



Delhi CM Rekha Gupta speaks during a felicitation programme organised to mark International Women's Day at Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium PTI

Mahila Samridhi Yojana gets green signal in Delhi

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

Rekha 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 Nadra 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

members. "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 government 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 House in Washington PTI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New York/Washington

US 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 "very unfair". 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 on tariffs".

Death penalty for forced conversion in Madhya Pradesh

GIRISH SHARMA ■ Bhopal

In 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

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ BRAHMAMPUR

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 Brahmampur, 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

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," he noted. "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



the scheme have already reached Lakhpati Didi' status, making Odisha the second-highest in the country in this 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 Pravatī 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 at the 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-

sides, another team is reportedly investigating various locations in the Joda mining area. The EOW is said to have gathered significant information and laid its hands on many incriminating documents during the raids. Investigators are focusing on three companies linked to Chakra and the Gandhamardhan Loading Co-operative 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 charges.

In Karnataka Odisha tourist dies after thrown into canal

2 women also raped by miscreants 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 stargazing. Police claimed that they have identified the accused persons and two special teams have launched a hunt for them.

Farmers' problems NKS leader to meet govt on Mar 11



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 of-

ficials 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.

'BJD lost polls as women withdrew support'

Says Opposition Chief Whip
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 Saturday.
 Mallik said Naveen Patnaik's role in women's empowerment has been significant, which they have not forgotten. However, she questioned why women seemed to forget this during the elections.
 She further raised concerns, asking why the women voters that may have swayed the



2,500 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?" Mallik asked, hinting at financial factors that may have swayed the women voters' allegiance.
 Mallik 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.


KIIT girl student death

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 10.
 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 activist 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 Singh.
 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




PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
 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 institute.
 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 Executive Director, Ashutosh Biswas said, "Dr 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.

8 mines in S'garh, Keonjhar put to auction

First step in this regard by new BJP govt
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
 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 manganese 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 25.
 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 literature.
 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.

IIT BBS organises Hindi workshop



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
 The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar organised a special Hindi workshop during the visit of a three-member inspection team from the Union Ministry of Education on Friday. The inspection team was led by Jagdish Ram Pauri, Director (Official Language), accompanied by Rekha Rani, Assistant Director, and Neetu Kumari, Junior Translation Officer.
 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 importance of the Official Language Policy and its effective implementation. He emphasised that the use of official language Hindi in institutions is not just a formality but a powerful concept that can play an equally effective role in both administration and teaching.
 The workshop was chaired by Bamadev Acharya, Registrar of IIT Bhubaneswar.
 Members of the Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC), Bhubaneswar also participated in this workshop. The programme was conducted by Dr Chetan, Professor-in-Charge (Official Language), Sambhunath Sahu, Hindi Officer (In-Charge) proposed a vote of thanks.

Cong to hold stir, seek justice for women



Observes Women's Day
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
 Members of Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) and Mahila Congress observed the International Women's Day at Master Canteen Square here on Saturday by sporting black clothes to convey the miserable condition of women in Odisha.
 PCC president Bhakta 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 State Government is a silent spectator and not taking any action.
 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



PNS ■ PURI
 In 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



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
 The NSS Cell of XIM University organised a blood donation drive in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross Society, Odisha State Branch and Regional Branch 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.
 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 Moharana and Dr Gitanjali Mishra, doctors, Indian Red Cross Society, Odisha State Branch were present during the inaugural ceremony.

'Govt colluding with corporates to push mining projects'

■ Tribal voices suppressed
 ■ Alleges Srikant Jena

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ BHUBANESWAR
 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 across the State.
 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 Korapur 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 public dissent.
 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.

Muslim nations reject Trump's call to empty Gaza Strip

Foreign 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...



The devastation in Gaza following the Israeli military offensive, with many buildings destroyed and people struggling to survive in the rubble.

KIND ATTENTION: RAIL PASSENGERS! IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF INTERCITY EXPRESS UPTO GWALIOR For the convenience of rail passengers, Railways have decided to extend the service of Train No. 14212/14211 New Delhi - Agra Cantt. Intercity Express upto Gwalior on temporary basis...

Table with 4 columns: Train No., ARR. DEP., STATIONS, ARR. DEP. for Train No. 14212 and 14211.

Temporary Stoppage at Ajhai Station

Temporary stoppage for one minute of train no. 12279/80 New Delhi-Virangana Lakshmi Bai 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.

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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, Ji Colony, Indrapuri, J.A.R.I. Central Delhi-110012...

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Bindu Devi, Mother of 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...

KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS! 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 Trains as per details given below :-

Table for 06529/06530 Sir M. Visvesvaraya (T)-Gorakhpur-Sir M. Visvesvaraya (T) Holi Special Train (Weekly) with 04 Trips.

Table for 08760/08761 Durg - Hazrat Nizamuddin-Durg Holi Special Train (Weekly) with 02 Trips.

Table for 02981/02982 Sogaria - Hazrat Nizamuddin-Sogaria Holi Special Train (Bi-Weekly) with 04 Trips.

Table for 05092/05091 Kasganj-Chhapra-Kasganj Holi Special Train (Bi-Weekly) with 10 Trips.

Table for 05303/05304 Gorakhpur-Mahbubnagar-Gorakhpur Holi Special Train (Weekly) with 08 Trips.

Table for 05325/05326 Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak(T)-Gorakhpur Holi Special Train (Bi-Weekly) with 08 Trips.

Table for 04145/04146 Subedarganj - Delhi Jn. - Subedarganj Holi Special Train (Weekly) with 06 Trips.

Table for 02275/02276 Subedarganj - Delhi Jn. - Subedarganj Holi Special Train (Weekly) with 08 Trips.

Table for 07715/07716 Charlapalli-Gorakhpur-Charlapalli Holi Special Train (Weekly) with 02 Trips.

Table for 01013/01014 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj(T)-Banaras-Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj(T) Holi Special Train (Weekly) with 02 Trips.

Table for 01015/01016 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj(T)-Mau Jn.-Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj(T) Holi Special Train (Weekly) with 02 Trips.

Table for 05203/05204 Muzaffarpur Jn. Holi Exp. Spl. Train (Bi-Weekly) with 02 Trips.

Table for 05565/05566 Saharsa Jn.-Sirhind Jn.-Saharsa Jn. Holi Express Special Train (Weekly) with 06 Trips.

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 member of the grouping. Syria was removed from the OIC in 2012 over then-President Bashar Assad's brutal crackdown on opposition protests. The ceasefire that began in mid-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.

But an intended second phase of the deal meant to bring the release of remaining Egyptian-backed hostages and a lasting truce and full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza has been thrown into doubt.

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 ministers at the OIC gathering supported an Egyptian-backed proposal that an administrative committee replace Hamas in governing Gaza.

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 others.

Public notice: I, Bindu Devi, Mother of 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...

Public notice: 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...

Public notice: I, Binod Kumar, Son of Late Mr. Binod Kumar, Resident of Plot No. 125, in Pocket K-1, situated at Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi and has agreed to sell said Property to Shri Sakun Barua and Smt. Nida Barua...

Public notice: I, Binod Kumar, Son of Late Mr. Binod Kumar, Resident of Plot No. 125, in Pocket K-1, situated at Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi and has agreed to sell said Property to Shri Sakun Barua and Smt. Nida Barua...

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HER Name Belongs on the Label

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR



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



and sustainability, was humbling. It's no longer just about my label—it's about connecting craftsmanship, sustainability, and design. That's when I truly felt I had made a difference.

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

and your design language, to stay true to your aesthetic and vision, never underestimating the power of hard work, commitment, faith and resilience. Stay grounded in your values, keep 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!



Fashion 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 openly contested, fashion subtly shapes narratives, dictating not just style but identity. Speaking to Payal Jain, Dolly J, and Rina Dhaka, it's clear that success is about talent and persistence. They 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 statements 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 into the background.

DOLLY J: REDEFINING CONFIDENCE

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 themselves.

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 work—because at the end of the day, design excellence speaks louder than any bias.

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 anyone—it's about redefining them. Every piece I create is meant to empower the wearer, making them feel like the truest, most confident version of themselves.

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

Fashion is evolving into a space



where creativity is the only measure of success. The future should not just be about "equal representation" for women but about ensuring that talent—regardless of gender—is recognised and nurtured. I hope to see an industry where the focus is solely on innovation, originality, and craftsmanship.

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.

RINA DHAKA: FEARLESS VISION

What was the biggest challenge you faced as a woman in fashion, and how did you overcome it?

When I started in fashion, there were few reference 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 cos-



times. 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 journey 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

I have been a binge-watcher for many 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 female-led 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 shaping society.

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 performance.

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



culture of her role, *Rani Padmavati*, or be it *Fighter*, where she was criticised for her costume in the film, it has always been hard for women. There have been web series bashed by the audience like *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar* for the showcasing of women as tawaifs and at the red light areas.

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.



THE SHIFT: FROM PERIPHERAL TO PROTAGONIST

FASHION (2008): Priyanka Chopra's portrayal of Meghna Mathur, a small-town girl going through the cutthroat world of modeling.

QUEEN (2013): Kangana Ranaut's Rani was a revelation. Rani's journey from a heartbroken bride to an independent woman struck a chord with viewers, proving that a female-led film could be a massive commercial success.

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

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 notions of femininity.

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

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

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 KATHAWADI (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 AGENDA

"If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair"
— Shirley Chisholm

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, unshattractive 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।।



WAAH WOMANIYA!

Me being a woman have always heard and read that for 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 deep-seated 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 Kiran Bedi.

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 leveler. 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.

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

POOJA SHARMA: AN ACTIVIST WHO DEFIED 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 long-held traditions that barred women from performing last rites, Pooja armed herself with knowledge from ancient scriptures and has since bestowed dignity on over 5,000 unclaimed bodies. In a society where women are excluded from cremation grounds, Pooja stood as a lone warrior.

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 it is 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 Amatas, 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 given platform, they don't just participate they lead.

— BY DIVYA BHATIA

Now you don't have to picture such women, you can also see them behind the wheels of the massive DTC buses, their presence a powerful symbol that defies the notion that such roles are for men.



Kiran Bedi



Bidisha Mukherjee



Nidhi Salgame



Pooja Sharma



Kalpana Chawla



Sarla Thakral



Sania Mirza



Bachendri Pal



Sushmita Sen

WOMEN WHO SCRIPTED HISTORY

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 humanity's quest for knowledge.

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 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.

The Power of HER Plates

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

CHEF MANSI'S CULINARY JOURNEY

Hailing from Lucknow, the cultural heart 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, broadening their appreciation for flavours beyond 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.

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

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 litre full-cream milk
- 60g basmati rice
- 150g granulated sugar
- A pinch of saffron
- ½ tsp cardamom powder
- 1 tsp kewra water (optional)
- 10 almonds, blanched and finely chopped
- 10 pistachios, sliced
- Rose petals for garnish (optional)

METHOD:

- Wash and soak the rice for about 30 minutes. Drain and grind it into a semi-coarse paste.
- Soak the saffron in 2 to 3 tsp of warm water.
- Heat the milk in a saucepan or karahi, then add the cardamom powder, slivered almonds and saffron.
- Bring the milk to a boil, then

lower the flame. Gradually add the rice paste while stirring continuously to prevent lumps.

- Cook until the rice is fully cooked and the mixture thickens.
- Add sugar and stir until it dissolves completely.
- Mix in the kewra water for a fragrant touch.
- Pour the phirni into pre-soaked earthenware bowls (sakorars) or

- glass serving dishes.
- Garnish with sliced pistachios and rose petals.
- Refrigerate for at least an hour before serving chilled. A slow-cooked delicacy infused with saffron and cardamom,

Mansi's Zaffrani Phirni is a perfect celebration of traditional Awadhi flavours, offering a rich, creamy and aromatic treat.

RANGO KE GUBAARE : A PALETTE OF TRADITION

BY TEAM AGENDA

Recipes by Chef Ashu Chugh, Executive Chef, Jaypee Greens Golf 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 tsp green & tamarind chutneys
 - Black salt, cumin powder, chaat masala, red chilli powder
 - 8-10 papdi, sev, 4 tsp 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 coriander. Serve immediately. A crunchy, tangy Holi special delight!



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

METHOD

- 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.
- Prepare a sugar syrup by boiling 2 cups of sugar with 5 cups of water.
- 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.

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.
 - Bring the milk to a boil and slowly add the diluted vinegar. Stir until the milk curdles and forms soft chenna.
 - Add 2-3 cups of water and ice cubes to

cool it down, then strain to remove any vinegar traces.

- Drain excess water by placing the chenna in a muslin cloth and hanging it for 2-3 hours.
- Knead the chenna until smooth, then mix with refined flour to form a soft dough.
- Shape the dough into small dumplings.
- Prepare a sugar syrup by boiling 2 cups of sugar with 5 cups of water.
- Add the dumplings to the boiling syrup and cook for 5-10 minutes. Your Rasmalai is ready.
- Assemble - Thandai Rasmalai
- Squeeze the excess syrup from the Rasmalai.
- Submerge them in the chilled Thandai.
- Garnish with nuts and serve elegantly.



CHEF NISA YIMTHONG'S CULINARY JOURNEY

Chef **Nisa Yimthong** boasts an impressive professional history that spans continents and has left an indelible mark on esteemed establishments worldwide. Her odyssey began as a junior sous chef at Bangkok's revered Blue Elephant Thai Restaurant, 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 in Bangkok.

Chef Nisa's journey took her to international opportunities, where she showcased her culinary prowess at esteemed establishments such as the Sukhothai Hotel in 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 skills in the realm of Thai cuisine at Tamra. This journey led to her assuming the esteemed role of Chef de Cuisine at Intercontinental Century City Chengdu in China, solidifying her reputation as a true maestro of gastronomy.

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 in Thailand. Her expertise extends beyond traditional culinary offerings, encompassing the intricate art of fruit and vegetable carving, creative food presentation, and innovative menu development. Her unwavering commitment to cleanliness and hygiene underlies her steadfast pursuit of culinary excellence.

Colorful Swirl Mathri

- 200 gms Maida
- 75 ml Refine oil
- 2gm Ajwain
- 2gm Red food colour
- 2gm Green food colour
- 2 gm Baking soda
- 2 gm Salt



METHOD:

- In a bowl mix the flour, salt, carrom seeds and salt and mix it properly
- Add the oil to the flour mix and incorporate it nicely using a little warm water and knead it to a tight and smooth dough without any granules
- 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 in each dough.
- 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 like cigar.
- 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 refined oil for frying in a wok, fry the dough slices 5-6 together in a medium sized wok for 5-6 minutes in medium low flame till they are cooked properly.



EMBRACING THE SPIRIT OF HOLI SWEETNESS

BY TEAM AGENDA

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 Rangoli 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 colours.



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

- Cardamom powder - 3g
- Almonds - 15g
- Pistachios - 15g
- Skinned watermelon seeds - 15g
- Poppy seeds - 7g
- Rose water - 3g
- Whole peppercorns - 3g
- Dried or fresh rose petals - 50g

METHOD:

- 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

and spice powder.

- 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.
- Bring the milk to a boil and slowly add the diluted vinegar. Stir until the milk curdles and forms soft chenna.
- Add 2-3 cups of water and ice cubes to

Dipped in Colours

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

Rang 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 among the most vibrant and unique.

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 gulaal 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 celebrations outside.

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

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."

THE SIGHT OF THOUSANDS OF PETALS RAINING DOWN IN THE TEMPLE PREMISES IS BREATHTAKING, A SERENE CONTRAST TO THE MORE BOISTEROUS CELEBRATIONS

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.

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

A FESTIVAL THAT BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER

Holi is a festival of colours, it is a festival of unity. Whether it is the playful combat of Lathmar Holi, the devotional celebration in Vrindavan or the modern citywide festivities, Holi breaks down 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

of shared joy and togetherness. The act of applying colour on someone is a playful gesture; it is an acceptance, a moment of unity. Strangers become friends, old grievances are set aside and for those few hours, life is lived in its most carefree and joyous form.

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

in Vrindavan or Bollywood beats in your own city let the spirit of the festival take over. Dance freely, laugh without restraint and embrace the colours of Holi with open arms.

Bura na maano, Holi hai!

