was conducted clothes to convey the miserby Dr Chetan, Professor-inable condition of women in Charge (Official Language). Sambhunath Sahu, Hindi Of-

Charan Das said that during the tenure of the double-engine government, the women are neglected, oppressed and cheated. The BJP had come to power in the State promising that it would empower women and provide security to them. But it is now betraying them. In the Narendra-Mohan governments, the atrocities against women

have crossed all limits. The

PCC president Bhakta

State Government is a silent spectator and not taking any

Let it be school, college and university, the women are not safe anymore. The Congress would again hold agitation for providing justice to women. The women in the rural and urban areas should join in the protest, appealed Das. Former PCC presidents Niranjan Patnaik and Jayadev Jena were, among others, present.

XIM volunteers clean up Puri beach



⊥n an inspiring display of environmental responsibility, 55 enthusiastic volunteers from the NSS Cell of XIM University, Bhubaneswar, accompanied by Programme Officer Dr Siddharth Misra and NSS Coordinator Prof Jyoti Ranjan, embarked on a remarkable cleanliness drive organised at the Puri sea beach in collaboration with the Sattvic Soul Foundation.

Before commencing their mission, volunteers received a briefing from the head of Soul Pluggers Satyabrata Samal and his team along with wildlife expert Aakash Kumar Rath from Junglore foundation, emphasising the ecological importance of keeping beaches clean. Equipped with gloves and divided into six groups, each team collected plastic wastes, including alcohol bottles, cigarette packets, plastic wrappers and bags.

Adding an artistic touch to the initiative, a group of volunteers worked on a sand art display highlighting the endangered Irrawaddy dolphins and turtles, raising awareness about marine conservation.

As the team moved towards the bustling main beach area, they conducted an advocacy campaign, rallying with posters and gathering signatures on a petition standee to promote the cause of clean beaches.

150 blood units collected at XIM



BHUBANESWAR

he NSS Cell of XIM University organised a blood donation drive in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross Society, Odisha State Branch and Regional Bhubaneswar.

The drive commenced with enthusiastic participation of staffs, faculties, and both undergraduate and postgraduate students of the university. A total of 150 individuals donated blood.

vote of thanks.

The event was graced by the Registrar of XIM University, Fr. S Antony Raj, SJ and NSS Coordinator of XIM University Dr Jyoti Ranjan Sahoo. NSS Cell Programme Officer Dr Debi Prasad Satapathy coordinated the programme. Dr Pradeep Kumar Moharna and Dr Gitanjali Mishra, doctors, Indian Red Cross Society, Odisha State Branch were present during the inaugural ceremony.

ficer (In-Charge) proposed a

BHUBANESWAR across the State.

■Alleges Srikant Jena RAJEEV RATHAN

■Tribal voices suppressed

Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Srikant Kumar Jena on Saturday accused the Odisha Government of colluding with corporate entities to suppress tribal voices and forcibly pushing mining projects

In a letter addressed to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Jena alleged that government officials have abandoned their neutrality and are, instead, acting as agents for mining corporations, manipulating Gram Sabha meetings to secure mining and environmental clearances in blatant violation of tribal rights and legal provisions.

Jena pointed to a recent incident at Nandpur in Koraput district, where officials allegedly fabricated Gram Sabha proceedings to pave the way for Adani's bauxite mining



project in Balada despite widespread protests from villagers. He claimed that magistrates and local officials falsely reported smooth proceedings, ignoring the fierce opposition

on the ground. Similar allegations were made regarding Sijimali in Rayagada and Kalahandi, where Gram Sabha meetings were reportedly manipulated to favour Vedanta's mining project, effectively silencing local resistance. In Hemgiri of Sundargarh district and minerals-rich districts like Angul, Jena alleged that a deep-rooted nexus between mining operators and the administration is systematically suppressing

'Govt colluding with corporates to push mining projects'

Jena criticised the State Government's failure to implement the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA) of 1996, which grants Gram Sabhas the authority to govern and protect tribal resources. Despite assurances from the Chief Minister regarding PESA's immediate implementation, he noted that the law remains non-operational in Odisha, allowing corporations and officials to manipulate the process unchecked.

Demanding urgent action, Jena called for immediate suspension of all Gram Sabha meetings related to mining

and environmental approvals until PESA is fully enforced, cancellation of manipulated Gram Sabha proceedings and an independent investigation into officials involved in these fraudulent activities.

Urging the Chief Minister to intervene decisively, Jena insisted that Odisha must safeguard tribal rights and uphold democratic governance, warning that continued suppression of indigenous communities would further erode public trust in the administration. Jena's letter has intensified the debate on corporate influence over governance and the State's commitment to protecting tribal interests.

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'Raja was powerful due to Bobby, Pandian'

Mamata Mohanta

PNS BHUBANESWAR

B_{JP} Rajya Sabha member Mamata Mohanta has alleged that Raja Chakra of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), who is now under EOW scanner, became powerful in minerals-rich Keonihar district due to BJD leaders Pranab Prakash (Bobby) Das and VK Pandian.

"At present, a full-fledged inquiry is underway and anybody found indulging in corruption will face consequences in the Mohan Majhi government," said Mohanta.

Reacting to Mohanta's accusations, BJD MLA Gautam Buddha Das stated that an in-

The Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP) organised a 'Central and

State Budget-Oriented Intel-

lectual Conference' here on

Wednesday, emphasising the

government's goal of utilising

90 per cent of the budget by

March-end. Speakers high-

lighted that efficient budget

execution would enhance in-

frastructure and develop-

ment, especially in rural areas.

Harichandan attended the

event, chaired by Ganjam dis-

trict BJP president Saroj

Sabat. Key dignitaries in-

cluded Brahmapur MLA K

Anil Kumar, Chikiti MLA

Samantara, Chhatrapur MLA

Krushna Chandra Naik,

Law Minister Prithviraj

BJP holds intellectual conf on State Budget

In Brahmapur

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR



vestigation is already underway. He assured that whoever is found guilty, irrespective of their position, would face consequences as per law.

This political exchange came amid rising tensions between the opposition BJD and ruling BJP, with corruption allegations taking centre stage

former Deputy Speaker Rama

Chandra Panda and senior

Discussions focused on the

second Budget prepared by

the new government, portray-

accountability in financial

management, aiming for ho-

listic state growth through ef-

ficient budget utilisation.

leader Kanhu Charan Pati.

in Odisha's political landscape.

Authorities from the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) and Special Task Force (STF) recently conducted raids at multiple locations linked Raja

Multiple locations associated with Raja Chakra throughout prominent mining belts in the State, including Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Keonjhar, and Gopalpur (Brahmapur) were raided by EOW teams. The probe also led to an extensive 11-hour interrogation of the leader, formally known

Soumyashankar Chakra.

In Ganjam ■ 3 stabbed during wedding procession



Old enmity suspected by cops

PNS BRAHMAPUR

L ension ran high during a wedding procession at Chandipitha village under the Khalikote police station of Ganjam district as two groups clashed leaving three persons injured,

Later, all the injured were shifted to the Khalikote Community Health Centre.

Sources reported that the incident occurred at about 10 pm in Chandipitha village

was heading towards the mandap when some youths from the adjacent Bikrampur village joined,

was attacked by a rival group over some old enmity. In the stabbed.

the hospital. A probe is on to ascertain why the clash occurred and who are involved

tack was pre-planned and the assailants had come prepared with sharp weapon.

woman

Satyabhama reportedly lost

her life fighting for the river's

Mahanadi and its tributaries

before summer has made veg-

etable farming and irrigation

nearly impossible, raising

concerns about worsening

water scarcity. Prominent

farmer Vinod Biswal likened

the situation to the Hoyanho

river disaster, while social ac-

tivist Gautam Behera urged

the governments of Odisha

and Chhattisgarh to take ur-

gent steps to restore the river's

cry, it remains to be seen how

authorities will address this

environmental crisis affecting

With growing public out-

The drying up of the

protection.

But suddenly this group

clash three youth were Getting information, the Khalikote police reached the spot and shifted the injured to

The police suspected the at-

'Declare Utkal Ashram as historical monument'

he demand to declare the Utkal Ashram here as a historical monument has gained momentum with the Odia Bhasa Andolan submitting a memorandum to Law Minister Prithvirai Harichandan here on Thursday.

The ashram holds immense historical significance, particularly in the Odia language movement, symbolising pride and resilience for the Odia community.

The memorandum highlights that the Utkal Ashram is not just a landmark in Ganjam district but a beacon of Odia Swabhiman across the State. It played a key role in inspiring generations to protect the Odia language, literature and culture. Additionally, it was a crucial site in the movement for Odisha's separate Statehood.

Founded by Odia leader Badakhemundi Rajasaheb Krupamaya Dev, the Utkal Ashram served as the first assembly house for the Odiaspeaking community. The dedication of its on February 20, 1920, marked a defining moment in Odisha's history. The ashram has hosted several socio-political movements shaping Odisha's iden-

Odia Bhasa Andolan president Dr Sagar Ranjan Tripathy said that granting the Utkal Ashram historical monument status would honour those who fought for Odisha's linguistic and cultural identity. He stressed that preserving this heritage site would educate future generations about its historical importance.

BeMC focuses on development, but key officials absent

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The absence of Brahmapur MLA K Anil Kumar, Commissioner Bhabani Prasad Mishra and Deputy Mayor E Vibek Reddy was noted during a crucial BeMC meeting on Thursday evening. Held amidst the ongoing State Assembly session, the meeting focused on budget deliberations and city development.

Mayor Sanghamitra Dalai urged the Corporators to submit proposals for their respective wards. A sum of Rs 93.37 crore has been allocated for special projects, including city beautification, improved lighting, sanitation, pond restoration and infrastructure upgrades.

The special session was called after previous budget

discussions were disrupted. With the Assembly session resuming on Friday, the BeMC aimed to finalise pending financial matters. A total budget of Rs 5,498.15 crore has been drafted for 2025-26.

Corporators raised concerns over drainage issues with the Sapua and Bahana drains, urging immediate intervention from the drainage department. They also discussed waste disposal zones, rainwater management and completion of delayed DPR projects.

The budget prioritises sanitation, e-library initiatives, city beautification and installprojects.

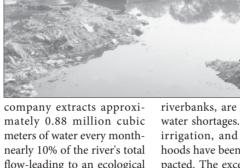
Kelo river severely polluted; lakhs hit in J'suguda seen intense struggles, and a

Thanks to industrial waste released from C'garh side RAJKUMAR SHARMA

■ JHARSUGUDA

ing it as more than just a fihe Kelo river, once a lifenancial statement but a develline for border villages, has opment roadmap. Speakers stressed the need for strategic turned into a polluted water body due to industrial and budget planning to address key issues like infrastructure, urban waste from Raigarh in rural growth and employ-Chhattisgarh. The river, which flows 102 km before merging The conference also highwith the Mahanadi at Maha lighted fiscal discipline, ensur-Deopali on the Odisha border, ing effective fund allocation has been severely affected by industrial discharge, particufor maximum impact. The BJP leaders reaffirmed their comlarly from Jindal's steel plant mitment to transparency and in Raigarh.

> Since the establishment of Jindal's coal-fired steel project in 1989, the river's flow has diminished significantly. The



meters of water every monthflow-leading to an ecological imbalance. Ideally, at least half of the river's natural flow should remain uninterrupted, but excessive water usage has caused it to dry up well before summer.

As a result, 14 villages in Chhattisgarh and nine in Odisha, located along the

riverbanks, are facing acute water shortages. Agriculture, irrigation, and local livelihoods have been severely impacted. The excessive extraction of groundwater through deep tube wells by industries has further worsened the cri-

Several movements have emerged to protect the river, with the Kelo Banchao Sangharsha Samiti leading the protests. The movement has

thousands of people in the border region.

ing statues and parks. Discussions emphasised cost-effective measures while ensuring timely execution of key

Picturesque K'put growing as filming hotspot

Giving boost to its tourism industry

PNS KORAPUT

Known for its rolling hills, misty mornings, dense forests, and pristine streams, Koraput has long been a paradise for

Now, this picturesque district is rapidly gaining recognition as a sought-after filming location, attracting major production houses and filmmakers from across the coun-

Last year, a big-budget multilingual film starring south Indian superstar Anushka Shetty was extensively shot across Koraput. The film crew made use of stunning locations in Jeypore, Lamataput, Deomali and Kolab to capture



the district's breathtaking landscapes.

Further, cementing its cinematic appeal, acclaimed filmmaker SS Rajamouli's production house has secured permission to shoot a major feature film in Koraput from Mar 1 to 28. The film, featuring south Indian superstar Mahesh Babu and Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra, will be filmed in and around Talamali and Deomali. "The beauty of Koraput, its climate, and attractive locations drew us to this wonderful place. We are hopeful of shooting a significant portion of our film here," said production man-Naga Pranit of Rajamoulis production house

Koraput has also become a favoured destination for regional filmmakers, serving as the backdrop for around five Odia filmprojects in the past vears. "Koraput's changing beauty with every season makes it a dream location for filmmakers," said Odia film actress Anuradha Panigrahi, who has filmed Pari movie in

Recognising Koraput's potential as a filmmaking hotspot, local authorities have actively promoted its scenic locales to production houses. "We ensure the required administrative support for production team to ensure a hassle-free filming exprience," said Collector Koranut Keert Vasan V.

Beyond its cinematic appeal, Koraput's growing prominence as a filming destination has positively impacted the local econmy. According to sources, the influx of film crews has generated employment opportunities for residents, with many locals working as extras, guides, and logistical suppot staff. The district's rise as a filming hotspot has also bolstered

Crores go down the drain as RI office bldgs lie unused

Creepers, shrubs have grown on their premises SIBDAS KUNDU ■ BALESWAR

Revenue Inspector (RI) office buildings around the town area are lying defunct. The buildings for these offices were constructed during the previous government with an objective to provide hasslefree services to people in the vicinity.

Unfortunately, however, reports say, barring a few, most of the buildings are not operational. It is alleged that due to staff shortage these offices are not operational.



As these buildings are not in operation, shrubs and creepers have grown in the campuses and further the campuses have become a junction of antisocials. Reports said with an expen-

diture of about Rs 45 lakh, an RI office was built in the ward No. 1 under the municipality but even after 3 years of completion it is lying vacant. Similarly, for Akhtiyarpur and Jadavpur under ward 31 a building was made in Akhtiyarpur but the same is locked for one year even after completion. So is the condition of the RI office buildings constructed in ward No. 2, ward No. 9 and BRIT Kalyan Mandap. These offices were never opened and the residents are approaching the old RI office as well as tehsil office

Zimbabwe-sponsored skill training at Centurion



PNS BHUBANESWAR

In a historic milestone for international skill development and capacity building, the Centurion University proudly flagged off the Zimbabwe Government-sponsored training programme for Zimbabwean Government Officers here.

The initiative, facilitated under the long-term partnership between the iniversity and the Republic of Zimbabwe, aligns with the Prime Minister's vision of South-South collaboration and knowledge exchange.

A high-level delegation from Zimbabwe, comprising

esteemed officials from the Presidential and National Scholarships Department in the Office of the President and Cabinet, graced the occasion. With 71 mid-career Zimba-

bwean Government Officers already undergoing training at Centurion University's Jatni Campus, the programme is set to train 2,000 officers over the next two years. The initiative focuses on developing competencies in key sectors such as power, electric vehicles and automotive, apparel and textiles, and agriculture, equipping participants with industry-relevant skills that will drive sustainable economic growth in Zimbabwe.

Probe into fraud demanded PNS BHUBANESWAR

widow named Kadambini Subudhi had duly purchased 18 decimals of land in Tarola village of Cuttack district under Tangi Choudwar tehsil. The land was mutated in her favour, converted to homestead by the Tangi Choudwar tehsil office. The mutation plot number is 481/4218.

Two years after purchasing the land, in 2021, a land broker named Kanhu Charan Behera, allegedly hands in glove with local officials, sold 5 decimals (2.5 decimals each) to two individuals named Subash Khilar and Pratap Sahu from plot 481. To create a dispute over Kadambini's land, the sub-registrar, in the sale deeds of Subash Khilar and Pratap Sahu, falsely showed the posession of land sold by Kanhu as being within Kadambini's plot 481/4218

inlieu of his own plot 481. The then subregister aided and abetted him in this surreptitious deal.

Following their land purchases, Pratap and Subash initiated the mutation process by submitting applications to the tehsil office. Kanhu Behera's plot 481

comprised 6 decimals of land. By selling 5 decimals, he should theoretically retain approximately 1 decimal. However, the tehsil office manipulated the mutation process such that even though Kanhu sold 5 decimals out of 6, he still retained 6 decimals of land in plot no. 481. This is confirmed by letter number 3589 from the Tangi-Choudwar tehsil. However, if the land was not transferred to Pratap and Subash from Kanhu's plot 481 during the mutation process, the question arises: how was their mutation completed, and from whose plot was the land transferred to them? This calls for



Tangi-Choudwar tehsil abets illegal sale of widow's land

investigation.

When Kadambini learned of the fraud, she registered her objection with the Cuttack Collector, who referred the matter to the Tehsildar for inquiry. Despite these efforts, sources suggest the inquiry aimed to deliberately cover up an OLR conversion based on the fraudulent registration

As the entire system worked towards seizing Kadambini's plot, it became evident that the aim was to exploit the legitimate land rights of a defenceless innocent widow. In this process OLR Act and general rules have been blatantly violated. As per Section 8(A) of the OLR Act, the Tehsil of-

fice is legally obligated to notify owners of adjacent plots prior to converting a plot for a different purpose.

In the order sheets of Subash Khilar's OLR case 2481/2023 and Pratap's OLR case 3484/2024, the Tehsildar mentioned issuing notices to the concerned parties before converting these plots. It was stated that no objections were filed, leading to the approval of the conversions. However, information obtained through RTI reveals that no notices were issued before converting these two plots.

Despite Kadambini's objections, the OLR conversion was carried out, and fake documents were manufactured to fraud. legitimise the Kadambini claims she finalised the OLR conversion for her plot 481/4218 through the tehsil in 2022 with OLR case No. 6252/2022. A comparison of the OLR maps associated with case numbers 6252/2022, 2481/2023, and 3484/2024 reveals that the same piece of land underwent OLR conversion three times.

Kadambini raised objection to the fraud and pointed out discrepancies in Subash and Pratap's sale deeds, which incorrectly placed their purchased land within her plot 481/4218 instead of Kanhu Behera's plot 481.

Additionally, the boundary descriptions in Subash and Pratap's OLR reports are inconsistent with their sale deeds. Evidence suggests even the maps were tampered with. Despite these discrepancies, both OLR cases were approved by the concerned Tehsildar.

The matter has also been reported by Kadambini to Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari, but no action has been taken so far. Civil society is of the opinion that a high-level inquiry into this broad daylight fraud be instituted to expose the truth and ensure that the guilty are brought to justice.

Enhance female workforce for economic growth: Murmu

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

resident Droupadi Murmu on Saturday underscored the need for increased participation of women in the workforce as the country moves towards becoming the world's third-largest economy.

Speaking on the occasion of

International Women's Day at a national consultation organised by the Women and Child Development Ministry, Murmu emphasised that providing equal opportunities in education and employment is crucial for achieving this goal.

"As India progresses towards becoming the world's third-largest economy, the participation of women in the workforce must increase at the same pace," she said.

She stressed that a "self-reliant, independent and empowered woman" is key to building a 'Viksit Bharat'.

"The vision of a Viksit Bharat is our collective aspiration and we must work together to achieve it," she said, urging everyone to support women at every step towards self-reliance and success. Highlighting the contributions of Indian women, Murmu said, "Our daughters are making immense contributions in realising the dream of a Viksit Bharat.

It is imperative that society provides them with an even better environment to progress." She called for creating a society where every girl and boy feels safe and is free to make independent life choices without fear. "We must build an ideal society where no child, be it a son or daughter, hesitates to travel alone or live independently at any time," she said, adding that a culture of respect for women will foster a progressive social environment and enhance national confidence.

On the challenges women face in balancing work and family, Murmu questioned the perception that women may be less committed to their jobs due to childcare responsibilities.

"Is not society responsible for the wellbeing of the children who will shape our



Droupadi Murmu speaks during inaugural session of 'Nari Shakti Se Viksit Bharat' in New Delhi

future?" she asked. She emphasised that a mother's effort in raising responsible citizens should be recognised and respected rather than seen as a limitation.

"A mother, through her dedication, can shape her children into ideal citizens," she said. President Murmu marked 50 vears of International Women's Day celebrations, acknowledging the remarkable

progress of women in this period. 'There is no doubt that women have made unprecedented strides over the last five decades. My own journey from a modest background in Odisha to Rashtrapati Bhavan is a testament to the opportunities for equality and social justice available to women in India," she said. She expressed confidence that examples of successful women would continue to multiply. She commended the government's continued efforts toward women's empowerment, highlighting initiatives like the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, which provides reservation for women in Parliament and state assemblies.

"This is a historic step towards women's political empowerment," she said.

The President also spoke about economic empowerment schemes such as self-help groups and the 'Lakhpati Didi' programme that aim to enhance financial independence among women.

"The Namo Drone Didi scheme is another example of how women are being equipped with technical skills and financial stability," she said.

Murmu called for a collective shift in mindset, emphasising that women and men are equal partners in progress. "In our tradition, both Shiva and

Shakti hold equal importance one cannot exist without the other. If one wheel of a chariot does not function properly, how will the chariot move

forward?" she said. She urged society to recognise and support women's potential.

"Whenever we have honoured the talent of women, they have never disappointed us," the President said.

Nadda emphasises on comprehensive healthcare

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

ealth Minister JP Nadda on Saturday said the Centre is Saturday salu the General Software focused on providing healthcare that is preventive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative. Inaugurating the third "International Symposium on Health Technology Assessment (ISHTA 2025)" at Bharat Mandapam here, Nadda emphasised the vision and commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in strengthening India's healthcare system and ensuring accessible and affordable healthcare for all.

He highlighted the critical role of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) in advancing evidence-based policymaking to build an efficient, equitable and high-quality health system, aligned with the goals of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Nadda highlighted that the "govern-ment is focused on providing healthcare, which is preventive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative". He informed that the Centre has laid an emphasis on primary, secondary as well as tertiary healthcare. He noted that 22 state-of-the-art AIIMS have been established till now

and there has been a substantial increase in the number MBBS and MD seats, along with a rise in the training of paramedic and nursing staff.

Nadda said the Union government will add 75,000 seats in the medical sector, with 30,000 seats already created last year. The health minister noted that HTA India resource centres are spread over 19 states and these serve as an important mechanism for priority setting and have helped immensely in achieving various health goals, such as for tuberculosis (TB) detection, optimising healthcare costs and incorporating evidence-based data in national health programmes.

On the occasion, Nadda released several key resources, including the Open Real-Time PCR Kit for Diagnosis of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Quantiplus MTB FAST Detection Kit developed by Huwel Lifesciences), the HTA Technologies Compendium, the HTA Costing Database as well as the Patent Mitra initiative.

"With the launch of these flagship initiatives, our country is taking a significant leap towards supporting our innovators. This platform is designed to provide crucial support to scientists, researchers and institutions, ensuring that their ground-breaking works are protected through patents and made available to the public through seamless technology transfer," he said. Nadda also highlighted that the "Medical Education Patent Mitra" initiative of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) aligns with the Med Tech Mitra initiative, a testament of the ICMR's commitment to advancing medical innovation.

He concluded his address by saying that HTA helps in reinforcing the Centre's commitment to providing inclusive, affordable, equitable and accessible healthcare for all. "HTA will play an important role in the realisation of Viksit Bharat by 2047, as envisaged by our prime minister," he said. The event was organised by the Department of Health Research (DHR), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) India Country Office and the Centre for Global Development (CGD).

This year, the theme of the symposium was "Bridging Evidence to Policy: Health Technology Assessment for Affordable Healthcare".

Congress urges Centre to address Trump's tariff claims in Parliament

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

ongress on Saturday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take **✓**Parliament into confidence on United States (US) President Donald Trump's claims that India has agreed to cut its tariffs.

The Opposition party's general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh asked whether the interests of Indian farmers and manufacturers are being compromised. "Commerce Minister Pivush Goyal is in Washington DC to talk trade with the Americans. Meanwhile, President Trump says this," he said in a

US President Donald Trump said India has agreed to cut its tariffs "way down" as he reiterated his claim that the country charges America massive tariffs that make it difficult to sell products there. "What has the Modi Government agreed to? Are the interests of Indian farmers and of Indian manufacturing being compromised? The PM must take Parliament into confidence when it resumes on March 10," Ramesh said. Both houses of Parliament will meet on Monday as the second part of the budget session resumes. In the video shared by Ramesh, Trump is heard saying, "Our country, from an econom-

ic standpoint and a financial standpoint and a trade standpoint, has been absolutely ripped off by almost every country in the world Canada, Mexico, and then you just go right down the line."

"India charges us massive tariffs. You can't even sell anything in India. It is restrictive. We do very little business inside. They've agreed. By the way, they want to cut their tariffs way down now because somebody is finally exposing them for what they've done," Trump goes on to say in the clip.

Trump has been threatening several countries with reciprocal trade tariffs ever since he assumed charge as US President.

Army Chief highlights 'high degree of collusivity' with China and Pakistan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

n a veiled reference to China and Pakistan, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday said there is a "high degree of collusivity," which must be accepted. "What it means, as far as I am concerned, the two-front threat is a reality," he said regarding proximity between China and Pakistan.

During the session, he fielded a broad range of questions about the army's preparedness for the future, lessons from ongoing conflicts, the situation in Bangladesh, and at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the Line of Control.

"Now, the second thing that you have brought out is collaboration or the relationship between our western neighbour and Bangladesh.

"As far as I am concerned, since I have said that the epicentre of terrorism is in a particular country, they have a relationship with any of my neighbouring country, I should be looking worried, because as far as I am concerned, the terrorism route can be used from that country also, which is my major concern as of today," General Dwivedi said, when asked about reports suggesting growing proximity between Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The General said it was "too early" to take a call on the role of Bangladesh, where a change in government may bring about a change in the relationship between it and

"Because as far as I am concerned, I am very clear, the present military to military relationship is very strong. And, we exchanging note on regular basis, to avoid any kind of a misgiving," he added. He was also asked how the Indian Army

looked at the Pakistan-China equation. "What we have to understand is that. We have to be very clear that there is a

high degree of collusivity, which we must In terms of the virtual field, it's nearly 100 per cent, in terms of physical, I would

say most of the equipment there is of Chinese origin," the Army Chief said. "So, this is the situation as of today, as

far as collusivity is concerned.

What it means, as far as I am concerned, the two-front threat is a reality for me," he said. In January 2021, the then Army Chief General MM Naravane too said that when it comes to Pakistan and China, "the threat of collusivity cannot be wished away.

General Dwivedi also spoke about the situation along the LAC in eastern Ladakh since the Special Representative-level (SR-level) meeting in December 2024, following an agreement that was finalised between the two countries last year.

I think assassin's mace has lived through

It may not be more relevant today. And, if you see, as far as the terrain of the Himalayas is concerned, the terrain plays a very favourable role as far as India is con-

"The second issue is, you may have

superiority in anything, but what is important is at the point of application, are you able to amass that kind of resource application, strength and the impact which is required," he said. "I think that way, Indian Army is adequately poised to take care of that," he said

The Army Chief, however, called for "coexistence, cooperation and coordination" to opine it was not good for the countries to engage in a war. "Is the war in interest of both the coun-

tries? The answer is no. So, what we are looking at is, how can we harmonise. The situation as of today, and manage it till the diplomatic situation come out," he said. The last Working Mechanism for

Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) and SRs meeting took place in December. After that, the foreign secretary again

went to China to witness a "lot of positive signalling" from both sides.

The next Working Mechanism for

Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) meeting should be taking place soon, he said.

On a query on the Depsang and Demchok areas, the General said the second and third rounds of patrolling have taken place, and both sides are cooperating with each other.
"We inform each other, there is no issue

at all. Grazing, which was required to be carried out, has been opened up. Whenever there is some kind of a difference, they immediately contact each other resolve the issue and get over it," he

On the current situation along the Line of Control (LOC), the Army Chief said that since 2018, terrorist-related incidents were down by 83 per cent, as has recruit-

The footfall of Amarnath yatris has increased to five Lakh, he said.

He said that 60 per cent of terrorists neutralised by Indian armed forces last year were of Pakistan origin.

Of the remaining in the valley and south of Pir Panjal, about 80 per cent are Pakistani terrorists, he added.

"So, there is no let up as far as western adversary is concerned," the Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi said.

All the same, the general batted for "friendly relations" with the neighbour and peace in that country, as well as its transformation from the "epicentre" of terrorism to a stable nation.

He added, "I keep saying, we are always prepared. We will be assertive, but we'll be only aggressive in case we are forced to." On the role of women in the army, the General said, "Yesterday, only I have given the sanction for the Territorial Army to induct women.

And we want this number to increase. Changes that you will see will be gradual."

On the Agnipath scheme, the Army Chief Upendra Dwivedi said, "Let me assure the countrymen that this scheme is proving to be a great success. Creme de la creme coming to us."

PM's social media features extraordinary women

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

arking International Women's Day, Prime Millister Isuacine Modi's social media handles were taken over by a group of extraordinary women who have excelled in diverse fields, from chess to science to rural entrepreneurship and financial empowerment

to accessibility and inclusive development. Each of them shared their journeys, highlighting the power of India's 'Nari Shakti' and the strides being made towards a more inclusive and empowered nation.

Chess grandmaster R Vaishali, farmerentrepreneur Anita Devi, nuclear scientist Elina Mishra, space scientist Shilpi Soni, accessibility advocate Anjlee Agarwal, and rural entrepreneur Ajaita Shah took over Prime Minister Modis social media accounts on International

Vaishali, who has been playing chess since the age of six and is the sibling of grandmaster Praggnanandhaa, encouraged young girls to follow their dreams. "Playing chess has been a learning, thrilling, and rewarding journey for me. But there is more. I want to give a message to all the women out there, especially the young girls Follow your dreams, no matter the hurdles. Your passion will power your success," she wrote from Modi's account on X. She also emphasised family support, acknowledging her parents and brother for their encouragement.

Bihar's Anita Devi, a farmer-entrepreneur, shared her journey of self-reliance and rural empowerment. She narrated how her venture, Madhopur Farmers Producer Company Limited, has created livelihood opportunities for hundreds of women in her village.

"The women working with me are not just earning a living but also gaining confidence and self-respect. Economic independence strengthens women's social status," she posted. With the recent announcement of a Makhana Board, she is now exploring opportunities in makhana (fox nut) production to expand rural entrepreneurship.

Scientists Elina Mishra and Shilpi Soni highlighted the importance of women's participation in science, urging more women to pursue careers in nuclear and space technology.

"India is the most vibrant place for science, and thus, we call upon more women to pursue it," they wrote. Mishra, a nuclear scientist, has worked on projects involving proton accelerator technology and medical applications for remote healthcare.

Soni, a space scientist with ISRO for 24 years, has contributed to over 35 communication and navigation missions, including India's indigenous space technology advancements. Anjlee Agarwal, an advocate for universal accessibility, called for a stronger push towards a more inclusive India under the 'Sugamya Bharat' initiative. "Let's ensure that every woman, every individual, can navigate their life with dignity and independence," she posted.

With over three decades of experience, Agarwal has led accessibility audits and policy advocacy efforts to improve infra-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi structure for persons with disabilities. Ajaita Shah, founder and CEO of Frontier Markets, delivered a message on financial empowerment and rural entrepreneurship

for women.

"A financially empowered woman is a confident decision-maker, independent thinker, architect of her own future, and a maker of modern India!" she said. She emphasised technology's role in women's financial inclusion and skilling, highlighting the 'Meri Saheli' app as a tool supporting rural women entrepreneurs.

After their messages, PM Modi reflected on their inspiring journeys. "Since morning, you've all seen inspiring posts by extraordinary women sharing their own journeys and inspiring other women. These women belong to different parts of India and have excelled in different areas, but there's one underlying theme the prowess of India's Nari Shakti.

Their determination and success remind us of the boundless potential women hold.

"Today and every day, we celebrate their contributions in shaping a Viksit Bharat," he said in a post on X. PM Modi, in his Nomen's Day message, paid tribute to 'Nari Shakti' and reaffirmed his government's commitment to women empowerment through various schemes and programmes. "We bow to our Nari Shakti on #WomensDay! Our government has always worked to empower women, reflecting in our schemes and pro-

grammes. Today, as promised, my social media properties will be taken over by women who are making a mark in diverse fields!" he posted on X before handing over his social media account for the day. This is not the first time the prime minister has taken such an initiative.

In 2020, on Women's Day, he handed his social media accounts to seven women achievers, giving them a global platform to inspire others.

Planned disruption not appropriate for democratic values: Lok Sabha Speaker

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Jaipur

ok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said on Saturday that consensus and dissent ✓are the strengths of democracy, but planned disruption in Assemblies and Parliament are not appropriate for democratic values. Birla reiterated that Legislative institutions must become centers of discussion and dialogue to ensure accountability to the public. He was addressing public representatives and other dignitaries at the launch of the 'Constitution Club of Rajasthan'.

The event was also attended by Chief Minister of Rajasthan Bhajanlal Sharma, Speaker of Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Vasudev Devnani, Union Minister of State for Agriculture, Bhagirath Choudhary, MPs, MLAs and other dignitaries. Lok Sabha Speaker remarked that the Constitution Club is not just a building, but a platform to guide democratic discourse, thoughtfulness, and policy-making. He added democracy is not confined to elections but advances through continuous dialogue and consensus.

Birla hoped that the club will elevate policy-making and good governance to new heights. He mentioned that the concept of the Constitution Club in Delhi was conceived in 1947 during the drafting of



Rajasthan in Jaipur but a guide for the entire world, Birla said

the Constitution where the need for a platform for informal discussions and policy dialogues was felt. Birla noted that the Constitution club in Rajasthan will also become a key center for democratic dialogue and debate, providing legislators with an opportunity to openly discuss ideas, policies and governance.

Observing that the Constitution of India is not just a compilation of laws,

that over the past 75 years, many transformative changes have occurred under its guidance. Saying that meaningful dialogue and

healthy debates must take place in Parliament and Assemblies, Birla underlined that personal allegations and deliberate disruptions are against the core spirit of democracy.

World's first commercial space satellite launched

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

■he world's first commercial space surveillance satellite, capable of tracking objects as small as five centimetres orbiting the Earth, was commissioned on Saturday as it captured images over South America, the Bengaluru-based start-up Digantara said. Digantara had launched the space surveillance satellite Space Camera for Object Tracking (SCOT) on January 14 aboard SpaceX's Transporter-12 rocket. The satellite started operations on Saturday. "Space just ran out of hiding spots," the start-up said in a post on X.

In a statement, the company said the SCOT satellite achieved first light on Saturday and its inaugural image while passing over South America a breathtaking view of Earth's limb, with the city of Buenos Aires glowing against the planet's curvature.

SCOT's first image is more than a technical milestone, it's a symbol of our team's resilience and unwavering commitment to safeguarding Earth's orbits for generations to come," said Digantara CEO Anirudh Sharma.

Need to filter out those Congress leaders who work for BJP, says Rahul Gandhi

ongress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said there was a need to filter out leaders and workers from his party who were working for the BJP and warned of strict action, even removals.

Addressing party workers on the second day of his two-day Gujarat visit, the party's first job was to separate two groups of Congress workers and leaders ones who carry the party ideology in their hearts and stand with the public and the others who were cut off from the public, "half of whom are with the BJP

Rahul's visit to the state is focused on the 2027 Assembly polls, for which he has hinted at a major overhaul in the party's state unit and assured a strong plan to defeat the BJP. "There are two types of people in the Gujarat Congress leadership and among workers. Those who are honest with people, fight for them, respect them and have the ideology of the Congress in their heart. And the others who are cut off from the people sit far away, do not respect them, and half of whom are with the BJP," he said.

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said the party's first job should be to filter these two groups, even if it means taking strict action of removing people. Till the two groups are separated, the people of Gujarat will not believe in the party, he said.

"For our district, block presidents and senior leaders, the party should find a place in their hearts. They should carry Congress in their blood. Put the issue of



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addresses party workers and pre-civil elections candidates in

winning and losing the elections aside. As soon as we do that, the people of Gujarat would like to join our organisation, and we will open the door for them," said Rahul.

He claimed that the people of the state are trapped, and the diamond, textile and ceramic industry is in shambles. "Look at farmers of Gujarat. They are screaming for a new vision. The vision of the last 20-25 years has failed, and Congress can provide this vision easily. But this is not possible unless these two types of people are filtered," he said.

He said Guiarat wants to move forward but is unable to see the way ahead, and the Congress is unable to show it the way. "I am not speaking out of shame or fear, but I want to put this before you - we are unable to show Gujarat the way," Gandhi said. He pointed out that Congress has been out of power in Gujarat for over three decades, and whenever he visits the state, the discussions revolve around elections. "But the question is not about elections. Unless we fulfil our responsibilities, the people of Gujarat will not let us win the elections. And we should not ask

we fulfil our responsibilities. The day we have fulfilled our responsibilities, I can guarantee that all the people of Gujarat will support us," he said.

Rahul said Congress has not been able to fulfil expectations Gujarat had from its leaders for the last 30 years. Gujarat gave the Congress its original leadership, way of thinking, fighting and living in Mahatma Gandhi, he said.

"Without Gandhi, Congress would not have been able to get independence for the country," he said, adding that Sardar Patel, one of the five greatest leaders of the Congress, also hailed from Gujarat. He said there is no shortage of leaders in Congress at the district, block, and senior levels, but "they are chained".
"Our leaders, including me, will have

to go amidst the people of Gujarat, listen to their voices, what they expect from me, what we can do for them - for their education, health, and future. We are here to listen to you," Rahul said.

He said the party could come to power in the state if it manages to increase its vote share by 5 per cent, citing the example of Telangana, where it managed a 22 per cent increase in the vote share. The upcoming All India Congress Committee (AICC) session is scheduled to be held in Ahmedabad on April 8 and 9. It will be held in the state after 64 years.

In the 2022 Gujarat assembly elections, the Congress won only 17 of the 182 seats in the state. However, the party's strength in the House dropped to 12 after the resignation of five MLAs.

Over 100 cadets, including 24 women graduate from OTA



Cadets celebrate during their passing out parade at the Officers Training Academy in Chennai on Saturday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Chennai

ver 100 officer cadets, including women were commissioned into the Indian Army on Saturday, at the end of a passing out parade held at the Officers Training Academy (OTA). A spectacular military parade at the revered Parameswaran Drill Square of OTA marked the passing out ceremony of officers of Short Service Commission and equivalent courses, a Defence press release said.

"A total of 133 Officer Cadets and 24 Officer Cadets (Women) were commissioned into various Arms and Services of the Indian Army, embodying the spirit of duty and sacrifice. Additionally, Five Foreign Officer Cadets and Seven Foreign Officer Cadets (Women) from five Friendly Foreign Countries successfully completed their training, fostering at all costs, it added.

bonds of camaraderie and cooperation across international borders," it said.

The Passing Out Parade was reviewed by Lieutenant General Johnson P Mathew, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, New Delhi. He also presented the sword, OTA gold medal and other awards to various cadets.

"The Reviewing Officer, in his address, lauded the Officer Cadets and OTA staff for their exemplary achievements, exhorting the newly commissioned officers to uphold the cardinal military values of 'Selfless Service to the Nation' and steadfast pursuit of excellence in all endeavours," the release said.

Following the parade, the Pipping Ceremony symbolised a solemn vow as the newly commissioned officers pledged allegiance to the Constitution of India and committed to safeguard the nation

ED seizes business jet at **Hyderabad Airport in Ponzi Scam Case**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Hyderabad

◄he Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized a business jet parked at the Hyderabad airport as part of a money laundering investigation against a Hyderabad-based company and its promoters who allegedly duped numerous investors in a ₹850 Crore Ponzi "scam", official sources said on Saturday.

The money laundering case stems from a Cyberabad police FIR against Falcon Group (Capital Protection Force Pvt Ltd), its CMD Amar Deep Kumar and some others, the sources said.

It is alleged that the Falcon Group "collected" ₹1,700 Crore from investors for high returns through a "fraudulent" invoice discounting investment scheme.

₹850 Crore, out of the total funds, was re-paid leaving a total of 6,979 investors unpaid, according to the sources.

Kumar, the sources said, fled the country using this jet. He or his company could not be contacted immediately for a response on the charges. Officials from the ED's Hyderabad office found that the 8-seater business jet 'N935H Hawker 800A' (owned by a company of Kumar) landed at the Rajiv Gandhi International airport located in the Shamshabad area

A search of the jet, purchased for about \$1.6 Million (about ₹14 Crore) in 2024, was conducted by ED officials on Friday under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and they also recorded the statement of the crew and some "close associates" of Kumar present there, the sources said.

The ED sought a general declaration about the jet's movement from the Customs department after which it was found that Kumar along with another person left the country onboard the said aircraft on January 22.

Cyberabad Police has arrested the vice president and director of the company as part of its investigation, the sources said.

Arunachal tribes' calls for restraint amid tension over freedom of religion law rules

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Itanagar

he Arunachal Indigenous Tribes' Forum (AITF) has appealed to people to restrain themselves, amid prevailing tension over the framing of rules under a state's law relating to the freedom of religion.

AITF, an apex body of organisations of indigenous tribes, claimed that protests, including hunger strikes by members of the Arunachal Christian Forum (ACF) and rallies by the Indigenous Faith and Cultural Society of Arunachal Pradesh (IFCSAP) recently, threaten peace and development in the state. The Arunachal Pradesh Freedom of

Religion Act (APFRA), 1978, has been a contentious issue, particularly among Christian groups. The IFCSAP and the state government argue that the law is crucial to preserving indigenous culture and faith, whereas the ACF contends that it discriminates against Christians.

parties, ACF, IFCSAP, and the public to refrain from making provocative statements that could escalate tensions". It encouraged all stakeholders to engage constructively in the rule-framing process by providing inputs through appropriate discussions.

The indigenous tribes' forum also urged the state government to circulate the draft rules for public feedback to ensure a participatory approach.

The Gauhati High Court had, in September last year, directed the state government to frame rules under Section 8 of the Arunachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act (APFRA), 1978, within six months. As the budget session of the 8th Legislative Assembly commenced in Itanagar, the Christians forum staged a massive protest in Borum on Thursday.

More than 20,000 Christians from across the state gathered to oppose the implementation of APFRA, which has

The AITF has appealed to "political remained dormant for 46 years. Arunachal Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) general secretary and spokesperson Kon Jirjo Jotham reaffirmed the party's commitment to protecting the rights of minorities, including Christians and indigenous people.

The BJP government should initiate a dialogue between the Arunachal Christian Forum and other stakeholders to resolve the issue amicably," Jotham urged. He emphasised that any attempt to undermine secular and democratic values would be strongly opposed.

Additionally, AITF announced plans to form a consultative committee to study the draft rules and gather inputs from community-based organisations through a joint consultative forum (JCF).

'The committee will seek inputs from community-based organisations and deliberate on the matter through the JCF for wider consultation," AITF general sec-

Missing girls from Kerala's Tanur found in Maharashtra, man held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Malappuram (Kerala)

youth was taken into custody on Saturday in connection with the Case of two girl students gone missing from Tanur a couple of days ago and were later found in Maharashtra, police said. Rahim Aslam, a native of Edavanna and a suspect in this case was detained upon his arrival here from Mumbai on Saturday morning.

Police officials stated that they would interrogate him and if he was found to have been involved in the case he would be formally arrested.

The missing girls were located near Lonavala in Maharashtra on Thursday night and are currently in police safety. They are expected to be brought back by noon, police said.

Following legal formalities, including recording their statements and presenting them before the Child Welfare

Committee, the girls will be handed over to their parents, police added. A police team from Kerala was dispatched to Maharashtra on Friday to

bring them back. The girls were handed over to the Kerala police team, which includes women officers, and they are on their way

to Tanur after completing all formalities, police said. The exact reason behind their travel to Maharashtra remains unknown, police added. TV channels aired footage of the girls visiting a hair salon after reaching Panvel in Maharashtra. Both students studying Class 12 in a

government higher secondary school, had left home on Wednesday to attend an examination but never appeared for it, police had stated earlier. Their school teachers informed their families, prompting them to file a missing complaint with Tanur police. During the investigation, police traced the girls' mobile phone locations to Maharashtra.

Bihar to constitute 'task force' to eradicate child marriages

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Patna

he Bihar government has decided to constitute a state-level 'task force' headed by the chief secretary to monitor action taken by authorities to prevent and eradicate child marriages in the state. According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5, Bihar has the second-highest rate of child marriage in the country, following West Bengal.

The report said 40.8 per cent of women in the state get married before turning 18. However, only 19 cases were registered under the provisions of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA) between 2020 and 2024.

"We are working on a focused intervention to curb child marriage in communities and geographical areas with a higher prevalence of the practice. The Bihar government has decided to constitute a state-level 'task force' to monitor the actions taken by authorities to prevent and eradicate child marriages in the state," chief secretary Amrit Lal Meena said on Saturday. Police and other agencies have

been instructed to effectively handle cases related to the PCMA and take strict action against those involved in such illegal practices, he added.

The task force will regularly monitor the actions taken in this regard," he said.

The state government is implementing a multipronged strategy to combat child marriage, which includes stricter enforcement of the law, empowering girls through education, and raising awareness through JEEViKA (the state-level women's socioeconomic empowerment programme), he said. Additionally, the government has introduced a 35 per cent reservation for women in government jobs and 50 per cent reservation at all levels in Panchayati Rai Institutions (PRI) and Urban Local Bodies (ULB), the chief secretary added.

"Economic empowerment and girls' education are key pillars of our strategy to reduce child marriage. Establishment of high schools in all gram panchayats and the budget announcement for setting up degree colleges in each block will significantly contribute to reducing child marriages. We are also in the process of creating a separate cadre of officers to pre-

vent and handle child marriage cases. These officers, appointed at sub-division and district levels, will be called Child Marriage Protection Officers," Meena added.

Echoing a similar view, Harjot Kaur Bamhrah, additional chief secretary of the social welfare department and chairman-cum-managing director of the Women and Child Development Corporation (WCDC), said, "Under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the state government is taking several initiatives to prevent child marriage and empower women. These initiatives include the creation of a state-level task force and a separate cadre of officers dedicated to addressing child marriage cases."

She added that detailed guidelines are being framed to ensure effective coordination between the Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) and Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPO) to tackle child marriages in the state.

"The integration of legal enforcement with community-based awareness programmes is essential to preventing child marriages in Bihar," Bamhrah emphasised. While speaking, Jehanabad district magistrate Alankrita Pandey said, "Necessary measures are being taken to prevent child marriages in the district. We are first identifying pockets prone to child marriages in Jehanabad and engaging local communities to prevent them. As part of our community engagement initiatives, we frequently organise awareness camps in rural areas to inform people about the consequences of child marriage and its grave impact on the health of both child brides and their children.'

Similarly, Rohtas district magistrate Udita Singh said, "As part of the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign, the district administration organises interactive meetings with girl students (of class 9) in government schools every Saturday at the block and panchayat levels. During these meetings, we educate them about the consequences of child marriage. Additionally, we have introduced an incentive programme for informers who report cases of underage marriage to the authorities. If the information provided is verified to be true, the informer will receive a cash reward of up to ₹5,000."

Peace march stopped in **Manipur by** security forces

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Imphal

peace march conducted by a Meitei body was stopped in Manipur's Imphal West district on Saturday as the programme coincided with the government's initiative to resume inter-district bus services to ensure free movement of people, police said.

Security forces stopped the procession, taken out by the Federation of Civil Society Organisations at Sekmai, some 18 km from Imphal, and asked the organisers to join the government's free movement initiative.

Members of the Meitei body insisted that free movement means travel by anybody and demanded that they be allowed to go in the vehicles arranged by them. "If they (volunteers) wanted to participate in the free movement initiative, they may go through the vehicles arranged by the government," a

police officer said. Federation of Civil Society Organisations President T Manihar said, "The purpose of the march is to bring peace in the state. If the government is not in a position to allow the free movement of the public, what is the

need for making the announcement?" The inter-district bus services resumed on Saturday after Union Home Minister Amit Shah had recently directed security forces to ensure free movement of people on all routes in Manipur from March 8 and also called for strict action against those creating obstructions.

Chairing a meeting to review the security situation of the northeastern state, he said the Centre remains fully committed to restoring lasting peace in Manipur and is providing all necessary assistance in this regard.

This was the first such meeting held after the imposition of the President's rule in the northeastern state, which has been witnessing ethnic violence since

Över 250 people have lost their lives in the violence.

Maha Kumbh ends: 869 families still in search for lost loved ones

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ Prayagraj

he Maha Kumbh has ended. The grand spectacle of faith, where millions gathered to cleanse their sins in the sacred waters, has faded into memories. But for 869 families, the echoes of separation still linger in the air.

Their loved ones came to Prayagraj with them-only to vanish into the endless waves of the crowd.

The lost and found center in the Kumbh Mela area, once bustling with desperate voices and hopeful eyes, now stands eerily quiet. Posters of missing people flutter in the soft breeze, their faces staring blankly at the passersby. Some of these papers have rewards scrawled across them, as if money could bridge the unbearable distance between families.

One such face is that of Gyarsa Mali. His son, Dhanvesh, still clings to hope. The last he heard of his father was when he set out from home to take a holy dip

Somewhere between the chaotic railway station and the sacred waters, he dis-



Devotees gather during Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh

appeared. "We haven't left Prayagraj since he went missing," Dhanvesh says over the phone. "He must be here. He has to be here. We even made a video, asking him to come back." His voice breaks, carrying the weight of days spent searching, waiting, and whispering prayers

into the wind. A few steps away on the same wall there is another poster, it reads-Preeti Kishore. A 45-year-old woman from Bihar, she came with her husband, Dr Neeraj Pankaj, on February 20. A moment of separation in the crowd, a slipping hand in the surge of devotees, and she was gone. "I searched everywhere," Dr Pankaj says, his voice tired, hollow. "Somebody told me many lost people end up in Chitrakoot. So, I went there too. But there's still no sign of her." His words carry a desperation that only those who have lost someone in a sea of millions can understand.

Ajay Pandey, a 60-year-old man, was last seen at Naini railway station on February 16. He had come to Prayagraj with his family for the sacred bath.

But in the journey back, the crowds

swallowed him whole. Now, his family pleads with folded hands, asking strangers, authorities-anyone-to help them find the missing piece of their lives. And then there's Rekha Dwivedi.

Unlike the others, she was found. But no one came to take her back. Now abandoned, she spends her days

in a shelter home in Araili, watching the door, waiting for a son who will never return. Her husband, a well-known figure in Prayagraj, has turned away. Her sons, settled and secure, refuse to let her back into their homes. For them, she is an old chapter they do not wish

The Maha Kumbh saw over 66 Crore pilgrims in 45 days. A lost and found center was set up to reunite separated families, and for many, it worked. More than 35,000 missing people were registered, and most were reunited. But for those 869 families still search-

ing, still hoping-the festival has not yet ended. It lingers in their grief, in their restless nights, in the silent prayers they whisper into an indifferent sky.



Muslim nations reject Trump's call to empty Gaza Strip

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Deir Al-Balah

oreign ministers from Muslim nations on Saturday rejected calls by US President Donald Trump to empty the Gaza Strip of its Palestinian

population and backed a plan for an administrative committee of Palestinians to govern the territory to allow reconstruction to go ahead. The foreign ministers gathered in the Saudi city of Jeddah for a special session of the

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation to address the situation in Gaza, at a time when the 7week-old ceasefire between Israel and Hamas has been thrown into doubt.

In a statement put out Saturday, gathering threw its support behind a plan to rebuild Gaza put forward by Egypt and backed by Arab states, including Saudi Arabia and Jordan, aimed countering Trump's call. The OIC groups 57 nations with largely Muslim popula-

Train No. 06529

ARR. DEP.

Train No. 08760

ARR. DEP.

Train No. 02981

04:55

21:00

16.03.2025 (Friday, Sunday)

Train No. 05092

19:50

03:45

Dighwa Dubauli & Mashrakh Jn. Stations.

ARR. DEP.

Train No. 05303

ARR. DEP.

31.03.2025 (Monday)

Train No. 05325

ARR. DEP.

22:00

06:50

19:00

22:05

07:50

19:15

04:30

07:55

03:40

14:20

10:45

06:40

19:00

01:40

KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS!

06529/06530 Sir M. Visvesvaraya (T.)-Gorakhpur-

Trains as per details given below :-

MORE HOLI FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2025

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during the

upcoming Holi Festival, Railways have decided to

run the following additional Holi Festival Special

Sir M. Visvesvaraya (T.) Holi Special Train (Weekly) Trips

STATIONS

Sir M. Visvesvaraya(T.)

Varanasi

Gorakhpur

Days of run: 06529 Ex. Sir M. Visvesvaraya(T.) on 10.03.2025 8

17.03.2025 (Monday) and 06530 Gorakhpur on 14.03.2025

Stoppages: Tumkur, Arsikere Jn., Kadur Jn., Davangere, Haveri Shree Siddharoodha Swamiji Hubballi Jn., Dharwad, Belagavi

Shatprabha, Miraj Jn., Satara, Pune, Daund Chord Line, Manmad Jn.

Bhusaval Jn., Khandwa Jn., Rani Kamalapati, Bina Jn., Virangana

axmibai Jhansi, Orai, Pokhrayan, Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Gyanpu

Road, Banaras, Aunrihar Jn., Mau Jn., Belthara Road, Bhatni Jn. 8

STATIONS

Durg

Hazrat Nizamuddin

Days of run : 08760 Ex. Durg on 09.03.2025 (Sunday) and

Stoppages: Raipur Jn., Uslapur, Pendra Road, Anuppur Jn., Shahdol

Umaria, Katni Murwara, Damoh, Saugor, Virangana Laxmibai Jhans

STATIONS

Sogaria

Hazrat Nizamuddin

Davs of run: 02981 Ex. Sogaria on 13.03.2025 & 15.03.2025

Stoppages: Sawai Madhopur Jn., Gangapur City, Hindaun City

STATIONS

Kasganj

Sitapur

Chhapra

Days of run: 05092 Ex. Kasganj from 10.03.2025 to 24.03.2025 (Mon.

Γhu) and **05091 Ex. Chhapra** from 11.03.2025 to 25.03.2025 (Tue, Fri)

Composition: 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy, Sleeper & General

Stoppages: Soron Shukar Kshetra, Ujhani, Badaun, Bareilly Jn., Bareilly

City, Izzatnagar, Bhojipura, Pilibhit, Puranpur, Mailani, Gola

Gokarannath, Lakhimpur, Gonda, Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur Kaptanganj, Padrauna, Tamkuhi Road, Thawe, Gopalganj, Ratan Sarai

STATIONS

Gorakhpur

Ayodhya Cantt.

Mahbubnagar

Days of run: 05303 Ex. Gorakhpur from 09.03.2025 to

30.03.2025 (Sunday) and **05304 Ex. Mahbubnagar** from 10.03.2025 to

Stoppages: Khalilabad, Basti, Mankapur, Ayodhya Dham Jn., Ayodhya

Cantt., Sultanpur, Maa Belha Devi Dham Pratapgarh Jn., Prayagraj

Govindpuri, Orai, Virangna Laxmibai Jhansi, Rani Kamalapati, Itarsi Nagpur, Chandrapur, Balharshah, Sirpur Kagaz Nagar, Bellampalli

Ramagundam, Kazipet Jn., Malkajgiri, Kacheguda, Umdanagar,

STATIONS

Gorakhpur

Ayodhya Dham Jn.

Lokmanya Tilak(T.)

(Tuesday, Saturday) and 05326 Ex. Lokmanya Tilak(T.) fron

Composition: 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy, Sleeper & General.

05325/05326 Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak(T.)-

Gorakhpur Holi Special Train (Bi-Weekly)

05303/05304 Gorakhpur-Mahbubnagar-

Gorakhpur Holi Special Train (Weekly)

05092/05091 Kasganj-Chhapra-Kasganj

Holi Special Train (Bi-Weekly)

Thursday, Saturday) and 02982 Hazrat Nizamuddin on 14 03 2025 &

02981/02982 Sogaria - Hazrat Nizamuddin-

Sogaria Holi Special Train (Bi-Weekly)

08760/08761 Durg - Hazrat Nizamuddin-Durg

Holi Special Train (Weekly)

08761 Ex. Hazrat Nizamuddin on 10.03.2025 (Monday)

Composition: 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General

Bayana Jn., Bharatpur Jn., Mathura Jn. & Palwal Stations

Composition: 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General.

Composition: 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General.

Train No. 06530

ARR. DEP.

Train No. 08761

Train No. 02982

06:00

Trips

03:00

16:50

Trips

22:10

Train No. 05304

ARR. DEP.

Train No. 05326

ARR. DEP.

10:20

20:00

17:30

17:45

14:10

Train No. 05091

ARR. DEP.

10:55

02:55

13:10

13:50

DEP.

08:15



For the convenience of rail passengers, Railways

KIND ATTENTION: RAIL PASSENGERS!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF

INTERCITY EXPRESS UPTO GWALIOR

have decided to extend the service of Train No. 14212/14211 New Delhi - Agra Cantt. Intercity Express upto Gwalior on temporary basis. Train No. 14212 New Delhi - Agra Cantt. Intercity Express will terminate at Gwalior and Train No. 14211 Agra Cantt. - New Delhi Intercity Express will originate from Gwalior from 13.03.2025 to 17.03.2025 as per details mentioned below:-

Extension of Train No. 14212/14211 New Delhi - Agra Cantt. - New Delhi **Intercity Express upto Gwalior**

Train No. 14212		I STATIONS 1	Train No. 14211		
ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.	
	17:40	New Delhi	10:00		
21:30	21:35	Agra Cantt.	03:40	05:45	
22:23	22:25	Dholpur Jn.	02:10	02:12	
23:03	23:05	Morena	01:30	01:32	
23:45		Gwalior Jn.		01:00	

Temporary Stoppage at Ajhai Station

Temporary stoppage for one minute of train no. 12279/80 New Delhi-Virangana Lakshmibai Jhansi (Daily), 18237/38 Korba-Amritsar (Daily), 18477/78 Puri-Yog Nagari Rishikesh (Daily) and 14211/12 Agra Cantt. New Delhi Intercity Express (daily), will be provided from 29.03.2025 to 06.04.2025 at Ajhai Station.

For detailed information, please call RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit enquiry website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

RailMadad Helpline No.





Visit RailMadad website:-

www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in

Serving Customers with a Smile

CLIX HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

nereas the Authorized officer of CLIX HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED (Clix), a Hou ompany under the National Housing Bank Act., having its registered office Aggarwal Corporate Tower lot No. 23, 5th Floor, Govind Lal Sikka Marg, Rajendra Place, New Delhi- 110008, under the provisions o he Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 the Securiusation and Reconstruction of Financian Assets and Entrockement of Security Interest Act, 200. (54 OF 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "Act") and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 day from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taker possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on as per under mentioned Date The borrower in particular and the public in general is prepty auditioned not. neer under mentioned Date. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not it feal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of "CLIX" an interest other charges thereon. The attention of the Borrower is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) ecction 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

Name & Address of Borrower/Co-Borrower: 1. Amit Kumar Chaurasia S/O Sant Lal Chaurasia 2. Anita Chaurasia W/O Amit Kumar Chaurasia, Both At - A-356, Budh Nagar, Jj Colony, Inderpur LA.R.I central Delhi-110012, Sr No. 1 Also At - Ugf-3 A-133 Rail Vihar Loni, Ghaziabad-201014, 3 Friendz Ice Cream & Kulfi, 2-42 1st Floor, Loha Nand Naraina, New Delhi-110028

emand Notice Dated: 19.11.2024, Date of Possession: 06.03.2025

etails of Property: A Residential Plot No. A-133 And Khasra No. 348 In Flat No. Ugf-3 Back Side Lig lat Is Constructed: East: Plot No. A-134. West: Road 30 Ft. North: Plot No A-132. South: Road Is 30 Feet Wic

Date: 06.03.2025. Place: Delhi Authorised Officer, CLIX HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED



CHANGE OF NAME

I, Akash Deep S/o Late Shri S. P. Singh R/o Plot No. 1532, First Floor, Sector 5, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, UP, confirm that my name is Akash Deep but in passport it is mentioned as Akash Deep Singh, I declare that both the names are of the same person for all purposes.

PD(1647)A I, Neha Garg W/o Naveen

Garg R/o CU 96 Pitampura Delhi 110034 have changed my name Neha Bansal to Neha Garg for all purposes. PD(1648)C

I, No.15433614H HAV/NA Bhosale Ramesh Angad, R/o-Vill- Sonimoha, PO- Chondi, Teh- Dharur, Dist- Beed, Maharashtra- 431124, have changed my daughter's name from Harshda to Bhosale Harshda Ramesh, vide affidavit dated 08/03/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1649)C I, No.16012223M Hav Praveen Rao, R/o- Vill-Parsauni Makundha, PO-Parsauni Khurd, Dist-Kushinagar, U.P- 274402, have changed my daughter's name from Kumari Saumaya Rao to Reshu Rao, vide

08/03/2025 before Notary affidavit dated 08/03/2025 Public Delhi. before Notary Public Delhi.

I, Bindu Devi, Mother of-No.14856557W NK/MT Sunil Kumar Yadav, R/o- Vill-Jungle Jainul Abpin/Jainpur (Tola Kajipur), PO- Jainpur, Gulariha, Gorakhpur, U.P.- 273306, have changed my name from Bindu Devi to Vindu, vide affidavit dated 08/03/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1651)C

I, hitherto known as Shweta Chaufla D/o Anil Kumar Chaufla W/o Rajesh Kumar, R/o- D2A/41C, Janak Puri, West Delhi, Delhi - 110058, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shweta Kumar, for all PD(1652)C

I, Bhosale Minakshi Ramesh, W/o- No.15433614H Hav/NA Bhosale Ramesh Angad, R/o-Vill- Sonimoha, PO- Chondi,

Teh-Dharur, Dist-Beed, Days of run: 05325 Ex. Gorakhpur from 11.03.2025 to 22.03.2025 Maharashtra- 431124, have changed my name from Composition: 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General. Bhosale Minakshi Ramesh to Bhosale Meenakshi Ramesh, affidavit dated

PD(1653)C

Stoppages: Khalilabad, Mankapur Jn., Prayagraj Jn., Govindpuri, Ora

Virangna Laxmibai Jhansi, Bina, Rani Kamalapati, Khandwa Jn Bhusaval Jn., Nasik Road, Igatpuri, Kalyan Jn. & Thane Stations. For any kind of information and detailed time-table etc.,

passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

04145/04140 Subcaargarij - Berri on: -					00		
Sul	Subedarganj Holi Special Train (Weekly)					Trips	
Train No	o. 04145		Train No.		STATIONS Train No. 0414		. 04146
ARR.	DEP.	♦	SIAIIUNS		ARR.	DEP.	
	21:35		Subedarganj		19:40		
08:55			Delhi Jn.			09:30	
Days of	ays of run : 04145 Ex. Subedargani on every Thursday from						

13.03.2025 to 27.03.2025 and 04146 Ex. Delhi Jn. on every Friday from 14.03.2025 to 28.03.2025 Composition: 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy, Sleepe

Stoppage	s: Fatehbi	ır. Govindburi, Etawah, Tundla	& Aligarh S	tations.
02	275/022	76 Subedarganj - Delhi J	ln	08
Sub	pedargai	nj Holi Special Train (We	ekly)	Trips
Train No	0. 02275		Train No. 02276	
ARR.	DEP.	♦ STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.
	21:35	Subedarganj	19:40	
08:55		Delhi Jn.		09:30

Days of run: 02275 Ex. Subedarganj on every Monday from 10.03.2025 to 31.03.2025 and 02276 Ex. Delhi Jn. on every Tuesday from 11.03.2025 to 01.04.2025

Composition: 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General.

Stoppages: Fatehpur, Govindpuri, Etawah, Tundla & Aligarh Stations.

		716 Charlapalli-Goral i Holi Special Train (\			02 Trips
Train No	. 07715	1 STATIONS	A	Train No	. 07716
ARR.	DEP.	♦ STATIONS		ARR.	DEP.
	14:00	Charlapalli		23:30	
05:00		Gorakhpur			08:00

Days of run: 07715 Ex. Charlapalli on 10.03.2025 (Monday) and 07716 Ex. Gorakhpur on 12.03.2025 (Wednesday)

Composition: 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General.

Stoppages: Kazipet, Manchiyal, Sirpur Kaghaznagar, Balharshah Chandrapur, Nagpur, Rani Kamalapati, Bina, Virangana Laxmibai Jhansi, Orai, Pokhrayan, Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Barabanki Gonda Jn. & Basti Stations.

01013/0 Chhatrap	1014 Chh ati Shivaj	natrapati Shivaji Maharaj(T.) ii Maharaj(T.) Holi Special Tra	-Banaras in (Weekly	02 Trips
Train No	o. 01013	⊥ STATIONS ↑	Train No	. 01014
ARR.	DEP.	♦ STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.
	22:30	Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj(T.)	13:30	
05:30		Banaras		08:00

Days of run: 01013 Ex. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj(T.) on 13.03.2025 (Thursday) and 01014 Ex. Banaras on 15.03.2025 (Saturday).

Composition: 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy, Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Dadar, Thane, Kalyan, Igatpuri, Nasik Road, Manmad Jn. Jalgaon, Bhusaval Jn., Khandwa Jn., Itarsi Jn., Jabalpur, Katni Jn. Satna Jn., Manikpur Jn. & Prayagraj Chheoki Stations

			hatrapati Shivaji Maharaj(T.) ji Maharaj(T.) Holi Special Tra		
	Train No	o. 01015	☐ STATIONS ↑	Train No	. 01016
	ARR.	DEP.	♦ STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.
Ш		22:30	Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj(T.)	00:40	
1	05:40	05:50	Varanasi	20:00	20:10
,	10:30		Mau Jn.		17:00
- 1					

Days of run: 01015 Ex. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj(T.) on 12.03.2025 (Wednesday) and 01016 Ex. Mau Jn. on 14.03.2025 (Friday).

Composition: Sleeper & General.

Stoppages: Dadar, Thane, Kalyan, Igatpuri, Nasik Road Manmad Jn., Jalgaon, Bhusaval Jn., Khandwa Jn., Itarsi Jn., Jabalpur Katni Jn., Satna Jn., Manikpur Jn., Prayagraj Chheoki, Jaunpur &

	05203/05204 Muzaffarpur JnAnand Vihar(T.)- Muzaffarpur Jn. Holi Exp. Spl. Train (Bi-Weekly) Trips				
Train No	0. 05203	1 STATIONS	Train No	o. 05204	
ARR.	DEP.	♦ STATIUNS		ARR.	DEP.
	13:30	Muzaffarpur Jn.		05:00	
06:00		Anand Vihar (T.)			09:20

Days of run: 05203 Ex. Muzaffarpur Jn. from 10.03.2025 to 31.03.2025 (Monday, Thursday) and 05204 Ex. Anand Vihar(T.) from 11.03.2025 to 01.04.2025 (Tuesday, Friday) Composition: 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General.

Stoppages: Hajipur Jn., Sonpur, Patliputra Jn., Danapur, Ara Jn., Buxar

Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Prayagraj Jn. & Govindpuri Stations.

			666 Saharsa JnSirhind . Ii Express Special Train		06 Trips
ı	Train No	o. 05565	⊥ STATIONS ↑	Train No	. 05566
ı	ARR.	DEP.	+ STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.
ı		19:30	Saharsa Jn.	09:45	
l	00:45		Sirhind Jn.		02:00
ł	Days of r	un : 0556	5 Ex. Saharsa Jn. from 16.03	2025 to 30	0.03.2025

(Sun) and 05566 Ex. Sirhind Jn. from 18.03.2025 to 01.04.2025 (Tue). Composition: 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General.

Stoppages: Simri Bakhtivarpur, Mansi Jn., Khagaria Jn., Hasanpur Road, Samastipur Jn., Darbhanga Jn., Kamtaul, Janakpur Road Sitamarhi Jn., Bairgania, Raxaul Jn., Narkatiaganj Jn., Bagaha Gorakhpur Jn., Sitapur Jn., Moradabad Jn., Saharanpur Jn., Yamuna Nagar Jagadhri, Ambala Cantt. & Rajpura Jn. Stations



They also condemned "policies of star-

vation" that they said aim to push Palestinians to leave.

member of the grouping.

2012 over then-President Bashar Assad's brutal crackdown on opposition protests. After some 14 years of civil war, Assad was ousted in December by Islamist-led insurgents who since have created a transitional government.

January brought a pause in Israel's campaign of bombardment and ground offensives in Gaza aimed at destroying Hamas after its October 7, 2023 attack on southern Israel.

release of 25 Israeli hostages held by militants in Gaza and the bodies of eight others in exchange for the freeing of nearly 2,000 Palestinians imprisoned by Israel.

Egyptian-backed proposal that i n g an administrative committee

hostages and a lasting truce and full Israeli withdrawal The committee would work from Gaza - has been thrown into doubt. 'under the umbrella" of the

Israel has balked at entering negotiations over the terms of the second phase.

Instead, it has called for Hamas to release half its remaining hostages in return for an extension of the ceasefire and a promise to negotiate a lasting truce. Since Sunday, Israel has barred all food, fuel, medicine and other supplies from entering Gaza for some 2 million people, demanding Hamas accept the revised deal. At the same time, Trump

has called for Gaza's population to be resettled elsewhere permanently so that the United States can take over the territory and develop it for others. Palestinians have rejected calls to leave. The ministers at the OIC

gathering supported an

IN THE COURT OF MS. TARUNPREET KAUR, ACJ/CCJ/ARC-(South East) SAKET COURTS, NEW DELHI.

ARVIND KISHEN MALHOTRA

STATE AND ORS.

WHEREAS on application U/s 372 of the ndian Succession Act, 1925 has been made by **ARVIND KISHEN MALHOTRA** successor of LATE, SH, CDR GURDEV KRISHEN AND LATE SMT. NIRMAL KRISHEN for grant of Succession Certificate in respect of debts/securities of deceased.

come for hearing on 27.03.2025 at 10.00 A.M. Therefore the public at large

is hereby given notice if any person has objection to the grant of succession certificate in favour of the said applicant. he may appear and file objections in writing, in person or through duly appointed pleader, on the said date and Given under my hand and seal or

05.03.2025. (MS. TARUNPREET KAUR)

ACJ/CCJ/ARC- (South East) Room No. 203. Second Floor SAKET COURTS NEW DELHI

Known to all that my client Sh. Bhagwat Singh Pawar owner of the PLOT NO. 71 &72-A, AREA 43SQ.YDS.,KHASRA NO.105/23,VILLAGE PALAM, VISHWAS PARK,IN BLOCK-G,UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110059 and Sh. Bhagwat Singh Pawar purchase property from Smt. Somwati vide Notarized GPA, ATS and will dated Somwati vide Notarized GPA, ATS and will date 04.06.1999 Now Sh. Bhagwat Singh Pawar want to sel aforesaid property. And It is informed that or self and the said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as nul and void. If any person having any claim, right in said property then he may contact and handove the same and apprise his claim to undersigne.

Ch. No. 760 - Dwarka Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Dell Mobile :- 9899013918 PUBLIC NOTICE

be known to all, SNEH GAUR W/C NVIR SINGH R/O FLAT NO.6/122 NTA FLATS,MADANGIR,NEW DELHI-11 JANTA FLATS, MADANGIR, NEW DELHI-110062 purchaser/owner of DDA JANTA FLAT NO.52 22, GROUND FLOOR, MADANGIR, NEW DELHI I-110062, have applied for certified copies & freehold in DDA. The original documents i.e. DEM AND-CUM-ALLOTMENT LETTER, POSSESSION LETTER, NOC FOR WATER AND ELECTRICITY CONNECTION, SITE POSSESSION SLIP & OTHER DOCUMENTS of the above Said flat has been lost ANI PMO 2150746-2004 SLIP & OTHER DOCUMENTS of the above said flat has been lost. An IR NO.2150746/2024 dat ed 25/09/2024 to this effect has been lodged in P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi. Any person(s) claim ing any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above Address/Phone No.9717788065 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (Housing) rollin Development Authority, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi-110023.

measuring 400 (200+100+100) sq. yards out. Khasra No. 565, situated in the residenti colony Kaveri Rajdhani Enclave, Vilaga PaviSadakpur, Pargana and Tehsil-Lor District Ghaziabad, U.P., through three separa Sale Deed dated 28.10.2020 which was execute by Mr. Vinod Kumar, Mr. Sanjeev Singh, Mr. Bab and Mr. Anil Kumar in favour of Mrs. Rekt Choudhary & Mr. Harish Choudhary in respect subject property, duly registered as Docume No.9235, 9235 & 9237, in Book No. 1, Vol N. 2022, on Pages No. 131-1156, 157-182, 183-20 on dated 31.08.2021, SR-Loni, and intendinortagae against the financial assistance for UGRO Capital Limited That, Mr. Vinod Kumar, M. Sanjeev Singh, Mr. Bablu and Mr. Anil Kumar are the legal heirs of Late Mr. Pitam Singh, compty the requirements of &ANK/NBEFC, we gish this public notice that if any Person having any typ of claim /right/fille/inlerest/creating mortgage ov

Without specifically mentioning Trump, the ministers said they rejected "plans aimed at displacing the Palestinian people individually or collectively ... as ethnic cleansing, a grave violation of international law and a crime against humanity".

The OIC also reinstated Syria as a

Syria was removed from the OIC in

The ceasefire that began in mid-

The ceasefire's first phase saw the

But an intended second phase of the deal - meant to bring the release of

replace Hamas in governing

Palestinian Authority, based in the West Bank. Israel has rejected the PA having any role in the Gaza Strip, but has not put forward an alternative for post-war rule in the territory.

Under the ceasefire, Israeli forces have pulled back to a zone along Gaza's edges.

Early Saturday, an Israeli strike killed two Palestinians in Gaza's southernmost city of Rafah, the Palestinian Health Ministry said. The Israeli military said it struck several men who appeared to have been flying a drone that entered Israel

Israel's military offensive has killed over 48,000 Palestinians in Gaza, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many of the dead were militants.

The campaign was triggered by Hamas' October 2023 attack, in which militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, inside Israel and took a total of 251 people

hostage.

Most have been released in ceasefire agreements or other arrangements. Hamas is believed to still have 24 living hostages and the bodies of 34

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that my client Smt. Anand Kaur Wlo Sh. Dinesh Singh Shekhawat R/o S-3/180, Near Mangal Bazar Road, Swam Park, Mundka, West Delhi, Delhi-110041 has debarred, displaytic descriptions of the statement of the stat Yash Raj Shekhawat (aged about 23 years), Aadhar Card No.435170216355 from her entire moveable & immoveable properties fo being disobedient, disrespectful, out of control fallen in had habits and pernicious towards my client. My client has also severed and disconnected all her relations with him. If anyone deals with her abovenamed son, he/she/fhey may do so at their own risk, cost and consequences. My client shall not be responsible to anybody for the acts, deeds and misdeeds of her abovenamed son. N.S. YADAV ADVOCATE CHAMBER: 507, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE Known to all that my client 1. Sh. Ravinde kumar & 2. Smt.Seema Goyal owner of the PROPERT'NO. R2-46/2, OLD PLOT NO. R2-46, A12, ON PLOT NO. 18, AREA 190 SQ. YDS. KHASRA NO. 21/23, 24 & 34/3, 4, 7, VILLAG DABRI, AS WEST SAGARPUR, NEW DELH-13 1-46 and. 1. Sh. Ravinder Kumar & 2. Smt

AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION
Ch. No. 760 - Dwarka Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75
Mobile :- 9899013918 PUBLIC NOTICE

owner of the THIRD FLOOR BACK SIDE PROPERTY NO.188, AREA 100 SQ.YDS KHASR. will dated 20.11.2012 Thereafter Ms will dated 20.11.2012 Thereafter Ms. Jayati Goyal execute Conveyance deed(PM Uday Yojana) in her favour by DDA on dated 99.08. 2024 Now Ms. Jayati Goyal wants to sal aforesaid property. And It is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my sid client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person having any claim right in said property then he may contact and handover the same and apprise his claim to undersigned within 15 days of this publication.

16. 760 - Dwarka Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New De Mobile :- 9899013918 PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that MR. GANENDRA KISOR SARKAR son of late irindra Chandra Sarkar, resident of I-1806 C.R. Park, New Delhi, Owner of Entire Firs Floor Unit, of Plot No. 125, in Pocket K-1, situated at Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi and has agreed to sell the said Property to Shr Sukanto Barua and Smt. Nilu Barua, the Property is free from all encumbrances. Any person having any right, title, interest claim or demand of any nature whatsoever required to make the same known in writing along with the documentary proof thereof to the undersigned within Seven days from the date of publication hereof, failing whic the negotiations shall be completed SUKANTO BARUA

Mobile: 9717647376; Address C-417 Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi-110019

been given up or waived.

13.03.2025 to 24.03.2025 (Thursday, Monday)

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Ravi Shastri picks India as favourites against New Zealand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Dubai

ormer India head coach Ravi Shastri has picked India as the favourites in Sunday's Champions Trophy summit clash against New Zealand but pointed out that the advantage will be miniscule, given that the Black Caps are a formidable side.

India, who have played all their matches here, stormed into the final with an all-win record, and defeated Australia in the semifinal.

New Zealand, who finished second behind India in Group A after losing their league match, secured their spot in the final with a one-sided win over South Africa in the second semifinal in Lahore.

"If there is one team that can beat India, it's New Zealand," Shastri said in 'The ICC Review'. "So India start as favourites but only just," he said referring to the final, which will be a rematch of the 2000 Champions Trophy title clash, where New Zealand triumphed by four wickets in Nairobi.

The 62-year-old, who has seen both teams evolve over the years, picked four players from the New Zealand squad

who could make a difference in the high-stakes final.

He singled out Rachin Ravindra, calling him "immensely talented", Kane Williamson for his "stability and calmness like a saint", and captain Mitchell Santner, whom he described as an "intelligent" leader who can influence the game alongside Glenn Phillips, who could be the X-factor for the team.

Shastri also highlighted Virat Kohli's current form as a potential gamechanger, while also acknowledging Williamson's ability to seize crucial moments.

"Now (on) current form, Kohli. When these guys get hot and you let them get their first 10 runs, then they're trouble. Whether it's Williamson, whether it's Kohli," Shastri said.

"So from New Zealand, I would say Williamson. To an extent, Ravindra, he is a fabulous young player."

"But these guys when they smell the coffee and you let them, in a final, get to that 10-15, then they are doubly dangerous" Shastri said.

Ravindra, at just 25, has already accumulated five centuries in ICC 50-over



tournaments — the youngest to achieve

"I just like the way he moves in the

of fluency, which is fabulous to see. He's either forward, he's back, he'll cut, he'll

sweep it, play the quicks well and he's got a very good temperament.

"You don't get hundreds in big tournaments like this just like that. You've got to have something up your sleeve, and I think he's immensely talented."

Apart from his batting prowess, former skipper Williamson's leadership and calm demeanour make him a vital asset for New Zealand in the final.

The veteran has been in red-hot form with scores of 81 against India and 102 in the semifinal versus South Africa.

"He's very stable and there's an element of calmness, a no-nonsense element about him the way he goes about his job," Shastri said.

"He's like a saint, a sage, just sitting, meditating. Lot of people look at the big shots, I look at the way he moves in the crease. There is an element of fluency.

"Joe Root when he's batting at his best. He's forward, back. Kohli (as well). When people move in the crease, the footwork is sound.

"It's a joy to watch. And then with their crease," Shastri said. "There's an element experience, their talent, the volume of runs they've got, doesn't matter what format they play," added Shastri.

Shastri also made special mention of Santner, who has impressed in his first

ICC event as New Zealand captain. "He's an intelligent man. And I think this captaincy suits him," Shastri said. "It just adds that edge to him as a batter, as

a bowler, as a cricketer. "So I think it's a smart move by New Zealand opting for that and just the way he goes about his job, like I said, he's a good reader of the game, is an intelligent bloke and should be there for some time

for New Zealand.' Shastri also didn't hold back his admiration for Phillips' ability to turn a match around single-handedly as he also picked him as one of the Player-ofthe-Match contenders alongside India's Axar Patel and Ravindra Jadeja.

"Player of the Match, I would go for an all-rounder," he said in The ICC Review. "I'll say Axar Patel or Ravindra Jadeja from India.

"From New Zealand, I think that Glenn Phillips has something up. He might just show flashes of brilliance in the field. He might come and smash a cameo of 40, 50 and probably surprise you by taking a wicket or two."

IOC president sees 'new world order' ahead of LA Olympics



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Lausanne

≺homas Bach says he feels a rare calm in his final weeks as IOC president even as a "new world order" gains speed ahead of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Bach led the International Olympic Committee through two locked-down Games in a global pandemic and several affected by Russian doping and military aggression, among other crises.

His successor will be elected March 20 and inherit an IOC financially secure with future Olympic hosts that today look stable and reliable.

Still, the biggest event for the next IOC president — the LA Summer Games could yet challenge Bach's faith in the Olympics' power to unite the world in peaceful competition and mutual accep-

"We have a new world order in the making, and this making... will not happen without rumbling. Bach said this week, without criticising US President

der parity and inclusive acceptance of all 206 national teams, plus refugee athletes. Political neutrality is an ideal Bach clings

as Trump has warned of denying visas to athletes based on the government's gender interpretations.

"I am also convinced that President Trump and his administration will fully support the Olympic Games," Bach told The Associated Press in a rare interview at IOC headquarters.

"He likes sport, so there I don't see a risk." The American people, Bach added, "appreciate and love that the Games are about sport but they are about more than sport. They will want to welcome the athletes from all over the world."

The IOC has defended female boxers Imane Khelif and Lin Yu-ting — the Paris Olympic gold medalists. Both had been disqualified from the 2023 world championships run by the Russian-backed International Boxing Association, which to-air network is important. said they failed eligibility tests.

and nobody ever claimed even that they are transgender," Bach said in AP's interview. "What happened there was a Russian-led misinformation campaign which then distorted the truth, the facts and now we have this unfortunate situation that these two athletes are considered to be transgender. But. They. Are. Not."

Before the Paris Olympics, Bach warned of "deeply disturbing" trends, including "narrow self-interests trumping the rule of

"What I see is very heated discussion in the United States," Bach told the AP. "But this is for the citizens of the United States to have. Our values are very clear and on those values the Olympic Games are

Pandemic and Russian doping

Bach's presidency since 2013 saw two Games impacted by Covid-19; one shadowed by Korean political tensions; several affected by Russian doping and military aggression; and one almost implode with a chaotic local organising team in Rio de Janeiro that pulled the IOC into vote-buying allegations.

T'm experiencing the first period during my presidency where I do not have an existential problem of the Olympic Games or the Olympic Movement on my desk," Bach said. The 71-year-old German lawyer and 1976 Olympic gold medalist in fencing leaves office in June. "I am fit and very happy in great health."

Future commercial deals

A key decision early in Bach's presidency was extending NBC's broadcast rights in the U.S. Through 2032. Renewing or finding a new partner is a big decision for the next president. Bach suggested a free-

You can say of streaming, They are pay-"These two women boxers have been ing such a lot of money, let's go for stream- Brisbane and Salt Lake City were selectborn as women, they have been raised as ing. But what does it mean for our values?" Signature Bach policies have been gen- women, they have competed as women Bach said. "The Olympic Games has to be

accessible to everybody and not only the ones that can afford it. This balance you have to find.

Diplomatic skills

Bach and predecessor Jacques Rogge were Olympic athletes who rose to represent the IOC with various heads of state.

"That is one of the privileges as IOC president is that you get everybody on the phone," Bach said. "I haven't experienced any situation where somebody would have said, I am not interested to talk." The late Henry Kissinger "gave very valuable advice" in real-world diplomacy.

Spy target?

Bach's potential as a future Olympic leader was clear from 1981 when he and Sebastian Coe, a candidate to succeed him, helped represent athletes at a key IOC meeting in Baden-Baden, West Germany. He later worked for Horst Dassler and Adidas who reportedly were monitored for the Stasi, East Germany's secret police.

Asked if there was a Stasi file on him, Bach said, "Not that I knew. I cannot imag-

Bach had warm relations with Russian President Vladimir Putin during the 2014 Sochi Winter Games. Bach and the Olympics have been targets of Russian misinformation, cyber attacks and deep fake videos during the past decade of sanctioning the state-backed doping scandal and fallout from the invasion of Ukraine.

Cleaning up voting

Bach's legacy includes changing how hosts are picked. No more blockbuster contests vulnerable to vote-buying.

'The atmosphere was just not clean, not sober. It put the whole credibility of the IOC in doubt." There were no allegations of wrongdoing in how the French Alps ed as hosts of the Olympics from 2030-



not pay attention to criticism

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Dubai

ays after cricketer Mohammed Shami was criticised for not observing roza (fast) in the month of Ramzaan during the ICC Champions Trophy (CT) semi-final match against Australia, veteran lyricist Javed Akhtar voiced his support for the bowler asking him to pay no attention to "reactionary bigoted idiots".

Shami, who is part of the Indian squad for the ongoing ICC Champions Trophy tour, was spotted consuming an energy drink as the match was underway in Dubai on Tuesday.

viral on social media, the national president of the All India Muslim Jamaat, Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi Barelvi, said Shami had committed a sin by not fast-

ing during the Islamic holy month of Ramzaan. Akhtar, known for openly voicing his opinions, advised the cricketer to ignore all the negativity and praised his performance in the game.

Shami saheb, do not give a damn to those reactionary bigoted idiots who have any problem with your drinking water in a burning afternoon at a cricket field in Dubai.

"It is none of their business. You are one of the great Indian team that is making us all proud My best wishes to you and our whole team," he wrote in an X post on Friday.

India emerged victorious in Tuesday's After the visual of the lead pacer went match, becoming the first team to quality tor Sunday's tinal. The Men in Blue will fight it out with New Zealand to claim the Champions Trophy for the third time (2002 and 2013).

French soccer to have 'WO=MAN' written on jerseys to mark International Women's Day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Paris

very player in the top two divisions of men's soccer in France will have "WO=MAN" written on Lithe back of their jerseys instead of their names this weekend.

The French league initiative, centred around International Women's Day on Saturday, started on Friday with Toulouse's home game against Monaco, which finished 1-1. The initiative was continuing on Saturday and Sunday with the other teams in Ligue 1 and Ligue 2 as part of the league's fight against sex-

"The message resonates as a strong statement," the

of gender equality, not only on the field, but also in LED panels around the pitches will display "WO=MAN" at all games and official match balls have the motto written on them. Match broadcasters

halftime messages Making stadiums safer for women

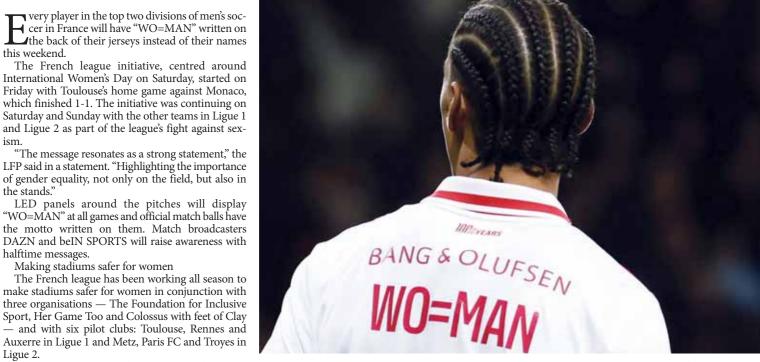
The French league has been working all season to make stadiums safer for women in conjunction with three organisations — The Foundation for Inclusive Sport, Her Game Too and Colossus with feet of Clay and with six pilot clubs: Toulouse, Rennes and Auxerre in Ligue 1 and Metz, Paris FC and Troyes in

Among the measures in place are a system for reporting sexual and gender-based violence and a support and protection procedure in case of incidents, including post-incident monitoring.

Anoush Morel, the director of Her Game Too in France, has liaised with clubs to have female ambassadors inside stadiums on matchdays, when they help promote inclusivity, and diversity.

"We create a supportive atmosphere for all fans and raise awareness of the campaign through fan engagement, social media, and community outreach," Morel told The Associated Press. "We also make sure that safe

zones are ready (in stadiums)." Her Game Too has seven ambassadors in Ligue 1 and three in Ligue 2. They wear visible pins and distribute flyers. Morel knows what a distressing matchday experience feels like. In April last year, she and other female Paris Saint-Germain supporters endured "abu-



sive" body searches while entering Barcelona's stadium for a Champions League match.

"We work to ensure that football matches are a safe and welcoming environment for all fans, especially women," Morel told The AP. "Sexism and abuse are not tolerated."

Government backs project

Lise Ducrocq, the LFP communications and corporate brand manager, first came up with the WO=MAN

"It's very inspiring to be part of such a big project led by a woman," Morel said. "All the clubs were very excited?

French sports minister Marie Barsacq attended the game and held up the jersey, surrounded by girls.

"It's a great project to encourage (female) spectators to come," Barsacq told DAZN. "We need women and men to go to stadiums together."

Jerseys worn by the players will be sold from Monday with profits going to the three partner organisations working with LFP. Match balls will be signed and auctioned on Ligue 1's digital platforms. Ligue 2 side Red Star, which plays in the Paris suburbs, went a step further with another message: "TRUST'Her" on the front of the jersey for Friday night's game against Amiens.

Elsewhere, French supermarket chain Intermarché and the French Football Federation are continuing to promote amateur women's soccer at grassroots level. Their programme is called "Sensationnelles," a play on words combining Sensational and "Elles" (the feminine pronoun for they').

Soccer presenter Laure Boulleau and former international lineswoman Manuela Nicolosi are involved in it. Nicolosi was part of a trio of female officials for a Ligue 1 game in 2023, along with trailblasing referee Stéphanie Frappart and lineswoman

PANCHAYAT SAMITI OFFICE: HEMGIR, DIST-SUNDARGARH **TENDER CALL NOTICE 04/2024-25** No.999 / Date. 07.03.2025 Tender is hereby invited vide Tender Call Notice No. 04 of 2024-25 from eligible contractors for the following work. The details documents will be downloaded from district websit www.sundargarh.odisha.gov.in w.e.f. 10.03.2025 to 20.03.2025.

SI. No	Name of the Work	Amount put to Tender in ₹. (Excluding GST)	Cost of Tender paper (non- refundable) in ₹.	Bid security/ EMD (1%)	Period of Completion	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Construction of Additional Classroom at Govt. UP School, Masina, Kanaktura GP	15,40,900/-	6,000/-	15,409/-	Nine Months	'D' & 'C' Class
2	Construction of Additional Classroom at Govt. UP School, Bandhapali, Laikera GP	15,40,900/-	6,000/-	15,409/-	Nine Months	'D' & 'C' Class
3	Construction of Additional Classroom at Govt. High School, Kanaktura GP	17,08,400/-	6,000/-	17,084/-	Nine Months	'D' & 'C' Class
4	Construction of Additional Classroom at Kuchedega UG High School, Kuchedega GP	17,08,400/-	6,000/-	17,084/-	Nine Months	'D' & 'C' Class

1 Date and time for download Tender Paper: From Dt. 10.03.2025 to 20.03.2025. 2. Last Date of Receipt of Tender Paper: Dt. 20.03.2025 (5.00 P.M.)

3. Date of Opening of Tender Paper: Dt. 21.03.2025 (11.00 A.M.)

OIPR-19104/11/0006/2425

Block Development Officer, Hemgir

WATCO WATER CORPORATION OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR GROUND FLOOR, UNNATI BHAWAN, HOUSING BOARD COLONY, SATYANAGAR,

e-mail: mail@watcoodisha.in /md@watcoodisha.in NOTICE INVITING BID

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT Bid Identification No. WATCO (W)- 24/2024-25, Dt.03.03.2025 No. /579 / Date: 03.03.2025 [File No.WAT-_2453/2024-25]

BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA - 751007 Telefax: +91-674-2391444

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR

"Selection of Agency for Setting up PMU for Planning, Project Management, Policy Support, Implementation of Central and State Government Urban Water Supply

Projects in Odisha, Coordination and Monitoring Support to WATCO". The Managing Director, WATCO, Bhubaneswar under the administrative control of Housing & Urban Development Department, Government of Odisha, invites proposal in conformity with RFP documents in Two Cover System (Part-I: Technical Bid and Part-II: Financial Bid) from the reputed Consultancy Firm/Agencies on the basis of National Competitive Bidding for the work detailed in the table given below. The Consultants/firms are advised to examine carefully all instructions in the RFP

SI. No	Name of the work	Security Deposit /EMD (Online remittance)	Tender Processing Fees (Online remittance)	Assignment Period
1	Request for Proposal (RFP) for "Selection of Agency for Setting up PMU for Planning, Project Management, Policy Support, Implementation of Central and State Government Urban Water Supply Projects in Odisha, Coordination and Monitoring Support to WATCO"	8,00,000.00	10,000.00 + GST @18%	12 (Twelve) Months

The complete RFP document can be viewed/downloaded from e-procurement portal of the State t https://tendersodisha.gov.in from 07.03.2025 (11.00 Hrs. IST) to 07.04.2025 (17.00 Hrs. IST). RFP must be submitted online. RFP through any other mode shall not be entertained

Ground Floor, Unnati Bhawan, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar – 751 007, Dist. Khordha, Odisha, India.

Phone # +91-674-2391444 DIPR-13194/11/0044/2425 194/11/0044/2425

Email: mail@wateoodisha.in / md@wateoodisha.in

Interested bidders may download the Request for Proposal Documents (the "RFP

The Managing Director, WATCO,

HER Name Belongs on the Label

shion is often seen as a world of glamour, but

behind the shimmering fabrics and runway

lights lies a space built stitch by stitch, fight by fight. Unlike industries where power is open-

ly contested, fashion subtly shapes narratives, dictating

stepped into a field where men historically controlled

the business, yet instead of pushing against a system,

they built their own. They transformed fashion into a

canvas for empowerment, where clothes become state-

ments of strength, identity, and evolution. Their stories

remind us that fashion is resilience threaded into every

design, a reflection of those who refused to be stitched

Speaking to Payal Jain, Dolly J, and Rina Dhaka, it's clear that success is about talent and persistence. They

not just style but identity.

into the background.

On Women's Day, we celebrate the fearless women in fashion, breaking barriers, redefining style, and empowering generations with every stitch, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

PAYAL JAIN: RESILIENT VISION

Have you ever felt the need to fight for your space in a male-dominated industry?

Fashion offers freedom, yet top brands are still led by men. As in finance or banking, women must work harder to prove their worth. Early on, I knew I needed a strong voice and identity. Inclusivity, sustainability, and craft revival have been my focus, especially supporting women artisans. Success and failure have shaped me, and I wouldn't change a thing.

If you designed an outfit symbolising women's journey in fashion, what would it look like?

My work would tell a story of purpose, strength, faith, and transformation. It would celebrate craftsmanship, bridging tradition and the struggles women face in a man's world. My retrospective Soul of a Woman interprets a woman's facets-her struggles, emotions, and triumphs. I see myself as an artist creating textile sculptures, not just outfits. I've worked with natural textiles, handcrafted by women artisans, repurposed into new forms-just like a woman standing tall through every setback.

Has the industry evolved for women, or does the glass ceiling remain?

The industry has evolved. There are more women in leadership, shaping trends and brands. But the glass ceiling still exists. While more women take charge, greater inclusivity is needed for diverse voices. True progress requires an inclusive, unbiased work culture where women have not just a seat but an equal voice in shaping the future.

What has been your most defining career moment?

Curating Soul of a Woman, a retrospective of my three-decade journey, was a powerful moment. Seeing my work come together, telling stories of craft



about my label-it's about connecting craftsmanship, sustainability, and design. That's when I truly felt I

What's one piece of advice you would give to young women entering this industry?

To young women entering the design world, I would strongly advise to have a voice that is unique to you



pushing boundaries, and above all, never lose sight of the joy and art in fashion, and the very reason you chose this as a career path!



Did you ever feel the need to prove yourself, and how did you navigate that space?

Fashion is not about gender-it's about vision, craftsmanship, and the ability to create something timeless. I never saw it as proving myself in a male-dominated space; I saw it as making my mark in an industry that values creativity above all. My focus has always been on refining my craft, pushing boundaries, and delivering designs that speak for

As a woman, was there a moment in your career when you faced resistance or doubt just because of your gender? How did you turn that into motivation?

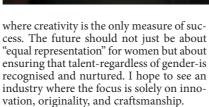
Fashion is one of the most expressive industries, where talent dictates success, not gender. Challenges exist for everyone, but I've never allowed any label to limit my potential. Instead of focusing on resistance, I've always channelled my energy into my workbecause at the end of the day, design

How do you ensure that your designs give women a voice in an industry where men have traditionally set the rules?

My designs are created for those who value artistry, craftsmanship, and self-expression. It's never been about following rules set by anyoneit's about redefining them. Every piece I create is meant to empower the wearer, making them feel like the truest, most confident version of

What changes do you hope to see for women in fashion in the next decade?

Fashion is evolving into a space



If you could share one piece of advice with young women looking to make their mark in a male-dominated industry, what would it be?

Don't look at industries as "male-dominated", look at them as spaces where pioneers, dreamers, and innovators thrive. If you have the passion, the skill, and the vision, nothing can stand in your way. Focus on mastering your craft, staying true to your creativity, and letting your work do the talking.



as a woman in fashion, and how did you When I started in fashion, there were few refer-

ence points to learn from. Initial resources were mostly archival-vintage textiles, antique jewellery, cinema costumes. Early on, I relied on old PCs and historical clothing to understand design. Eventually, I discovered Indian museums as a valuable resource for learning and inspiration. But what truly shaped me was working closely with artisans, understanding their craft, their techniques. As my understanding grew, creating became easier.

> Do you feel fashion today empowers women more than before, or do societal expectations still shape how women dress?

After seeing the Oscars and the Vanity Fair party, I understand that boldness is real now. When I began working, I was called 'Dare-Bare Dhaka.' Looking back, what I once considered bold is now wearable fashion. But empowerment, in my view, is not about revealing choices - it's about acceptance. True empowerment is allowing women to dress as they choose, free from judgment.

How has your creative vision evolved from your first collection to now?

My early years were shaped by studying historical fashion, museum archives, and cinema costumes. But over time, direct interactions with artisans gave me a deeper, more hands-on understanding of craftsmanship. Today, my work blends those influences, tradition, heritage, and modernity.

If you had to describe the iourney of women in fashion through one design element, what would it be and why?

> If I had to find a common thread, it might be shoes; the way women walk forward, step by step. Footwear symbolises progress, movement, and the journey women have taken to claim their space in the industry.



ABHINETRI'S AS BOLLYWOOD DIVAS: Ruling THE SILVER SCREEN

After tough times in Bollywood, acceptance of films without male superstars shows growing appreciation for female talent, writes ABHI SINGHAL

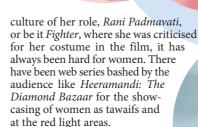


years now. I love watching web series, movies, short films, and anything and everything with a story. To be honest, the genres excite me like nothing else. I am a cinema lover. Watching films evolve all these years is the most beautiful change of acceptance I have seen. With this change, I talk about the entry of femaleled films on the silver screen being the hit. Also, with that, the stories of movies have become female-centric, breaking taboos and barriers that play a huge part in shap-

From films having just male protagonists to films only led by female actors, it has been a journey of hardships and flops for the actors. I will begin giving the spotlight to Fashion and Queen as some of the films that showed female

> protagonists and were taken forward by the audience on the per-

> > Apart from that, women have also faced criticism and backlash on the roles they play. An example of the same is Deepika Padukone. Be it Padmavat, due to the



But over time, scenarios have changed many misconceptions, and the audience has started to accept films with women protagonists and even films that don't have a male superstar.



NH10 (2015): Anushka Sharma's production and performance in NH10 offered a raw and gritty portrayal of a woman fighting for survival

massive commercial success.

FASHION (2008): Priyanka Chopra's

portrayal of Meghna Mathur, a small-town

girl going through the cutthroat world of

QUEEN (2013): Kangana Ranaut's Rani

was a revelation. Rani's journey from a

heartbroken bride to an independent

proving that a female-led film could be a

woman struck a chord with viewers

NEERJA (2016): Sonam Kapoor's acting as Neerja Bhanot, a flight attendant who

sacrificed her life to save passengers. This film highlighted the courage and heroism of an ordinary woman, proving that female-led stories could be powerful and impactful.

> MARDAANI (2014) AND MARDAANI 2 (2019): Rani Mukerji playing a fierce and determined police officer, Shivani Shivaji Roy, challenged traditional

HICHKI (2018): Rani Mukerji again, this time as Naina Mathur, a teacher

with Tourette syndrome. This movie displayed that women can be strong role models

THE SHIFT: FROM PERIPHERAL TO PROTAGONIST

VEERE DI WEDDING (2018): The film, starring Kareena Kapoor Khan, Sonam Kapoor Ahuja, Swara Bhasker, and Shikha Talsania. celebrated female friendship and challenged societal expectations of women

GANGUBAI KATHIAWADI (2022): Alia Bhatt's powerful performance as Gangubai, a brothel madam who fought for the rights of sex workers, was a testament to the changing

landscape of Indian cinema DARLINGS (2022): Alia Bhatt and Shefali Shah's film explored domestic violence with a dark comedic twist, keeping all the

responsibility to themselves. MRS. CHATTERJEE VS NORWAY (2023): Rani Mukerji, starring, brought to light the struggles of an immigrant mother without a

male actor in any sort of lead. CREW (2024): This very recent film starring Tabu, Kareena Kapoor, and Kriti Sanon is a comedy about flight attendants, showing that

women can carry a comedy film.

The journey of female-centric films in Indian cinema is ongoing. While challenges remain, the progress made is undeniable. The increasing number of impactful stories reflect a changing society.



The Pioneer NDA

WOMANIYA!

Now

you don't have

women, you can also see

them behind the wheels of

the massive DTC buses, their

to picture such

presence a powerful

symbol that defies

the notion that

such roles are

for men.

"If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a

SHE is a daughter, a mother, a wife, and a leader. From sacrifices at home to commanding spaces once deemed unimaginable, women have done it all. Every woman's life is a symbol of already fought societal norms, unbreakable strength, unshattrable confidence and living grace. SHE is a force, a beacon and change, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**

कोई सीता, कोई राधा कोई झांसी की रानी। हर रूप में नारी ने दुनिया है संभाली॥



Kiran



Me being a woman have always heard and read that for WAAH HER the sky is the limit, but SHE, in every role and everytime knows that the limit doesn't stop at the sky

The Durga Incarnates

Despite being nature's greatest marvel, women have long been denied the respect and autonomy they deserve. Forced to navigate paths imposed by others, many Indian women have dared to challenge these norms, rewriting the rules and forging their destinies. They dare, they challenge societal norms. Here are a few of them who have excelled and made their mark despite all odds in different fields that were a taboo.

KIRAN BEDI: THE FIRST WOMAN IPS OFFICER

As India's first female IPS officer, she broke barriers in a male-dominated force, transforming challenges into opportunities. Her journey from towing the Prime Minister's car for illegal parking to reforming Tihar Jail, demonstrates how determination and the right support can overturn deepseated biases. Raised in an environment where education and independence were encouraged, she never let societal expectations define her aspirations."Any girl child who is loved by her parents and given the vision and resources to realise her potential is ready to take on the world. as I was," says

But entering a profession dominated by men was not without its challenges. The biases and prejudices were apparent. "The prevailing biases and prejudices inspired me to question them. And prove them wrong. Which I did. It gave me a sense of achievement" she added.

NIDHI SALGAME: THE OFF-ROADER MAKING HER PATH

Nidhi Salgame, founder of Wander Beyond Boundaries, exemplifies excellence in a field where skill matters more than gender. An accomplished off-roader and explorer, Nidhi has overcome stereotypes and judgment by letting her actions speak for themselves. Nidhi says, "You just have to prove yourself again and again. I faced judgment, and immense stereotyping. I had to prove myself twice over, just for people to acknowledge my skills. That's not a burden any man would carry, yet it was placed on me. But in the end, actions speak louder than words." She further added that the outdoors does not judge you by gender. The machine doesn't treat you differently. It is a leveller. And that's what makes it so liberating. Her journey has never been about fitting into stereotypes or shattering them, it has been about mastering what she does and doing it exceptionally well.

POOJA SHARMA: AN ACTIVIST WHO DEFIED

In off-roading extreme overland expeditions, capability is the measure of success.

TRADITIONS A social activist who turned personal tragedy into a mission of dignity. After witnessing her brother's untimely death, she vowed to honour those forgotten by society. Defying longheld traditions that barred wome from performing last rites, Pooja armed herself with knowledge from ancient scriptures and has since

bestowed dignity on over 5,000

women are excluded from cremation grounds, Pooja stood as a lone warrior.

Salgame

When she attempted to perform the last rites, temple priests blocked her path. "I started reading the Vedas, our scriptures, the Shiv Puran, the Garud Puran. Nowhere is it written that women cannot perform last rites" said Pooja.

Armed with knowledge, she fought against centuries-old beliefs and proved that religion did not forbid women from giving dignity to the departed. Together, these women embody a spirit that transcends societal constraints. They remind us that while rules may exist, they do not define the power of a woman, the true force of creation, resilience, and change.

BIDISHA MUKHERJEE: BREAKING BARRIERS IN GOVERNANCE AND TOURISM

Entering the IAS amid a traditionally male realm, she now leads initiatives at the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board that empower women and promote sustainable tourism. Her work proves that when women lead, they not only participate but they redefine the landscape. Under her leadership, initiatives like women-run hotels, such as Amaltas, have not only created economic independence for women but

also reshaped the tourism landscape in Madhya Pradesh. "The desire to create meaningful change led me from teaching to public administration. While the gender imbalance in governance was a challenge, I saw it as a chance to redefine norms." said Bidisha. Her initiatives have set new benchmarks, proving that when women are Nidhi given platform, they don't just participate they lead.

— BY DIVYA BHATIA

rew up in a normal middle-class joint family. From a young age, I have seen my mother, a master's degree holder in Mathematics which was a huge deal in the 1990's, working eighteen hours a day as a homemaker. Her journey, fraught with obstacles and setbacks, revealed the harsh reality of how women's dreams were systematically stifled, even after years of dedication, sacrificed in the name of marriage and domesticity. It was a revelation that struck a deep chord for a silent lament for countless unfulfilled aspirations. In the same family, my sister and I had strict timings for

Mahīla, Aurat, Nari, whatever you call her, she has always been categorised into different bases in life in vast job roles, but those were always restricted to the domain of her home. In India, women have largely been confined within the four walls of their homes, entrusted with the responsibility of managing the household and raising children. Their clothing choices, curfews, lifestyle, and behavior have long been dictated by societal norms and patriarchy. Any deviation from these expectations is seen as defiance and often equated with a decline in moral values.

Time moved forward, western influence came in and scenarios started taking turns, women started stepping out for work and everything changed. Slowly, almost imperceptibly at first, the rigid structures that had defined a woman's existence began to show cracks. The long-held idea of women confined to hearth and home with domestic threads, began to fray. The world outside, once a forbidden territory, beckoned. Doors, previously firmly shut, creaked open, revealing the promise of new horizons for the literate women. This **International Women's Day**, it's important to remember the countless struggles faced by generations of women. The fight for equality has been long and arduous, marked by societal barriers and entrenched prejudices. Even now, despite significant progress, women continue to move through a world where their contributions are often undervalued. They strive not just for financial independence, but for something far more profound: respect and dignity. The desire to live a life on

their own terms, free from the constraints of outdated expectations, fuels their determination. Many women are working tirelessly, balancing professional ambitions with personal responsibilities. They seek a future where their voices are heard, their talents are recognised and their dreams are within reach and not pressure.

Yet, amidst the general narratives of limitation, stories of extraordinary defiance Women, with undying spirit, have ventured into segments previously deemed unimaginable, shattering the foundations of societal expectations. They carved paths where none existed, proving that ambition knows no gender. Consider the women who drive auto rickshaws through the chaotic city streets, their hands firm on the wheel, their eyes fixed on a future they are building. Witness the rural women at a construction site, carrying their babies on the back and bricks on their head.

A recent example was witnessed during the Mahakumbh Mela. A video from New Delhi Railway Station went viral, showing a mother in uniform with her child strapped to her front, holding a lathi in one hand while maintaining peace and order at the sta-

Each of these roles comes with its own set of hardships and often the lack of respect from those who are not used to seeing women in these roles. Stories of such women are etched in courage and perseverance, are the true celebration of Women's Day. They deserve our





Kalpana Chawla



Sarla Thakral



Pooja Sharma

Sania Mirza



Mukherjee

Bachendri Pal



Sushmita Sen

WOMEN WHO SCRIPTED HISTORY

Sarla Thakral, in 1936, became India's first female pilot. At 21, she flew a Gypsy Moth, defying societal norms. Her courage shattered barriers, inspiring generations. Her achievement symbolised female empowerment, proving women's capabilities in traditionally male-dominated fields. Her legacy is one of imanity's quest for knowledge. resilience and pioneering spirit..

Sania Mirza's victory in the 2005 WTA Hyderabad Open doubles title was a watershed moment for Indian tennis She shattered glass ceilings, proving that Indian women could excel in international sports. Her powerful serves and unwavering spirit inspired a generation of aspiring athletes. Mirza's success not only elevated Indian tennis but also empowered women to pursue their dreams.

Bachendri Pal's ascent of Everest in 1984 etched her name into history. With unflinching determination, she conquered the world's highest peak, inspiring generations of Indian women. Her courage shattered barriers, proving that no summit is too high to reach. Pal's achievement is a testimony to the strength and resilience of women and a beacon of hope.

Sushmita Sen's victory at Miss Universe 1994 transcended beauty pageants. She became a symbol of grace and intelligence, showcasing the modern Indian woman to the world. Her poise and eloquence captivated audiences, shattering stereotypes and empowering young girls to dream big. Sen's triumph was a moment of national pride, highlighting India's evolving identity on the global stage.

Kalpana Chawla's journey to space was an example to her extraordinary intellect and courage. She became an icon, inspiring countless young women to pursue careers in STEM fields. Her dedication to exploration and scientific advancement left an indelible mark on the world. During the wonders that she did, her life was tragically cut short but her legacy continues to propel





Celebrating the women in food, shaping flavours, traditions, and the future of cooking with passion, says TEAM AGENDA

CHEF MANSI'S CULINARY JOURNEY

of Awadh, Mansi Kapoor grew up surrounded by a rich culinary heritage where diverse communities contributed unique flavours and traditions. Coming from the UP Khatri community, traditionally strict vegetarians who exclude

even onions and garlic, she was raised with a deep respect for food. However, the influence of close friends and a shared love for cooking led her family to embrace a more diverse range of culinary experiences,

their own traditions. Her passion for food is deeply rooted in her family's love for hospitality. She learned to cook alongside the women in her household, who instilled in her the belief that cooking is not just about following recipes but about pouring one's heart into every dish. Whether preparing a simple dal or an elaborate zaffrani biryani, she believes that good food requires patience, care and attention to detail.

broadening their appreciation for flavours beyond

As a home chef, Mansi remains committed to personally preparing every dish she serves, following



traditional recipes without compromise. She strongly believes in the philosophy of "sahaj pake so meetha hoye", meaning slow-cooked food is the most flavourful, embracing a methodical and mindful approach to cooking. By using fresh, seasonal and local ingredients, she ensures that every meal she prepares is not just nourishing but also a sensory delight. Her culinary talents have been widely recognised at food festivals and her Awadhi tables, hosted at her home, have received high praise from renowned connoisseurs. Mansi's dedication to preserving and celebrating authentic flavours makes her a true ambassador of Awadhi cuisine.

ZAFRANI PHIRNI

METHOD: · Wash and soak the rice for

- about 30 minutes. Drain and grind it into a semi-coarse Cook until the rice is fully cooked and the mixture
- Soak the saffron in 2 to 3 tbsp
- of warm water. . Heat the milk in a saucepan or karahi, then add the cardamom powder, slivered almonds and
- Bring the milk to a boil, then
- lower the flame. Gradually add the rice paste while stirring continuously to prevent lumps.
- thickens
- Add sugar and stir until it dissolves completely.

Pour the phirni into pre-soaked

earthenware bowls (sakoras) or

- Mix in the kewra water for a fragrant touch.
- A slow-cooked delicacy infused with saffron and cardamom,
 - Mansi's Zaffrani Phirni is a perfect celebration of traditional

glass serving dishes.

and rose petals.

Garnish with sliced pistachios

Refrigerate for at least an hour before serving chilled.

Awadhi flavours, offering a rich,

RANGO KE GUBAARE: A PALETTE OF TRADITION BY TEAM AGENDA Recipes by Chef Ashu Chugh, **Executive Chef, Jaypee Greens Golf**

A pinch of saffron

finely chopped

• 10 pistachios, sliced

Rose petals for garnish

½ tsp cardamom powder

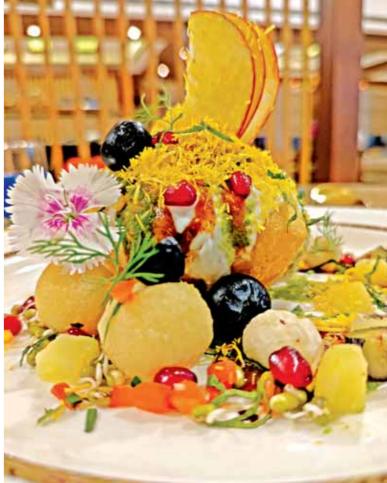
1 tbsp kewra water (optional)

10 almonds, blanched and

Resort, Greater Noida Servings: 4

- **INGREDIENTS** ½ cup rava, 1 ½ tbsp whole
- wheat flour, 1 tbsp gram flour · Salt, pepper, red chilli powder,
- fennel powder, baking soda . 1 tsp oil, water as needed, oil for
- frying 50g fried makhana, 100g moong
- sprouts, 100g boiled potatoes 20 mini bhalle (optional), chopped onions, tomatoes, green
- chillies, green apple 200g yoghurt, 4 tsp blueberry compote, 4 tbsp green &
- tamarind chutneys Black salt, cumin powder, chaat masala, red chilli powder
- 8-10 papdi, sev, 4 tbsp pomegranate arils, coriander INSTRUCTIONS
- Make Dough: Mix flours, spices, oil and water into a firm dough.
- Rest 30 mins. Fry Kachori: Roll into discs, fry
- until crisp and golden. Assemble: Break the top, fill with sprouts, potatoes, bhalle, onions,
- apple. Top & Serve: Add yoghurt, chutneys, spices, crushed papdi sev, pomegranate and coria Serve immediately.

A crunchy, tangy Holi special



A CLASSIC HOLI TREAT BURSTING WITH FLAVOUR

BY TEAM AGENDA



Recipes by Chef Amardeep Singh Bhatia, Executive Chef, Jaypee

- Siddharth **INGREDIENTS**
- 1 kg refined flour, 1 kg khoya
- . 50g each cashew nuts, pista, almonds • 5g green cardamom, 20g fennel seeds
- . 100g coconut powder, ghee as required Sugar syrup as required

• Cardamom powder - 3g

Whole peppercorns - 3g

Skinned watermelon seeds - 15g

. Dried or fresh rose petals - 50g

Almonds - 15g

Pistachios - 15g

• Poppy seeds - 7g

Rose water - 3g

- . Mix flour, ghee, and water to form dough. Knead and rest for 10-15 minutes.
- . Cook khoya, sugar, dry fruits, coconut, and cardamom until thick.
- . Roll out small dough balls into thin circles.
- . Fill with the khoya mixture, fold, and seal edges.
- Fry in ghee until golden brown. Drain excess oil and serve warm or at room temperature.

vinegar traces.

for 2-3 hours.

dough.

Drain excess water by placing the

chenna in a muslin cloth and hanging it

. Knead the chenna until smooth, then

mix with refined flour to form a soft

Shape the dough into small dumplings.

Prepare a sugar syrup by boiling 2 cups

Add the dumplings to the boiling syrup

of sugar with 5 cups of water.

Assembly - Thandai Rasmalai

Rasmalai is ready.

and cook for 5-10 minutes. Your

and spice powder. cool it down, then strain to remove any

EMBRACING THE SPIRIT OF HOLI SWEETNESS

CHEF NISA YIMTHONG'S CULINARY JOURNEY

Coloruful Swirl

200 gms Maida

75 ml Refine oil

2gm Red food colour

2 gm Baking soda

2gm Green food colour

METHOD:

granules

in each dough.

like cigar.

In a bowl mix the flour, salt,

carrom seeds and salt and mix it

Add the oil to the flour mix and

warm water and knead it to a tight

incorporate it nicelyand little

and smooth dough without ant

Divide the dough into 3 equal

portions and add the red and green food coloring each to two portions and knead it properly so that the colour gets incorporated

To give equal colour roll out separately all 3 doughs into thin sheets and place it on top of each other according to the colours you want in your swirl and roll it out

Roll carefully into a cigar shaped roll brushing a little water at the end so that it sticks properly.

Finally cut the roll into thin slices

Meanwhile heat the refine oil for

slices 5-6 together in a medium

frying in a wok, fry the dough

sized wok for 5-6 minutes in

medium low flame till they are

cooked properly.

2gm Ajwain

2 gm Salt

Mathri

Chef Nisa Yimthong boasts an impressive professional history that spans continents

and has left an indelible mark on esteemed establishments worldwide. Her odyssey

where she honed her craft. She ascended through prestigious roles, including Chef

de Partie at the Dusit Thani Hotel and Junior Sous Chef at the Bolan Thai Restaurant

her culinary prowess at esteemed establishments such as the Sukhothai Hotel in

skills in the realm of Thai cuisine at Tamra. This journey led to her assuming the

China, solidifying her reputation as a true maestro of gastronomy.

in Thailand. Her expertise extends beyond traditional culinary offerings,

encompassing the intricate art of fruit and vegetable carving, creative food

esteemed role of Chef de Cuisine Thai at Intercontinental Century City Chengdu in

Adding depth to her culinary mastery is Chef Nisa's educational foundation; she

holds a bachelor's degree in hotel management from Suan Dusit Rajabhat University

presentation, and innovative menu development. Her unwavering commitment to

cleanliness and hygiene underlies her steadfast pursuit of culinary excellence.

Bangkok and the Leela Palace in Chennai. Her expertise truly blossomed during her

first stint at Shangri-La Eros New Delhi, where she wowed diners with her exceptional

Chef Nisa's journey took her to international opportunities, where she showcased

began as a junior sous chef at Bangkok's revered Blue Elephant Thai Restaurant,

BY TEAM AGENDA

in Bangkok

Holi is a festival of colours, but it's also a festival of flavours. It's the time when kitchens fill with the aroma of saffron, cardamom and slow cooked khoya, as families come together to prepare festive treats. The first bite of a perfectly crisp Rango ke Gubaare, breaking into a rich, nutty filling or the cool, spiced embrace of Thandai Rasmalai, soaked in saffron-infused milk, these are the tastes that make Holi special. Each sweet carries a story of tradition, celebration and the simple joy of sharing, making Holi as much about food as it is about



By Chef Vaibhav Bhargava - Consultant **Chef, Food Stylist and Entrepreneur** Chenna Rasmalai

Thandai

- · A delightful fusion of saffron-infused chenna, served in chilled thandai.
 - · Preparation Time: 20 minutes Cooking Time: 2 hours
 - Total Time: 2 hours 20 minutes Course: Dessert
 - Cuisine: Indian Servings: 4
 - **Thandai Recipe** INGREDIENTS: Milk - 250ml
 - Water 1500ml Sugar - 375g

Fennel seeds (saunf) - 7g

- Soak the almonds, pistachios, and watermelon seeds for 3-4 hours, then drain and grind them into a fine paste. Lightly roast the cardamom, fennel
 - seeds, and peppercorns, then grind them into a fine powder.
- . In a pan, bring the milk to a boil. Add saffron and sugar, then let it cool to
 - room temperature before refrigerating. Once chilled, mix in the ground nuts
- Add rose petals and rose water for a
- fragrant finish. Your Thandai is now ready.
- Rasmalai Recipe

INGREDIENTS:

- Milk 1000ml
- · Refined flour 5g
- Granulated sugar 500g
- White vinegar (for curdling milk) 60ml Water - 1500ml

METHOD:

- . Dilute the vinegar with 2-3 cups of water.

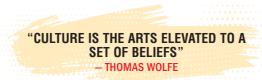
curdles and forms soft chenna.

 Bring the milk to a boil and slowly add the diluted vinegar. Stir until the milk

Add 2-3 cups of water and ice cubes to

- Squeeze the excess syrup from the Rasmalai.
- Submerge them in the chilled Thandai. Garnish with nuts and serve elegantly.











On Holi, every splash of colour is a moment of love, laughter and celebration, says SAKSHI PRIYA

ang barse bheege chunar wali, rang barse..." a song that instantly reminds everyone of Holi, bringing back memories of laughter, colours and streets filled with celebration.

This timeless Bollywood song has become the soundtrack of the festival, capturing its playfulness and joy. Whether it is Amitabh Bachchan's deep baritone or Ranbir Kapoor's youthful energy, cinema has long celebrated.

As Holi approaches, the streets fill with music, laughter and a riot of colours begins. Holi as a time of revelry. People come together, smearing each other with colours, dancing and setting aside their worries for a day. "Bura na maano, Holi hai!" becomes the anthem, inviting everyone to join in the fun.

Beyond the festivities, Holi holds deep cultural and religious significance. It symbolises the victory of good over evil, with the Holika Dahan on the eve of Holi marking this victory. The festival also signifies the arrival of spring, a time of renewal and joy. While Holi is celebrated across India in different ways, the traditions of Braj, especially in Mathura, Vrindavan, Barsana and Nandgaon, are

HOLI IN VRINDAVAN

A short distance from Barsana and Nandgaon, Vrindavan is home to one of the most visually stunning Holi celebrations. Here, Holi is an expression of devotion.

At the Banke Bihari Temple, the celebrations begin days in advance, with priests and devotees showering each other with gulal and flower petals. Unlike the lively Lathmar Holi, the atmosphere here is more devotional. The temple doors open and the deity of Krishna is brought closer to the devotees, as if participating in the celebrations. Pilgrims sing bhajans, dance in joy and immerse themselves in a Holi that is deeply spiritual.

I also spoke to Ananya Patel, who experienced Holi in Vrindavan for the first time. "It was about colours, it felt like a blessing," she said. "The temple was packed, but there was this beautiful sense of harmony. When the petals started falling from above, it was almost surreal. Everyone around me had their hands raised, singing, completely lost in the moment. It was Holi, but in the purest, most peaceful form." As locals and visitors immerse themselves in a tradition that has been carried forward for generations. One of the most mesmerising aspects of Vrindavan's Holi is the Phoolon Ki Holi, the Holi of flowers, where instead of coloured powders; fragrant flower petals fill the air. The sight of thousands of petals raining down in the temple premises is breathtaking, a serene contrast to the more boisterous

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celebrations outside.

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Lathmar Holi

Holi in Barsana and Nandgaon, two villages in Uttar Pradesh, is unlike anywhere else. Here, the festival takes on a unique and playful form known as Lathmar Holi, where women chase men with sticks while the men protect themselves with shields. It is a spectacle that draws thousands

of visitors each year, blending tradition with festivity in a way that is both energetic and deeply rooted in local culture.

Curious about what it feels like to experience Lathmar Holi firsthand, I spoke to Aneesh Sharma, a traveller who recently visited Barsana during the festival." The moment we entered the village, it felt like stepping into a different world," he recalled. "Women stood ready with sticks in hand, their faces filled with excitement. The men from Nandgaon, laughing and teasing, willingly walked into this playful battle. It wasn't aggression, it was pure joy."

He described the sounds of dhols filling the air as colours flew in every direction. "At one point, I just stood there watching.

The energy was surreal. One of the men near me held up his shield, pretending to be terrified of the women approaching him, and everyone burst into laughter. It's a Holi unlike anything I had ever seen before."

A week before the main Holi celebrations, men from Nandgaon visit Barsana. As they enter the village, they are welcomed with colours, teasing and, most famously, stick. The women of Barsana, dressed in traditional attire, await them with lathis (sticks) in hand, ready to chase them away in a playful mock battle. The men, armed with shields, try to dodge the blows, but many willingly surrender, laughing and embracing the spirit of the festival.

The next day, the women of Barsana visit Nandgaon, continuing the celebration on the men's home ground. The entire event is accompanied by traditional folk songs and the beating of dhols, with chants of "Shri Radhe!" and "Jai Kanha!" filling the air.

While it may seem intense to an outsider, Lathmar Holi is all in good fun, a symbolic exchange rather than a true battle. It represents the spirited playfulness that defines Holi in this region, where joy, music and community come together in a festival unlike any other.



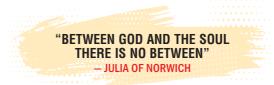
barriers. For one day, differences fade away and people come

together in laughter and celebration. In a world often divided by differences, Holi serves as a reminder few hours, life is lived in its most carefree and joyous form.

So, as Holi nears, whether you celebrate with lathis in Barsana, bhajans

<u>Bura na ma</u>ano, Holi hai!







SUNDAY | MARCH 9, 2025

























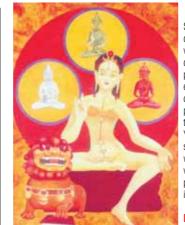




ARIES March 21-April 19

Everything is flowing smoothly in your life right now, with long-held aspirations coming to fruition. There's a sense of peace and harmony that surrounds you making it a perfect time for celebration. However, you seem to be holding back your emotions, perhaps due to past hurts, which might prevent you from experiencing deeper connections. As the week progresses, consider this an opportune moment to foster closer relationships with your family and embrace the abundance of blessings that life offers. This could lead you toward the peace and happiness you seek. If there are any familial tensions, now is the time to actively work towards reconciliation. By the week's end, anticipate receiving something you've hoped for. Consider engaging in charitable activities or visiting spiritual places, which reflects your kind and generous nature.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Plum Lucky day Thursday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Significant transformations are on the horizon, shifting the dynamics from favorable to less favorable conditions and vice versa. During this period, you might face concerns over diminishing finances or business, prompting doubts about past decisions. However, your inclination toward optimism will encourage you to await the outcomes patiently. Shifts in your career, residence, or family structure are likely, signaling a period of upheaval. Embracing these shifts can propel you towards a mindset characterized by greater personal liberation. You are keen on forging new connections or achieving success in entrepreneurial ventures. Your choices and actions will play a crucial role in shaping these endeavors. Your vibrant and dynamic personality shines through in both professional and social circles, marked by your reliability, innovation, and vivacity.

Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour Tan Lucky day Wednesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week finds you embracing strength and gaining control over your emotions, positioning you to seize various opportunities. Balancing influence and emotional resilience is key, as self-mastery leads to broader influence over your surroundings. Your disciplined approach helps you navigate life's challenges effectively, making you a dependable source of guidance for your family and peers. Your advice is valued by all, reflecting your ability to maintain a clear perspective without allowing emotions to cloud your decisions. As the week progresses, expect a burst of inspiration to ignite a new creative venture. This fresh insight might come unexpectedly, guiding you towards innovative ideas. Additionally, the week may culminate with uplifting news or a joyful event, adding a celebratory note to your achievements.

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour White Lucky day Saturday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

The week begins with the challenge of managing various demands, fostering teamwork, and ensuring progress while maintaining balance. Trust in your abilities and rise to the occasion. Recall times when you successfully navigated through competing priorities-balancing personal, professional, and financial responsibilities while maintaining wellness. You understand the rhythm of action and patience. By midweek, stay vigilant against misleading ambitions. Pay attention to potential hazards in your environment, such as accidents or safety concerns at home or work. Address these risks promptly. As the week closes, a sense of fulfillment emerges. Your financial endeavors or business investments are likely to yield significant rewards, leaving you satisfied with the outcomes.

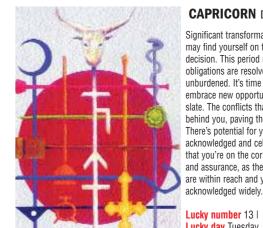
Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Saffron **Lucky day** Saturday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You are on the brink of achieving long-term financial stability and prosperity. The outlook for your economic growth looks promising, with potential gains through unexpected sources, including gifts or inheritances. Commitment in relationships may deepen, symbolized through meaningful gestures that signify long-term bonds. It's crucial now to maintain a practical approach; success will come from diligent effort rather than idle daydreaming. To enhance focus and productivity, consider incorporating practices like meditation into your routine, allowing you to view challenges with fresh perspectives. As the week concludes, you will find yourself in a leadership position, demonstrating authority and providing guidance. Your experience will be invaluable to others as you inspire and instill confidence, embodying a figure of respect and loyalty.

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Teal Lucky day Thursday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Significant transformations are on the horizon for you. You may find yourself on the winning side of a legal dispute or decision. This period marks a fresh beginning where previous obligations are resolved, allowing you to move forward unburdened. It's time to leave behind old challenges and embrace new opportunities, setting the stage for a clean slate. The conflicts that once tested your resolve are now behind you, paving the way for a phase of accomplishment. There's potential for your dedication and effort to be acknowledged and celebrated. Take this as a confirmation that you're on the correct path. Move forward with optimism and assurance, as the achievements you've worked towards are within reach and your contributions are likely to be

Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour Brown **Lucky day** Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week, you may find yourself filled with ambitious desires ranging from achieving financial stability, enjoying a harmonious home life, to seeing your family thrive. The urge to realize these goals swiftly could lead you to momentarily overlook other important duties. It's crucial to strike a balance in your endeavors to turn your aspirations into reality. Taking a pragmatic approach and focusing on practical steps rather than getting lost in daydreams will serve you well. As the week progresses, expect opportunities that could enhance your financial standing, such as making valuable connections, discovering new projects, or stumbling upon potential job offers. By the week's end, you might experience a sense of self-sacrifice, prioritizing the needs and ambitions of others above your own.

Lucky number 19 Lucky colour Scarlet Lucky day Sunday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week holds the promise of many positive developments in your life. You are in a robust state, both in terms of health and financial stability. At work, you've reached a level of expertise where you're applying your accumulated knowledge effectively in practical scenarios. Your superiors have taken note of your skills and are entrusting you with significant projects that will further hone your abilities. Your determination is at its peak, empowering you to tackle challenging tasks successfully. It's also a favorable period for strengthening bonds with friends, as your confidence and decisiveness remove any room for doubt. Additionally, your dedication and resilience are setting a powerful example for your children, inspiring them to admire and emulate your qualities. You're poised to be an influential figure for both your peers and family this week.

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Monday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You possess a natural charisma and an ability to persuade others with your eloquent communication. Your insight and self-assurance are tools you effectively utilize for constructive purposes. This is the moment to translate your aspirations into tangible goals, and thoughts into definitive actions. If setbacks have recently occurred, you now have the opportunity to transform these experiences into triumphs. Unexpected opportunities for new beginnings might arise, such as the development of a new friendship, welcoming a child, or finding deeper joy and fulfillment in an existing relationship. Your kind and empathetic nature often seeks harmony. Though occasionally you might find yourself feeling variable due to your deep connection with the emotional and spiritual realms, your perceptive abilities allow you to understand the core of any matter clearly.

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Wednesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week, you may find yourself increasingly drawn to deepening personal connections, whether that's cultivating a new relationship or strengthening an existing one. Trusting your intuition is crucial now, as it guides you to align more closely with your true self. The theme of unconditional love is prominent, suggesting significant moments such as forming new bonds, engagements, or celebrating unions might be particularly meaningful during this period. Engaging in activities that challenge you physically or mentally could also be appealing, allowing you to test and surpass your previous limits. However, you might also encounter some disagreements or competitive scenarios that could disrupt your peace. It's important to seek common ground and foster a sense of balance in interactions, striving for mutual understanding and compromise to mitigate any extremes.

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Silver Lucky day Monday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week finds you feeling fulfilled and content, both emotionally and financially. You naturally excel in roles that involve offering support and healing, always ready to lend a sympathetic ear or a helping hand. Your innate purity and appealing essence draw people to you effortlessly. You possess a remarkable ability to understand the motivations and behaviors of those around you. Plans may materialize to pass on your accumulated wealth, which could include tangible assets or invaluable wisdom that impacts lives more profoundly than mere financial wealth. As the week concludes, you'll find joy in the deepening of personal connections, witnessing the blossoming and stabilization of significant relationships, celebrating the joyous union of kindred spirits.

Lucky number 18 | Lucky colour Mint Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week, those of you who are adept at strategic planning may find yourselves navigating opportunities for financial gain. These could arise from diligent efforts or unexpected sources like inheritances. Remember, this period isn't about emotional rewards but managing aterial assets wisely. Without careful handling, there's a risk of either squandering resources or becoming overly cautious to the point of hoarding, which could lead to frustration and disappointment. It's crucial to harness your innate ability to transform and manifest your desires. Strive to find a balance between potential and actual creation. Additionally, this is an excellent time to focus inward, utilizing your abilities to enrich and transform your personal growth and self-realization.

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Dark Pink .ucky day Friday

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Ananda Tirtha Dasa

Meditation, for instance, has emerged as the foundation of tech-driven spirituality, with tools like AIpowered 'gurus'

Can SpiriTech Redefine Meditation to the Next Gen?

→he journey toward spiritual awakening is quietly evolving. Traditional practices like meditation, once rooted in serene retreats and ancient texts, are now finding a new home in the digital age. Modern technology has enabled centuriesold traditions to be reimagined for a generation often weighed down by disconnection and overwhelm.

Smartphones, often seen as drivers of distraction, are being redefined as tools for selfdiscovery. From guided meditations to mindfulness reminders, technology is making it easier to pause and find moments of calm in our hectic lives. Yet, this intersection of the digital and meditative invites reflection: can technology truly deepen our connection to meditation, or does it risk reducing it to surface-level routines?

Meditation, for instance, has emerged as the foundation of tech-driven spirituality, with tools like AI-powered 'gurus' and wearable biofeedback devices that transform the practice into a measurable and personalized experience.

At its heart, meditation is a timeless practice of reconnecting with ourselves and the Divine within us. It's about stripping away the filters that color our perception of reality, much like removing tinted glasses to see the world as it truly is. In an age where noise and distraction often dominate, meditation offers much-needed clarity.

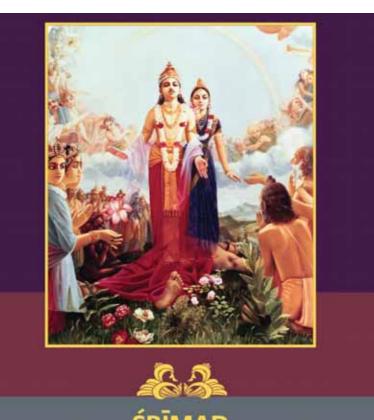
It helps us refocus on what truly matters, allowing the mind to settle and rediscover its innate peace. Technology often serves as a natural entry point to this process for younger generations, especially those immersed in the digital landscape.

Apps and guided meditations allow people to begin exploring practices that might otherwise feel intimidating. But the journey doesn't end there. When understood, meditation invites us to go beyond momentary calm and explore the essence of who we are.

This deeper potential is echoed in the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita, where Arjuna compares controlling the mind to controlling the wind, an effort that requires incredible strength, patience, and grace. To navigate this challenge, Vedic scriptures recommend mantra meditation, especially chanting the Hare Krishna Maha Mantra, as a powerful method to calm our restless minds and connect with the Divine, transcending the temporary worries of life.

Another compelling example is Dhruva Maharaj, a young prince who, after facing rejection from his stepmother and fueled by ambition for power, initially sought a greater kingdom.

However, guided by his mother, he turned to Lord Narayana within his heart and practiced deep meditation. With his sincere devotion and focus, Dhruva met the Divine, and his worldly desires faded away. What once seemed important (power and revenge) lost its value and felt trivial, like broken pieces of glass. Instead, he discov-



ered the priceless diamond of divine grace and enlightenment - a clear understanding of true fulfillment found in service and devotion.

Dhruva's journey shows that meditation can lead to significant personal transformation, which can heal our pain, shift our priorities, and help us find fulfillment that surpasses any material goals. The blending of tradition with today's technology that allows us to achieve this, or 'SpiriTech' as we can call it, is not about replacing

ancient wisdom with gadgets. Instead, it's about creating a partnership. Technology offers access and immediacy, while traditions bring depth and meaning. Together, they offer a new pathway that feels relevant yet remains deeply rooted in timeless truths. While technology cannot replicate the profound depth of traditional practices, it can act as a guide. SpiriTech provides an opportunity to pause and reconnect in a world of distractions.

Ultimately, the tools are just that - tools. The real journey is within. And for those willing to take that journey, the rewards are

immeasurable. Ultimately, the tools are just that - tools. The real journey is within. And for those willing to take that journey, the rewards are immeasurable. Embrace the ease technology offers, but remember the essence lies

in inner stillness.

The author is the Trustee of ISKCON & CEO of **Bhaktivedanta Book Trust**