



CHAMPAI SOREN ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR BANGLA ACADEMY- PAGE - 2

Jharkhand visit : Amit Shah on May 17, PM Modi on May 19



Mail News Service

Ranchi, May 15: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Jharkhand once again on May 19th. He will be addressing an election rally in Ghatshila to extend support to BJP candidate Bidyut Baran Mahato from Jamshedpur. This will mark PM Modi's sixth election meeting in the state, having previously conducted rallies in Chaibasa, Palamu, Gumla, Chatra, and Giridih, along with a roadshow in Ranchi. Meanwhile, the state BJP has initiated preparations for the Prime Minister's visit, with party leaders entrusted with organizational responsibilities. Union Home Minister Amit Shah is also slated for a two-day visit to Jharkhand starting from May 17th. On the first day, he will conduct a roadshow in Chutia, Ranchi, followed by an election rally in Bokaro on May 18th. Amit Shah had previously addressed an election rally in Khunti, underscoring the party's concerted efforts in the run-up to the elections. (w/nkm)

55 candidates in fray for seventh phase elections in Jharkhand



Mail News Service

Ranchi, May 15: The Chief Electoral Officer, K. Ravi Kumar, announced on Wednesday during a press conference at Nirvachan Bhawan that the scrutiny process for the upcoming seventh phase of parliamentary elections in three constituencies has concluded. Following the scrutiny, a total of 55 candidates remain in contention across all three constituencies. Kumar stated that during the scrutiny, nominations from 2 out of 17 candidates in the Rajmahal parliamentary constituency, reserved for Scheduled Tribes, were canceled, leaving a total of 15 candidates in the race. Similarly, out of 22 candidates nominated from the Dumka parliamentary constituency, reserved for Scheduled Tribes, nominations from 3 were rejected, resulting in 19 candidates remaining. In Godda parliamentary constituency, the nominations of a maximum of 8 candidates were canceled after scrutiny. Presently, there are 21 candidates in the fray. The deadline for withdrawal of nominations is May 17, after which the final number of candidates will be determined. Responding to queries, Kumar mentioned that border surveillance, as per the Election Commission's guidelines, is being conducted in coordination with neighboring states connected to the voting areas. Stringent checks are being carried out, and measures are being taken to seal the borders. (w/nkm)

ED conducts inspection at Nucleus Mall in Ranchi



Mail News Service

Ranchi, May 15: On Wednesday, an Enforcement Directorate (ED) team arrived at Nucleus Mall in the city to conduct a thorough inspection. The ED officials are currently surveying the mall and searching the offices located within it. This action is part of an investigation into a land scam in Ranchi, with the objective of obtaining relevant information. The owner of Nucleus Mall, Vishnu Aggarwal, is implicated in a land scam case and was arrested by the ED on July 31, 2023. Presently out on bail, Aggarwal is under scrutiny for his alleged involvement in fraudulent land dealings. During previous investigations, the ED had highlighted Aggarwal's central role in benefiting from the land scam. During the inspection, the ED team assessed the entire mall premises and conducted measurements of the land. Previous investigations had revealed several discrepancies, including the acquisition of land on Cheshire Home Road and Sirmotli Army land based on falsified documents. Additionally, fraudulent documents were allegedly used in the purchase and sale of 9.30 acres of land in Pugadu. The exact basis for the ED's inspection at Nucleus Mall, whether related to previous or new findings in the ongoing investigation, remains undisclosed at this time. (w/nkm)

ED arrests Minister Alamgir Alam

Congress leader arrested after ED grilling in Rs 35 crore cash haul case

One more nail in corruption's coffin: Pratul Shahdev

Ranchi, May 15: In the aftermath of Minister Alamgir Alam's arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a tender scam, BJP state spokesperson Pratul Shahdev launched a scathing critique of the ruling party. In a statement released today, Shahdev hailed the event as yet another significant blow against corruption in Jharkhand. "With former Chief Minister Hemant Soren also facing arrest prior to this development, allegations of corruption have cast a shadow over the state," Shahdev remarked. "This event marks one more nail in corruption's coffin, epitomizing the ethos of Narendra Modi's New India, where individuals, irrespective of their stature, are held accountable for their involvement in corrupt practices." Emphasizing that this marks just the beginning, Shahdev reaffirmed the unwavering commitment to relentlessly pursue investigations into the multi-billion rupee tender scam. (w/nkm)

New Delhi, May 15 (IANS): Days after the recovery of mounds of cash, amounting to more than Rs 35 crore, Jharkhand minister Alamgir Alam was on Wednesday arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The Congress minister was arrested after two consecutive days of questioning by the ED sleuths in Ranchi -- for nine



hours on Tuesday and for six hours on Wednesday -- in connection with the recovery of mountain of cash from the domestic help of his personal assistant. After the cash seizure on May 6, the ED raids were also conducted at the residence of Alamgir Alam's personal assistant Sanjeev Lal and his other associates. During the raids, the ED also seized damning documents related to transfer-posting of bureaucrats. Both Sanjeev Lal, PS to Alamgir Alam and his domestic help Jehangir Alam were arrested by the ED after recovery of whopping Rs 35.23 crore in cash from their premises in Ranchi. The duo were subsequently booked under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and arrested. The

Minister Alamgir Alam's dismissal imminent

Ranchi, May 15: Following Minister Alamgir Alam's arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a tender commission case, upheaval within the Champai government has reached a fever pitch. Reliable sources indicate that Chief Minister Champai Soren is poised to dismiss Minister Alamgir Alam at any moment, with the next 24 hours crucial for Alam's fate. In the aftermath of Alamgir's arrest, Chief Minister Champai Soren convened discussions with top party leaders, followed by consultations with Congress representatives including Ghulam Ahmed Mir, the Congress in-charge, and state president Rajesh Thakur. Sources suggest that Champai has urged Congress to take prompt action, facilitating the government's course of action. However, failing any initiative from Congress within the next 24 hours, CM Champai may proceed with Alam's dismissal. Alternatively, Alamgir might tender his resignation preemptively. The arrest's timing amidst ongoing elections has put the state Congress on the defensive, prompting urgent action to preempt BJP's exploitation of the issue. Consequently, Congress leadership must swiftly distance itself from Alam's predicament to mitigate potential electoral fallout. Furthermore, Alam's arrest necessitates the selection of a new CLP leader within Congress, alongside deliberations over ministerial replacements. The Congress leadership, however, is slated to finalize decisions regarding the new legislative party leader post-June 4. (w/nkm)

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BJP wiped out in elections so far: Jairam

Mail News Service

Ranchi, May 15: Congress national general secretary Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday fired a set of four questions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his acceptance of the Constitution to his alleged silence over caste and economic census. Ramesh next asked PM Modi as to why he is maintaining silence on reservation limit and said that the prime minister should make a public statement on whether he is in favor of doing away with reservation or not. Fourthly, he asked PM Modi to explain why his government weakened laws that were enacted in the interests of tribals through amendments. Why were the Forest Rights Act 2006, Forest Conservation Act 1960 and Land Acquisition Act 2013 amended, he asked. Ramesh claimed that BJP has been wiped out from south India and half of north India in the first four



phases of elections. "Four phases have been completed and voting was held in 379 seats. Now, it is clear that the INDIA bloc parties are going to get a clear majority. The remaining three phases of voting will have no impact", he added and termed Narendra Modi as outgoing Prime Minister. "After guessing their defeat, PM Modi's language has changed. He is both frustrated and disappointed. Congress gets its strength to serve people from its 25 guarantees. During his visits, Rahul Gandhi, listened to the common people, their problems and injustices," Ramesh said in Ranchi. According to Ramesh, the PM says that he does not discriminate on religious grounds but the language used by him and his home minister is that of polarisation. It is certain that BJP will not be able to open its account in south India, he added. On PM's remark of Adani-Ambani giving black money to Congress by hoarding it in tempos, Ramesh questioned as to why the ED-CBI are silent on such a

serious allegation. It is a big question why the central agencies are not taking any action against the capitalists who have allegedly done such an act, he said. "Our election campaign is being run on our own issues. The prime minister wants to hold the elections on communal pitch but we are not going to let him mislead people. The biggest propagator of our manifesto is the Prime Minister himself. After the PM's statements on our manifesto, it was downloaded five lakh times, which is a record in itself," Ramesh said. Alleging that the BJP-led government "badly misused" ED, CBI and IT Department, Ramesh said that if voted to power, the Congress would ensure that powers given to these agencies are revisited. He accused the BJP-led government of weakening laws pertaining to land acquisition so that "capitalists" could gain.

Blaze at Balaji Krishna Eng leaves seven injured



Gamharia, May 15: A sudden blaze erupted at Balaji Krishna Engineering Company, situated in Phase 6 of the Gamharia industrial area, triggering chaos within the company premises on Wednesday evening. The inferno resulted in injuries to seven laborers, with three reported to be in serious condition. Promptly, all injured workers were rushed to Tata Main Hospital (TMH) for immediate medical attention. Among the injured were Lalan Singh, Dilip Murmu, Soma Jamuda, Ajay Tandi, and others. Upon receiving notification from the management, authorities from the Adityapur police and fire department swiftly responded to the emergency. The fire brigade arrived at the scene and endeavored to quell the substantial blaze. While the cause of the fire remains under investigation, initial reports suggest that it may have originated from an oil leak in the company's heat treatment machine, igniting a spark that rapidly escalated into a significant fire. The outbreak of the fire induced panic among company employees, prompting an urgent evacuation. Regrettably, seven laborers sustained burns during the commotion. The extent of the damage inflicted upon the company is estimated to be in the millions. At present, the company management has not issued any official statement regarding the incident. (w/nkm)

PM is seeking another term at 70 years while retiring youth at 22: Tejashwi

Mail News Service

Ranchi, May 15: Former Bihar deputy chief minister and RJD senior leader Tejashwi Yadav alleged that the Prime Minister even at age of 70 years is asking for five years more in governance while on the same side retiring youth at age of 22 years under Agniveer scheme. Addressing an election rally at Bengabad block in Giridih district seeking support for INDIA bloc candidate for Koderma Lok Sabha Vinod Kumar Singh and Gandey by-poll Kalpana Soren, said, "Our Prime Minister is seeking another term for five years at the age of 70 years while under Agniveer scheme he is retiring youth at age of 22 years." He said that the BJP government at the Center had talked about



giving special package to Jharkhand and Bihar, but due to state government not joining hands with them, both the states were neglected by the central government. No money was received from the Centre. Earlier the Center

used to give 90 per cent to the state and today it is giving 50 per cent," alleged Yadav. He also accused the Prime Minister of continuously lying to the masses. "The Prime Minister is talking about snatching the mangalsutra.

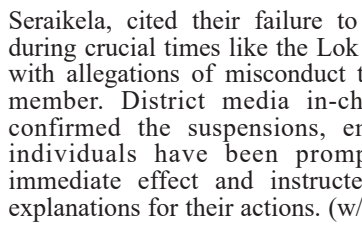
Does it suit the language of a Prime Minister. Nitish has been hijacked by the BJP. Inflation has increased during Narendra Modi ji's tenure," he said. "The Prime Minister is doing politics of hatred while his leaders have gone to state their party would change Ambedkar's Constitution. The Prime Minister is doing Hindu-Muslim politics by not asking for votes at work," said Yadav. He also claimed that BJP is afraid of losing and is sending opposition leaders to jail by using agencies like CBI and ED. "Lalu ji did not bow down before BJP and his son will also not bow down. Hemant Soren and Kalpana Soren also did not bow down before the Modi government. Jharkhand and Bihar will not bow down before the two

Gujaratis," he claimed. Candidate Kalpana Soren, while addressing the election meeting, said that this time the election is about saving the Constitution and alleged that BJP is speaking illogical things instead of issues. She said that BJP has not done as much work in 20 years as Hemant government did in few years. Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren said that BJP came to power by lying. The price of gas cylinder was increased. The Prime Minister does not talk about inflation and unemployment but talks about tea. There is an atmosphere of dictatorship inside the country. He claimed that INDIA bloc is heading for victory in all four seats which went to polls on May 13.

BJP suspends Gamharia East Mandal President, General Secretary

Mail News Service

Seraikela, May 15: In a significant development, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District President Uday Singhdev announced the suspension of Gamharia East Mandal President Amit Singhdev and General Secretary Ajit Singh from the party. The decision, conveyed via a press release in Seraikela, cited their failure to fulfill responsibilities during crucial times like the Lok Sabha elections, along with allegations of misconduct towards a senior party member. District media in-charge Rakesh Mishra confirmed the suspensions, emphasizing that both individuals have been promptly suspended with immediate effect and instructed to provide written explanations for their actions. (w/nkm)



Saryu Roy hosts intensive brainstorming session with artists on Laghu Bharat Memorial

MLA pledges support for Art Center demand in Jamshedpur

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 15: A significant meeting convened by Jamshedpur East MLA Saryu Roy in Bistupur delved into the pivotal role of artists, painters, and sculptors in the construction of the Laghu Bharat Memorial and the development of Shri Laxminarayan Temple in Cable Town. Attended by 35 renowned artists from the city, the gathering resolved to extend their wholehearted support to these endeavors. At the onset of the meeting held on Wednesday, MLA Saryu



Roy highlighted the rapid progress in the construction of Shri Laxminarayan Temple, Cable Town, Golmuri, noting that the sanctum sanctorum and other key structures were nearing completion. Emphasizing the artistic elements integral to the temple's aesthetics, he urged the artists to contribute their imaginative prowess towards embellishing the temple with murals and carvings. Furthermore, MLA Roy shared plans for a living monument of Laghu Bharat Memorial around the Bhuvaneshwari Temple at

Telco, in collaboration with Tata Motors. Recognizing Jamshedpur's identity as Mini India, he underscored the need for a Laghu Bharat Memorial to showcase the cultural diversity of the nation. The artists were tasked with gathering information on the cultural, literary, and ancient traditions of various states to formulate a proposal for the Laghu Bharat Memorial. Addressing the challenges faced by local artists, the meeting advocated for the establishment of an art center to nurture talent and showcase artworks. MLA Roy pledged to liaise with the district administration and state authorities to realize this vision, aiming to position Jamshedpur as not only an industrial hub but also an artistic haven. In attendance were notable figures including Subhendu Biswas, Biplav Roy, Mukta Gupta, Debjit Pal Raja, Ashok Maiti, Lalan Dutta, Kailash Das, Sarathi Ghosh, Krishna Sharan Mahato, Viprav Biswas, and several others, reflecting a collective commitment towards the cultural enrichment and artistic development of Jamshedpur. (w/nkm)

Samir Mohanty launches public relations campaign in Bhalubasa



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 15: Samir Mohanty, the candidate of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha cum India alliance from the Jamshedpur Lok Sabha seat, kickstarted a dynamic public relations campaign

in Bhalubasa. The initiative commenced with a spirited gathering organized by the Jharkhand Congress State Committee at Shitala Mandir Chowk, where Samir Mohanty galvanized party workers and expressed confidence

in securing victory. Addressing the assembly, Mohanty highlighted the broad spectrum of support his candidacy has garnered from various communities in the urban area. He emphasized the backing of tribals, natives, the Sikh community, Bengali-speaking community, Odia community, Muslim community, Maithil community, Rajput community, and the youth. Mohanty underscored the palpable enthusiasm and inclination towards building robust public relations

demonstrated by the INDI Alliance workers, affirming the readiness of the people of Jamshedpur for a transformative change in the upcoming elections. The meeting witnessed a significant turnout of Congress workers, including prominent figures such as Prince Singh, Bhavani Singh, Satyanand Singh, Nizar Singh, Rakesh Sahu, Neeraj Sahu, LB Singh, Mani Mishra, and Raja Shaikh, among others. Following the gathering, a comprehensive public relations campaign was rolled out across Bhalubasa, Chhaya Nagar, and Kalyan Nagar, garnering overwhelming support from the local populace. (w/nkm)

Geeta Murmu campaigns for Bidyut Baran Mahato

Mail News Service

Ghatshila, May 15: Former district councillor (Zila Parishad) and BJP leader Geeta Murmu campaigned in support of BJP's Jamshedpur Lok Sabha candidate, Bidyut Baran Mahato. During her visit to Gudajhor, Gurudanga, and Narsinghpur areas of Baghudia Panchayat, Murmu emphasized the global respect tribals had gained under the Modi government. She cited the election of a female tribal



President as a testament to this progress. Accompanied by former district councillor Sukhlal Hembram, village head Purnima Karmakar, Ram Chandra Singh, Jagdish Murmu, Chhotu Lal Singh, Shiv Charan Singh, Aarti Singh, Baha Singh, Amrita Sahay, and Shila Murmu, Geeta Murmu appealed to the community to support and ensure victory of the BJP candidate. (w/gsd)

285,532 voters set to cast ballots in Ichagarh Assembly constituency

Seraikela, May 15: As the sixth phase of elections approaches, the Ichagarh assembly constituency, part of the Ranchi parliamentary constituency, gears up for voting with meticulous preparations underway. A total of 285,532 eligible voters, comprising 144,165 males, 141,365 females, and two third-gender individuals, are set to exercise their democratic right. Notably, the constituency boasts 2,727 disabled voters, including 1,227 elderly citizens aged 85 and above, and 10,888 first-time voters eager to participate in the electoral process. To facilitate smooth voting, 340 polling stations have been designated, with an increase of three stations from the previous election. The district administration, in adherence to directives from the Deputy Commissioner, is diligently refurbishing amenities at polling stations. This includes repairing toilets, ensuring adequate lighting, and providing access to drinking water, aiming to mitigate any inconvenience for voters on polling day. Moreover, stringent security arrangements are being orchestrated to uphold the sanctity of the electoral process. A dispatch center has been established at Kashi Sahu College campus to coordinate logistics effectively. Special provisions are in place to cater to the needs of differently-abled voters, such as wheelchair accessibility, provision of crutches and canes, and Braille-printed ballot papers for visually impaired voters. (w/nkm)

BJP gears up for PM Narendra Modi's public meeting in Ghatsila

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 15: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has initiated preparations to ensure the success and historical significance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming public meeting. Scheduled for May 19 (Sunday) at 9:30 am, the election rally will be held at Tamra Maidan in Mau Bhandar, Ghatsila, in support of Bidyut Baran Mahato, the BJP candidate for the Jamshedpur parliamentary constituency. An essential meeting of the Jamshedpur Lok Sabha Election Management Committee convened on Wednesday at Chamber Bhawan in Bistupur to strategize for PM Modi's



meeting and the Lok Sabha election. The meeting saw the participation of key figures including BJP's Jharkhand state in-charge Dr. Laxmikant Vajpayee, MP Bidyut Baran Mahato, former Chhattisgarh Assembly Speaker and MLA Dharamlal Kaushik, former MLA Barkunwar Gagrai, State General Secretary Manoj Singh, Jamshedpur Lok Sabha co-in-charge Muralidhar Kedia, and others. Discussions primarily revolved around delineating the roles and responsibilities of workers



and leaders in various assembly constituencies under Jamshedpur for the voting day. Dr. Laxmikant Vajpayee emphasized the significance of booth management and urged workers to be vigilant and proactive at their respective booths during the voting process. He stressed the importance of intensifying public relations campaigns in respective Mandal areas, raising awareness about the accomplishments of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bidyut Mahato while highlighting the misdeeds of the Jharkhand Government. Dr. Vajpayee emphasized Modi's profound connection with Jharkhand and urged workers to converge with full concentration to make the rally at Mau Bhandar in Ghatshila a historic and grand event. (w/nkm)

Champai Soren announces plans for Bangla Academy

Tagore and Nazrul Islam birth anniversaries celebrated

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 15: Chief Minister Champai Soren pledged to establish a Bangla Academy in the state, underscoring the government's commitment to promoting linguistic and cultural diversity. The Chief Minister also revealed plans to initiate the recruitment of teachers proficient in Bangla, Odia, and tribal languages for primary schools across the state, commencing in the upcoming month of June. Highlighting the government's focus on educational development, Chief Minister Soren emphasized the importance of these initiatives, stating that they would serve as a model for other states to emulate. Champai Soren was addressing a cultural program at the Milanee in Bistupur organized by social organization 'Banga Bandhu' to commemorate the birth anniversaries of renowned Bengali poets Rabindranath Tagore and Kaji Nazrul Islam. The event featured performances of Rabindra Sangeet and Nazrul Geet by various artists. The program was inaugurated by State Chief Minister Champai Soren



and presided by the organization's president, Aparna Guha, with Sabyasachi Chanda as the anchor. The announcement received widespread applause from attendees, reflecting the community's enthusiasm for advancing linguistic education and cultural preservation. The program, attended by Health Minister Banna Gupta, Lok Sabha candidate cum MLA Samir Mohanty, MLA Ramdas Soren, and Mangal Kalindi, marked a pivotal moment in the state's commitment to inclusive education and cultural enrichment. Distinguished guests included Chief Patron Shekhar Dey, Bikash



Mukherjee, Supriyo Bhattacharya, Tapas Mitra, and Sudipto Mukherjee. Indrajit Ghosh welcomed the guests, and Sanjeev Acharya delivered the vote of thanks. Cultural segments were led by Purobi Chatterjee and Pratap Banerjee. Highlights included performances by Priyanshi, Arushi, Sridhika, Suhani, Arshita, Maam, Anishka, and Ayushi. The newly formed committee was also expanded, and its members

'Banga Bandhu' announces officials for extended committee

'Banga Bandhu' has announced the names of officials for its extended committee, encompassing key roles across various domains and they included **Chief Patrons:** Shekhar Dey, Bikash Mukherjee, Supriyo Bhattacharya, Tapas Mitra, Sudipto Mukherjee; **Patrons:** Purobi Ghosh, Indrajit Ghosh, Soumya Sen, Debasish Naha, Raju Dutta, Sujit Roy, Mithilesh Ghosh, Tarun Dey, Samanto Kumar, Gora Da, CB Bhattacharya; **Advisors:** Shivani Ghosh, PK Banerjee, Anjali Bose, Barnali Chakraborty, Amit Bose, Krishnendu Chatterjee, Sharbani Mitra, Madhumita Banerjee, Swapan Kumar Das, Subroto Mitra, Proloy Dutta, Pankaj Vaidya; **Legal and Administration Committee:** Subhankar Chatterjee, Nantu Sarkar, Anshu Sarkar, Arijit Mandal, Rathin Das, Jayanto Dey, Gyan Ranjan Barat, Manoj Sarkar, Kaushik Dutta, Bishu Kumar, Sukumar; **Health Care and Medical Committee:** Partho Chaudhary, Sanjay Chaudhary, Partho Mukhopadhyay, Chinmay Chakraborty, Chirantan Bose; **Media Committee:** Ajay Mahato, Reema Dey, Chitrodeep Bhattacharya, Arup Majumdar, Sumit Jha, Deep Chaudhary and Partho Chakraborty. The newly extended committee was expected to strengthen the organization's efforts in cultural preservation, community employment opportunities and announced the initiation of special classes aimed at teaching Bengali to children in the community. These efforts were part of BangaBandhu's broader mission to promote cultural and linguistic heritage while supporting community development. 'Banga Bandhu' to unify Bengali speaking communities across the state. Uttam Guha,

Krishna Nishad sentenced for molesting minor student

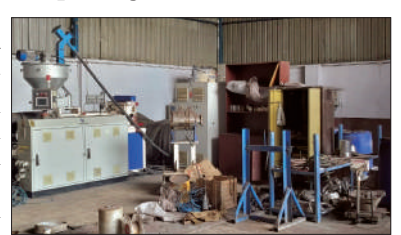
Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 15: Krishna Nishad, a resident of Sonari A Block near Kali Mandir in Jamshedpur, has been convicted by the court of Special Judge POSCO Kawaljit Chopra. The accused, who committed an indecent act with a minor student, has been sentenced to two years of rigorous imprisonment. Additionally, Krishna Nishad has been fined Rs 5,000 under Section 12 of the POSCO Act and another Rs 5,000 under Section 354 D of the IPC. Notably, the victim student was returning by tempo in 2019 when the accused stopped her in the Bistupur police station area and subjected her to obscene acts. (w/nkm)

Theft worth lakhs reported at closed company in Kandra

Mail News Service

Gamharia, May 15: A theft has been reported at Viman Industry and Patliputra Concrete Company, situated within the jurisdiction of Kandra police station in Seraikela district. Thieves, under the cover of darkness, absconded with goods valued at over Rs 15 to 20 lakhs, as per CCTV footage capturing the entire incident. Upon receiving the distressing news, the Kandra police swiftly responded, commencing an intensive investigation into the matter. The targeted company, which has remained shuttered for an extended period, faced security breaches on Tuesday night, with the perimeter breached twice, raising concerns among on-duty security personnel. It is suspected that the perpetrators capitalized on the breached security to infiltrate the premises by scaling the rear wall under the veil of darkness. The stolen loot includes nine batteries, twenty dyes, computers, wallets, among other items, prompting immediate notification to the company owner. Raj Krishna, the company supervisor, attributed the temporary closure of operations to the unavailability of workers. With production halted, the vulnerability to theft surged, estimating the loss to be around Rs 15 to 20 lakhs. As investigations unfold, authorities are actively pursuing leads to apprehend the culprits and mitigate further occurrences of such criminal activities. (w/nkm)



Kerala launches mega cleaning drive ahead of monsoon onset



Thiruvananthapuram, May 15 (IANS) A massive state-wide clean-up operation has been launched in Kerala ahead of the arrival of the southwest monsoon covering all the 19,489 wards in the state. The cleaning operation is being spearheaded by the Local Self Government Institutions (LSGIs) to prevent incidences of epidemics, especially vector-borne diseases. The Local Self Government Department (LSGD) has roped in various other departments besides ensuring the participation of the local community in carrying out the cleaning drive. As part of this process, the LSGIs conducted coordination meetings in the presence of various officials, followed by organising district-level training programmes. Of the 19,489 wards in the LSGIs, pre-monsoon sanitation committees were either formed or reconstituted in 15,987 of them. As part of the ward-level action plans, a vast stretch of over 2,224 km of water bodies and canals has already been cleaned up, while another 2,443 km will be cleaned up before the onset of monsoon. The sanitation committees have identified 327 hotspots apart from those marked as hotspots by the Health Department in the last two years. In the first phase, the LSGIs have completed pre-monsoon cleaning drives in all the culverts in their areas, besides conducting awareness classes, chlorination drives, and destruction of the mosquito breeding spots. Clearing of accumulated waste from canals, public toilets, and public spaces is going on with the coordination of the local people and others. Also, Asha workers are going from door-to-door to create awareness about the importance of sanitation activities and preventive measures.

Fake Facebook profiles of two BJP MLAs surface in Vadodara

Vadodara, May 15 (IANS) Two BJP MLAs in Vadodara have been targeted with bogus Facebook accounts, following which both have urged the public through their official accounts not to engage in any way with these fake profiles and report them. Former state minister Manisha Vakil, the BJP MLA from Wadi, and Sayajiganj legislator Keyur Rokadia have reported that their official social media accounts have been duplicated.

Cyber expert Mayur Bhusawalkar said that political leaders often connect with their constituents through social media, making it a prime target for those looking to exploit their popularity. "Creating fake profiles of leaders is easy as all their details, including photos, are readily available online. However, these fraudulent attempts are quickly recognised due to their public presence." This incident is not isolated, as similar attempts to create fake social media accounts of political leaders in Vadodara have occurred before as well.

Woman stabbed to death at busy Howrah railway station

Kolkata, May 15 (IANS) A woman was stabbed to death in broad daylight at the busy Howrah railway station on Wednesday. The woman, Rivu Biswas, was shifted to the Howrah District Hospital and on arrival there the doctors declared her brought dead. The killer, Mungesh Yadav, after stabbing Rivu Biswas also tried to attack the RPF personnel and other passengers as they attempted to snatch the knife from his hand. However, finally, he was overpowered and handed over to the police. The police took him into custody and interrogated him.

It is learnt that Yadav was known to both the deceased woman and her husband, Pintu Biswas. Both Pintu and Yadav used to work at the same office in Mumbai. District police officials said that on Wednesday afternoon, Yadav and the Biswas couple came together to Howrah station. After some time, Yadav requested Pintu Biswas to buy some medicines for him from a nearby shop. As he left to get the medicines, Yadav suddenly took out a knife from his bag and stabbed Rivu Biswas severely in her abdomen.

Manish Sisodia's judicial custody extended till May 30 in excise policy case

New Delhi, May 15 (IANS) A Delhi court on Wednesday extended till May 30 the judicial custody of AAP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia in the liquor policy case.

Special Judge Kaveri Baweja of the Rouse Avenue Court passed the orders upon the expiry of the previously granted judicial custody. On Tuesday, a bench of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma of the Delhi High Court reserved its verdict on the bail plea filed by Sisodia, who remains behind bars on corruption and money laundering charges. During the hearing, ED counsel advocate Zohab Hossain submitted before the high court that the probe agency will soon file a supplementary charge sheet in the excise policy case arraying the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) as an accused. In its probe, the probe agency found that the proceeds of crime to the tune of Rs 45 crore, which was part of the 'bribes' received from the 'South Group', were used by the AAP for campaigning in the 2021-22 Assembly elections in Goa. Earlier, the trial court had refused to grant bail to the former deputy CM. Sisodia's bail application has been pending since February.

Farmers in TN's Madurai seek compensation for paddy crop destroyed in rain

Chennai, May 15 (IANS) Paddy farmers in Tamil Nadu's Madurai district have demanded compensation after 600 acres of crop were destroyed in an unexpected summer rain and also threatened to hold protests in case their demand is not fulfilled. While 600 acres of paddy crops were lost in the Chellampatti region of Madurai, several farmers of Melur and Usilampatti regions in the district, who were involved in the summer paddy cultivation, also lost heavily in the rain. Paddy, one of the major crops cultivated in Madurai, covers over 50,000 hectares of cultivable land in the district across multiple seasons, including the Samba, Kuruvai and Summer paddy cultivation. K.M. Mutharasan, a farmer leader while speaking to IANS said, "Myself and my two brothers have cultivated in around 9.35 acres of paddy farming. We spent around Rs 35,000 per acre and have lost around Rs 3.25 lakh due to this." He added that the harvesting of crops was only 20 days away when heavy rain destroyed the crops.

R. Ramesan, a farmer in Chellampatti told IANS that the state agricultural department should enumerate the crop damage and provide compensation. Madurai district paddy farmers welfare association leader, Kumaresan Thevar while speaking to IANS said, "The paddy farmers of Madurai have suffered huge losses.

Two prison officials held in Tripura after militant serving life term escapes

Agartala, May 15 (IANS) Two prison officials in Tripura's central jail were arrested on Wednesday for their alleged role in the escape of a militant belonging to the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) serving life sentence from the prison located in Sepahijala district on Tuesday.

The police said that warden Tapan Rupini and guard commander Mafiz Mia were arrested on suspicion of helping the NLFT militant -- Swarna Kumar Tripura -- flee from the jail on Tuesday.

An officer said that an intensive search operation has been launched to nab Swarna Kumar. The Border Security Force (BSF) has also been put on high alert to prevent the convict from crossing over to



neighbouring Bangladesh.

The police earlier said the inmate was found missing during routine checking on Tuesday morning.

Based in Bangladesh, the NLFT cadre was sentenced to life imprisonment after he was found guilty in multiple cases, including for murder and kidnapping.

Swarna Kumar had escaped twice before -- from the central jail in 2016 and from the Kanchanpur sub-jail in 2022. He was re-arrested in 2023 and since then he was lodged at the central jail.

There are around 650 inmates in the central jail located around 30 km from here.

No fee hike in private schools for three years: Rajasthan education dept issues new guidelines

Jaipur, May 15 (IANS) Private schools in Rajasthan can't increase fee for three academic years, say new guidelines issued by the state's education department.

The Rajasthan education department has also allowed parents to buy uniforms and books from the market apart from the school.

"A committee of parents-teachers should be formed to finalise fee structure in private schools. This committee will fix the fee amount. The name, address, mobile number of all the members of this fee committee will have to be updated on the private school's portal," say the guidelines.

The 10-point guidelines further say that it "would be illegal to charge more than the fee approved by the



committee. Action may be taken against such schools under the Fees Act and the extra fees collected from parents may have to be returned." The education department has stressed that there should be 100 per cent compliance with its norms for the sale of study materials and uniforms and also with the rules made for specially-abled and female students. The education department has also asked private schools to organise parent-teacher meetings

where student and school management related problems should be discussed. It will be mandatory to provide this information to the District Education Officer and paste the guidelines on school notice boards and upload them on their websites. Along with prompt hearing of complaints of mental and physical harassment of students, action should be taken against the culprits as soon as possible.

Spurned lover stabs woman to death in Hubballi house, BJP says police inaction resulted in tragedy

Bengaluru, May 15 (IANS) In a shocking incident, a spurned lover barged into a girl's house and stabbed her to death in the early hours of Wednesday in Karnataka's Hubballi city.

BJP MLA for Hubballi-Dharwad Central seat Mahesh Tenginakai said that police inaction resulted in the gruesome murder.

The accused Vishwa aka Girish, had previously threatened Anjali Ambigera, warning her that she would meet the same fate as Neha Hiremath, who was brutally stabbed to death on a college campus recently in Hubballi.

According to the police, 24-year-old Vishwa entered 20-year-old Anjali Ambigera's residence at 5.30 A.M. and stabbed the sleeping woman multiple times before she could react.

Vishwa dragged Anjali Ambigera all over the house, kicking and stabbing her. Later he pushed her into the kitchen where he stabbed her repeatedly.

Despite efforts by Anjali Ambigera's grandmother and two sisters to stop the attacker, the man killed the woman and managed to flee.

The incident occurred in the Veerapura Oni area within the jurisdiction of the Bendigeri



Police Station. Vishwa had been blackmailing Anjali and pressuring her to accompany him to Mysuru without informing her parents. A preliminary investigation by the police revealed that the accused has a criminal record and had been involved in various cases of theft, including bike-lifting. Anjali's grandmother Gangamma had

previously approached the police, informing them about the threats from the accused. However, the police did not take the complaint seriously and advised her not to be overly concerned. After the incident, police have launched a hunt for the accused. Mahesh Tenginakai slammed the police inaction and said, "The matter was brought to the notice of the police by the victim's grandmother. If they had taken it seriously and acted, this murder wouldn't have taken place. The Bendigeri police should have called the accused for questioning and warned him. Instead, they asked her not to worry. This

murder has taken place due to their negligence." Mahesh Tenginakai added that law and order in the state had gone for a toss and the government and the police department had not woken up even after Neha Hiremath's murder. "The state government is responsible for this. If given a free hand the police will carry out their work. The accused has not been arrested till now. The stand of the BJP will remain same in this case as it was in the Neha Hiremath case. There is no safety of women in Hubballi and Dharwad. The concerned police officer is as guilty as the accused in this murder," he slammed.

Madras HC stays panchayat's eviction order against trust occupying government land in Cuddalore

Chennai, May 15 (IANS) The Madras High Court on Wednesday stayed an eviction order passed by the South Seppalanatham village panchayat in Tamil Nadu's Cuddalore, directing the Suddha Sanmarga Nilayam trust in Vadalur to vacate 1.56 acres of land, declared as a wasteland in government records. A division bench of Justices P.T. Asha and N. Senthilkumar granted the interim stay.

A civil suit filed by the trust claiming title over the property was pending before a court in Neyveli.

In an affidavit filed on behalf of the trust, its secretary R. Selvaraj, 80, said, the trust was founded 73 years ago to propagate the philosophical ideas and teachings of Saint Ramalinga Adigalar alias Vallalar, through the establishment of educational and charitable institutions.

Counsel for the petitioner said that then (Madras Residency) Chief Minister



Omandur Ramaswamy Reddiar was the founding trustee of the trust, which runs orphanages, and free boarding schools for the poor, and conducts educational programmes for the downtrodden and the needy.

The Trust's Secretary said that the 1.56 acres, falling under Survey

number 130/2A3 in Seerankuppam village, were under the trust's possession all along, but the survey number did not find a mention in the transfer of property documents, and this inadvertent mistake was overlooked by everyone, including the trust. He alleged that in 2023,

the President of South Seppalanatham village panchayat developed a grudge against the trust because many of his demands were turned down, and began creating trouble over the 1.56 acres, claiming that they continue to be listed as government lands.

The trust immediately made an application to the Virudhachalam Taluk Tehsildar to make necessary amendments and declare the trust as the owner of the property in the revenue records.

The Tehsildar, according to the secretary, conducted an inquiry on the issue by hearing both sides but is yet to take a decision.

In the meantime, the President of South Seppalanatham village panchayat had passed an eviction order on May 6, asking the trust to remove all the encroachments from the 1.56 acres of government waste land and therefore, the trust had filed the present writ petition.

Kerala Police issues look-out notice against new bridegroom accused of domestic violence

Kochi, May 15 (IANS) A day after a recently-married woman's harrowing tale of physical abuse at the hands of her husband over dowry and blame at the police for not acting on time on her complaint was flashed on TV channels, Kerala Police on Wednesday issued a look-out notice for the bridegroom.

The woman and Rahul, 29, an aeronautical engineer hailing from Kozhikode and working in Germany, got married on May 5, but she alleged that she faced a terrifying time at his hands at his house on the night of May 11. When her family came to her in-laws on May 12, her travails surfaced and after persuasion, she told her mother how she was beaten and strangled with a mobile charger by Rahul.

With the media taking up this in a big way from Tuesday and after the victim complained to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and the State Women's Commission, a new police investigation team was formed and the look-out notice was issued.

Meanwhile, Rahul's mother denied that they demanded more dowry and said she was not aware of where Rahul was as he left the home on Tuesday evening and had not returned.

On the other hand, the father of the victim has alleged that there are reports that Rahul had, in the past, cheated other girls in the name of marriage promising them that they will be taken to Germany. "The police have to probe this aspect and also if he was in the habit of taking drugs," he said.

However, it is suspected that Rahul, fearing arrest, flew out of the country on Tuesday midnight.



Post-poll violence: Andhra Chief Secy meets DGP after EC summons

Amaravati, May 15 (IANS) Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary Jawahar Reddy met Director General of Police Harish Kumar Gupta on Wednesday after the Election Commission of India reportedly summoned them to personally explain reasons for the failure to contain violence during and after polling.

The Chief Secretary and DGP also held a meeting with Additional Director General of Police, Intelligence, Kumar Vishwajeet.

Both the Chief Secretary and DGP will be leaving for Delhi on Thursday as the Election Commission has summoned them to give a personal explanation for the administration's inability to prevent violence.

The poll panel has taken serious note of the incidents

of violence, especially the post-poll violence in various parts of the state. Violence was reported from many areas during the polling on Monday for simultaneous elections to the Assembly and Lok Sabha.

Several incidents of post-poll violence occurred during the last two days.

The Election Commission is reportedly unhappy over the top officials failing to take adequate measures to prevent the violence despite intelligence reports about the apprehension of violence.

Its action came after special observer Rammohan Mishra personally visited the violence-hit Palnadu district and submitted his report.

The ECI also ordered the



DGP to arrest all those involved in the violence without delay. Following the orders, political leaders and contesting candidates concerned in violence-hit areas were placed under

house arrest. After clashes at some places on polling day, the state witnessed more violence on Tuesday. Karempudi in Palnadu, Tirupati, and Tadipatri in

Anantapur district saw incidents of violence.

TDP candidate from Chandragiri constituency Puliverti Venkata Mani Prasad (Nani) was attacked by a mob near the Padmavati Mahila University in Tirupati when he was returning after a visit to the strong room, where EVMs were stored. Nani's gunman fired a round in the air to disperse the mob and protect the TDP leader and others seated in the car.

A TDP office was attacked and a car and several bikes belonging to TDP workers were set on fire at Karempudi. The miscreants also attacked a police official, when he tried to stop them.

The TDP has blamed the YSRCP MLA from Macherla constituency, Pinneli Rama Krishna

Reddy for the violence.

Meanwhile, Chief Electoral Officer Mukesh Kumar Meena said that the ECI has taken serious note of the incidents that happened in Macherla, Tadipatri, Chilakaluripeta and Chandragiri Assembly constituencies after the polling.

The poll panel has given directions to file cases and arrest all those who damaged EVMs during polling. It also ordered action on the police officials and other election staff who deliberately indulged in dereliction of duty.

The CEO said severe action is also being initiated against those who were behind the violence. The arrests started on Tuesday night and are likely to continue over the next couple of days.

Rotary Club of KCC distributes food among needy

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 15: The Rotary Club of Karim City College, Sakchi, Jamshedpur, extended a helping hand to the needy today by distributing packets of roti and vegetables to approximately forty to fifty individuals. The distribution took place at Sakchi Parking Road under the guidance of Club President Mohd Shahid and Secretary Ayush Pathak.



While the club traditionally organizes large-scale bread distribution events once a year, known as Roti Day, they also engage in monthly distributions on the 14th of each month through collaborative efforts. The distribution team included President Mohammad Shahid, Secretary Ayush Pathak, Vishal, Nishan, Atiqa Mahfouz, Zoya Tabassum, Ishaan, Samaya Jha, Anjum, and several other Rotary Club members. Dr. Udham Singh, Officer of

Karim City College Rotary Club, and Dr. Mohammad Reyaz, Principal of the college, extended their congratulations to the club members on this occasion. Dr. Reyaz expressed appreciation for the club's commitment to serving the community, emphasizing the importance of such acts of kindness in today's society. He highlighted the Rotary Club's message of humanity and urged continued support & encouragement for their noble endeavors. (w/nkm)

Widespread interest during voter awareness endeavor

Jamshedpur, May 15: Pappu Sardar celebrated the 57th birthday of Bollywood Diva Madhuri Dixit with a unique voter awareness campaign at Manohar Chaat Shop on Sakchi Handi Line. The two-day celebration, held on Tuesday and Wednesday, included sharing the cine star's birthday joy with physically and mentally challenged residents at Cheshire Home in Karandih by providing meals and gifts. Free Chaat and refreshments were distributed among huge crowds of visitors who poured in at Manohar Chaat to partake of the hospitality offered by Madhuri Dixit's dedicated fan, Pappu Sardar.

The shop was adorned with attractive clay idols, banners, and posters promoting voting awareness, along with a selfie facility to promote the importance of casting vote and this point became a favourite for young girls and women. This initiative will continue till the Lok Sabha elections on May 25. More than 5,000 people participated in the two-day Madhuri Dixit birthday celebration. Local dignitaries praised Pappu Sardar's efforts, highlighting the broader impact of community-led social service and awareness initiatives. Pappu, known for his 28-year tradition of celebrating Madhuri Dixit's birthday, has effectively become a self-proclaimed brand ambassador for voter awareness, showcasing the power of individual contributions to societal causes. (w/gsd)



AJSU Party plans padyatra campaign in support of NDA candidate

Ranchi, May 15: Today, on May 14, 2024, Tuesday, an important meeting was convened at the Central Office situated on Harmu Road to delineate the program outline of the AJSU Party Ranchi Mahanagar in support of the NDA candidate for the Ranchi Lok Sabha seat, Shri Sanjay Seth ji. The meeting was presided over by Union Secretary cum Ranchi Mahanagar In-charge, Jitendra Singh. Addressing the gathering, Singh announced that the AJSU Party would spearhead a comprehensive public relations campaign through padyatras across various areas and wards of Ranchi Mahanagar. The primary objective of this campaign would be to encourage the public to vote in favor of the NDA candidate, Shri Sanjay Seth ji. Singh emphasized the importance of this appeal to garner support for the NDA candidate in the upcoming elections. (w/nkm)

It is time to liberate Jharkhand from corruption: Dharamlal Kaushik

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 15: Former Chhattisgarh Assembly Speaker, Dharamlal Kaushik, convened an action plan meeting for the election campaign in the Jamshedpur Lok Sabha constituency of Jharkhand. Leaders and workers from the BJP in Chhattisgarh have taken charge of the election campaign in Jharkhand.

An introductory meeting was held at a hotel in Jamshedpur, where an action plan for the election campaign was formulated in the presence of Dharamlal Kaushik.



Kaushik urged BJP officials and workers to tirelessly work towards ensuring the victory of BJP candidate Bidyut Baran Mahato in the Jamshedpur Lok Sabha constituency. He

emphasized that this election is crucial for freeing Jharkhand from the corruption and nepotism perpetuated by the Congress and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha. Kaushik

highlighted the unfortunate situation where a state's Chief Minister is embroiled in a corruption case. The meeting was attended by BJP State Vice President Bhubendra

Savani, Jamshedpur Lok Sabha co-in-charge Muralidhar Kedia, Lok Sabha convenor co-state minister Nandji Prasad, Jamshedpur Mahanagar President Sudhanshu Ojha, and other prominent leaders.

Responsibilities were assigned to Chhattisgarh's migrant workers for various constituencies during the meeting, including Bhubendra Savni, Rajneesh Singh, Vikas Mahato, Santosh Dewangan, Krishna Kumar Bandhi, Pawan Garg, Harpal Singh, Rajkumar Aggarwal, Saurabh Singh, Amar Sultania, and Hitesh Yadav. (w/nkm)

Pledge taken to provide water for animals and birds



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 15: As part of the Jeev Daya Animal Welfare Programme, clay Shikoras were distributed by the Marwari Yuva Manch Chandil Nagar branch, with a significant turnout of women participants. These women pledged to keep Shikoras filled with water on the rooftops of their homes. Sanjay Choudhary, President of Yuva Manch, highlighted the ongoing national initiatives of All India Marwari Yuva Manch focused

on animal welfare, including cow service, water provision for birds, and feeding programs.

He urged everyone to keep water accessible outside their homes and on their rooftops to alleviate the heat stress on animals and birds during the summer. The event saw the presence of Nikita Jalan, Bikash Rungta, Gaurav Bagadiya, Durga Chaudhary, Rohit Chaudhary, Ashwini Sharma, Mithilesh Mahato, Rekha Mahato, Lal Babu, and others who actively participated in the initiative. (w/nkm)

Anger brews in Baharagora village over unplanned drain construction

Baharagora, May 15: Residents of Patpur village, under Patpur Panchayat in Baharagora block, are expressing discontent over the ongoing construction of an RCC-approved drain. Despite the necessity of the drain, frustration mounts as no information board regarding the project has been installed at the site. The absence of essential details, such as the date of foundation stone laying, further exacerbates the villagers' lack of clarity regarding the scheme. While acknowledging the importance of the drain's construction, locals stress the need for quality workmanship. They emphasize that the installation of a planning board would provide crucial information about the project. The villagers' dissatisfaction stems from what they perceive as arbitrariness and negligence on the part of the authorities. Despite attempts to reach out to the responsible authority, no response has been received, exacerbating the villagers' frustration. Efforts to improve communication and transparency regarding such projects are imperative to address the concerns of the residents and ensure the successful execution of essential infrastructure initiatives. (w/nkm)

Rahul Sharma welcomed in Chandil during Khatudham Yatra on foot

Mail News Service

Chandil, May 15: Rahul Sharma, a devout follower of Lord Shyam, was warmly welcomed upon reaching Chandil during his pilgrimage from Jamshedpur to Khatudham on foot. Members of Shyam Kala Bhavan Chandil, led by President Sanjay Choudhary, greeted him with musical instruments, garlands, scarves, and the symbol of the temple. Upon his arrival at the temple, Rahul Sharma was honored with traditional rituals and offerings. He then performed worship at the Shyam



Mandir and engaged in Sankirtan of Baba Shyam along with the members of Kala Bhavan, illuminating the atmosphere with spiritual fervor.

Jalan, Monty Chaudhary, Subhash Sharma, Gaurav Bagadiya, Bikram Jalan, Bikash Rungta, and others. (w/nkm)

Rahul Sharma embarked on his journey to Khatudham from Jamshedpur on May 12th, determined to complete the pilgrimage on foot. The event witnessed the presence and support of individuals like Durga Chaudhary, Shrawan Jalan, Alok Bagdiya, Ashwini Sharma, Pawan Garg, Gaurav Bagadiya, Bikram Jalan, Bikash Rungta, and others. (w/nkm)

Seminar cum award ceremony promotes voter awareness at A.B.M. College

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 15: A.B.M. College recently orchestrated a vibrant 'Sangoshthi sah Medhawita Samman Samaroh' on its premises, in collaboration with the SVEEP Cell and Election Literacy Club, with the aim of fostering 100 percent voter participation ahead of the imminent Lok Sabha elections.

The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp and Saraswati Vandana. Under the theme 'Vishwa Itihas ke Aaine mein Matadhikar,' Captain Dr. Vijay Kumar 'Piush', the esteemed Principal of the college and chief guest, delivered an insightful discourse on the global



historical significance of suffrage, highlighting its pivotal role in empowering the masses. Amresh Kumar, Professor of the History Department and keynote speaker, addressed the audience, elucidating the constitutional intricacies of voting rights and

instilling a sense of civic duty among students approaching the age of 18. A noteworthy aspect of the ceremony was the felicitation of intermediate toppers and winners of various competitions held as part of the voter awareness campaign. Medals and certificates

were presented to commend their exceptional accomplishments. In conclusion, the Principal led a solemn voter pledge, stressing the significance of active engagement in the electoral process. Dr. B. N. Ojha, senior teacher and intermediate coordinator,

expressed gratitude to all participants during his vote of thanks.

The ceremony witnessed the presence of senior teachers including Dr. J P Narayan, Dr. D Dwivedi, and Dr. B P Maharatha, alongside the enthusiastic participation of permanent and temporary faculty members, non-teaching staff, and a multitude of Degree and Intermediate students. Among the recipients of awards, Vaibhav Raj Malik secured the top position in Commerce, followed by Arjun Singh and Aman Khan, while Roshni Kumari Mukhi, Dheeraj Kumar, and Muskan Kumari emerged as the distinguished achievers in the Intermediate Arts Faculty. (w/nkm)

IRCS to distribute nutritious food packets to TB patients on May 16

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 15: The East Singhbhum Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) will be distributing next month's quota of nutritious food packets to TB patients in the district on 16th May 2024 at Red Cross Bhawan, Sakchi, Jamshedpur. Bijay Kumar Singh, Honorary Secretary of IRCS, East Singhbhum Branch, announced the monthly distribution of food packets and multivitamin tablets to TB patients as part of the PM TB Free India Campaign. He urged all TB patients to mark the date and time and to reach Red Cross Bhawan on 16th May at 3:30 pm. This initiative, launched by Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to eradicate TB in the country. The task of distributing nutritional food and vitamin tablets has been entrusted to the National Headquarters of the Indian Red Cross Society, which further delegated the responsibility to all state branches. The Honorable Governor of Jharkhand, also the President of the Jharkhand Chapter of Indian Red Cross Society, has selected the East Singhbhum Chapter of IRCS to undertake this noble task in the district of East Singhbhum. The Indian Red Cross Society, East Singhbhum Branch, takes pride in having distributed 21 months' worth of nutritious food packets and vitamin tablets to TB patients in the district, contributing to the fight against tuberculosis. (w/nkm)

Mamata Banerjee wants 'weak gov't' at Centre to 'pamper' infiltrators: J P Nadda

Kolkata, May 15 (IANS) BJP President J.P. Nadda on Wednesday said that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her 'friends' in the opposition INDIA bloc want a "weak government" at the Centre to "pamper" infiltrators.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are running a 'strong government' but Mamata Banerjee and her allies always want a 'weak government'. She is compromising with the illegal infiltrators. She is going soft on terrorists. She is giving shelter and protection to those who give shelter to terrorists.

Seminar on MRP Clarity and Transparency



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 15: The Purvi Singhbhum Mahila Aayam of Akhil Bharatiya Grahak Panchayat (All India Customer Panchayat) organized a seminar at Kadma Anil Sur Path that focused on the clarity and transparency in determining Maximum Retail Price (MRP). The event commenced with a traditional ceremony of offering flowers and lighting lamps before images of Swami Vivekananda and Ma Bharati. Dr. Kalyani Kabir read the organization's

charter, and Sarita Singh, Head of Purvi Singhbhum Mahila Aayam, welcomed participants and introduced the topic.

Dr. Anita emphasized the importance of understanding MRP to prevent overcharging by shopkeepers, who often exploited customers' ignorance. Angel Upadhyay elaborated on how MRP was set and the necessity of consumer awareness. She also discussed legal actions that could be taken when products lacked an MRP tag. Dr. Rajni Ranjan explained manufacturers' role in determining MRPs,

while Aarti Srivastava Vipula highlighted the significance of this knowledge for women, who primarily handled household shopping.

Upasana Singh simplified the distinction between cost price and MRP, pointing out the lack of a specific policy regulating MRP determination, which often lead to significant profiteering at the expense of consumers.

The event also honored domestic help Aarti for her heroic efforts in preventing the murder of a newborn girl and her ongoing role in raising the child. Ruby Lal, Head of Jharkhand Rajya Mahila Aayam, conducted the program, concluding with the Shanti Mantra led by Aarti Srivastava Vipula. Those present included members Aarti, Gupta Paritosh, Meera Reena, Neetu Singh, Savita Singh, and Kusum Singh. (w/gsd)

DAV Gua students shine in CBSE Board Exams



Mail News Service

Gua, May 15: In a remarkable display of academic excellence, students of DAV Public School Gua have once again secured outstanding results in the Class 10th and 12th Science Faculty CBSE Board Examinations. The achievements of these bright minds not only reflect their dedication but also underscore the relentless efforts of the school's faculty and administration. In the Class 10th examinations, Sumit Kumar emerged as the top scorer with an impressive 94 percent, followed closely by Apoorva securing

second position with 91 percent, and Priyanshu Shekhar Behera clinching third position with 90 percent.

A total of 86 students showcased exemplary performance, bringing pride not only to their school but also to the entire Gua district. Similarly, in the Class 12th Science Faculty exams, Prithish Panigrahi claimed the top spot with a stellar 93 percent, trailed by Rishita Samanta at second place with 87.4 percent, and Disha Kumari securing third position with 80.8 percent. These achievements reaffirm the commitment of DAV Gua towards nurturing academic

excellence among its students. Principal Usha Rai, credited the remarkable success to the combined efforts of the students, dedicated teachers, and supportive parents.

She expressed her gratitude towards the guidance provided by Jamshedpur Division Jharkhand A Zone Regional Officer OP Mishra, SAIL Gua Chief General Manager Kamal Bhaskar, and Personnel Department Deputy General Manager Narendra Ku Jha. Highlighting the unique challenges faced by a school located in the dense forest area of Saranda, Principal Usha Rai commended the

teachers for their tireless efforts in providing free coaching classes in the mornings and afternoons, thus enabling students to realize their full potential. Moreover, Principal Usha Rai emphasized the pivotal role of education in societal progress and urged for continuous efforts in providing quality education to children.

She expressed confidence in the school's ability to achieve even greater heights of success in the future, thanks to the unwavering support from SAIL GUA officials and the collective determination of the entire school community. (w/nkm)

Gayatri Parivar installs Vichar Kranti Lal Mashal pictures in Seraikela homes



Mail News Service

Seraikela, May 15: In accordance with directives from the All World Gayatri Parivar Shantikunj Haridwar, a significant initiative was undertaken by the Gayatri Parivar Trust Seraikela Block 1, wherein pictures of Vichar Kranti Lal Mashal were installed in homes across the region on Wednesday. Devotees fervently participated in this endeavor, adorning nearly every household from Hatiya Basti to Gayatri Hotel with the symbolic image. Amidst the chanting of the Gayatri Mantra "Om Bhurbhuvah Swah Tatsaviturvarenyam Bhargo Devasya Dhimahi Dhiyo Yo Nah Prachodayat," enthusiasts of Gayatri Mata Param Pujya Gurudev Vandaniya Mata congregated to elevate the ambiance with positive energy and Satvik ideology. The event, part of a broader program initiated since Parshuram Jayanti, aimed at infusing homes and lives with values and spiritual ethos through the depiction of Vichar Kranti Lal Mashal and the recitation of the Gayatri Mantra. Arun Kumar, the Block Coordinator of Gayatri Parivar Trust Seraikela Block 1, spearheaded the efforts in Seraikela, ensuring its successful execution. Noteworthy figures such as Shambhu Agarwal, Rajesh Sahu, former vice president of Seraikela Nagar Panchayat Manoj Kumar Chaudhary, Trilochan Mahato, Keshav Mahato, Arun Kumar Sahu, Poonam Devi, Pinky Devi, Manju Devi, and Rakhi Sahu, along with numerous members of Gayatri Parivar Trust Seraikela, actively participated in the event, marking a collective stride towards spiritual enrichment and communal harmony. (w/nkm)

Coral Bhamra, Syed Suhaib Munawwar sing to Yuvraj Anubhav's compositions



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 15: Jamshedpur has provided Bollywood with singers, actors and others in various segments of tinsel town productions. Yuvraj Anubhav is emerging rapidly as a music director and the amount of work he has on hand in Hindi and Bhojpuri films shows he is traversing towards the brighter horizon even while staying in the city. Recently Coral Bhamra, who came to Jamshedpur from Mumbai, recorded a new song at Arihant Studio in Jamshedpur, which is going to be released very soon. The tune of this song has been composed by music composer Yuvraj Anubhav. It may be mentioned here that Coral Bhamra and Syed SuhaibMunawwar are also residents of Jamshedpur. Coral Bhamra and Syed SuhaibMunawwar are residents of Golmuri. After completing her studies, Coral Bhamra went to Mumbai to pursue her future in the film domain. She got a chance to work in a Bollywood film. Currently she has many web series coming up whose shooting is on. Yuvraj Anubhav stated that there were many Bollywood projects on which he was working. He said that earlier he had composed the tunes for the songs of Bhojpuri's top actress and singer Akshara Singh and singer Shiv Kumar Biku. He told that along with Bollywood, he was getting constant work from the Bhojpuri film industry. He informed that he was happy that he was doing a Bollywood project while staying in the city. They say that there is no dearth of good artists in the city, they need good opportunities. (w/gsd)

Arka Jain University partners with AMVersity for new allied healthcare programs

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 15: In a significant development for the healthcare education sector, Arka Jain University has forged a strategic partnership with Bengaluru's esteemed institution, AMVersity. Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the university is set to introduce three pioneering undergraduate programs tailored for students who have completed their science stream in high school. The newly launched programs include Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Medical Laboratory Technology, Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Anesthesia and Operation Theater Technology, and Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Emergency Medical Technology. These four-year programs aim to address the growing demand for skilled



professionals in the allied healthcare sector, heralding a new era of opportunity for aspiring healthcare professionals. Acknowledging the pivotal role of allied healthcare in the industry, Arka Jain University aims to equip students with the requisite knowledge and expertise through a meticulously crafted curriculum. Developed in collaboration with industry experts, the programs emphasize

practical learning experiences to bridge the gap between theory and practice effectively. Students enrolled in these programs will benefit from regular sessions conducted by the university to reinforce their understanding and application of theoretical concepts. Moreover, they will receive a stipend during their internships, ensuring financial support as they gain hands-on experience in real-world



healthcare settings. A key highlight of the programs is the fourth-year internship, wherein students will spend one year gaining practical exposure in hospitals. This immersive experience complements the three years of rigorous theoretical study, fostering well-rounded professionals poised for success in the dynamic healthcare landscape. Arka Jain University's collaboration with AMVersity

underscores its commitment to offering industry-aligned courses that meet the evolving needs of the healthcare sector. By integrating cutting-edge technology and interactive learning methodologies, the university aims to provide students with a holistic and immersive educational experience, setting them on a path towards fulfilling careers in allied healthcare. Furthermore, the university has implemented flexible fee payment options to facilitate students in managing their financial obligations conveniently. This initiative reflects Arka Jain University's dedication to promoting accessibility and inclusivity in education, ensuring that aspiring healthcare professionals can pursue their academic aspirations without undue financial burden. (w/nkm)



Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader Kalpana Soren seeks blessings from Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren during an election campaign rally in Bengabad, Gandey, in Giridih District on Wednesday, May 15, 2024. Former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar and Rastriya Janata Dal (RJD) Leader Tejasvi Yadav was also present on the occasion.

KCC Zoology Department hosts science exhibition

Jamshedpur, May 15: The Zoology Department of Karim City College, located in Sakchi, Jamshedpur, showcased the ingenuity and creativity of its students through a captivating science exhibition held on the college premises today. Numerous students from the department exhibited science-based models they had meticulously prepared, providing intricate details about their projects. The exhibition, which took the form of a competition, was adjudicated by Dr. Anwar Shahab, Chairman of Political Science and in-charge of the Faculty of Arts. After careful evaluation, the first prize was awarded to the teams led by Ashrafi Noor, while the second prize went to Mafia Rashid, and the third prize was clinched by Aafia Parveen. Dr. S.S. Razi, Vice Chancellor of Arka Jain University, graced the event as the chief guest and inaugurated the exhibition,

commending the students for their remarkable talents. Dr. Razi emphasized the pivotal role of science in advancing human life, expressing his admiration for the innovative projects on display. Dr. Mohammad Reyaz, the Principal of Karim City College, echoed Dr. Razi's sentiments, lauding the participating students and underscoring the significance of the exhibition in promoting the practical applications of science in everyday life. The event attracted a considerable audience, including several college professors such as Dr. PC Banerjee, Dr. Aftab Alam Khan, Dr. Asghar Khan, and Dr. Moiz Ashraf, alongside a multitude of students, who visited the exhibition and applauded the students' endeavors. Dr. BN Tripathi, Controller of Examinations, and Dr. Tufail Ahmed were among the distinguished guests

present at the exhibition, further enriching the event with their esteemed presence. Under the guidance of Head of the Department, Dr. Shashi Prabha, and the supervision of Prof. Nuzhat Jahan and Sania Tahrim, the exhibition unfolded seamlessly, garnering admiration for its commendable organization and the exceptional projects showcased. (w/nkm)



Homeopathic health check-up camp conducted

Seraikela, May 15: Under the patronage of the District AYUSH Medical Department, a proactive health check-up camp was recently held at the New Primary School in Gutsai. Led by esteemed doctors from the District AYUSH Medical Center, the camp offered complimentary health assessments to both school children and residents of the Gutsai colony. Embracing the principles of homeopathic medicine, individuals were provided with free medications tailored to their specific health needs. With the prevailing scorching heat and fluctuating weather patterns, attendees were



earnestly advised to prioritize their health and adopt preventive measures against common ailments. The event witnessed the gracious presence of Sanatan Sardar, the head teacher of the school, alongside other distinguished guests and community members. (w/nkm)

जिला दण्डाधिकारी एवं उपायुक्त का न्यायालय, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर (विधि शाखा)

सी०स०ए० केस संख्या-32/2023-24 (तड़ीपार) राज्य-बनाम-अविनाश उपाध्याय (नोटिस)

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि उपरोक्त मामला में अपराधकर्मी अविनाश उपाध्याय, पिता-कमलेश उपाध्याय, पता-भाटिया बस्ती, मगध पथ, मकान नं०-08, थाना-कदमा, जिला-पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर के विरुद्ध बरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर द्वारा झारखण्ड अपराध अधिनियम की (अंगीकृत) धारा-3(3)(a)के तहत प्रस्ताव समर्पित किया गया है। तदनुसार उपायुक्त, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर के न्यायालय में सुनवाई हेतु दिनांक 21.05.2024 को 12:30 बजे अपराहन में तिथि निर्धारित किया गया है। निर्धारित तिथि में स्वयं या अधिवक्ता के माध्यम से उपस्थित होकर अपना पक्ष रखना अनिवार्य है।
ह०/-
प्रमारी पदाधिकारी,
विधि शाखा,
पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर
PR 324819 District(24-25).D

पुलिस उपाधीक्षक यातायात का कार्यालय, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर

यातायात आदेश
विदित हो कि जमशेदपुर नगर क्षेत्र में भारी व्यावसायिक वाहनों का दिन के समय 13:00 अपराहन बजे से 14:30 बजे अपराहन तक प्रवेश करने की अनुमति तथा ऐसे वाहनों का नगर क्षेत्र से निकासी की समयवधि दिन के 15:30 बजे अपराहन से 17:30 अपराहन बजे तक निर्धारित थी। जमशेदपुर एक औद्योगिक नगर क्षेत्र है, टाटा स्टील कम्पनी के द्वारा एक आवेदन प्राप्त हुआ कि जिसमें उल्लेख किया गया है कि नो इंट्री के समय का बदलवा किया जाए साथ ही सभी विद्यालयों के गर्मी छुट्टी हो जाने के कारण नो इंट्री में परिवर्तन करने हेतु आग्रह किया गया है। इन सभी बातों को ध्यान में रखते हुए कि यह शहर एक औद्योगिक क्षेत्र है जिसमें व्यावसायिक वाहनों का नगर क्षेत्र में प्रवेश एवं निकासी हेतु अगले आदेश तक समय निम्न रूप से निर्धारित की जाती है यह आदेश दिनांक- 16.05.2024 से लागू माना जायेगा।
1. जमशेदपुर नगर क्षेत्र में भारी वाहनों का दिन में प्रवेश-11:00 पूर्वाहन बजे से 13:00 बजे अपराहन
2. जमशेदपुर नगर क्षेत्र में भारी वाहनों का दिन में निकासी-14:30 बजे अपराहन से 17:00 अपराहन
3. जमशेदपुर नगर क्षेत्र में रात्रि में भारी वाहन परिचालन का समय-11:00 रात्रि बजे से 06.00 पूर्वाहन बजे तक
पुलिस उपाधीक्षक यातायात, वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक, उपायुक्त, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर। पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर।
PR 324833 Police(24-25)#D

Tata Steel inaugurates New Tata Main Hospital in West Bokaro



Mail News Service

Ramgarh, May 15: Tata Steel inaugurated a new Tata Main Hospital (TMH) in West Bokaro in the Ramgarh district of Jharkhand. This state-of-the-art healthcare facility aim to revolutionise medical services in the region. This is in lieu of the existing Tata Central Hospital at West Bokaro which is rebranded and relocated with augmented state-of-the-art healthcare. The inauguration was done by T V Narendran, CEO & Managing Director, Tata Steel, said that the addition of the new state-of-the-art Tata Main Hospital in West Bokaro will further augment healthcare services in the region for our employees, their families, and the community. The facilities

are well-equipped with specialised treatment units, such as an ICU, a High Dependency Unit, isolation rooms, daycare beds, and general wards, ensuring comprehensive care for patients of all ages and medical needs. The hospital will offer a wide range of services, including pathology, biochemistry, microbiology, ophthalmology, internal medicine, emergency care, general surgery, ENT, CT scan, MRI scan, orthopaedics, paediatrics, dentistry, dermatology, ultrasound, physiotherapy, dialysis, and blood bank. Smart Healthcare System, TMH Vishvas 2.0 of Tata Main Hospital, West Bokaro, was launched

during the event. The system will simplify the overall process of the hospital by enhancing the user experience - for doctors, patients, users, support services, and the entire supply chain management. Amid the global COVID-19 pandemic, Tata Main Hospital (erstwhile Tata Central Hospital) played a crucial role in the region's response efforts. In repose to the outbreak, Holy Cross School and Tata DAV Public School in West Bokaro, were converted into COVID Care Centres, where patients were treated. The 80-bed COVID Care Centre at Tata DAV Public School was awarded as the Best COVID-19 Care Centre in the entire Ramgarh region. Throughout the crisis, the hospital provided free medical services like vaccines, ICU facilities with ventilation, and medicines. Additionally, 50 oxygen beds were set up, which remain operational. The hospital is equipped with 10 non-invasive ventilation (NIV) systems and 5 ventilators. Recognising the importance of preparedness, the new

hospital building has designated space for isolation wards that can be quickly activated in the event of future COVID-like crises. The new hospital is constructed using Tata Steel Nest-In's prefabricated solutions, which doubled the speed of construction while ensuring safety and sustainability. In 1947, Tata Steel took over the colliery operations from M/s Anderson Wright and started a one-room dispensary. Over the years, the facility evolved into the multi-functionality Tata Central Hospital, West Bokaro, serving the needs of the employees and community in and around the region for general and specialised healthcare needs. TMH Jamshedpur, currently a ~1000-bed facility, was established in 1908, soon after Tata Steel was born in 1907. The brand 'Tata Main Hospital' has since its inception dedicated itself to the service of Tata Steel employees, their families, and the citizenry. Inspired by the vision of the founding fathers, it remains committed to the goal of employee and community welfare.

झारखण्ड सरकार श्रम, नियोजन, प्रशिक्षण एवं कौशल विकास विभाग। प्राचार्य का कार्यालय, औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, पटमदा, पूर्वी सिंहभूम।

पत्रांक 44 पटमदा/दिनांक 15.05.2024
ADMISSION NOTICE GOVT.ITI PATAMDA
औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, पटमदा में शैक्षणिक सत्र 2024-25-26 में नामांकन संबंधित सूचना

झारखण्ड सरकार के NCVT के अन्तर्गत संचालित औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, पटमदा में निदेशालय नियोजन प्रशिक्षण एवं कौशल विकास विभाग झारखण्ड, राँची के पत्रांक-729/05/2024 के अनुपालन में शैक्षणिक सत्र 2024-25-26 के विभिन्न व्यवसाय में नामांकन के लिए योग्य आवेदक से, जो झारखण्ड राज्य के स्थायी/स्थानीय निवासी की श्रेणी में आते हैं और निचे दिये गये शैक्षणिक योग्यता धारित करते हैं, उनसे Online आवेदन पत्र (<https://iti.jharkhand.gov.in>) में आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं।
2. न्यूनतम शैक्षणिक योग्यता :-
(क) **Trade-Welder** व्यवसाय के लिए आठवीं (8वीं) उत्तीर्ण।
(ख) **Trade-Fitter, Electrician, Mechanic Diesel** व्यवसाय के लिए दसवीं (10वीं) उत्तीर्ण।
3. महत्वपूर्ण तिथियाँ:-

क्र.सं	विवरण	तिथि
1	ऑनलाइन रजिस्ट्रेशन एवं आवेदन पत्र भरने की प्रारंभिक तिथि	15.05.2024
2	ऑनलाइन रजिस्ट्रेशन एवं आवेदन पत्र भरने की अंतिम तिथि	09.06.2024 अपराहन 05:00 बजे तक
3	औपबधिक राज्य मेधासूचियों (आठवीं एवं दसवीं कक्षा) का प्रकाशन	12.06.2024 अपराहन 05:00 बजे
4	औपबधिक राज्य मेधासूचियों में शामिल आवेदकों द्वारा प्रारंभिक/प्रारंभिक प्रतिशत, कोटी एवं अन्य प्रविष्टियों में त्रुटिसुधार की अवधि	13.06.2024 से 15.06.2024 तक
5	अन्तिममेधा सूचियों (आठवीं एवं दसवीं कक्षा) का प्रकाशन	20.06.2024

4. डी०जी०टी० के पत्रांक-DGT-Aff011/1/2023-0/DIR (TC)-Part(2)[63756], दिनांक 03.05.2024 के आलोक में औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, पटमदा में नामांकन लेने वाले अभ्यर्थियों का वेध मोबाईल नं०, ई-मेल ID एवं आधार नं० आवश्यक है तथा NTC उत्तीर्णता प्रमाण पत्र प्राप्त होने तक उसमें परिवर्तन करने की अनुमति नहीं होगी। डी०जी०टी० का पत्र <https://iti.jharkhand.gov.in> के Download Section में Notification tab में देखा जा सकता है।
5. नामांकन संबंधित विस्तृत महत्वपूर्ण सूचना झारखण्ड ITI Webportal (<https://iti.jharkhand.gov.in>) के Download Section के Notification tab में देखा/Download किया जा सकता है।
6. किसी प्रकार के महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी हेतु ITI Webportal के Grievance Section में टिकट (Complain) Raise किया जा सकता है एवं आवश्यकतानुसार मो० नं० 9279316039/9308058506/9631039626 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।
उक्त सूचना को झारखण्ड के ITI Webportal (<https://iti.jharkhand.gov.in>) के Download Section के Notification tab में देखा/Download किया जा सकता है। ह०/-
प्रमारी प्राचार्य
औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, पटमदा
PR 324820 Labour Employment and Traning(24-25)D

Lessons from CBSE Board results

The recent announcement of the CBSE class 10th and 12th results has brought both satisfaction and contemplation. With an overall success rate of 93.60 percent in class 10th and 87.98 percent in class 12th, there is a noticeable improvement compared to previous years. This uptick in success rates is particularly heartening, considering the challenging circumstances imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns.

It is commendable to note the increasing success rates among girls and transgender students, with 94.75 percent and 91.30 percent respectively passing the class 10th examinations. This reflects a growing awareness and prioritization of education among traditionally marginalized groups, signaling positive societal progress.

However, while celebrating these achievements, it is imperative to analyze the disparities among different types of schools. Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya and Kendriya Vidyalaya continue to lead with an impressive success rate of 99.09 percent, emphasizing the importance of their well-established infrastructure and educational environment. In contrast, government schools lag behind, with a success rate of 86.72 percent, indicating the urgent need for attention and improvement.

The stark contrast in success rates between government and private schools underscores the persistent challenge of providing quality education in government-funded institutions. With only 13 to 16 percent of students from government and government-aided schools passing the examinations, it is evident that significant reforms are necessary to bridge this gap.

The disparity between schools in South India and North India also raises questions about regional educational policies and practices. The superior performance of schools in South India highlights the need for a closer examination of educational methodologies and resources to ensure equitable opportunities for students across the country.

Furthermore, while celebrating the achievements of students scoring high marks, it is essential to recognize the potential of those who secured relatively lower grades. Success in academic examinations is just one aspect of a student's journey, and those who may have faced challenges during their exams still have ample opportunities to excel in life.

In conclusion, the CBSE class 10th and 12th results serve as a reminder of the importance of continuous improvement in the education sector. It is imperative to learn from the successes of top-performing schools and address the shortcomings in others to ensure that every student has access to quality education and the opportunity to thrive.

From the Editorial Desk

Ahmednagar to witness fight between Covid Warrior, kin of pioneers of cooperative movement in Maharashtra

By Sanjay Jog

BJP nominee Dr Sujay Vikhe-Patil and NCP(SP) candidate Nilesh Lanke are locked in a direct contest in the cooperative-rich Ahmednagar Lok Sabha constituency.

The fight between the two is being portrayed as a contest between a member of the Vikhe-Patil family, considered the pioneers of the cooperative movement in Maharashtra and a new face who emerged as a 'Covid Warrior' by helping a large number of people during the Coronavirus pandemic.

For Vikhe-Patil it is also a fight to retain the supremacy of his family and the BJP in Ahmednagar District while for Lanke it is an opportunity to emerge as the people's man who can take on mighty and resourceful leaders.

Political observers say the fight is also between the traditional rivals Sharad Pawar and



Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil.

While Nilesh Lanke comes from a family of farmers, Sujay Vikhe-Patil is the great grandson of Padmashri Vitthalrao Vikhe-Patil who is credited with the establishment of Asia's first cooperative sugar factory in Ahmednagar after Independence.

A total of 19,81,866 voters comprising 10,32,946 males and 9,48,801 females will cast their votes on polling day.

There are 25 candidates in the fray. Of the six Assembly segments, the BJP holds Shevgaon and Shrigonda while Rahuri and Karjat-Jamkhed are held by NCP(SP). The Parner

constituency is vacant after Nilesh Lanke's resignation.

Despite discontent against Vikhe-Patil, who was elected for the first time in the 2019 General Elections after he joined the BJP by parting ways with the Congress, the saffron party renominated him from the constituency.

BJP Legislator Ram Shinde had staked his claim to the seat and expressed serious displeasure over Vikhe-Patil's style of functioning. However, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis intervened and brought Ram Shinde on board while asking him to keep aside differences for Vikhe-Patil's

victory.

Lanke, who was elected from the Parner Assembly seat in the 2019 elections on an NCP (united) ticket, had migrated to the Ajit Pawar-led NCP after the party split in June 2023.

However, he quit the Ajit Pawar faction and joined the Sharad Pawar-led NCP(SP) expressing his desire to contest the Lok Sabha election from Ahmednagar.

Lanke pleaded that he would be in a position to cash in on the discontent against the BJP and Vikhe-Patil, especially on core issues such as farmers' distress, lack of adequate price for milk, Centre's switch-on and switch-off policies on sugar and ethanol exports and above all neglect of water schemes. The senior Pawar not only inducted Lanke back into the party but also announced his nomination.

With Lanke's entry, the fight which otherwise was being considered as one sided for Vikhe-Patil, has

become tough.

Vikhe-Patil is riding on 'Modi's guarantee' and is banking on the BJP's poll machinery and the cooperative and educational institutions formed by his great grandfather, grandfather and former Union minister Balasaheb Vikhe-Patil and on his father and state minister Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil's hold over the district's politics. Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a rally for Vikhe-Patil promising to take Ahmednagar District's development to new heights.

On the other hand, Lanke has projected the election as a fight between money power and people's power. He is carrying out his campaign cashing in on his mass contact.

Lanke downplayed Vikhe-Patil's barb over not being fluent in English saying that he speaks the language of the people and will continue to do so while taking up their burning issues in the Lok Sabha.

Brahmos delivery to Philippines realises PM Modi's vision of expanding Bharat's defence footprint

India equipping the Philippines with Brahmos cruise missiles, making it the first foreign nation to acquire the missile weapon system developed by an India-Russia joint venture, marks a significant milestone for the Narendra Modi government just as the first of the seven-phase election in the world's largest democracy kicked off on Friday.

It was in January 2022 that the BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) signed a \$374.9 million contract with the Department of National Defence of the Republic of Philippines that included supply of shore-based anti-ship missile systems for the Philippines Navy.

The move spotlighted the important role that the Philippines plays in India's 'Act East' Policy, its overall Indo-Pacific vision and was labeled by New Delhi as "an important step forward for Government of India's policy of promoting responsible defence exports".

The Philippines' Defence Ministry acknowledged that Brahmos will provide deterrence against any attempt to undermine its sovereignty and sovereign rights, especially in the West Philippine Sea.

Initially, the Philippines will be acquiring three batteries - six launchers and missiles. The contract also includes training for operators and maintainers as well as the necessary Integrated Logistics Support (ILS) package.

Last month, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, during his visit to the Philippines, called on the country's President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., briefing him about recent developments in the India-Philippines partnership and on the joint initiatives to further fortify bilateral ties.

Besides meeting his counterpart Enrique A. Manalo, the EAM also met Gilbert Teodoro, Secretary of National Defence of Philippines, to discuss the growing cooperation in defence and maritime security.

"Substantive discussions were held on consolidating the ongoing momentum in bilateral defence ties through capacity building, joint



exercises, information exchange and defence industrial collaboration," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement on March 27.

Teodoro on the other hand, welcomed India's "unwavering support" for the Philippines' position on the West Philippine Sea/South China Sea issue.

"Minister Jaishankar reaffirmed India's commitment to upholding a rules-based international order and promoting peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region. As part of such efforts, both sides also agreed to promote collaboration among defence industries, enhance mobility and logistics cooperation, as well as explore investments on emerging technologies, cooperation on space domain awareness, and potential partnership on joint research and development (R&D)," stated the Philippines' Department of Defence.

Addressing common security challenges and building robust defence and military partnerships with countries in the region has remained a top priority for the Modi government over the past 10 years.

BJP's 'Sankalp Patra' for the ongoing Lok Sabha elections 2024 promises not only to protect the country's security interests in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) but also vastly expanding the domestic defence manufacturing and exports of 'Made in Bharat' defence equipment.

This, it says, will be facilitated by

accelerating indigenisation in major air and land equipment platforms.

"Expanding Bharat's defence footprint across strategic locations and partner with friendly countries to protect Bharat's and the Indian Ocean Region's security interests," it states.

The manifesto also lists promoting regional cooperation and ensuring stability and prosperity, making India a "trusted and responsible partner" in the subcontinent.

"Strengthening Maritime Vision (SAGAR), we will continue to collaborate with the countries of the Indo-Pacific Region for the security and growth of all in the region," says the manifesto.

While the missile weapon system will help the Philippines to safeguard the strategic waters in the region that includes some of the busiest sea lanes in the world, its procurement by Manila will act as a major boost to 'Make in India, Make for the World' initiative launched by the government led by PM Modi.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has made it clear that if India wishes to become a military power at the global level, there is no other option than being self-reliant in defence manufacturing.

The government believes that, with the development of Defence Industrial Corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, the growth of indigenous industries will not only generate employment but also boost the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

Solapur Cong hopes to regain lost glory, BJP aims to score hat-trick by betting big on young blood

By Sanjay Jog

The Congress and the BJP are locked in a direct fight in Solapur Lok Sabha reserved constituency in Maharashtra.

Both parties have fielded young Legislators in a bid to lure Millennials.

The constituency has traditionally been a Congress bastion, but since 2014 the BJP has made sufficient inroads.

The Congress has fielded three-term Legislator from Solapur City Central Assembly, Praniti Shinde against the BJP's first-term Legislator Ram Satpute.

Shinde has an edge as she is the daughter of veteran Congress leader and former Union Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde who was also the Chief Minister of Maharashtra for a brief period, and she hopes to regain lost glory of the party.

Satpute, who hails from a family of sugarcane harvesters from Beed District, has the solid support of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and the BJP's poll machinery. He is approaching the electorate and seeking votes for a hat-trick for the BJP.

Shinde got a boost after the Congress' traditional rival, Communist leader Narsayya Adam extended support to her.

In addition, the Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen's decision not to field its nominee has been a booster dose for Shinde who hopes to mobilise maximum support from Muslims, Dalits, OBCs apart from Marathi-speaking voters and others.

The NCP(SP) and Shiv Sena (UBT) have charged up their cadres in support of Shinde as together the MahaVikasAghadi (MVA) has succeeded in putting up a united front against the BJP.

Shinde and the MVA are cornering the BJP and Satpute over the '400 paar' slogan with an objective of change in the Constitution of the country.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi in his address at the campaign rally held last week criticised the BJP saying that this was not an ordinary election.

He further alleged that for the first time after Independence, there was a party that wanted to destroy the Constitution.



Shinde has tweaked her campaign strategy by aggressively taking up the issue of change in Constitution that will put the existence of SCs, STs and tribals in jeopardy.

Further, Shinde, who has been vocal in criticising the Modi Government on core issues, is raking up the present state of unemployment, farmers' distress, inflation during the 10 year rule of the BJP at the Centre.

On the other hand, Satpute is riding on PM Modi's guarantee, apart from the presence of four BJP Legislators and their work in the constituency.

Satpute and BJP Legislators who are joined by Shiv Sena and NCP hope to outsmart Shinde by exposing the rift among the MVA partners and cashing in on their organisational strengths.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally held last week has raised hopes for Satpute as the BJP feels that his message of a Viksit Bharat and his rebuttal to the Congress' campaign have gone down well with voters.

However, the BJP is finding it difficult to sell the Ram Mandir plank as the hype created after its inauguration has been missing in the constituency.

Satpute is taking up the Modi Government's slew of initiatives including 25 crore people getting freedom from multidimensional poverty, direct transfer of Rs 34 lakh crore using PM Jan Dhan Yojana, Rs 13,000 crore PM Vishwakarma Scheme among others.

He also reaches out to the voters with development programmes proposed and implemented by the Mahayuti Government from 2022.

Despite development being brought to the centre stage, both candidates face the voters' wrath over Solapur city's water shortage and supply of drinking water just once a week.

This apart, the closure of Siddheshwar Sugar Factory, lack of commissioning of Solapur airport, ban on onion export, decline in the prices of soybean and other agricultural produce and failure in the implementation of Solapur Smart City project are other key issues that both the candidates promise to address after being elected.

Of the six Assembly constituencies, BJP holds Solapur City North, Akkalkot, Solapur South and Pandharpur while Congress represents Solapur City Central and NCP has its Legislator in the Mohol seat.

During the 2019 elections, BJP nominee Jaisidheshwar Swami defeated Congress candidate Sushilkumar Shinde. Swami had polled 524,985 votes against 366,377 votes by Shinde.

In the 2014 elections, BJP nominee Sharad Bansode had emerged victorious with 517,879 votes against Congress stalwart Sushilkumar Shinde who had polled 368,205 votes.

(Sanjay Jog can be contacted on sanjay.j@ians.in)

Avoiding mosquito bites is best way to prevent dengue

May 16 is National Dengue Day



By Dr Kumar Diwakar

Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral fever. In 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) identified ten threats to

global health, and dengue is one of them. The incidence of dengue has been increasing in recent years, and except for Ladakh, all the states and union territories in India are reporting dengue cases.

Dengue is transmitted by the bite of the infective Aedes aegypti mosquito, and the disease manifests after 5-6 days of being bitten by an infected mosquito.

Signs and symptoms of dengue fever:

- Abrupt onset of high fever
- Headache
- Pain behind the eyes, which worsens with eye movement
- Muscle and joint pains
- Rash over the chest and

upper limbs
- Nausea and vomiting
Severe dengue symptoms:

- Frequent vomiting, with or without blood
- Bleeding from the nose, mouth, gums, and skin rashes
- Sleepiness and restlessness
- Thirst and dry mouth
- Difficulty in breathing

Vector of dengue fever:

The Aedes mosquito takes 7-8 days to grow the virus in its body and then bite someone else to spread the illness. They thrive in domestic and peri-domestic settings, in shady nooks of homes, under furniture, or on hanging items like clothes or umbrellas. Any man-made container, even



with a small amount of water, can be a breeding ground for Aedes mosquitoes.

Prevention: Avoiding mosquito bites is the best way to prevent dengue illness. Dengue

vaccines are not licensed in our country. Wear clothes that cover as much of your body as possible, use mosquito repellent creams or sprays to keep mosquitoes away, and take measures to remove

mosquito breeding sources from your home by keeping everything tidy, covering all water containers, and changing the water in pots and vases once a week.

Community participation: Sensitizing and involving the community for the detection of Aedes breeding places and their elimination is very important to prevent dengue outbreaks.

Management of dengue cases: Persons suspected of having symptoms of dengue fever must consult a doctor. Like several other viral diseases, dengue fever typically resolves on its own, with less than 1% of cases resulting in death. Most patients have mild presentations that can be

treated at home with supportive care while being closely monitored by a trained medical professional.

Adequate oral fluids (ORS, coconut water, lassi, or buttermilk), bed rest, and the administration of paracetamol for fever are recommended. A doctor must closely monitor the disease's progression from mild to moderate to severe, and patients who experience moderate to severe symptoms must be admitted to the hospital.

High-risk groups for developing severe dengue: The elderly (because they have lower immunity and usually have other comorbidities), people suffering from obesity or

other chronic diseases (such as diabetes, heart diseases, high blood pressure, thalassaemia, etc.), and infants.

Dos and don'ts:
- Take the water out of coolers and other small containers at least once a week.

- Use anti-mosquito aerosol fogging throughout the day to avoid mosquito bites.
- Avoid clothing that bares your arms or legs.
- Do not let children play in shorts and t-shirts.
- Sleep with mosquito netting or repellent applied during the day.

(Author is Senior Consultant and HOD, Paediatrics, Tata Main Hospital, Jamshedpur)

Ponting, Langer, Nehra, Fleming in fray for Team India's head coach role: Sources

New Delhi, May 15 (IANS) The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is looking for a new head coach for the men's cricket team as Rahul Dravid's stint will come to an end after the conclusion of the T20 World Cup 2024, and if he wishes to continue, he would have to re-apply for the position, which the veteran has been reportedly denying so far.

The multi-format coaching role requires the coach to stay with the team for approximately ten months with the busy men's team calendar. IANS understands that Dravid is ready to step down from the position regardless of the fact whether it ends with the T20 World Cup title or not and wishes to spend time with family.

Even though South Africa, Pakistan and England divide their



coaching responsibilities between red-ball and white-ball cricket, the BCCI is still unwilling to adopt a similar strategy because India do not have two distinct player groups for two formats. The BCCI also approached ex-Indian players for the position but they will have to fill the application form to stay alive in the race.

Early speculation said that VVS Laxman would succeed Dravid in the role which he previously filled

on a part-time basis in the latter's absence last year. However, sources confirmed that Laxman is not in the mood to apply and will continue with the India 'A' team.

Former Australian cricketer and Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) head coach Justin Langer is also in the fray for the head coach position along with other star veterans including Stephen Fleming, Gautam Gambhir and Ashish Nehra. BCCI

has also been meeting with IPL coaches and mentors in the hunt for a head coach. Langer 'is curious' and interested in coaching the Indian team but according to sources, Ponting had a meeting with the BCCI secretary Jay Shah and chief selector Ajit Agarkar in Delhi in the first week of the month regarding the coaching position. Ponting is currently associated with IPL franchise Delhi Capitals as head coach.

BCCI can also look up to Gambhir, who returned back to his old franchise Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) after serving two years at Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) and has played a key role in steering the side to back-to-back playoff finishes. Gujarat Titans head coach Nehra has also shown interest in guiding the Indian team in the past.

Soon after the end of T20 WC, India will be travelling to Zimbabwe for a five-match T20I series starting from July 15. So, with MLC ending on July 29, and Ponting serving Washington Freedom in the USA, it will be a very difficult job for the BCCI and the former Australian skipper to come to the conclusion. BCCI can also look for other options such as Stephen Fleming, who is the longest-serving coach in IPL for Chennai Super Kings. Dravid, who was given a six-month extension post the 50-over World Cup in October-November, has his contract expiring after the T20 World Cup next month. The former India captain has the option of re-applying for the post.

The Indian board on Monday invited applications for the role with a deadline of May 27.

Thailand Open: Satwik-Chirag pair eases into second round

Bangkok, May 15 (IANS) Former champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty eased into the men's doubles second round of the Thailand Open, a BWF Super 500 tournament, beating Malaysian duo Nur Mohd Azriyan Ayub Azriyan and Tan Wee Kiang, here on Wednesday.

The world no. 3 Indians registered a 21-13, 21-13 straight games victory over Malaysian counterparts to set up a second round clash with Chinese pair of Zeng Wei Han and Xie Hao Nan.

On the other hand, world no 83 Indian Meiraba Luwang Mainsam pulled off a major upset, beating senior compatriot and world no 9 H S Prannoy 21-19, 21-18 in opening round.

Before registering an upset win over Prannoy, the 21-year-old from

Manipur, won two qualification matches to enter main draw.

Mainsam will next play Mads Christophersen of Denmark, who defeated Kiran George 21-15, 13-21, 21-17 in the opening round of Super 500 tournament.

In the women's singles, Ashmita Chaliha defeated the higher ranked Indonesian shuttler 19-21, 21-15, 21-14 to sail into the second round while Unnati Hooda suffered a 21-14, 14-21, 9-21 loss at the hands of Belgian opponent Lianne Tan.

Malvika Bansod too crashed out in the first after losing 11-21, 10-21 to top seed Chinese Han Yue, who will be Chaliha's second round opponent.

On Tuesday, world no. 42 mixed doubles pair of SK Karunakaran and Aadya Variath beat world



No. 155 Tanakorn Meechai and Fungfa Korphammakit in straight games 21-17, 21-16 to enter round of 16.

The duo will next take on second-seed Indonesian Rinov Rivaldy and Pitha Haningtyas Mentari.

Seven Indian golfers including Diksha and Pranavi to tee off in Germany

Brandenburg, Berlin, May 15 (IANS) Diksha Dagar and Pranavi Urs, the two in-form golfers will be in the group of seven Indians at the Euros 300,000 Amundi German Masters.

Apart from Diksha and Pranavi, the other Indians are Tvesa Malik, Vani Kapoor, Amandeep Drall and Sneha Singh, who has received an invitation, as amateur Avani Prashanth, who also played the event last year.

There are 132 players in the 72-hole event at the Seddiner See course, just outside Berlin. The cut will be applied after 36 holes



and the top-60 and ties will play the final two rounds. Diksha Dagar will also represent India at the Olympic Games in Paris, where she will be joined by Aditi Ashok, who is playing

on the LPGA Tour in the US. Last year Diksha was leading the event at one stage, before she finished third.

It was one of the three Top-3 finishes she had in

2023, when she also finished third in the LET Order of Merit. She won the Czech ladies Open and was third at the Amundi German Masters and the Hero Women's Indian Open.

Pranavi Urs was T-7 last week in Aramco Series Korea, while Vani Kapoor, Tvesa Malik and Amandeep Drall are trying to get back they Tours cards for LET. Sneha Singh, winner of the Hero Order of Merit on the domestic Tour in 2023, will be hoping to make it big and amateur Avani Prashanth expected to turn pro at the end of the year is keen on making a mark among professionals, too.

AIFF Development Committee holds virtual meet to address use of funds

New Delhi, May 15 (IANS) The development committee of the All India Football Federation held a virtual meet on Wednesday. The event was chaired by Avijit Paul, a member of the Executive Committee of the AIFF.

The event was also attended by the AIFF acting general secretary, Mr. M Satyanarayan alongside Mr. Cliff Nongrum, Mr. Takum Kipa and Dr. Sonam T. Ethenpa in order to set guidelines for the utilization of the funds provided by the AIFF for the 2024/25 financial year.

"This is the first development committee meeting of the 2024-25 financial year in AIFF. Ever since the development committee was formed, the states and the AIFF have been working hand in hand for the development of the game across the

country. With the help of AIFF, the states have succeeded in increasing the activities of the game throughout the year. We hope to continue in the same vein this time, too," said Mr Avijit Paul

The meeting saw the committee address the fact that each state will have to host a minimum of four tournaments for the following year with one each being hosted for the junior boys and girls in order to properly utilize the funds being given.

AIFF also emphasized on the fact that the use of the Competition Management System (CMS) is mandatory for all events. It is also said that a new set of rules should be made for smoother utilization of developmental funds and should be submitted to the executive committee for approval.



"States are the backbone of Indian Football. The policy of providing the states with the necessary support from the AIFF has made a considerable impact while taking the game forward. We will continue to work together for the progress of football in every corner of India," said the acting general secretary.

WADA to hold special Board meeting over contamination case involving swimmers from China

Montreal (Canada), May 15 (IANS) The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has decided to hold an extraordinary meeting of its Foundation Board to discuss the contamination case involving swimmers from China. WADA said on Monday that the meeting will be held virtually at 07:00 EDT on Friday after WADA's Executive Committee (ExCo) already met regarding the case on April 25.

"The objective of the Board meeting is to provide members with the opportunity to be further informed on this important matter by WADA experts and to be able to ask any questions that they may have," it said.

WADA Executive Committee members and media were invited to observe the meeting, reports Xinhua.



Earlier, WADA had stood firmly by the results of its scientific investigation and legal decision concerning Chinese swimmers in the wake of reports that many top Chinese swimmers had failed dope tests before the Tokyo Olympic Games. The Chinese officials claim it was due to environmental contamination.

WADA stuck to the stance after reviewing a

documentary released by German broadcaster, ARD, about an alleged mass doping case concerning Chinese swimmers. The agency also announced that it would hold a virtual media conference on Monday to clarify the misinterpretation, with WADA president Witold Banka, among other key officials of the agency, on hand to answer media questions.

Anjum, Aishwary top qualifications of third 50m rifle 3P Olympic Selection Trial

Bhopal, May 15 (IANS) Olympians Anjum Moudgil and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, came out on top of the women's and men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions (3P) Olympic Selection Trial (OST) T3 qualification round, respectively, here at the M P State Shooting Academy (MPSSA) ranges on Wednesday. After the customary 20-shots successively in the Kneeling, Prone and Standing positions, Anjum shot a score of 592/600, her highest of the OSTs so far, while Aishwary shot yet another quality score of 590 to top the five-man field. The duo come back along with their four other competitors on Thursday morning for the finals of the event, where crucial podium points are up for grabs in what is building up to be a fight to the finish.

India number one and finals world record holder Sift Kaur Samra came in second with a score of 589 in the women's 3P, while three others, Ashi Chouksey, Nishchal and Shriyanka Sadangi, logged identical totals of 585.

In the men's 3P, Swapnil Kusale extended a good trials run with a score of 587 to come in second behind Aishwary, while Akhil Sheoran's 584 for a third place finish, his worst of the three trials so far. Chain Singh and Niraj Kumar were fourth and fifth with scores of 583 each.

Besides the 3P OST T3 finals, Thursday also has on schedule the qualification rounds of the men's and women's 10m Air Pistol OST T3 matches.



La Liga: Real Madrid score five, Mallorca close in on safety

Madrid, May 15 (IANS) La Liga champions Real Madrid continued their preparations for the Champions League final with a 5-0 win at home to Deportivo Alaves.

The game kicked off after Madrid celebrated their 36th league title in front of their fans and the celebration continued with three goals before halftime.

Jude Bellingham chipped home only 10 minutes into the game. Then, Vinicius Jr tapped home after good work from Eduardo Camavinga, and Fede Valverde scored with a powerful shot in first half injury time to make it 3-0 at the break, reports Xinhua.

Vinicius Jr added a fourth in the 69th minute after a pass from Bellingham and Arda Guler netted his third goal in recent weeks after getting on the end of Rodrygo's wayward shot.

Girona's chances of finishing second suffered a major setback as they lost 1-0 to Villarreal, in only



their second home defeat of the season.

Girona had a couple of decent chances in the first half, with Artem Dovbyk guilty of missing both, and they were punished in the 58th minute by Bertrand Traore's angled shot that went in at the fat post.

The result leaves Girona a point behind Barcelona, who have played a game less, while Villarreal still have a chance of qualifying for Europe next season.

Mallorca claimed a vital point in their efforts to avoid relegation, with a 1-1 draw away to Osasuna.

Jon Moncayola put Osasuna ahead with a shot from the edge of the penalty area in the first half, but Sergi Darder equalized from a loose ball following a 65th minute corner.

Mallorca will be safe if Cadix fail to win away to Sevilla on Wednesday night.

IOC launches '1 in 100 Million' to celebrate Refugee Olympic Team for Paris 2024

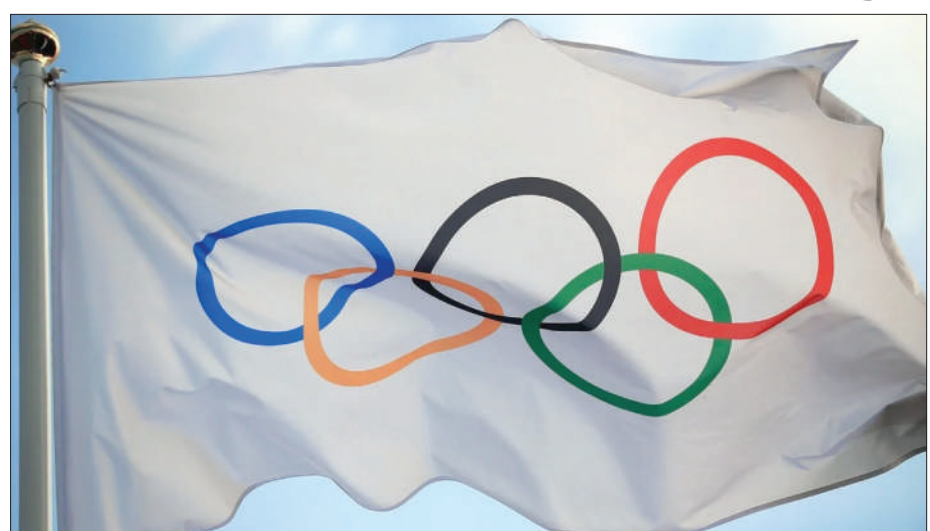
Lausanne (Switzerland), May 15 (IANS) The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Wednesday launched the "1 in 100 Million" campaign which aims to shine a spotlight on the 36 inspirational athletes who have faced incredible challenges to reach their start line, and called on everyone to get behind the team when they represent the over 100 million displaced people on the world's biggest sporting stage.

The campaign began with a graphic-novel-style short film that introduced the formidable sporting talents and unique personal stories of Refugee Olympic team athletes, including Cindy Ngamba (boxing), Dorsa Yavarivafa (badminton) and Ramiro Mora (weightlifting), and

Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder Kavan Majidi (judo), whilst also drawing attention to the shocking scale of the global refugee crisis.

When the team made its debut at Rio 2016, there were close to 60 million displaced people globally. On the eve of Paris 2024, that number has now soared to well over 100 million and is still rising - that's around 1 in 70 people living on our planet (UNHCR, 2023). Putting all the forcibly displaced people in one place would create the 14th most populous country in the world - and that population is increasing all the time.

Cindy Ngamba, Refugee Olympic Team, said: "Qualifying for the Olympic Games - that means everything to me.



Each member of the Refugee Olympic Team has different backgrounds and life experiences, but sport unites us - we're a family and we're going to go out there, support each other, and show the world what we are can do."

The film was crafted utilising cutting-edge AI

technology. An integral aspect of the film's production was the engagement of contributors affiliated with the refugee community, such as illustrator and author Engy Jarrouj, a refugee from Syria at creative studio Framestore. The film also features an

original piece of music produced by recording artists Che Lingo and Manon Davae.

The film is part of a broader initiative that gives the team its own unique identity, nodding to the design of the first-ever Refugee Olympic Team emblem - a unifying symbol

bringing together diverse athletes. The emblem features arrow markers, signifying the shared experience of their journeys, and a heart - originating from the Olympic Refugee Foundation (ORF) logo, to represent the belonging the team hopes to inspire and that athletes and displaced people around the world have found through sport. Ramiro Mora, Refugee Olympic Team, weightlifting, said: "I will be so proud stepping out wearing the Refugee Olympic Team emblem. To represent myself, my journey, but also the thousands of people who find themselves in similar circumstances as I did. I hope seeing us walk out at Paris 2024 will bring hope and inspiration to people everywhere".

Founded by the IOC for the Olympic Games Rio 2016, to ensure that all athletes, no matter their circumstances, have the opportunity to compete in the Olympic Games, the Refugee Olympic Team is managed by the ORF.

Appearing at the Olympic Games for the third time, the Refugee Olympic Team will represent the over 100 million displaced people around the world and aims to be a symbol of inclusion and inspiration for everyone affected by displacement. The Refugee Olympic Team for Paris 2024 was announced on May 2, and is made up of 36 athletes, hosted by 15 National Olympic Committees (NOCs), competing across 12 sports: athletics, badminton, boxing,

breaking, canoeing, cycling, judo, sport shooting, swimming, taekwondo, weightlifting and wrestling.

The composition of the team is based on several criteria including, first and foremost, each athlete's sports performance, and their host country refugee status as verified by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. Consideration has also been given to a balanced representation of sport and gender, as well as the spread of countries of origin. The '1 in 100 million' film was directed by William Bartlett at Academy Award-winning animation and visual effects studio Framestore and produced by the IOC in collaboration with creative agency Gravity Road.

Why do ICMR-NIN's new dietary guidelines advise against protein supplements?

New Delhi, May 15 (IANS) Protein supplements, which come with added sugars and additives, may harm the kidneys and bones and are not required for healthy people, said experts on Tuesday, even as the ICMR-NIN's new dietary guidelines also advise against them.

The Indian Council of Medical Research and National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN), last week, released 17 dietary guidelines to prevent nutrient deficiencies, as well as address the rising risk of obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases in India. The new guidelines, which include evidence-based food and lifestyle recommendations, called out against the need for protein supplements.

It noted that a healthy and proper diet is enough to fulfil the protein requirements of all individuals.

As per the new guidelines, the recommendation for protein is 0.83g/kg/day, and the estimated average intake is 0.66 g/kg/day.

"With increased knowledge and information about micronutrients and their importance in a balanced diet, people



have resorted to protein powder, protein supplements, among other artificial nutritional supplements," Dr. N Vijayshree, Head and Chief Dietician of MGM Healthcare told IANS.

"These protein powders are usually made with eggs, milk, whey, or plant sources such as soy, peas, or rice, sometimes with a mix of these sources.

"These supplements, with added sugars and additives, defeat the purpose of having a balanced diet, causing severe or more damage to our kidneys and bone health," the doctor added.

Vani Krishna, Chief Nutritionist, at Manipal Hospital Varthur, told IANS that protein intake can be achieved by adding legumes, pulses, nuts, seeds, eggs, poultry, fish, etc with a balanced diet for all age

groups. "An individual's protein intake has to be assessed and checked by a qualified clinical nutritionist before administering any kind of protein powders/supplements.

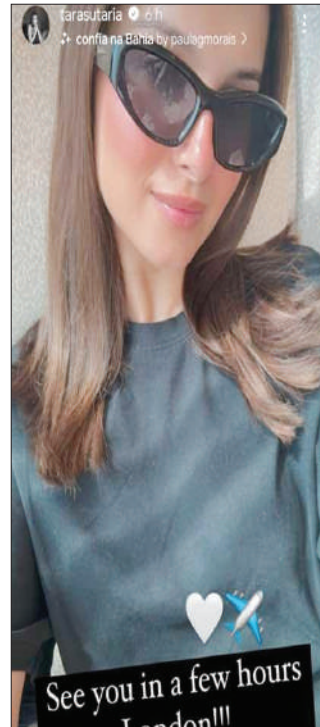
For obtaining good quality protein, a combination of cereals with pulses in the ratio of 3:1 will help to meet the amino acids needed in the body," Vani said.

Dr. Vijayshree also advised physical activity to use the protein consumed and avoid muscle loss, as well as an adequate amount of carbs and fats for the effective utilisation of

the consumed protein. "A balanced diet must meet the need for 20 essential amino acids required for bodily functions. To obtain some of these amino acids, which cannot be synthesised in our body, it is important to consume diverse food groups like carbohydrates, fats, and protein.

"Protein supplements are not recommended for normal, healthy people. Critically ill, hospitalised patients may require protein supplements, which should be recommended and monitored by clinical professionals," Dr. Vijayshree said.

Off to London, Tara Sutaria flaunts cool chic look in black oversized tee, shorts & boots



Mumbai, May 15 (IANS) Actress Tara Sutaria on Tuesday gave cool chic look vibes in an all-black outfit at the Mumbai airport as she is off to London.

The visuals show Tara wearing an oversized black T-shirt paired with matching shorts. She opted for glossy lips, blushed cheeks, and her hair was left straight and

flowing. The actress accessorised the look with a cross-body sling bag, cat eye-shaped sunglasses, a watch, and black boots.

Tara was seen hugging her father as the latter came to drop her off at the airport.

The 'Student of the Year 2' actress took to Instagram stories and

shared a beautiful selfie with the caption: "See you in a few hours London".

On the work front, Tara was last seen in the 2023 survival thriller 'Aparna'. The film also stars Rajpal Yadav and Abhishek Banerjee.

Earlier, she was featured in movies like 'Ek Villain Returns', 'Tadap', and 'Heropanti 2'.

This WhatsApp feature will restrict users from taking screenshots of profile pictures

New Delhi, May 15 (IANS) Meta-owned WhatsApp is reportedly working on a feature that will restrict users from taking screenshots of profile pictures on iOS.

As shown in the screenshot shared by WABetaInfo, a message will occur on the screen notifying users that taking screenshots of profile photos has been blocked to protect everyone's privacy on the app.

According to the report, this feature will offer an added layer of privacy protection by blocking users from capturing and sharing profile photos without the owner's consent.

While people may still capture the image with other devices or cameras, blocking the screenshot feature within the app will definitely reduce the unauthorised sharing of profile photos, the report said.

This WhatsApp feature will be useful in reducing the risk of profile photos being misused or distributed without permission by stopping users from taking screenshots.

A feature to block screenshots of profile pictures is under development and it will be available in a future update of the app, the report stated.

Meanwhile, WhatsApp is reportedly testing a new feature that will offer users a dedicated "filter" to quickly get a list of their favourites from the chats tab on Android.

With this new chat filter, users will get to easily access and prioritise specific conversations with their favourite contacts and groups.



Shweta Tripathi gives 'hawahawaii' twist to pearly white saree by Monica & Karishma



Mumbai, May 15 (IANS) Bollywood actress Shweta Tripathi aced the vintage style as she rocked a pearly white saree by the label Jade by Monica and Karishma.

Shweta on Tuesday took to Instagram and shared a gamut of pictures, rocking her vintage side dressed in a pearly white saree with

embellishments. The actress flaunted her toned midriff in a tiny embellished blouse, which had shimmer, pearls and beads.

To complete her look, she wore a choker by designer Falguni Mehta, known for her work in jadau jewels, kohled eyes paired with subtle brown lips, and Hollywood locks.

She captioned the image: "Bijligiraane main hunayi, kehtehaimujhko..."

The label is known to honour tradition and Indian crafts.

The designers behind the label Monica Shah and Karishma Swali, the brand is a manifestation of their passion for delving deeper into the beauty of Indian art and craft.



Narendra Kumar ventures into women's wear after outfitting Big B, other top male stars

Mumbai, May 15 (IANS) Fashion designer Narendra Kumar, who is known for designing clothes for men, is now venturing into women's wear and said that it caters to the women who approach the world with unwavering confidence.

Talking about his new venture, Kumar told IANS: "With Tamiska by Narendra Kumar, my vision was to craft a line of clothing that effortlessly embodies style, seamlessly transitioning from Monday to Monday."

"It caters to the woman who approaches the world with

unwavering confidence, offering a fusion of elegance with ease," added Kumar, who is one of India's leading menswear designers since 2000.

The designer, who is also known as 'Nari', said that his venture Tamiska by Narendra Kumar epitomises unparalleled style infused with a global essence. "Narrated through a captivating tale of internationally trending hues, distinctive prints, and effortlessly flattering silhouettes."

"It revolutionises the fashion landscape by democratising

style without compromising on quality, offering unparalleled value at an accessible price point," said the designer, who has styled names including Amitabh Bachchan, Aamir Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, Akshay Kumar and John Abraham among others.

The Tamiska by Narendra Kumar collection boasts of bold patterns and enduring silhouettes for the modern Indian woman, regardless of age, trends, or body type. The colour palettes range from classic neutrals to vibrant tones and prints.

Prolonged sitting, screen use to cause myopia in every 3rd Indian kid by 2030

New Delhi, May 15 (IANS) As many as one-third of all children in urban India aged 5-15 years are expected to suffer from myopia by 2030, eye doctors said, as a result of increased sedentary lifestyle and prolonged use of screens.

Myopia, commonly known as near-sightedness, is a condition where objects are clear, but those farther away appear blurred.

It has become a significant public health issue worldwide with one in every two individuals being myopic as early as 2050, with a rising prevalence among children and young adults.

Myopia rates are indeed rising globally, including in

India, there is evidence suggesting a significant increase in myopia prevalence among urban children in India, said the experts as part of the ongoing Myopia Awareness Week.

Studies show that in the 20-year period from 1999 to 2019, the incidence of myopia among urban children has tripled in India, from 4.44 per cent to 21.15 per cent, respectively.

"We have been witnessing a steady increase in the number of myopia cases in urban children over the last few years. Our predictions, based on the slope of 0.8 per cent every year, indicate that the prevalence of myopia among urban



children will increase to 31.89 per cent in 2030, 40 per cent in 2040 and 48.1 per cent in 2050. This means that one out of every two children in India will

be suffering from myopia in the next 25 years, up from one in four currently," Smit M Bavariya, Cataract Surgeon with Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital, Thane,

Mumbai, told IANS. "Indeed, myopia is becoming more common in India, especially among the urban population. This tendency has been

confirmed by a number of studies and reports, which show that myopia has become more common among kids and teenagers in recent years," added Mahipal Singh Sachdev, Chairman and Managing Director, Center for Sight, New Delhi.

The symptoms include blurry vision, difficulty seeing distant objects, eye strain, headaches, and fatigue -- particularly after prolonged screen use. The experts noted that a sedentary lifestyle, prolonged screen usage, and reduced outdoor activities are contributing to the rapid rise in myopia cases in children.

"Excessive screen time stimulates the eyes, retina,

and brain of children, leading to accelerated myopic changes due to rapid eyeball growth," Smit said. A lack of exposure to essential natural light due to being indoors also affects eye health, Mahipal told IANS.

The experts also blamed changes in lifestyle brought about by urbanisation, including an increase in near-work activities like studying, reading, and extended durations of near-work caused by demanding academic contexts in metropolitan locations.

"Genetic predisposition also matters; it's possible that urban populations have a higher prevalence of genetic risk factors linked

to myopia. These all factors put a lot of pressure and strain to our eyes, retina and nerves, as a result of which the incidences are gradually rising," Mahipal said.

To tackle the rising health issue, the experts called for public health initiatives, education campaigns, lifestyle adjustments, and enhanced access to eye care services.

"Recognising the symptoms of myopia in children is important for early intervention. While the condition cannot be cured, it can be helped with glasses or contact lenses," said Smit, calling for regular eye check-ups and encouraging children for outdoor activities.

Omar Abdullah blames rival parties for woes of people



Srinagar, May 15 (IANS) Former J&K Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) candidate for Baramulla Lok Sabha seat Omar Abdullah on Wednesday blamed his opponent political parties for the problems faced by the people.

While campaigning in the constituency, Omar Abdullah told poll meetings in Uri and Wagoora areas that he is deeply concerned about the tumultuous period gripping J&K.

He expressed anguish over the displacement of people from their lands and the incessant assault on religious sentiments.

Omar vehemently attributed these challenges to the BJP's self-serving political motives, urging accountability from parties symbolised by the apple, batball, and bucket.

Criticising the People's Conference (PC) headed by his rival candidate, Sajad Gani Lone, Omar said: "These people talk about 'dignity' and 'development', meaning self-respect and development, but I fail to understand why don't PC people have their founding father's picture on their flags and posters? A person who doesn't respect his father, how can an ordinary person expect respect from him."

"Has he spoken when injustice was done to Uri when cross-border trade was stopped here when border tourism was stopped here, did he this apple man speak at that time? He pretends to be the younger brother of the Prime Minister, couldn't he talk to his elder brother at that time and bring relief to the people of Uri? How is he asking you for votes today?"

Omar said that the PDP candidate, who is also his other opponent in the constituency, as a Rajya Sabha member, was absent every day when a vote against a BJP bill was to be voted on.

"Nothing will be gained by tearing clothes and pretending, will the electricity come here by tearing clothes? Will tearing clothes get a job? Ask the person what did he do apart from tearing his clothes. Did they vote against the election of the Vice President and bills like triple talaq of the BJP?" He made passionate appeals to people to vote for him.

Andhra Pradesh records 81.86 per cent voter turnout in simultaneous LS/Assembly elections

Amaravati, May 15 (IANS) Andhra Pradesh recorded 81.86 per cent polling in simultaneous elections to the state Assembly and Lok Sabha conducted on Monday, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) M. K. Meena announced on Wednesday. Announcing the final polling figures at a news conference, he said 80.66 per cent of voters cast their votes in polling stations while 1.2 per cent polled their votes through postal ballot. The CEO said that compared to previous elections, the polling figure has gone up by 2.09 per cent. In 2019, the state had recorded a voter turnout of 79.77 per cent while in 2014, it was 78.41 per cent. He revealed that polling in 3,500 polling stations continued even after 6 p.m. as those standing in queues were allowed to cast votes. The last polling station completed the process at 2 a.m. Meena said polling in some places was delayed due to rains. He said observers analysed the polling process and all the reports and they have not taken any decision to conduct re-polling anywhere. More than 4.14 crore voters were eligible to cast their votes in the elections for 175-member Assembly and 25 Lok Sabha seats in the single-phase polling. The Darsi Assembly segment received the highest polling at 90.91 per cent while the lowest, at 63.32 per cent, was recorded in Tirupati. Among Lok Sabha constituencies, Ongole saw the highest turnout of 87.06 per cent while Visakhapatnam recorded the lowest, at 71.11 per cent. The Election Commission had Tuesday put the overall polling figure at 78.36%. Enthusiasm among voters marked the polling in the southern state as an estimated six lakh people living in neighbouring states of Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and other parts of the country came to their native places to cast their votes. Some even came from abroad to participate in the polling process. Election authorities had set up 46,389 polling centres across the state. The voters decided the political fortunes of 2,841 candidates. Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief and former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Jana Sena leader and actor Pawan Kalyan were among 2,387 candidates for 175 Assembly seats. For 25 Lok Sabha seats, 454 contestants are in the fray and the prominent among them were state BJP chief and former Union Minister D. Purandeswari (Rajahmundry), state Congress President Y. S. Sharmila Reddy (Kadapa), and former Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy (BJP, Rajampet). The CEO said that the EVMs have been kept under tight security at 350 strong rooms across the state. Counting of votes will be taken up on June 4.

EC is a puppet acting at the behest of the ruling party: Mamata Banerjee

Kolkata, May 15 (IANS) In a strongly-worded statement, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Wednesday that she will "cease to exist" if the BJP retains power at the Centre after the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. Addressing an election meeting in Hooghly in support of Trinamool Congress candidate and actress-turned-politician Rachana Banerjee, the Chief Minister said: "If the BJP returns to power, I will cease to exist. You will cease to exist. The common people will cease to exist. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will cease to exist. The farmers and workers will cease to exist. That is why defeating the BJP in every single seat is important for us." In 2019, BJP's actress-turned-politician Locket Chatterjee got elected from Hooghly by over 83,000 votes. She has been re-nominated by the party this time as well.

Calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi a "propaganda-oriented PM", the Chief Minister said, "He knows nothing except self-propaganda. He is violating the Model Code of Conduct by making promises. And the Election Commission is sitting like a puppet, acting at the behest of the ruling party."

She also attacked the poll panel over the multi-phase elections in the state. "The officials are sitting in air-conditioned rooms. How will they feel the sufferings of the common people due to the extended polling in the middle of this scorching summer," she asked the gathering. He also reiterated that every vote against the BJP is important to prevent the implementation of NRC (National Register of Citizens), CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act), and UCC (Uniform Civil Code) in the country. "It is my promise that these three draconian laws will not be implemented in the country if the BJP is voted out of power," she said.

'Fake' parties will merge with Congress after elections, says PM Modi in Maharashtra

Dindori (Maharashtra), May 15 (IANS) Labelling them as 'fake' parties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that it is certain that Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena and Sharad Pawar's NCP will merge with the Congress.

Addressing a public meeting in Dindori, PM Modi said: "When the fake Shiv Sena merges with Congress, I will miss Balasaheb Thackeray the most. The fake Shiv Sena has shattered his every dream. His vision included building a grand Ram Mandir in Ayodhya and abolishing Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir. While these dreams have been fulfilled, the fake Shiv Sena is showing the most

disgust. Just like Congress, they rejected the invitation for the temple's consecration. While Congress members are spewing hate about Ram Mandir, the fake Shiv Sena remains silent. Their sinful partnership has been exposed to the entire state of Maharashtra."

PM Modi said this while speaking at a poll rally for BJP nominee from Dindori -- Union Minister Bharati Pawar -- and Shiv Sena (Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde-led faction) candidate Hemant Godse from Nashik constituency.

PM Modi's remarks came against the backdrop of Sharad Pawar's recent statement that the regional parties could merge with



Congress after the poll results.

"They know that Congress, which is the main party of the INDIA bloc, is losing so badly that it will be difficult for it

even to become a valid opposition. Therefore, a leader of the INDIA bloc of Maharashtra says that small parties should be merged with Congress," PM Modi said.

Congress believes in 'destructive idea' of budget allocation based on religion: PM Modi

Kalyan (Maharashtra), May 15 (IANS) Slamming Congress' 'divisive' agenda, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the party is not only adamant on taking away reservation from SC/ST/OBC and the poor to give it to Muslims, but also believes in the "destructive idea" of budget allocation based on religion. "They have started this experiment in Karnataka. After coming to power there, they issued an order overnight that all Muslims are OBCs. They looted the OBC reservation quota and gave reservations to Muslims. Congress wants to do this in the entire country," claimed PM Modi in his address at the campaign rally for Shiv Sena nominee Shrikant



Shinde from Kalyan and the BJP nominee from Bhiwandi, Kapil Patil.

"But what has Congress' intention been? Today, I'm going to reveal this to all 140 crore countrymen for the first time. It's a serious topic that needs to be

addressed. Congress believes that 15 percent of the government's budget should be exclusively allocated to minorities, essentially budget allocation based on religion. Many years ago, Congress approved this idea of

budget allocation based on religion. Just imagine how destructive this idea is," he added. The Prime Minister, in his speech, accused the Congress of even considering confiscating properties to appease their vote bank. "Congress can never talk about development. For them, development means only the development of the people who vote for them," he said, stating that the grand old party also demands respect for Pakistan just because it has nuclear weapons. "When Congress rules, Pakistan threatens us. And, when Congress doesn't rule, it threatens us that Pakistan will threaten us," he remarked.

Barmer Independent nominee Ravindra Bhati receives another death threat



Jaipur, May 15 (IANS)

The Independent nominee from Rajasthan's Barmer, Ravindra Singh Bhati, has again received a death threat via a video message in which a young man could be seen vowing that Bhati will be killed soon for "spreading the poison of casteism". The latest video running 1 minute and 26 seconds surfaced on Tuesday. The man seen in the video also accused Bhati of insulting their folk deities. "What does he want to achieve by spreading this kind of casteism," he asked.

Earlier on April 27, a person named Megharam threatened to kill Bhati in a Facebook post. The Barmer police arrested Megharam on May 2 and handed him over to the Balotra police. On May 3, two personal security officers (PSOs) were deputed for the security of Bhati, who's also the Independent MLA from Sheo.

Meanwhile, after repeated threats to Bhati, his supporters are demanding strict action in the matter.

The police are probing the matter.

Cong most dishonest, misleading party in country: JP Nadda

Patna, May 15 (IANS) BJP National President JP Nadda on Wednesday slammed the Congress at a public meeting in Bihar's Sheohar Lok Sabha constituency and called it the "most dishonest" political party in the country.

"I want to give two examples of how Congress leaders mislead the country," BJP chief Nadda said while addressing the rally.

"When the Corona vaccine was being made, the Congress leaders misled the people and said it was not a good one. They (Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi) themselves went and got the vaccine secretly and kept telling you that this is Modi's vaccine, don't get it. There is no bigger dishonest, deceitful and misleading political party than the Congress in the country," he alleged.

"The Congress leaders had said that India is a



country of illiterate people. What is the need for Internet and Wi-Fi here? How will digital transactions take place here?" he continued.

"I want to tell you that today optical fiber has been laid in two lakh panchayats under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi. Common Service Centres have opened in two lakh villages. Understand the power of the people of India today that even a vegetable seller is doing digital transactions," Nadda said.

Taking a swipe at the RJD and Lalu Prasad

Yadav, he claimed, "R stands for Rishwat Khori (Graft) J stands for Jungle Raj and D stands for Daldal (Swamp)."

"The RJD is known for appeasement and casteism in politics and PM Narendra Modi finished them in the last 10 years. For him, all castes are equal. 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', 'Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas' is our basic Mantra," he said.

He said that under the leadership of PM Modi, 4 crore houses equipped with all basic facilities had been constructed across the country.

Odisha: Rahul Gandhi urges people to save Constitution

Bhubaneswar, May 15 (IANS) Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday urged the voters in Odisha to save the Constitution by voting in large numbers for the INDIA bloc. While addressing a public gathering at Bolangir constituency, Gandhi said that the biggest issue in this election is to save the Constitution and the ideas propounded by B.R. Ambedkar, and Mahatma Gandhi. He said if the constitution ends then the rights of common people, their land, the reservation system, and public sector firms will also come to an end. Gandhi warned the people that the country would be controlled by 22 billionaires following the "destruction" of the Constitution. "For the first time, a political party has said to the country that if it wins then it will destroy the Constitution. Whatever the poor, Dalits, minorities, tribals, farmers and



labourers have secured, it was given because of the Constitution. BJP senior leaders are saying that they will tear this book (Constitution). I want to say to every BJP worker and leader that none in the world can dare to touch the Constitution," said Gandhi.

He said that the BJP leaders also boast about ending reservation, the weapon provided to Dalits, Adivasis, and backward people by Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi, and Jawaharlal Nehru.

Gandhi said that as soon as the INDIA alliance forms the government at

the Centre on June 4, wages under the MGNREGS will be increased to Rs 400, salaries of Anganwadi and Asha workers will be doubled, 30 lakh vacant government sector posts will be filled by the Congress. He also reiterates the party's promise to ensure a guaranteed job to every fresh graduate and diploma holder in the first year. Besides, a total of Rs 1 lakh, Rs 8500 every month, will be deposited in the account of unemployed youths along with world-class skill training facilities, and the loans of farmers will be waived off.

BJP moves EC demanding cancellation of two Trinamool candidates' nominations

Kolkata, May 15 (IANS) West Bengal BJP, on Wednesday, informed that they have approached the Election Commission (EC) demanding to cancel the nominations of two Trinamool Congress candidates on the ground of serious defects in the nomination paper.

Speaking to the media persons on Wednesday afternoon, BJP state general secretary Jagannath Chattopadhyay said that the first one is Trinamool Congress candidate from Kolkata-Dakshin Mala Roy, who is also the sitting MP from the same constituency. "Besides being an MP

she is also the chairperson of Kolkata Municipal Corporation. This office is deemed to be an 'office of profit'. She had filed her nomination this time without resigning from that post. Even if she says that she is not drawing any salary as the chairman of KMC, she will not be out of the ambit of that 'office of profit,'" Chattopadhyay said.

The second candidate of Trinamool Congress, whose cancellation of nomination has also been demanded by state BJP, is the ruling party candidate from Basirhat Lok Sabha in North 24 Parganas district, Haji Nurul Islam who had



been the Trinamool Congress MP from the

same constituency from 2009 to 2014.

According to Chattopadhyay, anyone filing the nomination and who had been in any government, legislative or parliamentary position before, has to produce the "no dues certificate" from the government for the last 10 years along with his nomination.

"However, Haji Nurul Islam has not submitted that 'no dues certificate'. If you remember our first candidate for Birbhum Lok Sabha constituency, Debasish Dhar, a former Indian Police Service officer, got his nomination cancelled because he also

could not produce that 'no dues certificate' from the state government, following which we had to change our candidate at Birbhum," Chattopadhyay said.

He said that already the BJP has approached the EC pointing out these deficiencies in the nominations of Roy and Islam. "We will go to the extreme point in the matter including the Supreme Court of India," Chattopadhyay said.

Till the time the report was filed, there was no reaction from either Roy or Islam or any other Trinamool Congress leader on the issue.

Health

Explained: The rising burden of dengue in India



New Delhi, May 15 (IANS) Rising temperatures, unprecedented floods, and challenges in public health infrastructure are all contributing to the rising burden of dengue in India, said experts on Wednesday, ahead of National Dengue Day. National Dengue Day is observed every year on May 16. The theme this year is 'Dengue Prevention: Our Responsibility for a Safer Tomorrow.' Dengue is a vector-borne disease transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito and is endemic to more than 100 countries. "Dengue fever's widespread presence in India can be attributed primarily to the region's climate, which creates an ideal environment for Aedes mosquitoes, the primary vector for dengue virus transmission. These mosquitoes thrive in warm, humid conditions prevalent across many parts of India, particularly during the monsoon season," said Dr Rohit Kumar Garg, Consultant, Department of Infectious Diseases, Amrita Hospital, Faridabad.

Urbanisation and the density of the human population also facilitate the rapid spread of the virus. "The rising burden of dengue in India reflects these conditions, alongside challenges in public health infrastructure to control the spread and manage outbreaks effectively," Dr Rohit said.

According to the experts, the transmission of dengue is closely associated with three key factors: Rainfall, humidity, and temperature which dictate the geographies in which it spreads and the transmission rate.

"Unpredictable rains, coupled with rampant construction and inadequate drainage systems, create stagnant water pockets that are ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes," Dr. Divya Gopal, Internal Medicine, Sir HN Reliance Hospital and Research Centre, told IANS.

"Rising temperatures and unprecedented flooding have also encouraged the spread of mosquitoes well beyond their traditional breeding grounds, bringing dengue fever to areas never before threatened by these debilitating illnesses," she added. Despite the challenges, progress has been made, particularly in the development and implementation of strategies for vector control in India, which can be seen in the declining cases and death rates.

As per the data from the Health Ministry's National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), dengue claimed 91 lives and affected 94,198 people in the country in India in 2023 -- a marked decline from 1,93,245 cases and 346 deaths in 2021.

Harsh Gujral shakes a leg with Mallika Sherawat on 'Maiyya Maiyya'



Mumbai, May 15 (IANS) The upcoming episode of 'Madness Machayenge-India Ko Hasayenge' welcomed Bollywood sensation Mallika Sherawat, and the host Harsh Gujral faced an exciting challenge from the actress and grooved to her iconic song 'Maiyya Maiyya'. Comedians Kettan Singh, Gaurav Dubey, and Mubeen Saudagar join forces for a hilarious '3 Idiots Spoof'. Kettan brings to life the beloved character, Virus, Mubeen channels his inner Rancho, and Gaurav doubles up as Farhan and Chatur. Harsh shakes a leg to the song 'Maiyya Maiyya' alongside Mallika. "Working alongside the incredibly talented Kettan and Mubeen has been an absolute delight. Our off-screen bonding translated into great chemistry on stage, making the performance even more enjoyable. Performing in front of Mallika was a thrill, and I'm ecstatic that she enjoyed our act. Viewers would love this gag because it's packed with laughter, creativity, and a fresh take on a beloved classic," he added.

'Chaahenge Tumhe Itnaa' takes a turn as Aashi is torn between her love & responsibilities

Mumbai, May 15 (IANS) A major turning point has arrived in the show 'Chaahenge Tumhe Itnaa' as Aashi (Swati Sharma) and Siddharth (Bharat Ahlawat) face unexpected challenges after their anticipated wedding moment takes an unexpected turn, leaving them both in a difficult predicament. Now, Aashi finds herself torn between her love for Siddharth and her responsibilities towards Kunal, whom she feels obligated to due to her family. In the



upcoming episodes, Siddharth decides to stay in the house to support Aashi, at the request of Amit. However, Amrita who denies staying in the same house, has agreed to stay, as Kunal

blackmails her into remaining. Amidst the presence of guests, Kunal deliberately humiliates Aashi, prompting Siddharth to intervene and assist her. Despite Kunal's attempts to harm Aashi, Siddharth's plan results in Kunal falling ill instead. Amrita accuses Aashi of being responsible for Kunal's illness. As the story unfolds, the narrative assures viewers of unexpected twists and turns ahead, keeping them hooked.

Nipun Dharmadhikari says he cast child actor Mihir Godbole because of his smile

Mumbai, May 15 (IANS) Director-actor Nipun Dharmadhikari, who predominantly works in Marathi cinema, is currently gearing up for the release of his upcoming Marathi streaming series 'Lampan'. He opened up on casting child actor Mihir Godbole in the show, and as quirky as it may sound, the young actor was cast because of his teeth. Nipun shared that when he first met Mihir, the actor's smile caught his attention. Nipun said that Mihir's smile had natural sincerity and warmth.



Exploring this unusual perspective, the director explained: "From the director's point of view, casting is about finding not just an actor, but someone who can fully embody a character. Lampan's journey was no different - every small detail was important, and we took our time. When I first met Mihir, his smile caught my attention; it had a natural sincerity and warmth that matched Lampan's spirit perfectly."

"As we were wanting to eagerly find our Lampan, it became clear that Mihir's smile

wasn't just a physical trait; it was a crucial part of the innocence and wonder we wanted to convey through his character. Choosing Mihir was an intuitive choice, based on the belief that his smile could bring Lampan's soul to life along with his incredible talents. It's moments like these when a bright smile lights up a room, that shows the magic of casting, shaping the heart of a production."

Say Shava Shava' from Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham

Mumbai, May 15 (IANS) The song 'Dekhha Tenu' from the upcoming Rajkumar Rao and Janhvi Kapoor-starrer film 'Mr. & Mrs. Mahi', hit the airwaves on Wednesday. The song, which finds its germ in the antara of the song 'Say Shava Shava' from the multi-starrer film 'Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham', has been redesigned by composer Jaani. Jaani has also written the lyrics to the song with vocals lent by Mohammad Faiz, the winner of the reality show 'Superstar Singer 2'. The track showcases a sparkling chemistry between Rajkumar Rao and Janhvi Kapoor. It is shot in the picturesque locales of Jaipur, showcasing the duo's beautiful wedding sequence. Lyricist and composer Jaani, said, "It's amazing to see the love people are already pouring in for 'Dekhha Tenu' just after watching a small glimpse of it. It's such an iconic verse, and we wanted to live up to that legacy while ensuring that the new version is as beautiful and unique as the older."

Amid 'Shikhu' tease, Janhvi Kapoor opens up on what she looks for in a partner

Mumbai, May 15 (IANS) Actress Janhvi Kapoor, who has a busy year before her, spoke about the qualities that her partner should have. The actress attended the song launch of 'Dekhha Tenu' from her upcoming film 'Mr. & Mrs. Mahi' on Wednesday, at a multiplex in Mumbai's Juhu. During the event she was asked about the qualities of a "perfect partner." Responding to the same, the actress said: "The person should consider my dreams as his own, and be my solid support system through thick and thin." As the actress listed the qualities of her partner, the media took her rumoured boyfriend Shikhar Pahariya's name as they collectively said: "Shikhu Shikhu." Janhvi had earlier had a Freudian slip as she dropped Shikhar's name saying "Shikhu" during the last season of the chat show 'Koffee With Karan'. Looking at the reaction from the media, Janhvi couldn't help but blush as she helplessly looked at her co-star Rajkumar Rao and her film's director Sharan Sharma, and smiled at the media. Janhvi will be seen essaying the role of a cricketer opposite Rajkumar Rao in the film which is produced by her mentor Karan Johar. 'Mr. & Mrs. Mahi' is set to release on May 31.



For Kartik Aaryan, cricket isn't just a sport, it's a lifelong passion

Mumbai, May 15 (IANS) Bollywood's chocolate boy Kartik Aaryan is an ardent fan of cricket. He said that it is not just a sport for him but a lifelong passion. Kartik said: "Cricket isn't just a sport for me; it's a lifelong passion. I lived and breathed every moment of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 and look forward to watching Team India excel in the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024." The actor has become the face for the campaign 'Free For All, Har Match Har Ball'. The recently released ad film for the campaign emphasises on Disney+ Hotstar's 'Free on mobile' offering for the tournament enabling all the cricket fans across the country to never miss any cricketing action.



Raj and DK mark 15 years as filmmakers: 'Glad we stuck to stories we wanted to do'

Mumbai, May 15 (IANS) As they clock 15 years in the world of filmmaking, director duo Raj and DK shared that they started off as Indie filmmakers and blew up all their savings. However, the two are happy that years later, they stuck to the stories they always wanted to make. It was in 2009 when Raj and DK released their first film '99' starring Kunal Kemu and Soha Ali Khan. Talking about their journey, the duo went on social media, where they shared a collage of all the projects they have worked on. They captioned it: "When we wanted to turn filmmakers, the first thing we did was make business cards. We debated for a long time (like we still do) - what should we call ourselves? Writers? Directors? Producers? Storytellers? Guerilla something... Finally we decided 'Filmmakers' described us best. "Next.



What do we name our company? Very self-explanatorily, we named it Dreams2Reality Films. Cheesy much? Thankfully, it soon became D2R Films... representing a 'detour' from the norm." "We started off as

Indie filmmakers and blew up all our savings. But we are glad, years later, that we stuck to the stories we always wanted to make, however hard they have been." They shared that they are proud of their journey.

"For that, we would not take the easy route. For just that, we are proud. And for everything else, we are so very grateful! From dreams to screens, all these years of storytelling, experiences and countless memories have

Comedians Kushal, Gaurav & Kaveri team up for gag on Chunky Pandey as 'Aakhiri Pasta'

Mumbai, May 15 (IANS) The comedians of 'Madness Machayenge-India Ko Hasayenge'-- Kushal Badrike, Gaurav Dubey, and Kaveri Priyam collaborated for a delightful sketch in which Kushal takes on the role of Chunky Pandey's famous on-screen character 'Aakhiri Pasta,' where he plays a cook who adds a spicy twist to the kitchen dynamics. The new episode will see the presence of actor Chunky Pandey. After the act, Chunky and 'Madness ki Malkin' Huma Qureshi gave them a well-deserved standing ovation. Chunky played the character of 'Aakhri Pasta' in the 2010



comedy drama 'Housefull', starring Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh, Arjun Rampal, Lara Dutta, Deepika Padukone and Jiah Khan. Talking about the gag, Kushal said: "Stepping into the shoes of 'Aakhiri Pasta' was nerve-racking, especially knowing that the original Aakhiri Pasta, Chunky Pandey ji, would be watching. However, I was thrilled that Chunky Pandey ji enjoyed my take on his iconic character. Working alongside Gaurav Dubey and Kaveri Priyam was a joy--they're incredibly talented comedians, and our chemistry on stage made the gag even more hilarious."

India's electronic goods exports up 25.8 pc YoY in April



New Delhi, May 15 (IANS) India's electronic goods exports increased by 25.8 per cent in the month of April (Year-on-Year), from \$2.11 billion in April 2023 to \$2.65 billion this year, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said on Wednesday. Overall, India's total exports (merchandise and services combined) in April is estimated to be \$64.56 billion, clocking a growth of 6.88 per cent over April last year. The key drivers of merchandise exports growth included electronic goods, organic and inorganic chemicals, petroleum products and drugs and pharmaceuticals, according to the ministry. Led by mobile phones, the export of electronics goods has seen a meteoric rise in the last 10 years. Mobile phone exports from India were Rs 1,556 crore in 2014-15. According to industry data, cumulative exports of mobile phones during the 2014-2024 period reached around Rs 3,22,048 crore. The last fiscal year (FY24) alone is estimated to see mobile phone exports at over Rs 1,20,000 crore.

Sensex slumps 117 points, Nifty holds 22,200 amid profit booking



Mumbai, May 15 (IANS) Indian equity benchmarks closed in red on Wednesday, following profit booking and sideways trading among global peers. At closing, Sensex was down by 117 points or 0.16 per cent, at 72,987 points and the Nifty was down by 17 points or 0.08 per cent, at 22,200 points. Midcap and smallcap stocks outperformed benchmarks. The Nifty midcap 100 index was up by 482 points or 0.96 per cent, at 50,707 points and the Nifty smallcap index was up by 94 points or 0.58 per cent, at 16,457 points. Among the sector indices, PSU bank, pharma, metal, realty, energy, infra, PSE, healthcare, and oil & gas were settled in the green mark. On the contrary auto, IT, fin service, media and private banks remained in the red. In the Sensex pack, 14 out of 30 stocks closed in the green mark, and 16 stocks closed in the red mark. Bharti Airtel, Power grid, NTPC, L&T, Axis Bank, M&M and HCL tech were major gainers. Asian Paints, Tata Motors, HDFC Bank, JSW Steel, Sun Pharma, HUL, and Nestle were major laggards. "The BankNifty index experienced sideways trading during the weekly expiry day, encountering resistance at the 48000 level. To sustain the upward momentum, the index must decisively surpass this mark, targeting levels around 48500," according to Kunal Shah, Senior Technical & Derivative Analyst at LKP Securities. "On the downside, support is positioned at 47200, presenting favourable buying opportunities on dips toward this level," he added.

India's goods exports post 1.07 pc growth in April despite global uncertainties

New Delhi May 15 (IANS) India's goods exports rose 1.07 per cent to hit almost \$35 billion in April despite the uncertainties in the global market due to the economic slowdown and geopolitical tensions, according to figures released by the Union Commerce Ministry on Wednesday.

However, imports jumped by as much as 10.25 per cent during the month to \$54.1 billion, largely due to an increase in gold purchases. As a result, the merchandise trade deficit for the month was 32.3 per cent higher than a year ago, at \$19.1 billion. Gold imports more than tripled in April to \$3.11 billion from \$1.01 billion in the same month last year. Gold imports stood at \$1.53 billion in March 2024.

Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said he hoped the rise in merchandise exports in the first month of the 2024-25 financial year is a good omen for the coming months.

The sectors that did well on the export front include electronics, pharmaceuticals,



chemicals, and petroleum products.

The Ministry has raised its estimate for total exports in 2023-24 to \$778.2 billion from \$776.7 billion estimated last month,

which is 0.42 per cent increase over the record \$776.4 billion exports in 2022-23 as services exports are expected to grow at a robust pace.

The President of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), Ashwani Kumar, said that starting the new financial year 2024-25 with a growth of over 1 per cent is a good sign even during such challenging times.

This shows the resilience of the exports sector. The ongoing Russia-Ukraine war coupled with various geo-political tensions such as the Red Sea crisis and the Israel-Hamas conflict has also made the international trade scenario much tougher for Indian exporters, he said.

Kumar also said the tariff war between the US and China may come as an opportunity for India's export sector.

ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar said, "Overall, nearly half of the widening in the aggregate merchandise trade deficit between April 2023 and April 2024 was on account of the surge in the value of gold imports amid the rise in global prices."

"As of now, the current account deficit for FY2025 appears likely to print at a modest 1.2 per cent of GDP."

India's unemployment rate declines in Jan-March quarter

New Delhi, May 15 (IANS) The unemployment rate in India's urban areas decreased to 6.7 per cent during January-March 2024 from 6.8 per cent in the same period of the previous year for persons aged 15 and above, reflecting a continued improvement in the job markets, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Wednesday. The figures show that the female unemployment rate in the urban areas decreased from 9.2 per cent in January-March 2023 to 8.5 per cent in January-March 2024.

There has also been an increasing trend in the Worker Population Ratio (WPR) for persons aged 15 and above from 45.2 per cent in January-March 2023 to 46.9 per cent in January-March 2024.

This also shows an increase in employment as



WPR is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population.

Similarly, the Female Worker Population Ratio in the urban areas rose from 20.6 per cent to 23.4 per cent from January-March 2023 to January-March 2024, reflecting the overall increasing trend in WPR.

The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in the urban areas shows an increasing trend from 48.5 per cent during January-March 2023 to 50.2 per cent in January-March 2024 for persons aged 15 and above. This also reflects an improvement in the job market.

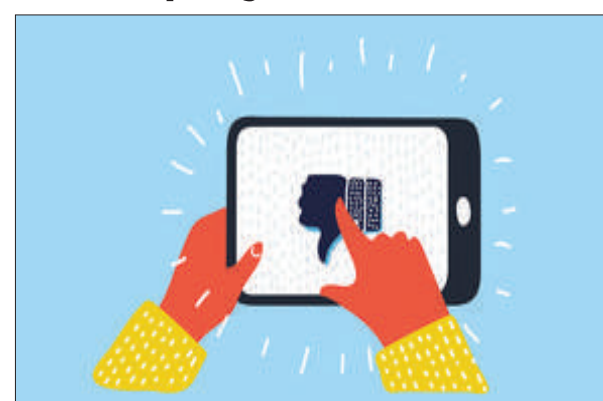
Centre takes up surge in online fake reviews with e-commerce giants, issues draft quality control order

New Delhi, May 15 (IANS) As consumer complaints related to e-commerce platforms surge in the country, the Department of Consumer Affairs on Wednesday held a stakeholder consultation on the protection of consumer interest from online fake reviews.

Consumer complaints relating to e-commerce platforms on the National Consumer Helpline (NCH) surged from 95,270 in 2018 (22 per cent of total grievances) to 4,44,034 in 2023 (43 per cent of total grievances).

"The presence of fake reviews online jeopardises the trustworthiness and credibility of shopping platforms and can cause consumers to make wrong purchase decisions," said the Department, which comes under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Nidhi Khare, Secretary, of Consumer Affairs, chaired the meeting, attended by representatives from major online



platforms such as Google, Meta, Amazon and Flipkart, industry bodies and voluntary consumer associations, among others.

During the meeting, the Department of Consumer Affairs emphasised the growth in online shopping over recent times and the rising number of consumer grievances registered in the e-commerce sector on the NCH. The discussion on moving towards a "quality control order for IS 19000:2022" was welcomed by stakeholders and a general consensus was reached among them that the issue of fake

reviews is important to protect consumer interest while shopping online, and requires to be closely monitored. The draft quality control order (QCO) will be placed for public consultation for submitting comments within a prescribed time frame. The essential requirements provided under the draft QCO include that the processes for collecting, moderating and publishing online consumer reviews would be done in a manner ensuring that the "reviews that are genuine get published", the Department said.

FOREIGN

Israel rejects UN General Assembly call for more rights for Palestine

Tel Aviv, May 15 (IANS/DPA) The Israeli government has unanimously rejected a recommendation adopted last week by the UN General Assembly calling for greater rights within the assembly for Palestine.

"We will not reward the terrible massacre of October 7," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday following his cabinet's decision to reject the resolution.

"We will not allow them to establish a terrorist state from which they will be able to vigorously attack us," he added.

Neither the General Assembly nor any other organization can prevent Israel from exercising its right to self-defence, Netanyahu said.

On Friday, the General Assembly in New York voted 143-9 for the UN Security Council to give "favourable consideration" to a resolution granting Palestine, which already has UN observer state status, further rights without offering full voting rights.

A total of 25 countries abstained, including Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom.

Netanyahu said the resolution "will not constitute a basis for future negotiations, and does not advance a peaceful solution."

Thailand seeks extradition of S. Korean suspect in Pattaya murder

Bangkok/Seoul, May 15 (IANS) Thailand plans to request South Korea hand over a suspect in the murder of a South Korean tourist and disposal of the body in Pattaya, a local media report said on Wednesday.

Thai authorities are seeking the extradition of one of the three suspects, who was arrested in a provincial county in South Korea on Monday, the Khaosod daily reported quoting a local police official.

Thai police are investigating the brutal murder case, in which the body of the 34-year-old victim was found in a plastic container filled with cement in a reservoir in Pattaya, reports Yonhap News Agency.

A Bangkok court has also



issued arrest warrants for the three suspects on charges of abduction and murder, the news outlet said.

An official from the South Korean Embassy in Thailand said it has received no formal request on the extradition.

"Thai police officials have mentioned the

possibility of seeking an extradition but we have received no such request yet," the embassy official said.

"We are in the process of confirming the arrest warrants," the official said.

South Korean police arrested the suspect in his 20s in Jeongeup, some 217 kilometers southwest of

Seoul, on Sunday, and transferred him to Changwon in accordance with jurisdiction rules.

On Wednesday, a regional court in Changwon issued an arrest warrant to keep him under further custody for investigation, citing a flight risk and concerns of destroying evidence although the suspect denied having been directly involved in the murder.

The second suspect, also in his 20s, was caught and arrested in Cambodia on Tuesday, with the police tracking down the last suspect, who is believed to have fled to a neighboring country from Thailand.

Police were also looking into possible motives of the crime, including involvement of illegal drugs or gambling.

North Korean leader inspects new tactical missile system

Seoul, May 15 (IANS) North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has inspected a new tactical missile weapons system and called for an "epochal change" in war preparations by attaining arms production plans, state media said on Wednesday. Kim oversaw the "tactical missile weapons system to be newly equipped by the combined missile units of the Korean

People's Army (KPA) in charge of an important firing assignment" on Tuesday, according to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). It did not provide further details on the new system or where the inspection took place, reports Yonhap News Agency. Kim expressed "great satisfaction" about the production performance of the manufacturing sites in the first half, the KCNA said.

Populist Wilders says right-wing government agreed in the Netherlands

Amsterdam, May 15 (IANS/DPA) The far-right Dutch populist Geert Wilders says he has agreed on a coalition government with three other right-wing parties nearly six months after the Netherlands held parliamentary elections.

Amsterdam, May 15 (IANS/DPA) The far-right Dutch populist Geert Wilders says he has agreed on a coalition government with three other right-wing parties nearly six months after the Netherlands held parliamentary elections.

"We have an agreement," Wilders said in The Hague on Wednesday as last-minute coalition talks continued ahead of a midnight (2200 GMT Wednesday) deadline. No candidate for prime minister has yet been agreed on, Wilders said. The controversial politician's Party for Freedom (PVV) won a clear victory in November's election, taking 37 of 150 seats, but Wilders proved unable to secure enough support to replace Mark Rutte as prime minister. The coalition is set to include Rutte's liberal People's Party for Freedom and Democracy, Pieter Omtzigt's conservative New Social Contract (NSC) and the populist Farmer-Citizen Movement (BBB). The content of the agreement was not yet available on Wednesday afternoon. The coalition's parliamentary groupings have to give their approval of the deal before the midnight deadline.

Yemen's Houthis claim attacks on US warship, cargo vessel

Sanaa, May 15 (IANS) Yemen's Houthi group claimed on Wednesday that they had attacked a U.S. warship and another cargo vessel in the Red Sea, said a statement by Houthi military spokesman.

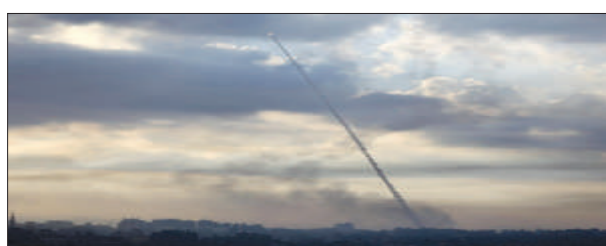
The group carried out a military operation targeting the U.S. destroyer Mason in the Red Sea "with a number of naval missiles, and the hit was accurate," said Houthi military spokesman Yahya Sarea in a statement

aired by the Houthi-run al-Masirah TV, reported Xinhua News Agency.

He added that his group also carried out another joint missile and drone attack, targeting a U.S. cargo vessel DESTINY in the Red Sea, and "the hit was accurate."

The statement provided no details about the date or casualties of the attacks.

According to the U.S. Central Command on social media platform X,



the U.S.-British naval coalition in the waters intercepted and destroyed on Monday two drones and an anti-ship ballistic missile launched by what it said

"Iranian-backed Houthis" from northern Yemen towards ships in the Red Sea.

"There were no injuries or damages reported by

U.S., coalition, or merchant vessels," the U.S. Central Command added.

Since last November, the Houthis began to launch anti-ship ballistic missiles and drones targeting what they said were Israeli-linked ships transiting the Red Sea to show solidarity with the Palestinians in Gaza, which has been under relentless Israeli attacks for nearly seven months. In January, the United States and Britain

launched a military operation by carrying out airstrikes on Houthi military sites to deter the group. However, the Houthis, in retaliation, have subsequently expanded their attacks to include U.S. and British ships. Early in May, the group announced the expansion of its ballistic missile attacks to include all Israeli-linked commercial vessels transiting the Mediterranean.

Six miscreants arrested and jailed in Bagbera and Ulidih firing cases

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 15: A breakthrough has been achieved in the recent cases of firing incidents in Bagbera and Ulidih, as the police apprehended six suspects involved in the criminal activities. The main conspirator in the firing on Vijay alias Monu in Bagbera, Kanhaiya Singh, has been arrested and incarcerated, along with several others implicated in the violent acts. Mohd., who was responsible for the

firing on Monu, along with Chand, Neeraj Dubey, Sintu Singh, David Toppo, Sunil Rajak, and Brajesh Kumar Pandey, who carried out the attack on Guddu Pandey's residence in Ulidih, have all been apprehended by law enforcement authorities. A significant cache of weapons and ammunition, including one repeater gun, four country-made pistols, one country-made pistol, and a total of 102 rounds of bullets, has been recovered by the police during the operation. Providing details



of the successful operation, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kishore Kaushal stated that the

police received crucial intelligence indicating the whereabouts of the suspects, who were

reportedly hiding in Kolkata. Acting swiftly on the information, a specialized team, led by

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Bhola Prasad Singh, coordinated with the Kolkata Police to conduct a raid at Loknath Apartment in the Bagui police station area of Kolkata. Consequently, Neeraj Dubey, David Toppo, Mohd., Chand, Sintu Singh, and Brajesh Kumar Pandey were apprehended during the operation, while Sunil Rajak was arrested in Jamshedpur. SSP Kaushal revealed that the motive behind the firing incidents stemmed from an ongoing

feud between Kanhaiya Singh and Monu. Monu had previously been implicated in a case involving the firing on Neeraj Dubey at the station's parking lot, prompting Neeraj and Kanhaiya to conspire against Monu. Chand was recruited for the execution of the plan, with assistance from Ashish, who remains at large. Furthermore, it was disclosed that Brajesh Pandey facilitated the suspects' escape to Kolkata following the incidents, and disposed of the weapons

used in the attacks. The arrested individuals have been found to be involved in multiple criminal cases, including murder and firing incidents. The arrests have shed light on two separate cases of violence, namely the firing on Monu Singh in Bagbera and the firing on Guddu Pandey in Ulidih. The police are now set to interrogate the accused further after obtaining their remand, with the suspects currently in judicial custody. (w/nkm)

Husband arrested for wife's murder

Jamshedpur, May 15: Thakur Kisku, the husband of Jamuna Kisku, was apprehended by the Kowali police on charges of murdering his wife. The incident occurred on May 10, leading to Thakur's arrest and subsequent judicial custody on Wednesday. The deceased's father, Tikaram Manjhi, filed an FIR at the Kowali police station, alleging his daughter's murder. According to Tikaram, his son Sani Soren informed him on May 10 that his sister had ingested an excessive amount of tablets, resulting in her deteriorating health. Upon receiving the information, they rushed Jamuna to MGM Hospital, where she succumbed to her condition during treatment. Investigations revealed that the accused husband, Thakur Kisku, administered the fatal tablets to Jamuna. Acting on this evidence, the police arrested Thakur and remanded him to judicial custody. (w/nkm)

58% Home Voting recorded in Jamshedpur LS constituency

Jamshedpur, May 15: A total of 2,199 voters, including deputed polling personnel, police officers, home guards, district officials, and essential service workers, exercised their franchise through postal ballots for the 5th phase Lok Sabha constituencies in Jamshedpur. In addition, 67 elderly and disabled persons participated in home voting on Wednesday. Over the past two days, home voting has witnessed a count of approximately 58%. (w/gsd)

DEO inspects postal ballot facility centre, 1437 voters cast their ballots

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 15: In preparation for the upcoming elections, District Election Officer Ananya Mittal conducted an inspection of the postal ballot facility center established at the Tourist Information Centre. This center is designated for police officers, police force, and home guards to cast their votes. Mittal was accompanied by Deputy Development Commissioner Manish Kumar during the visit. During the inspection, the senior district officials engaged with the Assistant Returning Officer (AERO) to gather information about the voting progress. They reviewed the arrangements made at the facility,



including the guidance provided to voters through the help desk and the availability of essential amenities such as electricity, drinking water, toilets, and fans. Mittal emphasized the importance of facilitating a smooth voting process and

instructed all personnel on election duty to ensure they exercise their right to vote. The postal ballot voting process, which commenced on May 14, is designed for polling party members, police officers, home guards, district officers, essential service personnel,

and other designated voters. The response has been enthusiastic, with 1,437 voters casting their ballots on the first day. Long queues have been observed at the Facilitation Center and Tourist Information Center located at Co-

operative College. Additionally, district personnel have been actively encouraging voter participation by sharing photos on social media and WhatsApp groups, urging all voters to turn out on May 25. Mittal expressed satisfaction with the preparations and urged all personnel on election duty to exercise their right to vote. Long queues have been reported at both the Facilitation Center and the Tourist Information Center located at Co-operative College, demonstrating high voter turnout. District personnel have been actively encouraging voter participation by sharing their voting experiences on social media and WhatsApp groups, motivating others

to vote on May 25. This enthusiastic response underscores the community's dedication to contributing to the electoral process and ensuring a robust democratic outcome. In 2019, around 66.4 per cent votes were cast in the poll for Jamshedpur parliamentary seat, which ended peacefully here. Jamshedpur Lok Sabha constituency comprises the following six Vidhan Sabha (legislative assembly) segments: Baharagora Ghatshila, Potka, Jugsalai, Jamshedpur East and Jamshedpur West. Baharagora witnessed 75.46 per cent, Ghatshila 68.12 per cent, Potka 69.78, Jugsalai 70.78 per cent, Jamshedpur East 60.48 per cent and Jamshedpur West 57.85 per cent. (W/pb)

Countdown to Voting Day: Focus on intensifying Voter Awareness Campaign

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 15: With only ten days remaining until the district elections, Deputy Development Commissioner and Senior Officer of the Sweep Cell, Manish Kumar, held a crucial meeting at the Collectorate Auditorium in Jamshedpur. Addressing the officers and personnel of the Sweep Cell, Kumar emphasized the urgency of accelerating the voter awareness campaign to ensure maximum voter turnout on May 25. Kumar outlined the importance of these final days leading up to the election, urging the

team to devise a comprehensive action plan to enhance voter engagement. He instructed the officials to ensure the effective distribution of voter information slips, particularly in urban areas, to facilitate voter participation. "The primary goal of our large-scale voter awareness campaign is to communicate the importance of voting to every voter in the district. We want to ensure that voters, along with their families, head to the voting booths on May 25," said Kumar. He called for a concerted effort over the next ten days, targeting various community



segments including residential societies, social organizations, booth awareness groups, electoral literacy clubs, schools, colleges, transgender communities, NGOs, bus and auto associations, PDS

shops, Pragma Kendras, clubs, and restaurants. In line with the directives of District Election Officer Ananya Mittal, a voter awareness program themed 'With 25' and 'Family Festival' was conducted

among the employees of the Tata Workers Union. Kumar, who participated in the program, urged everyone to bring 25 people to the voting booth on May 25. He highlighted the administration's extensive

voter awareness initiatives, particularly aimed at urban voters, and stressed the need for everyone to exercise their democratic right. Motivating the electorate, Kumar stated, "In a democracy, every individual has an equal right to vote. I urge everyone to participate enthusiastically in this grand festival of democracy. Every vote contributes to shaping the nation's future, so don't let your vote go to waste. Vote first and then proceed with your day." To reinforce their commitment, all attendees took a voter oath, pledging to vote and encouraging others to do the same. (W/pb)

Jharkhand High Court cancels cognizance in Chanduka Hi Tech Case

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 15: The Jharkhand High Court has made a significant ruling by dismissing the case against M/s Chanduka Hi Tech Steel Private Limited. The case was originally filed by Abhishek Kumar Jha from Moon City Mango in the local court in 2021, accusing M/s Chanduka Hi Tech and its directors, Amit Gupta and Anshu Gupta, of financial misconduct. Abhishek alleged that the accused received Rs 2 crore 89 lakh 41 thousand 702 but failed to deliver the promised materials. Following the complaint, the Chief Judicial Magistrate took cognizance on July 7, 2022, issuing summons under sections 406 and 420 of the Indian Penal Code and section 120B of criminal conspiracy. In response, the accused's lawyer, Sudhir Kumar Pappu, sought recourse in the Jharkhand High Court. Senior advocate Nitin Pansari represented Amit Gupta and Anshu Gupta in the High Court, where the cognizance taken against them was annulled under Section 482 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). (w/nkm)

Officials inspect EVM and VVPAT commissioning

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 15: District Election Officer Ananya Mittal and Senior Superintendent of Police Kishore Kaushal conducted inspection of the EVM and VVPAT commissioning work at Co-operative College for the Jugsalai, Jamshedpur East, and Jamshedpur West assembly constituencies. While Co-operative College was handling the commissioning for these three constituencies, LBSM College will handle the remaining constituencies. Mittal emphasized the importance of thorough, cautious, and efficient checks by the officials in the strong room and immediate resolution of any issues. The Co-operative College has also been designated as the counting



venue. Senior district officials reviewed the strong room, counting, parking and voting material distribution venues, security arrangements, and CCTV monitoring room, providing necessary

instructions for each. They also outlined guidelines for polling party logistics on counting day. AROs and AEROs of the three assembly constituencies were present during the inspection. (w/gsd)

Voter Awareness Campaign at Tata Workers' Union

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 15: A voter awareness campaign was conducted among the employees of Tata Workers' Union on Wednesday, May 25, following the instructions of District Election Officer Ananya Mittal. Themed 'With 25' and 'Family's Festival', the event aimed to encourage collective participation in the upcoming elections. Deputy Development Commissioner and Senior Officer Svecpcell addressed all present, urging them to bring 25 people each to the voting booths on May 25. He highlighted the



administration's extensive efforts to promote voter awareness in urban areas and emphasized the importance of voter turnout. The Deputy Development Commissioner motivated everyone to exercise the democratic right, stressing that every vote contributed to nation-building.

He reminded voters that their participation shaped the democracy of the country and urged them to prioritize voting. The event concluded with the taking of the voter oath, reaffirming the commitment to participate in the electoral process. (w/gsd)

Excise Dept dismantles two illegal liquor distilleries in Birsanagar

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, May 15: As part of its ongoing efforts to curb illegal activities during the Lok Sabha elections, the Excise Department has intensified its crackdown on illicit liquor operations. In a recent operation conducted on Wednesday, based on actionable intelligence, the department launched a targeted campaign in Nutandih and Manpita areas within the jurisdiction of the Birsanagar police station. During the operation, two clandestine Mahua Chulai liquor distilleries, allegedly operated by local individual Dukhu Mahato, were uncovered. The raid resulted in the seizure of a significant quantity of contraband, including 14,000 kilograms of Java-Mahua stored in drums buried underground and 100 liters of illicit Mahua liquor stored in large plastic bags. Following the raid, appropriate legal action has been initiated against the accused, with FIRs filed, and investigations underway to ascertain further details regarding the illegal activities. The operation was conducted under the supervision of Inspector Excise Prem Prakash Oraon, Ramdas Bhagat, Sub Inspector Om Prakash, In-charge Sub Inspector Ramdev Paswan, and dedicated excise constables, demonstrating the department's commitment to enforcing law and order. (w/nkm)

KIIT climbs higher in Times Young University Rankings 2024

Mail News Service

Bhubaneswar, May 15: The annual Times Higher Education Young University Rankings has been announced today. In a notable achievement in its academic rankings, KIIT Deemed to be University has ascended to the 11th position in India in the Times Higher Education Young University Rankings for 2024. This move demonstrates KIIT's continuous improvement and commitment to excellence in higher education. KIIT Deemed to be University, which is just 20 years old, has outshone many older and more established institutions, including several IITs. This

achievement is particularly significant considering the youth of the institution compared to others that have been educational pillars for about half a century. In last year's rankings, KIIT was placed in the cohort of 151-200 globally. KIIT's global rank has significantly improved to 168 in this year's rankings. Out of the 673 universities worldwide evaluated in this year's ranking, 55 were from India, placing KIIT in the elite top echelon of young universities. The Times Higher Education Young University Rankings specifically lists the world's best universities that are 50 years old or younger, assessing them across their



core missions: teaching, research, knowledge transfer, and international outlook. KIIT's rise in the rankings is a testament to

its robust academic framework and innovative educational practices. The university has consistently been recognized for its

dynamic approach to education that emphasizes not just academic rigor but also the holistic development of its

students. Faculty, students, and staff at KIIT and KISS have expressed deep gratitude towards the Founder Dr. Achyuta Samanta. His visionary leadership and dedication have been pivotal in KIIT's rapid rise and substantial impact on both national and international levels. Dr. Samanta commented on the achievement, stating, "This ranking is a reflection of our relentless pursuit of academic excellence. At KIIT, we are committed to providing world-class education and preparing our students to be global leaders." He also congratulated all teachers, staff, and students for this achievement.