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MAXIMUM UTILISATION OF MY CURRENT FORM: SAMSON AFTER SCORING SUCCESSIVE T20I TONS, PAGE : 11

Shah, Rahul rub shoulders in city amid high voltage campaign

BJP will protect 'Roti, Maati, Beti': Shah

Potka, Nov 9 : Highlighting the BJP's commitment to protect the 'Roti, Maati, Beti (livelihood, land, daughter)' of Jharkhand voters, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday attacked the Congress and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) for the state government's conspiracy to allow cross-border infiltration for vote bank politics. He also said that there would be no religion-based reservation in the country.



Addressing an election rally in Palamu, HM Shah also slammed the INDIA bloc for corruption that was exposed by the recent recovery of over Rs 300 crore from a Congress MP's house and seizure of Rs 30 crore from the home of an aide of Jharkhand minister Alamgir Alam.

In a stinging criticism of the Congress for its proposal to give 10 per cent reservation for Muslims, HM Shah said, "I want to warn Rahul Gandhi that your conspiracy to give 10 per cent reservation to Muslims will never succeed."

"If such a Muslim quota is created, the biggest losers will be OBCs, Dalits and Tribals as their share of reservation will be reduced," HM Shah warned.

He also lashed out at the Congress for allegedly waving fake copies of the Constitution at public meetings.

"The copies of the Constitution they wave at the public have blank pages. Rahul Gandhi has insulted B.R. Ambedkar by waving a fake copy of the Constitution and reduced the revered document to a joke," he claimed.

The Home Minister also trained his guns on Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi over Article 370, saying neither the Congress leader nor his next four generations would be able to bring back Article 370, whose removal has fully integrated Jammu and Kashmir with the country under the Modi government.

HM Shah hit out at Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren for allowing infiltration for pursuing vote bank politics.

"The CM says there is no infiltration, it is just the BJP's political agenda. But I want to tell the CM that you are allowing infiltration as part of your vote bank politics," he claimed.

HM Shah said the infiltrators were eating into the jobs meant for Jharkhand's youths.

"Once a BJP government comes to power in Jharkhand, we will protect 'Roti, Maati, Beti.' Today infiltrators are marrying tribal girls in Jharkhand and getting land transferred to their names using Dan Patra," he said, vowing to stop this malpractice.

INDI bloc is force of love, protectors of Constitution : Gandhi

Jamshedpur, Nov 9 : During a campaign rally at Jamshedpur's Gandhi Maidan for the upcoming Jharkhand Assembly elections, Leader of the Opposition and Congress star campaigner Rahul Gandhi delivered a powerful response to BJP leader and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's remark, 'Batoyge to Katoyge.' Rahul said, "The INDIA bloc is a force for love, unity and protectors of the Constitution."



Gandhi accused the BJP-RSS of promoting division and neglecting marginalized communities. He described the current political landscape as a "battle of ideologies," with the INDIA bloc standing for "brotherhood and constitutional values," while alleging that the BJP-RSS espouses "hatred, violence and arrogance."

He emphasized that the INDIA bloc aims to restore dignity and rights for disadvantaged groups, whereas the BJP-led government prioritizes business interests over people's welfare.

During the rally, Gandhi announced a 'khata-khat' (instant) financial transfer scheme, pledging a monthly allowance of Rs 2500 for women, which will be directly deposited into their bank accounts. He highlighted that this initiative reflects the alliance's commitment to empowering women, whom he called the "backbone of the nation." The scheme aims to provide direct economic relief to households and strengthen women's financial autonomy.

Targeting the BJP, Gandhi claimed that under their rule, high inflation and unemployment have spread across the nation, disproportionately impacting Jharkhand's youth and women. He also criticized the Goods and Services Tax (GST) as a "burden on the poor," asserting that it unfairly taxes the rich and poor at the same rate, thus worsening economic inequality.

Gandhi outlined additional promises from the INDIA bloc, including providing seven kilograms of ration per person per month, gas cylinders at Rs 450 and increasing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy to Rs 3,200 per quintal. The alliance also proposed a health insurance scheme covering up to Rs 15 lakh for surgeries, further supporting the state's most vulnerable.

Furthermore, Gandhi pledged that the alliance would create 10 lakh jobs, establish degree colleges in every block, and open a 500-acre industrial park in each district. He also vowed to remove the 50 percent cap on caste-based reservations and conduct a caste census to ensure marginalized communities are well-represented in decision-making roles.

I-T Dept raids CM's personal secretary's residence ahead of assembly polls

Jamshedpur, Nov 9 : With countable days left for first phase of polls in Jharkhand, Income Tax department on Saturday conducted raids at the residence of Jharkhand Chief Minister and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader Hemant Soren's personal secretary Suni Srivastava.



According to sources in the police department, the IT sleuths conducted raids at 16-17 locations linked to Srivastava, including his family members' residences and properties of close associates.

The officer added that ongoing searches are being carried out across several sites, with seven in Ranchi and nine in Jamshedpur, including the offices of Jamshedpur-based Anjania Steel and other associated establishments.

The raids reportedly stem from allegations of tax evasion, with information received by the department suggesting Srivastava's involvement in tax-related discrepancies, leading to swift departmental action.

Reacting to the raids, INDIA Alliance coalition partner Congress accused the BJP ruling at Cnetre of using central agencies to target opposition leaders.

Congress leader Rakesh Sinha stated, "This is nothing new for Jharkhand. IT raids are being carried out on opposition leaders and their personal staff continuously in the state. BJP is now only trying to find its footing through IT and ED raids. The people here have already rejected them. With such actions, they are just attempting to create pressure on opposition leaders."

Previously, on October 26, the Income Tax Department conducted searches in Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Giridih, and Kolkata, targeting alleged financial transactions routed through hawala networks. The raids resulted in the seizure of documents related to unaccounted assets worth around Rs 150 crore. Just weeks earlier, on October 14, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raided the properties of Mithilesh Thakur, a cabinet minister in the Soren government, over alleged irregularities in the Jal Jeevan Mission projects. The searches were conducted across 20 locations, including properties of Thakur's brother Vinay Thakur, his private secretary Harendra Singh, and departmental engineers.

Commenting on the timing of the investigations, Chief Minister Hemant Soren alleged political motivation behind the raids, asserting that such actions were expected as the elections approached. He claimed these moves were driven by opposition forces seeking to create pressure on his government and its allies.

Rahul Gandhi should feel ashamed, his ancestors did nothing for tribals: Marandi

Ranchi, Nov 9 (IANS) Ahead of the Assembly elections in Jharkhand, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) state president Babulal Marandi launched a scathing attack on Rahul Gandhi and previous Congress governments, saying that the state's laggardness was because of years of 'misrule' by the grand old party & its allies.



Former Jharkhand Chief Minister, speaking to IANS said that the Congress should be ashamed of the way it treated the tribal state and pointed to constant 'neglect' of the state despite the Gandhi family-led Congress being at the Centre's helm for many decades.

"Rahul Gandhi should first explain that his ancestors ruled this country for 55-60 years but what work they did for the tribals. The people of Jharkhand and the tribals have been ruined under the Congress rule," he said.

He accused the Congress regimes of treating tribals like "animals".

"Even today, people are agitating as they have not got justice. Congress had treated the tribals like animals. They never provided roads to the tribal villages and before the year 2000, electricity did not even reach their homes," he added.

Pointing to Rahul's metropolitan upbringing, he said that those living in palaces can't understand the pain of those living in villages and hinterlands.

"Rahul Gandhi was born in Delhi and lives there. How does he know how people live in the villages? The tribals of Jharkhand fought for the state of Jharkhand by being on the front line, but what did they do? From Jaipal Singh to Shibu Soren, all were bought by paying money," he alleged.

Marandi further said that it was only after the formation of the BJP government, Jharkhand was made into a separate state.

Suicide blast at Quetta railway station kills dozen in Balochistan

Quetta, Nov 9 (IANS) At least 24 people have been killed in Pakistan while over 50 others are injured at the Quetta Railway Station after a suspected suicide bomber exploded when passengers were gathering for the departure of a train to Peshawar.



"Around 100 people were present at the railway station when the blast occurred. Till now, 24 people have been confirmed dead while over 50 are injured. The blast occurred on the platform as passengers gathered for the departure of Jaffar Express. The train was to depart from Quetta to Peshawar," said Quetta Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Mohammad Baloch.

The injured have been taken to Civil Hospital Quetta, while the rescue and law enforcement teams reached the blast site and cordoned off the area.

An emergency has been declared at the hospital in Balochistan's provincial capital Quetta. The Medical Superintendent at the Civil Hospital said that the dead included women and children.

"46 wounded were brought to the hospital for urgent treatment. Many of the injured are in critical condition," said the Medical Superintendent.

Police said that the blast may have been a suicide bombing as the explosion happened at the time when a high number of passengers were gathering at the platform to board the train to Peshawar at 9 a.m.

Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti termed the tragic incident as a "horrific act targeting innocent civilians," condemning the incident and ordering an immediate inquiry and investigation.

Dhanbad's Anandita selected for India under-19 cricket camp

Dhanbad, Nov 9: Dhanbad's all-rounder Anandita Kishor has been selected for the India under-19 women's cricket camp, joining 24 other players from across the country in preparation for the Asia Cup. Anandita is the sole player from Jharkhand chosen for this camp.

Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) executive committee member Binay Kumar Singh informed the media that Anandita Kishor is required to report at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru on November 13. India's T-20 team coach VVS Laxman will be preparing the under-19 women's team for the Asia Cup.

Anandita earned her place based on her all-round performance in the Challenge Trophy T-20 cricket tournament held in Jaipur in the last week of October. Representing India 'C' team, she took five wickets and scored 35 runs across three matches. Her best performance came against India 'A,' where she claimed three wickets and scored 18 runs, including two massive sixes. Although she had limited opportunities to bat, her skills with both bat and ball caught the selectors' attention.



Anandita, the daughter of railway engineer Manish Kumar and a resident of Govindpur block in Dhanbad, started playing cricket only four years ago. She is a student of former Ranji star and BCCI level-2 coach Chandra Mohan Jha.

Chandra Mohan Jha, who also coaches the Jharkhand under-16 team, expressed confidence in Anandita's potential to excel in both the under-19 and senior women's teams at the international level, provided she maintains her temperament, technique, and attitude. "As an all-rounder with the ability to perform equally well with bat and ball, she could be a valuable asset to the national team," he said. Notably, Jha, a former Ranji player for Bihar and Jharkhand for over 12 years until 2009, was highly praised by former Test star Sanjay Manjrekar in Jamshedpur during the 1996-97 season.

Alongside Binay Singh, Dhanbad Cricket Association president Manoj Kumar, general secretary Uttam Biswas, vice-president Sanjiv Jha, Javed Khan, Manoj Kumar Singh, joint secretary Bala Shankar Jha, BH Khan, assistant secretary Dharmendra Kumar Sanjiv Rana, Sudhir Pandey, former Ranji player Manish Bardhan, and Mahesh Gorai have all extended their congratulations to Anandita.

Countdown begins for departure of anti-tribal government: Champai Soren

Shankar Agrawal



Jamshedpur, Nov 9: With just a week left for the Jharkhand assembly elections, the political climate is heating up, and party switching is in full swing. Recently, Mandal Murmu, Hemant Soren's proposer and descendant of Santhal Hul hero Sido-Kanhu, joined the BJP-a major setback for JMM. Former Jharkhand CM Champai Soren took to social media to criticize the JMM over Murmu's defection.

In his post, Soren highlighted the plight of Santal Pargana, pointing out that the ancestral land was being overrun by "Bangladeshi intruders," who displayed flags of a specific party on new houses along the roadsides, emboldened to take tribal lands and disrupt local society. He expressed concern about the diminishing tribal presence in areas like Pakur and Sahibganj and claimed that the current government's priorities lay with protecting intruders rather than the tribal population. Champai Soren concluded that Santal Pargana had been turned into a crime hub, with rising drug trafficking, cybercrime, and gold smuggling.

Champai Soren accuses Congress of being anti-tribal

Former CM Champai Soren criticized the Congress for its actions against tribals and Jharkhand. He accused the party of suppressing the Jharkhand movement, referring to the firing of dozens of bullets during the movement. Soren also blamed Congress for removing the tribal religious code from the census in 1961. He questioned the actions of their allies and held them accountable for blocking the PESA law, which was finalized by his government, and for stalling efforts to teach tribal languages in primary schools, which led to youth protests. (w/gsd)

Mandal Murmu faces threats after joining BJP: Champai

Jamshedpur: Former CM Champai Soren voiced concerns over threats faced by Mandal Murmu, a descendant of Santal Hul hero Sido-Kanhu, after he joined the BJP. Soren cited incidents like the brutal murder of Rubika Pahariya and the burning of Ankita, which he attributed to the government's neglect of tribal safety in favor of vote bank politics. He also mentioned that justice remained elusive in the murder case of Rameshwar Murmu, another descendant of Veer Sido-Kanhu. According to Soren, posters have appeared targeting Mandal Murmu, orchestrated by those who believed they could control tribal voices through intimidation. Their fear, he suggested, was that their true intentions would be exposed.

BJP's anti-SC comments spark outrage, leaders demand apology

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 9: The recent Facebook post by East Singhbhum BJP, calling the Mukhi community traitors and anti-nationals, has ignited widespread anger among the public, particularly within the Scheduled Caste (SC) community.

Lakhinder Karua, District President of the SC Cell, criticized the BJP for insulting the community, stating that the party had earlier stripped the SC community of their right to caste certificates.

"BJP's actions have hurt the SC community deeply, and they must apologize," Karua said. He warned that the BJP would face a significant electoral loss for this offense.

Shekhar Rajak, State Vice President of the SC Cell, also voiced his anger, emphasizing that the community has been instrumental in defending the country. "How can we be called traitors when we send soldiers to the army?" Rajak questioned. He appealed to the public to vote against the BJP, stating, "No respect, no vote."

Rishabh Ranjan added that labelling a community as traitors simply because they do not vote for BJP was an insult not only to the SC community but to the people of Jamshedpur. He reminded everyone of the BJP's controversial decisions, including the rejection of the CNT and SPT Act amendments and attempts to dilute the SC/ST Act.

"The BJP has consistently worked against the interests of backward communities," Ranjan stated, citing incidents like those in Unnao and Hathras as further evidence of the party's disregard for the marginalized. (w/nkm)

Public support shifts in favour of Dr. Ajoy Kumar as election day approaches

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Nov 9: The political climate in Jamshedpur East is heating up as voters express growing support for Congress candidate Dr. Ajoy Kumar. With election day drawing nearer, people have begun comparing the long-standing rule of the "Bahurani" (wife) to the work of Dr. Ajoy, the former IPS officer and ex-MP known for his strong leadership. "Ajoy Kumar wiped out criminals from Jamshedpur in 1994 and worked tirelessly for the public during his tenure," said local residents. "His office was always open to the people, day and night."

Dr. Ajoy's public relations campaign on Saturday took him through several key areas, including Bagunahatu, Bhalubasa, Burmamines, Cable Town, and Golmuri. His interactions with the people were met with enthusiastic support. "This time, only Ajoy Kumar can bring real change. The misrule of the last 25 years must end," one local resident remarked.

In his campaign, Dr. Ajoy focused on providing basic civic amenities, including clean drinking water, and emphasized his commitment to education, health, and employment. "The lack of pure drinking water in many settlements is a glaring example of the BJP's failure," Dr. Ajoy stated. He also promised to improve education by introducing CM model schools and ensure better healthcare facilities through regular medical camps.

Dr. Ajoy's vision for Jamshedpur includes providing employment opportunities and creating a safer, more developed city. "If the people trust me, I will not disappoint them. My priority is to bring sustainable development to Jamshedpur," he said, gaining the confidence of voters in the region. (w/nkm)

JKS to support Potka candidate Meera Munda



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, November 9: The Jharkhand Kshatriya Sangh (JKS) held a meeting of its unit presidents at 18 Khasmahal, Jamshedpur, organized by Parsudih Unit President B.D. Singh.

Discussions focused on strengthening the Sangh's effectiveness and promoting educational and technical advancement within the community. Shambhu Nath Singh shared various suggestions for community growth and urged support for Potka Assembly candidate Meera Munda, encouraging a strong voter turnout in her favor.

Dr. Kavita Parmar emphasized unity, stating, "We will neither divide nor separate; we will ensure Meera Munda's victory with 100% support." B.D. Singh extended his gratitude to the guests, community leaders, and the public. (w/gsd)

Saryu Roy raised 97 Jamshedpur-related questions in Jharkhand assembly



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, November 9: NDA candidate from Jamshedpur West, Saryu Roy, raised a total of 97 questions concerning Jamshedpur in the fifth Jharkhand Legislative Assembly from March 2020 to August 2024. These inquiries, filed under short notice, starred questions, attention notices, and private resolutions, highlighted key local issues. In a recent statement, Roy stated that he had posed 109 questions related to state matters despite frequent disruptions in the assembly, which often led to adjournments. He detailed that between 2020 and 2024, he had asked 60 short notice questions on Jamshedpur, along with 24 starred, 7 attention-drawing, and 6 private resolution questions, totaling 97 questions. For state matters, he raised 72 short notice questions, distributed over the years, along with 24 starred, 9 attention-seeking, and 4 personal resolution questions, indicating his commitment to addressing public concerns. (w/gsd)

Saryu Roy vows to open Kadma Road if elected on Nov 23

Jamshedpur, November 9: NDA candidate for Jamshedpur West, Saryu Roy, announced that if he won the assembly election on November 23, he would reopen the blocked Kadma road with a bulldozer by November 24. He also warned that he would report to the Election Commission if the administration did not ensure fair elections. Roy stated that a strong lead in Kadma, Sonari, Mango, Bistupur, and Sakchi would secure his victory, as had happened in past elections. He criticized Congress candidate Banna Gupta, alleging his association with criminals, and mentioned that despite informing the SSP, no arrests had been made. Roy also promised to reinstall a statue of Subhas Chandra Bose in the Mango garden, stating that the previous statue had been removed without any information on its current location. (w/gsd)

Union Minister backs Saryu for Jamshedpur West win

Jamshedpur, November 9: Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Welfare, Ram Nath Thakur, expressed strong confidence in NDA candidate Saryu Roy's success in the upcoming Jamshedpur West Assembly election, describing him as a principled leader shaped by his active role in the JP movement. Thakur praised Roy's clean image and organizational abilities, declaring his victory "certain."

At a press conference, Thakur emphasized the NDA's united front in Jharkhand, stating that public response indicated a substantial lead for Roy. Bihar BJP Business Cell President Manoj Gupta highlighted Roy's dedication to the poor, Dalits and backward communities while contrasting this trait with rival Banna Gupta's alleged reliance on caste-based support. Also present were BJP Samastipur Business Cell Convener Sanjay Kumar Singh, JDU Bihar General Secretary Banarasi Thakur, and JDU Jharkhand Youth President Nirmal Singh. (w/gsd)

B L Santosh guides BJP workers



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 9: A significant meeting was held at the District BJP office in Sakchi, Jamshedpur, under the leadership of District President Sudhanshu Ojha. National Organization General Secretary B.L. Santosh was the chief guest at this meeting, which saw participation from migrant workers, in-charge workers, District General Secretary, Assembly Coordinators, and BJP expanders from Jamshedpur Metropolitan and East Singhbhum. The meeting focused on preparations for the upcoming assembly elections, and organizational strategies were discussed in detail. B.L. Santosh addressed the workers, urging them to engage in the election field with full dedication and to work tirelessly for the party's organizational strength. He also emphasized the importance of reaching out to every household and educating people about the BJP's policies, as well as highlighting the failures of the current state government. Santosh encouraged the workers to ensure continuous public engagement and strengthen the party's grassroots presence. (w/nkm)

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma Addresses Chakradharpur Rally

Chakradharpur, Nov 9: At a public meeting in Chakradharpur on Saturday, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma appealed for votes in favour of BJP's NDA candidate Shashi Bhushan Samar. He targeted Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren and India Alliance, pledging to tackle infiltration, free sand ghats, and demand a CBI investigation into the murder of Hindu leader Kamaldev Giri. Sarma also criticized MLA Sukhram Oraon and emphasized his commitment to increasing OBC reservation in West Singhbhum to 27%. He further promised that once the BJP forms the government, the CGL exam would be cancelled and jobs would be created for 1.5 lakh youth.



Purnima Sahu's campaign gains momentum in Jamshedpur East

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Nov 9: BJP candidate Purnima Sahu's election campaign in Jamshedpur East gained significant traction on Saturday, as she conducted door-to-door visits, met with community members, and welcomed new supporters into the party fold. Accompanied by BJP workers including Mandal President Suraj Singh and Manoj Srivastava, Purnima visited several areas, including Gwala Basti, Ramadhin Bagan, and Jhagdu Bagan in Burmamines. She actively engaged with voters, urging them to choose development over empty promises. "Let's go with development. Support your own people who are ready to serve you day and night," she said during her visits.

Purnima also held meetings in Kailash Nagar and Anand Nagar in Golmuri, where she engaged with local voters and addressed their concerns. In Geetanjali Apartment in Birsanagar Zone No. 6, Purnima organized a women's meeting, which saw several new members joining BJP. Additionally, she held a meeting with the Bengali community in Telco's Sabuj Kalyan Sangh and participated in a voter awareness program with the Kshatriya community at Celebration Inn, Bajrang Chowk, Baridih.

Purnima's campaign continued with a lively litti party in Sidgora, where she interacted with the people of Baridih. "Our goal is clear: bring progress and a prosperous future to Jamshedpur," Purnima said, as she remained optimistic about her chances in the upcoming elections.

Prominent figures including Bhupendra Singh, Polu Ghosh, and Vinay supported her campaign activities. (w/nkm)



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Shah leads grand roadshow, claims BJP is coming to power

Mail News Service





Jamshedpur, Nov 9: Union Home Minister Amit Shah electrified the city with a massive roadshow on Saturday, as he campaigned for BJP's bid to reclaim power in the State. Riding through crowded streets, Shah was visibly moved by the overwhelming turnout, later expressing on social media platform X, "The love and enthusiasm of the people in Jamshedpur show that the BJP is set to come to power in Jharkhand." The show of support underscored BJP's strategic efforts to consolidate its voter base in the region ahead of the upcoming assembly elections.

Accompanying Shah were two prominent faces of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Jamshedpur: BJP's Purnima Sahu, contesting from the Jamshedpur East seat, and Saryu Rai of the Janata Dal (United), the NDA's candidate for the Jamshedpur West seat. Together, they rode through the city in an open-top vehicle, waving to crowds and greeting supporters as flower petals rained down upon them.

The streets of Jamshedpur were filled with the fervent chants of "Jai Shri Ram" and "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" as thousands of locals lined up to witness the spectacle. Youth, women, and elderly citizens stood side by side, waving flags and cheering as the Home Minister's convoy made its way through the heart of the city. Many locals saw the roadshow as an opportunity to show their support for the BJP, while others viewed it as an important moment for Jamshedpur in the national political spotlight.

Throughout the rally, the fervor and optimism were evident among BJP supporters, who expressed hope for political change. "Amit Shah's presence here shows the seriousness with which BJP is taking Jharkhand," said Ravi Singh, a local businessman who attended the roadshow. "We need stronger leadership to address our city's issues, and seeing the Home Minister here gives us confidence that BJP is ready to make that change."

The decision to spotlight Jamshedpur East and West in this roadshow reflects BJP's strategic focus on these key constituencies. Jamshedpur East, a highly contested seat, has long been a battleground between the BJP and its rivals. This time, with Purnima Sahu as the BJP candidate and the support of NDA's Saryu Roy in Jamshedpur West, the alliance aims to consolidate its influence across the steel city.

The roadshow's route covered several key areas in Jamshedpur, where party workers, dressed in saffron, had meticulously prepared decorations and flags. The sight of the Home Minister in an open vehicle, alongside Sahu and Rai, drew cheers and chants from every corner. Local resident Preeti Mishra, who participated in the rally, described the excitement: "It's not every day that a leader of Amit Shah's stature comes here. The energy in the crowd reflects our hope for positive change under BJP."

Sikh community accords grand welcome

People from different communities welcomed the Union Home Minister Amit Shah during the roadshow. On behalf of the Sikh community, young BJP Sikh leaders Satvir Singh Somu, Chanchal Bhatia, Joginder Singh Jogi, Rocky Singh, Ravinder Singh Rinku, Satinder Singh Romi, Gurvinder Singh Bunty, Avtar Singh Pintu, Akash Singh, Vinay Khurana, Harpreet Singh, Daljit Singh, Pintu Saini and many other Sikh youths welcomed him by showering flowers in Sakchi. Satvir Singh Somu said that the public is with the BJP and the formation of the BJP government in the state is certain.

Banna's cricket bat swings away election fatigue



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 9: Amidst the hectic election schedule, Banna Gupta, the INDI Alliance candidate from Jamshedpur West, displayed his cricketing skills, hitting several fours and sixes on the field. His impressive batting left the players in awe with one remarking, "Wow Banna Ji, you're an expert in both, politics and sports."

While returning to his Kadma residence after dropping leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi at Sonari Airport, Gupta spotted a group of youth playing cricket at the LIC ground along the way. Overcoming his fatigue, he joined them on the field with his bat. This moment reflected the unique qualities that have earned him a distinct identity in the city. (w/gsd)



CM Hemant Soren welcomes LoP Rahul Gandhi at Ranchi Airport.

PM to participate in mega roadshow today



Ranchi, Nov 9 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be conducting a mega roadshow in Ranchi on November 10 just three days before the state will be casting it votes for the first phase.

In anticipation, Union Minister of State for Defense, Sanjay Seth, led a procession on Saturday from OTC Ground on Ratu Road to New Market Chowk, urging Ranchi residents to warmly welcome the Prime Minister.

According to Seth, significant arrangements have been made for this event. The roadshow will commence at 4 PM from the OTC Ground, proceeding through Pisca Mod, Metro Gali, Durga Mandir, and ending at New Market Chowk.

Over 20,000 bikers from Ranchi and nearby areas are expected to join in the festivities to show their support. To accommodate the crowd, parking facilities have been arranged in surrounding areas including Hehal, Pandara, and near ITI.

The event will feature traditional cultural displays to honor the Prime Minister. Artists will perform the Chhau dance, a traditional Jharkhand folk dance, to greet Modi. Additionally, 501 Brahmins will perform ceremonial conch shell blowing to bless the PM's 'Vijay Sankalp' (victory resolution). The Sikh community, along with other cultural groups, is also preparing for the occasion with drums, bhajans, and other musical arrangements at various points along the route. In further preparations, local residents on Ratu Road have been decorating their homes, while women have created rangoli designs at multiple locations to add color to the celebration. There are also plans for flower showers at key points along the route. The Union Minister encouraged Ranchi residents to make this welcome historic, as a symbol of the special bond between the Prime Minister and Jharkhand.

Jharkhand police gears up for PM's Nov 10 visit, 16 SPs deployed

Ranchi, Nov 9: Jharkhand Police is on its toes for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to poll bound Jharkhand's capital Ranchi for a grand roadshow on November 10.

The state police living no stone unturned has taken all steps to prevent any lapses in the prime minister's security and have deployed 11 superintendent of police (SP) to monitor the roadshow.

The state police headquarters has provided Ranchi police with an additional 4,000 personnel, including 11 SP-ranked officers and 30 DSPs, to ensure a smooth and secure event.

For the PM's event in Gumla, an extra 2,000 personnel, 29 DSPs, and four IPS officers will be on duty. In Bokaro, an additional force of 2,000 personnel, along with 16 DSPs and additional IPS officers, has been deployed.

The security arrangements will be closely monitored by the police headquarters, and the range DIG will also review and oversee security measures. After the roadshow reaches New Market Chowk, the Prime Minister's convoy will proceed toward the airport. Given that the BJP office is on this route, additional security measures are being taken to handle possible crowds if the convoy stops for public greetings.

SPG officers are assessing security measures from OTC Ground to New Market Chowk, focusing on high-rise buildings along the route, where additional police personnel will be stationed. According to police sources, SPG officials are also conducting a comprehensive security review, and all necessary protocols and checks are in place to ensure the PM's safety.

Rahul Gandhi calls to defend Constitution in high-stakes Jamshedpur election campaign

Mail News Service





Jamshedpur, Nov 9 Rahul Gandhi electrified the crowd at Gandhi Maidan in Mango on Saturday as he took the stage to campaign for Congress candidates Banna Gupta (Jamshedpur West) and Dr. Ajoy Kumar (Jamshedpur East) in the Assembly Elections 2024. Addressing thousands of supporters, Rahul Gandhi passionately advocated for unity, love, and a commitment to protect India's Constitution amid rising political and economic pressures.

In a sharp critique of the BJP and PM Narendra Modi's government, Gandhi accused the BJP of fostering divisions within India, claiming that they seek to dismantle the Constitution and promote hostility. Holding up a copy of the Constitution, he affirmed, "This document belongs to India. It protects the people, the poor, and the marginalized, and we cannot let it be eroded by forces of hatred and arrogance."

Highlighting Congress's commitment to unity, he evoked the historic "Bharat Jodo Yatra," where Congress leaders, including Rahul himself, walked 4,000 kilometers from Kanyakumari to Kashmir in an effort to unite India's diverse communities. "Our message was simple: unite India," he said, underscoring Congress's vision to "open a shop of love in the market of hatred."

Accusing the BJP and RSS of sowing discord by exploiting divisions of religion, caste, and language, Gandhi reminded the crowd of Congress's legacy of uniting the nation through the freedom struggle and drafting the Constitution under the guidance of leaders like Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi.

He outlined Congress's vision for Jharkhand, promising a range of initiatives aimed at empowering women, farmers, and marginalized communities. Key promises included: Women's Financial Assistance: Monthly support of Rs 2,500 to every woman in Jharkhand, alongside a subsidized gas cylinder priced at Rs 450 and 60 kg of ration per person. Health Care: A health insurance scheme providing free treatment up to Rs 15 lakh for every family, ensuring affordable healthcare for the state's residents. Support for Farmers: Increased rates for paddy at Rs 3,200 per quintal, aiming to alleviate farmers' economic burdens.

Educational Expansion: Plans to open degree colleges in every block and professional colleges in every district, promising to make higher education accessible across Jharkhand. Increased Reservation: Proposals to raise reservations for Dalits, tribals, and backward classes, as well as a commitment to conducting a caste census for accurate representation in public institutions.

Gandhi sharply criticized the economic policies of GST and demonetization, describing them as tools designed to favor the wealthy while harming small traders, farmers, and the poor. "GST is swallowing people," he argued, emphasizing the hardships faced by laborers and farmers. He contrasted this with the media's focus on high-profile figures, notably remarking that "farmers and poor laborers are not visible on TV, but Ambani's wedding is."

Rahul pauses during Namaz

In a defining moment, when the Azan for Namaz began at the nearby Bari Masjid, Gandhi paused his speech, honoring the call to prayer. Resuming after the Azan, he affirmed, "This country belongs to everyone; it is a land of brotherhood." His gesture and words underscored his message of inclusivity, unity, and respect for all faiths.

Closing his speech, Rahul Gandhi assured supporters that the Congress and the India Alliance stand unwaveringly against what he termed the divisive tactics of the BJP. "We are here to open a shop of love in the market of hatred. We will work 24 hours a day to defeat hate with love," he said, calling upon the people to save the Constitution and uphold the values of unity, brotherhood, and respect for diversity.

Libraries of 32 Govt schools to be upgraded with Rs 1.5 cr investment

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Nov 9: To enhance educational resources, the Jharkhand Education Project Council has announced an upgrade of libraries in 32 government schools across Purbi Singhbhum district, with a total allocation of Rs 1.5 crores.

This initiative aims to enrich the learning environment and ensure that students have access to a wide array of educational materials.

The upgrade will benefit several prominent institutions, including the Chief Minister's School of Excellence, Block-level Adarsh Vidyalaya, Kasturba Gandhi Girls Residential School, and various Model Schools. The funds allocated for the financial year 2024-25 will facilitate the purchase of essential learning materials, which are expected to be procured post-elections.

The financial distribution for the libraries is as follows:

- Kasturba Gandhi Residential Girls School and School of Excellence: Rs 1,12,50,000
- Adarsh Vidyalaya: Rs 24,00,000
- Urban Local Bodies (ULB): Rs 20,00,000

With this funding, the selected schools will enhance their libraries by acquiring a variety of resources. The committee members have already prepared a comprehensive list of books to be purchased, which will include materials tailored to different class requirements. This list will guide the issuance of work orders to suppliers and publishers, with payments managed at the state level.

The allocated budget will also cover the regular purchase of two Hindi and two English newspapers, as well as various journals and magazines to keep the libraries updated. A portion of the funds will be reserved for a contingency fund to address any unexpected needs.

This initiative is a vital step toward enriching the educational infrastructure in government schools, ensuring that they provide resources comparable to those found in private institutions. The goal is to create an inviting and resource-rich environment where students can engage with the necessary literature to support their studies.

Training on fire safety at Tatanagar railway hospital



Jamshedpur, Nov 9: Doctors and staff at Tatanagar Railway Hospital underwent specialized training on the use of dry chemical powder fire extinguishers to handle fire-related emergencies effectively. The training was conducted by demonstrators Anil Kumar Singh and Kalyan Kumar Sahu under the guidance of Civil Defence Inspector Santosh Kumar. The session also covered procedures for extinguishing fires caused by LPG gas cylinder leaks. Key hospital officials, including Deputy Chief Medical Superintendent Dr. D. Topno and Senior Divisional Medical Officer Dr. Poly, participated in the program along with nurses, dressers, and office staff.

Three-day 25th Shyam Janmotsav to begin in Mango on Nov 11

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Nov 9: The social and religious organization Shri Shyam Mitra Mandal, Mango, will celebrate the 25th Shri Shyam Janmotsav from 11 to 13 November (Monday to Wednesday) at Shyam Bhawan on Mango New Purulia Road. Preparations are in full swing, and artisans from Kolkata are working on elaborate decorations for Baba Shyam's grand court. In a press release, organization president Mahavir Prasad Agarwal mentioned details of the three-day program. On Monday, the first day, Shri Shyam Akhand Jyot Paath will begin at 9:10 am, followed by an evening reading at 7:15 pm led by Vijay Sharma and party, with around 500 women participating in the Akhand Paath.

The second day, Tuesday, will feature Jyot Prajwalan at 8:15 pm, followed by a bhajan session from 9:15 pm with renowned artistes including Riya and Rishu K.C. Agarwal from Nepal, Rahul Soni from Bhagalpur, Jai Shri and Party from Kolkata, and Ganga Sharma from Darbhanga.

On the final day, Wednesday, Baras Pujan will be held at 12:15 pm, with Mahaprasad (Bhog) distribution starting at 7:15 pm. The organizers have invited all Shyam devotees to attend with their families. (w/gsd)

INDI Alliance seats sharing triggers stampede in JMM in Dhanbad

Mail News Service

Dhanbad, Nov 9 : Seat sharing formula in INDI Alliance has triggered stampede in Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) in Dhanbad. Two stalwarts of JMM Ashok Mandal and Dharnidhar Mandal along with their supporters have left the party and joined regional party Jharkhand Loktantrik Krantikari Morcha (JLKM) of Jairam Mahto and BJP respectively.

For face saving, JMM has expelled both the leaders from party for six years.Though Dharnidhar Mandal son of two times MLA (Phulchandra Mandal) is not contesting election like Ashok Mandal, he has returned his old party (BJP) and campaigning for BJP Sindri candidate Tara Devi (wife of sitting MLA Indrajit Mahto). Ashok Mandal and Dharnidhar Mondal both were considered pillar of JMM in Nirsa and Sindri constituency. After their departure from respective constituency , political pundits say JMM has become headless in the region. In 2019 assembly elections Ashok Mandal and former MLA Phulchandra Mandal (father of Dharnidhar Mandal) both had contested from Nirsa and Sindri seats on JMM ticket but lost to BJP.

Ashok Mandal was on third position while Phulchandra Mondal on 4th spot. In this 92024) assembly elections both the leaders were again aspiring to contest but INDI Alliance seats sharing watered down on their hope as both Nirsa and Sindri seats have gone to CPIML.

Dhanbad has six assembly seats in which under INDI Alliance Cong has been given Dhanbad sadar, Jharia and Baghmara while CPIML Sindri and Nirsa. JMM has got lone Tundi seat where its sitting MLA Mathura Prasad Mahto is contesting.In 2019 elections JMM had alliance with Cong and both the parties shared three seats each. One of the major political force of Dhanbad Marxists Coordination Committee (MCC) of AK Roy had contested alone. Since MCC merged in CPIML in October 2024 and Dipankar Bhattacharya (CPIML general secretary) joined INDI Alliance, Nirsa (former MLA Arup Chatterjee) and Sindri seats (Babloo Mahto) have been given to CPIML.

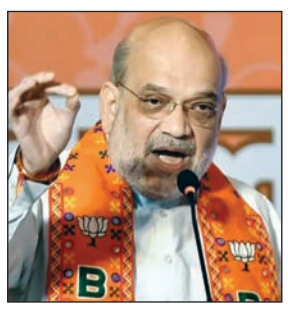
A political Pundit of Dhanbad observed that JMM has no base in coal belt. Party leaders of district aspiring to contest elections have no option but to join other party for ticket.

However, JMM senior leader Debu Mahto said that their departure would not impact party as both the leaders had lost popularity in the region. In 2019 elections Ashok Mandal was on 3rd spot in Nirsa and Phulchandra Mandal on 4th spot in Sindri.

" More over those who enter politics for personal gain can't stay for long in any organization. We are in party for more than 3 decades but never demanded ticket. To be too ambitious is not good for individual", said Debu Mahto.

JMM has turned Jharkhand into a 'hub of infiltrators': Shah

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Nov 9: Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressed an enthusiastic crowd at an election rally in Potka, East Singhbhum, on Saturday, rallying voters to support BJP candidate Meera Munda. Shah's message was clear: a BJP-led government in Jharkhand would prioritize the removal of infiltrators from the state, which he accused the Hemant Soren government of harboring to secure votes.

Shah launched a direct attack on the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-led administration, alleging that Chief Minister Hemant Soren has turned Jharkhand into a "hub of infiltrators" for political gain. "The people of Jharkhand will teach them a lesson in this election," Shah declared. He assured the crowd that, if elected, the BJP would immediately act to address this pressing issue.

Addressing nepotism concerns, Shah accused the ruling coalition of favoring family interests over the welfare of the state. He remarked, "The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, Congress, and RJD are only focused on developing their own families. Such a government cannot be expected to bring genuine development to Jharkhand." This sentiment was echoed by supporters at the rally who expressed frustration with the state's slow progress under the current administration.

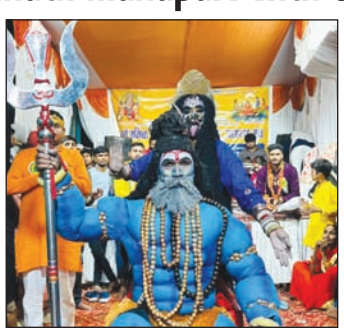
Shah also tackled the issue of corruption, calling the Soren government "neck-deep in corruption" and blaming it for stalling Jharkhand's growth. Shah highlighted how rampant corruption has deprived citizens of essential services and economic opportunities, pledging that a BJP government would restore transparency and accountability.

In a bid to resonate with local sentiments, Shah also assured the gathering that his government would ensure the return of every penny lost in the Sahara financial scandal. Further, he emphasized BJP's commitment to Jharkhand's rich cultural heritage, promising to add local languages, such as Ho, to the official list of state languages and to push for their inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

The Potka rally infused fresh energy into BJP's campaign efforts, solidifying the party's promises of security, transparency, and cultural pride. Before arriving in Potka, Shah conducted a roadshow in Jamshedpur, where hundreds of supporters greeted him, demonstrating strong backing for the BJP.

Conclusion of Chhath Mahaparv with Jagran ceremony

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Nov 9: The Sarvjanik Chhath Puja Kalyan Nagar Jagran Manch hosted a grand Jagran ceremony on the closing day of Chhath Mahaparv.

The Sitaramdera Police Station In-charge was the chief guest on the occasion. The highlight of the ceremony was the vibrant tableaus of Lord Shiva, Mata Kali, and other deities. Forum President Lankesh Sao stated that the annual event, organized with community support, fostered brotherhood and brought together people of all backgrounds in shared devotion.

Attendees included Sonu Kumar, Pappu Kumar, Deepak Kumar, Rajesh Singh, Ajit Thakur, Arvind Kumar, Kamlesh Kumar, Bablu Kumar, Vikas Kumar, and many others. (w/gsd)



Team PSF champions humanity through SDP blood donation! Senior technician Dheeraj Kumar marks his 70th donation at the Blood Center, while the team celebrates reaching their 1,135th milestone.

La Vie en Rose's young ballet stars shine

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur: La Vie en Rose Dance Studio captivated audiences with a remarkable ballet performance, starring 35 young dancers aged 4 to 17. The enchanting evening celebrated the beauty and elegance of ballet, as the talented dancers took to the stage to deliver a mesmerizing display of grace, skill, and storytelling.

Guided by esteemed ballet instructors Camille Vandewaghe Sahay and Ashwin Sahay, the young performers showcased months of dedication and hard work. Camille Vandewaghe Sahay, originally from Paris, has brought her expertise in classical ballet to Jamshedpur, inspiring a newfound appreciation for the art form. Her partnership with Ashwin Sahay has fostered a supportive, passionate environment at La Vie en Rose, where these young talents have blossomed.

"We are incredibly fortunate to have Camille in our steel city," shared the event manager.

"Her commitment to her students and her passion for ballet have created something extraordinary here. Alongside Ashwin Sahay, she has worked tirelessly to provide these young girls with an unforgettable experience in the performing arts."

The performance featured a blend of classical and contemporary ballet, highlighting the versatility and dedication of each dancer. The highlight of the evening was an evocative performance symbolizing the journey of a young girl growing from a seed into a blooming flower, nurtured by the four elements of life: Earth, Water, Air, and Fire. This unique depiction of growth and transformation left the audience in awe, embodying the core values of hard work, creativity, and resilience.

The success of this event underscores the impact of ballet on the local youth, fostering creativity, discipline, and confidence. La Vie en Rose Dance Studio looks forward to nurturing more young talent and bringing even more inspiring performances to Jamshedpur. (w/pb)

2.63 lakh voters have applied to cast votes via postal voting: ACEO

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Nov 9: Ahead of the Jharkhand Assembly elections, an unmatched 2.62 lakh voters have applied to cast their ballots via postal voting, Additional Chief Electoral Officer (ACEO) Dr. Neha Arora informed on Saturday during a press conference.

Dr. Arora noted that this record-breaking figure surpasses all previous elections and reflects an increased preference for postal ballots this year.

With the postal voting process underway, Dr. Arora mentioned that this surge in applications is expected to significantly boost postal voting numbers compared to previous elections.

In preparation for election day, Dr. Arora announced that mock polls will begin at 5:30 a.m., with all polling agents required to be present at their designated polling stations for these preliminary checks.

She added that promotional materials for the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program have been released to promote awareness and ensure the smooth conduct of the elections. The ACEO also shared that the Election Commission will launch the #VoteDeneChalo campaign, a digital initiative aimed at engaging the public across Jharkhand in election awareness. Running from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., the campaign will involve Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and Booth Level Awareness Groups (BAGs), who will host awareness events at polling stations and share photos, videos and updates on social media using the 'VoteDeneChalo' hashtag. Dr. Arora encouraged the public and media to participate by posting election-related content to promote voter turnout.

INDI Alliance Govt will break 50% reservation barrier: Gandhi

Mail News Service

Dhanbad, Nov 9: Cong leader Rahul Gandhi announced that INDI Alliance will break 50% reservation barrier in job quota and increase it for tribal, Dalit and backward classes in Jharkhand.

Cong leader, who was addressing election rally in support of party candidates at Matigarha around 40 km away from Dhanbad district headquarters on Saturday afternoon, said that if Cong and JMM alliance comes to power in Jharkhand reservation quota for tribal will be increased from 26 to 28, for Dalit from 10 to 12 %, and for backward classes from 14 to 27 %.

Reiterating the elections bonanza for people of Jharkhand said that Rs 25,00 cash would be given in account of women per month, LPG cylinder at Rs 450, 7 kg food grains and other if INDI Alliance voted to power ,Rahul Gandhi said that his government would distribute poor people the as much amount as Narendra Modi has writen off Abani, Adani an.

Making scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, leader of opposition in Lok Sabha said that GST is mechanism of PM to steal money of poor people. What Adani pays tax as much as a poor people also pay but Adani has been given land of Rs 1 lakh crore in Dharavi.

" No tribal, Dalit, farmer, labour or backward classes people can be seen in government and private offices, institutions, judiciary, hospitals TV debate across the country. Labours build building but they can't go in it. I have to change this system and that could be possible by conducting caste census in the country", he said. Rahul Gandhi said that no one has seen Narendra Modi hugging poor people or farmer. He does not attend marriage of poor people but attended Abani Tata, Adani's marriage ceremony.

Criticising poor presence of tribal , Dalit and backward class officers presence in bureaucracy , Rahul Gandhi said that in Jharkhand 90 officers allocate the welfare fund in which tribal, Dalit and backward classes officers have nominal say in decision.

Jharkhand Cong in-charge Ghulam Ahmad Mir, state president Keshav Mahto Kamles, former president Rajesh Thakur, Bengal Cong's senior leader Adhir Ranjan Choudhari, state vice-president Brajendra Prasad Singh district president Santosh Singh, Cong Baghmara candidate Jaleswer Mahto, Dhanbad sadar candidate Ajay Dubey, jharia candidate Purnima Singh were also present.

Purulia transporter caught with Rs 3 lakh cash in Dhanbad

Mail News Service

Dhanbad, Nov 9: A transporter of Bengal identified as Ranjan Maji was caught with carrying Rs 3 lakh cash in Innova car at inter-state check post under Chirkunda police station around 40 km away from district headquarter on Saturday.

Officer in-charge of Chirkunda police station Ramji Roy told media o persons that car was coming to Jharkhand from Bengal side. In routine inspection of vehicles at Jharkhand- Bengal board Rs 3 lakh cash was recovered from the car.

Car rider identified as Nituria village (Purulia district) resident Ranjan Maji. Claimed that he was a transporter and going Dhanbad for business purpose. But he failed to give detail of carrying cash and its valid paper. "The cash amoun has been handed over to officials' team constituted by district election committee for checking illegal trafficking of cash", said police officer.

District Election Officer inspects EVM dispatch centers

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 9: With assembly elections approaching, preparations for dispatching polling parties are in full swing. District Election Officer Ananya Mittal, accompanied by key officials, inspected Cooperative College and LBSM College to review the arrangements for dispatching and receiving Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and associated election materials. Project Director ITDA Dipankar Chaudhary, ADM Law and Order Aniket Sachan, and other officials



joined the inspection.

During the visit, Mittal instructed the setup of dedicated dispatch and receiving centers at Cooperative College and LBSM College to ensure smooth operations. He emphasized the importance of coordination between the various teams involved, including the Helpdesk, Medical Team, Personnel Cell, Material Cell, EVM-VVPAT Cell, Vehicle Cell, and Election Cell, to provide support and convenience to polling parties on dispatch day. To streamline the dispatch process, Mittal directed officials to expedite preparations and implement several key measures. These included establishing separate counters for each assembly constituency's polling parties, mapping distinct parking areas, setting up essential service stalls with uninterrupted power, and ensuring the availability of mobile toilets and drinking water facilities. Signage boards and banners were also ordered for easy navigation within the dispatch centers.

Additional Municipal Commissioner JNAC, DTO, Deputy Election Officer, District Public Relations Officer, Executive Engineer Road Division, and other senior officials were present during the inspection, affirming the district administration's commitment to a smooth and well-organized election process.

Income tax raids at nine locations across Kolhan



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 9: Income tax team from Ranchi and Jamshedpur headquarters conducted raids at nine locations across Kolhan, including Jugsalai and Gamharia on Saturday. The large-scale operation is seen as potentially connected to the upcoming assembly elections. According to sources, evidence of tax evasion and financial discrepancies has been discovered.In Jugsalai, a team arrived in the morning at the residence of businessman Govind Parikh on Purani basti road. Family members were instructed to remain indoors, with police posted at the gate for security. Parikh is reportedly associated with the Anjaniya steel company and Ganesh Choudhary is his partner. Choudhary is known to have close ties with former Chief Minister Champai Soren and despite Soren's party shift, Choudhary maintained his political affiliation.

He is also said to have strong connections with Chief Minister Hemant Soren.The Income Tax team is surveying several properties, including the Parikh brothers' residence in the Circuit House area. Reports indicate that Anjaniya steel company is under investigation for alleged illegal land acquisition within the jurisdiction of Jharkhand Industrial Area Development Authority (JIADA).

Hemant Soren's aide Sunil Srivastava, formerly a junior engineer in Gamharia, is also reportedly under ispection with investigations extending to multiple individuals linked to him.Additionally, the Income tax department conducted searches at various Ranchi properties connected to Hemant Soren's associates. The timing of these raids amid election season has prompted speculation about possible political motives.

550th Prakash Parb of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji celebrated



Chaibasa, Nov 9: The 550th Prakash Parb of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji is being celebrated with great enthusiasm in Chaibasa.

The celebrations commenced with the Prabhat Ferry on Saturday at 4:30 AM, starting from Gurdwara Nanak Darbar. Devotees performed kirtan as the procession passed through various localities, including Station Road, JMP Chowk, Amla Tola, FS Towers, and Sadar Bazar. The procession made stops at the homes of community members like Ramesh Khirwal, Sandeep Singh, and Rajwant Kaur, where kirtan, ardaas, and prasad were distributed.

The procession continued through Yashoda Cinema Chowk and Badi Bazar, with similar ceremonies at the homes of Surinder Pal Singh Walia, before returning to the Gurdwara Nanak Darbar. The final ardaas and prasad distribution were carried out by Kamaljit Kaur Gill. Representatives from the Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Stree Satsang Sabha, and Yuva Khalsa played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of the Prabhat Ferry. This event has drawn significant attention from the community, reflecting the strong spirit of devotion and unity in Chaibasa. (w/nkm)

Sunil Anand donates platelets for the 15th time for dengue patient

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 9: Sunil Anand, a dedicated blood donor from Anand Marg, has once again proven his commitment to saving lives by donating single donor platelets (SDP) for the 15th time. This is also his 41st blood donation. Sunil's blood group, O-negative, is rare, which makes his donations especially valuable. The Jamshedpur Blood Bank had appealed for O-negative donors due to the scarcity of such blood. The donation process, which includes a complete health check-up, took about an hour. Sunil's act of kindness was recognized by Arijit Sarkar of Pratik Sangharsh and Sanjay Chaudhary, GM of Jamshedpur Blood Bank, who honoured him with a certificate and memento. Sunil's selfless act is a reminder of the importance of regular blood and platelet donations in saving lives, particularly during critical situations like the dengue outbreak. (w/nkm)

Traditional Gopashtami celebrated with Gau Poojan

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, Nov 9: Chaibasa witnessed grand celebrations on the occasion of Gopashtami today. The Shri Chaibasa Gaushala organized a Gau Poojan cum Gau Nagar tour program, which began at 9:00 AM from Khirwal Dharamshala.

The event was led by the Gaushala Secretary, Banwari Lal Nevatia, who worshipped the cows of the Gaushala before the procession began its route through various parts of the city. The procession made stops at several locations and concluded at Gandhi Maidan, near Rollick



Restaurant, at 1:00 PM. Prominent industrialist and social worker, Shri Mukund Rungta, along with numerous city residents, participated in the Go Poojan ceremony, offering prayers to the cows. The premises of the Chaibasa Gaushala were beautifully decorated with lights, and many devotees performed cow worship at the Gaushala itself. The event also featured a Tuladan, where devotees donated fodder equivalent to their body weight to support the cows. Members of the Gaushala Committee, including Radheshyam Agarwal, Lalit Sharma, Siddh Gopal Goyal, and Madhusudan Agarwal, were present at the event. The community's participation was overwhelming, with numerous devotees contributing to the event's success and generously supporting the Gaushala's work for the welfare of cows. (w/nkm)

ABVP leader Prakash Mahato joins JMM

Seraikela, Nov 9: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) leader and student union president of Kashi Sahu College, Prakash Mahato, joined the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) on Friday, along with his supporters.

The welcoming ceremony took place at the JMM state office in Ranchi, where party General Secretary Vinod Pandey garlanded Mahato and his team. Mahato expressed that his decision to join JMM, a party born out of the Jharkhand state movement, was driven by a desire to work for the betterment of students and youth under the leadership of Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

EC meeting in Chaibasa ahead of Jharkhand Assembly polls



Mail News Service

Chaibasa, Nov 9: A key meeting was held at the Chaibasa Parishad with the Election Commission of India to discuss preparations for the upcoming Jharkhand Assembly General Election 2024. The meeting included the district's General Observers for each of the five assembly constituencies in West Singhbhum: Mr. Anbalagan P (Chaibasa), Mr. Manuj Goyal (Majhgaon), Mr. Prabal Sepaha (Jagannathpur), Mr. S. Prabhakar (Manoharpur), and representatives of all political parties contesting the elections.

The observers emphasized important guidelines for the elections, stating that the campaigning period will end 72 hours before polling day on November 13. They also informed attendees about mock polling, which will take place from 5:30 AM on the election day, with voting beginning at 7:00 AM. The election commission reminded the public to report any complaints or issues related to the election process.

Poll parties will be deployed by air, rail, and road, with sector centres set up to ensure safe delivery of voting machines. The observers stressed that all security protocols are being followed in preparation for the smooth conduct of the election. (w/nkm)

Crackdown on illegal liquor trade in Potka and Ghatsila

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Nov 9: In a decisive action against illegal liquor operations, five Mahua liquor distilleries were demolished in a raid by the Excise Department in the hill forests of Sindurgauri village (Jadugoda Police Station) in Potka Assembly Constituency and Tedga village (Jadugoda Police Station) in Ghatsila Assembly Constituency.

The operation was carried out under the directives of District Election Officer Ananya Mittal to curb illegal liquor production and sale during the election period. The raid uncovered a total of 130 liters of illegal distilled Mahua liquor and 2,000 kg of Java Mahua, used in the production of liquor.

The authorities dismantled the makeshift distilleries, aiming to prevent any further production and distribution of illegal liquor in the area.

In line with the Excise Act, cases have been registered against all individuals involved in the illicit trade, and further investigations are underway. This crackdown is part of a broader effort by the district administration to curb illegal activities during the election period and ensure compliance with the law.

The Excise Department stated that these actions are intended not only to eliminate illegal liquor distribution but also to maintain transparency and fairness during the ongoing elections.

KVGS students rally for voter participation



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, November 8: Demonstrating a strong commitment to fostering democratic participation, students from Kavyapta Global School (KVGS), Pardih, actively promoted voter awareness by organizing a rally in the nearby areas as part of a campaign to encourage participation in the upcoming Jharkhand Assembly election 2024. With "Every Vote Counts" as the rally's central message, students engaged with local residents, spreading the importance of exercising one's right to vote as a crucial component of democracy.

Accompanied by their teachers, the students walked through local streets, speaking to community members about the significance of voting as a means to voice concerns, create change, and positively impact the future of their communities.

During their interactions, they encouraged eligible voters to turn out on election day, emphasizing the power of each vote in shaping governance and bringing attention to the issues that matter. (w/nkm)



Embrace democracy with integrity

With Chhath marking the close of the festive season, another celebration now beckons—the festival of democracy. As we prepare for the first phase of the assembly elections, the fervour that filled recent celebrations has shifted to political campaigns. Just four days remain, and parties are out in full force, making promises of progress, development, and change. But for voters, this period is more than just a choice between parties; it's a reminder of the power and responsibility we hold in our hands.

In the coming days, the state will witness a surge in campaigns, rallies, and speeches from leaders aiming to win our votes. Promises of development flood the public sphere, each one seemingly more compelling than the last. Yet, amidst the excitement and appeals, it's vital that we, as citizens, remain vigilant. It's easy to be swayed by enticing promises, but history teaches us that words do not always translate to action. Our role is to approach these promises critically, seeing past rhetoric to understand the real intentions and capabilities of each candidate and party.

The beauty of democracy lies in its transparency, neutrality, and inclusivity. We, the people, have the right—and duty—to listen to all viewpoints, scrutinize them, and ultimately follow the path that resonates with our beliefs. This election season should serve as a reminder of the strength of informed decision-making and the significance of independent thought. We must honour this privilege by being aware, involved, and, above all, discerning. Our votes are not commodities to be won over by superficial promises but valuable tools for shaping the future of our state.

In the course of campaigning, political workers and parties hold a tremendous responsibility to uphold democratic values. Elections should be a time for healthy debate, not hostility or division. Unfortunately, electoral seasons can sometimes lead to local tensions, driven by partisan divides or unrestrained campaigning. Such behaviour contradicts the essence of democracy. Political leaders, party workers, and citizens alike must join hands to prevent these tensions and maintain an atmosphere of respect and unity. When elections are celebrated like a grand festival, with respect for all perspectives, the process itself becomes a source of pride and collective satisfaction. Ultimately, a government formed through democratic principles is a government for all, responsible for ensuring the welfare of every citizen, regardless of background. This spirit of inclusivity should guide us through the elections, free from prejudice and partisanship. As we cast our votes, let us remember that the choice we make today will shape the state's future. In our shared journey as a democratic society, let us work together to protect the purity of our electoral process and embrace unity, knowing that a fair election strengthens not only our government but also our communities.

From the Editorial Desk

Centre buys paddy worth Rs 27,995 crore in Punjab, 6.8 lakh farmers benefit



Food Corporation of India (FCI) and state agencies have procured 120.67 lakh metric tonne (LMT) paddy in Punjab during the ongoing kharif marketing season (KMS) 2024-2025 (as of November 8) worth Rs 27,995 crore, the government said on Saturday.

A total quantity of 126.67 LMT of paddy arrived in the Punjab mandis as of November 8, out of which 120.67 LMT has been procured by state agencies and the FCI.

The paddy is being purchased at MSP Rs 2,320 per quintal as decided by government for Grade 'A' paddy and the total paddy purchased by till date in the ongoing KMS 2024-25, amounts to Rs 27,995 crore benefitting around 6.58 lakh farmers in Punjab.

According to the government, 4,839 millers have applied for shelling of paddy and 4,743 millers have already been allotted work by Punjab state government.

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said that the procurement of Paddy for KMS 2024-25 has commenced in Punjab from October 1 2024 and 2,927 designated mandis and temporary yards are operational throughout the state for smooth procurement from the farmers of Punjab.

Central Government has fixed an estimated target of 185 LMT for paddy procurement for the ongoing KMS 2024-25 which would continue up to November 30.

"The paddy lifting from the mandis is in full swing and the paddy lifted is more than the daily arrival quantity. As such paddy procurement is going on smoothly," said the government.

The MSP is the price fixed by the Centre at which it buys food grains from the farmers to ensure that they get a profitable return and do not have to resort to distress sales.

In October, the Union Cabinet had announced an increase of up to 7 per cent in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of rabi crops such as wheat that are being sown now for the 2025-26 marketing season that will start from April.

Chhatrapati Shivaji's descendant unhappy over 'Samarth Ramdas' role in uniting youth to support warrior king' remark



Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati -- the 13th direct descendant of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj -- and founder of the Swarajya Paksha, as well as leading historian Indrajit Sawant, on Friday debunked a statement that spiritual guru and saint Samarth Ramdas worked with the Maratha warrior king by uniting youth from Maharashtra during the period of slavery.

"We do not challenge the importance of Samarth Maharaj. It is not right and acceptable to associate Samarth Ramdas with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. JijauMaasaheb was the only ideal and only Guru of Shivaji Maharaj," argued Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati.

Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati expressed his displeasure over a statement made by a heavyweight political leader during a poll rally in Sangli district on Friday.

"Samarth Ramdas is great in his own place, in fact he is, but if you add Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Samarth Ramdas, it cannot be like that. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj had only one ideal and only Guru Jijau Maasaheb (his mother)," he said. On the other hand, a well-known historian, Indrajit Sawant, said that Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj took inspiration from Jijau Saheb and Shahaji Maharaj. "With the inspiration of Jijau Maasaheb and Shahaji Maharaj, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj started the establishment of Swaraj from 1642. The name of Samarth Ramdas is nowhere mentioned in the history documents in relation to Shivaji Maharaj during the period 1642 to 1672. So it is not true that Samarth Ramdas asked the youths to go to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj to support him," he explained.

He further said that it is wrong for him (referring to the top politician) to speak on the basis of a narrative. He also recalled that earlier, former Maharashtra Governor B.S. Koshyari had stoked controversy after he claimed that Samarth Ramdas was the 'guru' of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

"Who would have asked about Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj had there not been Samarth Ramdas?" Koshyari had said.

Moreover, the Sambhaji Brigade, a Maratha group, also criticised the remarks on Friday made by the top leader and asked him to reveal where and when the meeting between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Samarth Ramdas took place. "He should first read Maharashtra's history and also the history of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and then make statements based on those historical records," said Sambhaji Brigade.

Indian stock market remains on consolidation path, DIIs absorb heavy selling



The week saw Donald Trump returning to power in the US election amid a second consecutive rate cut by Fed this year, as the Indian stock market continued to experience consolidation due to heightened selling pressure from foreign institutional investors (FIIs).

This broad-based correction is particularly evident in sectors with excessive valuations, according to experts.

However, despite the massive FII selling, the stock market 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).

DIIs have been a strong buyer absorbing the selling and mitigating the fall. They infused more than Rs 1 lakh crore in Indian equities in October, keeping the stock market healthy compared to its global peers.

On the other hand, the recent rebound in India's domestic manufacturing activity is a positive sign.

"This year, government spending is expected to be back ended due to general elections this year, so there is a leading expectation of improved corporate earnings in H2 FY25," said market watchers.

The festive season in Q3 is likely to revive consumption, which should support market sentiment and will aid find a floor in the near future.

On the global front, the return of Trump has reduced political uncertainty, providing relief to global markets. The Fed's 25 bps interest rate cut also offers some support.

After the massive FII selling of Rs 113,858 crore in October, FIIs have so far sold equity for Rs 19,849 crore in the cash market this month.

Experts said that the FII selling trend is likely to continue in the near-term till data indicate the possibility of a trend reversal.

On Friday, the Indian stock market closed flat. Sensex slipped 55.47 points, or 0.07 per cent, to 79,486.32. Nifty fell 51.15 points, or 0.21 per cent, to 24,148.20.

According to Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research at HDFC Securities, Nifty extended losses to a second session after a range bound zigzag move.

"The short-term trend of Nifty continues to be choppy, and this consolidation is likely to continue in the near term with a weak bias. The next lower supports to be watched around 23,800 levels. Immediate resistance is placed at 24,537 levels," he mentioned.

NEHU students refuse to call off stir despite Governor's appeal, assurances



Agitating students of North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), the northeast's oldest Central varsity in Shillong, on Saturday, refused to call off their hunger strike despite appeals by the Meghalaya Governor and its Chief Rector Chandrashekhar H. Vijayashankar.

The indefinite hunger strike, spearheaded by the North Eastern Hill University Students Union (NEHUSU), entered its fifth day on Saturday. The protesters are demanding the removal of Vice-Chancellor Prabha Shankar Shukla and four other top officials, including Registrar, Col Omkar Singh (Retd) and Deputy Registrar, Amit Gupta.

The Governor, while talking with the members of the North Eastern Hill University Teachers' Association and Meghalaya Tribal Teachers' Association at the Raj Bhavan on Friday, assured that the demands of the students would be considered and appealed to them to withdraw their agitation.

The VC, on a number of occasions, urged the students to call off their agitation and hold talks so that normal academic activities can resume in the university.

In a letter to NEHUSU President Sandy Sohtun, he assured them of the formation of an inquiry committee to study the demand for the removal of the Registrar and Deputy Registrar.

Shukla, in his letter, also assured that he would call a meeting of the Executive Council by November 14 to form an enquiry committee and based on the findings of its report, appropriate actions would be taken.

He, in principle, agreed to the appointment of a Pro-Vice-Chancellor to facilitate the administration of the NEHU's Tura Campus.

The VC called an emergent meeting of the Executive Council on Friday to discuss the demands of the NEHUSU but the meeting could not be held due to disruptions.

On the other hand, NEHUSU General Secretary Toniho S. Kharsati told the media that they are not happy with the clarification of the VC about their demands.

He also said they would continue with their agitation until and unless their demands were accepted by the authorities.

As part of their agitation, the students burnt the effigies of the VC and shut all entrances to the university complex.

At least six students, including a girl, who have been on indefinite hunger strike since November 5, were hospitalised after their health deteriorated.

Two of the students, after being discharged from the hospital on Friday, have rejoined the hunger strike.

The Khasi Students Union's NEHU unit and the Meghalaya Tribal Teachers' Association are also supporting the protest.

The agitating students claimed that due to the incompetence of all top varsity officials, the NEHU's rank has slipped 21 points to 101 in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranking.

NEHUSU General Secretary Kharsati said the students demanded that all "incompetent" top officials along with those "illegally" appointed must be removed for the interest of the students and the varsity.

"Since the incumbent VC took charge of the University in 2021, no important academic development has taken place, and instead rankings of the important institution have been going down. Incompetent people were appointed in the top position," he said.

The Non-teaching Staff Association (NEHUNSA) also stopped their official work in protest against the "unprecedented delay" in the recruitment process for the posts that were notified last year.

Apart from all the northeast states, students from other states of the country, as well as seven countries, including the US, Russia and Bangladesh, are studying in the NEHU.

No MSME will be left behind in PM Modi's Govt: Sitharaman



Bengaluru, Nov 9 (IANS) Indian micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are providing 21 crore jobs while making a major contribution to the economy and exports across sectors, and no MSME will be left behind by the government, Finance Minister NirmalaSitharaman said here on Saturday.

Addressing the 'National MSME Cluster Outreach Programme', the Finance Minister said that under Prime Minister NarendraModi, no state will be left behind and the government would attend to every state. "Also, no MSME will be left behind. I want to assure that all the MSMEs will be provided adequate support by the government," she told the gathering.

To further empower millions of MSMEs, the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will open 25 branches in the MSME clusters across the country this year, gradually moving into every such cluster.

"The cost of loans that small businesses will take from SIDBI directly will be far less. SIDBI knows small businesses and their requirements well so this will be an apt opportunity for the MSMEs to grow at scale," FM Sitharaman told the gathering.

There are currently 5 crore MSMEs registered with the government's Udyam portal, providing crores of jobs.

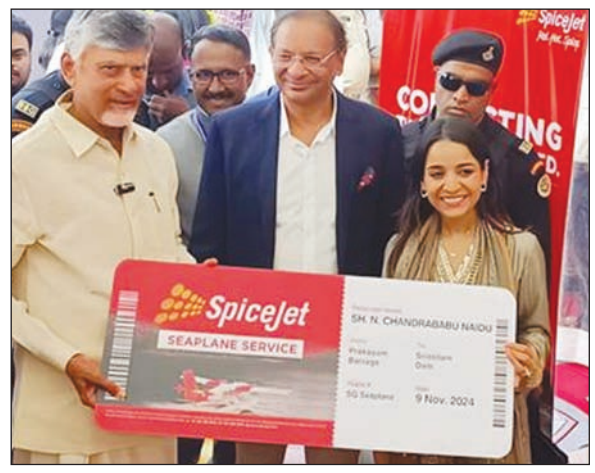
The MSME sector has continued to play a pivotal role in driving economic growth, employment, and entrepreneurship across the nation. In comparison to a total of 1.06 crore MSME registrations in 2023, the number has now increased to more than 5.07 crore in 2024. Karnataka alone has 35 lakh MSMEs which provide about 1.65 crore jobs, according to the Finance Minister.

"There is not even one MSME in this country which was left untouched by our banks during the pandemic, and given the much-needed support they required during those tough times," she said.

In the Union Budget, various announcements have been made specifically for MSMEs like an introduction of a special credit guarantee corpus to help MSMEs; a new credit guarantee scheme in the manufacturing sector to facilitate term loans for MSMEs and public sector banks to develop new credit assessment model for MSMEs wherein banks will do credit assessment themselves.

Earlier in the day, FM Sitharaman chaired a meeting to review the performance of 10 regional rural banks (RRBs) of the Southern Region here. The RRBs performance review covers the states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, and the UT of Puducherry.

Beleaguered airline SpiceJet to launch seaplane operations in India next year



Vijayawada, Nov 9 (IANS) Beleaguered low-cost airline SpiceJet on Saturday announced that it would launch seaplane operations in India next year, with an aim to connect some of the most remote and picturesque locations.

With rights to operate seaplane services on 20 routes, including Lakshadweep, Hyderabad, Guwahati, and Shillong, the airline said it is preparing to roll out connectivity across key routes as the infrastructure becomes ready.

"With the support of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Union Minister K. Rammohan Naidu, we are taking concrete steps to bring seaplane operations to life in India once again," SpiceJet Chairman and Managing Director, Ajay Singh said.

The company also demonstrated a seaplane flight from the Prakasam Barrage in Vijayawada to the Srisailam Dam.

Spice Shuttle CEO Avani Singh said that seaplanes can be a true game-changer for India where diverse geographies - coastlines, islands and riverine regions - often present infrastructure challenges.

The airline said it has partnered in seaplane trials across multiple locations, providing crucial engineering, technical, and logistical support to De Havilland Canada seaplane. The budget carrier has recently announced to expand its domestic network with the launch of eight new flights starting November 15. These new routes will connect Jaipur with Varanasi, Amritsar, and Ahmedabad, while also linking Ahmedabad with Pune. Meanwhile, the domestic passenger market share of SpiceJet, facing financial difficulties for several quarters, shrunk to 2.3 per cent in August this year, as per recent data by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). In January last year, the airline held a 7.3 per cent market share. The airline reported a 19.65 per cent drop in consolidated profit in the April-June quarter (Q1 FY25). Its profit stood at Rs 158.75 crore in Q1 against Rs 197.58 crore in the year-ago fiscal period.

India's power sector set for robust growth amid renewable energy push



New Delhi, Nov 9 (IANS) As India is poised to see a surge in energy demand than any other country over the next decade owing to its sheer size and scale of rising demand from all sectors, the country's power transmission sector is set for significant growth due to ambitious renewable energy targets.

The Central Electricity Authority expects $110 billion in investments over FY22-32E, as electricity demand surges amid ambitious renewable energy capacity addition targets.

According to Japanese brokerage Nomura, India's power demand is likely to grow at a CAGR of more than 7 per cent over the period financial year 2024 and 2027.

The renewable energy's share in India's power mix continues to grow with solar and wind power meeting 75% of India's incremental power demand, according to the brokerage.

The renewable energy's share in India's power mix continues to grow with solar and wind power meeting 75 per cent of India's incremental power demand.

"The share of renewable energy will grow from here on. It will account for 55 per cent of the total power capacity," said a Nomura note.

According to the latest International Energy Agency (IEA) 'World Energy Outlook' 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, the total energy demand in India was set to increase by nearly 35 per cent by 2035, and electricity generation capacity nearly tripling to 1400 GW. 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.

As per rating agency ICRA, the share of renewable energy, including hydro, in the country's power generation is projected to rise to 35 per cent by FY30, up from 21 per cent in FY24.

Achieving the renewable purchase obligation (RPO) target of 43.3 per cent by FY30 will require more than doubling the current renewable energy capacity of 200 GW to meet future demand.

Asian Paints posts huge 42.4 pc net profit drop at Rs 694 cr

New Delhi, Nov 9 (IANS) Asian Paints Ltd on Saturday posted a huge 42.4 per cent drop in net profit at Rs 694.6 crore in the July-September period (Q2 FY25), from Rs 1,205.4 crore in the year-ago period.

Revenue also decreased 5.3 per cent to Rs 8,003.02 crore, compared to Rs 8,451.93 crore in the same period last year.

For the first six months of the current fiscal (H1 FY25), net profit decreased by 32.3 per cent to Rs 1,864.6 crore from Rs 2,755.8 crore. Consolidated net sales decreased by 3.7 per cent to Rs 16,946.3 crore from Rs 17,605.7 crore, the company said in its regulatory filing.

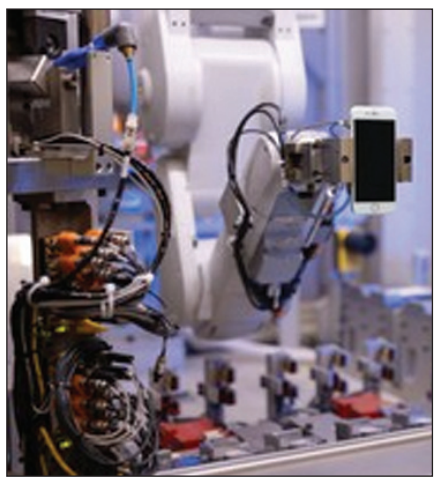
The paint industry faced a subdued demand environment during the quarter.

"Domestic decorative coatings segment volumes declined marginally while overall domestic coatings revenue declined by 5.5 per cent for the quarter impacted by muted consumer sentiments and extended rains and floods in some parts of the country," Asian Paints Managing Director and CEO AmitSyngle said. "While we took price increases during the quarter, the full impact of the same should flow through only in the second half of the year," he added. The industrial business did relatively better with single-digit value growth supported by growth in the general industrial, protective coatings, and refinish segments. The company continued to register growth in home decor categories. The international business portfolio registered a marginal decline in revenues for the quarter, despite unfavourable market conditions in certain key markets like Ethiopia and Bangladesh, according to the company CEO.

Asian Paints' consolidated PBDIT, excluding profit from associates, decreased 27.8 per cent to Rs 1,239.5 crore, down from Rs 1,716.2 crore. The PBDIT margin as a percentage of net sales declined to 15.5 per cent from 20.3 per cent a year ago.

"We expect margins to recover in the coming quarters on the back of anticipated softening in material prices coupled with price increases implemented in the last few months," Syngle said.

Apple plans 1st-ever research subsidiary in India amid diversification push



New Delhi, Nov 9 (IANS) Firming up its India presence as Apple diversifies its vast supply chain and research outside of China, the iPhone maker has set up a new research and development subsidiary in the country.

The research and development facility would reportedly focus on research, design, testing and providing support to third-party manufacturers.

The move to establish a R&D facility in India is significant as this will help the tech giant connect better with the local manufacturing ecosystem player, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and create India-specific products and solutions, according to industry players.

Apple currently have R&D facilities in the US, China, Germany and Israel. The company did not immediately comment on its India future plans regarding research and development.

According to Prabhu Ram, VP-Industry Research Group, CyberMedia Research (CMR), just as China powered Apple's growth in the past, India is poised to do the same over the next decade.

"Key to this growth is not just retail and marketing, but also robust R&D operations. By focusing on India-centric R&D, Apple can fuel the next wave of innovation, catering to the aspirations of Indian consumers and beyond," Ram told IANS.

Apple is fast forwarding its manufacturing plans in India and Vietnam. Buoyed by the ease-of-doing business and friendly local manufacturing policies, Apple's 'Make in India' iPhones are breaking all previous export records.

The company is set to open four more own-branded retail stores in India, according to its CEO Tim Cook.

"We continue to be excited by the enthusiasm we're seeing in India, where we set an all-time revenue record. This has been an extraordinary year of innovation at Apple," said Cook during the quarterly earnings call (Q4 fiscal year 2024).

"We can't wait to bring four new stores to customers in India. We're passionate about education and believe technology has a vital role to play in both helping teachers to inspire their students and students to learn about the world around them," said Cook.

India's smartphone market estimated to grow 7-8 pc this year

New Delhi, Nov 9 (IANS) India's smartphone market is estimated to grow 7-8 per cent this year, driven by strong demand for premium, 5G and AI smartp hones, according to a new report.



The mobile handset market in India is expected to maintain steady growth.

"As brands focus on bridging technology gaps and introducing affordable 5G devices, the competition will likely intensify. The new wave of AI-capable devices will continue to fuel consumer preferences in the coming quarters," said PankajJadli, Analyst-Industry Intelligence Group (IIG), CyberMedia Research (CMR). In Q3, India smartphone market grew 3 per cent despite global economic challenges. The consumer demand in India remains robust, driven by an increase in mid-range and premium smartphone preferences. The 5G smartphone shipments share increased to 82 per cent, marking a notable 49 per cent YoY growth. Vivo led the 5G smartphone market with a 18 per cent market share, followed by Samsung at 17 per cent during the quarter.

According to MenkaKumari, Analyst-Industry Intelligence Group, CMR, India's smartphone market is demonstrating remarkable adaptability, with consumer preferences increasingly focused on 5G adoption and premium features. The continued growth of 5G smartphones, coupled with strong demand in the Rs 10,000 to Rs 13,000 price band, signals a growing consumer base for high-performance devices at accessible price points. Additionally, the premiumisation wave continues to stay strong, with the premium segment (above Rs 25,000) witnessing a 26 per cent YoY growth, said Kumari.

Indian startup sraise over $138 million this week

New Delhi, Nov 9 (IANS) The Indian startup ecosystem raised more than $138 million this week which includes three growth-stage funding and 20 early-stage deals.

At least 25 domestic startups raised nearly $138.7 million in funding.

Fintech and deeptechstartups led the rounds, with $50 million funding in two deals.

Fintechstartup Easy Home Finance raised $35 million in its Series B funding round. The round was led by Claypond Capital and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation's Asia Rising Fund.

"This funding will propel our efforts to make home financing truly digital, efficient, and accessible. By leveraging advanced data insights, our in-house technology suite not only simplifies the loan process but also accelerates the journey from loan origination to homeownership," Easy Home Finance Ltd MD RohitChokhani said.

Samsung announces limited-time festive offers on Galaxy Z Fold6 and Z Flip6

Gurugram, Nov 9: Samsung, India's top consumer electronics brand, has introduced special festive offers on its popular sixth-generation foldable smartphones, Galaxy Z Fold6 and Galaxy Z Flip6.

For a limited time, buyers can purchase the Galaxy Z Fold6 at a discounted price of INR 1,44,999 with a 24-month no-cost EMI option. Similarly, the Galaxy Z Flip6 is available for INR 89,999 with the same EMI option. Original prices start at INR 1,64,999 for the Z Fold6 and INR 1,09,999 for the Z Flip6, with EMIs as low as INR 2,500 for the Flip6 and INR 4,028 for the Fold6.

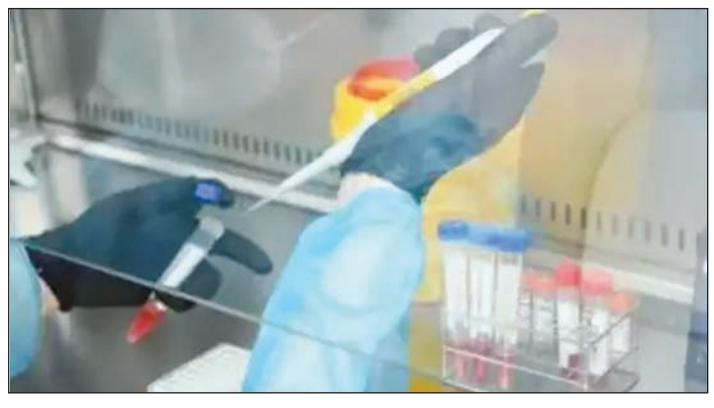
The Galaxy Z Fold6 and Z Flip6, Samsung's slimmest and lightest models to date, boast enhanced durability with Armor Aluminum and Corning Gorilla Glass Victus 2. Both devices feature the advanced Snapdragon® 8 Gen 3 Mobile Platform, offering top-tier CPU, GPU, and NPU performance. Both models are protected by Samsung Knox and are available in various colors across leading retail outlets and online stores.

HDFC Bank conducts cleanliness drive at various Chhath Ghats in Jharkhand

Ranchi, Nov 9 : HDFC Bank Jharkhand Zone conducted cleanliness drive at various Chhath Ghats in Jharkhand. During this drive, HDFC Bank branch team coordinated with the local administration, Municipal Corporation and NGOs at district level for the Swachh Ghat campaign.

On this occasion, HDFC Jharkhand Zone Zonal Head Abhishek Kumar said that it is our moral responsibility to keep the Ghat clean before and after Chhath Puja, it is a matter of awareness and initiative among the people and we have started this campaign and will continue it. This campaign will be run in the coming years to promote community engagement and enhance the spiritual experience.

Medtech leaders welcome govt's move to launch Rs 500cr scheme for medical devices



New Delhi, Nov 9 (IANS) The government's new Rs 500 crore scheme for the medical device industry will not only boost domestic manufacturing but also reduce reliance on import, said medtech leaders on Saturday.

In a bid to provide a big boost to the medical devices industry, the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare JagatPrakashNadda, on Friday launched the "scheme for strengthening the medical device industry".

The comprehensive 5-in-1 scheme with a total outlay of 500 crores targets critical areas of the medical device industry covering manufacturing of key components and accessories, skill development, support for clinical studies, development of common infrastructure, and industry promotion.

The experts stated that the need and importance of self-reliance on medical devices was felt the most during the recent Covid-19 pandemic which raised a significant need for medical kits, syringes, ventilators, masks, and PPE kits. Although the budget is small, it will act as motivation for the industry, they said.

"You saw that during the Covid, the whole country was put under lockdown because we did not have medical devices, which were necessary to fight the war.

For four months, we were collecting materials, like making ventilators, masks, and PPE kits. I think the country understood the importance of medical devices then," Rajiv Nath, Forum Coordinator, AiMeD, told IANS.

"The budgetary allocation may seem small and humble but this is a groundbreaking strategy that will have a multiplier impact," he added.

The medical device industry is an essential pillar of healthcare delivery.

From diagnostic machines to surgical instruments, and from stents to prosthetics, medical devices are critical for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases.

India's medical device market is valued at approximately $14 billion and is expected to grow to $30 billion by 2030.

"I completely agree that the medical devices scheme will provide healthcare sovereignty in a way that it is very important for us to be self-reliant in healthcare. During Covid, when this self-reliance was lacking, we felt its absence," Pawan Chaudhary, Chairman of the Medical Technology Association of India (MTaI), told IANS.

"The scheme is a very good example of an evidence-based stimulation package. It is an inclusive scheme that would benefit start-ups and established companies and is poised to harness local and global currents," he added.

Anish Bafna, Secretary, Nathealth told IANS: "The Rs 500 crore scheme for the medical device industry marks a major advancement toward boosting domestic manufacturing and reducing import reliance".

The new scheme consists of five sub-schemes: common facilities for medical devices clusters; marginal investment scheme for reducing import dependence; capacity building and skill development for medical devices; medical device clinical studies support scheme; and medical device promotion scheme.

"There is a significant push to develop a robust local supply chain, thereby lowering costs and spurring innovation. In addition, the clinical study support will help companies generate critical evidence for regulatory compliance, facilitating market expansion," Bafna said, who is also CEO and MD, Healthium Medtech.

The experts noted that these initiatives will provide a strong foundation to drive innovation, enhance self-reliance, and position India as a global leader in medical technology.

Study shows how human memory works, gets stored



New Delhi, Nov 9 (IANS) While the brain is commonly known to work for and store memories, a new study showed that other parts of the body can also store memory.

The study, which appears in the journal Nature Communications, may pave a new way for treating memory-related afflictions.

Nikolay V. Kukushkin, lead author from the New York University in the US stated that "other cells in the body can learn and form memories, too"

The researchers found that similar to brain cells, the non-brain cells also turn on a "memory gene" -- in response to new information. Brain cells turn on the "memory gene" -- when they detect a pattern in the information and restructure their connections to form memories.

Further, to monitor the memory and learning process in the non-brain cells, the team engineered these to make a glowing protein -- which signalled whether the memory gene was on or off.

The experiment revealed that the non-brain cells could determine when the chemical pulses, which imitated bursts of neurotransmitters in the brain, were repeated. The team found that the process is rather similar to the brain when neurons register new learning. It was also found more efficient, just as neurons in our brain can register when we learn with breaks rather than cramming all the material in one sitting.

When the pulses were delivered in spaced-out intervals, they turned on the "memory gene" more strongly, and for a longer time, than when the same treatment was delivered all at once, the team said.

Kukushkin said the study revealed, "that the ability to learn from spaced repetition isn't unique to brain cells". It "might be a fundamental property of all cells," the researcher said.

Besides offering new ways to study memory, the study also suggests treating "our body more like the brain" for better health.

How receiving digital life certificate becomes a daunting task for India's elderly

New Delhi, Nov 9 (IANS) Sarita Devi, 61, who does not use a smartphone had a hard time applying for a digital life certificate online. Devi, who uses a feature phone, does not have the facility to download the Aadhar and JeevanPraman apps -- essential to get the digital life certificate.

Kishan Kumar, 65, also faced a similar problem at one of the digital life certificate centres in the national capital. Since his son's smartphone is registered with the national pension system, the OTP is generated on his son's number (who currently lives in another city), creating a problem for Kumar to get a digital life certificate. The list of such elderly people, who are not part of the vast digital and connected ecosystem yet, is long.

Beginning November 1, the government has rolled out the third and the largest-ever digital life certificates (DLC) campaign nationwide "to promote digital empowerment of pensioners using face authentication technology". According to the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, more than 1.8 lakh pensioners generated their DLCs on the very first day.



While digitisation has helped many pensioners get their life certificates easily, it remains a challenge for those who lack digital skills and are not aware of the digital mechanisms or those who lack the facilities.

To access the DLC, a pensioner must use a smartphone camera and get a facial scan, to help in authentication. The Aadhaar Biometric Authentication makes face, finger, and IRIS authentication through apps such as JeevanPraman and Aadhaar Face RD App.

One can also physically visit the nearest CSC or pension disbursing banks, post offices, or designated government offices to get DLC.

However, Shanti Verma, an 80-year-old widow who opted to visit one of the common service centres (CSCs) despite her age as she had no one to help her around, was stunned while filling out the form as it asked her whether she had 'remarried'.

The DLC campaign 3.0 runs in 800 cities or districts across India from November 1-30.

Kerala first seaplane service to be launched at Kochi on Monday



Kochi, Nov 9 (IANS) Kerala Tourism and Public Works Minister P.A. Mohamed Riyas will flag off the seaplane service meant to boost the tourism sector in the state here on Monday.

A Switzerland-based private company and SpiceJet are the service operators of De Havilland Canada seaplane, which lands in Kerala after the trial services conducted in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

The seaplane will land at the Cochin International Airport, Kochi on Monday at 2 p.m. and then, fly down to the water aerodrome at the Bolgatty Palace here.

After the inauguration, the flight crew and passengers will be accorded a reception at the Mattupetty Dam in the Idukki district.

The seaplane service, which comes under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN of the Centre's Ministry of Civil Aviation, is aimed at increasing the connectivity of the airports and the backwaters of Kerala.

Riyas said Kerala places top priority on enhancing connectivity, as it plays a vital role in the growth of the tourism sector.

"The launch of heli-tourism is a significant step in this direction, making our destinations more accessible for quick, seamless travel. Additionally, the expansion of motorable roads connecting even the remotest parts of Kerala ensures that tourists can now reach far-off locations with ease, enjoying scenic routes along the way," said Riyas, who is the son-in-law of Chief Minister PinarayiVijayan.

"Our efforts also extend to the development of national highways, as well as coastal and hill highways, which will further boost connectivity. Seaplane services will soon complement these efforts, positioning Kerala as a well-connected destination through a robust network of transportation channels - including waterways, highways, helicopters, and now, seaplanes. These initiatives underscore our commitment to making Kerala a tourism-friendly state with unmatched connectivity," he added.

Prior to the launch, a high-level inspection was held under the supervision of officials of the Cochin Port Trust, the Indian Navy and the seaplane. A feasibility survey and hydrographic survey were also completed ahead of the launch.

The seaplane project is aimed at amplifying the connectivity of the four airports as well as the water aerodromes. The project offers a lot of prospects to Kerala's tourism sector due to the presence of abundant water bodies. Apart from Bolgatty and Mattupetty, the setting up of water-dromes is under consideration in Kovalam, Ashtamudi, Punnamada, Kumarakom, Vembanad, Malambuzha, and Bekal.

Drones to emerge as a game changer in fisheries: MoS George Kurian

Kochi, Nov 9 (IANS) Drones will emerge as a game-changer in the fisheries sector, addressing several critical challenges with precision and efficiency, Union Minister of State for Fisheries George Kurian said on Friday.

"Drones play a pivotal role in managing aquaculture farms, monitoring fish markets, and assessing damage to fisheries infrastructure, particularly during natural disasters when rescue operations are essential. Underwater drones further elevate their impact by closely monitoring fish behaviour in natural habitats, detecting signs of distress like erratic swimming patterns, providing real-time data that strengthens sustainable fisheries management," the minister said after inaugurating an awareness workshop and demonstration of drone applications in the fisheries sector held at ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) here.



He further said that the Central government would develop 100 climate-resilient coastal fishermen villages (CRCFV) across the country to enhance the economic resilience of coastal fishing communities in the face of climate change challenges.

"The government has allocated Rs 2 crore per village under the PradhanMantriMatsyaSampadaYojana (PMMSY) for the development of essential fisheries infrastructure and facilities. The initiative will be fully funded by the Central government and is designed to support sustainable economic and livelihood opportunities for fishers, bolster infrastructure, and enhance resilience against climate threats," the Minister said.

The initiative will provide common facilities such as fish drying yards, processing centres, fish markets, and emergency rescue facilities, along with promoting climate-resilient practices like seaweed cultivation, artificial reefs, and green fuel initiatives. He further pointed out that the Department of Fisheries has decided to install transponders in about one lakh marine fishing vessels this year with an outlay of Rs 364 crore.

"This will provide a two-way communication system enabling real-time tracking of fishing vessels and helping fishermen to send short messages using their Android mobile phone while fishing up to 200 nautical miles from the coast. The system will provide weather alerts to the fishermen, including cyclone warnings, during any natural disaster. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) developed this technology indigenously using GSAT 6 Satellite," Kurian added.

The event featured a live demonstration of drone applications in fisheries, including the transportation of fish from the farm, dispensing aqua feeds, and rescue operations. Top officials also took part in the function.

'Crocodile beefy survived': Ian Botham jokes on his life-threatening fall

New Delhi, Nov 9 (IANS) Former England allrounder Ian Botham jokingly said 'crocodile beefy survived' after he was rescued by his former Ashes rival Merv Hughes and others following his fall to crocodile-infested waters while on a fishing trip in Australia.

Botham and Hughes were together in a boat with a group in the Moyle River in northern Australia when the accident occurred. While switching boats, the England great accidentally fell into the river which had crocodiles and bull sharks but the cricketer was rescued quickly by people around him including Hughes and escaped with heavy bruising.



In an Instagram post, Botham shared pictures of him holding a Barramundi fish and said he was the catch of all the crocodiles and bull sharks.

"My catch of the day was the barra (fish) while I was nearly catch of the day for all the crocs and bull sharks... thanks boys for getting me out," his posts read.

England's Ian Botham and Australian fast bowler Merv Hughes clashed on the cricket field in the late 1980s but have stayed friends ever since. Botham, drawing a lighthearted comparison to the iconic Australian film character Crocodile Dundee, joked while talking to the Herald Sun and said, "At the end of the day, Crocodile Beefy survived."

"I was out of the water quicker than I went in it. Quite a few sets of eyes were having a peep at me. Luckily I had no time to think about what was in the water. The guys were brilliant, it was just one of those accidents. It was all very quick and I´m OK now," he added.

Two Amur falcons tagged with satellite transmitters in Manipur to study migratory routes

Imphal, Nov 9 (IANS) Two Amur falcons have been tagged with satellite transmitters by a senior Wildlife Institute of India (WII) scientist in western Manipur's Tamenglong district on Friday to analyse the migratory routes of the raptors.

Forest officials said that two Amur falcons, tagged with satellite transmitters, were given the names 'Chiuluan-2' and 'Guangram' with the approval of Manipur's Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, AnuragBajpai.

"Chiuluan-2 and Guangram are names of two important roosting villages of Amur falcon in Tamenglong district, bordering Assam and Nagaland," a senior forest official told IANS.

He said that 11 Amur falcons, including two tagged with satellite transmitters, were released on Friday at Chiuluan village after these migratory birds were captured on Thursday from a roosting site by a team of Tamenglong Forest Division and local volunteers under the guidance of Dehradun-based WII scientist, Dr Suresh Kumar.

These tagged Amur falcons were released by the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), TamenglongKh. Hitler Singh in the presence of Suresh Kumar, Tamenglong RFO Joel Gangmei, the Chairman and village authority members of Chiuluan village, Rainforest Club Tamenglong members and staff of the Tamenglong Forest Division.

Besides the two satellite transmitters tagged falcons, two other falcons named Riangsuanei and Laisana, bearing rings with pfa.manipur @gmail.com imprinted on them were also released.

All the 11 Amur Falcon were also ringed with BNHS (Bombay Natural History Society) rings, numbering from C58352 to C58362. This study programme was undertaken under the guidance of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.



These majestic birds (Falco Amurensis), known as 'Akhuaipuina' (or 'Kahuaipuina') in Manipur and 'Molulem' in neighbouring Nagaland, embark on an incredible long-distance journey, travelling up to 22,000 km in a single year, all the way from eastern Asia to South Africa, and back during early autumn.

The long-distance migratory birds, a little smaller than the size of a pigeon, belonging to the falcon family, as in previous years, have now landed in large numbers in the forest-rich Tamenglong district.

To protect and provide support to the migratory birds, Manipur's Noney and Tamenglong district authorities last month imposed a total ban on hunting, catching, killing, and selling of the seasonal winged guests by anyone in the district and nearby surrounding areas. Both districts share borders with Assam and Nagaland, which also serves as a crucial brief stopover for these birds before their subsequent journey.

Forest officials said that a female falcon, which was tagged with a satellite transmitter in Tamenglong district in 2018, had landed in Somalia after flying continuously for five days and eight hours and covering 5,700 km.

According to wildlife experts, Amur falcons usually arrive in Manipur, mostly in Tamenglong, about 145 km from Imphal, and parts of Nagaland and other north-eastern states during the first and second week of October from their breeding grounds in northern China and southeastern Siberia.

After roosting for a little more than a month, they leave the state and fly towards the southern and eastern parts of Africa and again roost there a short time before flying towards their breeding grounds.

DFO Hitler Singh said that to spread awareness among the people to protect the migratory birds, the Forest Department, supported by local clubs and animal lovers' groups, as in previous years, observed the "Amur Falcon Festival" in the first and second week of November.

A forest official in Kohima said that the state also serves as a crucial stopover for these birds -- which at times number up to 100,000 -- for rest and refuelling for a duration of three to four weeks during winter.

"The migratory birds' presence in huge numbers holds immense ecological importance, as they naturally regulate pest populations and participate in vital pollination activities," the official said, adding that the dedicated efforts of all concerned have significantly contributed to providing a secure passage to these avian species over the years.

The Amur falcon has been granted legal protection under the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972. Harming, hunting these birds or possessing their meat is a criminal offence, punishable by imprisonment for up to three years under the provisions of the Act, Nagaland officials pointed out.

Traditionally, Nagas and other tribals in the north-eastern region, known for their love for meat, had for decades considered these birds as 'god-sent' when they were first noticed in 2012. Before 2012, thousands of birds were caught and consumed indiscriminately every year. However, massive efforts involving villagers and the village chiefs to protect the migratory birds in Nagaland have resulted in near-zero casualties since 2013. Both forest and tourism officials said that the conservation of Amur falcons and other migratory birds helped promote tourism in Nagaland as hundreds of tourists assembled during October-November along the lakes and water bodies in Wokha and adjoining districts adjacent to Assam.

(SujitChakraborty can be contacted at sujitchakrabortyne@gmail.com)

Extremists target ISKCON amid persecution of Hindus in Bangladesh



New Delhi, Nov 9 (IANS) Author and social activist TaslimaNasreen has expressed deep concern regarding the persecution of minorities in Bangladesh at the hands of Islamist extremists.

Taking to X, she highlighted: "The Chittagong-based group Hefazat-e-Islam has called for a ban on ISKCON. Today, their slogan was: 'Catch one ISKCON, then slaughter'. Hefazat-e-Islam has called for terrorism. They want to kill ISKCON members."

Based on qawmi madrasas in Bangladesh, Hefazat-e-Islam is a far-right conservative Islamic advocacy group.

She went on to share her agony: "Is ISKCON a terrorist organisation that it should be banned? Have ISKCON members ever killed anyone while loudly chanting 'Hare Krishna, Hare Rama'? On the other hand, Islamic terrorists shout 'Allahu Akbar' while killing people."

Drawing reference to the popularity and the global reach of the institution, Nasreen pointed out that ISKCON exists in many countries around the world, and "nowhere does it face such issues, but it does in Bangladesh. Why is that? Because in this country, there is a large number of Islamists and jihadists who cannot tolerate people of other religions. They use all sorts of tricks and tactics to harm non-Muslims or drive them out of their land."

"Hefazat-e-Islam is playing the role of the terrorists here, while ISKCON is the persecuted minority," she added.

International Society for Krishna Consciousness, popularly known as ISKCON, is a GaudiyaVaishnava Hindu religious organisation which has followers across countries and cultures.

After Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ouster, there was widespread fear within the Hindu minority community in the country. Violence against this community has increased since the landmark event in August this year, following a mass uprising that forced Bangladesh's longtime Prime Minister to step down and flee the country.

Four dead, 30 injured in Nepal bus accident

Kathmandu, Nov 9 (IANS) Four people were killed and 30 others wounded after a passenger bus veered off a highway in Surkhet district of Nepal and fell 150 metres. "The bus carrying 34 people fell 150 metres down the highway, killing four on the spot," BirendraBishwokarma, spokesperson for district police.

He noted that three of the injured were in serious conditions, adding overspeed may be the cause of the fatal accident, Xinhua news agency reported.

In a separate accident on Friday morning, two passenger buses collided in Nepal's Chitwan district, leaving five dead and five others injured.

Yemen's Houthis claim attack on Israeli airbase, downing of US MQ-9 drone



Sanaa, Nov 9 (IANS) Yemen's Houthi group said that it has launched a "ballistic missile" toward Nevatim Airbase in Israel, and has shot down a US MQ-9 Reaper drone over Yemen's Al-Jawf province.

"In support of Hamas in the Gaza Strip and Hezbollah in Lebanon, we carried out a qualitative military operation targeting the Nevatim Airbase with a hypersonic ballistic missile, and the missile reached its target," Houthi military spokesperson YahyaSarea said in a statement aired by the Houthi-run al-Masirah TV.

In the same statement, Sarea said, "Our air defences succeeded in shooting down an American MQ-9 drone, which was carrying out hostile missions in the airspace of Al-Jawf province at dawn today, Friday."

"The downing of this drone brings the total number of the same type of drones that we have shot down since November 2023 to 12," he said.

"We will continue to support the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples by continuing to impose a naval blockade on the Israeli enemy (in the Red Sea)," Sarea said, adding the group's military operations "will not stop until the Israeli aggression on Gaza and Lebanon stops."

There has been no comment yet from the Israeli side concerning the missile attack, nor any response from the US military over the alleged downing, Xinhua news agency reported.

Israeli PM appoints new Ambassador to US

Jerusalem, Nov 9 (IANS) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has decided to appoint YechielLeiter as Israel's Ambassador to the United States, according to a statement issued by Netanyahu's office.



Leiter, 65, has served in senior public service positions in Israel, including the deputy director-general of the Education Ministry, chief-of-staff in the Finance Ministry, and acting chairman of the Israel Ports Company, Xinhua news agency reported.

"Leiter was born in the United States and is deeply familiar with the American administration and society," the statement said, calling him "a highly capable diplomat" and "an eloquent speaker" who "possesses a deep understanding of American culture and politics."

Cambodia marks 71st anniversary of Independence Day

Phnom Penh, Nov 9 (IANS) Cambodia on Saturday commemorated the 71st anniversary of its independence from the French colonial rule.

The celebration was held under the auspices of the nation's King NorodomSihamoni and was attended by Prime Minister Hun Manet, Senate President SamdechTecho Hun Sen, and National Assembly President KhuonSudary.

Representatives of foreign diplomatic corps were also among thousands of participants at the one-hour event held at the Independence Monument in the capital Phnom Penh, Xinhua news agency reported.

During the commemoration, Sihamoni laid a wreath and lit the ceremonial victory fire inside the Independence Monument to symbolise the country's independence. In a text posted on his official social media platforms on Saturday, Hun Sen said that November 9 reminded people of a noble mission launched by late Cambodian King Father Norodom Sihanouk to demand independence from the French colony. "King Norodom Sihanouk, the Father of Independence, had sacrificed both physical and mental energies in his royal crusade to gain full independence for Cambodia," he said. At the end of the celebration, pigeons and balloons were released as a sign of independence and freedom. The Southeast Asian nation gained its independence on November 9, 1953, after 90 years of the French colonial rule.

Air quality worsens in BiH as cold season begins



Sarajevo, Nov 9 (IANS) As temperatures drop and people resort to various methods to keep warm, cities across Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) are experiencing a significant decline in air quality.

Since early November, Sarajevo has been intermittently blanketed in toxic smog, ranking among the top five most polluted cities worldwide, according to IQAir, an international air quality monitor site. On Friday, the Federal Hydrometeorological Institute in BiH reported that particulate matter (PM2.5) concentrations in Sarajevo have reached 160 micrograms per cubic metre, far exceeding the standard of 50. Meanwhile, the concentrations of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide have also surpassed safe limits.

In Banja Luka, another major city, the air quality index hit 187 this morning, placing it in the "unhealthy" category, according to local hydrometeorological services, Xinhua news agency reported.

Biljana Lubarda, a professor of ecology at the University of Banja Luka, attributed the pollution mainly to seasonal heating demand and traffic. She recommended alternative heating methods, expanding green spaces with coniferous trees and moving toward a centralised heating system to reduce pollutants from burning coal, wood, and waste.

Japan enters nationwide influenza season as cases surge

Tokyo, Nov 9 (IANS) Japan's influenza cases have entered a nationwide outbreak phase, with cases continuing to increase across the country, government data showed.

For the week ending November 3, roughly 5,000 medical institutions reported a total of 5,127 influenza cases, an increase of 829 cases from the previous week, according to the country's Health Ministry. The average number of patients per medical institution reached 1.04, surpassing the threshold for declaring the start of a nationwide flu season, prompting the ministry to announce the official onset on Friday, Xinhua news agency reported.

By region, Okinawa reported the highest flu incidence, with 10.64 cases per facility, followed by Shizuoka (2.09), Chiba (2.00), Oita (1.66), and Fukui (1.62). Health officials urged the public to adhere to basic preventative measures, including frequent handwashing, appropriate mask use, and considering vaccination, particularly for high-risk groups.

Humanitarian crisis continues to worsen in Haiti: UN

United Nations, Nov 9 (IANS) The humanitarian crisis in Haiti continues to worsen largely due to the persistent violence, a UN spokesperson said.

According to the UN Human Rights Office, nearly 4,900 people were killed in Haiti between January and September this year.

More than 700,000 people have been displaced internally, over half of whom are children. In Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti, the deteriorating violence has displaced 12,000 people in recent weeks, Xinhua news agency reported, citing the UN agency. Food insecurity continues to rise, the office said. Some 5.4 million people, half of the population, are hungry. For the first time since 2022, pockets of famine-like conditions are seen in several areas where displaced people are living.

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

आम सूचना

एतद् द्वारा पूर्वी सिंहभूम जिले के विधानसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र 45–घाटशिला(अ.ज.जा.) के निम्न मतदान केन्द्र का भवन दुर्गम क्षेत्र में होने के कारण स्थल परिवर्तन का प्रस्ताव भारत निर्वाचन आयोग को भेजा गया था। आयोग के पत्रांक 464/ES-I/JKD-LA/2024 दिनांक–06.11.2024 द्वारा अनुमोदन प्राप्त है, जो निम्नवत है:–

विधान सभा का संख्या एवं नाम	पूर्व का मतदान केन्द्र का नाम	वर्तमान मतदान केन्द्र का संख्या एवं नाम जहाँ मतदान कराये जायेंगे
1	2	3
45–घाटशिला (अ.ज.जा.)	92–राजकीय उत्क्रमित मध्य विद्यालय, बासाडेरा	92–राजकीय मध्य विद्यालय हीरागंज

अतः उक्त मतदान केन्द्र के मतदाताओं से अपील है कि वे नये मतदान केन्द्र पर दिनांक 13.11.2024 को होने वाले मतदान के दिन मताधिकार का प्रयोग करे।

ह0/–
जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी–सह–उपायुक्त,
पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर।

PR 339976 Election(24-25)D

सुदृढ प्रजातंत्र हेतु वृहत्तर सहभागिता
जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी –सह– उपायुक्त का कार्यालय,
सरायकेला–खरसावाँ।
(निर्वाचन शाखा):: आम सूचना ::

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग का पत्रांक 64/ES-1/JKD-LA/2024, दिनांक 06.11.2024 एवं मुख्य निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी –सह– सचिव, मंत्रिमण्डल (निर्वाचन) विभाग, झारखण्ड, राँची के पत्रांक 6811, राँची दिनांक 07.11.2024 के आलोक में 57– खरसावाँ (अ0ज0जा0) विधानसभा क्षेत्र में 01 (एक) मतदान केन्द्रों का Relocation प्रस्ताव में सहमति प्रदान की गयी है। मतदान केन्द्र LWE Area and Security Reason के दृष्टिगत में रखते हुये निम्नलिखित मतदान केन्द्र का Relocation किया गया है :–

57– खरसावाँ (अ0ज0जा0) विधानसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र				
क0	मतदान केन्द्र संख्या	मतदान केन्द्र का नाम	मतदान केन्द्र संख्या	Relocated मतदान केन्द्र का नाम
1	1	उ0म0वि0 जोम्बरो (उ0भाग) UPGRADED MIDDLE SCHOOL, JOMBARO (NORTH PART)	1	न0प्रा0वि0 रेगाबेडा NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL, REGABEDA

जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी –सह–
उपायुक्त, सरायकेला–खरसावाँ।

PR 339989 Election(24-25)D

FORMAT C-1

(for candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)

Declaration about criminal cases.

(As per the judgement dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name and address of candidate: **Ajoy Kumar, H.No. 45, Nildih Enclave, Nildih,P.O.- Golmuri, Jamshedpur-831003, District- East Singhbhum, State- Jharkhand.**

Name of Political Party: **Indian National Congress**

(Independent candidates should write 'Independent" here)

Name of Election: **Legislative Assembly Election 2024 For State of Jharkhand**

***Name of Constituency: 48- Jamshedpur East.**

I, Ajoy Kumar a candidate for the above-mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

(A) Pending criminal cases

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Case No. and dated	Status of Cases	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offense(s)
1.	Judicial Magistrate First Class, Bhubaneswar, Orissa.	ICC Case No. 659/ 2024 Directing Registration of FIR No. Bharatpur P.S.- 0684/ 24 Dated- 12.10.2024	Case is at the stage of Investigation only and no charges have been framed.	S. 120-B of The Indian Penal Code, 1860. S. 420 of The Indian Penal Code, 1860. S. 34 of The Indian Penal Code, 1860. Case where cheating is alleged for alleged failure in making payment on behalf of party against supply of LED TVs during Elections in Orissa.
2.	Judicial Magistrate First Class, Bhubaneswar, Orissa.	ICC Case No. 6590 /2024 Directing Registration of FIR No. Airport P.S. 0321/ 2024 Dated 15.10.2024 **Note:** This case is at the FIR Stage and was first brought to my knowledge on 29/10/2024	Case is at the stage of investigation only and no charges have been framed.	S. 120-B of The Indian Penal Code, 1860. S. 420 of The Indian Penal Code, 1860. S. 506 of The Indian Penal Code, 1860. Case where cheating is alleged for alleged failure in making payment on behalf of party during Elections in Orissa.
3.	Judicial Magistrate First Class, Bhubaneswar, Orissa.	ICC Case No. 6589/ 2024 Directing Registration of FIR. FIR not shared with me thus FIR No. is not available. **Note:** This case is at the FIR stage and was first brought to my knowledge on 29/10/2024	Case is at the stage of Investigation only and no charges have been framed.	Full FIR copy not provided therefore it is not clear what offences have been alleged.

(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences:

Sl. No.	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed	Maximum Punishment Imposed
-N.A.-	-N.A.-	-N.A.-	-N.A.-

*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

Sd./-
Ajoy Kumar

Health

25 per cent of Indians affected by Varicose Veins, say health experts



Hyderabad, Nov 9 (IANS) Approximately 25 per cent of India's population suffers from varicose veins -- a condition often underdiagnosed in India -- and can be treated without surgery, say leading national and international medical experts.

They believe recent advancements in non-surgical treatment methods are transforming the approach to vascular care, enabling even remote areas to access high-quality treatments.

Over 100 medical professionals from across India participated in the Indian Vein Congress (IVC) 2024, hosted by Avis Hospitals. Experts from Brazil virtually participated. It was spearheaded by Dr. Rajah V. Koppala, founder of Avis Hospitals and a renowned vascular interventional specialist. The IVC focused on sharing best practices in non-surgical solutions such as laser treatments and other innovative approaches.

Dr.Koppala highlighted that Avis Hospitals has successfully treated over 40,000 patients using non-surgical methods over the past eight years. He stressed the importance of staying updated on new developments to continue enhancing patient outcomes.

The event featured insights from international experts, including Dr. Rodrigo Gomes de Oliveira and Dr. Fernando TresSilveira, who shared updates on global trends and challenges in vascular and interventional radiology.

The discussions underscored that while non-surgical methods can be highly effective, there are cases where surgical intervention is necessary. Indian experts engaged in dialogue with international colleagues, exchanging knowledge on advanced treatments and decision-making for complex cases.

Participants gained practical insights into various treatment options, with senior specialists outlining which methods are most effective for different conditions. The Congress showcased the importance of continuous learning and adopting new techniques to improve the treatment of varicose veins, a condition often underdiagnosed in India.

Dr.Koppala said the participation of top vascular experts in Hyderabad and the knowledge shared here will benefit practitioners across the country.

"This Congress is not just about sharing information but about shaping the future of medical practice in India. With non-surgical treatments gaining traction globally, our healthcare professionals must integrate these methods into their practice," he said.

When Deepika Padukone beat Ranbir Kapoor at box office



Mumbai, Nov 9 (IANS) Deepika Padukone's "Om Shanti Om" clashed with RanbirKapoor's debut film "Saawariya" at the box office on November 9, 2007.

Farah Khan's directorial outperformed Sanjay LeelaBhansali's romantic drama, with "Om Shanti Om" grossing Rs 152 crore worldwide, while "Saawariya" earned a modest Rs 39.22 crore. As both films mark 17 years since their release today, we recall how Indian cinema witnessed one of its biggest box office clashes, with Shah Rukh Khan and DeepikaPadukone's film releasing alongside Ranbir and SonamKapoor's "Saawariya."

Both films were highly anticipated for different reasons. "Om Shanti Om" benefited from the undeniable star power of SRK, while "Saawariya" attracted attention for being directed by the acclaimed filmmaker Sanjay LeelaBhansali. Based on Fyodor Dostoevsky's 1848 short story "White Nights", the film also marked the Bollywood debut of Rishi Kapoor and NeetuKapoor's son, Ranbir.

While "Om Shanti Om", Deepika's first Hindi release, went on to become the highest-grossing Bollywood film at the time, surpassing "Dhoom 2", "Saawariya" failed to make a mark at the box office.

Made on a budget of Rs. 40 crore, Deepika led romantic drama grossed Rs. 152 crore worldwide, becoming the highest-grossing Hindi film of 2007 and the highest-grossing Hindi film ever at the time of its release.

In contrast, "Saawariya" was a commercial failure. Upon its release, the film received mixed to negative reviews. While the soundtrack, production design, artistic vision, and performances were praised, the story, screenplay, and pacing faced significant criticism. Salman Khan made a cameo as ImaanPirzada, and the film marked the last appearance of both ZohraSehgal and Begum Para before their deaths.

Most recently, Deepika's latest release "Singham Again" clashed with Kartik Aaryan's horror-comedy "Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3." Rohit Shetty's cop drama has surpassed AneesBazmee's film at the ticket window. "Singham Again" has become Shetty's 10th film to cross the Rs.100 croremark, making it the fastest to achieve this milestone.

Zendaya, Anne Hathaway join Christopher Nolan's next film



Los Angeles, Nov 9 (IANS) After causing a massive explosion of epic proportions on the celluloid with his biopic 'Oppenheimer', acclaimed filmmaker Christopher Nolan is making another film.

Hollywood stars Zendaya and Anne Hathaway have joined Christopher Nolan's next film at Universal, alongside previously announced cast members Tom Holland and Matt Damon, reports 'Variety'. Nolan is writing and directing the movie, which is set for a theatrical and Imax release on July 17, 2026. Plot details are currently under wraps. Universal had no comment on the casting. As per 'Variety', it's a reunion for Hathaway and Nolan, who previously collaborated on the 2014 space epic 'Interstellar' and the third part of his 'Batman' trilogy, 'The Dark Knight Rises'. Earlier this year, Hathaway expressed gratitude for Nolan, who cast her in 'Interstellar' amidst a wave of online hate following her Oscar win for 'Les Misérables'.

"A lot of people wouldn't give me roles because they were so concerned about how toxic my identity had become online", Hathaway told Vanity Fair. "I had an angel in Christopher Nolan, who did not care about that and gave me one of the most beautiful roles I've had in one of the best films that I've been a part of … And my career did not lose momentum the way it could have if he hadn't backed me".

Anne Hathaway has a packed slate of upcoming films, including James Gray's 'Paper Tiger' alongside Adam Driver and Jeremy Strong, 'Flowervale Street' from director David Robert Mitchell, 'Mother Mary' opposite Michaela Coel and Disney's long-awaited 'Princess Diaries 3'.

When Preity Zinta embarrassed her mother by stuffing oranges in her clothes



Mumbai, Nov 9 (IANS) Actress PreityZinta once revealed that she was quite the mischievous child, often leaving her mother embarrassed with her naughty antics.

During her appearance on the chat show 'Rendezvous with Simi Garewal', the actress revealed at just 12 years old, she pretended to be 18 by stuffing oranges in her bra to sneak into an army club. While confessing being very naughty as a kid, Preity shared, "I was always a bit of rebellious. I was very very naughty. I think I have embarrassed my mother a lot. Now that I have grown up and I see my friends with their children's, I am like oh my god, I hope I don't have kids like me."

The 'Soldier' actress went on to describe how her curiosity once led her to pull a prank to gain entry into an adults-only army party.

Zinta added, "As you know, in the army, children below 18 are not allowed to attend army parties. And, it intrigued me to know what was happening behind those doors. So, I went to my mom's cupboard, took out a bra, and stuffed it with oranges. Then, I went outside to the club and stood like this (gesturing at her chest) and said, 'I am 18, can I go in'. A guy kept looking at me."

"My mom got so upset with me, my god, she got really upset," Preity mentioned.

On the work front, Zinta made her acting debut in 1998 with Mani Ratnam's romantic thriller 'Dil Se' opposite Shah Rukh Khan. In the same year, she acted in the film Soldier alongside Bobby Deol. Later, she played the role of a teenage single mother in KyaKehna. These films earned the actress critical acclamation and shot her to fame.

Preity is also known for her role in films such as, "DilChahtaHai," "KalHoNaaHo,", "Veer-Zaara," and "KabhiAlvidaNaaKehna."

Anil Kapoor's greatest joy is watching his son Harsh 'grow into passionate and determined person'



Mumbai, Nov 9 (IANS) Anil Kapoor reveals his greatest joy is watching his son Harsh VardhanKapoorgrow into the passionate and determined person he is today.

The proud father took to his Instagram handle to wish his son on his 34th birthday with a heartfelt note. Anil also photo pictures of the birthday boy as he wishes him another year of adventures, growth, and madness.

Sharing the post, the Mr. India actor wrote, "Happy Birthday, Harsh! Watching you grow into the passionate and determined person you are today has been one of my greatest joys. Your strength, resilience, and the way you fearlessly chase your dreams scares me sometimes momentarily and then when you prove me wrong it makes me proud …Keep forging your own path, no matter where it leads-you've already shown us all what it means to truly follow your heart.

Here's to another year of adventures, growth, and madness @harshvarrdhanka-poor." While the first three images show Harshvar-dhan candidly posing for the camera, the last one features the father-son duo twinning in black outfits.

Harsh ventured into acting in 2016 with RakeshOmprakashMehra's romantic drama film "Mirzya" alongside SaiyamiKher. While Anil Kapoor's son performance was lauded, the film received a mixed critical response. He has since starred in the action films such as "Bhavesh Joshi Superhero" and "Thar".

Why Farah Khan rejected Rs 10 crore offer to cast a producer's son?



Mumbai, Nov 9 (IANS) Choreographer and filmmaker Farah Khan once revealed that she turned down a lucrative offer from a producer who was willing to pay her Rs. 10 crore to cast his son in "Happy New Year."

In a past interview with comedian and writer Zakir Khan, Farah recalled the incident where she chose to cast Vivaan Shah, the son of Naseeruddin Shah and RatnaPathak Shah, instead of the producer's son.

She shared, "You won't believe it, but during Happy New Year, a producer offered me Rs 10 crore to cast his son. Being a 'Jhansi Ki Rani,' I said, 'I will never do this.' I won't do injustice to the film. What if Shah Rukh gets to know that I took Rs 10 crore to cast him in the film? Never, I won't do that. I cast Vivaan Shah because I thought he was the person who fit perfectly for the character and the film."

Farah Khan's film "Happy New Year" starred Shah Rukh Khan, Deepika Padukone, Abhishek Bachchan, Sonu Sood, Vivaan Shah, and BomanIrani. The action-comedy, which was Farah's last film as a director, became one of the highest-grossing films of the year.

Khan has directed four films in her career, with three, "Main Hoon Na", "Om Shanti Om", and "Happy New Year", featuring Shah Rukh Khan in the lead. Notably, all three have become some of the biggest hits of both Farah and SRK's careers.

Earlier, on SRK's 59th birthday, Farah Khan shared a series of old pictures with the actor and wrote, "Tons of happy memories and lots more to make." In the caption, she added, "Some throwback pics... tons of happy memories & lots more to make..happy birthday SHAH @iamsrk."

Meanwhile, Farah Khan is collaborating with Salman Khan to create an unforgettable high-energy track for the actor's upcoming movie, "Sikandar."

B-Town celebs congratulate Athiya Shetty and KL Rahul on their pregnancy announcement



Mumbai, Nov 9 (IANS) Bollywood celebrities such as Anushka Sharma, Ananya Panday, Sonakshi Sinha, Samantha Ruth Prabhu and others congratulated Athiya Shetty and KL Rahul on their pregnancy announcement.

On Friday, the couple took to their respective Instagram handles and announced the good news with a heartfelt post. Athiya and Rahul will welcome their first child in 2025. They shared a note that read, "Our beautiful blessing is coming soon. 2025." The announcement post was accompanied by the visuals of little feet and an evil eye emoji.

The announcement quickly captured everyone's attention, with the couple's industry friends and family members flooding the comments section with heartfelt congratulations. Reacting to the post, Anushka dropped a heart and hug emojis. RakulPreet Singh wrote, "Omgggggg congratulations!!! So sohappppy for you guys." Sonakshi commented, "Omgomgomgsoooo happy."

VaaniKapoor extended her wishes writing, "Aww congratulations you guys." Vikrant Massey commented, "Congratulations you both!!!" Rhea Kapoor wished the couple, writing, "Aww congratulations." Ananya wrote, " Best news!!!" Samantha wrote, "congratulations."

Among the other celebs, who congratulated Athiya and Rahul were Masaba Gupta, Alia Bhatt, Arjun Kapoor, Shanaya Kapoor, Pooja Hegde, Bhumi Pednekar, and Sharvari.

In April this year, rumours swirled about Athiya expecting her first child after her father, SunielShetty, made a "nana" comment on a popular dance reality show. His remarks sparked widespread speculation that Athiya and KL Rahul might soon welcome a baby.

Although neither the couple addressed the pregnancy rumours publicly, a source clarified that the news was untrue and that Athiya was not expecting at the time.

Huma Qureshi is proud of her 'baby brother' Saqib for his work in his new show



Mumbai, Nov 9 (IANS) Bollywood actress HumaQureshi, who was recently seen in the streaming biopic 'Tarla', has her heart full with the kind of response her brother, actor SaqibSaleem is getting for his work in 'Citadel: Honey Bunny'.

On Saturday, the actress took to her Instagram, and shared two pictures of Saqib as she heaped praise on her brother.

The first picture is from Saqib's look test for 'Citadel: Honey Bunny' in Serbia. The second picture is a still from the series.

The actress also penned a long note in the caption. She wrote, "Photo 1 - I remember the day you shaved your head and sent me this photo after your look test in Serbia".

She added, "All I want to say is - Saqu you make me proud everyday, of the actor you are and the man you are becoming … love you my baby brother. Btw … Have you guys seen the last episode of #Citadel Honey Bunny ?? @saqibsaleem is on fire Photo 2 - Can someone please tell me if that child is fine (sic)".

Meanwhile, on the work front, the actress has an array of projects in the pipeline. In July, this year, Huma, who is known for 'Gangs of Wasseypur', 'Luv ShuvTey Chicken Khurana', 'Badlapur' and 'Monica, O My Darling', started shooting for her upcoming film 'Bayaan'.

She wrapped up the shoot of her movie 'Gulabi' in which she reunites with actor Dibyendu Bhattacharya after their superhit streaming series 'Maharani'. The film is currently in post-production.

She also has 'Jolly LLB 3' in the pipeline in which she shares the screen with Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar and ArshadWarsi. 'Jolly LLB 3' marks her return to the 'Jolly LLB' franchise.

We've not changed our brand of cricket: Surya



Durban, Nov 9 (IANS) India T20I captain SuryakumarYadav backed the team's attacking intent adding that they have not changed their 'brand of cricket in the last 3-4 series' after the 61-run win over South Africa in the first T20I here on Friday.

Sanju Samson's blistering 107 off 50 balls laced with 10 sixes and seven fours set the tone of India's ultra-aggressive innings at Kingsmead. TilakVarma and Suryakumar scored 33 off 18 balls and 21 off 17 balls respectively, to cash in the momentum staged by Samson as India posted 202/8.

In reply, South Africa were restricted to 141/10 in 17.5 overs as India spinners Varun Chakravarthy and Ravi Bishnoi scalped three wickets each to guide them to a comfortable 61-run win.

"We have not changed our brand of cricket in the last 3-4 series, very happy with the win," the Indian captain said.

Suryakumar lauded the audacious approach taken by Samson on the road to his second consecutive T20I century and said it showed the wicketkeeper-batter's on-field character.

"The amount of hard work he has put in over the last few years, doing the boring work, he is eating the fruits of that. He was in the 90s but still he was looking for a boundary, playing for the team which shows the character of the man and that's what we look for," he said. On using spinners in the powerplay and middle overs, Suryakumar said, "That was the plan, we were looking for the crucial wickets of Klaasen and Miller and the way they (spinners) delivered, it was incredible."

"As I said already at the toss and the PC, boys have made my job easier, I don't need to carry any baggage, the way they have been showing that fearless attitude, the boys are enjoying themselves on and off the field, which makes my job easier. The brand of cricket we play, even though we lose a few wickets, we want to play without fear. It's a T20 game, we know we have 20 overs but if you can score 200 in 17 overs, why not," he added.

Maximum utilisation of my current form: Samson after scoring successive T20I tons



Durban, Nov 9 (IANS) India wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson said he is utilising the best of his current form after scoring the second consecutive T20I century in the series opener against South Africa on Friday.

Samson, who opened the innings with Abhishek Sharma, slammed 107 off 50 balls studded with 10 sixes and seven fours to steer India to 202/8 in 20 overs after being put to bat first at Kingsmead in Durban.

The 29-year-old has been on the rise since replacing India captain Rohit Sharma as an opener in the format after his retirement from the format following the T20 World Cup title win. In the last T20I he played before the Proteas clash, Samson hammered 111 in Hyderabad in the final T20I against Bangladesh last month.

With a ton in Durban, the right-handed batter became the first Indian batter to smash back-to-back centuries in T20Is. Overall, only three batters have done it before.

"Really enjoyed my time in the middle. Playing it well, maximum utilisation of my current form you can say," Samson said in the post-match presentation.

The opening batter, who has been recently promoted to the role in the Indian team, elaborated that the change in intent has worked for him.

"The intent, we have been talking about being aggressive and keeping the team ahead of yourselves. Once you play three-four balls you are looking for the boundary, I'm not thinking much, sometimes it pays off, sometimes it doesn't, happy it worked out well today," he said.

Liverpool aiming to make it 'perfect hat-trick' of wins against Villa: Van Dijk



Liverpool, Nov 9 (IANS) Liverpool captain Virgil Van Dijk claimed the side will be striving to make it a 'perfect hat-trick' of victories with a win over Aston Villa.

Liverpool have been loving life under Arne Slot and are at the top of both the Premier League and the UEFA Champions League table with the international break looming.

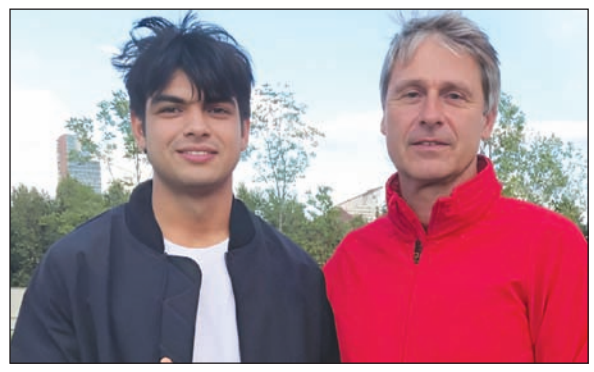
"After two big Anfield wins in a row, we would love to make it a perfect hat-trick this weekend.

Our Premier League victory over Brighton & Hove Albion last weekend was important, with the team showing its character and quality to come back after a difficult first half. And to follow that up with a big performance against Bayer Leverkusen in the Champions League on Tuesday night felt equally significant.

"When you play as we did against the current champions of Germany, a team that has been among the best in Europe over the last 12 months or so, you can only take confidence," Van Dijk wrote in his column in the official matchday programme.

The side's 2-1 win over Brighton and Hove Albion on November 2 saw them reclaim the top position in the Premier League table, after having slipped down to second place with a 2-2 draw against Arsenal.

Neeraj announces javelin legend Jan Zelezny as his new coach



New Delhi, Nov 9 (IANS) Double Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra, on Saturday, announced the start of an exciting new chapter in his career, partnering with Javelin legend Jan Zelezny, who comes on board as his new coach. Jan Zelezny, a three-time Olympic and World champion and the current world record holder, has long been an idol to Chopra.

"Growing up, I admired Jan's technique and precision and spent a lot of time watching videos of him. He was the best in the sport for so many years, and I believe that working with him will be invaluable because our throwing styles are similar, and his knowledge is unmatched. It's an honour to have Jan by my side as I push towards the next level in my career, and I can't wait to get started," said Chopra, following the announcement.

Under Zelezny's guidance, Neeraj is eager to deepen his technical mastery and build on the successes that have defined his career. The collaboration also symbolises a fusion of generations, with the young champion drawing inspiration and expertise from what many consider the greatest javelin thrower of all time.

"I have already spoken about Neeraj as a great talent many years ago. When I saw him early in his career, I realised great possibilities for top results. I also said that if I should start to coach somebody from outside Czechia, my first choice would be Neeraj. I like his story and I see big potential, as he is young and able to improve. There have been many athletes contacting me for coaching, so for me to take this up means that it is a great honour to have him in my team. We are getting to know each other more closely and will start in person at a traditional winter camp in South Africa.

I believe in his progress, especially in the technical aspect, so that he can continue achieving top positions at the main championships," said Zelezny.

Zelezny, a gold medalist at the 1992, 1996 and 2000 Olympic Games, has five of the top ten best throws of all time, and broke the world record on four occasions en route to claiming the current undisputed mark of 98.48m, in Germany, in 1996.

Jan was the coach of both other medalists JakubVadlejch (silver) and Vítezslav Vesely (bronze) when Chopra won gold at Tokyo 2020, and has also coached two-time Olympic Champion and three-time World Champion Barbora Spotakova.

We're committed to the style we want to play: McDonald

New Delhi: Australia head coach Andrew McDonald has insisted his team plans on sticking to their desired style of play in the ODI series decider at Perth, after suffering a chastening nine-wicket loss to Pakistan at the Adelaide Oval. Australia will have their task cut out in the series decider as they will miss the services of Pat Cummins, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Marnus Labuschagne, as the quintet kickstart their preparations for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series starting in Perth on Nov 22.

WPL 2025: RCB to host camps for player selection ahead of auction, says Rangarajan

New Delhi, Nov 9 (IANS) Malolan Rangarajan, the assistant coach-cum-head scout for Royal Challengers Bengaluru, revealed that the franchise will conduct camps to identify and shortlist players ahead of the 2025 Women's Premier League (WPL) auction, to be held next month.

RCB, the defending champions, has retained SmritiMandhana, Ellyse Perry, RichaGhosh, Sabbineni Meghana, ShreyankaPatil, Georgia Wareham, AshaSobhana, Renuka Singh, Sophie Devine, Sophie Molineux, Ekta Bisht, Kanika Ahuja and Kate Cross.

They got Danni Wyatt-Hodge via a trade from UP Warriorz and let go of Heather Knight,



Nadine de Klerk, Shubha Satheesh, DishaKasat, Indrani Roy, Simran Bahadur and Shraddha Pokharkar.

"What will happen between now and the auction is that we'll have a couple of camps for our players and I'd like to mention for the players of interest, which will help us inform creating our shortlist of players for the auction and hopefully even make it a little bit more certain as to who we need to target and who we could have as backups."

"So, with the auction in December, the plan would be to have a camp prior to the auction and hopefully get the team we're looking for," said Malolan in a statement issued by the franchise. Asked on the idea behind retaining their core group of players, Malolan explained, "As far as the coaching staff is concerned, I think it is very, very important for us to remember what worked for us on and off the field from last season and retaining our core values on the field and off the field that we had."

"That should not dictate our decisions but should guide our decisions. So keeping those things in mind, we came up with the set of retentions. We've also thought really hard about how we wanted to recruit in the last auction and we brought in a couple of players with experience. So that's held together and given us a good core to go forward with."

RCB now have a purse of Rs 3.25 crore to go into the WPL auction, and have four slots to fill in to complete their squad of 18. Malolan also gave a sneak peek into how all RCB stakeholders came forward to decide on WPL retentions, especially with IPL retention talks running at the same time.

Maybe I needed someone to tap me on the shoulder : Anderson

New Delhi, Nov 9 (IANS) James Anderson, whose international career concluded with England's Test against the West Indies at Lord's in July, reminisced about his retirement, suggesting that he may have required nudge from the team management to make the decision. Anderson's international retirement, where he took 704 Test wickets, the most by any bowler from his country, was preceded by him being called to the Dakota Hotel in Manchester, where he was told by Brendon McCullum, Ben Stokes and Rob Key that they were looking to blood new fast-bowlers ahead of the Ashes next year.

'I've been in that position before, when Andrew Strauss said we were going in a different direction (in 2022, only for Anderson to return in a matter of months). But this time, it felt a little more personable.

IPL 2025: LSG will try to pick many talented players in the auction, says coach Langer



New Delhi, Nov 9 (IANS) Justin Langer, head coach of the Lucknow Super Giants, revealed that the franchise intends to acquire many skillful players at the upcoming mega auction for the 2025 season, to be held in Jeddah on November 24 and 25.

LSG has retained Nicholas Pooran, Ravi Bishnoi, MayankYadav, Mohsin Khan, and AyushBadoni ahead of the IPL 2025 mega auction, where they will have a purse of INR 69 crore.

"It all comes down to strategy. But all I know - talent is talent, and there's few all-rounders in the world because it's a really hard thing to be able to do, batting all-rounders or bowling all-rounders, so o they're always valuable."

"But it's a good question in the sense that I've always believed that the specialists have the biggest impact. But if we take someone like Marcus Stoinis, he gets into the team on his batting and his bowling advantage as well and a bonus. But talent is talent, and we will be trying to pick in the auction as many talented players as we can because talent and class wins silverware," said Langer in a video posted on the franchise's social media accounts.

Asked on the reasoning behind deciding LSG's top five retentions in IPL 2025, Langer explained, "It won't be a surprise to anyone that we retained Ravi Bishnoi, one of my favourites. What about his energy? His energy, not just with a ball in his hand, but what he gives to the team is exceptional."

"We love having him around, and we're looking for big things from him this year. The more he plays well for LSG and in all these other domestic competitions, and when he gets a chance to play, the more chances he'll get. That's just how it works. I like Mohsin Khan, very talented. If he stays healthy and fit, he's a talented bowler."

"Another one is AyushBadoni. I think he's got an enormous talent, and he's making a lot of runs. The only currency of value is wickets and runs. If they keep performing, the opportunities will come. Of course, my little mateMayank. He's fast and furious, like Mohsin. If he stays fit and healthy, expect to see big things from him in Indian colours."

State Wrestling Trial Competition to be held in Gamharia

Mail News Service

Gamharia, Nov 9: A one-day trial competition for the 25th Senior Jharkhand Men's Freestyle Greco-Roman Style and Freestyle Women's State Level Wrestling Competition 2024 will be held on Sunday, November 10, at the Arunodaya Club premises in Tata Complex Colony, Gamharia. The event, organized by the Saraikela-Kharsawan District Wrestling Association, will select athletes for the upcoming state-level competition set to take place in the last week of November.

District Wrestling Association President Sunil Kumar Singh announced that any interested male or female wrestler from the Seraikela-Kharsawan district can participate in the trial, provided they submit a photocopy of their identity card, Aadhar card, and four passport-size photographs. Only the selected wrestlers from the trial will qualify for the state-level competition.

Sunil Kumar Singh, along with the association's secretary Akhileshwar Prasad and other key members, including Suresh Narayan Chaudhary, Shailendra Singh, and others, is working diligently to ensure the success of the competition. (w/nkm)

Friends Club defeats Fanatic Club by 176 runs in one-sided match

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, Nov 9: In a one-sided encounter at the Birsa Munda Cricket Stadium in Chaibasa, Friends Club registered a crushing 176-run victory over Fanatic Club in a Group-C match of the SR Rungta B-Division League. This dominant win earned Friends Club four points and boosted their net run rate, while Fanatic Club's defeat sealed their elimination from the tournament after losing all three of their group matches.



Winning the toss, Friends Club opted to bat first, a decision that paid off handsomely. The team scored a formidable total of 298/9 in their allotted 30 overs. Captain Vimlesh Nag led from the front with a blistering 72 runs, including nine fours and three sixes. He was well-supported by Nilesh Singh Kuntia, who contributed 71 runs with eight fours and four sixes, forming a key partnership of 99 runs for the fourth wicket. Kartikeya Pathak also played an important role, scoring 57 runs, while Amit Gop added 44 runs as the team set a daunting target.

Chasing 299 runs, Fanatic Club was bundled out for just 122 runs in 23.5 overs. Anmol Topno was the top scorer with 39 runs, while Sunnyson Tiriya made 25 runs and Abhishek Bodra contributed 15 runs. However, the team's batting collapse was evident as no other batsman could reach double digits, and they fell far short of the target.

Chandan Kumar Gop was the standout bowler for Friends Club, taking 3 wickets for 16 runs. Kartikeya Pathak also impressed with figures of 3/21, while Abhay Mishra took 2/9. Raj Kumar Nayak and Veer Singh Banra picked up one wicket each, as the bowlers dominated to seal a comprehensive win.

With this victory, Friends Club climbs to second place in the points table and strengthens their chances of advancing to the quarter-finals. (w/nkm)

'Will chop off their fingers': Bihar minister on RJD leader's 'beating' remark

Patna, Nov 9 (IANS) Reacting to RJD MP Sudhakar Singh's remark that this time BJP supporters would be beaten with batons at "300 polling booths", Bihar Minister Santosh Singh on Saturday said that the party would not tolerate such threats and would "respond accordingly".

Addressing media persons in Kaimur, the Minister said: "The BJP is not a weak force and has ample resources to counter any actions against its supporters. We do not have a scarcity of batons. If they attack with batons, we will chop off their fingers."

He underscored the BJP's resolve to prevent the "return of Jungle Raj" in Bihar.

Ahead of Bihar bypolls, the NDA and Mahagathbandhan were striving to secure voters' support and assert strength.



This heated exchange adds a new layer to the election atmosphere, underscoring the fierce competition and political rivalries in the state.

Talking about the 2020 elections, Buxar MP Sudhakar Singh on Friday asked his supporters not to repeat what he described as the past mistake.

"In the previous election, BJP supporters were beaten at only three places but this time, we would ensure that they would be beaten at 300 booths," Sudhakar Singh said on Friday while campaigning for his brother Ajit Singh.

Sudhakar Singh also highlighted his assertive personality, reminding the audience that he has an outspoken personality.

He recounted his tenure as Bihar Agriculture Minister in the Nitish Kumar government when JD-S and RJD were allies, and shared how openly he displayed his anger even in the presence of the Chief Minister.

Sudhakar Singh, who previously served as the MLA for Ramgarh, warned that he would use his "influence" as an MP to "bring them (BJP) to their knees," suggesting that an MLA holds limited power compared to an MP.

Sudhakar Singh's comments have drawn attention due to his family's strong political ties.

Bypolls on four seats in Bihar will be held on November 13.

People won't forgive BJP leaders for 'Covid scam': CM Siddaramaiah

Ballary (Karnataka), Nov 9 (IANS) Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah has charged that no god will forgive the BJP and its leaders for committing corruption over dead bodies during the Covid pandemic.

"People should also not forgive them either," he appealed.



While addressing a large gathering in the village of Metri in the Sandur Assembly constituency for Congress candidate Annapurna Tukaram, CM Siddaramaiah claimed that during the Covid-19 pandemic, then-CM B.S. Yediyurappa and former Health Minister B. Sriramulu engaged in corruption by importing PPE kits from China.

He asserted that the retired justice Michael D'Cunha -led investigative commission found evidence of this corruption and called for action against them under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

CM Siddaramaiah criticised the BJP government for allegedly profiteering while the people prayed for safety during the Covid pandemic.

He urged people not to forgive the BJP leaders who exploited the dead for corruption.

He said that Congress has always supported the poor and marginalised through its programmes, while BJP has consistently opposed these initiatives and spread misinformation.

Convict moves Kerala HC for higher wages, more contacts for calls

Kochi, Nov 9 (IANS) The Kerala High Court on Saturday heard a plea filed by a prisoner, undergoing a life term, seeking increased wages for work in jail and also more approved contacts that they are allowed to call over the phone.

Ordering the authorities concerned to file their response to the demands, it posted the case for further hearing on December 5.

The petition was filed by Aneesh Kumar, 63, serving his life sentence at the Central Prison in Kannur, pointing out that the daily wage for prisoners in prisons ranged from Rs 63 to Rs 127 while in open prisons, they receive Rs 170 per day with an additional Rs 230 for more work.



Citing the disparity in the wages with neighbouring Karnataka, where unskilled prison inmates earn up to Rs 524 per day while the skilled inmates earn up to Rs 548 after one year, he also pointed out that the wages in Kerala for prisoners are much below the minimum wage mandated by the government.

He wanted labour laws to be enforced in prisons as well preventing arbitrary violation of inmates' rights.

"A prisoner, like any other non-prisoner, is entitled to certain fundamental rights that no authority has the jurisdiction to revoke," the convict's plea said, contending that fair wages are essential for the meaningful rehabilitation of prisoners and enable them to support themselves as well as their families.The petitioner also referred to the Model Prison Manual by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). "The Model Prison Manual provides that the wages paid to prisoners should be fair and equitable and the rates should be standardised keeping in view the minimum wages notified by respective state governments from time to time," his plea said.

With regards to the use of telephones, it was pointed out the high cost of phone calls from prisons - at Re 1 per minute and also raised objection to the restrictions on phone calls including the restriction on the number of approved contacts to whom calls can be made. These restrictions prevent a prisoner from maintaining essential social ties, it was argued.

Presently only three contact numbers are allowed, "which is restrictive" and should be increased to seven.

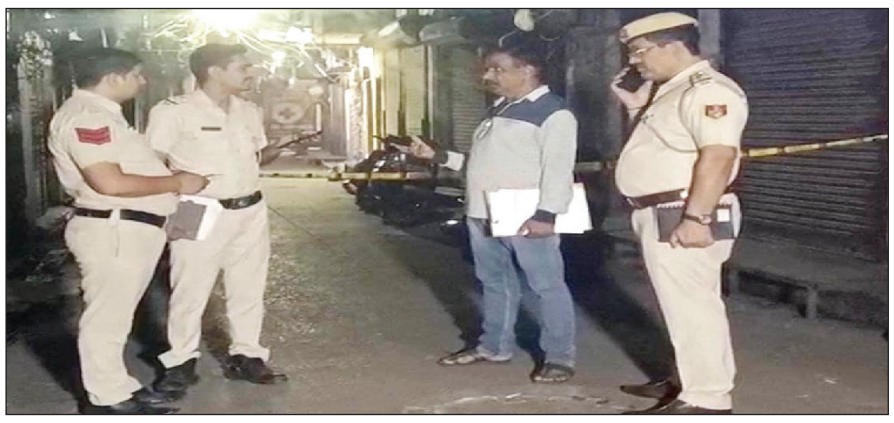
The petition will be now heard next on December 5, when the response of the authorities will be examined.

One dead, one hurt in shootout in Delhi's Kabir Nagar

New Delhi, Nov 9 (IANS) In yet another shootout in the national Capital, one person was killed and another injured when assailants opened fire at them in Kabir Nagar in Delhi early on Saturday.

The incident occurred in the Welcome police station area in Kabir Nagar when the victim was having food at his home in the wee hours of Saturday.

The deceased has been identified as Nadeem.



Five rounds of bullets were fired at the victim by the assailants, leading to Nadeem's death on the spot and injury to a minor. Another person who was with the victim at the time of the shootout escaped unhurt.

The motorcycle-borne assailants barged into Nadeem's house in the wee hours of Saturday, committed the crime and escaped on the victim's scooty.

The assailants left their motorcycle at the crime scene and also took the victim's mobile phone with them as they fled.

Soon after being informed about the shooting, a police team reached the spot and was identifying the cause of the crime.

As per Nadeem's relatives, the victim was in touch with the people who shot him.

The victim's younger brother Nazim said: "My brother used to do garment work. Of the five rounds fired at Nadeem, he sustained two bullet wounds, one in the head and another in the spinal cord."

An investigation was underway over the reason behind the shootout.

Recently, a 40-year-old man and his teenage nephew were shot dead and a ten-year-old boy was injured in Delhi's Shahdara on Diwali night.

The shocking double murder occurred when the victims were celebrating the festival outside their house in the Farsh Bazar area.

On September 28, gunmen fired shots at a ration shop in Delhi's Nangloi area, triggering panic.

Avoid challenging constitutional institutions: VP Dhankhar

New Delhi, Nov 9 (IANS) Challenging constitutional institutions is a recipe for chaos and impeding our growth, said Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday, adding that demonising institutions is fast becoming a pastime even with those who constitutionally matter in the political arena.

Addressing the 4th Convocation of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Delhi, the Vice President, in a veiled message to the Congress, criticised the recent efforts to cast aspersions on the Election Commission of India after the Grand Old Party faced adverse outcomes in the recent elections.

Touching upon issues like economic nationalism, Dhankhar also highlighted the importance of research in making the country developed and spoke on the crucial role of alumni in strengthening the educational ecosystem.

"Research and innovation is key to the attainment of the goal of a developed nation. Our standing in the field of research and innovation will define our prowess to the global community and give cutting edge to our soft diplomacy," he said.



Sharing an emotional personal experience, the Vice President said: "I was selected for IIT Kharagpur. Couldn't join, I didn't have money. A major setback. A hard reality. You don't have that situation now. When I focused on the alumni fund, it was on this emotive platform."

Highlighting the crucial role of alumni in strengthening the educational ecosystem and urging active participation and contributions to alumni associations, the Vice President said: "Alumni of an institution are in several ways its lifeline. They are ambassadors of the institution. It is an acknowledged method globally and nationally that the best way to pay back to your institution is to be an active member of the alumni association."

"I strongly urge you to have an alumni fund… making annual contributions is all important. Some of the best institutions globally have been on an upward trajectory because these institutions are fueled by alumni energy. You have to conserve and converge your alumni energy for better prospects of all those who step into this institution to get an education," he said.

Calling for unflinching commitment to nationalism in its fullness, he said national interest has to have precedence or partisan or otherwise interests.

"Economic nationalism has to be a dominant concern for business. Howsoever justifiable, howsoever big in volume or fiscal quantum, there is no excuse for compromising economic nationalism. This denudes our commitment to the principle of keeping the nation first," he said.

He appealed to chambers of commerce and industry and associations of trade to come forward to fuel research and spur innovation through liberal financial contributions.

Conman who duped Guj biz men in guise of PMO functionary booked by ED

Srinagar, Nov 9 (IANS) The Enforcement Directorate's Srinagar Zonal Office has filed a Prosecution Complaint against conman Kiran Patel who availed of security from J&K administration by passing himself off as a Prime Minister's Office functionary and also duped several Gujarat-based businessmen by promising them opportunities in the Kashmir Valley, an official statement said on Saturday.

The complaint, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, was filed before the special PMLA court, Srinagar on October 28 and the court has taken cognisance of the PC and issued notice to Patel, a resident of Ahmedabad, to appear before it on November 27.

The ED initiated its investigation on the basis of the FIR registered by Nishat Police Station, Srinagar, against Patel and others for the offences under various sections of the IPC.

The financial probe agency's investigation revealed that Patel sought to pass himself as Additional Director, Strategy and Campaigns, PMO and fraudulently created/printed fake visiting cards to fake his identity to fulfil his ulterior motives to dupe people and generate proceeds of crime.

"By using the said fake visiting cards and impersonation, not only did he illicitly availed the security from the administration of the UT of J&K government which has caused a loss of resources and monetary loss to the state exchequer but also, he duped gullible Gujarat-based businessmen and secured/got undue advantages by making a false promise to provide business opportunities in the Valley of Kashmir," the statement said.

The ED had conducted search operations under the PMLA on May 19, 2023, at various premises linked with Patel and others resulting in the seizure of incriminating documents/ records & electronic devices.

Further investigations are in progress, it said. Patel was granted bail by a Srinagar court on August 29, 2023, on a bail bond to the tune of Rs 1 lakh with 2 sureties.

J&K Police had arrested him on March 3, 2023, for allegedly impersonating a PMO functionary.

The authorities said that Patel got facilities normally given to officials from the PMO including a bulletproof car, security personnel and official accommodation at a five-star hotel during his visits to Jammu and Kashmir.

Woman dies during treatment, family alleges rape & murder by youth

Kolkata, Nov 9 (IANS) Tension is brewing at Canning in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal following reports of a suspected rape of a woman at a lodge.

The suspect in this case, a youth who first accompanied the woman to the said lodge and then took her to a nearby doctor's chamber where she subsequently died, has gone missing.

The members of the victim's family have lodged a complaint of rape and murder against the suspect at the local police station, following which the cops have initiated the processes of investigation in the matter and are tracking the youth.

The body of the 47-year-old victim has been sent for post-mortem and whether the matter is a case of rape and murder or not will be known only after the autopsy report is available.

Sources from the South 24 Parganas district police said that as per preliminary information available after questioning the employees of the lodge and the doctor concerned, the woman accompanied by the suspect came to the lodge on Friday afternoon.

On the same evening, the suspect came out of the room that he hired at the lodge and told the employees that the woman had become seriously ill.

Thereafter, with the help of the lodge employees he took the woman to a nearby doctor.

As the doctor became busy examining her, the suspect quietly left the chamber and went missing after that.

Later on Friday night the woman died and the local police station was informed about it.

The cops then informed the family members of the victim, who on Saturday morning lodged a complaint of rape and murder against the suspect at the local police station.

The cops have started an investigation in the matter and have also sealed the room of the lodge that was hired by the suspect. Meanwhile, the local people have told media persons that the activities at the said lodge had been questionable for quite some time and it was suspected to be a hub of illegal activities.

Kerala ADM suicide: Will prove my innocence, says CPI-M leader Divya after walking out of jail

Kannur, Nov 9 (IANS) Minutes after CPI-M leader P.P. Divya walked out of the jail on Friday, after getting bail in connection with the suicide case of Kannur ADM Naveen Babu, she told the media that she is confident that she will be able to prove her innocence.

"I will prove my innocence and I trust the judiciary. Just like the family of Naveen Babu, I too wish the same that a thorough probe should take place into the whole incident," said Divya.

"I am deeply sad over the death of Naveen Babu. I have been in the public domain for the past nearly two decades. All along I have cooperated with officials and all that I said was without any malice," added Divya.

Earlier in the day, a court in Kannur granted bail to Divya and after all the proceedings got over, she came out of the Women's Jail, here at 5 p.m.

Soon after the court gave her bail, Divya's counsel said this was expected as there were guidelines



for everything.

"Now when the trial in the case against Divya comes up, we are confident that we will be able to prove that she is innocent. A lot of things have to come out and it will happen when the case will come for trial in the court," said the counsel.

Reacting to the granting of bail, Naveen Babu's wife Manjusha said she had nothing to add at the moment.

"We will speak to our counsel and decide the future course of action. Later, I will speak to you (media)," said Manjusha.

On Tuesday, the court heard the three parties -- the defence, prosecution and also the family of Babu, and posted the case for final orders for Friday.

Divya has been lodged in the Kannur jail since October 29 after her anticipatory bail plea was rejected, and she surrendered before the police probe team.

On Tuesday, Divya's counsel said she was innocent and had done no wrong trying to establish that Babu had taken a bribe, which was strongly opposed.

The roles of Kannur District Collector Arun Vijayan and T. V. Prasanth, who said he paid a bribe to Babu to get a sanction for his petrol pump, were also raised.

In between, on November 1, she was questioned by the police for about four hours.

The sequence of events that led to Divya ending up in jail began, when she, despite not being invited, turned up at Babu's send-off function on October 14 and made some critical remarks.

When this incident occurred, Kannur District Collector Arun Vijayan who was presiding over the function kept mum and did not make any statement after the 'uninvited' Divya walked out, making curt remarks against Babu.

Babu died by suicide the very next day (October 15) and following the furore, Divya resigned as Kannur district panchayath President.

She was on the run for several days after a case was filed against her on October 17.