JHARKHAND'S OWN ENGLISH DAILY

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SANIA MIRZA, HARBHAJAN SINGH NAMED DUBAI SPORTS AMBASSADOR, PAGE : 11

64.86% voter turnout recorded till 5pm in phase 1

Fate of 683 candidates in 43 assembly constituencies now sealed in ballot boxes

Ranchi, November 13: Jharkhand recorded 64.86 per cent voter turnout at 5 pm across the 43 assembly constituencies which went to polls in the first phase on Wednesday, surpassing 63.9 per cent voting in the 2019 assembly elections.

The Election Commission, in a press release, said the phase-1 polling in Jharkhand concluded peacefully. "Polling was marked by a festive mood and enthusiastic participation across all districts, with large tribal populations, including areas affected by Left Wing Extremism. Voters from diverse groups including first-time voters, the elderly, women, PwD and tribals among others were seen exercising their franchise at polling stations across the 15 districts that went to polls today, undeterred by threats and boycott calls," the EC said.

The outcome will decide the fate of 683 candidates vying for legislative seats, including 17 general seats, 20 reserved for Scheduled Tribes, and six for Scheduled Castes.

The EC said in the Budha Pahad area in the Garhwa district, once considered a stronghold of extremists, long queues, and peaceful polling at Hesatu polling station signalled the deep penetration of democratic ethos.

For the first time, this polling station was set up in the Budha Pahad area for the Lok Sabha elections in 2024, allowing residents to vote in their villages.

In the Manoharpur and Jaganathpur Assembly constituencies of West Singhbhum district, voters chose to cast their vote despite boycott posters and threat calls by extremists. At polling stations in Sonapi in the Jagannathpur constituency and Rabangada in the Manoharpur constituency, security forces thwarted attempts to prevent voters from voting through boycott posters and blockades on the way.

Meticulous planning and constant vigil by the Commission have ensured that the Jharkhand elections this time have been smooth and streamlined, with no repolls recorded so far. Webcasting was in place in 100% of polling stations to ensure transparency of the voting process," it added.

Most of the 43 seats which went to polls in the first phase in Jharkhand is witnessing straight contest between the ruling JMM-Congress-RJD-CPI-ML coalition and the BJP led NDA.

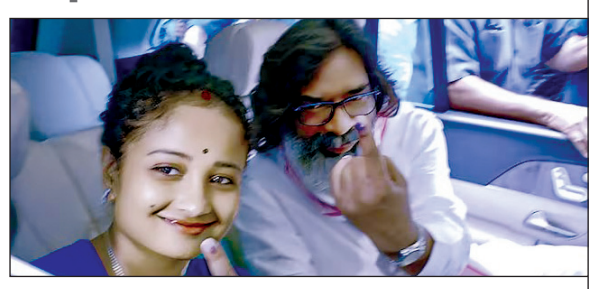
Out of the total 43 seats, JMM has fielded its candidates on 23 seats and Congress on 17 seats while RJD has fielded candidates on a total of five seats, out of which two are against alliance partner Congress claiming to be 'friendly contest'.

In the NDA, BJP has declared candidates on 36 out of 43 seats while AJSU has fielded candidates on four seats, JD-U on two seats and Chirag Paswan's LJP (R) on one seat.



Jharkhand Governor, Chief Minister, Kalpana cast their votes in Ranchi





Ranchi, November 13: Jharkhand Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar and Chief Minister Heamant Soren along with his wife Gandey legislator Kalpana Soren on Wednesday cast their vote in the first phase of state assembly polls for 43 out of 81 seats.

Governor soon after practising his franchise appealed to the people of the state to use their vote "wisely" and come out in large numbers.

Gangwar said, "I appeal to the people to exercise their franchise and vote in large numbers. it should be celebrated like a festival. The way democracy has been running in our country since independence is an example for the whole world. Use your vote wisely."

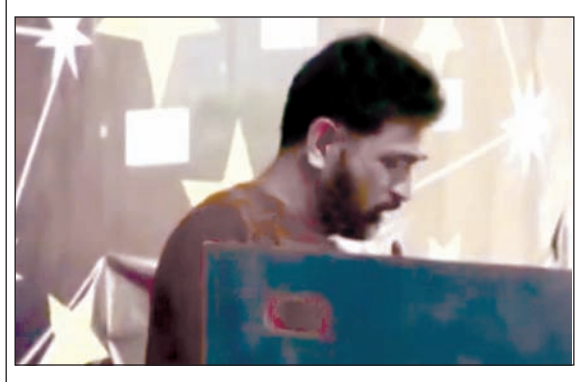
Chief Minister Hemant Soren and his wife Kalpana Soren practised their franchise at a polling station in Ranchi.

Soon after the CM cast his vote, he appealed to every person in the state to cast their vote to strengthen the democracy of the country.

"Today, we have cast our votes at our respective polling stations. I appeal to every person in Jharkhand to come out and cast their votes to strengthen the democracy of the country," Soren said.

Soren is contesting the elections from Barhait assembly constituency, which will go to polls in the second phase, on November 20.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni and wife Sakshi cast their vote in Ranchi



Ranchi, November 13: Former team India cricket captain and Jharkhand Assembly Elections 2024's SVEEP Icon Mahendra Singh Dhoni Mahendra Singh Dhoni, serving as the brand ambassador, participated in the Jharkhand Assembly elections by casting his vote in Ranchi on Wednesday.

The cricket icon attracted fans to the polling booth, emphasizing the importance of voting. Pictures of his participation have been released, though he remained silent to the press. He was seen with his family on this occasion.

Dhoni arrived at JVM Shyamali in Doranda, Ranchi, along with his wife, Sakshi Dhoni, and cast his ballot at Booth No. 374. As soon as news spread of Dhoni's presence, an enthusiastic crowd gathered to catch a glimpse of him. People were eager to take selfies and capture the moment, although Dhoni voted under tight security. Many of the polling officials also took the opportunity to take photos with him.

The first phase of voting for the Jharkhand Assembly elections commenced early on Wednesday across 43 constituencies in 15 districts. Voting began at 7 a.m. and continued until 5 p.m. In this phase, a total of 13.7 million voters were eligible to participate and decide the fate of 683 candidates, including 73 women and one transgender candidate.

BJP ran shadow social media campaigns to tarnish Jharkhand's image: Soren

Ranchi, November 13: Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Wednesday accused the BJP of orchestrating a shadow campaign on social media aimed at damaging his and Jharkhand's image.

In a post shared by Soren on Twitter, the CM claimed that in the past 30 days, over Rs. 72 lakhs have been spent on Facebook ads and boosted posts from accounts like "Jharkhand Chaupal" and "Ranchi Chaupal."

According to Soren, these accounts focused on spreading content designed to tarnish his reputation, fuel religious animosity, and foster divisions within the community.

Soren added that despite filing a complaint with the Election Commission, no concrete action has been taken against this activity.

He also alleged that more than 95,000 WhatsApp groups have been created with the intention of harming the state's image and influencing the opinions of Jharkhand's residents.



He added that while the BJP has spent significant funds on this campaign, he himself has not spent a single rupee on social media promotions. He encouraged the public to verify his claim by checking any social media platform's ad library, suggesting that his approach to governance remains principled and free from unnecessary propaganda.

JMM-Cong-RJD looted funds sent by Centre for Jharkhand's development: Modi

Godda, Nov 13 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a scathing attack at the ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), Congress and RJD alliance of Jharkhand on Wednesday, accusing them of rampant corruption.

Addressing an election rally in Godda, PM Modi said, "These parties siphoned off the funds sent by the Centre for the welfare of Jharkhand's poor. They misappropriated the money meant for building permanent houses, stole funds allocated under the Har Ghar Nal Se Jal Yojana, and even took away the free food grains meant for the poor."

The Prime Minister further accused the Jharkhand government of diverting funds for personal gains.

"Instead of using the money for the poor, they launched their own schemes to pocket commissions.



Basic necessities like sand and gravel are being sold off for profit. The loot is so extensive that mountains of cash are being recovered from their leaders' residences," PM Modi remarked, referring to recent high-profile raids and recovery of cash.

"These piles of notes were displayed on TV, yet JMM and Congress remain shameless," he said.

Without taking name, PM Modi targeted Congress Minister Alamgir Alam, implicated in a money laundering case and said, "Congress has hit a new low by nominating a family member of a leader who was caught with a mountain of cash. This is nothing but rubbing salt on the wounds of the people," he remarked.

The Prime Minister also took aim at the Congress's stance on reservations, calling it historically anti-reservation party.

"From Nehru to Rajiv Gandhi, Congress has always opposed reservations. Now, they are trying to incite caste-based conflicts -- pitting Santhal against Pahadia, Munda against Kharwar, Oraon against Patar. The JMM is complicit in this divisive agenda. But the people of Jharkhand are ready to deliver an electoral punishment," he asserted.

Highlighting his government's achievements, the PM said, "For 75 years after independence, rail connectivity never reached Godda. It was only when you placed your trust in Modi that railways came here. Today, over a dozen trains operate, allowing people to travel seamlessly, even to Varanasi after visiting Baba Vaidyanath in Deoghar."

No demolition without serving 15-day notice: SC lays down pan-India directives

New Delhi, Nov 13 (IANS) The Supreme Court on Wednesday said that when a structure is suddenly demolished while other remains, a presumption could be drawn that the motive was not to bring down the illegal structure but to penalise the accused before trial.

Delivering verdict on a clutch of petitions alleging that demolitions were carried out by several state authorities without sufficient notice, a bench headed by Justice BR Gavai, in its judgment, said that the executive cannot declare a person guilty solely on the basis of accusations.

It will be wholly unjust if the state authorities demolish properties of accused persons without following due process of law, added the Bench, also comprising Justice KV Viswanathan.

The apex court stressed that under the Constitution, even accused has certain rights, and state officials cannot take arbitrary action against an accused or a convict without following due process of law.

The Supreme Court in exercise of its extraordinary powers under Article 142 laid down a series of pan-India directives.

It said that no demolition will be carried out without serving at least a 15-day prior notice, adding that "the notice shall be served upon the owner by registered post. It shall also be fixed on the conspicuous portion of the structure."

It clarified that these directions will not be applicable if there is unauthorised construction on public land or demolition ordered by a court of law.

Earlier, in an interim order passed on September 17, the Justice Gavai-led Bench paused all demolition actions across the country, except with its permission.



Frowning upon "glorification" and "grandstanding" over bulldozer action, the top court said that unauthorised structures may be demolished following the due procedure but under no circumstances, property be demolished for "extraneous reasons".

It clarified that its interim order was not meant to protect any unauthorised construction on public roads, streets, footpaths, railway lines, or public places.

It had stressed that even unauthorised construction has to be demolished in "accordance with law" and state authorities cannot resort to the demolition of the property of the accused as a punishment.

In the course of the hearing, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta suggested that service of notice should be effected through a registered post. In case, the registered post is not accepted, notice may be served through alternative means, including affixing on walls of the property in question, SG Mehta said.

He flagged that the pan-India guidelines are being issued by the highest court of the land based on a few instances alleging that one particular community is being targeted.

At this, the apex court said: "We are a secular country. Whatever directions will be passed, will apply pan-India irrespective of the religion. We do not intend to protect encroachments on public roads, footpaths, railway lines, etc. If there is any religious structure in the middle of the road, be it gurudwara, dargah or temple, it cannot obstruct the public. Public interest and safety is paramount."

"What we are loudly thinking is that protect the property (alleged unauthorised structure) after demolition order is passed, say 10-15 days to allow exercise of appellate remedy and in case, a court entertains the grievance, the question of stay should be decided within a month," it added.

The SC reiterated that the illegal structure will have to go if built in contravention of statutory rules. "We will ensure that our order does not help encroachers," the apex court said.

BJP 'insults' voters with 'vote-jihad' slogan: Congress

Yavatmal, Nov 13 (IANS) The Congress on Wednesday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of 'insulting' voters, democracy and the Constitution with its slogan of 'vote-jihad' in the ongoing state Assembly elections.Addressing a huge election rally in this district for the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA)-INDIA bloc candidates, state Congress President Nana F. Patole said that the BJP does not believe in either democracy or the Constitution framed by B. R. Ambedkar.

"This is the reason the BJP is giving out divisive slogans like 'vote-jihad', 'ek hain to safe hain' or 'batenge to katenge'. What message are Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah trying to convey? Such terms and chants are an insult to the intelligence of the voters in the state," said Patole.

Accusing the BJP of creating divisions based on caste religion in the state, he said that the BJP leaders are campaigning for the MahaYuti alliance parties and for candidates with questionable credentials.

"They are rooting for candidates like Nawab Malik (Nationalist Congress Party), whom the same BJP had accused of having links with mafia don Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar. He was dumped in jail. Tomorrow, the BJP could field Dawood in the elections, then will it be called 'power-jihad'?" thundered Patole.Dwelling on the plight of the farmers in the state, the Congress chief said that the BJP at the Centre and the state MahaYuti governments had deceived the agriculturists in many ways, leading to huge distress in farmlands.

Exercising Their Franchise



Banna Gupta, candidate of INDI Alliance from Jamshedpur West, thanked the people of Jamshedpur for ensuring peaceful voting. He, along with his family, stood in line at booth number 102 in DBMS Kadma High School to vote.



NDA candidate from Jamshedpur West Saryu Roy casts his vote at polling booth in Bistupur. Later, Roy expressed optimism, stating, "We are hopeful for a change in this assembly election, and there are some signs indicating it."



Former Chief Minister and BJP candidate from the Seraikela Assembly, Champai Soren, casts his vote with his family on Wednesday at Booth No. 220 at the Upgraded Middle School in Jilingora. On this occasion, he encouraged voters to participate actively in the election.



District Election Officer Ananya Mittal, along with his wife, exercised their franchise at the polling booth in Loyola School and appealed to the people of the district to participate enthusiastically in the voting process.



SSP Jamshedpur Kaushal Kishore along with his wife casted vote at polling station in Northern Town on Wednesday.



Social worker Shekhar Dey and his wife cast their vote during the Assembly Elections on Wednesday, November 13, 2024.



Former Chief Minister Champai Soren's eldest son and BJP candidate from the Ghatsila Assembly, Babulal Soren, along with his wife casted his vote at the Upgraded Middle School in Jilingora. After voting, he urged people to participate enthusiastically in the "festival of democracy."



Congress Leader PN Jha cast his vote in the company of the third generation of his family.



CII Eastern Region Chairman and RSB Managing Director S K Behera cast his vote along with his family



Kulwant Singh Bunty, a member of the BJP State Working Committee, cast his vote at booth number 250, Foundry Union Middle School, East Plant Basti, alongside his family.



Purvi Singhbhum Zila Marwari Sammelan President Mukesh Mittal cast his vote along with his parents and wife.



AJSU Party District Spokesperson Appu Tiwari along with his wife cast their vote at booth number 213 of Eastern Assembly Constituency 48.



Tata Steel UISL Managing Director Ritu Raj Sinha exercised his voting rights at Convent School in Jamshedpur, accompanied by his family. Sinha emphasized the importance of participating in the democratic process and encouraged citizens to cast their votes.

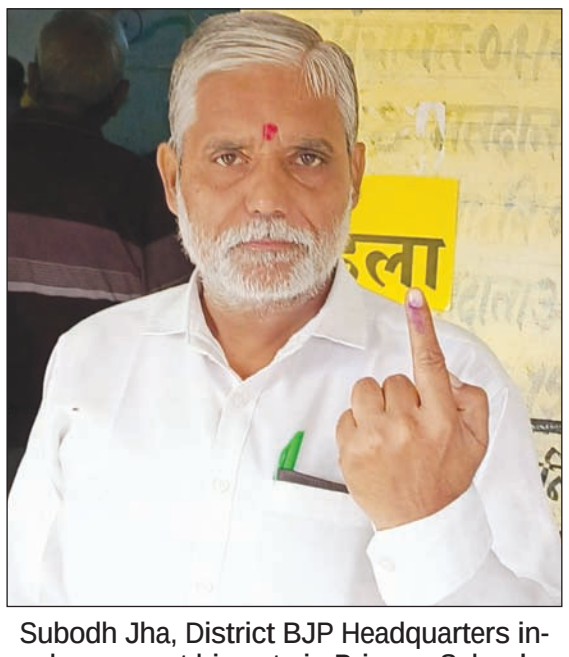
BJP receives overwhelming support in elections: Kale

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 13: With the successful and peaceful completion of the first phase of voting in the Jharkhand Assembly Elections 2024, BJP state spokesperson Amarpreet Singh Kale congratulated all voters and extended heartfelt thanks to party workers, district administration, booth officials, and polling staff. He commended them for ensuring secure and orderly voting.

Kale expressed confidence, stating that the BJP has received clear public support across all 14 seats in the Kolhan region, which he believes will lead to victory for the party. “The blessings of the people boost our confidence and signal that a BJP-NDA government is set to form in the state,” he said. Kale emphasized that the public has linked their dreams and aspirations with the BJP, and the party is fully committed to the welfare and development of the state with utmost dedication. He once again thanked all party workers, polling staff, and voters, assuring that the BJP would live up to the public's expectations.





Subodh Jha, District BJP Headquarters in-charge, cast his vote in Primary School, Bagbera Colony, Road No. 1.

Pics by Intu Imteyaz

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Battle For Jharkhand

Ballot fervour sweeps across constituencies, 67.10 % poll in East Singhbhum

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 13: The voting process in East Singhbhum's six assembly constituencies concluded on a positive note, with District Election Officer Ananya Mittal announcing a peaceful and orderly electoral day. At a press conference held in the Sales Tax Bhawan Auditorium, Mittal commended the collaborative efforts of election staff, security personnel, and the residents for a successful election. Present alongside Mittal were the Returning Officers (ROs) of each constituency, underscoring the collective effort involved in the election management.

By 5 p.m., the overall voting percentage for Jamshedpur stood at 67.10 %, with crowds of voters still queued at various polling booths, indicating a late surge in voter turnout. Election officials ensured that anyone in line by the cutoff time was permitted to vote, providing every eligible voter the opportunity to participate.

"Voting was conducted in a peaceful, independent, transparent, and fear-free environment across all constituencies," stated Mittal, expressing satisfaction with the process's integrity and efficiency. He added that every measure was taken to maintain the highest standards of electoral conduct, creating a safe atmosphere that encouraged citizens to exercise their democratic rights. Baharagora- 78.2 percent,Ghatshila- 75.85, Potka- 73.3,Jugsalai- 69.12, Jamshedpur East- 56.99, Jamshedpur West- 56.53.

Notably, Baharagora led with the highest turnout at 78%, while Jamshedpur East and Jamshedpur West showed relatively lower turnouts of 56.99% and 55.53 %,



respectively. The enthusiastic participation in Baharagora, Ghatshila, and Potka demonstrated a keen voter interest, while other constituencies maintained a steady and significant turnout.

The day's peaceful nature was attributed to stringent security arrangements and efficient on-ground management. Each polling station was under strict surveillance, with personnel ensuring compliance with all rules and creating a welcoming environment for voters. No major incidents were reported across the constituencies, with Election Officer Mittal emphasizing that the administration's primary focus was maintaining a safe, transparent, and smooth process.

In his closing remarks, Mittal expressed gratitude towards the residents of Jamshedpur for their active participation and adherence to the guidelines, saying, "The people of Jamshedpur have shown exemplary civic responsibility today, contributing to the health of our democracy. This turnout is a testament to the citizens' faith in the democratic process." He also extended his appreciation to all election workers, security forces, and local volunteers who had been crucial in facilitating the voting process across the city's diverse constituencies.

FIR over distribution of candidate-specific voter slips

Jamshedpur, Nov 13: An FIR has been lodged at Sidhgora police station following the unauthorized distribution of voter slips featuring the name, photo, and symbol of Congress candidate Ajoy Kumar and independent candidate Shiv Shankar Singh. The incident occurred at booths 38, 40, 41, and 42 located at Navodaya Adivasi Prathmik Vidyalaya, Matdaata Bhawan in the Jamshedpur East Assembly constituency.

Election authorities, including the Sector Officer and the Flying Squad Team (FST), promptly intervened, seizing a substantial quantity of these slips from the scene. The FIR was filed under relevant sections of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, as the distribution of slips with specific candidate information is considered a violation of electoral code.

Jimmedar Nagrik: Mr & Mrs Narendran vote

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 13: Tata Steel Managing Director T.V. Narendran returned from Mumbai to Jamshedpur to cast his vote, demonstrating a strong commitment to civic duty.

Accompanied by his wife, Ruchi Narendran, he cast his ballot at Loyola School in Northern Town (Bistupur).



Emphasizing the importance of voting, Narendran urged citizens to exercise their right, calling it a powerful tool for selecting government representatives. He shared that he has always prioritized voting and has never missed an opportunity to participate in the democratic process. His actions underscored the significance of voting as a means for every individual to impact governance.

They showcased their inked fingers after voting at Loyola School in Jamshedpur. The couple, widely recognised in the city, managed to capture the attention of the shutterbugs as they smiled for the cameras. Security was notably tight at the Loyola School booth from early morning.

Odisha Guv, family comprising BJP candidate Purnima vote

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 13: Odisha Governor Raghubar Das and his daughter-in-law, Purnima Sahu, BJP candidate from Jamshedpur East, cast their votes in the first phase of the Jharkhand Assembly Elections.



The family voted at Harijan High School in Bhalubasa, Jamshedpur. Speaking to the media, Governor Das encouraged people to participate in the democratic process, calling it a "festival of democracy." When asked about his involvement in Jamshedpur's election despite being the Governor of Odisha, Das dismissed allegations against him as "baseless" and stated, "I come here to spend time with my family during the festivals." Purnima Sahu, who is contesting for the BJP, was also present with her family during the voting. (w/nkm)

Congress, Azad Samaj Party workers clash at Mango

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 13: A clash broke out between Congress and Azad Samaj Party workers at polling booths 293 and 294, located at Hanafiya School on Road No. 13 under Mango Police Station, during the first phase of the Jharkhand Assembly Elections.

The altercation temporarily disrupted the voting process, but normalcy was restored after the police intervened and dispersed the crowd.

Mazhar Khan, a Congress worker, filed a written complaint accusing Azad Samaj Party worker Zahid (alias Bhakku) of attacking him with a sharp weapon, resulting in injuries. Mazhar claimed that without police intervention, the attack could have been fatal. Zahid, on the other hand, alleged that he was assaulted by Congress workers.

He also accused Azad Samaj Party workers of pressuring voters to support them, which led to the confrontation. The police have been deployed in the area, and an investigation is underway. (w/nkm)

AJSU-JMM workers clash in Jugsalai amid election voting

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 13: Tensions flared in Jugsalai during the first phase of the Jharkhand Assembly Elections as workers from AJSU and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) clashed early in the morning. The clash occurred in the Jugsalai assembly seat, which is reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC).

In another incident, workers from AJSU and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha clashed at Kerala Public School in Burma Mines, a polling booth in the Jugsalai constituency. AJSU district vice president Kamlesh Dubey accused JMM workers of repeatedly visiting the polling booth, which he claimed was disrupting the election process. In contrast, JMM leader Badal stated that he had only visited to provide breakfast and water to the workers.

The situation was brought under control when the Burma Mines police officer arrived at the scene, spoke to both party leaders, and diffused the tension.

Irregular voter-list compilation creates chaos: In addition to the scuffle, a large number of voters were left frustrated as their names were missing from the voter list at polling booths. Voters in the Jugsalai Nagar Parishad area faced significant difficulties due to the non-distribution of voter slips. Many voters reported that the Booth Level Officer (BLO) did not distribute the voter list door-to-door, unlike in previous years.

This oversight led to confusion, with large crowds gathering at polling stations like St. John School, Jagatbandhu Seva Sadan Library, and Ram Janaki Kanya Madhya Vidyalaya, searching for their names instead of voting. The delay in finding names caused frustration, and the long queues added to the pressure on the election process. (w/nkm)

Sahis casts his vote in Jugsalai

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 13: Ramchandra Sahis, the NDA-supported AJSU candidate from the Jugsalai Vidhan Sabha constituency, cast his vote on Wednesday at polling booth number 45, located in Muchudih, Bodam Block. Speaking to the media after casting his vote, Sahis expressed his confidence in the upcoming elections and the vision of a better Jharkhand.



He stated, "A government will be formed under the leadership of AJSU and BJP, focused on a brighter future for the state." Sahis highlighted the strong support and blessings he has received from the people of Jugsalai, emphasizing that the NDA will secure a historic victory in the constituency. He also symbolically noted the blooming banana plantations in the area, reflecting the growing optimism and energy among his supporters.

Along with Ramchandra Sahis, his wife Saraswati Sahis and eldest son Satyajit Sahis also exercised their right to vote, showing their solidarity and confidence in a victorious outcome. Sahis reiterated his gratitude towards the people of Jugsalai for their continued support. (w/nkm)

Congress, AIMIM supporters clash in Azadnagar, 2 injured

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 13: A violent clash erupted between Congress and AIMIM supporters at Bawangoda Madhya Vidyalaya, located on Old Purulia Road in Azadnagar police station area, during the first phase of Jharkhand Assembly Elections on Wednesday afternoon. The altercation left two individuals injured, who were immediately rushed to the hospital for treatment. The conflict arose after both parties accused each other of indulging in bogus voting, escalating tensions at the polling booth.



As soon as the news broke, a police team along with security forces arrived at the scene. Jamshedpur SSP Kishore Kaushal, City SP Kumar Shivashish, and CISF personnel also reached the spot to assess the situation. The police successfully controlled the crowd, and the situation was eventually pacified. Both Congress and AIMIM lodged complaints, and an investigation is underway. (w/nkm)

Sonal Shanti confident of INDI Alliance victory in Jharkhand

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Nov 13: Congress spokesperson Sonal Shanti expressed strong confidence in the INDI Alliance's victory in the Jharkhand Assembly elections. Shanti claimed that the alliance would secure more than 75% of the seats, emphasizing that the people of Jharkhand had rejected the BJP's "divisive" campaign.



"The BJP's politics of hate and division will not work here," she said. Shanti called for maximum public participation in the elections, urging citizens to reject communalism and focus on development. She accused the BJP of making false promises to the tribal community and undermining backward class reservations. Shanti's comments highlight the ongoing battle between the BJP and INDI Alliance in the state. (w/nkm)

Dr Ajoy expresses gratitude to people of Jamshedpur East for immense support

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 13: Congress candidate Dr. Ajoy Kumar expressed heartfelt thanks to the people of Jamshedpur East on Wednesday for the overwhelming support and affection they have shown. He stated, "I am indebted to the people of Jamshedpur for the trust they have placed in me. I assure you that I will make every possible effort to meet the aspirations and hopes of Jamshedpur's citizens and restore the city's honor."

Dr. Ajoy also expressed gratitude to the district administration for ensuring a peaceful election and thanked the media for their support, noting that they made the election process lively and engaging with their impartial coverage. He specially thanked thousands of party workers and officials for their dedication and selfless service during the campaign, acknowledging that their efforts made the campaign successful.

During his visits to polling stations, Dr. Ajoy was warmly welcomed by voters. Many young people took selfies with him, and women voters wished him success. At the Sitaramdera polling station, an elderly woman told Dr. Ajoy, "I voted for you, and your victory is certain." The general sentiment among voters in Jamshedpur East appeared to favor Dr. Ajoy Kumar. Though many refrained from openly expressing their opinions, their emotions reflected discontent with the 25 years of mismanagement.



Offers prayers at a temple : Dr. Ajoy Kumar, accompanied by his wife Reena Arya, began the day by offering prayers at the Hanuman Temple in Golmuri. Following this, they cast their votes at Booth No. 148 in Telco's Shiksha Niketan School. After voting, Dr. Ajoy encouraged the people of Jamshedpur to strengthen democracy by casting their votes before enjoying refreshments.

He then toured several areas, including Birsanagar, Baridih Basti, Bagunnagar, Bagunhatu, Sitaramdera, Agrico, Bhuiyandih, Kashidih, Golmuri, Gwalam Basti, Jemco, Manifit, Laxminagar, Premnagar, and Burmamines. During his visits, he monitored the voting process and encouraged his party workers.

Grand Nagar Kirtan celebrations for Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Prakash Parv on Nov 15

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 13: Excitement is building in Jamshedpur as preparations take shape for the grand Nagar Kirtan on November 15, commemorating the Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the first Guru of the Sikhs. The festive procession will kick off from Sonari Gurudwara Sahib, with the Palki Sahib being beautifully adorned with marigold and rose flowers, specially sourced from Kolkata. Electrical decorations are being set up across all Gurudwaras in the Kolhan region, with a special emphasis on Sonari Gurudwara, the starting point of the procession. The event will conclude at Sakchi Gurudwara, where additional electrifying arrangements are in place. A total of 34 Gurudwaras throughout Kolhan are set to be decorated for the occasion, in accordance with the directives from the Central Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee (CGPC).

In a unique communal effort, women will sweep the main roads and areas in front of the Gurudwaras during the Nagar Kirtan, promoting a message of cleanliness. Following their initiative, men will sprinkle water along the procession's route, adding to the festive spirit, while flower showers will welcome participants at various points along the way.



The Nagar Kirtan is scheduled to commence at 11:30 am from Sonari Gurudwara, following a designated route that includes notable points such as Sonari Bazaar, Aerodrome, Circuit House Roundabout, Keenan Stadium, and culminating at Sakchi Gurudwara by 5 pm.

This year, there will be no fireworks, a departure from past celebrations. Instead, the Palki Sahib will receive a warm welcome at Sakchi Gurudwara with a floral shower, and 42 welcome gates will line the route to enhance the festive ambiance. Traffic management for the Nagar Kirtan has been entrusted to the Central Singh Naujawan Sabha.

The procession promises a rich display of cultural diversity with participants including horsemen, Gatka parties, local schools, and various community groups such as the CGPC, Jagriti Manch, Women's Satsang Sabha, Kirtani groups, and 13 dedicated cleaning teams. (w/nkm)

Karate tournament held at Lajpat Public School

Jamshedpur, Nov 12: Lajpat Public School, Sakchi, hosted an intra-school karate tournament on Monday, November 11, in the school's assembly hall. The event was inaugurated by the school's Principal, Ranjit Ghosh, and saw an enthusiastic participation from students. Dr. Mausumi, Principal of S.S.G. School Sakchi, graced the event as the chief guest and inspired the young athletes with her motivating words. The program also featured special guests, including Sarju Ram, the chief karate instructor, and Ajit Masih, the school's chess instructor. Students participated in both boys' and girls' categories, showcasing their skills and energy throughout the competition. The event highlighted the school's commitment to fostering sportsmanship and physical fitness. The school looks forward to organizing more such events in the future to encourage student participation in extracurricular activities. (w/nkm)

Two-day workshop on entrepreneurship inspires students at RVS College

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 13: RVS College of Engineering and Technology hosted a two-day workshop titled 'Entrepreneurship and Innovation as a Career Opportunity.'

The event featured Ramesh Yadav, President of PRO NET, California, as the chief guest and speaker. Accompanying him were notable guests, including Aditya Kumar, Founder of Panjar Renewable, and Shatrudhan Singh, Treasurer of RVS Educational Trust.

The session opened with a lamp-lighting ceremony, followed by a warm welcome led by Principal Prof. Dr. Rajesh Kumar Tiwari, who emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship in providing jobs and benefiting society.

In his address, Yadav underscored the essentials of successful startups, highlighting the need to understand market demands and customer expectations. Shatrudhan Singh praised the workshop as an eye-opener, encouraging students to view startups as achievable ventures.

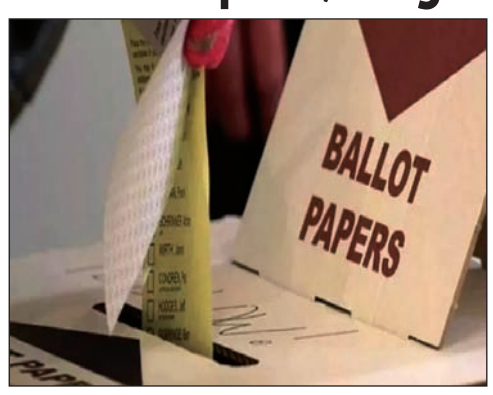
The first day concluded with an insightful session by Dr. Sudhir Jha, leaving participants inspired about entrepreneurship's potential. (w/nkm)

Postal votes surge in Jharkhand polls, may shift electoral dynamics

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 13: The upcoming Jharkhand Assembly elections could see a major impact from postal voting, with the first phase already recording over 1.13 lakh postal ballots cast across 43 seats. According to data from the Chief Electoral Officer's office, more than 2.65 lakh applications for postal voting have been submitted, indicating a potential game changer in close races.

Dr. Neha Arora, Additional Chief Electoral Officer, noted that the increase is due in part to new provisions for disabled and elderly voters, stating, "The Election Commission has provided postal ballot facilities for disabled and elderly voters, leading to a rise in the number of postal ballots this election." This accommodation has contributed to what analysts suggest could be a decisive factor in determining close contests across the state.



Historically, postal ballots have swayed results in tight races. In the 2019 Assembly elections, nine seats were decided by slim margins, such as Congress's narrow 285-vote win in Simdega and BJP's 824-vote lead in Baghmara.

Political analysts point to service voters, who comprise a large portion of postal voters, as key to shifting the vote balance. Dissatisfaction among these employees could favor the BJP-NDA, while appreciation for the old pension scheme and concessions may benefit the All India Alliance.

In the 2019 Assembly elections, a total of 1.81 lakh voters cast their ballots by post, compared to this election's anticipated 2.65 lakh, underscoring the postal ballot's potential to shape electoral outcomes in Jharkhand's tight race. (w/nkm)

NIT Jamshedpur introduces flexible re-admission, multi-disciplinary courses under NEP

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 13: In line with the National Education Policy (NEP), the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Jamshedpur has introduced several flexible academic policies allowing students who left their studies midway to re-enroll and complete their courses.

This change aims to provide students with enhanced educational continuity and adaptability. Under the updated NEP guidelines, students will now be able to explore subjects from other branches along with their primary area of study. This interdisciplinary approach is expected to aid in placements and provide students with broader skill sets. "This policy enables students to gain diverse knowledge, making them multi-skilled and appealing to employers," said an NIT spokesperson.



Additionally, students enrolled at any NIT across the country can transfer to NIT Jamshedpur mid-semester if seats are available, marking a progressive shift in inter-institutional flexibility. From the third year, 25-30% of students' coursework can now include subjects outside their primary branch, with both major and minor fields noted on transcripts. A new "multi-entry, multi-exit" policy allows students to exit and later rejoin their studies. Under this policy, if a student leaves, they are provided a certificate acknowledging their completed coursework, with eligibility to re-enroll even after several years.

To further align with NEP, NIT Jamshedpur now permits six-month internships and online courses in any subject during the semester. This expanded academic flexibility, according to institute experts, fosters a modern, adaptable learning environment for students across disciplines. (w/nkm)

Qyam Hussain appointed JBKSS Central Vice President



Gamharia, Nov 13: Ahead of the upcoming assembly elections, the JBKSS Central Committee expanded its team, appointing Gamharia Block Deputy Chief Qyam Hussain as Central Vice President. This new role places Hussain in a prominent position to help shape the committee's activities and outreach. Other key members appointed to the committee include Arun Kumar Sao, Mihir Chandravanshi, Suresh Mahato, Sikandar Alam, Vatan Shaha, Rahul Dev Mahato, Ravindra Sardar, Chiranjit Mandal, and Dr. Lukman Ansari. The expansion of the committee signifies JBKSS's readiness to engage and mobilize its resources for the upcoming elections, focusing on regional development and increased community participation. (w/nkm)

745th Red Cross free eye camp successfully concludes

Jamshedpur, Nov 13: The East Singhbhum Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), in collaboration with Ram Manohar Lohia Sewa Sansthan, Draupadi Devi Chimanlal Bhalotia Sewa Sansthan, Rajasthan Sewa Sadan, and the District Rural Health Committee, successfully concluded its 745th free eye camp at Ram Manohar Lohia Netralaya, Baghbera.

On the final day, city eye surgeon Dr. B.P. Singh conducted follow-up checks on patients who had undergone surgery, administered medications, and provided protective glasses. Each discharged patient received biscuits and fruits from the SBI Pensioners Association, which supported this camp. IRCS Secretary Bijay Kumar Singh and Ram Manohar Lohia Sewa Sansthan President Balmukund Goel expressed gratitude for the support and encouraged further community involvement. (w/nkm)

Peaceful voting concludes in Gamharia amid tight security



Mail News Service

Gamharia, Nov 13: Voting was conducted peacefully on Wednesday at all polling stations in Gamharia block under the Seraikela assembly constituency, with tight security measures in place. Voters in Gamharia exercised their franchise at 97 booths, while 136 booths operated under the Adityapur Municipal Corporation. In urban areas, voter turnout was initially low, but numbers increased steadily through the day.

In contrast, rural voters showed more enthusiasm, arriving as early as 6 am and maintaining a steady flow until noon. Voting officially began at 7 am and concluded at 5 pm, although some booths extended hours to 5:30 pm due to queues. Facilities like wheelchairs were provided for elderly and disabled voters, and volunteers assisted them to polling stations.

All booths were equipped with CCTV cameras, and Jharkhand Police and CRPF personnel were on duty to ensure safety. The Gamharia BDO, CO, and other officials made rounds at the booths to monitor proceedings. The event concluded without any untoward incidents, marking a successful election day. (w/nkm)

I thank voters for voting against nepotism: Shiv Shankar

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 13: The voters of Jamshedpur East have spoken, showing unprecedented enthusiasm in the assembly elections. Independent candidate Shiv Shankar Singh expressed his gratitude to the "deity-like" voters, thanking them for their overwhelming support. Singh is confident that the enthusiasm displayed by voters pressing the Gas Stove symbol signifies a clear win and a fresh wave of change in Jamshedpur East. Despite a moderate increase in voter turnout, Singh believes the result will favor his independent campaign, emphasizing that the Gas Stove symbol represents prosperity and well-being in every household. In his post-election remarks, he stated that the election was driven by the will of the people who voted to overcome 25 years of stagnation.

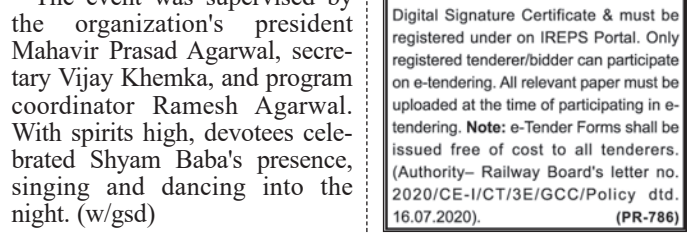


Singh cast his own vote at CP Samiti Middle School in Cable Basti and commended the spirited participation across various neighborhoods, including Birsanagar, Lakshminagar, Jemco Azad Basti, Burmamines, Agrico, and Sakchi. He noted that the high turnout, particularly in the first few hours, reflects the residents' determination to reject dynastic politics and establish new leadership in the region.

Jharkhand Scouts receives state award at National Scouts and Guides Meet

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Nov 13: In a proud moment for Jharkhand, three children from the state received the prestigious state award at the National Executive meeting of the Hindustan Scouts and Guides Association held at the Press Club of India. This honour, recognizing their exceptional performance and contributions to scouting, was presented by National Chairman Karunakar Pradhan in the presence of several dignitaries, including Jammu MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia, who remarked, "Scouting nurtures discipline, leadership, and service, which are essential to societal growth."



Jharkhand State Secretary Amit Modak highlighted the award's significance stating, "This achievement is a milestone, reflecting the hard work of our young scouts and guiding the future of scouting in Jharkhand." Award recipients included Durga Prasad Baske (Seraikela district), Sudesh Ganju (Chatra district), and Vakil Kumar Mahato. This event has marked a new chapter for scouting in Jharkhand, encouraging further growth and activity in the sector. (w/nkm)

Bail denied to accused in 515 Kg ganja seizure case

Jamshedpur, Nov 13: The bail application of Pramod Gupta, a resident of Chas Bokaro, accused in the 515 kg ganja seizure case by the Narcotics Control Bureau on February 8, 2021, was rejected by Chief Justice Anil Kumar Mishra-One's court on Tuesday. Special Public Prosecutor KM Singh argued that Gupta's release would be inappropriate due to his involvement in the large-scale ganja recovery.

The court accepted this reasoning and denied bail. Gupta was arrested and jailed on October 16, 2024, along with other accused still in custody. (w/nkm)

Accused in minor's rape case acquitted

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 13: In a 2015 case of minor rape in Azadnagar police station area, the Special POCSO Court presided by Judge Sirish Dutt Tripathi acquitted the accused, Junaid Waris, on Tuesday due to lack of evidence. Only two witnesses testified in the case, and based on this limited evidence, the court issued its verdict. The accused had been absconding for six years before the trial concluded. (w/nkm)

Devotees celebrate three-day Shyam Janmotsav

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, November 13: The three-day 25th Shri Shyam Janmotsav organized by Shri Shyam Mitra Mandal Mango concluded on Wednesday at Shyam Bhawan on Mango New Purulia Road.

Celebrated on the auspicious occasion of Devuthani Gyaras, the festival witnessed vibrant bhajans and rituals, with Baba Shyam's chants resonating among devotees.

The festival's final day began with a Barsa Puja at 12:15 pm, followed by the distribution of Mahaprasad starting at 7:15 pm, which continued late into the night, drawing about two thousand devotees. The evening prior saw Aarti and a traditional puja performed by Yajman Urmila-Shankar Lal Agarwal, Rajni-Tulsi Khemka, and Sudha-Banna Gupta, conducted by Pandit Nathu Lal Sharma, who also tied Raksha Sutras among all present.



At midnight, a cake-cutting ceremony was organized followed by Maha-Arati and the distribution of Chhappan Bhog Prasad. The main attractions included Baba Shyam's beautifully adorned court, the Akhand Jyot, and elaborate decorations crafted by Kolkata artisans, illuminating Shyam Bhawan and its surroundings with flags and lights.

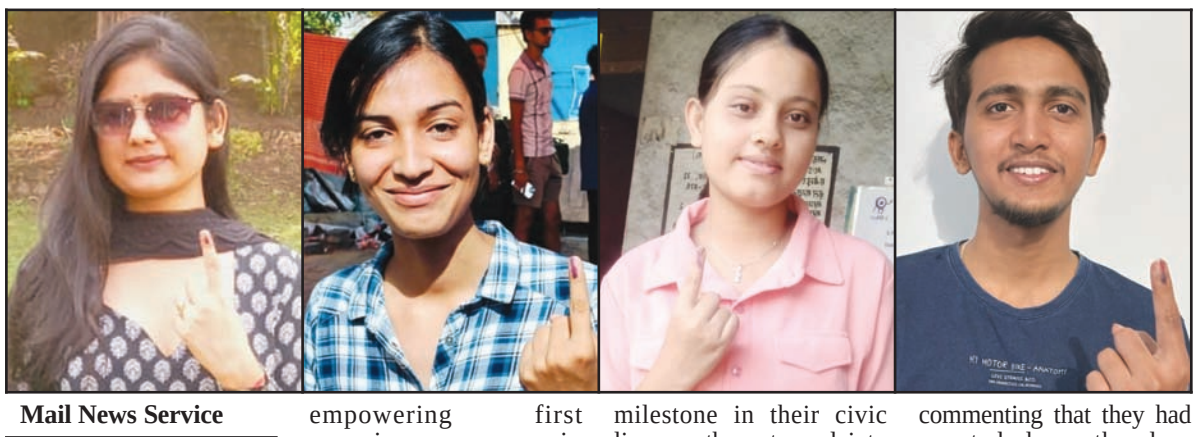
The devotional atmosphere was amplified by guest artistes Riya and Rishu K.C. Agarwal (Nepal), Rahul Soni (Bhagalpur), Jai Shri and Party (Kolkata), and Ganga Sharma (Darbhanga), who mesmerized devotees with their Bhajan renditions.

The event was supervised by the organization's president Mahavir Prasad Agarwal, secretary Vijay Khemka, and program coordinator Ramesh Agarwal. With spirits high, devotees celebrated Shyam Baba's presence, singing and dancing into the night. (w/gsd)

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

DRM/ENGG, S.E. Railway, Chakradharpur acting for & on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Open Tender. Manual Offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-CENTRAL-24-25-36, Date: 12.11.2024. Name of work:** Manufacturing, supply and stacking of machine crushed Track Ballast conforming to RDSO Specification (IRS-GE-1) with latest correction slips issued up to date of inviting of tender at Railway depot or nominated location under ADEN/ Bondamunda as per the direction of Engineer-in-Charge under the Jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/Central/Chakradharpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 3,20,53,207.40. **EMD:** ₹ 3,10,300. **Cost of Tender form:** ₹ 0. **Date of Opening:** 26.11.2024. The tender can be viewed at website **http://www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderer/ bidders must have class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering. **Note:** e-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (Authority– Railway Board's letter no. 2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/Policy dtd. 16.07.2020). **(PR-786)**

First-time voters cast vote with enthusiasm



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 13: A day to remember for countless young voters, as they exercised their voting rights for the first time in the assembly elections on Wednesday. Brimming with enthusiasm, many students participated in this important civic duty.

For these young adults, stepping into polling stations to press the button on the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) symbolized an empowering first experience in democracy.The assembly elections witnessed an enthusiastic surge of first-time voters, with many young adults excitedly casting their ballots for the first time. Across the city, students eagerly participated in the democratic process some even postponing their summer vacations to ensure they could vote.

The occasion was filled with enthusiasm and pride, marked an important milestone in their civic lives as they stepped into polling stations to engage in the democratic process. "My friends and I were thrilled to participate in the elections," said Shweta, a Mass Communication student from a private college.

Along with her friends Rahul and Supriya, she attentively observed the election procedures and eagerly awaited their turn to vote. Students in Kukatpally were equally excited, with many commenting that they had counted down the days until election day. "We couldn't wait to cast our vote," said a B-tech student who added that the experience felt like a significant rite of passage.

Many young voters took selfies with their ink-marked fingers to commemorate the occasion.Selfie stations set up outside polling booths added to the appeal of voting, becoming popular spots for first-time voters to proudly showcase their participation on social media. In the weeks leading up to the elections, these young voters had engaged in lively discussions, researched candidates and debated campaign promises in various WhatsApp groups. Their enthusiasm was evident, as they encouraged their peers to vote and made sure everyone understood the importance of their voices in shaping the future of the country.

NEET aspirant Kalpana excited after casting her first vote



Jamshedpur, Nov 13: Kalpana Yadav, a NEET aspirant from Bagbera Baba Kuti, experienced the excitement of voting for the first time at a booth in Ram Manohar Lohia Netralaya on November 13.

Currently preparing for NEET in Rajasthan after completing her Plus Two, Kalpana returned to Jamshedpur specifically to participate in the voting process, as she couldn't vote in the last Lok Sabha elections due to living in a hostel. Kalpana hoped that her vote could contribute to enhancing the education system and expanding healthcare services in rural areas. The young voter feels her participation is a step toward positive change.

Rural areas outpace urban counterparts



Jamshedpur, Nov 13: As per the latest information released by the district administration, the voting percentages for the Jamshedpur East and Jamshedpur West constituencies in the 2024 Jharkhand Assembly elections stood at 56.72% and 55.95%, respectively.

In the two urban constituencies, Jamshedpur East saw a decline in voter turnout, with a drop of 2.95% compared to the 2019 Assembly elections. This decrease has raised questions about the reasons behind the dip, despite the city's increasing urbanization and improved infrastructure. This decline could be attributed to various factors, including the ongoing festive season, which may have led to many residents traveling to their hometowns, potentially affecting their ability to cast votes. On the other hand, Jamshedpur West witnessed a positive shift in voter participation, recording an increase of 2.06%. This rise in turnout is seen as a positive sign, as it reflects growing awareness and engagement among the electorate. Interestingly, when comparing the urban and rural areas within the East Singhbhum district, which encompasses six Assembly seats—two urban and four rural—the rural constituencies saw higher voter turnout than the urban segment. Despite the fact that urban areas typically have a higher proportion of literate voters, the rural constituencies saw a higher voter turnout than the urban constituencies this year. This is an interesting reversal of expectations, as urban areas are generally believed to have more politically aware and engaged voters due to better literacy rates, accessibility to information, and infrastructure. This trend could be attributed to a variety of factors, including better access to polling stations in rural areas, more localized electoral awareness, or possibly a stronger sense of civic duty in the rural electorate.

The district's overall voter turnout indicates a growing engagement in the democratic process, with urban areas needing to address specific challenges to improve participation in future elections. (w/nkm)

Trishanu Rai highlights the role of voters in strengthening democracy



Chaibasa, Nov 13: Trishanu Rai, a member of the West Singhbhum District Twenty Point Program Implementation Committee, cast his vote for the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly Elections 2024 at Shri Marwari Hindi Middle School in Chaibasa on Wednesday. After voting, Rai emphasized the significance of voter participation in a strong democracy.

BJP's Bharat Singh casts his vote with family



Jamshedpur, Nov 13: BJP State Working Committee member Bharat Singh participated in the first phase of Jharkhand Assembly Elections 2024 on Wednesday, casting his vote alongside his family. Speaking to the media, Bharat Singh emphasized the importance of voting in strengthening democracy. "The democratic foundation of India is built on election results. Our MLAs and MPs are elected through our votes, which is our constitutional right," he said. Singh expressed pride in exercising this right with his family and encouraged others to do the same. "We are fortunate to be citizens of India, where voting is both a right and a responsibility," he added. His participation highlighted the active involvement of political leaders and their families in the democratic process. (w/nkm)



Pride of democracy: Elderly and physically challenged voters went to the booth and cast their votes while discharging their responsibility.

Pics by Intu Imteyaz

Ganga still dirty

The National Green Tribunal's warning about the continued pollution in the Ganga River must be taken seriously. Recent reports show that the water quality in Prayagraj has degraded to the point of being unfit even for sipping, a revelation that is concerning as the Maha Kumbh Mela approaches in January 2025. As this world-renowned spiritual event draws visitors from across the globe, questions about the cleanliness of the Ganga could cast a shadow on the event and send a poor message worldwide.

The Namami Gange project, launched in 2014 with over 450 projects and a budget of nearly forty thousand crores, aimed to restore the Ganga's purity through efforts like building sewerage systems in riverside cities, setting up treatment plants for industrial waste, conserving biodiversity, and cleaning riverbanks. Despite these extensive measures, pollution persists. This failure highlights that government initiatives alone are insufficient if society at large does not play its part. Industries still discharge waste into the river, and countless open drains release untreated water into the Ganga, undermining the project's impact. Clearly, public awareness and active participation are essential for a cleaner Ganga.

Population pressures in cities along the river and the absence of well-planned drainage and sewerage systems have intensified pollution. A one-time cleanup effort is not enough; a sustained, ongoing commitment is required. Regular monitoring, enhanced technology, and stringent fines for polluters are critical. Awareness campaigns must emphasize that the Ganga is not only a source of water but also holds cultural and spiritual significance. Educating people to avoid dumping waste and promoting responsibility for river cleanliness could make a real difference.

To make the Namami Gange project effective, both the central and state governments need to strengthen cooperation, ensuring accountability at every level. Sanitation and water purification infrastructure should be implemented promptly along the riverbanks. Community responsibility, not just governmental efforts, is needed to protect the Ganga's sanctity and purity. Only by working collectively can we restore the Ganga's legendary status as a life-giver and symbol of our heritage, preventing the day when such dire warnings about its contamination are issued again.

From the Editorial Desk

Children's Day: Fostering the Future through Education, Values, and Support



Dr (Fr) Mukti Clarence, S.J



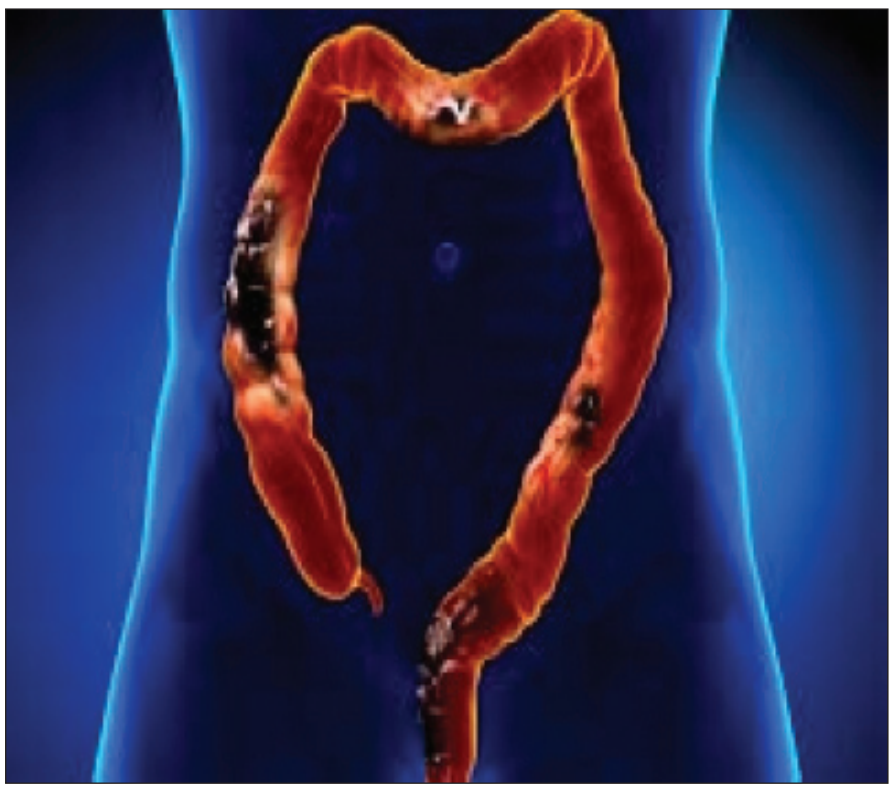
Children's Day, observed on 14th November in India, commemorates Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's vision of children as the cornerstone of the nation's future. This day offers an opportunity to reflect on the vital role of nurturing and protecting children, ensuring their well-being and providing avenues for growth and development. However, the realities faced by many children in India remain concerning. A recent UNICEF survey reports that 31% of Indian children live in multidimensional poverty, severely limiting their access to education, healthcare, and basic resources. According to the ASER report, only 20.5% of Grade 3 students in rural India can read at a Grade 2 level, revealing significant educational gaps. Furthermore, malnutrition exacerbates these challenges, with the NFHS-5 (2019-2021) indicating that 35.5% of children under five are stunted, and 32.1% are underweight. Child labor remains pervasive, with the Census (2011) estimating that 10.1 million children aged 5-14 are engaged in labor, missing crucial educational opportunities. Additionally, 23% of women aged 20-24 were married before 18, according to NFHS-5, hindering educational and health prospects. A UNICEF report (2021) also indicates that 14% of youth aged 15-24 experience mental health issues, often stemming from abuse and neglect. These statistics call for immediate action to implement policies promoting the holistic development of children, fostering an equitable society where every child has the opportunity to thrive.

In Jamshedpur, educational institutions have made significant strides in addressing the diverse challenges faced by children, focusing not only on academic excellence but also on emotional and social development. The Bible asserts, "Train up children in the way the should go; even when theyare old, they will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6), emphasizing the importance of early guidance in shaping a child's future. Many schools in the region have increasingly incorporated mentorship programs, counseling services, and community engagement efforts to support students in dealing with mental health challenges, family instability, and socio-economic pressures.

Despite the progress, some schools still have room to improve in creating safer, more supportive environments. By learning from institutions that have successfully implemented comprehensive support systems, schools can better foster the holistic development of children. As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14), highlighting the importance of nurturing educational spaces where children can flourish.These educational initiatives contribute to the development of well-rounded, resilient individuals, better equipped to navigate life's challenges. As Jesus emphasized, "And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me" (Matthew 18:5), reinforcing the need for inclusive, compassionate environments that shape the future of society. The collective efforts of educational institutions in Jamshedpur serve as an important step in fostering a supportive and resilient generation. Consequently, Children's Day in India serves as a crucial reminder of the nation's ongoing commitment to addressing the challenges children face. It calls for a collective effort to ensure every child has access to quality education, healthcare, and emotional well-being. Such initiatives will pave the way for a brighter and more equitable future for all children.

(Dr (Fr) Mukti Clarence, S.J. is an Assistant Professor in XITE Gamharia (Autonomous) College. The views expressed are personal.)

Scientists to probe if grape juice chemical can prevent bowel cancer



UK scientists are launching a trial to explore whether an ingredient commonly found in grape juice and wine could keep bowel cancer at bay.

Bowel cancer, also known as colorectal cancer, is a type of cancer that starts in the large bowel, including the colon and rectum.

The team will probe a chemical called resveratrol -- a naturally occurring ingredient found in grapes, blueberries, raspberries, and peanuts -- for potential cancer prevention.

The trial, led by researchers at the University of Leicester, UK, is also testing multiple potential prevention drugs for bowel cancer, including aspirin and metformin.

While drinking red wine does not prevent cancer, and is a major risk factor, the research focussed on purified resveratrol.

Karen Brown, Professor of Translational Cancer Research at the University of Leicester said that with advanced screening methods, early detection of bowel cancer has become easier. She further noted that the best way to prevent bowel cancer "is to improve our lifestyles -- stopping smoking, maintaining a healthy weight, reducing alcohol consumption and having a healthy, balanced diet".

However, with the new trial, funded by Cancer Research UK, the team aims to conduct a "unique experiment to see how drugs could stop bowel polyps from growing".

Brown said the results can have wider "implications for how we prevent bowel cancer in people who are most likely to develop the disease as they get older."

The team aims to enroll 1,300 patients at 60 locations in England and Wales.

Participants in the trial will have their polyps removed and will then receive a treatment - either aspirin or aspirin and metformin in the main trial or resveratrol or a placebo in the sub-study.

Those receiving aspirin or aspirin and metformin will take these drugs daily over three years, while those on resveratrol or the dummy tablet will take it for a year. Afterwards, all groups will be given colonoscopies to see if polyps have started growing again, and if so, how big they are compared to the ones removed at the start of the trial.

If the trial is successful, any of the treatments tested could be offered to people eligible for the NHS Bowel Screening Programme to reduce the chance of bowel polyps forming, and with that reduce the risk of bowel cancer in the future.

November 14 is World Diabetes Day

Diabetes Mellitus – A Global Epidemic



By Dr Abha Singh



Diabetes mellitus is a chronic medical condition characterized by elevated blood sugar levels, primarily due to a deficiency or dysfunction of insulin-a hormone produced by the pancreas that regulates blood sugar. Diabetes Mellitus is taken from the Greek word diabetes, meaning siphon-to pass through & the Latin word mellitus, which means sweet. It has many subclassifications, including Type 1, Type 2, maturity-onset diabetes of the young (MODY), gestational diabetes & neonatal diabetes. Type 1 & 2 DM are the main subtypes, each with a different pathophysiology, presentation & management. Type 1 presents in children or adolescents, while T2DM is thought to affect middle-aged & older adults who have prolonged hyperglycemia due to poor lifestyle & dietary choices. The disease is a global health crisis, affecting millions and causing various complications if left untreated.

The IDF Diabetes Atlas (2021) reports that 10.5% of the adult population, i.e., approximately 537 million adults (20-79 years old) worldwide, are living with diabetes and is projected to rise to 643 million by 2030 and 783 million by 2045. Annual Deaths due to diabetes contributed to over 4 million globally in 2021. The Economic Impact on global health reached $966 billion in 2021, marking a 316% increase over the past 15 years.

The various causes and Risk Factors of Diabetes depend on the type:

Type 1 DM: Genetics and possible environmental triggers such as viral infections.

Type 2 DM: Risk factors include obesity, physical inactivity, poor diet, age, and genetics.Gestational Diabetes: Hormonal changes during pregnancy, family history of diabetes & maternal obesity.

Recognizing the symptoms early, followed by prompt management & treatment, is the mainstay to prevent complications. The common symptoms are frequent urination, excessive thirst, extreme hunger, unexplained weight loss (mainly in type 1), fatigue, blurred vision, slow healing of sores, and frequent infections.

Uncontrolled diabetes can lead to severe complications like cardiovascular disease, renal Nephropathy (diabetes being a leading cause of kidney failure), Eye Damage (Retinopathy) causing blindness & visual disabilities, Nerve damage (Neuropathy) leading to lower limb pain or numbness, foot problems like ulcers, infections, and possible amputation due to poor blood circulation and higher susceptibility to infections due to immune system impairment.

A diagnosis of diabetes is through any of the following: An HBA1C level of 6.5 % or higher, a fasting plasma glucose level of 126mg/dl or higher & a two-hour plasma glucose of 200 mg/dl or higher during a 75 gm Oral Glucose Tolerance Test. The American diabetes association (ADA) recommends screening adults aged 45 years and older every three yearly regardless of risk and all pregnant patients between 24 to 28 weeks of gestation with a one-hour fasting glucose challenge test.

While diabetes is a lifelong condition, it can be effectively managed with medications and lifestyle changes such as correct dietary habits, weight management & quitting smoking. Besides this, regular blood sugar monitoring is to be done to maintain levels within the target range.

To conclude, diabetes mellitus continues to pose a significant public health challenge. It is a serious but manageable condition with proper knowledge & care. Understanding the basics of diabetes, including its types, causes & risk factors, can empower people to make informed lifestyle choices that promote health & reduce the risk of complications. Prevention efforts are essential to control the rising global incidence and alleviate its economic and healthcare burden.

(Author is a doctor at Tata Main Hospital, Jamshedpur)

Most G20 members need to significantly step up climate action: Report

Most G20 members, including the US, Australia, Canada, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, need to significantly step up climate action, the Climate Accountability Matrix launched at COP29 in Baku by the independent think tank, the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), said on Tuesday.

Featured in a new study, 'Are G20 Countries Delivering on Climate Goals? Tracking Progress on Commitments to Strengthen the Paris Agreement, the Climate Accountability Matrix is a first-of-its-kind assessment tool from the Global South to analyse countries' performance in climate aspects beyond mitigation, including adaptation and means of implementation.

Among advanced economies in the G20, France, Britain, Japan, and Germany have made notable efforts, particularly through international cooperation and the establishment of comprehensive climate governance frameworks.

While the US, Australia, and Canada have made efforts to adapt to climate change, concerns about their inconsistent engagement in key climate agreements, and weak ambitions remain.

In the Global South, India and South Africa have made significant efforts in climate action by actively participating in key agreements, undertaking reasonable efforts domestically and adhering to their obligations, the study found.

However, even the countries making reasonable progress must improve sectoral robustness and create an enabling environment for ambitious climate actions.

Arunabha Ghosh, CEO of CEEW, said: "The climate COPs are about raising ambition, enabling action, and, most importantly, holding everyone accountable. While COP28 resulted in many promises, it let developed countries off the hook. COP29 must be about accountability. It must accelerate the move towards net zero. The largest historical emitters have to move faster than others and reduce emissions now. Second, COP29 should raise both the quantum and quality of climate finance. As we debate the New Collective Quantified Goal, the question is not just how much is needed, but how reliably it will be delivered.



"Finally, COP29 must prioritise the protection of the most vulnerable. It is the poorest who are the most affected due to climate extremes, derailing economies and reversing progress towards other sustainable development goals. COP29 must deliver on accountability, raise ambitions, push for credible and catalytic climate finance, and safeguard the most vulnerable."

The CEEW matrix assesses these countries on five critical themes -- international cooperation, national measures, sectoral robustness, enablers, and climate adaptation efforts -- and 42 indicators. It takes into account the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

The countries have been categorised under a leader, reasonable effort, limited effort, and needs improvement. The findings show that COP29 must ensure accountability during this climate emergency.

Dubbed the "Finance COP", the two-week 2024 UN climate conference (COP29) kicked off on Monday in Baku, Azerbaijan with a focus heavily on securing a new climate finance target for countries most vulnerable to climate impacts.

It brings together negotiators from nearly 200 countries, including India, to advance the Paris Agreement's goals of limiting global temperature rise, strengthening climate resilience, and mobilising support for developing nations.

With solutions on the table but investment still lagging, especially in developing countries, on the frontlines of the crisis, a strong financial outcome at COP29 could unlock a new era of action.

GenAI a top priority for 70 pc Global Capability Centres in India: Report



Mumbai, Nov 13 (IANS) The adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) within Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in India is accelerating, with nearly 70 per cent of centres investing in generative AI (GenAI), according to a report on Wednesday.

The EY India GCC Pulse Survey 2024, based on insights from 88 GCCs in India, reveals that 78 per cent of GCCs are upskilling teams for GenAI adoption, while 37 per cent are piloting use cases, highlighting a shift from experimentation to practical applications of AI focused on talent management and risk mitigation.

It identified climate change and sustainability agenda top focus area for GCCs in the country. This was followed by 85 per cent wanting to expand functional capabilities and 61 per cent wanting to drive enterprise-wide digital transformation.

However, the rising cost of talent, challenges in attracting talent at the required scale or speed, and improvement in leadership development posed key risks to these priorities, the report said.

"The survey highlights the transformative role of technology in driving growth within GCCs, with a clear emphasis on GenAI. As GCCs prioritise talent, digital transformation, and robust security frameworks, they are not only improving operational efficiency but positioning themselves as global innovation hubs," said Arindam Sen, Partner, and GCC Sector Leader - Technology, Media & Telecommunications, EY India.

Further, 69 per cent of firms mentioned customer experience, where they plan to leverage GenAI capabilities. This includes applications such as automated chatbots, personalised support, and sentiment analysis.

This was followed by 57 per cent citing operations as the next focus area, and 47 per cent aiming to leverage GenAI for IT and cybersecurity. Product development, finance, HR, sales, and marketing were also identified as key areas of focus.

About 76 per cent of firms are integrating talent from GCCs into core global innovation teams, while 78 per cent are upskilling their internal teams to facilitate GenAI adoption.

The future of work remains a hybrid working model. About 70 per cent of survey participants believe that the majority of their workforce will continue to work flexibly for the next 12 months, with only 9.9 per cent of their workforce expected to work entirely from the office.

However, this shift does not pose a significant risk to business productivity or service quality, the report said.

"The next frontier for GCCs will be in integrating GenAI into their core business functions to create intelligent workflows, enhance decision-making processes, and offer more personalised customer experiences," he added.

Sensex slips below 78,000, investors lose over Rs 6 lakh crore

Mumbai, Nov 13 (IANS) Indian equity indices traded in deep red on Wednesday due to large selling in the heavyweights like Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank, among others.

Sensex was down 530 points or 0.67 per cent at 78,158 and Nifty was down 180 points or 0.76 per cent at 23,702 during the intra-day trading.

In the trading session, Sensex made an intra-day low of 77,959.

The market trend also remained negative. On the National Stock Exchange (NSE), 289 stocks were in the green and 2,163 stocks were in the red.

Due to heavy selling, the market capitalisation of all listed companies on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) declined by over Rs 6 lakh crore to Rs 430 lakh crore. On Tuesday, it was Rs 436 lakh crore.

The biggest impact of the decline is being seen on small and medium stocks. The Nifty Midcap 100 index was down 1,158 points or 2.10 per cent at 54,099 and the Nifty Smallcap 100 index was down 426 points or 2.37 per cent at 17,566.

India VIX, an index showing volatility in the market, was up 4.73 per cent at 15.28.

Almost all NSE indices were trading in the red. Auto, IT, PSU banks, metal, realty, infra and PSE were major laggards. Twenty-seven out of 30 Sensex stocks were in the red. Tata Steel, M&M, JSW Steel, TCS, Nestle, Reliance Industries, Sun Pharma and Bajaj Finserv were the top losers. Only NTPC, Tata Motors and Titan were trading in the green.

Mandar Bhojane, research analyst at Choice Broking said that a bearish engulfing pattern formed on the daily chart, highlighting the increased influence of bearish sentiment.

India likely to add 33.9 mn jobs to its workforce by 2028 in AI era

New Delhi, Nov 13 (IANS) With AI-driven transformation, India is projected to increase its workforce from 423.73 million in 2023 to 457.62 million by 2028, a net gain of 33.89 million workers, according to a report on Wednesday.

Emerging technology will transform talent across India's key growth sectors, generating 2.73 million new tech jobs by 2028, according to new research by AI platform for business transformation, ServiceNow.

The research, commissioned from the world's leading learning company, Pearson, showed that the retail sector is set to lead employment growth, requiring an additional 6.96 million workers to fuel its expansion.

This is followed by manufacturing (1.50 million jobs), education (0.84 million jobs) and healthcare (0.80 million jobs) sectors.

"AI will be a key catalyst for job creation across India's growth engines, particularly in roles requiring advanced technical skills. This strategic emphasis will not only create more high-value opportunities for professionals but will also empower them to build enduring digital careers," said Sumeet Mathur, SVP and Managing Director, ServiceNow India Technology and Business Center.

Tech-related jobs are growing across industries and leading this trend are software application developers, with an expected increase of 109,700 positions.

Other notable roles include systems software developers (48,800 new jobs) and data engineers (48,500 new jobs).

Web developers, data analysts and software testers are also on the rise, with projected additions of 48,500, 47,800, and 45,300 roles, respectively.

Sensex crashes 984 points, loses 1,795 points in 3 trading sessions

Mumbai, Nov 13 (IANS) The Indian stock market closed on a bearish note on Wednesday with significant declines across major indices.

The Sensex fell by 984 points or 1.25 per cent to settle at 77,690, while the Nifty dropped 324 points or 1.36 per cent to close at 23,559.

This week so far, Sensex was down 1,795 points or 2.26 per cent and Nifty was down 589 points or 2.44 per cent. Sectors such as Metal, auto and banking faced substantial selling pressure, contributing to the overall market decline.

Due to the decline, the market cap of all the companies listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has declined by about Rs 6 lakh crore which now stands at Rs 430 lakh crore. Along with large-cap, selling pressures were seen in the smallcap and midcap stocks. The Nifty Midcap 100 index was down 1,456 points or 2.64 per cent at 53,800 and the Nifty Smallcap 100 index was down 532 points or 2.96 per cent at 17,458.

Twenty-seven out of 30 Sensex stocks closed in the red. M&M, Tata Steel, JSW Steel, IndusInd Bank, Kotak Mahindra, HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries, SBI, Bajaj Finserv, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank and L&D were the top losers. NTPC, Tata Motors and Infosys were the gainers.

Vikram Kasat from Prabhudas Lilladher said that the decline marked the indices' fifth straight session of losses amid persistent selling pressure from foreign institutional investors (FIIs), with broader market sentiment hampered by a confluence of factors shaking investor confidence.

Digital transfers of funds for public services up 56 pc in 2024: RBI Deputy Guv

Jaipur, Nov 13 (IANS) The average number of daily e-transactions to access public services in India has increased by 56 per cent in 2024 compared to the previous year while there has been a transfer pf Rs 6.9 lakh crore through the digitally-powered Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) under 314 schemes, benefiting 176 crore beneficiaries in the financial year 2023-24, RBI deputy Governor Michael Patra said on Wednesday.

Addressing the conference on 'Digital Technology, Productivity and Economic Growth in India', Patra said over the years, these DBTs have resulted in estimated cumulative cost savings of Rs 3.5 lakh crore up to March 2023.

The RBI deputy governor further stated that India is uniquely positioned to unlock new growth avenues and optimise existing ones with its digital public infrastructure (DPI), a vibrant information technology (IT) sector and a burgeoning youth population, including one of the largest AI talent bases.

Forecasts suggest that generative AI will contribute $359-438 billion to India's GDP by 2029-30. Indian firms' integration of AI into production processes has increased from 8 per cent in 2023 to 25 per cent in 2024. India has also committed Rs. 1.25 trillion towards its semiconductor industry development, he added.

India is at the forefront of the digital revolution. Financial technology (FinTech) is speeding up digital payments. The India Stack is expanding financial inclusion, galvanising



banking infrastructure and public finance management systems covering both direct benefit transfers and tax collections. Vibrant e-markets are springing up and expanding their reach, Patra explained.

"It is estimated that the digital economy currently accounts for a tenth of India's GDP; going by growth rates observed over the past decade, it is poised to constitute a fifth of GDP by 2026," he added.

Patra also pointed out that an AI-assisted review of the latest annual reports of Indian banks reveals various instances of productivity gains from digitalisation. Examples include monthly savings by banks of 14,500 person-days, 25-30 per cent decline in customer acquisition costs, reduction of the use of 84 tons of paper, saving of four lakh litres of fuel in commutes to banks by customers, 40 per cent reduction in customer wait times at branches, 50 per cent reduction in the compliance monitoring time and shortening account opening time to less than a day.

Aadhaar - India's unique identification number - has halved the cost of conducting the Know Your Customer process in India, he added.

However, he sounded a word of caution as well, saying, "New technologies also involve challenges such as disruptions in respect of traditional technologies and the labour market; resource-intensity - demanding substantial investment in technology, learning, and infrastructure; potential cyber threats and data breaches; ethical concerns, privacy and potential malicious data use."

India's infrastructure push to be among largest in 21st century: KPMG

New Delhi, Nov 13 (IANS) India is likely to see implementation of one of the biggest infrastructure programmes in 21st century, amongst the largest economies and creating fiscal sources of capital would be key to this initiative, according to a KPMG report.

"Steps to unlock foreign and domestic capital via innovative financial structures and facilitating ease of investments would be vital," the report observes.

The report comes in the backdrop of India emerging as the world's fastest growing major economy fuelled by large government expenditure on big ticket projects in the highways, seaports, airports and railways sectors.

The 'KPMG 2024 Infrastructure and Transport CEO Outlook' report states that a survey of 120 sector leaders from across the world found that CEOs in the infrastructure and transportation sector anticipate business growth over the next three years, in terms of earnings and headcount.

According to the report, 63% of Infrastructure and Transportation CEOs expect earnings to grow by more than 2.5% over the next 3 years, but they are concerned about the impact of generative AI and other new technologies, the current state of the global economy and the competition for talent. It revealed that globally 57 per cent of sector CEOs say stakeholder expectations pertaining to Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) are changing faster than they can adapt their strategy.

More than half of CEOs believe that a global failure on climate-change adaptation will have a real short-to-medium term impact on their growth, the report states.

Manish Aggarwal, partner, co-head deal advisory, and head Infrastructure, Disinvestments, and Special Situations Group, KPMG in India said that the race to embrace emerging technologies, such as Gen AI, has risen up on the agenda for CEOs across the infrastructure and transport sector. "The CEOs in our survey noted concerns related to talent shortages, technology adoption and climate risk. They say they are worried about the risks of generative AI and missing their Net Zero targets. They talk of shifting stakeholder expectations and complex technology environments," the KPMG report states.

"Yet they also show encouraging ambition and action. They are intent on investing into expanding their AI capabilities and skills. They are prioritizing their workforce and developing their talent. Perhaps most importantly, they are more focused than ever on building public trust," the report added.

LexLegis.ai Introduces Interact: A Game-Changing AI Solution



Mumbai, Nov 13 (IANS): LexLegis.ai, a leader in legal technology and Large Language Models (LLMs), proudly announces the launch of Interact, a revolutionary feature designed to transform how legal professionals handle, analyze, and optimize document workflows. Building upon LexLegis.ai's reputation as a powerful legal research tool, Interact marks the platform's evolution into a comprehensive case management solution, integrating AI-driven capabilities to make legal processes smarter, faster, and more efficient.

At the heart of Interact lies its ability to empower legal professionals with intelligent tools for document comparison, analysis, and insight extraction. With a single, intuitive interface, users can now: Compare Legal Documents: Seamlessly conduct side-by-side comparisons of contracts, agreements, or case files to identify differences and ensure consistency. Extract Crucial Information: Leverage AI to extract key details from lengthy legal documents or scan text from PDFs and images, eliminating manual search efforts. Document Translation: Automatically translate legal content across languages, facilitating cross-border cases and collaborations.Risk Analysis: Instantly identify potential risks or discrepancies within documents, providing enhanced decision-making support.

"Interact takes legal document management to the next level," said Saakar S. Yadav, Founder of LexLegis.ai. "It's not just about faster research-this is about automating the labor-intensive tasks that often slow down legal workflows, allowing professionals to focus on strategic decisions and superior case outcomes."

Mercedes-Benz India cruises to double-digit growth as demand for luxury cars rises



New Delhi, Nov 13 (IANS) Mercedes-Benz India is on course to close the current year with a double-digit jump in sales, fuelled by the rising demand for luxury cars in a fast-growing economy, the company's managing director Santosh Iyer has said.

Mercedes-Benz India has now launched its new 'AMG C 63 S E PERFORMANCE' model equipped with F1 hybrid technology priced at Rs 1.95 crore. This is the company's 14th product launch this year, aimed at driving up sales volumes of its high-end vehicles which are priced upwards of Rs 1.5 crore. Speaking to reporters at the launch, Iyer said that the festive season brought the company's best sales figures, reflecting the strength of the auto major's performance in a fiercely competitive and fluctuating market.

In the July-to-September quarter, sales of Mercedes-Benz India accelerated by 21% over the same period of the previous year amid an overall slowing auto market. He highlighted that the company has been experiencing substantial growth despite the challenges facing the automotive industry.

Iyer said the company plans to complete conversion of all of its existing 100 outlets under the direct-to-consumer model over the next year or so. He claimed that the new marketing strategy has helped to cut the country's inventory costs.

The increase in luxury car sales also underscores the rising incomes of the upper middle class with the Indian economy emerging as the fastest growing economy in the world. This also reflected in the higher number of income tax payers in the above Rs 1 crore earnings segment.

Centre to deliberate on plans to achieve 500 GW green energy target by 2030

New Delhi, Nov 13 (IANS) The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) on Wednesday said it is organising a two-day 'Chintan Shivir' in Bhubaneswar on November 14-15 to focus on strategies to achieve the target of 500 GW by 2030, and progress toward the next goal of 1800 GW by 2047.

Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Pralhad Joshi, will inaugurate the event at ITC Bhubaneswar. State Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Union Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy Shripad Yesso Naik, Energy Minister of Odisha Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo and Secretary MNRE Prashant Kumar Singh, will also address the event, according to an official statement.

The 'Chintan Shivir' aims to bring together leading decision-makers, financial institutions, industrialists, CEOs and key



officials from central and state governments who are integral to India's renewable energy journey. Participants will brainstorm on key and emerging issues in the sector through various thematic sessions.

The key sessions will include PM 'Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana' with the aim to achieve 1 crore rooftop installations, promoting solar ancillary manufacturing in India. Discussions on land and evacuation as key enablers for accelerating Indian utility scale plants will also be taken up.

Other themes scheduled for the first day are 'From Mines to Modules: India as Global Solar Manufacturing', 'India as Global Wind Manufacturing Hub' and 'Mismatch between Upcoming RE Capacity and Transmission Readiness'.

The schedule for the second day of the conference includes brainstorming sessions on strategy for ensuring offtake of RE power by Discoms, National Bioenergy Programme, Emerging Role of Energy Storage in India, Developing an Integrated Strategy for Small Hydro Power Plants in India and Green Hydrogen Horizons, among others.

Meanwhile, India's exports of solar photovoltaic (PV) products surged 23 times to $2 billion in the fiscal year (FY) 2024 from FY22, according to a new report. This marks a significant progress in India transitioning from a net importer to a net exporter of solar products, according to a report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and JMK Research and Analytics.

Smart snacking grows 1.2 times faster than traditional snacks in India



Mumbai, Nov 13 (IANS) As urban consumers increasingly seek health-oriented products, smart snacking in India has grown 1.2 times faster than traditional snacks, according to a report on Tuesday.

About 63 per cent of surveyed consumers seek innovative and healthy snacking options while 50 per cent read ingredient labels to understand nutritional value,' according to the report by consumer intelligence company NielsenIQ (NIQ).

One in five snacks now has a health connotation in the country.

"This segment is growing 1.2 times faster than traditional snacks in terms of value, presenting opportunities for brands to innovate in health-focused products and leverage the consumption trend," said Sonika Gupta, Executive Director, Customer Success-India at NIQ. In consumer tech, the trend toward health-focused products is evident. Fitness wearables experienced a 59 per cent volume growth, while hot air fryers grew by more than 100 per cent, signalling broader health-conscious behaviour.

India's snack and confectionery industry ranks second in market size across Asia-Pacific, is transforming as urban consumers increasingly seek health-oriented products.

The rise in lifestyle diseases has driven Indian consumers to opt for snacks that align with their health goals.

Study showed that 84 per cent of surveyed urban Indian consumers exercise daily or regularly to keep fit and 48 per cent use a fitness or exercise app.

Smaller, emerging players are challenging established players with competitive offerings, with single-serve packs driving demand and growing 60 per cent faster in smart snacking due to mainstream pricing strategies.

The smart snacking segment's growth is fuelled by consumption rates twice that of the general snacks market.

The consumption preference is driven by small convenient pack sizes that have demonstrated 60 per cent higher growth compared to traditional small packs in the snacking space.

Notably, Smart Snacking has been growing at 16 per cent in terms of value, but recent trends show a slowdown in count of new innovations and product launches, said the report.

India breaks into world's top 6 ranks as patent filings double in last 5 years



New Delhi, Nov 13 (IANS) India's patents and industrial design filings for Intellectual Property rights doubled between 2018 and 2023, taking the country to the sixth rank, according to the latest World Intellectual Property Organisation's (WIPO) annual report.

For the first time, India was included in the top 10 countries of the world for three main intellectual property (IP) rights: patents, industrial design applications, and trademark applications. The patent filing in India has shown the fifth consecutive year of a double-digit growth rate.

According to the WIPO report, the number of patents filed in India in 2023 was 64,480. The country's growth rate in patent filing was 15.7 per cent compared to 2022.

The report states that more than 35 lakh patents were filed worldwide in 2023 and this was the fourth successive year that global patent filing has shown positive growth.

In 2023, the maximum patent filing was in China (1.64 million), followed by the United States of America (518,364), Japan (414,413), South Korea (287,954), Germany (133,053) and India (64,480). Asia remains the top spot for patents, accounting for 68.7 per cent, 66.7 per cent, and 69 per cent of global patent, trademark, and industrial design filing activity, respectively, in 2023.

Intellectual Property Rights refer to the creation by human minds, which do not exist in nature. They include inventions, literary and artistic works, designs, symbols, names, and images used in commerce. Intellectual property Rights are protected by law to prevent their illegal use. Intellectual property rights include Patents, Copyright, Trademarks, Industrial Designs, Geographical Indications, and Trade Secrets.

Patents refer to the exclusive rights given to an invention by a human being, such as the discovery of medicine while copyright refers to creators' rights to their literary and artistic works, such as songs, music, books, etc.

A trademark is a legal term that distinguishes one company's goods or services from those of others. It could be a symbol, design or name that the company uses on its products. An industrial design constitutes the ornamental or aesthetic aspect of mass-produced goods.

The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) was established in 1967 as a United Nations' agency. Based in Geneva in Switzerland, the organisation's main function is to promote the protection of Intellectual Property rights worldwide.

Research links frailty to dementia risk



Sydney, Nov 13 (IANS) An Australian-led international research has found that frailty increases a person's risk of developing dementia.

The study, which was published on Tuesday by the University of Queensland, analysed data collected between 1997 and 2024 from 29,849 people aged 60 and over in the United States and Britain. Of those, 3,154 developed dementia, reports Xinhua news agency.

It found a link between frailty and dementia that researchers believe could boost the prevention of neurodegenerative conditions.

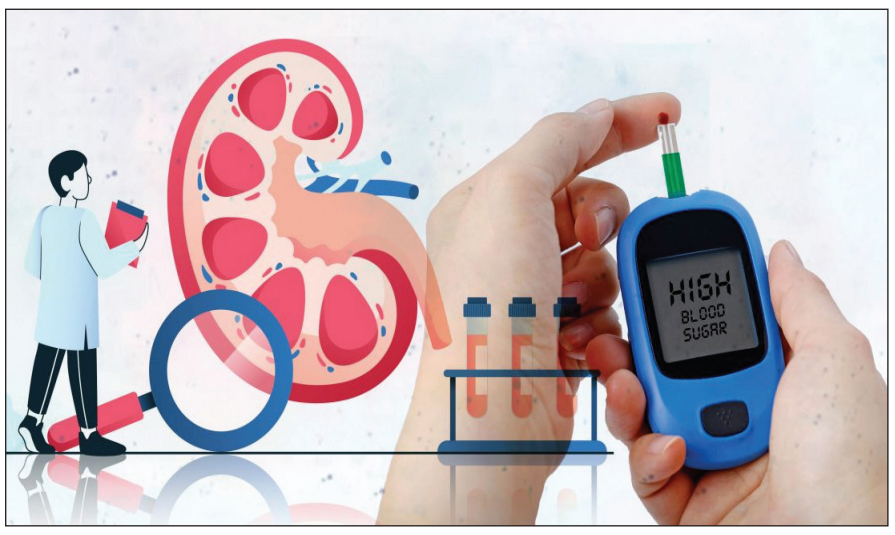
Frailty is a health state related to ageing where organ systems lose their resilience, making a person more likely to experience falls, disability and hospitalisation.

David Ward, lead author of the study from the university's Center for Health Services Research, said that, among the 3,154 analysed people who developed dementia, frailty increased and accelerated nine years prior to a dementia diagnosis. "This suggests frailty is not merely a consequence of undetected dementia but contributes to its onset," he said.

"By understanding the connection between ageing, frailty and dementia, we can use targeted intervention strategies to reduce risk and improve quality of life," he said. He said that the study supports integrating frailty screening into routine health check-ups.

According to the World Health Organization, dementia, a term for several diseases that affect memory, thinking and behaviour, affects over 55 million people globally.

Kidney disease, diabetes may raise heart disease risk 28 years earlier



New Delhi, Nov 13 (IANS) People with chronic kidney disease (CKD), Type 2 diabetes, or both were predicted to have elevated cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk from eight to 28 years sooner than someone without those conditions, according to a preliminary study on Monday.

Scientists from Northwestern University in Chicago conducted a simulation study to estimate the impact of cardiovascular-kidney-metabolic (CKM) syndrome on cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk prediction.

They found that people with CKD alone would have high heart risk eight years earlier than those without the disease. Among diabetics, the risk can hit about a decade sooner than those without it.

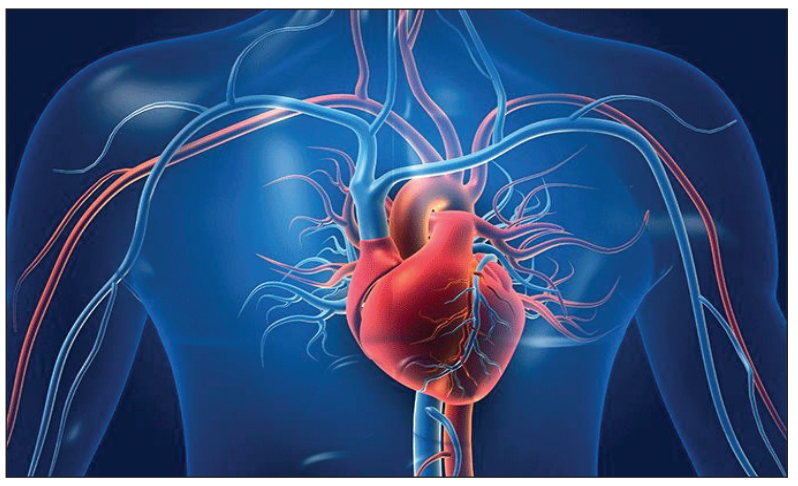
Among people with both diabetes and CKD, women were predicted to reach elevated risk for CVD 26 years earlier and men 28 years earlier than those with neither condition.

"Our findings help to interpret the combination of risk factors that will lead to a high predicted CVD risk and at what age they have an impact on risk," said lead study author Vaishnavi Krishnan, a researcher at Northwestern University.

"For example, if someone has borderline-elevated levels of blood pressure, glucose, and/or impaired kidney function, but they don't yet have hypertension or diabetes or chronic kidney disease, their risk may not be recognised. Understanding how age interacts with risk factor levels is important to optimise CKM health."

The study found that without CKM syndrome, the expected age to reach elevated CVD risk was 68 years for women and 63 for men. However, with CKM components added to the simulated patient profile, the same risk level was predicted to occur at a much younger age. The findings will be presented at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions 2024 to be held from November 16-18 in Chicago.

Even moderate exercise for over 2 hours every week may boost heart health



New Delhi, Nov 13 (IANS) Engaging in moderate-to-vigorous exercise, which can range from taking a brisk walk or cleaning the house to swimming or jogging, at least for 2.5 hours per week may keep your heart healthy, and help reduce the risk of irregular heartbeat (arrhythmia), according to a study on Monday.

The study by researchers at New York University-Langone Health focused on arrhythmia, also known as atrial fibrillation -- a condition in which the heart's upper two chambers beat rapidly and irregularly instead of at a consistent pace. If left untreated, this can lead to stroke, heart failure, and other issues.

The team found that engaging in physical activity between 2.5 and 5 hours per week -- the minimum amount recommended by the American Heart Association, showed a 60 per cent lower risk of developing atrial fibrillation.

People who averaged greater than 5 hours had a slightly greater (65 per cent) reduction.

"Our findings make clear that you do not need to start running marathons to help prevent atrial fibrillation and other forms of heart disease," said preventive cardiologist Sean Heffron, assistant professor in the Department of Medicine at NYU Grossman School of Medicine.

"Just keeping moderately active can, over time, add up to major benefits for maintaining a healthy heart," added Heffron.

For the study, the team used data recorded from the fitness tracker Fitbit to objectively measure physical activity in more than 6,000 men and women across the US.

The results showed that those with higher amounts of weekly physical activity were less likely to develop atrial fibrillation.

Specifically, study participants who averaged between 2.5 and 5 hours per week, the minimum amount recommended by the American Heart Association, showed a 60 per cent lower risk of developing atrial fibrillation. Those who averaged greater than 5 hours had a slightly greater (65 per cent) reduction.

India's IT spending to reach $160 bn in 2025



New Delhi, Nov 13 (IANS) India's IT spending is projected to reach $160 billion in 2025, an increase of 11.2 per cent from 2024, according to a report on Tuesday.

Fuelled by expansion in both application and infrastructure software markets, software spending in India is projected to record the highest annual growth rate, increasing 17 per cent in 2025, according to a Gartner report.

"In 2025, Indian chief information officers (CIOs) will start allocating budgets for generative AI (GenAI) beyond initial proof-of-concept projects," said Naveen Mishra, VP Analyst at Gartner.

"While spending on GenAI will increase, CIOs' expectations for its capabilities will diminish. Additionally, Indian CIOs are expected to significantly boost spending on technologies such as cybersecurity, business intelligence, and data analytics in 2025 compared to 2024," Mishra added.

The price premium of GenAI-enabled offerings across customer relationship management (CRM), email and authoring, and analytic platforms will drive software spending, resulting in growth of this segment. By 2025, more than 50 per cent of application software offerings with GenAI capabilities will carry an associated price premium. Pricing options will continue to evolve through 2025 as buyers are tested for their willingness to pay a GenAI premium.

Despite the global services market being characterized by cautious spending, macroeconomic uncertainty, and higher capital costs, IT services spending in India is projected to grow 11.4 per cent in 2025.

"Service engagements around cloud, application, and consulting are expected to drive stronger growth in India. Furthermore, GenAI's role in delivering industry use cases and improving labour productivity will be a key expectation from Indian enterprises in 2025 and beyond," according to the report.

Spending on data centre systems in India is projected to total $4.7 billion in 2025, fuelled by the rising enterprise need for new infrastructure to support AI integration.

Trump nominates South Dakota governor to head Homeland Security



New York, Nov 13 (IANS) US President-elect Donald Trump is nominating South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem as his Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, which controls immigration-related agencies, according to media reports.

Her nomination would complete the trio of positions impacting Trump's high-priority immigration agenda. that includes mass deportation of illegal migrants.

While there has been no official notification, multiple news outlets on Tuesday quoted knowledgeable sources confirming Trump's choice.

She was reported to have been on Trump's shortlist of Vice President candidates.

When confirmed by the Senate, she will work with Border Czar Tom Homan and Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller on immigration matters.

She shares their and Trump's hardline stand on immigration and sent South Dakota's National Guard to Texas in support of Republican Governor Greg Abbott's border control action in defiance of President Joe Biden's administration.

Noem also offered to send razor wires to reinforce Abbott's barriers along the border, which the Supreme Court ordered to be removed.

Her sprawling department has a broad reach over internal security.

It includes Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which is in charge of deportations; Customs and Border Protection, which deploys border agents, and Citizenship and Immigration Service, which processes applications for immigration and citizenship. She will also have charge of the Secret Service, which provides VIP security and has been criticised for failing to stop the shooter in the first assassination attempt against Trump.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Transportation Security Administration, the Coast Guard, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency are also under the department.

Noem held the state's lone House of Representatives seat before she was elected Governor.

She describes herself as a rancher and farmer and tries to present a picture of her as a down-to-earth frontiersperson.

In her pugnacious memoir, "No Going Back," she talked about shooting her dog during a hunt because it was very aggressive and could not be trained and cited it as an example of her firmness in carrying out necessary "difficult, messy, and ugly" actions.

Media had reported on Monday that Florida Senator Marco Rubio was Trump's pick for Secretary of State, but it has not been confirmed officially by Tuesday evening, although other appointments have been announced.

Palestine planning Arab consultations on strategy for dealing with US

Ramallah, Nov 13 (IANS) A Palestinian official has said that the Palestinian Authority is preparing to hold consultations with Arab countries to develop a strategy for dealing with the current and upcoming US administrations.

"We are set to hold consultations with Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, and other Arab countries to develop a vision and approach for two phases," said Hussein al-Sheikh, Secretary-General of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, in a statement to Palestine TV on Tuesday.

During the first phase, until January 20, 2025, when US President-elect Donald Trump is scheduled to be sworn in and take office, the current US administration "is expected to push strongly to end the war in Palestine and Lebanon and to recognise the Palestinian state," al-Sheikh added as reported by Xinhua news agency.

As for the second phase, when the US Republicans take power, Al-Sheikh noted, "With our Arab brothers, we seek to develop a comprehensive political approach regarding both the Gaza Strip and the future of the Palestinian cause."

"We are working on formulating a joint position to present as an Arab initiative to the US and the international community in general," he said, hoping this could be accomplished soon.

Al-Sheikh added that the Palestinian Authority is in contact with the US administration on multiple levels.

South Korea to focus on addressing dwindling population in rural regions



Seoul, Nov 13 (IANS) South Korea's agricultural ministry said on Wednesday that it will continue efforts to address the dwindling population in rural regions by bolstering medical infrastructure and improving farmers' welfare.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs outlined the initiative in a report marking the start of the second half of the Yoon Suk Yeol administration, noting that it aims to expand the social safety net in rural areas to combat the ongoing population exodus, Yonhap news agency reported.

"During the past two-and-a-half years, there have been many achievements, but there are still pressing issues, including rice supply instability, the population crisis in rural regions and climate change," Agriculture Minister Song Mi-ryung said.

"The government will address the changing climate and demographic environment to transform the agricultural sector into a new growth engine and transform rural areas into a land of opportunity for the people," she added.

The ministry, meanwhile, noted that South Korea has maintained stable growth in food exports this year, which reached a record high of $8.2 billion during the January-October period.

It also highlighted progress in taming inflation in agricultural products, with consumer prices in the sector rising 1.1 per cent on-year in October, compared with a 9.8 per cent increase in May.

South Africa expects G20 summit to strengthen multilateralism



Johannesburg, Nov 13 (IANS) South Africa expects the upcoming G20 summit to strengthen multilateralism and reform the global institutions of governance, South Africa's top diplomat said.

Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Ronald Lamola made the remarks on Tuesday while briefing the media in Pretoria, South African administrative capital, about the implementation of his country's foreign policy and upcoming engagements.

He said that the G20 Leaders' Summit, scheduled from November 18 to 19 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is the moment when heads of state and government approve the agreements negotiated throughout the year and point out ways of dealing with global challenges, Xinhua news agency reported.

"South Africa is already playing an enhanced role as a member of the G20 Troika, together with Brazil and India, in support of one of Brazil's foremost priorities on the reform of the global governance institutions wherein G20 leaders are expected to advance efforts for a reinvigorated and strengthened multilateral system, rooted in the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law, with renewed institutions and a reformed governance that is more representative, effective, transparent, and accountable, reflecting the social, economic, and political realities of the 21st century," said Lamola.

He pointed out that in terms of promoting the interests of the Global South, South Africa considers the G20 to be an important vehicle for advancing the aspirations of developing countries and Africa's development priorities in particular. It is expected that the G20 will continue to support emerging and developing economies to achieve sustainable development, Lamola added.

South Africa will assume the G20 Presidency on December 1 and will host the summit in 2025.

India hosts senior cancer physicians, policymakers from Bay of Bengal countries



Mumbai, Nov 13 (IANS) In a significant step towards bolstering regional health cooperation, India hosted senior cancer physicians and policymakers from BIMSTEC countries during the annual meeting of National Cancer Grid (NCG) held at Mumbai's Tata Memorial Hospital last week, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) revealed on Wednesday.

The NCG is a collaborative network of over 360 cancer centres, research institutes, patient groups and professional societies in India and 15 other countries. The initiative is another step towards strengthening regional cooperation in the field of health among the member countries of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) grouping.

The meeting familiarised participants with the NCG activities, allowing for first-hand engagement in cancer control and laying the groundwork for future cooperation.

A key focus of the meeting was the exchange of ideas through brainstorming sessions on initiatives like Virtual Tumor Boards, workforce development for cancer care, assistance with cancer registries, and twinning cancer centres to foster long-term collaboration.

"This initiative will provide a major boost to BIMSTEC cooperation in the health sector, enhancing cancer control efforts across the region and strengthening the larger BIMSTEC partnership," the MEA stated.

The event featured 27 international leaders from 14 countries, marking the implementation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 10-point agenda set at the 21st ASEAN-India Summit in October 2024.

The gathering also included five senior cancer physicians and policymakers from three BIMSTEC nations, with MEA support. The discussions highlighted ways for ASEAN and BIMSTEC representatives to collaboratively support cancer control efforts in the region.

Founded in 1997, BIMSTEC has grown from its original four member states -- Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand -- to include Myanmar, Bhutan, and Nepal, supporting regional collaboration on a variety of issues, including healthcare.

Four-day Africa Tech Festival 2024 kicks off in Cape Town

Cape Town, Nov 13 (IANS) The Africa Tech Festival 2024 kicked off in Cape Town, the legislative capital of South Africa. By bringing together global technology and telecom leaders, entrepreneurs, and policymakers, the festival, one of the largest and most influential telecom and technology events in Africa, aims to drive digital transformation and innovation across the continent.

Now in its 27th edition, this year's Africa Tech Festival, held from November 12 to 14 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, features four key events: AfricaCom, AfricaTech, AfricaIgnite, and the AI Summit Cape Town. It is expected to attract over 15,000 attendees, more than 300 exhibitors, and 450 speakers from across the continent and beyond, Xinhua news agency reported.

South African Minister of Communication and Digital Technologies Solly Malatsi called for unified efforts to advance Africa's digital future during the festival's official opening on Tuesday.

"Today, we stand on the brink of transformative opportunities. The digital era has opened doors for growth and inclusion across the continent, creating new pathways for economic and social progress," Malatsi said.

The minister said that South Africa is working toward building a digital economy. "However, we cannot achieve this vision through government efforts alone. It requires collaboration across the sector. I invite all our partners to bring their expertise, ideas, and solutions to advance Africa's digital future."

Citing studies, Malatsi said that achieving 100 per cent internet penetration in sub-Saharan Africa could boost the region's economic growth by an additional 1.5 per cent annually, creating millions of jobs and driving economic inclusion. Universal connectivity in Africa could lift over 44 million people out of extreme poverty.

"Together, we will build an Africa where technology empowers all her people, united by shared growth and mutual success," he said.

S.Korea, US-developed solar coronagraph installed at International Space Station

Seoul, Nov 13 (IANS) A solar coronagraph jointly developed by South Korea and the United States has been successfully installed on the International Space Station (ISS) to begin its mission of observing the sun and its outer atmosphere, or corona, Seoul's national space agency said on Wednesday.

The Coronal Diagnostic Experiment (CODEX) was installed on the ISS's external platform, successfully received power, and established communications, according to the Korea Aerospace Administration (KASA), Yonhap news agency reported.

CODEX, a collaboration between the Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute and the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), will perform solar observation missions for up to two years following a one-month test run, starting next year.

CODEX is the world's first coronagraph designed to observe the temperature and velocity of the solar wind in addition to the density, KASA said, noting it will help researchers better understand the solar wind and predict the space weather.

KASA has also joined hands with NASA to conduct studies related to the Moon exploration Artemis programme.

According to officials, the agreement with NASA aims to conduct research projects for sustainable exploration of the Moon and preparations for Mars exploration, Yonhap reported.

KASA and NASA will also collaborate to conduct feasibility studies on lunar landers, space communications, positioning, navigation and timing, tools and applications to support astronauts, and space-based life sciences and medical operations.

The project includes lunar surface science and autonomous power, robotics, mobility systems, and activities in the cis-lunar space, which refers to the region of space between the Earth and the Moon.

South Korea, US, Japan to hold 2nd trilateral Freedom Edge exercise this week



Seoul, Nov 13 (IANS) South Korea, the US and Japan are set to begin their second trilateral multi-domain exercise on Wednesday, the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said, in a display of joint deterrence against threats posed by North Korea amid its deepening alignment with Russia.

The three-day exercise will take place in international waters south of South Korea's southern resort island of Jeju, the JCS said, around four months after the inaugural exercise was conducted in accordance with an agreement reached by the leaders of the nations last year.

The second round of the Freedom Edge exercise will mobilise various warships and aircraft, including the US Navy's USS George Washington aircraft carrier as well as F-35 stealth fighters, the South's ROKS Seoae Ryu Seong-ryong destroyer and Japan's JS Haguro destroyer, Yonhap news agency reported.

The nuclear-powered USS George Washington is a supercarrier measuring 332 metres in length and 78 metres in width and has an 18,210-square-metre flight deck. It was redelivered to the US Navy last year after a six-year overhaul.

"This iteration demonstrates state-of-the-art air defence capabilities with the integration of 5th generation fighters into a sophisticated multi-domain defence infrastructure. Their incorporation ... ensures that their combined military and self-defence forces can operate together at the highest level against any threat," the US Indo-Pacific Command said in a release.

The JCS said the exercise will span across an array of areas including air defence, ballistic missile defence, anti-submarine warfare, maritime interdiction and defensive cyber training.

"The three nations have strongly condemned North Korea's provocative acts, including the test-launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), that threaten peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and within the region," the JCS said. "The exercise reflects the will to deter and respond to such threats."

The North launched the new Hwasong-19 ICBM on October 31 and called it an "ultimate" version of its long-range missile series. The missile reached the highest altitude and flew for the longest time.

The drills came amid growing concerns that North Korea's troop deployment to Russia could escalate Moscow's protracted war with Ukraine.

In August last year, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, US President Joe Biden and then Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida agreed to hold "annual, named, multidomain" trilateral exercises on a regular basis during their summit at Camp David as part of efforts to deter evolving nuclear and missile threats from North Korea.

In July this year, the defence chiefs of the three nations signed the Trilateral Security Cooperation Framework, in a move seen as formalising their security cooperation and strengthening cooperation against North Korea's nuclear and missile threats, including conducting regular joint drills.

North Korea has long denounced joint military drills as rehearsals for an invasion and used them as a pretext for provocations. Following the first Freedom Edge exercise in June, North Korea criticised the drills as an attempt to strengthen a US-led military bloc.

HEALTH

Diabetes Remission vs. Reversal: Dr. Kalyan Kumar of BNH shares insight

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Nov 13: Dr. Kalyan Kumar, a leading diabetes specialist at Brahmananda Narayana Hospital, is pioneering a hopeful approach to diabetes management with a focus on remission rather than full reversal. Recently, both the World Health Organization (WHO) and American Diabetes Association (ADA) emphasized the concept of diabetes remission. They define it as maintaining an HbA1c level below 6.5% without the need for medication or insulin for at least three months. This is achievable in patients diagnosed within the last six years, depending on the health of their insulin-producing beta cells, which are impacted by obesity and high blood sugar. A weight loss of 5-10% can improve metabolism, while 10-15% may lead to remission. Through medications, diet management, and dedication, patients can lower their BMI, total body fat, and visceral fat. Dr. Kumar notes that sustaining weight loss is the main challenge but essential for beta cell health and remission, which can be categorized as partial, complete, or prolonged. "Diabetes is no longer a one-size-fits-all condition," Dr. Kumar shared.

"With the right treatment, lifestyle adjustments, and monitoring, we're seeing cases where patients achieve remission, managing blood sugar without medication. Early intervention is key."

Dr. Kumar's protocol includes a tailored Very Low Carbohydrate Diet (VLCD), Very Low Energy Diet (VLED), regular exercise, and, where needed, medication. He also emphasizes stress management, proper sleep, and maintaining a healthy weight, all of which contribute to improved insulin sensitivity and reduced medication dependency.

Rashmika reveals amazing' details about 'Pushpa: The Rule'



Mumbai, Nov 13 (IANS) Actress Rashmika Mandanna has promised that "Pushpa: The Rule" is going to be an exciting ride. She revealed that the "first half is amazing, the second half is even more so."

Rashmika took to Instagram, where she shared a picture from the dubbing session, which she captioned as: "#Pushpa The Rule #Dubbing Session On."

She then "got down to business" and revealed details about the upcoming film, which is directed by Sukumar. She wrote: "Now that the fun and games are over, let's get down to business!! Meaning- 1- Pushpa shoot is almost done.. 2- Pushpa the rule - duo for the first half is over.. 3- 1 am Dubbing for the second half and MY GOD!"

The actress went on to reveal: "The film's-first half is already freaking amazing and the second half is even more so.. I am literally short on words.. You guys are really really in for a mind blowing experience!!! I can't waitttttt!"

"Ps: this face is for the shoot almost getting over and I am sad about it!!"

On November 10, the makers of the film dropped a poster featuring Sreeleela's special number from Allu Arjun-starrer "Pushpa 2: The Rule"

The makers of the film took to Instagram, and shared the poster for the song. They wrote in the caption, "Team #Pushpa2TheRule welcomes The Dancing Queen @sreeleela14 on board for the #Kissik Song of the Year. This song is going to be a dance feast and a musical delight. GRAND RELEASE WORLDWIDE ON 5th DECEMBER, 2024. #Pushpa2TheRuleOnDec5th".

The song is choreographed by Ganesh Acharya. The song, which is expected to be a key highlight of the film, will feature Sreeleela in a glamorous avatar similar to Samantha Ruth Prabhu's appearance in ' Oo Antava'.

'Pushpa 2: The Rule' also stars Fahadh Faasil in pivotal roles. Pushpa has indeed become a brand in the country that has set a new benchmark of success.

Directed by Sukumar and produced by Mythri Movie Makers, the music of the film is from T Series.

'Pushpa 2: The Rule' went through production delays as the makers moved its release date from August 15 to December 6.

The release date was once again changed to December 5. The film was earlier supposed to clash with the Vicky Kaushal-starrer 'Chhaava' which is based on the life of Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the son of Indian warrior-king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

However, the makers of 'Chhaava' have reportedly moved the film's release date in order to avoid the clash.

'Pushpa 2: The Rule' is set to arrive in cinemas on December 5, 2024.

Salman has no association with The Great Indian Kapil Show, clarifies Actor's representative

Mumbai, Nov 13 (IANS) In a recent development, Salman Khan's representative has clarified that the actor has no association with the show "The Great Indian Kapil Show" on Netflix. In a statement, Khan's representative for Legal Notice of the Bongo Bhashi Mahasabha Foundation said, "We are not associated with The Great Indian Kapil Show on Netflix.

Certain sections of the media are reporting that Salman Khan / SKTV have also received the notice, which is incorrect as we are not associated with The Great Indian Kapil Show on Netflix. The statement from the actor's team also clarified that the production house is no longer associated with any operations of the show aired on Netflix and is not affected by the legal notice in any way.

According to a notice issued on behalf of Dr. Mondal, represented by legal advisor Nripendra Krishna Roy, "The Great Indian Kapil Show" is alleged to tarnish the legacy of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore and potentially offend cultural and religious sentiments.

Vicky Kaushal to play 'eternal warrior of dharma' Chiranjeevi Parashurama in 'Mahavatar'



Mumbai, Nov 13 (IANS) Bollywood star Vicky Kaushal is all set to play Chiranjeevi Parashurama in the upcoming film "Mahavatar" directed by Amar Kaushik. The film is slated to release in December 2026.

Vicky took to Instagram, where he shared a string of posters of the film, featuring him. The actor looks unrecognizable as he sports long hair and a long rugged beard. In one poster, the actor is seen sporting a rust hued dhoti along with Rudraksh on his wrist and arm. He is even seen carrying a weapon.

For the caption, Vicky wrote: "Dinesh Vijan brings to life the story of the eternal warrior of dharma! Vicky Kaushal stars as Chiranjeevi Parashurama in #Mahavatar, directed by Amar Kaushik. Coming to cinemas - Christmas 2026!"

Other details about the film are under wraps.

Talking about Parashuram, who is also known as Parashuram Avatar, was the sixth important avatar of Lord Vishnu. In this avatar, Lord Vishnu was in the form of a human. He came to Earth to stop Chakravarti Samrat Karthaveerya Arjuna as he had turned evil due to his ego and non-humility.

It is believed that Parashurama was Chiranjeevi, meaning he was immortal. He was a great devotee of Lord Shiva. Born as Ramabhadra of the Bhargava Clan (headed by Bhrigu, one of the Manvantaras of Lord Brahma), he later gained the name of Parashurama when he obtained Mahakaal's Parashu (axe weapon) and lead the Devas to victory against the Asuras in a war in which the Devas were losing.

According to reports, he also played a vital role in Mahabharata, teaching Bheeshma, Dronacharya and Karna the art of war and weaponry and fought against Bheeshma to fulfil Amba's request to kill Bheeshma, though he failed to do so. He was a master of weapons and especially the Parashu and the bow he wields.

'Tere Mere Darmiyan' from Vikrant Massey-starrer 'The Sabarmati Report' captures feeling of heartbreak

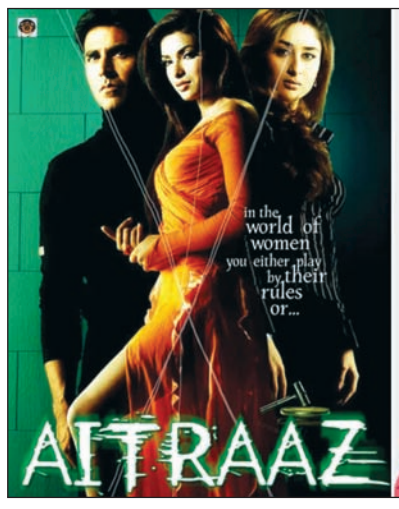
Mumbai, Nov 13 (IANS) The song 'Tere Mere Darmiyan' from the upcoming Vikrant Massey-starrer movie 'The Sabarmati Report' hit the airwaves on Wednesday. The video of the song features Vikrant Massey and Barkha Singh. The song is a heartbreak track that tugs at the heartstrings. It captures the feeling when love and life collide.

The song is composed by Akhil Sachdeva, and is crooned by Akhil Sachdeva himself and has also penned the lyrics for the song. It showcases the pain of unfulfilled love and the longing of an unrequited dream.

Meanwhile, 'The Sabarmati Report' is based on the burning of the Sabarmati Express train. The tragic incident occurred on February 27, 2002, when a mob set fire to the S6 coach of the Sabarmati Express near the Godhra railway station in Gujarat. In the film, the actor plays a Hindi journalist, who stands up to the system because he wants the truth to be covered in the reportage.

Earlier, Vikrant spoke about the responsibility of the media in bringing out the truth. The actor told IANS, "All the news channels today are competing with each other, not with regards to their reportage, but for their ratings. Everyone claims to be number one. That is why perhaps you will find a fact-checking department in every media organisation. The more the information, the more misinformation there is. Why I call it a double-edged sword, and I do not blame those sensational news channels either, is because people want to see it.

As 'Aitraaz' turns 20, producer Subhash Ghai announces 'Aitraaz 2'





Mumbai, Nov 13 (IANS) As Priyanka Chopra, Akshay Kumar and Kareena Kapoor Khan-starrer "Aitraaz" completed two decades in Hindi cinema, filmmaker Subhash Ghai on Wednesday morning announced "Aitraaz 2" with "with a finest script" and "3 years of hard work".

Subhash took to Instagram, where he shared a still from the film featuring Priyanka. Alongside the picture, the filmmaker heaped praise on the actress and said that she "dared and did it."

"BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL PRIYANKA CHOPRA DARED N DID IT. That's why cine lovers can not forget her performance even after 20 years today in #AITRAZ - produced my Mukta arts… When she was too apprehensive to do this role of an ardent ambitious woman but did it with full confidence."

The filmmaker then announced the second installment.

"Now MUKTA ARTS is ready for AITRAZ 2 with a finest script with 3 years of hard work Just wait n watch." Released in 2004, the romantic thriller was directed by Abbas-Mustan and produced by Subhash Ghai. It tells the story of a man accused of sexual harassment by his female superior, and was released on 12 November 2004 to positive reviews. Loosely based on the 1994 film Disclosure, the film was a major commercial success and has been noted for its bold subject of sexual harassment.

Ghai is one of the most prominent and successful filmmakers of Hindi cinema throughout the 80s and 90s. His most notable works include Kalicharan, Vishwanath, Karz, Hero, Vidhaata , Meri Jung, Karma, Ram Lakhan, Saudagar, Khalnayak, Pardes and Taal.

It was in 1982, when he kickstarted with his Mukta Arts Private Limited. In 2006, he received the National Film Award for Best Film on Other Social Issues for producing the social problem film Iqbal.

The filmmaker's last work was "36 Farmhouse", which was released in 2022.

It is written by Subhash Ghai and directed by Ram Ramesh Sharma. It stars Amol Parashar, Barkha Singh, Vijay Raaz, Madhuri Bhatia, Sanjay Mishra and Flora Saini in pivotal roles.

Shruti used to get 'irked' when people asked her about dad Kamal



Mumbai, Nov 13 (IANS) Actress Shruti Haasan recently shared how during her early years, she would sometimes pretend to be someone else to avoid constant questions about her famous father. Kamal Haasan.

Seeking to carve out her own identity, the actress opened up about her desire to be seen beyond her father's shadow and how she struggled with being associated with his towering legacy. In a recent interview, Haasan discussed growing up with her famous parents and the challenges she faced in coping with their immense stardom.

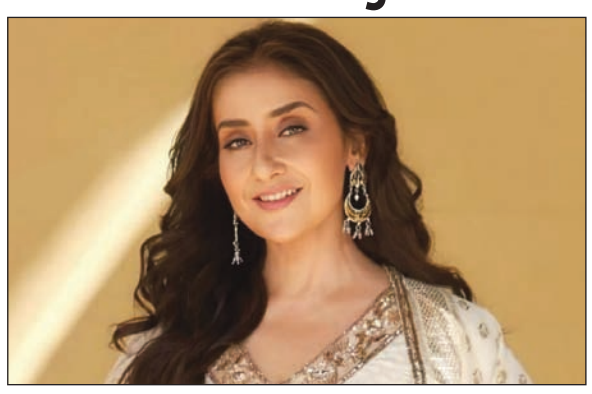
The Ramaiya Vastavaiya actress stated that while she is "very proud" of being the daughter of Sarika and Kamal Haasan, she was often irked as a child when people constantly asked her about her father. She was quoted saying, "People would constantly ask me about him, it was like all the time. I would feel like, I am Shruti, I want my own identity. People would point at me and say, 'Hey, that's Kamal's daughter'. If anyone asked me, I would say, 'No, my father is Dr Ramachandran', it was our dentist's name. 'And I am Pooja Ramachandran', a name I made up."

Shruti also mentioned that she always knew her father was unlike anyone else she had encountered, and living in Chennai made it challenging for her to escape his widespread fame.

"It's not just that my dad is an actor or a famous person, I knew from childhood that he was different from anyone I met. I was brought up by two stubborn people and that rubbed off on me and my sister. I moved to Bombay when they separated. I never enjoyed being Shruti here (in Chennai). It's difficult to separate from his fame when there are appa's posters all over the place. Today, I don't even want to imagine Shruti without Kamal Haasan," the actress added.

For the unversed, Sarika and Kamal Haasan married in 1988. However, the couple separated in 2004 after filing for divorce in 2002.

Manisha Koirala talks about facing the fears



Mumbai, Nov 13 (IANS) Actress Manisha Koirala, who was recently seen in the period drama streaming series 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar', finally overcame her fear of riding a cycle in a public place.

On Wednesday, the actress took to her Instagram, and shared two pictures from her cycling on the road session. She also penned a long note in the caption talking about the sense of victory that she felt after leaving her fear behind.

She wrote, "Overcome fear and finding joy. I finally conquered my fear of cycling in traffic today! After 2 years off the saddle, I was nervous, but a good friend Sarosh Pradhan nudged me and kept insisting I need to overcome fear. I'm very lucky to have good friends around me to guide me when I slide a bit. I'm hugely grateful !!!And to my own determination which pushed me to take the leap".

The actress also spoke about her learning curve, and shared that fears are smaller than what they seem to be. She also advised not to hold onto expectations too tightly.

She further mentioned, "What I learned: Face your fears, they're often smaller than they seem. Balance and focus are key to navigating life's twists and turns. Hold on lightly, don't cling too tightly to expectations. Small steps lead to big victories.

Mindfulness keeps you present and grounded. Joy can be found in discomfort and growth". "Cycling taught me valuable life lessons today: Self-trust Growth mindset Mind-body connection Above all be surrounded with great people or person. I'm grateful for this experience and excited to apply these lessons to other areas of my life! Who else has overcome fears or procrastination to discover something amazing? Share your stories (sic)", she added.

Sunburn Goa 2024 to be held at Dhargalim in North Goa



Mumbai, Nov 13 (IANS) The upcoming edition of the electronic dance music (EDM) festival Sunburn Goa has a new venue. The festival will be held at Dhargalim in North Goa from December 28 to 30, 2024. The festival aims to blend world class performances, visuals, art and nature.

Dhargalim, which is known for its vast open fields, rich greenery and proximity to many stunning beaches like Mandrem, Ashwem, Arambol, Baga, Calangute and Morjim, offers the perfect blend of natural beauty allowing for cutting-edge festival infrastructure, a staple at Sunburn Goa every year. The region's natural allure is complemented by its close proximity to Goa's rich cultural landmarks, promising attendees an immersive Goan experience. The venue is situated just 15 km from the newly opened Mopa Airport (Manohar International Airport).

Karan Singh, CEO of Sunburn, said, "Relocating to Dhargalim in North Goa provides a vibrant and expansive backdrop that embodies the essence of Sunburn Goa. This transition enables us to enhance the festival experience and cultivate a more immersive atmosphere".

He further mentioned, "With stellar performances from both international and Indian artists, we are confident that Sunburn Goa 2024 will forge unforgettable memories. Dhargalim eagerly awaits its guests, and we believe this new setting will elevate the festival to unprecedented heights".

This edition of the festival will be headlined by Skrillex and Swedish EDM legend Alesso, along with South Korean techno queen Peggy Gou. Joining them is KSHMR, a crowd favourite for his unique fusion of Indian and Western influences, Yellow Claw, the Dutch electronic duo and ARGY.

Sunburn Goa 2024 has the theme of an underwater paradise crafting an eccentric visual and an immersive festival experience. Attendees can look forward to exploring pop-up apparel stores, indulge in a curated food village featuring a fusion of local and international cuisines.

Fans can expect jaw-dropping sets from artistes such as Ahadadream B2B Manara, Hamdi B2B Sicaria, Cosmic Gate, Sam Gellaitry and Joel Corry, along with a diverse line-up of over 150 performances featuring acts like 19:26, Ares Carter, Broz Rodriguez, DJ Lion, Gian Nobilee, Teri Miko and Julia Bliss.

Kumamoto Masters Japan 2024: Sindhu advances, Lakshya ousted in first round

Kumamoto (Japan), Nov13 (IANS) P.V. Sindhu won her first-round clash while Lakshya Sen crashed out of the men's singles draw as India had a mixed day in the Kumamoto Masters Japan 2024, the BWF World Tour Super 500 series badminton event here on Wednesday.

Two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu, who is hoping to make up for a disappointing season by winning the women's singles title in this event, defeated eighth seed Busanan Ongbamrungphan of Thailand 21-12, 21-8 in 52 minutes on Court 1 at the Kumamoto Prefectural Gymnasium.

Lakshya Sen, the Paris Olympic Games semifinalist, ran into Malaysia's Leong Jun Hao and crashed out in three games, losing 22-20, 17-21, 16-21 in a 74-minute battle of attrition.

India's top women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand lost in the first round



on Tuesday.

Seeking to win her first title since the Singapore Open in 2022 and end a 24-month drought, Sindhu did not have a good start as Ongbamrungphan opened up a 5-1 lead. But the Indian shuttler, ranked 20th in BWF Rankings, fought back her way into the game and was leading 11-10 at the break.

The 29-year-old Sindhu took total control of the game after that as she won seven points in succession to win the first game. She continued at the same tempo in the second game and took a 4-0 lead before the Thai girl won her first point.

Ongbamrungphan tried to fight back in the second game but Sindhu was in a good rhythm and in dominant form as she won 11 of the last 12 points to breeze to victory and set up a second-round clash with Michelle Li of Canada in the second round in the draw of 32 players. Michelle Li beat Japan's Natsuki Nidaira in straight games in her opening-round match.

On Court 4 at the Kumamoto Prefectural Gymnasium, Sen started on a positive note against Leong Jun Hao, coming back from a 13-16 deficit to win the opening game 22-20. However, he could not maintain the same composure in the next two games, going down in both despite putting up a fighting display.

India women to play white-ball series against West Indies, Ireland in December-January

New Delhi, Nov 13 (IANS) The India women's cricket team will be playing white-ball games against West Indies and Ireland from December 15 to January 15, 2025, said the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Wednesday. West Indies last toured India in November 2016, when they won the T20I series 3-0, while India emerged victorious in ODIs by the same margin in Vijayawada, the BCCI informed in a statement on Wednesday.

On the other hand, Ireland will be playing a bilateral ODI series against India for the first time. Their previous meeting has been in T20 World Cups, where India won on both occasions, the statement said.

The white-ball matches will be played after India



return from their three-match ODI tour of Australia, taking place in Brisbane and Perth from December 5-11. India will begin with a three-match T20I series against West Indies at the D.Y. Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai.

The three T20Is will be held on December 15, 17, and 19 at 7 pm local time. It is followed by three ODIs between India and the West Indies in Baroda on December 22, 24, and 27, with the last game to start at 9:30 am local time.

After a short break to ring in the New Year, India will take on Ireland in a three-match ODI series in Rajkot on January 10, 12, and 15, with a start time of 11 am. India's ODI series against West Indies and Ireland are a part of the ongoing 2022-2025 ICC Women's Championship cycle.

Unseeded Balaji enters quarters of Men's National Ranking Tennis Tournament

Jamshedpur, November 13: Dream run for unseeded Rohith Hari Balaji continues as he enters the quarter finals of the Men's Singles category at the ongoing Beldih Club AITA Men's National Ranking Tennis Tournament 2024 (1 Lac Prize Money), been held at the sand-clay courts of the Beldih Club, Jamshedpur.

Tamil Nadu's Balaji proved to be too good for the hard hitting Arnav Kapoor of Himachal Pradesh as the former won by an easy 6-2,6-2. Balaji will face Assam's Sidhant Deka in the quarter finals tomorrow who today got the better of Bengal's Shagnik Bose by a dominating 6-2,6-0.

Local lad Dev Sinha, seeded 4 in the draw, fought a marathon match against Bengal's Shounak Chatterjee, aged 17 years, before losing out by a close 4-6,6-4,2-6. Chatterjee will face Anand Prakash Gupta of UP in the quarter finals tomorrow.

2nd seeded Pratyush Mohanty of Odisha had a comparatively easy day today as he outclassed Bengal's Rishabh Shah by a straight 6-2,6-3. In the quarters tomorrow, Mohanty will meet Bengal's Rohan Mondal who in turn upset 8th seeded Balabhadra Behera of Odisha by a comfortable 6-0,6-2.

Matches will start from 8:00 am tomorrow.

Mark Waugh sees ODI cricket 'phasing out' beyond major tournaments

New Delhi, Nov 13 (IANS) As Australia grapples with a tight international schedule, cricket legend Mark Waugh foresees a future where One-Day International (ODI) cricket is largely reserved for major tournaments like the ICC World Cup and Champions Trophy.

Waugh, reflecting on Australia's recent 1-2 ODI series loss to Pakistan with a second-string side, has voiced a realistic yet bittersweet prediction: that the traditional 50-over format may be squeezed out in favour of the shorter T20 format and Test matches outside of high-stakes competitions.

The Australian side, missing



star Test players Pat Cummins, Steve Smith, Marnus Labuschagne, Mitchell Starc, and Josh Hazlewood, struggled in the absence of its senior players. After Cummins' heroics in the first ODI helped clinch a close win, his subsequent rest, along with other Test stars, left an inexperienced lineup that suffered back-to-back crushing losses, marked by poor batting display's which saw the WC winners being dismissed for just 163 and 140 runs respectively in the second and third ODI respectively.

It was Australia's first ODI home series defeat to Pakistan since 2002, and the performance spurred cricket commentators Ian Healy and Michael Clarke to suggest that Cricket Australia may be losing interest in low-stakes bilateral series.

For Waugh, one of Australia's greatest ODI players with 18 international centuries, the format's dilution through bilateral series has become apparent.

"I think you're spot on. The World Cup and the Champions Trophies are still great events.

Amandeep Johl appointed as CEO of Professional Golf Tour of India



New Delhi, Nov 13 (IANS) The Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) announced the appointment of Amandeep Johl as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) from January 2025.

The appointment comes alongside another recent significant leadership addition, with the legendary cricketer Kapil Dev assuming the role of PGTI President in June this year.

Johl replaces Uttam Singh Mundy, who has essayed a key role in the organization since its inception.

Johl, who until recently was on the PGTI board, will take charge from 1st January, 2025. In the interim period until 31st December, 2024, he will be assisting Mundy in completing the handover process.

Welcoming Johl's elevation to CEO, Kapil Dev said: "Amandeep has been on the Indian and Asian golf circuit for nearly 34 years and it is just apt that somebody who is so entrenched in the sport leads the PGTI. These are exciting times for golf in India and with Amandeep at the helm, the PGTI looks forward to strengthening its presence, in India and around the world."

The legendary cricket all-rounder hailed the outgoing CEO for his contribution to PGTI and Indian golf. "Uttam Mundy's commitment and vision have been instrumental in establishing PGTI as the premier professional golf tour in India, and his contributions are deeply appreciated," he said.

Shaheen Afridi reclaims top spot in ODI bowlers rankings

Dubai, Nov 13 (IANS) Pakistan's premier fast bowler Shaheen Afridi has reclaimed the No.1 position in the ICC Men's ODI Bowler Rankings, a spot he initially held during last year's Cricket World Cup in India.

Afridi's recent performance in Pakistan's victorious series against Australia, where he claimed eight wickets across three games at an impressive average of 12.62, helped propel him to the top spot once more.

Afridi's rise comes as part of a reshuffling in the rankings, with South Africa's spinner Keshav Maharaj slipping to third and Afghanistan's Rashid Khan maintaining his position at second.

Afridi's dominance on the field, combined with Pakistan captain Babar Azam's leading spot in the ODI batting rankings, makes Pakistan the only team with the No.1-ranked player in both ODI batting and bowling.

Babar, who scored 80 runs against Australia with only one dismissal, continues to hold the top batter rankings. Afridi wasn't the only Pakistani bowler making strides. Haris Rauf surged up the ranks to reach a career-



best 13th spot, following his Player of the Series performance against Australia with 10 wickets.

Naseem Shah also achieved a new career-high, advancing 14 spots to 55th overall. Additionally, Pakistan's new ODI captain, Mohammad Rizwan, climbed to 23rd on the batting charts after a series against Australia.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto rose 11 places to share the 23rd spot among ODI batters, while Afghanistan's Azmatullah Omarzai improved his position to 31st.

On the ODI bowling front, West Indies' Gudakesh Motie and Bangladesh's Mehidy Hasan Miraz saw gains, with Mehidy rising nine spots to 23rd.

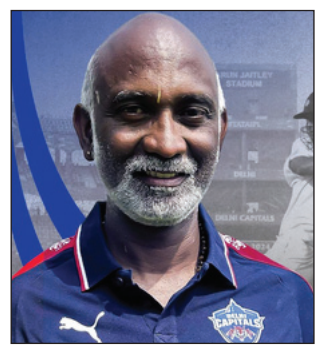
In T20I rankings, England's Phil Salt and Jos Buttler moved up to second and sixth respectively, among batters after strong showings against the West Indies. South Africa's Reeza Hendricks and Tristan Stubbs made notable gains in the T20I batting rankings amid their current series with India, with Stubbs leaping up 12 spots to 26th.

Bowling rankings in T20Is also saw movement, with Sri Lanka's Wanindu Hasaranga advancing to second place behind England's Adil Rashid. West Indies' Akeal Hosein and India's Ravi Bishnoi rose to third and seventh, respectively.

New Zealand's Mitchell Santner and Lockie Ferguson, England's Jofra Archer, and Sri Lanka's Matheesha Pathirana all made strides, especially Pathirana, who jumped an impressive 22 spots to 31st.

On the all-rounder's chart, England's Liam Livingstone maintained his T20I top spot, with Hasaranga moving to fifth and West Indies' Romario Shepherd rising to eighth.

IPL 2025: Delhi Capitals appoint ex-India player Vijay Bharadwaj as head of talent search



New Delhi, Nov 13 (IANS) Delhi Capitals (DC) have brought in former India cricketer Vijay Bharadwaj as their head of talent search ahead of the 2025 season of the Indian Premier League (IPL). Bharadwaj's appointment to the role comes just a day after ex-India fast-bowler Munaf Patel was unveiled as their new bowling coach.

Gujarat Titans rope in Parthiv Patel as assistant and batting coach ahead of IPL 2025



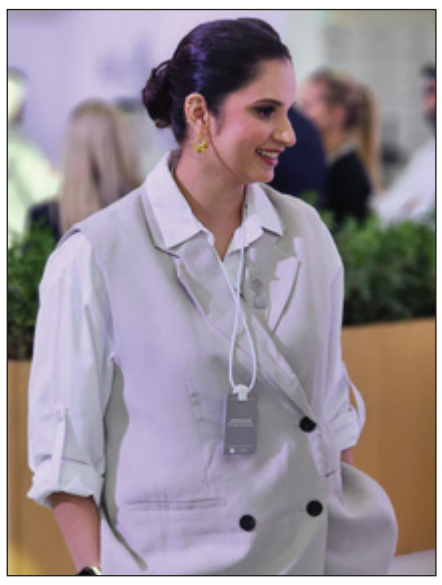
Ahmedabad, Nov 13 (IANS) Former Indian wicketkeeper batter Parthiv Patel has been appointed as the new assistant and batting coach of Gujarat Titans (GT) ahead of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025."The Gujarat Titans are pleased to announce the appointment of Parthiv Patel as their new Assistant and Batting Coach. With a distinguished 17-year career as a former Indian wicketkeeper-batter, Parthiv brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the team," read a statement from the franchise.Parthiv's journey in the IPL began in 2008, when he made his debut with Chennai Super Kings (CSK). Over the years, he has evolved into one of the league's most seasoned players, featuring in 139 matches and amassing 2,848 runs at an average of 22.60. His consistency with the bat includes 13 half-centuries, with a top score of 81 runs, alongside an impressive tally of 365 fours and 49 sixes.

Sania Mirza, Harbhajan Singh named Dubai Sports Ambassador

New Delhi, Nov 13 (IANS) Six time Grand slam champion and former women's doubles number one, Sania Mirza and former cricketer Harbhajan Singh have been named as Dubai Sports Ambassadors. The announcement was made at the "Dubai Sports Retreat" held on Monday at the futuristic Museum of the Future, organised by the Dubai Sports Council.

The event, held under the theme "Dubai: The First Sports Destination," reflects Dubai's growing ambitions to establish itself as a global leader in sports excellence. Under the directives of Sheikh Mansoor Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of the Dubai Sports Council, the retreat aimed to strengthen Dubai's sporting reputation and promote active, healthy lifestyles across the city.

Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, highlighted the vision behind the initiative. "I met with Dubai's sports ambassadors during the retreat - a distinguished group of Arab and



international stars who call Dubai home. Their commitment to advancing sports and nurturing talent is truly inspiring," Sheikh Hamdan wrote in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

'Wasn't the nicest thing': Rahul opens up on animated chat with LSG owner during IPL 2024

New Delhi, Nov 13 (IANS) India wicketkeeper batter KL Rahul has opened up on the animated chat between Lucknow Super Giants' owner Sanjiv Goenka during the 2024 IPL when LSG were hammered by Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH).

LSG were in a need of big win over SRH to qualfiy for the playoffs, but the team suffered a humiliating 10-wicket loss. Afterwards, LSG owner appeared visibly displeased after the match's outcome and was seen engaged in an intense discussion with skipper Rahul along the boundary line at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium.

"As a team, we were all in shock because we were at the stage in that tournament where every game was very important. We had to win, I think, three out of five games or two out of the last four games. When this happened, it was just a



big shock for all of us," said Rahul on Star Sports.

"Whatever happened on the field after the game wasn't the nicest thing to be part of or something that anyone wants to see on the cricket field. I think it did affect the entire group. We still had a chance to make it into the playoffs. We had a chat as a team and tried to regroup, put everything aside, and try to put our best foot forward. We tried our best, but unfortunately, our best wasn't good enough always. It was a bummer that we couldn't really make the playoffs or win the season as we had hoped," he added.

Although the content of their conversation was inaudible, the animated exchange between the owner and captain captured by the broadcaster, gained traction on social media. Experts and fans had suggested that discussions about the loss should take place in private rather than in front of spectators.

After LSG won the toss and opted to bat first, they posted a below-par total of 165, with skipper Rahul playing a sluggish knock of 29 off 33. Ayush Badoni's 55 and Nicholas Pooran's 48, in 99-run partnership gave the LSG a respectable finish. In reply, Openers Travis Head (89 off 30) and Abhishek (75 off 28) wreaked havoc on the LSG bowlers as SRH chased down the target of 166 runs in just 9.4 overs without any loss.

Speaking about the particular match, Rahul said, "I don't really know how much was made outside, but I just remember it was probably one of the worst games I've been part of as a player. But also, just from behind the stumps, I was amazed at how Sunrisers battered us.

Modi praises Nitish, lays foundation Darbhanga AIIMS and unveils projects worth Rs 12000 crore in Bihar

Mail News Services



Patna, November 13: Amid the speculations of poll outcome in two states of Jharkhand and Maharashtra, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday praised Bihar CM Nitish Kumar whose JD-U is a key constituent in NDA government at centre, for his role in bringing the state from the morass of what he called the 'Jungle Raaj'.

Addressing a gathering in Darbhanga, after unveiled a project worth around Rs 12,100 crore and laying the foundation for an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), PM Modi was full praise for the chief minister Nitish Kumar.

"Nitish ji has set up a model of good governance (Shushashan), by heralding the end of an era of Jungle Raaj. No praise can equate his achievement. No praise is too high for this achievement," PM Modi said, speaking at the event where the JD(U) chief was also present. The Prime Minister emphasised Bihar's development under the NDA government, highlighting improvements in various sectors, especially in health infrastructure.

"Bihar is witnessing a lot of development. The NDA government is committed to the welfare of the people. The previous government in Bihar never bothered about health infrastructure. They made false promises, but the situation has improved since Nitish Kumar ji came to power," Modi said.

The Prime Minister, who spoke for nearly 30 minutes displayed his penchant for striking striking chord with the local populace, whom he greeted in Maithili, breaking into the local dialect a few more times during the speech.

He began his reference to the paan and makhan (local items) for which Mithilanchal is known for. He also paid tribute to renowned folk singer Sharda Sinha, popularly known as "kokila" who recently passed away.

Referring to Darbhanga AIIMS, he said the construction of AIIMS will bring a huge change in the health sector of Bihar. "Apart from the local people, those from neighbouring Nepal are also going to be benefitted a great deal," he said.

The PM also dedicated 18 Jan Aushadhi Kendras at railway stations across the country. He laid foundation stones of multiple national highway projects worth around ?5,070 crore, including the four-lane Galgalia-Araria section of National Highway 327E, and a major bridge on NH 110 at Bahadurganj. Mr. Modi also laid the foundation stone for railway projects worth over ?1,740 crore; multiple initiatives in the petroleum and natural gas sectors worth over ?4,020; and of a bitumen manufacturing unit at Indian Oil Corporation's Barauni refinery.

Addressing a public rally in Darbhanga, CM Nitish Kumar said, "Today is an important day as PM Modi laid the foundation stone of Darbhanga AIIMS. AIIMS in Darbhanga will provide better medical facilities to the people of the state. In 2003, the then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, it was decided."

Nitish Kumar tried to touch PM Modi's feet in Darbhanga

Patna, Nov 13 (IANS) Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's gesture of touching the feet of leaders during public events has become a topic of public discussion, especially during the AIIMS foundation-laying ceremony in Darbhanga on November 13.

At this event, as Nitish Kumar approached Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he tried to touch the Prime Minister's feet as a mark of respect.

However, PM Modi quickly stopped him and invited him to sit beside him. This exchange drew considerable attention, with many noting Nitish Kumar's humble and respectful approach.

BJP trying to break up country through inciting slogans: Kharge



Latur/Solapur (Maharashtra, Nov 13 (IANS) The Congress accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of attempting to break up the country's unity through inflammatory slogans in the ongoing Maharashtra Assembly elections campaign, here on Wednesday.

Speaking at poll rallies in Latur and Solapur districts, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge called upon the gathering to raise chants of 'Hum Sab Ek Hain' and the crowds responded enthusiastically.

"Look… We are all strongly united. It's the BJP which is trying to divide us with slogans of 'Ek hain to safe hain' or 'batenge to katenge', attempting to sow discord among the people… But the people of Maharashtra will foil such moves by voting out the (MahaYuti) government," thundered Kharge.

He said that for its divisive tendencies and insulting Dr B. R. Ambedkar by burning a copy of the Constitution which he had architected, "the people of the state must teach them a strong lesson".

"The country is one and united, but the BJP leaders are misleading the masses by raising slogans like 'batenge to katenge'. Nobody from the BJP-RSS has ever laid down their lives for the country, but three Congress leaders made the supreme sacrifice for the nation. Now, the masses will give the BJP a befitting reply next week," Kharge declared.

He reiterated that the BJP-RSS are actively working to destroy the Constitution through falsehoods and making fake claims of its achievements in Maharashtra, which the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) has exposed in the past few years.

Welcome relief, says Owaisi on SC order on 'bulldozer justice'



Hyderabad, Nov 13 (IANS) All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) President Asaduddin Owaisi on Wednesday welcomed the Supreme Court order on 'bulldozer justice'.

The Hyderabad MP posted on the social media platform X that the "bulldozer judgment" of the Supreme Court is a welcome relief. "The most important part of it is not in its eloquence, but the enforceable guidelines. Hopefully, they will prevent state governments from collectively punishing Muslims & other marginalised groups," wrote Owaisi.

"We should remember that no less than Prime Minister Narendra Modi has celebrated bulldozer raj, which SC today called a lawless state of affairs," he added. The Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled that the Executive cannot replace the Judiciary and legal process should not prejudge guilt of an accused. Taking a tough stand on the issue of 'bulldozer justice', it laid down guidelines for carrying out demolition.

The bench of Justice BR Gavai and Justice KV Viswanathan delivered its judgment on petitions challenging bulldozer action against people accused of crimes.

No alliance with BJP in TN for 2026 polls: Edappadi Palaniswami



Chennai, Nov 13 (IANS) AIADMK General Secretary and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS) on Wednesday announced that his party will not form an alliance with the BJP for the 2026 Assembly elections.

Speaking to the media in Coimbatore, EPS, who is also the Leader of the Opposition in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly said that it was made clear during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and reiterated in several press conferences.

"Our aim is to dethrone the DMK. There will be no alliance with the BJP," Palaniswami asserted, emphasising that no further clarification was needed on the matter.

EPS also referred to an interaction with a journalist in Tiruchi on Sunday during which he was asked whether the AIADMK would ally with the BJP.

He responded that AIADMK would consider alliances with "like-minded parties" to unseat the DMK, a statement he felt was misinterpreted by some media outlets as a potential coalition with the BJP.

Stand up on own legs: SC tells NCP's Pawar faction



New Delhi, Nov 13 (IANS) The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked Ajit Pawar-led faction of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) to not use the name and photograph of veteran leader and party founder Sharad Pawar in its political advertisements, in the run-up to Assembly elections in Maharashtra.

A bench presided over by Justice Surya Kant asked Ajit Pawar side "to stand up on his own legs" and not contest elections on Sharad Pawar's name.

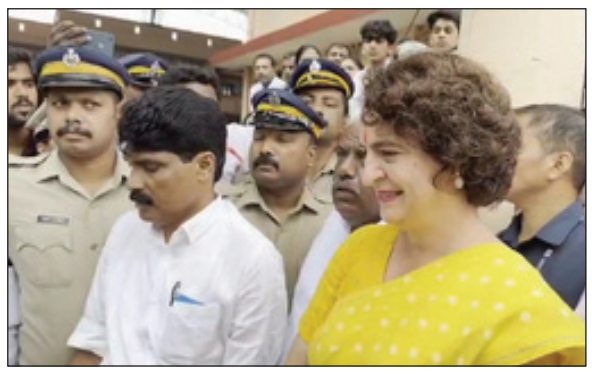
Last week, the Bench, also comprising Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, had asked the Ajit Pawar faction to give wide publicity to its interim orders requiring the addition of disclaimers in party advertisements that allocation of party's clock symbol is sub-judice and subject to the outcome of proceedings pending before the top court.

It had asked the Ajit Pawar side to publish fresh disclaimers regarding the clock symbol in newspapers, including in Marathi, within 36 hours.

The apex court was dealing with an application filed by the Sharad Pawar faction demanding that the Ajit Pawar camp be temporarily allotted a new symbol for the Maharashtra Assembly elections instead of the clock.

The Supreme Court stressed that the parties should meticulously comply with its orders and asked both sides not to violate the March 19 interim direction.

I expect people will give me chance to represent Wayanad: Priyanka Gandhi



Wayanad, Nov 13 (IANS) Congress-led UDF candidate Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was all smiles on Wednesday as voters in Wayanad began queuing up to elect their new MP. Wearing a bright yellow saree with a red vermilion mark on her forehead, Priyanka greeted voters warmly, adding charm to the polling day atmosphere.

"I am confident that the people of Wayanad will give me the chance to represent them. My expectations are already being fulfilled, seeing the love and support of people coming out in large numbers," Priyanka Gandhi remarked after visiting a few polling booths.

Throughout the day, she is expected to visit polling stations across Wayanad, Kozhikode, and Malappuram districts.

Her campaign team has set an ambitious target of winning by a margin of 5 lakh votes, which would require a voter turnout of over 80 per cent. By mid-morning, about 35 per cent of the 14.71 lakh eligible voters had cast their votes, and it remains to be seen if turnout will reach the crucial 80 per cent mark.

In the 2019 elections, when Rahul Gandhi contested from Wayanad, the voter turnout was 80.37 per cent, and he won with a significant margin of 4.31 lakh votes. However, in April 2024, his margin reduced to 3.64 lakh votes with a turnout of 73.57 per cent.

Campaign managers, however, remain optimistic about achieving the 5 lakh vote margin, banking on a potential decline in support for the CPI and BJP candidates.

The BJP, led by state president K. Surendran, made significant gains in 2024, doubling their vote count from the 2014 elections. All eyes are now on how much support CPI candidate Sathyan Mokeri and BJP's young contender Navya Haridas can garner.

The question now is whether Priyanka can surpass Rahul's previous margin of 4.31 lakh votes, which will likely depend on achieving that 80 per cent voter turnout.

J&K: NIA attaches house of accused over murder of 2 non-locals in Srinagar



Srinagar, Nov 13 (IANS) The National Investigation Agency (NIA) attached the houses of an accused on Wednesday, in a double murder case in J&K's Srinagar.

Officials said that the NIA team attached the two-storeyed residential house of an accused in Zaldagar area of Srinagar city.

The NIA action comes on back of investigation into the murder of two non-locals in Srinagar city in February 2024.

"The houses built on 10 Marlas of land belongs to Adil Manzoor Langoo, accused in case FIR number 08/2024 registered in police station Shaheedgunj Srinagar. This case was later handed over to NIA for investigation. The case pertains to the murder of two non-locals on February 7, 2024 in Shalla Kadal, Habba Kadal in Srinagar city," officials said.

The two murdered non-locals were identified as Amritpal Singh and Rohit, both belonging to Punjab. After the murder of these non-locals, police had arrested several suspects.

"The main accused is presently in detention", officials said.

Notably, the NIA has been investigating many high-profile crimes committed during militancy in J&K.

These include the murder and hawala racket cases against separatist leaders like Yasin Malik, Shabir Shah, Nayeem Khan and others.

The NIA is also investigating the terrorist attack and murder of 10 pilgrims in Reasi district of Jammu on June 10, 2024. Over 30 pilgrims returning from Shiv Khori temple to Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine were injured in this attack.

Multi-city raids were conducted by NIA across Baramulla, Srinagar, Pulwama, Baramulla, Kulgam, Anantnag and Budgam districts over terror funding probe.

Engineer Rashid, the chairman of Awami Itihad Party (AIP), who won Lok Sabha elections from Baramulla constituency was also arrested and incarcerated in Tihar jail.

Cong made mockery of Constitution by releasing its manifesto in silent period: BJP



New Delhi, Nov 13 (IANS) BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra has accused the Congress party of violating the Constitution and election rules, urging the Election Commission to take immediate action.

Addressing the media at the BJP national headquarters here on Wednesday, Patra said, "Today, November 13, is the day of voting in Jharkhand. The Constitution celebrates democracy through free and fair elections, which is a testament to India's democratic values. But the Congress, a national party, has a history of disregarding the Constitution. The 48 hours before voting constitute a silent period during which no party is allowed to campaign or release any election manifesto. This rule is well-known and widely respected."

"Despite being fully aware of these rules," Patra remarked, "The Congress party chose to release its manifesto on November 12, just a day before the first phase of voting in Jharkhand. This is a clear violation of the silent period and a blatant tampering with the Constitution."

Patra went on to claim that this was not the first instance of such behaviour by the Congress. He criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for allegedly disregarding the Election Commission's authority and continually speaking against it.

Bengal by-elections conclude, polling percentage recorded at 69.29 till 5 PM



Kolkata, Nov 13 (IANS): The polling for the by-elections for six assembly constituencies in West Bengal concluded at 6 PM on Wednesday, with the percentage of polling being recorded at 69.29 per cent, till 5 p.m. (the last available for the day).

The final percentage of polling will be announced on Thursday morning after the conclusion of the final calculation on this count, said state polling officials.

They admitted that the polling percentage has been comparatively much lower as compared to average high polling percentage in any election in West Bengal during the last few years.

Till 5 PM, the polling percentage was the highest at Taldangra at 75.20, followed by Haroa at 73.95, Medinipur at 71.85, Sitai at 66.35, Madarihat at 64.14 and Naihati at 62.10.

Reports of sporadic violence were reported throughout the day from different pockets that had gone for the polls, with the number of casualties reported so far being at one.

Local Trinamool Congress leader at Jagatdal, adjacent to the Naihati assembly constituency in North 24 Parganas district, got shot on Wednesday morning while the polling was underway and he died at the hospital later.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has sought a detailed report for the North 24 Parganas district administration in the matter.

Sporadic reports of poll-related violence were also reported in closing hours of polling. At a polling booth under Medinipur assembly constituency in West Midnapore district, Trinamool Congress candidate Sanjay Hazra entered into a heated altercation with the on-duty central armed police forces (CAPF).

Hazra accused the central forces men of unnecessarily harassing his polling agents.

All these six assembly constituencies went for by-polls on Wednesday because the erstwhile legislators from there got elected as Lok Sabha members in the Parliamentary elections this year.

Barring Madarihat, where a BJP candidate got elected, Trinamool Congress candidates got elected from the remaining five constituencies.