

Indians are the primary victims of modern slavery, study finds

SEE PAGE - 11

India protests against Trudeau taking part in pro-Khalistan event

SEE PAGE - 23

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First ever Mahavir Jayanti celebrated at No 10



Deputy PM Oliver Dowden addressing guests

Mahesh Liloriya

Mahavir Janma Kalyanak (birth anniversary) was celebrated at 10 Downing Street on Monday 29 April. The Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP, Deputy Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Secretary of State in the Cabinet Office hosted the celebration.

Continued on page 9

INDIA'S TOURISM BOOM

Amidst geopolitical challenges, the nation foresees a promising growth of over 10% in inbound tourism, fueled by strategic initiatives and global trends in travel preferences.



Shefali Saxena

Despite geopolitical tensions, India anticipates a surge of over 10% in inbound tourism this year, fuelled by conflicts in the Middle East and a post-pandemic shift in tourists from China. Recent data shows a remarkable 305.4% growth in foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in 2023, reaching 9.23 million visitors. While still shy of the pre-pandemic level of 10.93 million in 2019, experts foresee crossing this milestone in 2024.

Continued on page 14

India sees 66% voter turnout in second phase of voting



Women from Chhattisgarh cast their vote

Subhasini Naicker

India witnessed the second phase of voting for 88 Lok Sabha constituencies across 12 states and the Union Territory of J&K on April 26, marked by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his opponents exchanging allegations of religious bias and challenges to democracy amid a decline in voter participation.

Continued on page 26

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First ever Mahavir Jayanti celebrated at No 10

Continued from page 1

Deputy Prime Minister Oliver Dowden said, "I am delighted to host this reception. It is the first-ever celebration of Mahavir's Birth Anniversary here at 10 Downing Street. My constituency Hertsmere is wonderfully diverse. We have the Oshwal Centre in the Potters Bar and the SRMD Centre in Bushey.

"Today, it is a moment to select Peace, Equality and the ideologies of Reserving Nature on the birth anniversary of Mahavir. The principles of Mahavir inspire us to serve others and to respect every living being. The Jain community has made tremendous contributions in all fields. We have Yogesh Mehta, Bharat Shah and many more who have contributed to the overall growth of this country."



Devotees offering prayer to Lord Mahavir

Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Rwanda, Uganda and DRC Lord Dolar Popat said, "I warmly welcome all to this historic building and the home of our Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. For the first time, Bhagwan Mahavir's birth anniversary reception is held at 10 Downing Street. Deputy Prime Minister Dowden is a good friend of the Jain community. His constituency has the largest population of the Jain Temple in the UK having a true representation of the British Jain Community. From Yogesh Mehta, Chairman of Pickford to Bharat Shah, Chairman of Sigma, the Jain community has created a new benchmark for hard work, entrepreneurship, philanthropy, faith and values."



Lord Dolar Popat

Priest Jay Shah offered prayers and recalled Mahavir's principle of Ahimsa. He said this year's event was particularly significant, marking the 2,550th anniversary of Lord Mahavir



Deputy PM Oliver Dowden with Bharat Shah Chairman Sigma and Jain community representatives.



Deputy PM Oliver Dowden with Yogesh Mehta Chairman Pickfords, IOJ Director Amit Lathia, Gujarat Samachar's Consulting Editor Jyotsnaben Shah and Jain community representatives.

attaining Nirvana.

After Navkar Mantra, all recited Jainam Jayati Shasanam... Trishala Nandan Veer ki, Jay Bolo Mahavir ki.

Some of the key dignitaries who joined the celebration were High Commissioner of India to the UK HE Vikram Doraiswami, Yogesh Mehta, Bharat Shah CBE, Dr Mehool Sanghrajka MBE, Jaysukh Mehta, Nemu Chandaria, Rajesh Jain, Niraj Sutaria, Dr Vinod Kapashi OBE, Dr Mayank Shah, Mayur Mehta, Runit Shah, Dr Adrian Plau, Dr Ajay Shah, Leena Shah, Dr Abhay Chopra, Atul Shah, Minaben Chandaria, Sudhaben Kapashi, Ushaben Maheta, Rajnibhai Mehta, with the special presence of CB Patel Publisher and Editor in Chief of Asian Voice, Gujarat Samachar.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's political adviser at No 10, Cllr Ameet Jogia MBE welcomed the guests.

Celebrating rich traditions of Jainism



Oliver Dowden, Deputy Prime Minister

Across all walks of life, from medicine, journalism, business, entertainment and more, British Jains contribute a tremendous amount to our lives in Britain.

I was lucky enough this week to be part of the celebration to mark the day of Lord Mahavir's birth and to again stand in the presence of those committed to his wise teachings, of peace, truth, humility, and a belief in all souls - and for all that is living around us.

As I stood to introduce the priests from the Oshwal Centre to conduct the sacred prayers of Mahavir Jayanti, I was reminded again how much we can learn and live by so many of those beliefs.

I know from visiting my local Jain temples in Hertsmere and meeting the members who put their own needs to one side in the service of others, whether that is helping elderly members of the community, or supporting local animal welfare charities.

That respect for every living being really does shine through everything.

And it is one of the reasons that I am so proud to represent my constituency, home to so many faiths and communities, with one of the most prominent, Jainism.

And it is a great privilege to have both the flagship Oshwal Centre in Potters Bar and the SRMD Centre in Bushey, at the heart of life in my constituency.

Jainism is one of the world's oldest religions, originating in India some 2,500 years ago and worshipped through the ages to bring peace and harmony and ultimately salvation.

As the special ceremony ended and the pace and familiarity of the day ahead returned, I was left with the thought that whatever personally held beliefs we share, or don't share, whatever struggles we endure, that shape and move us, the simplicity of Jainism - to embrace all that is good and compassionate - is surely enlightenment we can and should, learn from.

William and Kate share unseen photo on anniversary



Kensington Palace has released a never-before-seen photo to celebrate the 13th wedding anniversary of the Prince and Princess of Wales. Captured by Millie Pilkington, the black and white photograph from their 2011 wedding day depicts William and Kate in a candid moment at Buckingham Palace. The image, shared on the couple's social media accounts with the caption "13 years ago today!" shows the newlyweds smiling and relaxed after their ceremony.

South Asian women debut on Sunday Times Young Power List

The Sunday Times's inaugural Young Power List showcases rising stars from various fields including entertainment, sports, entrepreneurship, technology, and politics.

Chosen by the publication's editors for their impactful contributions and enduring potential, these UK and Ireland-based talents share inspiring stories of overcoming challenges, leveraging the advantages of



Ahana Banerjee

youth, and pursuing their passions with relentless drive. Among the notable



Ambika Mod

individuals featured are Ahana Banerjee and Ambika Mod. Ahana Banerjee battled

severe cystic acne from the age of 12 and turned her struggle into triumph by founding 'Clear', a multimillion-pound skincare business. Ambika Mod, a celebrated British actress, comedian, and writer, has gained acclaim for her performances as Shruti Acharya in the BBC's "This Is Going to Hurt" and Emma Morley in Netflix's miniseries "One Day".

Jenrick urges parliamentary 'lock' on migration

Robert Jenrick has proposed that the UK government should establish a parliamentary "lock" to cap the number of migrants entering Britain, aiming to reduce net migration to tens of thousands.

In his report, "Taking Back Control," the former immigration minister suggests setting a "migration budget" to limit overall migration levels and the number through visa routes, with these caps being set and approved by parliament.

The report recommends that a cabinet minister should annually update Parliament on the impact of migration on housing, infrastructure, and public services, including the NHS. It also calls for a tougher points-based visa system, labelling the UK as the "grammar school of the Western world," to ensure visas are predominantly granted to highly



Robert Jenrick

skilled, well-paid migrants.

Following recent government actions to tighten foreign student visas and raise visa salary thresholds by over 50%, Jenrick's report suggests these thresholds should increase even further. Moreover, the report urges Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to reinstate the Conservative commitment, initially made by David Cameron in 2010, to reduce net migration to below 100,000—a target not achieved during Cameron's tenure and later abandoned by Boris Johnson. Despite a slight decrease from 2022, last year's net migration to the UK was 672,000, significantly higher than pre-pandemic figures.

This 100-page report, co-authored by Neil O'Brien, a former levelling up and health minister, was produced for the Centre for Policy Studies think tank.

BJP overseas hosts 'Run for Modi' rally in London

The Overseas Friends of BJP UK (UP Chapter) hosted a vibrant "Run for Modi" event in London on Sunday, which turned into a leisurely walk, symbolising solidarity and support for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's re-election campaign.

Despite the drizzly weather, the event drew a significant turnout with over 500 enthusiastic participants demonstrating the Indian Diaspora's strong backing for Modi and the BJP, according to the organisers. Starting from Westminster Pier and concluding at the iconic Tower Bridge, the route showcased London's scenic beauty, with participants decked out in colourful attire, adding to the festive atmosphere. A release from the event organisers highlighted the unity and enthusiasm among the walkers, who displayed their support for Modi with great zeal.

A flash mob at London Bridge was the event's centrepiece, capturing the attention of both bystanders and participants with its dynamic and spirited performance, symbolising the unity and camaraderie within the UK's Indian community.