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JADEJA, ASHWIN STRIKE AFTER GILL, PANT FIFTIES AS INDIA TAKE UPPER HAND AGAINST NZ, PAGE : 11

Shah to unveil BJP's 'sankalp patra' in Ranchi today

Ranchi, Nov 2: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) senior leader and Union Minister Amit Shan will release its manifesto, titled 'Sankalp Patra,' for the Jharkhand Assembly elections on Sunday, November 3.

The Union Home Minister will release the manifesto at a party function in Ranchi. This was announced on Saturday by BJP's Jharkhand election in-charge and Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at Ranchi BJP office.

Chouhan shared that HM Shah will arrive in Ranchi on Saturday evening to meet with party leaders and discuss the election strategy.

"After the release of the 'Sankalp Patra' on Sunday, HM Shah is scheduled to address rallies in three key locations across the state -- Dhalbhumgarh in East Singhbhum district, Barkatha in Hazaribagh district, and Simaria in Chatra district," Chouhan said.

The campaign momentum will continue with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jharkhand the next day, on



November 4, where he will hold public meetings in Garhwa and Chaibasa.

Chouhan expressed hope that PM Modi's message of development would resonate widely with the people of Jharkhand.

The BJP has already outlined five major commitments, or 'Panch Pran,' or 'five vows' for Jharkhand.

The first one talks about financial support for women. If elected, the party says it will introduce the 'Gogo Didi Yojana,' providing Rs 2,100 per month to women in the state.

Under the second pledge, every family will have access to gas cylinders for Rs 500, with two free cylinders provided each year.

The party has pledged to create five lakh government jobs for Jharkhand's youth over five years, as per the third vow.

Under the fourth vow, graduate and post-graduate students preparing for competitive exams will receive a monthly allowance of Rs 2,000 under the Yuva Sathi Yojana for two years.

Under the fifth pledge, the BJP promises to ensure that every family in Jharkhand has permanent housing.

In Jharkhand, the elections to the 81-member Assembly will take place in two phases -- on November 13 and 20, with counting of votes to take place on November 23.

In all, 1,211 candidates are vying for the 81 seats in the state.

Request PM, HM with folded hands to clear coal dues: CM

Jamshepur, Nov 2: Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah's rallies in Jharkhand, Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Saturday urged the Centre to clear pending coal dues of Rs 1.36 lakh crore owed to the state.

Soren said, "The dues are essential for the development of Jharkhand and the implementation of critical socio-economic projects."

In a post on X, Soren requested Modi and Shah to address the issue during their visit.

"I once again request them with folded hands to clear the outstanding dues. This amount is crucial for Jharkhand," he wrote. He also appealed to BJP MPs to assist in securing the payment, emphasizing that the state's development is hindered by the lack of funds.

Soren highlighted that the dues, mainly from central public sector units like Coal India, are Jharkhand's rightful share and should be paid in accordance with legal and judicial provisions. Recently, a Supreme Court bench affirmed Jharkhand's right to collect these mining and royalty dues.



In his letter to the Prime Minister, Soren wrote that the unpaid dues are delaying essential projects in education, health, and infrastructure. He further suggested a direct debit from Coal India's account to Jharkhand, similar to the process applied for dues from the Jharkhand State Electricity Board to the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC).

Soren added that Jharkhand, an under-developed state, requires these funds to uplift its socio-economic conditions, particularly for its tribal communities.

"We want justice, not privileges," Soren wrote. The Chief Minister added that the outstanding dues would be directed toward sustainable development to benefit Jharkhand's environment, tribals, and every community.

Three of four Jan Suraaj nominees for Bihar bypoll face criminal charge

Mail News Services

Patna, November 2: Those who view political strategist Prashant Kishor's newly floated Jan Suraaj party as a political outfit characterised by its members with "clean image" may have to do a rethink now.

For, three of his four candidates pitted in fray for by-polls in the state face serious criminal charges including kidnapping, attempt to murder, extortion, theft, and assault, if the affidavits submitted to Election Commission are any indicators.

Raring to acquire a political space, the party which is contesting the by-elections from state - Imamganj, Ramgarh, Belaganj, Tarari are Jitendra Paswan, Sushil Kushwaha, Mohammad Amjad and Kiran Singh respectively. The need for the bypoll was necessitated following the victory of the sitting MLAs in the Lok Sabha election. The elections are scheduled to be held on November 13.

Of the three, the party's Imamganj candidate, Jitendra Paswan, faces serious criminal cases like kidnapping, cheating, theft, and assault, as per his self-attested poll affidavit filed before EC. Similarly, Belaganj candidate, Mohammad Amjad, revealed in his poll affidavit about criminal cases. Party candidate from Ramgarh, Sushil Kushwaha, also has criminal cases against him. His affidavit suggests that he has charges of attempt to muder.

Prashant Kishor, who has worked with major political parties during past elections, has been vocal against the criminalisation of politics along with the inclusion of honest and educated people in governments. However, questions are now being raised over the background of the candidates fielded by his own party."All our candidates have a 'clean image', and the cases were part of attempts to damage their reputation," Jan Suraaj's national spokesperson, Sadaf Iqbal claimed, adding that revelation of cases pending against them means they didn't hide the facts.Ahead of the political slugfest on November 13, Lalu Prasad Yadav's RJD leader and MLC Kumar Saurabh took a swipe at Prashant Kishor saying Jan Suraaj has shown its character at the outset itself.

"PK has always made tall claims to lit up the face of youth. Are he going to change Bihar with 75% candidates facing the serious criminal charges?" the MLC asked.

Centre allocated Rs 2.5 lakh crore to Jharkhand, state was busy in corruption: Vallabh

Ranchi, Nov 2 (IANS) BJP leader Gourav Vallabh has launched a scathing criticism of the Hemant Soren-led Jharkhand government, alleging widespread corruption and financial mismanagement.

Vallabh, at a press conference here on Saturday, claimed that while the Central government had allocated Rs 2.5 lakh crore to Jharkhand over the past five years, the funds were reportedly misused, with the state government setting "records of loot and corruption".

Presenting financial data, Vallabh noted that Jharkhand has historically received around 55 per cent of its revenue from the Centre. Since the BJP came to power at the Centre in 2014, he claimed that Jharkhand has received Rs 4.5 lakh crore since then.

He also talked about Central investments in infrastructure, including Rs 37,972 crore for rail network expansion and Rs 17,000



crore for roads, as well as funding for tribal welfare, including Rs 917 crore for tribal upliftment and Rs 760 crore for the Tribal Sub Plan.

Furthermore, Jharkhand received a GST compensation grant of Rs 10,000 crore, he said.

Despite these contributions, Vallabh argued, the Hemant Soren government did not utilise these funds effectively. He called upon Soren to justify why Rs 57,301 crore allocated to Jharkhand in the financial year 2024-25 remained largely unspent.

The BJP leader also pointed out under-utilisation of funds in key schemes. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, Jharkhand reportedly received Rs 11,000 crore but only utilised half of it, he claimed.

Similarly, he said that only half of the Rs 4,500 crore allocated for the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan was used, and Rs 86 crore allocated for the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana saw just Rs 48 crore being spent.

Vallabh accused the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and Congress leaders of exploiting state resources, alleging that they focused on capturing prime lands and redirecting funds from the Jharkhand State Electricity Board to private accounts.

He further criticised the Jharkhand government's failure to submit proposals for a Rs 1,000 crore tourism circuit grant, unlike other states that actively utilised these Central funds.

Vallabh also noted that several government officials, including a District Commissioner, a Chief Engineer, a Minister, and the Minister's PA, are currently facing charges of corruption and are in jail.

He asserted that the people of Jharkhand are seeking answers from the Hemant Soren government and predicted that the government's departure is imminent on November 23 when the votes will be counted after two phases of elections on November 13 and 20.

Top LeT commander Usman Bhai killed in Srinagar gunfight, 4 jawans injured

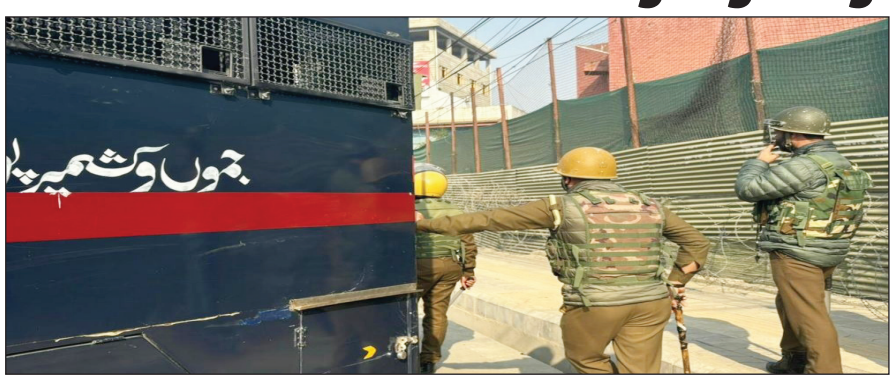
Srinagar, Nov 2 (IANS) Top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander, Usman Bhai was killed in a gunfight with the security forces in downtown Srinagar city on Saturday, police said.

IGP, Kashmir, V.K.Birdi told reporters that top LeT commander, Usman Bhai, who hailed from Pakistan and was involved in a series of crimes, was killed in the daylong gunfight in the Khanyar area.

"Usman was wanted in many militancy-related cases including the killing of non-locals and security forces. He was also involved in the killing of Inspector Manzoor Ahmad Wani who was critically wounded on October 29, 2023, in the Eidgah area of Srinagar city," he said.

Two CRPF jawans and two policemen were injured in this gunfight on Saturday.

Officials said that following intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists, security forces started a CASO (Cordon & Search Operation) in the



Khanyar area.

"As the security forces came closer to the hiding terrorists, they fired at the security forces triggering an encounter which is now going on," an official said.

Saturday's encounter in the heart of downtown Srinagar was the first such incident in the area in more than 10 years.

This area was once the hotbed of separatist sentiment and militants used to move freely in this area. With the passage of time, security forces managed to eliminate militancy from these areas. It was believed that Srinagar city in general, and the downtown areas in particular, had been cleared of militancy.

However, the gunfight in the Khanyar area seems to have dented this belief.

In another ongoing operation, two terrorists were gunned down by the security forces near Halkan Gali in the Shangus-Larnoo area of Anantnag district.

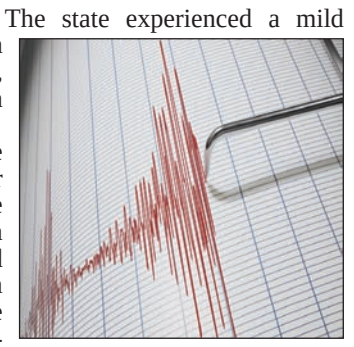
On Friday, terrorists shot at and injured two non-local labourers, Sanjay and Usman, both belonging to Uttar Pradesh, in Mazhama village of Magam area of Budgam district. Both injured were immediately shifted to a hospital where doctors described their condition as stable.

Last month, terrorists killed six workers of an infrastructure project company and a local doctor in the Gagangir area of the Ganderbal district. The workers were building a tunnel from Gagangir to Sonamarg tourist resort to make the Srinagar-Sonamarg an all-weather road and generate economic growth and employment in the area. Those killed in the Gagangir attack included six non-local workers and a doctor belonging to the Budgam district.

Later on, terrorists killed three army soldiers and two porters in the Botapathri area of Gulmarg in Baramulla district.

Earthquake tremors felt in Jharkhand, epicenter in Chandil

Ranchi, Nov 2: The state experienced a mild earthquake on Saturday morning, with tremors felt in several areas.



According to the National Center for Seismology, the earthquake registered a magnitude of 3.0 and struck around 9:20 am with an epicentre located in Saraikela-Kharsawan district's Chandil.

According to the center, the quake registered a magnitude of 3.0 and occurred at a depth of approximately 10 kilometres below the earth.

Senior meteorologist Upendra Shrivastava confirmed that the quake occurred at a depth of 10 kilometres, leading to minor tremors that were felt across nearby regions, including Jamshedpur and Ranchi.

No immediate reports of damage or casualties have been received, and the impact is considered minimal.

INDIA bloc complains EC against Himanta over hate speeches

Ranchi, November 2: Ruling INDIA bloc partners in Jharkhand approached Election Commission on Saturday seeking legal action against Assam chief minister and BJP Jharkhand election co-incharge Himanta Biswa Sarma for his inflammatory and divisive speeches.

A delegation comprising JMM, Congress, RJD and CPI-ML leaders met Jharkhand chief electoral officer K. Ravikumar on Saturday and submitted a complaint letter against Himanta Biswa Sarma's speeches and sought immediate strictest action against Himanta Biswa Sarma. The complaint letter also warned that if no action is taken by the commission against Himanta Biswa Sarma in the next 24 hours then they will be constrained to move appropriate legal forums 'for legal remedy in which the commission will then have to explain its failure to constraint this highly deplorable action of Himanta Biswa Sarma."

The delegation also attached videos of the speeches and recordings of Himanta Biswa Sarma's interviews to media during rallies at Sarath at Santhal Pargana on Friday.

"His (Himanta Biswa Sarma) use of extremely divisive and hateful words in the speech targeting the Muslim minorities are clear examples of the venomous language being used by him to create civil warlike situations and incite violence in the ensuing assembly elections. The hate speech given by Himanta Biswa Sarma is an example of the divisive politics being promoted by him and his party (BJP)," the complaint states.

It also cites the portion of the speech and claims that Himanta Biswa Sarma seeks to polarize the electorate and consolidate power for his "own" agenda.

Buffer zone created around Vancouver gurdwara as Khalistanis plan to create ruckus

Vancouver, Nov 2 (IANS) A 60-metre buffer zone has been created around one of Vancouver's largest gurdwaras following an order passed by the British Columbia Supreme Court as Sikh extremist groups plan to create ruckus during a consular camp, later on Saturday.

Local media reported that the authorities at the Ross Street gurdwara had sought a preemptive injunction ahead of two consular camps planned for November 2 and 16, amid growing tensions between Canada and India that New Delhi has attributed to "vindictive campaign" unleashed by the government led by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau after the killing of Khalistani



terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, last year.

The Khalsa Diwan Society, which runs the gurdwara, said in court documents that it expects "intense protests" at the both consular camps which, the documents submitted in the court mentioned, are organised every year and help "seniors of Indian descent to complete administrative tasks with the Government of India, primarily in relation to their pensions, without the need for attending in person at the Indian consulate."

Designated terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun founded pro-Khalistan group Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) had issued a statement Friday saying it would "counter" the camps in Vancouver and Surrey.

"The current climate is one of tension between pro-Khalistan supporters and the Indian government, and they are opposed to all manifestations of the Indian government, including in Canada. We think that's inappropriate and people need consular services and we're trying to assist people in accessing consular services - full stop," Canada's CBC News quoted Scott Turner, the lawyer for the Ross Street Gurdwara leadership, as saying.

Chhath preparations begin: Sarees and utensils in high demand



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 2: With Diwali over, the bustling markets in Jamshedpur have now shifted focus to Chhath Puja, as residents begin shopping for sarees and utensils.

On Friday, despite many shops remaining closed post-Diwali, people flocked to Sakchi's saree and utensil stores, stocking up on items essential for the festival.

Shopkeepers report a high demand for specific sarees for the puja, especially cotton sarees required by devotees for the rituals.

Bandhani print sarees in popular colors like red, yellow, and green are selling fast, with prices ranging from Rs 350 to Rs 1,000. For those seeking designer wear, silk and chiffon sarees with readymade blouses, along with South Silk and Kanjivaram varieties, are also available.

Beyond sarees, shopping for children's clothing, including palazzos and warm garments for early morning prayers, is underway. This festive shopping is expected to peak in the coming days, continuing until November 7.

The demand for brass utensils has also spiked. Brass sop, kathauti, and daura bowls, essential for the Chhath rituals, are priced between Rs 800 to Rs 4,000, depending on the weight. Steel degchis and buckets, priced between Rs 230 and Rs 2,000, are also popular. Many devotees opt for brass due to its sacred significance in the Chhath Mahavrat, emphasizing purity in the ritual practices. (w/nkm)

SDO inspects Chhath ghats, reviews safety and cleanliness measures



Jamshedpur, Nov 2: A few days left for Chhath Puja , the Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) of Dhalbhum, Shatabdi Majumdar, went on to inspect key Chhath Ghats across the urban area of Jamshedpur. The inspection aimed to ensure that preparations were on track to provide a safe and convenient environment for devotees during the festival.

The inspection covered various popular Ghats, including Swarnarekha Ghat, Mango Bridge, Do Muhani Ghat, Kadma Sub Station Ghat, and Naya Ghat. SDO Majumdar closely examined cleanliness efforts, the condition of changing rooms, identification and marking of danger zones, electrification, access road repairs, and parking facilities along the riverfront.

During her visit, the SDO emphasized the need for thorough and timely cleaning of all Chhath Ghats, provision of secure changing rooms for women, clear marking and barricading of danger zones, and tagging of boatmen and divers for emergency readiness. She also directed that drop gates be set up at crowded locations, and that approach roads leading to the Ghats undergo necessary repairs. Majumdar stressed the importance of coordination among municipal authorities, police, traffic management, electricity, and disaster management departments to complete all preparations on schedule. She assured that proper lighting arrangements would be made at the Ghats to enhance visibility, and that measures for smooth traffic flow and adequate parking facilities for devotees would be put in place.

Police boost vigilance as mobile theft gangs target Chhath crowds



Jamshedpur, Nov 2: With the Chhath festival approaching, Jamshedpur police are intensifying efforts to clamp down on the notorious Pahadi gangs that become active in city markets and Chhath ghats, known for targeting mobile phones and wallets amidst crowded gatherings.

To combat this threat, the police have formed a special task force to track down gang members' temporary hideouts in local hotels and rented accommodations. "These gangs are well-organized and tend to blend into busy markets during Diwali and Chhath," said Senior Superintendent of Police Kishore Kaushal. "We're closely monitoring their previous hideouts in slum areas and conducting thorough inspections of lodging options they may use."

The Pahadi gangs, which are now said to include female members, employ distraction tactics to pickpocket unsuspecting individuals. "They carry bags or papers to conceal their hands, skilfully removing phones from people's pockets without notice," SSP Kaushal explained.

Police warn that each gang aims to steal a significant number of mobile phones—often around 100 per targeted area—before smuggling them out of the region. "We urge citizens to stay alert, especially in markets and near Chhath ghats, to protect their belongings," added SSP Kaushal, underscoring the proactive measures being taken by law enforcement.

As police heighten surveillance in key areas, they hope their efforts will ensure a safer, more secure atmosphere for Chhath festivities across the city. (w/nkm)

BJP launches high-tech kamal rath for Jamshedpur East election campaign

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 2: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has ramped up its election campaign in the Jamshedpur East Assembly constituency, introducing a high-tech campaign vehicle known as the Kamal Rath. The initiative aims to engage voters and share the party's vision through music and interactive outreach as part of their strategy for the upcoming elections.



Hundreds of women united with the BJP during a political gathering on Saturday evening, attended by Purnima Das Sahu, the party's candidate for Jamshedpur East.

On Saturday, the Kamal Rath was officially launched by Jamshedpur East Assembly in-charge Rakesh Prasad, candidate Purnima Sahu, and other party leaders from Purnima Sahu's residential office in Agrico. This campaign vehicle is set to traverse various Mandal areas, reaching out to local booths to inform residents about the achievements of the Central Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the party's key messages.

The Rath prominently features images of PM Modi, National President JP Nadda, State President Babulal Marandi, Executive President Ravindra Rai, and other senior leaders, appealing for public support for candidate Purnima Sahu. Equipped with sound systems, microphones, and loudspeakers, the vehicle will facilitate public meetings and announcements at key intersections, ensuring that the campaign's messages reach as many voters as possible. Rakesh Prasad emphasized the Rath's mission to highlight the shortcomings of the current JMM-Congress government, encouraging residents to recognize the positive changes brought about by BJP governance in the region. He expressed confidence that the party's track record of development would resonate with voters, leading to a strong showing for Purnima Sahu in the elections.

With a determined party base, Prasad asserted that the BJP is committed to making a significant impact in Jamshedpur and across the Kolhan region, aiming for a resounding victory in the upcoming assembly elections. Prominent party members, including Assembly co-incharge Sanjeev Singh and former district president Gunjan Yadav, were also in attendance at the launch event. (w/nkm)

Second Randomization of EVMs completed for assembly elections 2024



Jamshedpur, Nov 2: In preparation for the upcoming Assembly Elections 2024, the second round of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) randomization was conducted at the Collectorate Auditorium.

The process was overseen by the General Observer, Expenditure Observer, District Election Officer, and Returning Officer (RO) of the respective assembly constituencies, with representatives from various political parties present to ensure transparency. The randomization allocated EVMs to polling stations across six assembly constituencies in the district, including Baharagora (44), Ghatshila (45), Potka (46), Jugsalai (47), Jamshedpur East (48), and Jamshedpur West (49). In total, ballot units, control units, and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs), including reserves, were assigned for use across 1,913 polling stations.

Before the process began, officials explained the randomization procedures to the political party representatives, ensuring a clear understanding of the allotment method. Following the randomization, officials held discussions with party representatives and candidates, providing them with detailed information about the Model Code of Conduct, which must be adhered to throughout the election period.

Change the old coin of politics in East Jamshedpur: Saurav

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 2: Independent candidate Saurav Vishnu has urged voters to "change the old coin of politics" in East Jamshedpur, where he believes Congress and BJP have maintained a stagnant political stronghold. Speaking to residents, Vishnu emphasized that genuine development requires new leadership and fresh ideas, pointing out that political parties often project development as an elusive ideal rather than a tangible goal. He asserted that, if elected, he would demonstrate how feasible and impactful real development could be for the people.

Vishnu outlined five key commitments for East Singhbhum, starting with health, where he pledged to establish a hospital in Birsanagar to ensure accessible healthcare for residents. On education, he criticized Tata Steel for the closure of over 200 schools in Jamshedpur and vowed to reopen them, aiming to provide quality education for local children to better their future.

For employment, Vishnu promised to work with Tata Steel and associated companies to create job opportunities, bringing stability and prosperity to local families. In terms of women's safety, he proposed a 24/7 helpline in each division and the formation of a dedicated team with retired officers and lawyers to address safety issues and support women in need.

Lastly, he highlighted women's empowerment as a core objective, aiming to uplift women socially and economically to help them make independent life decisions. Vishnu expressed his commitment to these goals, urging residents to support his vision for change and progress in East Singhbhum. (w/nkm)



Ensure a big win for Saryu Roy in Jamshedpur West: Jama Khan

Jamshedpur, Nov 2: Bihar government minister Jama Khan rallied for NDA candidate Saryu Roy in areas such as Azad Basti, Mango, and Jawahar Nagar on Saturday, encouraging voters to support Roy in the upcoming election for the Jamshedpur West constituency.

Emphasizing the achievements of Nitish Kumar's government in Bihar, Khan highlighted the respect and inclusivity that minorities receive under the leadership, contrasting it with the current government's lack of substantive efforts toward Muslim welfare. Khan urged the local population to secure a significant victory for Roy, who, he said, champions development without bias toward caste or religion. "When Saryu Roy talks about development, he speaks for everyone. He prioritizes growth that benefits all communities," Khan stated, appealing to voters to back Roy's development-focused vision.

Dr Ajoy intensifies campaign, focuses on development



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 2 : Congress Party's candidate for Jamshedpur East, Dr. Ajoy Kumar, conducted a public relations campaign on Saturday, covering Golmuri, Bajrang Nagar, Bhuiyandih, and ISWP. During his visits, Dr. Ajoy engaged with residents, sharing his vision for change and his commitment to the development of Jamshedpur, which he said has been "long overdue."

Dr. Ajoy spoke passionately about the need for a shift from the 25-year legacy of governance, promising that if elected, he would prioritize improvements in education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. "The people want change," he said. "It's my commitment to make Jamshedpur a city of opportunity and growth, free from crime and with quality services."

Emphasizing the state's commitment under the India Alliance, Dr. Ajoy pointed to successful welfare initiatives like the Maiya Samman Yojana for women and the Sarvajan Pension scheme, which benefit people across all social strata. He assured the public that, with their support, he would bring quality education to children, provide regular medical camps, and work towards economic empowerment for women through skill development and business training. He added, "This election is the public's decision on the kind of Jamshedpur they want for their future."

During his visit to the ISWP area, residents brought to Dr. Ajoy 's attention the neglected state of the Situ Talab Chhath Ghat. Responding promptly, Dr. Ajoy ordered his team to take immediate steps to clean the pond and surrounding area. To start the process, Dr. Ajoy personally sprinkled bleaching powder in the Chhath Ghat, ensuring the cleanliness of the site for the upcoming Chhath Puja festival.

Women support Dr Ajoy Kumar's election campaign with contributions

Jamshedpur: During a public outreach campaign in Birsanagar on Saturday, a group of women laborers offered financial contributions to Congress candidate Dr. Ajoy Kumar, along with their blessings for his victory in the upcoming election. Deeply moved by their support and dedication, Dr. Ajoy Kumar was visibly emotional, his voice choking as he expressed gratitude. The atmosphere was silent as he took in the heartfelt gesture.

The women expressed their confidence in Dr. Kumar's victory, stating, "This time, Dr. Ajoy Kumar's win is certain. No force can defeat him; he has the blessing of maternal strength."

In response, Dr. Kumar, overwhelmed with the love and respect shown by the women, said, "I am deeply honored by the affection from these mothers and sisters. I am indebted to them, and having their blessings is the greatest support I could ask for." He assured that, if elected, he would prioritize women's safety and work towards empowering them in every possible way. "My goal is to make women economically and socially empowered. When a woman in the household is empowered, the entire family becomes stronger," he stated.

When asked about the women's contributions, Dr. Kumar remarked, "This support is like a blessing from God. I will dedicate it at the feet of the divine and pray for the prosperity of the people of Jamshedpur." He described this moment as one of the most memorable of his life, one he would cherish forever.

Kalpana, Pappu Yadav to campaign for Dr Ajoy Kumar

Jamshedpur, Nov 2: JMM's star campaigner Kalpana Soren, alongside Pappu Yadav, a dynamic leader from Bihar and independent MP from Purnia, will lead a road show on Sunday to support Dr. Ajoy Kumar, the joint candidate of the Congress and INDI Alliance from the East.

The campaign will kick off at 3 PM from Sunday Market in Birsanagar, culminating in a street meeting at Baridih Chowk. This event is expected to witness participation from thousands of Congress and JMM workers, showcasing strong support for Dr. Ajoy Kumar. (w/nkm)

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Battle For Jharkhand

Political instability in Jharkhand: A history of coalition governments and President's Rule

Shankar Agrawal

Jamshedpur, Nov 2: Since its formation, Jharkhand has continued to struggle with political instability, with no party managing to secure an absolute majority in the state's four general assembly elections. As a result, coalition governments have been the norm, leading to frequent political upheavals and even the imposition of President's rule on three occasions. With the 2024 assembly elections just round the bend, there is a possibility of history repeating itself, as both the INDI Alliance and NDA may fall short of securing the majority needed to govern the state.

Coalition politics dominates Jharkhand

The forthcoming assembly elections in Jharkhand, where a party must win 41 seats in the 81-member assembly to form a government, may once again result in a hung assembly. BJP, the dominant player in the NDA, is contesting 68 seats. However, party insiders admit that securing the 41-seat majority on its own will be difficult. Similarly, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), the key player in the INDI Alliance, is expected to contest 43 seats, which also places it short of the majority mark.

Historically, no party has ever managed to secure a majority on its own. In the 2014 elections, BJP came close, winning 37 seats, while in the 2019 elections JMM became the largest party with 30 seats. Both



parties, however, required coalition partners to form the government, a trend likely to continue in 2024.

A history of Coalition governments

Jharkhand's political history is marked by coalition governments and a lack of absolute majority. In the 2005 elections, BJP emerged as the largest party, winning 30 seats, but failed to form a government without support. Similarly, in the 2009 elections, the BJP was reduced to 18 seats, while JMM increased its tally to 19. The 2014 elections saw BJP's best performance with 37 seats, but the party still fell short of a majority.

In the 2019 elections, JMM took the lead with 30 seats, while BJP managed only 25. The Congress and All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU) remained important coalition partners, but none of the major parties could secure a majority independently.

President's Rule imposed thrice

Jharkhand has seen President's rule being imposed on three occasions due to coalition breakdowns and political deadlock. The first instance was from January 2009 to December 2009, when no party could form a stable government. The second imposition came in 2010 when Shibu Soren's government collapsed, leading to a nine-month period of President's rule. The third and most recent imposition occurred between January 2013 and July 2014 after JMM withdrew from its coalition with BJP, leaving the state in a political vacuum.

Shibu Soren's short-lived tenure as Chief Minister

Shibu Soren's tenure as Chief Minister in 2009 was particularly turbulent. After forming a coalition government with BJP and AJSU, Soren lost a by-election while serving as Chief Minister, forcing him to resign. He briefly returned as CM in 2010 but could only remain in office for 152 days. Soren's decision to vote in favor of a UPA bill in Parliament caused a rift with the NDA, leading to the collapse of his government and the imposition of President's rule once again.

The political landscape in Jharkhand remains fragile, with coalition governments and political instability shaping the state's future as it heads towards the 2024 elections.

Hemant Again' slogan need of hour: Kalpana

Soren backs JMM's Ganesh Mahali, urges to back JMM's bow and arrow

Sanjay Mishra

Seraikela, Nov 2: Star campaigner of the INDI Alliance, Kalpana Soren, energized the crowd at an election rally in support of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) candidate Ganesh Mahali for the Seraikela assembly seat. Held at Kunabeda Football Ground in Rajnagar block, the rally drew large crowds eager to catch a glimpse of Soren, who arrived by helicopter. Addressing the public, Soren rallied supporters with the slogan "Ek hi Nara, Hemant Dobara (Only one slogan, Hemant again") and urged them to vote for Mahali, emphasizing the JMM's symbol, the bow and arrow, as the choice for Seraikela.



Kalpana Soren took aim at the BJP, highlighting the welfare initiatives under Chief Minister Hemant Soren's government, especially the Maiya Samman Yojana, aimed at supporting Jharkhand's women. She noted that in five years, Hemant Soren's administration has focused on securing the rights of Jharkhand's tribal and indigenous populations concerning water, forest, and land. She urged voters to re-elect the government to continue its development initiatives.

JMM candidate Ganesh Mahali, addressing the crowd, promised inclusive development without discrimination and outlined plans to make Kunabeda a new block. He pledged to implement programs to provide local employment for farmers and laborers, reducing the need for migration.

The rally saw a strong turnout from leaders and supporters of the Mahagathbandhan, including MP Joba Manjhi and local leaders Ganesh Chaudhary, Shakuntala Mahali, and Bari Murmu, adding momentum to the election

Banna seeks votes on merit of his development works

People to rebuff those creating hurdles in flyover work: Gupta

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, November 2: On Saturday, Banna Gupta, INDI Alliance candidate from Jamshedpur West, participated in padyatras, street meetings, and election gatherings across his constituency. Gupta stressed on his dedication to development, highlighting completed public projects such as paver block roads and street widening. He shared updates on the beautification of Sonari Domuhani Sangam, noting that the grand gate and stairs were complete in the first phase, with plans for a park, side streets for walking and a vendor-friendly "Chowpatty" area in subsequent phases.

Gupta urged people to reject those who could hinder progress, especially regarding the Mango flyover project. During the campaign, he attended Govardhan Puja organized by the Yadav community in Sonari, offering prayers and participating in



traditional events like the lathi game with Yadav youth.

Kalpana, Pappu to address public meeting in Mango today

JMM leader Kalpana Soren, known as the 'Lioness of Jharkhand' and senior Bihar leader Pappu Yadav will arrive in Jamshedpur on Sunday, reaching Sonari Airport around 11 a.m. They will proceed to Mango with supporters, where they are scheduled to address a public gathering at 11:30 a.m. at the tribal football ground in Mango Ulidih.

BJP alleges abusing women is in Congress DNA

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 2: BJP state spokesperson Pratul Shahdeo launched a scathing attack on Congress at a press conference in Jamshedpur, accusing the party of harboring a culture of disrespect toward women. Shahdeo alleged that Congress leaders have a history of making offensive remarks about women, claiming that such behavior is part of the "DNA of Congress."

Citing past incidents, Shahdeo pointed to Congress leader Digvijay Singh's use of the term "Tunch maal" when referring to women, as well as Irfan Ansari's use of "reject maal" and Shiv Sena Uddhav Thackeray's spokesperson's phrase "imported maal." Shahdeo expressed dismay that Congress leadership has not



taken any action against these individuals, stating that this inaction reflects a troubling attitude within the party.

The BJP spokesperson also focused his criticism on Congress's national spokesperson, Dr. Ajoy Kumar, accusing him of disrespecting President Draupadi Murmu, a prominent tribal leader. Shahdeo alleged that Dr. Kumar referred to President Murmu as a representative of "evil and wicked ideology" rather than honoring her as a symbol of tribal pride and national unity. "This is an insult to a tribal daughter who has risen to the nation's highest office," Shahdeo said, criticizing Congress's leadership for failing to distance itself from Dr. Kumar's alleged comments.

Further criticizing Dr. Ajoy Kumar, Shahdeo alleged that he compared Jamshedpur East candidate Purnima Sahu to "goods sold in the market." He argued that Congress treats women as objects, stating, "Women will respond to their insult by voting against such attitudes."

Shahdeo also addressed issues of women's safety under the current state government, claiming that 7,400 cases of rape were reported during its tenure, with SC/ST girls accounting for one-third of the victims. He stated that charge sheets were filed in less than 25% of these cases, arguing that this indicated a disregard for women's safety.

Highlighting progress under the NDA government, Shahdeo emphasized that 46% of elected representatives in rural local bodies are women, and that women now make up 43% of graduates in STEM fields. He noted that women are increasingly active in the armed forces, including as fighter pilots, and argued that the growing strength of "Nari Shakti" has unsettled Congress, leading it to resort to "cheap language."

The press conference saw the attendance of BJP leaders, including Chhattisgarh MLA Bhavna Bohra, District General Secretary Anil Modi, Media Incharge Prem Jha, and Treasurer Krishna Sharma Kali.

Defeated opponents plotting religious dissension fearing Banna's achievements



Jamshedpur, Nov 2: During a press conference at the election office of INDI Alliance candidate Banna Gupta, East Singhbhum District Congress President Anand Bihari Dubey accused opponents of attempting to incite religious tension due to fear over Gupta's development achievements. Dubey alleged that opponents were spreading false information, citing a recent viral video wrongly attributed to an incident in Shastri Nagar, Jamshedpur, instead of Delhi. With the Chhath festival approaching, Dubey warned that opponents may continue such tactics.

He urged Jamshedpur residents not to fall prey to divisive agendas and called on the administration to act against those spreading misinformation and disturbing communal harmony. Senior Congress leader Kamal Kishore Agarwal added that while other leaders may be bringing outside supporters to Jamshedpur, Gupta remained resilient and focused, likening him to Arjun who would overcome all challenges. (w/gsd)

Postal ballot voting to start from today



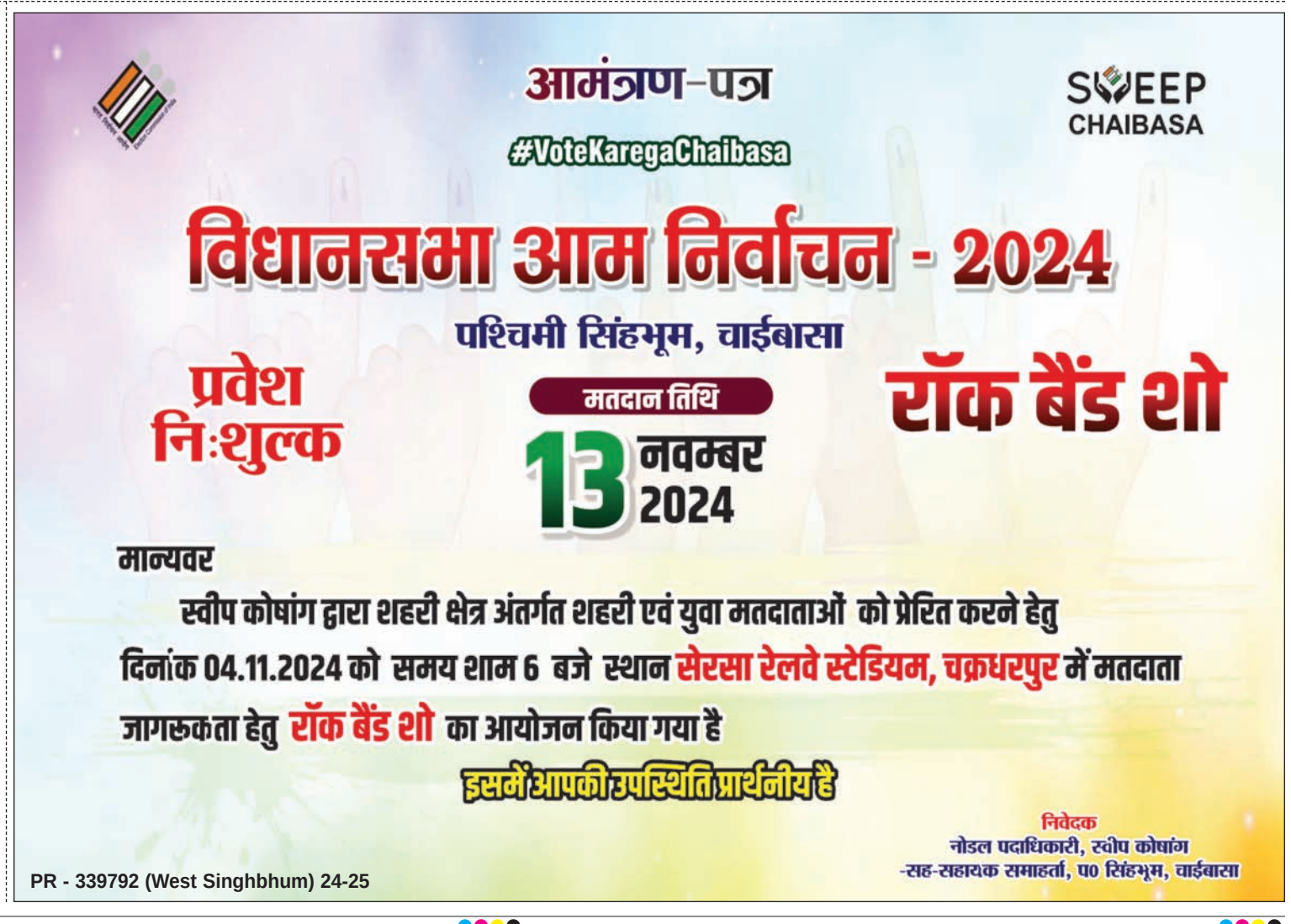
Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 2: East Singhbhum's District Election Officer, Ananya Mittal, announced that postal ballot voting would commence on 3 November. The officer inspected the designated postal ballot polling center at the Women's University in Sidgora, ensuring arrangements were in line with the Election Commission's standards. Voting hours are set from 9 AM to 5 PM, allowing polling staff, police forces, home guards, essential services personnel, and voters on election duty to cast their votes via postal ballots. Home voting also begins on 3rd November, with special provisions for elderly and disabled voters.

For voters in first-phase assembly constituencies, postal ballot voting will take place from 3-11 November, while second-phase voters can cast their votes between 16-18 November. The Girls' Hostel will host different rooms for each category and assembly constituency. Polling staff will use designated rooms: Baharagora (Room 101), Ghatshila (Room 102), Potka (Room 103), Jugsalai (Room 104), Jamshedpur East (Room 105), and Jamshedpur West (Room 106). Other categories will vote in Room 107, while police forces and home guards will use the Pantry Hall, and essential services will use Room 108. Out-of-district personnel, including election duty officials and essential services from other districts, will vote in the Girls' Hostel Mess during the specified phases.

Personnel from various essential services such as the Food Corporation of India (FCI), Indian Railways, Press Information Bureau, Power Department, Health and Family Welfare, Transport, Fire Services, BSNL, and accredited media covering the election have been included in these postal ballot provisions.

For elderly voters aged 85+ and individuals with at least 40% disability, home voting will be available via postal ballot from 3-7 November for the first phase and 9-10 November for the second phase. Polling officials will visit the homes of these voters to facilitate the process. Election day services for elderly and disabled voters include transport to polling centers, wheelchair access, volunteer assistance, ramps, braille ballot papers, and special signage as per Election Commission guidelines.



Recognize the mindset of ministers asking for Corona compensation: Lallan

BJP and Janata Dal United are in perfect harmony: Sanjay Jha



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 2: Union Minister for Panchayati Raj, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, and Dairy, Lallan Singh, took aim at the Jamshedpur West MLA during a press conference on Saturday, emphasizing the need for public awareness regarding the minister's mentality in seeking government compensation during the Corona pandemic.

"The one whose land slips, does negative publicity. The one who is confident, does positive publicity," he stated, expressing concern over the lack of vision shown by the MLA in such challenging times.

Singh also criticized the political alliances among Jharkhand leaders, pointing out that Lalu Prasad Yadav, Hemant Soren, and Arvind Kejriwal have all faced legal troubles while in office, hinting at a pattern of corruption within the current state government. He expressed confidence in the electorate's ability to discern truth from misinformation, especially regarding claims that the Congress party is trying to create a divide between the cylinder and lotus symbols in the upcoming elections.

According to Singh, the voters are shrewd and will not be easily influenced by negative campaigning. He contrasted the current administration in Jharkhand with the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar, praising the latter for its governance, which he claimed has not seen any corruption scandals in 19 years.

Singh concluded by urging voters to recognize the united front of the NDA coalition, as they prepare for the upcoming elections.

Janata Dal United's working president Sanjay Jha recently asserted that there is "complete coordination between the BJP and JDU," urging that "there should be no confusion" regarding their alliance. He emphasized the electoral influence of Haryana on the forthcoming elections in Jharkhand and Maharashtra, stating, "The impact of Haryana will be seen in our elections."

Reflecting on the past, Jha pointed out that during a time when "Congress's negative campaign broke all records," the BJP managed to form the government with a "full majority," despite exit polls predicting otherwise. He noted, "What was the result? The BJP emerged victorious." Looking ahead, Jha announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah will soon visit Jharkhand, highlighting the NDA's unity: "We are working in complete coordination with BJP. There is no misunderstanding." He confirmed that they are contesting just two seats—Jamshedpur West and Tamar—concluding, "Both the seats will be won with a great margin."

How did Banna build such a big farmhouse in Baharagora: Saryu

Jamshedpur, Nov 2: NDA candidate Saryu Roy, contesting from Jamshedpur West Assembly, held a press conference to address serious allegations against the local MLA. Roy claimed that the MLA is "spreading terror" by gathering petty criminals to intimidate voters, stating, "We will strongly oppose this." He criticized the recent construction of a new hospital building, highlighting concerns about water supply: "How will three lakh litres of water be arranged daily?"

Roy also raised questions about the construction of two bridges over the Swarnarekha River, one costing 40 crores and the other a staggering 471 crores. "The difference in spending is like the sky and the ground," he said, suspecting a design and estimate scam. Additionally, he questioned how the MLA could construct a massive farmhouse in Baharagora in just five years, with reports varying between 80 to 150 acres. "Where did the minister get so much money from?" Roy demanded.

Present at the conference were JDU state president Khiru Mahato and Election Steering Committee executive coordinator Neeraj Singh, who supported Roy's allegations. In response to these claims, Union Minister Lallan Singh emphasized the importance of understanding the mentality of those seeking government compensation for the pandemic period. (w/nkm)

Congress criticizes Raghubar for broken promises and homelessness

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 2: The Congress party has sharply criticized former Chief Minister Raghubar Das, accusing him of betraying the trust of Jamshedpur residents. Party officials allege that Das promised ownership rights to the people of East Singhbhum for 25 years but has now backtracked on that commitment. During a recent statement, Das reportedly claimed that the issue of ownership rights was never significant for him, a remark that Congress leaders argue contradicts his previous assurances. Anand Bihari Dubey, a prominent Congress figure, highlighted that Das has caused many to become homeless under the guise of tackling encroachment. "How can a public representative become so arrogant after attaining a constitutional position?" he questioned, emphasizing that Das's actions exemplify the character of the BJP. He drew parallels between Das's empty promises and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's previous pledge to deposit Rs 15 lakh into every citizen's account, which was later dismissed by then-BJP President Amit Shah as a mere slogan. Dubey further criticized Das for his lack of initiatives to support labourers during his tenure, stating that no new companies were established while several shut down, including a cable company. He also mentioned that despite numerous protests, Das failed to prevent Tata Hitachi from relocating to Kharagpur.

In contrast, Dubey praised current Chief Minister Hemant Soren for the Maiya Samman Yojana, which provides Rs 1,000 monthly to women, increasing to Rs 2,500 in December. He asserted that the BJP is threatened by such welfare initiatives and claimed that they have attempted to undermine the program through legal challenges. Dubey expressed confidence that the INDI Alliance government would secure a decisive victory in the upcoming elections, citing various welfare schemes that have benefited people across different strata. The gathering included district-level officials from JMM, RJD, AAP, JPCC, CPM, and CPI, showcasing a united front against the BJP. (w/nkm)

SER festival special trains to depart on Nov 3

Mail News Service

Kolkata, Nov 2: In response to increased passenger demand during the festive season, South Eastern Railway (SER) has scheduled special trains departing on November 3, 2024, to various destinations from West Bengal and Jharkhand. The special trains from West Bengal include the 02839 Shalimar-Puri Special, which will depart Shalimar at 9:55 PM, and the 02897 Santragachi-Digha Special, departing Santragachi at 8:10 AM. The return service, 02898 Digha-Santragachi Special, will leave Digha at 1:10 PM. Additionally, the 03466 Digha-Malda Town Special is scheduled to depart Digha at 5:00 AM, while the 07222 Santragachi-Secunderabad Special will depart Santragachi at 12:20 PM.

From Jharkhand, the 08626 Ranchi-Purnia Court Special will depart Ranchi at 6:00 PM. To ensure passenger convenience and safety, SER has implemented special arrangements at departure stations. Entry to the trains is being managed in an orderly queue, with Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel overseeing the process. Regular announcements are being made at stations, and railway staff are available to provide assistance for a smooth journey experience. (w/nkm)

Santhal : Deoghar to hold ' Paint My City' event for 1st time voters

Dhanbad Nov 2: Deoghar district administration will hold ' Paint My City' event on Monday (November 4) for encouraging and awareness of first time voters to participate in assembly elections.

Assembly elections in Deoghar district are scheduled in second phase on November 20.

Deoghar deputy commissioner (DC) cum district returning officer Vishal Sagar giving this information said that several programmes are being organized through SVEEP for promotion and encouragement of youth and first time voters to achieve 100% polling.

" Under this ambitious awareness programme " Paint My City' even will be organized at Jalsar Park on November 4. Besides it, walls of city would decorated with paintings based on tourism and mythological images to attract voters for voting", said DC Vishal Sagar, who is himself monitoring the event to make it a grand success. He said main mission of this event is to inculcate importance of voting in mind of voters. More over the persons of different age groups who keep interest in paining have been requested to become part of this campaign (Paint My City) so that 100% voting can be achieved in the district.

239 voters to cast vote at home in Dhanbad

Dhanbad, Nov 2: Dhanbad Postal Ballot Cell has identified 239 voters who will exercise their franchisee at home through postal ballot in the assembly elections in the district.

Deputy commissioner (DC) cum district returning officer Madhivi Mishra said that 16 polling parties have been constituted that will visit house of 239 voters across the district for their voting through postal ballot.

In the 239 voters list voters above 85 years of age and PWD voters are included for casing vote t home.

The home voting process will kick start on November 14 and complete on November 15 in two-day. Assembly elections on six seats of Dhanbad district are scheduled in second phase on November 20. " Two polling officers one each micro observer have been deployed in each polling party to conduct home voting process peacefully", said deputy commissioner Madhvi Mishra.

Sector magistrate has also been deployed to keep close eye in their respective areas on home polling process and ensure it peacefully.

Excise dept seizes truck of illegal liquor, arrest two

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Nov 2: The Excise Department in a crackdown on illegal liquor ahead of the Jharkhand assembly elections conducted a raid in the Namkum area. Acting on a tip, the team recovered a truck loaded with foreign liquor near the Sai temple across from the high-tension ground. During the operation, two suspects were apprehended on the spot. The excise department, working alongside police, continues its intensified campaign against illegal liquor to ensure compliance with election regulations. (w/nkm)

Gita Theatre's street play promotes cleanliness and voting awareness

Jamshedpur, Nov 2: Artists from Gita Theatre collaborated with Cube Waste Management to present a street play, Gadi Wala Aaya Ghar Se Kachra Nikaal, across various areas in Jamshedpur, including Kapali, Mango, Jugsalai, and Adityapur. The play conveyed essential messages on cleanliness, proper waste disposal, and the importance of voting, urging citizens to utilize Adityapur Waste Management's garbage bins to keep the city clean. The performance concluded with an audience pledge for cleanliness and active participation in voting. Directed by Prem Dixit, the cast included Anant Sardar, Divyanka Tiwari, Pritam Dixit, Shreya Chhatri, and Rohan Rajak. Cube Adityapur Waste Management and Municipal Corporation officials attended the event, supporting the awareness drive. (w/nkm)

Election observer orders social media monitoring of candidates' activities

Mail News Service



Ramgarh, Nov 2: General Observer TV Subhash conducted a surprise inspection of the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) cell at the Information Building in the Collectorate on Saturday.

The inspection aimed to ensure a transparent and fair election process.

During his visit, Observer Subhash reviewed the activities of the MCMC, which monitors candidates' actions during the election period. District Public Relations Officer Prabhat Shankar provided insights on managing paid news, media monitoring, and certification processes. Subhash emphasized the importance of monitoring social media to track candidates' activities and issued specific guidelines to enhance oversight.

Present during the inspection were License Officer Manoj Kumar Manjeet, Welcomer Nitish Kumar, and other officials, all working to ensure compliance with election protocols. (w/nkm)

Seven killed as van collides with trailer in dense fog

Mail News Service



Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Seven members of a bhajan troupe lost their lives when their van collided with a stationary trailer in Odisha's Sundargarh district early Saturday. The accident, believed to be caused by dense fog reducing visibility, occurred around 2:00 a.m. on the MCL-Toparia road.

The victims, part of a Bhajan Mandali from Kandadhudha and Samarpinda villages in Sundargarh, were returning to Odisha after attending a funeral in Chakbahal, Chhattisgarh. Sundargarh police reported that six passengers died at the scene, while one succumbed to injuries at the hospital. Five others sustained serious injuries and are receiving medical care.

DIG of South Western Range, Brijesh Rai, confirmed that the collision's impact was devastating, leading to the immediate death of seven people, including the driver.

The bodies have been sent for post-mortem, and authorities believe that poor visibility due to fog was a contributing factor. (w/nkm)

Govind Vidyalaya students explore agricultural research at ICAR

Jamshedpur, Nov 2: On October 28, 2024, students from Govind Vidyalaya Tamolia embarked on an enriching educational tour to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Centre in Plandu, Ranchi. The visit, organized for students of Classes 9 and 11, was guided by Principal Ms. Krishna Modak, Senior Incharge Harvinder Kaur, and teachers Sanjeev Kumar, Shubham Kumar, and Dayal Patra. During the tour, students explored the Eastern Research Complex and the Hill and Plateau Research Centre at ICAR, where they gained insights into lac production and horticulture. Experts at the centre provided hands-on demonstrations, allowing students to learn techniques for cultivating a variety of fruits and vegetables. The tour offered an in-depth look into sustainable agricultural practices, sparking student interest in agricultural sciences and research. This educational visit was a valuable opportunity for students to witness the practical applications of agricultural research, aligning with the school's commitment to experiential learning. (w/nkm)

Blood donation camp marks National Unity Day



Jamshedpur, Nov 2: In celebration of National Unity Day, honouring the 149th birth anniversary of Iron Man Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Patel Parivar Samiti organized a blood donation camp at Patel Bhawan in Chhota Govindpur on Saturday. The event was a resounding success, collecting a total of 55 units of blood.

The initiative was supported by patrons Shailendra Sinha, Rajkumar Rai, and the entire Patel family, who played a vital role in the camp's success.

Advocate Akshay Kumar Jha, a participant in the blood donation, was honoured by the Patel family with a shawl on the occasion of his birthday, recognizing his ongoing support for community initiatives. (w/nkm)

Andhra Day celebrated at Kadma central office

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Nov 2: Andhra Day was celebrated with great fervour at the Kadma Central Office on November 1, 2024,, organized by the All Jharkhand Telugu Samajam. The event began with a tribute to freedom fighter Shri Potti Sriramulu, where flowers were offered to his portrait in honour of his sacrifices. Samajam President Y. Ishwar Rao emphasized Sriramulu's pivotal role in advocating for a separate Andhra Pradesh, noting that he undertook a fast unto death on October 19, 1952, ultimately leading to his martyrdom on the 56th day. His efforts prompted then-Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to announce the separation of Andhra Pradesh from Madras state in Parliament, culminating in the state's formation on November 1, 1954.

Rao called on the Telugu community to unite and strengthen their identity, encouraging adherence to the principles of truth and non-violence exemplified by Sriramulu. Yam B. Subramaniam, the State President of Samajam, highlighted that due to Sriramulu's efforts, Andhra Pradesh became the first state in India formed on a linguistic basis. He also advocated for caste-based reservations for Telugu people in Jharkhand to enhance employment opportunities. General Secretary L Nageshwar Rao reaffirmed the importance of Sriramulu's legacy, stating that his movement established a distinct identity for Telugu people globally. The event saw participation from prominent leaders within the community, including Chandrashekhar Rao and Kamal Kumar, fostering a spirit of solidarity and commitment to the growth of the Telugu society. (w/nkm)

Observers lay out ground rules in candidate meeting

Jamshedpur, Nov 2: In preparation for a free, fair, and transparent election process, a critical meeting was held at the Collectorate auditorium, involving the police observer, general observer, expenditure observer, and district election officer alongside candidates and their representatives. The Returning Officers (ROs) from key constituencies, including Baharagora, Potka, Jugsalai, Jamshedpur East, and Jamshedpur West, were also present.

The general observer emphasized the importance of adhering to the guidelines outlined in the candidate handbook and urged candidates to obtain timely permissions for campaign activities through the single-window system. He cautioned against unauthorized campaigning, voter enticement, and any practices violating the Model Code of Conduct.

The police observer highlighted the deployment of security forces to maintain election integrity and stressed the prohibition on spreading misinformation or creating false narratives. The expenditure observer briefed attendees on the guidelines related to campaign finances, expenses for rallies, publicity materials, and the use of the CVIGIL app and Suvidha portal for reporting and managing expenditures.

Second randomization of polling personnel : In preparation for the upcoming assembly elections, the second randomization of polling personnel was conducted in the presence of DEO Ananya Mittal and General Observers at the Collectorate auditorium. This randomization, using the Election Commission's specialized software, organized polling parties by assembly constituency for the district's 1,913 polling stations.

The process follows an initial randomization stage that selects election personnel. In this phase, the personnel were grouped into assembly-wise polling parties. A third randomization will assign specific polling stations to each party.

Present at the event were ADM (Law and Order) Aniket Sachan, SDM Dhalbhum Mrs. Shatabdi Majumdar, ADC Bhagirath Prasad, SIO Rahul G Anand, DEO Mrs. Priyanka Singh, DISO Kishore Prasad, and other officials involved in the election process. (w/pb)

BJP candidate Badkunwar Gagrai promises development for Majhgaon

Mail News Service



Chaibasa, Nov 2: Badkunwar Gagrai, the BJP candidate for the Majhgaon assembly constituency in a press conference, outlined his development plans if elected.

Emphasizing his commitment to implementing both state and central government schemes, Gagrai prioritized initiatives such as the Sarna Dharma Code and Warang Kshiti. He highlighted the need to complete the ongoing Eklavya Vidyalaya project, aiming to provide educational opportunities for underprivileged students.

Gagrai expressed concern over the lack of a referral hospital in Majhgaon over the past five years and pledged to improve healthcare access. He also promised to ensure that every household receives drinking water and outlined plans to use the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) funds for constructing unfinished schools, hospitals, and roads in the area. Furthermore, he committed to improving electricity supply to local homes, noting the current shortfall despite the state government's promise of 200 units of free electricity.

Addressing youth unemployment, Gagrai acknowledged that while government jobs cannot be provided to all, he aims to promote self-employment opportunities.

He reiterated the BJP's commitment to ensuring that Kolhan receives proper representation, emphasizing that the Prime Minister's focus is on the region's development and prosperity. (w/nkm)

Street play promotes voter awareness in Seraikela



Seraikela, Nov 2: In light of the upcoming assembly elections in 2024, voter awareness initiatives are gaining momentum across Seraikela-Kharsawan district. Recently, Lok Kala Manch conducted a street play in Dugni Panchayat to encourage residents to participate in the electoral process. The performance aimed to inspire citizens to achieve 100 percent voter turnout by conveying essential messages about responsible voting. Through engaging drama, the artists urged the audience to resist temptations and to prioritize voting as a civic duty, declaring it a festival for the people.

The street play highlighted the significance of thoughtful voting, encouraging spectators to press the ballot button only after careful consideration. To reinforce the message, various voter awareness posters and banners were displayed, illustrating the importance of casting votes. This campaign particularly targets polling booths that recorded lower voter turnout in previous elections, aiming to boost participation.

Wild Elephant stirs panic in Bahragora's Benasholi Forest

Baharagora, Nov 2: Villagers near Benasholi forest in Pathra Panchayat are gripped with fear following the arrival of a wild elephant that has trampled paddy crops and caused damage in the area.

Residents of nearby villages, including Manushmudia, Benasholi, Beheda, and Shaldoha, are anxious about potential property loss, and many are forced to stay awake at night to guard their homes. The Forest Department has advised villagers to avoid forest paths, collecting wood, and venturing near the elephant's route. Officials are closely monitoring the elephant's movements to prevent further damage, with measures in place to minimize risks to life and property.

Railway Employee Welfare Association promotes voting awareness

Jamshedpur, Nov 2: Ahead of the Jharkhand assembly elections, the Railway Employee Welfare Association initiated a door-to-door campaign across railway colonies, encouraging residents to vote. Association president Manoj Mishra, along with several officials, led the campaign in areas like Carriage and Loco colonies, reaching over 500 households.

Voter awareness campaign launched in Manoharpur

Mail News Service



Chaibasa, Nov 2: To boost voter turnout in the upcoming elections, the SVEEP Cell, under the direction of District Election Officer and DC Kuldeep Chaudhary, has initiated daily awareness campaigns in the Manoharpur assembly constituency.

On this occasion, the campaign targeted areas with historically low voter participation, including Gudri, Goilkera, and Sonua.

Today, a street play team performed in these regions, delivering a compelling message about the importance of voting in strengthening democracy. The performance aimed to encourage local residents to actively participate in the electoral process on November 13. Alongside the street play, campaigners distributed posters emphasizing voter awareness, engaging the community in discussions about the significance of their votes. (w/nkm)

A call for ethical leadership in elections

Sanjay Mishra

Seraikela, Nov 2: In today's electoral landscape, a troubling trend has emerged among public leaders who, instead of highlighting their strengths, engage in the degradation of their opponents. This shift reflects toxic atmosphere where derogatory tactics overshadow constructive dialogue, raising concerns about the future of democratic values. Historically, leaders known for their ideals garnered genuine following, but now, many struggle to attract supporters, often resorting to personal attacks as a means of asserting dominance.

The change in approach is evident, with public figures celebrating their victories not by promoting their vision but by humiliating rivals. This divisive strategy has led to increased tensions, with numerous cases of disputes reaching police stations, undermining the spirit of democracy. While not all leaders partake in this behaviour, a significant number do, resulting in societal fractures along lines of caste, religion, and wealth for electoral gain. It is imperative for the enlightened members of society to reflect on these developments, fostering a more respectful and unified approach to politics. By advocating for a return to principles of cooperation and integrity, the future generation can hope to witness a revitalized and noble form of democracy that upholds the values of faith, community, and mutual respect.

Third Jharkhandi tradition, art, culture, and sports program scheduled



Seraikela, Nov 2: Seraikela is set to host the third edition of the Jharkhandi Tradition, Art, Culture, and Sports Program on November 15 and 16, 2024, under the aegis of the Rural Football Academy Kolabira. This annual event is organized in celebration of Birsa Jayanti and Jharkhand Foundation Day. Shambhu Mandal, a former national player and District Council member, announced that the festivities will kick off at the Kolabira Football Ground, with Padmashree Chutni Mahato as the inaugural guest on the first day.

The program will feature the 17th Rural Football Champion Trophy-2024, which will include eight renowned football teams competing with nine players each. The opening ceremony will involve garlanding the statue of Lord Birsa Munda, followed by a series of competitions, including races for children, tug-of-war for youth, and traditional lamp-lighting ceremonies for women. The day's performances will showcase various local dance forms, such as Bhuang Naach and Chhau, reflecting the rich cultural heritage of the region.

On November 16, activities will continue with traditional songs and dances from different tribal communities, such as Budhi Gaadi and Ho dance. The event aims to preserve and promote the vanishing traditions of Jharkhand while simultaneously nurturing sporting talent among the youth. Mandal emphasized the importance of this initiative in fostering community spirit and cultural awareness in the region. (w/nkm)

Annakoot Mahotsav celebrated with devotion at Kadma Rankini Temple

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Nov 2: The annual Annakoot Mahotsav was celebrated with fervour at the Shri Shri Rankini Mandir on November 2, 2024. This cherished festival, organized by the temple committee, involves the worship of food offerings in honour of Annapurna Devi, symbolizing the abundance and sustenance that she provides. Committee President Dilip Das and General Secretary Janardan Pandey shared that this puja has been a tradition for the past 40 years, during which a stunning array of fifty-six different dishes were prepared and offered as prasad. The event attracted over 800 devotees, who came to partake in the bhog and express their gratitude.

The Rankini Temple, known as one of the oldest in Kadma, holds significant importance among the local and regional devotees, drawing worshippers from distant areas to seek blessings. The temple's management praised the dedication of both senior and junior members who contributed to the successful execution of the rituals, ensuring that the spirit of the festival resonated with all participants. (w/nkm)

Gohal Puja celebrated with devotion



Mail News Service

Seraikela, Nov 2: Gohal Puja was celebrated with reverence by cattle herders on the auspicious occasion of Govardhan Puja in Seraikela. Farmers prepared their animals with care, bathing and dressing them in vibrant colours, while some adorned them with new garments and traditional decorations using alta. As part of the rituals, a crown of paddy ear was placed on the livestock's head, symbolizing prosperity and gratitude.

The festivities began with married women cleaning the Gohal or Gaushala, purifying it with cow dung, and lighting lamps to invoke blessings. Livestock were then brought to the Gohal and honoured with ritualistic affection, followed by a special offering of homemade pitha dishes. This annual practice serves as a heartfelt expression of gratitude from farmers to their animals, recognizing their vital role in agricultural success.

Lalit Nanda, a cattle herder from Navadih village, shared insights about the significance of Gohal Puja, stating that it marks the end of the harvesting season, celebrating the arrival of grains. According to tradition, it is believed that Lord Bholenath visits Earth on this day to bless the livestock, making the occasion a sacred expression of devotion and community spirit among the farmers. (w/nkm)

BJM celebrates Rani Lakshmibai's birth anniversary

Jamshedpur, Nov 2: Members of the Bharatiya Jan Mahasabha (BJM) celebrated the birth anniversary of Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi, a key figure in India's first struggle for independence, with events across the country and internationally on Wednesday, Oct 30. The organization's president, Dharm Chandra Poddar, noted that the occasion is observed annually on Kartik Krishna Chaturdashi according to the Hindi calendar, a tradition maintained by Rani Lakshmibai's descendants.

In Jamshedpur, the celebration took place at the public park in Dimna Chowk. Speaking at the event, Poddar highlighted Rani Lakshmibai's role in setting the date for the freedom struggle during a pivotal meeting after Raja Gangadhar Rao's Shraddha Bhoj, aligning leaders from across India to launch a synchronized revolt.

Jamshedpur remembers Ashish Dey on death anniversary

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Nov 2: On the death anniversary of the late Ashish Dey "Bhai," family members and employees of Sreeleathers and Hotel Smita (Days Owners) gathered in Sakchi to pay tribute to him.

Known as the youngest son of freedom fighter Suresh Chandra Dey, Ashish Dey played a pivotal role in elevating Sreeleathers by upholding his father's vision of providing quality, affordable products to Indians. His efforts have provided employment to numerous families and contributed to the company's national reputation for accessible quality goods.

Ashish Dey, affectionately known as "Bhai," was celebrated for his simplicity and willingness to help the needy. In honoring his legacy, family members and employees pledged to continue his work, aligning with the values of Sreeleathers to serve the community and nation. Among those present were Sreeleathers and Hotel Smita staff, Dey's family members, social worker Munna Agarwal, and other dignitaries, all committed to carrying forward the values he cherished.

Earthquake shakes Seraikela, sparks panic and minor damage

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Nov 2: A tremor rattled the Seraikela urban and rural areas on Saturday morning at approximately 9:19 AM, causing residents to rush out of their homes in alarm. The earthquake, which lasted around 11 seconds, was reported to have a magnitude of 4.3 and was centred near Chakradharpur. Fortunately, no significant damage was recorded, although many residents experienced moments of panic during the event.

Following the quake, local inhabitants reported cracks in both mud and concrete structures, raising concerns about building safety in the area. Additionally, during the tremors, sparks were observed from an electric transformer located in Swarnpur Ward, which residents attributed to a short circuit caused by the seismic activity.

Despite the minor damages and heightened anxiety, local authorities and emergency services were on alert, ready to address any potential fallout from the incident. (w/nkm)

Sonali Adesara's rangoli art brightens Jamshedpur's festivities

Parvinder Bhatia

Jamshedpur, Nov 2: The steel city is resonating with vibrant colours and cultural pride as the Gujarati New Year unfolds. Adding a unique touch to the celebrations, Sonali Adesara, an artist by heart, has created an awe-inspiring rangoli at her residence in Shrikunj House, Northern Town. With her fingers serving as her brush and the floor as her canvas, Sonali's work has transformed the traditional Rangoli into a breathtaking piece of art that radiates peace, happiness, and an unmistakable aura of positivity.

In an effort that took a marathon 15 hours to complete, Sonali crafted an intricate image of mother Yashoda and the child Krishna, capturing the tenderness of the mother-child bond. The artwork, measuring 5 feet in length and 4 feet in width, reflects an impeccable coordination of colours, so meticulously blended that it resembles a painting rather than the traditional powdered art form. Her rangoli's detail and precision are so captivating that many onlookers found it hard to believe it was created by hand. Sitting on the floor surrounded by sheets of drawings and scattered colours, Sonali bends over her work for hours, pausing only to wipe her brow in the warm stillness with fans turned off. A quick smile across her face signals her satisfaction as each stroke and shade comes together just as she



planned. This kind of dedication is possible only because of her family's unwavering support, says Sonali, who is the daughter-in-law of Ashwin Adesara and wife of Kaushal Adesara, belonging to the respected Chhaganlal Dayalji Sons family.

Originally from Mumbai, Sonali moved to Jamshedpur and has since made it her home, infusing her new city with the spirit and artistry that comes naturally to her. "I believe in spreading an aura of peace, happiness, and positivity through my art," she explains with a soft smile. Her rangoli, which draws admirers not just for its size but also for its soulful theme, showcases Sonali's dedication to her cultural roots and her desire to bring beauty and peace into the world, one vibrant color at a time.

The Gujarati New Year celebrations in Jamshedpur have never seen anything quite like this, as the local community, family, and friends gather to admire Sonali's rangoli. The spirit of tradition meets the contemporary touch of an artist with a vision—Sonali Adesara, a name that the people of Jamshedpur will remember, not only as an IT professional but also as an artist who painted the festival with a mother's love.

Morality in warfare

Israel's recent military actions have raised serious concerns about its disregard for the established norms of war and fundamental human values. In the pursuit of defeating Hamas, Israel seems to have overstepped the boundaries, targeting not just militants but countless civilians—many of whom are women and children—through relentless airstrikes on hospitals, schools, and shelters. These strikes, which have led to countless civilian casualties, represent a violation of international war laws and can justly be seen as war crimes.

This war is not without rules, and no country, including Israel, is exempt from them. However, Israel's aggressive stance appears aimed at not just subduing Hamas but, tragically, erasing Palestine from the world map. Its latest moves, including multiple offensives across West Asia and heightened attacks on Gaza, suggest a deeper intent that extends far beyond defense. The recent bombing of shelters in Gaza where displaced Palestinians sought refuge is a particularly concerning example of this unchecked aggression.

Adding to the Palestinians' misery, Israel's parliament has recently passed two bills aimed at halting all aid to refugees in Gaza, effectively restricting the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) from assisting those affected by the conflict. This measure not only compounds the suffering of war-wounded civilians but also severs crucial support networks, leaving many Palestinians without recourse or protection. By blocking UNRWA's relief work, Israel further isolates the Palestinian people, a move that could destabilize the region and exacerbate the humanitarian crisis.

The international community stands by, largely silent, as these atrocities continue. Even the United Nations, historically an advocate for global peace and human rights, appears powerless to curb Israel's aggressive policies. Recently, Israel even barred UN Secretary-General António Guterres from entering the country, deeming him "undesirable" for his criticism, an alarming gesture that signals Israel's growing defiance of international opinion and accountability. At this moment, the world's hesitation to act is troubling. Israel's unchecked aggression not only violates international laws but also risks eroding the moral principles that should guide nations in times of conflict. The global community must respond, for without restraint, the human cost of this conflict will continue to rise, deepening suffering and diminishing hope for peace in the region..

From the Editorial Desk

Jharkhand: Welfare scheme beneficiaries root for 'Modi Sarkar'

Away from hectic electioneering in poll-bound Jharkhand, a section of beneficiaries of Central welfare schemes in the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-ruled state wants the next state government to improve their lives like the way it has been done by the "Modi Sarkar".

"Brand Modi" seems to be much in demand among Jharkhand voters who claim they are aware of the distinct nature of Lok Sabha and Assembly elections but are still rooting for "Modi Sarkar".

"We want Modi sarkar in Jharkhand," said Sabita Devi from Palamu district, looking forward to a further expansion of centrally-funded welfare schemes which have improved the quality of their lives.

Clarifying that she understands the difference between state and Central governments, another woman told IANS: "We can't help but praise the Modi government for changing our lives. There was no development in our



area and we were a completely neglected area till the advent of Modi Sarkar at the Centre."

Even if someone gives us Rs 1,000 or Rs 2,000 every month we will back PM Modi, said Asha Devi, indirectly referring to the newly-started financial assistance scheme 'Jharkhand Mukhyamantri Maiyan Samman Yojna' of the Hemant Soren government.

Ahead of the two-phase Assembly election on November 13 and 20, many beneficiaries of welfare schemes related to health, education and the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana for subsidised cooking gas claimed that they want "Modi Sarkar" in Jharkhand.

To a large extent, "Brand Modi" seems to draw its strength in Jharkhand from the free ration and shelter schemes.

Manorma Devi, another resident of Palamu, told IANS, "Modiji has already made us lakhpathi", referring to the schemes for women-led self-help groups.

Central schemes for housing, roads and sewerage disposal seem to have left an impact on the minds of Jharkhand voters, raising their expectations from the state government to be elected in Assembly polls. Anil Kumar Prajapati, a resident from Garhwa district, recalled the days of open defecation in their Bhagalpur village and said, "Households now have toilets and this has happened only due to the BJP-led Modi government."

Describing his village as a hub of labourers, Prajapati said almost 90 per cent of residents have got a pucca shelter ever since the Modi government came to power.

"There were days when we used to think twice before going to the nearest town to fill petrol but today with the good roads it takes us just minutes to finish the task," he said.

Shankar Prasad Gupta, also from the same village, said he was living in a mud hut before benefitting from the PM Awas Yojana and getting a home in a planned colony.

"A lot has been done for the poor," he said.

Another resident from Garhwa district, Subhash Chandra Kashyap, recalled how all roads in the village have got concrete layers and all mud houses have been replaced by pucca houses.

While the ruling JMM-led INDIA bloc prepares to take on the challenge from the BJP and its allies in the Assembly elections, the perceived goodwill for the "Modi sarkar" may help the saffron party put up a good show.

The results of the election for picking the 81-member Assembly will be declared on November 23.

Bhai Dooj is a festival of brother-sister love, bonding, and togetherness

By Priyanka Saurabh



Every woman in our country celebrates Bhai Dooj to show her support and compassion for her brother. On this day, all the sisters pray to God for the happiness of their brother's life. It is widely believed because Yamuna got a promise from her brother Yamraj that only by celebrating Bhai Dooj can one get rid of the fear of Yamraj and even increase the love or feeling between brother and sister. In return, brothers shower their sisters with gifts full of happiness. Like Raksha Bandhan, Bhai Dooj strengthens the brother-sister bond.

Bhai Dooj or Yam Dwitiya is celebrated two days after Diwali. Sisters participate in the tika ceremony to pray for the long life of their brothers, while brothers give gifts to their sisters that honor the bond between siblings. Some other names for Bhai Dooj are Bhau Beej, Bhatri Dwitiya, Bhai Dwitiya, or Bhathru Dwitiya. This day is also called Yama Dwitiya, which falls here on the second day of Kartik month. On Yama Dwitiya, Yamaraja, the god of death, is worshipped along with Chitragupt and Yam-doot, followers of Lord Yamaraj. Bhai Dooj is a Hindu event. It is made up of two words: "bhai," which means "brother," along with "dooj," which refers to the second day after the new moon, which is also a day of celebration. This day is especially meaningful in the life of a brother and sister. It is a joyous event to honor the intense relationship between siblings. Sisters invite their brothers to visit their home and cook their favorite dishes. Sisters also pray to God for their brothers' health, quality of life, and protection from all illnesses and misfortunes. In return, the brothers fulfill their obligations to care for and adore their sisters.

Bhai Dooj is an important festival celebrated with great zeal and enthusiasm throughout India. The ceremony begins with inviting the brothers to a sumptuous feast of their favorite food or sweets. The whole event represents a brother's promise to protect his sister, while a sister prays to God and wishes for her brother's well-being. To conclude the ritual traditionally, sisters make a seat for their brothers with rice flour. Here, on the brother's forehead, a holy tilak made of sindoor, curd, and rice is applied. The sister then places pumpkin flowers, betel leaves, betel nuts, or cash in her brother's palms and slowly chants shlokas while pouring water.

She then also performs the Aarti. A lamp facing the south direction is lit, and seeing a kite flying in the sky is a good omen of wish fulfillment. While savoring the treats, the brothers are given their favorite sweets and water to drink. The event also involves the exchange of Bhai Dooj gifts between brothers and sisters and seeking blessings from elders.

According to Hindu scriptures, Goddess Yamuna was quite close to her brother, Lord Yama, the God of Death. She had a strong desire to see her brother, as they had not seen each other for a long time. When Lord Yama arrived to greet his sister two days after Diwali, Goddess Yamuna, overwhelmed with emotion, placed a tikka on his forehead while cooking delicious food for him. Lord Yama was impressed by his sister's act and instructed her to ask for a boon. Goddess Yamuna laughingly invited him to visit her once a year, saying that the one whose sister would place a tilak on his forehead would not fear his brother Lord Yama as his sister's love would protect him. Lord Yama fulfilled this favor, and the festival of Bhai Dooj, which has become a tradition of Hinduism and an important component of the five-day Diwali celebrations, began. Bhai Dooj is a festival that honors the love, bonding, and togetherness of a brother and sister. This event is similar to Raksha Bandhan and has the same goal. The day is marked by the exchange of sweets or gifts between siblings. As a symbol of their devotion and to protect their brothers, sisters put tikka on their brothers' foreheads.

Bhai Dooj is a national holiday celebrated all over India. However, it is known by different names in different country sections. In Maharashtra and Goa, it is considered 'Bhau Beej', but in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, it is considered 'Bhau Tika'. It is called 'Bhai Phota' in West Bengal. In Nepal, this dish is known as 'Bhai Tihar'. Every woman in our country celebrates Bhai Dooj to show her support and compassion for her brother. On this day, all sisters pray to God for the happiness of their brother's life. It is widely believed that because Yamuna got a promise from her brother Yamraj that only by celebrating Bhai Dooj can one get rid of the fear of Yamraj and even increase the love or feeling between brother and sister. In return, brothers shower their sisters with gifts and happiness. Like Raksha Bandhan, Bhai Dooj strengthens the bond between brothers and sisters.

Tying a rakhi represents a brother's commitment to protect and guard his sister from evil forces. By applying a tika on her brother's forehead during Bhai Dooj, the sister promises to protect her brother in every way. Sisters perform aarti for their brother and then apply a red tika on his forehead. Bhai Dooj is compared to the Indian festival of Raksha Bandhan in that it commemorates the everlasting relationship that exists between a brother and a sister. In this special event, brothers visit their sisters to check on them and share gifts or sweets.

Indian model on poverty eradication, job creation showcased at ILO



The Indian model of inclusive economic policies that generate quality jobs, support social protection, and promote gender equality was highlighted by the country's delegation at the 352nd Governing Body meeting of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) held in Geneva, a statement said on Saturday.

The India delegation is led by Sumita Dawra, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, at the ILO meeting which shall continue till November 7.

During the discussions, Dawra highlighted the national efforts to create decent work opportunities for all segments of society, particularly women and youth, which align closely with ILO's call for a renewed social contract.

Dawra also shared with ILO Governing Body members India's commitment to improving living standards, which is reflected in significant initiatives covering all dimensions of poverty that have led to 248 million individuals escaping multidimensional poverty in the last nine years, as measured by the multidimensional poverty index.

India's transformation over the past decade, in terms of financial inclusion and prioritising access to financial services for vulnerable populations, was also highlighted by the Indian team.

These steps by the Government have empowered millions of individuals and families, fostering a more inclusive and secure society, said Dawra.

Government initiatives like PM Jan Dhan Yojana bridge the financial gap for the unbanked, while PM Jeevan Jyoti Yojana and PM Suraksha Bima Yojana offer affordable life and accident insurance, the Governing Body was informed.

The Indian delegation also showcased the significant employment growth over the recent years, with government policies, skilling programmes, and economic growth adding around 170 million persons in economic activity during 2016-17 and 2022-23 as per provisional estimates. India's economic trajectory demonstrates sustained job creation across key sectors, it was underlined.

Dawra also said that India has significantly expanded its social protection coverage. This is recognised by the recent ILO's flagship World Social Protection Report 2024-26, which points out the doubling of social protection coverage in India.

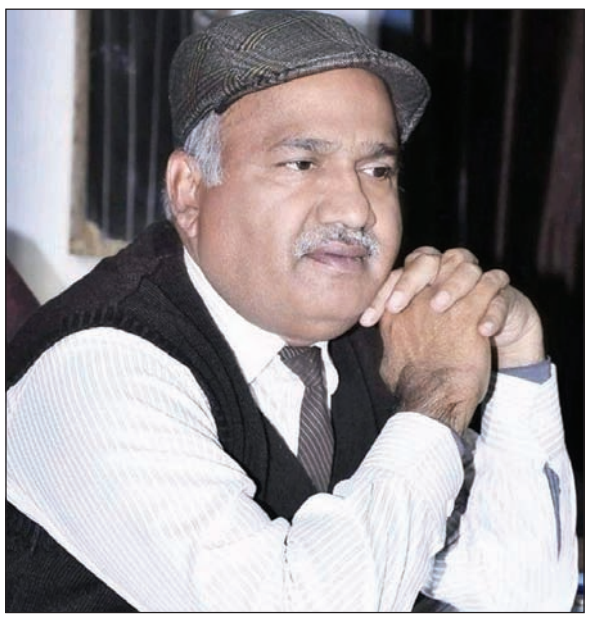
Besides, the Indian government's largest in-kind social protection scheme, namely the Targeted Public Distribution System, is well captured as a part of special coverage in the report, as one of the world's largest legally binding social assistance schemes providing in-kind food security to about 800 million people, the ILO members were informed.

During earlier discussions on the proposal for greater democratisation within ILO Governing Body, India commended ILO but at the same time expressed support for comprehensive reforms in governance in not just ILO but other UN Bodies too.

The difference between modern marriages and old marriages

By Vijay Garg

Colors of Punjabi culture are very beautiful. Looking back at the old times in the villages of Punjab gives peace to the mind. This happens because some time ago, whatever happened in the villages of Punjab, became a fascinating part of Punjabi culture. In which the women are painting the mud huts, starting to sing songs a month before the weddings, tying the hoops of the wheels in trinshans together, weaving colorfuldariyas, gathering the threshing floor of the vultures,It included offering Vangas, making rotis on the common hearth and oven, tying flowers under big pipals-bohds, etc. Even doing household chores jointly by women was an invitation to brotherhood. In the olden days, marriage in villages used to be a household affair, but it became a common function of the entire village. It used to be an atmosphere of social interaction and happiness for women. They go together to the marriage house, sometimes they clean wheat, sometimes they pick pulses and sometimes they sit together in marriage.She sings Suhag songs. Their every action was such that the wedding ceremony became memorable and the married couple did not face any difficulties. Whenever there was a marriage of a girl in the village, the whole village would get busy in preparations for the Barat reception. Women, especially the brides, started making preparations to give new gifts. Ao-Bhagat of Barat was given special priority in those days. Barat also used to stay for two-three days and the entire village was engaged in the service of the barat. No bedding serviceSome used to arrange the bathing water for the Barat, some were engaged in making various sweets for the Barat together with the confectioner. The women gather together and happily make rotis or the old-time pollies on the tawi, singing songs. It seemed as if the marriage of one girl had affected the entire village. People who came to Janjha also had a desire to climb Janjh. In the village where a boy dies, his relatives, fair and special people of the village get new clothes for the death.They were preparing to make their way and climb the jhanh with full pomp. In any village, it was worth seeing the sight of Janjha climbing with instruments. In those days Janja also used to travel on chariots, horses, carts or camels. The era of motor cars had not yet arrived. It was said that the whole village used to come to see Janjh Chardadi; Thus this time



used to be very pleasant and full of happiness for the whole village. Janjhis used to play pranks on each other. In the same way, when Janjha would reach the village of another village girlA lot of bhangra was played by Janjhis and every barati considered himself as a special guest and did not set foot on the earth. On the other hand, when the round of bhangra is over, the bridegrooms ask the brides to sit on newly laid white mats outside the door under the big pipal or heirloom banyan tree. Baratis would sit on those poles while taking care of their tombs while digging their feet with mud. This occasion used to be the reception of Barat. So the women of the village, who had already made garlands on the nearby sheds, started raining songs.She would do it. In the beginning, they sang welcome songs out of respect and were heard saying; After the welcome song, the ladies would also start letting the janjhis sit and grooms, fathers of the groom and middlemen were especially on their radar. Sometimes, as soon as they sat on the couches, they started to see some food and drink arrangement. On the part of the girls, first one person from the village would place brass plates in front of all the brides, then another would come and place large brass glasses. In this way, one person is full of laddusIf two or two laddus were taken and placed in all the plates, then another person would bring a full plate of jalebis for those plates and put four jalebis in each barati's plate. On this occasion, a very unique scene used to be presented. To give it more cultural color, the women chant the Sithani loudly and address the bridegroom by saying; In this blissful time, the baratis who came from far away used to feel more blissful than the royal sofas of today's five-star hotels, just sitting on the couches enjoying the food. a passA strong welcome, secondly the taste of local sweets and thirdly the taste of Punjabi culture, would transport them to another world. Although the wedding was simple, low-cost and far removed from today's extravagant pomp, it was filled with affection, companionship, loving sweetness and the fragrance of the countryside. In this way, they find it very enjoyable to sit on the couch and drink tea or eat bread and consider themselves lucky to come as Janjhi. It was a colorful period of rural culture. Even though the barat used to stay for two or three days, but no one gets tiredHe didn't even have a memory. They used to pass by on the day of marriage. Even though today's weddings are held in huge marriage palaces, grand tents are well decorated and 36 types of food are prepared for eating and round tables are set up to create a good look. New types of plates are used in place of the old brass utensils, but the pleasure of eating while sitting on those straws was different. Old elders do not talk about those scenes while remembering those days.

Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist MALOUT punjab

Facebook India's net profit up 43 pc to Rs 505 crore in FY24

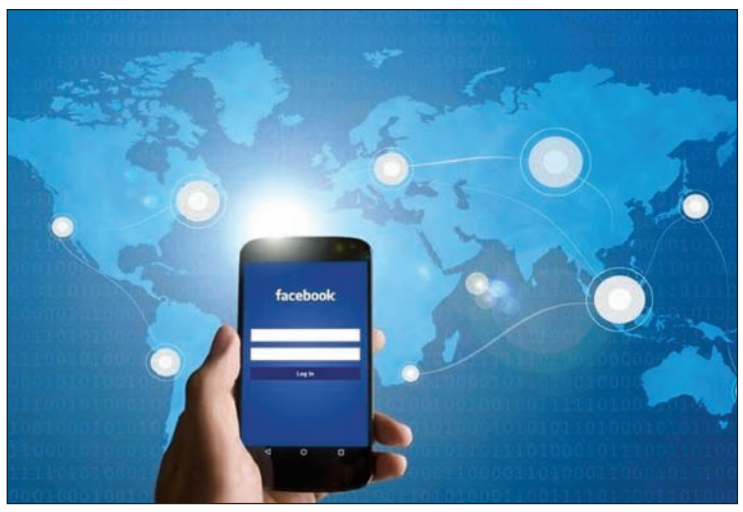
New Delhi, Nov 2 (IANS) Facebook India saw its profit surge by 43 per cent in the last fiscal (FY24), riding on digital advertising and support services offered to its parent company Meta in the US.

The company's India unit saw its net profit reach Rs 505 crore last fiscal. Its revenue from operations increase by 9.3 per cent to Rs 3,034.8 crore in FY24, up from Rs 2,775.7 crore in FY23, as per data from the Registrar of Companies (RoC).

Facebook India's overall expenses grew 2.4 per cent to Rs 2,349.6 crore and employee benefit expenses increased to Rs 476.1 crore, reflecting a 7.8 per cent increase from FY23.

The "other expenses" category remained stable at Rs 1435.3 crore.

As per the data, depreciation and amortisation costs dropped by 10.8 per cent to Rs 271.3



crore, from Rs 304.2 crore in FY23.

On the other hand, Facebook India's parent company reported weaker-than-expected user numbers and warned of a significant acceleration in its infrastructure expenses in 2025.

In its third-quarter earnings report, Meta reported $40.59 billion in revenue. Sales in the third quarter jumped 19 per cent year-on-year while net income grew 35 per cent to $15.7 billion from $11.6 billion a year earlier.

The social media giant reported 3.29 billion daily active people for the third quarter - up 5 per cent year-on-year.

Meta also raised capital expenditures guidance for the 2024 fiscal year to between $38 billion and $40 billion, up from $37 billion to $40 billion previously. Additionally, the company said it expects capital expenditures to continue to grow significantly in 2025 due to an acceleration in infrastructure expenses.

"We had a good quarter driven by AI progress across our apps and business," said Mark Zuckerberg, Meta founder and CEO. "We also have strong momentum with Meta AI, Llama adoption, and AI-powered glasses."

"Our AI investments continue to require serious infrastructure, and I expect to continue investing significantly there, too," Zuckerberg added.

IMF sees India driving growth in Asia-Pacific region

New Delhi, Nov 2 (IANS) India remains the world's fastest-growing economy with investment and private consumption driving growth, according to the IMF's latest Regional Economic Outlook for Asia-Pacific.

The IMF, in its World Economic Outlook report released on October 2, had retained India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecasts at a robust 7 per cent and 6.5 per cent for FY25 and FY26, respectively.

While growth in Asia is expected to slow down in 2024 and 2025 - reflecting fading support from the pandemic recovery and factors like ageing - short-term prospects were more favourable than expected in April, the regional economic outlook report said.

IMF said that the growth for the Asia Pacific region in 2024 has been revised up marginally by 0.1 percentage point to 4.6 per cent, primarily reflecting the robust performance early in the year. With this, the Asia and Pacific region are expected to contribute roughly 60 per cent to global growth this year.

However, "the outlook is subject to sizable economic and geopolitical uncertainties," the report states.

A blog post released by IMF along with the regional outlook report stated that while manufacturing has been the driver of growth in Asia, a transition to modern, tradable services could be a new source of growth and productivity.

It said that the growth of services has already drawn about half of the region's workers into the sector, up from just 22 per cent in 1990, as hundreds of millions moved from farms and factories.

"This shift is likely to accelerate with further expansion of international trade in modern services such as finance, information, and communication technology, as well as business outsourcing, for example, as already done in India and the Philippines," the blog post said.

In 2025, more accommodative monetary conditions are expected to support activity, resulting in a slight upward growth revision to 4.4 per cent from 4.3 per cent in April. Inflation has retreated in much of the region.

DIIs hold stock market steady as FIIs sell Rs 113,858 crore worth equity in Oct



Mumbai, Nov 2 (IANS) The foreign institutional investors (FIIs) sold a whopping Rs 113,858 crore worth equity in the Indian stock market in the month of October, contributing hugely to the about 8 per cent decline in benchmark indices from the peak.

Despite the massive FII selling in financials, this sector is resilient since the valuations are fair and every selling is being absorbed by domestic institutional investors (DIIs) and individual investors, particularly high-net-worth individuals (HNIs).

According to market watchers, the FII selling through the exchanges in October is the single-highest absolute selling ever in a month by them.

However, FIIs were buyers in the primary market with an investment of Rs 19,842 crores in October.

Market experts said that the rally in Chinese stocks appears to have tapered off as reflected in the declining trend in Shanghai and Hang Seng indices in recent days.

Global markets will respond to the US presidential elections for a few days, after which fundamentals like US GDP growth, inflation and rate cut by the Fed will influence market moves, said experts.

Meanwhile, in a new monthly record, DIIs infused more than Rs 1 lakh crore in Indian equities in October, keeping the stock market healthy compared to its global peers. So far, the DII investments have been more than Rs 4.41 lakh crore, with two more months to go, driven by growing retail participation through mutual funds.

Earlier, the highest recorded monthly DII inflows were registered in March this year, at about Rs 56,356 crore. According to market experts, DII inflows are a result of SIP contributions alongside insurance and retirement fund flows. DIIs have been a strong buyer absorbing the selling and mitigating the fall. Samvat 2080 saw Indian equities soaring to new highs with Nifty-50 surpassing the milestone of 26,000 to make a new high of 26,277 in September. Despite recent correction from the top, Nifty has given a return of 26 per cent in Samvat 2080.

Elon Musk lays off more employees from X: Report

San Francisco, Nov 2 (IANS) Elon Musk, who is busy promoting Donald Trump for the keenly-watched US presidential election on November 5, has reportedly laid off more employees from his X social media platform.

According to a report in The Verge, a new wave of layoffs has hit X, primarily affecting its engineering department, citing sources inside X and posts on the workplace forum Blind.

"The exact scale of the job cuts remains unknown. These cuts come just two months after staffers were required to submit a one-page summary telling leadership their contributions to the company," the report claimed.

Must or X were yet to comment on the report.

Recently, the tech billionaire had reportedly sent an email to X staff about their much-anticipated stock grants - although with a catch.

In an email to staff seen by The Verge, the social media paltform planned to award stock options based on the anticipated impact of employees.

"That means staff have to submit a one-page summary telling leadership their contributions to the company in order to get their stock," said the report.

Keeping in mind how the company has continued to struggle under Musk's ownership, employees have been bracing for more layoffs.

Musk bought X (then called Twitter) in 2022 and laid off more than 6,000 employees- roughly 80 per cent of the company's staff. The workforce was forced to justify their roles and even judge whether their own colleagues should be retained. The job cuts affected departments like diversity and inclusion teams as well as product development and design. Even, Twitter's content moderation team was not spared.

In January this year, X reportedly fired 1,000 employees from its 'safety' staff which was responsible for stopping abusive content online. Out of these 80 per cent were software engineers that were focused on "trust and safety issues".

India plays key role in finalising G20 consensus on disaster risk reduction



New Delhi, Nov 2 (IANS) With the active participation of a high-level Indian delegation, a G20 meeting has arrived at a consensus in finalising the first Ministerial declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), according to an official statement issued on Saturday.

The G-20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG) Ministerial Meeting was held from October 30 to November 1, 2024, in Belem, Brazil.

During various ministerial sessions, P. K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, shared the progress made by the Government of India in reducing disaster risks and in upscaling disaster financing in the country, the statement said. Mishra emphasised India's proactive approach to DRR, on five priorities of DRRWG, which were enunciated during the Indian Presidency of G20. These include early warning systems, disaster-resilient infrastructure, DRR financing, resilient recovery and nature-based solutions. In the disaster resilient infrastructure, he also shared PM Modi's global initiative of Coalition for Disaster Resilience Infrastructure (CDRI), which has now 40 countries and seven international organisations, as members, the statement added.

The Principal Secretary to Prime Minister reiterated the Government of India's commitment to the Sendai Framework and called for increased international collaboration on knowledge sharing, technology transfer, and sustainable development to enhance disaster resilience globally.

The Indian delegation also participated in the Troika meeting with the Ministers of Brazil and South Africa, and held bilateral meetings with ministers from the host country Brazil and other countries namely Japan, Norway, South Africa, South Korea, Germany, and Heads of invited International Organisations.

"Responding to the call by UNSG on Extreme Heat, Principal Secretary to the PM, shared experience & steps being taken including the focus on promoting traditional practices to suit local conditions," the official statement said.

The first DRR WG was established on India's initiative during its Presidency of G20 in 2023. Mishra congratulated the Brazilian Presidency on its continuation of the DRRWG, and scaling it up to the Ministerial level and affirmed India's support to South Africa on DRRWG on their upcoming G20 Presidency next year.

UPI sets new record with 16.58 billion transactions worth Rs 23.5 lakh crore in Oct

New Delhi, Nov 1 (IANS) The Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-based digital transactions continued to surge and in the month of October, the country saw 16.58 billion transactions worth Rs 23.5 lakh crore, the highest numbers since the UPI became operational in April 2016.

According to data shared by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) on Friday, October saw a 10 per cent increase in volume and 14 per cent in value compared to September.

Daily UPI transactions in October crossed 535 million in volume and Rs 75,801 crore in value - compared to 501 million in volume and Rs 68,800 crore in September.

There were 467 million Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) transactions in October, up 9 per cent from 430 million in September. In value terms, IMPS transactions grew by 11 per cent to Rs 6.29 lakh crore compared to Rs 5.65 lakh crore in September.

Meanwhile, the number of FASTag



transactions increased 8 per cent in October to 345 million, compared to 318 million in September. Transactions worth Rs 6,115 crore were made in October, up from Rs 5,620 crore in September.

There were 126 million transactions on the Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) in October, up 26 per cent from 100 million in September, as per the NPCI data.

According to a latest paper by economist PradipBhuyan from the Reserve Bank's Department of Currency Management, digital transactions have surged in such a fashion in India that cash usage, which still accounts for 60 per cent of consumer expenditure (as of March 2024) is rapidly declining. The share of digital payments more than doubled from 14-19 per cent in March 2021 to 40-48 per cent in March 2024, with unified payments interface (UPI) playing a key role.

UPI-based transaction volume surged 52 per cent to 78.97 billion in the first half of this year (H1 2024), from 51.9 billion in the same period last year.

Similarly, the value of transactions grew by 40 per cent, increasing from Rs 83.16 lakh crore to Rs 116.63 lakh crore in the first six months of this year.

JSW MG Motor India sales up 31 pc at 7,045 units in Oct

Gurugram, Nov 2: JSW MG Motor India today announced sales of 7,045** units in October 2024, a YoY growth of 31% over the corresponding month in the previous year (October 2023). The company's New Energy Vehicles (NEVs) remain a significant part of its overall sales.contributing over 70% of total volumes- the highest share of monthly sales by any passenger car manufacturer in the country - thereby demonstrating its commitment to promoting the adoption of NEVs.

Marking yet another significant milestone in India's journey towards clean mobility, JSW MG Motor India electrifies the EV market by selling 3,116 units of the MG Windsor - the country's first intelligent Crossover Utility Vehicle (CUV) - within the first month of its launch. These robust sales numbers are the highest among all other passenger electric cars which were sold during October 2024.

The company remains committed to sharing its sales numbers on the VAHAN portal, in consonance with its announcement in the previous month. As reported on VAHAN, the carmaker's YoY growth was 34% (excluding Telangana) this month.

The boost in sales during the festive season reflects the rapidly growing popularity of the company's electric vehicle portfolio.

Hyundai's global sales fall 1.6 pc in Oct as demand wanes

Seoul, Nov 1 (IANS) Hyundai Motor, South Korea's biggest carmaker, said on Friday its global sales fell 1.6 per cent last month from a year earlier due to a slowdown in vehicle demand.

Hyundai Motor sold 371,421 vehicles in October, down from 377,332 units a year earlier, the company said in a statement.

Domestic sales rose 0.9 per cent from 64,328 to 64,912 units during the cited period, while overseas sales declined 2.1 per cent from 313,004 to 306,509, the statement said, reports Yonhap news agency.

"With the pace of sales slowing in major markets, volatility in exchange rates, high lending rates and increasing geopolitical risks are expected to continue to weigh on sales results for the rest of the year," it said.

The maker of Santa Fe SUVs and Sonata sedans said it will flexibly respond to changes in global markets by adjusting production and sales systems depending on local conditions.



While focusing on increasing sales of high-end models, Hyundai plans to keep the sales volume of gasoline hybrid models steady amid the slowdown in electric vehicles.

From January to October, its sales dropped 1.6 percent to 3,447,171 autos from 3,504,368 in the year-ago period.

Domestic sales fell 7.5 per cent to 580,517 autos in the first 10 months from 627,847 units a year earlier. Its overseas sales were down 0.3 percent to 2,866,654 from 2,876,521 during the same period.

Meanwhile, Kia said on Friday it saw a 2.8 per cent increase in global sales last month from a year earlier thanks to robust domestic demand. Kia, an affiliate of domestic industry leader Hyundai Motor, sold 264,854 vehicles in October, up from 257,636 units a year ago, helped by robust local sales, the company said in a statement.

"Strong overseas sales of the Sportage, Sorento and Seltos SUVs propped up the monthly results," it said. Domestic sales increased 7.1 percent on-year to 46,025 units last month from 42,960, while overseas sales were up 1.8 percent to 217,901 from 214,130 during the cited period, it said.

Kia expected the face-lifted Sportage SUV, to be launched domestically on Tuesday, and the planned launch of the all-electric EV3 compact SUV in Europe to help boost sales for the rest of the fourth quarter. From January to October, sales fell 1.1 per cent to 2,584,244 autos from 2,611,865 units in the year-ago period.

Govt to launch 4,740 digital service centres to boost inclusive growth in rural areas

New Delhi, Nov 1 (IANS) The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on Friday launched the Digital India Common Service Center (DICSC) project to bridge the digital divide in rural India and ensure that digital services reach every citizen.

Starting with Pilibhit and Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, this project will establish one model DICSC centre in nearly all gram panchayats across 10 districts, totaling 4,740 centres nationwide. These centres will offer a variety of services including Aadhaar registration, banking, financial planning, tele-law, telemedicine, education, and e-commerce support.

Pilibhit will see the establishment of 720 DICSC centres, while Gorakhpur will have 1,273 centres.

In addition ChhatrapatiSambhajinagar (Maharashtra) will have 870 centres, Chamba (Himachal Pradesh) 309, Khammam (Telangana) 589, Gandhinagar (Gujarat) 288, Mamit (Mizoram) 100, Jodhpur (Rajasthan) 415, Leh (Ladakh) 95, and Puducherry state 81 DICSC centres.

The project, with a budget of Rs 31.6088 crore, is set to run initially for six months, with the possibility of extending it to nine months.

The centres will primarily create an integrated platform that provides essential e-governance services along with financial and commercial services to rural citizens.

CSC e-Governance Services India will manage and implement the centralised technical monitoring of these centres, opening job opportunities and enhancing digital literacy, the ministry said.

"Each CSC will be equipped with high-speed broadband connectivity and modern infrastructure to function as a multi-functional service centre. This project aims to empower Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs), fostering local economic growth and creating job opportunities," the ministry said.

It noted that with centralised technical monitoring, transparent and sustainable service delivery of the initiative will be ensured. Further, GPS-enabled mobile vans will be deployed to promote government schemes, and also deliver essential services directly to remote areas, the ministry said.

India's power consumption rises amid strong growth

New Delhi, Nov 2 (IANS) India's power consumption increased to 140.47 billion units (BU) in October, which is a one per cent increase over the high base of the same month last year during which an over 22 per cent jump was recorded, according to the latest official data.

Power consumption had shot up to 139.44 BU in October 2023 from 113.94 BU in October 2022 due to the increase in demand from the industrial and farm sectors of the fast-growing economy.

The peak power demand (highest supply in a day) declined to 219.22 GW in October after having touched an all-time high of about 250 GW in May this year due to the summer heat.

"India is poised to face a higher increase in energy demand than any other country over the next decade mainly because of its size and the scale of rising demand from all sectors," the International Energy Agency (IEA) said in its World Energy Outlook released last month.

According to the report, India, which was the fastest-growing major economy in 2023 with output increasing by 7.8 per cent, was on track to become the third-largest economy in the world by 2028.

In the Stated Policies Scenario (STEPS) based on current policy plans, by 2035, iron and steel production is on track to grow



by 70 per cent. The cement output is set to rise by nearly 55 per cent. The stock of air conditioners was projected to grow by over 4.5 times, resulting in electricity demand from air conditioners in 2035 more than Mexico's total expected consumption that year, the report said.

Consequently, the total energy demand in India was set to increase by nearly 35 per cent by 2035 in the STEPS, and electricity generation capacity nearly tripling to 1400 GW. The IEA said coal was set to retain a strong position in the energy mix in India over the next decades. "In the STEPS, nearly 60 GW of coal-fired capacity will be added net of retirements by 2030. The electricity generation from coal rises by over 15 per cent. Generation from coal remains over 30 per cent higher than that from solar PV even in a decade in which solar PV accounts for twice as much capacity, owing to the lower capacity factor of solar installations," the IEA said.

However, at the same time, the country was also giving a big push to green energy. India's National Electricity Plan (Transmission) launched last month aims to transmit 500 GW of Renewable Energy installed capacity by the year 2030 and over 600 GW of Renewable Energy installed capacity by the year 2032.

The Plan has also taken into consideration the requirement of storage systems viz 47 GW of Battery Energy Storage Systems and 31 GW of Pumped Storage Plants to be developed along with Renewable Energy. A transmission system has also been planned for delivery of power to the Green Hydrogen/Green Ammonia Manufacturing hubs at coastal locations like Mundra, Kandla, Gopalpur, Paradeep, Tuticorin, Vizag, Mangalore etc.

As per the National Electricity Plan, over 1,91,000 km of transmission lines and 1270 GVA of transformation capacity were planned to be added during the ten years from 2022-23 to 2031-32 (at 220 kV and above voltage level). In addition, 33 GW of HVDC bi-pole links are also planned. The inter-regional transmission capacity is planned to increase to 143 GW by the year 2027 and further to 168 GW by the year 2032, from the present level of 119 GW.

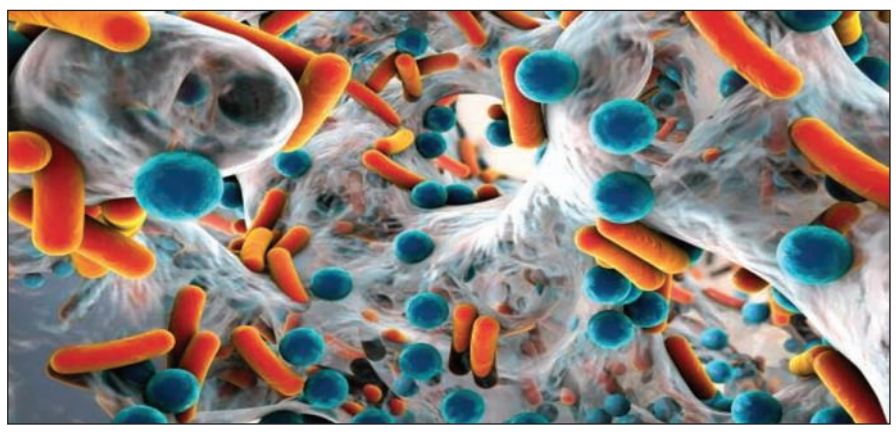
The Transmission Plan also covers cross-border interconnections with Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka as well as probable interconnections with Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

New species of superbug behind spike in severe human infections

New Delhi, Nov 2 (IANS) A recently emerged strain of bacteria called Streptococcus dysgalactiae subspecies equisimilis (SDSE) is leading to a concerning rise in global rates of severe invasive infections becoming resistant to key antibiotics, according to a study.

A person infected with SDSE is likely to have an infection in the skin, throat, gastrointestinal tract, and female genital tract that can range in severity from strep throat (pharyngitis) to necrotising fasciitis (flesh-eating disease).

Although SDSE is closely related to group A streptococcus (also commonly known as Streptococcus pyogenes), which has been very well studied, little is known about SDSE, said the team at the Houston Methodist Research Institute in the US.



To understand better, the team used a sophisticated integrative approach and studied 120 human isolates of a particular SDSE subtype, called stG62647.

"The stG62647 SDSE strains are important to study because they have been reported to cause unusually severe infections," said the team described in a paper appearing in the journal mBio.

They analysed the subtype's genome, where the information of its DNA is stored. They also decoded its transcriptome, which provided a snapshot of the complete gene expression profile at the time the SDSE cells were collected. This also helped the researchers understand SDSE's virulence -- the degree of damage it can cause to its host.

They found "an unexpectedly wide range of virulence was identified (20-95 per cent), as assessed by near-mortality data".

The results suggest that human genetics and underlying medical conditions contribute to disease severity.

The integrative analysis revealed new data about the important emerging human bacterial pathogen which can help in developing treatment and in vaccine research, the team said, while stressing the need for more research.

Formula 1: Ollie Bearman steps in for unwell Magnussen, set to race full weekend at Brazil GP

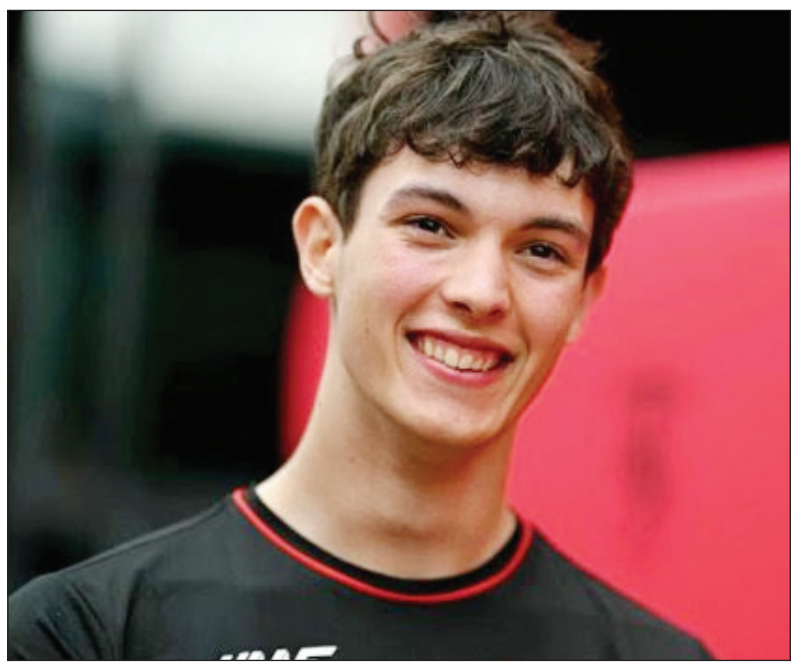
Sao Paulo, Nov 2 (IANS) In a last-minute change at the Sao Paulo Grand Prix, Haas has confirmed that Ollie Bearman will race in place of Kevin Magnussen, who will not return for the remainder of the weekend due to illness.

Magnussen's withdrawal was announced shortly before Friday's action at the Autodromo Jose Carlos Pace, with Bearman called in to substitute for practice, Sprint Qualifying, and the Sprint race on Saturday. Following a second announcement after the Sprint Qualifying session, Haas stated Bearman would continue to race for the team in both Saturday's qualifying and Sunday's Grand Prix.

"MoneyGram Haas F1 Team can confirm that Kevin Magnussen will not compete in the São Paulo Grand Prix and Oliver Bearman will race for the team for the remainder of the weekend," read the official statement from Haas F1.

This marks Bearman's third stand-in appearance this season, having previously raced for Ferrari in Saudi Arabia when Carlos Sainz fell ill and for Haas in Azerbaijan after Magnussen received a one-race ban.

Despite the short notice, Bearman delivered a strong performance on



Saturday, advancing to SQ3 in Sprint Qualifying and outperforming teammate NicoHulkenberg, who qualified P12. While a small error left Bearman without a timed lap in SQ3, he still managed to secure P10 on the grid for the Sprint, a position he was thrilled to claim.

The young British driver's appearance in Brazil adds to his busy racing schedule, as he prepares for a full-time debut with Haas in Formula 1 next year alongside Esteban Ocon. In the meantime, Bearman will finish out his Formula 2 season with PREMA Racing, balancing his role as Haas' stand-in driver with his F2 commitments.

Govt's digital life certificate campaign to benefit over 1.81 lakh pensioners

New Delhi, Nov 2 (IANS) More than 1.8 lakh pensioners generated their digital life certificates (DLC) on the very first day, even as the government rolled out the largest-ever campaign, the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions said.

The Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare on Friday launched the third and the largest nationwide DLC campaign in 800 cities or districts across India from November 1-30.

"This is the biggest-ever DLC campaign undertaken," said a statement issued by the personnel ministry.

The total number of DLCs generated by Friday evening was 1.81 lakh, it added.

The Campaign is being held in collaboration with CGDA, DoT, Railways,



UIDAI, and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITy) to reach all the pensioners in the remotest corners of the country.

In addition "19 banks, 785 district post offices, and 57 welfare associations," will also collaborate in the month-long campaign.

The campaign aims "to promote digital empowerment of pensioners using face authentication technology", the ministry said, adding that during the campaign technical support will be provided by MEITy and UIDAI.

"Face authentication has been made more seamless and convenient for the elderly pensioners, and can be used on Android as well as iOS," the ministry said.

The technology enables the identification of a pensioner by a facial scan using a smartphone camera from the convenience of their homes to complete the process of submitting the DLC without having to travel to banks or post offices for the purpose.

The authentication is carried out against UIDAI's Aadhaar database using UIDAI's Face Recognition Application.

In June, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) noted a more than three-fold jump in the number of EPS pensioners submitting Facial Authentication Technology-based Digital Life Certificates -- from 2.1 lakh in 2022-23 to 6.6 lakh in 2023-24.

EPFO said that the 6.6 lakh facial scan-based DLCs in 2023-24 comprise almost 10 per cent of the total DLCs received during the year. Taken together around 60 lakh DLCs were received from the pensioners during the last financial year.

New Zealand uses artificial roost boxes to protect long-tailed bats

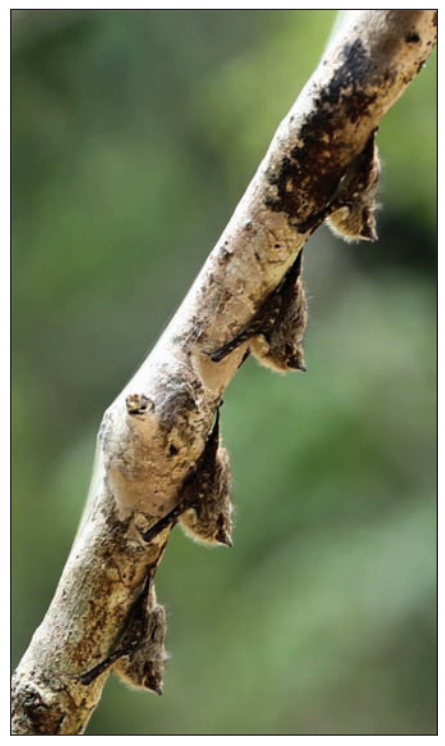
Wellington, Nov 2 (IANS) New Zealand researchers have installed 80 "bat boxes" as artificial roosts on trees in southern Hamilton to protect a local population of long-tailed bats, a threatened species.

Researchers swabbed the entrances of the bat boxes for traces of genetic material to see who had been home, and found long-tailed bat DNA in a third of the boxes, according to the research published on Thursday in the New Zealand Journal of Zoology.

The bat box eDNA survey detailed in this study provides a non-intrusive method to confirm bats roosting in bat boxes within two years of box installation, said Fiona Davies, technical director of natural resources at AECOM NZ, an infrastructure consulting firm, part of the study.

Studies like these are essential to confirm the boxes are effective for bat conservation, Davies said, Xinhua news agency reported.

The results of the survey showed that the eDNA method was highly effective, and long-tailed bat DNA was detected at 34 percent of the boxes sampled, and she



confirmed they were using the boxes.

Kenya to begin classification of tourism facilities in early 2025

Nairobi, Nov 2 (IANS) Kenya's Tourism Regulatory Authority (TRA) said on Wednesday it will undertake a nationwide classification exercise for all tourism facilities and establishments from February 2025.

TRA Director-General Norbert Talam said the comprehensive assessment, last carried out in 2018, will ensure that travelers have a clear understanding of the services, amenities, and overall experiences they can expect when visiting the country.

"We are currently at the accreditation stage, where we have nearly finalized accrediting around 5,000 beds in the North Rift region," Talam said in a statement issued from Eldoret, western Kenya.

The classification initiative is part of a larger strategy aimed at enhancing tourism standards across Kenya, enabling both domestic and international tourists to make informed choices about accommodations and services nationwide.

Talam said that the exercise will be undertaken in line with government provisions to ensure that sector players conform to best practices.

"All operators must adhere to specified provisions to guarantee that we offer our visitors the highest quality standards. Action will be taken against those operating illegally," he said.

Talam said the accreditation process they are currently undertaking is a precursor to the classification exercise set to begin next year, Xinhua news agency reported.

The classification is part of efforts to showcase the exceptional quality and services of Kenya's tourism industry by providing a more robust and fair system that benefits both tourists and the hospitality sector.

June Chepkemei, Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya Tourism Board, emphasised the tourism potential of each circuit, noting opportunities to capture an even greater share of visitors and create a more inclusive tourism sector.

Chepkemei noted that diversifying Kenya's tourism offerings will enable more immersive experiences for visitors and contribute to economic growth in various regions.

"We confirm that we will be available to help package these products, market them, brand them, and provide resources to promote them not only locally but also on an international level," she added.



Hit with gun and dragged by hair, Pakistani actress reveals brutal torture

Lahore, Nov 2 (IANS) A noted Pakistani film and stage actress has alleged that she was subjected to brutal torture by her husband, a police inspector, in Lahore's defence area after she refused to transfer her property to his name.

Nargis, also known as GhazalaIdrees, suffered multiple bruises on her face, eyes, and other parts of her body after being repeatedly hit by inspector Majid Bashir in Lahore's Defence Housing Authority (DHA) on Friday.

"Majid Bashir repeatedly hit my face with his official gun, leaving bruises, particularly, in and around my eyes," she said in the First Information Report (FIR), reported leading Pakistani daily Dawn.



In the report lodged against Bashir at the Defence C police station by Nargis's brother KhurramBhatti, it was mentioned that the actress - a hugely-popular stage performer in the yesteryears who has also done over 100 films - had suffered "extreme violence" at the hands of Bashir in the past as well.

On Friday, Nargis alleged that her husband crossed "all limits" when was dragged by her hair, humiliated and beaten in front of her nephew and employees. She stated that Bashir also put the barrel of his official gun in her mouth in an attempt to injure the jaw.

This, she alleged, was done to grab a plot of land, gold ornaments and other properties.

The actress shared a video clip on social media that has now gone viral, showing multiple bruises on her body.

Local media reported that Lahore Police is conducting raids at various places to arrest Bashir, who has been missing since the incident grabbed the spotlight throughout the country.

Nargis has also alleged in the FIR that the inspector wanted to move in with the former wife of a famous TV host in her house.

The actress, who runs a beauty salon in Lahore, had also been physically assaulted by her former husband 'boxer' Abid - a dismissed police inspector - in 2002 when she was massively popular and at the pinnacle of her career.

Lebanese PM accuses Israel of rejecting ceasefire efforts

Beirut, Nov 1 (IANS) Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati on Friday accused Israel of rejecting efforts to reach a ceasefire as Israeli forces resumed bombing Beirut's southern suburbs and other areas in Lebanon at dawn on Friday.

Israel's "renewed expansion of the scope of its aggression" and "its repeated threats to the population to evacuate entire cities and villages" are "all indicators of Israel's rejection of all efforts" in reaching a ceasefire, Mikati said during his meeting with AroldoLazaro Saenz, chief of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

In a statement released by the Lebanese Council of Ministers, the Prime Minister reaffirmed "Lebanon's permanent commitment to UN Resolution 1701," calling on the international community to assume its responsibility to stop this "aggression."

According to Lebanon's National News Agency (NNA), a series of violent raids targetted different areas in Beirut's southern suburbs at dawn on Friday, causing massive destruction in the targetted areas, with dozens of buildings levelled to the ground and fires breaking out.

The Israeli forces also resumed intense airstrikes on the eastern city of Baalbek at noon on Friday, according to the Elnashra news website.

On Wednesday, Israel's state-owned Kan TV revealed a document claimed to be a draft agreement between Israel and Lebanon, proposed by the United States, to end the current Israeli-Hezbollah clashes, Xinhua news agency reported. Quoting senior Israeli officials, the channel reported that the war cabinet is satisfied with the draft formulated by US envoy Amos Hochstein and submitted to Israel, and its chances of being accepted are high.

Since September 23, the Israeli army has launched an unprecedented, intensive air campaign on Lebanon in a dangerous escalation with Hezbollah.

Malaysia's sexual assault against children cases up 21.1 per cent in 2023

Kuala Lumpur, Nov 1 (IANS) Malaysia's sexual assault against children cases reached 1,389 in 2023, a significant increase of 21.1 per cent as compared to the figures of the previous year, official data showed Friday.

The Department of Statistics Malaysia said in a statement that the number of sexual offences involving children reported to the Royal Malaysia Police increased 26.5 per cent year-on-year to 1,567 in 2023.

Meanwhile, non-physical sexual assault on a child and child pornography offences recorded 91 cases and 67 cases respectively in 2023, Xinhua news agency reported.

Based on the perspective of child protection, the number of children in need of care and protection recorded by the social welfare department increased 26.1 per cent year-on-year to 8,536 in 2023.

The number of children under 18 is 9.14 million, 26.8 per cent of Malaysia's total population of 34.06 million.

Harris claims she is not against gas drilling, but campaign member says she won't expand fossil fuel

New York, Nov 2 (IANS) Trying to match former President Donald Trump's popular call for US energy independence, Vice President Kamala Harris has said she is dropping her demand to ban drilling for gas, but a campaign adviser says she won't promote fossil fuel.

Harris has appointed Camila Thorndike, who worked as climate engagement director for an activist organisation Rewiring America which campaigned for even banning gas stoves, as her campaign's climate adviser.

Thorndike has been on its staff from 2022 to last month.

Sensing the nation's mood on getting more fossil fuels, Harris



has said that she is dropping her demand for banning an economical method of drilling for natural gas known as fracking. But Thorndike threw doubts about her sincerity telling Politico in an interview that Harris "is not promoting expansion (of fossil fuel drilling). She's just said that they wouldn't ban fracking".

The head of the American Energy Institute, Jason Isaac, accused Harris of harbouring hostility towards several energy sources.

He told Fox News Digital that Harris' decision to bring on Thorndike "underscores her administration's hostility towards American energy sources that power our economy and support millions of jobs".

Thorndike admitted in the Politico interview that "everyone wants their energy bills to go down. Everyone wants the electric grid to keep the lights on".

However, banning or restricting fossil fuel expansion will lead to higher prices, a point Trump has been making.

With the slogan of "Drill Baby, Drill", he has said that he would expand drilling for gas and oil so that the abundant supply would bring down energy prices, which would have a cascading effect on the prices of all other products as they depend on energy for manufacturing or transportation.

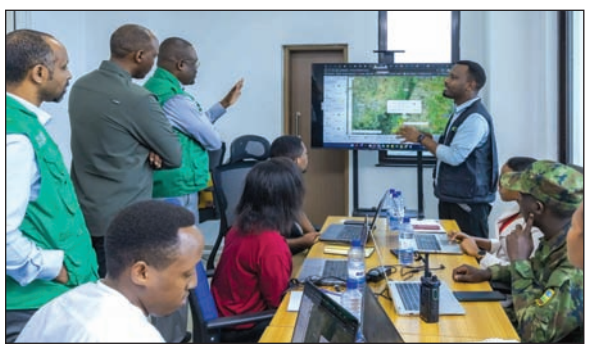
Gas used for cooking is less polluting than many other fuels, including electricity produced with coal or oil.

However, groups like Rewiring America target gas as polluting, even though the US relies on coal -- which is highly polluting -- for 16 per cent of its electricity which in effect ends up more polluting than gas.

The group is called a "dark money" organisation because its financial structure limits disclosures of most sources of funding.

According to Fox Digital, it was founded by those with financial interests in wind and solar.

Monkeypox cases surge over 500 per cent in Africa, affecting 19 countries: Africa CDC



Addis Ababa, Nov 1 (IANS) Confirmed monkeypox cases in Africa have surged by over 500 per cent this year compared to the total for all of last year, with the number of affected countries rising to 19, according to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

During an online media briefing Thursday evening, Ngashi Ngongo, chief of staff and head of the executive office at Africa CDC, said since the beginning of this year, Africa had reported 48,093 monkeypox cases, with 10,372 confirmed and over 1,048 deaths.

"When we compare (the confirmed cases reported this year) with the entire 2023, that is more than a 500 per cent increase," Ngongo said, adding that "the situation is not yet under control. We are still on the upward trend generally."

Mauritius became the latest African country to report monkeypox cases, bringing the total number of affected countries to 19. Data from the Africa CDC also show that the Central Africa region is the most affected by the outbreak, accounting for 85.7 per cent of all reported cases and 99.5 per cent of deaths.

In the past week, the African continent reported 2,766 new cases, with 1,254 confirmed, along with 34 new deaths. He said the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi accounted for 94 per cent of all new confirmed cases, Xinhua news agency reported.

The AU's specialised healthcare agency also expressed concern over the recent increase in monkeypox cases in Liberia and Uganda.

South Korea, Canada condemn North Korean troop dispatch to Russia

Seoul, Nov 2 (IANS) Defence ministers of South Korea and Canada condemned North Korea's troop deployment to Russia and discussed ways to enhance defence cooperation between their countries during a bilateral meeting in Ottawa, Seoul's defence ministry said on Saturday.

Defence Minister Kim Yong-hyun and his Canadian counterpart, Bill Blair, held the talks Friday (Canadian time) on the sidelines of the first "two plus two" meeting involving foreign and defence ministers of the two countries, Yonhap news agency reported.

During the bilateral meeting, Kim and Blair strongly denounced the troop dispatch as a violation of UN resolutions and an "illegal act" that is threatening peace on the peninsula and the rest of the world. They pledged to work closely with the global community in response.

The meeting comes amid rising international concerns



over Pyongyang's expanding military alliance with Moscow. The United States said on Thursday there were 10,000 North Korean troops in Russia, with 8,000 of them deployed to the country's western front-line Kursk region to enter the fight against Ukraine in the coming days.

Kim also expressed his appreciation for Canada's contribution to maintaining peace and stability on the peninsula and in the broader region through its active enforcement of sanctions against North Korea and support for the United Nations Command. He emphasized the importance of continued cooperation between the two nations to further enhance regional and global security.

The two ministers agreed to enhance interoperability and strategic solidarity between South Korea and Canada by closely cooperating in various areas, including expanding participation in joint exercises, strengthening solidarity among UNC member states, and collaborating with like-minded countries. They also agreed to seek more chances for expanding cooperation in the fields of defence industry and defence science and technology, with an aim to create a mutually beneficial partnership model for both countries, according to the ministry.

Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul also had a separate meeting with his Canadian counterpart, Melanie Joly, the same day on the sidelines of the "two plus two" talks to discuss regional issues, including North Korea's troop dispatch, and ways to enhance practical cooperation between their countries.

According to the foreign ministry, Cho assessed during the bilateral meeting in Ottawa that the inaugural "two plus two" meeting laid the foundation for institutionalising the security and defence partnership between the two countries.

He expressed hope for deepening cooperation in the defence industry sector in the future, including Canada's ongoing next-generation submarine acquisition project.

Greece to open new consulates in India as ties deepen



New Delhi, Nov 2 (IANS) The Greek government has announced plans to establish two additional consulates in India, located in Mumbai and Bengaluru, aiming to bolster diplomatic presence and engagement with India.

The decision was conveyed by Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a telephone conversation.

Currently, Greece maintains three diplomatic representative offices in India, including an Embassy in New Delhi and consulates in Chennai and Kolkata.

This move is part of a broader effort to enhance India-Greece relations, especially following the adoption of a strategic partnership framework during PM Modi's official visit to Athens in August 2023.

Discussions also highlighted Greece's role as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the 2025-2026 term, which could open new avenues for cooperation on global issues.

During the conversation, the two leaders expressed mutual commitment to strengthening the India-Greece Strategic Partnership, emphasising cooperation across sectors such as trade, Defence, shipping, and connectivity, according to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on Saturday.

They reviewed recent high-level exchanges and the resulting momentum in bilateral relations, underscoring investment opportunities and initiatives for enhanced maritime connectivity.

Greek PM Mitsotakis extended his congratulations to PM Modi on his re-election in June, expressing optimism for the future of India-Greece relations.

PM Modi later shared the conversation on his X handle, noting, "Yesterday, had a productive conversation with PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis, reaffirming our shared commitment to strengthening the India-Greece Strategic Partnership. Together, we aim to deepen our collaboration across trade, defence, shipping, and connectivity. Greece is a valued partner for India within the EU as well."

The PMO's statement also noted that both leaders reviewed the progress of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), an initiative aimed at enhancing connectivity through strategic economic corridors. They exchanged views on various regional and global issues, with a particular focus on developments in West Asia.

Earlier this year, Greek PM Mitsotakis visited India as the chief guest at the Raisina Dialogue, India's premier conference on geopolitics and geo-economics. The visit highlighted the significance of maritime connectivity and corridor partnerships, with both leaders emphasising the role of IMEC in strengthening India-Greece ties.

This expansion of Greece's diplomatic footprint in India through new consulates in Mumbai and Bangalore is anticipated to accelerate cooperation and promote closer relations between the two nations.

Polio vaccination campaign to resume in Gaza: UN

United Nations, Nov 2 (IANS) A third phase of the polio vaccination campaign in the Gaza Strip is set to resume on Saturday after being postponed over escalating violence.

According to a joint statement from the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO), the humanitarian pause necessary to conduct the campaign has been assured, but the area of the pause has been substantially reduced compared to the first round of vaccination in Gaza in September. It is now limited to just Gaza City.

This means some 15,000 children under the age of 10 in parts of North Gaza, including Jabalya, BeitLahiya and BeitHanoun, remain inaccessible and could be missed during the campaign, Xinhua news agency reported.

"The final phase of the campaign had aimed to reach an estimated 119,000 children under 10 years old in northern Gaza with a second dose of novel oral polio vaccine type 2. However, achieving this target is now unlikely due to access constraints," the statement said.

The vaccines will be delivered by 216 teams across 106 fixed sites, 22 of which have been added to ensure increased availability of vaccination in areas where recently displaced people are seeking refuge.

The third phase of the polio vaccination campaign, scheduled to start on October 23 in the north, had to be put off due to intense bombardment, mass displacement orders, and lack of assured humanitarian pauses.

Louise Wateridge, spokesperson for the UN Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) warned last week that Gaza faces the additional threat of polio spreading if the final phase of the vaccination campaign continues to delay.

जिला दण्डाधिकारी एवं उपायुक्त का कार्यालय,
पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर।
(जिला निर्वाचन शाखा)

आदेश

मैं अनन्य मित्तल, भा.प्र.से., जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी–सह–उपायुक्त, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर विधानसभा आम निर्वाचन–2024 के अवसर पर लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम 1951 की धारा 160 के अन्तर्गत प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए निर्वाचन कार्यों यथा मतदान कार्य आदि के निमित पूर्वी सिंहभूम जिले के सभी छः विधानसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों के सभी मतदान केन्द्रों/चिन्हित क्लस्टरों के भवनों का दिनांक 11/11/2024 से 14/11/2024 तक के लिए अधिग्रहण करता हुँ।

जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी
–सह–उपायुक्त,
पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर।

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Health

Insomnia therapy in pregnancy can prevent postpartum depression



New Delhi, Nov 2 (IANS) While poor sleep during pregnancy and after that is common, Canadian researchers suggested cognitive behavioural therapy for insomnia (CBTi), which can not only improve sleep patterns but also address postpartum depression.

The team from the University of British Columbia Okanagan and Vancouver campus University of Calgary showed that CBTi, which can detect thoughts, behaviours, and sleep patterns that lead to insomnia, during pregnancy can significantly prevent the risk of postpartum depressive symptoms after a baby arrives.

The therapeutic intervention includes challenging or reframing misconceptions and restructuring habits to improve sleep quality.

Dr. Elizabeth Keys, an Assistant Professor in UBCO's School of Nursing noted that early intervention with CBTi may be crucial both for the baby and the mother.

Keys said that CBTi -- the gold standard for the treatment of insomnia -- is similar to antidepressant medications. Since it comes with fewer side effects, the therapy is considered safe in pregnancy.

Postpartum depression (PPD) is a mood disorder that can affect women and men after childbirth. It can impact a person's behaviour and physical health. Crying more than usual, feeling angry, distant from the baby, doubting the ability to care for the baby, and thoughts of harming the baby or yourself are the common symptoms.

The study included 62 women assessed for insomnia and depressive symptoms. While half were randomly assigned to an intervention group, the others were added to a control group.

Keys found that the results, which appear in the issue of the Journal of Affective Disorders, were "enormously encouraging" and can help all women who have struggled in the early days with their newborns.

Keys said the next thing is to find ways to "make the treatment more accessible to pregnant individuals to improve sleep health equity."

Hrithik wishes ladylove Saba on 39th birthday, says 'thank you for you'

Mumbai, Nov 2 (IANS) On his girlfriend's 39th birthday, Bollywood star HrithikRoshan poured his heart out for Saba Azad, whom he lovingly calls "Sa", and said "thank you for you."

Hrithik took to Instagram, where he shared a motley of pictures featuring Saba and him. The images are taken during their getaways to international locales. In the first image, the two are seen looking into the camera and smiling. Another has the couple posing with a croissant.



In one image, the two are seen cycling. Saba can be seen hugging the Greek God of Bollywood lovingly from the back. One photograph has the duo hugging a tree, enjoying ice cream and some wine. The last, is a photograph of Saba flaunting a golden glow.

"Happy Birthday Sa… Thank you for you… 1.11.2024," Hrithik wrote as the caption.

Last month, Hrithik and Saba celebrated their third anniversary. He took to his Instagram, and shared a picture of himself with the actress-singer as the two celebrated their third anniversary.

The actor wrote in the caption, "Happy anniversary partner 1.10.2024 @sabazad".

Hrithik first confirmed his relationship with Saba at Karan Johar's 50th birthday party in 2022 when the couple arrived hand-in-hand, marking a new chapter.

Saba is an actress, a theatre director, and musician, has made her mark not only on the big screen but also in the world of music as part of the electro-funk duo Madboy/Mink. She is known for her work in 'Rocket Boys', 'Ladies Room' and 'Who's Your Gynac'.

Earlier, Hrithik was married to Sussanne Khan. The duo tied the knot on December 20, 2000. They welcomed their first child HrehaanRoshan in 2006, and their younger son HridaanRoshan in May 2008.

The couple announced their separation on December 13, 2012, by announcing their mutual separation. While it left many wondering what could have possibly gone wrong between the two, the couple refused to budge any further details about the reason behind their split.

Taking to all his social media handles, Hrithik had penned an official statement, which read: "Sussanne has decided to separate from me and end our 17-year relationship. This is a very trying time for the entire family".

Salman got a call from 'underworld' on his landline : Somy Ali

Mumbai, Nov 2 (IANS) Somy Ali, the ex-girlfriend of Salman Khan made a sensational revelation about a threatening call from the Underworld to the superstar in the 90s, when she was in a relationship with him.

Speaking exclusively to IANS, Somy Ali recalled her days with Salman Khan, her tryst with Bollywood, Underworld don Dawood Ibrahim and more. Asked if during her relationship with Salman in the 1990s, when Dawood Ibrahim's ties to Bollywood were rampant, did she witness or hear any discussions about the don and his connections with the film industry, Somy replied, "I heard multiple conversations about him, but nobody took Dawood's name directly, nor did anyone speak about Chota Shakeel. People used to call them the Underworld."



Somy continued, "DivyaBharti was my best friend. We grew very close while shooting for 'Andolan' in Bengaluru. I asked Divya what the Underworld was. Divya asked, 'Do you know what mafia is?' I said, 'Yes, there's the Italian mafia in America.' Divya said, 'Underworld and mafia are similar.'" Somy also spoke about a threat call to Salman Khan on their landline. "I lived with Salman at his Galaxy apartment for three years," she recalled and added, "Once, I received a call on our bedroom's landline. The person on the other side threatened to abduct me, saying, 'Salman koboldena, Somy Ali ko hum uthakar le jayenge (Tell Salman that we will abduct Somy Ali).'"

Shruti Haasan was 'nervous' to work with Rajinikanth in 'Coolie'

Mumbai, Nov 2 (IANS) ShrutiHaasan will be seen sharing screen space with Rajinikanth in the upcoming film "Coolie" and the actress said that she was nervous to work with the superstar in the Tamil action thriller film.Shruti told IANS: "I was nervous to work with Rajini sir I'm not going to lie but he puts everyone at ease with his demeanour and I've had the best time working with sir, it's a great learning for me."

The 38-year-old actress's father Kamal Haasan has worked with Rajinikanth in over 20 films.

Asked about how she feels about working with Rajinikanth after her father, she said: "It's lovely to hear about their history and friendship through the years and it's like a lesson in what cinema was and how it is and how these two great legends have managed to still stay at the top of their game whilst being so human at the same time.



The actress had recently shared her Diwali plans and had said: "Diwali this year is quiet and simple with friends and in Mumbai ! Nothing major, just enjoying time around good food and good hearts." She also spoke about sticking to her diet.

"I try to stick to my diet but I never can because I have a major sweet tooth and Diwali sweets are my favourite only at that time of the year I binge on Indian sweets.

Known for her goth looks and her love for the black and grey hues, Shruti said that this time of the year, had shared that she would include some colour for Diwali.

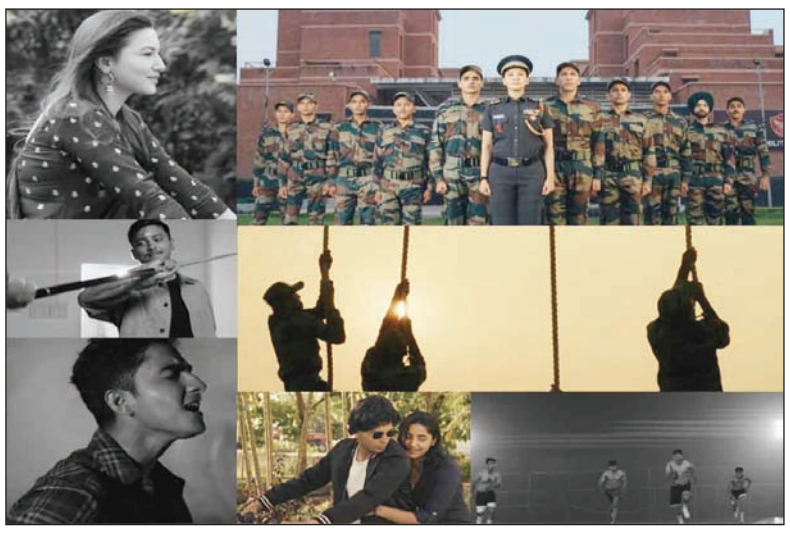
?"I like to change up colour out of my usual black and grey during Diwali because it is festive but you'll never see me go too crazy with colour if it's my personal choice," said the 38-year-old actress.

'Fauji 2' trailer promises a modern twist, sleek follow up to the original SRK-starrer TV show

Mumbai, Nov 2 (IANS) The trailer of the upcoming show 'Fauji 2', was unveiled on Saturday as a tribute to the Bollywood icon Shah Rukh Khan on his birthday. It stars Gauahar Khan, Vicky Jain and a bunch of fresh talents.

The trailer begins with Gauahar riding a cycle before it plunges to show the men in action taking up different adrenaline pumping sporting activities like boxing, swimming, intense gym workout and bike racing. Each soldier is shown to have exemplary skills in their field. The show is touted to be a sequel to the SRK-starrer original show which marked the superstar's entry in the entertainment space.

Led by Gauahar Khan, Vicky Jain and the new cast, the show is ready to take on the legacy of the iconic series with a modern twist.



Talking about the show, Gauahar Khan Said "Nothing more magical than a creative team such as this coming together to create one of the iconic shows of our time, I am very excited to be part of such a show that touched many hearts. Can't wait for everyone to see what we have created with this version, 'Fauji' is an emotion so its also our responsibility to live upto the legacy of what that show gave everyone".

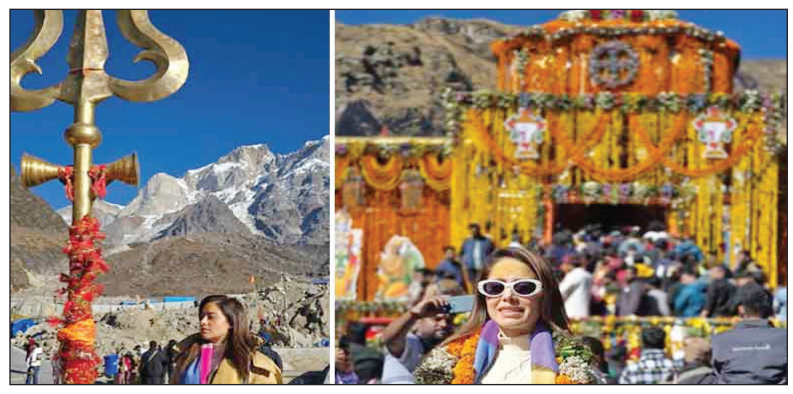
'Blessed' Nushrratt shares glimpses from maiden Kerdarnath, Badrinathdarshan

Mumbai, Nov 2 (IANS) Actress NushrrattBharuchhaseeked divine blessings during her maiden Kerdarnath and Badrinathdarshan.

Nushrratt took to Instagram, where she shared a handful of pictures from her "darshan" and said that she feels "blessed." In one image, she is seen praying, another image shows the actress praying in front of the idol of Nandi and in a picture shows her feeding a cow.

For the caption, she wrote: "Blessed! My first Kedarnath & BadrinathDarshan #Godsplan."

The Kedarnath Temple is one of the twelve jyotirlinga of Shiva and is located on the Garhwal Himalayan range near the Mandakiniriver, in Uttarakhand. Due to extreme weather conditions, the temple is open to the general public only between the months of April and November. Last month, Bollywood actress Sara Ali Khan visited Kedarnath Temple to seek blessings.



She posed in front of the temple dressed in a red T-shirt paired with white pants and a shawl covering her head.

"Jai Shree Kedar. The flowing of Mandakini.. The aarti sounds… A milky ocean… Beyond the clouds Until next time #jaibholenath."

Badarinarayana Temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. It is situated in Uttarakhand. The temple is also one of the 108 DivyaDesams dedicated to Vishnu-holy shrines for Vaishnavas-who is worshipped as Badrinath.

Tom Cruise in early negotiation for the sequel to 'Days of Thunder'

Los Angeles, Nov 2 (IANS) Hollywood star Tom Cruise, who was last seen in 'Mission: Impossible 7', is currently in early stage of talks with Paramount for a sequel to 'Days of Thunder'.

'Days of Thunder' was a 1990 NASCAR drama which was directed by the late Tony Scott and produced by Jerry Bruckheimer (with his late producing partner Don Simpson), reports 'Variety'. No other creatives are in place, and Tom's full docket, promoting 'Mission: Impossible 8', filming Alejandro G. Inarritu's next movie, and developing another 'Top Gun' movie, mean this project is far off from starting its ignition. As per 'Variety', Bruckheimer, who also produced 'Top Gun: Maverick', has also been involved in discussions about returning for the project, as per the sources. The first film follows the exploits of the impeccably named Cole Trickle, a scrappy race car driver recruited to a new NASCAR team led by a retired racing legend played by Robert Duvall. Cruise's connection to the film is considerable: He got his first and, to date, only official writing credit on the film for developing the story with screenwriter Robert Towne.



And it's where he met Nicole Kidman, to whom he was married for 11 years, and who made her Hollywood debut playing a neurosurgeon who falls in love with Cole. The movie opened to modest box office (for Cruise), earning $157.9 million globally in unadjusted grosses, and a tepid reception among critics, but has since risen in esteem. Racing films have also become in vogue of late, from 2019's 'Ford v Ferrari' to next year's Brad Pitt vehicle 'F1', from director Joseph Kosinski, who is known.

Deepika & Ranveer introduce their daughter, revealing her name and first glimpse

Mumbai, Nov 2 (IANS) DeepikaPadukone and Ranveer Singh who welcomed their first child on 8th September, 2024 revealed their daughter's name on the auspicious occasion of Diwali.

DeepikaPadukone took to Instagram to share pictures of her daughter's feet. She captioned the post: "DuaPadukone Singh." Deepika explained, "Dua means 'a prayer' because she is the answer to our prayers." The actress concluded, "Our hearts are filled with love and gratitude. - Deepika and Ranveer."

Deepika and Ranveer started dating while shooting for the film 'Ram Leela'. Later they got married in the year 2018. They married in Lake Como, Italy. They had two wedding ceremonies, one in South Indian style and the other one in Sindhi style. Deepika and Ranveer released their wedding video on 'KoffeeWith Karan', showcasing previously unseen moments from their special day.



After being married for six years they welcomed their first baby in November 2024. Deepika was admitted to hospital on 7th November and delivered the baby on 8th Nov.

On the work front Ranveer Singh's film 'Singham Again' released in theatres on Nov 1. Ranveer Singh reprises his role as Simba in the movie, where he helps Singham fight against villain ArjunKapoor.

DeepikaPadukone has also made a small cameo in 'Singham Again' as Shakti Shetty. Her dialogue in the promo 'Main Singhamnahi, Lady SinghamHai' has already caught everyone's attention. Few days back Ranveer Singh said in a press conference that his baby has already made a debut as Deepika shot for 'Singham Again' while she was pregnant.

Prior to this, Deepika was seen in 'Kalki' and 'Fighter'. While 'Kalki' did decent business, 'Fighter' failed to meet makers expectations. While nothing is official but as per various reports Deepika will be next in the film 'The Intern'.

Jadeja, Ashwin strike after Gill, Pant fifties as India take upper hand against NZ

3rd Test

Mumbai, Nov 2 (IANS) Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant scored half-centuries in contrasting styles while Ravindra Jadeja and R. Ashwin shared seven wickets between them as India reached a strong position in the third Test against New Zealand from where they can avoid a clean sweep in the ongoing series.

At stumps on the second day, India reduced New Zealand to 171/9, a lead of 143 with just one wicket remaining as they fought their way back into the match from a difficult 86/4 at the end of the first day.

It was Gill and Pant that revived India's chances in the morning with a 96-run partnership as they reached their half-centuries in contrasting style -- Pant racing it with his fifty off 36 balls, the fastest by an Indian batter against New Zealand while Gill offered some much needed stability whilst scoring a patient 90

On another engrossing day at the Wankhede Stadium in the hot and humid conditions, the game ebbed and flowed as India dominated the morning session and failed to capitalise on the opportunity after lunch to be bowled out for 263 before grabbing the initiative in the evening.

The hosts came back strongly with Jadeja claiming 4/52 and Ashwin grabbing 3-63 getting into the driver's seat despite a fighting half-century by Will Young, his second fifty of the match that kept New Zealand's hopes alive.

With the last wicket pair of Ajaz Patel and Will O'Rourke at the crease, New Zealand will be hoping to add as many runs as possible to their lead of 143 runs, hoping to make things as difficult as possible for India.

The Indians raised hopes once again by destroying New Zealand's second innings with Jadeja and Ashwin striking blows at regular intervals. Akash Deep, opening the bowling, gave India the breakthrough once again by bowling Tom Latham for one as the ball nipped back in to sneak through the gap between the bat and pad.

Washington Sundar then accounted for Devon Conway (22) and Ashwin sent back Rachin Ravindra for 4 but Will Young and



Daryl Mitchell, who had saved New Zealand in their first innings, raised a half-century partnership to keep New Zealand's hopes alive.

But Ashwin pulled off a brilliant catch off a skier, running a long distance to poach a diving catch from Ravindra Jadeja's bowling, to dismiss Mitchell for 21 off 41 balls. New Zealand lost their fourth wicket with 94 runs on the board, just 66 runs ahead. While Young continued to soldier on from the other end, New Zealand continued to lose wickets.

Jadeja grabbed his seventh wicket of the match when he had Tim Blundell chopping onto his wicket with a full-length delivery that rushed onto the batter. He made it eight wickets for the match by sending back Ish Sodhi as India took control of the match.

Glenn Phillips struck Ashwin for a couple of sixes in an over but the seasoned off-spinner had the last laugh knocking back the off-stump with a sensational carrom ball that the batter failed to read and played the wrong line. Phillips scored 26 off 14 balls (1x4, 3x6) and New Zealand were down to 131/6.

But Young kept their hopes alive with his second half-century of the match before spooning a catch back to Ashwin off another carrom balls tossed up which drifted towards the leg-stump. Young showed lots of patience as he scored 51 off 100 balls, hitting two fours and a six.

It boils down to one good partnership tomorrow, says Gill as India reduce NZ to 171/9

Mumbai, Nov 2 (IANS) After scoring a brilliant and patient 90 that helped India recover from a difficult position of 86/4, India batter Shubman Gill on Saturday felt that the hosts are one good partnership away from victory in the third Test against New Zealand at the Wankhede Stadium.

Gill raised 96 runs for the fifth wicket partnership with Rishabh Pant (60), dropping anchor at one end as India posted 263 in their first innings for a small lead of 28 runs over New Zealand who managed 235 in their first innings. Left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja, who claimed 5-65 in the first innings, grabbed 4-52 in the second innings and along with Ravichandran Ashwin 3-62 helped India reduce New Zealand to 171/9 at the end of the second day.

Gill said India would have to claim the last wicket as early as possible and then hope to put together one big partnership to chase the target successfully. "It's all about one good partnership. When you are chasing the total which is around 150-160, if you have one good partnership of 70-80 runs, the match is done and dusted. So that's what the conversation will be amongst the batters, to have one good partnership. And then when you know, even for the fielding team, once there is a 70-80 run partnership, the body language of the opposition also drops. So that's what we will try to do, have one good partnership," said Gill in the day-end press conference on Saturday.

HIL: Two-time Olympic medallist Lily Owsley joins Delhi-based franchise



New Delhi, Nov 2 (IANS) Delhi based franchise has acquired the services of England midfielder and women's hockey superstar Lily Owsley for the upcoming season of Hockey India League (HIL).

Lily Owsley is a highly decorated player with a gold medal in 2016 Rio Olympics and a bronze in 2020 Tokyo, apart from several other accomplishments.

Owsley will replace 28-year-old Dutch midfielder Xan de Waard from the women's team after she pulled out from this season of the HIL due to personal reasons.

"Losing Xan de Waard, undoubtedly one of the best players in the world, is a setback for the team. But being able to replace her with a 2-time Olympic medal winner Lily Owsley, is a big relief," said Delhi SG Pipers women's team coach Dave Smolenaars.

"She will bring in her experience, leadership and high speed play to help the team reach its potential," he added.

Krisha Verma claims Gold as Indian boxers make their mark

U-19 World Boxing Championships 2024

Colorado, Nov 2 (IANS) In a proud moment for India, Krisha Verma clinched the gold medal in the 75kg category on the first day of the U-19 World Boxing Championships 2024 in Colorado, USA. Verma's decisive victory came with a score of 5-0 against Germany's Lerika Simon, showcasing her dominance and skill in the ring. This significant win put India on the medal tally early in the tournament's final rounds.

However, other Indian finalists faced tough challenges on the opening day of the finals. Rahul Kundu (75kg) narrowly missed gold in his bout against the USA's Joseph Awinongya, losing by a score of 4-1. Similarly, Chanchal Chaudhary, Anjali Singh, Vini, and Akansha Phalaswal also



delivered strong performances but ultimately settled for silver after close bouts against formidable opponents from England.

In the women's finals, Chanchal Chaudhary (48kg) was disqualified in the third round against England's Ruby White. In the 57kg category, Anjali Singh put up a brave fight but lost 5-0 to Tiah-Mai Ayton, another English opponent. Vini, fighting in the 60kg category, narrowly lost 3-2 to Ella Lonsdale. In the 70kg division, Akansha Phalaswal went down 4-1 against England's Lilly Deacon.

Despite the narrow losses, these silver medal wins mark an impressive achievement for the Indian boxing contingent, emphasizing the talent and determination among India's young boxers. With day two of the finals beginning, India's hopes remain high as more medal contenders step into the ring, aiming to add to the country's medal count and make the nation proud on the international stage.

Day 1 Results

Women's Division

48 kg: Chanchal Chaudhary (IND) - Disqualified (Round 3) vs. Ruby White (ENG)

57 kg: Anjali Kumari Singh (IND) - Lost 5-0 to Tiah-Mai Ayton (ENG)

60 kg: Vini (IND) - Lost 3-2 to Ella Lonsdale (ENG)

70 kg: Akansha Phalaswal (IND) - Lost 4-1 to Lilly Deacon (ENG)

75 kg: Krisha Verma (IND) - Won 5-0 against Lerika Simon (GER)

Men's Division:

75 kg: Rahul Kundu (IND) - Lost 4-1 to Joseph Awinongya (USA)

Masood backs Babar Azam's 'break' from Test cricket to regain form

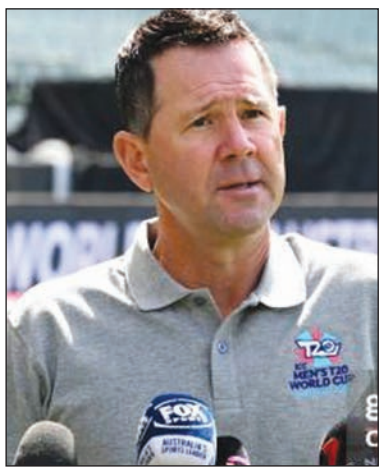
New Delhi, Nov 2 (IANS) Pakistan's Test captain, Shan Masood, believes that Babar Azam's "break" from the Test squad will help him return to form, rather than harm his confidence or career. Babar, one of Pakistan's most prominent players, was omitted from the squad for the last two Tests against England following a prolonged dry spell. Despite missing Babar's presence, Pakistan claimed the series 2-1. Speaking on the BBC's Stumped radio show, Masood praised Babar's capabilities, calling him "one of the best batsmen in the world" and adding that "sometimes, people need a break." "I think he's one of the best batsmen in the world. I'm nobody to [say he doesn't have] a future," Masood told the BBC Stumped radio programme. "He has every quality to be one of the greatest batsmen in Test cricket. He's always there or thereabouts in the rankings. Sometimes, people need a break." With Babar's return to Pakistan's national side confirmed for the upcoming white-ball series against Australia, there's optimism surrounding his future in Tests.

Ponting backs Nathan McSweeney to open the batting with Khawaja in BGT

New Delhi, Nov 2 (IANS) Legendary Australia skipper Ricky Ponting has backed batter Nathan McSweeney to open the batting with Usman Khawaja in the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy series against India, starting on November 22 in Perth.

Interestingly, Ponting had endorsed for young Sam Konstas to fill in the opening position vacancy post David Warner's retirement. "I was put on the spot about a week ago, and I sort of immediately went to the young guy, Sam Konstas. He had come off back-to-back hundreds against South Australia."

"Then I thought a bit more about it and, he is so young and he has probably not even played on grounds



like Optus (Perth) Stadium or at The Gabba. He wouldn't have played a pink-ball (match) at Adelaide Oval either. So there's a lot of things that stack up against the young guy, although there's no doubt that he's got talent."

"Another thing that I'd said then was that I don't think they'd go back to a (Cameron) Bancroft or (Marcus) Harris because if they're willing to do that they would've done it the last year," said Ponting on latest episode of The ICC Review show.

Coming in at number four, McSweeney impressed again on day three of Australia A's first four-day game against India A in Mackay, making an unbeaten 47 till stumps arrived, even as other specialist opening contenders failed to make a big score.

Want to start well, says Bangladesh's Towhid Hridoy on preparation for Champions Trophy



New Delhi, Nov 2 (IANS) Bangladesh batter Towhid Hridoy said his team is eager to start their preparations for next year's Champions Trophy on a good note through the upcoming three-match ODI series against Afghanistan. Bangladesh will play three ODIs against Afghanistan, to be played in the UAE on November 6, 9 and 11, before going on to play three more 50-over games against the West Indies. "I think every cricketer is professional here and there is no point thinking about the past. I think it will be good if we proceed match by match whether it is one match or a tournament.

"What we have done recently we cannot think about it and personally I feel how we want to start the next day is important and I want to stay in the present. It is normal that people have high expectations but every cricketer does not play well in every match. "We play well in this format for most of the time and we want to start well (against Afghanistan as far as preparation for the Champions Trophy is concerned) and if we can play to our potential we hope to achieve something good," Hridoy was quoted as saying by Cricbuzz, at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium before departing for the UAE.

Australia A near victory over India A despite Sai Sudharsan's century



Mackay, Nov 2 (IANS) Australia A are on the verge of victory over India A in the first unofficial Test, thanks to captain Nathan McSweeney's solid batting performance on Day three at the Great Barrier Reef Arena.

India A collapsed after B Sai Sudharsan hit his seventh first-class cricket century, leaving Australia A with a target of 225 runs. Australia reached 139/3 at the end of day three's play and will need 86 more runs to secure victory on day four.

Left-handed batter Sudharsan's remarkable performance was the highlight of India A's innings. The young batter displayed resilience and skill to notch a fine hundred, giving India A a fighting chance for a win.

But he lacked support from the rest of the lineup, which saw an all-too-familiar collapse. Ishan Kishan's 32 off 58 balls was the only standout performance in the lower order after Sudharsan left at 103, as India A made of 312.

The dismissals of Kishan and Nitish Kumar Reddy (17) marked a turning point, as India A struggled to build momentum, with the final wickets falling in quick succession. Australia A's bowlers shone on day three, with Fergus O'Neill claiming four crucial wickets and Todd Murphy taking three scalps.

It was now or never, or Manchester would go for another option: Amorim

New Delhi, Nov 2 (IANS) Ruben Amorim has accepted the Manchester United managerial role with mixed emotions, following an intense few days of contemplation. The Portuguese coach, celebrated for revitalising Sporting CP and winning two league titles—including their first in nearly two decades—had originally hoped to finish his season in Lisbon before making the move to Old Trafford.

However, Manchester United, eager for an immediate replacement for the recently dismissed Erik ten Hag, issued an ultimatum: accept the job now or lose the opportunity. After careful consideration, Amorim ultimately chose to make the move.

Speaking after Sporting's emphatic 5-1 victory in the Primeira Liga, Amorim opened up about the whirlwind decision-making process that led him to Manchester. "The season started, we started very well, and then Manchester United came. They paid above the compensation clause, and the president defended the club's interests," he explained. "For three days, I said I wanted to stay until the end of the season, but then I was told it was not possible. It was now or never, or Manchester would go for another option.

Ranji Trophy: Bihar hunts for redemption against Madhya Pradesh in Patna showdown

Patna, Nov 2 (IANS) The Bihar cricket team will lock horns with Madhya Pradesh in their fourth Ranji Trophy match of the ongoing season from November 6 in the Elite Group C here at the Moin-ul-Haq Stadium in Patna.

Coming on the back of a defeat, the Bihar Cricket team will look to turn the tide in their favour at home. Bowlers have delivered for Bihar in the ongoing season and batters will need to step up in the coming matches.

In their last game against Karnataka, Sharman Nigrodh, Sakibul Gani and Babul Kumar



starred with the bat. It is now for all other batters to step up their game as Bihar gears up to face Madhya Pradesh in the match which gets underway from November 6.

Speaking on the upcoming match, Bihar Cricket Association (BCA) President Rakesh Tiwari said, "Sakibul Gani's recent century was a commendable feat, and we expect the entire team to rise to the occasion. The Bihar Cricket Association is committed to supporting the team and enhancing the cricketing culture in the state." In the last match, Bihar batter Sakibul Gani slammed a gutsy ton against Karnataka in Patna. The 25-year-old cricketer hit 130 runs in 194 balls in the 2nd innings of Bihar's third Ranji Trophy match this season.

It was Gani's fifth ton in the Ranji Trophy. However, the century was enough for Bihar as the side lost the match by 8 wickets. Bihar were trailing in the 2nd innings when Sakibul Gani stitched a 130-run stand with Babul Kumar (44) to revive some hopes.

Bihar in the 2nd innings took the lead but eventually collapsed with Gani holding the other end. Karnataka needed 69 runs to win, which the side chased down in 10.2 overs.

Earlier as the Patna leg began for the Ranji Trophy matches, BCA president inaugurated the Ranji Trophy match between Bihar and Karnataka here at the Moin-ul-Haq Stadium in Patna last month. Governor of Bihar Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and Advocate General of Bihar Mr. Prashant Kumar Shahi were also present during the inauguration ceremony.

Friendships not exclusive in multipolar world, says EAM Jaishankar



New Delhi, Nov 2 (IANS) Asserting that India's presence in the world order is attracting competition that will only grow as the country moves towards becoming a leading power, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Saturday emphasised that friendships are no longer exclusive, especially in the emerging multipolar world.

"Friendships are also not exclusive, particularly so in a multipolar world. It is only to be expected that others, even friends, will seek to maintain their options while restricting ours. You will from time to time hear that our contemporary realism is projected as some kind of inherited dogmatism. Believe me, this is really a mind game at work," Jaishankar said at a book launch in New Delhi.

The EAM admitted that even friendships will not be without some hedging and relating to other major powers remains a challenge in itself considering their broader range of activities and interests.

He remarked that convergence should not be confused for congruence as friends of friends may reflect the dilemmas of the old order and the new.

"Some friends may also be more complicated than others. They may not always share the same culture of mutual respect, or ethos of diplomatic etiquette. We have from time to time seen comments on our domestic issues accompanied by a professed desire to have honest conversations. However, the same courtesies are rarely accorded to the other side. What is freedom for one can apparently become interference from the other. The fact is that sensitivities like sovereignty and territorial integrity will always be a factor in evaluating partners," he mentioned.

Jaishankar said that as India positions itself as a 'Vishwamitra', New Delhi is seeking to be friends with as many as possible, a move that generates goodwill and positivity. "It is reflected in the growing contributions we make to global good and indeed in the closer engagement with the international community. In some ways, this is diplomacy one on one, you could even say it is common sense. If you look deeper, there are cultural and historical factors at work as well, including the fact that we are not a dogmatic civilization. There is also a capability aspect, which accounts for the self-confidence with which we approach the world," he commented.

He also credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for leading from the front in transforming relationships with several key partner countries over the past 10 years. The EAM, in particular, highlighted three transformations.

"The US, Japan and Australia have benefitted from Quad. They are actually examples of overcoming the hesitations of history. UAE and Israel are from a region that is being engaged comprehensively, at last. Russia and France are statements of multipolarity, ours as much as theirs," he said.

"If all these ties have changed so much in the last decade, much of the credit should go to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his personal interest and leadership. Remember, at least three of them, had not even seen a high-level visit for three decades," he remarked.

Mohan Bhagwat asks 'pracharaks' to take RSS' message of social harmony to every home



Bhopal, Nov 2 (IANS) Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat has asked its 'pracharaks' to take the agenda of bringing social harmony in Hindu society to the grassroots level as well as to every home.

The RSS chief made this assertion on Friday while addressing a training camp for full-time RSS volunteers in Gwalior on Friday.

The five-day RSS 'Pracharak Prashikshan' camp started on October 31 and will conclude on November 4 at Kedar Dham Saraswati Shishu Mandir in Gwalior.

More than 550 'pracharaks' working for 31 Sangh-affiliated organisations from across the country are attending the programme.

The camp aims to enhance the skills and methodologies of propagators working within various organisations. The session will cover key topics, prominently operational strategies and skill development.

Sources told IANS that before addressing the session, Bhagwat held a meeting with all the 'pracharaks' attending the camp. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav is likely to attend the programme on Saturday.

Besides Bhagwat, RSS General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale and other top functionaries of the Sangh will also take part in the camp and hold discussions on works being done by the organisation across various fields.

The RSS regularly holds training camps for its 'pracharaks'. Every five years, a camp is organised for the organisational secretaries of various Sangh-affiliated bodies such as the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarathi Parishad (ABVP), Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), Arogya Bharati, Prajna Pravah, and Bharatiya Chitra Sadhana among others.

Minor girl raped in high-rise apartment in Patna

Patna, Nov 2 (IANS) A minor girl was allegedly raped in a high-rise apartment in Patna's Rajiv Nagar locality on Saturday.

The victim, who sustained serious injuries in her private part, was rushed to Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH), where her condition was said to be critical.

Dinesh Kumar Pandey, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) of the central range, said: "The girl had been sent to the apartment by her mother, reportedly for work. However, after the incident occurred, the victim's mother approached the Shastri Nagar police station, which in turn informed officials at Rajiv Nagar.

"The girl was transported to PMCH by the individual at whose house she was sent to work. Police have seized his car," Pandey said.

Authorities have detained some individuals related to the incident, although their names have not been disclosed. The girl was a resident of the Shastri Nagar area.

"A Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team has been summoned to the apartment to collect evidence, and the exact circumstances surrounding the incident will be clarified following the medical and forensic reports," Pandey said.

Sources said that the FSL team has collected a baton with blood stains.

Araria police recovers one-and-half year old child sold by parents to meet debt

Mail News Service

Patna, November 2: Bihar's Araria police recovered the one-and-a-half-year-old child who was allegedly sold by a couple in the district of Bihar to settle a loan taken from private moneylenders, who were harassing them to repay the amount.

The police got wind of it and recovered the child while the buyer was planning to take him to Bangalore.

The matter came to fore in Raniganj on October 30, when Mohammad Haroon and his wife Rehana of Pachira panchayat sold their son Mohammad Gufran to Mohammad Arif of Dumaria.

Raniganj station house officer (SHO) Nirmal Kumar Yadvendu told media persons that the police came to know about it through social media and rumours that spread in the area.

"We registered a non-cognisable report and investigated the matter as a part of our duty. It turned out to be true and we swung into action," Yadavendu.

Raniganj police station's ASHO Kanak Lata, Sub Inspector Chandan Kumar along with the police force reached the house of Md. Arif, resident of Dumariya Ward No. 10, the accused who bought the child and recovered the child on Thursday evening of Diwali. After that he was brought to the police station, where the child's father and the person who bought the child were interrogated. Raniganj police handed over the recovered child to Child Welfare Committee Araria. According to reports, the parents had taken a loan of Rs 50,000 last year from one of the mushrooming micro-finance companies that have illegally sprouted across the state, especially in rural areas.They started repaying the amount but were unable to catch up with the five per cent per month interest on the loan. Their poverty made things difficult and the "agents" of the micro-finance company started harassing them.

"We tried our best to repay the loan, but Rs 9,000 was pending. The agents would often barge into our home, shout and insult us demanding the money. We felt embarrassed in front of our neighbours. There was no other option but to settle the dues, thus, we took the drastic step," Haroon told the police.

Pregnant woman forced to clean blood-stained hospital bed after husband's death, 2 suspended



Bhopal, Nov 2 (IANS) Two officials associated with a hospital in Madhya Pradesh's Dindori district were suspended after a pregnant woman was forced to clean the blood-stained bed on which her husband succumbed to injuries, an official said on Saturday.

The man had sustained severe wounds during a brutal attack on his family.

The action (suspension of two officials) by Dindori district administration came hours after a video showing the woman cleaning a bed surfaced on social media, creating outrage.

Medical officer Dr. Chandrashekhar Singh, who was also in-charge of the primary health care in Gadasarai (from where the episode of woman cleaning bed was reported), has been transferred. The deceased was one of the three members of a family who were brutally attacked by a group of around 25 people following a long-standing land dispute in Lalpur Sani village on Thursday evening.

The injured individuals were spotted in a field and were rushed to the hospital from there.

Dharam Singh Marawi (65), and his sons Raghuraj Marawi (40), and Shivraj Marawi (40) were reportedly attacked by their relatives.

The woman identified as Roshni, who was forced to clean the hospital bed, is the widow of Shivraj Marawi, who died shortly after being taken to the Gadasarai primary health care centre for treatment.

As per the information, Roshni, who is five-months pregnant, was made to clean the blood-drenched bed immediately after her husband's death.

The attack occurred around 4.30 p.m. on Thursday when the victims, along with Ramraj Marawi -- the sole surviving family member -- went to confront relatives who were harvesting paddy on their land.

As they approached the field, a group of 20-25 people, armed with sticks, rods, axes, and sickles, attacked them.

Police have arrested the four identified suspects and are actively searching for the remaining three. A case has been registered under relevant sections.

Meanwhile, it was learned that the condition of another individual (Dharam Marawi's 3rd son), who was also attacked, remains critical, and he is currently undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Tripura rights panel seeks reports on incident of woman being paraded naked, 2 other cases



Agartala, Nov 2 (IANS) The Tripura Human Rights Commission (THRC) has taken suo-motu cognisance of three recent incidents of atrocities against women in the state.

The three cases include severe torture, parading naked of a woman; alleged ragging at the Tripura Medical College and forcing a woman to marry a youth, officials said here on Saturday.

An official of THRC said that the commission, headed by former Tripura High Court Judge Swapan Chandra Das, has directed the authorities concerned to enquire about all the three incidents and submit detailed reports on each case within two to three weeks.

In a shocking incident, a married woman was severely beaten, disrobed and paraded naked earlier this week at Bagber area under Kalamchaura police station in Sepahijala district.

Referring to the incident, the THRC in its order said that the fact which has been reported is bound to shock every person in a civilised society.

Referring to a Supreme Court case, the commission said that the apex court has given elaborate observations about women's rights which seem to be often violated, be it as it may, the THRC is greatly shocked to see such incidents in the BJP-ruled state of Tripura, where the rule of law is strictly followed.

The THRC directed the Director General of Police (DGP) to conduct a thorough investigation and submit a report within three weeks.

Indian Coast Guard rescues critically-ill seafarer from Liberian carrier MT Babylon



New Delhi, Nov 2 (IANS) The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) announced a successful rescue operation on Saturday, saving a 52-year-old Indian seafarer who suffered an acute cerebrovascular accident (CVA) or stroke aboard the MT Babylon, a Liberian-flagged Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC).

The incident occurred approximately 350 nautical miles (NM) away from the Indian shores.

Indian Coast Guard (Region West) spearheaded the rescue operation in collaboration with the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) based in Mumbai and the Indian Navy. The joint effort ensured the timely medical evacuation of the critically-ill seafarer.

In a detailed post on social media platform X, the Indian Coast Guard stated, "IndianCoastGuard (Region West) coordinated a Rescue Operation undertaken jointly by MRCC(MBI) & Indian Navy, resulting in the successful Medical Evacuation of a 52-year-old Indian Seafarer."

The Indian Coast Guard elaborated that the patient experienced an acute CVA/stroke while onboard the MT Babylon, which was operating under the Liberian flag. The vessel was situated about 350 nautical miles away from the Indian coastline at the time of the medical emergency.

It said that immediate action was taken to address the critical condition of the seafarer.

Upon successful rescue, the patient was promptly transferred to a nearby hospital for urgent medical attention, it said in the post on X.

The Indian Coast Guard has reported that the patient's condition remains critical, underscoring the severity of the stroke suffered. This recent operation follows another significant rescue mission carried out by the Indian Coast Guard on October 30 this year. The Maritime Rescue Sub Centre (MRSC) Porbandar coordinated the medical evacuation of an unconscious and critically-ill crew member from the fishing boat Madhuram. The vessel was located approximately 90 kms from Pipavav, near the west coast of Gujarat.

The Indian Coast Guard deployed the ICG Interceptor Boat C-409 for the rescue operation. After successfully evacuating the crew member, the Indian Coast Guard handed over the patient to the Fisheries Authorities for further medical management and care.

Farooq Abdullah demands 'independent probe' into spurt in J&K violence



Srinagar, Nov 2 (IANS) Former chief minister and NC president Farooq Abdullah on Saturday demanded an independent probe to find out the reason for the spurt in violence in J&K after the formation of an elected government here.

"I doubt why there wasn't a spurt in gunfights before the government formation. There should be an independent probe to find out who is doing it," he said.

He added that it must be found out whether some agency has been assigned the task of destabilising the Omar Abdullah-headed government.

He demanded that the terrorists in today's Khanyar encounter should be arrested alive and not killed to find out who is trying to destabilise the elected government.

He said tourism was thriving and people were moving about doing their business and other normal activities of life till an elected government took office here.

There have been some deadly attacks in J&K during the last month. On October 20, two terrorists fired indiscriminately at a workers' camp of an infrastructure company in the Gagangir area of the Ganderbal district.

Seven people including six non-locals and a local doctor were killed in the Gagangir attack.

On October 24, terrorists ambushed a vehicle of the army at the Botapathri area of Gulmarg. Five people including three army soldiers and two civilian porters working for the army were killed in the Botapathri attack.

People's Anti-Fascist Front (PAFF), an offshoot of Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) took responsibility for the Botapathri attack.

Intelligence agencies believe that after successful, people participative Lok Sabha and legislative assent elections, handlers of terrorists across the border have become frustrated and they have now instructed the remaining terrorists in J&K to carry out terrorist attacks.

The Chief Minister, his council of ministers and the MLAs of the NC stayed away from the J&K foundation day celebrated on October 31 after the J&K Reorganisation Act 2019 was implemented and the erstwhile state bifurcated into two UTs of J&K and Ladakh.

Lt Governor took exception to the non-participation by the Chief Minister and his ministers in the UT's foundation Day.

"This shows their dual character. They took oath under the Constitution of the country and they preferred to stay away from the UT's foundation day celebrations. It is a fact that J&K is a UT and everybody must accept this reality," he said

Four cleaning contract staff run over by speeding Kerala Express



Palakkad, Nov 2 (IANS) In a tragic accident, four contract cleaning workers who were engaged in cleaning the railway track were trapped on a railway bridge and run over by the speeding Kerala Express at Shoranur in Kerala's Palakkad on Saturday evening, officials said.

The dead include two men and two women, all of them hail from Salem in Tamil Nadu.

Both the male cleaning workers were named Lekshman, while the women were identified as Valli and Rani.

According to the police, these casual cleaning staff were picking up the litter on the railway track on the Kochi bridge above the Bharatapuzha river when the accident occurred.

Seeing the fast-approaching Kerala Express train coming from Delhi and bound for Thiruvananthapuram, these hapless workers were unable to take cover and all four were killed instantly.

While three bodies have been recovered, the search for the fourth body, which had fallen into the river, is currently going on.

These casual workers are attached to a railway contractor who had taken the cleaning job on either side of the railway track in the area.

As per reports, these workers did not realize that the Kerala Express was all set to pass over the bridge when they were walking on it.The local police and the Railway Protection Force have begun a probe into the gruesome accident.