JHARKHAND'S OWN ENGLISH DAILY

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BHAGYASHREE TURNS FITNESS COACH, TALKS ABOUT BENEFITS OF 'CRAB WALK'- PAGE : 10

Will not allow our coal go out of Jharkhand: JMM

Mail News Service



Ranchi, December 17: A political battle has erupted between JMM-led Jharkhand government and BJP-led Centre after the central government's refusal to pay the 1.36 lakh crore rupees coal royalty dues.

JMM has warned that the center should stop the drama or else not even a lump of coal will go out of the state. JMM general secretary Supriyo Bhattacharya said that from Rajmahal to Rajdhanwar, not even a lump of coal will go out of the state.

"BJP leaders are creating misunderstandings. They should understand that this is the money of the people of Jharkhand. Coal India officials should also listen to this. This money is not yours. We know how to take our rights and entitlements. First they would have to pay the dues, only then will the shovel work in the mines," warned Bhattacharya.

Targeting the BJP MPs, he said that all have become dumb and deaf.

"The whole of Jharkhand suffered the pain of displacement and environmental damage. Our forests were cut. Many diseases occurred. The state government has told how much money is due in which head. Chief Minister Hemant Soren has also given all the details in the letter written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Supreme Court also gave its decision in favor of Jharkhand," claimed Bhattacharya.

He informed that Chief Minister Hemant Soren wrote a letter to the then Coal Minister Piyush Goyal asking for royalty dues. The then Coal Minister came to Ranchi. He met the Chief Minister and publicly said that he will pay the dues as soon as possible. The Chief Minister wrote an open letter to the Prime Minister, in which detailed information about the dues was given.

The state government's activities on coal royalty dues have also intensified. The Land Reforms and Revenue Department has appointed a nodal officer to hold discussions with Coal India Limited officials to clarify the situation within 15 days. It is noteworthy that in the Lok Sabha, the Central Government has given written information saying that Jharkhand has no dues to the Center.

The dispute over coal royalty dues on the Center may go to the legal arena. The state government has taken a decision in this regard. It has been decided in the cabinet meeting that the government will fight on the legal front.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren has urged the BJP MPs of Jharkhand to get the state's outstanding coal royalty of Rs 1.36 lakh crore from the Center.

Hemant Soren wrote on X - "It is expected from the MPs of Jharkhand BJP that they will definitely raise their voice to get this legitimate demand of ours. This amount is absolutely necessary for the development of Jharkhand." It is noteworthy that the central government has clarified in the Lok Sabha that there is no outstanding dues from Centre to Jharkhand.

The central government has given this answer in response to a question by Purnia MP Pappu Yadav.

ONOE Bill tabled in LS amid opposition protests



New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal introduced the Constitution Amendment Bill for 'One Nation, One Election' (ONOE Bill) in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The tabling of the ONOE Bill set the stage for yet another showdown in Parliament as Opposition parties stood in protest, demanding its withdrawal over its 'anti-constitutional and anti-democratic' nature.

Congress leaders, in a scathing critique of the government, demanded that the Bill be withdrawn immediately.

Home Minister Amit Shah rebutted the charge and said that it has become a habit of the Congress party to oppose progressive legislations.

The TDP, a key BJP ally expressed unwavering support to the ONOE Bill and said that this will not only ease India's fiscal burden but will also cut down the electoral expenses by more than 40 per cent.

Among the parties who vociferously opposed the ONOE Bill were the Trinamool Congress, Samajwadi Party, the Shiv Sena (UBT), AIMIM and more.

All of them called the Bill an assault on the Constitution and a brazen attempt to 'kill democracy and bring authoritarianism and dictatorship.'

The AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, voicing opposition to the Bill, said that this legislation was being brought to finish off all regional parties.

"This is aimed at maximising political gains to a certain party and will pave the way for a presidential form of government," he said, slamming the BJP-led Centre.

The ONOE Bill proposes to hold simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha as well as State Assemblies, by synchronising the tenures of Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections.

The ONOP has been a long-standing poll promise of the BJP-led NDA.

Top Opposition leaders including Rahul Gandhi, Mamata Banerjee, Akhilesh Yadav and MK Stalin have already opposed the idea of simultaneous polls, calling it a move towards "authoritarian democracy."

Badshah fined Rs 15,500 for violating traffic rules in Gurugram

Gurugram, Dec 17 (IANS) Rapper Badshah was fined Rs 15,500 for driving in the wrong lane in Gurugram, violating traffic rules.

Badshah's convoy, comprising three cars, was reportedly plying on the wrong side of the road, violating traffic norms. Badshah, who was driving Mahindra Thar to reach Punjabi singer Karan Aujla's concert on December 15, was fined by the Gurugram Traffic Police. However, it is being said that the vehicle did not belong to the rapper and was registered in the name of a youth from Panipat. After the post about Badshah violating traffic rules went viral, Gurugram Traffic Police issued a challan to the rapper. "3 vehicles of Punjabi singer Karan Aujla's convoy are going on the wrong side towards Airia Mall, and the bouncers are also misbehaving with the people, but Gurugram police are sleeping," an 'X' user wrote.

Trump vows to speak to Zelensky, Putin to end war

Washington, Dec 17 (IANS) Donald Trump said on Monday that he would speak to the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky and that of Russia Vladimir Putin to end the "carnage" of nearly three years of war, as the Kremlin leader lauded Russian army successes on the ground. Both sides have rushed to gain an advantage on the battlefield ahead of Trump entering the White House in January, and there has been some alarm in Ukraine that it will be forced to make territorial concessions in exchange for peace. Trump has been highly critical of billions of dollars of aid that Joe Biden's administration provided to Kyiv to battle Moscow's invasion.

He spoke on Monday at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida as Putin hailed his army's accelerating advance in Ukraine in what he called a "landmark" year. "We'll be talking to



President Putin, and we'll be talking to the representatives, Zelensky and representatives from Ukraine," Trump said. "We gotta stop it, it's carnage," he added, referring to the war. Trump has repeatedly claimed he could swiftly end the conflict but has not provided concrete details on how. His comments on Monday come after he called for an "immediate ceasefire" earlier this month and said "negotiations should begin". Trump met Zelensky in a meeting hosted by French leader Emmanuel Macron in Paris this month, after which the Ukrainian leader said he had argued that Kyiv is seeking an "enduring" peace and "security guarantees". Poland, Ukraine's ally and neighbour, urged Monday that Kyiv should not be "forced" into peace talks, with its Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski saying that it was "the aggressor and not the victim should be encouraged and forced" to do so.

Inter-district bike theft gang busted, 70 motorcycles recovered

Mail News Service



Saraikela, Dec 17: Saraikela-Kharsawan police on Tuesday busted an inter-district bike-lifting gang, recovered 70 bikes from four persons.

Saraikela-Kharsawan Superintendent of Police (SP) Mukesh Kumar Lunayat said, " A special investigation team (SIT) was formed to nab the big lifters after large number of motorcycle thefts were reported in the recent weeks."

"We have recovered 70 stolen motorcycles and arrested four persons, " added Lunayat.

The arrested members of the inter-district bike lifting gang have been identified as Shankar Majhi alias Sandeep, Bhushan Machhua, Shiv Munda alias Shibu Munda, and Mangal Munda.

Lunayat added that he had received inputs of three motorcycle thieves from Tamar Police Station planning to steal bikes at Kuchai Bazaar.

He added that similar thefts had previously been reported from local markets and fairs in the area.

"Soon after the input a special team was formed. Members of the SIT apprehended Shankar Majhi alias Sandeep and Bhushan Machhua with a stolen motorcycle," added SP.

According to the SP, during questioning the duo arrested admitted of stealing over 100 motorcycles in the past few years from urban and rural areas, including markets, fairs, and haats across Saraikela, Ranchi, Chaibasa, Khunti, and Jamshedpur districts.

"They revealed that the stolen motorcycles were handed over to Shiv Munda and Mangal Munda for resale. The stolen bikes were sold to villagers in areas like Kuchai, Dalbhanga, and Arki, promising to provide the required documents later," added the SP.

The police further added that the on inputs given by Shiv and Mangal during questioning 30 more motorcycles were recovered. "The stolen bikes were hidden in nearby forests," the SP added.

"So far we have solved 25 cases across Saraikela, Ranchi, Khunti, Chaibasa, and Jamshedpur districts," added Lunayat.

HC stays publication of CGL exam results, orders FIR on paper leak complaint

Ranchi, Dec 17 (IANS) The Jharkhand High Court has stayed the publication of the Combined Graduate Level (CGL) Examination 2023 results conducted by the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission (JSSC) until further orders.

The decision came while hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Rajesh Kumar and others here on Tuesday, seeking a CBI enquiry into the alleged exam paper leak.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice MS Ramachandra Rao and Justice Deepak Roshan directed the state government to register an FIR under the Examination Conducting Act, 2023 based on the complaint of the JSSC CGL exam paper leak. The Bench also instructed the authorities to submit an investigation report.

The petitioner, Rajesh Kumar, had earlier lodged an online complaint to register an FIR at the concerned police station, but no action was taken.

During the previous hearing, it was informed that the JSSC CGL examination was initially held on January 28, 2024, in which a large number of candidates participated. However, allegations of a question paper leak surfaced, prompting protests and the cancellation of the examination.

Bihar court slaps Rs10 fine on Udit Narayan



Mail News Service

Patna, Dec 17: A family court in Bihar's Supaul district has slapped a fine of Rs10 on famous Bollywood playback singer Udit Nayan for allegedly not appearing in a case on Monday.

Giving this information, Ajay Kumar, lawyer of Ranjana Jha, who claimed to be the singer's wife said the court of justice justice Rahul Upadhyay has imposed a penalty of Rs 10 on Udit Narayan Jha and given him the last chance to file his reply on January 28, 2025.

"A suite was filed against him by his wife Ranjana Naran Jha. But has remained conspicuous by his appearance on the hearing date so far," said Ajay Kumar.

Ranjana Narayan Jha had filed a suit against her husband Udit Narayan Jha in the year 2022 to restore marital life claiming Udit Narayan is still his husband. Ranjana Narayan Jha's lawyer Ajay Kumar said that the hearing in this case was to be held on Monday. But Udit Narayan Jha neither appeared in person nor did any lawyer file a reply on his behalf.

Speaking to a section of media persons, Ranjana Narayan Jha said she wants to live with Udit Narayan as she has grown older and is ill. "In such a situation, now I want to live with Udit. But when I go to Mumbai, goons follow her. In such a situation, now there is only faith in the court," said Ranjana Jha.

Some relief from biting cold as min temperature likely to rise by 2-3°C

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Dec 17: The minimum temperature across Jharkhand is expected to rise gradually by 2-3 degrees Celsius in the next 72 hours, according to the Indian Meteorological Department's (IMD) Ranchi Meteorological Centre. The Met Centre also extended an alert for shallow to moderate fog for the next three days, cautioning commuters and early morning travelers about reduced visibility.

Meteorological data revealed that the minimum temperature has already witnessed a slight rise in most parts of the state today. Despite this, several regions still experienced chilly conditions, with temperatures hovering in the single digits. Ranchi recorded a minimum temperature of 9 degrees Celsius, marking a slight improvement compared to previous days. Jamshedpur followed closely, registering a minimum temperature of 9.5 degrees Celsius.

Daltonganj remained one of the coldest areas, with the local Met observatory recording a minimum of 7.5 degrees Celsius. Bokaro reported a minimum temperature of 9.2 degrees Celsius, signaling mild relief from the cold wave. Chaibasa, located in the neighboring West Singhbhum district, recorded one of the lowest temperatures at 7.2 degrees Celsius.

Weather experts noted that cold wave conditions persisted in some pockets of the state, particularly in areas like Daltonganj and Chaibasa, where temperatures dipped significantly.

The IMD has issued a caution for shallow to moderate fog across various parts of Jharkhand over the next 72 hours. Early morning fog is likely to affect visibility, especially for commuters on highways and open roads. Residents are advised to drive carefully and avoid unnecessary travel during early morning hours.

A senior official from the Ranchi Meteorological Centre explained, “The current weather pattern indicates a gradual rise in minimum temperatures due to a change in wind direction and local atmospheric conditions. However, isolated pockets will continue to experience cold wave conditions. The foggy conditions will persist, particularly during the night and early morning hours.”

District Welfare Officer inspects schools, reviews facilities and health initiatives



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 17: Under the directives of District Magistrate cum Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal, health check-up camps are being organized by the Health Department across residential schools in the district.

On the second day of the initiative, health camps were conducted in four residential schools, where a total of 1,651 students underwent health screenings.

The screenings included 514 malaria tests, 68 TB tests, 441 sickle cell screenings, 478 leprosy screenings, and 1,151 hemoglobin tests. Additionally, applications for ABHA health cards and Ayushman Bharat cards were also collected during the camps. To ensure the smooth execution of these camps, special medical teams and paramedical staff were deputed by the Civil Surgeon's office.

The health check-up initiative will continue, with camps scheduled at Adarsh Tribal Residential School, Dhalbhumgarh and Adarsh Tribal Residential School, Pawda on December 18, 2024.

During the campaign, District Welfare Officer Shankaracharya Samad inspected the health camp organized at Balika Ashram School, Arjunbeda, and also visited the Government Scheduled Tribe Residential School, Singhpura. Samad interacted with students, inquired about their studies, and reviewed the facilities available at the schools.

The initiative aims to ensure regular health monitoring of students studying in residential schools.

The district administration is committed to not only providing quality education but also prioritizing the health and well-being of the students. The goal is to create a conducive learning environment where students can focus on their studies with a healthy body and mind.

These health check-up camps reflect the administration's proactive approach to addressing health concerns, ensuring early diagnosis, and promoting overall student welfare. (w/pb)

Health Check-up camps in Residential Schools



Jamshedpur, Dec 17: Under the directives of District Magistrate and Deputy Commissioner, Ananya Mittal, a three-day health check-up camp is being organized by the Health Department in residential schools across East Singhbhum. The camp aims to monitor the health of students by conducting tests such as hemoglobin, sickle cell, and NCD screenings.

On the first day, health camps were held at 12 residential schools, including: K.G.B.V. Surda, Musabani, K.G.B.V. Sundernagar, K.G.B.V. Potka, Government Scheduled Tribe High School, Sabarnagar, Gwalkata, K.G.B.V. Chakulia, Tribal Residential School, Muturkham, K.G.B.V. Ichrasol

K.G.B.V. Bangurda, K.G.B.V. Dhalbhumgarh, K.G.B.V. Harda, Dumaria, K.G.B.V. Galudih Tribal Residential School, Pawda, A total of 2124 students were screened on the first day, including: 1158 hemoglobin tests,418 sickle cell tests 749 malaria tests

128 TB tests . Additionally, applications were processed for 15 Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA) and 20 Ayushman Bharat cards. The camps will continue on December 17 at schools such as Kalyan Vidyalaya, Dhusra; K.G.B.V. Gurabandha; Netaji Subhash Chandra Residential School, Lakhaidi; and K.G.B.V. Galudih. On December 18, the camps will move to Tribal Residential Schools in Dhalbhumgarh and Pawda. Speaking about the initiative, the District Magistrate emphasized the importance of monitoring students' health alongside their academic progress. "The district administration is committed to ensuring that students not only excel academically but also remain physically and mentally healthy to focus on their studies," he said. (w/pb)

NIT Jamshedpur gets scientific computing lab

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Dec 17: The Scientific Computing Lab, funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under the FIST scheme, was inaugurated today at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Jamshedpur.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by esteemed guests, including the Director of NIT Jamshedpur, Prof. Gautam Sutradhar, and other dignitaries. The event was also graced by the presence of Prof. R. V. Sharma, Deputy Director of NIT Jamshedpur, Prof R V Sharma, Deputy Director of NIT Jamshedpur, Prof Prabha Chand, Dean Faculty welfare and Dr. Raj Nandkeolyar, Head of the Department of Mathematics.

In his welcome address, Dr. Raj Nandkeolyar emphasized the importance of scientific computing in today's world and expressed his gratitude to the DST for funding the project.

Prof Goutam Sutradhar congratulated the Mathematics Department for getting funds for developing such a lab and emphasized the importance scientific computing

The ceremony also included a vote of thanks, delivered by Dr Rajat Tripathi, a faculty member of the Department of Mathematics. In his speech, Dr Tripathi thanked the DST for providing funds, guests, faculty members, and students for making the event a success.

The Scientific Computing Lab is expected to provide a platform for students and researchers to work on cutting-edge projects in scientific computing. <

The lab is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure and software, and will offer courses and training programs in scientific computing.

The inauguration of the Scientific Computing Lab marks a significant milestone in the growth and development of NIT Jamshedpur, and is expected to have a positive impact on the academic and research community in the region. (w/pb)

DC hears public grievances at Janata Darbar

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Dec 17: Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal held a Janata Darbar at his office chamber in the Collectorate to address the grievances of the general public. During the session, Mittal met with more than 50 complainants, listened to their issues with sensitivity, and assured appropriate and time-bound resolution.

Residents presented a range of personal and societal concerns, including land disputes, clearance from the Forest Department, issues related to transfer and mutation, demands for sports stadiums in schools, school admissions, shop allocations, caste certificates, old-age pensions, adding names to ration cards, removing roof seals, and other basic amenities. Memorandums regarding various social issues were also submitted. Mittal assured the applicants of prompt action on all matters. Several grievances were resolved on the spot, while others were forwarded to the concerned departmental officers with clear directives for timely action. The District Magistrate instructed officials to coordinate with block offices and relevant departments to ensure proper investigation and time-bound resolution of the grievances received during the Janata Darbar.

Mittal emphasized the importance of a proactive approach in addressing public grievances and directed officials to ensure follow-ups on forwarded applications. The initiative reflects the administration's commitment to efficient governance and resolving public issues in a transparent and timely manner. (w/pb)

Action demanded against illegal pavement shops in Sakchi Market



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 17: The Sakchi market, the largest in the city, is facing a severe issue of illegal encroachments, causing daily traffic jams and inconvenience to shoppers. With around 3,580 shops and over 73,000 visitors daily, the market has become a hub of chaos due to pavement shops occupying footpaths, leaving no space for pedestrians.

Abhishek Agarwal, Vice President of the Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industry, expressed concern over the district administration's failure to address the recurring issue. "The administration has banned footpath shops multiple times, but the situation returns to the same state within days. Every street in Sakchi market is plagued by encroachments, narrowing roads and causing constant traffic jams," he said.

The encroachment is not just a traffic concern but also a security issue. The crowded and disorganized market has become a hotspot for thefts, pickpocketing, and chain snatching, discouraging families from visiting. The narrow roads, occupied by auto drivers and handcart vendors, further worsen the situation, affecting local businesses significantly.

Agarwa emphasized that the shopkeepers and traders are bearing the brunt of the mismanagement. "Decent families avoid coming to the market, which directly impacts the livelihood of permanent shopkeepers," he added.

He urged the district administration and the Jamshedpur Notified Area Committee (JNAC) to take immediate and strict action to remove illegal pavement shops. Warning of repercussions, he stated that if no action is taken, the local shopkeepers, Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and other trade organizations will outline a strong agitation plan to protest against the negligence. (w/pb)

MGM lab technicians get training on ELISA testing

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Dec 17: Three-day state-level training on Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP) for lab technicians kicked off on Tuesday in the Microbiology department of Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Hospital and College. In the three day seminar organised by National Health Mission from December 16-18 the technicians will be trained on ELISA based testing for mostly communicable diseases.

The event was inaugurated by Dr Preeti Mohan, Head of the Microbiology Department (HOD). A total of 20 lab assistants from across 12 districts are participating in the seminar.

The participants are being trained on ELISA based testing for mostly communicable diseases in which they are taught the key aspects of media preparation and also on how to how to properly store and maintain lab equipment.

Saurabh Kumar Singh, the Data Manager from the State Surveillance Department, and Anjali Singh from the State Microbiology Department who are presiding over the training mentioned that "Lab technicians are being trained on demonstration, participation and diagnosis of 21 such diseases including Chickenpox, Chikungunya, Hepatitis A and E, Dengue, Cholera, Rabies, Malaria, Measles, and Rubella. The training district of Sadar hospital is officiating the event. "

Information is provided about the workflow of District Surveillance Department and its wings of operations. Dr. Asad and Sushil Tiwari from the District Surveillance Department, Shravan Kumar from the Malaria Department along with other doctors and staff members from the Microbiology Department of the Medical College attended the seminar.

Dist Congress prepares for Raj Bhawan March, meeting held



Jamshedpur, December 17: In response to the All India Congress Committee's call and instructions from the Jharkhand State Congress Committee, a Raj Bhawan March has been organized in Ranchi on Wednesday, December 18. To ensure strong participation, District Congress President Anand Bihari Dubey convened a meeting at the District Congress Office, Tilak Pustakalaya, Bistupur. Addressing Congress state-level officials, senior leaders, district and block presidents, divisional heads, department officials, and active workers, Dubey urged everyone to join the march in large numbers.The Raj Bhawan March will begin from the State Congress Office in Ranchi at 11 AM and proceed towards Raj Bhawan. The Jamshedpur delegation will depart at 8:30 AM from in front of the Deputy Commissioner's Office. Present in the meeting were District President Anand Bihari Dubey, Brajendra Tiwari, Sanjay Singh Azad, Mohammad Naushad, Pramod Mishra, Ajay Mandal, Sunny Singh, Ranjit Jha, Salman Khan, and Mohammad Afroz. (w/gsd)

Koushik Modi takes charge as chair of CII Young Indians

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Dec 17: Koushik Modi has been appointed as the new Chair of the CII Young Indians (YI) Jamshedpur Chapter for 2024-2025, succeeding outgoing President Udit Agarwal. Shruti Jhunjhunwala assumed the role of Co-Chair, marking a new beginning for the chapter's leadership.

The announcement was made during the chapter's annual function, where the new Executive Committee members were felicitated by distinguished guests. Chief Guest Ranjot Singh, Chairman of CII Jharkhand Council, commended the chapter for its impactful initiatives over the past year. Dilloo Parikh, Chairman of CII Jamshedpur Zonal Council, expressed confidence in the new leadership's ability to sustain and expand the chapter's momentum.

The event also witnessed the release of the annual report by outgoing President Udit Agarwal, highlighting over 550 events successfully conducted during his tenure. Agarwal expressed his gratitude to partner organizations, including Jeevan, Indian Red Cross Society, Civil Defence, South Eastern Railway, Narcotics Control Bureau, Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), and Jamshedpur Hoteliers Association, for their continuous support.

Addressing the gathering, Koushik Modi reflected on the chapter's remarkable achievements and vowed to uphold the legacy of impactful programs. "This is a humbling and inspiring moment for me," Modi said. "Under Udit Agarwal's leadership, the chapter has set a benchmark with its extensive outreach and innovative initiatives. I pledge to build on this foundation and make 2025 extraordinary for Jamshedpur."

Modi emphasized the importance of dreaming big, working hard, and staying grounded while striving to create meaningful change in the community. Co-Chair Shruti Jhunjhunwala, a veteran member of the Jamshedpur chapter and a part of the National Governing Council of CII, was praised for her contributions to programs like Masoom and Road Safety. (w/pb)

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

e-Tenders are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), S.E.Railway, Chakradharpur for & on behalf of the President of India against Open Tender for the following works. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Sl. No. & Tender Notice No.; Name of work; Tender Value; EMD : (1) CKP-WEST-24-25-33, dated 16.12.2024;** Bondamunda: Extension of 140 Ton BD Crane shed with provision of Disaster Management Skill Development Centre; ₹ 2,47,16,840.91; ₹ 2,73,600/-. **(2) CKP-WEST-24-25-35, dated 16.12.2024;** Bondamunda Jn-Jharsuguda Jn (DN)-TRR(P) for 34.110 Tkm under the jurisdiction of Sr. Divisional Engineer (West)/Chakradharpur; ₹ 2,01,10,017.73; ₹ 2,50,600/-. **(3) CKP-WEST-24-25-36, dated 16.12.2024;** Through Ballast Renewal for 43.478 TKM under the jurisdiction of Sr. Divisional Engineer/West/Chakradharpur. (2nd Call); ₹ 2,66,93,373.72; ₹ 2,83,500/-. **Cost of Tender Form :** 0.00 for each. **Date of Opening :** 09.01.2025 for each. The tender can be viewed at Web site **http://www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. **Note:** e-Tender forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (Authority – Rly. Bd.'s letter No.2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/Policy dtd. 16.07.2020). **(PR-915)**

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Tata Steel UISL to oversee entire city's sanitation system starting January 2025

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 17: From January 2025, Tata Steel Utility and Infrastructure Services Limited (Jusco) will take over the cleanliness and sanitation systems across the entire city of Jamshedpur, benefiting a population of approximately 10 lakh. Currently, the city operates with two separate sanitation systems-one managed by

Tata Steel UISL in the company command areas and another handled by JNAC (Jamshedpur Notified Area Committee) in the non-company areas.

As part of the transition, JNAC has decided to hand over the responsibility for sanitation in its jurisdiction, including areas like Kadma, Sonari, Birsanagar, Bagunahatu, Bhuinyadih, Bagunnagar, Laxminagar, and Premnagar, to Tata Steel UISL . This move is expected to streamline the city's cleanliness operations, ensuring uniformity across both company and non-company



areas. According to Krishna Kumar, Deputy Municipal Commissioner of JNAC, "It has been decided to hand over the system completely to Tata Steel UISL . From January 2025, Tata Steel UISL will carry out cleaning work in the entire city."

The shift to a single system aims to address the inadequacies currently faced in the sanitation system. JNAC's sanitation budget is approximately Rs 5.50 crore annually, a figure that will now be redirected towards other development works, as the sanitation responsibilities will be managed by Tata Steel UISL. This decision is expected to result in cost savings for the government while enhancing the city's cleanliness standards.

Tata Steel UISL will also handle the city's waste treatment. The construction of a new sewerage treatment plant at Bara, near the Timken Company, is nearing completion. This plant will treat waste from the JNAC command areas after garbage collection is handed over to Tata Steel UISL. A similar project in Khairbani, designed to treat waste for five municipal bodies, has faced delays due to local opposition.

In addition to managing the cleanliness system, Jusco will be responsible for establishing a proper sewerage-drainage system in the JNAC areas, which currently lacks such infrastructure. The city generates more than 300 tons of garbage daily across JNAC and company areas, with the waste often not being collected regularly in the JNAC-controlled areas. The new centralized system will address these issues, with plans for a complaint cell to be set up for citizen grievances, ensuring complaints are resolved within 24 hours.

Before 1991, Tata Steel (then TISCO) handled the city's sanitation services. After the Bihar government took control of JNAC in 1991, the sanitation system was split between the two entities. However, with this new plan, the sanitation services will be streamlined under Tata Steel UISL, bringing an end to the dual system. (w/nkm)

Transforms river ghat waste into eco-friendly furniture

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 17: In a remarkable initiative following the recently concluded Puja festivals, Tata Steel UISL (formerly Jusco) has turned approximately 3 tonnes of waste collected from the river ghats into eco-friendly organic furniture and artifacts. The waste, which accumulated after Durga Puja, Diwali, and Kali Puja, included remains of idols, bamboo, and other debris discarded into the river, which had been left scattered along the riverbanks.

The waste was carefully collected, with efforts made to enhance the recycling, reducing, and reusing processes. After consultations on the best use for the waste, the team managed to transform it into durable items like chairs, benches, dustbins, and even paintings. These creative products not only serve practical purposes but also promote sustainability.

A spokesperson from Tata Steel UISL commented, "This initiative reflects our commitment to both environmental sustainability and community art. It not only focuses on effective waste management but also showcases the creative potential of recycled materials." They further emphasized that the success of this project paves the way for more such initiatives aimed at addressing waste management issues while fostering innovation.

By transforming the waste into functional and artistic pieces, Tata Steel UISL is setting an example in the city's efforts to promote a cleaner, greener environment. More initiatives are planned in the future to continue this important work. (w/nkm)

Kapil Dev hails growing passion for golf in Jamshedpur

Former India Captain inaugurates Tata Steel Tour Championship

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec17: Former Indian cricket captain and legendary all-rounder Kapil Dev expressed joy over the growing enthusiasm for golf in India, comparing it to the passion for cricket. Speaking to the media at the JRD Tata Sports Complex on Tuesday evening, where he participated in the PGTI Golf Putting Championship, Kapil thanked the people of Jamshedpur for their overwhelming support for the sport.



The Tata Steel Tour Championship 2024 was inaugurated on Tuesday morning at the Golmuri Golf Course. Kapil Dev, who is also the president of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), along with Tata Steel Vice President (Raw Materials) D.B. Sundar Raman, kicked off the event by playing the first shots and cutting a ceremonial cake. Speaking to reporters, Kapil shared his delight over the rising popularity of golf, which he noted was once considered a niche sport.

In the evening, Kapil Dev visited the JRD Tata Sports Complex to participate in the PGTI Golf Putting Championship. The presence of the cricketing icon attracted a large crowd, including families and young sports enthusiasts. Reflecting on the gathering, Kapil said, "It is heartening to see such passion for golf, comparable to the fervor seen in cricket matches."

Commenting on the Indian cricket team, Kapil praised their current performance and expressed hope for their victory in the ongoing Test match.

Kapil Dev's visit to the JRD Tata Sports Complex became a memorable moment for many children training there in various sports. Upon learning about the legendary cricketer's presence, a large number of children and their families gathered to catch a glimpse of him. The young sports enthusiasts were thrilled to interact with Kapil and eagerly sought his autograph, making the evening a joyous occasion for everyone.

The Tata Steel Tour Championship continues to highlight Jamshedpur as a key destination for premier golf tournament. (W-mb)

Root canal facility absent in MGM Hospital, patients struggle

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Dec 17: MGM Medical Hospital, visited by over 1,000 dental patients monthly, lacks root canal treatment (RCT) facilities, leaving patients in distress. Despite the presence of specialist doctors and two operational dental chairs, the unavailability of necessary equipment, labs, and technicians prevents essential treatments like RCT, compelling patients to opt for tooth extraction or seek expensive private healthcare.

Around 20% of the daily 60 patients require root canal treatment. Without the facility, doctors are forced to recommend tooth extractions. This results in nearly 2,400 teeth being removed annually due to a lack of proper treatment. Dr. Nitesh Sharma, head of the dental department, stated, "Until RCT facilities are available, we can only relieve pain temporarily or extract the affected tooth."

Private hospitals charge between ?8,000-?12,000 for RCT, with an additional ?1,500-?4,500 for capping, making it unaffordable for many. Sanjay Singh, a patient, shared, "If the hospital doesn't provide this facility, how will the poor manage?"

Patients like Pramila Devi questioned, "We come here because private hospitals are unaffordable. If MGM lacks facilities, where will we go?" Similarly, Rahul, a patient, emphasized the necessity of RCT facilities, while Urmila Devi from Baradwari called for urgent improvement, stating, "Spending ?12,000-?15,000 on a tooth is beyond the reach of common people."

Hospital superintendent Dr. Shikha Rani clarified, "No demand letter for the required facilities has been received yet. The head of the department must send a proposal to the principal to initiate the process."

Govindpur water supply restored

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Dec 17: The Govindpur water supply project has finally been restored. Water supply resumed after the contractor agency, Gemini Enterprises, received necessary assurances regarding pending payments. This has brought much-needed relief to thousands of residents in the area.

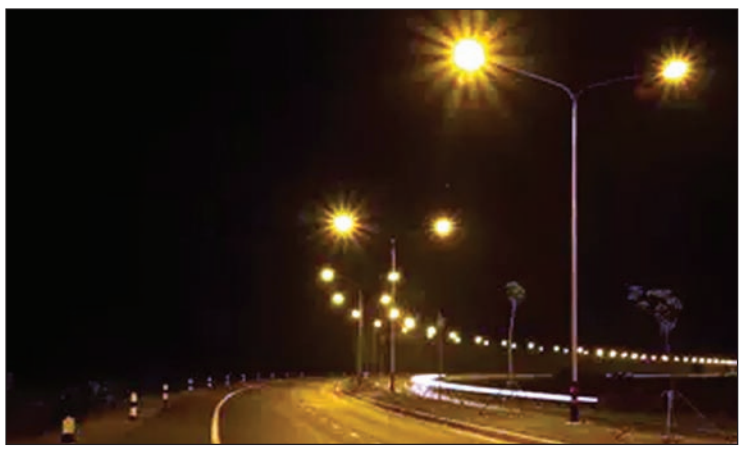
BJP leader Ankit Anand expressed gratitude to District Commissioner Ananya Mittal, former MLA Kunal Sarangi, Drinking Water and Sanitation Minister Yogendra Prasad, and departmental officials for their swift action. Ankit Anand thanked the stakeholders for understanding the sensitivity of the issue and taking concrete steps toward its resolution. He also extended his appreciation to the director of Gemini Enterprises for continuing the operation of the government project under challenging circumstances.

He further urged the state government and the Drinking Water Department to address such discrepancies to prevent the recurrence of similar issues in the future.

It is worth noting that the contractor agency had halted the water supply on December 16 due to non-payment of dues, affecting nearly 60,000 residents. With prompt resolution and administrative intervention, the water supply has now been restored. (w/pb)

Yellow and fog lights to reduce highway accidents

Mail News Service



Ranchi, Dec 17: In response to the increasing number of highway accidents caused by fog, the police administration and Road Safety Department have initiated measures to improve visibility and enhance road safety. From January to October this year, more than 300 accidents have occurred on highways, claiming over 200 lives. In Ranchi district alone, 613 accidents resulted in 407 fatalities during the same period. To address this, the authorities have proposed installing yellow lights and additional fog lights on highways, along with improved signage boards to assist drivers and reduce accidents.

Accidents frequently occur in areas like Chutupalu and Taimara valleys, where dense fog significantly reduces visibility. Although some fog lights are already installed, the Road Safety Department has identified the need for more. The proposal, which will be sent to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), emphasizes the installation of additional fog lights in these valleys to minimize collisions. Department officials stated that these lights would improve visibility in critical areas and help prevent fatal accidents. The plan also includes installing new signage boards, particularly at sharp turns in locations such as Ormanjhi and Namkum, to guide drivers more effectively.

Yearly data reveals that the highest number of fatalities occurred in April, with 42 deaths from 73 accidents, while October recorded the lowest, with 31 deaths from 46 accidents. These statistics highlight the urgent need for interventions to reduce the impact of fog-related accidents. The proposed yellow lights will blink continuously during the day and night, helping drivers identify road turns and traffic conditions. According to a Road Safety Department official, "Accidents often occur because fog obstructs visibility. Yellow and fog lights will significantly help drivers."

Additionally, Jharkhand Police Headquarters has issued a directive to prevent vehicle parking along highways, as parked vehicles pose a significant risk during foggy conditions. DGP Anurag Gupta has instructed all police stations to ensure vehicles are not left on highways and to remove any parked vehicles immediately.

Patrol teams have been directed to monitor highways at night and in the early morning to enforce this measure.

The Road Safety Department believes these initiatives, including the installation of fog lights, yellow lights, and proper signage boards, combined with stricter enforcement of parking restrictions, will help reduce accidents and ensure safer travel on Jharkhand's highways. The proposals, once approved by the NHAI, will be implemented at the earliest to protect lives and improve road safety. (w/nkm)

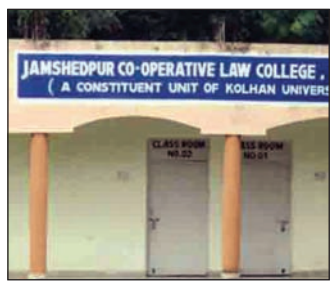
Delays in admission: Jamshedpur Co-operative Law College awaits BCI recognition

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 17: Jamshedpur Co-operative Law College is facing yet another delay in its admission process for the 2024-27 LLB session due to pending recognition from the Bar Council of India (BCI). Despite applying for affiliation, the process remains stalled as the college has not been able to deposit the required security amount of Rs 4 lakh demanded by the BCI. Dr. Jitendra Kumar, Principal of the college, stated, "We have applied to BCI for recognition of the law college. However, the council refused to grant recognition as the security money of Rs 4 lakh has not been deposited. A letter has been written to Kolhan University demanding the amount. As soon as we get the money, we will deposit it with the council. There may be some delay in getting LLB affiliation."

With the academic session already six months late, students will now have to wait another 3-4 months before admissions begin. Even if the recognition is secured by January 2025, the admission process will take until April or May to complete, causing the session to begin almost a year late. This marks the fourth consecutive year that the LLB session will face significant delays, highlighting systemic issues in the college's functioning. The situation has left students in limbo, raising concerns about the future of legal education in the region.

The lack of proper infrastructure remains a significant hurdle in obtaining permanent recognition. For years, the BCI has granted conditional approvals, urging the college to improve its facilities, address faculty



shortages, enhance the library, and build a model court room. However, the college has struggled to meet these conditions. To resolve these long-standing issues, the state government has allocated Rs 31.36 crore to develop the college infrastructure and purchase essential resources. Seventy percent of the funds will be spent on constructing a new academic building, administrative block, library, and model court room, while the remaining 30 percent will be used for material purchases and other necessities.

The government has also taken steps to make Jamshedpur Co-operative Law College an independent unit, separating it from Jamshedpur Co-operative College. A new Detailed Project Report (DPR) is being prepared to align with current requirements, replacing the earlier one. However, despite these efforts, the slow pace of implementation has kept the institution in a state of uncertainty.

As the only government law college in the Kolhan region with 120 LLB seats, Jamshedpur Co-operative Law College plays a critical role in providing affordable legal education. However, recurring delays, coupled with inadequate facilities and administrative hurdles, are eroding its credibility. The college's inability to secure permanent recognition not only affects students' academic timelines but also reflects poorly on the administration's preparedness to address the BCI's longstanding directives.

The uncertainty surrounding the current admission process underscores the need for immediate action. Kolhan University must expedite the release of the pending security deposit to ensure timely recognition from the BCI. Until then, aspiring law students and their families can do little but wait for a resolution that will finally allow the new session to commence without further delays.

Saryu is a merchant of lies, blaming his misdeeds on me: Banna

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 17: Former Minister Banna Gupta accused MLA Saryu Roy of spreading misinformation about the Mango Municipal Corporation and the garbage collection tender.

In a press statement, Banna Gupta referred to Saryu Roy as a merchant of lies, claiming that Roy's political career is built on falsehoods. He said Saryu Roy is trying to shift the blame for his own failures and misdeeds onto others, which he called laughable.





Banna Gupta presented a document from the Urban Development Department dated August 17, 2017, to counter Roy's allegations. He questioned Saryu Roy's role at the time, asking who was the MLA, which government was in power, and who were the cabinet ministers during the period when the garbage collection tender was passed. He also asked under whose influence the tender process took place and who the contractors were that were awarded the work.

Banna Gupta alleged that Saryu Roy's memory has weakened with age, leading him to forget or pretend to forget important facts. He claimed that garbage dumping at Sonari Marine Drive has been happening since 2017 under Saryu Roy's directions and with the involvement of his preferred contractors. He accused Roy of trying to conceal these facts but insisted that the truth always comes to light.

Defending his tenure, Banna Gupta stated that he had been working on alternative solutions for waste management at Marine Drive, including a proposed plan to develop a park. He highlighted that during his tenure, several vehicles and cleaning equipment were procured for the Mango Municipal Corporation.

Banna Gupta blamed Saryu Roy for worsening the garbage crisis by halting dumping operations without arranging any alternative solutions. He said Roy's actions have forced the residents of Mango to live amidst unhygienic conditions while exposing the people of Sonari to unbearable stench and an ever-growing garbage heap. Expressing concern, Banna Gupta warned that Roy's irresponsible actions could lead to the spread of diseases and epidemics in Jamshedpur.

He stated that he would take up the matter with Chief Minister Hemant Soren to find a resolution to the ongoing garbage crisis. (w/pb)

Principal judge directs release of 5 septuagenarian prisoners



Mail News Service

Dhanbad, Dec 17 : Principal District and Session Judge cum District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) chairman Virendra Kumar Tiwari has directed Dhanbad jail administration for releasing five septuagenarian prisoners. DLSA chairman along with deputy commissioner (DC) Madhwi Mishra, senior superintendent of police (SSP) HP Janardhan, chief judicial magistrate (CJM) Aarti Mala and other senior officials inspected Dhanbad jail and directed concerned officials to take necessary action for releasing identified 5 prisoners (above 70 years).

Principal District and Session Judge Virendra Kumar Tiwari also directed the jail authorities to send two prisoners suffering from serious decease at superspecialty hospital immediately for better treatment.

The high level team under Principal District and Session Judge interacted with prisoners and took first hand report of their health, treatment facility, drinking water, breakfast, lunch and legal services facility for litigate case. The team also inspect status of jail's kitchen room, professional training centre, library, meditation centre and other.

The Principal District and Session Judge directed the jail authorities to provide all facilities to prisoners as per jail manuals. Civil judge cum DLSA associate secretary Roshan Kumar, 1st class judicial magistrate Hemant Kumar Singh, ADM cum officiating jail superintendent Binod Kumar, superintendent of police (city) Ajit Kumar, DSP law and order Naushad Alam, jail doctor Dr Rajiv Kumar Singh, LADCS chief Kumar Vimlendu, deputy chief Ajay Bhatt,Shailendra Jha , Suman Pathak, Niraj Goel, Kanhaiya Lal Thakur, Swati, Muskan and other were members of the team.

Divisional level yuva utsav program organized based on Panch Prana

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, Dec 17: The Divisional Level Yuva Utsav program, based on Panch Prana, was held at Pillai Town Hall by the Sports and Youth Affairs Department in collaboration with the District Administration, West Singhbhum.



The program was inaugurated by District Sports Officer Rupa Rani Tirkey and Dr. Dara Singh Gupta, NSS District Nodal Officer, along with Dr. Arpit Suman Toppo, lighting the ceremonial lamp. During the event, Dr. Gupta encouraged the youth, emphasizing that their positive thinking and energy were essential for nation-building.

Rupa Rani Tirkey highlighted the region's abundant talent, stressing the importance of providing the youth with proper platforms and guidance. She explained that this event was part of the preparation for the upcoming Youth Festival in Delhi in January. The program featured divisional-level competitions in various genres, including painting, poetry writing, mobile photography, speech, story writing, science fair (solo and group), cultural programs (solo and group), and folk songs (solo and group).

The first-place winners in each category would represent their division at the state-level competition in Ranchi on December 22. The event was hosted by Twinkle Gupta, with the District Sports Officer delivering the vote of thanks. (w/gsd)





Police personnel seized a quintal of sack of plastic rice being illegally transported to Bangaladesh at a rice mill in the border area of Jamtara – Jharkhand – West Bengal – Bangladesh in Jamtara, Jharkhand on Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Greenfield Sanskarshala celebrates annual sports day

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 17: Greenfield Sanskarshala, Sonari Kadma, celebrated its annual sports day with great zeal and fervour at Joggers Park, Sonari. The event aimed to foster sportsmanship, physical fitness, and discipline among the students.

The program commenced with a grand march past, where the students showcased impeccable discipline and unity. The sports oath and an inspiring welcome speech set an energetic tone for the day, creating a lively atmosphere across the park. The Chief Guest, G. Lalitha, addressed the gathering with an inspirational speech emphasizing the role of sports in shaping students' lives. "Sports



teach essential life skills, including teamwork and resilience. I encourage all students to actively participate in sports for their holistic development," she said.

Principal Ekta Agarwal also motivated the students, highlighting the multi-faceted benefits of sports. "Sports not only enhance physical health but also contribute to mental well-being and self-confidence," she remarked.

The event featured a variety of thrilling competitions, including running, relay races, garland races, and bus races. Students participated with enthusiasm, demonstrating their talent and competitive spirit.

The program concluded with an award ceremony, where the Chief Guest felicitated the winners with prizes and certificates. Congratulating the achievers, Lalitha encouraged all participants to continue striving for excellence in sports.

The event was attended by 140 students, teachers, and parents, leaving everyone inspired and energized. It was a memorable day that reinforced the importance of sports and physical activity in education. (w/pb)

CM Nitish to undertake Pragati Yatra' instead of 'Mahila Samvad' in the state

Mail News Service

PATNA, December 17: With a change its name, Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar will embark on his yatra under 'Pragati Yatra' of the state instead of 'Mahila Samvad' from Valmikinagar in Bihar's West Champaran from December 23.

The development came close on the heels of his scheduled 'Mahila Samvad' from December 15 kicked off a storm in Bihar politics after former Bihar CM and RJD supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav in his remark suggested that Kumar was going to "ogle at women."

During his Mahila Samvad' CM was scheduled to hold meeting with



women in his attempt to understand their mind known to him ahead of assembly election in 2025.

During his first leg, CM Kumar will undertake a tour of six districts of Bihar which include West Champaran, followed by East Champaran on December 24, Shohar, Sitamarhi, Muzaffarpur and Vaishali.During the visit, CM is learned to meet the people especially women in his attempt to apprise them about the programmes being run by his government for the welfare of women.

Political observers say that CM Nitish Kumar is considered to have a good influence among the women voters of Bihar.

NITI Aayog member asks IITians to make positive impact in world

Dhanbad, Dec 17: "Knowledge is the foundation on which India needs to build and grow and you are now part of a community that has the power to make a positive impact in the world through knowledge", said NITI Aayog member Padma Bhushan Dr VK Saraswat while addressing the degree recipients of IIT Indian School of Mines (ISM) Dhanbad.? In the two-day 44th convocation (December 16-17) of IIT ISM which kicked start on Monday evening Dr. V. K. Saraswat presented 183 pass out of 2023-24 graduates at Penman Auditorium.

Addressing the students Dr Saraswat highly appreciated achievement of IIT ISM and said since its inception (IITISM) has been at the forefront of mining education and has continually expanded its horizons into various disciplines. "It gives me great pleasure to learn that it has been showcased at the BRICS 2024 Summit, highlighting its global contributions in science and technology" further said, Dr. Saraswat. He said to students that the world they are entering as a graduate today, is changing at an unprecedented pace, and it is essential to stay ahead of the curve....

Prem Vrat Chairman, BoG IIT (ISM) while addressing said that True knowledge is not just confined to books or classrooms; it is about understanding life, human values, and the world around you. "Keep learning for education is a lifelong journey. In today's world, technology evolves at a pace faster than ever before and staying relevant requires a commitment to continuous learning. At the same time, seek wisdom in values, empathy, and relationships. These will guide you when knowledge alone falls short" said Prof Prem Vrat. "In your journey toward your goals, there will be obstacles, failures, and moments of doubt. These are not signs of defeat but stepping stones to success" added Prof. Prem Vrat. Prof. Sukumar Mishra, director, IIT ISM gave details the award of degrees; academics, R&D achievement.

Steel City dives into festive cheer with Christmas buzz

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 17: As the calendar edges closer to Christmas, Jamshedpur has embraced the festive season with open arms. The Steel City is abuzz with celebrations, as streets, markets, and establishments come alive with vibrant decorations, joyous activities, and a palpable spirit of camaraderie.

The Christmas spirit is being ushered in by Church choirs across the city, organizing carol singing events to spread the message of peace and goodwill. Cold December nights are warming up as residents prepare to mark the birth of Lord Christ with enthusiasm and devotion.

Retailers and market spaces are decked out in festive flair, with shops displaying Christmas decorations, colorful stockings, and glittering ornaments. Markets are teeming with customers, creating a lively atmosphere as people shop for Christmas trees, bells, gift boxes, and Santa figurines to adorn their homes. The demand for Christmas trees and decorative items has surged, making it one of the busiest seasons for vendors.



Bakery shops across the city are working tirelessly to meet the overwhelming demand for Christmas cakes and pastries. From traditional plum cakes to custom orders, bakers are racing against time to ensure every household has a sweet treat to celebrate the festivities. The unmistakable aroma of freshly baked goodies fills the air, drawing customers to these bustling establishments.

Hotels and restaurants in Jamshedpur are also gearing up for the dual celebration of Christmas and New Year. Many have installed large, beautifully decorated Christmas trees in their lobbies, with some even featuring lively Santa Claus mascots to entertain guests. Special menus featuring mouthwatering delicacies are being prepared to delight visitors, and the hospitality sector is leaving no stone unturned to create a festive ambiance.

Several hotels have gone a step further, planning grand New Year's Eve parties with renowned DJs and dance troupes from Mumbai to ensure unforgettable celebrations.

With the promise of delicious food, vibrant music, and energetic performances, these events are expected to draw large crowds, adding to the city's festive buzz.

The community spirit in Jamshedpur is also evident, as churches and social groups come together to spread joy among the underprivileged. From distributing warm clothes to sharing festive meals, the city's residents are embodying the true essence of the season—giving and sharing.

"As the Steel City continues to dip in the festive spirit, the coming days promise a blend of tradition, celebration, and togetherness.

Whether it's the dazzling decorations, the delectable treats, or the joyous gatherings, Jamshedpur is all set to bid farewell to 2024 on a high note, with hopes and prayers for a brighter 2025," said an official of Catholic Diocese of Jamshedpur. (w/pb)



Law and order review meeting ahead of festive season

Mail News Service



Chaibasa, Dec 17: A law-and-order review meeting was held in the auditorium of the West Singhbhum District Collectorate under the joint chairmanship of District Magistrate-cum-Deputy Commissioner Kuldeep Chaudhary and Superintendent of Police Ashutosh Shekhar. The meeting aimed to ensure proper security arrangements for the forthcoming festivals, including Christmas, New Year, Sankranti, and Mage Festival.

The officials directed all Sub-Divisional Officers, Sub-Divisional Police Officers, Block Development Officers, Zonal Officers, and Police Station In-charges to identify areas, especially tourist spots, where large gatherings were expected and make appropriate security arrangements. Coordination with local representatives such as Manki-Munda, Mukhiyas, and villagers was emphasized to maintain peace and harmony during the festivities.

Officials were instructed to keep a strict vigil on illegal activities and conduct thorough checks at established check-points. Monitoring of all potential routes, including main roads, was stressed to prevent illegal transportation. Additionally, efforts to stop the spread of rumours in remote areas through improved communication with villagers were highlighted.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed the Additional Deputy Commissioner to assess and reorganize the Peace Committee to include socially skilled individuals for better community coordination. Regional officers were instructed to update the list of crowd-prone areas and contact details of Chowkidars, Manki-Mundas, Mukhiyas, public representatives, and key community members for swift communication in any situation.

The meeting emphasized the importance of coordination between district-level and regional officers and the public to ensure effective law and order management across the district. (w/gsd)

Unidentified body found near Biko Morh, police investigating murder angle

Mail News Service

Gamharia, Dec 17: A sensation swept through the area on Tuesday morning after an unidentified body was discovered in the bushes near Biko Morh, under the jurisdiction of the Adityapur Police Station. The body showed multiple injury marks and signs of bleeding from the forehead.

Upon receiving information, the Adityapur police arrived at the scene, took possession of the body, and sent it for post-mortem. Initial investigations suggested that the body may have been discarded recently. Police are actively investigating the case.

A large crowd gathered at the spot after news of the discovery spread. Local residents reported that they had not noticed any suspicious activity in the area earlier that morning. The police are working to identify the deceased and uncover the cause of death.

Adityapur Police Station In-charge Rajiv Kumar stated that the numerous injuries on the body made the case highly suspicious, and it appeared to be murder. Investigations are ongoing, including reviewing CCTV footage from nearby areas. The police have urged anyone with information about the identity of the deceased to come forward. Meanwhile, the area remained tense with an air of fear and suspense. (w/gsd)

Additional commissioner inspects Gamharia circle office



Mail News Service

Gamharia, Dec 17: Additional Commissioner of Seraikela district, Jaywardhan Kumar, inspected the Gamharia Zone Office on Monday. During the visit, he reviewed pending Dakhal-Kharij and revenue-related matters and issued necessary directives to the officials.

In a meeting with the Circle Officer (CO), revenue personnel, and other zonal staff, he examined the documents related to pending Dakhal-Kharij and revenue work, including rejected cases. Kumar emphasized the need to expedite the resolution of all pending cases.

Zone Officer Kumar Arvind Bedia was also present during the inspection. (w/gsd)

Swachhta Abhiyan conducted at Chhota Gamharia panchayat bhawan



Gamharia, Dec 17: A cleanliness campaign was organized at Chhota Gamharia Panchayat Bhawan on Tuesday by the National Service Scheme (NSS) Department of XITE College under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan. As part of the initiative, a survey of Chhota Gamharia village was conducted by 10 NSS volunteers under the guidance of NSS Officer Naval Narayan Chaudhary.

Deputy Mukhiya Renu Devi highlighted that the village included a primary school, two middle schools, a private school, an Anganwadi centre and a health centre. The event was attended by social worker Madhav Chandra Mahato, Panchayat Samiti member Vikas Kumar Sharma, Ward Member Dharmendra Sardar, Neha Sharma, Anita Devi, Sunita Devi, and Reshma. The program, which lasted for two hours, emphasized the importance of cleanliness and community development under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan. (w/gsd)

Legislator plans to develop Torlo Reservoir as tourist destination

Mail News Service



Chaibasa, Dec 17: On Tuesday, Majhgaon MLA Niral Purty, laid the foundation stone for the construction of two high-level bridges in Bada Torlo Panchayat under Manjhari block, West Singhbhum district. One bridge will be built on the Torlo River connecting Bada Torlo main road to Deepasai, and the other on the Soso River, connecting Bada Torlo to Mailbeda.

Addressing the villagers, MLA Purty said the construction of these bridges was a promise made during the Assembly elections, and was now being fulfilled. He highlighted that the villagers and JMM workers had earlier requested the timely construction of these bridges, and the paperwork for the project began even before the elections. Once completed, these bridges would greatly ease transportation for dozens of villages, particularly during the rainy season.

Purty also shared plans to develop the Torlo Reservoir as a tourist destination, which would not only boost tourism but also benefit the farmers of Manjhari and Tantnagar blocks by providing them with water access. He expressed gratitude to the villagers for their support during the elections and affirmed that under the leadership of Chief Minister Hemant Soren, the state government was advancing rapidly on the development path.

The MLA mentioned a roadmap for connecting every village in Majhgaon with electricity and promised visible improvements in the area. He emphasized the importance of ensuring the government's schemes reach the poor, backward, and needy sections of society.

The program was marked by a grand welcome from the villagers, who celebrated with drums, nagadas, traditional dance, and customs. Villagers, including Manki, Munda, Panchayat representatives, JMM workers, and others, were present on the occasion.

Devotees dance to Baba Shyam's kirtans at Adityapur mahotsav





Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, December 17: The Baba Shyam Kirtan Mahotsav, organized by Shri Shyam Bhatli Parivar Jamshedpur, witnessed devotees dancing with devotion till late night at Sky Residency, Adityapur Jayprakash Udyan.

The event was hosted by Suraj Bhadani, Manish Singhania, Rahul Agarwal, Aniket Agarwal, Daivik Gupta, and Tarun Dokaniya, along with their wives, who performed the Puja rituals.

Pandit Ramji Parik conducted the Puja ceremony and tied Raksha Sutra to the participants.

A beautifully adorned court of Baba Shyam was set up, and the program began with Shri Ganesh Vandana.

Invited artistes Bunty Changil, Moni Sharma, Rohit Gulati, and Prerna Sharma captivated the audience with their Bhajan renditions, creating a spiritual atmosphere that inspired devotees to dance with joy and devotion.

Women devotees, including Payal Rastogi, Uma Danga, Neha Bhalotia, Megha Singhania, Neha Agarwal, Neha Chaudhary, Akanksha Gupta, Preeti Dokaniya, Sneha Gupta, Renu Bajaj, Soni Poddar, Ritika Chaudhary, and Poonam Khemka, were also present at the event.

Hundreds of devotees participated in the Kirtan and received Prasad, marking a spiritually enriching and memorable evening. (w/gsd)

Surprise raids conducted to enforce ban on sale of tobacco

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Dec 17: Acting on the directives of District Magistrate cum Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal, a surprise inspection was conducted to enforce the ban on the sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of private schools.

The operation was led by Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) of Dhalbhum, Shatabdi Mazumdar, accompanied by Executive Magistrate Chandrajeet Singh and Food Safety Officer Md. Manzar Hussain.

The inspection campaign targeted areas around prominent educational institutions such as Rajendra Vidyalaya, Motilal Nehru Public School, Dayanand Public School, and Loyola School.

During the operation, members of the inspection team issued strict warnings against the sale of tobacco products within the prohibited radius of 100 yards. All shops in the vicinity were thoroughly checked for cigarette and tobacco product compliance.

Violators found selling tobacco products were fined INR 1,200 on the spot. Confiscated cigarette packs and other tobacco products were immediately destroyed during the operation. The officials warned shopkeepers against selling tobacco products without statutory warnings in the future and emphasized strict legal action for repeat offenses.

The administration reiterated its commitment to ensuring a tobacco-free environment around schools and urged shopkeepers to comply with regulations. Officials also cautioned that any future violations regarding the sale of tobacco products near educational institutions would invite stringent legal action under the law. (w/pb)

Annual sports day at Nav Jyoti Vidya Mandir

Mail News Service



Gamharia, Dec 17: The Annual Sports Day was celebrated at Nav Jyoti Vidya Mandir, Jagannathpur, Gamharia.

A variety of games were organized, with enthusiastic participation from children ranging from nursery to class nine.

The event began with a march past by the students, followed by the lighting of the lamp. Ravi Shankar, Director of Jharkhand Taekwondo Academy, UN Srivastava, President of Radheshyam Trust, and Sanjay Pandey graced the occasion as guests.

They motivated and encouraged the students, emphasizing the importance of physical activity for both physical fitness and mental well-being.

The guests highlighted that health is the true wealth, urging students to engage in regular exercise. The children displayed their sporting skills with great enthusiasm throughout the day.

The program was attended by Dr. Sanjeev Srivastava, school secretary, Anamika Srivastava, principal, along with teachers and students. (w/gsd)

Jharkhand Government supports youth in sports: Niral Purty

Mail News Service



Chaibasa, Dec 17: A football competition was held in Kumardungi block, Majhgaon assembly constituency, to celebrate Purkha Dupub Dishum Jojohatu Ponai Porob. The competition saw the participation of 48 teams, with the final match played between Vijay Eleven and Tata College Chaibasa. Both teams showcased exceptional skill in the final.

Hon. Shri Niral Purti, the popular MLA of Majhgaon, attended the event as the chief guest. In his address, he emphasized that sports offer numerous opportunities for youth, and the Jharkhand government is dedicated to providing more avenues for their advancement. He highlighted the ongoing initiatives to bring rural talent forward, with competitions being held at the panchayat, district, and state levels.

The government is also organizing boarding schools and training camps to support players, offering scholarships and essential facilities. Mr. Purti encouraged the youth to pursue their goals with dedication, hard work, and willpower, stressing that sports could offer a promising future. He also warned against the rising issue of drug abuse among youth, urging children to stay away from it as it could ruin their careers.

The MLA further noted the historical significance of Jojohatu Ponai Porob and emphasized the need for the younger generation to learn about its cultural importance. He called for increased focus on tourism, which the Hemant Soren government is actively promoting.

Public representatives, including District Council members Shashi Bhushan Pinguwa, Rameshwar Sinku, Sanjay Bage, and others, were also present at the event.

Ensuring safety of school girls: A wake-up call

The recent incident in Ranchi, where a 32-year-old AC mechanic named Firoz was nabbed for continuously molesting school-going girls, raises deep concerns about the safety of our children. For over a month, this miscreant targeted young girls on their way to school, concealing his identity by tying cloth over their mouths. His actions became so severe that several girls stopped attending school altogether, underscoring the gravity of the situation. It is a chilling reminder of the vulnerability of children and the urgent need to ensure their safety in public spaces.

The swift action by the police, prompted by the Chief Minister's direct intervention, was commendable. The identification of the culprit through CCTV footage and the announcement of a reward for information played a crucial role in resolving the case. However, this incident highlights the deep-rooted issues that society must confront. If such brazen crimes can occur in a state capital like Ranchi, one can only imagine the plight of girls in remote villages where surveillance and law enforcement are weaker.

One of the primary challenges in dealing with such crimes is the silence that surrounds them. Victims often hesitate to speak out due to fear, shame, or social stigma. Families, too, prefer to suppress these matters to avoid defamation. This culture of silence allows perpetrators to act with impunity. In this particular case, the escalating severity of the harassment forced parents to approach the police. While their courage is commendable, it raises questions about how many similar incidents go unreported every day.

The role of law enforcement cannot be overstated. The prompt identification and arrest of the accused send a strong message, but it is not enough. The police must ensure that the accused faces the strictest punishment under the law. A clear precedent must be set so that potential offenders are deterred and victims gain the confidence to report such crimes without fear of reprisal. A failure to act decisively risks creating a society where girls live in constant fear, confined to their homes and denied opportunities for education and personal growth.

Moreover, this incident exposes the need for preventive measures. Schools, communities, and local authorities must collaborate to improve safety mechanisms. Increased patrolling near schools, awareness campaigns to encourage reporting, and the widespread installation of CCTV cameras in vulnerable areas can go a long way in preventing such crimes. Additionally, empowering girls with self-defense training and educating families about the importance of addressing such issues head-on is vital.

The Ranchi case serves as a wake-up call. It is a reminder that the safety of children-particularly young girls-must be a priority. While the Chief Minister's intervention in this case brought swift justice, we cannot rely solely on reactive measures. A proactive, society-wide approach is essential to ensure that no girl has to choose between her safety and her education. For a progressive society, ensuring the safety of its daughters is not just a responsibility-it is a moral imperative.

From the Editioral Desk

US health insurance companies accused of multiple denials, delays



Every year, US health insurance companies deny tens of millions of patient claims for medical expense reimbursements, and the tide of those denials has been rising.

The Washington Post on Monday cited surveys of doctors and other healthcare providers.

Insurers also have been increasingly demanding that doctors obtain approval before providing treatment, similar surveys show, causing delays in patient care that the American Medical Association says are "devastating," Xinhua news agency reported.

While several states have passed legislation trying to restrict such practices amid growing public anger, insurers defend the coverage denials and "pre-authorisation" requirements. They say those measures are meant to contain rising costs and that their methods comply with federal and state regulations.

"Most frustrating, according to patient advocates, is that insurance companies often act without explanation, sending denial letters that offer only sparse justifications," said the report.

The patient "gets a cryptic message saying 'it's not medically necessary,' but without any other explanation," said Elisabeth Benjamin, a vice president at the Community Service Society in New York, which runs a program that helps consumers appeal denials.

"People are mad because it's all a big secret," Benjamin said. "It's unfair for us as a society, on something that's so visceral, to trust giant corporations that make money when they deny care. This is why people are so, so very angry."

Exactly why and how often claims are being denied or medical procedures are getting early scrutiny is difficult to know. Nationally over the last five years, the rates of denial have been between 14 per cent and 16 per cent, according to data from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

Insurance industry representatives blame doctors for many of the denials, saying they botch the required paperwork by submitting inaccurate, incomplete or ineligible claims information.

NE region saw a sea change in connectivity sectors in 10 years

The northeastern region, comprising eight states, witnessed a sea change in connectivity sectors during the past ten years, a top official of the Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Ministry said.

DoNER Ministry Secretary Chanchal Kumar said that over the last 10 years, connectivity of the northeastern region has been transformed whether its roads, rail, air, water, and digital links, reaching even the most remote areas.

"Further, the northeastern states have tailored, attractive policies aligned with the Central government to encourage investment," Kumar said while addressing the Northeast Trade and Investment Roadshow in Mumbai on Monday evening.

He urged investors to explore the immense potential of the northeast region.



The official underlined the region's remarkable progress driven by infrastructure development and mentioned that North Eeastern Region's Gross Domestic Product contribution stands at 2.9 per cent, yet the CAGR (Compounded Annual Growth Rate) of the northeastern region exceeds the national average.

DoNER Ministry Joint Secretary Monalisa Dash while addressing the roadshow highlighted the decade-long development initiatives and projects, which have directly benefited local communities.

She underlined that the northeast of the country is emerging as a land of boundless opportunities, rich in minerals, biodiversity, and hydropower potential.

"With 17 operational airports, an expanding road and rail network, and 20 waterways, the region is experiencing a transformational journey. Supported by key initiatives like the UNNATI Scheme, PM DevINE, and Ayushman Bharat, the region is set for sustainable growth and development," Dash said.

She underlined that the northeast, home to a vibrant culture, has a high literacy rate, a booming sports sector, and a thriving tourism industry for attracting investment.

The official pointed out that as infrastructure improves and policies align, the northeast is poised to become a hub for investment and growth, offering endless possibilities for investors.

The DoNER Ministry organised the Northeast Trade and Investment Roadshow at the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, Colaba in Mumbai on Monday.

Addressing the roadshow, DoNER Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said there is a huge market for the northeastern states in Southeast Asian countries and the region has huge untapped resources.

Minister Scindia said that northeastern states have the potential to generate 56,000 MW of hydropower and the region is ready for investment in diverse sectors.

The DoNER Minister said that during the past ten years, the number of airports increased from nine to 17 while Rs 90,000 crore was invested in the railway sectors.

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha and his Meghalaya counterpart Conrad K Sangma said there is huge scope for investments in these states.Monday's Mumbai roadshow marks the sixth event in the ongoing series, showcasing presentations from the eight northeastern states -- Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

Canada political crisis deepens, Trudeau faces fresh calls for resignation



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau faced fresh calls for resignation, hours after Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland quit in a surprise move after disagreeing with him over US President-elect Donald Trump's tariff threats.

A third of the ruling Liberal Party's MPs have called for a change in leadership in Canada further deepening the political crisis in the country.

On Monday evening, Canadian media outlets reported that Trudeau has not yet decided whether he will continue as Prime Minister or resign. The number of rebel MPs who have sought his ouster has grown to nearly 60 of the 153-strong caucus in the House of Commons.

Freeland also stepped down as Canada's Finance Minister, and her resignation marked the first open dissent against Prime Minister Trudeau from within his cabinet threatening his hold on power.

Liberal Party leader Trudeau lags 20 points in polls behind his main rival, Conservative Pierre Poilievre, who has tried three times since September to topple the Trudeau government and force a snap election.

"Our country today faces a grave challenge," Freeland said on social media platform X in her resignation letter, pointing to Trump's planned 25 per cent tariffs on Canadian imports.

"For the past number of weeks, you and I have found ourselves at odds about the best path forward for Canada," she wrote in her resignation letter.

First elected to Parliament in 2013, former journalist Freeland joined Trudeau's cabinet two years later when the Liberals swept to power, holding key posts, including trade and foreign minister, and leading free trade negotiations with the EU and the United States.

Most recently, she had been tasked to help lead Canada's response to moves by the incoming Trump administration.

Canada's main trading partner is the United States, with 75 per cent of its exports each year going to its southern neighbour.

In her resignation letter, Freeland said Trudeau wanted to shuffle her to another job, to which she replied: "I have concluded that the only honest and viable path is for me to resign from the cabinet."

As finance minister, she explained the need to take Trump's tariffs threats "extremely seriously."

Warning that it could lead to a "tariff war" with the United States, she said Ottawa must keep its "fiscal powder dry."

TMC calls ONOE an unabashed attack on democracy



Amid rumblings within the INDIA bloc, the Opposition parties led by Trinamool Congress (TMC), Samajwadi Party (SP) and few others seem to have joined forces in targeting the Centre over the 'One Nation, One Election' bill.

TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee on Tuesday described the ONOE as a 'direct assault on the very foundation of our democracy' and said that his party will fight tooth and nail against this anti-democratic agenda of BJP-led NDA government.

SP said that the ONOE is not only undemocratic but also a conspiracy by the ruling party to destroy the Constitution.

Both TMC and SP took to X to share their strong aversion and opposition to the ONOE bill, ahead of its tabling in the Parliament.

Abhishek Banerjee, TMC General Secretary coming down heavily on the Centre said, "The BJP's brazen attempt to introduce a Constitutional Amendment bill today, while the Constitution debate bill is still underway in Parliament, is nothing short of an unashamed attack on democracy. "

"This is not just a bill, rather it is a direct assault on the very foundation of our democracy built through the sacrifices of our founding fathers," he added.

He further said that Bengal will not sit silent and his party will fight tooth and nail to protect the soul of India and crush this 'anti-democratic' agenda.

SP supremo Akhilesh Yadav also took to X to express strong reservations against the bill.

"This will reduce the importance of states as well as Rajya Sabha. Tomorrow the BJP will demand dissolution of Rajya Sabha as well and will give a new slogan 'One country-one assembly' to bring down their dictatorship. Whereas the truth is that in our country, considering the state as the root, there is a constitutional provision for the continuity of 'Rajya Sabha'. Lok Sabha is for a period of five years," he wrote on X.

He further added that if this bill goes on to become a law, this will take the country from democracy to autocracy and the elections will merely remain a sham.

CBDT launches e-campaign to help taxpayers resolve income mismatches



New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has launched an electronic campaign to assist taxpayers in resolving mismatches between the income and transactions reported in the Annual Information Statement (AIS) and those disclosed in Income Tax Returns (ITRs) for the financial years 2023-24 and 2021-22, according to an official statement issued on Tuesday.

The campaign also targets individuals who have taxable income or significant high-value transactions reported in their AIS but have not filed ITRs for the respective years, the statement said. The initiative is part of the implementation of the e-Verification Scheme, 2021.

As part of this campaign, informational messages have been sent via SMS and email to taxpayers and non-filers where mismatches have been identified between transactions reported in AIS and the ITRs filed.

The purpose of these messages is to remind and guide individuals who may not have fully disclosed their income in their ITRs to take this opportunity to file revised or belated ITRs for FY 2023-24, according to the CBDT statement.

The last date to file these revised or belated ITRs is December 31, 2024.

For cases pertaining to FY 2021-22, taxpayers can file updated ITRs by the limitation date of March 31, 2025. Taxpayers can also provide their feedback, including disagreeing with the information reported in the AIS, through the AIS portal accessible via the e-filing website (https://www.incometax.gov.in/iec/foportal/).

This initiative reflects the Income Tax Department's commitment to leveraging technology to simplify compliance and ensure transparency. By utilising third-party data, the department aims to create a more efficient, taxpayer-friendly system that aligns with the vision of Viksit Bharat, the statement said.

Indian share market ends in red ahead of key global policy decisions



Mumbai, Dec 17 (IANS) Ahead of key policy decisions especially from the US Federal Reserve, the Indian stock market closed in red on Tuesday as selling was seen in the PSU bank, auto, IT, financial service, pharma, FMCG, metal, and realty sectors of Nifty.

At closing, Sensex settled at 80,684.4, down by 1,064.12 points or 1.30 per cent and Nifty ended at 24,336, down by 332.25 points, or 1.35 per cent.

According to market experts, widespread pessimism prevails across all sectors ahead of key policy decisions from the US Fed, Bank of Japan, and Bank of England.While the market has already factored in a 25 bps cut from the US Fed, it remains vigilant for any hawkish signals, experts added.

Nifty Bank ended at 52,834.80, down by 746.55 points, or 1.39 per cent.

The Nifty Midcap 100 index closed at 59,101.90 at the end of trading after dropping 341.15 points, or 0.57 per cent.

Nifty Smallcap 100 index closed at 19,398.45 after dropping 132.60 points or 0.68 per cent.On the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), 1,578 shares ended in green and 2,440 in red, whereas there was no change in 89 shares. On the sectoral front, buying was seen in the media sector of Nifty.In the Sensex pack, Bharti Airtel, IndusInd Bank, JSW Steel, TCS, Asian Paints, L&T, Bajaj Finserv, Reliance, Nestle India, HDFC Bank, Maruti, M&M, Tata Steel, and Power Grid were the top losers. Only ITC was among the top gainers.The rupee traded flat near 84.90 as markets remain focused on the Fed's final policy decision of the year scheduled for December 18. "A dovish tone could push the dollar index lower, providing relief for the rupee. However, any uncertain or hawkish remarks may strengthen the dollar and keep participants bearish on the rupee. The rupee's range is anticipated between 84.75 and 85.05," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities.

Helios expands footprint in Jharkhand

Jamshedpur : Helios - The premium watch store, India's largest premium multi-brand watch retail chain by Titan Company Ltd. launches its fifth store in Bistupurand 39th in the east region, making significant strides in their expansion strategy. This new addition marks a significant milestone in Helios' strategic expansion in Jharkhand. The store spanning 1,000 sq.ft., located at Shop 8, Natraj mansion, Bistupur, was inaugurated by Mr. Somprabh Singh, Regional Business Head- East, in presence of Mr. Upal Sen Gupta, RBM and Mr. Vishal Gupta, ABM, Jharkhand. The new Helios store embodies elegance and sophistication, offering a diverse selection of world-renowned watch brands. Customers can explore brands like Titan, Movado, Victorinox, Citizen, Seiko, Armani Exchange, Casio, Swarovski, Cerruti, G shock, Fossil, Tommy, NEBULA, Police, Kenneth Cole, Anne Klein, Xylysetc, each known for their craftsmanship, heritage, and innovative designs. Whether seeking a timeless classic, a modern fashion piece, or a functional sports watch, Helios delivers unmatched variety. As the fifth store in Bistupur, Helios continues to redefine the local shopping experience by housing an extensive range of international brands, offering exclusive access to some of the world's most sought-after timepieces.

Fadnavis tables bill to amend the Maharashtra Stamp Act



Nagpur, Dec 17 (IANS) Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday presented a bill in the Assembly to amend the Maharashtra Stamp Act, 1958, to increase the stamp duty on affidavits, agreements, and related documents to Rs 500 from the present Rs 100.

The amendment, proposed on the lines of Karnataka, also increases the stamp duty on share capital to Rs 1 crore from the present Rs 50 lakh.

The state government, ahead of the Assembly election, had issued an ordinance to increase the stamp duty on October 14 as both the houses of the legislature were not in session. The state cabinet, chaired by then Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, had cleared the amendments at the meeting held on September 30. "Schedule I to the Maharashtra Stamp Act is amended to simplify the charge ability under the various articles and in general wherever Rs 100 is provided, it is substituted by Rs 500. Article 4 is amended to charge a minimum stamp duty of Rs 500. Affidavit needs to be executed before government or semi-government bodies are brought into the purview of this Article. Article 10 is amended to increase the stamp duty rate and maximum limit on share capital and increased share capital," reads the bill. Further, Article 47 is amended to change the minimum stamp duty of Rs 500 and a maximum of Rs 50,000 for the instrument of partnership and to change the stamp duty of Rs 500 in case of dissolution of partnership. Articles 52 and 58 are amended on the lines of the general amendment to charge a stamp duty of Rs 500 instead of Rs 200.

According to the Revenue Department, the amendments to the Maharashtra Stamp Act will help increase the revenue from the stamp duty and registration to the tune of almost Rs 2,000 crore.

Eicher launches Pro 8035XM with E-Smart Shift

Durgapur, Dec 17 : Eicher Trucks & Buses, a business unit of VE Commercial Vehicles Limited, has unveiled its Eicher Pro 8035XM with industry-leading E-smart Shift-Automated Manual Transmission (AMT) in Durgapur. Aimed at setting new benchmarks for Tipper productivity for mining applications, this innovation is custom-developed for extreme and challenging mining environment. The meticulously designed vehicle provides drivers with unmatched comfort to improve site productivity throughout the tipper's productive life.

Eicher Pro 8035XM with industry-leading E-smart Shift-Automated Manual Transmission (AMT) is developed to boost productivity of trucks operating in the major mining coal belts in West Bengal, like Asansol-Raniganj, Durgapur, Northwestern Purulia, Bankura District, and Deocha-Pachami and Dewanganj-Harisingha in Birbhum District. Embodying the ethos of 'Experience the Extreme,' Eicher Pro 8035XM E-smart tipper is engineered for the challenging conditions of mining operations. Commenting at the launch, Gagandeep Singh Gandhok, Executive Vice President-Eicher HD Truck Business, said, "The Eicher Pro 8000 series tippers have consistently set the benchmark for Indian trucks, offering industry-leading engine power, advanced transmission, superior body capacity, and premium cabin quality, making them the top choice for mining applications."

Maruti Suzuki India achieves 2 million units in a calendar year for 1st time



New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) Maruti Suzuki India on Tuesday announced a production milestone of 2 million vehicles in a calendar year for the first time in its history.

The automaker also became the first among Suzuki Motor Corporation's global automobile manufacturing facilities to reach this landmark. Of the 2 million vehicles, almost 60 per cent were manufactured in Haryana and 40 per cent in Gujarat.

"The 2 million production milestone is a testament to India's manufacturing potential and our dedication to 'Make in India' initiative," said Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director and CEO, Maruti Suzuki India.

"This achievement reflects our commitment, alongside our supplier and dealer partners, to driving economic growth, supporting nation building, and making India's automobile industry self-reliant and globally competitive," Takeuchi added.

Maruti Suzuki also contributes to almost 40 per cent of total passenger vehicle exports from India. It exports 17 models to around 100 countries worldwide.

Ertiga was the second millionth vehicle to be rolled out from the production line at the company's state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Manesar, Haryana. Baleno, Fronx, Ertiga, WagonR and Brezza were the top 5 manufactured vehicles during the calendar year 2024.

Maruti Suzuki currently operates three manufacturing facilities: two in Haryana (Gurgaon and Manesar) and one in Gujarat (Hansalpur).

Together, these facilities have a combined annual production capability of 2.35 million units.

The company plans to expand its annual production capacity to 4 million units and is establishing a new greenfield manufacturing facility in Kharkhoda, Haryana.

Construction work at the Kharkhoda site is progressing as per plan and the first plant with annual capacity of 2.50 lakh units is expected to be operational in 2025.

India added 15 GW of green energy capacity in April-Nov: Joshi



New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) India has added nearly 15 GW of renewable energy capacity during April-November in the current financial year, which is almost double the 7.54 GW added during the same period last year, Union New and Renewable Energy Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Tuesday.

Addressing the CII International Energy Conference and Exhibition (IECE) here, the Minister further stated that India's total installed capacity in the non-fossil fuel energy sector has reached 214 GW, marking an increase of over 14 per cent compared to the same period last year.

Additionally, he pointed out that 2.3 GW of new capacity was added in November 2024 alone, reflecting a four-fold increase from the 566 MW added in November 2023.

Joshi reiterated the government's commitment to achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based capacity by 2030.

"What India does in renewable energy is not only keenly watched by the world, but also adopted by several countries," he remarked.

He highlighted the role of the International Solar Alliance as a formal setup for global collaboration under India's initiative with 120 countries as signatories.

Highlighting India's remarkable growth in renewable energy, Joshi said that India is not only witnessing an energy revolution but also becoming the renewable energy capital of the world.

Despite having one of the largest coal resources globally, India maintains one of the lowest per capita emissions, at one-third of the global average. The Minister highlighted that India is the only G20 nation to have ensured that the Sustainable Development Goals made at the Paris Climate Change Summit in 2015 were fulfilled even before the deadline. He said that the ongoing transformation of India's energy sector is driven by a strong belief that achieving a Viksit Bharat by 2047 is intrinsically linked to sustainable and green growth.

The Minister also outlined several key steps taken by the Union Government to boost the growth of the renewable energy sector such as the introduction of the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, with an outlay of Rs 24,000 crore, aimed at boosting domestic manufacturing of solar panels and modules. He also mentioned the ongoing initiative to establish 50 solar parks, with a cumulative capacity of 38 GW by 2025-26.

CureFit posts Rs 888 crore loss in FY24



New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) Fitness startup Curefit's consolidated loss has increased by 42 per cent to Rs 888.5 crore in FY24 from Rs 625.5 crore in FY23.

The company's EBITDA loss surged by 123.4 per cent to Rs 587.97 crore in FY24 from Rs 263.2 crore in FY23.

The reason for the increase in the company's loss in the last financial year is the high cash burn. Curefit's advertising and promotion expenditure has increased by 40.67 per cent year-on-year (YoY) basis to Rs 188.5 crore in FY24 from Rs 134 crore in FY23.

At the same time, the company's expenditure on legal and professional services in the last financial year has increased by 56.62 per cent from Rs 79.3 crore in FY23 to Rs 124.2 crore in FY24.

Curefit's expenditure on employees has come down by 5.62 per cent to Rs 324 crore in the last financial year.

Annual fund flow to farm sector jumped nearly 6-fold in 10 years



New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) There has been a close to six-fold increase in the budget allocation for the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare from Rs 21,933.50 crore during 2013-14 to Rs 122,528.77 crore in 2024-25, the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

The major schemes being implemented for farmers' welfare include the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana (PM-KMY), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) and Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Ram Nath Thakur, said in a written reply in the Lower House.

He further stated that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has released a compilation of success stories of 75,000 farmers who have increased their income more than two times through the convergence of schemes being operated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and allied ministries.

The minister explained that AIF was launched to address the existing infrastructure gaps and mobilise investment in agriculture.

AIF is a medium to long-term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and viable farming assets, through interest subvention and credit guarantee support.

The Union Cabinet approved the progressive expansion of the AIF by expanding the scope of eligible projects.

This includes allowing individual eligible beneficiaries for creation of infrastructure covered under 'viable projects for building community farming assets', integrated processing projects and convergence of PM KUSUM 'A'.

Key projects approved under AIF are 18,606 custom hiring centres, 16,276 primary processing units, 13,724 warehouses, 3,102 sorting and grading units, 1,909 cold storage projects and around 21,394 other types of post-harvest management projects and community agricultural assets, he added.

The minister explained that farming being a State Subject, the State Governments take appropriate measures for the development of agriculture.

However, the Government of India supports the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures, budgetary allocation and various schemes.

The various schemes of the Centre are meant for the welfare of farmers by increasing production, remunerative returns and income support to them.

Strategies for increasing farmer incomes include improving crop productivity, reducing cost of production, agricultural diversification, adaptation to climate change for sustainable farming and compensation of losses.

India emerging as major centre of affordable medical tourism



New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) India is emerging as a major centre for affordable medical tourism on the global stage, and doctors in the country play a significant role in this development, said President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday.

Addressing the first convocation of AIIMS Mangalagiri in Andhra Pradesh today, the President said that with talent and hard work, Indian doctors have earned a leading position in the world.

"India is developing as a major centre of affordable medical tourism on the world stage and doctors have a major role in this development. People from other countries visit India to take advantage of the medical facilities available here," Murmu said.

Of the young doctors who received their degrees today, two-thirds were young lady doctors.

The President expressed happiness that more young women are participating in the profession, which indicates a developed society.

"My special congratulations to these daughters who have done us proud. The rising participation of women in the medical profession and their significant contributions demonstrate that we are becoming a truly developed society," Murmu said.

"This also highlights the fact that given opportunities, our daughters excel in every field," she added, while also lauding the guardians of the young lady doctors.

Further, she told doctors medical profession is "the path of serving humanity.

To achieve success and respect, the President advised doctors to pay attention to "service orientation, learning orientation, and research orientation".

She added that between fame and fortune, "they should give priority to fame".

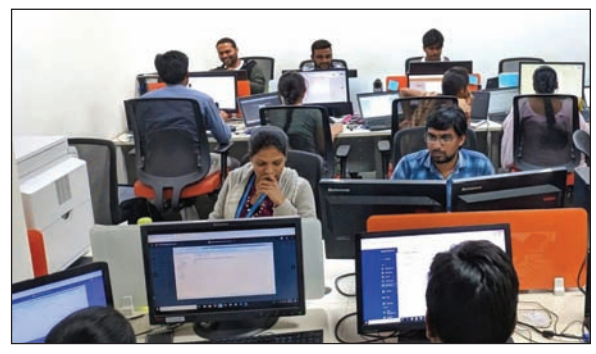
"You will get invaluable opportunities to save people's lives and improve their health. You have developed the competence to make use of such opportunities. I am sure that you will dedicate yourselves to continuous learning, and keeping your capabilities at par with the best and the latest".

The President also urged for "new solutions" to counter the challenges that medical science faces according to time and circumstances.

She also called on young doctors "to give priority to providing medical care and services to people living in rural, tribal, and remote areas".

"Providing inclusive health care is our national goal. Doctors, especially young doctors like you, have a key role in achieving this goal. I hope that all of you will discharge this responsibility with utmost dedication and make an invaluable contribution to building a healthy, prosperous, and developed India", President Murmu said.

94 pc of Indian desk workers feel urgency to master AI



Bengaluru, Dec 17 (IANS) Amid the rising influence of artificial intelligence (AI) in the workplace, 94 per cent of desk workers in Indians feel the urgency to master the advanced technology, according to a report on Tuesday.

Slack's new Workforce Index showed that AI adoption is on the rise in India with 61 per cent of Indian desk workers using AI in their jobs and 80 per cent excited about the prospect of AI replacing some tasks.

India's progress in AI adoption underscores the growing prioritisation of AI among its executives and reflects a heightened sense of urgency among business leaders to unlock its transformative potential.The report, based on a survey of 1,029 desk workers in India, showed that although 94 per cent workers are keen to skill up on AI, 40 per cent have spent less than five hours total learning how to use the technology. About 30 per cent of global workers said they've had no AI training at all, including no self-directed learning or experimentation. "India's workforce is leading the way in AI adoption, with 61 per cent of desk workers already integrating AI into their roles. This enthusiasm highlights the transformative potential of AI and its alignment with leadership priorities for innovation and upskilling," said Rahul Sharma, Vice President - Sales, Salesforce India. "However, to fully harness AI's benefits, there remains uncertainty that agents can address. By introducing AI agents with clearly defined roles and guidelines, businesses can reduce worker anxiety and foster seamless integration into daily tasks," Sharma said.

Woman deceived by travel agent returns to India after 22 years in Pakistan



New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) Hamida Bano, an Indian woman who was deceived into travelling to Pakistan over two decades ago by a travel agent, finally returned to her homeland after nearly 22 years in the neighbouring country.

Arriving in India, Hamida, who was in a wheelchair, was handed over to officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

After completing the necessary paperwork, the Indian Immigration and Customs Department transferred her to the Tehsildar Attari of the District Administration. Hamida was then taken to Guru Nanak Dev Hospital in Amritsar for medical treatment.

Hamida Bano recounted her harrowing journey: "I was fraudulently brought to Pakistan by a travel agent. I never imagined I would return to India. But just a year ago, the Indian Embassy contacted me and informed me that I could return. I had lived in Mumbai before this ordeal. A travel agent had promised to take me to Dubai for a job, but instead, he brought me to Hyderabad in Pakistan's Sindh province. I was terrified."

She also described the hardships she endured in Pakistan: "My life there felt like being a 'Zinda Laash' (living corpse). The Pakistani government never harmed me, though. I used to live with a Sindhi man who married me. But after 12 years, he passed away."

Hamida further expressed her gratitude, saying, "I want to thank both the Indian and Pakistani governments for their assistance in helping me return to my homeland."

In 2022, Waliullah Maroof, a local YouTuber, brought attention to Hamida's plight.

Temple modelled after Ram Mandir to be constructed in US

Thiruvananthapuram, Dec 17 (IANS) A temple modelled after Ayodhya's Ram Mandir will be constructed in the U.S. by the Swami Satyananda Saraswati Foundation in Pearland, Houston, for the global Hindu community.

As part of the Kerala Hindus of North America conference, the foundation aims to perform a Balalaya Pratishta ceremony at a powerful, divine location on November 23, 2025.

The process of submitting the key components of the temple to local authorities has already begun. The first phase of construction is expected to be completed by November 24, 2026.

This phase will include a large ashram, Hanuman Pratishta modelled after the Ayodhya Temple, and other deity installations along with family temple concepts.

By November 24, 2027, the formation of a global financial institution will take place to promote Sanatan Dharma and strengthen Hindus worldwide.

Additionally, the establishment of the Sanatan Hindu University will be completed, aimed at integrating Vedic knowledge with modern sciences.



The coordinator of the project Ranjith Pillai said that this initiative aims to officially link the new temple with their family temples.

The new temple will be located facing the famous Sri Meenakshi Temple.

Spanning five acres, the temple aims to symbolise world peace.

A unique opportunity has been created to bring a handful of soil from family temples or other local deities' temples in Kerala and integrate it into the new temple land.

The official announcement of the temple construction was made during a ceremony with prayers led by the Atukal Thantri Vasudev Bhattathiri.

Prominent figures such as former Union Ministers Rajeev Chandrasekhar and V. Muraleedharan, former Governor Kummanam Rajasekharan, SNDP Yogam Vice President Tushar Vellapally, Ayyappa Sevasangham President M. Sangeeth Kumar, Swami Krishnanandagiri from Mumbai's Ramagiri Ashram, and Kerala Hindus of North America President Nisha Pillai attended the event.

The organisers in a statement said that devotees from Kerala's family temples and local deity temples have a rare opportunity to bring a handful of soil and integrate it with the new temple land.

The coordinator of the project Ranjith Pillai said that this initiative aims to officially link the new temple with their family temples.

The project acknowledges the deep spiritual connection between families and the deities they have traditionally served.

The organisers said that by adhering to the ceremonial traditions of these family deities, spiritual protection is ensured.

Through collecting divine soil from family temples worldwide, the project seeks to manifest the eternal bond of tradition, Ranjith Pillai said.

This temple will serve as a comprehensive initiative that connects Hindu homes spiritually with Ayodhya.

The new Temple, set to become a symbol of world peace, will fulfil the spiritual needs of the American Hindu community while serving as an example of cultural unity and involvement.

The primary goal of the foundation is to create a world filled with prosperity and peace by combining spiritual strength, financial stability, and Vedic wisdom.

The project aims to promote spiritual unity, protect cultural heritage, and empower the global Hindu community.

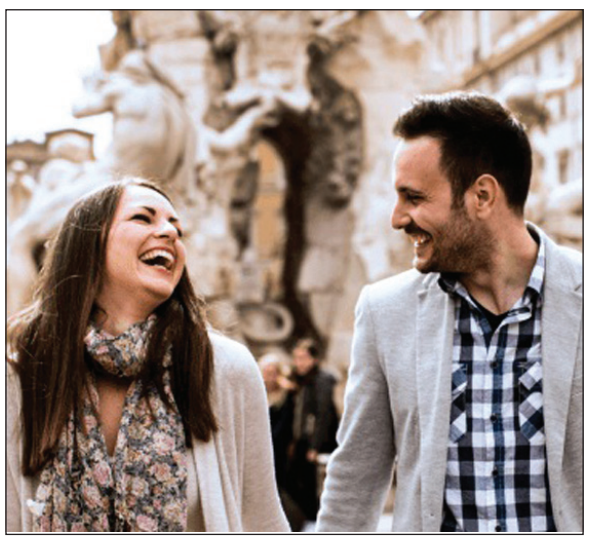
Foundation officials also noted that many people have expressed support for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Italian population keeps ageing in 2023

Rome, Dec 17 (IANS) Italy's population continued to age in 2023, with a growing disproportion between older adults and children, the country's National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) stated.

The median age in the country had reached 46.6 years by December 31, 2023, marking a 0.2 per cent increase from 2022, according to the ISTAT's latest census report released on Monday, Xinhua news agency reported.

Between 2022 and 2023, the share of people aged 0-14 fell to 12.2 per cent from 12.4 per cent.



The proportion of those aged 15-64 remained at 63.5 per cent, while the percentage of individuals over 65 years old rose to 24.3 per cent from 24 per cent.

ISTAT emphasised the aging trend by comparing the ratio of people aged 65 and older to children under six: "In 2023, there were 5.8 elderly people for every child at the national level." This ratio was up from 5.6 in 2022, and significantly higher from 3.8 in 2011.

The country's population declined by approximately 26,000 people (or 0.4 per 1000) to 58.9 million by the end of 2023, ISTAT reported. Meanwhile, the number of non-Italian residents grew by 21.8 per 1000, raising their share of the total population to 8.9 per cent from 8.7 per cent in 2022.

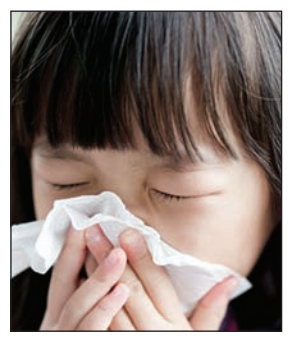
At the European Union (EU) level, Italy was the oldest among the 27 member states in 2023, according to previous statistics by Eurostat.

As of January 1, 2024, the EU's overall population increased by over 1.6 million, reaching an estimated 449.2 million people. However, the growth was uneven, Eurostat noted, indicating population increases in 20 EU countries and declining in another seven, including Italy, Greece, and Poland.

Study links PM2.5 with incidence and mortality rates of SARS-CoV-2 virus

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) While the rapid spread of Covid-19 can be attributed mainly to the high transmissibility of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, a new study has linked the high incidence and mortality rates with environmental factors, particularly with PM2.5. Researchers from the National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University in Taiwan proposed the theory that PM2.5 influenced the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and the subsequent severity of the disease.

Many previous studies have demonstrated a correlation between the morbidity of Covid-19 and air



pollution levels. The studies hinted that PM2.5 may act as an environmental carrier facilitating the transmission of SARS-CoV-2.

The novel research, published in the Journal of Hazardous Materials, in mice, found that PM2.5 instillation induced the protein abundance of ACE2 -- the receptor for SARS-CoV-2 -- and then increased SARS-CoV-2 pseudovirus infection in vitro and in vivo. "Our current results provide the first in vitro and in vivo evidence that PM2.5 exposure increased ACE2 expression and deteriorated SARS-CoV-2 infection. PM2.5 instillation dysregulated the expression of RAS proteins, increased the protein abundance of ACE and ACE2 in the lungs of mice, and upregulated the morbidity of SARS-CoV-2," the team said in the paper.

Women's workforce in Indian tech sector to grow 5.5 pc annually in next three years

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) The overall annual growth in the women's workforce in the tech sector is anticipated to be 5.5 per cent over the next three years, according to a report.

The report by TeamLease Digital showed that the Women's Workforce Participation Rate (WPR) in the tech industry in India is projected to experience growth, rising from 10.8 per cent in 2022 to an estimated 14.9 per cent by 2027.

Companies are actively recruiting women to lead innovation and bring unique perspectives to high-demand tech roles. As more women join the workforce in India, they account for 1.92 mn of the total tech workforce in India.

The rise of women in tech to 35 per cent by 2027 in Global Capability Centers (GCCs), highlighting in-demand roles and challenges faced.



Efforts are needed to bridge the gender gap and provide equal opportunities for women in tech. For women aspiring to make their mark in technology, the financial year 2024-25 presents significant opportunities in various emerging and critical domains, the report said.

As per the report, the top tech roles where women are in high demand include data scientists and analytics professionals.

These are the experts who are skilled in analysing vast datasets to uncover patterns, trends, and insights that can drive innovation and efficiency. Roles including data scientist, data analyst, and ML engineer are the most sought-after roles for women in tech.

The field of cybersecurity also offers women a chance to safeguard digital assets and protect sensitive information. Roles including security analyst, security engineer, and ethical hacker are among the popular choices for women.

Cloud computing is another tech area where women are in high demand. The demand for cloud professionals is expected to reach 2 million by 2025, driven by the increasing need for businesses to migrate to the cloud, the report said. Due to the cloud adoption acceleration, roles like cloud architect, cloud engineer, and DevOps engineer are becoming the most sought-after roles.

Further, even as AI and ML are reshaping industries, from healthcare to finance, women are stepping into roles as AI research scientists, ML engineers, and NLP specialists, developing intelligent systems and automating processes.

Women are also excelling as UX/UI designers, crafting intuitive and aesthetically pleasing digital interfaces. These roles require creativity and technical knowledge of design tools like Figma, Sketch, and Adobe XD.

Western countries push Russia towards red line, provoking response: Putin



Moscow, Dec 17 (IANS) The West is pushing Russia towards its red line, leaving Moscow no choice but to respond, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at an expanded meeting of the collegium of the Russian Defence Ministry.

Western countries are using a false Russian threat to scare their populations while pushing Moscow to its red line and forcing a response, said Putin on Monday, adding that the West wages hybrid wars and pursue a policy of containment concerning states they oppose, including Russia.

He said that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is ramping up military spending, deploying strike groups near Russia's borders, and increasing the number of US troops in Europe, with the total now exceeding 100,000, Xinhua news agency reported.

He said the bloc is also strengthening its presence in the Asia-Pacific region while forming US-led military alliances that weaken the region's long-standing security architecture.

"US efforts aimed at creating and preparing high-precision ground-based weapons with a range of up to 5,500 km for deployment in forward zones are concerning," Putin said, warning that if the US moves forward with the deployment of such missiles, Russia will lift its own unilateral restrictions previously imposed within the framework of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

At the same time, he noted that the Russian army and navy are being modernised, and 95 per cent of the country's strategic nuclear forces are now equipped with modern weapons.

Putin said the mass production of the country's new Oreshnik intermediate-range missile systems will begin in the near future.

He added that Russia's strategic nuclear forces are crucial in maintaining sovereignty and territorial integrity, adding that it is also "important to keep non-strategic nuclear forces in constant combat readiness and continue ... conducting exercises to practice their use".

He warned that if the US proceeds with the deployment of such missiles, Russia would respond by lifting all voluntary restrictions it has imposed on its own missile deployments.

The Russian president further emphasised that the country's nuclear arsenal is intended solely for deterrence, underscoring its strategic value in maintaining balance.

Putin also highlighted the continued progress of Russian forces in Ukraine, claiming that 189 settlements had been brought under Russian control this year.

Hungary blocks EU funding for arms shipments to Ukraine



Budapest, Dec 17 (IANS) Hungary has once again vetoed the European Union's (EU) allocation of 6.5 billion euros ($6.83 billion) to member states supplying weapons to Ukraine, Foreign and Trade Minister Peter Szijjarto announced in Brussels.

Speaking after a meeting of the EU Foreign Affairs Council, Szijjarto on Monday confirmed on his official Facebook page that he had blocked disbursement of the funds from the European Peace Facility, citing Hungary's long-standing opposition to mandatory contributions of arms shipments, Xinhua news agency reported.

"Hungary has not supplied weapons before, has not contributed to any arms shipments," Szijjarto said. He stressed that while Hungary would not interfere with member states funding such initiatives voluntarily, it would not support making these contributions compulsory.

Szijjarto also voiced his disapproval of the proposed relocation of an EU coordination unit to Kyiv and deploy advisors for security sector reforms in Ukraine. He called these measures "highly dangerous and escalating the conflict," highlighting the associated risks of personnel deployment within an EU framework.

Moreover, the minister rejected proposals to sanction Russia's UN ambassador and its Olympic Committee, stating, "Mixing sports with geopolitics is unacceptable."

Describing Brussels' approach as a "pro-war strategy" that ignored a "new reality" shaped by recent Russian battlefield gains and the reelection of US President Donald Trump, the minister expressed broader criticism of EU policies.

Israeli military intercepts missile from Yemen

Jerusalem, Dec 17 (IANS) Forces in Yemen launched a missile toward central Israel, triggering sirens in Tel Aviv and other cities, Israel's military said.

Israel's air defence systems intercepted the missile, and "sirens sounded due to the possibility of falling shrapnel from the interception," the military said on Monday in a statement.

Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said no injuries have been reported.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Since November last year, the Houthi group, which controls much of northern Yemen, has been conducting missile and drone attacks on targets in Israel, allegedly to show solidarity with Palestinians amid their conflict with Israelis in the Gaza Strip.

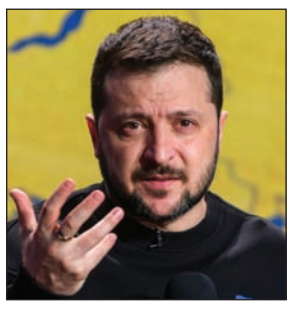
Earlier on Monday, Israel's military reported intercepting a drone and a missile launched from Yemen.

Although the missile was intercepted, Israeli emergency services confirmed that five people were injured while seeking shelter in Tel Aviv and other central areas of the country.

Since the beginning of 2024, a coalition led by the US has been conducting air strikes that it said are targeting Houthi locations in parts of Yemen in response to attacks by the group in the Red Sea. The counter-attacks have been occasionally met with retaliation from the group.

In solidarity with Gaza, which has been facing an Israeli war since October 7, 2023, the Houthis have targeted Israeli cargo ships or those associated with Tel Aviv in the Red Sea with missiles and drones, expressing determination to continue operations until the end of the onslaught on the enclave.

Zelensky shares video of Russian soldier allegedly setting fire to dead North Korea soldier



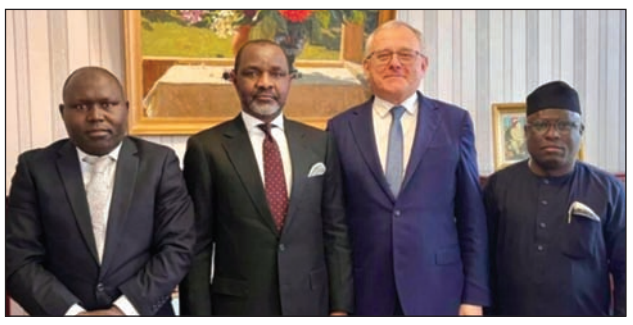
Seoul, Dec 17 (IANS) Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has shared a video he claimed to be of a Russian soldier setting fire to the body of a North Korean soldier killed in combat against Ukraine, saying that the move aimed to hide the presence of North Korean troops fighting alongside Russia.

Zelensky made the claim in a video he uploaded to social media on Tuesday. It contained footage showing what appeared to be a partially burning corpse, with the English subtitle "Russians try to conceal the faces of North Korean soldiers even after death". The 30-second video also featured a close-up of a suspected North Korean soldier and other footage showing a soldier with Asian features saying 'No, no' to the camera while another figure says in the background, "Tell him to put on a mask. Put the mask on."

Zelensky denounced the Russian military for deploying North Korean troops and attempting to conceal their presence, saying Moscow should be held accountable for such a "demonstration of disrespect". "Russia not only sends the North Korean troops to storm Ukrainian positions, but also tries to conceal losses of these people," he said.

"And now, after first combats with our warriors, Russians are trying… to literally burn the faces of North Korean soldiers killed in battle." The release of the video came amid concerns over Russia and North Korea's deepening military cooperation and criticism that the deployed North Korean troops will be used as 'cannon fodder' in the war, Yonhap news agency reported.

Nigeria reopens embassy in North Korea following years of COVID-19 closure



Seoul, Dec 17 (IANS) Nigeria has reopened its embassy in North Korea following years of closure over the COVID-19 pandemic, joining a group of countries resuming diplomatic activities in the North.

Patrick ImoduImologhome, Nigeria's charge d'affaires, disclosed a plan for the embassy reopening at a meeting in Pyongyang last Wednesday with Russian Ambassador to North Korea Alexandr Matsegora, the Russian Embassy in Pyongyang wrote on its Facebook account last Thursday, Yonhap news agency reported.

Imologhome, who had "recently arrived" in North Korea, shared his plans to reopen the Nigerian Embassy in Pyongyang after a long suspension caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it said.

It did not specify other details related to the embassy reopening, but the African country is presumed to have restored it to resume diplomatic activities in the North.

Russia's embassy in Pyongyang said in a Telegram message in early December that representatives from diplomatic corps from countries, including Nigeria and India, attended an event to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

North Korea and Nigeria established diplomatic ties in 1976. Reports from a UN panel of experts have shown that Pyongyang is suspected of having maintained an arms trade or business deals with Nigeria in violation of UN sanctions against North Korea.

North Korea shut down its border in early 2020 over the COVID-19 pandemic, forcing foreign diplomats or field workers at international organizations to withdraw from the isolated country. In August 2023, the North began reopening its border.

Of African countries, only Nigeria and Egypt have diplomatic presences in North Korea.

Eight countries -- China, Laos, Mongolia, Vietnam, Cuba, Russia, Syria and Egypt -- had been running their diplomatic missions in Pyongyang in a limited manner even in the midst of the pandemic by leaving some embassy staff behind, according to South Korea's unification ministry.

Nicaragua, known for its hard-line stance against the US, newly opened an embassy in Pyongyang earlier this year.

At least four killed in US Wisconsin school shooting

New York, Dec 17 (IANS) At least four people have been killed and five others injured from a shooting at the Abundant Life Christian School in Madison, Wisconsin, with the suspected shooter, a juvenile believed to be a student, also dead, police said.

The Madison Police Department declined to provide details about the four people killed during a shooting at a Christian school Monday morning, citing the need to contact the victims' families before releasing details, Xinhua news agency reported.

Officials are working to reunite students with their parents. About 390 students from kindergarten through 12th grade attend the school, according to ABC News. Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives have responded.

कार्यालय, नगर परिषद, कपाली

E-mail :- kapalinp@gmail.com

आम–सूचना

एतद् द्वारा आमजन को सूचित किया जाता है कि कपाली नगर परिषद द्वारा मौजा–रूगड़ी, थाना सं०–330, खाता सं०–219, प्लॉट सं०–219, रकवा–1.50 एकड़ भूमि पर Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) निर्माण किया जाना है। यदि किसी ग्रामीण को आपत्ति अथवा सुझाव हो तो कार्यालय अवधि में दिनांक 24.12.2024 तक अंचल कार्यालय, चाण्डिल में लिखित रूप से आपत्ति दर्ज कर सकते है एवं निर्धारित तिथि के पश्चात किसी प्रकार का आपत्ति मान्य नहीं होगा।

कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी,
नगर परिषद कपाली।

PR 342205 Urban Development and Housing(24-25)D

कृषि, पशुपालन एवं सहकारिता विभाग (कृषि प्रभाग)
कार्यालय :– जिला कृषि पदाधिकारी, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा

अति अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा सूचना

राज्य सरकार के अधीन मिट्टी जाँच प्रयोगशाला, चक्रधरपुर में वित्तीय वर्ष 2024–25 केन्द्रीय योजनान्तर्गत कृषि प्रयोगशालाओं की स्थापना एवं सुदृढ़ीकरण योजना के अन्तर्गत मशीन, उपकरण, रसायन आदि के क्रय हेतु निर्माता / निबंधित प्रतिश्ठान / निबंधित आपूर्तिकर्त्ता / अधिकृत विक्रेताओं से दो बीड सिस्टम (तकनीकी बीड एवं प्राईस बीड) के अनुसार दो अलग–अलग बंद लिफाफे में पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

मुहरबंद पुनर्निविदा जिला कृशि पदाधिकारी, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा के पदनाम से प्राप्त किया जायेगा।

निविदादाताओं को पुनर्निविदा के साथ अग्रधन राशि के रूप में जिला कृशि पदाधिकारी, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा के नाम से 15000.00 (पंद्रह हजार रूपये) का बैंक ड्राफ्ट जमा करना होगा। मशीन, उपकरण एवं रसायनों के नाम की सूची, तकनीकी विवरण एवं पुनर्निविदा की शर्ते जिला कृशि कार्यालय, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा से कार्यालय अवधि में प्रकाशन की तिथि से दिनांक 23.12.2024 के 5:00 बजे अपराह्न तक प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

पुनर्निविदा बंद लिफाफे में दिनांक 23.12.2024 के 05:00 बजे अपराह्न तक जिला कृषि पदाधिकारी, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा द्वारा प्राप्त किया जायेगा एवं पुनर्निविदा दिनांक 24.12.2024 के अपराह्न 11:00 बजे जिला कृशि पदाधिकारी, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा के कार्यालय कक्ष में खोला जाएगा।

बिना कारण बताये पुनर्निविदा को रद्द करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी को सुरक्षित होगा।

जिला कृषि पदाधिकारी
पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा

PR 342262 (West Singhbhum)24-25*D

कार्यालय : असैनिक शल्य चिकित्सक सह मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी
पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर

E-mail id : cs.psinghbhum@gmail.com

सूचना

NHM अंतर्गत जिला स्तरीय प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या 02 / 2023 द्वारा पूर्वी सिंहभूम जिले के विभिन्न पदों यथा 1. ANM(RCH) 2. Staff Nurse(RCH) 3. Pharmacist (RBSK), 4. Block Data Manager 5. GNM 6. Social Worker 7. Phycriatist Social Worker 8. Dental Technician (DEIC) 9. Ophthalmic Assistant 10. Councellor Dist. NCD 11. Nutritional Councellor (MTC) 12. Staff Nurse (DEIC) अनुबंध पर नियुक्ति हेतु चयन समिति के निर्णयानुसार दिनांक 16.12.24.को उपायुक्त, पूर्वी सिंहभूम की अध्यक्षता में हुई बैठक में उपरोक्त सभी पदों के लिए दिनांक . 24.12.24. संध्या 05:00 बजे तक Rejected अभ्यर्थियों से आपत्ति आवेदन प्राप्त करने का निर्णय लिया गया है। Screening Committee द्वारा Accepted एवं Rejected अभ्यर्थियों की पदवार सूची जिले के Website www.jamshedpur.nic.in पर प्रकाशित किया गया है। साथ ही असैनिक शल्य चिकित्सक सह मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी, कार्यालय, पूर्वी सिंहभूम में एवं उपायुक्त कार्यालय, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर के सूचना पट्ट पर भी प्रकाशित किया गया है।

अतः जिन अभ्यर्थियों को सूची में Rejected किया गया है वैसे अभ्यर्थियों को सूचित किया जाता है कि दिनांक 24.12.24...संध्या 05:00 बजे तक अपना–अपना आपत्ति आवेदन साक्ष्य सहित असैनिक शल्य चिकित्सक सह मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी, कार्यालय पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर में जमा कर सकते हैं, ताकि आपत्ति के निराकरण के पश्चात अग्रेतर कार्रवाई की जा सके। उक्त निर्धारित तिथि के बाद आवेदन स्वीकार नहीं किया जायेगा।

असैनिक शल्य चिकित्सक सह मुख्य चिकित्सा
पदाधिकारी, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर

PR 342252 Health Med Edu and Family Welfare (24-25)_D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर।

अल्पकालीन ई0–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

अल्पकालीन ई0–निविदा सूचना संख्या– E-RDSD/JSR/13/2024-25/RE/2nd Call

1.कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :

क्र0 सं0	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रू0)	अग्रधन की राशि (रू0)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (रू0)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	निविदा Call सं0
1	पूर्वी सिंहभूम जिला के धालभूमगढ़ प्रखण्ड अंतर्गत रावताड़ा पंचायत के मौजा हाथीबारी में हाथीबारी नाला पर उच्चस्तरीय पुल निर्माण।	2,31,43,500.00	4,63,000.00	10,000.00	15 माह	2nd Call
2	पूर्वी सिंहभूम (जमशेदपुर) जिला के जमशेदपुर प्रखण्ड अंतर्गत पंचायत हूरलुंग के ग्राम नूतनडीह से गरूड़बासा के बीच पुल का निर्माण।	1,58,57,500.00	3,18,000.00	10,000.00	15 माह	2nd Call

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 30.12.2024
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय – दिनांक 30.12.2024 से दिनांक 07.01.2025 को अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक।
4. ई–निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेश प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर।
5. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय – 09.01.2025 अपराह्न 02:00 बजे।
6. ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेश प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर।
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोश्ठ का दूरभाश सं0 – 09431990319
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,
जमशेदपुर।

PR 342208 Rural Development(24-25)D

झारखण्ड शिक्षा परियोजना, सरायकेला–खरसावाँ
समग्र शिक्षा

E-Mail : ssaseraikella@gmail.com, ssaseraikella@rediffmail.com, Phone : 06597 - 234819
17, 2nd Floor, Collectorate Building, Gourangdih, PO-Seraikella, Jharkhand-833219

"अपील"
(3-18 आयुवर्ग के सभी बच्चों का सर्वेक्षण)

निःशुल्क एवं अनिवार्य बाल शिक्षा अधिकार अधिनियम 2009 के तहत् 6–14 आयु वर्ग के सभी बच्चों को निःशुल्क शिक्षा पूर्ण करने का मौलिक अधिकार है।

3–18 आयुवर्ग के सभी बच्चों का विद्यालयों में नामांकन उनका विद्यालय में ठहराव एवं गुणवत् शिक्षा उपलब्ध कराने हेतु झारखण्ड शिक्षा परियोजना सतत् प्रयासरत् हैं। परन्तु अभी भी जिले में कुछ बच्चे ऐसे हैं, जो विद्यालय में नामांकित तो हैं, लेकिन लगातार 30 दिनों या उससे अधिक दिन विद्यालय में अनुपस्थित रहते हैं। कुछ बच्चे ऐसे हैं जो होटल, ढाबा, ईंटभट्टों आदि में काम करने लगते हैं, जिससे उनकी पढ़ाई बीच में ही बाधित हो जाती है। ऐसे बच्चों के लिये विभाग (NIOS) द्वारा उनकी पढ़ाई को जारी रखने की निःशुल्क सुविधा उपलब्ध कराती है।

जिले के सभी प्रखण्डों में 3–18 आयुवर्ग के बच्चों का शिशु पंजी अद्यतन कार्यक्रम के तहत हाउस होल्ड सर्वे का कार्य पोषक क्षेत्र के विद्यालय शिक्षकोंके द्वारा किया जा रहा है। प्रत्येक घरों में जाकर 3–18 आयुवर्ग के बच्चों की जानकारी ली जा रही है। सर्व साधारण से अपील है कि आप सभी सर्वेक्षणकर्त्ताओं को अपने परिवार के बच्चों के संबंध में सही जानकारी देते हुये सहयोग प्रदान करेंगे।

पोषक क्षेत्र के बच्चों के सभी माता–पिता / अभिभावकों / ग्रामीण एवं शहरी क्षेत्र के युवा वर्ग / पत्रकार बंधु / माननीय जनप्रतिनिधि / स्वयं सेवी संस्थाएँ एवं सभी भाई–बहनों से अपील है कि हमसब मिलकर इस कार्यक्रम में प्रत्यक्ष / अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से अपनी सहभागिता सुनिश्चित करते हुए राज्य में शिक्षा के स्तर को ऊपर उठाने में अपने सामाजिक दायित्व का निर्वहन करेंगे।

जिला शिक्षा अधीक्षक–सह–
अपर जिला कार्यक्रम पदाधिकारी
झा0शि0परि0, सरायकेला–खरसावाँ

जिला शिक्षा पदाधिकारी–सह–
जिला कार्यक्रम पदाधिकारी
झा0शि0परि0, सरायकेला–खरसावाँ

PR.NO 342182 Jharkhand Education Project Council(24-25):D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, चाईबासा

E-mail Id- eercdchaibasa-jhr@nic.in

शुद्धि पत्र

कार्यपालक अभियंता, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, चाईबासा का E- Tender Reference No. RCD/CHAIBASA/2024-25/19 दिनांक 30.11.2024 एवं PR 340896 West Singhbhum (24-25):D द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा में निम्नांकित संशोधन किया जाता है :–

क्र०सं०	विवरण	पूर्व के आमंत्रित निविदा में तिथि एवं समय	संशोधित तिथि एवं समय
04	Date of Publication of Tender on website	16-12-2024 at 11:30 AM	20-12-2024 at 11:30 AM,
05	Last date/Time for receipt of bids	23-12-2024 up to 03:00 PM	27-12-2024 up to 03:00 PM
06	Date of opening of Bid	24.12.2024 at 11:30 AM	28.12.2024 at 03:30 PM

शेष शर्तें यथावत् रहेगी।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
पo निo विo,पथ प्रमण्डल, चाईबासा

PR 342229 (West Singhbhum)24-25*D

झारखण्ड सरकार
श्रम, नियोजन, प्रशिक्षण एवं कौशल विकास विभाग, जिला नियोजनालय, प० सिंहभूम, चाईबासा

भर्त्ती कैम्प– 21 दिसम्बर 2024, भर्त्ती कैम्प सूचना

राज्य के शिक्षित बेरोजगार युवाओं को निजी क्षेत्र के प्रतिष्ठानों में नियोजन प्राप्त करने का अवसर उपलब्ध कराने के उद्देश्य से श्रम, नियोजन, प्रशिक्षण एवं कौशल विकास विभाग, जिला नियोजनालय, चाईबासा द्वारा "एक दिवसीय भर्त्ती कैम्प" का आयोजन दिनांक 21.12.2024 (शनिवार) को प्रातः 10:00 बजे पूर्वाह्न से 03:00 बजे अपराह्न तक Govt. ITI, चाईबासा में किया जा रहा है। कैम्प में निम्नांकित नियोजकों ने उपस्थित रहने की सहमति दी है।

रिक्ति की विवरणी निम्न प्रकार है :–

Sl. No.	Name of Employer	Name of Post	No of Vacancies	Essential Qualification Required	Pass Out Year	Age (Min/Max)	Pay & Allowances	Job Location
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	SUZUKI MOTORS, GUJRAT	FTC/APP	200	10th pass- min. 40% & ITI Pass- Min 50% (ITI Trade Fitter/Turner/Welder/Machinist/Electrician/Mot. Mech./Die. Mech./Tra.mech./Tool & Die Maker/PPO/CoE (Auto.)/Painter Gen/Wireman/Sheet metal/Electronics	FTC-2017-24 APP-2023 & 2024	18-24	FTC- 24,500/- APP- 18,300/-	Hansalpur Plant (Gujrat)
2	KEVALYA FINANCIAL SERVICE PVT. LTD. RING ROAD, RANCHI	CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER	13	10th Pass (Candidate must have a bike)	-	18-32	12,000/- +2500 (fuel allowance) +PF, ESIC etc.	Hata, Jagannathpur, Chaibasa

अतः योग्य एवं इच्छुक उम्मीदवार जो पूर्व में निबंधित नहीं है वे झारखण्ड के किसी भी नियोजनालय में अपना निबंधन अथवा www. jharniyojan.jharkhand.gov.in पर अपना निबंधन कराते हुए उपरोक्त भर्त्ती कैम्प में नियोजक के प्रतिनिधी के समक्ष नियोजनालय का निबंधन कार्ड / स्थानीय निवासी प्रमाण–पत्र / आधार कार्ड / शैक्षणिक योग्यता / आई0टी0आई प्रमाण–पत्र मूल एवं / Bio-Data के साथ दिनांक– 21-12-2024 को साक्षात्कार हेतु Govt. ITI, चाईबासा में उपस्थित होगें। साक्षात्कार पूर्वाह्न 10:00 बजे से अपराह्न 03.00 बजे तक होगा। रिक्तियां निजी क्षेत्र की है। अतः चयन प्रक्रिया में नियोजनालय का कोई हस्तक्षेप नहीं होगा। साक्षात्कार में उपस्थित होने के लिए किसी प्रकार का यात्रा भत्ता देय नहीं होगा।

विश्वासभाजन, ह0 / –
जिला नियोजन पदाधिकारी
प० सिंहभूम, चाईबासा

PR 342256 West Singhbhum(24-25)#D

Health

Different fungi groups behind allergy-induced sniffles, asthma: Study



New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) People with allergy-induced sniffles and asthma may have different fungal colonies or mycobiomes in their noses, finds a study on Tuesday.

The common respiratory disease, formally called allergic rhinitis, has frequently been associated with asthma. Typical symptoms of allergic rhinitis include sneezing, itching, inflamed nasal mucous membranes, and a blocked and runny nose. It's often comorbid with asthma, which also involves inflammation and obstructed airways.

Researchers from the University of Porto, Portugal, showed that this association may be because of different fungal colonies or mycobiomes in their noses.

"We showed that allergic rhinitis samples displayed a significantly higher fungal diversity and a different fungal community structure compared to those of healthy controls," said Dr. Luís Delgado of the University of Porto.

"This may suggest that allergic rhinitis increases the diversity and changes the composition of the upper airway's microbiome."

To study the nasal mycobiome, the researchers recruited 214 participants from among children and young adults attending an immunology and asthma clinic in Porto. About 155 patients had both allergic rhinitis and asthma, while 47 were only diagnosed with allergic rhinitis and 12 with asthma. The team also enrolled 125 healthy controls.

The team analysed 306 samples, taken via nasal swabs. DNA sequencing revealed Ascomycota and Basidiomycota as the most common fungi families across all samples. In these two families, 14 genera dominated the mycobiomes.

"Among these dominant genera we detected common fungi that have been recognised in humans as allergenic or opportunistic pathogenic fungi," said Delgado. "This suggests that the nasal cavity is a major reservoir for fungi that could be involved in allergic rhinitis and asthma."

The findings, published in an article in the Frontiers in Microbiology journal, showed a very clear and statistically significant difference between the patients with respiratory diseases as well as the healthy controls.

The fungi sampled from patients with both allergic rhinitis and asthma also showed more evidence of connections between them than the fungi in the healthy participants' noses and those who only had allergic rhinitis. This could indicate that the fungi are affecting the nose's immune environment, the researchers said.

Sara Ali Khan reveals her "favourite companion"



Mumbai, Dec 17 (IANS) For Sara Ali Khan, her "favourite companion" is the setting sun, revealed the actress.

Sara took to Instagram, where she shared a picture montage of herself. In the image, the actress's back is towards the camera. She is seen wearing a bright sunny yellow saree paired with an aqua blue blouse. The daughter of actor Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh is seen looking at the setting sun behind the mountains.

For the caption, she wrote: "Favourite companion while my moon shows up."

The actress, who was last seen in the "Ae Watan Mere Watan", a historical biographical film about India's struggle for freedom in 1942, based on the life of Usha Mehta, recently celebrated six years of her debut film "Kedarnath" starring late star Sushant Singh Rajput. Sara thanked god for giving her a "lifetime of memories."

She had shared a video featuring a collection of clips of the movie and its BTS. She wrote in the caption, "6 years of Kedarnath. Sometimes it feels like just yesterday and sometimes it feels like a lifetime away… Jai Bholenath. Thank you for making me me. And thank you for giving me a lifetime of memories".

The disaster film talked about the 2013 flash floods in Uttarakhand, and revolved around the inter-faith love story between a wealthy Hindu Brahmin girl whose family owns a lodge and shops near the historic Kedarnath Temple in the Uttarakhand mountains and a Muslim boy who is a 'pithoo' (porter) working in the same vicinity.

As their bond grows closer, the couple face many hiccups, including familial disapproval and contrasting backgrounds; when the sudden rains of the 2013 Uttarakhand floods devastate the region, the duo are forced to survive against the elements and face the ultimate test of their love. The film was written and directed by Abhishek Kapoor, who is known for blockbusters such as 'Rock On!!' and 'Kai Po Che!'.

Justin, Hailey Bieber enjoy 'romantic' getaway in Costa Rica



Los Angeles, Dec 17 (IANS) Couple Justin Bieber and Hailey Baldwin enjoyed a trip to Costa Rica for a romantic getaway and also attended the wedding of their model friends Jessica Lageyre and Joseph Perez. A source said that the couple took some special time alone during their "romantic" vacation, reports aceshowbiz.com During their escapade, Justin shared a series of photographs, showcasing moments from their weekend, which included his wife making a kissy face against the singer's cheek, a palm tree at sunset, the "Baby" hitmaker kissing Hailey, and his wife posing in a rose-emblazoned red dress. Despite chatter about marriage troubles, the couple were brushing them off last month. An insider stated that they were doing well and ignoring any speculations. Justin and Hailey celebrated their sixth wedding anniversary in September after previously tying the knot in a New York City courthouse in 2018 and having a larger wedding in South Carolina in 2019.During the wedding celebration, the two danced the night away at the after-party. Justin wore his shirt mostly off, while Hailey looked stunning in an off-the-shoulder wine-colored dress.

Bhagyashree turns fitness coach, talks about benefits of 'crab walk'



Mumbai, Dec 17 (IANS) Veteran actress and fitness enthusiast Bhagyashree on Tuesday gave out tips on "crab walk", a form of workout, which she says "improves the core" and helps in strengthening the arms.

Crab walk is a form of animal flow, a ground-based, bodyweight movement that blends yoga, gymnastics, and animal-inspired movements to create a workout.

The actress took to Instagram, where she shared a reel video of her doing crab walk and talking about the benefits of the workout.

In the clip, she is heard saying: "Everyone knows that a crab cannot walk straight. But it is also true that a crab does not have a fat stomach. Crab walk increases core strength and arm strength. But it also strengthens the glutes. So let's learn crab walk in Tuesday Tips."

She added: "Today's Tuesday tip is a simple exercise which will keep your hamstrings flexible. It not only strengthens the core but also strengthens the glutes and arms. Balance and coordination is also very important."

Tagging it as a "full body" workout, the 55-year-old actress said: "This is a full body exercise. And this is a perfect warm-up for those who do regular exercise. Tuesday Tips for today."

Bhagyashree captioned the clip: "Animal Flow : Try the crab walk today... it a full body workout. Tighten your core, lift your body into an inverted table position and walk. It works to improve core and arm strengthen obviously as seen .. but also helps in activating your hamstrings and glute muscles."

She suggested: "Do it under instructions of your trainer, as you shouldn't hurt yourself."

On the acting front, the actress was last seen in the 2023 film titled "Sajini Shinde Ka Viral Video", a mystery film directed by Mikhil Musale. It also stars Nimrat Kaur, Radhika Madan, and Subodh Bhave.

On her birthday, Pratibha Ranta prays for 'Laapataa Ladies' to find a spot in Oscars' top 15 shortlist



Mumbai, Dec 17 (IANS) Actress Pratibha Ranta, who is known for her work in 'Laapataa Ladies', is celebrating her birthday on Tuesday. As the actress turned a year older, she said that she is praying for 'Laapataa Ladies' to find a place in the Oscars' top 15 shortlist which might be announced on Tuesday. 'Laapataa Ladies' is India's official entry for the upcoming edition of the Oscars. The actress expressed gratitude, and revealed how she'd like to spend the day, and her excitement for the Oscars shortlist. Pratibha told IANS, "This year has been the most thankful year of my life, and I'm really looking forward for the coming years ahead. I would like to start my 24th birthday by visiting the temple because I think that God has been really kind to me, and I just want to go and thank him for all the blessings that He's given me. I'm going to pray for everyone around me because the kind of support I've received from audiences around me has been magical and beautiful. So, I just want to go and thank God for what has happened in my life. I am very grateful". Opening up about the Oscars shortlist, Pratibha shared, "When I got to know that Oscars' top 15 shortlist might be out on my birthday, I was praying for that to happen, and if that happens, I think that will be the biggest birthday gift for me. Fingers crossed, I'm praying every day and night for the Oscars shortlist. I hope it happens on my birthday".

Pratibha Ranta has been making waves in the entertainment industry with her exceptional performances, highlighting her mettle as a power-packed performer. Her ability to pull off complex and emotionally heavy roles has garnered her praise and appreciation from the masses and critics and has left them eagerly waiting to see more of her.

Ananya Panday: Deepika Padukone's a woman who stands up for every person on the set



Mumbai, Dec 17 (IANS) Actress Ananya Panday has heaped praise on Deepika Padukone and shared that the Bollywood star's a woman who stands up for every person on the set.

Sharing an anecdote about Deepika Padukone, Ananya said: "When I started out in the industry, I didn't really know that one could really stand up and reinforce what they want. I used to simply do what I was asked to do."

"Deepika is a woman who stands up for every person on the set, in a very polite way. Because whenever a girl speaks up she is called bossy, or difficult to work with, but she used to convey her needs in a very polite and empathetic way, which made me realise that there is a way in which you can do this," added the actress, who worked with Deepika in "Gehraiyaan."

The "Call Me Bae" actress was seen on the latest edition of "O Womaniya" 2024 roundtable. She was joined by Richa Chadha, Shakun Batra, Nikkhil Advani, Parvathy Thiruvothu, Ishita Moitra and Stuti Ramachandra, Director and Head of Production, International Originals, Prime Video, India, along with moderator, Anupama Chopra.

Jim Carrey complains about 'Sonic 3': Twice the work for same pay



Mumbai, Dec 17 (IANS) Hollywood actor Jim Carrey has opened up about his role in the upcoming movie "Sonic the Hedgehog 3", where he reprised his role as the villainous Dr. Robotnik.

Speaking about the challenge of portraying both versions of Robotnik, Carrey says jokingly, "Until I realized I was doing twice the work for the same pay. Next time they're going to have to throw in a Chaos Emerald or two. But I had asked the universe for a kickass franchise that would endear itself to children everywhere and appeal to the child inside all of us. And blammo, here I am, right through the Sega wormhole."

Mohammed Mustafa acknowledges the people who made "Mura" a success



Mumbai, Dec 17 (IANS) Filmmaker Mohammed Mustafa has recently acknowledged the key individuals who played a pivotal role in the success of "Mura."

He thanked the team behind the project, highlighting the collective efforts that made "Mura" a success. While speaking exclusively to IANS, Mohammed Mustafa stated, "Mura would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of our cast and crew. I'm honoured to have worked with such a talented team, and I'm grateful for the love and support our film has received."

The Malayalam film "Mura" has reached a significant milestone, successfully completing 50 days in theatres. The film features a stellar ensemble cast, including Hridhu Haroon, Suraj Venjaramoodu, and Mala Parvathy. The movie's supporting cast includes Kani Kusruthi, Kannan Nair, Krish Hassan, and Sibi Joseph. Produced by Riya Shibu under the banner of HR Pictures, the film has Rony Zakaria as its executive producer.

Written by Suresh Babu, the film marked Hridhu Haroon's Malayalam debut. Haroon is widely known for his roles in the Cannes-winning film "All We Imagine As Light," the Amazon web series "Crash Course," the Hindi film "Mumbaikar," and the Tamil film "Thugs." His portrayal of Ananthu has garnered praise from both audiences and critics.

The technical crew behind "Mura" includes Fazil Nasser (Cinematography), Chaman Chacko (Editing) ,Christy Joby (Music Direction) ,Sreenu Kallelil (Art Direction) , Ronex Xavier (Makeup), Nisar Rahmat (Costume Design) ,P.C. Stunds (Action), and Jimith Pirappancode (Production Controller) Marketing and public relations efforts were managed by Pratheesh Sekhar.

"Mura" which released in theatres on November 8, is set to release on Amazon Prime Video this Christmas in four languages: Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi.

Inspired by real-life events in Trivandrum, the movie follows a group of young individuals thrust into a high-stakes mission: to vandalize and break open a vault filled with black money. Their journey, marked by courage, determination, and a hint of rebellion, unfolds amidst gangsters and a relentless police pursuit.

BGT: Hazlewood likely to be out for series as scans confirm calf strain

Brisbane, Dec 17 (IANS) Australia suffered a major injury blow as the experienced seamer Josh Hazlewood is likely to be ruled out of the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy series against India after the scans confirmed he had strained his right calf.

Hazlewood hurt his right calf during Australia's warm-ups on Tuesday morning. He bowled one over in the first session before leaving the field with calf soreness in the first session on Day 4.

The 33-year-old pacer then underwent scans to assess the severity of the injury. Medical scans later in the day confirmed he had strained his right calf and is likely to miss the rest of the series.

"Josh Hazlewood has sustained a right-sided calf strain, which



will prevent him from playing any further part in the Test match against India in Brisbane. He is likely to miss the remainder of the Test series," Cricket Australia said in a statement as quoted by ICC.

"A squad replacement will be made in due course," said a CA spokesperson.

The pacer arrived late on the field at the start of play and appeared to struggle when he began his spell, rarely exceeding 131 kmph. During the drinks break following that over, Hazlewood engaged in an extended discussion with Pat Cummins, Steven Smith, and physio Nick Jones before leaving the field.

Coming into the third Test, Australia made only one change in their playing 11 with Hazlewood replacing Scott Boland. Hazlewood missed the second Test at Adelaide Oval due to a side strain.

In Hazlewood's likely absence, Scott Boland is firmly back in contention to play the Boxing Day Test, starting from December 26 at the MCG.

Notably, Hazlewood hurt the same calf in August ahead of Australia's limited-overs tour of the UK, which led him to miss the T20 series against Scotland, but he featured in matches against England.

Australia and India are locked at 1-1 in the five-match series, with both teams still, to this point, in the running for a World Test Championship Final spot, to be played at Lord's in June 2025.

Gurbaz ruled out of Zimbabwe ODIs with quadriceps and hip flexor injuries

Harare, Dec 17 (IANS) Afghanistan wicketkeeper-batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz has been ruled out of the three-match ODIs series against Zimbabwe due to a Grade 2B quadriceps along with a hip flexor injury, said the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB).



Mohammad Ishaq has been named Gurbaz's replacement for the series, scheduled to commence on Tuesday. The 19-year-old Ishaq, who played five T20Is scoring 76 runs, is yet to make his ODI debut.

ACB said confirmed spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman was rested as the team management has "decided not to rush him back" after injury.

"Additionally, after careful evaluation of Mujeeb Ur Rahman's recovery process, the team management has decided not to rush him back. He will be given a rest from the #ZIMvAFG ODI series, which begins today in Harare," ACB posted on X.

Gurbaz in the three T2OIs against Zimbabwe scored only 26 runs as Afghanistan, after losing the first T2OI, bounced back to win the next two and seal the series 2-1. Mujeeb was sidelined since June due to right phalanx (hand) sprain and only returned to competitive cricket for the first time in five months at the Abu Dhabi T10 on November 21.

Aashravya, Adhiraj, Aditya shine in ITF J30 Tournament in Nepal

Pokhara (Nepal), Dec 17 (IANS) Aashravya Mehra, Adhiraj Thakur and Aditya Mor shone brightly in the International Tennis Federation (ITF) World Tennis Tour J30 Tournament held at Pokhara in Nepal. Aashravya Mehra secured the singles title while the doubles pair of Adhiraj Thakur and Aditya Mor clinched the doubles title overcoming their compatriots Aarav Chawla and Ojas Mehlawat in the final.

In the singles category, seventh seed Aashravya comprehensively beat Nepal's Aarav Samrat Hada 6-3, 6-4 in straight sets. In the semifinals, Aashravya stunned the top seed Xiuyuan Guo of China 6-4, 6-4 in straight sets to book his place in the final. He overcame, the higher-ranked Adhiraj in the quarterfinals 4-6, 6-0, 6-1 in a three-set thriller.

In the doubles final, number one seeds Adhiraj and Aditya Mor got the better of Aarav and Ojas 7-5, 6-2 to walk away with the title. Adhiraj and Aditya beat the Indian pair of Showrya Samala and Prakaash Sarran 6-3, 6-3 while Aarav and Ojas got the better of the Nepalese pair of Pranav Manandhar and Raj Bir Pradhan 6-2, 6-4 to book their places in the finals.

All five players train at the Roundglass Tennis Academy under the guidance of renowned coach and Technical Director of RGTA, Aditya Sachdeva.

3rd Test: Rahul's half-century leads India to 167/6 at lunch on Day 4

Brisbane, Dec 17 (IANS) KL Rahul's 84 steered India to 167/6 at lunch on Day 4 of the third Test against Australia at the Gabba on Tuesday. The visitors still trail Australia by 278 runs.

The opening session of the day was a shared contest between the two sides. Australia bagged two crucial wickets of Rohit Sharma (10) and Rahul (84) while India added 116 runs to the scoreboard in the extended opening session which saw 32 overs being bowled despite a brief rain interruption.

For India, Ravindra Jadeja and Nitish Kumar Reddy are unbeaten at 41 and 7, respectively, with the team still requiring 79 runs to avoid follow-on.

It was not an ideal start for Australia as Steve Smith dropped Rahul on the first ball of the day at the second slip off



Pat Cummins. Rahul was batting on 33 at that time and went on to add 51 more runs to his tally before Smith finally redeemed himself at first slip off Nathan Lyon.

Resuming from an overnight score of 51/4, India desperately needed someone to step up and show resilience. Rahul rose to the challenge and appeared a class apart from his teammates. The Aussies set an attacking field with three slips and a gully, leaving gaps in the covers and point region, tempting Rahul to play his trademark drives. However, he was astute enough to resist the temptation, only going for the shot when the bowlers pitched the ball firmly into his driving zone. He struck his second half-century of the series.

Rahul's maturity was evident in his defense as well, using soft hands and playing close to his body. Cummins tested him persistently with deliveries outside the off-stump, but Rahul wisely left the ball alone or tucked his bat behind his pads.

Meanwhile, skipper Rohit (10) will regret missing another opportunity to make a meaningful contribution in this series. Rohit initially looked composed, showing patience and waiting for the right deliveries to attack. However, he fell victim to a recurring issue - an indecisive poke without moving his feet. Cummins exploited this weakness with a delivery close to off-stump, and Alex Carey completed the catch behind the stumps.

The absence of Josh Hazlewood, who left the field after an uncomfortable opening over, reduced the sting of the Australian bowling attack. Cricket Australia later clarified that Hazlewood, who had missed the second Test in Adelaide due to a side strain, will undergo scans to assess a potential calf injury.

Brief scores: India 167/6 (KL Rahul 84, Ravindra Jadeja 41 not out; Pat Cummins 2-41) trail Australia 445 (Travis Head 152, Steve Smith 101; Jasprit Bumrah 6-76) by 278 runs.

TN govt to felicitate World Chess Champion Gukesh, hand over Rs 5 crore cheque today

Chennai, Dec 17 (IANS) Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin will felicitate World Chess Champion D. Gukesh on Tuesday and him over a Rs 5 crore cheque.

The felicitation ceremony will also be attended by Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin and chess legend Viswanathan Anand.

Gukesh reached Chennai along with his parents on Monday after winning the World Championship in Singapore.

The World Chess Champion was received at the Chennai International Airport by the Additional Chief Secretary (Youth Affairs and Sports



Development) Atulya Misra and Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) Member-Secretary Meghanath Reddy.

Gukesh and his parents were then escorted to a specially decorated vehicle adorned with pictures of the young champion's achievements.

Gukesh, categorised as an "elite sportsperson" by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT), continues to receive financial support under the high-incentive category.

The state government went the extra mile in 2023 by organising the Chennai Grand Masters event to help Gukesh gain FIDE circuit points.

Notably, Gukesh qualified for the Candidates Tournament 2024 only because of his victory in the Chennai event.

His success in the Candidates Tournament earned him a spot in the World Chess Championship, which was held in Singapore.

Gukesh did not have enough circuit points to qualify for the Candidates Tournament, and it was at this point that the Tamil Nadu government stepped in by hosting the event - a move that proved critical to Gukesh's journey to success.

The 18-year-old Gukesh defeated China's Ding Liren 7.5-6.5 in Singapore last week to become the youngest World Champion, breaking the longstanding record of Russian great Garry Kasparov.

Kasparov won the World Chess Championship in 1985 at the age of 22, defeating then-reigning champion Anatoly Karpov.

Interestingly, Gukesh will take on Magnus Carlsen, the world's highest-rated player, at the Norway Chess Tournament next year.

Lanka T10 Super League: Kusal Mendis' batting masterclass helps Jaffna Titans pick another win

Kandy (Sri Lanka), Dec 17 (IANS) Kusal Mendis struck an unbeaten 79 off 23 balls as Jaffna Titans continued their domination of the inaugural Lanka T10 Super League with another scintillating win, beating Colombo Jaguars by nine wickets at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium here on Tuesday.

Chasing a target of 100 runs, Jaffna lost Kevin Wickham early after he was trapped in front of the stumps by Angelo Mathews for 0 off 3.

But wicket-keeper batter Kusal Mendis took the onus on himself and unveiled some power-hitting to help the side go over the line in the 6th over. Mendis chipped in with an unbeaten 79 off 23, a knock that was decorated with five maximums and 11 fours. The right-handed batter stitched a stand of 98 not-out runs for the second wicket along with Charith Asalanka who struck 16 not out off 8.

Earlier in the day, Jaffna bowlers picked up wickets at regular intervals and reduced Colombo to 28/5 before they were eventually restricted to 99/8 in 10 overs.

Mandhana climbs to second in ODI and third in T20I batting rankings

Dubai, Dec 17 (IANS) India's star opener Smriti Mandhana climbed three spots to second in the ICC women's ODI batting rankings and one place to third in the ICC women's T20I player rankings.

This rise comes on the back of stellar performances against Australia and the West Indies in recent matches.

Mandhana, known for her graceful left-handed stroke play, made headlines with a brilliant 105 in the final ODI of the ICC Women's Championship series against Australia in Perth. She followed it up with a crucial 54 in the opening T20I against the West Indies in Navi Mumbai.

The latest ICC women's player rankings update also brought good news for other Indian



players. Harmanpreet Kaur, India's captain, entered the top 10 in the T20I batting rankings. Jemimah Rodrigues moved up six slots to 15th after a stunning 73 in the T20I series opener. Deepti Sharma climbed two places to second in the T20I bowling rankings and retained her position as a key all-rounder for India.

Arundhati Reddy made a significant leap in the ODI bowling rankings, moving up 48 places to 51st after an impressive four-wicket haul (4-26). Renuka Thakur, India's pace spearhead, rose to a joint-26th position in the ODI bowling rankings.

Tammy Beaumont of England rose two places to 11th in the ODI batting rankings following an unbeaten 65 that secured a series victory against South Africa.

Ashleigh Gardner, the Australian all-rounder, moved up one place to 16th in ODI batting rankings after a well-crafted 50 in Perth. She also reached a career-best-equalling third position in the bowling rankings and rose to second in the all-rounder rankings after a match-winning 5-30 in the same match.

Annabel Sutherland, another Australian, surged 15 places to 29th in ODI batting rankings after her match-winning 110 against India.

Marizanne Kapp of South Africa climbed two slots to fourth in the ODI bowling rankings after a superb spell of 3-24 against England.

HIL announce free tickets for fans in Ranchi and Rourkela

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) In a major initiative aimed at growing the reach of hockey, Hockey India has announced that all tickets for the upcoming Hockey India League (HIL) 2024-25 will be free of cost for fans attending matches in Ranchi and Rourkela.

This move is part of Hockey India's vision to take the sport to every corner of the country and make it more accessible to its passionate supporters. By foregoing revenue from ticket sales, Hockey India aims to build a stronger connection between the sport and its passionate supporters, encouraging more people to experience the thrill of live hockey.

Hockey India League (HIL) Governing committee chairperson Dilip Tirkey shared his excitement, saying, "This is a historic moment for hockey in India. By offering free tickets, we are ensuring that everyone, regardless of financial status, has the opportunity to experience live hockey at its best. Our goal is to bring the sport closer to the fans and inspire a new generation of players and supporters. Ranchi and Rourkela are cities with a rich hockey heritage, and we want to fill the stadiums with their energy and passion." Hockey India League (HIL) governing committee member Bhola Nath Singh echoed similar sentiments, stating, "Our fans are at the heart of everything we do.

India to host World Boxing Cup Final and Congress in November 2025

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) has announced that India has been awarded the hosting rights for the prestigious World Boxing Cup Final 2025 and the World Boxing Congress 2025, scheduled to take place in November 2025. This landmark achievement underscores India's growing prominence on the global boxing stage and reaffirms its capability to host world-class sporting events.

The World Boxing Cup Final 2025 is a highly anticipated ranking tournament that marks the culmination of three World Boxing Cups held earlier in the year. This elite event will bring together the world's best boxers to compete for top honours, solidifying their global rankings and leaving an indelible mark on the sport.

Simultaneously, the World Boxing Congress 2025 will host stakeholders, officials, and dignitaries from the global boxing community. The Congress will serve as a platform to discuss critical developments, strategies, and the future roadmap for the sport.

"It is a proud moment for India to be recognised by World Boxing for hosting such prestigious events. This opportunity not only highlights India's organisational excellence but also underscores our unwavering commitment to ensuring boxing remains an integral part of the Olympic movement. We are honoured to contribute to the sport's legacy and look forward to welcoming the global boxing community to India in 2025."

Focus is on grassroots cricket, infrastructure development, says Rohan Jaitley after his re-election

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) The Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) President Rohan Jaitley secured his second term in office, reaffirming the members' confidence in his leadership with an "absolute mandate". A day after his re-election, Jaitley, who defeated former Indian cricketer and sitting Trinamool Congress MP Kirti Azad, pledged to prioritise promoting grassroots-level cricket and pursue significant infrastructural developments in his next tenure.

Rohan, the son of late Union Minister Arun Jaitley, received 1,577 votes against Azad's 777, marking a decisive victory for his leadership team. The Jaitley-CK Khanna group dominated the elections, clinching all twelve positions in the managing committee.

Addressing the media called by



DDCA's Apex Council on Tuesday, Rohan Jaitley emphasised his commitment to enhancing cricket in Delhi, with a special focus on grassroots club cricket and modernising facilities.

"We have received an absolute mandate from the association. All twelve positions on the board have been unanimously entrusted to us by the association's members. Our intent is clear: we are committed to delivering on the promises we have made. We will ensure that our work is completed efficiently and on time. Our primary focus is to elevate cricket in Delhi, particularly grassroots-level cricket, while also pursuing infrastructural growth," Jaitley told IANS. Jaitley outlined his vision to strengthen club cricket and improve revenue models, infrastructure, and deliverables. Plans to expand cricket infrastructure, including the development of a new stadium, were also discussed. "In the immediate future, our goal is to enhance grassroots club cricket in terms of revenue, growth, and deliverables. This includes improving infrastructure and exploring opportunities for the expansion of a new cricket stadium," Jaitley stated.

Acknowledging the recent concerns regarding the selection process, Jaitley assured that any shortcomings would be addressed promptly. "We are aware of recent complaints about the selection process. We will thoroughly address these issues and ensure any flaws are resolved effectively," he added.

BJP issues 'three-line whip' notice to party members in LS



New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has issued a 'three line whip' notice to all its MPs of Lok Sabha for their presence on Tuesday with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman likely to give a reply to the debate on supplementary demands for grants for 2024-25.

The government is also slated to introduce the bill on simultaneous elections.

The Shiv Sena has also issued a whip to all its Lok Sabha MPs to be present in the House on Tuesday as some "important legislative business" is scheduled to be discussed, Shiv Sena Parliamentary Party said.

"All the Lok Sabha MPs of Shiv Sena are informed that some very important issues/legislative work will be brought in the Lok Sabha for discussion and passage tomorrow, Tuesday, December 17. All the Lok Sabha members of the Shiv Sena are requested to compulsorily be present in the House for the entire time tomorrow," Chief Whip of Shiv Sena in Lok Sabha, Shrirang Barne said.

The listed agenda of Lok Sabha for Tuesday includes the Constitution Amendment Bill concerning simultaneous elections. The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill will be introduced by Union Law Minister Arjun Meghwal.

Meghwal is also likely to introduce a Bill on Tuesday to further to amend the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991, and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

This bill seeks to align elections for Assemblies in Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, and Puducherry for the purposes of simultaneous elections. The Union Cabinet approved the 'One Nation One Election' bill earlier this month.

While the BJP and its allies are in support of the bill, several opposition parties including Congress, Trinamool Congress and DMK are opposed to it.

The Union Cabinet had in September accepted the recommendations of the High-Level Committee on Simultaneous Elections. The panel was headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind.

The recommendations were outlined in a report by a high-level panel chaired by former President Kovind.

The panel recommended the implementation of simultaneous polls in two phases. It recommended holding Lok Sabha and Assembly elections simultaneously in the first phase and conducting local body elections (panchayat and municipalities) within 100 days of general elections.

It said there should be common electoral roll for all elections.

Nadda calls Cong to join 'anti-democracy day' observance



New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) BJP National President and Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha, JP Nadda, initiated a debate in the Upper House of Parliament, highlighting the significance of the Indian Constitution. He criticised the period of Emergency and invited the Congress party to join in commemorating an 'Anti-Democracy Day' if they truly regret that era.

"We all know India is the largest democracy, but as PM Modi said, it is not only the largest democracy but the mother of democracy, and that we should understand," Nadda remarked.

Referring to the Constituent Assembly debates, Nadda highlighted how Indian culture and history played a pivotal role.

He said, "When we look at Constituent Assembly debates, we find India's culture, history, and Indian ethos deeply embedded. Indian ethos encompasses democracy, comprising freedom, acceptability, equality, and inclusivity in society, allowing common citizens to lead a quality and dignified life. This thought was deeply ingrained in the minds of the Constituent Assembly members."

Touching upon ancient scriptures like the Rig Veda and Atharvaveda, the leader underscored that concepts such as meetings, discussions, and deliberations were taken into account while drafting the Constitution, keeping India's heritage in mind.

Nadda further criticised the Congress for delaying the recognition of leaders like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and said that after so many years the party mentioned the Iron Man of India's name.

He said, "Sardar Patel integrated 562 princely states, but one - Jammu & Kashmir -was left to then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. An extraordinary provision was introduced, and Sheikh Abdullah was involved in Kashmir matters. Nehru asked Abdullah to consult B.R Ambedkar, but Ambedkar refused, stating, 'To give consent to this proposal would be a treacherous thing to do,' referring to Article 370."

He recalled how Syama Prasad Mookerjee opposed Article 370, famously declaring, "In one country, two constitutions won't be followed."

Mookerjee's death in prison, and his mother's plea to PM Nehru for justice, were also dismissed, Nadda added.

BRS MLAs reach Telangana Assembly wearing handcuffs as mark of protest



Hyderabad, Dec 17 (IANS) Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) legislators on Tuesday came to the Telangana Assembly, wearing black shirts and handcuffs to show solidarity with the farmers arrested in connection with the Lagacherla incident.

For a second consecutive day, the BRS legislators protested over the recent incident of handcuffing a farmer while being taken to hospital from Sangareddy Jail.

Wearing handcuffs and shirts, the BRS MLAs came to the Assembly raising slogans 'Handcuffs to farmers. Shame. Shame'. BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao and senior leader T. Harish Rao were among the MLAs who participated in the protest. They demanded the immediate release of all farmers. BRS MLCs attended the Legislative Council wearing black shirts. Led by Kavitha, the MLCs reached the Council raising slogans, and demanding justice for the farmers. They demanded the immediate release of farmers and the withdrawal of cases booked against them. They also demanded that the Congress government apologise to the farmers. The BRS had also staged a protest on Monday over the alleged ill-treatment of farmers arrested in connection with the Lagacherla incident. Holding placards and raising slogans over the handcuffing of one of the arrested farmers, the BRS legislators reached the Assembly building. However, they were not allowed to enter the premises with placards. The opposition prty has been demanding a discussion on the issue in the Legislature during the ongoing winter session.

Giriraj rolls out red carpet for Japan's Uniqlo to invest in PM Mitra Parks

New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh has invited Japanese brand Uniqlo to invest in PM's Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks as India targets a textiles market size of 350 billion to 100 billion dollars in exports by 2030, according to an official statement issued on Tuesday.

The minister held a meeting here with senior officials from Uniqlo, reaffirming the shared commitment to strengthening India's textile sector. This engagement follows Uniqlo's earlier interaction with the Prime Minister, highlighting their keen interest in collaborating with India's textile industry to enhance cotton production capabilities, productivity, and quality. The PM MITRA Parks offer a ready-to-perform ecosystem with a build-to-suit model, ensuring seamless integration for companies seeking sustainable and efficient operations.

PM pays tribute to Tulsi Gowda, calls her a guiding light



Bengaluru, Dec 17 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deep condolences on the demise of Padma Shri awardee and environmentalist Tulsi Gowda. In a heartfelt message, he described her as a "guiding light for environmental conservation," whose dedication will inspire generations to come.

Taking to social media platform X on Tuesday, PM Modi shared a picture where he is seen seeking blessings from Tulsi Gowda. He wrote, "Deeply saddened by the passing of Smt Tulsi Gowda Ji, a revered environmentalist from Karnataka and Padma Awardee. She dedicated her life to nurturing nature, planting thousands of saplings, and conserving our environment. She will remain a guiding light for environmental conservation. Her work will continue to inspire generations to protect our planet. Condolences to her family and admirers. Om Shanti."

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel, H.D. Kumaraswamy, also mourned her passing. He stated, "I am deeply saddened to hear the news of Mother Tulsi Gowda's demise. She considered nature divine and dedicated her life to nurturing countless saplings into full-grown trees. Her invaluable contribution leaves an inspiring legacy for future generations. I pray for eternal peace for her soul and strength for her family and admirers." Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, in his condolence message, highlighted her unwavering commitment to environmental conservation. He said, "I am saddened by the passing of environmentalist Tulsi Gowda from Honnalli in Ankola taluk. Despite working as a daily wage labourer in the Forest Department, her dedication to planting and nurturing trees continued even after retirement, earning her the prestigious Padma Shri award. Remembering her immense love for the environment, I pray for eternal peace for the departed soul."

Devendra Yadav, Hasan quit core committee of Jan Suraaj Party

Patna, Dec 17 (IANS) The Jan Suraaj Party, led by Prashant Kishor, appears to be facing significant internal challenges as prominent leaders resigned from its core committee on Tuesday.

This development comes even before the announcement of the Bihar Assembly elections, raising concerns about the party's stability. Former Union Minister Devendra Prasad Yadav and former MP, M Hasan have stepped down from the party's 125-member state core committee. Both leaders cited "unavoidable reasons" for their resignations but refrained from providing detailed explanations. In his resignation letter Devendra Prasad Yadav stated, "I voluntarily resign from your 125-member state core committee due to unavoidable reasons." Similarly, Hasan, in his letter, acknowledged the formation of the 125-member core committee but mentioned, "Due to unavoidable reasons, I will not be a part of the core committee, and our resignation should be accepted."

Despite resigning from the committee, Hasan clarified that he has no immediate plans to leave the party.

UP has sent over 5,500 youth to Israel: Yogi's jibe at Priyanka



New Delhi, Dec 17 (IANS) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday took a potshot at Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra over her symbolic support for Palestine and sought to shed light on how Israel ranked higher in priority for his government and the Centre and also how this "association" was yielding better gains for youths of the state.

"A Congress leader goes to show off her bag with 'Palestine' emblazoned on it while the government has already sent more than 5,500 youths from Uttar Pradesh to Israel who are engaged in infrastructure projects there and earning handsome wages in return," Chief Minister said, addressing the House on the second day of UP Assembly's winter session.

He said that youths from the state are living happily and in a secure environment they are also earning more than 1.5 lakh per month.

"Whatever they send back contributes to the state's economy and interestingly, there has been increasing demand from Israel as the UP youths have made their mark with hard work," he added. CM Yogi's taunt on Priyanka comes in the wake of criticism that the Congress MP invited after she carried a bag flaunting Palestine tag. Many BJP leaders rebuked the Congress lawmaker over her Monday's gesture and called it "crass communal posturing".

