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PILOTING A NATION THROUGH UNCHARTED TERRITORIES: THE JRD TATA STORY - PAGE : 6

Manu Bhaker wins historic shooting bronze; India off the mark at Paris Olympics

Chateauroux, July 28 (IANS) Manu Bhaker opened India's medal tally at the Paris Olympics as she secured a historic bronze medal in the women's 10m pistol event with the score of 221.7 in the final, becoming the first Indian women shooter to win a medal at the Olympics.

Manu's bronze medal brings India its first shooting medal in 12 years since Gagan Narang and Vijay Kumar's successes at the 2012 London Olympics.

South Korea's Oh Ye Jin wins the gold with an Olympic record score of 243.2 points. Another Korean Ki Yejin takes the silver with 241.3 points.

With this medal, the 22-year-old Manu become the fifth Indian shooter to win a medal in the Olympic Games, joining the list of RVS Rathore (2004), Abhinav Bindra (2008), Gagan Narang (2012) and Vijay Kumar (2012), taking India's tally in shooting at the Olympic Games to five medals -- one gold, two silver and two bronze.

Earlier in the day, Manu finished third in the qualification round, becoming the first Indian woman in 20 years to reach an Olympic shooting final in an individual event since Suma Shirur's remarkable performance in 2004. Notably, she also became the first Indian woman to qualify for the 10m air pistol women's final at the Olympics.

Manu's last Olympic appearance in Tokyo 2020 ended in heartbreak when a pistol malfunction during qualifications left her in tears.

She secured India's quota for the Paris Olympics by finishing fifth in the women's 25m pistol event at the 2023 Asian Shooting Championships.

(more Paris Olympics stories on page 11)



PM congratulates Bhaker

New Delhi, July 28 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday called up Manu Bhaker over her historic bronze medal at the Paris Olympics and extended greetings for winning India's first medal at the 2024 games.

Earlier, PM Modi took to X, congratulated Bhaker for becoming the first woman to win a medal in the shooting competition. "A historic medal! Well done, @realmanubhaker, for winning India's FIRST medal at #ParisOlympics2024! Congrats for the Bronze," Modi said in a post on X.

Wishes pour in for the triumphant shooter

New Delhi, July 28 (IANS) Wishes poured in from all corners of the country for Indian shooter Manu Bhaker, who clinched a bronze medal in the 10-metre air-pistol category at the Paris Olympics 2024. The 22-year-old's remarkable achievement marks India's first medal at this prestigious event.

President Draupadi Murmu congratulating the shooter on social media platform X wrote, "Heartiest congratulations to Manu Bhaker for opening India's medal tally with her bronze medal in the 10-metre air pistol shooting event at the Paris Olympics. She is the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal in a shooting competition. India is proud of Manu Bhaker. Her feat is going to inspire many sportspersons, especially women. I wish she scales greater heights of accomplishment in the future."

Congratulating Bhaker for her tremendous feat, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on X wrote, "Hearty congratulations and best wishes to Manu Bhaker for winning the first medal for the country at the Olympics with her splendid performance and Johar."

(detail story on page 2)

Breathtaking aerial displays, folk dances pave way for Durand adrenaline

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 28: Jamshedpur was once again at the forefront of cultural colours and sports, among other events, once the grand opening ceremony of Durand Cup-2024 got off to a pulsating start at the JRD Tata Sports Complex on Sunday, July 28 at 2:30 pm. The mood was carried over as the whistle blew at 4 pm when Jamshedpur FC took up the challenge of Assam Rifles in the Group-D match.

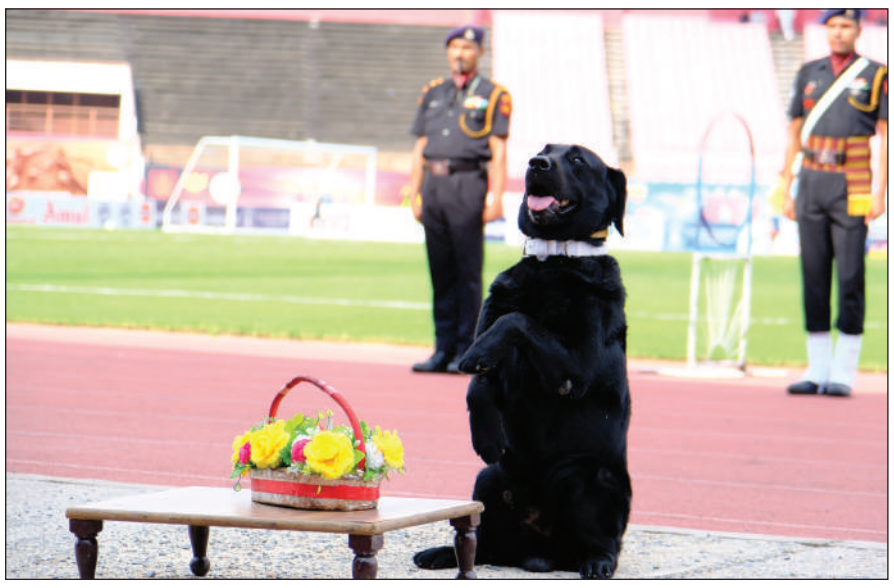
Anticipation was high as the Indian Army organized an array of cultural activities to captivate the audience. Highlights of the ceremony included a Military Dog Show, showcasing the agility and training of military canines, and traditional dances such as the Chhau and Paika Dances, which displayed the rich cultural heritage of India, particularly of Chhota Nagpur. The event also featured a vibrant Nagpuri performance, adding to the cultural tapestry.

Adding a dynamic aerial component, the ceremony included a fly-past by helicopters, followed by an exhilarating skydiving display by paratroopers from the Akash Ganga Team of the Indian Air Force. The skydivers' precision and skill were met with awe and applause. Additionally, there was a fixed-wing aircraft flypast, further demonstrating the prowess of the Indian Air Force.

The ceremony also featured a mesmerizing pipe band display, adding a musical element to the festivities. Demonstrations of Kalaripayattu martial arts and the Khukuri dance highlighted the strength and discipline of traditional Indian martial practices.

The grand opening ceremony was not just a visual and cultural feast but also a significant moment for the state of Jharkhand. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Jharkhand Health Minister Banna Gupta, who had the honor of inaugurating the match by kicking the football, symbolizing the commencement of the tournament.

This unforgettable event underscored India's rich cultural heritage and the remarkable skills of its armed forces, setting a vibrant tone for the Durand Cup 2024 and promising an exciting series of matches ahead. **(detail story on page 2)**





3 UPSC aspirants killed after flooding in Delhi coaching centre basement

New Delhi, July 28 (IANS) Three bodies were recovered from the basement of a coaching centre in Delhi's Old Rajendra Nagar, officials said on Sunday.

The three civil service aspirants were trapped in the basement of a building housing the coaching centre after water suddenly entered following heavy rain in parts of Delhi on Saturday.

"The unfortunate incident took place at one coaching centre at Old Rajendra Nagar, at the conclusion of search and rescue operations, 3 dead bodies were recovered. Their families have been informed," Delhi Police posted on X.

"The case has been registered & the investigation is underway," the post added.

Two female and one male UPSC aspirant died while a few others were trapped for several hours after water suddenly entered the basement of the coaching centre. The Delhi Fire Services (DFS) reportedly received a call about waterlogging from the Rau's IAS Study Centre at around 7 p.m. on Saturday, after which five fire engines were dispatched to assist in rescue operations.



Teams from the National Disaster Response Force were also at the spot.

The incident comes days after a UPSC aspirant was electrocuted while trying to cross a waterlogged street in Patel Nagar, which is also in West Delhi.

Earlier, in a post on social media platform X, Delhi Public Works Department Minister Atishi said: "There is news of an accident due to heavy rain in Delhi in the evening. There is news of water flooding the basement of a coaching institute in Rajendra Nagar. The Delhi Fire Department and NDRF are at the spot. The Delhi Mayor and local MLA are also there. I am taking updates of the incident every minute." "Orders have been given for a magisterial inquiry into how this incident happened. Whoever is responsible for this incident will not be spared," Atishi said in the post.

Gangwar replaces Radhakrishnan as Jharkhand's new Governor



Ranchi, July 28: President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Governors in various states including Assam, Punjab and Jharkhand.

Former Union Labour and Employment Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar will be the new Jharkhand governor in place of Radhakrishnan. Former Deputy Chief Minister of Tripura, Jishnu Dev Varma, will be the new Telangana governor.

Jharkhand Governor C P Radhakrishnan, who was also holding additional charge of Telangana, has been appointed as the new governor of Maharashtra, succeeding incumbent Ramesh Bais. Lakshman Prasad Acharya has been made the governor of Assam with the additional charge of Manipur while Gulab Chand Kataria has replaced Banwarilal Purohit as the governor of Punjab under major gubernatorial appointments, the Rashtrapati Bhavan has announced. Acharya has replaced Kataria, who has also been appointed the administrator of the Union Territory of Chandigarh, according to a communique issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Saturday night. Veteran BJP leader Om Prakash Mathur will be the new governor of Sikkim, the communique said.

Vice Marshal honours Kargil war heroes, families

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 28: Voices of pride resonated from every corner of India as the Ram Mandir auditorium in Telco echoed with powerful poems and slogans, "Kargil soldiers, India is proud of you." The occasion was the Silver Jubilee of Vijay Diwas, celebrating the 25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas.

The event, organized under the banner of the Purv Sainik Seva Parishad (Ex-Servicemen Service Council) Jamshedpur, was marked by patriotism and tributes.

The ceremony began with the lighting of lamps by war heroes, brave women, and distinguished guests, including Air Vice Marshal HP Singh, honored with the Vir Chakra and Vishisht Seva Medal. Other notable attendees included Jharkhand State President Colonel Akhouri Ranjan Sinha, Station Headquarters Commandant Lieutenant Colonel Rajesh Gupta, District Sainik Welfare Officer Colonel Kishore Singh from Chaibasa, District Council Vice President Pankaj Sinha, BJP Kisan Morcha State Vice President Rajkumar Singh, Tata Motors Union President Gurmeet Singh Tote, Tata Motors GM Jivraj Sandhu, and several social workers.

Special guest Air Vice Marshal HP Singh addressed the gathering, highlighting the enduring significance of the Kargil War and its inspirational impact on future generations. Colonel Akhouri Ranjan emphasized the bravery of Indian soldiers in reclaiming the peaks of Kargil, despite the difficult terrain and adverse conditions.

Colonel Rajesh Gupta lauded the courage and valor of the Indian Army, noting the significant sacrifices made to regain control of strategic positions from the Pakistani army.

During the event, 30 Kargil War heroes and their families were honored with shawls, bouquets, and mementos. Among those honored were Veer Nari Seema Devi, Durgavati Devi, Kargil War hero Havildar Manik Vardha, Naval Kishore Pathak, Hari Singh Sandil, and many others who served with distinction.

The program featured patriotic dances, songs, and dramas, captivating the audience with performances that celebrated the heroic spirit of the soldiers. Kargil War Hero Manik Vardha shared vivid accounts of the war, bringing to life the bravery and determination of the Indian soldiers.

The event was conducted by Rajesh Pandey and Uday Chandravanshi, with Vinay Yadav, President of the organization, delivering the vote of thanks.

Air Vice Marshal HP Singh remarked that the valor displayed by Indian soldiers in Kargil was indescribable. He emphasized that the Kargil War was a source of inspiration for the new generations of India, showcasing unparalleled patriotism and courage.

Sanan's brace helps Jamshedpur FC record comfortable win in season opener

Durand Cup: Men of Steel beat Assam Rifles FT 3-0











Jamshedpur, July 28: Sanan Mohammed's double helped Jamshedpur FC to a comfortable 3-0 victory against Assam Rifles Football Team in a Group D encounter of the 133rd IndianOil Durand Cup played here at the JRD Tata Sports Complex in Jamshedpur. Imran Khan scored the third goal for the winners.

The tournament was kicked off amidst a lot of fanfare with an amazing opening ceremony to liven up the atmosphere at the Furnace.

All 43 matches of the 133rd IndianOil Durand Cup will be broadcast LIVE on the Sony Sports Network (Sony Ten2 HD) as well as livestreamed on the SonyLiv OTT platform.

Jamshedpur FC Head Coach Khalid Jamil named an all Indian starting line up with Len Doungel, Sanan Mohammed, Nikhil Barla and Imran Khan leading the attack ahead of MobashirRahman and Emil Benny in midfield. Assam Rifles FT Head Coach VikashPanthi named his strongest squad in a 4-4-2 formation.

Jamshedpur dominated possession from the first whistle as the match was played inside the Assam Rifles half for the most part. The home side created chances in plenty after a barrage of attacks in the opposition goal but the Assam Rifles defence who were playing deep inside their box, thwarted the moves keeping the score goalless. Goalkeeper ShobhanDevBiswas expertly saved multiple efforts from Len Doungel, Sanan Mohammed and Nikhil Barla. They had a total of 10 shots on goal in the first half, showcasing the kind of domination in the field. Assam Rifles did have their moments through a couple of counter attacks but the composure was lacking to convert those moves.

Deadlock Broken

The Red Miners finally broke the deadlock in the second minute of injury time through Sanan. Assam Rifles failed to clear a corner and Sanan latched on to the loose ball and finished it past the goalkeeper to give Jamshedpur the lead.

Assam Rifles started the second half brightly but The Red Miners took control of game soon, creating chances at will. Len Doungel missed a sitter in front of the goal and second half substitute AniketJadhav's header was saved by the goalkeeper. Sanan doubled the lead in the 68th minute putting the finishing touches to a very good team move. Imran Khan pulled a pass back into the box for the unmarked Sanan whose side footed finish found the net and the Kerala forward completed his double in the game.

Jamshedpur kept pushing to score more goals and they were creating chances from almost every move. The third goal came in the 86th minute when the Assam Rifles goalkeeper could not collect a cross from Ashutosh Mehta and the rebound fell to Imran Khan who finished expertly. The home side saw off the remaining of the match to start the campaign with a comfortable win and bag all three points.

Jamshedpur FC's debut in the IndianOil Durand Cup at home ended with a resounding 3-0 win over Assam Rifles FC. Sanan and Imran's contributions were pivotal, with Imran earning the Man of the Match for his assists and a goal. The victory sets a positive tone for Jamshedpur's campaign as they look forward to their next challenge in the tournament.

Jamshedpur next face ISL rivals Chennaiyin FC in the IndianOil Durand Cup on August 4th at the JRD Tata Sports Complex. Tickets for the tournament are available on BookMyShow.

IWC East conducts awareness session on Hepatitis

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 28: On the occasion of World Hepatitis Day, Inner Wheel Club of Jamshedpur East an awareness session on Hepatitis was held at KumphuttaAanganbadi, engaging 35 women of various age groups. The session was led by Dr.Meena Mukherjee, the Club Editor, who served as the Chief Speaker. Dr. Mukherjee provided an in-depth explanation of the causes, symptoms, prevention, vaccination, and precautionary measures related to Hepatitis. The event featured an interactive question-and-answer segment. Prizes were awarded to those who answered correctly, adding an element of fun and encouragement. Additionally, Horlicks and biscuits were distributed to all attendees. The event was graced by the presence of Club President MadhumitaSanyal, SanchitaDey, Dr.Meena Mukherjee, Rama Khanna, and Sonali Mohanty, who contributed to the success of the session.



Minister Banna Gupta Distributes Pension Certificates and Sanitation Buckets in Kadma



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 28: Health and Food Supply Minister Banna Gupta distributed pension acceptance certificates under the Sarvajan Pension Scheme to the elderly, widows, and disabled individuals of the Jamshedpur West Assembly constituency. The distribution event took place at his office in Kadma on Sunday.

Minister Gupta instructed party workers to actively identify and assist individuals eligible for the pension scheme, particularly those unable to leave their homes. In addition to the pension certificates, 1,740 beneficiaries received sanitation buckets during the event. Present at the distribution were Manoj Jha, Sanjay Tiwari, Babua Jha, Prabhat Thakur, Jaiprakash Sahu, Rakesh Agarwal, Dumpy Agarwal, Irshad Haider, Jitendra Singh, Tula Da, Dhanu Mahato, Majid Akhtar, Sukumari, Dinesh Poddar, Sanjeev Jha, Bishu Da, Santosh, Pankaj Jha, Chhotu, Raju Das, and Sanjeev Mishra.

West Singhbhum anti-naxal operation yields 5 Kg IED

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 28: Security forces in West Singhbhum have recovered a 5 kg Improvised Explosive Device (IED) planted by Naxalites in the forested and hilly areas around Tumbahaka and Pradhan Ghat under Tonto police station. This recovery is part of an ongoing joint operation targeting top leaders and members of the banned CPI(Maoist) Naxalite organization.

Top leaders of the CPI(Maoist) Naxalite organization, including Misir Besra, Anmael, Maechhu, Anal, Asim Mandal, Chaman, Ajay Mehta, Sagan Angaria, and Ashwin, along with their squad members, have been identified as operating in the Kalehan area with the intent of conducting subversive activities. In response, a formidable joint operation team has been assembled, consisting of Chaibasa Police, Kobra 209 BTR, 203 BTR, 205 BTR, Jharkhand Jaguar, and CRPF units: 60 BTR, 197 BTR, 157 BTR, 174 BTR, 193 BTR, 134 BTR, 26 BTR, and 11 BTR.

This combined force has been conducting continuous operations since 10th October 2023 in the border areas of villages including Kuida, Chhota Kuida, Maradiri, Meralgada, Hathiburu, Tilaybara Boypaisang, Katamba, Bayahatu, Boraey, and Lemsadih under Gailkera police station, and Husipi, Rajabasa, Tumbahaka, Regra, Patata Erb, Gaeburu, and Luiya under Tanta police station.

During today's operation, the joint forces successfully identified and recovered one 5 kg IED planted by the Naxalites near Tumbahaka and Pradhan Ghat. The explosive device, which was intended to target security forces, was safely destroyed in place by the bomb disposal squad to prevent any potential threat to the lives of security personnel and civilians in the vicinity.

The recovery of the IED marks a critical success in the ongoing anti-Naxal operations in West Singhbhum. The security forces remain vigilant and continue to conduct operations aimed at neutralizing the threat posed by Naxalite activities in the region.

Sahastraghat Puja at Satyanarayan Marwari Temple in Bistupur

Jamshedpur, July 28: On the auspicious occasion of the month of Sawan, Sahastraghat Puja was organized at the Satyanarayan Marwari Temple in Bistupur on Sunday by the city's social organization, JCI Jamshedpur Pahchan. Pandit Purushottam Joshi supervised the Sahastraghat Puja proceedings performed by eleven priests amidst Vedic chanting.Twenty one couples participated in the puja that commenced at 8 am. Abhishek was performed with milk and water. Following the Abhishek, Lord Mahadev was decorated, and a Maha Aarti was performed.

The Darbar of the Lord was richly decorated. During the Puja, the Pandits explained the special significance of Shiva Puja in the month of Sawan. Devotees rendered Bhajans and the chants of Bhole Baba echoed in the temple premises. Hundreds of people took prasad on this occasion. The organizing team comprised Secretary Monika Bankrewal, Treasurer Pooja Modi, Sangeeta Kabra, and others, under the joint leadership of the organization's founder president, Kavita Dhoot, and president, Bina Debuka. (w/gsd)



Tata Steel's Noamundi iron mine wins 1st prize in 'Mines Safety Award'



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 28: Tata Steel's Noamundi Iron Mine, has been honoured with the first prize for outstanding performance in the "Metal Above Ground - Large" category at the Mines Safety Award-2024, organised by All India Mines Safety Association under the aegis of Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) at Kolkata on Sunday.

The award was presented by Prabhat Kumar, Director General of DGMS, at the award ceremony hosted at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre in Kolkata.

Representatives from Noamundi Iron Mine, including Atul Kumar Bhatnagar, General Manager, (OMQ), D Vijayendra, Agent, Noamundi Iron Mine and Abhaya Kumar Gupta, Head Safety (OMQ), were present to receive the award.

cont. from Page-1

Congratulations pour in

Soren's wife Kalpana Murmu Soren taking X wishing Bhaker wrote, "Hearty congratulations to @realmanubhaker for winning the first medal for India in the 10-meter air pistol event with a bronze at the Paris #Olympics."

"Well done, long live India. The country's daughter has raised the flag for the first time in the Paris Olympics. Indian shooter Manu Bhaker has made the entire country proud by winning the bronze medal in the Paris Olympics 2024," wrote Minister Dipika Singh Pandey on X.

Congratulating Bhaker, former deputy chief minister Sudesh Mahto wrote, "India's first medal at the Paris Olympics. Hearty congratulations and best wishes to @realmanubhaker for winning the bronze medal in the 10-meter air pistol event at the Paris Olympics. Your remarkable achievement has made the entire nation proud."

BJP leader and former Union Minister Arjun Munda celebrating the occasion on X wrote, "MANU GETS THE BRONZE! #ParisOlympics2024 India's first medal in the event! Congratulations to Manu Bhaker for winning the bronze medal and becoming the first Indian woman shooter to win an Olympic medal. Your remarkable performance makes the country proud.@realmanubhaker #Cheer4Bharat

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Beyond steel: Jamshedpur forges new business frontiers with Dr. Bindra's masterclass





Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 28: The steel city of Jamshedpur experienced an unprecedented surge of entrepreneurial energy as renowned business coach Dr. Vivek Bindra conducted his first-ever Business Multiplier Seminar at the XLRI Auditorium on Sunday at XLRI.

The event was organized by channel partner Ritweek Raj and The Avenue Mail was media partner.

The event drew over 1,200 attendees from diverse backgrounds, proving to be a transformative experience for the local business community.

Dr. Bindra's charismatic presence captivated the audience from the outset. The seminar unveiled 50 powerful strategies for business success, focusing on expanding business footprints, amplifying revenue streams, maximizing profits, and optimizing cash flow. The comprehensive session catered to a wide range of attendees, including established entrepreneurs, solopreneurs, wantrepreneurs, and students.

Key areas of focus included attracting more customers, managing costs effectively, exploring physical, digital, and geographical expansion, fostering customer loyalty, and implementing low-cost marketing strategies. Dr. Bindra's insights were practical and immediately applicable, providing participants with actionable steps to enhance their business operations.

During the seminar, Dr. Bindra also introduced his Leadership Funnel Program, offering participants the opportunity to attend a 3-day intensive workshop in New Delhi. This program promises to delve deeper into 52 outcome-oriented and implementable frameworks, covering various aspects such as defining purpose and strategy, identifying prospective customers, hiring and retaining manpower, product development, and building profit. Vijay Anand Moonka, President of the Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), expressed his enthusiasm: "Dr. Bindra's insights have opened new horizons for our local entrepreneurs. This seminar is exactly what Jamshedpur needed to boost its business ecosystem."

Abhishek Agarwal 'Goldy', Vice President of SCCI, remarked, "The strategies shared today are practical and immediately applicable. I'm confident that many businesses in Jamshedpur will see significant growth in the coming months."

Naveen Bhalotia, a leading businessman in the city, shared his experience: "The seminar was eye-opening. Dr. Bindra's approach to business expansion and customer loyalty is revolutionary. I'm already planning to implement several strategies in my own business."The event attracted participants from various parts of Jharkhand, as well as from cities like Mumbai, Ranchi, and Patna. Notable attendees included Amarpreet Singh Kale, former BJP spokesperson and social worker, and Vishal Tiwari from JMD Advertising. "The insights shared by Dr. Bindra are revolutionary. His approach to optimizing cash flow and attracting more customers has given me a new perspective on how to scale my business," said Manoj from Apna Packers and Movers.

"This seminar has equipped me with the confidence and tools I need to take my start-up to the next level."

A student participant, Riya Sharma, expressed her excitement: "As an aspiring entrepreneur, this seminar has given me a clear roadmap for my future business ventures. Dr. Bindra's energy is contagious, and his strategies are both innovative and practical." The success of the Business Multiplier Seminar in Jamshedpur marks a significant milestone in the city's entrepreneurial journey. As participants left the XLRI Auditorium armed with new knowledge and strategies, there was a palpable sense of optimism about the future of business in the region. Dr. Bindra's visit to Jamshedpur has not only provided valuable insights to the local business community but has also inspired a new generation of entrepreneurs to think big and act strategically. As the steel city looks to diversify its economic base, the lessons learned from this seminar could prove instrumental in shaping its business landscape for years to come. With the tools and strategies shared by Dr. Bindra, Jamshedpur is poised to forge new business frontiers, moving beyond its steel-centric identity towards a more diverse and prosperous economic future. (w/nkm)

Agniveer Yojna is in national interest: HP Singh

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 28: Retired Air Vice Marshal and Vir Chakra recipient Sardar Harbans Parminder Singh addressed citizens, emphasizing that the Agniveer Yojna had been designed in the national interest on Sunday during an event organised Press Club of Jamshedpur at city-based hotel.

The retired Air Vice Marshal highlighted that the country would witness significant benefits from the scheme in future. Over the past 15 days, many state governments had agreed to provide quotas in the police for Agniveers, recognizing the need for disciplined, duty-bound, honest, and committed personnel in the general civil administration, he stated. Singh shared that ex-servicemen's organizations had recommended the central government to extend the 4-year plan to 8 years and increase the permanent commission from 25% to 50%. Additionally, they had requested a fixed quota in paramilitary force appointments. He noted that countries like Great Britain and the USA mandated military contributions, leading to increased discipline and commitment to service. While there was no economic benefit there, the central government in India offered substantial support, including benefits for martyrdom akin to those of the permanent army.Addressing the opposition's criticism, Singh acknowledged that in a democracy, opposition parties would naturally focus on shortcomings. He recalled a similar report with suggestions that was submitted by the army to the then Minister of State for Defense Arun Singh in 1991, as the short-term service scheme was already in operation.Highlighting his role in the Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971, Singh recounted how the Indian Air Force displayed indomitable courage by destroying the Sargodha airbase in West Pakistan and the Mianwali airstrip.

He asserted that today's India, post-Galwan Valley, had the capability to stand up to China, with modern ammunition and facilities to perform vigilant duties in Siachen and other hilly areas.In the Q&A session, Singh addressed misconceptions about the Agniveer Yojna, affirming that it would ultimately benefit the country and its citizens. He emphasized the media's role in communicating these benefits to the public. Singh also suggested mandatory short-term army training for all citizens to enable them to effectively respond to disasters.

Workshop on rose: Jamshedpur's climate ideal for roses

Jamshedpur, July 28: In anticipation of the forthcoming 41st All India Rose Convention cum Rose Show and the 34th Annual Flower Show, the Horticultural Society Jamshedpur organised a one-day workshop on "Rose Disease and Nutrient Management" at the SNTI Auditorium. The event saw participation from approximately 150 individuals from various organizations and educational institutions, including Kolhan University and other colleges. Attendees hailed from different states, such as Odisha (Cuttack, Sambalpur, Bhubaneswar), West Bengal (Kolkata, Midnapur), and Jharkhand (Ranchi, Noamundi).



The workshop began with the ceremonial lamp lighting by the Chief Guest, Aatrayee Syanyal, Vice President, HRM, Tata Steel. Sumita Nupur, President of the Horticultural Society Jamshedpur, delivered a warm welcome address, highlighting the significance of the workshop in the lead-up to the prestigious rose and flower shows.

In her address, Syanyal emphasized the therapeutic benefits of gardening, particularly in the context of today's screen-dominated lifestyles. She noted that gardening offers a stress-free life and peace of mind. Syanyal also pointed out that roses, which require heavy feeding and care, are as prevalent in European countries as marigolds and bougainvillea are in India.

The workshop featured an introduction by Baren Maity, who presented the esteemed faculty member, Sanjay Mukherjee, a renowned rose breeder and Vice President of the East Zone, Indian Rose Federation, Kolkata. Mukherjee is the recipient of the prestigious "Bijoy Pokharna" Rose Gold Medal, conferred by the Indian Rose Federation.

Mukherjee's presentation focused on the importance of potted rose culture in West Bengal and Jamshedpur, noting its limited prevalence even in Western countries. He highlighted that India is home to approximately 3,000 rose species and recommended that gardeners focus on cultivating Indian varieties, which are better suited to the local climate. He also emphasized that Jamshedpur's climate is particularly favorable for growing roses.

During his session, Mukherjee provided detailed insights into the effective control of several plant diseases, including Scale, Rust, Black Spots, Canker, and Dieback. He also distributed a comprehensive paper outlining the recommended schedule for periodical feeding of rose plants.

The workshop concluded with the distribution of certificates to the participants by Sumita Nupur and B. K. Maity, the President and Vice President of the Horticultural Society Jamshedpur, respectively. Aswani Srivastava, Joint Secretary of the Horticultural Society Jamshedpur, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all attendees and contributors for making the event a success. (w/pb)

Authorities mobilise to tackle potential flood threats, vigil on rising water level

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 28: In light of potential flooding dangers in areas prone to waterlogging from the Swarnarekha and Kharkai rivers, a crucial meeting was convened under the chairmanship of District Magistrate cum Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal. The meeting focused on disaster preparedness and coordinated response strategies to mitigate flood risks.

During the review, Mittal directed officials to establish Incident Command Centers in identified Panchayat and Municipal Council areas.

He emphasized making helpline numbers public, ensuring regular cleanliness, distributing essential medicines and rations, providing tankers for drinking water, and setting up alternative arrangements for electricity. Emergency service departments were instructed to deploy personnel in alert mode 24x7 and equip them with essential life-saving medicines and facilities.



Mittal also stressed the importance of better coordination between civil society, local public representatives, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and the police-administrative team. To prevent the spread of infectious diseases, he directed regular cleaning, bleaching, and spraying of DDT powder in flood-affected areas. In case of a disaster, departments were instructed to use social media and traditional mike announcements to quickly disseminate information and alerts to the public.

Mechanical departments were tasked with regularly updating the water levels of the Swarnarekha and Kharkai rivers. Coordination with engineers from Chandil Dam in Saraikela Kharsawan and the dam in Mayurbhanj, Odisha, regarding water release was also emphasized. Additionally, steps were mandated for cleaning the garbage at Swarnarekha Barrage. Mechanical departments were instructed to regularly update the water level of Swarnarekha and Kharkai rivers, and to coordinate with the engineers of Chandil Dam located in Saraikela Kharsawan and the dam located in Mayurbhanj of neighboring state Odisha regarding the release of water from the dams. Also, instructions were given to take appropriate steps for cleaning the garbage of Subarnarekha Barrage. The meeting saw the participation of Deputy Development Commissioner Manish Kumar, ADM (SOR) Mahendra Kumar, District Supply Officer Salman Zafar Khijri, representatives of the NDRF, municipal officials, SDM Dhalbhum, BDO, CO Jamshedpur Sadar, engineers from the Subarnarekha multipurpose project, and representatives from Civil Defence.

The District Magistrate's comprehensive directives aim to bolster Jamshedpur's readiness to tackle potential flood disasters, ensuring the safety and well-being of its residents.

4-year-old dies of snake bite

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 28: A four-year old girl, Manisha Sardar of Kowali in East Singhbhum district, and her mother, Binoti, were bitten by a snake on the night of July 22. Abhinath Sardar took his daughter and wife to the local exorcist instead of seeking medical attention. Their conditions deteriorated and they had to be admitted to the MGM Hospital.

The girl, Manisha succumbed on the way while Binoti remained under treatment for five days. To add to their woes, Abhinath's three year old son contacted malaria and also had to be admitted to the MGM Hospital.

Being cash strapped, Abhinath Sardar could not arrange for his daughter's post mortem until five days of her demise. He sought the help of the local MLA, Gram Pradhan, and Mukhiya but to no avail.

Mentioning his financial condition,Abhinath explained that he had to pay Rs 1,000 as ambulance charges for taking his wife and daughter to the hospitaland another Rs 3,000 for transporting his daughter's body for autopsy and later bringing it back home.

Though he is the holder of a red card, he did not get any financial relief. He sought help from MLA Sanjeev Sardar, Chorugoda Gram Pradhan Uday Hansda, and Mukhiya Saraswati Murmu, but no one offered assistance.

Abhinath, a resident of Roteda in Kowali, East Singhbhum, lives with his wife Binoti Sardar and their five children. He works as a laborer. (w/gsd)

Bihar: 11 cyber criminals arrested in Nawada



Patna, July 28 (IANS) Nawada Police on Sunday busted a gang and arrested 11 cybercriminals from the district, an official said.

The police said that a group of cyber criminals had been operating from the district and were deceiving people by offering fake loans under the guise of 'Dhani Finance', a company of India Bulls Private Ltd.

"The fraudsters obtained personal data, including mobile numbers and addresses, through the Meesho website. Many victims of financial fraud registered complaints on our web portal, Prativimb, and provided the phone numbers used in these fraudulent activities," Priya Jyoti, the DSP of cyber cell Nawada said.

She said that the police placed these phone numbers under surveillance to trace their locations.

"After tracing the location, a team was formed to conduct a raid. The operation was carried out on Saturday evening in a park located in Warsaliganj block," said Priya Jyoti.

She said that around 15 men were present at the location. However, upon noticing the approaching police team, the suspects attempted to flee. "Our team was successful in apprehending 11 of them after a chase," she said.

She identified the accused as Raja Ram Kumar (25), who is the mastermind of the gang, Avinash Kumar (30), Pappu Saw (46), Bhaskar Kumar (25), Santosh Kumar (23), Ajay Kumar (29), Lakhan Kumar (34), Krishna Kumar (20), Dharmendra Kumar (19), Sidhartha Shankar (32), and Bittu Kumar (23).

The police team seized 168 pages of leaked data, 34 mobile phones, 13 SIM cards, 1 laptop and one bike from their possessions. The accused are booked under the relevant sections of B.N.S.

BJD, Congress slam Odisha Budget, call it 'disappointing'

Bhubaneswar, July 26 (IANS) The opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and Congress have alleged that there is "nothing new" in the first Budget of the BJP government presented by Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi in the Assembly here on Thursday.

Both parties claimed that the Budget for 2024-25 is a repetition of what the previous BJD government had introduced in the past.

Speaking to media persons after the Budget speech, former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik said, "About the state Budget, I would say again that it was a "double-engine, double disappointment". I noticed that they have just renamed more than 40 of my government's schemes."

Senior Congress leader Tara Prasad Bahinipati has described the Budget as "anti-poor" and claimed "nothing new" in the Budget.

"There is nothing for the development of farmers, women. They only increased the allocation of funds for the existing schemes by 10 to 15 per cent. They have just renamed more than 40 schemes," alleged Bahinipati.

On the other hand, State BJP President Manmohan Samal on Thursday asserted that the Budget has pleased people from all sections of the society.

He said that the double-engine government has given priority to the all-round development of Odisha.

He thanked and expressed his gratitude to CM Mohan Majhi for the Budget.

"The BJP government is committed to the development of Odisha, which is evident in today's Budget. The first Budget of the new government laid the foundation stone for a 'Vikashit Odisha'," Samal added.

Odisha CM announces 10 per cent reservation for Agniveers



Bhubaneswar, July 26 (IANS) In a significant development, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Friday announced 10 per cent reservation for Agniveers of his state.

Speaking to mediapersons at Lokseva Bhawan before leaving for Delhi to attend the NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting, CM Majhi said: " All the soldiers of Indian armed forces are our pride. The Agniveers, who are trained by our defence forces, are qualified to serve the nation in various security-related sectors." He further said that Agniveer Scheme is a historic initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"This initiative has made our youth able and fearless so that they can face various challenges in life. That is why, the Odisha government has decided to recruit Agniveers in the state's uniformed services. "The state government will provide up to 10 per cent reservation in its Uniformed Services for those Agniveers from the state who are not absorbed in the defence forces. There will also be 5 years of age relaxation for them," the CM announced. The uniformed service of the state includes the police, fire services, forest department, etc.

Bengal municipalities' job case: CBI tracked Rs 200 crore fund involvement so far

Kolkata, July 27 (IANS) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has tracked the involvement of around Rs 200 crore of illegal proceeds in the 1,814 illegal recruitments done in 15 municipal bodies in West Bengal since 2014, sources said.

The central agency officials have secured definite clues that private promoter Ayan Sil and his associates had almost the entire share of this Rs 200 crore of ill-gotten proceeds, considering that all these 1814 illegal recruitments were done through outsourced agency ABS Infozon Private Limited, a corporate entity owned by Sil.

Besides Sil, two of his close associates Soumik Chowdhury and Debesh Chakraborty have been identified as the major recipients of portions of these funds.

Both of them have been named in the chargesheet filed by CBI at a



special court in Kolkata recently. The central agency officials suspect that the final fund involvement figure will inflate further at the end of the investigation because whatever has surfaced so far is in relation to those recruitments done through ABS Infozon.

In the chargesheet, details have been provided on how recruitments against cash were done in several municipalities for a variety of posts which included medical officers, ward masters, clerks, drivers, helpers and cleaning assistants.

Now, sources said, the CBI officials are trying to track whether this entire proceeds amount was consumed by Sil and his associates, or a major share of those funds reached other politically influential persons. Sil is currently in judicial custody in connection with the multi-crore cash-for-school- job case in West Bengal.

Another point that the central agency officials are trying to establish is how Sil acted as the common intermediary in the cycles of corruption both in municipalities and school job cases involving those paying money for jobs, intermediaries like agent networks and finally the influential sections both in bureaucratic and political circles.

Karpoori Thakur's grand daughter joins Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj

Patna, July 28 (IANS) The granddaughter of Bharat Ratna Karpoori Thakur, Dr Jagrit, joined Prashant Kishore's Jan Suraaj at Patna's Gyan Bhawan on Sunday. Two other prominent leaders, former RJD MLC Professor Rambali Singh Chandravanshi and retired IPS officer Anand Mishra also joined Jan Suraaj in the presence of Prashant Kishore. Dr Jagriti is currently working at Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Science while Anand Mishra, an Assam cadre IPS officer, recently took voluntary retirement to contest the Lok Sabha election from Buxar.



He initially joined the BJP but contested the Buxar seat as an independent candidate after the BJP denied him the ticket. Professor Rambali Singh Chandravanshi is associated with Patna University's BN College. He is a former MLC of RJD and belongs to the Extremely Backward Caste (EBC) community.

Prashant Kishor has said that his Jan Suraaj will contest the 2025 Bihar assembly election.

Odisha: Noted sand artist congratulates shooter Manu Bhaker with sand sculpture



Bhubaneswar, July 28 (IANS) Renowned sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik on Sunday created a sand sculpture at Odisha's Puri beach to congratulate Manu for winning the Bronze medal in shooting at the Paris Olympics 2024.

Manu Bhaker opened India's accounts at the Paris Olympics with a bronze in the 10m air pistol event, becoming India's first woman shooter to win an Olympic medal.

Pattnaik created a 5ft high sand sculpture where he shows the sand art of Manu Bhaker and a Bronze medal with the message "Jai Ho Manu" at Puri beach.

He has used about six tons of sand on it. Students of his sand art institution also joined hands with him to complete the sculpture.

Tree plantation program held by Radheshyam Trust

Mail News Service

Gamharia, July 28: Radheshyam Trust organized a tree plantation program at the Hanuman Temple located in Punjidungri, Jagannathpur, Gamharia. The initiative was inaugurated by the organization's secretary, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Srivastava, who planted the first sapling.

The event saw the planting of various fruit trees, including canal, neem, and mango. Dr. Srivastava emphasized the importance of tree plantation in mitigating environmental imbalance and safeguarding the existence of both humans and other living creatures.

The program was attended by several key members of the organization, including Treasurer Anamika Srivastava, Naveen Mandal, Archana Verma, Neeraj Jha, Vandana Singh, and many others. (w/nkm)

Two-day Ethics Fair concludes at TGS, Gamharia



Mail News Service

Gamharia, July 28: The two-day Ethics Fair, part of Ethics Month at Tata Steel Growth Shop (TGS), Gamharia, concluded successfully today. The event saw enthusiastic participation from TGS employees, vendor partners, their families, and numerous children from rural areas. Various stalls were set up for attendees to explore.

The fair was inaugurated by Tata Steel Chief Ethics Counselor Soni Sinha and TGS General Manager Sharad Kumar Sharma, with a ceremonial balloon release. Chief Commercial (Engineering and Project) Chitra Sharma, who attended the closing ceremony, praised the fair for its commendable effort to engage both employees and vendor partners, enhancing their understanding of ethics.

Chief Ethics Counselor Soni Sinha highlighted that this event was a unique initiative within Tata Steel, noting its effectiveness and the lessons it offered. He emphasized the importance of extending such initiatives to other areas within the company.

The program also featured addresses from TISCO Mazdoor Union President Rakeshwar Pandey and General Secretary Shivlakhan Singh, who congratulated Amit Rai for his role in organizing the event. Approximately 1,500 people were informed about ethics through the fair.

Key attendees included Manufacturing Head Pancham Tung, DEC Amit Rai, HR Head Deepak Varghese, Senior Manager (Admin) Sanjay Kumar Singh, Area Manager (Security) Archana Kumari Tripathi, and several union members, including Vice President Dinesh Upadhyay, Joint Secretary Naveen Kumar Sinha, and Treasurer Dilip Kumar Mahato. The event was conducted by Awadh Pandey and Swati Kumari, with Ethics Champion Jaya Jha delivering the vote of thanks. (w/nkm)

Six idols stolen from a temple in Bihar





Mail News Service

Patna : After a brief lull in their activities, unidentified criminals stole six idols, said to be made of precious ashtdhatu, from Ram Janki Maath at Bhataha Tikuliya village which falls under Sagauli police station in East Champaran in yet another incident on Saturday late night, which virtually become rampant in this part of Bihar. Police came to know about the incident after being approached by mahant (chief priest) of the Maath on Sunday morning. "There are six idols each of goddess Sita, Lord Rama, goddess Sita, Lord Baman (one), Lord Neilkant, Lord Krishna and Radha were found missing from the Maath. We are looking into the matter," said Munna Kumar, station house officer (SHO), Sagauli police station.

Ram Janki Maath's chief priest Bhola Bhagat described the idols of being made from precious ashtdhatu which were installed in 1962. Police suspect the hand of idol smugglers behind the incident. An idol of Lord Lakshman weighing 10 kilograms, was stolen from Ram Janki Temple at Baghel Tola in Parasauni Kapur panchayat which falls under Patahi police station on May 27 this year. Earlier, on May 21, the idols of goddess Sita and Lakshman were stolen from seperate temples in village falling under Patahi police station. Again, thefts were reported from Bokanekala temple on 13 April, Ramjanaki temple of Bakhri Nageshwar Baba on May 9, closely followed theft of idol from Nonpharwa Ramjanaki temple on May 10 this year. This is just the tip of the iceberg.

On April 27 2021, Sahodara police in Bihar's West Champaran district conducted a raid in Devgarh village and arrested four persons, including two citizens of Nepal, for allegedly smuggling a statue of Buddha from the neighbouring country. It was to be sold in India.On May 4 2021, West Champaran's Bettiah police arrested Md. Ali Jahaan, an accused in the loot at the premises of a finance company, and seized three statues made of ashtadhatu (alloy of eight metals) and recovered 12 idols from the Muzaffarpur district.

Police had arrested seven smugglers between April and June in 2021 and the recovery of five statues from their possession, including two statues of Buddha. "There are several gangs smuggling statues either stolen from temples in India or ferried from Nepal," said a police officer. "We are keeping a close tab on such activities and have held meetings with our counterparts in Nepal to curb such crimes," he said.In 2021, one of the idol smuggler Jahaan had confessed that the statues recovered from him were stolen from a temple at Motipur in Muzaffarpur district with an intent of smuggling them into Nepal.

Acting on this information, a joint team of West Champaran and Muzaffarpur police conducted raids in Makhdumpur Kodariya village under Karza police station of the district and recovered 12 idols that were found buried. On June 13, 2021, devotees found that the idols of two deities at the Ram Janaki temple in Basawariya locality of Bettiah were desecrated. This triggered a mass protest and police are investigating the hand of smugglers in this suspected attempt to steal the statues.In the past, several cases of theft of statues from temples have been reported in this region. Two statues were seized by Sahodra police in West Champaran in 2010 and 2016.

A statue of Buddha was seized by personnel attached to the same police station in 2018.However, the theft of a 2,600-year-old idol of Mahavir from a temple at Dipakarhar village under Khaira police station limits of Jamui district in 2015 still fresh to the minds, albeit recovered barely few days after the incident of theft.

Bengal govt mulls hiking liquor, beer prices

Kolkata, July 28 (IANS) Setting a goal to surpass the targeted growth in the collection of state excise by the end of the current financial year 2024-25, the West Bengal government is mulling the possibility of increasing the prices of different liquor and beer brands.

Sources in the state excise directorate said that the new prices will be announced after evaluating the expressions of interest (EOI) to evaluate the existing cost of production of liquor and beer brands.

The last time, when the state government went for a hike in liquor and beer prices was in February 2023 and before that also the EOIs were sought from the liquor manufacturers to evaluate the production cost.

"On the basis of the EOI evaluations, the final per-bottle price and the state excise to be imposed on it are determined. This year the process of seeking EOIs from the liquor manufacturers and evaluating the same has already started and the final reflection of that evaluation report on the prices of liquor and beer brands would be felt soon," he said.

Sources said that in the case of Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL), the per-bottle price might increase in the range between Rs 5 and Rs 100 for 750 ML bottles. In the case of country spirit, the per-bottle- price might increase by Rs 5 for a 600 ml bottle. Beer might be costly from Rs 20 to Rs 30 per bottle.

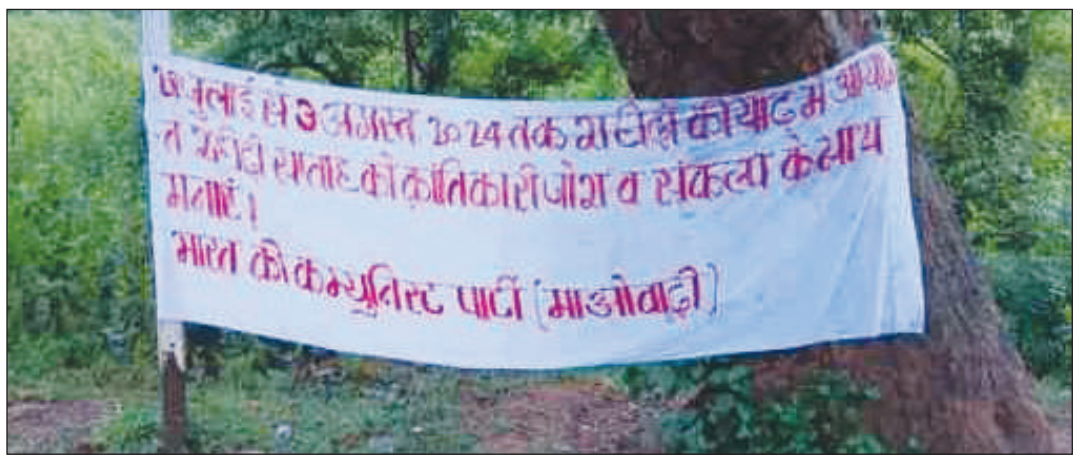
Insiders from the state excise directorate said that the interim rise in the prices of liquor and beer bottles is aimed at surpassing the targeted collection in state excise as set in the budget estimates for 2024-25.

As per the budget documents for 2024, the targeted state excise collection in the estimates for the same fiscal has been set at Rs 21,846.36 crore, as against the figure of Rs 18,851.06 crore as per the revised estimate figures for 2023-24.

Sources said that the internal target for state excise collection by March 31, 2025, is now being set at Rs 25,000 crore.

Naxalite posters banners urge villagers to observe martyrdom week

Mail News Service



Chaibasa, July 28: The CPI Maoists have put up banners and posters across several rural areas of the West Singhbhum district to mark the commencement of theirmartyrdom week. Numerous posters were displayed just 50 to 100 meters from the Chotanagra police station and the CRPF camp in Chhotanagra Village within the Saranda Forest. Issued by the Southern Zonal Committee of CPI Maoist, the posters called for the observance of Martyrdom Week from July 28 to August 3 with determination.

The Naxalite posters and banners were noticed on late Saturday night. By Sunday morning, the police had arrived at the scene, removed the posters, and initiated an investigation. The posters, which were found in multiple locations including from Panchpahia village school to Domlai village and Jhariakela, had created an atmosphere of fear in the surrounding villages. Additionally, booklets left by the Naxalites contained slogans written in tribal languages.

The posters urged the villagers to observe Martyrdom Week with revolutionary zeal, mentioning strategies like Maoist raids, adhering to war rules, minimizing unnecessary losses, and increasing the victory ratio in guerrilla warfare.

Recently, there was an encounter between the police and Naxalites in the Dolaigada forest of the Chotanagra police station area. The Naxalites, taking advantage of the dense forest, fled the scene as the police gained the upper hand. An SLR rifle and other weapons were recovered by the police from the encounter site.

This area is heavily influenced by the notorious Naxalite leader Lalchand Hembram, also known as Anmol or Samar Da, who has a bounty of ?25 lakh on his head.

It is well-known that the CPI Maoists celebrate Martyrdom Week annually from July 28 to August 3. During this period, they honor their deceased comrades by building memorials and gathering villagers in their areas of influence for commemorations. (w/gsd)

Free health checkup camp in Birsanagar Zone-5

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 28: A free health check-up camp was organized by the district unit of Akhil Bharatiya Tailik Sahu Mahasabha (ABTSM) at the health center in front of the electricity office in Birsanagar Zone No. 5 on Sunday. More than 312 people benefited from the health services provided.

The camp was organized under the instructions of former MP Dr. Ajoy Kumar. The event was inaugurated by Congress State Coordinator Ashok Singh and Youth Congress East Assembly President Neeraj Sahu, who lit the ceremonial lamp.

The camp was organized under the leadership of district ABTSM President Rakesh Sahu. During the camp, Manish Gupta assisted in filling out forms for various pension schemes including widow, old age pension, and handicapped pensions, including those for women above 50 years and men above 60 years. A total of 104 pension forms were filled during the camp. (w/gsd)

PM's 'Mann Ki Baat' inspires patriotism: Dr. Sunita Debdoot

Mail News Service



Ghatshila, July 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly broadcast, 'Mann Ki Baat' was broadcast on Sunday in which he discussed issues of national importance with the citizens. The 112th episode was also heard by BJP party workers and villagers at booth number 86 at Prem Nagar in Ghatshila Block where party leader and social worker Dr Sunita Debdoot Soren was also present. Speaking to the booth workers on the occasion, Dr. Sunita said that the Prime Minister never discussed politics in the program but focused on national and societal issues, providing direction and motivation to the listeners.

Among those present were Neema Rajak, Ajay Singh, Rakesh Kumar Singh, Tinku Namta, AdriRawani, Matangini Namta, Mamta Namta, Putki Majhi, Deepak Namta, Kartik Rawani, Sonu Pater, Kamala Karmakar, Parvati Murmu, Shefali Namta, and Tinku Namta, among others. (w/gsd)

All-party meeting demands district status for Ghatshila

Mail News Service



Ghatshila, July 28: An all-party meeting was organized on Sunday under the chairmanship of former Health Minister Dr Dinesh Kumar Shadangi to discuss the demand for making Ghatshila a district. The meeting, organized by Abhiyan For A Better Tomorrow, took place at the Dharambhal Panchayat Mandap in the block headquarters premises.

During the meeting, participants expressed their views on four main points that included the reasons why Ghatshila should be made a district, the reasons it has not yet been made a district, and the steps needed to overcome the obstacles to its formation. A subcommittee was formed to prepare a proposal based on these discussions and to submit it to the responsible officer of the department concerned.

Those present in the meeting included Padma Shri Janum Singh Soy, Rakesh Sharma, Prof. Mitreshwar, Sadhu Charan Pal, Prof. Dr. Naresh Kumar, Prof. Indal Paswan, former MLA Laxman Tudu, Lakhan Mardi, Suresh Chauhan, Mukhiya Parvati Murmu, Sheikh Akhruddin Shahid, and others. (w/gsd)

Role of Minorities is important in the progress of the country: Hidayatullah



Mail News Service

Hazaribagh, July 28: A review meeting was held in the Hazaribagh Parishad Auditorium under the chairmanship of Hidayatullah Khan, Chairman of the Jharkhand State Minority Commission, regarding the schemes being run for the welfare of minorities in the district. Vice Chairman of the Commission Shamsher Alam and member Qari Barkat Ali were also present.

Outlining the objectives of his visit, Khan emphasized that the multi-sectoral development programme aims to address the developmental deficiencies of minority-dominated areas by creating socio-economic infrastructure and providing basic amenities.

During the review, Khan gathered information from department-wise officers about the current status of welfare schemes run by the State Government and the number of minority beneficiaries in those schemes. He stressed that the main objective of the Commission's visit is to ensure the proper implementation of Central and State Government schemes for the welfare of minorities in all districts of Jharkhand.

Khan expressed satisfaction with the reports received from the departments but directed those with incomplete reports to prepare and submit complete ones soon. He stated that data is being collected from various districts to identify and address shortcomings, ensuring effective measures to protect the interests of the minority community.

The Commission is also conducting public hearings to address applications received during these hearings.

During the meeting, he highlighted the shortage of Urdu teachers in the district, noting that despite a significant Muslim population, there is only one Urdu school in Hazaribagh. He assured that the state government is committed to the educational upliftment of the minority community and will address the shortage of Urdu teachers and schools. The government is working on developing all regional languages, including Urdu.

Urdu is not just a language but an Indian culture: After the department-wise review, Khan briefed the journalists about the Commission's visit and objectives. He emphasized the need for education within the minority community and reiterated that the shortage of Urdu teachers would be addressed soon. He stated, "Urdu is not only a language but also Hindustani Tehzeeb."

The meeting was attended by Hidayatullah Khan, Shamsher Alam, Barkat Ali, and various district-level officers, including the DDC, Additional Collector, District Supply Officer, District Welfare Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, District Agriculture Officer, and District Education Officer, along with other concerned officials.

Two minor girls electrocuted

Mail News Service

Seraikela, July 28: Two minor girls, Kuni Banra (13) and Rukmini Samrad (12) died of electrocution after coming in contact with a live wire while playing in Gutusai Tola under Kharsawan police station on Sunday afternoon.

The accident occurred when the girls, who were playing near an electric pole in the Amda OP area of Seraikela Kharsawan, accidentally touched a live wire. They were immediately rushed to Kharsawan CHC by local residents. After receiving first aid, they were transferred to the Sadar Hospital of Seraikela, where doctors pronounced them dead.

Kuni Banra was the third of seven siblings while Rukmini Samrad was the third of five siblings. The police were informed of the incident, and officers from Amda OP reached Sadar Hospital to take statements from the family members.

MLA representative Anoop Singhdev also visited the hospital and assured the families that they would receive compensation according to the rules. Kuni Banra was a resident of Gutusai village, while Rukmini Samrad, originally from Kolabira, was visiting her maternal home in Gutusai village at the time of the accident. (w/gsd)

DC inspects polling stations, issues guidelines

Mail News Service

Seraikela, July 28: Divisional Commissioner Hari Kumar Kesri inspected several polling stations on Sunday and reviewed work being carried out by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) at polling stations numbers 242, 244, 245, 248, and 250 of the 57 Kharsawan Assembly Constituency.

During his visit, Commissioner Kesri instructed the BLOs to ensure that maximum number of Forms 6, 7, and 8 were processed on time according to rules.

He engaged with the BLOs to gather information about the progress of the election work and provided necessary guidelines to enhance efficiency.

The inspection was attended by the BLOs of the respective areas, supervisors, and the Assistant Election Registration Officer cum Zonal Officer of Saraikela. (w/gsd)

Fatal accident near BSNL Exchange

Gamharia, July 28: A young man riding a bike died on Sunday evening after being struck by an unknown vehicle near the BSNL exchange on Kandra-Chauka road. Kandra police arrived at the scene, took the body into custody, and sent it for post-mortem. The deceased, whose bike is registered to Ganesh Nayak of Bada Gamharia, remains unidentified. Preliminary reports suggest the young man was coming from Chauka when the accident occurred. The driver fled the scene, and police have launched a search for the vehicle. (w/nkm)

RPF raid in Kandra yields no arrests

Gamharia, July 28: Under the leadership of Adityapur RPF Railway Station In-charge AK Singh, the Railway Police conducted a raid in Lohatal, Kandra, to apprehend Akhilesh Poddar, a scrap mafia from Gadhwasa, Baghbeda. Poddar, previously implicated in a case involving the recovery of six tonnes of railway iron, remains at large. Despite prior arrests of five associates, Poddar has evaded capture. The RPF continues to search for him. (w/nkm)

Land reform meeting passes key resolutions

Gamharia, July 28: The Jharkhand State Land Reform Revenue Sub Inspector Association's Saraikela-Kharsawan unit held a meeting on Sunday at the Gamharia Block cum Anchal Office, chaired by District President Rajeshwar Pandit. The meeting concluded with five resolutions agreed upon by all employees. District President Pandit announced the reorganization of the District Association on August 25, with a subsequent meeting planned at the Anchal Office. Discussions will include the state association's reorganization in Ranchi on August 4, involving at least five Revenue Sub Inspectors from each zone. A joint bank account for the association will be opened, and all employees were requested to contribute ?500 for the Ranchi meeting. Rajeshwar Pandit urged members to strengthen the district fund and avoid cooperating with unethical directives from officers. Prominent attendees included Revenue Sub Inspectors from various zones, tasked with fundraising for the upcoming conventions. (w/nkm)

Youth dies in road accident, villagers block Tata-Chaibasa main road



Chaibasa, July 28: In an accident on the Kuju culvert along the Chaibasa-Tata main road, a passenger vehicle ran over two bike riders.

One youth died on the spot, while another sustained serious injuries. In protest, local villagers blocked the Tata-Chaibasa main road for an hour. Mufassil police arrived at the scene, shifted the injured youth and the deceased to Sadar Hospital. Their identities could not be confirmed.Going by the bike's registration number, it appeared that both youths hailed from Barbil in Odisha.

They were reportedly traveling from Odisha to Jamshedpur on a motorcycle with an Odisha number plate when they were struck by a passenger bus coming from Jamshedpur on the Kuju culvert.

The bus driver fled the scene with the vehicle after the accident, leaving the victims lying on the culvert.

Upon receiving the news, local residents blocked the culvert, causing a complete halt to traffic on the Tata-Chaibasa road. (w/gsd)

Village assembly enforces social boycott on woman and her family

Mail News Service



Seraikela, July 28: In a controversial decision, the village headman of Jurgudiya village under Saraikela police station in Saraikela-Kharsawan district has socially boycotted Danagi Hansda and her family. The decision, taken during a village assembly meeting, imposes severe restrictions on the family, including a fine of ten thousand rupees for any villager caught communicating with them. Additionally, the family is banned from using any village resources such as government ponds, hand pumps, and wells.

Following this directive, Danagi Hansda and her family have faced significant hardships. In response, Danagi Hansda sought assistance from the Adivasi Sengal Abhiyan, which led to a formal complaint being lodged at the Seraikela Mahila police station. The complaint named Singrai Murmu of Dabra, village head Vikram Hansda, Ranjit Tudu, Samu Murmu, Subhash Tudu, Bhadra Mardi, and others as harassers.

As per the complaint, Danagi Hansda's daughter, Sonia Hansda, was married to Singrai Murmu of Dabra on April 22, 2021, according to social customs. One month into the marriage, Sonia began to suffer physical and mental abuse at the hands of her in-laws. Consequently, Sonia Hansda filed a case of harassment and maintenance against her husband, which is currently pending in court.

The situation escalated on June 1, 2024, when Singrai Murmu influenced Gram Pradhan Vikram Hansda to convene a village meeting. During the meeting, Danagi Hansda and her family were declared socially boycotted by the village leaders under Murmu's influence. A ten thousand rupees fine was imposed on anyone interacting with Danagi's family, and additional fines and restrictions were enforced, including a ban on accessing ration shops and public drinking water. Moreover, Danagi Hansda was pressured to withdraw the case and pay a penalty of Rs. 10,000, under threat of more severe actions if non-compliant.

"We have received a complaint from one party. Notice is being served to the other party. A thorough investigation will be conducted by hearing both sides of the case," said Kumari Tilottama, Women Police Station in-charge, Saraikela.

Political stench in NITI Aayog meeting

It is not surprising that the NITI Aayog meeting was boycotted by the Chief Ministers of Opposition parties. They had announced this intent earlier. But since West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had said that she would attend the meet, she did come but quit in the middle of the proceedings. Her accusation was that she had been given sparse time to speak in the meeting and that her microphone had been turned off. The government has rebutted her contention but it is clear that Mamata will stick to her stand. She did attend the NITI Aayog meeting but it was a foregone conclusion that she could boycott the proceedings or act in a manner that would be open to discussion. Ultimately, this is exactly what happened. It may be mentioned that on earlier occasions too, Mamata Banerjee had either boycotted meetings chaired by the Prime Minister in her state or had expressed her reservations over certain issues. That is why if she stepped out of the NITI Aayog meeting midway in a pre-planned manner, it did not call for raised eyebrows. The ploy was unfolded because either she wanted to sharpen her anti-Modi government stance or to prove that the INDIA combine would not necessarily abide by the decision of the combine's Congress leadership. Whatever may be the reason, it is difficult to gauge what benefit Mamata Banerjee gained by quitting the NITI Aayog meeting mid-way. The same predicament is before the Congress and the Chief Ministers of the Opposition parties.

NITI Aayog is definitely not a platform which can be converted into a battleground for party politics. The agenda for this NITI Aayog meeting was to devise ways and means through discussions and suggestions that would make India one of the most developed nations by 2047. What instigated the Chief Ministers of Opposition parties to do politicking on this score? What is more confounding on the boycott issue is that discussion on national development cannot be entertained without taking into account the development of the states. Were the Chief Ministers concerned unaware of this logic? This attitude only reflects that the leaders of the Opposition combine are still in election mode and are bent on going separate ways even on matters of national development and other beneficial concerns. This modus of the Opposition has been observed in Parliament too. The Opposition parties contend that they boycotted the NITI Aayog meeting because, as they alleged, there was no budgetary provision for states governed by them. This excuse is nothing but a misleading attempt but it cannot be denied that the Opposition parties missed out on an opportunity to place their accusation before the Prime Minister during the NITI Aayog meeting.

From the Editorial Desk

Year to go for assembly polls, new Bihar BJP chief has a job ahead of him

The Bihar BJP's new chief DilipJaiswal, a long-time member of the organisation in the state, now has the responsibility to strengthen the party for a better performance in the Assembly elections scheduled next year.

His experience and dedication will be crucial in bolstering the party's position and strategies for the election.

DilipJaiswal , considered an influential leader of the BJP especially in the Seemanchal region, is the new state party president. He has replaced SamratChoudhary.

Jaiswal, born on May 2, 1963, is a native of Khagaria district. He has been instrumental in strengthening the BJP's presence in districts like Kishanganj, Katihar, Supaul, Saharsa, Purnea and Araria.



Jaiswal has won elections to the Bihar Legislative Council three times from the Purnea-Araria-Kishanganj constituency number 23 as a NDA candidate. In the 2014 LokSabha election, he contested from the Kishanganj seat but lost.

He has served as the treasurer of the Bihar BJP for 20 consecutive years and is currently the Minister of Land Reforms and Revenue in the state government. He has been actively involved in the BJP's politics since his student days and is also the in-charge of the Sikkim BJP.

With the appointment of DilipJaiswal as the new state president, the BJP is strategically aiming to secure the 36% vote bank of the extremely backward communities. Coming from the Kalwar caste, Jaiswal's appointment is seen as an effort to appeal to the Vaishya vote bank ahead of the assembly elections.

In the 2019 LokSabha election, the NDA won 39 seats in Bihar, but in the 2024 LokSabha election, it managed to secure only 30 seats, with the BJP and JD(U) each winning 12 seats, the LJPRV winning 5 seats, and HAM securing 1 seat.

This reduction in seats may have prompted the BJP to focus on its core voters.

The BJP follows the principle of "one person, one post." Previously, SamratChoudhary had the dual roles of state president and deputy chief minister. With Jaiswal's appointment, Choudhary's role is now concentrated in the government. Choudhary had been serving as the state president since March 23, 2023.

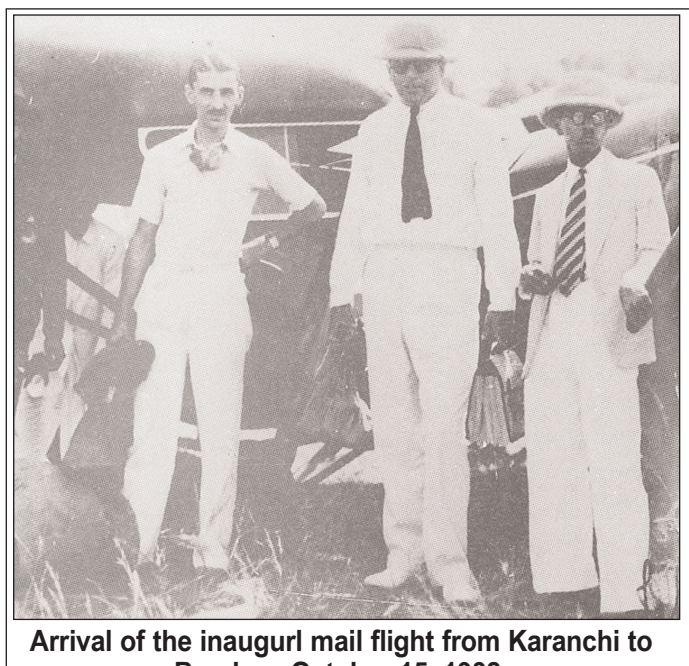
This change comes after Nitish Kumar joined the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), leading to SamratChoudhary being appointed as the deputy chief minister.

Piloting a nation through uncharted territories: The JRD Tata story

June 29 is 120th birth anniversary of JRD Tata



Chanakya Chaudhary



Arrival of the inaugurl mail flight from Karanchi to Bombay, October 15, 1932.



R.D. Tata with his wife Thelly and their two dogs Digby (left) and Pinnochio (right).



In the archives of Indian industry, few names resonate with the same authority and admiration as Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhoy Tata, fondly known as JRD Tata. He was not only an exceptional business leader but a compassionate human being. One of the most memorable evenings was from the grounds of the National Centre for the Performing Arts when Tata employees were felicitating JRD on the Bharat Ratna awarded to him in 1992. Towards the latter part of his speech, JRD addressed his people, "My friends, I should say my children…….". Every eye was moist because they knew he meant it.

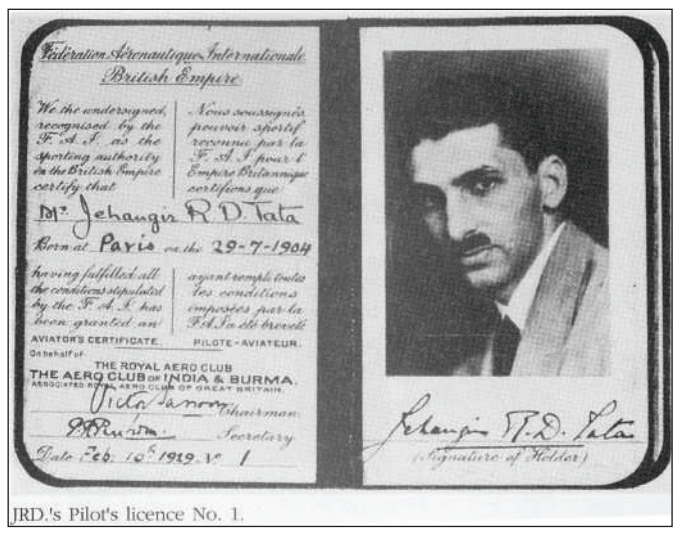
Born in Paris on July 29, 1904, JRD`s upbringing as the second child of RatanjiDadabhai Tata and his French wife Sooni instilled in him a global perspective. JRD schooled in Paris (France), Bombay (India) and Yokohama (Japan). Whatever he touched, he adorned. His mother tongue was French, and he loved the language. When he settled in India in his early twenties, he mastered the English language. He took endless trouble selecting the exact words to express his thoughts. Such attention to detail indicates his respect for language and his belief in the power of words to influence, inspire, and lead.

It is impressive to know that JRD's personal library housed a collection of approximately 7,000 books, spanning subjects from aviation and science to history and literature. JRD never did things by halves but always wanted to excel. When he took to flying, he read almost all the books he could get hold of on aviation in the 1920s. When he began to play golf, he read books on golf. When he decided to learn tennis and bridge, he studied the material for the two games. JRD's love and passion for sports inspired the creation of the JRD Tata Sports Complex in Jamshedpur, a state-of-the-art facility.

JRD Tata's deep love for India was evident even before he first visited the country in 1925. In one of his letters, addressed to his father, R.D Tata, in 1921, JRD wrote, "You say in your letter that I shall have to go to India in 1922. You can't imagine how glad I am…… How much I would like to begin at once to work in Bombay to be able to unburden in a few years of a part of your work." It was not until he was twenty-one that he settled down in India. As a citizen of France, JRD served in the army for a year. He wanted to study at Cambridge (where a seat was reserved for him) but was recalled to India by RD Tata and was inducted into the House of Tatas for training in 1925. In 1938, at the age of thirty-four, he became the Chairman of the largest industrial group in India. When asked in an interview, how did he discharge his responsibilities with his limited formal education? In his answers, lay the greatest principle of management.

He said, "Because of lack of technical knowledge, my main contribution in management was to encourage others……. At times, it involved suppressing yourself. It is painful but necessary……To lead men, you have to lead them with affection."

In 1942, JRD was first attracted to participating actively in the freedom struggle, but he held himself back. His role was to forge the economic independence of India. Under his leadership, the Tata Group expanded from 14 companies to 95, spanning diverse sectors like steel, aviation, power generation, IT, and consumer products. One of the JRD's most celebrated achievements was his pioneering role in Indian aviation. In 1932, he founded Tata Airlines, India's first commercial airline, which later became Air India. As India's first licensed pilot, JRD personally piloted the inaugural flight, flying a single-engine De Havilland Puss Moth from Karachi to Bombay. When asked what the most satisfying experience of his life has been, JRD replied, "The flying experience has dominated, and no other can equal the excitement of the first solo flight. Next is Air India…...". JRD's leadership was characterised by his relentless pursuit of excellence and unwavering belief in the potential of Indian industry. It was he who started Tata Motors, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Tata Chemicals, Voltas, Tata Tea, and Tata Industries. Under JRD's Chairmanship, Tata Steel saw significant modernisation and expansion, solidifying its global reputation. He emphasised the importance of both empathy and perfectionism. In a letter to a young manager, JRD wrote, "We must strive for perfection in everything we do, not because it is required, but because it is our duty to our country and ourselves."



JRD.'s Pilot's licence No. 1.

JRD Tata's legacy extends far beyond business. On the social scene, he was the first national voice to call for family planning. Though Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru disagreed with him, for forty years, he pursued a campaign to promote family planning, primarily through the agency he founded- the Family Planning Association of India. He was awarded the 'UN Population Award' for his work.

Jawaharlal Nehru and JRD Tata shared a relationship characterised by mutual respect and a common goal of nation-building. Still, they had significant differences in their economic philosophies and approaches to development. JRD Tata, one of the key architects of the Bombay Plan, along with GD Birla, Lala Shree Ram, John Mathai, ArdeshirDalal, AD Shroff, and others, envisioned its implementation as a blueprint for India's economic development, emphasising rapid industrialisation, substantial public investment in infrastructure and a balanced role for both public and private sectors to achieve self-reliance and modernisation.

JRD's joy of achievement extended beyond business and economics to the institutions he helped create and to the people he helped. Two national institutions- the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) and the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA).

- were started because of his support and vision. The third one, the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), was inaugurated by him in 1988. Envisaging the power of atomic energy, JRD once wrote, "Although nuclear physics is today still in the realm of pure science, this branch of science will make available man to a new, immense and inexhaustible source of motive power. She has the men of world renown like HomiBhaba, Chandrashekhar and others, and given proper facilities, she is more than capable of holding her own". JRD was also the first leading industrialist to recognise the responsibilities of business towards rural uplift. He suggested the industry established in the countryside to "adopt" the villages in its neighbourhood. To put JRD's ideas into action, the Articles of Association of leading Tata Companies were amended, and social obligations beyond the welfare of their employees were accepted as part of the company's objectives. Clearly, JRD's focus was people's happiness and welfare.

Hearing that an American economist had noted that India would be an 'economic superpower' in the next century, JRD told an audience, "I don't want India to be an economic supervisor; I want India to be a happy country." JRD always cared for the less fortunate, which was reflected in the scale and extent of his philanthropic activities. He established JRD Tata Trust, Thelma J. Tata Trust, and Tata Memorial Hospital.

The Tata Memorial Hospital stands out for its pioneering work in cancer treatment, embodying Tata's vision of using resources to make a meaningful difference in society.

As we journey through the intricacies of today's corporate landscape, JRD Tata's timeless values light the way, inspiring us to understand that authentic leadership extends beyond the confines of the boardroom and creates a lasting impact on society.

His invaluable insights encourage us to envision grandeur possibilities, uphold integrity, and pursue the greater good. His timeless principles remain relevant today, guiding the Tata Group and other Indian enterprises. His belief in ethical business practices is celebrated at Tata Steel during Ethics Month, commemorating his birth anniversary. In his inaugural address at the J.R.D. Tata Foundation for Business Ethics at the Xavier Labour Relations Institute (XLRI), Jamshedpur, on March 4, 1991, he stated, "There has indeed been a need to rekindle old principles and ethical values which, alas, have too often been ignored or neglected in recent years in the belief that quicker profits and greater accumulation of wealth would be the result. Our own experience in Tatas has shown that this is a false belief."

Even today, JRD's integrity, social responsibility, and visionary thinking principles offer valuable lessons for modern leaders. As the world grapples with corporate governance and sustainability challenges, JRD's legacy is a beacon of ethical leadership. JRD Tata was ahead of his time in emphasising environmental responsibility and sustainable practices within the Tata group's operations. He implemented measures to minimise environmental impact, such as efficient waste management and pollution control. Jamshedpur, a city founded by Tata Steel, reflects JRD Tata's vision of a well-planned and sustainable urban environment. Under his leadership, the city was developed with a strong focus on employee welfare, infrastructure and environmental stewardship. His focus on ethical business practices, social responsibility, and relentless pursuit of excellence continues to guide the Tata Group and other Indian enterprises.

The world calls JehangirRatanjiDadabhoy Tata 'the legendary Indian industrialist'. He was powerful and glorious, yet people remember him for his smile, the warmth, and the care he showed everyone. JRD said, "I want to be remembered as an honest man who did his duty." This is what every one of us should try to be - "an honest individual who does their duty."

Reference: J.R.D. Tata: Letters & Keynote

(Author is Vice President, Corporate Services, Tata Steel.)

Cong Govt giving false info on Centre's budget allocation to K'taka: FM

Bengaluru, July 28 (IANS) Union Finance Minister Niramala Sitharaman has rejected the allegations of the Congress government in Karnataka that the Centre gave a rough deal to the state in the Union Budget 2024-25, terming them as "false".

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here on Sunday, FM Sitharaman presented figures to prove that Karnataka has been given its due in terms of allocation of funds. She said, "The current government is giving wrong information which is not helping anyone. <

Even the people of Karnataka are not getting factual information...I want to put the facts before the public. In 10 years of UPA government between 2004 and 2014, Karnataka received Rs 81,791 crore. Between 2014 and 2024, in 10 years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Karnataka received Rs 2,95,818 crore."

"If you look at tax devolution where it was Rs 8,179 crore per year, now this one year under Prime Minister Narendra Modi 3.0 rule, Karnataka gets Rs 45,485 crore. There is just no comparison and therefore, I request media friends to look at the data and ask questions where they need to be asked. Why is this propaganda going on?" The FM underlined.

"Under UPA the 'Grants in aids' for Karnataka was Rs 60,779 crore. Under NDA it is Rs 2,36, 955 crore. Under the UPA, Karnataka got Rs 6,779 crore per annum. Now, under Grants in aid this year Rs 15,300 crore are given," she informed.

"The Finance Commission has not given directions to the Central government to provide funds for states to build infrastructure. But, after Covid Prime Minister Modi said we should give money for states to recover fast. Karnataka beginning 2020-2021 till 2023-24 received a total Rs 8,312



crore interest-free loan. This year, Rs 2,006 crore with no conditions attached we are giving. In total Karnataka by the end of this year would have received Rs 10,041 crore for 50 years and interest-free from the Government of India," The Union Minister stated.

Kalaburagi in Karnataka will get Mega Textile Park under the PM Mithra Mega Textile Park project and it will get Rs 200 crore fund exclusively. "The numbers will shock in terms of railway allocations. Allocation between 2009 and 2014 under the UPA was Rs 835 crore for Karnataka. In the 2024-25 Budget the allocation is Rs 7,559 crore for Karnataka for the railways alone," FM Sitharaman said.

"Thirty-one projects of laying railway lanes are ongoing and 3,840 km of railway lanes are being laid. The value of ongoing projects is Rs 47,016 crore only for railway projects in Karnataka. Since 2014, a total of 638 railway flyovers have been built, seven Vande Bharat trains are operationalised," she said.

"IIT Dharwad was set up with the Central funds in March 2023. The first industrial corridor for South India was inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi in Tumakuru because that is a part of the Chennai-Bengaluru corridor. Seven cities in Karnataka have been selected under the smart city project. More than Rs 6,428 crore was released to the state for the smart city mission. 904 projects worth Rs 15,000 crore work orders are already issued," The FM said.

"What is given to Karnataka? Work is given, orders are issued, and it is moving on the ground. Because of the favourable environment we tried to create in the Centre and state also, in January 2024, Boeing India Engineering and Technology Centre built its biggest centre outside the US in Bengaluru. They did not go to China, they came here. That is an investment of Rs 1,600 crore," the Union Minister said.

She further added, "4,600 km of roads have been constructed already. The NDA government has invested more than Rs one lakh crore for highway-related projects in Karnataka only. Many green field corridors are being built under Bharat Mala Pari Yojana Phase 1."

UltraTech Cement acquires majority stake in India Cements to expand southern footprint

Mumbai, July 28 (IANS) UltraTech Cement on Sunday announced to acquire a majority stake in India Cements, the country's largest cement maker, in a bid to expand its footprint in south India.

The Board of Directors of UltraTech approved the purchase of a 32.72 per cent equity stake of the promoters and their associates in India Cements Ltd, subject to regulatory approvals.

UltraTech will pay Rs 3,954 crore at Rs 390 share for buying a 32.72 per cent stake in India Cements.

Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman, Aditya Birla Group, said that UltraTech Cement's investments over the years, both organic and inorganic, have been designed to propel India to become a building solutions champion globally.

"Every investment in a core sector like cement accelerates economic activity and drives progress. These investments have also facilitated India's nationwide infrastructure upgrade, powering our country's growing need for housing, roads, and other vital infrastructure," Birla said in a statement.

UltraTech made a financial investment in India Cements to acquire 22.77 per cent equity at a price of Rs 268 per share in June this year.

After the financial investment, the promoter group approached UltraTech as they wanted to sell their holding in the company, and "we found it appropriate to acquire their stake in the company".

Bengal government mulls hiking liquor, beer prices

Kolkata, July 28 (IANS) Setting a goal to surpass the targeted growth in the collection of state excise by the end of the current financial year 2024-25, the West Bengal government is mulling the possibility of increasing the prices of different liquor and beer brands.

Sources in the state excise directorate said that the new prices will be announced after evaluating the expressions of interest (EOI) to evaluate the existing cost of production of liquor and beer brands. The last time, when the state government went for a hike in liquor and beer prices was in February 2023 and before that also the EOIs were sought from the liquor manufacturers to evaluate the production cost. "On the basis of the EOI evaluations, the final per-bottle price and the state excise to be imposed on it are determined. This year the process of seeking EOIs from the liquor manufacturers and evaluating the same has already started and the final reflection of that evaluation report on the prices of liquor and beer brands would be felt soon," he said. Sources said that in the case of Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL), the per-bottle price might increase in the range between Rs 5 and Rs 100 for 750 ML bottles.

Tax clearance certificate only for high-value defaulters to fly abroad: Centre

New Delhi, July 28 (IANS) The Centre on Sunday clarified that it is not mandatory for every citizen to get a tax clearance certificate to fly abroad.

After some social media posts claimed that such a certificate is now required to go abroad, the Finance Ministry clarified it is only for those accused of financial irregularities or having substantial tax arrears.

In the Finance Bill 2024, the government has proposed to add the reference of the Black Money Act, 2015 to the list of Acts, under which any person should clear his liabilities to obtain the tax clearance certificate. The Finance Ministry said, in a statement, that the proposed amendment does not require all the residents to obtain the tax clearance certificate.



As per Section 230 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, every person is not required to obtain a tax clearance certificate. Only in the case of certain persons, in respect of whom circumstances exist, which make it necessary to obtain a tax clearance certificate will be required to obtain such a certificate.

A 2004 notification by the Income Tax (I-T) department had specified that the tax clearance certificate is only required by those domiciled in India, "only in certain circumstances".

If a person is suspected of serious financial misconduct and their presence is crucial for investigations under the Income Tax Act or the Wealth Tax Act, and if it's likely that a tax demand will be raised against them, they need to obtain a tax clearance certificate.

Centre's big push for electric vehicle adoption, manufacturing continues

New Delhi, July 28 (IANS) In a bid to push electric vehicle (EV) adoption and local manufacturing in the country, the government declared several new initiatives in the recent past as electric car sales in India are projected to reach 1.5 lakh in the current fiscal year (FY25).

The adoption of electric two-wheelers is also surging in the country. The e-2W sales soared to 17,52,406 units in FY24.

This growth was led by two-wheelers and three-wheelers, which contributed 94 per cent to the total sales, according to a latest report by JMK Research and Analytics.

The Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024 (EMPS 2024), launched by the Ministry of Heavy Industries on March 13



this year, aims to boost the adoption of EVs across the country.

Originally set to run from April 1 to July 31 with a total outlay of Rs 500 crore, the scheme has now been extended by two more months.

Now, the EMPS scheme will run till September 30, with a new outlay of Rs 778 crore.

The scheme aims to foster the growth of the EV manufacturing ecosystem in the country.

According to the Ministry, the scheme will be applicable mainly to those e-2W and e-3Ws registered for commercial purposes. Further, in addition to commercial use, privately or corporate-owned registered e-2W will also be eligible under the scheme, according to the Ministry.

The scheme now targets to support 560,789 electric vehicles (EVs), comprising 500,080 electric two-wheelers (e-2Ws) and 60,709 electric three-wheelers (e-3Ws).

The Scheme promotes an efficient, competitive and resilient EV manufacturing industry in the country thereby promoting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat.'

The aim is to attract investment from global EV manufacturers and promote India as a manufacturing destination for e-vehicles.

According to a latest CareEdge Ratings report, the electric car penetration is consistently increasing in the country, driven by the government's efforts towards a more sustainable, environmentally friendly, and efficient transportation sector.

The shift to electric mobility extends beyond cars and trucks and e-rickshaws and e-karts are also gaining popularity across the country.

Electric bus sales soared to 3,708 units in FY2024 with a growth of 85 per cent on a YoY basis.

EV firm Ola Electric to reveal more about its IPO today



New Delhi, July 28 (IANS) EV company Ola Electric on Sunday made it official to bring an initial public offering (IPO), likely in early August, and the company will reveal more about it on Monday.

Ola Electric's chief executive officer (CEO) Bhavish Aggarwal and Harish Abichandani, chief financial officer (CFO), will brief about the forthcoming IPO, the company said in a statement.

According to multiple reports, Ola Electric's IPO will be launched on August 2, with a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 5,500 crore. The public issue will open for retail subscription on August 2 and close on August 6.

Reports indicated that promoters Aggarwal and Indus Trust will likely sell 3.79 crore and 41.79 lakh equity shares, respectively in the offer for sale (OFS). The company aims to spend around Rs 1,227 crore from its IPI raise for the capacity expansion of its cell manufacturing plant. The EV firm will also spend the IPO money on research, product development and business expansion. Meanwhile, in FY24, Ola Electric's net loss jumped 7.6 per cent to Rs 1,584.4 crore, from Rs 1,472.1 crore in the previous fiscal.

The company reported a 90 per cent rise in its operating revenue at Rs 5,009.8 crore, from Rs 2,630.9 crore in FY23, as per its red herring prospectus (RHP). In FY24, the revenue from the sale of EV scooters was primarily dependent on the sale of Ola S1 Pro scooter models, according to the company. Premium category scooter Ola S1 Pro contributed almost 60 per cent to the total revenue. The company sold 3.29 lakh EVs in FY24, as compared to 1.56 lakh electric two-wheelers in the previous fiscal year.

ICICI Bank posts Rs 11,059 cr in net profit, infuses Rs 500 cr in home finance subsidiary

Mumbai, July 27 (IANS) ICICI Bank on Saturday reported a 14.6 per cent increase in net profit to Rs 11,059 crore for the April-June quarter of the current financial year compared to the corresponding figure of Rs 9,648.2 crore in the same period last year.

According to the bank's executive director (ED) Sandeep Batra, "in Q1 FY25, we infused about Rs 500 crore" in ICICI Home Finance, the home finance subsidiary. The bank's net interest income went up by 7.3 per cent to Rs 19,552.9 crore during the first quarter from Rs 18,227 crore in the year-ago period.

Samsung launches Galaxy Watch7, Watch Ultra, Buds3 series in India

New Delhi, July 28 : Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, has announced exciting offers for consumers pre-ordering its new Galaxy Buds3, Galaxy Buds3 Pro, Galaxy Watch7 and Galaxy Watch Ultra smartwatches. Galaxy Watch7 and Galaxy Watch Ultra expand the power of Galaxy AI to more people through wearables designed to provide end-to-end wellness experiences for everyone. Galaxy Watch Ultra - the newest and most powerful addition to the Galaxy Watch portfolio - is designed for enhanced fitness experiences for next level achievements with ultimate intelligence and capabilities. The Watch Ultra gets a new cushion design to enhance protection and visual completeness. It comes with Titanium Grade 4 frame and 10ATM water resistance and can operate at a wider range of altitudes for advanced fitness experiences like swimming in the ocean to cycling in extreme environments. With a newly added Quick Button, you can instantly initiate and control workouts and map other functions to suit your needs. In addition, you can activate an Emergency Siren for safety. Post-workout, check stats at a glance with dedicated watch faces for Galaxy Watch Ultra. With a peak brightness of 3,000 nits, Galaxy Watch Ultra also ensures readability even in bright sunlight. For peace of mind during longer adventures, Galaxy Watch Ultra has the longest battery life within the Galaxy Watch line-up, offering up to 100 hours in Power Saving and 48 hours in Exercise Power Saving.

Market Outlook: Q1 results, PMI data & Fed meeting key factors for next week

Mumbai, July 28 (IANS) Indian equity indices witnessed a stellar rally last week. This is the eighth consecutive week when frontline indices posted gains as positive sentiment due to the robust budget which was presented on July 23.

Nifty ended the week at 24,834.85, up 1.24 per cent from the previous week. The National Stock Exchange benchmark reached a new all-time high of 24,861.15 in the last week. While Sensex closed the week at a near-lifetime high with a 0.90 per cent gain compared to the previous week.

The next week's outlook for the market will be guided by several domestic or global factors.

On the domestic front, India Infrastructure Output (YoY) (Jun), HSBC India Manufacturing PMI (Jul), Q1 results of the top Indian companies, and the FII and DII activities will drive the market in the upcoming week.

On the global front, The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting on Thursday is expected to maintain a dovish tone, keeping rates unchanged at 5.25 per cent - 5.50 per cent. The Bank of Japan's interest rate decision, scheduled for Wednesday, is another key event.

Arvinder Singh Nanda, Senior Vice President of Master Capital Services Ltd said, "The Nifty index has formed a robust bullish candle on the daily chart, reaching a fresh all-time high. The immediate resistance level is at 25,000, and trading above this threshold could signal a strong bull market which can take the index towards 25,400. Conversely, support is identified at 24,500."

Alex Volkov, Market Analyst at VT Markets on global markets said, "US Indices Mixed as ASX 200 Ends Winning Streak. It was a mixed week for US equity indices.

Time to integrate MSMEs with global value chains: Commerce Secretary

New Delhi, July 28 (IANS) As micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are an integral part of the BRICS countries, there is a need for cooperation and collective efforts for outcome-oriented support for the sector, which form the backbone of the overall industrial ecosystem and economic growth, said Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal.

The Commerce Secretary, who attended the 14th BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting in Moscow last week, stressed that the integration of the MSMEs with the Global Value Chains is the key.

Reiterating the Jaipur Call for Action for enhancing access to information for MSMEs issued



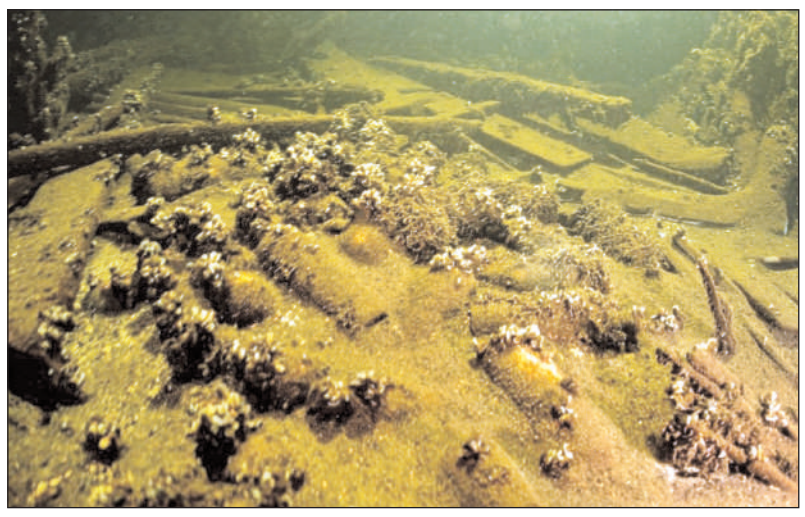
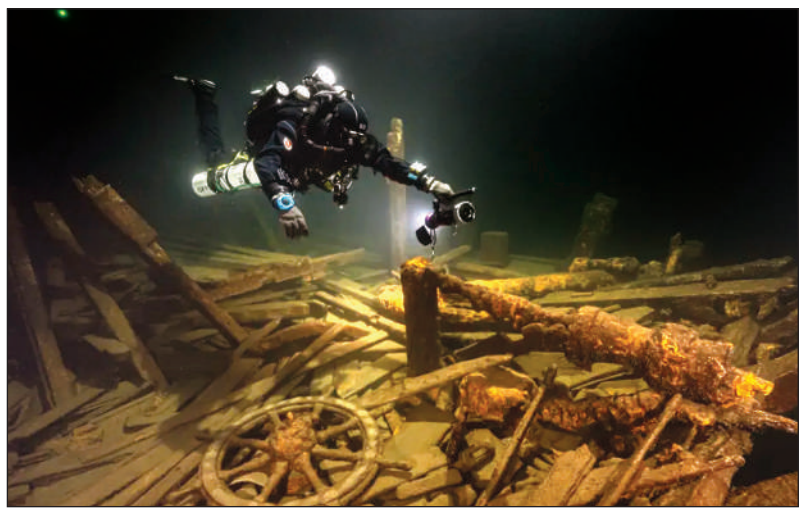
during India's Presidency in 2023, the senior government official lauded the Russian Presidency for carrying forward the initiative by making efforts to compile certain basic information pertaining to MSMEs among the BRICS members.

India's Union Budget 2024-25 also includes several significant provisions for the MSME sector, including a new credit guarantee scheme, offering collateral-free loans to the MSME units.

At the international forum, Barthwal expressed the need to focus on key areas like exploring cooperation in the form of research and development, technology transfers and joint ventures as well as business development opportunities. Referring to the success story of building up an open source India Stack of critical Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) as part of its digital industrialisation following the core principles of open access, transparency, trust and respect for data protection and privacy, Commerce Secretary also expressed India's willingness to share its experience with the BRICS countries on the e-revolution in the domains of payments, e-commerce, national identity, banking, education, etc.

He also welcomed the new members of BRICS (Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia and the UAE) and congratulated them on their fruitful participation in discussions this year. The Commerce Secretary expressed the need for strengthening the multilateral trading system with WTO at its core, effective functioning of Joint Value Chains, expanding interaction among MSMEs, India's successful story on Digitalisation and e-commerce and the relevance of cooperation among Special Economic Zones. He also stressed the urgent need for resolving the issues including the permanent solution to Public Stock Holding, the constitution of the two-tier Dispute Settlement system, and WTO Reform to be based on the principles and objectives of WTO, leading to more responsive development requirements of emerging economies.

175-Year-Old bottles of Champagne discovered by polish divers in a Shipwreck

New Delhi, July 28 (IANS) : A team of Polish divers made a once-in-a-lifetime discovery last week when they stumbled upon a 19th-century shipwreck brimming with luxury goods, including hundreds of unopened bottles of champagne.

The private diving group, Baltictech, was exploring the Baltic Sea off the Swedish coast when they initially dismissed a sonar image as a common fishing vessel. However, a pair of determined divers decided to investigate further, disappearing for nearly two hours before returning with news of an extraordinary find.

According to a press release, the wreck was laden with porcelain, mineral water, and an astonishing number of champagne bottles. The mineral water brand, Selters, is particularly intriguing as it was once considered a royal elixir and is still produced today. While the champagne brand remains a mystery, divers believe it may have been destined for the tables of Stockholm or St. Petersburg's royal court.

Team leader Tomasz Stachura expressed his astonishment at the discovery, stating, "I have been diving for 40 years, and it often happens that we find a bottle or two in a wreck, but to discover so much cargo, it's a first for me."

Historians believe the champagne was produced between 1850 and 1867, making it potentially one of the oldest champagnes in the world. The pristine condition of the bottles, preserved by the cold, dark depths of the Baltic Sea, has raised hopes that the champagne may still be drinkable.

The discovery has sparked excitement among historians and champagne enthusiasts alike, as the find could provide valuable insights into the maritime trade and luxury goods of the 19th century.

Japan's mine associated with wartime forced labour listed as UNESCO World Heritage



Seoul, July 28 (IANS) Japan's former gold mine, associated with Korea's wartime forced labour, was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site on Saturday, South Korea's foreign ministry said, after Tokyo agreed to reflect the entire history of the location.

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee (WHC) reviewed and decided on the inscription of the mine -- the world's largest producer of gold in the 17th century -- on Sado Island during its meeting in New Delhi, Yonhap news agency reported.

Both South Korea and Japan are among the 21 member states of the rotating committee this year. While a two-thirds majority of the entirety of the UNESCO WHC's member states is required for a site to be listed, decisions are typically made by consensus.

South Korea protested Tokyo's push to enlist the mine, arguing that Japan initially intended to omit the part of its history involving thousands of Koreans who were forced to toil there during World War II when Korea was under Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule.

It is estimated that over 2,000 Koreans were forcibly mobilised to work under harsh conditions at the Sado mine.

South Korea later agreed to the inscription of the mine on the condition that Japan faithfully carries out recommendations by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), an advisory body to the UNESCO WHC, and takes other measures, the ministry said in a release.

Earlier this month, ICOMOS recommended referring the nomination of the Sado mine back to Japan, calling for a more comprehensive explanation of its entire history. In its original submission, Japan limited the mine's timeline to the Edo period (1603-1868), excluding the modern history during which war atrocities were committed.

"The government has engaged in serious negotiations with the Japanese government over the past few months based on the ICOMOS recommendations to reflect the 'entire history' and our position," the ministry said.

Some of the conditions include Japan developing a comprehensive interpretation and exhibition that reflects the entire history of the Sado mine, including sincere memorials for all workers, especially Korean labourers.

The conditions also specifically state that Japan must "bear in mind" to faithfully carry out the recommendations and closely work with South Korea in the future, the ministry said.

To demonstrate its commitment to these promises, Japan has already installed new exhibits at the Sado mine site to commemorate the harsh working conditions and sufferings of Korean labourers, the ministry said.

Japan will also hold annual memorial services for the Sado mine workers on Sado Island during July-August every year, the ministry said. The date and location for this year's memorial service are currently being coordinated.

"While there have been memorial services organised by Japanese civic groups in the past, the significance of the promised memorial service this time is that Japanese government officials will also participate," the ministry said.

Despite the decision, concerns remain about whether the Japanese government will keep its promise and how prominently the forced labour aspect will be featured in Japan's exhibits.

In 2015, Japan's Hashima Island was registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. At that time, Japan agreed to establish an information centre on the island to commemorate the wartime forced labour victims on the island, but it later set up the information centre at its government building in Tokyo.

British woman lost 48 kg in a year, thanks to one simple Gym hack



New Delhi, July 28 (IANS) : A 20-year-old marketing executive from Northamptonshire, England, has gone viral on social media following her incredible weight loss. Millie Slater shared a TikTok video that showed off her dramatic transformation-from 115 kilogrammes in January 2023 to now being very lean at 67 kilogrammes. The viral video, which featured Ms Slater's toned physique, has already pulled in more than 400,000 views.

She has shared a post detailing how her success can be attributed to consistent effort and a balanced approach to fitness and nutrition. With frustratingly unhelpful fad diets, she had made up her mind to forge her path by regularly hitting the gym and logging calories while focusing on protein consumption and maintaining a caloric deficit.

In an interview with Newsweek, Slater revealed that incorporating weight training and incline walking on the treadmill significantly enhanced her gym experience. She noted that her approach closely resembles the 12-3-30 treadmill workout popularised by influencer Lauren Giraldo, which she found particularly motivating and effective.

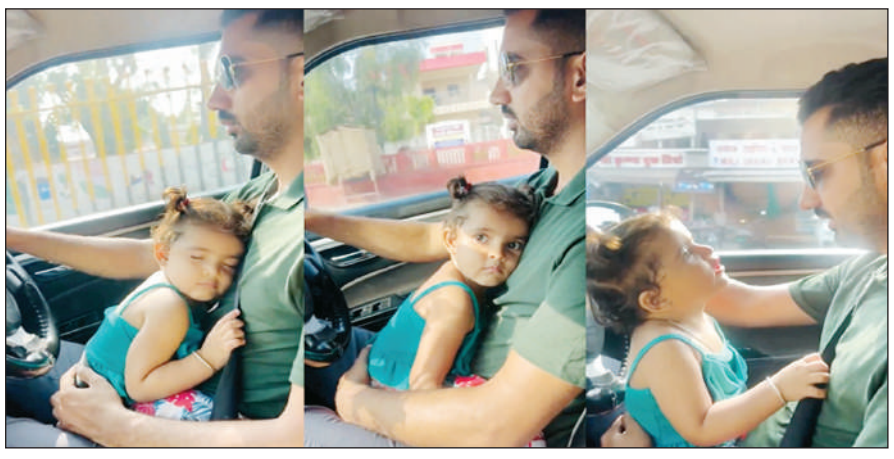
She walks at a 12 percent grade at 3 miles an hour for 30 minutes. This workout has been known to burn loads of calories with a low-impact exercise alternative.

Slater says that exercise needs to be enjoyable, and walking itself is enough with a little more activity to keep one fit.

Coincidentally, the Journal of Biomechanics recently published a study stating, "You'll burn 17 percent more calories if you walk at a 5 percent incline and 32 percent more at a 10 percent incline versus walking on a flat surface."

HealthCentral says that in only 30 minutes with the 12-3-30 workouts, a person who weighs 150 pounds will burn around 300 calories.

So Irresponsible : Man drives car with daughter on his lap, video sparks concern



New Delhi, July 28 (IANS) : Ensuring the protection of children and keeping them safe is one of the most fundamental duties of parents. Recently, a video went viral showing a man driving a car with his young daughter sitting in his lap. The video has sparked concern, with many users slamming the man for his "irresponsible" act.

The clip was shared by Dr.AshwinRajenesh, an emergency medicine expert on X. In the video, the young child is seen sleeping peacefully on her father's lap while he is driving. Later she is seen talking and playing with her father as he drives with the car. Dr Rajenesh shared the video, warning other parents that such an act could be deadly for both the child and her father in case of an accident. "Looks adorable. But in the event of a frontal collision and subsequent airbag deployment, the infant's skull would be accelerated at ~320km/hr 6-8 inches into the man's thoracic cage, killing both instantly. Indian parents need a harsh reality check," he wrote while sharing the video.

He further wrote, "I'm sure that this dad loves his daughter dearly, and I really wish to believe that this dangerous indulgence of child endangerment was a singular lapse of his better judgement. Hoping he& other parents can realise the potential dangers involved in such practices, and do better."

Several users agreed with the doctor and highlighted the risks and potential dangers associated with such acts.

One user wrote, "Poor judgement, risk assessment and hazard awareness. This is what happens when stupidity, combines with ignorance of road safety and lack of enforcement of traffic rules."

Another commented, "Also the irresponsibility towards other drivers in the road, The driver of this car is constantly distracted and is a risk to everyone else on the road."

A third said, "They need to be careful when there is a young child and infants in the car. One wrong decision and mistake can change a whole life." A fourth shared a similar incident and wrote, "A sudden brake can cause serious damage. Once in my teens, my cousin's toddler was sitting on my lap in the front seat. The car jumped into a large pothole, and I heard a loud bang, which I thought was from the bottom of the car. It was the sound of my niece's head banging on the dash."

The details of where and when the video was filmed are still unknown.

Google Map shows walking 6 km is faster than driving in Bengaluru



Bengaluru, July 28 (IANS) : Bengaluru is infamous for its traffic and hours-long traffic jams. The IT city was among the two Indian cities that were named among the world's ten worst traffic-hit cities in 2023. The same year, it was also named the second most congested city in the world. Rapid urbanisation, poor planning, and limited public transport options are just some reasons why people find the city's roads choked daily during peak rush hours. In the face of this, Google Maps has now confirmed that it is sometimes quicker to walk than to drive from point A to B in the IT city.

Taking to X (formerly Twitter), user Ayush Singh shared a Google Maps screenshot which showed the time it takes to walk vs the time it takes to drive from Brigade Metropolis to KR Puram Railway Station - a distance of approximately 6 kilometres. According to the image, driving between the two points would take a person 44 minutes, while walking would be marginally quicker at 42 minutes. Sharing the pic, Mr Singh wrote, "This happens only in Bangalore."

Since being shared, the post has accumulated more than 626,000 views and over 14,000 likes. In the comments section, while some users agreed that Bengaluru's traffic is tiring, others countered Mr Singh's "only in Bengaluru" narrative.

"Same story across many metro cities in the world," wrote one user. "Mumbai and Delhi also same situation during peak," said another.

"If time is so important to you, then I'd like to tell you that KR Puram is 3rd metro station from Garudacharpalya. Next time you can try it," suggested a third user.

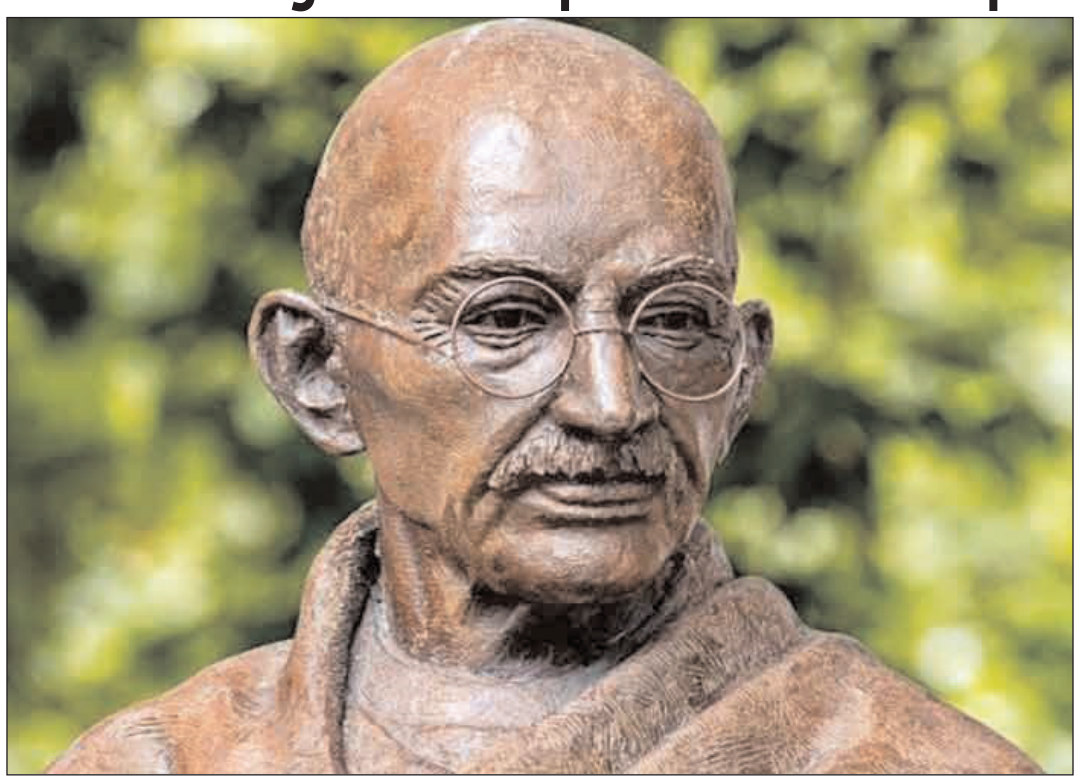
One user called Bengaluru "Traffic capital of India". "Stop blaming start using public transport which can take you there in 13 mins," commented another user.

"While comparing the walk with the drive, you forgot to notice the public transport only 13 minutes. We often forget that the right solution to traffic is public transport," added another.

Meanwhile, speaking of Bengaluru traffic, earlier this week, an entrepreneur suggested borrowing an idea from China to help residents deal with daily traffic snarls. Taking to X (formerly Twitter), user Paras Chopra shared a screenshot of a news article describing how, in Beijing, commuters stuck in traffic jams can call for a "rescue". The article explains that in Beijing, you can pay someone $60 to rescue you from traffic. "They pick you up on a motorbike and someone else drives your car to its destination," the article read.

Sharing the screenshot, Mr Chopra wrote, "Bangalore founders, drop that saas idea and build this instead". His post garnered mixed reactions from social media users.

Gandhi statue will become symbol of Japan-India friendship: Masahiro Komura



Tokyo, July 28 (IANS) Japan's Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Masahiro Komura said on Sunday that the statue of Mahatma Gandhi installed in Nishikasai will become a familiar symbol of Japan-India friendship and exchanges to the local people.

Koumura attended the unveiling ceremony of a bust of Mahatma Gandhi by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held in the Edogawa Ward of Nishikasai in Tokyo on Sunday.

The ceremony was hosted by the Embassy of India in Tokyo and the Edogawa Ward. Along with the Japanese Minister and EAM Jaishankar, India's Ambassador to Japan Sibi George and Edogawa Ward Mayor Saito Takeshi also attended the event.

In his speech at the ceremony, Komura stated that India is Japan's "Special Strategic Global Partner" that shares fundamental values and strategic interests with Japan, and that the area of people-to-people exchanges in the relationship between the two countries has great potential for future development.

At the event, EAM Jaishankar spotlighted that "Bapu's achievements" continue to inspire everyone to this day and his message of peace and non-violence remains timeless.

"His principles are even more relevant today when the world sees so much conflict, tension and polarization," the EAM said at the unveiling ceremony.

The EAM is in Tokyo to attend the eighth meeting of the Quad foreign ministers on Monday where the grouping - comprising India, Japan, Australia and the United States - will review and build on continuing initiatives and announce deliverable outcomes.

Sri Lanka expects significant increase in tourists visiting nature reserves in 2024

Colombo, July 28 (IANS) Compared to the last two years, Sri Lanka expects to see a significant increase in the number of local and foreign tourists visiting destinations managed by the Department of Forest Conservation this year, a minister said on Sunday. Addressing a press conference at the Presidential Media Centre, Pavithra Wanniarachchi, minister of wildlife, forest resources conservation, and irrigation, said 289,405 tourists visited these destinations in 2022, and in 2023, the number rose to 444,053.A total of 364,521 tourists have visited these destinations in the first six months of 2024 alone, she said, Xinhua news agency reported.Wanniarachchi said 19.8 per cent of these visitors were foreigners in 2022, and the figure has reached 40 per cent so far in 2024, she said.The minister said dedicated sanitary facilities have been established exclusively for foreign passport holders at several popular tourist destinations.Additionally, an online ticket reservation system is now available for Yala, Udawalawe, Horton Plains, Kaudulla, Minneriya, and Wilpattu national parks, she said.About 1.1 million foreign tourists have arrived in Sri Lanka by mid-July and the country will record the highest number of foreign tourist arrivals per year in 2024 if current trends continue, an official said recently.

Trump vows to make US 'crypto capital of the planet'

Washington, July 28 (IANS) Donald Trump, the former US President and Republican nominee for the White House, has pledged to turn the US into the "crypto capital of the planet and the Bitcoin superpower of the world" if elected and unveiled a plan to unlock the potential of the fledgling industry.

The former President on Saturday also promised to appoint an advisory council to frame his administration's cryptocurrency policy, fire Gary Gensler, the current head of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which oversees the industry; and free a jailed American who ran the Silk Route market, a dark-net platform, by commuting his life-term sentence to time served in jail.

A one-time sceptic who called cryptocurrency -- digital money that is not backed by any central bank -- a "sham", Trump has embraced it in recent months and said in a speech to an annual conference of the industry in Nashville, Tennessee, that Bitcoin -- a type of cryptocurrency -- "stands for freedom, sovereignty and independence from government coercion".

"This afternoon, I'm laying out my plan to ensure that the United States will be the crypto capital of the planet and the Bitcoin superpower of the world," he said.

"We'll get it done. If crypto is going to define the future, I want it to be mined and made in the USA. It's not going to be made anywhere else. I want America to be the nation that leads the way. And that's what's going to happen, though, you're going to be very happy with me," the former President added.

Trump's journey from aversion to cryptocurrency to conversion was marked by intense industry outreach to him and to his campaign and donations.

The first real sign of the shift in his thinking came in the Republican party's platform release ahead of the convention in Milwaukee. "Republicans will end Democrats' unlawful and un-American crypto crackdown and oppose the creation of a Central Bank Digital Currency," said the platform. "We will defend the right to mine Bitcoin, and ensure every American has the right to self-custody their digital assets and transact free from government surveillance and control."

The SEC has filed more than 80 cases against cryptocurrency industry figures under the Joe Biden administration. The charges range from defrauding customers, misrepresenting assets to making unregistered offerings of cryptocurrency.

"If you are considering a digital asset-related investment, take the time to understand how the investment works and to evaluate its risks," the agency has warned in



an investor alert.

An estimated 50 million Americans have invested in cryptocurrency, according to The Digital Chamber, an advocacy group for the industry. Black and Latino communities account for higher rates, the chamber wrote in a recent letter to Vice-President Kamala Harris urging her to include "pro-digital asset" language in her party platform.

Trump has beaten Harris to it and reinforced it with a policy plan received with loud cheering and applause from the attendees.

Trump promised the attendees that not only would his administration frame laws to encourage the cryptocurrency industry but also remove obstacles impeding the generation of electricity which is needed to power it.

"You need tremendous amounts of electricity. You need double the electricity of the entire electricity that we have right now in the United States to dominate. And we'll get that done," he said, adding, "We'll be having power plants built at the sites. We'll be releasing people from certain ridiculous requirements, and we'll be using fossil fuel to make electricity because we're going to have to. We'll be using nuclear power."

The former President left the attendees with a rousing promise, "My job will be to set you free and to let you do what Americans do best, and what you're going to do better than anybody: Win, win, win. You're going to win, win, win, with energy, passion and brilliance, like we have rarely seen before. Our country cannot fail. We're in a failing nation right now, but we're not going to be alone. Our country cannot fail. With your help, we will save our nation. We will restore our Republic. We will make America and Bitcoin, bigger, better, stronger, richer, freer and greater than ever before."

Emergency response to geological disasters activated in China's Hunan



Beijing, July 28 (IANS) China's Ministry of Emergency Management dispatched a rescue team to Hengyang, a city in central China's Hunan Province, on Sunday after a rain-triggered landslide washed away a village house, resulting in casualties. Beijing, July 28 (IANS) China's Ministry of Emergency Management dispatched a rescue team to Hengyang, a city in central China's Hunan Province, on Sunday after a rain-triggered landslide washed away a village house, resulting in casualties.In its latest update, the provincial emergency command center said that the death toll from the landslide that struck Yuelin Village in Hengyang around 8 a.m. Sunday has risen to 15, with six others injured.An emergency response to geological disasters has been activated in the province, the ministry said, adding that the team will assist local efforts in search and rescue, weather monitoring and warnings, and emergency response operations.As of 8 am Sunday, China canceled warnings for Typhoon Gaemi after it weakened into a tropical depression. However, the ministry noted that residual winds from the typhoon continue to bring heavy rains to several provinces, including Hunan, Jiangxi, Hubei, Guangdong, Liaoning and Jilin, Xinhua news agency reported.On Sunday, the ministry raised the emergency response for floods from Level IV to Level III in northeast China's Jilin Province, and activated a level-IV emergency response for southwest Chongqing Municipality. China has a four-tier emergency response system for flood control, with Level I being the most urgent response.The ministry has reiterated the need for strengthened efforts in forecast and early warning updates, eliminating hidden dangers and safety risks in key areas, and closely monitoring regions prone to flooding and waterlogging.Special attention must also be given to accommodation facilities in mountainous regions, tourist attractions, farmhouses, as well as construction site camps, the ministry said, adding that measures such as business shutdowns and evacuation of people must be implemented if necessary.

Indian warship joins Russia's traditional Navy Day parade in St Petersburg



Moscow, July 28 (IANS) Over 200 naval vessels, including ships from the Indian, Chinese, and Algerian navies, took part in the traditional maritime parade in St Petersburg to mark Russia's Navy Day on Sunday.

President Vladimir Putin, Defense Minister Andrey Belousov, and Commander-in-Chief of the Navy Admiral Aleksandr Moiseyev oversaw the parade, which takes place on the last Sunday of July, RT reported.

In his address on the occasion, President Putin vowed that Russia would continue to strengthen its naval forces and modernise its fleets with high-tech assets, including hypersonic missiles.

Over 15,000 service members and vessels of various classes drawn from Russia's Northern, Pacific, and Baltic fleets, the Caspian flotilla, as well as members of the naval force expedition in Syria, participated in the event. However, ships from the Black Sea Fleet were absent as they were engaged in active operations in the Ukraine conflict.

The parade is traditionally led by the Poltava, a reconstructed 18th-century 54-gun sailing ship. The original ship, launched in 1712, was named after the site of the battle where Russia won a crushing victory over Sweden in 1709, turning the tide of the Great Northern War and paving the way for Russia to become a major world power.

Another highlight of the parade was patrol icebreaker, 'Ivan Papanin', specifically designed for Arctic conditions. Russia currently possesses the largest icebreaker fleet in the world, numbering more than 40 vessels.

Other ships in the parade included several small-sized missile ships and corvettes, usually armed with Kalibr cruise missiles, which have a range of more than 1,000km.

The submarine force was represented by the diesel-electric submarine 'Mozhaisk', which can be armed with torpedoes or Kalibr missiles. Meanwhile, the Chinese Navy's destroyer 'Jiaozuo' and replenishment ship 'Honghu', the Algerian Navy training ship 'La Soummam', and the Indian Navy's Russia-made Talwar-class stealth frigate 'Tabar', also took part. The naval parade was followed by a parade on land, which included cadets from several Russian naval institutions, as well as a detachment of marines.

200 UNRWA members killed in Gaza war: Agency chief



Gaza, July 28 (IANS) Nearly 200 United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) workers have been killed in the Gaza Strip since October 2023, the head of the UN agency said.

"This is by far the largest loss of personnel killed in a single conflict or natural disaster since the creation of the United Nations -- a reality the world must never accept," the Commissioner-General of the UNRWA, Philippe Lazzarini, said on social media platform X on Saturday.

Lazzarini said that when the conflict started nearly ten months ago, "no one thought we would reach this grim milestone," Xinhua news agency reported.

"These are not numbers. These are our colleagues and our friends. They are teachers, doctors, nurses, engineers, support staff, technicians who spent their life supporting the community."

Israel has been conducting a large-scale offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip in retaliation for a Hamas rampage through the southern Israeli border on October 7, 2023, during which about 1,200 people were killed and more than 200 taken hostage. The Palestinian death toll from ongoing Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip has risen to 39,258, Gaza-based health authorities said on Saturday.

At lest 19 missing after boat capsizes in Ethiopia

Addis Ababa, July 28 (IANS) At least 19 people are missing after a boat capsized in Ethiopia, local media reported Sunday.

The incident occurred Saturday afternoon when a boat carrying 26 people sank in the Tekeze River in the northern Amhara region, the Amhara Media Corporation reported Sunday.

Noting that seven people, including a child, were rescued from the river, local officials said they have not yet determined the death toll from the incident. The rescued child, in particular, suffered serious injuries and is currently receiving medical care at a nearby health facility, Xinhua news agency reported.

As of now, rescuers have recovered two bodies as search operations continue.

The local officials, however, said the 19 missing people might have died from the accident, according to the report.

Health

Experimental cancer drug may help clear HIV from brain cells



New Delhi, July 28 (IANS) An experimental cancer drug may hold the key to clearing HIV from infected brain cells, according to a new study.

The study led by Dr. Woong-Ki Kim at Tulane University, US, reveals that the drug significantly reduced levels of Simian Immunodeficiency Virus (SIV) in the brain -- nonhuman primate equivalent of HIV in humans.

For the first time, scientists at the Tulane National Primate Research Center targeted specific immune cells harbouring the virus in the brain.

Dr Kim called the findings "an important step in tackling brain-related issues caused by HIV". Even though there are effective medications for HIV, it still leads to brain issues. The drug which "specifically targets the infected cells in the brain, may be able to clear the virus from the hidden areas" -- a major challenge in HIV treatment, said Dr Kim.

The challenge of eliminating HIV from the brain stems from the blood-brain barrier, which protects the brain but also prevents effective treatment. The virus hides in long-lived cells known as macrophages, contributing to neurocognitive issues in nearly half of those living with HIV.

In the study, published in the journal Brain, researchers used the small molecule inhibitor BLZ945, previously studied for ALS and brain cancer, to block a receptor in HIV-infected macrophages. This led to a 95-99 per cent reduction in viral DNA in the brain without harming microglia, essential for brain health, or causing liver toxicity. The study employed three groups of primates: an untreated control group and two groups treated with low or high doses of the drug for 30 days. The high-dose group showed a significant reduction in HIV receptor sites.

The next step involves testing this therapy alongside antiretroviral treatment (ART) to evaluate its potential in a comprehensive HIV eradication strategy.

This innovative approach could revolutionise HIV treatment and significantly improve the quality of life for those affected by the virus.

Karisma Kapoor twins with her avocado toast, tags it as 'mega vibe'

Mumbai, July 28 (IANS) Actress Karisma Kapoor took her twinning game to the next level by wearing an outfit that matched her food, calling it a "mega vibe".

Karisma shared a picture on Instagram from the "mega auditions" of the dance-based reality show 'India's Best Dancer Season 4'.

In the image, she is seen sporting a lime green outfit while enjoying a slice of avocado toast on set, posing for the camera.

The actress, who is the elder sister of Kareena Kapoor Khan, captioned the photo: "When ur lunch matches ur outfit. Mega Auditions - Mega Vibe."

Last week, Karisma, who is a judge on the show, was seen dancing to the song 'Haye Hukku' from the 1994 film 'Gopi Kishan', which also stars



Suniel Shetty. The song is sung by Kumar Sanu and Poornima.

The 50-year-old star made her Bollywood debut in 1991 with 'Prem Qaidi', and has since appeared in films such as 'Andaz Apna Apna', 'Jigar', 'Anari', 'Raja Babu', 'Coolie No. 1', 'Biwi No.1', 'Saajan Chale Sasural', 'Raja Hindustani', 'Dulhan Hum Le Jayenge', and 'Dil Toh Pagal Hai'.

On the work front, Karisma was last seen in the movie 'Murder Mubarak', a mystery thriller based on the novel 'Club You To Death' by Anuja Chauhan.

The film also stars Pankaj Tripathi, Sara Ali Khan, Vijay Varma, Dimple Kapadia, Sanjay Kapoor, Tisca Chopra, Suhail Nayyar, and Tara Alisha Berry.

Alexandra Daddario reveals she failed to hide her pregnancy from co-stars

Los Angeles, July 28 (IANS) Actress Alexandra Daddario shared that she failed to hide her pregnancy from her co-stars.



The 38-year-old actress recently announced that she's expecting her first child with producer Andrew Form.

"One time, I threw up right outside my trailer, and my best friend had to hose it down. I was like, 'Can someone get me a sandwich, please? And no cold cuts, please?' Ben was like, 'Are you pregnant?' And I'm like, 'That's none of your business, and by the way, get me some watermelon'," Daddario told Entertainment Weekly.

Ben Feldman, who plays Daddario's on-screen love interest, recalled the actress trying to hide her pregnancy, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

The actor, who also stars alongside Harry Hamlin and Alyssa Jirrels, said: "Alex had a giant secret. Alex was at home with her secret every night." Daddario announced her pregnancy earlier this month. However, the actress also revealed that she previously suffered a miscarriage, describing it as a "very, very painful" experience. She said she had "a lot of complicated feelings" when she found out she had conceived again.

Robert Downey Jr. makes a comeback to Marvel as Doctor Doom in 'Avengers: Doomsday'

Los Angeles, July 28 (IANS) Hollywood star Robert Downey Jr. is set to return to the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) as Doctor Doom in a new 'Avengers' movie titled 'Avengers: Doomsday'.

The upcoming film will be directed by Joe and Anthony Russo. The duo is set to helm two new 'Avengers' films -- 'Doomsday', which will introduce Victor von Doom/Doctor Doom, and 'Avengers: Secret Wars', reports variety.com.

Downey's return as the villainous Victor von Doom has come as a massive shock to the fandom, including the ecstatic audience at Marvel's presentation at San Diego Comic-Con. The star made a triumphant appearance in Hall H to talk about his return.

The actor's first appearance as the super-genius Tony Stark was in 2008's 'Iron Man', which was the first instalment in the interconnected Marvel Cinematic Universe devised by Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige.



In his over a decade-long journey in the MCU, Downey reprised the role in 10 films, including 'Iron Man 2', 'Iron Man 3', 'The Incredible Hulk', 'The Avengers', 'Captain America: Civil War', 'Avengers: Age of Ultron', 'Spider-Man: Homecoming', 'Avengers: Infinity War', and 'Avengers: Endgame', which featured the death of Iron Man.

Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige emphasised to Vanity Fair last December that he had no interest in undermining Downey's emotional exit.

On Ayesha Jhulka's 52nd b'day, 'bhidu' Jackie Shroff sends special wishes



Mumbai, July 28 (IANS) Bollywood star Jackie Shroff, affectionately known as "apna bhidu", wished his 'Vishwavidhaata' co-star Ayesha Jhulka on her 52nd birthday. Jackie took to Instagram and shared a picture where the actor is seen gifting a plant to Ayesha, who was last seen on the silver screen in the 2018 film 'Genius'.

In his caption, the actor simply wrote "happy birthday" to wish the actress, with whom he has worked in films such as 'Hote Hote Pyaar Ho Gaya' and her final film of 1997, 'Vishwavidhaata'.

As an environmentalist, Jackie also used the occasion to remind fans and followers about World Conservation Day, emphasising the importance of protecting biodiversity and natural resources for present and future generations.

"World Conservation Day humein yaad dilaata hai," he wrote, along with a picture of the Earth.

On the professional front, Jackie will soon be seen in 'Baby John' alongside Varun Dhawan.

Directed by Kalees, the film is an action drama that also stars Sanya Malhotra and Wamiqa Gabbi.

He also has filmmaker Rohit Shetty's 'Singham Again' in the pipeline, starring Ajay Devgn.

The veteran actor will play the role of an antagonist.

The film also features Deepika Padukone, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Tiger Shroff, and Ranveer Singh, among others.

Varun Dhawan: Great to see Mumbai Police always keeping things in control

Mumbai, July 28 (IANS) Actor Varun Dhawan has praised the Mumbai Police for their efforts after sharing a clip of a fire incident on the road, saying that he was "lucky" to get out of there quickly.

On Saturday night, Varun took to Instagram stories and shared a video from his car.

In the clip, he captures a fire incident on the road and shows the police handling the situation.

The actor captioned it: "Mumbai nights. Great to see @mumbaipolice always on the scene, keeping things in control."

Varun added: "Luckily got out of there quickly."

Earlier on Saturday, Varun spent his evening with his friend and fellow actor, Arjun Kapoor.

The actor shared a video of the two playing cricket.

"Great game of cricket. Arjun also got me out, to be fair," added Varun, who is the son of filmmaker David Dhawan.

Talking about his upcoming work, Varun, who has been featured in Forbes India's Celebrity 100 list since 2014, was last seen on screen in 'Bawaal', which also stars Janhvi Kapoor.

Varun has a busy schedule ahead with a long list of projects queued up for release, starting with 'Baby John'. He then has 'Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari' and 'Citadel: Honey Bunny' with Samantha Ruth Prabhu.



Amitabh Bachchan gives out pointers on why 'movement is crucial for overall well-being'

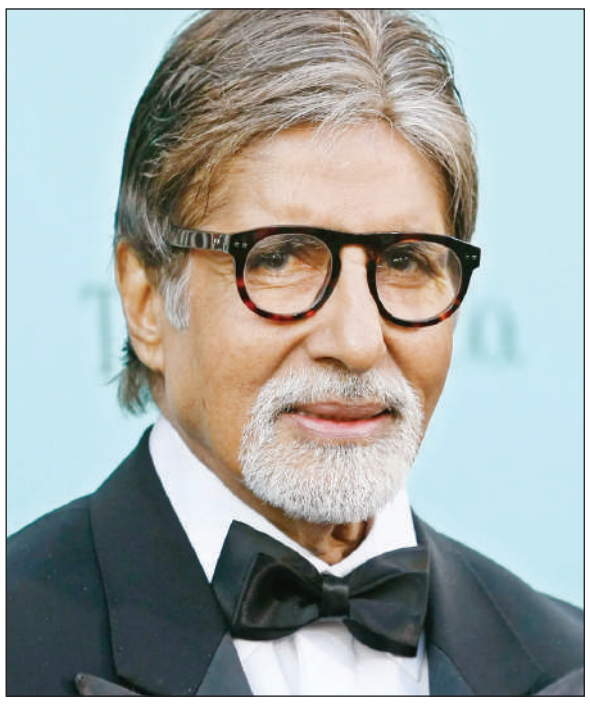
Mumbai, July 28 (IANS) Megastar Amitabh Bachchan has talked about why movement and gentle activities are "crucial for overall health and well-being".

Big B took to his blog and shared a collection of pictures from the sets of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati'.

In the images, the actor is seen running towards the set, sitting opposite the hot seat, and posing in a monochrome shot.

Amitabh then elaborated, saying, "The body moves... not quite as before... but moves. Movements are an integral part of our living. We are brought here in this Universe to move... move out, move above, move about, and around, but move." "I sought the pt's of movement for us likes and are given the directions that pertain to the fact of how movement is the crucible of necessity," added the global head-turner.

Sharing his insights, the octogenarian wrote: "For an 82-year-old male, maintaining movement is crucial for overall health and well-being. Gentle activities like walking, swimming, or tai chi can help enhance mobility, strength, and balance. Stretching exercises improve flexibility, reducing the risk of injury." The blog also mentioned that light resistance training can preserve muscle mass and bone density.



"It's essential to include regular breaks and avoid overexertion. Social activities like dancing or group exercises provide both physical and mental benefits. Consulting with a healthcare professional before starting any new exercise regimen is important to ensure safety and to tailor the activities to the individual's health status and physical capabilities. And so I move."

Talking about his upcoming slate of work, the thespian will next be seen in the upcoming Tamil action drama 'Vettaiyan' starring Rajinikanth.

The film marks Big B's debut in Tamil cinema.

Directed by T. J. Gnanavel, the film also stars Fahadh Faasil, Rana Daggubati, Manju Warrier, Ritika Singh, and Dushara Vijayan.

Ranbir to Nikhil Kamath: I'm glad 'Saawariya' didn't perform well at box office

Mumbai, July 28 (IANS) Bollywood superstar Ranbir Kapoor, who delivered the blockbuster 'Animal' last year, is reflecting on his career. The actor said that he is glad his debut movie 'Saawariya' turned out to be a box office disaster as it humbled him, and prepared him to not take failures or success seriously, and treat them as a part of his profession.

Ranbir also spoke about Indian auteur Sanjay Leela Bhansali (SLB), whom he assisted during the initial phase of his career after finishing his studies abroad.

He told Nikhil Kamath on his podcast, 'People by WTF', "When I came back, every director or producer in the industry wanted to launch me. But, I was a big fan of Sanjay Leela Bhansali. I thought, 'Maybe he doesn't know me'. So, I made a resume, and sat outside his office."

He added, "I waited, he was not there, but he saw my resume, and understood who I was. The first day when he met me, he said, 'I want to make a film with you'.

He then started



working with Bhansali as one of his assistants, on 13-14 hours of shifts a day. Ranbir said that SLB is a hard taskmaster, and was very short-tempered.

He then said, "It hardened me. Then 'Saawariya' happened which again was a very big disaster. In hindsight, I'm glad it didn't do well because that really prepared me for the life ahead."

'Saawariya' which also marked the debut of actress Sonam Kapoor, who also assisted Bhansali, clashed at the box office against the Farah Khan directorial 'Om Shanti Om' which starred Bollywood icon Shah Rukh Khan and also marked the debut of Deepika Padukone.

Ranbir also spoke about the possibility of him joining politics. He said, "No, I like the world of art, creation, and being an artiste. I would like to die creating things, and directing movies, I know I'm not cut out to be a producer, I produced one film, 'Jagga Jasoos' which was a disaster at the box office. I realised it's a skill set which I don't have".

He then said that he is not a people person before he asked Nikhil, "In politics, you have to be a people person?".

When the latter responded in affirmation, Ranbir said, "So yeah, I'm not a people's person."

Paris Olympics: This medal is for all of us, says Manu

Chateauroux, July 28 (IANS) Manu Bhaker created history on Sunday by becoming the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal in shooting in Paris. She won a bronze medal in the 10m Air Pistol event, ending India's 12-year wait for an Olympic medal in the shooting.

After rewriting the history, Manu dedicated her medal to the nation and said it is "for all" while talking about her mindset for the final.



"As soon as the qualification round was over, I was actually looking forward to the finals and I was like, 'I didn't know how things going to be'. I have worked really hard and I don't know what's going to become of me tomorrow. How difficult is it going to be tomorrow? Because I know all the people from India are here and I'm so happy that so many people came to cheer for me. This medal is for all of us not just for me," the 22-year-old said after winning the medal.

"It's a teamwork always. It's not just the people. It's not just my family and friends but so much more like my coach Jaspal sir...," she concluded.

And I'm really grateful that I was the medium to win this medal for India," she added.

Manu added that her feat is just the beginning of many more medals in the Paris Olympics for the country.

"Honestly, I hope India wins as many metals as possible because We have worked really hard to come this far and to stand here. It's just in the moment in which we have to put in all the efforts we can and just leave all the outcomes to God. I don't see it as an opening or anything. It's just like India is yet to win many medals. It's a very good feeling.

I can't explain how good I feel, but at the same time, I have many more matches to shoot. Tomorrow, I have another and the day after then again," the shooter said.

Manu further thanked her family, friends and coach Jaspal Rana for supporting her journey.

"Thank you so much for sticking by me in my hard times and I really owe it to all of you that I'm standing here strong. Trying my best in every single event, putting in my best effort every single time because you make my life so easy.

Manu's feat is going to inspire many sportspersons: Prez

New Delhi, July 28 (IANS) President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday congratulated shooter Manu Bhaker on winning a historic bronze medal in the 33rd Olympic Games in Paris and said her feat will inspire many sportspersons, especially women.

Manu finished third in the Women's 10m Air Pistol final with a total of 221.7 and opened India's account in the medals tally in Paris on Sunday. She also became the first Indian woman shooter to win a medal in the Olympics. "Heartiest congratulations to Manu Bhaker for opening India's medal tally with her bronze medal in the 10m Air Pistol shooting event at the Paris Olympics. She is the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal in a shooting competition. India is proud of Manu Bhaker. Her feat is going to inspire many sportspersons, especially women. I wish she scales greater heights of accomplishment in the future," the official account of the President of India wrote on X.

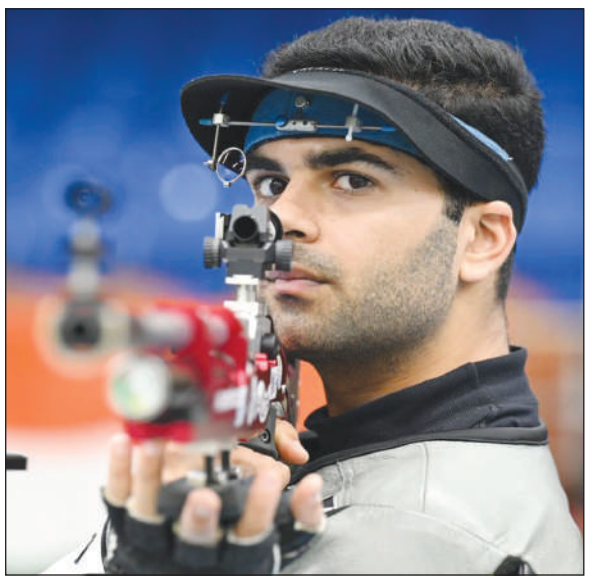
Nikhat Zareen beats Maxi Carina Kloetzer in opening round



Paris, July 28 (IANS) Nikhat Zareen (50 kg) secured a resounding victory with a 5-0 unanimous verdict against Germany's Maxi Carina Kloetzer in the Round of 32 on Sunday.

The bout against Kloetzer showcased Zareen's tactical brilliance. From the first bell, she exhibited superior footwork, precise jabs, and a keen sense of timing, which left her opponent struggling to keep up as the judges' gave 5-0 unanimous decision in Nikhat's favour. A two-time world champion, Zareen missed out on the Tokyo 2020 Olympics after a narrow defeat to the legendary Mary Kom in the trials. However, Zareen redoubled her efforts, proving her mettle on the international stage. Over the past few years, she has accumulated an impressive array of accolades, including two boxing world titles, a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games, and a bronze medal at the Asian Games. Zareen will now face the top-seeded Chinese boxer Wu Yu in the next round.

Arjun Babuta qualifies for men's 10m Air Rifle final, Sandeep Singh fails to advance



Chateauroux, July 28 (IANS) India's shooters continued to thrive on the second day of competitions as Arjun Babuta qualified for the final of Men's 10m Air Rifle in the Paris Olympics here on Sunday. Babuta finished seventh in the qualification round with a total of 630.1 points while his teammate Sandeep Singh failed to progress further after finishing in 12th position with 629.3 points.

Babuta will aim to bring India's second medal in shooting on Monday after Manu Bhaker won the historic bronze in women's 10m Air Pistol on Sunday.

Earlier in the day, Ramita Jindal advanced to the women's 10m Air Rifle final after finishing fifth in the qualification round.

Ramita, who was the second-best Indian shooter until the fifth series of shots, came back from behind to overtake teammate Elavenil Valarivan in the final series and clinched her place in the final.

Ramita finished with a total of 631.5 while Elavenil missed out on a place in the final after ending her qualification round with a total of 630.7 to only claim tenth place. Ramita will aim for a medal in the final scheduled for Monday.

'Felt like a practice match', says Sindhu after easy win over Maldivian opponent

Paris, July 28 (IANS) Indian ace shuttler PV Sindhu started her campaign on a high note as defeated her Maldivian opponent Fathimath Abdul Razzaq in the opening group stage match of the Paris Olympics at Porte de la Chapelle Arena on Sunday.

After the 21-9, 21-6 win over Razzaq, the two-time Olympic medallist said it felt like a practice match but admitted that she gave easy points to her opponent.

"I was confident, having played with her before, so I knew how she plays. It felt like a practice match, but I didn't want to take it easy. I took the lead and wanted to get used to the court for a while. I gave away a few points and we had some rallies. Ultimately, it was a comfortable win for me," Sindhu told JioCinema.



The 29-year-old will take on Estonia's Kristin Kuuba in her next clash on Wednesday. The experienced shuttler said making a comeback after an injury was physically and mentally challenging for her.

"It's quite challenging, both physically and mentally. It was crucial for me to stay positive and prepare myself physically, especially since I was injured at the beginning of the year. I gradually started my recovery in February.

Injuries can leave you feeling uncertain and mentally unbalanced, but my support staff and the people around me kept me motivated. I'm grateful to Prakash Sir, Agus (Agus Dwi Santoso), my entire support staff, and my parents for their support," she said.

She further elaborated on her relationship with her mentor, Prakash Padukone, and the influence he has had on her game.

"I believe every day is a learning experience. One can't get complacent, even if they have won everything. Prakash Sir has been incredibly helpful; he's a legend with a lot of experience, so he understands my game and my mistakes. He always offers his perspective. It's great that I now train in Bangalore, where he's always available. I'm very thankful to have him as my mentor-he constantly advises me on what is needed on the court. I strive to rectify my mistakes and come back stronger," Sindhu said.

Sumit crashes out in opening round after defeat against Corentin Moutet

Paris, July 28 (IANS) India's ace tennis player Sumit Nagal crashed out of the 2024 Olympics with an opening round defeat against France's Corentin Moutet losing 2-6, 6-2, 5-7 in two hours and 28 minutes on Court 7 on Sunday.

Despite taking his time to settle into the game which saw the Indian lose the first set 2-6, Nagal found his footing in the second set winning 6-2 showcasing his ability to cause an upset. The two players seemed to be even in terms of their ability but Moutet, who had the complete support of the home crowd broke Nagal's serve in the final set when the game was poised at 5-5 and went on to clinch the final two games and won 7-5 to claim the victory. This continues Sumit's disappointing performance at the Games as the World Ranked 68 had previously lost out in the second round at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics against Daniil Medvedev of the Russian Olympic Committee. Rohan Bopanna and N. Sriram Balaji will be taking part in the Tennis men's doubles event later in the day against French duo of Edouard Roger-Vasselin & Gael Monfils. Their game was originally set to be played on Saturday but was postponed due to rain.



Sreeja beats Swedish paddler Christina Kallberg in Table Tennis women's singles opener

Paris, July 28 (IANS) India's Sreeja Akula marked her Olympics debut with an emphatic 4-0 (11-4, 11-9, 11-7, 11-8) victory over Swedish opponent Christina Kallberg in the Tabke Tennis women's singles Round-of-64 here on Sunday at .

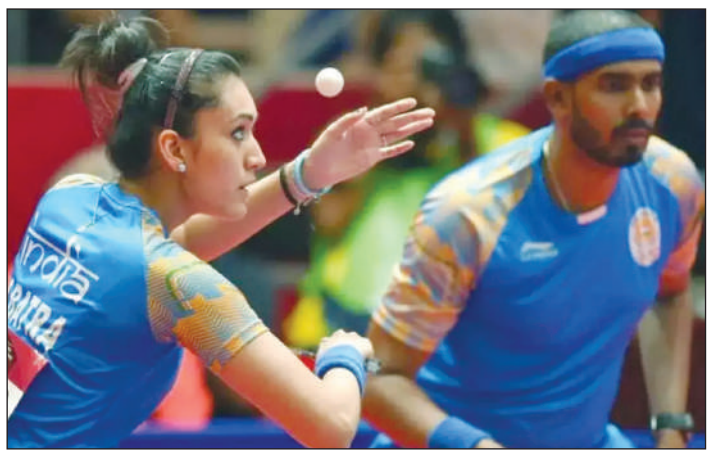
Sreeja started the game as she wanted to go on and took an early 8-1 lead, before capping off with an 11-4 victory in the first game. Christina tried to make a comeback in the second game which was very intricately poised at 9-9 before the World No. 25 Indian paddler nudged ahead to seal the second game with 11-9. The following two games saw her extend the dominance that was on display and sealed the match, taking the final two games 11-7, 11-8 to progress to the Round of 32.

The two had previously met on only one occasion, at the 2023 WTT Contenders in Rio when the Swede had taken the 3-1 victory but Akula completed her payback at the biggest stage of them all. Last month, Sreeja achieved a career-best world No. 24 spot in table tennis rankings after winning the WTT Contender Lagos title. It was the joint-best singles ranking by an Indian table tennis player, joining Manika Batra (2024) and Sathiyan Gnanasekaran (2019).

Manika Batra reaches round of 32; Sharath Kamal loses to Slovenian paddler

Paris, July 28 (IANS) India had a mixed day in the Olympic Games table tennis competition on Sunday with Manika Batra and Sreeja Akula advancing to the next round in women's singles while top male paddler Achanta Sharath Kamal went down in the opening round of men's singles. Manika, India's best bet in women's singles, opened her campaign with a comfortable 4-1 (11-8, 12-10, 11-9, 9-11, 11-5) defeat of Great Britain's Anna Hursey in a Round of 64 clash on Sunday.

The paddler, ranked 28th in the World, was unstoppable in the first three games, winning 11-8, 12-10, 11-9 to start the match on a strong note. Hursey's late charge saw her winning the fourth game 9-11. Despite the hiccup, Manika remained composed to seal a 4-1 victory by winning the fifth game 11-5 to cap off her impressive outing.



However, India suffered a setback as veteran paddler and the contingent's flag-bearer, Sharath Kamal lost to Deni Kozul of Slovenia 2-4 (12-10, 9-11, 6-11, 7-11, 11-8, 10-12) in a men's singles Round of 64 clash that lasted 53 minutes.

The 42-year-old Sharath is participating in his fifth Olympics for the country and is ranked 40th in the World, 82 spots ahead of Kozul.

In the women's singles, 2022 Commonwealth Games medallist Sreeja Akula also progressed to the Round of 32 with a 4-0 win earlier in the day. Sreeja defeated Swedish opponent Christina Kallberg 11-4, 11-9, 11-7, 11-8 in the women's singles Round of 64

Harmeet Desai will be in action against France's Felix Lebrun in the Round of 64 later in the day after winning his qualification match against Jordan's Zaid Abo Yaman on Saturday.

Indian women's archery team goes down 0-6 to Netherlands in quarterfinals

Paris, July 28 (IANS) The Indian women's archery team of Ankita Bhakat, Bhajan Kaur and Deepika Kumari lost to the Netherlands in the quarterfinal of the Paris Olympics on Sunday, ending the campaign on a disappointing note.

The Indian team lost 51-52, 49-54, 48-53 to the Dutch team after putting up a dismal show. Ankita and Deepika failed to cope with the pressure as they were unable to get their shots right from the start and the team fell behind 51-52 in the opening set. Things did not change in the second as well as they went down in the set after two six-point shots from Ankita and Deepika to finish 54-49 and were trailing 0-4 to the Dutch team.

Samarawickrama, Athapaththu help SL beat India to clinch maiden title



Dambulla, July 28 (IANS) Harshitha Samarawickrama hammered 69 not out after skipper Chamari Athapaththu made a brilliant half-century(61 off 43) to help Sri Lanka Women beat seven-time champions Indian Women by eight wickets in the final to clinch their maiden Women's Asia Cup title at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium on Sunday.

After India posted 165/6 thanks to a half-century by opener Smriti Mandhana (60 off 47) and a cameo by Richa Ghosh (30 off 14), the hosts raced to 167/2 in 18.4 overs thanks to the superb innings by Samarawickrama and Athapaththu. Sri Lanka's run chase started on a shaky note as Vishmi Gunaratne was run out early. However, the experienced Chamari Athapaththu and Harshitha Samarawickrama steadied the ship with a crucial 87-run partnership for the second wicket.

MLA Saryu Roy elected president of District Kho Kho Association

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, July 28: In a unanimous decision, Jamshedpur East MLA Saryu Roy has been elected as the new President of the East Singhbhum District Kho Kho Association. The election took place during the Annual General Meeting and Executive Committee Elections held at Son Mandap, Sidhgora, on Sunday.

In addition to Roy's election, several other key positions were filled: MP Singh was elected as Senior Vice President, while Vivek Kumar and Sanjeev Kumar were appointed as Sports Officers. Vice Presidents elected were Pawan Kumar, Ramnath Singh, Usha Bakhla, and Baldev Singh Nehra. Victor Vijay Samad will serve as Secretary, with Mukesh Kumar, Shravan Kumar, Radha Verma, Khushboo Vishwakarma, and Dayal Singh Mehra as Joint Secretaries. SK Sharma was elected as Office Secretary, Shyam Kumar Sharma as Treasurer, and Subol Chatterjee as Technical Director.



The event also saw the election of executive members, including Shambhu Mukhi Dumri, M Arshad, Rajkumar Singh, Gomia Sundi, Sidhu Kisku, Vivekanand, Chief Kumar, Gandharva Kumar, Vishal Kumar, Amritlal Minj, Aarti Vishwakarma, Simmi Kumari, Anita Mahato, Shivaji Tiwari, Sudeep Kumar, Nitin Kumar, Balram, Upendra Banra, Lallan Singh Yadav, Kamlesh Kumar, and Narendra Kumar.

Representatives from all eleven blocks of East Singhbhum district, Kho Kho enthusiasts, and both former and emerging players participated in the general meeting. The election was overseen by senior advocate Shiv Shankar Prasad and assistant advocate Rakesh Oraon, with Godwin Topno (President Simdega District Kho-Kho Association) and Satyendra Prasad (Secretary Chatra District Kho-Kho Association) serving as observer and assistant observer, respectively. Special invitees included Santosh Prasad (General Secretary Jharkhand State Kho-Kho Association), Jagdish Prasad (Secretary East Singhbhum Kabaddi Association), Gopal Kumar (Secretary Jharkhand Taekwondo Association), international basketball coach JP Singh, international master athlete SK Tomar, and former international athlete NC Dev. The election process concluded unanimously, and Treasurer Shyam Kumar Sharma delivered the vote of thanks.

ISRO-NASA partners with Axiom Space to send one Gaganyatri to ISS soon: Union Minister

New Delhi, July 28 (IANS) In a joint Gaganyaan mission, ISRO and NASA have partnered with the US-base private space habitat company Axiom Space to send one Gaganyatri soon to the International Space Station (ISS), Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has said in a written reply in the LokSabha.

Gaganyaan is India's first human spaceflight mission, slated for launch in 2025, aims to send a manned three-day mission to space, which will orbit 400 km above Earth and will return.

Prime Minister NarendraModi, on a visit to ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Station in February, had announced the names of the four astronauts -- three Group Captains and one Wing Commander from the Indian Air Force -- chosen for the historic Gaganyaan mission.

"ISRO is pursuing an ISRO-NASA joint mission to the International Space Station (ISS)



wherein one Gaganyaatri from ISRO will undertake space travel to ISS," said Dr Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology.

"This is a collaborative effort of ISRO, NASA, and NASA-identified private entity, i.e., Axiom Space. Recently, ISRO has signed a Space Flight Agreement with Axiom Space for this joint mission to the ISS," he added.

The selected astronauts -- PrasanthBalakrishnan Nair, Ajit Krishnan, and AngadPratap, and wing commander ShubanshuShukla -- are currently going through intense training for the country's first crewed flight.

The astronauts have successfully undergone training on spaceflight basic modules in Russia. Currently, they are being trained at the ISRO's Astronauts Training Facility (ATF) in Bengaluru.

Dr Singh said, "Two out of three semesters of the training programme is completed. Independent training simulator and static mockup simulators realised".

Further, sharing an update on the mission, the MoS Science said ground testing of propulsion systems stages, including solid, liquid, and cryogenic engine, towards the human rating of the launch vehicle has been completed.

The design and realisation of five types of crew escape system solid motors have also been completed.

The Union Minister said static testing of all five types of solid motors too has been completed. Also, the first Test Vehicle mission (TV-D1) for performance validation of the crew escape system and parachute deployment has been accomplished.

AAP responsible for UPSC aspirants' death, says Delhi BJP chief Sachdeva

New Delhi, July 28 (IANS) Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva on Sunday slammed the AAP government and held it responsible for the tragic incident at a library of a coaching centre in Rajendra Nagar which claimed the lives of three Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) aspirants.

The students died in the flooded basement of Rau's IAS Study Circle, a popular coaching centre at Old Rajinder Nagar. The basement was flooded after heavy rain in the national capital.

Sachdeva accused the AAP government of negligence, terming the incident as a "murder," and blamed widespread corruption for the "unsafe" conditions in the national capital. "How a library was operating from a basement without proper authorisation," he wondered.

"Does someone have answers to this?" he said.

Mounting the attack on the Delhi government, he said its previous assurances of investigating unsafe buildings following a similar incident in Mukherjee Nagar were either insufficient or nonexistent.

Sachdeva also pointed fingers at the Delhi Fire Services and the Municipal Corporation, questioning their roles and responsibilities. Furthermore, without taking Delhi Water Minister Atishi's name, he targeted her for not visiting the spot promptly and demanded her resignation.

He said, "Delhi Minister is yet to visit the site after so many hours of the tragedy. She has just assured investigation. What will you investigate? You should resign. You are all woven together in this whole corruption." He claimed that "lack of action" in addressing public concerns about uncleaned drains, contributed to the waterlogging.

"Why regional MLAs are not getting the drains cleaned? People have been demanding to get the drains cleaned for the past so many days," Sachdeva said."In only one hour of the rainfall, the entire basement was flooded," he said.

Demanding action against those responsible, he said, "All the elements involved in this incident should be hanged."

Victims of Delhi coaching centre tragedy identified, say Delhi Police

New Delhi, July 28 (IANS) Three students who fell victim to a flood in the basement of a coaching centre in Delhi, have been identified by Delhi Police. The owner of the building and the coordinator have been detained.



The students were killed after being trapped for over four hours when water suddenly gushed into the basement after heavy rains on Saturday. M. HarshaVardhan, DCP Central Delhi, in a video Post on X, identified the victims as Tania Soni, ShreyaYadav (both aged 25) and NavinDelvin, 28.

Tania hailed from Telangana, Shreya was from Uttar Pradesh, and Navin was a resident of Kerala.

The three were aspiring civil servants. "An Fir has been registered in Rajendera Nagar police station against the coaching centre, the building management, caretakers and those whose role is found in the course of the investigation," said DCP HarshaVardhan.

"So far, two people have been detained-owner and coordinator," he added.

Further investigation is underway.

23 Bangladeshi nationals held in Tripura for illegal entry

Agartala, July 28 (IANS) At least 23 Bangladeshi nationals, including a tout, were arrested by the security personnel for entering India illegally, officials said here on Sunday.

Officials said that the Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel arrested the Bangladeshi nationals at the Agartala railway station on Saturday night as they were trying to board a train to travel to other Indian states via Guwahati.

The Bangladeshi nationals, aged between 19 years to 40 years and residents of Bangladesh's Chapainawabganj district in Rajshahi Division, told the security personnel that they came to India in search of jobs.

The Rajshahi Division,



located in the north-western part of Bangladesh, one of the eight divisions of the country has no border with Tripura but in the recent past many nationals of the region entered Tripura, a senior official said.

Tripura shares an 856 km border with Bangladesh's Chittagong and Sylhet divisions.

A Border Security Force (BSF) spokesman said that the paramilitary forces are cracking down heavily on the illegal migration by Bangladeshi nationals and have stepped up the vigil in close coordination with sister agencies in the border area.

Following the direction of Tripura Chief Minister ManikSaha, the BSF has stepped up its drive against illegal Bangladeshi immigrants and all field formations are actively breaking down the nexus of touts in the bordering areas.

Tripura Frontier Inspector General Patel PiyushPurushottam Das said that 95 per cent of the 856 km India-Bangladesh border with Tripura has already been fenced, while fencing work is going on in the remaining 27.5 km.

Over the last two-and-a-half months, more than 150 Bangladeshi nationals and 32 Rohingyas were arrested by the GRP, BSF and Tripura Police from the Agartala railway station and various other places in Tripura after they illegally entered India.

Officials said that all the Bangladeshis and Rohingyas illegally entered Tripura to board trains or buses to go to other states in India "in search of jobs".

During the past few weeks, Bangladesh witnessed waves of deadly violence and clashes during the quota reform protests claiming the lives of over 170 people and injuring over a thousand.

Kashmir Valley reels under unprecedented heatwave; Srinagar records 36.2 degrees C

Srinagar, July 28 (IANS) Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar city recorded the season's highest maximum and fourth all-time highest maximum temperature of 36.2 degrees Celsius on Sunday, the weather office said, adding the Kashmir Valley has been reeling under an unprecedented heatwave for over two weeks. "The highest maximum temperature of 38.3 degrees Celsius was recorded on July 10, 1946. The second highest maximum ever recorded was 37 on July 9, 1999, followed by the third-highest 36.6 degrees Celsius in 1997 with the fourth-highest 36.2 degrees Celsius recorded on Sunday," the Met Department said in a statement.

'Conflict' with Centre won't resolve K'taka issues: Kumaraswamy

Mysuru, July 28 (IANS) Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy on Sunday said that the 'conflict' with the Centre would not resolve the issues of the state.

Kumaraswamy criticised the state government for "unnecessary" complaints against the Centre and also questioned why the state government always accuses Union ministers and MPs, representing the state.

"Expecting issues to be resolved through conflict is wrong. The state government should present the actual situation of the state to the Centre effectively," the Union Minister told media persons.

He asked how the state can progress if the government restricts Union ministers from visiting regions like Mandya.

Mamata Banerjee's mike-off charge 'completely false': FM Sitharaman

Bengaluru, July 28 (IANS) Union Finance Minister NirmalaSitharaman on Sunday dismissed West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's allegation of her mike being muted during a NITI Aayog meeting chaired by Prime Minister NarendraModi, as "completely false".



Answering a question posed by media in this regard in Bengaluru, Sitharaman stated, "It was good that West Bengal CM came and voiced her view. She said she is talking on behalf of all opposition which is also very well. For the allotted time, we heard her. If she wanted more time, like other CMs, she would have got it."

"But, she went outside and said 'my mike was put off and I walked out of the meeting' which was wrong. It is completely false. CM from Karnataka and the opposition didn't attend it. It's sad. They always say our voice is not heard. This was the forum to come and speak. To an extent Mamata Banerjee Ji was right. She came but afterwards, she said something different," the Finance Minister stated. "I wished all opposition leaders would have come and voiced their opinion," she underlined.

On objections raised by Karnataka Congress leaders to the ED action, she stated, "If ED goes and finds black money, can we say the Congress will get unhappy, don't do it. That's what they did when they were in rule. Not allowed CBI to take action as their ministers would become targets.

90 grams MDMA seized, four held in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, July 28 (IANS) The Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau and Cyberabad police have arrested four persons and seized 90 grams of MDMA from them.

The arrests were made from a house in Friends Colony under the limits of Mailardevpally police station of the Cyberabad Police Commissionerate.

A police officer said on Sunday that four mobile phones were also seized from the possession of the four, identified as Salman Shah of Jogeshwari, Mumbai, and Mohammed Ateeq, Rizwan Ali and Mohammed Yaseen, all from Hyderabad.

Six other accused, including three from Mumbai, were absconding.

Acting on credible information, TGNAB and Mailardevpally police conducted a joint operation to make the arrests from a house. A police officer said 90 grams of MDMA was seized from them. They were all consuming MDMA by mixing it with pan masala.

According to police, main accused Salman Shah, came from Mumbai, to deliver 50 grams of MDMA drug to Ateeq.

PM Modi hails tiger conservation efforts in 'Mann Ki Baat'



New Delhi, July 28 (IANS) Prime Minister NarendraModi, in his 'Mann Ki Baat' address on Sunday, lauded tiger conservation programmes run by various state governments and said India constitutes 70 per cent of the world's tiger population.

PM Modi said, "My dear countrymen, Tiger Day will be celebrated all over the world tomorrow. In India, Tigers have been an integral part of our culture."

PM Modi said, "We all have grown up listening to stories of incidents related to tigers. In the villages around forests, everyone knows how to live in harmony with the tiger. In our country, there are many villages where there is no conflict between humans and tigers. But where such a situation arises, unprecedented efforts are being made for the protection of tigers there as well."

"One such effort of public participation is 'Kulhadi Band Panchayat' campaign, which began in Ranthambore of Rajasthan, where the local communities have taken an oath to not go into the forests with axes and not cut the trees. Due to this one decision, the forests here are becoming green once again, and a better environment is being created for the tigers," he added.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra, where local communities, including the Gond and Mana tribes, have embraced eco-tourism by reducing their dependence on the forest to help preserve the habitat for tigers.

Sharing the inspiring story of the 'Chenchu' tribe in Andhra Pradesh's Nallamalai hills, who serve as Tiger Trackers, the Prime Minister said, "As Tiger Trackers, they have gathered every bit of information on the movement of wild animals in the forest. Along with that, they also keep monitoring illegal activities in the area."

He also mentioned a similar initiative undertaken in Uttar Pradesh -- the 'BaaghMitrKarykram' in Pilibhit. Under this programme, locals are trained as 'Tiger Friends,' who ensure that there is no conflict between tigers and humans, fostering peaceful coexistence.

Expressing pride in India's tiger conservation achievements, PM Modi noted that the country is home to 70 per cent of the world's tiger population. He attributed this success to various conservation efforts, including the establishment of numerous Tiger Sanctuaries.

He also spoke about the increase in forest cover in India, crediting community efforts for this achievement.

Talking about 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, PM Modi mentioned a recent event, during which over 2,00,000 saplings were planted in a single day in Indore.

He asked everyone to participate in this initiative by planting a tree in their mother's name and sharing a selfie on social media, thus doing "something special for both your mother and Mother Earth."

Yediyurappa & Vijayendra involved in MUDA case: K'taka BJP MLA

Vijayapura, (Karnataka) July 28 (IANS) In an embarrassment to the Karnataka BJP, party's MLA BasanagoudaPatilYatnal on Sunday said that BJP President B.Y. Vijayendra, his father, and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa are involved in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) case.

"Yeddyurappa, his nephews, former MUDA Chairman, who is now with Congress, H.V. Rajeev and Vijayendra and his father are involved in the MUDA case. All the accused will get caught soon. BJP must clarify whether Rajeev is a disciple of Yeddyurappa or Vijayendra. Since Rajeev is their associate, why Vijayendra is conducting a padayatra against the Chief Minister? Yatnal told



media persons. Karnataka BJP is set to organise a protest march from Bengaluru to Mysuru demanding the resignation of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for his alleged role in the MUDA case.Yatnal said that former MUDA Chairman Rajeev was involved in the MUDA case when he was in the BJP. "Now Rajeev has joined Congress only to cover up his role. He joined Congress under Siddaramaiah's leadership to bring down the BJP. Everyone knows under whose direction Rajeev joined Congress and who is his mentor," Yatnal said.

He asked why did Rajeev, who was a close associate of Yediyurappa and Vijayendra join Congress ahead of the LokSabha elections?

"It was to support Congress to win in Mysuru and ChamarajanagarLokSabha seats. Rajeev's example is a perfect example of the cross-party alignment," Yatnal said. "Vijayendra says it is not just a fight against Siddaramaiah but against Congress. Does he think Siddaramaiah is in the BJP? Vijayendra congratulated the Chief Minister for accepting Minister B. Nagendra's resignation. However, Siddaramaiah should have sent Nagendra and the Chairman of the Tribal Welfare Board home. Only a CBI investigation could uncover the truth," he said.

Yatnal said Yeddyurappa, Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar, and Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan are all involved in adjustments in the Assembly and LokSabha elections as well.

"It would be better for them to quietly accept and step back their wrong-doings and step back. People know everything. Due to their adjustment politics, many deserving leaders got defeated in the state," Yatnal added.

Telangana Police recover over 21,000 stolen mobile devices this year

Hyderabad, July 28 (IANS) Telangana Police rank second in the country in recovery of lost/stolen mobile phones, Director General of Police Jitender said on Sunday as the state police successfully recovered 21,193 mobile devices during the current year till July 25. The Central Equipment Identity Register (CIER) portal is operated in all 780 police stations in Telangana, the police chief said. A total of 21,193 lost or stolen mobile devices were recovered in a span of 206 days in 2024, of which the last 1,000 were recovered in eight days and handed over to complainants. On average, 82 mobiles are recovered per day, which increased from 73 per day in April 2024.

CIER was developed by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to curb the menace of mobile theft and counterfeit mobile devices. The portal was officially launched nationwide on May 17, 2023, and was started on a pilot basis in Telangana on April 19, 2023.

Additional Director General of Police ShikhaGoel is designated as the nodal officer for the CEIR Portal and monitors the progress of work under it. According to the police, 10,000 lost or stolen mobile phones were recovered in 189 days, 20,000 in 291 days, 30,000 in 395 days, and 37,000 in 459 days.

The maximum recoveries have been made by Hyderabad Commissionerate with 3808 mobile devices, followed by RachakondaCommissionerate with 2,174, and CyberabadCommissionerate with 2,030 mobile devices.