

Pothere Nilaj village, with a population of 6,000 and most inhabitants engaged in farming, has been following a progressive path by standing against social evils. It had become the first village in Solapur district to adopt a resolution passed by the Herwad gram panchayat in Kolhapur district in 2022 banning customs like removing a widow's mangalsutra, toe ring, and wiping her sindoor.

Opposition mounts pressure on Omar

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ Jammu

In a bid to corner the newly elected Chief Minister Omar Abdullah over the existing Reservation policy, the opposition party leaders have started mounting pressure by exposing the delicate fault lines between two distinct regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

After the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) demanded fair representation for the open merit candidates based on their total population, the Peoples Conference President, Sajad Lone, Saturday launched a scathing attack against the UT administration, claiming that the whole reservation concept was rigged against Kashmir. After the formation of the popular government in Jammu and Kashmir, Reservation has become a major issue. The Central government's decision to add more communities to the reserved category and expand quotas in the UT over the past five years raised the tension among the open merit candidates.

There are increasing objections to the Centre's move to push the reservation quota to 70 per cent in Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing a press conference in Srinagar, Lone also termed the statistics revealed by the J&K government about the issuance of Reservation Certificates as 'Shocker'.

According to data obtained through a question posed by Lone, since April 1, 2023, the Jammu region has dominated



BJP MLAs during the Budget session of the J&K Assembly in Jammu on Saturday

PTI

certificate issuance across nearly all categories. Scheduled Caste certificates were issued exclusively in Jammu (67,112 certificates, 100%), with none in Kashmir.

In a post on X Sajad Lone said: "The Scheduled Tribe category showed Jammu issuing 459,493 certificates (85.3%), while Kashmir issued only 79,813 (14.7%). Similar imbalances exist in the Economically Weaker Sections (92.3% Jammu, 7.7% Kashmir), Actual Line of Control (94.3% Jammu, 5.7% Kashmir), and International Border categories (100% Jammu). Even in the Reserved Backward Area category, Jammu led with 52.8% of certificates versus Kashmir's 48.2%."

Lone emphasised that these disparities reveal a greater loss of quotas for the Kashmiri-speaking population than previously anticipated, asserting that "the whole reservation concept is rigged against the Kashmiri-speaking population and against ST or EWS living in Kashmir."

He said that even ST populations residing in Kashmir are disadvantaged, comprising only 15% of total applicants from the ST pool. "While RBA figures appear more balanced, when adjusted for Kashmir's approximately 7% larger population, the region still lags behind Jammu proportionally," he added.

Lone also criticised the committee

established by the government on December 10, 2024, to address these grievances, noting that it lacks a specific timeline for submitting its report despite previous indications of a six-month deadline.

In a written reply to the query of Sajad Lone, Cabinet Minister Sakeena Itoo, the minister in-charge of social welfare, said no specific timeline has been fixed for submitting the report.

"The Cabinet Sub Committee stands constituted vide Government order No 2061-JKGAD of 2024, dated 10-12-2024 to examine the grievances projected by a section of aspirants for various posts regarding reservation rules. However, no specific timeline has been fixed for submitting the report," the minister said in response to Lone, who had asked whether a six months time period had been granted to the panel to review the existing reservation policy.

The minister said 1,379 villages in Jammu and 1,229 villages in Kashmir have benefited under Reserved Backward Area (RBA), while 551 villages of Jammu zone have benefited under International Border category. Similarly, 268 villages in Jammu and 16 in Kashmir have benefited under Actual line of Control (ALC) category.

The government has also issued 27,420 certificates to the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) in Jammu division and 2,273 certificates to EWS in Kashmir valley in the past two years, effective from April 1, 2023.

Nominations, recommendations for Padma awards 2026 begin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

The nominations and recommendations for the Padma awards 2026, which will be given to distinguished people for their exceptional achievements and service, began on Saturday.

The last date for nominations and recommendations for next year's Padma awards to be announced on the eve of Republic Day 2026 is July 31, 2025, according to an official statement.

The nominations and recommendations for Padma awards will only be received online on the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal (<https://awards.Gov.In>). The Padma awards namely Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri are amongst the highest civilian awards of the country. Instituted in 1954, these awards are announced on the eve of the Republic Day every year.

The awards seeks to recognise 'work of distinction' and is given for distinguished and exceptional achievements and service in all fields and disciplines such as Art, Literature and Education, Sports, Medicine, Social Work, Science and Engineering, Public Affairs, Civil Service, Trade and Industry etc. All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these awards, the statement said.

The government servants, including those working with PSUs, except doctors and scientists, are not eligible for the

Padma awards. Ever since the Narendra Modi government came to power in 2014, it has starter honouring the "unsung heroes" by awarding them with the Padma awards, thus transforming the Padma awards into "People's Padma", officials said.

All citizens are, therefore, requested to make nominations and recommendations, including self-nomination.

Concerted efforts may be made to identify talented persons whose excellence and achievements really deserve to be recognised from amongst women, weaker sections of the society, SCs & STs, divyang persons and who are doing selfless service to the society, the statement said. The nominations and recommendations should contain all relevant details specified in the format available on the above said portal, including a citation in narrative form (maximum 800 words), clearly bringing out the distinguished and exceptional achievements or service of the person recommended in her or his respective field and discipline.

The details in this regard are also available under the heading 'Awards and Medals' on the website of the Ministry of Home Affairs (<https://mha.Gov.In>) and on the Padma Awards Portal. (<https://padmaawards.Gov.In>)

The statutes and rules relating to these awards are available on the website with the link. <https://padmaawards.Gov.In/AboutAwards.Aspx>.

NDLS stamped: Two transferred officials get posting in NR headquarter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Two of the five railway officials shunted out after the tragic stampede that killed 18 passengers at the New Delhi Railway Station have been given fresh postings in the Northern Railway Headquarter.

The officials said these positions are considered "punishment postings" as they do not have any significant authority over rail operations.

The rail administration had following the tragedy shunted out five officials on March 4, 2025 in four separate orders.

Mahesh Yadav, who was removed from the post of station director, has been reassigned as Deputy Chief Operation Manager (Dy COM) for Freight Operations Information System (FOIS) at the Northern Railway Headquarter in New Delhi. According to a notice issued by the Northern Railway (NR) on March 12, 2025, the post of Senior Divisional Operation Manager for Goods (Sr DOM G) of Delhi Division was transferred to NR

Headquarter and redesignated as Dy COM (FOIS) NR.

Anand Mohan, the second official shunted out from the position of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (Sr DCM) for passenger services (PS) in the Delhi Division, has been posted as Deputy Chief Operation Manager of Coaching (Dy COM Chg). The other two officials Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Sukhwinder Singh and Additional Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM) Vikram Singh Rana are yet to get fresh postings. The fifth official Mahesh Chand Saini, who was posted as Assistant Security Commissioner of Railway Protection Force at the New Delhi Railway Station, was sent to Kota soon after his transfer order. Railway sources said that a high-level inquiry is underway to fix the accountability of those whose negligence led to the tragedy. "Officials guilty of negligence will not be let off with mere transfers. Strict actions follow once the report is submitted to the higher authorities," a senior railway official said.

Whitewashing of Sambhal's Jama Masjid outer wall likely to begin on Sunday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Lucknow/Sambhal

The whitewashing of the outer wall of the Shahi Jama Masjid in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal is likely begin on Sunday, a mosque official said.

Secretary of Shahi Jama Masjid Masood Farooqui on Saturday said an Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) team came to the mosque around noon and held a discussion about how much labour and material is required.

"We are trying to start it today, otherwise it will begin tomorrow," he said.

The Allahabad High Court on March 12 directed the ASI to undertake and complete the whitewashing at the mosque within one week.

Following the High Court order, an ASI team carried out measurements and assessments on March 13. After this the Shahi Jama Masjid's president Zafar Ali had said that the painting work will begin at the mosque after Holi. Farooqui said, "These people (ASI) are saying that they will start from tomorrow. We have told them that the High Court has given seven days, out of which three days have passed."



Three people have come here as a part of the ASI team, he said. "The ASI has brought labourers and we will also arrange for some locally." The whitewashing pertains only to the outer wall of Shahi Jama Masjid, Advocate Hari Shankar Jain, representing the Hindu side, said. After hearing counsels for the parties, Justice Rohit Ranjan Agarwal also

directed the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) to install lights on the outer portion of the mosque.

Earlier on Monday, the Allahabad High Court had directed the counsel appearing for the ASI to come up with specific averments as to what prejudice would whitewashing the outer walls of the mosque cause.

Rajasthan cops boycott Holi celebrations; seeks removal of salary discrepancies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Jaipur

Rajasthan Police personnel in several districts of the state distanced themselves from Holi celebrations on Saturday in support of their demands including promotions and removing salary discrepancies.

Former chief minister Ashok Gehlot demanded that Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma immediately intervene in the matter and look into the demands of the policemen.

Cabinet minister Kirodi Lal Meena also came in support of the demands and said he would raise the issue with the government.

Traditionally, policemen celebrate the festival of colour on the day of Dhulandi as they remain engaged in law and order duty on the day of the festival. The next day of the Dhulandi, they gather in police lines to celebrate Holi.

As usual, arrangements for Holi celebrations were made by senior officers in police lines across the state. However, police lines in Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur and other districts remained empty.

In Kota, Bharatpur, Pali, Sawai Madhopur and Bhilwara, celebrations continued with policemen playing Holi with senior officers including SPs, smearing Gulal and colours on each other and dancing to DJ music.

Kota SP Amrita Duhan danced to the DJ beats with female police personnel. Similarly, in Bharatpur, SP Mridul Kachhawa played Holi with officers.

However, the number of policemen participating was less than usual.

In Bhilwara's police ground, a Holi Milan ceremony was scheduled from 9 am to 12 pm on Saturday. Senior officers including SP Dharmendra Singh played Holi.

The main demands of police personnel revolve around promotions and salary discrepancies. They are calling for timely Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) meetings to ensure promotions, similar to other departments, increase in mess allowance among others.

"The boycott of Holi is for pressing for your long-standing demands," a policeman in Jaipur said.

In a post on X, Gehlot said, "After contributing to the joyous and peaceful celebration of Holi across the state yesterday, the policemen are boycotting Holi today. I appeal to Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma to immediately intervene in this matter and take a positive decision on the demands of the policemen to play Holi."

Tariff Par Tariff: Global trade war escalates

Continued from >> P1

China routinely sends ships and warplanes into airspace and waters near Taiwan, built military bases on human-made islands in the South China Sea and recently staged surprise live-fire exercises in the Tasman Sea between Australia

and New Zealand for which it gave no advance notice.

Australia's aviation authority said it learned of the drills just 30 minutes before they began, not from Beijing but from a pilot flying in the area, and 49 commercial flights were forced to alter their flight paths in response.

The G7 did not mention the drills in its statement.

"We share a growing concern at recent, unjustifiable efforts to restrict such freedom and to expand jurisdiction through use of force and other forms of coercion, including across the Taiwan Strait, and in the South China Sea, the Red Sea, and the Black Sea," the G7 said.

China has the world's largest navy, including three aircraft carriers, with a fourth on the way. It has a base in Sheikhdom of Djibouti in the Horn of Africa and consistently has expanded the range of the force.

Shah inaugurates first phase of police academy in Assam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Dergaon (Assam)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday inaugurated the first phase of the revamped police academy at Dergaon in Golaghat district.

He also laid the foundation stone for the next phase.

After the inauguration, Shah was apprised of the facilities at the 'Lachit Barphukan Police Academy' by DGP Harmeet Singh. Shah then took a tour of the building, where senior officials also clicked photographs with the home minister. He was accompanied by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal, among others.

Shah arrived in Dergaon on Friday evening for a three-day tour of Assam and Mizoram. Spread over 340 acres, the academy is being refurbished at an estimated cost of ₹1,024 Crore in two phases, officials said. The ₹167.4 Crore first phase includes a five-story building housing smart classrooms, weapon stimulator, research labs and administrative offices, among other facilities, besides a museum and a modern parade ground.

"This modern infrastructure is designed to give the trainees both theoretical and practical aspects of police training seamlessly," an official said.

The weapon training stimulator will



Union Home Minister Amit Shah during the inauguration of Lachit Barphukan Police Academy, in Golaghat on Saturday

PTI

help in preparing law enforcement personnel for real-world combat scenarios in a completely safe environment without involving risks, hazards and costs, he said.

The stimulator can be adapted to a number of firearms to impart basic training, hone firing skills and test the skill level of the trainees. It is aimed at train-

ing recruits for special courses as well as in commando training, the official said.

The smart classrooms will feature interactive digital boards and personal computers. The building will also have library, computer labs and seminar rooms.

A museum and a modern parade ground have also been constructed as part

of the first phase, the official said.

Housing infrastructure at the academy is proposed to be developed in the second phase at a cost of ₹425.48 Crore.

It will provide residential quarters for 240 families, hostels for 312 officers/personnel and 2,640 trainees, he added.

Visa revoked for Indian in US supporting Hamas

Continued from >> P1

The Education Department said in a press release that Columbia University currently holds more than USD 5 billion in federal grant commitments.

President Donald Trump has asserted that any college or university that allows illegal protests and repeatedly fails to protect students from anti-Semitic harassment on campus will be subject to the loss of federal funding.

Secretary of Education Linda McMahon has said since October 7, 2023, when Hamas attacked Israel, "Jewish students have faced relentless violence, intimidation, and anti-Semitic harassment on their campuses only to be ignored by those who are supposed to protect them."

"Universities must comply with all fed-

eral anti-discrimination laws if they are going to receive federal funding. For too long, Columbia has abandoned that obligation to Jewish students studying on its campus.... We demonstrate to Columbia and other universities that we will not tolerate their appalling inaction any longer," McMahon has said. In the spring of last year, large-scale pro-Palestinian protests by students against the war in Gaza erupted across US campuses as well as at Columbia University that saw encampments on the West Lawn of Columbia's Morningside campus since April 19.

The Trump administration has arrested Columbia University graduate and legal permanent resident Mahmoud Khalil for his role in leading campus protests at Columbia against Israel. Khalil, who is of

Palestinian heritage, was detained by immigration authorities and has been sent to a detention centre in Louisiana.

On Thursday, the Columbia University Judicial Board issued "sanctions" to students ranging from "multi-year suspensions, temporary degree revocations, and expulsions" related to the occupation of Hamilton Hall last spring during the Gaza protests.

"With respect to other events taking place last spring, the UJB's determinations recognised previously imposed disciplinary action. The return of suspended students will be overseen by Columbia's University Life Office. Columbia is committed to enforcing the University's Rules and Policies and improving our disciplinary processes," the university said.

Man held for morphing women's photos

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

A 23-year-old man was arrested for allegedly morphing women's photos and contacting them on social media to blackmail them, a Delhi Police official said on Saturday.

Amritsar resident Madhav Singh allegedly demanded ₹5 Lakh from a woman, threatening that he would circulate the images online if she failed to pay. A phone containing several manipulated photos was recovered from his possession after he was arrested in northwest Delhi, police said in a statement.

During questioning, Madhav allegedly confessed to the crime, saying he blackmailed the women for "amusement".

Amritsar resident Madhav Singh allegedly demanded ₹5 Lakh from a woman, threatening that he would circulate the images online if she failed to pay

"A complaint of extortion and cyberbullying was received from a woman who alleged that she had been contacted by a man through social media. Over time, the accused gained her trust and obtained her photographs," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northwest) Bhisham Singh said.

Madhav Singh allegedly used multiple

fake IDs on social media to conceal his identity and refrained from sharing any personal details such as his mobile number or address, making it difficult to trace him, he said.

However, through digital forensics, technical surveillance and manual analysis, police were able to track his online activity and identify him, the DCP said.

After sustained efforts, police successfully apprehended him and the phone used in the crime was seized, he said.

The case remains under investigation as police seek to identify additional victims or potential accomplices involved in similar crimes, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northwest) Bhisham Singh said.

Verma inspects Rohtak Road, review progress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Delhi Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Parvesh Verma on Saturday conducted an inspection of the ongoing drainage construction project at the Rohtak Road to review its progress. The road, a key corridor connecting Haryana to Delhi, has been in poor condition, prompting multiple complaints from local residents, an official statement of the PWD said.

The 18-kilometre stretch from Peeragarhi Chowk to Tikri Border is set for redevelopment. The drainage construction is expected to cost approximately ₹115 Crore and is scheduled for completion within 14 months. Since this project involves areas where Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) and three Delhi Metro stations are located, necessary permissions will be required.

Earlier this month, the Delhi government handed over the responsibility of construction of the 18-kilometre stretch from Peeragarhi Chowk to Tikri Border (Delhi-Haryana border) to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). PWD will handle the drainage work while NHAI will take over the construction, Verma said. According to the statement, the stretch is undergoing redevelopment, with drainage work estimated to cost ₹115 Crore and expected to be completed within 14 months.

Given that the stretch includes areas near three Delhi Metro stations and Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) pipelines, necessary approvals will be required. The minister has directed officials to fast-track the permission process to prevent unnecessary delays.

“Delays in obtaining approvals lead to higher costs. This should be prioritised so that work continues without interruptions,”



Delhi Minister Parvesh Verma inspects the Rohtak Road with officials and reviews the progress of development works

Verma said during the inspection.

Highlighting the poor condition of Rohtak Road, Verma criticised the lack of attention from previous government.

“People often complained that no government representative ever visited this area. Now, drainage work has begun, and the entire road has been handed over to NHAI. PWD and the Flood Control Department are working together to ensure smooth execution,” he said.

Emphasising strict quality control, the PWD minister issued a warning to contractors and officials.

“We are building roads and drainage systems that should last for years. If there is any compromise on quality, the contractor will be blacklisted, and responsible officials will face suspension,” he said.

Verma also pointed out that bad roads contribute to rising pollution levels in the city due to dust and congestion. He

assured residents that the Delhi government is committed to constructing high-quality and long-lasting roads.

Speaking to reporters, Verma said that he shares a personal connection with the project.

“My village, Mundka, the birthplace of my father and former chief minister Sahib Singh Verma is located nearby. For years, people have complained about the dust and dirt on this road. Last week, we officially transferred this stretch to NHAI. PWD will handle the drainage work, while NHAI will construct the road,” he said.

PWD Minister Parvesh Verma further added that the government is determined to eliminate the gap in road quality between Haryana and Delhi.

“Delhi’s roads will be built to the highest standards. If we are paying the full amount, there should be no compromise in construction quality,” he asserted.

CM receives feedback from farmers ahead of Budget

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday received feedback from the farmers ahead of the Budget of the BJP government to be tabled on March 25 and assured them of solving all their problems.

In an interaction held at the Delhi Secretariat, the farmers raised several key concerns, including beautification of village ponds, utilisation of gram sabha land, electricity connections for rural areas, implementation of Land Pooling Policy with immediate effect, subsidy on fertilisers and seeds, expansion of Lal Dora and modern irrigation methods and access to central government schemes.

They also said that the diesel-run tractors of farmers were seized after completing 10 years, and demanded the government to allow the use of tractors for farming purposes for up to 20 years. The aim of this dialogue was to identify challenges faced by farmers, promote agricultural growth, and accelerate rural development in Delhi. Several key suggestions were received during the discussion, which will help shape effective Budget policies.

“We called the farmers from every corner of Delhi to consult about the Budget. They have shared their suggestions with us,” Gupta said.

Gupta emphasised that farmers play a crucial role not only as “annadaata” but also in maintaining Delhi’s green and sustainable environment. Gupta assured that the government will take necessary steps to address the concerns raised during the meeting. She reiterated that Delhi’s farmers contribute significantly not only to food production but also to the city’s greenery. The government is committed to prioritising their needs and will ensure that their suggestions are included in the upcoming budget.



Besides the Chief Minister, PWD Minister Parvesh Verma was also present in the interaction session. Gupta said that the previous governments did nothing for farmers and neglected their needs but the double-engine government of the BJP will address every issue faced by them.

“Each suggestion received from the farmers will be looked into and all the problems will be resolved,” she said. The Delhi government with the help of the Centre will make every effort to ensure property in rural areas and villages of Delhi, she added.

Verma reaffirmed the government’s commitment to completing rural infrastructure projects related to Education, Healthcare, Roads and connectivity and Electricity supply. He assured farmers that the government will always be accessible to them and will ensure that their concerns are addressed effectively. The five-day Budget session of the Delhi Assembly will begin on March 25. The BJP government headed by Rekha Gupta will table a Viksit Delhi Budget for 2025-26.

On March 6, the CM held an interactive session with traders, businessmen, and business organisations to seek their suggestions for the Budget.

Delhi witnesses ‘Satisfactory’ AQI in March, lowest in three years

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Delhi witnessed its cleanest air on Saturday with the Air Quality Index (AQI) recorded at 85, the lowest in the last three years for the period from January 1 to March 15.

The national capital has witnessed a ‘Satisfactory’ AQI in the month of March, for the first time in five years since 2020. The sharp drop in pollution levels prompted the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to lift all curbs under the Graded Response Action Plan from across NCR with immediate effect. The favourable AQI reading comes a day after parts of Delhi-NCR witnessed light rainfall, keeping the summer heat at bay. The 24-hour average AQI stood at 85

at 4 pm on Saturday, placing it in the ‘Satisfactory’ category, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). This is the first ‘Satisfactory’ air quality day of 2025.

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered ‘Good’; 51-100 is ‘Satisfactory’; 101-200 is ‘Moderate’; 201-300 is ‘Poor’; 301-400 is ‘Very Poor’; and 401-500 is ‘Severe.’

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) also shared on its X account, stating, “Today, Delhi recorded an average AQI of 85, the lowest in the last three years for the period from 1st January to 15th March. Today’s AQI is also the first day of the current year with a ‘Satisfactory’ AQI (AQI 51-100).”

It further mentioned that Delhi has witnessed a ‘Satisfactory’ AQI in March for



the first time in five years, since 2020.

Meanwhile, the maximum temperature in Delhi on Saturday was 33 degrees Celsius, 4.1 degrees Celsius above the seasonal average, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The minimum temperature was 18.7 degrees Celsius, while humidity levels fluctuated between 62 per cent and 50 per cent. On Friday, Delhi experienced its hottest day of the year, with the mercury reaching 36.2 degrees Celsius, 7.3 degrees Celsius above normal, the IMD stated.

The weather department has predicted generally cloudy skies with light rain or drizzle on Sunday. The maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to be around 32 degrees Celsius and 17 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Four held for stabbing, robbing

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Four people have been arrested for stabbing a delivery company’s cash collection agent in a robbery attempt in Dwarka area, an official said on Saturday.

The accused identified as Bhagirath (22), Sumit (22), Vivek Mehra (21) and Vicky Verma (24) are first-time offenders and have committed the crime after being influenced by social media reels, he said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Ankit Singh said, “The victim, Abhimanyu Kumar, was on his way to the office on March 8, when two motorcycle-borne assailants intercepted him at a secluded spot. When he resisted the robbery attempt, one of the accused pulled out a knife and stabbed him multiple times on his neck and stomach, before fleeing the scene.”

A PCR van rushed Abhimanyu to

Indira Gandhi Hospital, where he underwent treatment. Based on his statement, a case was registered at the Dwarka North police station and a team was formed to track down the accused, the DCP said.

During the investigation, police analysed CCTV footage in the surrounding areas and identified some suspects. Further scrutiny of their social media accounts and technical surveillance helped in tracking them down, the DCP added.

He said during interrogation, the accused admitted that they were inspired by social media reels and identified a cash collection agent as the target for robbery. Bhagirath, who first identified the target, roped in the other three.

Following their arrest, police recovered two motorcycles they travelled on, the knife used for stabbing, and the blood-stained clothes of the accused. The four men were employed as housekeeping staff and motorcycle mechanics, the DCP said.

Man slits throat with liquor bottle, dies

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

In a road rage case, a man allegedly hit another on the head with a liquor bottle and used the broken bottle to slit his throat, following a heated argument in east Delhi, officials said on Saturday.

The incident happened when the motorcycles belonging to the victim and the accused collided on Friday, leading to a dispute near National Highway (NH)-24 in Kalyan Puri. Police teams arrested two men Pankaj Kumar Sinha (30) and Jeetu (27), they said.

Ashish (24), a tea-seller, was returning after Holi celebrations with his friends when he was killed.

“On March 14, a PCR call was received at the Kalyan Puri Police Station regarding an attack near NH-24. The caller reported that two bike-borne men assaulted another man with a bottle, slashing his throat before fleeing towards Raj Nagar, Ghaziabad,” Deputy Commissioner of

The incident happened when the motorcycles belonging to the victim and the accused collided on Friday, leading to a dispute near NH-24 in Kalyan Puri. Police teams arrested two men, Pankaj Kumar Sinha (30) and Jeetu (27), they said

Police (East) Abhishek Dhania said.

The police teams reached the spot and found out that the victim was rushed to a nearby hospital where was declared dead.

According to the officer, Vikas who was with Ashish when the incident happened said they were heading home to Khoda after playing Holi.

“As they crossed the NH-24 turn, their motorcycle was hit by a motorcycle carrying two people approaching from

Mandawali. A heated argument followed during which one of the bikers took out a liquor bottle from his pocket and struck Ashish on the head,” the Deputy Commissioner of Police said.

He added that the bottle shattered and the assailant then used a sharp piece of the bottle and slashed Ashish’s neck, which killed him. Both suspects then fled the scene, the officer said.

A case was registered in the matter and further investigation was underway. Multiple teams were formed to probe the matter

The accused’s movement was tracked after analysing CCTV and automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) footage, scrutinising call records, leading to the arrest of the two prime suspects, he said.

Pankaj is from Uttar Pradesh’s Ghaziabad and Jeetu from Delhi’s Mandawali and both have prior cases, police said.

Rekha, Parvesh pay homage to ex-CM Sahib Singh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Minister Parvesh Verma paid homage to former Chief Minister Sahib Singh Verma on his 82th birth anniversary on Saturday. Verma also conducted a ‘havan’ during a prayer meeting of his late father Sahib Singh Verma. The event saw the presence of several leaders from the Delhi BJP unit, including Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Kapil Mishra and Mohan Singh Bisht etc, who paid homage to the late leader.

Speaking at the prayer meet, the Chief Minister reminisced about her association with Sahib Singh Verma and the impact he had on Delhi’s political landscape. “I feel fortunate to continue the work he left behind. Our responsibility is to take Delhi forward from here,” she said.

Gupta said she shares a brother-sister bond with her Cabinet colleague Parvesh Verma, son of former Chief Minister late Sahib Singh Verma.

Pointing out that it didn’t matter who held the chief minister’s chair, Gupta vowed to fulfil the late BJP leader’s dreams for Delhi together with Parvesh Verma.



Gupta said Parvesh Verma could also have been made the chief minister and she a minister, and things would have been just the same for her.

“In Indian society, the elder sister is often entrusted with responsibility first,” Gupta said, welcoming the fact that the “sister” is now the CM of Delhi, while the “brother” is serving as a minister.

Gupta also praised the late leader’s contributions to Delhi’s development and expressed her commitment to carry forward his work. “We will work together like

a brother and sister to carry forward the unfinished work of Sahib Singh Verma,” Gupta said, describing the late leader as a guiding force in everyone’s life, including her own.

Recalling an incident, Gupta said when she became the president of Delhi University Students Union (DUSU), Sahib Singh, who was the CM at the time, called her to congratulate and encourage her. Earlier in the day, Gupta took to X to pay tribute to the late CM. “Tributes to former Delhi CM late Sahib Singh Verma on his

birth anniversary. His contribution to the service of Delhi and the nation will always be inspiring. He gave a new direction to society with his determination, hard work, and public welfare policies. His dedicated life will continue to inspire us to serve the people and work in national interest,” she posted. Highlighting his father’s vision for long-term development projects, Parvesh Verma said, “We aim to undertake work which will be beneficial not just for five years, but for the next 50 years.”

Remembering his father on the occasion, Verma said the government will complete the latter’s unfinished work in the Delhi. “Nearly three decades ago, Delhi embarked on a transformative path under BJP leadership. However, political conflicts hindered progress. Today, we stand resolute in fulfilling his dream of a Viksit Delhi,” Verma said. Delhi Minister Kapil Mishra echoed similar sentiments, emphasising Sahib Singh Verma’s lasting influence.

Born on March 15, 1943, in Mundka village, Sahib Singh Verma served as the fourth CM of Delhi from February 27, 1996, to October 12, 1998. He passed away on June 30, 2007, at the age of 64.

NCRTC to launch Metro-Desk at Ghaziabad Namo Bharat station

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) is set to launch Metro-Desk, a co-working space at the Ghaziabad Namo Bharat station.

This initiative aims to transform transit spaces into business-friendly hubs, marking a first-of-its-kind co-working model within the Namo Bharat network, the statement read.

Designed to cater to professionals, entrepreneurs and small businesses in Ghaziabad, the workspace will be located in the station’s concourse area, it stated. It will feature 42 open workstations, 11 private cabins, and two meeting rooms, accommodating up to 42 individuals and 11 companies at a time, it read. It also mentioned that the facility will offer high-speed internet, plug-and-play workstations, and modern amenities to ensure seamless productivity.

Ghaziabad Namo Bharat Station, positioned at Meerut Tiraha Mor, sits at the crossroads of the Ghaziabad-Meerut

route and benefits from its proximity to Shahid Shal Delhi Metro Station, it stated. According to the statement, the heavy footfall in this area makes it an ideal location for a co-working space, reducing commute time and offering easy accessibility for professionals.

The facility will integrate smart access through biometric entry and digital key cards, along with a dedicated digital platform for reservations, membership management and cashless transactions, it stated. Additional features will include video conferencing setups, wireless screen sharing, tech-enabled brainstorming zones, and reliable fibre-optic connectivity for seamless virtual meetings, it said.

NCRTC is also allocating commercial spaces within and around Namo Bharat stations to enhance passenger amenities and generate non-fare revenue, it stated.

Currently, Namo Bharat operates on a 55-km stretch from New Ashok Nagar to Meerut South, covering eleven stations. The full 82-km corridor, including the Meerut Metro, is expected to be completed by 2025, it added.

INDIA bloc formed for Lok Sabha polls: Karat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

The opposition INDIA bloc was formed for the Lok Sabha elections and not state polls, senior CPI(M) leader Prakash Karat has said and called for a broader platform of secular opposition parties.

He also said that the alliance should be looked at with a broader perspective so that it would not be stifled solely by electoral politics.

The Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) of opposition parties came together ahead of the Lok Sabha elections to counter the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance at the Centre.

In an interview, Karat the CPI(M) interim coordinator also said there had been no discussions of the alliance at the national level after the Lok Sabha elections and added the constituent parties had their own equations in the states.

“It is a fact that the formation of the INDIA bloc and the cooperation between its constituents in certain states, if not all, definitely led to the BJP losing its majority in the Lok Sabha...,” Karat said.

“Subsequently, assembly elections have taken place and I think the biggest setback for the opposition has been Maharashtra, where the Maha Vikas Aghadi did very well in the Lok Sabha polls and the BJP alliance was reduced to a minority. But the reverse happened in the assembly election,” he added.

The veteran CPI(M) leader also said they had not been able to come to any conclusion as the opposition alliance did very well in Jharkhand.

“We are not yet able to come to any conclusion because the situation in states differ in a very big way. For instance, in Jharkhand, the alliance in which most of them are constituents of the INDIA bloc was able to defeat the BJP,” Karat said.

“The general impression after these assembly elections is that the BJP recovered ground in these polls. But I think it should not be directly linked to the fortunes of the INDIA bloc because the INDIA bloc was primarily set up to face the Lok Sabha elections,” he said.

The Left leader said there had not been



If Opposition parties are concerned about the defence of democracy, of secularism, of federalism, there are broad parameters on which the they can find common ground

— PRAKASH KARAT, CPI(M) INTERIM COORDINATOR

any discussions on how the alliance would proceed in the post-Lok Sabha phase and added there was a need for a broader opposition platform or unity among the secular opposition parties.

“I don’t think any discussion or thought has been put into how to proceed with the post-Lok Sabha phase. There is a need for a broad opposition platform or unity of the secular opposition parties. But it (INDIA bloc) was not meant for specific state elections at that time. So, how you proceed with a broad opposition unity or platform in the coming days, I think, needs to be looked at by all the constituents, discussed and then some shape given to it,” he said.

Karat pointed out that alliances were already in place in states such as Bihar and Tamil Nadu. On the contrary, one couldn’t expect the CPI(M) to come together with the TMC in West Bengal and no one

could have expected AAP and the Congress to join hands in Delhi.

“The real challenge is, post the Lok Sabha elections, will this be only an electoral platform? If it’s only for elections, then election to election. The character of the INDIA bloc for assembly elections is going to be very complex,” he said.

“Many constituents of the INDIA bloc cannot work together in assembly elections... So, I think the opposition unity platform should not be linked purely to the electoral field. Thought has to go in because it came together as we were all opposed to the Modi government and the BJP,” he said.

Today, the Narendra Modi government still exists or is in its third term and the BJP is there as a ruling party, Karat said. “If the opposition parties are still concerned about the defence of democracy, of secularism, of federalism, there are broad parameters on which the secular opposition parties, I think, can find common ground.” “It should be looked at from that basis, then you can think of forward movement,” he added.

The CPI(M) leader added that instead of being stifled by conflicts and differing views, the opposition parties should have a “broader perspective”.

Justice Bagchi to be sworn as SC judge on March 17

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Justice Joymalya Bagchi, a judge of the Calcutta High Court, will on Monday be sworn in as a Supreme Court judge. Once Justice Bagchi takes oath, the Supreme Court will have 33 judges against its sanctioned strength of 34. Justice Bagchi will have a tenure of more than six years in the top court, during which he will also serve as the CJI from May 26, 2031 to October 2, 2031.

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna will administer the oath of office to Justice Bagchi in the presence of other Supreme Court judges at a ceremony on the apex court premises. Born on October 3, 1966, Justice Bagchi will assume the office of CJI upon the retirement of Justice KV Viswanathan on May 25, 2031. Justice Bagchi’s name was cleared by the central government on March 10 for appointment as a Supreme Court judge.

On March 6, a five-member collegium headed by CJI Khanna recommended his name for Supreme Court judgeship. The collegium -- also comprising Justice BR Gavai, Justice Surya Kant, Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Vikram Nath noted that no Calcutta High Court judge had risen to become the CJI since the retirement of Justice Altamas Kabir on July 18, 2013.

Justice Bagchi was appointed a judge in the Calcutta High Court on June 27, 2011. He was transferred to the Andhra Pradesh High Court on January 4, 2021. He was repatriated to the Calcutta High Court on November 8, 2021, and had been functioning there since then. He has served as a High Court judge for more than 13 years and stands at serial number 11 in the combined all-India seniority of High Court judges, including chief justices.

During his long tenure, Justice Bagchi acquired significant experience in diverse fields of law. His journey from a passionate law student to a distinguished judge of the Supreme Court of India reflects dedication, professionalism, and an unrelenting pursuit of the rule of law. Upon earning his law degree, Justice Bagchi embarked on a distinguished career as a lawyer at the Calcutta High Court. His meticulous approach, profound understanding of the law, and unshakable



moral compass earned him widespread respect among peers and clients alike. Known for his unwavering commitment to justice, he handled complex cases with remarkable precision, ensuring fairness prevailed irrespective of the parties involved. His reputation as a principled and impartial legal practitioner paved the way for his elevation to the judiciary.

Justice Bagchi enrolled as an advocate on November 28, 1991. Twenty years later, he was appointed as a permanent judge of the Calcutta High Court, on June 27, 2011. In 2020, he was transferred to the Andhra Pradesh High Court. On November 8, 2021, he was repatriated to the Calcutta High Court. Notably, Justice Bagchi’s recommendation superseded the names of at least ten senior judges.

As a Judge of High Courts, Justice Bagchi delivered important criminal and constitutional decisions, harping on progressing criminal justice protections such as the right to free legal aid, right to speedy trials in terror offences, and mitigating circumstances in death penalty adjudications. One decision, although later overturned, also emphasised on the right of minorities to administer religious institutions. Justice Bagchi also passed orders against corruption in public recruitment, observing that corruption not only eroded institutional integrity but also destroyed the social fabric of equal opportunity.

SC judge calls for more women government lawyers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

Supreme Court judge Justice BV Nagarathna on Saturday hailed the reservation for women in gram panchayats and asserted that at least 30 per cent of law officers representing the Union and state governments must be women.

Justice Nagarathna called for the elevation of competent women advocates as high court judges in order to have greater diversity on the bench. If male advocates under 45 years can be appointed to HCs, then why not competent women counterparts, the apex court judge questioned while addressing a seminar on ‘Breaking Glass Ceiling: Women Who Made It’ organized here by Mumbai University.

“To successfully break the glass ceiling, we must not let girls and women of tomorrow be conditioned to the anachronistic lens of gender-roles and virtues. There is no virtue for success that is exclusive to men and lacks in women,” she said while pointing out that younger women lack role models and mentors to inspire, encourage and help them to navigate through and succeed in the legal profession.

“It is vital that we recognise the importance of women who shattered the glass ceiling and to follow on their path. At the same time, we must remember women who may not have made headlines through high-profile achievements but whose contributions are just as significant and left an imprint on the lives of those around them,” she said.

Justice Nagarathna called for elevation of competent women advocates as HC judges. If men under 45 years can be appointed to HCs, why not competent women, the judge questioned

The lives of ordinary women whose primary roles are as mothers, wives and care-givers must also be recognised, the judge said.

“Their importance is not always visible but in many ways, these are the women who hold the fort for their family members to conquer the world outside. Raising children and managing households also requires a great deal of leadership, intellectual ability, and creativity,” she stated.

“Even as of 2024, women held only 14 per cent of Lok Sabha seats and 15 per cent in Rajya Sabha. They occupied less than 7 per cent of ministerial positions. The benefits of women in positions of power percolate to the commercial sphere as well,” the apex court judge said. Asserting that the judiciary needs to be sensitive, independent and free from biases at every level, she said while the number of women graduates from leading law schools and universities who are working at junior levels is nearly equal to their male counterparts, it does not translate to equal representation at the workplace.

“Their upward mobility is hampered by systemic discrimination. Gender diversity is particularly crucial in the professions serving society, where the presence of women plays a critical role in upholding the ideal of equality and fairness especially amongst disadvantaged groups.

As far as the legal profession is concerned, at least 30 per cent of law officers representing the Central or state governments must be women,” Justice Nagarathna

Kanshi Ram continues to guide us: Rahul Gandhi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

In an interesting turn of development, the Congress on Saturday paid rich tributes to Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) founder late Kanshi Ram on his 91st birth anniversary, with senior leader Rahul Gandhi saying his struggle for the rights of Dalits, deprived and exploited “will continue to guide us” at every step in the fight for social justice.

“Respectful tributes to the great social reformer, Honourable Kanshi Ram Ji, on his birth anniversary. His struggle for the rights of Dalits, deprived and exploited will continue to guide us at every step in this fight for social justice,” Rahul Gandhi said in a post on X.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge also paid tributes to the late BSP leader.

“We pay our humble tributes on the birth anniversary of great social reformer, Manyawar Kanshi Ram Ji, who contributed significantly in connecting the Dalit, deprived, exploited and backward classes of the society with the mainstream of Indian politics,” Kharge posted on X.

“He left an indelible mark as a pioneer of equality and social justice,” he added.

Born in Punjab’s Rupnagar on March 15, 1934, Kanshi Ram worked for the uplift-

ment and political mobilisation of people belonging to backward classes.

He founded the All India Backwards and Minorities Communities Employees Federation (BAMCEF) in 1971, the Dalit Shoshit Samaj Sangharsh Samiti in 1981, before forming the BSP in 1984.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also hailed Kanshi Ram and lauded his contributions to the fight for the rights of the Dalits and the deprived.

“Respectful tributes to the strong voice for the rights of Dalits, deprived, exploited and backward classes, pioneer of social justice and Bahujan leader, Honourable Kanshi Ram Ji, on his birth anniversary,” Priyanka Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on X. “Honourable Kanshi Ram Ji gave new heights to social justice and constitutional values through his thoughts and social movements. His thoughts will continue to inspire generations,” she added.

Kanshi Ram was elected to the Lok Sabha from Etawah in Uttar Pradesh in 1991 and from Hoshiarpur in Punjab in 1996. He also served as a Rajya Sabha member from 1998 to 2004.

The BSP stalwart passed away on October 9, 2006, in Delhi at the age of 71. The Congress also paid tributes to the BSP founder from its official X handle.

NCLAT directs investigation against order passed by Chennai bench of NCLT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

In a rare incident, appellate tribunal NCLAT has directed an investigation into an order passed by the Chennai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has directed the President of NCLT to conduct an enquiry into an order passed by it on March 15, 2022 saying it “cannot ignore the fact that the manner in which the order of March 15, 2022, has been passed”, appears “dubious” and “not plausible”. The facts and submissions in the matter “raise questions over the functioning of NCLT”, the appellate tribunal observed while passing the order.

“The President, NCLT, is requested to look into the issue and conduct an enquiry, particularly in order to attach fairness to the proceedings of the NCLT so as to repose confidence in the public at large on these major issues,” said two-member bench comprising Judicial Member Justice Sharad Kumar Sharma and Technical Member Jatindranath Swain. Moreover, the Chennai bench of NCLAT also directed the NCLT to send a copy of the finding of the investigation to the Chairman at the Delhi-based principal bench of

The President, NCLT, is requested to look into the issue and conduct an enquiry, particularly in order to attach fairness to the proceedings of the NCLT so as to repose confidence in the public at large on these major issues

— JUSTICE SHARAD KUMAR SHARMA, TECHNICAL MEMBER JATINDRANATH SWAIN, NCLT

NCLAT and a copy to it also. “It is hoped and trusted that as soon as the aforesaid process is completed by the Honourable President, he is requested to furnish the report back to the Honourable Chairperson, New Delhi, (with a copy to us) for necessary further action,” said NCLAT Chennai bench while passing the order last week.

The appellate tribunal’s direction came during the hearing of a petition filed by the Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd over admission of its claims.

Though NCLAT dismissed the appeal, however, the appellate tribunal said it cannot ignore the manner in which the order of March 15, 2022 was passed.

In its two-page order, NCLAT highlight-

ed irregularities in the NCLT order.

The appellate tribunal observed “when the proceedings itself was taken up on March 15, 2022, the observations/directions as observed by NCLT, Chennai on March 15, 2022, has been taken as to be the basis of passing of the impugned order on March 15, 2022 itself, which is not plausible.”

NCLAT observed that the proceedings MA/61/CHE/2021, was taken up before the NCLT, Chennai on January 18, 2022, the matter was marked as part-heard and was directed to be listed on February 15, 2022. Asset Reconstruction submitted “as per the order-sheet drawn up on February 15, 2022, the said matter was not listed nor was directed to be listed on March 15, 2022 by the NCLT”.

“But the matter is shown to have been taken up for hearing on March 15, 2022, without there being any record of prior fixation of such date for hearing, the date on which the impugned order is shown to have been passed, which is otherwise being argued to the contrary by the counsel for the Respondent, that as per the cause list showing the status of the case, the matter was taken March 15, 2022 and it was directed to be listed for further consideration on April 25, 2022,” it said.

Plea on appointment of CAG by executive before SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on March 17 an NGO’s plea seeking that the current practice of appointment of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) solely by the executive and the Prime Minister be declared violative of the Constitution.

The PIL, filed by the Centre for Public Interest Litigation, also sought direction of the court mandating that the CAG shall be appointed by the President in consultation with an independent and neutral selection committee comprising of the prime minister, the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) and the Chief Justice of India and in a transparent manner.

It said that the direction for appointment of CAG should be similar to the appointment of other bodies including Information Commissions and the Central Vigilance Commission. The PIL will be taken up for hearing on Monday by a bench of justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh.

The plea filed through advocate Prashant Bhusan contended that the present mode of appointment of the CAG, which is done solely by the executive ie by the Prime Minister who handpicks any individual and recommends his name to the President for appointment, is unconstitutional as it is violative of Article 14 and several basic features of the Constitution. “The appointment



of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India solely by the executive and the Prime Minister of India undermines the independence of the office of the CAG, suffers from grave conflict of interest and thereby is detrimental to good governance and democracy in India. It is also manifestly arbitrary, detrimental to institutional integrity and violates several basic features of the constitution,” the plea said.

It said the CAG is uniquely placed in Part V of the Constitution as one of the five institutions of the Union and a collective reading of Articles 148-151 of the Constitution along with the various provisions of the Comptroller and Auditor General’s (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971 would show that the Constitution has equated the position of the CAG to that of

The appointment of the CAG is done solely by the executive ie by the PM who handpicks any individual and recommends his name to the President for appointment

a sitting judge of this court. It added the current process of appointment of the CAG is by way of an unwritten convention which is alien to the law. “Neither does Article 148(1) nor does the 1971 Act envisage a procedure which is currently being followed where the executive, and specially the Prime Minister, appoints the CAG. If this were to be so, it would obviously and naturally run contrary to the entire scheme of Chapter V

(Articles 148-151) of the Constitution of India and the 1971 Act,” the PIL further said.

“By the very nature of his job, the CAG is supposed to promote transparency,” the PIL said, adding that if he is to discharge his duties dispassionately without fear or favour, his appointment process cannot be opaque or arbitrary. It added that the CAG acts as a watchdog over government accounts and expenditure and he plays an important role in ensuring transparency and financial accountability in the functioning of the central and state governments as well as Panchayati Raj institutions.

The NGO said the reports of the CAG are not just used for public debates, but are also an essential source of information for several parliamentary committees, for instance the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), which then uses them to scrutinise government expenditures and debate them in Parliament leading to policy making, delivery of essential services to the public, drafting appropriate and necessary legislations, and so on.

“It is for this reason that the appointment process of the CAG should be fair, transparent and non-arbitrary. Unfortunately, despite the Constitution’s best intent to keep the office of the CAG independent from any executive interference, it is increasingly witnessing political interference, thereby compromising the very purpose for which the high office was established,” it added.

BJP slams quota for Muslim contractors in Karnataka

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The BJP on Saturday slammed the Karnataka Government’s decision to reserve four per cent of government contracts for Muslims as unconstitutional, alleging that it is part of the Congress’ appeasement politics and will weaken the national unity.

Addressing a press conference, BJP leader and former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad also asked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to explain his “extraordinary fondness” for Vietnam, claiming the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha is spending more time in that country than his constituency.

Gandhi is said to be in Vietnam during Holi after spending time there during the New Year as well, he claimed. “The frequency of his visit to that country is very curious,” Prasad said. He accused Gandhi of seeking to lead the Congress in the competitive communal and vote bank politics among opposition parties, claiming that he is behind the Karnataka government’s decision for quota for Muslim contractors.

Such a decision may seem small but developments like these add up to have

serious national implications, Prasad said, wondering if there is any limit to such competitive appeasement politics and if separate queues for Muslims in buying cinema and train tickets will come next. The former law minister claimed that such decisions also weaken the voice for those Muslims who are against such politics and stand for the country’s development. Prasad said several demands for separate treatment for Muslims during the independence movement had finally ended up in the country’s division.

He said the Supreme Court has emphatically spoken against religion-based reservations and expressed confidence that the decision of the Congress government in Karnataka will be challenged in courts.

The Constitution makes provision for reservation on the ground of social and education backwardness, and Muslims too have benefited under it in different states, he said.

The Karnataka government has given its nod for amending the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement (KTPPP) Act to provide four per cent reservation in government tenders to Muslim contractors.

No ED summons to my son, says Baghel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Raipur

Senior Congress leader and former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Saturday said his son hadn't received any notice from the Enforcement Directorate to appear before it in connection with an alleged liquor scam linked to a money laundering case in the state.

Baghel's statement has come amid reports that his son Chaitanya was summoned to appear before the central agency on Saturday to record his statement.

Media persons gathered outside the Baghel residence in Bhilai (Durg district) and the ED office at Netaji Subhash Stadium at Fire Brigade Chowk in Raipur

since the morning.

Asked if his son would appear before the probe agency, Bhupesh Baghel said the question of going to the ED office did not arise if he (Chaitanya) hadn't received a notice.

He said when summons are served, they will be complied with. Talking to reporters outside his home in Bhilai, the Congress leader said, "It is ED's work to create a media hype.

The agency is being used to defame people. So far, they have been doing the same. There was a CD case against me for seven years. Recently, the court discharged me of all charges.

This is a BJP conspiracy to defame a politician."

On March 10, the ED raided the Baghel residence in Bhilai town as part of the probe into a money laundering allegation against his son in the alleged liquor scam case, official sources had said. Searches were also conducted at more locations, including that of Laxmi Narayan Bansal alias Pappu Bansal, an alleged close associate of Chaitanya, under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act , they said.

The searches went on for about eight hours, during which the ED seized about ₹30 Lakh cash and some documents, sources said.

Following the raids, there were unconfirmed reports that the ED had summoned Chaitanya to record his statement on

Saturday. Baghel, who was present at his house during searches, has claimed that the probe agency's action was the outcome of the BJP's frustration.

The main opposition Congress had on March 11 burnt the effigies of the BJP-led Centre and the ED protesting against the action.

The alleged liquor scam, as per the ED, was orchestrated between 2019 and 2022 when Chhattisgarh was ruled by a Congress government led by CM Baghel.

The agency had earlier said the Chhattisgarh liquor "scam" resulted in "massive loss" to the state exchequer and filled the pockets of the beneficiaries of a liquor syndicate with more than ₹2,100 Crore of proceeds of crime.

Policeman dies after being assaulted by villagers in Bihar



DIG Rakesh Kumar pays last respects to ASI Santosh Kumar Singh PTI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Munger (Bihar)

An assistant sub-inspector died after he was assaulted by a group of people in Bihar's Munger district, and six persons have been arrested in connection with the attack, a senior police officer said on Saturday.

The deceased has been identified as ASI Santosh Kumar Singh, who was posted at Mufassil police station in Munger. He was also "attached" with the emergency number '112'.

In a similar episode on Wednesday night, an ASI died after a scuffle between police personnel and a group of people in Araria district. The latest incident took place in the Nandlalpur village under the jurisdiction of Mufassil police station on Friday evening. "This happened when the ASI along with other officers, had gone to Nandlalpur village to investigate a case of scuffle around 8.30 pm on Friday.

He was attacked with a sharp weapon on his head by some people involved in the scuffle during the investigation. They were in an inebriated state.

"The ASI (assistant sub-inspector) suffered severe injuries and was immediately taken to the nearest government hospital, and later shifted to Patna for better treatment," DGP Vinay Kumar told PTI.

Singh succumbed to injuries during treatment at a Patna hospital in the early hours of Saturday, he said. "A case was registered and six persons have been arrested so far. The body has been sent for post-mortem examination.

When one of the arrested accused was being taken to identify other suspects, he tried to escape from custody after snatching a police weapon. He fired at policemen, but was captured by the security personnel, who opened fire in self-defence. "The accused suffered an injury in his leg,

and is undergoing treatment at a government hospital and his condition is stable," the DGP said.

A manhunt has been launched to nab the other accused.

Commenting on recent attacks on policemen in different parts of Bihar, Kumar said all police stations have been directed to assess the situation before conducting raids in various cases.

Instructions have also been issued to always visit spots of investigation with adequate number of personnel, he said.

The police have been asked to intensify the drive to nab questioning accused wanted in criminal cases in their respective areas of jurisdiction, the DGP said.

In a similar episode on Wednesday night, an ASI died after a scuffle between police personnel and a group of people in Araria district

"I must also say that people should maintain the sanctity of the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) 'Dial 112'. Once a call is received on the number, no time is wasted to reach the incident spot.

The team of 'Dial 112' comprises not more than three to four personnel. People should not misbehave with them," Kumar said. In the incidents at Munger and Araria, the ASIs were attached with the emergency number.

In the Araria episode in Lakshmipur area under the jurisdiction of Phulkaha police station on Wednesday night, when personnel attached with the emergency number went to nab a person, a brawl broke out between them and those protesting the arrest, SP Anjani Kumar had said.

Tamil Nadu government announces special package for paddy growers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Chennai

Tamil Nadu government will implement a special package to increase the paddy area and food grain production during Kar, Kuruvai and Sornavari seasons, in 29 non-Cauvery Delta districts at an outlay of ₹102 Crore, Agriculture Minister MRK Panneerselvam informed the Assembly on Saturday. These cultivation seasons begin in the months of May-June, June-July, and April-May respectively for 120 days long paddy crops. The package includes a subsidy for machine planting and quality certified seeds to farmers. A similar package will be provided to farmers in the Delta districts to increase the area and food grain production during Kuruvai and a sum of ₹58 Crore will be allocated for the purpose, he said.

Paddy is cultivated on 18 Lakh acres in the Cauvery delta districts and 34 Lakh acres in non-delta districts in the state.

Making a slew of announcements while presenting the Agriculture Budget for 2025-26 in the Assembly, the fifth after the DMK stormed to power in 2021, Panneerselvam said the government would arrange an international exposure visit for paddy farmers.

"To help farmers learn the latest technologies and implement the same in their fields, 100 progressive farmers will be taken for an exposure visit to Japan, China and Vietnam for which ₹2 Crore will be allocated," the Minister said. The government would unveil the Tamil Nadu Agroforestry Policy to promote the growing of valuable trees such as Sandal, Red Sanders, Mahogany and Rosewood and to simplify the procedures related to registration, felling, transportation and marketing of timber and to achieve a greener Tamil Nadu. "Trees improve crop productivity by aiding in rainfall and enhance soil health by shedding biomass. Therefore, agro-



Tamil Nadu Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare MRK Panneerselvam speaks during the announcement of the state Agriculture Budget 2025-26, in Chennai PTI

forestry is encouraged to provide additional income to farmers through the cultivation of high-value trees," Panneerselvam said in his Budget speech that lasted for a little over one-and-a-half hours. These centres will serve as hubs for agricultural support, offering essential inputs such as seeds, fertilisers and other farming necessities besides offering expert guidance on enhancing crop productivity, pest and disease management, etc. "Malaivazh Uzhavar Munnetra Thittam" (The hill farmers development scheme) will be implemented this year at ₹22.80 Crore for the welfare of 63,000 hill farmers in 20 districts. The scheme covers minor millet cultivation, distribution of inputs, area expansion in vegetable crops, farm machinery, value addition, Micro Irrigation and Integrated Farming System, and steps to provide Kisan credit cards. Maize production will be enhanced in an area of 1.87 Lakh acres at ₹40.27 Crore under Union and State funds. Organic farming will be encouraged in 37 districts at an outlay of ₹12 Crore.

Crop Insurance Scheme will be implemented to protect farmers from income

loss, he said and added this scheme will be implemented during 2025-26 for ₹ 841 crore to cover 35 Lakh acres. "Over the past four years, ₹1,631.53 Crore has been distributed as relief to 20.84 Lakh farmers for damages caused in agricultural and horticultural crops. Additionally, ₹5,242 Crore was provided as crop insurance compensation to 30 Lakh farmers in the past four years," Panneerselvam said.

"The Kudimaramathu scheme of renovating waterbodies with community participation was dropped. This government has not brought beneficial schemes like the Athikadavu- Avinashi scheme brought by former CM J Jayalalithaa," Palaniswami said. BJP state chief claimed "the DMK government has presented a lie and a fabrication in the name of the Agriculture Budget." In a post on X, he said the crop cultivation area in the state decreased by four lakh acres from 155 Lakh acres last year but this fact was concealed. Instead, the government claimed the area this year increased compared to the extent four years ago. "Why? How stupid does the DMK think the people of Tamil Nadu are?" he asked.

ISRO conducts flight acceptance hot test of Cryogenic Engine

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Bengaluru

ISRO on Saturday said it has successfully conducted the flight acceptance hot testing of the cryogenic engine identified for the sixth operational mission of LVM3 launch vehicle (LVM-M6) at ISRO (Indian space research organisation) Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu. The cryogenic engine of every mission undergoes hot testing as part of its acceptance process for the flight, ISRO said in a statement. Hot tests for the indigenous cryogenic engine (CE20) used in the Cryogenic Upper Stage of LVM3 were so far performed at the High-Altitude Test (HAT) facility at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) where vacuum conditions are simulated with complex installations, limiting the maximum hot test duration to 25 seconds.

"In the current test, the engine was tested for a longer duration of 100 seconds for the first time using an innovative Nozzle Protection System under non-vacuum conditions," ISRO said. The space agency said that this test method significantly reduces the setup time and effort required for the flight acceptance test of a cryogenic engine, which in turn helps faster delivery of cryogenic stages for space missions. "Performance of the CE20 engine met all the test objectives and the parameters were closely matching with the predictions during the entire duration of the test," ISRO said.

Further, this engine will be integrated into the Cryogenic Upper Stage of the launch vehicle for the LVM3-M6 mission, which is scheduled during the second half of 2025, the statement read.

Bid to bring Rowlatt Act to suppress opposition: Supriya Sule

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Mumbai

NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule has equated the proposed law against urban naxalism in Maharashtra with the colonial Rowlatt Act, which she alleged might be misused against individuals or organisations critical of the government, effectively creating a police raj.

Sule demanded that the government review the draft of the bill and ensure that Constitutional values are not violated.

The 'Maharashtra Special Public Security Bill, 2024' bill, which will become the first law to tackle naxalism in the state, proposes to give several powers to the government and the police machinery in combating unlawful activities.

All offences registered under this Act will be cognisable and non-bailable.

While re-introducing the bill during the winter session of the state legislature last December, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had said the law was aimed at closing down the dens of urban Naxals, stressing that the proposed legislation was not against suppressing genuine dissenting voices. Sule on Saturday claimed the bill would undermine the fundamental rights of citizens.

"Through this bill, the rights of common people to speak against the government will be taken away.

The principle of democracy also values opposition voices, as they ensure that those in power remain accountable and respect public opinion

— SUPRIYA SULE, MP, NCP (SP)

In a truly healthy democracy, dissenting opinions are respected. "The principle of democracy also values opposition voices, as they ensure that those in power remain accountable and respect public opinion," the NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) working president stated on X.

Sule said the definition of "illegal acts" seems to grant unlimited powers to government agencies in the proposed law.

"This effectively gives the government a license to establish a Police Raj, which could be misused against individuals, institutions, or organisations that express constructive opposition democratically," the Baramati MP alleged.

She said the bill undermines the very

concept of "We, the People of India".

Sule said the bill would bestow unchecked powers on the administration which could be misused to harass individuals out of sheer vindictiveness.

"Criticising government policies and decisions, peacefully protesting, or organising marches could all be deemed illegal acts.

This bill disregards the principles of ideological diversity and directly infringes upon citizens' Constitutional rights," she alleged. Sule claimed the bill grants the government the power to interfere in certain judicial processes, "posing a direct threat to judicial independence".

According to Sule, some provisions of the bill encroach upon fundamental Constitutional rights such as freedom of expression, freedom of association, and the right to a fair trial.

"Historically, the British attempted to introduce a similar law (The Rowlatt Act) to suppress opposition during colonial rule," she alleged.

Sule further said the bill is a "direct denial" of core principles of the Constitution, and we strongly condemn it. We urge the government to review the draft of this bill and ensure that Constitutional values are not violated".

Fadnavis had told the winter session that a law was needed to tackle naxalism in Maharashtra since the state lacks one.

"We have IPC (Indian Penal Code) and UAPA (Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act). UAPA is for handling cases related to terror activities," he had told the assembly. Fadnavis said Chhatigarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha have enacted Public Security Acts for effective prevention of unlawful activities, and banned 48 frontal organisations.

The bill describes unlawful activities as indulging in or propagating acts of violence, vandalism or other acts generating fear and apprehension in the public.

Indulging in or encouraging the use of firearms, explosives or other devices, encouraging or preaching disobedience to established law and its institutions is also an unlawful activity, it said.

An unlawful organisation is one which indulges in or bets or assists, gives aid, or encourages directly or indirectly any unlawful activity. Association with an unlawful organisation will see a jail term from three to seven years and a fine of ₹3Lakh to ₹5 Lakh, itsaid.

Controversy over Imran Masood playing Holi

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ Lucknow

Saharanpur Congress MP Imran Masood has found himself at the centre of controversy after playing Holi with Hindu activists in Deoband during the festival of colours. The Ulama, the Islamic clerics, have criticised his actions, stating that a Muslim should adhere to Shariat and refrain from engaging in non-religious traditions.

Chairman of the Online Fatwa Department, Maulana Mufti Arshad Farooqui, expressed strong disapproval, saying, "Performing non-Islamic acts is strictly prohibited in Islam. Such anti-Islamic practices are absolutely wrong and are not permissible under Shariat."

Farooqui further emphasised that

while Islam advocates respect for all religions, there are other ways to foster brotherhood without violating religious principles. "This kind of practice goes against Islamic teachings," he added. Maulana Qari Ishaq Gora, Patron of Jamiat Dawatul Muslimeen and a renowned Islamic scholar, echoed similar sentiments. "There are numerous other ways to promote unity and brotherhood. Adopting non-religious traditions is incorrect from an Islamic perspective. One should repent for such actions," he stated. The controversy has sparked debate within the community, with some supporting Masood's gesture as a step towards communal harmony, while others see it as a violation of religious norms. The incident highlights the delicate balance

ance between cultural integration and religious adherence in a diverse society like India. However, the controversy comes at a time when Holi and Friday prayers coincided in Uttar Pradesh. In a remarkable gesture of communal harmony, Muslims in Deoband offered their Friday prayers at 2:30 pm, after Hindus had finished playing Holi. This peaceful coordination between the two communities was seen as a symbol of unity and respect for each other's traditions.

Local residents appreciated the gesture, with one community leader stating, "This act of mutual respect and cooperation reflects the true spirit of unity that our society stands for. Despite religious differences, we can celebrate peace and harmony together."

State protocol officer involved in Rao case: DRI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Bengaluru

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has stated in the court that the Karnataka Police Protocol Officer was used in the gold smuggling racket involving actress Ranya Rao.

In its argument against giving bail to Ranya, the central agency told the Special Court for Economic Offences that the accused had travelled to Dubai 27 times since January this year. Ranya is the step-daughter of DGP rank officer K Ramachandra Rao, the Managing Director of the Karnataka State Police Housing and Infrastructure Development Corporation.

"The investigation till date has unearthed the sophisticated methodology used in smuggling the gold, usage of State Police Protocol Officer to bypass security, Hawala Transaction to transfer the funds from India to Dubai to purchase gold, involvement of larger syndicate," the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) contended.

After these arguments, the court declined bail to Ranya on Friday.

Judge Vishwanath C Gowdar, who presided over the Special Court for Economic Offences, took note of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence's contentions. "In the case on hand, the accused No 1 (Ranya Rao) possessing Resident Identity Card of United Arab Emirates and having history of traveled to Dubai on 27 occasions since January 2025, is another factor which does not incline

The investigation has unearthed usage of State Police Protocol Officer to bypass security, Hawala Transaction to transfer the funds from India to Dubai to purchase gold, involvement of larger syndicate
— DIRECTORATE OF REVENUE INTELLIGENCE

the court to extend discretionary relief of granting bail to accused," the Court said while rejecting her bail petition.

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) also said the investigation was under progress to examine international links. It stated that Ranya Rao had not cooperated during the investigation in the custody.

"It is also specifically contended that the alleged offence is cognizable, non-bailable, and punishable with imprisonment up to seven years," the court observed in its order copy.

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence pointed out that the offence committed in this case has serious ramifications affecting the fabric of Indian economy and security.

The Court said, "The remand applications placed on record at this stage of proceedings, disclose the conspiracy hatched by the accused No1 (Ranya Rao) by colluding with State Police Protocol Officer".

"The arguments of the complainant Agency as to the usage of Hawala transaction for transfer of money from India

to Dubai and also the International links being forthcoming as per the preliminary investigation is also a factor which inclines this court to hold the accused".

The Judge also said that the accused is capable to manipulate and tamper the evidences as well as witnesses, which consequently hampers the very trial in the case on hand.

"The apprehension of the complainant as to the accused No.1 will throttle the witnesses and flee away from the process of court cannot be ruled out at this juncture," the court observed.

It further stated that prima facie at this juncture, the allegations against Ranya Rao are very much forthcoming and the concealment of the gold by her in the form of gold bars while traveling is very much transpiring her intention.

Gold bars worth ₹12.56 Crore were seized from Ranya Rao at Kempegowda International Airport here on March 3 upon her arrival from Dubai, following which searches were conducted at her residence and officials said that gold jewellery worth ₹2.06 Crore and ₹2.67 Crore in cash were also recovered. Besides Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), the Enforcement Directorate as well as the CBI (central bureau of investigation) are also probing the matter simultaneously.

In addition, the Karnataka government on March 10 appointed Additional Chief Secretary Gaurav Gupta to probe the role of Ramachandra Rao, if any, in the alleged gold smuggling activity of his step daughter Ranya.

Farmer leader Rakesh Tikait survives car crash in Uttar Pradesh

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ Lucknow

Prominent farmer leader Rakesh Tikait narrowly escaped a major accident on Friday evening when his car collided with a Nilgai, also known as a blue bull, on the Muzaffarnagar to Mirapur bypass in Uttar Pradesh.

The incident occurred around 7:20 pm when the animal suddenly jumped in front of Tikait's vehicle, causing a heavy impact that damaged the front of the car.

Fortunately, the airbags deployed immediately, protecting Rakesh Tikait and other passengers from any injuries.

Recalling the terrifying moment, Tikait said, "It happened in a flash.

Rakesh Tikait also stated that they could not comprehend what was happening. The airbags opened and enveloped us, saving our lives."

Following the incident, the Bharatiya Kisan Union leader, who played a key role in the farmers' protest against the farm laws, emphasised the importance of road safety and the use of seat belts. On getting information, Uttar Pradesh minister Kapil Dev Agarwal and Muzaffarnagar Lok Sabha Member of Parliament Harendra Singh Malik visited Tikait's residence to check on the farmer leader. Speaking to reporters at his residence, Tikait said the nilgai jumped on to the road from the wrong side and collided with his vehicle.

"We were wearing seat belts, which gave us extra security. Everyone must wear a seat belt. Had the vehicle been smaller, and if we were not wearing seat belts, the damage could have been greater.

"My gunman sustained minor injuries. The wild animals move at a fast speed," Tikait said, as he urged people not to drive at a high speed.

The accident highlights the frequent incidents of Nilgai collisions on highways in western Uttar Pradesh, posing a serious threat to drivers and the passengers.

SpaceX launches new crew to space station to replace NASA's stuck astronauts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Cape Canaveral (US)

The replacements for NASA's two stuck astronauts —Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams — launched to the International Space Station on Friday night,

paving the way for the pair's return after nine long months.

Wilmore and Williams need SpaceX to get this relief team to the space station before they can check out. Arrival is set for late Saturday night. NASA wants overlap between the two

crews so Wilmore and Williams can fill in the newcomers on happenings aboard the orbiting lab. That would put them on course for an undocking next week and a splashdown off the Florida coast, weather permitting.

The duo will be escorted back by astronauts

who flew up on a rescue mission on SpaceX last September alongside two empty seats reserved for Wilmore and Williams on the return leg.

Reaching orbit from NASA's Kennedy Space Center, the newest crew includes NASA's Anne

McClain and Nichole Ayers, both military pilots; and Japan's Takiya Onishi and Russia's Kirill Peskov; both former airline pilots. They will spend the next six months at the space station, considered the normal stint, after springing Wilmore and Williams free.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Sandeep Vats with respect to Plot No.11, Upper Ground Floor (LHS), area measuring 90 sq. yards (812 Sq. Ft.), out of Kharsa no. 6322/1, 6322/2 and 6322/3, situated in the area of Village Chhattarpur, New Delhi, 110074; which is presently owned by Mr. Naresh Kumar has purchased the subject property from Mr. Rohit Gupta through Regd. General Power of Attorney dated 19.12.2022, now Mr. Sandeep Vats intend to purchase the same and mortgage against the financial assistance from ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim/right/title/interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 15 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, liens etc. Lucern Legal LLP Plot No. 136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049 Contact # 911-40046316

KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS! POST HOLI FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2025

For the convenience of passengers Railways have decided to run several post Holi Festival Special trains from Delhi area stations, the date wise list of the same is as under:-

SPECIAL TRAINS RUNNING ON 16.03.2025 (SUNDAY) FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS					
Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station To	Arr. Time	Stoppages
04020	Anand Vihar (T)	19:30	Barauni Jn.	18:00	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow Jn., Rae Bareli Jn., Maa Belha Devi Dham Pratapgarh, Varanasi, Aunrihar Jn., Ghazipur City, Ballia, Suraimanpur, Chhapra & Hajipur Jn. Stations
04062	Delhi Jn.	23:55	Patna Jn.	16:40	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara & Danapur Stations
04068	Anand Vihar (T)	14:00	Bhagalpur	13:30	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patna Jn., Bakhtiyarpur Jn, Mokama, Hathidah Jn., Luckeesarai Jn., Kiul Jn., Abhaipur, Jamalpur Jn. & Sultanganj Stations
02436	New Delhi (Vande Bharat Spl.)	08:30	Patna Jn. (Vande Bharat Spl.)	20:10	Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & Ara Stations.
05578	Anand Vihar (T)	05:15	Saharsa Jn.	10:30	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur Jn., Kaptanganj Jn., Bagaha, Narkatiaganj Jn., Raxaul Jn., Bairagnia, Sitamarhi, Janakpur Road, Darbhanga Jn., Sakri Jn., Jhunjharpur, Ghogardiha, Nirmali, Saraygarh, Supaul & Garh Baruari
05220	Anand Vihar (T)	08:00	Muzaffarpur Jn.	00:45	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt Deen Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Sonpur Jn. & Hajipur Jn. Stations
02982	Hazrat Nizamuddin	06:00	Sogaria	13:10	Mathura Jn., Bharatpur Jn., Bayana Jn., Hindaun City, Gangapur City & Sawai Madhopur Stn.
09726	Shakurbasti	15:50	Dahar Ka Balaji	22:50	Bahadurgarh, Asthal Bohar, Jhajjar, Rewari Jn., Kund, Ateli, Narnaul, Nizampur, Dabla, Maonda, Nim Ka Thana, Kanwat, Shri Madhopur, Ringas Jn., Govindgarh Malkpur, Chomun Samod & Nindhar Benar Stations
03698	Delhi Jn.	08:55	Gaya Jn.	00:30	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone & Anugrah Narayan Road Stations
02526	Anand Vihar (T)	17:20	Kamakhya Jn.	03:40	Aligarh Jn., Tundla Jn., Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt.deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Hajipur Jn., Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Khagaria Jn., Naugachia, Katihar Jn., Barsoi Jn., Kishanganj, New Jalpaiguri, New Cooch Behar, Tufanganj, Golakganj Jn., Gauripur, Bilasipara, Abhayapuri Asam & Goalpara Town Stations
03414	Delhi Jn.	13:35	Malda Town	17:30	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt.deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patna Jn., Patna Saheb, Fatuha, Khusrupur, Bakhtiyarpur Jn., Barh, Mokama, Hathidah Jn., Barhiya, Luckeesarai Jn., Kiul Jn., Kajra, Abhaipur, Dharhara, Jamalpur Jn., Bariarpur, Sultanganj, Bhagalpur, Kahalgaon, Sahibganj Jn., Barharwa Jn., New Farakka Jn. Stations
02982	Hazrat Nizamuddin	06:00	Sogaria	13:10	Mathura Jn., Bharatpur Jn., Bayana Jn., Hindaun City, Gangapur City & Sawai Madhopur Stations
01708	Anand Vihar (T)	18:05	Jabalpur Jn.	10:00	Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Tundla Jn., Etawah Jn., Govindpuri, Fatehpur, Prayagraj Jn., Shankargarh, Manikpur Jn., Satna, Maihar & Katni Stations
02394	New Delhi	13:20	Rajendra Nagar	07:45	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur & Patna Jn. Stations
SPECIAL TRAINS RUNNING ON 17.03.2025 (MONDAY) FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS					
04081	New Delhi	23:45	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Kutra	11:40	Sonipat, Panipat Jn., Karnal, Kurukshetra Jn., Ambala Cantt. Jn., Dhandari Kalan, Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt., Jammu Tawi & Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan Stations
04208	New Delhi	20:20	Lucknow	06:00	Ghaziabad, Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur & Hardoi Stations
04024	Delhi Jn.	19:30	Varanasi Jn.	09:45	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Lucknow, Raebareli Jn. & Maa Belha Devi Dham Pratapgarh Jn. Stations
04064	New Delhi	09:30	Gaya Jn.	01:50	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram & Dehri-on-Sone Stn.
04062	Delhi Jn.	23:55	Patna Jn.	16:40	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara & Danapur
04066	New Delhi	21:35	Saharsa Jn.	22:00	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra Jn., Sonpur, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Dalsinghsarai, Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Khagaria Jn. & Mansi Jn. Stations
04010	Anand Vihar (T)	23:55	Jogbani	03:00	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur Jn., Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Shahpur Patoree, Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Khagaria Jn., Naugachia, Katihar Jn., Purnia Jn., Ariari Jn. & Forbesganj Jn. Stations
04014	Anand Vihar (T)	05:00	Jaynagar	12:00	Moradabad Jn., Bareilly Jn., Lucknow, Raebareilly Jn., Amethi, Maa Belha Devi Dham Pratapgarh Jn., Varanasi Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Darbhanga Jn. & Madhubani Stations
03256	Anand Vihar (T)	23:30	Patna Jn.	18:35	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara & Danapur Stations
02394	New Delhi	13:20	Rajendra Nagar	07:45	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur & Patna Jn. Stations
02398	Anand Vihar (T)	08:20	Gaya	00:30	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri-on-Sone & Anugraha N. Road Stations
03258	Anand Vihar (T)	05:00	Danapur	20:45	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & Ara Stations
03012	Anand Vihar (T)	00:30	Howrah	03:00	Tundla Jn., Etawah Jn., Govindpuri, Fatehpur, Paryagraj Jn., Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone, Anugraha Narayan Road, Gaya, Koderma, Dhanbad, Asansol, Durgapur, Barddhaman & Bandel Jn. Stations.
06074	Hazrat Nizamuddin	04:10	Thiruvananthapuram North	14:15	Mathura Jn., Agra Cantt Jn., Gwalior Jn., Virangana Lakshmbai Jhansi Jn., Bina Jn., Rani Kamalapati, Nagpur Jn., Balharshah, Warangal, Vijayawada Jn., Nellore, Gudur Jn., Renigunta Jn., Tirupati, Chittoor, Katpadi Jn., Jolarpettai Jn., Salem Jn., Erode Jn., Tiruppur, Podanur Jn., Palakkad Jn., Thirsur, Aluva, Ernakulam Town, Kottayam, Tiruvalla, Chengannur, Mavelikara, Kayankulam Jn. & Kollam Jn. Stations
SPECIAL TRAINS RUNNING ON 18.03.2025 (TUESDAY) FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS					
04070	Anand Vihar (T)	00:20	Rajgir	19:50	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patna Jn., Bakhtiyarpur Jn. & Bihar Sharif Jn. Stations
04030	Anand Vihar (T)	09:00	Muzaffarpur Jn.	06:00	Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur Jn., Kaptanganj Jn., Narkatiaganj Jn., Sagauli Jn. & Bapudham Motihari Stations
04016	Anand Vihar (T)	11:40	Sitamarhi	15:45	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Lucknow Jn., Rae Bareli Jn., Maa Belha Devi Dham Pratapgarh Jn., Varanasi, Aunrihar Jn., Ghazipur City, Ballia, Suraimanpur, Chhapra, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn. & Muzaffarpur Jn. Stations
02436	New Delhi	08:30	Patna Jn.	20:10	Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & Ara Stations
05578	Anand Vihar (T)	05:15	Saharsa Jn.	10:30	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur Jn., Kaptanganj Jn., Bagaha, Narkatiaganj Jn., Raxaul Jn., Bairagnia, Sitamarhi, Janakpur Road, Darbhanga Jn., Sakri Jn., Jhunjharpur, Ghogardiha, Nirmali, Saraygarh, Supaul & Garh Baruari Stations
02394	New Delhi	13:20	Rajendra Nagar	07:45	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur & Patna Jn. Stations
03698	Delhi Jn.	08:55	Gaya Jn.	00:30	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone & Anugrah Narayan Road Stations
03010	Anand Vihar (T)	00:30	Howrah Jn.	03:00	Tundla Jn., Etawah Jn., Govindpuri, Fatehpur, Prayagraj Jn., Mirzapur, Pt.deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone, Anugraha N Road, Gaya Jn., Koderma, Dhanbad Jn., Asansol Jn., Durgapur, Bardhaman & Bandel Stations
03436	Anand Vihar (T)	15:45	Malda Town	23:30	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt.deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patna Jn., Bakhtiyarpur Jn., Mokama, Kiul Jn., Abhaipur, Jamalpur Jn., Sultanganj, Bhagalpur, Kahalgaon, Pirpainti, Sahibganj Jn., Barharwa Jn. & New Farakka Jn. Stations
04146	Delhi Jn.	09:30	Subedarganj	19:40	Aligarh Jn., Tundla Jn., Etawah, Govindpuri & Fatehpur Stations
05204	Anand Vihar (T)	09:20	Muzaffarpur Jn.	05:00	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Sonpur Jn. & Hajipur Jn. Stations
07708	Hazrat Nizamuddin	03:15	Charlapalli	09:30	Agra Cantt., Virangana Lakshmbai (Jhanshi), Bina Jn., Rani Kamalapati (Bhopal), Nagpur, Chandrapur, Balharshah, Sirpur Kaghzanagar, Manchiryal, Ramagundam & Kazipet Jn. Stations
04012	Delhi Jn..	19:30	Darbhanga	16:30	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur Jn., Narkatiaganj, Raxaul, Bairagnia, Sitamarhi & Janakpur Road Stations
SPECIAL TRAINS RUNNING ON 19.03.2025 (WEDNESDAY) FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS					
04068	Anand Vihar (T)	14:00	Bhagalpur	13:30	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patna Jn., Bakhtiyarpur Jn., Mokama, Hathidah Jn., Luckeesarai Jn., Kiul Jn., Abhaipur, Jamalpur Jn. & Sultanganj Stations
02436	New Delhi	08:30	Patna Jn.	20:10	Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & Ara Stations
05578	Anand Vihar (T)	05:15	Saharsa Jn.	10:30	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur Jn., Kaptanganj Jn., Bagaha, Narkatiaganj Jn., Raxaul Jn., Bairagnia, Sitamarhi, Janakpur Road, Darbhanga Jn., Sakri Jn., Jhunjharpur, Ghogardiha, Nirmali, Saraygarh, Supaul & Garh Baruari Stations
02394	New Delhi	13:20	Rajendra Nagar	07:45	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur & Patna Jn. Stations
05306	Anand Vihar (T)	00:20	Chhapra	22:50	Etawah, Kanpur Central, Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki Jn., Gonda Jn., Mankapur Jn., Bahnnan, Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur, Kaptanganj Jn., Padrauna, Tamkuhi Road, Thawe Jn. & Siwan Jn. Stations
03698	Delhi Jn.	08:55	Gaya Jn.	00:30	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone & Anugrah Narayan Road Stations
03414	Delhi Jn.	13:35	Malda Town	17:30	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt.deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patna Jn., Patna Saheb, Fatuha, Khusrupur, Bakhtiyarpur Jn., Barh, Mokama, Hathidah Jn., Barhiya, Luckeesarai Jn., Kiul Jn., Kajra, Abhaipur, Dharhara, Jamalpur Jn., Bariarpur, Sultanganj, Bhagalpur, Kahalgaon, Sahibganj Jn., Barharwa Jn., New Farakka Jn.
09004	Delhi Jn.	13:05	Mumbai Central	13:30	Delhi Cantt., Gurgaon, Rewari Jn., Alwar, Bandikui Jn., Gandhinagar Jaipur, Jaipur Jn., Kishangarh, Ajmer Jn., Beawar, Marwar Jn., Falna, Pindwara, Abu Road, Palanpur Jn., Mahesana Jn., Sabarmati BG, Vadodara Jn., Udhna Jn., Valsad, Vapi & Borivali Stations

For any kind of information & 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.



NORTHERN RAILWAY
visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

**कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, (यांत्रिकी शाखा), भोपाल**
क्रमांक 404/चौ.वि./25

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
निम्न कार्य हेतु म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से आनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। विस्तृत विवरण website <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> पर है।

क्र.	निविदा क्र.	कार्य का संक्षिप्त विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु. में)	निविदा क्रय करने का अंतिम दिनांक	समय
01	2025_UAD_409522_1	ANNUAL TENDER (EMPANELMENT BASIS) FOR MAINTENANCE WORK OF BUILDING, FOOTPATH, DRAINS AND OTHER WORKS FROM ZONE 01 TO 21 UNDER BMC	1,70,77,729/-	15-APR-2025	05:30 PM
02	2025_UAD_409574_1	ANNUAL TENDER (EMPANELMENT BASIS) FOR SUPPLY OF MATERIAL FOR VARIOUS LOCATION OF BHOPAL CITY ZONE 01 TO 21	1,98,56,920/-	15-APR-2025	05:30 PM

नोट - संशोधन केवल वेबसाईट पर ही देखे जा सकेंगे, समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित नहीं होंगे।

Executive Engineer
Municipal Corporation Bhopal
District Bhopal

नि.क्र. 1510/024/025

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that, Mrs. Preeti Kapur wife of Late D S Kapur, resident of A27A, West End Colony, New Delhi, along with Mr. Arjun Puri and Supriya Singh Khurana are the joint owners and in physical possession of Property No.C-117, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110021. The original Perpetual Lease Deed, Conveyance Deed/Sale Deed, Partition Deed, Mutation, Completion Certificate and other related documents of the said property have been lost. An F.I.R./NCR to this effect has been lodged, vide LR No.2655638/2025 dated 10.03.2025. Any person claiming 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.98110212071 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.


PUBLIC NOTICE
Known to all that my client Sh. Rakesh owner of the PROPERTY NO.35, AREA 33 SQ.YDS, KHASRA NO.57/18,VILLAGE- HASTSAL,OM VIHAR, PHASE-V,IN BLOCK-A-1,UTTAM NAGAR,NEW DELHI-110059 and Sh.Rakesh purchase property from Sh. Gangra Ram vide Notarized GPA, ATS and will dated 10.05.2022. Now Sh. Rakesh wants to sell aforesaid property. And it is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person having any claim, right in said property then he may contact and handover the same and apprise his claim to undersigned within 15 days of this publication.
AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION
Ch.No.160, Dwarka Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75
Mobile :- 98990413918

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that I, Nirmal Pratap Bhatia W/o Late Sh. Pratap Gian Chand Bhatia R/o B-116, KALKI, New Delhi-110019, the original documents i.e. Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, Site Possession & NOC for Electricity & Water Connection Vide file no F/1264493/83/SF2/CAT-3, Flat no DDA SF5, D-3331, First Floor SectorD,Pocket-3 Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070 in issued by DDA of the above flat have been lost. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in Police Station Crime Branch Bhatia & LR. 2664/83/2025. Any person claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write contact/Ph.9353473423 with above named person at above address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect this property can personally inform or write to Mr. Director (LAB) R/o -1, D-Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

**HARYANA SHEHRI VIKAS PRADHIKARAN**
Office, Sec-12, HSVP Complex, Karnal-132001

Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran PUBLIC NOTICE
As per the decision of the full bench of the Hon'ble High Court in CWP No. 22252 of 2016 titled as Rajiv Manchanda Vs State of Haryana and others, Reservation policy dated 04.12.2015 upheld by the Hon'ble High Court in CWP No. 22252 of 2016 titled as Rajiv Manchanda Vs State of Haryana and others and affidavit filed by the Chief Administrator HSVP Panchkula in the Hon'ble High Court in CWP No. 22136 of 2015 titled as Adesh Aggarwal, CWP No. 19195 of 2020 Roshni Devi Vs State of Haryana and others and CWP No. 14164 of 2017 Dalip Singh Vs State of Haryana. Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran hereby invites oustee online applications from landowners whose land was acquired for the development of sectors post 10.09.1987, Sector- 4, 16, 12, 33 and Taraori-1 Urban Estate Karnal. The oustees are requested to apply along with applications money Rs 50,000/- . The claims of oustees will be decided in terms of policy dated 04.12.2015, 11.08.2016 and 08.05.2018. For detailed terms and conditions, terms of payment, policy guidelines and Sector wise and category wise details of plots are available on the HSVP website i.e (www.hsvphry.org.in) In respect of award passed post 10.09.1987 plot can be allotted in the sector for which land has been acquired and in case no plot is available no allotment is required to be made. This is the last and final advertisement qua awards passed after 10.09.1987 and no further advertisement shall be issued. The scheme will start w.e.f 16.03.2025 and close on 15.05.2025 at 5:00PM. For any other details may contact Estate Officer HSVP Karnal


RO 32821-C-27-7 Dt. 15-03-2025
Estate Officer HSVP Karnal

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, **SUNIL Jindal, S/o Ramkishan Jindal, R/o Plot No-594, Near Pushpanjali Hospital, Sector-1, Vaishali, IE Sahibabad, Ghaziabad** have changed my name to **SUNIL KUMAR JINDAL** for all purposes.
PD(1676)A
I, **Lakshmi Devi, Mother of No.15777638L BHM(OPR) Satyendra Yadav, R/o-VIII/Po- Murakhpur, Teh/Dist-Siwan, Bihar- 841235,** have changed my name from **Lakshmi Devi to Laxmina Devi,** vide affidavit dated 13/03/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.
PD(1681)C
I, **Neelam W/o- JC-835224A EX-Nb/Sub Kumud Ranjan, R/o- VPO- Serthua, Via-Tehta, Dist- Jehanabad, Bihar- 804427,** have changed my name from **Neelam to Neelam Ranjan,** and my correct DOB is 08/04/1984, vide affidavit dated 15/03/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.
PD(1682)C
I, **No.14871440P Sep/Mt Ranjeet Patel, R/o- Vill- Pindrai Khurd, PO- Keshla Kalan, Teh- Barghat, Dist- Seoni, M.P** have changed my name from **Ranjeet Patel to Ranjeet Patle,** vide affidavit dated 13/03/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.
PD(1677)C
I, **Reejwana W/o-No.13766966M Hav Shaikh Chandsab Kachru, R/o- Viil-Hadoli, PO- Satala, Teh- Chakur, Dist- Latur, Maharashtra- 413523,** have changed my name from **Reejwana to Rejwanbi Chandsab Shaikh,** vide affidavit dated 13/03/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.
PD(1678)C
I, **Lakhan Singh, Father of No.16025758Y Hav/Clk(Sd) Khem Singh, R/o- Vill- Karai, PO- Ghonsla, Teh- Hindaun City, Dist- Karauli, Rajasthan- 322254,** have changed my name from **Lakhan Singh to Lakhan,** vide affidavit dated 13/03/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.
PD(1679)C
I, **Meena Devi, Mother of No.16025758Y Hav/Clk(Sd) Khem Singh, R/o- Vill- Karai, PO- Ghonsla, Teh- Hindaun City, Dist- Karauli, Rajasthan- 322254,** have changed my name from **Meena Devi to Mina,** vide affidavit dated 13/03/2025 before Notary Public Delhi
PD(1680)C

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Rupak Gupta is the owner of Block-B Rear Portion of Property No. 35A, area measuring 981.5 Sq. Yards out of total 1963 sq. yards, Situated at Friends Colony East, New Delhi through Regd. Joint Will dated 22.05.2006 executed by Mr. Lallan Prasad Gupta & Mrs. Minakshi Gupta, duly registered as Document No. 4259, Book No. 1, Volume No. 15167, dated 06.06.2013, (SRO-III, Delhi). And Mr. Rupak Gupta intend to mortgage against the financial assistance from **AXIS FINANCE LIMITED.** That, 1) Aditi Gupta (daughter), 2) Vasvi Bharat (daughter), 3) Rupak Gupta (son) & 4) Supriya Gupta (wife) are the legal heirs of Late Mr. P.D. Gupta. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim /right/title/interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 15 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, liens etc. Lucern Legal LLP Plot No. 136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049 Contact # 911-40046316

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is known to all that the allottee of Residential EWS Flat No.19 [S.F.] Block-B-1, Sector-71, Noida, Sh. Mahipal Singh Yadav son of Sh. B.S. Yadav, R/o RZF-422, Raj Nagar, P-2, Palam Colony, New Delhi, has made the above flat on GPA basis as of Sh. Nareesh Rana, R/o A-73A, Sector-70, Noida. If anyone has any objection, he/she will submit his/her objection in the Residential (Housing) Section of Noida Authority within 30 days of the publication of this notice.
Nareesh Rana

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT AT ALIPURDUAR DIVISION
E-Tender Notice No. AP-EL-TRD-19-24-25 Dated: 07-03-2025.
E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:
Tender No. AP-EL-TRD-19-24-25.
Name of work: At Alipurduar Division: Annual maintenance contract of 4 Nos. 8-wheeler DETC Cummins make diesel engine of Tower Wagon including 'B', 'C' & 'D' checks for a period of 2 (Two) years. **Earned Value:** ₹2,31,84,040.40/- **Tender Money:** ₹2,65,900/- **Date and time of closing of tender: 15.00 hrs. of 31-03-2025 & opening at 15.30 hrs. of 31-03-2025.** The complete information with the tender documents of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. DEE/TRD, OP & GS, Alipurduar Jn.
**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**
Serving Customers With A Smile

Indian football aim to beat Maldives, Bangladesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Shillong

It will be easier said than done but senior defender Sandesh Jhingan on Saturday said that the Indian football team's target is to beat Maldives and Bangladesh without conceding any goal in the upcoming international matches here. India host Maldives in an international friendly on March 19, before taking on a tricky Bangladesh on March 25 in their opening match of the 2027 AFC Asian Cup qualifying third round match. Both the matches will be held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here as the Meghalaya capital is hosting its first international games. The match against Maldives on March 19 will also mark the return of talismanic Sunil Chhetri from international retirement. “Our main aim is to get the result in the Bangladesh match, as that would give us a good start in the Asian Cup Qualifiers, and I think the 10-day training ahead of that, along with the friendly against



Maldives will greatly help us prepare for it,” Jhingan said. “Our target is two clean sheet victories,” the 31-year-old was quoted as saying in an AIFF release. The 40-year-old Chhetri had earlier hung his boots in June 2024 after a glorious international career after making his India debut in 2005. But he showed he is still a force to reckon with as has been seen in the 2024-25 ISL which has turned out to be Chhetri's most prolific season. He has scored 12 goals from 24 matches to be the second highest scorer overall and highest among Indians. Head coach Manolo Marquez re-iterated the reasons behind why he coaxed Chhetri to return to wearing India jersey once again. “Because it was a special situation, I spoke with the AIFF and Bengaluru FC before I called him. I spoke with Sunil and explained to him what I wanted from him,” Marquez said. “It doesn't matter if he's 40. The nation-

al team needs players who are in good form,” the Spaniard said. India are placed in Group C of the 2027 Asian Cup qualifying third round along with Bangladesh, Hong Kong and Singapore, and only the top team qualifies for the continental showpiece. It's is not going to be easy to top the group, and Marquez must be referring to that when he said “special situation”. “Sunil is the Indian top-scorer in the ISL, with practically double goals than the next player, who is Brison. After that are Subhasish, Irfan, Manvir... All of them are here with us in the national team. “We need players who score goals. In my four matches so far, we have only scored two goals one of them from a set-piece. At this moment, the most important thing is to get results. Nothing else matters.” The Indian squad held a 45-minute gym session on Saturday morning and had their first on-pitch training at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, the match venue, later in the evening.

Indian athletes continue to shine in Special Olympics Winter Games

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

India's impressive run at the Special Olympics Winter Games continued on day three and four, with the athletes adding as many as 15 more medals to the country's tally in Turin, Italy. India's total medal count has now risen to 24, building on the nine medals secured in the earlier events. In alpine skiing, Deepak Thakur and Giridhar displayed exceptional skills to clinch gold medals in the Intermediate Super G M04 and M05 categories respectively, while Abhishek Kumar secured a silver in the Novice Super G M01 category. Radha Devi also delivered a stellar performance, earning a silver medal in the Intermediate Super G F03 event. Adding to India's success on the ice, Ziara Porter showcased impressive speed and determination to claim silver medals in 111M F1 event and 222M F2 event of short track speed skating, while Tanshu won a bronze in the 777M M2 category and a silver in 500M M3 category. India's presence in cross country skiing was also felt as Akriti put in a commendable effort to secure a bronze medal in the 50M Classical Technique Final F03. India's snowshoeing athletes also delivered some stellar performances, further boosting the medal count. Vasu Tiwari secured a gold medal in the 50M Race M03 event, while Jahangir and Tanya won silver medals in the 50M Race M04 and F02 categories respectively. Shalini Chauhan added to the tally with a bronze in the 50M Race F03 category. In the 200M Race, Anil Kumar emerged victorious with a gold medal in the MP 12 division, while Harleen Kaur clinched silver in the F12 division.

Indian-American golfer Bhatia shares lead at THE PLAYERS Championship

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Ponte Vedra Beach (US)

Indian-American golfer Akshay Bhatia moved into joint lead at THE PLAYERS Championship with a 6-under 66 and reached 10-under 134 here. He shared the lead with Australian Min Woo Lee (67-66). The two-time PGA Tour winner, Bhatia, started from the 10th and had four birdies. On his second nine, he dropped shots on the first and the seventh, but also birdied four times. Min Woo also started from the tenth and had seven birdies against one bogey on his final hole, the ninth. The duo was tied for the lead at 11-under 133. One of the best performances of the day came from Justin Thomas (78-62) who made the cut and was T-29. Sahith Theegala (73-67) was T-29 while

I honestly felt the same (as a day earlier), but today, I had a much more intense focus. It takes so much to win a tournament like THE PLAYERS

— AKSHAY BHATIA, GOLFER

Aaron Rai (68-74) was T-49. Hideki Matsuyama, Adam Scott, Ludvig Aberg and Justin Rose were among those who missed the cut in a tournament where the weather has been rough with 25 mph winds. JJ Spaun had a 68 and was one shot behind the two leaders Bhatia and Min Woo Lee. Rory McIlroy was at the top of the leaderboard during his morning round that featured six birdies in 11 holes. This momentum though disappeared later. He had a pair of bogeys over the closing stretch, the last one on the par-5 ninth, for

a 68 to finish two shots back. Collin Morikawa, the runner-up last week at Bay Hill who chipped in twice among his nine birdies in a round of 65, also was shots behind with Alex Smalley, who birdied two of his last three holes for a 67. Two-time defending champion Scottie Scheffler had to settle for a 70 and was six shots behind, still very much in the mix considering he rallied from five behind on the final day last year. Bhatia said, “I honestly felt the same (as a day earlier), but today, I had a much more intense focus. It takes so much to win a tournament like THE PLAYERS, and I just have to carry this mentality into the weekend.” Xander Schauffele made it on the number, extending his cut streak to 59 on the PGA Tour, the longest active streak since Tiger Woods (142) from 1998 to 2005.

Indian shooters begin national camp

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

The Indian shooters picked for the World Cup stages in Argentina and Peru have joined the national camp at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Ranges here, beginning their final phase of preparations for the season ahead from Saturday. Barring few exceptions, most of the shooters in the 35-member squad reported to the camp on Friday and have started working with their respective coaches. The first batch of shooters will leave for the Argentine capital Buenos Aires, venue of the year's first International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun (April 1-11) stage, on March 26. The South American leg continues thereafter in Lima, Peru, where the second ISSF combined World Cup stage will be hosted from April 13-22. As reported earlier, double Olympic

bronze medallist Manu Bhaker will be the only Indian shooter to start in two individual events, the women's 10m air pistol and the women's 25m pistol. Indian shooters will compete in 15 events across the disciplines of rifle, pistol and shotgun, including 12 individual and three mixed team events. “It is the first national camp of the year, so the main focus will be to first assess various improvement areas for various individuals. “There are many seasoned national campers so their strengths and improvement areas we are mostly familiar with. The new shooters will get more focus,” said Dronacharya awardee coach Deepali Deshpande, who is now the head coach of the squad. Like new national campers, there were also first-timers among coaches such as the decorated Jitu Rai and Pooja Ghatkar. Among the new shooters was national air rifle women's champion Ananya Naidu.

Clearly excited to be at the camp, she said, “Although I have shot with all of them before in domestic competitions, but still to be around such great coaches and performers and getting focused time to pick their brains, is a wonderful feeling. I will try to absorb and learn as much as I can.” India has a proud record in recent times in ISSF tournaments. In the previous year, which saw a trimmed ISSF calendar because of the Olympics, they had topped the medal tally in the opening combined World Cup stage in Cairo, before going on to win an unprecedented three medals at the Paris Games. This year, the top shooters will be aiming mainly for the World Championships scheduled for October (shotgun) and November (rifle/pistol). There will be a total of three World Cup stages for each discipline. Also on the international roster this year is the 16th Asian Championships in Kazakhstan in August.

Azteca Stadium renamed to Banorte Stadium

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mexico City

The Azteca Stadium has been renamed Banorte Stadium before it hosts its third men's World Cup next year. Latin America's largest soccer stadium 87,500 seats has taken the name of one of Mexico's leading banks, stadium owner Ollamani said on Friday. Naming rights to the stadium were part of Banorte's deal to loan 2.1 billion pesos (\$105 million) to be repaid over 12 years, according to Ollamani's filing with the Mexican Stock Exchange.

Nitish Kumar Reddy set to join Sunrisers Hyderabad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Bengaluru

All-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy is all set to join Sunrisers Hyderabad after recuperating from a side strain that kept him on the sidelines since January. PTI has learned that Nitish successfully completed all the fitness test routines, including the yo-yo test, at the BCCI Centre of Excellence here, and the physios have given him a go-ahead. The 21-year-old Andhra cricketer's last appearance for India was during the first T20I against England at the Eden Gardens on January 22, but he did not

bat or bowl in that match. Nitish trained at nets ahead of the second T20I at Chennai, but was ruled out of that match and five-match series with a side strain. Nitish was retained by the Hyderabad outfit for Rs 6 crore ahead of last year's players' auction after he made 303 runs for them from 13 matches at a strike-rate of 143. He also impressed during India's tour to Australia, making some valuable contributions including a gutsy 114 in the fourth Test at Melbourne. Nitish will join the SRH squad soon as they will open their IPL 2025 campaign on March 23 against Rajasthan Royals at Hyderabad.

IWL: Gokulam Kerala beats Odisha FC



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Bhubaneswar

Gokulam Kerala remained in the hunt for the Indian Women's League (IWL) 2024-25 title as they beat defending champions Odisha FC 3-1 at the Kalinga Stadium here on Saturday. The Malabarians led 2-0 at the break. Fazila Ikwaput (42, 59') increased her goals tally to 15, scoring two against Odisha, while Juggernauts' striker Pyari Xaxa (32') scored an own goal. Substitute Neha (50') scored for the hosts. After starting off the season with two draws, Gokulam Kerala have pulled themselves up marvellously, winning six matches on the trot, and are currently placed at the top of the table with 20 points from eight matches. While East Bengal are two points behind them, they have played a match less. Odisha, on the other hand, are third, with 11 points from eight outings. The Malabarians were at their hosts'

throats from the start, and goalkeeper Shreya Hooda had to pull off a couple of fine saves to keep her side level in the opening exchanges. She, however, got injured closer to the half-hour mark, and had to be replaced by Anshika, who's first duty was to pull off a save at full stretch off a Fazila free-kick from close range. Gokulam had a lucky break a few minutes later, though, as R Darshinidevi's corner from the right hit Pyari's shin and went in from inside the six-yard box. Darshinidevi played another crucial role minutes before the half-time whistle, when she threaded a through ball into the path of Fazila, who, with just Anshika to beat, coolly slotted it into the bottom corner. The Ugandan striker could have scored yet another in the first half, when in injury time, she entered the box from the left, and had her shot blocked by the Odisha custodian. The change of ends brought some much-needed tempo to the game for Odisha, as they began to pose

some questions to the Gokulam back-line. Their efforts finally paid off just five minutes after the restart, though they might have been somewhat fortunate about it. Neha, after beating her marker on the left flank, sent in a cross that looped over the goalkeeper and crept in at the far post. The hosts had urgency, and it showed with their actions on the pitch. Minutes after the goal, Jennifer Yeboah, receiving a pass from Kashmina, flicked it between the lines to Pyari, but the latter's effort was thwarted by Gokulam goalkeeper Payal Basude. All of Odisha's momentum was lost just before the hour mark, however, when Anshika spilled what seemed like a regulation ball right into the path of Fazila, who duly obliged, scoring her 15th goal of the season. Odisha just could not cope with Gokulam Kerala's waves of attacks, and Fazila could have added two more to her name with a couple of close chances in the second-half injury time.

Lewis Hamilton eighth in qualifying in Ferrari debut as Norris takes pole for F1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Melbourne

McLaren locked up the front row in Melbourne for Sunday's Australian Grand Prix, having dominated its rivals, including Red Bull, Mercedes, and Ferrari, whose drivers, Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton, will start from seventh and eighth on the grid. Lando Norris set a searing final qualifying lap to secure pole position, his first at Melbourne's Albert Park, and milestone 10th overall, in front of his teammate Oscar Piastri, and a record Saturday crowd of 136,347 at Albert Park. “Not a bad way to start the year, thanks everyone,” Norris said on his team radio shortly after the qualifying session ended ahead of Sunday's opening race of the Formula 1 season. Hamilton was circumspect about his qualifying finish. “It isn't quite where we wanted to be but overall I'm satisfied with the progress we have made over the past two days,” Hamilton said. “We didn't expect to be eight- or nine-

tenths (of a second) behind pole but given this is a weekend of firsts for me, I didn't underestimate how steep the learning curve would be.” Norris went into Q3 on the back foot after his first lap was deleted for a track limit infringement at turn four, where he put all four wheels off the track. But he delivered when it mattered with his one run. “It's a tough one, because you want to take a lot of risks, especially on this track,” Norris said. “It's a track where you've got to commit and you've got to know you know what your target is and once you've turned in, you're kind of hoping for the best in a lot of cases. “Obviously I took too many of my first (Q3) lap and got track limits, so I was in a difficult position with knowing how much risk I wanted to take, but I put it together well.” And the Brit is confident he can maintain that form in the race. “I think we were decent in Bahrain, and I think we're going to be pretty good here,” Norris said. “We were pretty good here last year and that was with a much worse car, so we're



going in with one target clearly, which is to have two cars at the top.” Piastri was not unhappy to be second, having maximised his lap, which enabled

McLaren to lock out the front row for the second straight race, following 2024's season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. But the Australian hasn't given up on becoming the

first Australian to win his home F1 Grand Prix. “It would be really special to be able to achieve that,” Piastri said. “But, I'm not setting my sights too to firmly on that, we've got a lot of work to do (first) to try to maximize the race tomorrow – we (also) have to see what the weather does first.” Day-long rain is in the forecast on Sunday. Red Bull's Max Verstappen qualified third, shrugging off pre-season pace concerns for the team about its RB21 car. But he downplayed his chances of challenging the McLarens in the 58-lap race on a day when his new teammate Liam Lawson qualified well down in 18th, following a scrappy Q1 lap that questioned the team's decision to replace Mexican Sergio Pérez for 2025. “Yeah, I mean, I don't expect like any kind of miracles about it,” the Dutchman said. “I think it's OK but it's not on the same level (as the McLaren). But, I'll just do my best, (and) see what happens.” Mercedes' hopes of a return to form were dashed with George Russell qualifying fourth, despite strong pace through-

out practice. His 18-year-old rookie Andrea Kimi Antonelli, who skipped F3 as part of his fast track through the junior categories, was a shock Q1 exit on his F1 debut and will start 16th. Ferrari had expectations it could challenge for the title, with Leclerc starting seventh and Hamilton eighth — for a disappointing fourth row lockout that means it'll be fighting for points, not podiums, should rain not materialize. Racing Bulls, Red Bull's second F1 team, continued to impress in qualifying — with Yuki Tsunoda securing fifth on the grid, which is his highest placing since Brazil 2024. Isack Hadjar, his French rookie teammate, put in a solid performance to start 11th. Williams also showed its pre-season pace was real, after the British squad got both its drivers into the top-10 with Alex Albon sixth and defending Australian champion Carlos Sainz ninth. Alpine's Pierre Gasly closed out the top-10 with his resurgent A525 car, three places ahead of his Aussie teammate Jack Doohan.

BARFF's gripping intensity and *EK MULAQAT MANTO SE*'s emotional depth left the audience deeply moved and connected, says SAKSHI PRIYA

When the Stage Held Its Breath

Theatre pulls people into its world, making them forget where they are. There is no screen to hide behind, no second take to perfect a scene, only the raw, unfiltered power of storytelling. *The National Theatre Festival 2025*, presented by AD Pix at Shri Ram Centre for Performing Arts, brought that power to life. With **BARFF** and *Ek Mulaqat Manto Se*, the festival turned a stage into a world where emotions ran deep, and stories demanded to be heard.

Produced by Ashvin Gidwani Productions, **BARFF** was not just performed but also written and directed by **Saurabh Shukla**, making it a deeply personal vision brought to life on stage. The gripping psychological thriller was heightened by meticulous set design, evocative lighting, and an atmospheric background score, all of which intensified the eerie stillness of Kashmir's snow-covered landscape.

When Saurabh Shukla steps onto a stage, something shifts. There's a weight in the air, an energy that few actors can command. His presence alone makes an audience lean in, waiting for the storm he is about

to unleash. He doesn't just play a role; he absorbs it, bends it, and reshapes it into something only he can create.

In **BARFF**, he did exactly that. Set in the snow-covered landscapes of Kashmir, the play was a gripping psychological thriller that questioned truth, belief, and the burden of reality. A doctor, a desperate couple, and a child suffering from a mysterious illness - these elements came together to create an atmosphere thick with tension. But what truly made **BARFF** unforgettable was the way Shukla carried it. His performance was effortless yet reflective, pulling the audience into a world where certainty was a luxury.

Alongside him, **Sunil Palwal** and **Anchal Chauhan** brought their own strengths, creating a world that felt eerily close, despite its distance. The cold of Kashmir wasn't felt through visuals, but through the uncertainty, the fear, and the suffocating weight of not knowing what to believe. When the play ended, there was no rush to leave. The theatre sat still for a moment, as if shaking off the spell Shukla had cast. That is the mark of a master, when even silence speaks after he is gone.

MANTO SPEAKS, AND THE WORLD LISTENS

If **BARFF** was a test of belief, '*Ek Mulaqat Manto Se*,' was a confrontation with truth and Produced by Collective Madness. The moment **Ashwath Bhatt** walked onto the stage, the theatre belonged to him. There was no need for elaborate sets or grand gestures, his presence alone

was enough.

For an hour and a half, Bhatt was Shahadat Hussain Manto. He spoke not as an actor but as a man who had lived through the fire of partition, who had seen the worst of humanity and refused to turn away. His words cut through the air, sharp and unrelenting. He did not perform Manto's life; he lived it. Every glance, every shift in tone, carried the weight of a writer who wrote not for applause but because silence was never an option.

The haunting ghazals of *Begum Akhtar* played in the background, each note amplifying the emotions on stage. There were moments when the theatre felt like it had stopped breathing, as if the past had reached out and placed its hands on the shoulders of the present.

The play did not end when the lights went out. Manto's voice stayed, his words etched into the minds of those who had listened.

A FESTIVAL THAT LEFT ITS MARK

The National Theatre Festival 2025 was a reminder of why theatre matters. The theme of Bengal Meets Delhi was a meeting of histories, of voices that refused to be silenced.

The performances did not stay confined to the stage, they spilled into the minds of the audience, making them think, feel, and question. Each act was a conversation between the past and present, drawing the audience

into its world.

Long after the final curtain call, the impact remained. As the audience walked away, conversations carried on. Some left in deep thought, others in quiet reflection. Great theatre does not fade when the show is over. It stays, pressing itself into memory, waiting to be recalled in moments of solitude. The stage may have emptied, but the stories continued, living on in those who experienced them.

A heart touching story of a mother's love and longing

Aachari Baa narrates you the heartfelt personal story of a parent and their loneliness when their children are away, writes ABHI SINGHAL

When was the last time you had an open-hearted conversation with your parents? Aachari Baa brings this emotion to life, portraying a touching story of a mother and son separated not just by distance but also by time and priorities.

Aachari Baa is an emotional family drama that of Jaishnaviben Anopchand Vagadia, fondly called Baa, played by the legendary Neena Gupta. Baa, a dedicated pickle maker from Gujarat, is a single mother who has struggled to provide for her son. However, her joy is short-lived as she realises that her role in her son's life has diminished to that of a mere caretaker-of their pet dog, Jigar, rather than being the cherished mother she longs to be.

An Unbreakable Bond

What follows is a poignant journey of loneliness, resilience, and companionship. While Baa may have been left behind by her own family, she finds unexpected solace in *Jigar*, the dog she is entrusted with. The film beautifully emphasises the unconditional love and healing that both a mother and

and emotions. Her character of a mother yearning for love while finding solace in a pet is both heart-wrenching and uplifting. *Kabir Bedi* plays a significant role in shaping Baa's journey, adding wisdom and warmth to the narrative. The film also features remarkable performances by *Vandana Pathak*, *Manasi Rachh*, and *Vatsal Sheth*, each of whom contribute to the emotional weight of the film. *Ahaana Sharma* stands out with her portrayal of a character who extends kindness to Baa in the absence of her own family, reminding us of the importance of human connections beyond blood relations.

Music, Cinematography, and Emotional Depth


One of the film's strong aspects is its background score. The soft, lyric-less music intensifies the emotional impact of the story, allowing audiences to truly immerse themselves in Baa's feelings of longing, love, and rediscovery. Despite being shot primarily in homely settings, the cinematography effectively captures Baa's isolation and her silent yearning for affection. The visuals subtly yet powerfully depict the emptiness she feels, making every scene resonate with viewers on a personal level.

Story of Self-Worth, and Unspoken Pain

At its core, *Aachari Baa* is not just about a mother's struggle but also about the silent battles of every parent who sacrifices their own happiness for their children. The film sheds light on the challenges faced by single parents who work tirelessly to secure a future for their children, only to find themselves neglected when they need love the most. It portrays the craving for familial affection and how, sometimes, the warmth one seeks may come from the most unexpected places.

Must-Watch Family Drama

Directed by *Hardik Gajjar*, *Aachari Baa* is more than just a film-it is an experience that tugs at the heartstrings. It beautifully conveys themes of self-worth, loneliness, and unexpected companionship, making it a must-watch for audiences of all ages. Streaming now on *Jio Hotstar*, this film is a reminder to cherish our loved ones before it's too late.



RATING
★★★★

SUGGESTED BINGES

Thandel
IMDB Rating - 6.1/10
OTT - Netflix
Cast - Naga Chaitanya, Sai Pallavi, Prakash Belawadi

Vanvaas
IMDB Rating - 6.7/10
OTT - Zee5
Cast - Nana Patekar, Utkarsh Sharma, Simrat Kaur

Be Happy
IMDB Rating - 7/10
OTT - Amazon Prime Video
Cast - Amitabh Bachchan, Nora Fatehi, Abhishek Bachchan

The Electric State
IMDB Rating - 6/10
OTT - Netflix
Cast - Millie Bobby Brown, Chris Pratt, Ke Huy Quan, Jason Alexander

Welcome to the Family
OTT - Netflix
Cast - Daniela Sánchez Reza, Marimar Vega, Erika Buenfil



The Pioneer AGENDA

"A woman with a voice is, by definition, a strong woman"
— Melinda French Gates

Indian Women Redefine Possibilities

THE WANDERLUST OF THE WORLD



RAKSHA NAGARAJ (@solopassport)

Raksha Nagaraj started travelling when she was 27 years old, and now it's been over 12 years. She has been to 56 countries and all seven continents. Her first solo trip happened unexpectedly when she had just moved to Melbourne. She had planned a short getaway with a colleague, but they backed out the night before their trip. Instead of canceling, she chose to go alone. and face her fear of solo travel.

Growing up in a typical South Indian family, she was raised in a sheltered environment where travelling alone was never an option. In our society, women are often expected to have a man beside them for safety. Talking about the same, she told the Pioneer, "I have lost count of the times I've been asked, How does your boyfriend or husband allow you to travel alone? This always amuses me because I am single. Even today, the idea that a woman needs a

man for protection or requires permission to travel solo reflects how deeply these biases are ingrained. Challenging these stereotypes has been just as much a journey as the travel itself. She further added that, "You won't believe that sitting alone in a restaurant while traveling still gets me strange looks in certain places. In some cultures, a woman dining alone is considered lonely or inappropriate, added Raksha. During my 6-week solo trip around Europe, I was stranded in Moldova at 3 AM and random taxi driver helped me safely to a nearby hostel. The freedom to do what I want makes solo travel so empowering. Dining alone, walking unfamiliar roads & making last-minute plans seem ordinary but are often frowned upon for a woman.

(Raksha Nagaraj is a travel content creator)



IPSITA (@nomadenroute_)

Ipsita began her solo travelling life when she was 23 years of age. Her overnight sleeping-hauls on lone benches, dodgy railway platforms or hitchhiking alone in pick-up trucks across the upper northern region- years of raw and grounding travelling under the umbrella of 'solo female travel' had the built-in question of safety for Ipsita. This came because of especially being in a country whose rape index is reasonably questionable. Ipsita noticed that safety in India is highly conditional. It's also fragmented. She said, "I am completely relaxed hitchhiking and camping alone in the Himalayan regions like Ladakh and Spiti, but would I do that as recklessly in Uttar Pradesh or Jharkhand? No."

She further added that she has compiled innumerable tokens of kindness from all over India which can never be redeemed, but that doesn't overshadow how in our socially and sexually repressed Indian culture men look at women and the succulent chain that breeds out of 'unhealthy expressions' of male-self and forces rocky spotlights on women. At the age of 23, she sold her belongings and left her hometown to get to know the world a little better. It has been four years since she just enjoys the flow, learns to trust when needed and is always ready to answer with her instincts.

(Ipsita is a traveller & travel writer going by the blog www.nomadenroute.com)



MALVIKA SEHGAAL KAURA (@malvikasehgaalkaura)

Malvika Sehgaal Kaura began her adventures of life at the age of 45, when she started travelling. With over 1 lakh plus followers on Instagram, even she had to face certain constraints as a woman while she travelled.

"How can you be so irresponsible as to travel solo? Where's the need to go around the world alone, being a woman? Do you not have anyone you can travel with? All these questions and more when I started solo travel! Earlier, I would respond to them; now, I just smile, grateful for their concern; however, solo travel is my choice,"

Malvika. To this she further told the Pioneer that travel, especially solo, for a woman is a conscious choice and safety is imperative anywhere. For her, it's exploring in the day, using busy routes, having all her money/passport and cards on her in a shoulder pouch or my room locker, along with abstaining from sharing my live location or disclosing that she is traveling alone to anyone she bumps into.

(Malvika Sehgaal Kaura is a travel content creator)



The 'Bharat ki NARI' is redefining possibilities beyond boundaries, writes ABHI SINGHAL

For generations, societal norms have placed limitations on women, defining their roles within rigid frameworks. However, the modern Indian woman is rewriting these narratives, breaking barriers across industries and proving that the sky is not the limit. From solo travel to entrepreneurship, and even stepping into traditionally male-dominated fields such as postal delivery, women across the country are pushing boundaries and paving new paths. Their resilience, courage, and determination are not just personal victories but powerful statements that inspire change in societal expectations. Women like Raksha Nagaraj, Ipsita, Malvika

Sehgaal Kaura, Nandini Bishnoi, and Aiswarya A.N. are leading this wave of transformation. While Raksha and Ipsita challenge stereotypes through solo travel, Nandini is proving her mettle in the hospitality industry, and Aiswarya is breaking gender barriers in postal services. The gig economy has seen a rise in female participation, with women like Albila Khalkho entering e-commerce delivery. Every shift tests her resilience. Her journey mirrors countless women pushing against barriers, refusing to let fear define them. Despite challenges, they inspire, proving ambition and perseverance can break even the deepest biases in a world still learning to accept.

WOMEN IN POSTAL DELIVERIES

Who could have thought about women in postal deliveries in Delhi, a field once dominated solely by men? Women have now even entered the postcard delivery industry, a field once dominated solely by men. Talking to the Pioneer about the challenges she faced, Aiswarya A.N. from Kerala shared her journey. Born in Kerala, she now lives with her friends in Delhi. She said, "Delhi is welcoming, but challenges come along; not everywhere are we appreciated and encouraged." She further added that language is the main barrier to her acceptance into society. Despite breaking stereotypes, she often encounters biases from people unwilling to accept change. Aiswarya's story highlights progress, yet underscores persistent hurdles. Gender bias and linguistic barriers complicate her pioneering postal delivery role, making every day a battle for acceptance. Yet, she remains determined to continue her work and pave the way for others. Her journey is a reflection of the strength and resilience of women breaking into male-dominated industries. As more women like Aiswarya step forward, they not only claim their rightful place in the workforce but also inspire future generations.



THE COURAGE TO KNOCK



BY SAKSHI PRIYA

Who says women can't manage both home and work? A woman does not work for anyone's approval, she works for herself. Her choices are not up for debate. Whether she works, when she works, or why she works is not a question of permission but of purpose. In small towns like Ranchi, Jharkhand, a working woman is still seen as a challenge to tradition, a taboo that many hesitate to break. These women become a quiet force of change, proving that ambition and responsibility can go hand in hand. Alibha Khalkho, just 19, is one of them. She grew up in Chikarkota Barkatoli, Ranchi, Jharkhand, a village where girls are expected to marry young, not carve their own paths. "Main tho 19 saal ki hoon, ab gaon mein abhi se hi bolta hain sab shaadi kar lo" (I am only 19, but in my village, people already tell me to get married), she says, a wry smile playing on her lips. "Par mujhe kuch karna hai, kuch banna hai." (But I want to do something for myself, to become something.) Her day begins before sunrise. She helps her mother with household chores before heading to her shift as a security guard at a local NGO. By evening, she



THE DARING OF OWNING AN AIR BNB

Airbnb celebrated International Women's Day by quoting that the Indian women hosts earned over INR 2.6 billion through hosting on Airbnb in 2024. (ANI)



NANDINI BISHNOI (@worldthroughagirl)

Another example to an empowered woman is Nandini. She wanted to do something different, so within 10 days, she resigned from her job and began building The Basera in Rishikesh. She launched the Basera in February 2024 with a simple yet powerful vision to offer luxury stays for travellers. Nandini told the Pioneer, "One of the biggest challenges I ever faced early on was convincing my family-especially coming from a joint family- that the travel business could be a safe business for a woman. Another constant challenge has been earning credibility from not just from guests but also from vendors, contractors, and even the staff I work with. Also, as a young woman, people don't always like taking instructions from you. I often have to work twice as hard to be taken seriously. Whether it's negotiating property deals, supervising construction, or handling on-the-ground operations, I find myself having to constantly prove that I know exactly what I'm doing." She further added that while times are changing, there's still that underlying thought lingering at the back of people's minds: 'Ladki hai, yeh nahi kar paegi'. That's a mindset she continues to push back against every single day. Another major challenge that hits her back every time is making genuine friends in this industry. In business, I believe men often find it easier to make friends and build connections. As a woman, I have to be far more cautious about what I say, how I say it, and to whom. That said, every challenge comes with a learning curve that is shaping me to be more resilient and confident in my journey. And now, looking back, I feel proud that I chose this path and carved out a space for myself in this industry.



is out on her scooter, delivering parcels for an e-commerce company. Every time she knocks on a door, a question stays, who will open it, who will be standing behind it? Will it be someone who looks at her with curiosity, suspicion, or something worse? "Jab main package dene jaati hoon, sab shock ho kar dekhte hain, phir bolte hain, Acha, aap hain delivery woman?" (When I go to deliver a package, people look at me in shock, then say, Oh! you are the delivery woman?) It is not just a surprise, there is judgment in their eyes. A woman navigating the streets alone, stepping into unfamiliar spaces, riding a scooter with confidence, this is not what they expect. But with every delivery she makes, Alibha proves them wrong. March is dedicated to celebrating Women's Day. But the truth is, every day is Women's Day. It is a daily struggle, a daily victory. Every package Alibha delivers is not just a job, it is a statement. Every door she knocks on is a declaration that women belong anywhere, everywhere. And one day, when another young girl in her village sees her riding through the streets, maybe she will think, If she can, so can I.





DELHI'S BIGGEST FOOD FAIR

AAHAR 2025 bought together food enthusiasts and industry professionals to celebrate the taste of culinary passion, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**

The taste of different flavours and aromas was celebrated in a culinary artistry fair in the heart of Delhi. AAHAR 2025 was more than just a trade show; it's a sensory journey. AAHAR 2025 saw bustling stalls overflowing with colourful spices, mouth watering food, the gentle hum of innovative kitchen gadgets, new launches of different food items, and the scent of freshly baked pastries. Bharat Mandapam was transformed into a harbour for food lovers, a place where stories are told through taste and aromas.

Here, a seasoned chef demonstrates the delicate art of crafting traditional Indian sweets, while a young entrepreneur unveils a revolutionary

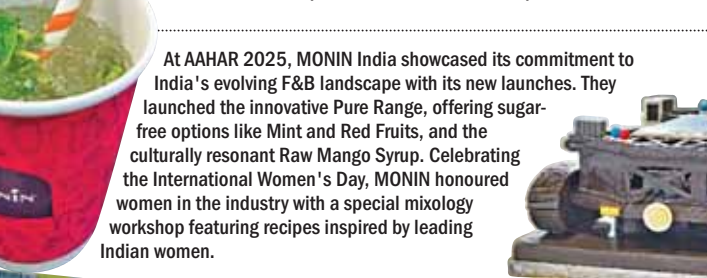
plant-based protein. Each booth whispers tales of passion and dedication, of farmers nurturing their crops and artisans perfecting their craft. AAHAR 2025 is a chance to discover hidden culinary gems, to witness the fusion of global influences, and to connect with the people who pour their hearts into every dish. It's a gentle reminder that food is more than sustenance; it's a shared language, a source of joy, and a bridge between cultures. AAHAR is one of Asia's best known brands in Food & Hospitality shows. The show has grown by leaps & bounds in recent years & for global vendors and sourcing professionals.



Franke, at AAHAR 2025, got something great for the coffee lovers. Coffee lovers assemble! Franke Coffee Systems debuted its cutting-edge fully automatic coffee solutions at AAHAR 2025, marking its independent brand launch in India. The stall buzzed with interest as attendees experienced Franke's premium coffee machines. With an immersive coffee experience, Franke highlighted its dedication to quality and innovation, solidifying its plans for a strong, enduring presence in India's vibrant F&B sector.



At AAHAR 2025, Nestlé India launched the KITKAT Professional Spread, a game-changer for the HoReCa sector. Their interactive booth buzzed with excitement, featuring live demonstrations and tastings. Chefs experienced the spread's versatility, enhancing desserts with KITKAT's signature chocolatey taste and crispy texture. The 1kg pack, designed for professional use, allows chefs to seamlessly integrate the spread into various creations. The launch marked Nestlé's expansion into cocoa-based spreads.



At AAHAR 2025, MONIN India showcased its commitment to India's evolving F&B landscape with its new launches. They launched the innovative Pure Range, offering sugar-free options like Mint and Red Fruits, and the culturally resonant Raw Mango Syrup. Celebrating the International Women's Day, MONIN honoured women in the industry with a special mixology workshop featuring recipes inspired by leading Indian women.

CULINARY ART INDIA

A highlight of AAHAR 2025, concluded its 17th edition, celebrating India's top culinary talent. The live event showcased the types of meals made by different participants. Hosted by ICF, IPTO, and Hospitality First, the five-day event showcased innovation and tradition. WACS-certified judges, led by Billy Lee Chan Hoong, ensured global standards. There were master classes by renowned chefs like Guntas Sethi and Nishant Choubey inspired attendees. Chef Davinder Kumar and Vivek Sagar lauded the event's success in nurturing India's culinary future. Immense number of students performed and made food items with breads giving them creative and innovative shapes. The event focused on international collaboration & solidifying India's place on the global culinary stage.



PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

An Ode to Asian Cuisine



EasyTiger blends heritage and passion to create a dining experience like no other

EasyTiger is a heartfelt labour of love by Mrs Meeta Ahuja. Born in Thailand and later settling in India after marriage, she brings to the table the very flavours she grew up with. She isn't just the name behind the brand, she is right there in the kitchen. EasyTiger, located in the newly emerging food hub of Global Gateway Towers, Gurgaon. We began with the *Tom Kha soup*, light yet deeply flavourful. While I enjoyed its delicate balance, I still long for the day when a chef will serve it with the galangal, lemongrass, and kaffir lime neatly tied in a potli, so I can savour the broth without constantly dodging these aromatics. My search continues.

The *Pomelo salad* was the only letdown of the meal. The fruit was slightly under-ripe, whitish rather than the vibrant pink it should have been, making it a bit too tart. However, the staff handled it well, promptly replacing it with a raw papaya salad that was delightfully crunchy, served at the right temperature, and had a spot-on balance of flavours.

Next came the compressed *watermelon carpaccio*, a dish where the excess oxygen is removed from the fruit, allowing it to

FOODFREAK


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

absorb the flavours of seaweed and mint. A creative dish, though at ₹475, I wonder if I would order it again.

The *dim sum trio* followed *cream cheese edamame truffle dim sum*, *tofu and water chestnut gyoza*, and *Tom Yum xiao long bao*. While all were enjoyable, the *xiao long bao* stood out. The chicken mince infused with *Tom Yum* flavours was nothing short of outstanding. I will definitely be coming back for this.

For mains, we had the *Tom Yum fried rice*, a street-style *Pad Thai*, and black cod in ginger soy sauce. The black cod, while delicious, was a massive portion and priced accordingly. A half-portion option at a lower price would be a welcome addition.

We wrapped up with a pandan flavoured *Tres Leches*, a fittingly indulgent end to the meal. EasyTiger is a worthy addition to Gurgaon's dining scene, a place where passion meets authenticity. I will be back, and next time, I already know what I am ordering first.

A Wasabi-Filled Night

An immersive Japanese dining experience featuring exquisite sushi, grilled seafood, and authentic flavours at Tamra, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**



PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

our Japanese heritage.

One of the most fascinating aspects of the evening was watching the chefs in action. The making of sushi is an art in itself: every cut, roll, and placement is deliberate, reflecting Japan's deep-rooted culinary traditions. Presented in a wooden boat, the sushi pays tribute to the country's maritime culture, where food and craftsmanship go hand in hand.

The *Veg Yasai Futomaki* was fresh and crisp, wrapped in perfectly seasoned rice and seaweed, while the *Kanikama Roll*, filled with delicate crab stick, delivered a satisfying umami depth. Served with freshly grated wasabi, pickled ginger, and a rich soy sauce, each bite brought a harmonious play of textures and flavours.

Beyond *sushi*, the menu offered an impressive selection of dishes. The *Truffle Infused Yaki Udon Noodles* had a velvety texture, with the truffle adding a lux-

urious earthiness. The *Japanese Golden Curry* was smooth and comforting, its mild spices pairing beautifully with fluffy steamed rice. For seafood lovers, the *Sea Bass with Ponzu Miso* delivered a bright citrusy tang, while the *Golden Prawn Tempura* with *Green Tea Salt* was crisp and delicately flavoured.

Every dish was plated with precision, making the meal as visually stunning as it was delicious. The sharp heat of the Wasabi, the deep umami of the miso, and the delicate sweetness of soy sauce all worked together to create an unforgettable dining experience.

FACTSHEET
Where: Wasabi Wednesday at Tamra, Shangri-La Eros New Delhi
When: Every Wednesday, 7:00 PM - 11:30 PM
Price: ₹3,500 + taxes per person
Highlights: Sushi, grilled seafood, signature Japanese curries, and handcrafted roll

Tucked away in the northern reaches of Kerala, Calicut (Kozhikode) and Wayanad are two of the state's most mesmerising yet lesser-explored destinations, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

NORTH KERALA: THE HIDDEN GEM OF CALICUT AND WAYANAD

North Kerala, often overshadowed by the world-famous backwaters of the down south, is just as breathtaking yet remains one of the region's lesser-explored gems. Among its treasures is *Wayanad*, a picturesque town that tragically made headlines last year when devastating flash floods and mudslides claimed over 400 lives in three remote villages.

Nature's fury spared no one, forcing countless families to abandon their homes and businesses, leaving the local tourism industry in turmoil. Yet, amidst the heartbreak, a silver lining emerged — *Wayanad* became a name known across the country. While this recognition came at a heavy cost, it also sparked an outpouring of support from the government, NGOs, and activists, who worked tirelessly to rebuild and revive the town.

Today, *Wayanad* stands resilient, ready once again to welcome travellers. Its people, with unwavering determination, have restored its charm, making it one of the finest destinations to experience the untouched beauty of the Western Ghats. *Calicut* (Kozhikode) and *Wayanad* remain two of the state's most unexplored and enchanting destinations. While south of Kerala is renowned for its backwaters and serene beaches, these regions offer a different kind of charm — one that blends history, adventure, and untouched natural beauty. From breathtaking landscapes to thrilling adventure



sports, Ayurvedic healing, and a rich bounty of spices and honey, North Kerala is a treasure trove waiting to be discovered. For adventure enthusiasts, *Wayanad* offers an adrenaline rush like no other. Trekking through the misty mountains of Chembra Peak, with its heart-shaped lake, is a bucket-list experience.

The *Edakkal Caves* provide a fascinating insight into prehistoric art and human civilisation. Wildlife lovers can explore the *Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary*, home to elephants, tigers, and exotic bird species. Zip-lining, rock climbing, and river rafting have also gained popularity, making *Wayanad* a hotspot for thrill-seekers. Kerala is synonymous with Ayurveda, and *Wayanad* is home to some of the best Ayurvedic retreats in India. Visitors can indulge in traditional therapies, detox treatments, and yoga sessions

amidst lush greenery, providing a holistic wellness experience. *Saptha Resorts* and *Spa at Sultan Bathy* in *Wayanad* is one of the finest service and spa treatment available. The fertile lands of North Kerala produce some of the finest honey and spices in the world. *The Honey Museum* is an interesting place; it is informative and interesting. You get to know about the types of honey and also about the honey makers, bees. *Wayanad's* organic honey is renowned for its puri-



ty and medicinal properties, while spices like cardamom, black pepper, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, and turmeric have been exported for centuries.

Wayanad forms part of the *Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve*, a stunning expanse of rolling hills, mist-laden valleys, and lush tea and coffee plantations. The region is dotted with picturesque waterfalls such as *Meenmutty* and *Soochipara*, adding to its breathtaking landscape. The cool climate, rich biodiversity, and endless greenery make it a paradise for nature lovers and photographers alike.

Calicut, once a flour-

ishing port on the spice route, is a city steeped in history. It was here that *Vasco da Gama* first set foot in India, forever changing the course of trade and culture. Today, the city retains its historical charm with landmarks like *Kappad Beach* and the cen-

turies-old *Mishkal Mosque*. *Calicut* is also famous for its delectable cuisine, particularly the legendary *Malabar biryani* and *crispy banana chips*.

No trip to North Kerala is complete without indulging in its authentic cuisine, traditionally served on a banana leaf. A typical Kerala *sadya* (feast) includes an assortment of dishes like *avial* (a mixed vegetable dish), *thoran* (stir-fried vegetables with coconut), *sambar*, *rasam*, *pappadam*, and *payasam* (a sweet dessert). The use of coconut, tamarind, and freshly ground spices gives Kerala cuisine its distinct, rich flavors. The seafood delicacies, such as *meen pollichathu* (grilled fish in banana leaf), are also a must-try for visitors.

One of the most endearing aspects of North Kerala is the warmth and hospitality of its people. The locals take great pride in their culture and traditions, welcoming visitors with open arms and genuine smiles. Whether it's a friendly conversation with a spice farmer in *Wayanad* or the generosity of a family serving home-cooked meals, the human connection makes the travel experience truly unforgettable.

Whether you seek adventure, tranquility, or cultural immersion, *Calicut* and *Wayanad* promise an unforgettable experience. The region's untouched beauty and warm hospitality make it a must-visit destination for those looking to explore Kerala.



WAYANAD: A REBOUND STORY

In July 2024, *Wayanad*, a picturesque district in Kerala, India, experienced one of the most devastating natural disasters in its history. Torrential rains triggered massive landslides, notably affecting the villages of *Punjirimattom*, *Mundakkai*, and *Chooralmala*. The calamity resulted in the tragic loss of over 420 lives, with 397 individuals injured and 47 reported missing. Entire villages were swept away, and approximately 10,000 residents were displaced.

The immediate aftermath saw a swift and coordinated response. Rescue operations involved the Indian Army, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and local volunteers. Temporary shelters were established, and essential supplies were distributed to the affected populace.

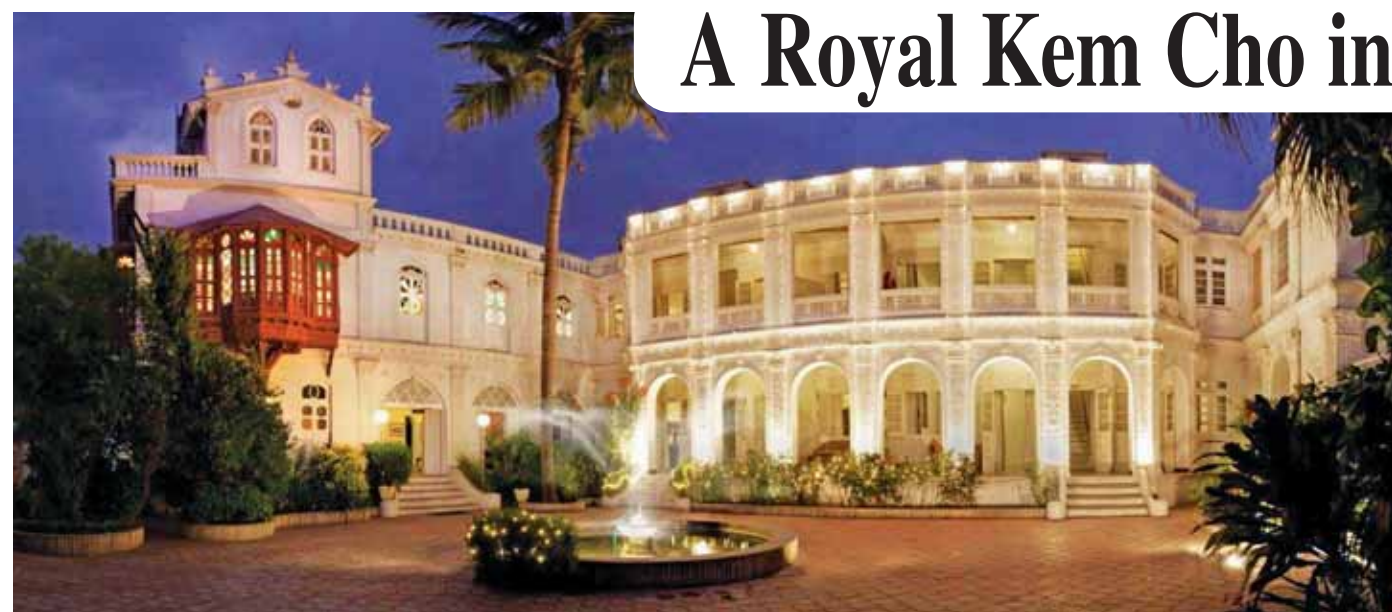
In the months following the disaster, The community, along with

governmental and non-governmental organisations, embarked on extensive rehabilitation efforts. Infrastructure was rebuilt, homes were reconstructed, and efforts were made to restore the natural landscape. The tourism sector, vital to *Wayanad's* economy, received focused attention to rejuvenate its appeal to visitors.

Several NGOs supported by the government are working tirelessly to keep people busy and paid while infusing life into the Kerala's traditional artforms. Bamboo yet another produce of Kerala finds new meaning as it is used to make mats and lampshades and many other artifacts. The district has not only rebuilt its infrastructure but has also strengthened its disaster preparedness, ensuring a safer and more resilient future for its residents.



A Royal Kem Cho in Ahmedabad



As I drive through the labyrinthine lanes of *Ahmedabad*, I am enveloped by the whispers of history that swirl around me. My destination, a 150-year-old heritage hotel transformed from the ancestral home of the distinguished *Kadri* family, reveals itself beneath the soft glow of the moonlight. The moment I pass through the stately iron gates of *Diwans Bungalow*, I am greeted by the beguiling charm of a bygone era, arched doorways, intricate jalis, and the gentle splash of a fountain creating an ambiance that feels almost ethereal.

ARCHITECTURAL SYMPHONY

The architectural allure of *Diwans*

Bungalow is nothing short of extraordinary. Standing confidently in the *Raikhad* locality, this historic hotel is a seamless blend of Gujarati, neo-Gothic, and Islamic influences, each detail embodying the artistry of bygone artisans. With its whitewashed facade and standout *jharkha*-style windows, the bungalow showcases a captivating fusion that tells the story of its illustrious past. As I wander through its corridors, Corinthian capitals and colourful glass work catch the flickering torchlight, illuminating the craftsmanship that has survived centuries. Each of the eight opulent rooms tells a story of the *Kadri* lineage, their names echoing the legacy of the family. Accessed via a private staircase,

these rooms are adorned with a riot of colours and handcrafted fabrics, combining modern aesthetics with antique charm. The inviting wooden furniture and vibrant *Sanganeri* quilts create an atmosphere that is both warm and dynamic, whispering

tales of family gatherings and historic visits from leaders like *Mahatma Gandhi*.

CULINARY HERITAGE

Beyond its history, *Diwans Bungalow* serves as a culinary haven, celebrating the

rich gastronomical heritage of the *Kadri* family. The fragrances wafting from the kitchen beckon your appetite, where traditional Gujarati dishes intertwine beautifully with Mughlai influences. Under the skilled hands of *Chef Sunil* and his assistant *Rehana Bano*, who carries forward family recipes passed down through generations, every meal here becomes a delightful exploration. I savour a plate of *khatta gosht*, a succulent lamb dish imbued with the tang of yogurt, and revel in the flavours of *Nizami paneer*, a vegetarian treasure akin to a heritage piece of art. E

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Diwans Bungalow transcends the concept

of mere accommodation; it extends an invitation to experience hospitality steeped in history. The establishment beautifully encapsulates a blend of grandeur and intimacy that feels like stepping into a cherished memory. As I relax on the veranda, bathed in the soft glow of twilight, I am reminded that this is more than a heritage hotel; it is a sanctuary of stories waiting to be shared. As I leave this oasis, I carry with me not only memories but a newfound appreciation for the rich tapestry of history woven into the very fabric of *Ahmedabad*.

— Akanksha Dean is an independent food & travel writer, a chef and catalyst.

