JHARKHAND'S OWN ENGLISH DAILY

THE AVENUE MAIL

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Modernised & Faster Railway

Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee



Laying of Foundation Stone / Inauguration / Dedication to the Nation of

Redevelopment of 554 Railway Stations under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme
and 1500 Road Over Bridges / Underpasses
at the cost of ₹41000 crores







Redevelopment of 27 Railway Stations

Tatanagar	Sini	Haidar Nagar	Lohardaga	Silli
Chakradharpur	Dumka	Muhammad Ganj	Ramgarh Cantt	Sankarpur
Godda	Deoghar	Balsiring	Orga	Namkom
Dangoaposi	Jamtara	Bano	Govindpur Road	
Chaibasa	Vidyasagar	Gangaghat	Tatisilwai	
Gamharia	Barajamda Jn	Basukinath	Muri Jn	

- Stations to be redeveloped as City Centres with provision of amenities like roof plaza, shopping zone, food court, kids' play area etc.
- Provision of segregated entry & exit gates, multi-level parking, lift, escalator, executive lounge, waiting area, travelator, Divyangjan friendly facilities
- With the integration of multi-modal connectivity the redeveloped stations will become the centre of socio-economic activities of the region

and

Construction of 88 Road Over Bridges / Underpasses in Jharkhand

- Seamless movement of rail & road traffic
- Safe & convenient passage for local residents across railway tracks
- Decongestion of traffic, reduction in travel time

By

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

26 February, 2024 | 11:00 AM onwards

(through video conferencing)

In the August Presence of

Ashwini Vaishnaw
Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology

Raosaheb Patil Danve
Minister of State for Railways Coal and Mines

Darshana Jardosh
Minister of State for Railways & Textiles

PR-1174

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Third Shaheed Ratan Open Memorial Volleyball Tournament thrills Adityapur



Mail News Service

Gamharia, Feb 25: In a spirited display of sportsmanship, the local youth of Gamharia organized the Third Shaheed Ratan Open Memorial Volleyball Tournament on Sunday at the Road No. 16 ground in Adityapur 2. The inauguration ceremony, graced by former Vice President of Municipal Council, Purendra Narayan Singh, featured the garlanding of the martyr's portrait and a ribbon-cutting. Expressing his appreciation, Chief Guest Purendra Narayan Singh highlighted the significance of paying tribute to martyrs through sports. Commending the local youth for organizing the event for the third consecutive time, he emphasized the positive impact of sports in keeping the youth away from detrimental habits like drug addiction. Singh expressed his commitment to enhancing Ground No. 16 for the organization of even better events in the future. A total of 16 teams, including those from Ranchi, Bankura in West Bengal, Digha, Jamshedpur Sonari, Bhaalubasa, and Tata Steel Training Center, participated in the tournament, adding to the competitive spirit of the event. The success of the tournament was credited to the commendable contributions of the organizing group, including Sanjeev Dwivedi, Advocate Sanjay Kumar, Pappu Jha, Ranjam Mishra, Mukesh Singh, and Chunnu Pandey, who worked diligently to ensure the success of the event. (w/nm)

MLA Sameer Kumar Mohanty initiates development projects



Baharagora, Feb 25: Responding to the longstanding demands of the villagers in Purvanchal of Bahragora assembly constituency, MLA Sameer Kumar Mohanty marked a significant step forward by laying the foundation stone for various schemes, symbolized by breaking a coconut in a traditional ceremony. The initiatives include the construction of a pond in Kumhardubi village and the repair of the chapel in the same village. Additionally, the foundation stone for culvert construction work was laid on Sunday in Nayabasan village of Brahmankundi Panchayat. The occasion witnessed the active participation of local leaders and representatives, with Block President Asit Mishra, Rashbihari Sao, MP representative Chunu Mahali, Jitendra Ojha, Himangshu Som, Pintu Dutt, Kamal Dutt, Rajesh Bhadra, Khokan Gandh, Chandan Satra, Tarun Pradhan, Rabi Kumar, Swapan Khamrai, and enthusiastic villagers being present. MLA Sameer Kumar Mohanty expressed his commitment to fulfilling the aspirations of the community and addressing their needs through these developmental projects. (w/nm)

'Miss Maghe' crowned at vibrant Maghe festival



Seraikela, Feb 25: Khairbani village, nestled under Bijdih Panchayat in the Rajnagar block, witnessed the enchanting celebration of the traditional Maghe festival, guided by the leadership of Diuri Ruitu Sardar. The festivities spanned two days, featuring captivating dance and music programs that immersed the village in the spirit of cultural richness. Amidst the cultural extravaganza, a unique meeting ceremony adhering to the customs and traditions of the society took place. This provided a golden opportunity for young men and women to choose their life partners through dance and music, creating a harmonious blend of tradition and celebration. Outstanding performers in the Maghe dance were duly recognized and honored by the esteemed guests present at the event, with Khairbani presenting prizes to those who exhibited exceptional talent. Notable accolades included the title of "Miss Maghe" bestowed upon Divya Purti, who received the honor from Panchayat head Mothay Melgandi. Seema Devgam, recognized as the best dancer, was felicitated by social worker Sugnath Hembrom. Miss Khairbani, Shanti Tiu, received accolades from village head Akash Purti and Rakesh Samad, while the title of Mrs. Khairbani was awarded to Geet Murmu by Pawan Sardar. (w/nm)

Shambhu inspires cricket enthusiasts



Seraikela, Feb 25: Shambhu Mandal, District Council member, graced the cricket competition held at Nengtasai Cricket Ground, organized under the auspices of Late Krishna Memorial Club Nengtasai, as the chief guest. Mandal, emphasizing the values of sportsmanship, encouraged the participating cricketers, stressing the importance of playing the game with integrity. He highlighted that engaging in sports not only fosters discipline and self-confidence but also leads to success in various aspects of life. Following this, Shambhu Mandal also participated as a special guest in a two-day cricket competition organized in Mudiya. He continued to motivate and uplift the spirits of the players, contributing to the vibrant atmosphere of the sporting event. Panchayat Samiti members Haru Mahato, Kalipada Sardar, Nimai Tantubai, Kalicharan Kisku, and Ashok Mahato were also prominently present on this occasion, further enriching the cricketing community's experience. (w/nm)

Gulmohur High School student receives Inspire Award for Gesture-Controlled Car

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 25: Arya Shekhar, an eighth-grade student at Gulmohur High School, has been honored for his ground-breaking project, 'Gesture-Controlled Car with ESP32 and MPU6050.' This innovative endeavor, seamlessly integrating cutting-edge technology with practical application, has earned him the esteemed Inspire Award from the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. Arya Shekhar's Gesture-Controlled Car project represents a remarkable fusion of the ESP32 microcontroller and MPU6050 sensor, resulting in the creation of an interactive robotic vehicle. Through the interpretation of hand gestures, users can effortlessly navigate and control the car's movements, offering a novel and



intuitive interface. This pioneering approach not only enhances engagement but also holds significant potential for various domains, including education, research, and entertainment. Moreover, the project's innovative design presents promising mobility solutions for individuals with disabilities, amplifying its impact and accessibility.

Arya Shekhar's dedication and ingenuity have been duly recognized with the prestigious Inspire Award, conferred by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. In addition to the honor, Arya has been awarded a cash prize of Rs. 10,000 in recognition of his exemplary achievement. Arya Shekhar's Gesture-Controlled Car project, stands as a testament to the power of innovation and creativity in addressing practical challenges and fostering inclusivity. With its recognition through the Inspire Award, Arya's project not only inspires future generations but also exemplifies the transformative potential of technology in shaping a more accessible and inclusive society. (w/gsd)

Arjun Munda to lay foundation for road infrastructure development

Seraikela, Feb 25: Union Minister Arjun Munda, also the local Member of Parliament, is set to lay the foundation stone for the construction of a crucial road connecting the deteriorated Sini Railway Protection Force (RPF) Barrack to Ulidih. The groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for today, marking the commencement of the Mitti-Murum road construction project, funded at approximately Rs 15 lakh from the MP fund. Plans for further modernization are slated for the upcoming year. This development comes as a result of Union Minister Arjun Munda's proactive efforts. In December 2023, the Railways granted a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the road construction, following Arjun Munda's initiative. Responding to the concerns raised by villagers, Munda had previously written to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, highlighting the challenges posed by the dilapidated road leading from the Railway RPF Barrack to Ulidih. As the land belonged to Railways, obtaining the NOC was a prerequisite for the road construction. The existing route passing through Sini Railway Station relies on a single Railway Under Bridge, susceptible to flooding during the rainy season. (w/nm)

Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapuran Katha Saptah concludes

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Feb 25: The Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapuran Katha Saptah Gyan, organized under the auspices of Shrimad Bhagwat Pracharak Samiti Ghodalang in Ghodalang village of Seraikela, concluded on a festive note on Sunday.

Pandit Vinod Ji Maharaj, the storyteller, shared captivating tales, including the stories of Anusuya Mata, Narasimha Avtaar, Gajendra Moksha, Ajamil, Gayasur, Tuladan, and the heartwarming story of Shri Krishna and Sudama. The concluding day witnessed vibrant celebrations, featuring the festivals of Lord Narasimha and Prahlad, Shri Krishna-Rukmini-Satyabhama-Narada, and Shri Krishna and Sudama.

The organizing committee announced that following the Purnahuti ceremony on Monday, a Mahaprasad Bhog in the form of Kheer Khichdi will be distributed. Additionally, a special immersion ceremony and a religious baul music program, presented by artists from Bengal, will commence at 7:00 pm. (w/nm)

Tata Steel's Mines bag 14 awards at MEMC Event

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 25: Tata Steel's Iron ore and Manganese mines in Odisha have bagged 14 awards at the 25th Mine Environment and Mineral Conservation (MEMC) 2023-24 final day event organised under the aegis of Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), Bhubaneswar region at Bhubaneswar on Friday. Tata Steel's Joda East Iron Ore Mine received first prize in Mineral Beneficiation and Sustainable Development, respectively under Group-1 category. The mine also received 1st prize in the much-coveted Overall Performance, under same category. Similarly, Khondbond Iron and Manganese mine and Katamati Mine was awarded 3rd prize in Mineral Beneficiation, and Reclamation and Rehabilitation, respectively under Group-1category. Officials of respective mines received the awards from Piyush Narayan Sharma, Chief Controller of Mines (I/c), Indian Bureau of Mines, who graced the occasion as Chief Guest. In the event, Sukinda Chromite mine won 1st prize in Waste Dump Management while Nilachal Ispat Nigam Limited mine got 3rd prize for same under Group-2 category.

In Group-4, Joda West Manganese mine, Bamebari, Guruda & Tiringpahar, Kamarda and Sarubil mines of Tata Steel won various prizes for their noteworthy efforts in environment and mineral conservation.

'Shiv Guru Charcha' enriches spiritual understanding

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Feb 25: In a spiritual gathering organized by the Shri Harindranand Foundation, a one-day Shiv Guru Charcha took place on Sunday within the serene premises of the Shiv temple in Dhatkidih village, Seraikela block. Devotees and seekers gathered to delve into the teachings and wisdom surrounding Lord Shiva. During the discourse, Guru sisters emphasized the significance of considering Mahadev as one's Guru and incorporating his principles



into daily life. Guru Bhai Tapas Kumar Mahato enlightened the audience, expressing that Shiva is the Guru of the entire world, and all living beings are his disciples. He encouraged seeking mercy and forgiveness from Lord Shiva in the spirit of a Guru, assuring that such devotion leads to well-being. Mahato presented three sutras to establish a connection with Shiva as a Guru. The first sutra involved seeking mercy from Lord Shiva and surrendering oneself under his divine shelter.

The second sutra encouraged discussing Shiva with those around, spreading the divine teachings. The third sutra recommended chanting "Om Namah Shivay" 108 times, fostering a deeper spiritual connection. The event witnessed the presence of Guru brothers and sisters, including Shakuntala, Somwari, Vanita, Reema, Shailesh, and Shantanu, contributing to the collective spiritual experience. (w/nm)

BJP leader extends support to bereaved family



Mail News Service

Seraikela, Feb 25: Ramesh Hansdah, a prominent leader from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), visited the family of the late Sidam Mahato in Khairkocha village, Gengaruli Panchayat, Rajnagar block. Sidam Mahato tragically lost his life to drowning in the river last year. Due to the dedicated efforts of Ramesh Hansdah, the victim's family received financial assistance amounting to Rs 4 lakh from the Disaster Management Department. Expressing gratitude for Hansdah's support, the bereaved family conveyed their appreciation during the meeting. Ramesh Hansdah, during his visit, inquired about the well-being of the family and assured them of all possible cooperation. The BJP Block General Secretary of Rajnagar, Lalchand Mahato, and Dilip Mahato were prominently present on this occasion, emphasizing the party's commitment to standing by those in need within the community. (w/nm)

Road accident near Sini Mod, 12 passengers injured

Seraikela, Feb 25: A road accident occurred near Sini Mod on the Seraikela-Kandra main road, under the jurisdiction of Seraikela police station, involving a small passenger vehicle and a Bolero. The incident involved 12 people from Seraikela who had traveled to Jamshedpur to attend a relative's children's Annaprashan ceremony. The passengers, including Rita Kamila, Lily Kamila, Sujata Kamila, Kiran Kamila, Varsha Kamila, and Roshni Kamila, were returning in the vehicle after the event. Tragically, their vehicle collided with a Bolero coming from the opposite direction. Rita Kamila sustained severe injuries, while the remaining passengers suffered minor injuries. The injured individuals were promptly transported to Sadar Hospital via ambulance for medical attention, and treatment is currently underway. In the aftermath of the incident, both drivers, from the passenger vehicle and the Bolero, reportedly fled the scene. (w/nm)

Class XI student commits suicide

Jamshedpur, Feb 25: A 15 year old girl, Asha Dutta, resident of Sankosai Road No 1 under Mango PS committed suicide by hanging herself. She was a student of class XI at Sakchi Chief Ministert Girls' Adarsh Vidyalaya. (w/gsd)

BJP organizes beneficiary workshop

Mail News Service



Gamharia, Feb 25: A significant beneficiary workshop was conducted near Ganjia Barrage by BJP Gamharia Block West, presided over by Block President Vimal Sao. The event featured Ganesh Mahali, State Treasurer of BJP ST Morcha, as the chief guest, who emphasized the BJP's commitment to the welfare of the tribal communities in Jharkhand. He voiced concern over the JMM's false propaganda, branding the BJP as an outsider and misleading the public through initiatives like Nyay Yatra. In-charge Lallan Shukla, present at the workshop, provided insights into the beneficiary contact campaign, urging party workers to gear up for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. He announced a booth-level beneficiary contact campaign scheduled from March 1 to 4, during which dedicated teams would visit households, connect with beneficiaries of Central Government schemes, and gather valuable feedback. The program commenced with the inauguration by coordinator Satyaprakash Mahato, Shyamapad Gorai, Lavkishore Mahato, Mukhiya Sukdev Sardar, Parvati Sardar, and Mangal Mahato, among other guests, who also addressed the audience. A resolution was adopted to disseminate information about Central Government schemes to every home and to secure a significant presence in the Lok Sabha elections. The occasion witnessed the active participation of a multitude of party workers, including Kinshuk Mahato, Chaudhary Mahato, Krishna Mandal, Baidu Mahato, Raju Mahato, reflecting the fervor and dedication of the BJP members in the region. (w/nm)

Training program announced for Lok Sabha Elections 2024

Jamshedpur, Feb 25: In preparation for the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections in 2024, a comprehensive training program is set to be conducted in two phases from February 27 to March 15, 2024, at Jamshedpur Co-operative College. The primary objective of this training is to equip presiding officers and polling officers (first, second, and third) with the necessary skills and knowledge for the smooth and fair conduct of the election process. The training will be divided into two distinct phases. The first phase is scheduled from February 27, 2024, to March 2, 2024, while the second phase will take place from March 11, 2024, to March 15, 2024. To accommodate participants, each phase will have two shifts—the first shift from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm and the second shift from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm. The comprehensive training program will cover various aspects essential for the electoral process, including election procedures, polling station management, operation of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) and Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT), legal provisions during voting, the counting process, and maintaining security and law and order. (w/nm)

Annual Sports Day at Shri Ram Divine Academy

Mail News Service

Gamharia, Feb 25: Shri Ram Divine Academy in Gamharia recently witnessed the vibrant and energetic atmosphere of its annual sports competition for the senior section. The competition, inaugurated by the school director Shri Ram Yadav, commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the spirit of unity and sportsmanship. A multitude of students showcased their enthusiasm and athletic prowess by participating in various sports competitions organized for the event. School principal Vandana



Singh Rai, addressing the gathering, underscored the significance of sports in the holistic development of students. She emphasized how participation in sports not only fosters physical well-being but also instills valuable life skills. Director Shri Ram Yadav, in his address, emphasized the adage that a healthy mind resides in a healthy body.

He elaborated on the importance of sports in maintaining overall well-being and encouraged students to incorporate yoga into their daily routines. Following the spirited competitions, medals and certificates were awarded to the accomplished students across various sports.

The ceremony brought together not only students but also teachers and parents, creating a sense of community and shared pride in the achievements of the young athletes. (w/nm)

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R ASHWIN LEVELS ANIL KUMBLE WITH 35TH TEST FIVE-WICKET-HAUL - PAGE - 7

My guarantee begins from where hope ends from others: PM

Modi inaugurates 5 AIIMS

Rajkot, Feb 25 (IANS): Development was taking place under his government at a rate many times faster than what happened in the past six to seven decades, Prime Minister NarendraModi said on Sunday, and emphasised that his guarantee begins from where hope ends from others.

He was speaking after inaugurating All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Rajkot in Gujarat, Bathinda in Punjab, Raebareli in Uttar Pradesh, Kalyani in West Bengal and Mangalagiri in Andhra Pradesh.

At the function held here, the PM also dedicated to the nation various development works costing ? 48,000 crore, including more than 200 health care infrastructure projects costing ? 11,500 crore in 23 states and Union Territories. "Modi's guarantee begins from where hope ends from others," he asserted, adding that even the country was saying this looking at the pace of development. "For 50 years after Independence, there was only one AIIMS in the country, and that too in Delhi. In the seven decades since Independence, only seven AIIMS were approved but even these were never completed," PM Modi said in a swipe at previous governments. "But in just 10 days, seven new AIIMS were either inaugurated or their foundation stones laid. That's why I am saying that we are developing the country many times faster than what happened in the last six to seven decades and are dedicating it at the feet of the citizens," he said. In the past, people from different states used to get tired seeking AIIMS in their areas from the Union government, whereas today modern hospitals and medical facilities like AIIMS are opening one after the other, he said. Asserting that he had fulfilled his guarantee of setting up a large number of AIIMS, PM Modi said his government had approved 10 AIIMS in the last 10 years.

"I had given a guarantee of (setting up) AIIMS to UP's Raebareli. The royal family of Congress only indulged in politics in Raebareli, while the work was done by Modi," he said.

India managed to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic because of changes in the health care system brought about in the last 10 years, the PM said."

Today in Rajkot we got a glimpse of how the health sector of the world's fifth largest economy should be and what will be the level of health facilities in developed India," he said. Modi said his government had carried out unprecedented expansion in AIIMS and medical colleges as well as critical infrastructure network by opening more than one lakh 'Ayushman Arogya Mandirs' in villages, and taking the number of medical colleges to 706 from 308-309 a decade back.



PM Modi after offering prayers underwater at the spot where the submerged city of Dwarka is, in Dwarka, Gujarat.

Divine experience, says PM Modi after scuba diving near Dwarka

Dwarka, Feb 25 (IANS): Prime Minister NarendraModi on Sunday went scuba diving off the Panchkui beach coast here in Gujarat and performed prayers as he witnessed the ancient Dwarka city of Lord Krishna, which is submerged in the waters. To pray there was a "very divine experience," he said.

Mann Ki Baat will not be broadcast for next three months: Modi

New Delhi, Feb 25 (IANS) Prime Minister NarendraModi, during his 'Mann Ki Baat' on Sunday, said that the Radio programme will not be broadcast for the next three months.

During the programme, the Prime Minister also interacted with the first-time voters in the country and said that India takes pride in its youth power, filled with enthusiasm and energy.

Addressing the youth, the Prime Minister said that the more they participate in the electoral process, the more beneficial it will be for the country.

Ranchi Test: Dhruv Jurel, spinners inspire Indian comeback as England crumble

Ranchi, Feb 26 (IANS): After England seemed like they had the Ranchi Test going in their way, a resiliantDhruvJurel and the Indian spin attack decided to flip the script on day three of the fourth Test to have the host take the advantage on Sunday. Jurel scored a remarkable 90, while R Ashwin and Kuldeep ran through the England batting order as the Ranchi Test was once again left on the knife edge, much like the first two matches of the series. Ashwin would start the attack for India and had immediate success in the form of Ben Duckett once again. Ollie Pope, who had been out of touch since his Hyderabad heroics, soon followed back to the pavilion as Ashwin found himself on a hat-trick. Zak Crawley would then start to take on the Indian bowlers as he continued his fine form in the series. He found first innings centurion, Joe Root, as the perfect foil and the duo added 46 runs to the total. Ashwin would then return to claim the big wicket of Root, amidst a lot of controversy.

Kurmi community holds rally in Ranchi for ST status

Ranchi, Feb 26 (IANS): Members of the Kurmi community took out a rally here on Sunday to press for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status and inclusion of Kurmali language in the eighth schedule of the Constitution.

Organised under the banner of 'Totemic KurmiVikasMorcha' (TKVM), hundreds of people from different districts of the state including Ranchi, Ramgarh, Bokaro, Dhanbad, Giridih, Hazaribagh and Jamtara participated in the march. Chief convener of the rally, SheetalOhdar, said Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for the community and the addition of Kurmali language in the eighth schedule are among their major demands.

"Under a conspiracy, Kurmi was removed from the ST list on September 6, 1950," Ohdar claimed.

She also asserted that if the demands were not met, members of the community will vote against the ruling party at the Centre in the upcoming LokSabha polls.

PM to lay foundation stone, inaugurate more than 2000 railway Infrastructure projects today

New Delhi, Feb 25 (IANS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone, inaugurate and dedicate to the nation around 2,000 railway infrastructure projects worth more than Rs. 41,000 croreon February26 at 12:30 PM via video conferencing.

The Prime Minister has often emphasised the importance of providing world class amenities at railway stations. In a major step in this endeavour, Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone for redevelopment of 553 railway stations under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.

These stations, spread across 27 States and Union Territories, will be redeveloped at a cost of over Rs. 19,000 crore. These stations will act as 'City Centres' integrating both sides of the city. They will have modern passenger amenities like roof plaza, beautiful landscaping, inter modal connectivity, improved modern façade, kids play area, kiosks, food courts, etc. They will be redeveloped as environment friendly and also physically-challenged friendly. The design of these station buildings will be inspired by local culture, heritage and architecture.

The Prime Minister will also inaugurate Gomti Nagar station in Uttar Pradesh which has been redeveloped at a total cost of around Rs 385 crore. To cater to the increased future passenger footfall, this station has segregated arrival and departure facilities. It integrates both sides of the city. This centrally air-conditioned station has modern passenger amenities like Air Concourse, congestion free circulation, food courts and ample parking space in upper and lower basement.

CM resolves to realise dreams of martyrs of the state

Abua Awas for all homeless by 2027: Champai

Mail News Service

Ranchi, February 25: Jharkhand chief minister ChampaiSoren reiterated the government's resolve to build a state as per dreams of the revolutionaries and martyrs of the state.

Addressing during a function to hand over acceptance letter to 24,532 beneficiaries of AbuaAwasYojana (rural housing scheme of the government) from districts of Sahibganj, Godda and Pakur at Bhognadih in Barhait block of Sahibganj district on Sunday, Soren said, "We assure you that we will create the Jharkhand of the dreams of our martyrs and agitators."

Soren who earlier during the day paid tributes at the statue of tribal icon SidhuKanhu (Bhognadih is their birth place) and also met descendants of the martyrs, said, "We will improve this state in such a way that there will be no discrimination or injustice to anyone here. Everyone will get their rights with full respect."

"The government will take care of martyrs and statehood revolutionaries. We have never forgotten martyrdom and will never forget it. Their sacrifice will not go in vain. Jharkhand will be rebuilt in such a way where every person will have a chance to move forward," he stressed.

Champai Soren further claimed that the government is reaching the last person of the society and that government officials are doorstep, listening to problems with full sensitivity and solving them.



"You are being connected with the schemes as per your need on the spot. This trend will continue until every person in the society becomes empowered," he said.

The Chief Minister said that the state government, on its own, has decided to provide three-room permanent houses to 20 lakh poor and needy people. Under AbuaAwasYojana, permanent houses will be provided to everyone by 2027. It has already started. In the first phase, 2 lakh beneficiaries have been given housing approval letters and the first installment amount and after 3 months, 9 lakh beneficiaries will be given housing approval letters simultaneously.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister provided approval letters for housing to 24,532 families of Sahibganj, Pakur and Godda districts. In which there are 7911 beneficiaries from Sahebganj, 6649 from Pakur and 9972 from Godda district. The Chief Minister transferred an amount of Rs 73 crore 59 lakh 60 thousand as the first installment through DBT to their bank accounts. (W-rg)

Akhilesh joins Rahul's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Agra

Agra (UP), Feb 25 (IANS) In a display of unity among INDIA members, Samajwadi Party President AkhileshYadav, on Sunday, joined the Bharat JodoNyayYatra led by Rahul Gandhi in Agra.

The SP President accepted the invitation to join the yatra after the seat-sharing deal between the SP and the Congress was finalised last week. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is also present in the yatra. All the three addressed the crowd gathered in Agra as Rahul Gandhi and AkhileshYadav joined hands to present a united front.



Akhilesh Yadav said, "In the coming days, the biggest challenge is to save democracy, and the Constitution, to fulfil the dreams of Dr BR Ambedkar, that have been ruined by the BJP...BJP haatao, deshkobachao."

Two women among three killed by elephant in Bokaro

Bokaro, Feb 26 (IANS): Three persons, including two women, were killed by an elephant in Jharkhand's Bokaro district on Sunday, an official said.

The incident happened in Kodwatandpanchayat area under the jurisdiction of Lalpania police station, around 100 km from state capital Ranchi.

Bokaro Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Rajnish Kumar said that the elephant first trampled to death a 60-year-old man around 7 am.



"Later, the pachyderm seriously two other women in different villages under the same panchayat. They were admitted to a hospital, where they succumbed to their injuries in the afternoon," Kumar said.

The deceased were identified as SonuManjhi (60), Manjri Devi (30) and SuhaniHembram (24).

The attacks happened when Manjhi was walking on the road, while Hembram was going to fetch water from a well, he said.

Four MLAs from Congress, NPP join ruling BJP in Arunachal Pradesh

Itanagar, Feb 25 (IANS) Just ahead of assembly polls, four sitting MLAs - two from the opposition Congress and two from National People's Party (NPP) - on Sunday joined the ruling BJP in presence of Chief Minister PemaKhandu here. Opposition Congress legislators NinongEring, Wangling Lowangdong and NPP lawmakers MutchuMithi, GokarBasar joined the BJP at a function in the saffron party's Itanagar office. The NPP is an ally of the ruling BJP in Arunachal Pradesh. Besides Chief Minister, Assam Minister and BJP's election in-charge for Arunachal Pradesh Ashok Singhal and state President BiyuramWahge were also present in the joining ceremony.

The elections to the 60-member Arunachal Pradesh Assembly are likely to take place along with LokSabha polls in April or May. With Sunday's joining, out of total 60 members in the state assembly, BJP's strength increased to 56 along with allies, while the Congress is reduced to two and there are two independent members in the House.

Ram temple to be completed by December

Ayodhya, Feb 25 (IANS) All ongoing construction work in the Ram temple will now be completed by December 2024.

The Shri Ram JanmabhoomiTeerthKshetra Trust has set this as the deadline for the completion of construction works at the Ram temple. According to Anil Mishra, a Trust member, some projects inside the whole complex could take time and will be completed by the end of next year.



The Yogi Adityanath government has also set deadlines for all ongoing development projects in Ayodhya, outside the temple complex. The state and central governments are executing projects worth Rs 32,000 crore in the temple town. The key projects in the pipeline are Shri Ram Kund, KarmKshetra (for rituals), Hanuman Gadhi, Shri Ramlala Purakalik Darushan Mandal, Shri Kamm Keerti, Guru Vashishtha Peethika, Bhakti Teela, Tulsi (open theatre), Ram Darbar, Mata Kaushalya Vatsalya Mandap, Ramangan, Maharashi Valmik Archives Centre and Mata Sita Rasoi Annakshetra (kitchen).

Twelve more temples are coming up inside the Ram Janmabhoomi complex, along with various facilities for devotees.

Govt directs states to set minimum age of 6 for Class 1 admission

New Delhi, Feb 25 (IANS): In accordance with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, the Central Government has instructed all states and Union Territories to establish six years as the minimum age requirement for admission to Class 1.

The Department of School Education and Literacy within the Ministry of Education (MoE) has reaffirmed its directives to state governments and Union Territory administrations through a letter. These directions, originally issued since the launch of the NEP in 2020, have been reiterated multiple times. A similar notice was also issued last year.

"The session 2024-25 is soon to begin when new admissions will take place. It is expected that the age in your State/UT has now been aligned to 6+ for admission to Grade-I, accordingly," the ministry said in its letter dated February 15, 2024.

PM Modi's deep sea dive into submerged Dwarka, performs underwater 'puja'



PM takes a holy dip into the sea at Dwarka, in Gujarat on February 25.

Dwarka, Feb 25 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi went on a deep-sea expedition to visit the submerged remains of Dwarka on Sunday and also offered prayers.

Dwarka, an ancient city with deep ties to Lord Krishna, epitomises India's prosperity in the annals of its storied past. The city is a testament to the country's rich cultural heritage and a symbol of its spirituality.

PM Modi's visit to the underwater site of this city was more than a mere exploration.

During his visit, PM Modi offered prayers and paid tribute to this historical and spiritual landmark. In a gesture of reverence, he presented peacock feathers as an offering, symbolising respect and homage to the deity Krishna, with whom the city is intrinsically linked.

The Prime Minister is scheduled to inaugurate and lay the foundation stones for projects valued at Rs 48,000 crore across various sectors such as healthcare, infrastructure, energy, and transportation.

He is set to unveil Gujarat's first All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Rajkot, along with virtual inaugurations of four other AIIMS located in Mangalagiri, Bathinda, Rae Bareli, and Kalyani.

On Saturday, Prime Minister Modi was welcomed by enthusiastic crowds, waving saffron flags and chanting patriotic slogans in Jamnagar.

PM Modi will inaugurate projects worth Rs 2 lakh crore in Bihar: Samrat Choudhary



Patna, Feb 25 (IANS) Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary on Sunday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate various projects worth Rs 2 lakh crore in Bihar.He said that PM Modi will visit Bihar on March 2."The opposition leaders have always alleged that PM Modi did not give anything to Bihar. I want to inform them that he is going to virtually inaugurate and lay the foundation stones of various projects worth Rs 2 lakh crores within the next ten days," the Deputy Chief Minister said.He said that PM Modi will virtually inaugurate projects in health and railway sectors."The Prime Minister will then visit the state on March 2. He will hold programmes and rallies in Aurangabad and Begusarai districts. He will also inaugurate various projects in these two districts," he said.

'Am repaying debt that I owe to Rajkot's people', says PM Modi, citing election as MLA in 2002

New Delhi, Feb 25 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated five AIIMS each at Rajkot (Gujarat), Bathinda (Punjab), Raebareli (Uttar Pradesh), Kalyani (West Bengal) and Mangalagiri (Andhra Pradesh). He chose Rajkot to inaugurate these institutes, obviously as a mark of respect for the people there who elected him an MLA for the first time 22 years ago. Exactly 22 years ago on this day, PM Modi took his first-ever oath as an elected member of an Assembly - four months after he was already appointed as Gujarat's Chief Minister.

It was on February 25, 2002 that Narendra Modi took oath as an MLA after winning the by-election from Rajkot II seat on February 24, 2002.

Addressing an impressive gathering of people during the launch of five AIIMS, PM Modi said that "I have been indebted to the people of Rajkot for electing me as an MLA for the first time from here 22 years ago. So, in the form of AIIMS and other projects I am repaying the debt that I owe to the people of Rajkot."

He said that he has been in power for 22 years now, referring to the period when he started governing Gujarat as Chief Minister and the ten years of tenure as PM. Now he is confident of getting a third term after the April-May Lok Sabha polls this year.



PM offers prayers at the Dwarkadhish temple and took blessings from Dwarka Shankaracharya Swami Sadanand Saraswati ji Maharaj at Shankaracharya Math Shardapeeth in Dwarka, Gujarat on February 25.

In fact, the electoral journey of Prime Minister Narendra Modi began on February 24, 2002 when he stepped into the Gujarat Assembly as an MLA for the first time. His victory in the by-election from Rajkot II assembly constituency was quite impressive. He had won the election by a margin of 14,728 votes.

It was seen as the defining moment in PM Modi's political career which continued to soar higher and higher with the passage of time. He was already Chief Minister of Gujarat four months before being elected as an MLA from Rajkot II constituency. He continued to serve the state of Gujarat as Chief Minister till he was elected Prime Minister in 2014.

'Modi Archive' on X has proudly shared a video of PM Modi's address in his constituency soon after being elected as MLA for the first time. The X handle has shared snippets that take party workers and the state of Gujarat down to memory lane when 'Brand Modi' was in the making.

"I had requested the residents of Rajkot to hold me tightly and not let go. They gave me marks of distinction." These were the words of PM Modi on being elected as an MLA for the first time. he was addressing a gathering of people in his constituency. This was the beginning of the electoral history of PM Modi. He served as the Chief Minister of Gujarat from 2001 to 2014.

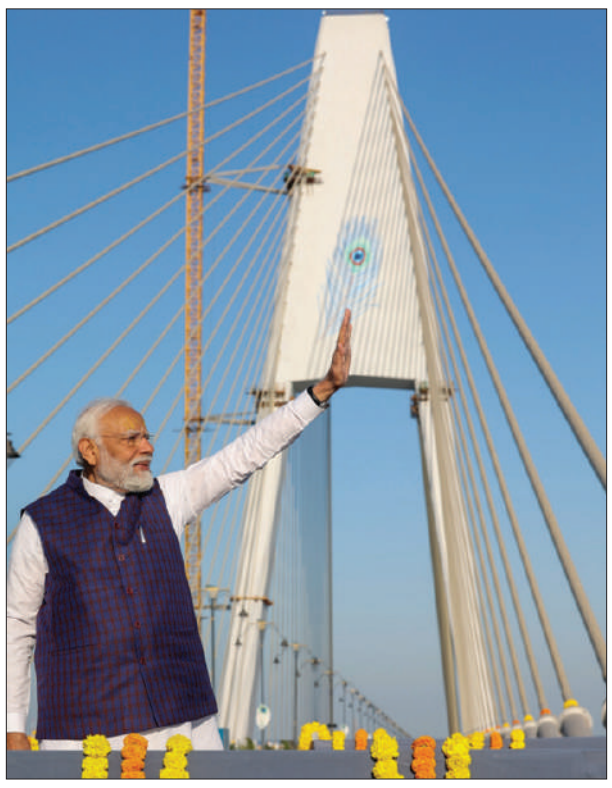
PM Modi inaugurates AIIMS Rajkot, throws open India's longest cable-stayed bridge in Gujarat

Rajkot, Feb 25 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) facility here in Gujarat. Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya was present at the inauguration ceremony.

The AIIMS Rajkot inauguration is part of a larger initiative to establish premier medical institutions across India, with PM Modi also virtually inaugurating four other AIIMS facilities located in Rae Bareli (Uttar Pradesh), Kalyani (West Bengal), Bathinda (Punjab), and Mangalagiri (Andhra Pradesh).

These establishments are set to play a crucial role in democratising high-quality healthcare and medical education, an official said.

The inauguration in Rajkot came hours after the Prime Minister inaugurated India's longest cable-stayed bridge, Sudarshan Setu, in Gujarat's Devbhumi Dwarka district.



PM dedicates to the nation, Sudarshan Setu connecting Okha mainland and Beyt Dwarka island, in Gujarat.

PM Modi also visited the submerged city of Dwarka for prayers.

The Prime Minister had unveiled the four-lane Sudarshan Setu earlier in the day, connecting Okha and Beyt Dwarka.

This engineering marvel, stretching 2.32 km and constructed at approximately Rs 980 crore, is expected to ease transportation challenges and significantly boost connectivity within the region.The Prime Minister's schedule also included offering prayers at the revered Dwarkadhish temple before addressing a large assembly of people gathered to witness these historic moments.PM Modi's two-day visit to his home state also included a roadshow in Jamnagar on Saturday night.

PM Modi visits Beyt Dwarka temple in Gujarat ahead of project launches



Dwarka, Feb 25 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a visit to the revered Shri Beyt Dwarkadhish Mandir on Sunday ahead of inaugurating and attending the groundbreaking ceremony for numerous projects in Gujarat's Jamnagar, Devbhumi Dwarka and Porbandar districts on Sunday.

Commencing his visit with a temple visit, the Prime Minister paid his respects at the revered Shri Beyt Dwarkadhish Mandir following his arrival in Jamnagar the previous day.

A small island off the coast of Dwarka and accessed via Okha is home to the temple of the same name and is believed to be the abode of Lord Krishna. The Prime Minister offered prayers here before addressing a large assembly of attendees.

Give all 29 LS seats to BJP: Amit Shah to MP voters

Bhopal, Feb 25 (IANS) Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday appealed to the voters in Madhya Pradesh to give all 29 Lok Sabha seats to the BJP in the upcoming general election.

"I appeal to the people of Madhya Pradesh to give all 29 Lok Sabha seats this time to BJP to make PM Modi stronger," the Home Minister said while addressing a public rally in Khajuraho.

He said that those Congress leaders who are feeling suffocated or sidelined are welcome to join the BJP. "Those who are not respected in Congress and want to join the BJP, they should be welcomed," the Home Minister said.

He said that BJP has to increase 370 votes at every booth to register a massive victory in the upcoming elections.



In 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP won 28 out 29 seats in Madhya Pradesh while in 2014, it had won 27 seats in the state. The party has set a target to achieve 370 seats in the upcoming general elections.The only Lok Sabha seat that the BJP lost was in Chhindwara, the bastion of veteran Congress leader and former Chief Minister Kamal Nath. His son Nakul Nath won Chhindwara despite a massive wave of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Home Minister Amit Shah is on a day-long visit to Madhya Pradesh on Sunday. Before addressing a public rally in Khajuraho, the Lok Sabha constituency being represented by the State BJP President V. D. Sharma, the Home Minister reviewed poll preparation for Parliamentary seats in Gwalior-Chambal region.

Oppn has no fuel to challenge PM Modi, says Giriraj Singh



Patna, Feb 25 (IANS) Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh on Sunday said the opposition parties were making alliances in the country but they have 'no fuel' to challenge Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the upcoming Lok Sabha election.

"Rahul Gandhi, Akhilesh Yadav and Arvind Kejriwal are showing happiness after making the alliance but the votes are with the people of the country and they are with PM Narendra Modi," Giriraj Singh said.

"The opposition parties had an alliance (UPA) against Narendra Modi in 2014 but the people of the country made him the prime minister.

"They gave more support in the 2019 Lok Sabha election and this time people of the country will vote in such a manner that the NDA will reach beyond 400 seats in the Lok Sabha," the minister said, adding that, "They don't have the fuel to take on the BJP,"

"PM Narendra Modi is coming to the land of Begusarai and he will address a rally here very soon. It is a workplace of Bihar's first Chief Minister Shri Krishna Singh.

"The central government has given financial aid to the tune of more than Rs 60,000 crore for the various projects including renovation of Barauni oil refinery, national highway project, flyovers and other projects in the past," he said.

Mann Ki Baat: PM Modi highlights efforts for marginalised communities, wildlife conservation

New Delhi, Feb 25 (IANS) During the Mann Ki Baat programme on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi mentioned about the Musahar community of Bihar and said that this community has been extremely marginalised in the state.

The Prime Minister talked about one Bhim Singh Bhavesh from Bihar and said that there has been a lot of discussion among the Musahar community in his area about his actions.

"Bhim Singh has focused on the education of children in this community so that the future of these children can be brightened. He has enrolled 8,000 children from the Musahar community in schools," said the PM.The Prime Minister further said that Singh has established a library, providing better facilities for education to children."He is also helping in obtaining essential documents for the people of his community, improving access to essential resources in the village, thus enhancing the health of the people. He has organised more than 100 medical camps to improve the health of the people," said the PM.

The Prime Minister said that when the COVID crisis was at its peak, Singh motivated the people of his area to get vaccinated. PM Modi said that there are many people like Bhim Singh who are engaged in such noble deeds in society.

"If we fulfil our duties as responsible citizens, it will be very helpful in building a strong nation," said the PM.During the programme, the Prime Minister also mentioned wildlife conservation and said that in recent years, due to the efforts of the government, the number of tigers in the country has increased.



PM at foundation stone laying and inauguration of multiple development projects at Dwarka, in Gujarat on February 25.

He said that the Chandrapur Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra, where the number of tigers has increased to more than 250, is using artificial intelligence to reduce conflicts between humans and tigers.

"Similarly, a company in Bengaluru has developed apps called 'Bagheera' and 'Garuda'. Through the Bagheera app, speed of vehicles and other activities can be monitored during jungle safaris. This app is being used in many tiger reserves across the country. Moreover, connecting the Garuda app, based on artificial intelligence, with any CCTV results in real-time alerts," said the PM.

The Prime Minister said that for thousands of years, we have lived with a sense of coexistence with nature and wildlife.

He also mentioned the Melghat Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra, where tribal families have converted their homes into homestays.

The PM said that goat farming is becoming a means to improve the livelihoods and living standards of the people in Kalahandi, Odisha.

Land reoccupation defies court order

Jamshedpur, Feb 25: Prashant Sardar, a resident of Purani Basti Road, Jugsalai, faced a distressing situation as some individuals, disregarding a court order, once again seized his land. Prashant lodged a complaint on Saturday and approached the office of the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) to seek intervention in the matter. According to Prashant, he owns land in Jugsalai Mauza, which had been unlawfully occupied by Raijul Gaddi.

Despite filing a complaint and securing a court verdict in his favor on December 24, 2014, he faced a renewed encroachment by Raijul Gaddi.



Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren with traditional bow and arrow was garlanded during a JMM rally in Ranchi on Sunday, February 25.

Gulab Singh Munda appointed AJSU Block President

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Feb 25: In a significant development aimed at strengthening the AJSU Party's presence, a crucial meeting was convened in the Mango Garden of Kuchai Block. Chaired by Block In-charge Durga Charan Mahato, the meeting witnessed the presence of AJSU Party's Executive District President and Block In-charge for Kuchai, Ramratan Mahato, and AJSU Party's Kharsawan Assembly in-charge and former candidate, Sanjay Jarika. During the meeting, the Kuchai Block Committee underwent unanimous reconstitution, marking a strategic move to enhance the party's organizational structure. Gulab Singh Munda emerged as the newly appointed President, while Karna Nag took on the role of Secretary. Sukhram Munda was designated as the Block Executive President, and Shyamlal Soy and Babulal Das were appointed as Vice Presidents.

The reconstitution of the Kuchai Block Committee aims to invigorate the party's grassroots presence and foster effective leadership in the region.

Dozens of dedicated party workers and officials, including Anil De, Prem Mundari, Ganpat Tanti, Suraj Mahato, and Sudarshan Mahato, participated in the meeting, underscoring the collective commitment to the party's growth and success. (w/nm)

Lions Club organizes Digital Mission Camp in Jugsalai



Jamshedpur, Feb 25: In a collaborative effort, the Lions Club of Jamshedpur Bharat, along with Femina and Sambhav Sanstha, organized the second Digital Mission Camp in Baldev Basti, Jugsalai. Over 150 local residents participated in the event, applying online for Ayushman cards and old age pensions under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna. The organizing team included Sarika Singh, Suchitra Rungta, Dr. Manjurani Singh, Rajesh Kumar, P. Pushpalata and others. (w/gsd)

Aastik Mahato proposed as JMM candidate for LS elections



Jamshedpur, Feb 25: Ashok Singh, former Shiv Sena leader and prominent social worker, has urged the central leadership to nominate Aastik Mahato as the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha candidate in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Singh emphasized Mahato's significant contributions during the 2011 Jamshedpur Lok Sabha elections and his pivotal role alongside martyr Nirmal Mahato in the Jharkhand movement. Singh highlighted Mahato's ongoing commitment to the development and preservation of the cultural heritage of the native and tribal communities in the state. He praised Mahato's readiness to serve the underprivileged and expressed confidence that making him the candidate would fulfill a longstanding public demand, ensuring the party's success in the election. Singh emphasized Mahato's qualities as a capable, hardworking, and honest leader, asserting that his widespread popularity across different classes and religions would contribute to an easier victory for the party. (w/nm)

MECL and Savera Foundation host Cancer Awareness Camp

Mail News Service



Ghatshila, Feb 25: Acancer awareness and screening camp was organized at Marwari Dharmshala on Saturday, drawing a significant turnout of women from nearby villages. The camp, jointly organized by the NGO Savera Foundation and financially supported by the Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited (MECL) Ghatshila branch, provided screening services along with free medicines to patients. Approximately 150 women were screened during the event, with a focus on ovarian cancer and other related diseases. Ankit Gautam, the Project Manager of MECL, emphasized the importance of women's health, acknowledging the challenges faced by economically disadvantaged women due to lack of education and awareness. Former MLA Pradip Balmuchu commended the efforts of Savera Foundation in addressing women's health issues and breaking the taboo surrounding discussing diseases. Trupti Saxena, Secretary of Savera Foundation, expressed gratitude to Indradev Narayan, CMD of MECL, for the support in organizing the camp and highlighted the collaborative efforts for future initiatives. She also thanked the senior officers and colleagues of MECL for their cooperation during the event. (w/gsd)



Anand Marg volunteers distributed more than 200 fruit plant saplings free of cost among villagers of Rangatand in Patamda. Yogesh Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, Pandu Mahato and others helped in distributing the saplings.

Odia drama by Utkal Yuva Ekta Manch on March 3

Seraikela, Feb 25: In continuation of their annual tradition, Utkal Yuva Ekta Manch Seraikela is set to stage a one-day Odia play on March 3rd at Indratandi, Seraikela. Rajesh Sahu, the President of the stage, along with Shantanu Satapathy, Rupesh Sahu, Neelkanth Sarangi, and others, provided details about the upcoming traditional Odia drama event. The featured play for the occasion is titled "Sukho Soutini Ku Dukho Bhogari," promising a captivating theatrical experience. In addition to the Odia drama, a colorful program by talented artists is scheduled for March 4th. Rajesh Sahu extended a warm invitation to all residents of Seraikela, especially the drama-loving audience, to attend the event. (w/nm)



Maghe Festival celebrated with enthusiasm

Mail News Service



Chaibasa, Feb 25: In a spirited celebration of the Maghe festival at village Hathimanda Tola Kumbadih under Jhinkapani block, Chief Guest Sunil Budiuli, Deputy Head of Asura Panchayat, graced the occasion, adding an air of prestige to the sports and general knowledge competition. Emphasizing the deep-rooted significance of the Maghe festival, Budiuli highlighted its traditional importance among tribals, tracing back to the times of their ancestors. Addressing the gathering, Budiuli expressed the need to celebrate the Maghe festival with great joy and unity, considering it a festival intricately linked to their existence. He underlined the special blessings received from Deshauli, Singhbonga, and Jaira Maa during this festival, elevating it to a unique status among all tribal celebrations. The Maghe festival, he said, holds a distinct place in society and is fervently celebrated in every tribal village. The sports competition witnessed remarkable performances, with Subhashni Gope emerging victorious in the women's Handi Phod race, Naveen Alda claiming the top spot in the men's 1500-meter race, Rakhi Banra securing a win in the balloon race (women's category), and Saloni Alda triumphing in the 100-meter race.

The event drew a large crowd of enthusiastic villagers who gathered to witness the festivities. The success of the program was attributed to the active participation of individuals such as Manoj Budiuli, Sanjay Gope, Sada Singh Alda, Subhash Alda, Kamal Kishore Alda, Manki Alda, Lakshmi Alda, Jano Alda, among others, who contributed to making the celebration a resounding success. (w/nm)



Youths performed physical feats during a programme in Ranchi on Sunday, February 25.

Geeta Koda assures to resolve Adityapur water crisis



Mail News Service

Seraikela, Feb 25: MP Geeta Koda visited Adityapur to address various community issues. She met MIG Colony residents of Ward 17, who had been enduring water crisis over a long period.She assured the residents that the crisis would be resolved soon.The residents, led by Congress Working Committee District President Ambuj Kumar and Water Crisis Resolution Committee Convener Shankar Dayal Mishra, submitted a memorandum to the parliamentarian urging swift action from the Municipal Corporation. In response, Geeta Koda emphasized the urgency of the matter, warning of potential public agitation if left unaddressed. She reassured Ward No. 17 residents of her solidarity with their cause. Geeta Koda visited the family of Fakira Sona, a victim of a vehicle accident in the Adityapur industrial area, and offered her condolences and support to the bereaved family.

She laterattended a volleyball tournament at Road No 16-17 as the chief guest with Ambuj Kumar as a special guest. During her visit to Adityapur, she was accompanied by party and community leaders who too promised to address local concerns. (w/gsd)

Larsen Club clinches BL Nevatiya T-20 Trophy

Chaibasa, Feb 25: In a spectacular display of cricket prowess, Larsen Club Chaibasa emerged victorious in the 31st BL Nevatiya T-20 Cricket Competition, defeating CCA Chakradharpur in a one-sided final match held at the Birsa Munda Cricket Stadium. Opting to bat first after winning the toss, Chakradharpur Cricket Academy put up a total of 114 runs in 18.2 overs, only to face a dominant reply from Larsen Club Chaibasa. The latter chased down the target with ease, securing victory by nine wickets and claiming the prestigious BL Nevatiya T-20 Trophy for the second consecutive time. The post-match prize distribution ceremony saw the winning team honored by Mukund Rungta, the President of West Singhbhum District Cricket Association. The Vice President and sponsor of the competition, Banwari Lal Nevatiya, presented the trophy and individual awards to the runner-up team. Sushil Kumar Singhania, the VP of the District Cricket Association, recognized the efforts of groundsmen and umpires with well-deserved individual awards. Mayank Paul of Larsen Club Chaibasa received the Man of the Match award for his stellar performance in the final. Chaibasa Cricket's Amartya Chaudhary was crowned the Best Batsman of the entire competition, while Anand Srivastava of Larsen Club Chaibasa secured the Best Bowler award. The title of Man of the Series was bestowed upon Laxman Gilua, representing Cricket Club Chakradharpur and acknowledging Ajay Pradhan's outstanding contributions.

Leaders to Join PM Modi's Amrit Bharat Scheme unveiling

Chaibasa, Feb 25: In a momentous event, the Honorable Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, is set to inaugurate the ambitious redevelopment plan for 554 railway stations across the country, as part of the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Additionally, the Prime Minister will dedicate 1500 newly constructed road over bridges and underpasses to enhance transportation infrastructure. The Chaibasa Railway Station, under the jurisdiction of the Chakradharpur Railway Division, will host this grand occasion, graced by the presence of key dignitaries including Ashwini Vaishnav, Union Railway Minister, Raosaheb Patil Danve, Union Minister of State for Railways, Coal, and Mines, and Darshana Jardosh, Union Minister of State for Railways and Textiles. Sanjay Pandey, Bharatiya Janata Party District President, expressed immense pride for West Singhbhum district, emphasizing the significance of the Amrit Bharat Station Reconstruction Scheme launched by Prime Minister Modi. He highlighted the special focus on tribal-dominated areas like Chaibasa, Chakradharpur, Donguaposi, and Bada Jamda in the redevelopment plans, affirming the Prime Minister's commitment to the welfare of tribal communities. Pandey underlined the proactive measures taken for the district's transportation infrastructure, including the construction of road over bridges and underpass subways in areas like Chaibasa, Chakradharpur, Noamundi, and Pandrashali. (w/nm)

Three-Day Program on Swami Vivekananda and Ramakrishna Mission

Mail News Service





Jamshedpur, Feb 25: A comprehensive three-day program delving into the teachings of Swami Vivekananda and the inception of the Ramakrishna Mission was organized in Jamshedpur. The first session, held from 9 am to 12 noon, featured discussions on the significance of strong character for spiritual enlightenment according to Swami Vivekananda, and the pivotal role played by Sanghajanani Shri Saradadevi in the early stages of the Ramakrishna Mission. Scholarly speakers including Swami Atmasradhananda, Swami Suddhidananda, Swami Achyutananda, and Dr. Somnath Bhattacharya emphasized the importance of holistic development for character building and acknowledged the crucial contributions of Shri Saradadevi to the Ramakrishna Mission. In the second session, organized from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, discussions revolved around Swami Vivekananda's teachings on the divinity of the soul, the means and ends of spiritual life, and his role as the messenger of Ramakrishna's teachings. Notable speakers such as Dr. Arijit Sarkar, Swami Muktidananda, Swami Mahapragyananda, and Swami Nirvikarananda elaborated on Vivekananda's messages and his dedication to spreading the ideals of Ramakrishna Mission. The concluding session featured cultural performances by renowned artistes, including Shastriya Sangeet (classical music) by Pandit Amiya Ranjan Bandopadhyay, and a mesmerizing Jugalbandi by Pandit Samar Saha, Suprabhat Bhattacharya, Navagata Bhattacharya, Arijit Banerjee, and Sampriya Goswami. More than 500 people attended the cultural events celebrating the rich spiritual heritage championed by Swami Vivekananda and the Ramakrishna Mission. (w/gsd)

Paradigm on meritocracy

Renowned political philosopher Michael Sandel has said that there is a need to shift the political discourse away from arming people for meritocratic competition, to bring more inclusive and more attentive to inequalities of social recognition and esteem.

Outlining how this widening divide between winners and losers over the last four decades has, in general, impacted and 'poisoned' politics, Sandel stressed that the solution lay in politically putting greater emphasis on the dignity of work and an alternative way of thinking about success. Sandel posited the possibility of pluralistic ways of allowing communities to give expression to their history, traditions and identities that resist polarising tendencies.

He found the civilizational turn of public discourse in India fascinating and wondered whether a purely secular political project could sustain itself without finding a way to tap into the rooted traditions of a culture and of a civilization. Dwelling on the debate of hyper nationalism versus Liberals, the philosopher pointed out that fundamentalists and hyper nationalists rushed in to fill a void where liberals feared to tread, where there was such a thoroughly emptied public space that it created a backlash.

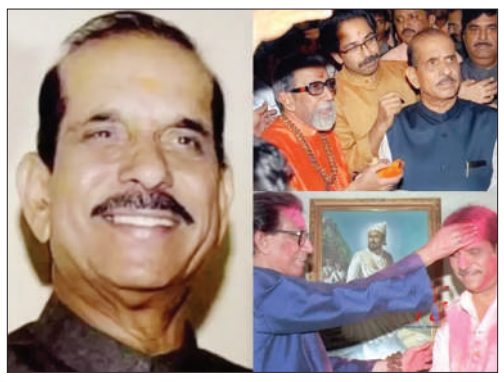
He added that this was why he felt that it was necessary to find ways to bring into public discourse in a healthy, pluralistic way, expressions of identities and traditions and moral and religious convictions. he contended, "Otherwise the backlash will come with a kind of insistence that can lead to intolerance and that can lead to the majority imposing on the minority." The current version of market driven meritocracy has produced a kind of hubris among the winners. In the American context, the sense among many working people that elites looked down on them, had fuelled the backlash against elites that was evident in the election of Donald Trump in 2016.

The politics of grievance spoke to people's sense, especially that of the working people that credentialed meritocratic elites were looking down on them - and that was why, Sandel thought, it was important to diagnose the dark side of meritocracy, its corrosive effect on solidarity in the common good, along with the very important advantages of meritocracy.

From the Editor's Desk

Manohar Joshi: Flying high in politics, with feet on the ground and passion for poor

By Quaid Najmi



Few in politics can boast of such a glorious career like ManoharGajanan Joshi -- who made humble beginnings as Municipal Corporator and went on to become the Maharashtra Chief Minister and later Speaker of LokSabha -- but with his feet firmly planted on the ground and a genuine concern for the poor. Joshi, 86, died after suffering a heart attack around 3 a.m. on Friday (February 23), and his funeral was performed this evening with full state honours.

The politician-cum-academic-cum-businessman and cricket-lover is survived by his wife Anagha and their son Unmesh, two daughters -- Asmita and Namrata, while one of his grand-daughters is the well-known Bollywood actress-filmmaker, SharvariWagh.

Born on December 2, 1937 at Nandavi village in Raigad, in the coastal Konkan belt, Joshi was educated in Mumbai and grew up in the city. He even launched his professional and political career here. Respectfully addressed as 'Sir' for his academic background and deep knowledge on various subjects, Joshi was a close confidante of the late Balasaheb Thackeray, who founded the Shiv Sena (1966), and Joshi plunged into politics with the party intended for 'sons of the soil'. In 1968, he was elected a Shiv Sena Municipal Corporator of the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and was elected Mayor of Mumbai for a term (1976-1977).

This was the same civic body where he once worked as an officer in the early 1960s, before quitting for the political career, responding to a call by Balasaheb Thackeray to work for the welfare of the 'Marathi Manoos'.

Despite suffering political setbacks, he stuck to his word and never quit the Shiv Sena, with which he remained till the party split vertically, and he continued with Shiv Sena (UBT) led by Thackeray's son and ex-CM Uddhav Thackeray till he breathed his last on Friday.

Rising steadily up the political rungs, he was nominated as a Member of Legislative Council, then elected an MLA for three terms, completed a term in LokSabha and RajyaSabha, was the Chief Minister (March 1995-January 1999), later made a Union Minister (1999-2002) and then elected Speaker of LokSabha (2002-2004) during the regime of the late Prime Minister AtalBihari Vajpayee, with a stint in the RajyaSabha, and Leader of Opposition in Assembly, too. His political colleagues and critics described him as "a cool-headed, smiling person, never known to get agitated in any emergency or losing his temper under any provocation, soft-spoken, and an expert at getting any work done through sweet persuasion, while taking everyone along" in all his endeavours. There were the qualities that helped him immensely when he became the first Brahmin CM of the maiden (undivided) Shiv Sena-BharatiyaJanata Party government, but after four years in the saddle, he was abruptly removed after his name cropped up a land-scam, and was replaced by a Maratha, Narayan Rane (currently, a BJP union minister).

At that point, he felt hurt and bitter, and in an interview later, had dropped broad hints of a revolt or quitting the Shiv Sena, but the party took note and he was immediately rewarded with higher posts at the Centre.

Harbouring a passion for the poor, after completing his education (M.A. & LL.B.), Joshi started what is billed as India's earliest and finest 'skill development' centres through his Kohinoor Technical Institutes group, in Mumbai and then spreading to different parts of the country. Here, youths were imparted training for skilled, semi-skilled and vocational courses like plumbing, electricians, audio-video technicians, two-wheeler mechanics, etc., that became a rage and helped lakhs of jobless youths get gainful employment, said BharatiyaKisanSena and SS-UBT leader RaghunathKuchik. "When he was the Speaker, the Verma Commission Report came to him which sought to dilute workers' rights and job security, but without a second thought, Joshi 'saheb' rejected it.

Science and Spirituality- What helps us to fight off the devil within us?



By MR Lalu



There are understandable fears among people over death that they are sure would arrive one day. Growing day by day into old-age is the natural way of approaching the ultimate moment of life and there is undoubtedly a day that would put a full stop to the entire episode of life's fantasies. It will be a catastrophe if people keep thinking about this unpopular visitor called Death who, they are sure, would visit them one day. Death is sure as everything that is born is bound to be dragged by its ruthless force into its terrain of complete oblivion, with no conscious return ever possible. A preparation for meeting the last moment of our life graciously without being anxious about it would be the most intelligent act. But it takes an enormous amount of understanding to welcome it with a smiling face. A healthy life and peaceful death would be a great blessing. But the fundamental question on the mind and body today is: in what way can we keep the body healthy and mind sound and attentive.

There are ways suggested by health experts, mostly our ancient rishis, as to how a healthy body and a peaceful mind can be developed when we are surrounded by chaotic disruptions and deliberate outrages. Fundamentally, a logical conclusion on life and death is possible only when the life is lived with awareness and death is approached with a serene quietude within, a genuine preparation that strengthens our self-inquiry.

Life in this transitory framework of the universal essence should be lived with happiness and awareness.

And that is the solution, the solution to push our existence through the consumerist global mindset of today where people are recognized, rewarded and eulogized for what they really are able to systematically, dramatically make a display of their existence. A severe competition by crippling our real fundamental values of coexistence has already overtaken the imaginations of people all over the world. An uninterrupted flow of unethical indulgence where a real self-inquiry is discarded as an unprincipled prerequisite, as human life has profoundly dethroned the values of amicable coexistence and began to surrender to the degenerative impulses of their own creation. At this juncture, Lord Buddha reminds us how transitory is life and how inconsolable are people as the time of their exit comes. He calls life a flash of lightning. Imagine how evanescent life is and we, in most of the cases, stay close-fisted mostly penny-pinching all through, with a single purpose of amassing wealth as much as possible. And in some other cases, we disdainfully spend as much wealth as possible as if the imminent conclusion of life is near. In both cases, our life is amiss of the conclusive reality of the supreme awareness, that we are capable of realizing, while dissipating our energy indiscriminately on inconsequential matters.

Life in its entirety around us is a spectrum of surprises. Enmeshed in a variety of complex situations, people often forget to enjoy the small surprises that it offers. Complexity of life is the creation of our own or contributed by people around us. And there, with the deepening complex occurrences in life, we miss the happiness that we are actually aspiring to take hold of. Mostly the crisis further deepens in old age. There is a dearth of acceptance and a vacuum that emerges from the same complex attitude of people around us.

An unfeeling society that keeps alienating the old has been the reality. Mostly advanced with the advent of science, we dreadfully shift from the values that we traditionally imbibe. This obviously creates a tough friction between science and religion. In personal life both bring us reasons to contemplate. But between science and religion the tussle hardly discovers the real aspect of ultimate solace that we are in search of. The impact of the tussle is that it intellectually leads us to accept either science or religion or give prominence to both. This conflict between the logic of science and the faiths of religion usually runs riot in our brain and the outcome is, in most of the cases, people live unsuccessful in understanding the real purpose of their existence. Merely executing our brilliance to satisfy the biological inclination becomes the common norm. Beyond it is the spiritual realm and this aspect of life remains to most of the people a dry area of meaningless irreversible practices that they accrue habitually. But spirituality in the real sense is capable of driving us beyond mere practices and shows us the glimpse of reality which is peaceful and filled with ecstatic joy.

In most of the cases, intense range of radicalism among people is the result of the dominance of beliefs over the real conclusive understanding of life's purpose. The question that gains prominence here is what would be the role of humans, in a world that has mostly enslaved him of his beliefs failing to make conclusive understanding on the real purpose of life. When science studies the external, religion is supposed to study the internal, helping a person to look within. The latter indeed is known to help a person to come out of the chaotic framework of his own thoughts leading him to the higher realms of his own intelligence.

This it achieves without any instruments but in the case of science every discovery comes with the support of an instrument. Indirectly, the ultimate stress of science is to understand the real source of power that helps the whole manifestation of creation to pulsate. Similar ideas can be attributed to religious practices as well. Leading the person to the higher realms of self discovery, a sincere search for the divine within, religion is the study of the inner being and beyond.

Undoubtedly, religions all over the world place this idea of an internal universe that only man is capable of having access. And science for that matter offers scopes enormous to study the external. Understanding this from a spiritual angle, Swami Vivekananda says that the journey from the microcosm to the macrocosm is what spirituality offers. And religions are supposed to hold this ability to take its followers to this wave of realization. The most beautiful aspect of this journey is that it leads us to the inner space of the being and slowly helps us to encapsulate the strength of the macrocosmic evolutionary universe in our mind space.

This, according to religions, is an achievement of a spiritual aspirant that he gains without the help of any instrument. So understanding the true self in a person is the real purpose of life's journey. Once we experience the real fragrance of the inner spiritual splendor which is tranquil and contented, all chaos begins to evaporate.

This is a personal experience that ultimately helps us to drive the devil in us. Until then the conflict which is internal continues. To fight off the devil within us remains impossible when there is a tussle between the knowledge that we gain through this inner journey and the knowledge that our surroundings peripherally offer.

Choosing the one that is real and valid is the most important. A personal experience to this level surely enhances purity of mind and thoughts and the result is absolutely incomparable that neither science can fathom nor logic can slice. That is purely spiritual.

(Author is freelance journalist and social worker based in Kerala. The views expressed are personal opinion of the author.)

How Western tech giants unleash propaganda game during India's election season

The advent of technology has led to digital mediums of people outreach programs taking precedence over the conventional poll campaigns.

Political parties are increasingly adopting online canvassing over orthodox mediums. However, this has also made the electoral machinery 'vulnerable' to the flip side of technology.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) induced fake narratives and mis-information have also added to the humungous task of dealing with fake news, especially during elections.

As India prepares for general elections 2024, the agenda and propaganda machinery by the West-backed tech giants is set to get activated again for pushing their ulterior motives.

Twitter's latest disagreement with Centre over identification and banning of a couple of accounts has brought the spotlight back on the social media behemoth's attempt to influence country's Parliamentary elections, in 2019.

In latest face-off, Twitter objected to Centre's directions to withhold certain account and posts and called it a move to 'quell the freedom of speech' but then agreed to comply with the order.

The 'propaganda machinery' of US-based tech giants pose a big challenge during this election season also.

In 2019 elections, the interference and meddling into India's electoral affairs by these transnational firms, apparently with the blessing of their governments, was widely seen. These companies colluded with left-liberal ecosystem to devise anti-establishment campaign, with a motive to mobilise public against the Modi dispensation.

In 2019, Jack Dorsey-led Twitter, now X, resorted to 'malafide' tricks and stratagems to show the then government in bad light while amplifying the baseless and wild allegations against it.

His close association with left-liberal lobby and alleged misuse of social media for furthering vested interests was also called upon by the supposed right-wing outfits. In one of the viral photos, he was seen flaunting 'Smash Brahminical Patriarchy' poster for which he received huge backlash and also apologised later.

Twitter's then CEO Jack Dorsey was also accused of promoting anti-Hindutva accounts during 2019 polls, with an intention to 'bring the government down' and later also summoned by the Standing Committee on IT.

Jorsey had accused Indian government of pressuring Twitter to block certain accounts but it was rubbished by Centre as 'blatant lie'.

With the world going digital, manipulating the public during elections has become easy and centric. Western powers, via their tech giants, 'invade' the democratic process of third world countries in name of 'data sovereignty' and when they are dragged to courts, a separate ecosystem goes full throttle to defend them.

In 2019 elections, many intermediaries, besides the tech behemoths, also tried to infringe upon India's election process by manipulating data.

They took use of algorithms, data analytics to study voters' inclination and then influenced their minds by populating their social media timeline with 'motivated content'.

A report by US-based think tank, soon after 2019 elections, indicted the Twitter for swaying public opinion in partisan manner.

Twitter bots were boosting hashtags and trying to manipulate traffic on Twitter in February 2019 ahead of the then General elections, said The Atlantic Council, while quoting a study done by the Digital Forensic Research Lab (DFRLab).

With 2024 elections around the corner, similar concerns and consternations have started coming to fore.

The Election Commission is expected to formulate a strategy to counter the 'deep fakes' much like it did in calling out the fake news, ahead of 2019 elections.

'Deep fakes' pose a huge threat because of their potential to subvert the entire election process with their manipulative and scheming content.

The recent cases of deep-fake videos are a case in point for understanding the emerging dangerous trend.

During recent Assembly elections in five states, thousands of voters in Telangana received a viral video on their phone, with a sitting legislator appealing them to vote against the incumbent government.

In Madhya Pradesh, AI-induced videos of popular TV show 'Kaun BanegaCrorepati' created a frenzy of sorts among public.

The video, designed on lines of popular quiz show asked questions from public and sought to whip up sentiments against then Shivraj Singh government.

Notably, India is not the only country facing the menace of 'deep fake politics' and deceptive AI-induced campaign.

The digital revolution has exposed even the strongest economies to possible interference in their electoral process and gave rivals an easy handle to target the ruling governments with slanted narrative and rhetoric.

The US presidential primary elections in New Hampshire also became a victim last year, as a fake audio of President Joe Biden appealed to people, 'stay indoors and not participate in polls'.

Alarmed over this looming crisis, a group of 20 global tech companies recently signed an accord to work together to prevent AI-induced content from interfering in elections.

Interestingly, the 2024 LokSabha elections is drawing the attention of world on back of much-touted third term for PM Modi-led NDA government while INDIA alliance pulling out all stops to put brakes in BJP's 'victory march'.

Moreover, year 2024 is set to witness Parliamentary or Presidential elections in 17 European nations. Hence, the need for crackdown on fake news, fake narrative and fake propaganda becomes all the more important.



India reach 40/0 in pursuit of 192 after Ashwin, Kuldeep, and Jurel play crucial roles in fightback

Ranchi, Feb 25 (IANS) In the pursuit of 192 for a series win, India reached 40/0 in eight overs at stumps on day three of the fourth Test against England at the JSCA International Stadium on Sunday, which saw Ravichandran Ashwin, Kuldeep Yadav and Dhruv Jurel play crucial roles in leading the fightback for the hosts.

India still need 152 to win the fourth Test, with two days still left in the match. Captain Rohit Sharma made great use of full and overpitched deliveries from Tom Hartley to hit four boundaries and be 24 not out, as the England spinner's inexperience with the new ball showed.

Meanwhile, Yashasvi Jaiswal swept Joe Root easily to be unbeaten on 16 as India walked off with smiles on their faces. India began Day Three with 134 runs behind England's first innings score with just three wickets in hand. But Jurel and Kuldeep (28 off 131 balls) shared a crucial 76-run stand for the eighth wicket to help the hosts fight back in the match.

Though Kuldeep later became James Anderson's 698th Test scalp, Jurel, playing just his second Test, survived a caught-out chance on 59 and shifted gears well to be India's top-scorer with a terrific 90 off 149 balls.

England had a first innings lead of 46, but Ashwin wreaked havoc with the new ball to pick his 35th five-wicket haul in Tests via a splendid 5-51. Ably supporting him was Kuldeep taking 4-22, while Ravindra Jadeja had a scalp to his name.

In the morning, Jurel impressed everyone with his compact batting and judicious shot selection, while exhibiting a calm temperament, application and maturity in taking the team out of trouble in challenging conditions. Though he missed out on a maiden Test century by 10 runs, Jurel's knock, laced with six fours and four sixes, helped India cross 300 and narrow the deficit to just 46.

Jurel and Kuldeep were watchful at the start when England took the second new ball. Jurel got going with a lovely straight drive off Ollie Robinson, followed by Kuldeep driving Bashir square off the wicket for another boundary. But in a bid to defend off Anderson, Kuldeep inside-edged to his front foot and the ball rolled over to hit the stumps.

Jurel marched forward to get his maiden Test fifty with a single through mid-on off Hartley, and from



there he began his attacking show. He swept Hartley with ease for four and survived being out on 59 when Bashir spilt a catch at mid-wicket off Anderson.

Bashir came under attack by Jurel, who lofted and muscled him for two sixes and a four. He was also taken for a six over mid-wicket by Akash Deep, but Bashir had the last laugh by trapping the batter LBW after surviving a stumping appeal, to get his first five-wicket haul in first-class cricket.

Jurel then pulled and smacked Hartley for six and four respectively, but was clean bowled by Hartley, who got one to angle in and spin past the outside edge to hit the stumps. Ben Duckett began England's second innings by smashing a four each off Ashwin and Jadeja.

But Ashwin removed him and Ollie Pope on consecutive balls in the fifth over to rattle England. While Duckett was caught at forward short leg, Pope was trapped LBW when the ball straightened and hit his back pad right in front of the leg stump. It gave Ashwin scalps number 350 and 351, thus surpassing Anil Kumble to become India's leading Test wicket-taker on home soil.

Crawley launched a counterattack by using his reach to good effect and getting to the pitch of the ball to drive on both sides of the wicket with ease. But Ashwin got his third wicket in the 17th over when he found a turn to beat Joe Root's inside edge and trap him lbw for 11.

Crawley marched to his 13th fifty in Tests and third of the ongoing series, coming off 72 balls. But Kuldeep removed him for 61 off 90 balls after beating the batter for a turn and rattling the middle stump.

Ben Stokes survived an LBW call on the umpire's call off Jadeja but was castled by a Kuldeep delivery which kept low and turned to hit the back pad and rolled onto the stumps at the stroke of tea.

Post tea, England lost five wickets for 25 runs in 21 overs. Jonny Bairstow was dismissed on the first ball of the session, pushing at a Jadeja delivery which turned and spooned to short cover. Kuldeep came in to have Tom Hartley caught at mid-on and trapped Robinson lbw with the one which turned in to hit the pad past the willow.

Robinson tried to change the decision but couldn't do so as the umpire's call came on ball hitting leg-stump. Ben Foakes survived an under-edge off Ashwin, but the off spinner slipped in a carrom ball, which the batter couldn't read and gave a return catch back to the bowler.

Ashwin completed his five-fer when Anderson went for the reverse sweep and missed it. The ball ricocheted off the bat and Jurel stuck out his right glove to take a sharp catch. India's brilliant day even got better when Rohit and Jaiswal capitalised on a flurry of loose balls from England and have now all wickets in hand to seal the series in Ranchi.

Brief scores:

England 353 & 145 all out in 53.5 overs (Zak Crawley 60, Jonny Bairstow 30; Ravichandran Ashwin 5-51, Kuldeep Yadav 4-22) lead India 307 in 103.2 overs (Dhruv Jurel 90; Shoaib Bashir 5-119) & 40/0 in 8 overs (Rohit Sharma 24 not out, Yashasvi Jaiswal 16 not out) by 152 runs

Tennis: Thompson beats Ruud to win his first ATP Tour title at Los Cabos

Los Cabos (Mexico), Feb 25 (IANS) Australian Jordan Thompson closed a dream week in Mexico as he lifted the first title of his career after beating Norway's Casper Ruud 6-3, 7-6(4) at the Los Cabos Open tennis tournament.The victory in Thompson's third tour-level final late on Saturday night capped a dramatic week that saw him play for 12 hours across five matches.His run included three match point saves in a comeback from 6-0, 3-0 down against Alex Michelsen in the quarterfinals, as well as a three-hour, 40-minute win against Alexander Zverev in the semis that finished after 1 a.m. Saturday morning.In addition to his first title, Thompson will also be leaving Los Cabos with a career-best ATP ranking of 32.Meanwhile, Ruud with his second loss this season and his first to a player outside the Top 25 this year denied a return to the Top 10 in the ATP Rankings for the first time since November.Following his singles victory, Thompson got the better of Ruud for a second time on Saturday in the doubles' semifinals in Los Cabos.

Gopi Thonakal wins men's elite race; Ashwini Jadhav bags women's title at New Delhi Marathon

New Delhi, Feb 25 (IANS) India's Gopi Thonakal and Ashwini Madan Jadhav won the men's and women's races, respectively, at the New Delhi Marathon here at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Sunday.Gopi secured the gold medal in the men's event with a timing of 2:14:40, narrowly surpassing Srinu Bugatha, who achieved a new personal best of 2:14:41 to claim the second position. Akshay Saini completed his run in 2:15:27, securing third place."As expected Gopi T won New Delhi Marathon today. He sprinted past Srinu Bugatha to win gold," Athletics Federation of India (AFI) wrote on X.Both Gopi and Bugatha had earlier won the New Delhi Marathon. While Gopi claimed the 2017 title, Bugatha was the champion in 2021.In the women's race, meanwhile, Ashwin clocked 2:52:25 to finish on top. Thakor Nirmaben Bharatjee (2:55:47) finished second followed by Divyanka Chaudhary (2:57:06) on third place.The New Delhi Marathon also acted as a qualifying meet for the Paris Olympics. But, none of the Indian at the event managed to achieve the qualifying standards for the Paris 2024 Olympics.

Tennis: Sebastian Baez topples Francisco Cerundolo to enter final in Rio

Rio de Janeiro, Feb 25 (IANS) Fifth-seeded Argentine Sebastian Baez beat his compatriot Francisco Cerundolo in straight sets on Saturday to reach the final of the Rio Open.Baez stared down three set points at 4-5 in the opening set under pressure from countryman Cerundolo and did not lose another game en route to a 7-5, 6-0 victory at the ATP 500 late on Saturday.Baez's nine-game tear earned him the win in his first semi-final above ATP 250 level. He will play for his fifth and biggest tour-level title on Sunday against Argentine qualifier Mariano Navone.

After an early trade of breaks, Baez saved six consecutive break points in the one-hour, 24-minute match. He converted on four of his seven break chances and won more than half of his return points, according to ATP Stats.Cerundolo, who was also bidding to reach his first final above the ATP 250 level, struggled with 39 unforced errors, including 26 off his backhand wing. Despite the loss, he will return to the Top 20 in the ATP Rankings on Monday.Baez is up seven places to No. 23 this week in the ATP Live Rankings, setting himself up for a career high. He could move up to No. 21 with the Rio title.

WPL continues to break barriers, says BCCI secretary Jay Shah

New Delhi, Feb 25 (IANS) The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah has expressed his delight following the full house during the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2024 match between Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) and UP Warriorz at the M. Chinnaswamy stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Shah took to X (formerly Twitter) during Saturday's match to share his thoughts on the superb start made by WPL 2024."A rousing opening ceremony like never before yesterday and a full house at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium today. All tickets completely sold out and the atmosphere is unparalleled."Well done, Bengaluru. The #TATAWPL continues to break barriers!"

The local outfit, Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) defeated UP Warriorz by two runs in a last-ball thriller on Saturday. UP needed five runs off the last two deliveries but could only manage two runs.

India showed phenomenal character, enjoy bowling with new ball, says Ravichandran Ashwin

Ranchi, Feb 25 (IANS) India's veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin lauded his team's 'phenomenal' character in staging a fightback on the third day of the fourth Test against England at Ranchi. He added about enjoying bowling with the new ball, which propelled him to pick 5-51, his 35th five-wicket haul in Tests.

Apart from Ashwin, Kuldeep Yadav's 4-22 and Dhruv Jurel's 90 were crucial in ensuring India are 152 runs away from sealing a series win in Ranchi.

"We showed phenomenal character. Kuldeep was brilliant today. He can put a lot of revs on the ball and he's got a lot of skill. But he changed his paces really nicely, he is very difficult to play when he does that and I'm sorry to take the five-for from him!"

"Dhruv Jurel's defence was gun and he showed great composure, we were very calm in the dressing room. For just his second Test match, he had a great gameplan and it gave us a huge lift," said Ashwin to broadcasters at the end of day three's play.

In England's second innings, Ashwin removed Ben Duckett and Ollie Pope on consecutive balls in the fifth over, giving him Test



scalps number 350 and 351, thus surpassing Anil Kumble to become India's leading Test wicket-taker on home soil.

He then trapped Joe Root LBW, took a return catch on a carrom ball to send back Ben Foakes and completed his five-fer when James Anderson went for the reverse sweep and missed it. The ball ricocheted off the bat and Jurel stuck out his right glove to take a sharp catch.

"I enjoy bowling with the new ball and today was another of those days. I wanted that first over. I seem to have a bit of attachment to the new ball, it allows you to bowl a little quicker, and I enjoyed that.""I had to change how I was thinking about the game because there wasn't much turn. I am someone who likes the ball to drop onto the pitch and get some bite out of the surface, but it wasn't like that here. I had to use side spin, hammer it into the pitch, and it was quite a mental switch that I had to make," added Ashwin.

Mehuli, Anish and Ganga win in National Rifle & Pistol selection trials

Bhopal, Feb 25 (IANS) India's Paris Olympic quota holders had a field day on the first finals day of the National Rifle/Pistol Selection Trials 3&4, with West Bengal's Mehuli Ghosh and Haryana's Anish Bhanwala claiming gold at the M.P. State Shooting Academy ranges here on Sunday. Army marksman Ganga Singh bucked the trend in the day's final event, winning the men's 50m rifle 3 position (3P) with plenty to spare.

The two national rifle and pistol selection trials go on till March 1 with each day having three finals scheduled, barring the last two days which have two each.

Mehuli first winner of the



day

Mehuli Ghosh was the first winner of the day and of this round of trials, qualifying for the top eight with a characteristically solid 631.5 in the first 60-shot round. Tamil Nadu's R. Narmada Nithin topped with 632.5.

In the final, Mehuli was joint-third behind Punjab's Jasmeen Kaur and local favourite Ashi Chouksey after the first five-shot series. She went down to fourth in the middle and only got back to that position after the 16th single shot with Jasmeen and Ashi still 1-2.

Thereafter she shot 10.7 or above in five of her last eight shots, the 17th being a perfect 10.9, to pip Ashi by 0.1 and finish with 251.6. Jasmeen settled for third with 229.9.

The men's 25m rapid fire pistol (RFP) event just emphatically reinforced Anish Bhanwala's stature as India's number one RFP shooter as he cantered home with a 32-hits in the six-man 40-shot final. Army marksman Gurmeet was a distance behind with 29 hits while Rajasthan's Bhavesh Shekhwat was third with 22.

'Oye, hero nahi banne ka': Rohit warns Sarfaraz, pulls him up for ignoring personal safety

Ranchi, Feb 25 (IANS) Indian skipper Rohit Sharma gained attention once again when he was caught on camera reminding his young teammate Sarfaraz Khan to wear a helmet while fielding at silly point on Day 3 of the fourth Test against England here on Sunday.



Sarfaraz, who was fielding in the deep, was called by Rohit to change his position from long-on to silly mid-off, and while the youngster responded to his captain's call, he decided to take a big risk.Sarfaraz decided he would field at the close-in position without wearing a helmet. As he tried to convince his captain, Rohit walked up to him and warned him about committing a grave mistake, explaining how dangerous it is to be stationed at a close-in fielding position without protective gear.

"Oye, hero nahi banne ka," Rohit shouted.

That short clip went viral on social media. Even Delhi Police too used it to spread awareness of the importance of wearing a helmet while driving.

WPL 2024: 'Smriti was telling me to utilise the power play...', says Meghana

Bengaluru, Feb 25 (IANS) Sabbhineni Meghana, who made a 44-ball 53 in Royal Challengers Bangalore's two-run win over UP Warriorz in WPL 2024, revealed captain Smriti Mandhana had asked her to utilise the power-play as much as possible.

Playing for the RCB for the first time, Meghana played some stunning shots while stitching a match-defining 71-run partnership with Richa Ghosh. The fourth-wicket stand between the duo boosted RCB to go from 54/3 to a solid 157/6, which was enough to get their campaign off to a winning start.

"Smriti just told me this is my first time going one down. I was an opening batter all these years. So she was just telling me, like, utilize the power play as much as you can. Get those boundaries like how you bat naturally in the powerplay.

"So even in the role clarity meetings we had, that's what we were discussing, that if there's an early wicket, you walk in and you still use the power play. There's no pressure on you to stay there or whatever. So I was just in my head, that if it's in my range, I just have to go for it," said



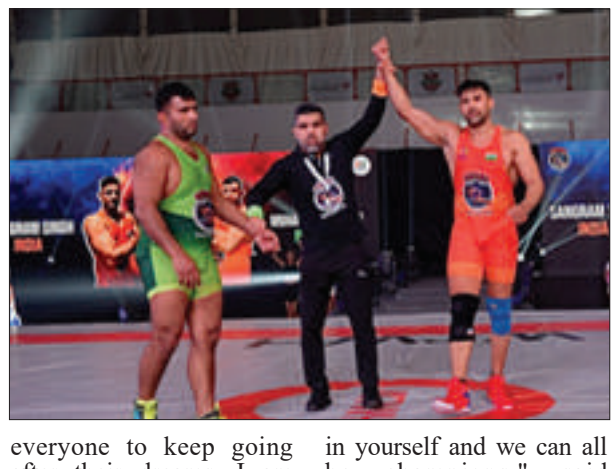
Meghana in the post-match press conference.

Meghana was dropped on 20 and 22 before reaching her fifty in 40 balls, which enthralled the sell-out crowd at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. "That step out six off Rajeshwari (Gayakwad). That was good. And also the late cut I've played, which I don't usually play.

"It's just that there's no pressure batting with her. We are getting those boundaries, singles, there's no pressure. Like almost eight to ten runs per over easily we were getting. We wanted to continue that as long as possible so that we can get a good total on the board," she added.

Sangram Singh beats Pakistan's Mohammad Saeed at International Pro Wrestling Championship in Dubai

Dubai, Feb 25 (IANS) After six years India's Sangram Singh returned to his winning ways as he beat Pakistan's Mohammad Saeed in a closely contested bout by a final score line of 30-23 at the International Pro Wrestling Championship at Shabab Alahli Club.



With this victory, Sangram Singh stamps his authority on the mat once again to win bragging rights along with the coveted gold medal and the 3 crore prize money for the event after competing for a total of 6 rounds.

"This victory is dedicated to all my countrymen that have always supported me and my endeavours and to all those youngsters that dream big. Coming back on the mat with the sole purpose of inspiring everyone to keep going after their dreams, I am happy that I could show them that it can be done.

"The preparation for this fight was tough since my opponent is around 9-10 kgs above my weight and almost 17 years my junior but it was a really good fight and I congratulate him too on a great bout. Believe in yourself and we can all be champions," said Sangram.

International Pro Wrestling Champion 2024 Dubai boasted of a massive bench strength showcasing elite national and international wrestlers that boast of medals on the international and Olympic circuit.

Literature to navigate romantic relationship



By N. Lothungbeni Humtsoe



New Delhi, Feb 25 (IANSlife) The meaning of love may alter for each of us depending on the circumstances. Life is an emotional rollercoaster, and while everything appears to be wonderful and going well due to children, family, work pressure, and other challenges in life it is possible to flip life upside down with a switch.

However, when life throws us situations over which we have no control, affecting relationships. Let us not give up and instead look for methods to make things better. As we set into the week of love, let's take a look at some timeless literature to help you navigate creating healthy relationships and more.

Tell Me More: Stories About the 12 Hardest Things I'm Learning to Say by Kelly Corrigan

Kelly Corrigan's 2018 book 'Tell Me More: Stories About the 12 Hardest Things I'm Learning to Say' is based on personal anecdotes. The book delves into the power of using correct words at appropriate times. A guide to using the right words and phrases to foster relationships. The book is divided into twelve chapters, each of which focuses on 12 different phrases.

The 5 Love Languages: The Secret to Love that Lasts

Gary Chapman's 1992 book, 'The 5 Love Languages: The Secret to Love that Lasts', explores the various ways people express and receive love. Though the book was published in the 1990s, it became the best-selling book in the subsequent years, during the mid-2000s. The book's key point is to understand each other's love languages when navigating relationships, which is still applicable now as it was three decades ago.

8 Rules of Love: How to Find It, Keep It, and Let It Go

The author of 'Think Like A Monk' releases '8 Rules of Love' with Simon & Schuster in 2023. Jay Shetty, the New York Times bestselling author, on an Instagram post captions, "Nobody sits us down and teaches us how to love… so we're often thrown into relationships with nothing but romance movies and pop culture to help us muddle through. My NYT best-seller changes all that by offering a new perspective drawing on ancient wisdom and new science."

You Are A Badass: How to Stop Doubting Your Greatness and Start Living an Awesome Life by Jen Sincero

With over 5 million copies sold, Jen Sincero's book 'You Are A Badass: How to Stop Doubting Your Greatness and Start Living an Awesome Life' is a motivational self-help guide. In this book, she shares her personal experiences and how she overcame obstacles. Self-doubt is a virus that restricts people from achieving their full potential in life. She encourages readers throughout the book to trust their inner badass and pursue what they are meant to do.

N. Lothungbeni Humtsoe can be contacted at lothungbeni.h@ians.in

India's foremost youth festival makes a grand return



New Delhi, Feb 25 (IANSlife) The highly anticipated Under 25 Summit, renowned as one of India's premier festivals, is set to make a spectacular comeback this year. Celebrating the infinite potential of today's youth, the Under 25 Summit has established itself as a global pinnacle of youth celebrations, bringing together students, creators, performers, and thought leaders. Scheduled for March 9-10, this year's edition will unfold at the iconic Jayamahal Palace in Bengaluru.

Vijay Subramaniam, Founder and Group CEO at Collective Artists Network, expressed his excitement, stating, "The Summit is arguably the most compelling youth IP in the country today. Seeing its planned trajectory, I wish I could be a student again to experience something like this. The entire Collective flywheel is propelling the summit to its true potential. If you want to know what young India is up to, then this is the place to be on the 9th and 10th of March. The teams have worked hard to ensure a memorable experience for everyone." With numerous successful editions under its belt, the Summit stands as one of India's triumphant edutainment intellectual properties, having attracted over 100,000 students. Renowned for its top-tier curation, the Summit seamlessly converges various fields through inspirational speaker sessions, talent discovery platforms, enriching workshops, engaging panel discussions, and interactive experience zones, promising an enriching experience for all attendees.

The star-studded lineup for this year includes luminaries such as Vikrant Massey, SiddhantChaturvedi, Babil Khan, Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Nikhil Kamath, AnkushBahuguna, Bharg Kale, and Kenny Sebastian, among others to be announced soon. Previous editions have featured illustrious speakers like RanaDaggubati, TanmayBhat, Alaya F, AbhayDeol, and Sadhguru.

The Under 25 Universe, a pioneering learning technology company focused on holistic education and independent thought leadership of the youth, is an integral part of this celebrated Summit. Captivating a devoted following through its innovative app, the Under 25 Summit, and multiple media platforms, it has recently been acquired by Collective Artists Network, India's pop culture marketplace. For this year's Summit, operational responsibilities are in collaboration with The Silly Fellows

Anto Philip, CEO and Co-Founder of Under 25 Universe remarked, "The summit is an annual culmination of everything that represents youth culture at large, with over 300 students coming together to build, curate, and celebrate confusion we are all set to make this year a very intentional and meaningful one with the best conversations on stage, handpicked performances and an array of experience zones for our 20,000+ attendees."

IANSlife can be contacted at ianslife@ians.in

Helping girls make choices and changes in their lives

New Delhi, Feb 25 (IANSlife) Girl Effect is an international nonprofit organization that builds media and creates content girls want, trust, and need. Reaching millions of girls across around the world, it creates content that helps girls make choices and changes in their lives during the critical years of adolescence. By igniting their confidence to act differently at a time that can define their future, every girl can choose to be in control of her body, her health, her learning, and her livelihood.

Girl Effect announced a new addition to its global Board of Directors, Alex Kuruvilla. Alex brings decades of experience in media and the power of storytelling to the Board and will be instrumental in Girl Effect's upcoming five-year global strategic planning process.

"We are honored to welcome Alex to the Girl Effect Board," said Board Chair Jonathan Newhouse. "Having worked with Alex for more than fifteen years at Condé Nast, I have experienced his incredible leadership firsthand. Alex is a visionary and change-maker. It is a pleasure to have him join our efforts at Girl Effect."

Alex Kuruvilla is a father to two daughters. With his experience as the former Managing Director at MTV Networks India and Managing Director of Condé Nast India, Alex has been at the forefront of shaping culture in India for three decades. Alex is passionate about technology startups and has been an early backer of Indian tech ventures.

Girl Effect CEO Jessica Posner Odede said, "Alex is a brilliant global leader and a passionate advocate for women and girls. He is an expert in using the power of media and storytelling to change the world, and we are thrilled Alex is joining the Girl Effect Board of Directors."

IANSlife can be contacted at ianslife@ians.in



NYC Off-Broadway Week



New Delhi, Feb 25 (IANSlife) New York City Tourism + Conventions, New York City's official destination marketing organization and convention and visitors bureau announced the return of NYC Off-Broadway Week SM, presented by Mastercard®, with 2-for-1 ticket sales to 31 Off-Broadway shows. The biannual program, which features over a dozen new shows, will run from February 12 to March 3, 2024.

"This season's Off-Broadway Week features 17 new productions, showcasing some of the City's most innovative theaters at an incredible value," said New York City Tourism + Conventions President and CEO Fred Dixon. "The Off-Broadway League has been our program partner for 16 years running; their support allows us to deliver a rich experience for audiences and has created opportunities for hundreds of productions over those years."

Participating shows in NYC Off-Broadway Week Winter 2024 include:

A Perfect Peace
All The Devils Are Here
The Apiary
Blue Man Group
Brooklyn Laundry
Cinderella The Musical
Dead Outlaw
Drunk Shakespeare
Eva Luna
Five The Parody Musical
Friel Project - Aristocrats
Friends! The Musical Parody
Gazillion Bubble Show Hotel Happy
Jack Tucker: Comedy Standup Hour
Jonah
La Breve Y Maravillosa Vida De Oscar Wao
The Life And Slimes Of Marc Summers
Make Me Gorgeous
Munich Medea: HAPPY FAMILY
Nicole Travolta Is Doing Alright
Nina Conti: The Dating Show
The Office! A Musical Parody
Perfect Crime
Pericles
Play That Goes Wrong
Radojka
Singfeld! A Musical About Nothing
Tennessee Williams's The Night Of The Iguana
Titanique
White Rose: The Musical

"We are proud to have over 30 Off-Broadway productions take part in this year's NYC Off-Broadway Week program," said Casey York, President of The Off-Broadway League. "For over a decade, this biannual program has allowed our productions to continue to showcase the intimate setting and diversity that is inherent to the Off-Broadway community, captivating both New Yorkers and visitors alike."

Participating in Off-Broadway shows can be sorted by filters including Genre (Comedy, Drama, Kid-Friendly, Magic, Musical, Play), Audience (Adults Only, Family-All Ages, Not for Younger Children (5+), Teens and Adults), Borough and Neighborhood at nyctourism.com/offbroadwayweek.

The Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment has partnered with New York City Tourism + Conventions as a sponsor of NYC Off-Broadway Week.

Tickets available at nyctourism.com/offbroadwayweek

Teens and screens

By Sandeep Kumar



New Delhi, Feb 25 (IANSlife) Technology has become ubiquitous over time, keeping us informed and connected to the world like never before. But for parents, this new digital world can be a bit of a mystery, especially when it comes to managing their kids' screen time and content consumption.

With 95% of teens now owning a smartphone and 45% stating they are online 'almost constantly', understanding healthy screen time habits could not be more imperative. Excessive technology usage can lead to issues like shorter attention spans, disrupted sleep cycles, and reduced academic performance. However, at the same time, the internet is also full of useful information if leveraged wisely.

Let's explore how parents and kids can make the most of technology, without letting it take over their lives.

Crafting Responsible Digital Lifestyles

Kids today are the first generation growing up surrounded by technology. As they grow and develop, digital media becomes a big part of their lives. This puts a lot of pressure on parents to show them how to use technology healthily, and it's completely up to them how they can teach their kids to thrive, not just online, but in the real world as well.

How much screen time is too much?

According to the guidelines issued by the American Academy of Pediatrics in 2016, it's crucial for children, between the ages of 2 and 5, to have no more than an hour of screen time each day. This helps their brains grow healthy and strong. Plus, it leaves plenty of time for important stuff like sleep, playing outside, and spending quality time with the people taking care of them. The organization recommends setting clear boundaries and focusing on high-quality content instead of just letting kids passively consume entertainment media. They also emphasize that playtime isn't just for little ones. Even for teenagers, having time to play freely is essential to boost their brain power, keep them physically active, socialize, and even support their emotional health.

While the 2016 recommendations focused predominantly on traditional devices like TV, computers, and video games, today's reality of smartphones warrants even greater vigilance on the back of its constant access.

Potential Risks

Excessive immersion in screens correlates strongly with health issues like obesity, sleep deprivation, symptoms of depression, and reduced academic achievement.

Entertainment content and social media platforms give us instant rewards - a like here, a comment there, and we feel good. But here's the catch. When we're scrolling and swiping, we're not doing much else.

We might be missing out on things that help us grow as individuals - like playing sports, pursuing hobbies, hanging out with friends, getting creative, or even spending quality time with family. And because everything online happens so fast, we might find it harder to be patient in the real world. So, while it's fun to get lost in the online world, let's not forget to balance it with the real one

Additionally, studies reveal that over 50% of adolescents report being bullied online. Screen time necessitates constant parental guidance regarding cyberbullying, privacy protection, avoiding predators, and reporting abuse.

Benefits

While there are valid concerns about the use of technology, it's not entirely fair to demonize it, especially given how it's woven into every aspect of our lives. When used mindfully, the internet can be a treasure trove of resources for young people, offering endless opportunities for learning, creativity, and personal growth.

Think about it. There's a wealth of educational content on a wide range of topics, allowing kids to learn at their own pace and in line with their interests. Digital tools spark creativity and let them experiment with things like photo editing, coding, game design, and animation. Staying tech-savvy is key to success and satisfaction in the future.

And let's not forget about social media. It can provide a sense of connection and community support. Young people facing common challenges, like exam stress or college applications, can find solace in shared experiences, especially when these discussions are held openly and under parental guidance. For those who don't have local access to certain hobbies, online groups can be a lifeline, helping them pursue their passions and develop new skills. Even esports and some online games can sharpen strategic thinking and leadership skills. So, outright banning technology seems like a missed opportunity to tap into its potential in a meaningful way.

Strategies for Finding Balance

Establish Trust Through Open Dialogue: Instead of laying down the law arbitrarily, have an open conversation with your kids about online behavior and boundaries. Make sure they understand the possible consequences of overuse and risky actions but also point out the positive ways they can use the internet. This approach not only shows respect for their perspective but also helps them understand the importance of being responsible online. They'll be more likely to make smart choices and view any restrictions you set (like using parent-controlled apps) as helpful guidelines, rather than oppressive rules.

Set Reasonable Time Limits

It's a good idea to check out pediatric guidelines and recommendations for screen time, keeping in mind that kids with special needs might have different requirements. Using the built-in controls on devices, you can set daily limits and schedules, with some extra time for wrapping up tasks. This approach helps kids learn to manage their time and prevents the shock of sudden restrictions.

Role Model Healthy Technology Habits: As caregivers, it's important to show kids how to balance tech use with real-life interactions. Simple actions like putting phones away during conversations, meals, and family time, or excusing yourself to take urgent calls or messages, can make a big difference. By demonstrating responsible tech use, you're teaching kids valuable digital etiquette.

Use Built-In Monitoring Tools: Consider activating parental controls on devices to block suspicious contacts or apps and keep an eye out for potential issues like bullying or grooming. Location-tracking apps can also provide an extra layer of safety. These tools can help keep kids safe online without resorting to snooping, which can violate their privacy and trust.

Foster Transparent Dialogue About Online Lives: Try having weekly check-ins to talk about your kids' online experiences. Ask about the apps they're using, who they're chatting with, how they feel about their screen time, and whether they've encountered any problems like bullying. The goal is to work through any issues together, helping them stay open to discussing problems and learning how to handle challenges on their own.

Encourage Diverse Interests Beyond Technology: Encourage your kids to explore hobbies like sports, music, and arts to fuel their creativity. Make time for offline family activities, like board games or just chatting, especially during device-free weekends. This can help kids develop a well-rounded identity, boost their self-esteem, and find a healthy balance between their online and offline lives.

Parenting in the digital age is all about balance. Technology isn't the enemy, but it's not the only solution either. When used wisely, it can be a powerful tool for a child's development. By promoting open communication, setting sensible limits, and encouraging a range of interests, parents can guide their kids to make the most of technology while keeping a healthy balance with the real world.

(Sandeep Kumar is the Founder and CEO of Baatu Tech)

IDF announces death of soldier killed in Gaza; ground op death toll rises to 239

Tel Aviv, Feb 25 (IANS) The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) on Sunday announced the death of a soldier killed in battle in south Gaza, raising the death toll of Israel's ground invasion into the Palestinian enclave to 239 since late October, media reported.He was named as Staff Sergeant Narya Belete, 21, of the Givati Brigade's reconnaissance unit, from Shavei Shomron in the West Bank, The Times of Israel reported.In addition, an officer and two soldiers in the Givati Brigade were seriously injured in the battle in the southern Gaza Strip on Saturday, the Israeli military said.

Israeli airstrike kills 3 in Syria's Homs province

Damascus, Feb 25 (IANS) An Israeli airstrike killed three civilians in Homs province in central Syria on Sunday.According to reports from the Al-Watan newspaper, the attack targeted two civilian vehicles in the Al-Qusayr area of southwestern Homs.Meanwhile, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the attack killed two Hezbollah members, Xinhua news agency reported.The airstrike is the latest in a series of Israeli attacks in Syria. Israel has recently carried out assassination attempts against individuals involved with Iranian militias.The Observatory said in a report on Sunday that Israel carried out 16 attacks on Syria since the beginning of 2024.

Syrian army shoots down 7 weaponised drones

Damascus, Feb 25 (IANS) The Syrian army on Sunday destroyed seven weaponised drones in the governorates of Hama and Idlib, the Syrian Defence Ministry said in a statement.The drones operated by terrorists were dispatched to destroy military positions as well as villages and towns in both Idlib and Hama, it added as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.The rebels in northern Syria, particularly in the northwestern governorate of Idlib, have recently intensified drone attacks against government-controlled areas.The deadliest one took place in October 2023 when a drone attack killed more than 80 military personnel and civilians during a graduation event at a military academy in the governorate of Homs.

Trump has not yet responded to President Zelensky's invitation to visit Ukraine: FM

Kiev, Feb 25 (IANS) The Ukrainian authorities have not yet received a response to an invitation to visit Ukraine from former US President Donald Trump or his team, media reported on Sunday.According to Ukrinform news agency report, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said this in an interview with a US media portal."There are political signals that come publicly from US presidential candidate Donald Trump. There are public signals coming from the President of Ukraine. We have not heard a response to the invitation from Trump himself or his team. If there is a response, we will consider it," he added.According to Kuleba, the main thing now is to understand that the key for Ukraine should not even be maintaining bipartisan support, but support at the level of voters, Ukrinform news agency reported."Because American politicians follow their voters," the Minister said.As reported by Ukrinform news agency, in January this year, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky invited former US President Donald Trump to visit Kiev after the latter promised to stop the war "very quickly" if he won this year's election.

S.Korea Prez Yoon attends church service marking March 1 Independence Movement

Seoul, Feb 25 (IANS) South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol attended a church service on Sunday, marking the 1919 independence movement against Japanese colonial rule, his office said.Yoon's visit to Wonchon Baptist Church in Suwon, 30 km south of Seoul, came five days before the nation marks the anniversary of the March 1 Independence Movement, Yonhap news agency reported.He is the first sitting President to attend a church service honouring the movement, according to presidential spokesperson Kim Soo-kyung."One hundred and five years ago, our patriotic martyrs gathered their convictions and determination for freedom and started the March 1 movement," Yoon was quoted as saying in remarks after the service."The South Korean church was on that great journey toward a free and prosperous future.

IDF nabs terror operatives hiding among evacuating civilians in Gaza's Khan Younis

Tel Aviv, Feb 25 (IANS) The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said on Sunday that it had nabbed several terror operatives, who attempted to hide among a group of civilians evacuating from combat zones in southern Gaza's Khan Younis area, media reported.According to the IDF, the operatives were captured by the 7th Armoured Brigade while trying to flee with the civilian population, The Times of Israel reported.The IDF added on Sunday that the troops killed several more gunmen and located weapons in the area.In Khan Younis, the IDF said that the Givati Brigade raided several Hamas sites, locating weapons, and an airstrike was carried out against a Hamas cell operating a drone, The Times of Israel reported.In central Gaza, the IDF added that the Nahal Brigade killed several Hamas gunmen over the past day.Meanwhile in Gaza City, the IDF has continued a large-scale operation in the Zeitoun neighbourhood.The IDF said that Nahal troops captured weapons and destroyed a rocket launching site in the area, The Times of Israel reported.In the nearby Shati camp, the IDF noted that another Hamas cell operating a drone was targetted in an airstrike.

Ukraine's Air Force shoots down 16 Russian combat UAVs

Kiev, Feb 25 (IANS) Ukraine's air defence forces destroyed 16 Russian Shahed combat unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in the sky over Ukraine overnight on Sunday, media reported.According to Ukrinform news agency, this was reported by the Ukrainian Air Force on Telegram."On the night of February 25, 2024, the Russian army attacked with 18 Shahed combat UAVs (from Russia's Primorsko-Akhtarsk and Crimea's Cape Chauda). The Defence Forces' mobile fire groups, anti-aircraft missile units, and Air Force aircraft engaged in an anti-aircraft battle and successfully destroyed 16 Shaheds within the Poltava, Kyiv, Khmelnytskyi, Mykolaiv, Kirovohrad, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions," the report said.

Russia's military death toll in Ukraine rises to 409,820

Kiev, Feb 25 (IANS) The Armed Forces of Ukraine eliminated about 409,820 Russian armed personnel in Ukraine from February 24, 2022, to February 25, 2024, including 810 Russian armed personnel on Saturday alone, media reported.

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine said this on Sunday in a post on Facebook, according to Ukrinform news agency report.

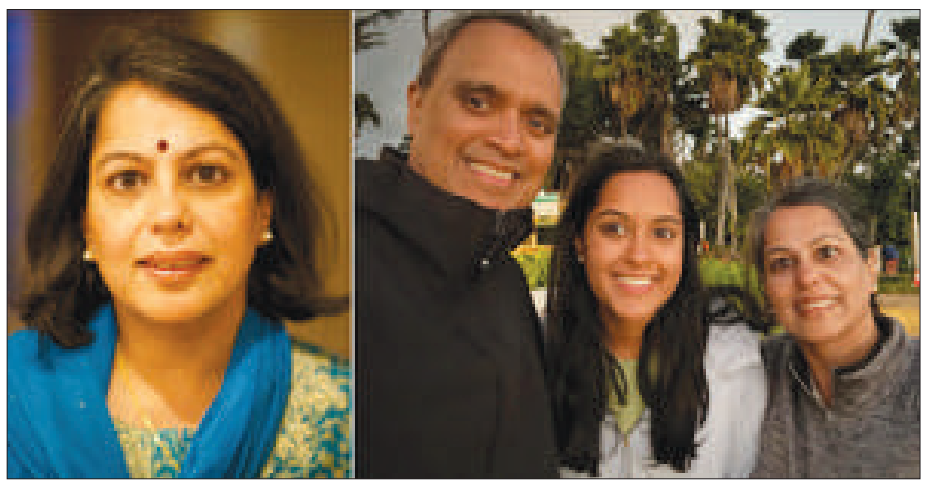
India-born economist Geeta Batra named as first woman Director of World Bank's GEF

New York, Feb 25 (IANS) Geeta Batra, an Indian economist, has been named as the new Director at the Independent Evaluation Office of the World Bank's Global Environment Facility (GEF), making her the first-ever woman from a developing country to hold the coveted post.

Batra, 57, is currently the Chief Evaluator & Deputy Director for Evaluation at the GEF's Independent Evaluation Office (IEO), affiliated to the World Bank.

Her name was unanimously recommended for the coveted position at the 66th GEF Council Meeting held in Washington on February 9 and was announced last week.

"My top priorities will be to deliver sound evaluative evidence on the results and performance of the GEF, provide leadership to ensure that the GEF IEO stays at the forefront of environmental evaluation and strengthen the IEO teams and invest in skills," Batra told IANS from Virginia, US.She will also build partnerships with multilateral and bilateral agencies, foundations and networks, and share knowledge of what works, where and why.Born in New Delhi, Batra studied at the Villa Theresa High School (1984) in Mumbai, then completed her Economics from the Stella Maris College, Chennai (1984-1987), followed by an MBA in Finance from the NMIMS, Vile Parle



(1990) in Mumbai.

After her MBA, she was inspired by one of her professors, Harkant Mankad, to go to the US (August 1990) to pursue a PhD in Economics.

Armed with a doctorate, she worked for a couple of years as Senior Manager, Risk, at American Express, before joining the World Bank's Private Sector Development Department in 1998.

Serving there for seven years till 2005, she implemented competitiveness projects in East Asia and Latin America.

Subsequently, she took over as the Head & Chief Evaluator at the International Finance Corporation, for its advisory services portfolio, before moving to the World Bank's IEG as Chief Evaluator and Manager for country and corporate thematic evaluations.

In 2015, Batra joined the GEF's IEO (established in July 2003) - which assesses the progress and impact of GEF interventions - where she manages a team of evaluation professionals, providing oversight on the design, implementation and quality of evaluations.

Since the Rio Earth Summit (1992), the GEF has been one of the largest players in the environmental sector, providing around $24 billion in grants, plus marshalling an additional $138 billion in co-financing over 5,700 projects in 170 countries till 2020.

Through the GEF's Small Grants Programme (SGP) more than 20,000 grants were given to civil society and community-based organizations totalling over $1 billion.

The GEF is a partnership for international cooperation with 183 countries working together with international institutions, private sector and civil society to address global environmental concerns.

For the past over 23 years, developed and developing countries have provided funds to support activities pertaining to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, chemicals and waste in the context of development projects and programs.

Batra has co-authored books and articles, plus managed over 100 evaluations, and is "interested in development issues with a particular focus on promoting the use of feasible and practical approaches in monitoring and evaluation, to help achieve better outcomes".

She lives in Northern Virginia with her husband Prakash and their daughter Roshini.

When she is not working, Batra loves the outdoors, goes hiking in national parks, reads historical biographies, besides tries out different types of mouth-watering cuisines.However, she confessed with a smile that her all-time favourite foods include India's good old pav-bhaji, pani-puri- puri and chhole-bhature...

S.Korea probes company on US sanctions list over Russia connection

Seoul, Feb 25 (IANS) A South Korea-based company sanctioned by the US over its alleged connection to Russia is currently under investigation by authorities here, a Foreign Ministry official said on Sunday.

Daesung International Trading, a company located in South Korea's southeastern city of Gimhae, was one of 93 entities added to an "entity list" for export restrictions by the Bureau of Industry and Security under the US Commerce Department on Friday.

"Regarding the company, we shared information with the US in advance, and our relevant authorities are also currently conducting an investigation," the official said, noting the government plans to continue to work closely with Washington and other key nations in implementing sanctions against Russia, Yonhap news agency reported.

According to a South Korean government official, the head of Daesung



International Trading is a Pakistani national.

South Korea's Trade Ministry said it and the country's customs agency are looking into the company's alleged law violations, such as the Foreign Trade Act. After the probe, the government plans to punish and sanction it if any breach of law is found.

The US sanctions were announced on the eve of the second anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and in the wake of the death of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

Early voting for Russian presidential election begins in remote areas of Far East

Vladivostok, Feb 25 (IANS) Early voting in remote areas for the Russian presidential election has begun in the regions of the Far East, local media reported on Sunday.Quoted by Russia's TASS news agency, Igor Shamraev, deputy chairman of the regional electoral commission of Kamchatka, said that about 30,000 people in Kamchatka could cast their ballots early. They include reindeer herders, meteorological station workers, lighthouse keepers and service members at isolated outposts.

The Federation Council of Russia has scheduled the



presidential elections for March 17, Xinhua news agency reported.

The Central Election Commission of Russia has decided to extend the voting period to three days, from March 15 to 17, making it the first three-day presidential election in Russia.

In Yakutia, early voting in hard-to-reach and remote areas is expected to cover 129,000 voters. The Ministry of Emergency Situations of Russia has informed its employees of the planned routes to ensure the safety of the commission members.

In the Khabarovsk territory, early voting has been organised for residents of hard-to-reach areas, shift workers, workers in the timber and mining industries and meteorological station workers, among others.

More than 4,000 voters in remote and hard-to-reach areas will participate in early voting in Chukotka.

More Russian soldiers likely died to seize Avdiivka than in entire Soviet-Afghan war

Washington, Feb 25 (IANS) More Russian soldiers have likely died while seizing Donetsk town of Avdiivka, in eastern Ukraine, than in the entire Soviet-Afghan war, Institute for the Study of War said in its latest report as the Russia-Ukraine war marked its second anniversary.

"Ukrainians are weary and worried that US military assistance will cease, but they continue to fight with determination, ingenuity, and skill. Ukraine's air defence forces are



dropping Russian planes from the sky while Ukrainian drone and missile operators sink Russian ships," the assessment said on Saturday.

Ukrainian soldiers are fighting for their positions against Russian "meat assaults" using drones in novel ways as well as the artillery, tanks and traditional weapons of war available to them.

The Ukrainian Air Force will receive its first F-16s in the coming months, and Ukraine's European allies are racing to make good deficiencies in other war material, it added.

Palestinian death toll in Gaza rises to 29,692: Ministry

Gaza, Feb 25 (IANS) At least 29,692 Palestinians have been killed and 69,879 injured during the war in Gaza, the Hamas-run Health Ministry said on Sunday in a statement.



These figures include both civilians and Hamas members killed in Gaza, including as a consequence of terror groups' own rocket misfires, The Times of Israel reported.

The IDF added on Sunday that it has killed more than 12,000 operatives in Gaza, in addition to nearly 1,000 terrorists inside Israel on October 7.

UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi set to address triple planetary crisis

New Delhi, Feb 25 (IANS) In the backdrop of 2023 being the warmest year on record, with resultant heatwaves, storms and droughts causing havoc, heads of state and more than 5,000 representatives and leaders will gather in Nairobi in Kenya from Monday for the five-day sixth UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) to strengthen multilateral effort to address the planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste.

The Assembly, which usually meets biennially and sees visionaries from the business sector, governments, scientific institutions, and civil society, is the world's top decision-making body on matters related to the environment and includes all 193 UN member states.

Observers told IANS that there are 20 draft resolutions and two decisions on the table, among them a resolution on the metals and minerals issue.

"UNEA-VI will place particular focus on how stronger multilateralism can help us to do this," said UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen earlier this month.

"It will drive united, inclusive and multilateral action that addresses every strand of the triple planetary crisis as one indivisible challenge."

In the run-up to the UNEA, aptly called "world's parliament on the environment," ministers and partners of the UNEP-convened Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) launched a Clean Air Flagship effort to provide a platform to boost regional coordination and private sector engagement, data-led policy action, financing, science and advocacy.

UN General Assembly President Dennis Francis will deliver his address at the opening of the high-level segment that will be held on February 29 and March 1.



The segment will consist of an opening plenary with statements by key dignitaries, national statements; three leadership dialogues, a multi-stakeholder dialogue, and a closing plenary meeting during which UNEA will take action on the draft Ministerial declaration as well as the draft resolutions and decisions.

India will be represented by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change's Additional Secretary Naresh Pal Gangwar.

Government leaders plan to use the Assembly to renew calls for progress on the sustainable development goals, a global blueprint for protecting the planet and promoting prosperity. Just 15 per cent of the goals, which come due in 2030, are on track.

"We must find practical ways to advance the human rights to a healthy environment, which is crucial for sustainable development," said Leila Benali, Morocco's energy transition minister and the President of UNEA-VI.

"We know that when we protect the natural world, public health improves. When we focus on sustainable solutions to the climate crisis, our economies get stronger."

Also on the agenda of the Assembly will be ways to tackle the dramatic increase of wasteful and fuel-intensive plastics, which is feeding the climate crisis.

More than 99 per cent of plastic is made from chemicals sourced from fossil fuels, the substances responsible for 86 per cent of C02 emissions in the last decade. Plastic pollution reinforces the need for a binding plastics treaty as well as a fossil fuel treaty that can tackle the root cause of both the plastics pollution crisis and the climate crisis through phasing out oil, gas and coal production.

In 2022, the Assembly ended with countries agreeing to launch negotiations on a legally binding global instrument to end plastic pollution.

That was one in a recent string of ambitious international agreements on environment. Last September, countries and businesses inked a landmark pact to prevent pollution from chemicals and waste.

Two months later, at the UN Climate Change Conference, countries vowed for the first time to transition away from the fossil fuels that are superheating the earth and driving climate change.

Researchers find that if no action is taken, annual plastic production will rise 22 per cent between 2024 and 2050, and plastic pollution will jump 62 per cent between 2024 and 2050. By continuing with business as usual, the world would generate enough litter between 2010 and 2050 to cover the entire island of Manhattan with a 3.5-km-tall heap of plastic -- nearly 10 times the height of the Empire State Building.

With a strong UN plastics treaty that incorporates the right mix of nine plastic reduction policies, however, plastic pollution could be virtually eliminated in 2040 -- with the generation of mismanaged waste reduced by 89 per cent to a more manageable 10 million metric ton per year in 2040.

Health

90% of young Indian women suffer from iron deficiency: Doctors



New Delhi, Feb 25 (IANS) Iron deficiency is a widespread issue among young women, affecting around 90 per cent in India, said doctors on Sunday, calling the need for timely detection of the condition.

Many women experience low iron levels without realising it, often attributing symptoms like fatigue and weakness to other causes. Iron deficiency is a common nutritional shortfall that occurs when the body doesn't have enough iron to support its functions. This essential mineral plays a crucial role in transporting oxygen throughout the body, maintaining healthy red blood cells, and supporting overall energy levels. Without adequate iron, individuals may experience fatigue, weakness, shortness of breath, and impaired cognitive function.

"Iron deficiency among young women is a growing concern that is often overlooked. Despite efforts to promote healthy eating and supplementation, 90 per cent of young women still struggle with insufficient iron levels," Dr Rajesh Bendre, National Technical Head and Chief Pathologist Apollo Diagnostics, told IANS.

He said factors such menstrual blood loss, restrictive diets, and heavy reliance on processed foods are behind the rise in iron deficiency among women.

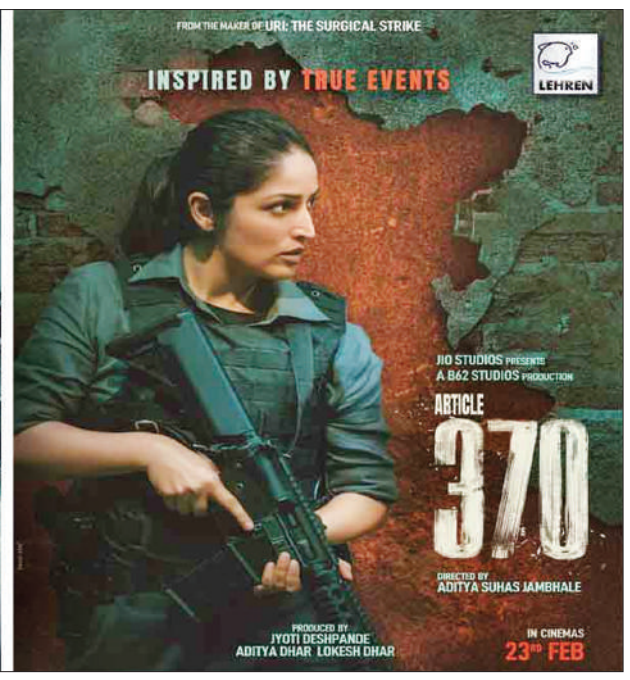
Further the doctor noted that the lack of education about iron-rich food sources and dietary requirements exacerbates the problem. "It is crucial to raise awareness about the importance of maintaining adequate iron levels and provide accessible resources for proper nutrition education," he said. Many pregnant women also suffer from iron deficiency, leading to low hemoglobin, anaemia, and its associated symptoms such as weakness, shortness of breath, and pale skin, the expert said.

"Iron deficiency in many pregnant women is a pressing concern that can have far-reaching consequences. Beyond the immediate health risks to the mother, such as anemia and fatigue, iron deficiency during pregnancy can also hinder foetal development. Inadequate iron levels in expecting mothers may increase the risk of preterm birth and low birth weight, which can impact a child's long-term health and cognitive development, " Dr Bendre said.

Addressing iron deficiency in pregnant women goes beyond simply supplementing with iron pills. Experts should educate women about the importance of regular prenatal check-ups to monitor their iron levels throughout pregnancy, enabling timely intervention if deficiencies arise. "Anaemia is one of the most widespread public health problems and has important health and welfare, social, and economic consequences. These include reduced hours at work, poor concentration and low self-esteem causing impaired development and in severe cases increased risk of death in pregnant patients.

Yami's stellar act helps 'Article 370' mint Rs 7.4 cr on 2nd day; 'Crakk' far behind





Mumbai, Feb 25 (IANS) The recently released film 'Article 370', which stars Yami Gautam in the lead, collected Rs 7.4 crore on its second day of its release.

The film, a political thriller drama, squared off against the Vidyut Jammwal-starrer action film 'Crakk' at the box-office, and has been ahead of the latter in the box-office race track.

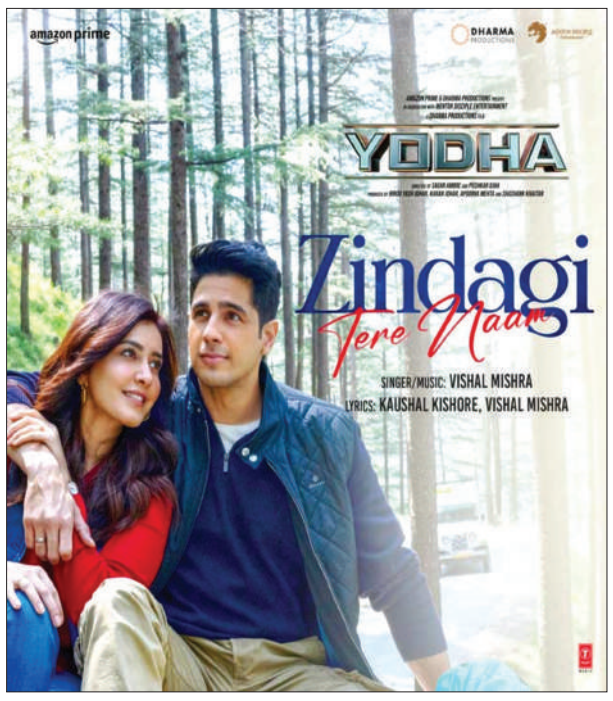
While 'Article 370' opened to Rs 5.9 crore, 'Crakk', which stars Arjun Rampal as the antagonist, collected Rs 4.9 crore net in India making it Vidyut's third highest opener after 'Commando 2' and 'Commando 3'. 'Article 370' saw a 25.42 per cent jump in its collections on Saturday as per industry tracker Sacnilk.

The film had an overall 26.58 per cent Hindi occupancy on Saturday.

The film's collection after two days stand at Rs 13.3 crore. 'Article 370', which stars Yami Gautam as an intelligence officer, is based on the abrogation of the contentious Article 370 of the Indian Constitution in Jammu and Kashmir.

The trailer of the film depicted the emergence of terrorism in the region, with radicals seeking to seize control of the area. Yami's character joins the NIA and is given free rein to carry out a mission in Kashmir. On Friday, the film ran to packed houses owing to the discounted tickets rates.

'Yodha' is an action thriller, but Sidharth, Rashii's 'Zindagi Tere Naam' is all about love



Mumbai, Feb 25 (IANS) The makers of the upcoming film 'Yodha' starring Sidharth Malhotra and Rashii Khanna have dropped a new hum-worthy song from the film: 'Zindagi Tere Naam' is all about love and romance.

The track is sung by popular singer Vishal Mishra and the lyrics are penned by Kaushal Kishore along with Mishra. The number talks about how Sidharth's character has fallen in love with Rashii and how he wants to devote his life to her.

Sidharth, who will be seen in the titular role, took to Instagram on Saturday and shared the track. He captioned it: "It's all love with #ZindagiTereNaam, from #Yodha in the cinema on March 15."

'Yodha' is an action thriller film written and directed by Sagar Ambre and Pushkar Ojha. The film is produced under the banner of Karan Johar's Dharma Productions. Apart from Sidharth and Rashii, the film also stars Disha Patani.

'Yodha' is scheduled to release on March 15.

Urvashi cuts 24-carat gold cake gifted by Yo Yo Honey Singh on her b'day

Mumbai, Feb 25 (IANS) Actress Urvashi Rautela is celebrating her birthday on Sunday.

On the occasion of her 30th birthday, the actress cut a 24-carat gold cake gifted to her by rapper Yo Yo Honey Singh.

A picture of the actress cutting the cake in the company of Yo Yo Honey Singh is currently going viral on the Internet.



Urvashi and Honey are working on their second collaboration, 'Second Dose' or 'Vigdiyan Heeryan'. The two had earlier worked together on Yo Yo Honey Singh's international video album 'Love Dose', which was released in 2014.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Urvashi has projects like 'Welcome 3' with Akshay Kumar, 'NBK109' with Bobby Deol, Dulqueer Salman, Nandamuri Balakrishna and 'Baap' (remake of Hollywood blockbuster 'Expendables') with Sunny Deol and Sanjay Dutt. Apart from this Urvashi will also be seen in an upcoming film titled 'JNU', where she's playing the role of a college politician along with a music video with Jason Derulo of 'Jalebi' fame.

Pedro Pascal says 'I'm a little drunk' during SAG awards acceptance speech



Los Angeles, Feb 25 (IANS) Hollywood actor Pedro Pascal was honoured with the award for male actor in a drama series at the recently held 30th edition of the annual Screen Actors Guild Awards. He was feted for his role in the post-apocalyptic zombie series 'The Last of Us'.

However, as he took the stage to give his acceptance speech, he wasn't exactly sober, reports 'Variety'.

The actor admitted he thought he could get drunk, likely because he didn't think he would win the SAG Award after Kieran Culkin won the same category for his work in 'Succession' at the Golden Globes and Emmy Awards earlier this year.

"This is wrong for so many reasons," Pascal told the audience. "I'm a little drunk. I thought I could get drunk. I'm making a fool of myself but thank you so much for this! I've been in the union since 1999 so this is an incredible f****** honour. To the nominees, all of you, I can't remember any of your names right now."

As per 'Variety', the actor held back tears as he expressed his gratitude to his family, as he immediately brought his drunken acceptance speech to an end by saying: "I'm going to have a panic attack and I'm going to leave".

Global 5G smartphone shipments crosses 2 bn units in Q4 2023

New Delhi, Feb 25 (IANS) Global cumulative shipments of 5G smartphones surpassed 2 billion units in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2023, with Apple and Samsung topping the list, a new report said on Friday.

According to Counterpoint Research, this was achieved in less than five years, the shortest period when compared to previous technologies like 4G or 3G. It took 4G smartphones six years to reach this mark. "The affordability and accessibility of 5G smartphones have improved due to the narrowing price gap between 5G and 4G chipsets, along with strategic component selection by OEMs (original equipment manufacturer) to maintain the bill of materials (BOM) cost," the analysts said.

Kareena, Tabu, Kriti set the temperature soaring with 'Crew' teaser



Mumbai, Feb 25 (IANS) The trailer of 'Crew' starring Bollywood divas Kareena Kapoor Khan, Tabu and Kriti Sanon, which was unveiled on Saturday, promises to be a laugh riot.

Kareena, Tabu and Kriti took to Instagram to share glimpse of the teaser of the film, which is directed by Rajesh Krishnan and is slated to release in theatres on March 29.

The teaser also gives a glimpse of singer-actor Diljit Dosanjh and actor-comedian Kapil Sharma.

Kareena and Kriti captioned the teaser: "Kursi ki peti baandh lein, kyuki yahan ka taapman aapke liye bahot garm hone wala hai."

The clip begins with a cabin crew giving safety instructions on a flight. It also shows how Kareena's character is tired of the same life since the last six months. However, the trio then seems to go on a mission, but with a dollop of comedy.

A line that catches the attention of the viewers is when Tabu tells Kareena that what she is putting is a "foundation" and not a "time-machine".

The teaser also has a revamped version of 'Choli Ke Peeche' playing. The original track was from the 1993 film 'Khal Nayak', picturised on Madhuri Dixit and Sanjay Dutt.

'Crew' tells the story of three women, who hustle to move on with life. But as they try to make their way forward, their destinies lead them to some unexpected and unwarranted situations.

Rashmika finally opens up on 'Animal' success, explains her late reaction

Mumbai, Feb 25 (IANS) Rashmika Mandanna, who most recently portrayed the character of Geetanjali in the box-office super hit action thriller 'Animal', has opened up on why she did not take "ownership" of her part in the film following its release. The actress, who is shooting for an upcoming film, has penned a lengthy note, where she has talked about the massive success of the Ranbir Kapoor star vehicle.

The movie directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga is reported to have minted Rs 917 crore worldwide.

Widely regarded as the 'national crush' -- Rashmika shared how she wanted to take some time out and enjoy the phenomenal success of 'Animal', but she was back on the set of her new film, so she could not spare any time.

Sharing a monochrome mirror selfie, Rashmika posed for the lens hiding her face.

She wrote: "Hi guys! Can't show my full face as it is a new film look, and I can't reveal it before my film team does, as always. But the shoots are going really well -- just wanted to let you all know." The actress said she wanted to just talk about how people were talking about her not taking ownership of her success and all that.

Reflecting on the chatter, Rashmika wrote: "Ok, here's the thing. 1: I know it comes from a place of love, concern, and worry. We have delivered a massive film, and people loved it and appreciated it.

"I too wanted to take some time out to enjoy it, as every one of us wants to, but I was back on set the next day of my film release (being the amazing workaholic that I am), and hence I was and am unable to do a lot of interviews or events out there. I am having to do these overnight travels for work, and I am shooting for some of the biggest and most intense films in my career.



"And as you'll know, I can't really reveal the look before my film teams do, and hence I am unable to take photos or post some posts or go live as per your or my wishes. And I know you'll are missing me and so am I, but l know for sure that when the films DO release, I know you'll all be super duper happy, and it's all gonna be worth it!! (I personally CAN'T WAIT for those moments)."

Rashmika continued her heartfelt post by urging her fans: "Please be patient with me because you should know that I am doing my best, and I am happy doing so for all of you, myself, and my teams."

Opening up on 'owning' the success, Rashmika expressed happiness over the love and messages of her huge fandom.

"Guys, your love, the messages to me are what make me happy and keep me going, honestly, and I saw them in abundance; and again, thank you so much for all the love... always."

She further revealed how her PR team had told her to be more active.

"But 1: like I already said the next day of the film release, I was back on set for my next film, so couldn't find the time, but next time on we will work on it... I promise; and 2: I just believed that good work will speak for itself and it DID... and I CANNOT be more grateful... I am yet to thank you all for the love... and I know I am late.

Sanya Malhotra parties with paps on her 32nd b'day, cuts cake with them

Mumbai, Feb 25 (IANS) Actress Sanya Malhotra on Sunday celebrated her 32nd birthday by cutting a chocolate cake with the paps in Mumbai.

The actress, who was recently seen in the biographical war drama film 'Sam Bahadur', looked her gorgeous best as she wore a brown coloured sleeveless top, and paired it with a matching wrap around knee-slit skirt.

She rounded off the look with neutral makeup -- nude pink lips, blushed cheeks, and a thin black eyeliner.

Sanya styled her curly locks in a bun. She opted for small golden hoop earrings, and completed the outfit with brown heels.

The visuals shows paps singing a birthday song for Sanya, while she happily cuts the yummy chocolate cake.

After the cake cutting, the actress thanked the paps for the sweet gesture. "Thanks for the cake...ye dismantle ho raha hai (It is being dismantled)," she said referring to the cake.

The video also shows the 'Jawan' fame actress sweetly feeding cake to the camerapersons.

In the 2023 movie 'Sam Bahadur' directed by Meghna Gulzar, Sanya played the role of Silloo Manekshaw, wife of Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw (played by Vicky Kaushal).

NIFTY scales new heights, expect Sensex to follow this time around

Mumbai, Feb 25 (IANS) Markets were on a roll last week and even though there was extreme volatility, they continued their upward march. NIFTY has made a new high this week effectively on every trading session.

However, the BSESENSEX has yet to cross the high of 73,427.59 points which was made on 16th January. The new high made on Friday on NIFTY was at 22,297.50 points while BSESENSEX reached 73,413.93 points, short of previous high by a mere 14 points. This makes one believe that sooner than later this would be breached and also confirming that NIFTY is yet to make another high on Monday or Tuesday.

At the end of the week, BSESENSEX gained 716.16 points or 0.99 per cent to close at 73,142.80 points while NIFTY gained 172 points or 0.78 per cent to close at 22,212.70 points. The broader markets saw BSE100, BSE200 and BSE500 gain 0.70 per cent, 0.76 per cent and 0.74 per cent respectively. BSEMIDCAP gained 0.01 per cent while BSESMALLCAP was up 0.82 per cent.

Markets gained on three of the five trading sessions and lost on two. On Thursday, markets opened in the red but rallied smartly to close in the positive. The intraday movement on Thursday between the low and the close was 1,076 points on BSESENSEX and 342 points on NIFTY. If one compares this to the weekly gains, it's almost 1.5 times on BSESENSEX and double on NIFTY. The markets had probably a sharp intraday correction.

The Indian Rupee gained 8 paisa or 0.10 per cent to close at Rs 82.94 to the US Dollar. Dow Jones gained on three of the four sessions and lost on one session. Dow gained 503.54 points or 1.30 per cent to close at 39,131.53 points.

Shares of Vibhor Steel Tubes Limited which had issued shares at Rs 151, listed at the bourses on Tuesday, February 20. The primary issue from the company was of a very small size with a fresh issue of Rs 72 crore in the price band of Rs 141-151.

Normally, issues of this size come on the SME exchange but this was on the main board. The issue was oversubscribed 320 times overall and there were 28 lakh applications in all. The issue debuted at Rs 421, a gain of Rs 270 or 178.80 per cent. The share closed at upper circuit of Rs 442, a gain of Rs 291 or 192.71 per cent. Every day thereafter, the share has been closing at lower circuit.

On Friday, the share closed at the lower circuit of Rs 379.05, a gain of Rs 228.05 or 151.03 per cent. Expect more circuits to follow till the ten days of trade-to-trade mechanism to get over. Friday was the fourth such session.

The primary issue from Juniper Hotels Limited which had tapped the markets with its fresh issue of Rs 1,800 crs in a price band of Rs 342-360, managed to get subscribed. Considering the mood and the liquidity in the markets currently, it could be described as a lackluster response.

Overall, the issue was subscribed 2.07 times; the QIB portion was subscribed 2.96 times; the HNI portion undersubscribed at 0.84 times; and the retail portion subscribed 1.24 times. There were 1.21 lakh



applications.

The week ahead sees the issue from Exicom Tele-Systems Limited tap the markets. The issue which opens on Tuesday, February 27, would close on Thursday the 29th February. The issue consists of a fresh issue of Rs 329 crore and an offer for sale of 70,42,200 shares in a price band of Rs 135-142.

The company is a power management solutions provider, operating under two business verticals, wherein the first is critical power solutions and the second is into manufacture and supply of Electric Vehicle supply equipment which includes EV Chargers for residential, business and public charging.

The company reported revenues of Rs 723.39 crore for the year ending on March 31, 2023. About two-third of the revenue comes from the power business while 1/3rd comes from the EV business. Needless to say, the margins and the growth in the EV business vertical are significantly higher than the power business which is competitive.

The company reported an EPS of Rs 3.38 for the year ending on March 2023. The PE multiple of the company is at 39.9-42.01. The price band is attractive considering the business opportunity and the sustained demand of EV chargers going forward. The issue would do well and be oversubscribed many times. Apply and hope that allotment happens.

For the fixed income category of investors there is an issue from Bharat Highways Invit which opens in the week ahead. The issue consists of units which would be issued in a band of Rs 98-100. The issue would be of Rs 2,500 crores. It opens on Wednesday, February 28, and closes on Friday, March 1. The INVIT would have an initial portfolio of seven assets which are HAM assets from G.R. Infraprojects Limited. The HAM model consists of semi-annual annuities which are given by NHAI. The INVIT also has the right of first offer or 'ROFO' for the remaining 23 assets owned by G.R. Infraprojects. There is also a ROFO right for any assets that would be made by G.R. Infraprojects for the next five years.

The expected payout from this instrument is expected to be at 400 basis points higher than the current G-Sec rate. This would translate into an effective yield of between 11-25 per cent -11.75 per cent, making it attractive for investors with a fixed income return.

As the assets are based on the HAM model, there is no risk involved linked to traffic or toll collection whatsoever. Decent offer for investors looking at a fixed income as this would also take care of interest rates as and when the fall or rise as the project has been designed accordingly.

The week ahead sees February futures expire on the last day of the month, February 29. This is a leap year and the last time something like this happened was in 1996, 28 years ago.

The current value of NIFTY is higher by 860.10 points or 4.03 per cent. The February series had begun at a level of 21,352.60 points. Currently, the bulls have complete control of the series and there is no way that they would allow the series to slip out of their hands. At best, the bears may attempt to pull something back, but that too looks difficult in light of what happened last Thursday. Expect the bulls to rule the ring and charge with greater vigour over the next few days riding into expiry.

The markets are continuously making new highs and are in a bull grip. The breadth of the markets has become vulnerable and different stocks are moving on different days.

Clearly, many of the stocks in this segment are seeing distribution and strong hands exiting the stocks and ownership moving into weaker hands. The phenomenon would continue for some time and it therefore makes sense to move into large cap stocks where there is safety. This has been advocated for a few weeks by me in my articles each time.

Coming to the strategy in the week ahead, expect volatility and sharp intraday moves in both directions to be the order of the day. Trade with a positive mindset but keep on booking profits in sharp rallies. At the same time use sharp dips to buy and refrain from having large overnight positions. Sector rotation is on and will continue. The lows made on Thursday, February 22, at 72,081 on BSESENSEX and at 21,875 on NIFTY would act as strong support.

Aadhaar, Jan Dhan giving big push to digital India ecosystem: Instamojo's CEO

New Delhi, Feb 25 (IANS) As the government rapidly adopts and moves forward in its digital journey, D2C (direct-to-consumer) tech company Instamojo's co-founder and CEO Sampad Swain on Sunday said that Aadhaar and Jan Dhan Yojana have given a big push to the whole digital India ecosystem.

According to Swain, three different buckets of opportunities got created over the last three-four years.

"One is the JAM Trinity (Jan Dhan, Aadhar and Mobile). Second is the availability of affordable credit, and third is the rise of social media, which has helped small business owners to reach an infinite number of customers to sell their products and services," the CEO told IANS during an interaction. Instamojo is a platform that powers independent e-commerce brands and startups with online stores, landing pages and payment solutions.

The company made headlines last year when the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) returned its application for a license to operate in the payments market.

On that, Swain said that their application got returned because of minor technical reasons, and they have been given time to step up and reapply. The company has been given time till September to reapply.

"Meanwhile, our software is up to date to kind of help the customers from a data localisation point of view, from a security point of view and on the payment side, if at all we reapply, we have decided to work with the other regulated entities of the regulator," Swain said.

TN CM lays foundation stone for VinFast's Rs 4,000-cr EV factory

Chennai, Feb 25 (IANS) Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Sunday laid the foundation stone for the first phase of Vietnam's VinFast group's electric vehicle (EV) plant in Tuticorin.

The Vietnam group's Indian arm VinFast Auto India Ltd will invest Rs 4,000 crore in the first phase out of the planned Rs 16,000 crore ($2 billion) investment, the state government said.

At the Global Investors Meet held here in January, VinFast Auto Ltd had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with



the Tamil Nadu government for the investment.

The company's plant, which is spread across 380 acres, will have a capacity to roll out 1,50,000 vehicles per annum.

With this project, Tamil Nadu apart from being India's Auto Hub, will also be known as India's EV Capital. Industries Minister T.R.B. Rajaa, who was also present on the occasion, said that over 70% of all electric two wheelers and 40% of all electric four wheelers sold in India, were being manufactured in Tamil Nadu.

After the inauguration of the foundation stone of the EV unit, Stalin distributed compensation for the flood victims of Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli.

The Chief Minister lashed out at the Centre and said that while the Central government did not provide compensation to the flood victims, the state government was providing support to those affected by floods.

He said that despite the central government putting roadblocks, the state government was achieving its objectives and garnering investments for the state from several sources.

Stalin said that the DMK was a people-centric political party and that its policies and programmes were based out of genuine care for the deprived and downtrodden people of the state.

It may be noted that since Stalin assumed office as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister in 2021, there has been a sustained move to garner investments in the state.

Procurement of services via govt e-marketplace soars to Rs 1.82 lakh crore in 2023-24

New Delhi, Feb 25 (IANS) The procurement of services through Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has jumped by as much as 176 per cent to Rs 1,82,000 crore during the current financial year as on February 22 from the corresponding of Rs 66,000 crore for 2022-23, according to data released by the Commerce Ministry on Friday.

The ministry said that the total value of procurement of services now exceeds the total value of products procurement in a Financial Year which is an important milestone that indicates the faster acceptability of services by various buyers.

"In February 2024, services procurement has been phenomenal, contributing to nearly 80 per cent of the total order value transacted on GeM. The share of procurement of services in overall procurement has exceeded the 50 per cent mark in the current financial year. Two bids placed by South Eastern Coalfield Limited, a subsidiary of COAL India Limited, worth nearly Rs 40,000 crore, have catapulted the share of service procurement in this month," the ministry said.

Commenting on this significant achievement, CEO, GeM, P K Singh said that the GeM has harnessed digital capabilities and has emerged as a one-stop-shop for procurement of all possible services that may be required by government buyers at various levels of administration.

He said that the expansion of the service offerings on GeM has been the brightest chapter in the platform's success story, witnessing an exponential growth in a short span of time.

The expanded bouquet of services on GeM has given a tremendous boost to the GeM Gross Merchandise Value (GMV). In this year alone, nearly 457 orders, worth Rs 4,036 crore, have been placed for procuring nine types of insurance services such as Group Mediclaim Insurance Service, Asset Insurance Service, Group Term Insurance Service etc. government of Gujarat has procured Group Mediclaim Insurance Services worth Rs 2,302 crore under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana to extend insurance cover to nearly 62 lakh families.

Innovative and unique service offerings like Local Chemist Empanelment have resulted in an average discount of 30-32 per cent on supply of medicines through GeM's e-bidding process. This has prompted the Central government health scheme, employees & state insurance corporations, and multiple state Health & Family Welfare Departments to actively procure these services through GeM.

Procurement of services like hiring of consultants and PR Agency, outdoor advertisement services and exhibition/event/seminar management services has enabled government bodies to make informed policy-making decisions and effectively disseminate information.

Services procurement on GeM has also given huge impetus to key social welfare initiatives like Jal Jeevan Mission, POSHAN 2.0 etc. To further the vision of a Swachh Bharat, GeM has created separate categories for hiring of sanitation services, including collection, disposal, and management of waste.

This service is being regularly procured by Urban Development & Housing Department, Bihar, which placed 35 orders across various urban local bodies for collection, lifting, transportation and disposal of waste.

Similar contracts have also been placed by Urban & Local bodies in various states like Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Uttarakhand and Delhi.

This remarkable trend underscores the increasing recognition of services as a strategic asset and highlights the importance of robust procurement infrastructure in streamlining public procurement processes. This unprecedented growth attests GeM's scalability and adaptability and the pivotal role it plays in driving India's economic growth.

GeM was established in 2016 to provide Government buyers an end-to-end digital platform to carry out public procurement of goods at cost-effective rates. In FY19-20, the platform diversified its portfolio to include services as a separate segment.

Democratisation of commerce-driven technology in India stands out, says global investment firm KKR

New Delhi, Feb 25 (IANS) India's e-commerce industry will look quite different, and more democratised, than what has unfolded in both the United States and China, said Henry H. McVey, Head of Global Macro & Asset Allocation, CIO, KKR. This is suggested, he said, by the digitalisation of key consumer and business-focused infrastructure such as payments, which are called Unified Payments Interface or UPI in India, as well as the development of the Open Network for Digital Commerce or ONDC, which is essentially an unbundled version of Amazon for business/logistics/buyers.

KKR is a leading global investment firm offering solutions in alternative assets spanning real-estate, private credit, private equity, and infrastructure.



"If we are right, it likely means a more balanced outcome as it relates to private sector value creation linked to e-commerce as well as technological innovation than what we have seen in the United States and China so far," McVey said in a note. "Specifically, India, unlike the US and China, does not have - or seem that interested in promoting - a domestic private sector champion like Amazon or Alibaba that often enjoys a 'winner take all' narrative when it comes to online payments, e-commerce, and/or bank account formation in most countries," the note said.

Rather, the government is largely supporting neutrality and inclusion through programmes such as UPI (mobile payments), Aadhaar (the world's largest digital ID programme), and/or e-commerce (ONDC, which represents a more unbundled marketplace than something like.

Mould your biz plans as per India's stupendous growth: Ashwini Vaishnaw to entrepreneurs



New Delhi, Feb 25 (IANS) Union IT and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has advised entrepreneurs to mould their business and strategic plans according to the tremendous growth India is going to witness in the next 10 years.

Addressing the 'EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2023' in Mumbai, the minister told the gathering that "if you fail to take note of this, you will be missing out from this growth".

"You can see 6-8 per cent real growth and 10-14 per cent nominal growth in at least the next 10 years. So, make your business plans, strategic plans and mould your Capex plans according to this parameter," said Vaishnaw, who was the chief guest at the event.

According to global brokerage Jefferies, India will become the third largest economy by 2027, on the back of consistent GDP growth rate.

Over the last 10 years, India's GDP has grown by 7 per cent CAGR in USD terms to $3.6 trillion - moving from the 8th largest to the 5th largest economy.

Over the next four years, India's GDP will likely touch $5 trillion, making it the third largest economy by 2027, according to the report.

Meanwhile, Vellayan Subbiah will represent India at the 'EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award' in Monte Carlo, Monaco, from June 4-7.

Natarajan Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons, was conferred the Special Jury Award for his outstanding leadership of the Tata Group at the event.

I'm still the CEO, management remains unchanged: Byju Raveendran

New Delhi, Feb 25 (IANS) Edtech company Byju's founder Byju Raveendran on Saturday refuted reports of being fired from the company, saying such rumours were greatly exaggerated and he remains at the helm.

In an email sent to employees and accessed by IANS, Byju Raveendran said that the management remains unchanged, the Board remains the same and the rights issue has "seen an overwhelming response."

His reaction came a day after key shareholders in Byju's like Prosus NV and Peak XV Partners voted to oust him as CEO at the Extraordinary General



Meeting (EGM), saying that the stakeholders "unanimously passed all resolutions put forward for vote."

In the email to staff, Byju Raveendran said that it was "business as usual" at the company.

"Just as you can't change the rules of a game midway without agreement from all players, we can't alter how our company is run without following these strict guidelines.

At the EGM, a lot of these essential rules were violated. This means that whatever was decided in that meeting does not count, because it didn't stick to the established rules," he wrote.

Byju Raveendran claimed that the EGM was convened without following the proper procedure set out by the law and the Company's Articles of Association.

"Only 35 out of 170 shareholders (representing around 45 per cent of shareholding) voted in favour of the resolution.

That in itself shows the very limited support that this irrelevant meeting received," said Byju's CEO.

Additionally, he said the Karnataka High Court had granted interim relief, "clearly stating that any decisions made during the meeting would not be given e?ect until resolution."

He said that regardless of this "uncalled-for drama", the management was devoting its full attention to the company's operations.

The EGM was called by select investors to oust Byju Raveendran from the company, which is facing regulatory hurdles amid a cash crunch.

On Wednesday, the Karnataka High Court ordered that any resolutions, to be passed in the EGM, would not hold ground until the final hearing and disposition of the petition on March 13, filed by Think & Learn Private Ltd, the parent company of Byju's.

Breath-taking moments as Classic cars and bikes roll by

Mercury 8 makes podium finish, Triumph 3HW crowned two-wheeler champ

Jamshedpur hosts 3rd Vintage and Classic Car & Bike Rally

Mail News Service





Jamshedpur, Feb 25: In a spectacle that transported enthusiasts and onlookers alike to a bygone era, classic cars and bikes graced the streets of Jamshedpur in a mesmerizing display of automotive history. The air was filled with nostalgia as these vintage treasures rolled by, turning back the hands of time and evoking a sense of awe among spectators. The 3rd edition of Tata Steel Vintage and Classic Car & Bike Rally was organised today with beautiful automobiles lined up at GopalMaidan in Bistupur. The rally was organised as part of the 185th Founder`s Day celebration honouring the vision and memory of Tata Group's founder Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata. Over 150 vintage and classic cars and bikes dated from 1920s to 1980s registered for the rally with participation from states of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Punjab and Odisha. The rally was flagged off by ChanakyaChaudhary, Vice president Corporate Services, Tata Steel along with ProbalGhosh, Vice President, Shared Services, Tata Steel and ChaitanyaBhanu, Vice President, Steel Manufacturing, Tata Steel at GopalMaidan today morning. Landmarks covered during the rally are Bharucha Mansion, Jubilee Park, United Club, Sir Dorabji Tata Park, Keenan Stadium and St. George's Church traversing a distance of total 23-kms before culminating at the United Club. The event



witnessed enthusiastic participation from the citizens of Jamshedpur who gathered in large numbers to see the vintage vehicles yesterday evening and today morning at GopalMaidan and United Club. The unmistakable purr of well-maintained engines resonated through the air, creating a symphony of horsepower that echoed the passion and dedication of the proud owners. Classic bikes, their engines humming in harmony, added a two-wheeled dimension to the procession, captivating the crowd with their timeless charm. Spectators lined the streets, capturing these fleeting moments with cameras and smartphones, eager to immortalize the beauty of the classic car and bike cavalcade. Children and adults alike marveled at the meticulous restoration and preservation of these automotive relics, a testament to the commitment of collectors and enthusiasts who keep the spirit of motoring history alive. Addressing the august gathering during the prize distribution ceremony at the United Club, Chaudhary said that signature events such as the Jamshedpur Vintage and Classic Car & Bike Rally are aligned with Tata Steel's corporate philosophy of supporting initiatives that preserve, protect and promote cultural heritage. He added that the event not only showcases rare and beautiful machines, but also is a testament to celebrate of history and culture. The rally ended at United Club with a prize distribution by esteemed guests, Chanakya Chaudhary, Vice President, Corporate Services, Tata Steel, Avneesh Gupta, Uttam Singh, Vice President, Iron Making, Tata Steel, ProbalGhosh, Vice President, Shared Services, Tata Steel, NiroopMahanty, RupaMahanty and other senior officials. Overall Champion in Best Car category was Mercury 8 owned by Sourav Roy while Overall Champion in Best Bike category was Hermit Singh Bhamra who owns a Triumph 3HW. Judges for the event were PrithviNath Tagore, NitinSreshtha, Saikat Dutta and Harjit Singh Dhanjal.

This year also, the Super Biker's club of Jamshedpur participated in the event displaying 16 bikes including Harley Davidson, BMW, Ducati and Triumph. The biker's included two women. The classic cars and bikes may have rolled past, but the enchantment they brought to the streets lingered, reminding everyone that the allure of vintage motoring is truly timeless.

PM Modi to inaugurate redevelopment project for 18 stations in Jharkhand today

Jamshedpur, Feb 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to lay the foundation stone for the comprehensive redevelopment of 18 key stations in Jharkhand on Monday, February 26, under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. This transformative initiative, estimated at approximately Rs 600 crore, encompasses the refurbishment of pivotal stations, including Tatanagar, Chakradharpur, Gamharia, Sini, Chaibasa, Dangoaposi, Bada Jamda, Balsiring, Bano, Gangaghat, Ramgarh Cantt, Govindpur Road, Aurma, Muri, Silli, Lohardaga, Tatisilwe, and Namkum. In addition to the station redevelopment, the project encompasses the construction of 44 road overbridges and underpasses across the state, enhancing overall transportation infrastructure. The announcement has generated a sense of enthusiasm and joy among BJP workers, who eagerly anticipate the foundation stone-laying ceremony by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The iconic Tatanagar railway station in Jamshedpur is among the stations earmarked for development under the Amrit Bharat Scheme. The project further includes the construction of Railway Over Bridges (ROBs) at Barigoda (LC 138) and Govindpur (LC 137), a railway underbridge near Salgajhudi, and a railway underbridge beyond Haldipokhar on the Tata-Badam Pahad railway line. Additionally, the plan involves constructing a subway between Galudih and Rakhamines in the Kharagpur Railway Division.(w/nm)

Security forces dismantle Naxalite camp, top leaders neutralized

Mail News Service



Chaibasa, Feb 25: In a meticulously planned and executed joint operation, security forces, comprising Chaibasa Police, CRPF units (209, 203, 205 kg), Jharkhand Jaguar, and CRPF teams (60 kg, 197 kg, 157 kg, 174 kg, 193 kg, 134), dealt a significant blow to the banned CPI (Mao) Naxalite organization. The operation targeted key leaders, including Misir Besra, Anmale, Maechhu, Chaman, Kande, Ajay Mahta, Sagden Angriya, and Ashwin, along with their squad members in the Ka Lahan area. Quoting a statement from the joint expeditionary team, "This operation was a result of persistent intelligence efforts and collaboration among various security units. Our goal was to dismantle the Naxalite infrastructure and neutralize their top leadership, disrupting their subversive activities in the region." The joint campaign, initiated on October 10, 2023, covered villages under Gailkera police station, including Kuida, Chhota Kuida, Maradiri, Meralgada, Hathiburu, Tilayabeda Boypaissang, Katamba, Bayhatu, Bora Ey, and border areas of Lemsadih. Subsequently, operations extended to Tanta police station areas, encompassing Husipi, Rajabasa, Tumbahaka, Regada, Patatorab, Gagburu, Luiya. According to a local eyewitness, "The security forces have been actively engaging with the local communities, gathering information and building trust. This joint operation is a testament to their commitment to eradicating the Naxalite threat from our midst." The operation focused on the wild and hilly area between Tilaybeda and Sarjomburu under Goilakera/Tonta police station. An old temporary Naxalite camp was identified, where approximately 15 individuals were believed to be residing. The security forces successfully demolished the camp, neutralizing the occupants. In an official recovery report, the following items were seized from the Naxalite camp: Naxalite green uniform - 1, Naxalite Red Flag - 1, 9T Battery - 8, Duracell Battery - 14, Battery - 2, Black wire - 12 feet, Syringe - 10 pcs, Medicines (Saline, Syrup, Moov Spray, etc.), Shoes/slippers - 3 pairs, Bowl, Digging tool, Cloth and plastic bags, Other daily use items. Commenting on the success of the operation, the superintendent of police stated, "This operation is a significant achievement in our ongoing efforts against Naxalite activities. We remain committed to ensuring the safety and security of the local population and will continue with anti-Naxal operations in the region." The successful joint operation highlights the effectiveness of collaborative efforts among different security units and serves as a milestone in the ongoing fight against Naxalite insurgency in the area. The forces' dedication and strategic planning have undoubtedly made the region safer for its residents. Anti-Naxal operations will persist to maintain long-term peace and stability. (W/pb)

Banna distributes 1,235 pension acceptance certificates

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 25: Health Minister Banna Gupta distributed 1,235 pe3nsion acceptance certificates under the Sarvajan Pension Scheme of the Jharkhand Government. The beneficiaries were applicants for old age, widow and physically challenged pensions and residents of Kadma, Sonari, Bistupur, Sakchi and Mango. These beneficiaries would start getting their pensions soon. Along with the pension certificates, Health Minister Banna Gupta gave away buckets asking the beneficiaries to put household garbage in these buckets and then to hand over the wastes to doorstep garbage collectors or to throw them in the nearest garbage vats. He asked them not to litter garbage outside their homes to ensure cleanliness and healthy environment. The Minister also instructed party workersto go door to door and organize camps in their jurisdictions for getting the pension applications filled and filed.

Those present on the occasion included Sanjay Tiwari, Manoj Jha, Babua Jha, Baban Shukla, Sanjeev Jha, Rakesh Jaiswal, Irshad Haider and many others. (w/gsd)

Banna Gupta lays foundation stone for 129 schemes

Work on Mango flyover to commence soon: Minister

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 25: On Sunday, Jamshedpur West MLA and State Health Minister Banna Gupta formally laid the foundation stone of a total of 129 schemes to cost Rs 6.21 crore to be expended from the MLA fund. The estimated amount of the cost of these projects is Rs 6, 21, 63, 120. It may be mentioned that the foundation stone of 82 schemes (Rs 3 crore 45 lakh 28 thousand 670) under Mango Municipal Corporation and 47 schemes (Rs 2 crore 76 lakh 34 thousand 450) under JNAC were laid. In his address after laying the foundation stone, Health Minister Banna Gupta said that the first priority was to make the area problem-free. The Minister stated that apart from the schemes launched on Sunday, the work of constructing a flyover to make Mango jam-free wouldcommence soon.

"In view of the additional load of traffic on the roads of Jamshedpur West, special attention is being given to road widening work, water harvesting system, e-waste collection center and cleanliness of the area," Banna Gupta stated. Among those present on the occasion included MLA representatives Prabhat Thakur, Manoj Jha, Baban Shukla,Bijender Tiwari, Kailash Rajak and many others. (w/gsd)

DC to address SCCI members on Feb 27



Jamshedpur, Feb 25: The newly appointed DC of East Singhbhum district, Ananya Mittal, IAS, is set to engage in a detailed discussion with Chamber members, businessmen, and entrepreneurs at the Singhbhum Chamber on Tuesday, February 27, starting at 6:30 pm. This marks Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal's inaugural visit to the Chamber since assuming office. The agenda for the meeting encompasses vital topics, including the commercial and industrial development of the district. Commissioner Mittal aims to address challenges faced by Chamber members in various facets, such as electricity, skilled workforce, raw materials procurement, securing loans for industries, administrative hurdles, and more. Additionally, the discussion will extend to public issues impacting the city, ranging from infrastructure concerns like roads and parking to significant matters like Tata lease land registry, higher education, and health-related problems. These issues, regularly brought to the government's attention by the Chamber, align with its social responsibilities. Chamber President Vijay Anand Moonka, Manav Kedia, Anil Modi, Rajeev Aggarwal, Punit Kanwatiya, Bharat Makani, Anshul Ringsiya, Binod Sharma, CA Anil Ringsiya, along with other members, businessmen, and entrepreneurs, are urged to actively participate in this significant discussion with DC Ananya Mittal to foster collaborative solutions for the district's development. (W/pb)

Expert CA enlightens Singhbhum Chamber on Income Tax

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 25: In an insightful session organized at Singhbhum Chamber, CA Shivank Chhapria, an experienced chartered accountant from Kolkata, shared comprehensive insights on the significance of Income Tax Act Section-43B (H) with local businessmen and entrepreneurs. The program, initiated by Secretary Advocate Anshul Ringsiya, aimed to equip attendees with essential knowledge to navigate the complexities of the Income Tax Act. Honorary General Secretary Manav Kedia conveyed the importance of understanding Income Tax regulations for entrepreneurs, emphasizing how this knowledge can prevent potential legal consequences. Advocate Anshul Ringsiya, Secretary of Finance and Taxation, inaugurated the program, stressing the importance of awareness about Income Tax rules for entrepreneurs to navigate and benefit from the provisions without facing penalties. CA Anil Ringsiya, the Treasurer, provided additional insights during his presentation on the subject. Vice President Rajeev Aggarwal, responsible for Finance and Taxation, welcomed the attendees and introduced the guest speaker, CA Shivank Chhapria, highlighting the anticipated benefits of the discussion for MSME members. CA Shivank Chhapria delved into the details of Income Tax Act Section-43B (H), emphasizing its creation for the protection of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). He clarified that only producers and service providers, not traders, can avail themselves of its benefits. Chhapria emphasized the necessity for buyers to obtain the enterprise registration certificate from MSME entrepreneurs when purchasing goods to avail themselves of the benefits. During the question-answer session, members had the opportunity to seek clarification on various aspects of the discussed section, receiving detailed responses from the expert. The event concluded with Secretary Advocate Anshul Ringsiya extending gratitude to the keynote speaker. Vice President Puneet Kanwatia and Secretary Bharat Makani honored CA Shivank Chhapria for his valuable insights. The event witnessed the participation of General Secretary Manav Kedia, Vice President Puneet Kanwatia, Advocate Rajeev Aggarwal, Bharat Makani, Advocate Anshul Ringsiya, Treasurer Anil Ringsiya, and several chartered accountants, advocates, and business entrepreneurs. (w/nm)