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NIKHITA GANDHI RECALLS HER FIRST MEETING WITH SHREYA GHOSHAL - PAGE : 10

Modi urges people to unite to uphold harmony



New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged people to unite to uphold harmony and confront challenges like violence and disruptions in society.

He said this while speaking at the Christmas event hosted by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) at its headquarters here on Monday, the clips of which he posted on his X handle on Tuesday.

The Prime Minister said the teachings of Jesus Christ celebrate love, harmony and brotherhood. "We must unite to uphold harmony and confront challenges like violence and disruptions in society," he said.

"When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, India went beyond its own capabilities to help numerous countries. We provided medicines to several countries across the world and sent vaccines to many nations," the PM said.

PM Modi said over the past decade, India has achieved transformative progress in poverty alleviation and economic growth. "We are now empowering the Yuva and Nari Shakti, paving the way for a brighter and more confident future."

He said that by prioritising social welfare and empowerment, India has implemented transformative policies in various sectors. "Our initiatives, such as the PM Awas Yojana and Matsya Sampada Yojana, have significantly improved the lives of countless people."

PM Modi stressed the need to work together to embody the values taught by Jesus and strengthen this spirit of unity.

Das resigns as Odisha Guv, likely to return to BJP

Deepak Mahato



Jamshedpur, Dec 24: In a political twist that could redefine the BJP's future in Jharkhand, former Chief Minister Raghubar Das stepped down as Governor of Odisha on Tuesday. The resignation, accepted by President Draupadi Murmu, has sparked speculation that Das might soon be handed the reins of the party in the state after its crushing defeat in the 2024 Assembly Elections. Rumour are also in air that he might be given a major role in national BJP.

The official communiqué from Rashtrapati Bhawan confirmed the resignation, naming Mizoram Governor Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati as Das's successor. However, the spotlight remains firmly on Das, as murmurs grow louder within BJP circles about his imminent return to the political battlefield.

"After the disastrous defeat in Jharkhand, the party high command is considering Raghubar Das as the man to revive the BJP's fortunes in the state," said a senior party insider, reflecting the mounting anticipation surrounding his next move.

The BJP's current plight is a far cry from its triumph just six months ago, when it swept the Lok Sabha elections in Jharkhand, winning nine out of 14 seats and leading in 50 Assembly segments. But the summer euphoria has since evaporated, giving way to a sobering reality shaped by tribal disenchantment and a backlash against the BJP's divisive strategies.

The Assembly results laid bare the BJP's decline, with the NDA managing just 24 seats in the 81-member house, of which the BJP itself secured a mere 21. The results marked a sharp erosion of the party's tribal support base, which has long been the keystone of Jharkhand's electoral dynamics.

The decimation was most evident in the tribal-reserved constituencies. Of the 28 seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes-historically both the battleground and barometer of political sentiment-the BJP won just one: Saraikela, represented by former Chief Minister Champai Soren. The JMM veteran-turned-BJP leader switched loyalties earlier this year but failed to replicate his success elsewhere, with his son Babulal Soren losing in Ghatshila.

The BJP's lone silver lining was Das's daughter-in-law, Purnima Sahu, who clinched a victory in Jamshedpur East. Das maintained his legacy in the constituency while political experts were not considering her to be in the winning race till the result day.

In 2014, the BJP held 11 of the 28 tribal-reserved seats. That number fell to two in 2019 and plummeted further in 2024, with the JMM-led alliance sweeping 27 of these constituencies. The message was clear: Jharkhand's tribal voters, comprising 26% of the population, had firmly aligned with the JMM-Congress-RJD coalition, leaving the BJP grasping at straws.

Political experts now suggest the BJP is shifting its focus to consolidate support among the 74% non-tribal population. As the first non-tribal Chief Minister to complete a full term in Jharkhand, Das is seen as a key figure in this recalibration.

Raghubar Das's tenure as Jharkhand's Chief Minister from 2014 to 2019 was marked by both milestones and controversies. A five-time MLA from Jamshedpur East, he is regarded as a seasoned leader who could rally the party's OBC base, a critical voting bloc in Jharkhand.

"Das's return to state politics could signal a strategic shift aimed at bolstering the BJP's appeal among non-tribal voters," said a political analyst. "The high command seems to believe he's the right man to steady the ship."

As the BJP grapples with its worst electoral performance in recent history, all eyes are now on Raghubar Das. Will he rise to the occasion and lead the saffron brigade's resurgence, or will the party's woes deepen further? The stage is set, and the drama has only just begun.

RG Kar case: CFSL report creates doubts

Kolkata, Dec 24 (IANS) A report submitted by the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has created doubts over the "scene of the crime" in the ghastly rape and murder of a junior doctor of state-run R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata in August.

The body of the victim was spotted at the seminar hall within the hospital premises of R.G. Kar on the morning of August 9, and then first, the Kolkata Police and later the CBI carried out the investigation considering the seminar hall as the "scene of crime".

In fact, sources said, the CFSL report strengthens the apprehension raised by the section of the medical fraternity in the state since the beginning that the actual "scene of the crime" was someplace else and after the ghastly rape and murder the body was shifted to the seminar hall to mislead future investigation.

Cabinet nod for 53 % DA of govt employees

Mail News Service



Ranchi, December 24: The Hemant Soren led government has once again played a master stroke on Tuesday.

In the cabinet meeting the dearness allowance of government employees and pensioners has been increased by three percent. Now employees and pensioners will get 53 percent dearness allowance increased from 50.

Approval was given to increase the rates of dearness allowance to the state government employees with effect from July 1, 2024 in the revised pay scale (seventh central pay scale) effective from January 1, 2016. Dearness allowance of 53% of the salary has been approved with effect from July 1, 2024.

At the same time, approval was given for an increase in the rates of dearness relief for pensioners and family pensioners of the state government with effect from July 01, 2024. They will also get 53% dearness allowance of the basic pension with effect from July 1, 2024.

A total of 10 proposals have been approved in the cabinet meeting held on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

The cabinet approved the Performance Audit Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) on the management of public health infrastructure and health services in Jharkhand. This report will be presented in the next session of the Assembly.

Similarly, the CAG report on the welfare of building and other construction workers was also approved for tabling in the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly during the upcoming session.

In terms of funding for Vinoba Bhave University, a budget of Rs 99.56 crore was sanctioned for Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribagh.

The cabinet approved a proposal to promote retired employees of the Forensic Medicine and Toxicology (FMT) department at RIMS. This decision follows the Jharkhand High Court's ruling in the case of Dr. Tulsi Mahto vs. The State of Jharkhand and Others.

These decisions reflect the government's commitment to addressing state financial, educational, and administrative priorities.

The CAG report will be placed in the upcoming assembly session. Administrative approval of Rs 99 crore 56 lakh was given to Vinoba Bhave University for the scheme approved under Meru under the Prime Minister Higher Education Campaign.

The proposal to promote former Principal of RIMS Dr. Tulsi Mahato with effect from 31 August 1997 was approved.

The Council of Ministers gave post-deduction approval to the address given by the Governor in the first session of the Sixth Legislative Assembly.

Bhagwat leads Sangh, not Hinduism: Ramabhadracharya

New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) Addressing a recent statement by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Chief Mohan Bhagwat regarding temple-mosque controversies, prominent spiritual leader Swami Ramabhadracharya clarified that Bhagwat's views were personal and not representative of Hinduism and remarked, "he leads the Sangh not Hinduism."

Bhagwat had earlier remarked, "Certain individuals raise issues around temples and mosques to position themselves as leaders of Hindus, especially concerning the Ram Mandir."

Responding to this, Ramabhadracharya stated, "This could be his personal opinion, and we have no connection with it. He may lead the Sangh, but he does not represent Hinduism. Our focus remains on the discipline and truth of the faith. Wherever ancient Hindu temples are verified, we will work to restore them.

Belagavi CWC meet: Cong to unveil 2025 action plan on Dec 26



New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) The Congress on Tuesday announced plans to unveil a blueprint for the next year after an extended Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting at Belagavi in Karnataka on December 26, after deliberating on "challenges facing the nation under BJP rule, including economic inequality and erosion of democracy".

Addressing the media, General Secretary K. C. Venugopal said the CWC meeting will discuss an action plan and programme for the Indian National Congress for the upcoming years, with two resolutions.

"The meeting will deliberate on the critical challenges facing the nation under BJP rule, including economic inequality, erosion of democracy, and attacks on constitutional institutions. This will be one of the landmark programmes of the Indian National Congress," he said.

General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said a 'Jai Bapu-Jai Bhim-Jai Samvidhan' rally will also be organised in Belagavi on December 27.

He said the extended CWC meeting, to be attended by 200 leaders, has been named 'Nav Satyagrah' as 100 years ago Mahatma Gandhi had announced the launch of Satyagrah from the same city. "Two resolutions related to the future course of Congress action are likely to be passed at the four-hour meeting," he said.

"Mahatma Gandhi was the president of the Indian National Congress when he announced the Satyagrah exactly 100 years ago," he said.

Western disturbance brings cloud cover, warmer nights

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 24 : A Western Disturbance moving through the northern parts of the country has brought changes in weather patterns across Jharkhand, resulting in cloud formation and a noticeable rise in minimum temperatures. Light rain was also reported in Koderma, Gumla, and Barhi over the past 24 hours, further highlighting the system's influence.

According to meteorological data, minimum temperatures have shown a rising trend across most parts of the state. Ranchi recorded a minimum temperature of 11.2 degrees Celsius, which is two degrees above the normal for this time of year. Similarly, Jamshedpur reported a minimum of 12.7 degrees Celsius, also two degrees above normal. Daltonganj experienced a notable increase, with the minimum temperature reaching 12.1 degrees Celsius-three degrees above normal.

Weather experts suggest that no significant synoptic conditions currently prevail over Jharkhand. However, satellite imagery has provided insights into the atmospheric disturbances affecting the region. The Western Disturbance, observed as a cyclonic circulation, is located over northern Pakistan and parts of Afghanistan, with its influence extending between 3.1 and 7.6 km above mean sea level.

City lights up with Christmas cheer

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Dec 24 : Jamshedpur welcomed Christmas with a spectacular display of unity, joy, and devotion as church bells chimed at the stroke of midnight, marking the birth of Jesus Christ. Across the city, Christians gathered in churches to offer prayers, and the streets came alive with celebrations, carol singing, and the warmth of togetherness.

The midnight mass, a deeply cherished tradition, was held at numerous churches, including the iconic Beldih Baptist Church, St. Joseph Cathedral, and St. Anthony's Church. Decked in festive attire, devotees filled the pews as pastors delivered profound messages from the Holy Bible, urging the faithful to embrace peace and harmony.

"Christmas is a celebration of love, hope, and the universal call for peace. It reminds us to coexist with camaraderie and spread joy. Jesus Christ's teachings inspire us to lead lives rooted in compassion and kindness," shared Robert Fernandes, a resident of Northern Town, who attended the midnight service.

The vibrant spirit of Christmas extended beyond church walls and into every corner of the city. Homes and public spaces have been adorned with glittering Christmas trees, wreaths, and dazzling lights. Youngsters, dressed in new clothes, will add to the festive atmosphere by singing carols and sharing greetings with friends and neighbors tomorrow.

Christian households across the city are preparing for gatherings filled with traditional delicacies, laughter, and gratitude. Meanwhile, cultural organizations stepped up to spread the festive cheer by organizing Christmas meals for the residents of old age homes and orphanages, ensuring that no one felt left out of the festivities.

In addition to the culinary delights, the city also saw acts of kindness and charity, embodying the true meaning of Christmas. Community groups distributed warm clothing and essential supplies to underprivileged families, spreading warmth and love during the cold winter nights.

The cityscape of Jamshedpur, bathed in the glow of Christmas lights and resonating with the sounds of carols, served as a reminder of the enduring power of hope and togetherness. As families gathered and communities came together, Christmas brought a much-needed sense of joy and renewal, promising brighter days ahead.

One Stop Centre: Absence of night guard halts critical night stay service

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Dec 24: Acting on the instructions of District Magistrate cum Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal, Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) Dhalbhum, Shatabdi Majumdar, conducted a surprise inspection of the Sakhi-One Stop Centre and Child Helpline located on the third floor of the Red Cross building. Accompanied by Executive Magistrate Sudipt Raj, the inspection brought to light several critical issues affecting the functionality and effectiveness of these vital support centers.

During the visit, the SDO thoroughly evaluated the services provided at the One Stop Centre, which caters to women facing sexual harassment, psychological and economic abuse, and other forms of violence. The inspection included reviewing the availability of medical facilities, deputation of doctors, legal aid, counseling services, and police assistance. While interacting with the operators, it emerged that certain key services were hampered by infrastructural gaps.

Notably, the absence of a night guard has resulted in the lack of night stay facilities for victimized women, a crucial service for their safety. Additionally, issues like inadequate drinking water supply and the unavailability of cleaning staff were identified, compromising the hygiene and functionality of the center. Majumdar assured those present that immediate steps would be taken to address these concerns and improve the overall arrangements, emphasizing the need for cleanliness and efficiency.

Sakhi-One Stop Centre was established to provide holistic support to women facing violence, whether in private or public spaces, within families, communities, or workplaces. The SDO directed the staff to proactively inform victim women about their legal rights, free legal aid, and the benefits of government schemes. This initiative aims to ensure that women in distress are not only protected but also empowered to reclaim their rights and dignity.

The inspection also extended to the Child Helpline, which caters to the rescue and rehabilitation of minors facing exploitation or deprivation of their fundamental rights. Majumdar emphasized the importance of making the helpline more functional and efficient. She appealed to the public to report any cases of child exploitation or neglect to the toll-free number 1098, ensuring timely intervention and appropriate care.

The administration is urging citizens to actively utilize the helpline services to report cases of violence or exploitation. The toll-free numbers for assistance are as follows: Sakhi-One Stop Centre Helpline Number: 9430123165, Toll-Free Number: 181, Child Helpline Number: 1098.

"This surprise inspection underscores the administration's commitment to strengthening support services for women and children. By addressing identified gaps and enhancing awareness, the district aims to ensure that these centers serve as true havens of support and empowerment," said a social worker. (w/pb)

Farmers urged to apply for 'Birsa Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana'

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 24: Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal has urged farmers in the district to complete their enrollment for the Birsa Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana by 31 December 2024, in order to avail financial compensation in the event of crop loss during the Rabi season for the year 2024-25. With just seven days left before the deadline, Mittal emphasized the importance of applying for the crop insurance scheme, which provides a safety net for farmers facing crop damage due to natural calamities. Farmers who have not yet enrolled can visit the District Cooperative Officer's office, Block Offices, or contact the Krishi Rakshak toll-free helpline number 14447 for assistance. Additionally, detailed information is available on the official website https://pmfby.gov.in/farmer.To complete the application process, farmers will need to submit their Aadhar card, a photocopy of their bank passbook, land ownership documents, a notarized share-cropping certificate (if applicable), a self-attested crop sowing certificate, and a mobile number.

The amount notified per hectare for various crops in East Singhbhum district is as follows: Wheat: Rs. 58,178, Mustard: Rs. 33,202, Gram: Rs. 45,325 and Potato: Rs. 1,68,075.

Mittal also highlighted that the premium token for the insurance scheme is only Rs. 1, making it an affordable option for both loanee and non-loanee farmers. He urged all eligible farmers to take advantage of this opportunity to secure financial protection for their crops. (w/pb)

Central Officers visit: Insights shared on the implementation of various schemes



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 24: The four-day training program for six branch officers from the Central Secretariat, Government of India, concluded today. During the program, the officers engaged in a meeting at the district collectorate with Executive Magistrate Mrityunjay Kumar and other officials, where they shared their experiences and gained insights into various developmental schemes.

The officers were briefed on initiatives such as the Antyodaya Mission, urban waste management, and solid-liquid waste management.

They interacted with district-level officials to understand the implementation of central and state-sponsored schemes. As part of the program, the officers visited blocks and panchayats in the Ghatshila subdivision to study ongoing developmental projects.

They also toured the Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) plant to observe its operations and visited the CM School of Excellence in Bistupur to understand advancements in the education sector. Additionally, the officers reviewed waste management initiatives in Jamshedpur, including the work being done with the support of Jusco. Executive Magistrate Aman Kumar served as the nodal officer for the program. The officers who participated in the training program were: Atul Srivastava, Section Officer, CPWD, Lucknow, Avkush Kumar, Section Officer, Ministry of Power, Monika Singh, Section Officer, Department of Food and Public Distribution , M. Gayatri, Section Officer, Department of Commerce, Renuka Kashyap, Section Officer, Department of Commerce, Heena Chauhan, Section Officer, Ministry of Defence. (w/pb)

Blood donation camp on Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary

Jamshedpur, Dec 24: To commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of the late PM and Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a Maharakdaan (blood donation) camp will be held at Cable Club Golmuri on December 25, 2024. The event, organized under the leadership of former BJP district president Dinesh Kumar, marks the 20th consecutive year of this noble tradition. Speaking about the camp, Dinesh said, "This event is dedicated to Atalji's ideals, encouraging social service and inspiring people to contribute to society." MP Bidyut Baran Mahto and MLA Purnima Das Sahu, along with senior BJP leaders, will attend the event as chief guests. The blood donation camp is expected to draw significant participation from BJP supporters and the general public in the spirit of service to society. (w/nkm)

Bike rider killed in Adityapur, protestors block road

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 24: On Tuesday morning tragedy struck in Adityapur Industrial Area when a trailer collided with a bike, killing 36-year-old Gurucharan Singh instantly. The deceased, a resident of Kadma Shastrinagar, worked at Hyco company and was on his way to work at the time of the incident.

His bike, a Pulsar, was struck near Utkal Automobile.

Following the accident, the trailer driver fled the scene, prompting angry locals, passersby, and the deceased's family to protest on the road. Holding the dead body, they blocked traffic and demanded justice, particularly the arrest of the driver responsible. The protestors also voiced their frustration at the delayed police response."We will not rest until the driver is arrested," said the deceased's family during the protest. Traffic in the area was disrupted as the protests continued for hours. Police soon arrived and attempted to calm the situation, taking the body into custody and sending it for a post-mortem. They have launched a search for the trailer and its driver.



"We are actively investigating the incident and will ensure that the responsible individual is apprehended," said a police officer on the scene. (w/nkm)

Nirmal Mahato's 74th birth anniversary celebrations today

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 24: The 74th birth anniversary of martyr Nirmal Mahato will be celebrated in a grand manner on Wednesday, December 25, in Uliyan Kadma.

Preparations for the event are in full swing, with the JMM District Committee's Organization Secretary Pritam Hembram confirming that all block presidents and secretaries from the East Singhbhum district have been instructed to attend the program with their teams.

Party workers from across the city will also participate in a vibrant procession, showcasing enthusiasm and respect for the martyr.

The ceremony will commence at 11:45 AM with a tribute to Nirmal Mahato at Chamaria Guest House in Bistupur.

Following this, party leaders, workers, and the general public will proceed to his Samadhi Sthal in Uliyan Kadma to offer their respects.

The event will be attended by prominent dignitaries, including MPs, MLAs, and officials from the party's central, district, block, and panchayat levels, ensuring a large and solemn tribute to the late martyr. (w/nkm)

AFFIDAVIT

Through an affidavit Sl.No. 19 of dated 23.12.2024 from Notary,Jamshedpur Court, Jharkhand, I, **MANOJ KUMAR CHOUDHARY**, son of Late Babulal Choudhary, permanent resident of House No. 157, Dhalbhum Road, P.O.: Sakchi, Kalimati, P.O & P.S.: Sakchi, Jamshedpur, District: East Singhbhum, Jharkhand declare that my actual and correct name is **MANOJ KUMAR CHOUDHARY** as per my Aadhar Card No: 5801 5970 5444. That my name wrongly mentioned as **MANOJ KUMAR CHOWDHARY** in my Passport No. X9324979. That **MANOJ KUMAR CHOUDHARY** and **MANOJ KUMAR CHOWDHARY** both names are of the same and one person i.e. myself only. That I want to necessary correction in my name as **MANOJ KUMAR CHOUDHARY** instead of **MANOJ KUMAR CHOWDHARY.**

Kumbh Mela special trains announced: Full schedule and stoppages

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 24: Indian Railways has announced special trains for the Kumbh Mela to ensure smooth travel for passengers. The first train, 08425/08426, will run between Bhubaneswar and Tundla. The outbound train (08425) will leave Bhubaneswar on 01.01.2025, 08.01.2025, 22.01.2025, 05.02.2025, 19.02.2025, and 26.02.2025 at 12:30 hrs and will reach Tundla at 20:15 hrs the following day. The return train, 08426, will depart from Tundla on 03.01.2025, 10.01.2025, 24.01.2025, 07.02.2025, 21.02.2025, and 28.02.2025 at 03:00 hrs and reach Bhubaneswar at 07:00 hrs the next day. This special train will stop at Dangoaposi, Chandil, Muri, and Bokaro Steel City in the SER jurisdiction.

Another special service, the 08417/08418 Puri-Tundla-Puri Special, will run between Puri and Tundla. The outbound train, 08417, will depart from Puri on 06.01.2025, 20.01.2025, and 17.02.2025 at 12:30 hrs, arriving in Tundla the next day at 20:15 hrs.

The return train, 08418, will leave Tundla on 08.01.2025, 22.01.2025, and 19.02.2025 at 03:00 hrs, arriving in Puri at 09:45 hrs the following day. The train will make stops at Baleshwar, Jaleswar, Hijli, Midnapore, Bishnupur, Bankura, Adra, and Bhojudih in the SER jurisdiction.

The third special train, 08314/08313, will operate between Titlagarh and Tundla. The 08314 Titlagarh-Tundla Special will leave Titlagarh on 09.01.2025, 16.01.2025, 23.01.2025, 06.02.2025, 20.02.2025, and 27.02.2025 at 17:00 hrs, arriving in Tundla at 02:30 hrs on the third day. The return train, 08313, will depart from Tundla on 11.01.2025, 18.01.2025, 25.01.2025, 08.02.2025, 22.02.2025, and 01.03.2025 at 05:00 hrs, reaching Titlagarh at 11:00 hrs the following day. The train will stop at Jharsuguda, Rourkela, Hatia, Ranchi, Muri, and Ramgarh Cant.

These special trains are designed to cater to the increased travel demand during the Kumbh Mela, providing essential connections across various regions. Passengers are advised to check the schedules and plan their travel accordingly. (w/nkm)

Five trains cancelled on Dec 29

Jamshedpur, Dec 24: In light of ongoing development work in the Chakradharpur Railway Division of South Eastern Railway, five trains have been cancelled on December 29. The cancelled trains include Netaji Subhash Itwari Express and Tatanagar-Itwari Express. Additionally, the Rourkela-Jagdalpur-Rourkela Express, Rourkela-Jharsuguda-Rourkela MEMU, and Visakhapatnam-Banaras Express will remain non-operational on both December 29 and 30. Meanwhile, the Yognagari Rishikesh-Puri Express, scheduled for December 28, will run on a diverted route via Jharsuguda Road, Sambalpur City, Tarcher Road, and Cuttack.

The railway authorities have urged passengers to plan their journeys accordingly. (w/nkm)

AFFIDAVIT

I, **JAYRAM BANRA**, S/o. Late Gura Banra, by faith sarna, Resident of Village : Barajharna Hill, P.O.-Rakha Copper Project, P.S.-Jadugoda, Dist. East Singhbhum (Jharkhand), do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows :-

1. That my son's actual and correct name is Tejas Banra mentioned as per his birth Certificate, issued by competent authority Vide Regd. No. B20242090347003616, date of issue 28-08-2024 and his mother name is Shanti Banra, and his actual and correct date of birth 11-05-2017.
2. That as per previous nick name is Tulsi Banra, mentioned as per school Register.
3. That Tejas Banra and Tulsi Banra is the name of same and one identical person i.e. my son.
4. That now his actual and correct name is Tejas Banra used all intend and purposes.
5. That I am permanently residing in the above address and have got my Aadhar Card.
6. That I am swearing this affidavit to prove that my said son's actual and correct name is Tejas Banra and change his school record from Tulsi Banra to Tejas Banra.

Advocate

AFFIDAVIT

I, **PRAGATI SHARMA,** daughter of RAJESH SHARMA, by faith Hindu, by occupation Student, Resident of H. No.7, Line No.3, Vidyapati Nagar, P.O. Baridih, P.S. Sidhgora, Jamshedpur, District East-Singhbhum, Jharkhand-831017, solemnly affirm end declare as follows :-

1. That for endnon behalf of myself and my Parents and Relative and remitter issue wholly resoirce/relinquish and abandon the use of my former same PRAGATI and in place thereof I do hereby assume from this date the name PRAGATI SHARMA and so that I am my mother and father remitter issue may hereafter to called known end distinguished nit by my former name, but assumed name at PRAGATI SHARMA.
2. That for the purpose of evidencing such my determination declare that I shall at all times hereafter in all records deed's and writing and in all proceedings, dealings and transactions, private as well as upon all occassions whatsoever use and sign the name of PRAGATI SHARMA as my name in place and in substitution of former name.
3. That I expressly authorise and request all persons in general relatives and friends in particular at all times hereinafter to designate and address me, my parents, relatives, remitter issue by such assumed name PRAGATI SHARMA accordingly.
4. In witnesses where if I have here upto subscribe my former and adopted name of PRAGATI SHARMA and PRAGATI affix my signature and seal, If any this 14th day of December 2024 at Jamshedpur.

Advocate

Over 47,000 to appear for matric and intermediate exams

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Dec 24: A total of 47,636 students from the district are set to appear for the upcoming Matriculation and Intermediate Annual Examinations 2025. This includes 25,380 candidates for the Matriculation examination and 22,256 for the Intermediate examination, spread across Arts, Science, and Commerce streams. To finalize arrangements for these crucial examinations, a meeting was held at the Collectorate Auditorium under the chairmanship of District Magistrate cum Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal. The meeting was attended by ADM Law and Order Aniket Sachan, SDM Dhalbhum Shatabdi Majumdar, City SP Kumar Shivashish, representatives of MPs and MLAs, and various education department officials and association representatives. In terms of logistics, 45 examination centers for Matriculation and 23 for Intermediate have been designated in the Dhalbhum subdivision, while 26 Matriculation and 12 Intermediate centers have been identified in the Ghatsila subdivision. Additionally, Central Karimia High School, Sakchi, has been proposed as the examination center for Madrasa candidates. The Deputy Commissioner highlighted key measures to ensure the smooth and secure conduct of the examinations. Strong room cum control rooms will be established at both sub-divisional headquarters for the safekeeping of examination materials. Question papers will be stored in nationalized banks near the examination centers, and static magistrates, along with male and female constables, will be deployed at each center to maintain law and order.

Flying squads and zonal magistrates will oversee the safe transportation of question papers to the centers and the return of sealed answer sheets to the strong rooms. These measures are aimed at ensuring the integrity and transparency of the examination process.

With meticulous planning and collaboration between district officials, law enforcement, and education stakeholders, the district is poised to conduct the examinations in a fair and efficient manner, benefiting the thousands of students preparing to take this important step in their academic journeys. (w/pb)

AFFIDAVIT

I, **REEVA SINGH**, D/o Jay Prakash Singh, by faith Hindu, by Nationality Indian, Resident of 43, Building Materials, D.B. Road, Jugsalai, Jamshedpur, District-East Singhbhum, Jharkhand-831006, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows :-

1. That I am an Indian Citizen by birth.
2. That I am residing at above mentioned address.
3. That my father's actual and correct name is **JAY PRAKASH SINGH** as mentioned in my Aadhar Card vide Aadhar Card No. **624937317051**.
4. That my father's name is wrongly mentioned as JAI PRAKASH SINGH in my School Certificate issued by I.C.S.E., New Delhi and I was the student of Motilal Nehru Public School, Jamshedpur vide Unique ID 6889056, Certificate No. BP 70021622.
5. That both the name i.e. **JAY PRAKASH SINGH** and **JAI PRAKASH SINGH represent same and one person i.e. my father only.**
6. That I swear this affidavit to confirm the above facts to be true and genuine and submit it before the authority concerned for all intents and purpose, hence this affidavit.

Advocate

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of Ld Additional Dist. Judge 2nd Court at Durgapur
Dist.- Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal
Ref: - Mat Suit Case **No.-668/2022**
U/s 13 H.M. Act
Petioner : Bhim Chandra Dutta
V/S
Respondent: Smt. Anuprabha Dey

It is notified that the petioner Bhim Chandra Dutta, S/o. Joydev Dutta, Resident of Quarter No.-20/5, Ashok Avenue, A-Zone, P.O. Durgapur -04, P.S. Durgapur, Dist -Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal, Pin No.-713204 filed above numbered Mat.

Suit case no.-668/2022 for divorce against Smt. Anuprabha Dey, W/o. Bhim Chandra Dutta, Resident of 59, Sandhya Niwas, Ghorabandha, P.O. Ghorabandha, P.S. Govindpur, Jamshedpur, Dist. East Singbhum, Jharkhand. If the respondent or anyone has any objection then she must appear in person or by pleader along with objection before the Ld. Court on 05/02/2025 of otherwise matter will heard exparte.

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Three accused arrested in Chaibasa double murder case

Mail News Service



Chaibasa, Dec 24: The police have successfully solved two connected murder cases, registered under Muffasil Police Station Case No. 163/24 and Chakradharpur Police Station Case No. 146/24. The gruesome murders of a couple from Hazaribagh-Nirmal Ekka and his wife Rashmi Monika Sanmani-have led to the arrest of three accused individuals.

On December 20, 2024, a decapitated body of an unidentified man was discovered in the village of Ututuwa under Chakradharpur Police Station. A case was registered (Chakradharpur Police Station Case No. 146/24, dated 20.12.24, under Sections 103 and 238 of BNS-2023). Two days later, on December 22, the mutilated body of an unidentified woman was found near a roadside in the village of Aachu, under Muffasil Police Station. Her body bore injury marks on the head and neck, inflicted with a sharp weapon. Another case was registered (Muffasil Police Station Case No. 163/24, dated 22.12.24, under Sections 103(1) and 238 of BNS-2023).

Following information that a couple from Hazaribagh had traveled to Chaibasa on December 17, 2024, but lost contact with their family after December 19, police identified the victims as Nirmal Ekka and Rashmi Monika Sanmani of Korra, Hazaribagh. A special investigation team was formed under the leadership of Sub-Divisional Police Officer Bahaman Tuti. Using technical and scientific methods, the police apprehended three suspects: Ramrai Surin, resident of Devabir, Sonua.Budhan Singh Sawainya alias Chhota, resident of Kelende, Jhinkpani. Mangta Surin, resident of Devabir, Sonua.

The investigation revealed a financial dispute as the motive. Ramrai Surin, a convict in the 2012 Sonua murder case, befriended Nirmal Ekka while serving his sentence in Hazaribagh Jail, where Nirmal was a guard. Ramrai lent ?5.5 lakh to Nirmal over time. Upon his release on bail in October 2024, Ramrai demanded repayment, but Nirmal offered his car instead, leading to further disputes.

On December 17, 2024, Nirmal and Rashmi traveled to Chaibasa to retrieve the car. Ramrai and his accomplices received them and held them captive for two days. On December 19, the couple was taken to a forest near Barkela, where Ramrai attacked and killed Nirmal with an axe. His body was dumped in Ututuwa, while his severed head was hidden under stones nearby. The next day, Rashmi was murdered and her body discarded in Aachu village.

The breakthrough was achieved by a dedicated team led by SDPO Bahaman Tuti, probationary IPS officer Nikhil Rai, and other officers from Muffasil, Chakradharpur, and Jhinkpani Police Stations.

The police have assured swift legal proceedings against the accused and extended condolences to the victims' families. The successful resolution of this case highlights the efficiency of the Chaibasa police in handling complex investigations. (W-pb)

Kharsawan firing is a saga of struggle, sacrifice, rights: Sushen Mardi



Mail News Service

Seraikela, Dec 24: All Party Struggle Committee Chairman Sushen Mardi issued a press release commemorating the 1 January 1948 Kharsawan firing incident. He called it a significant chapter in India's history, showcasing the tribal community's bravery and commitment to justice.

Speaking on the incident, Mardi stated, “The Kharsawan firing represents a saga of struggle and sacrifice. It reminds us never to compromise on our rights.” He highlighted how, despite India's independence, tribal communities faced exploitation, inequality, and injustice, prompting their peaceful demonstration in Kharsawan on 1 January 1948. The gathering demanded land rights, justice, and equality. Mardi explained, “The government forces, instead of addressing their concerns, resorted to barbaric violence, firing without warning. Many were killed, leaving families in tears.” He condemned the incident as a shameful act in a civilized society but acknowledged its role in awakening the community to fight for dignity and human rights. Mardi added, “This struggle wasn’t just about land; it was about respect and equality. The martyrs’ sacrifice continues to inspire us to build a society where everyone receives justice.” He urged everyone to pledge against exploitation and injustice, saying, “We must ensure equal rights for all and create a society of respect and dignity. Let us immortalize the martyrs’ bravery in our hearts and strive to uphold their legacy.” The Kharsawan firing remains a symbol of resilience, reminding generations of the importance of unity and determination in fighting for justice. (w/nkm)

Police uncover conspiracy in Sonu Sardar murder, arrest mastermind Birbal Sardar



Mail News Service

Seraikela, Dec 24: In a breakthrough in the murder case of Sonu Sardar, the head husband of Jashpur Panchayat and the district president of Para Teachers Union, the district police have arrested 38-year-old Birbal Sardar, the mastermind behind the crime. Sardar, a resident of Ugma in the Seraikela police station area, had been absconding since the murder on the night of 13-14 December. The police apprehended him at Neemdih railway station on Monday.

Following Birbal Sardar's arrest, the police recovered the 7.62 mm pistol used in the murder, based on his confession. The weapon was found at the house of 55-year-old Ravi Mahato, alias Konka, also a resident of Ugma. Ravi Mahato was arrested for his involvement. Additionally, the Blue Hero Zoom Scooty (JH05 DQ-9881), which was used in the crime, was found at Birbal Sardar's residence.

Superintendent of Police Mukesh Kumar Lunayat shared details of the investigation in a press conference, confirming that another accused, Lakkhicharan Nayak alias Lakkhi, fearing arrest, had surrendered in the Civil Court in Saraikela. Lakkhi is currently in police custody for questioning.

The police revealed that Birbal Sardar has a criminal history, with a case registered against him under Section 302/201 of the Indian Penal Code and the Arms Act in Gamharia Police Station, Case No. 22/2009.

The incident, which occurred on the night of 13-14 December, saw the shooting death of Sonu Sardar, who was returning from a party function. The case was registered under Gamharia Police Station Case No. 135/2024. A Special Investigation Team (SIT), led by Sub-Divisional Police Officer Sameer Sawaiya, was formed to investigate the case due to its serious nature. The SIT team successfully arrested five other criminals involved in the murder on 16 December. They also recovered the loaded pistol, a country-made pistol, live ammunition, and the vehicles used in the crime.

The police team involved in the raid included Neemdih Police Station In-charge Santan Kumar Tiwari, Gamharia Police Station Sub-Inspector Sunil Kumar Singh, Adityapur Police Station Sub-Inspectors Dhirendra Kumar and Vipul Kumar Ojha, constables Subhash Mahato and Parmanand Dubey, and personnel from the technical branch.

Birbal avoided detection using multiple phones : After committing the murder of Sonu Sardar, Birbal Sardar went into hiding. To evade the police, he refrained from using his primary phone and avoided staying at any one location for extended periods. Instead, he stayed in contact with locals through a second phone, using different SIM cards to remain untraceable. Birbal also kept a close watch on the police’s actions, staying informed about their investigation and movements throughout his time on the run.

Conspiracy planned a month ago : Superintendent of Police Mukesh Kumar Lunayat disclosed that the plot to murder Sonu Sardar was formulated a month prior to the incident. Birbal Sardar, the mastermind behind the crime, along with the other arrested suspects, had conspired to kill Sonu due to his opposition to their illegal land business activities. The accused, involved in the land trade, were preparing to execute illegal operations, but Sonu Sardar’s resistance led them to take extreme action. In retaliation for his opposition, they decided to murder Sonu Sardar.

Cong protests at DC office over Shah's remarks on Dr Ambedkar



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 24: Congressmen gathered in large numbers for the Babasaheb Ambedkar Samman March, organized under the leadership of East Singhbhum District Congress President Anand Bihari Dubey. The event, held at the statue of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar near the old court, was attended by former Rajya Sabha MP Pradeep Kumar Balmuchu, who was the chief guest.

The participants paid floral tributes to Dr. Ambedkar, and the march was led by Dubey and Balmuchu.The march turned into a protest when Congress workers reached the Deputy Commissioner's office, raising slogans like, "Sack Union Home Minister Amit Shah," "Narendra Modi leave the throne," "Shame on the mentality of BJP," and "Amit Shah apologize."

The demonstrators condemned the recent remarks made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the Rajya Sabha, which they claimed insulted Dr. Ambedkar's legacy. Dr. Balmuchu, addressing the crowd, said, "The remarks made by the Union Minister inside the Rajya Sabha have hurt the sentiments of millions who regard Dr. Ambedkar as a symbol of equality and justice.

These remarks insult the heritage of our Constitution maker." District President Dubey echoed these sentiments, criticizing the registration of a false FIR against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

The Congress leaders called for the resignation of Amit Shah and demanded that the President of India, Draupadi Murmu, take immediate action on the matter. A memorandum was submitted to the East Singhbhum District Collector, urging the Government of India to address the issue and expose the BJP's alleged strategy to suppress dissent. The Congress reaffirmed its commitment to Dr. Ambedkar's legacy of justice and equality. (w/nkm)

Gandhi Ji's centenary year celebrations today

Jamshedpur, Dec 24:A grand program has been organized in Sidhgora on 26th December 2024 to mark the centenary year of Mahatma Gandhi's election as the President of the All India Congress Committee.

The event, to be chaired by District President Anand Bihari Dubey, will be a significant occasion for Congress supporters. District office in-charge Sanjay Singh Azad confirmed that the Golmuri Block Congress Committee has been entrusted with organizing this large-scale celebration. Senior Congress leaders, office bearers, and workers from across the district have been invited to participate in this historic event, which aims to honor Gandhi ji's legacy and contributions to India's freedom struggle. (w/nkm)



Bangla Samiti supports MP Dhulu Mahto against MLA Arup Chatterjee

Mail News Service



Dhanbad, Dec 24 : Jharkhand Bangla Bhasha Unanayan Samiti today giving clean chit to BJP Dhanbad MP Dhulu Mahto and said that he spoke on CPIML Nirsa MLA Arup Chatterjee not against Bangla language.

State president of Jharkhand Bangla Bhasha Unanayan Samiti Vengu Thakur while talking with media persons at Dhanbad Randhir Verma Chowk alleged that some supporters of MLA Arup Chatterjee have been using banner of the Samiti in defaming MP Dhulu Mahto in the name of Bangla language which is wrong and unwarranted." MP Dhulu Mahto while addressing a meeting in Nirsa a few days ago had said that he would not tolerate hooliganism and not allow Nirsa to be Bangladesh. Whatever Dhulu Mahto said in Nirsa that was personally against political rival MLA Arup Chatterjee and not against Bangla speaking people", said Vengu Thakur, president of the Samiti. On Monday Samrat Choudhary, Bangla Bhasha Unanayan Samit Dhanbad secretary had held meeting and alleged that Dhanbad MP has insulted Bangla language speaking people of state. Vengu Thakur said that some vested interest is making misinterpretation of MP's statement. It will go wrong message in state. Bangla Bhasha Unanayan Samiti supports Dhulu Mahto

Former Sakchi Gurudwara advisor Balbir Singh Bhatia passes away

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 24 : SardarBalbir Singh Bhatia, a former advisor to the Sakchi Gurudwara Management Committee and a devoted follower of Guru Ghar, was cremated on Monday. He passed away at the age of 84 while undergoing treatment at Tata Main Hospital.

A respected figure in the Sikh community, Bhatia is survived by four daughters, two sons, and a large extended family. His eldest son, Gurvinder Singh Bhatia (Bunty), a member of the SitaramderaGurudwara Management Committee and Veer Khalsa Dal, announced that the AntimArdas and ShabadKirtan will be held on Friday, December 27, from 12 noon to 1 PM at SakchiGurudwara. An Akhand Path is scheduled to commence on December 25 at the family's residence in MadhavBaug Colony.

Balbir Singh Bhatia's contributions to the Sikh community and his dedication to social service were remembered fondly by those present. The community mourns the loss of a devoted Sikh and a respected leader, whose legacy of service and faith will continue to inspire.

Tata Steel executive inspires future leaders at Karim City College

Jamshedpur, Dec 24 : Karim City College's Business Administration department, in collaboration with the Jamshedpur Management Association, hosted a guest lecture titled "Soul 6.0" on Saturday, the lecture focused on the pivotal role of leadership in strategic management, especially in the dynamic business landscape of today. The guest speaker, Mr. Tamir Shahid, Manager of Corporate Communications at Tata Steel, delivered an insightful presentation. He dig deep into the challenges and rewards of leadership in strategic management, emphasizing the unique role of a successful leader in today's business world.

Mr. Shahid enriched the session by sharing various leadership concepts and practical examples, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of the subject.The college principal, Dr. Mohammad Riaz, was unable to attend, he conveyed an inspiring message to the students. Dr. B.N. Tripathi, the exam controller, welcomed Mr. Shahid and other guests. Mr. Shahid highlighted the visionary leadership of Tata Steel's founders and how they set themselves apart. The interactive session saw students actively engaging with the speaker, asking insightful questions.To enhance the learning experience, the organizers included engaging activities that helped students grasp the concepts better. Dr. Aftab Alam, the coordinator of the Business Administration department, skillfully moderated the program.

Expert sheds light on hydrogen's role in power sector at IIT ISM

Mail News Service

Dhanbad, Dec 24: Dr K.V Vidyanandan, Professor of Practice in the Department of Electrical Engineering at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Calicut, Kerala, delivered lecture on hydrogen's role in power and transport sectors at IIT Indian School of Mines (ISM) Dhanbad on Tuesday.While addressing the conference on subject of 'Emerging Roles of Hydrogen in Power and Transport sectors', organized by Electrical Engineering Department, IIT ISM Dr Vidyanandan explored the vast potential of hydrogen as a clean energy carrier.

He highlighted advancements in hydrogen technologies for power generation and transport. He discussed the challenges and solutions associated with integrating hydrogen into existing systems and provided a global perspective on the role of hydrogen in the energy transition. Prof. Sukumar Mishra, director IIT (ISM) presided over the session. Prof. Sukanta Das, head of the Department of Electrical Engineering and other faculty members of the Department research scholars, and students in large numbers were also present during the lecture. The IIT ISM official said before joining National Institute of Technology (NIT) Calicut, Kerala in 2023, Dr Vidyanandan had a distinguished 38-year career at NTPC Limited, where he retired as General Manager at the Power Management Institute (PMI) in Noida. He is a senior member of IEEE (USA) and serves as a peer reviewer for IEEE and IET research articles.

Man convicted for sexual exploitation and blackmail

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 24 : Gurmeet Singh, a resident of Telco Azad Market, has been convicted by the ADJ-2 court of Aabhas Verma for sexually exploiting a woman and blackmailing her with an obscene video. The court has set January 3 for sentencing. Singh was found guilty of deceiving the victim by promising her a job placement and then exploiting her for seven days in April 2023. He secretly filmed their physical relations and threatened to release the video if she didn't comply with his demands.

The victim, who had initially worked in the Konil FIR & B Production Department, lodged an FIR at Potka police station after discovering Singh's real identity. Singh had initially contacted her under the guise of offering a job through a man named Rohit. After exploiting her in Jamshedpur, he continued to abuse her, threatening her and her family. The victim eventually managed to escape and reported the matter to the Potka police.

The case was supported by testimonies from nine witnesses. The court will now decide on the punishment for Gurmeet Singh, who faces charges of sexual exploitation, blackmail, and physical abuse. (w/nkm)

BJP's membership campaign in Burmamines mandal



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 24 : The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) organized a grand membership campaign in Burma Mines Mandal, with the participation of Eastern Assembly MLA Purnima Sahu. The campaign, held at Mahanand Basti under the leadership of Mandal President Suraj Kumar Singh, saw hundreds of local residents enrolling as primary members of BJP by giving a missed call on the number 8800002024.

MLA Purnima Sahu actively engaged with the community, going door-to-door alongside Mandal workers to raise awareness about BJP's policies and ideology. The campaign saw an overwhelming response, particularly from women and youth, who expressed great enthusiasm to join the party.

During her address, MLA Purnima Sahu emphasized that BJP is not just a political party but an ideology dedicated to ensuring development for every individual in society and prioritizing the nation first. She encouraged the people to join BJP and contribute to nation-building by becoming part of the mission for national service.

Key workers, including Rakesh Singh, Chandan Upadhyay, Manoj Srivastava, and many others, actively supported the campaign, ensuring its success in mobilizing support for BJP. (w/nkm)

Teli Sahu Samaj Jamshedpur elects regional committee





Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 24 : The regional committee elections of Teli Sahu Samaj, Jamshedpur, Jugsalai, were held peacefully on Sunday at Panchayat Bhawan, CP Tola Baghbera. Five male and five female officers were elected to the committee, with 51 male and 23 female voters participating.The elected male office bearers included President: Tilak Kumar Sahu, Vice President: Durga Prasad Sahu, Secretary: Rajesh Kumar Sahu, Deputy Secretary: Jageshwar Sahu and Treasurer: Jagnath Sahu.The President's and Secretary's posts were contested, while the others were returned unopposed.The elected female office bearers were President: Lakshmi Sahu, Vice Presidents: Ratna Sahu and Sangeeta Sahu, Secretary: Tarun Kumari, Deputy Secretary: Renuka Devi,For the female committee, the Vice Presidents' posts was contested, with other posts claimed uncontested.The election process was overseen by central committee representatives and three regional officers, with Election Officer Rajendra Kumar Sahu and his team ensuring smooth proceedings. After the elections, all elected members were honoured with certificates and garlands.The Central Committee elections are scheduled for January 5, 2025. (w/gsd)

BLOs to conduct OBC survey for municipal elections

Gamharia, Dec 24 : A meeting was held at the Gamharia Block cum Zonal Office Auditorium to determine eligibility for reservation of backward classes in the upcoming Municipal Corporation elections. The session was attended by Adityapur Municipal Corporation Administrator Ravi Prakash, Additional Municipal Commissioner Parul Singh, Zonal Officer Gamharia Arvind Bedia, other officials, and all Booth Level Officers (BLOs). BLOs were instructed to conduct door-to-door surveys to collect data for the OBC reservation process. They were advised to ensure accurate form-filling, particularly in the caste column. (w/gsd)

751st free eye cure camp concludes at Ram Manohar Lohia Netralaya

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Dec 24 : The 751st free eye cure camp, organized by the East Singhbhum Branch of Indian Red Cross Society in collaboration with various local organizations, concluded today at Ram Manohar Lohia Netralaya, Bagbera, Jamshedpur. The camp was held in association with Ram Manohar Lohia Sewa Sansthan, Draupadi Devi Chimanlal Bhalotia Sewa Sansthan, Rajasthan Sewa Sadan, and the District Rural Health Committee.

On the concluding day, Dr. B P Singh, a renowned eye surgeon from the city, conducted follow-up checks on 43 patients who had undergone cataract surgery and lens implantation. Before their discharge, the patients were provided with necessary medication, dark glasses, and detailed instructions on precautions to be followed in the coming days.

This three-day eye camp was generously supported by city entrepreneur Mahesh Agarwal, in memory of his late wife, Madhu Agarwal. During the discharge process, Agarwal's family members, including Neeta Agarwal and Nikhil Agarwal, were present to distribute woollen blankets and biscuit packets to the patients. All the patients expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the organizers for their support and care during the camp.

Bijay Kumar Singh, Honorary Secretary of the Indian Red Cross Society, East Singhbhum Branch, and Balmukund Goyal, President of Ram Manohar Lohia Sewa Sansthan, extended their deep appreciation to Mahesh Agarwal for his generous contribution to the success of the eye camp.

The event was also supported by numerous members and volunteers of the Indian Red Cross Society and Ram Manohar Lohia Sewa Sansthan, including Kamal Kishore Singh and Ashok Kumar Singh. (w/nkm)

Tension over temple idol vandalism, market shut, one arrested



Barbil, Dec 24 : Tensions escalated in Barbil after unknown anti-social elements desecrated the idol in Bajrangbali temple at Barbil New Market NAC Hoting on Sunday night. Residents discovered the damaged idol on Monday morning, with shoe and slipper marks on it, triggering outrage among the local community. A large number of people from Hindu Ekta Manch, Bajrang Dal, and other religious organizations gathered at the site to protest, demanding the immediate arrest of the culprits. The administration reverentially removed the damaged idol and took control of the situation. Protesters took out a procession, shutting down shops and blocking main roads, chanting slogans of "Jai Shri Ram." The administration deployed police forces at various points to maintain order.

Acting promptly, authorities arrested a suspect named Gora, who had previously been jailed for involvement in a theft at the Santoshi temple. Meanwhile, a forensic team inspected the site to gather evidence. The Superintendent of Police (SP) arrived at the scene around 1 PM, assessed the situation, and appealed for peace, assuring strict action against those responsible. Following the SP's assurance, Hindu Ekta Manch called off the protest. (w/gsd)

Sadar Hospital Saraikela inspected under Kayakalp Scheme

Mail News Service



Saraikela, Dec 24 : A two-member state-level team, including Alka Kullu, inspected Sadar Hospital Saraikela as part of the Kayakalp scheme, evaluating the facility on eight key parameters for a total score of 400 marks. The parameters included hospital upkeep, sanitation and hygiene, waste management, infection control, eco-friendly practices, and beyond hospital boundary facilities.The inspection aimed to assess the hospital's health services and infrastructure. The findings would be submitted to the state office, which will determine the hospital's performance ranking.Hospital Superintendent Nakul Prasad Chaudhary highlighted that the best-performing hospitals at the state level would receive additional funding as a reward. These funds can be utilized to enhance hospital infrastructure and improve healthcare services.The Kayakalp scheme evaluated Sadar hospitals across the state, rewarding top-performing facilities to encourage better service quality and patient care in the government health system.Hospital Manager Sanjit Kumar Rai and other staff members were present during the inspection. (w/gsd).

Students showcase over 130 Math exhibits at DAV Bistupur Fest

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Dec 24 : DAV Public School, Bistupur, organized a Mathematics Fest to mark the birth anniversary of legendary Indian mathematician SrinivasaRamanujan.

The event celebrated his contributions to mathematics, aimed to inspire future mathematicians, and promoted the subject in an engaging and interactive manner.

The fest was inaugurated by RekhaKumari, Principal of DAV Public School, Chaibasa, and Pragya Singh, ARO JH Zone E cum Principal of DAV Public School, Bistupur.

The theme, "The Beauty of Mathematics," emphasized Ramanujan's enduring influence on modern mathematics.

Highlights of the event included an exhibition by students from classes III to VII, showcasing over 130 exhibits. These integrated mathematical concepts with art through models, graphs, and interactive displays to enhance cognitive skills and foster curiosity.

Maths Quiz prelims saw the participation of 554 students from classes VIII to X. The finals featured four teams of 12 students answering questions ranging from foundational math concepts to advanced theories. Team Sigma emerged victorious, with SpandanChakraborty (8E), Arush Raj (9D), and Dhrubam Roy (10C). Team Beta secured the runners-up position, represented by Ashmit Kumar Singh (8E), AdarshRanjan (9C), and Aditya Thakur (10B).

The fest also included presentations, model-making activities, and interactive sessions that showcased diverse mathematical principles and Ramanujan'sgroundbreaking work.

PragyaSingh, lauded the students and teachers for making the event a success, emphasizing the importance of mathematics in developing analytical skills and fostering innovation.

The Math Fest concluded on a high note, leaving attendees inspired by Ramanujan's legacy and the transformative power of mathematics.

BJP slams Congress over treatment of Ambedkar and Amit Shah's statement

Congress expert in lies and confusion: MP Bidyut Mahato

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Dec 24: Jamshedpur MP Bidyut Baran Mahato launched a scathing attack on the Congress party during a press conference on Monday.

He accused Congress of consistently disrespecting Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar while using his name for vote bank politics. "Congress has always insulted Baba Saheb and worked to marginalize his principles," said Mahato, highlighting attempts to defeat Ambedkar in the 1952 and 1954 elections.

He also criticized Congress for not honoring Ambedkar with the Bharat Ratna during its rule. "It was the BJP-led government in 1990 that gave Baba Saheb the respect he deserved by awarding him the Bharat Ratna," Mahato remarked.

Congress insulted Baba Saheb: State Spokesperson Kale

BJP state spokesperson Amarpreet Singh Kale accused Congress of spreading lies about Home Minister Amit Shah's recent statement. He urged the public to listen to Shah's full speech, saying, "Rahul Gandhi and Congress are misleading the people by using a short clip from a seven-minute address."

Kale emphasized the BJP's respect for Ambedkar, saying, "Baba Saheb lives in the hearts of all BJP workers. We have always upheld his principles."

Congress ignored Ambedkar's contributions: Sudhanshu Ojha

BJP Jamshedpur Mahanagar President Sudhanshu Ojha accused Congress of systematically insulting Ambedkar. "Congress played a key role in Ambedkar's electoral defeats, his resignation from the cabinet, and even allowed an insulting cartoon of him in NCERT books," Ojha alleged.

He added, "Congress leaders honored themselves with the Bharat Ratna but ignored Baba Saheb. The tribal and Dalit communities are now recognizing Congress's selfish use of Ambedkar's legacy."

BJP highlights achievements honouringAmbedkar

Mahato and other leaders outlined BJP's initiatives to honor Ambedkar, including developing pilgrimage sites related to his life and establishing the Dr. Ambedkar International Center. "Prime Minister Modi declared 26 November as Constitution Day, reinforcing Ambedkar's contributions to democracy," Mahato said. The BJP leaders concluded by criticizing Congress for its alleged divisive politics, claiming it aims to confuse the public for political gain. (w/nkm)

Nutritional kits distributed to TB patients in Kharsawan

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Dec 24: Shri Foundation Trust, as part of its CSR initiative, launched Project Arogya by distributing nutritional support kits to 100 identified tuberculosis (TB) patients in Kharsawan.

The initiative is aligned with the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan, which aims to provide essential nutrition to TB patients, especially those living in underprivileged conditions.

Dr. Chandra Bhushan Choudhary, District Tuberculosis Officer, emphasized the importance of nutrition in TB treatment. “Undernutrition weakens the immune system and hampers the body’s ability to fight TB,” said Dr. Choudhary. The nutritional kits, which are part of the initiative, will be distributed monthly to help improve the patients' overall health and treatment outcomes.

Saurabh Kumar (HR), Sanub T.S (OHC), and Pankaj Singh (Security-Incharge) joined the distribution program, highlighting the role of CSR in supporting public health. Shri Foundation Trust’s involvement reflects its commitment to contributing positively to community health and wellness. (w/nkm)

Vipra Foundation women distribute essentials to needy



Chaibasa, Dec 24: In a noble initiative, the Women's Cell of the Vipra Foundation distributed essential items, including shawls, sweaters, blankets, biscuits, samosas, and bananas, to the underprivileged residents of Donkasai, Chaibasa. Around 120 people benefited from the distribution of warm clothes to help them through the chilly weather. Foundation President Urmila Sharma, Secretary Reena Sharma, Treasurer Chanda Sharma, Deputy Secretary Jyoti Sharma, and Advisor Annapurna Sharma were among the key figures leading the event. Additionally, members such as Pratima Chaumal, Usha Sharma, Khushboo Sharma, Sharda Sharma, Padma Upadhyay, Anju Sharma, Sweety Sharma, Manju Lata Dayama, and Maya Dayama were present to lend their support. "It's important for us to help those in need, especially during the cold winter months," said Urmila Sharma. The foundation's commitment to serving the community through these charitable activities has been widely appreciated in the region. (w/nkm)

Hindu Jagran Manch performs Khunti Puja for Hanuman Ji Mahaarati



Chaibasa, Dec 24: In preparation for the grand Mahaarati of 51-feet Hanuman Ji and the Tulsi worship program scheduled for December 25, 2024, the Hindu Jagran Manch held a special Khunti Puja. The ceremony was conducted by Bihari Club Pandit Ji, setting the stage for the auspicious event. Key members of the organization, including Jharkhand State Executive Member Jai Giri, City Coordinator Deepak Gupta, and other local leaders like Priya Gupta, Dolan Chatterjee, Sushmita Chatterjee, and Anju Karmakar, were present to oversee the rituals. Speaking on the occasion, Deepak Gupta said, "This Mahaarati is not just a religious event but also an opportunity for community unity and spiritual growth." The Mahaarati of 51-feet Hanuman Ji is expected to draw large crowds, celebrating the power and blessings of Lord Hanuman. (w/nkm)

Annual Sports awards ceremony at Sai Aman Play School



Chaibasa, Dec 24: Sai Aman Play School, located at Sadar Bazar Mahuri Bhawan and run by the Sai Aman Welfare Society, recently hosted its annual sports event, celebrating the participation and achievements of young children. Headmistress Bonolta Ghosh, along with other key members, awarded prizes to the children who took part in various sports activities. "Every child is a winner in our eyes. Today's event is not just about awarding prizes but encouraging our children to grow with confidence," said Bonolta Ghosh. The prizes were presented by Bonolta Ghosh, Shweta Karmakar, Ankita Kumari, and Isika Chakraborty, all of whom expressed their delight at the students' enthusiasm and spirit. The ceremony was a joyous occasion, reinforcing the importance of sports and physical activities in the development of young minds. (w/nkm)

Mango's garbage being dumped in Jugsalai

Jamshedpur, Dec 24: Mango's garbage disposal woes continue as vehicles from the area are now dumping waste at Jugsalai Municipal Council's dumping ground. Residents have frequently spotted garbage trucks from Mango unloading at the site, raising concerns about environmental and sanitation issues.

Although officials from Jugsalai Municipal Council are reportedly aware of this, no action has been taken to address the situation. "Dumping garbage here will only add to our problems. We need a permanent solution," said a local resident. Earlier, it was claimed that garbage was being disposed of in Adityapur, but that is no longer the case. (w/nkm)

Shrimad Bhagwat Katha begins in Jadugoda

Mail News Service



Jadugoda, Dec 24: The much-anticipated Shrimad Bhagwat Katha commenced on December 24, 2024, in Shankar Da village situated on Narwa Pahad, and will continue until December 30, 2024. The first day of the event was marked by a Kalash Yatra, where 101 girls participated, immersing the village in devotion. The procession was led by storyteller Pandit Shri Deepak Shastri, Anil Bhakt, and former District Council Karuna May Mandal, who travelled from Ayodhya to lead the event. According to Deepak Shastri, "Bhagwat Katha teaches the art of living and helps us connect with God, making our lives meaningful."

The Bhagwat Katha is being organized for world peace, eternal prosperity, and the protection of creation, following a similar program held four years ago in the village. (w/nkm)

Sai Kalakendra Barbil dancers shine at World Odissi Utsav

Mail News Service



Barbil, Dec 24: The World Odissi Utsav, an international dance festival, was inaugurated on December 23 at the Bhanjakala Mandap Auditorium in Bhubaneswar. The event, which will continue until December 25, saw participation from over 400 dancers representing 17 countries. Among the participants were the talented dancers from Sai Kalakendra, Barbil, led by Guru Sri Kalpataru Acharya. The group showcased their skills through both solo and group performances, receiving high praise for their captivating displays.

The dancers from Sai Kalakendra included Manaswini Biswal, Dibyanshi Choudhury, Sai Sudeshna Nayak, Jenifer Nancy Paswan, and Tanushree Panda.

Their exceptional performances were recognized and appreciated by the convenor of Bhanjakala Mandap, who facilitated the dancers and their guru for their outstanding contributions to the event. (w/nkm)

District-level workshop marks conclusion of Good Governance Week

DC emphasizes timely problem resolution, DDC highlights team effort and coordination

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Dec 24: A district-level workshop was organized at the District Collectorate auditorium to mark the conclusion of "Good Governance Week." The event saw the participation of Deputy Commissioner Ravi Shankar Shukla, Deputy Development Commissioner Prabhat Kumar Bardiyar, Project Director ITDA Ashish Agarwal, Additional Deputy Commissioner Jaivardhan Kumar, and Sub-Divisional Officers from Seraikela and Chandil, along with senior officials from various departments.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of addressing complaints within departments or offices with complete honesty and resolving them in a timely manner, as this is key to ensuring that people benefit from government services. He also highlighted that resolving issues within a fixed time period is a prime example of good governance.

Deputy Development Commissioner Prabhat Kumar Bardiyar praised the efforts of the entire team, noting that many initiatives had been successfully carried out in the department, serving as excellent examples of good governance. He encouraged officials to work together and coordinate effectively to resolve any issues that could not be addressed immediately. The workshop also included discussions where various officials presented their views and shared their experiences.

The Good Governance Week, which took place from 19-23 December, also included camps aimed at informing the public about various central and state government schemes. These camps not only provided essential information but also allowed the public to benefit from the schemes, ensuring their inclusion in the government’s welfare initiatives. (w/nkm)

Congress holds Ambedkar Samman march

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Dec 24: A massive Ambedkar Samman March was organized by the Congress Party under the leadership of District President Ambuj Kumar.

The march, which began at Seraikela Chowk, culminated at the DC office, protesting recent remarks made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah about Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Participants in the march paid homage to Ambedkar and raised slogans against Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A memorandum was submitted to the District Deputy Commissioner, demanding Shah's dismissal. “Modi and Shah have no respect for Baba Saheb or the Constitution,” said Ambuj Kumar, criticizing the BJP leadership.

The Congress Party reiterated its commitment to fighting for constitutional values and vowed to continue its movement until justice was served.

The event also saw the participation of Ganesh Mahali, a candidate from the India Alliance, who joined the memorandum submission. (w/nkm)

Goju Ryu Karate Association holds grading examination

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Dec 24: The Goju Ryu Karate Association organized a district-level grading examination for its trainees, with 20 participants undergoing the test. The event, led by Chief Instructor Kamal Thapa, saw examiners Naseem Ansari, Sangeeta Kalindi, Shukmati Bodra, and Jitu Khalko evaluate the students. A total of 15 students were successful in their attempts, earning recognition for their skill and dedication. The successful candidates included Lucky Das, Tejas Kumar, Aryan Dehri, PriyamPragyan Rath, Tannu Mukhi, Bhakti Mukhi, Sushma Soy, AnupriyaGop, Manyata Pushti, Preeti Nayak, Ayuluna Kumbhakar, Jai Mishra, Lavyansh Chatterjee, Ronit Mahato, and Priyank Prasun Rath. The grading exam was a pivotal event for the association, showcasing the talent and perseverance of young karatekas in the region. (w/nkm)

Govind Vidyalaya celebrates Christmas with joy and cheer

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Dec 24: Govind Vidyalaya Tamulia hosted a vibrant Christmas celebration, bringing students and teachers together to share in the festive spirit.

The event began with the lighting of a majestic Christmas tree, symbolizing the joy of the season.

Students showcased their creativity through captivating performances, including songs, dances, and skits that highlighted the true meaning of Christmas.

The excitement peaked with a visit from Santa Claus, who distributed gifts and spread smiles among the attendees.

Principal Sunil Kumar expressed, "Christmas is a time for joy, giving, and sharing. It's heartwarming to see our school community come together to celebrate this special occasion."

The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Ismat Naaz, the overall in-charge of the program. She praised the efforts of the students and staff in making the celebration memorable.

The Christmas celebration at Govind Vidyalaya not only fostered a sense of community but also reinforced the values of love, generosity, and togetherness, which are central to the holiday season. (w/nkm)

Pappu Sardar spreads joy as Santa Claus, promotes cleanliness



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 24: On the occasion of Christmas, Pappu Sardar, the famous fan of cine star Madhuri Dixit, spread festive cheer on the evening of December 24 by dressing as Santa Claus and touring the city.

He visited several key areas, including Beldih Church, near Jamshedpur NAC office, Basant Cinema Chowk, Sakchi roundabout, Palang Market turn, Sakchi, and Bistupur main road, where he distributed gifts to the people. In addition to bringing joy to the community, Pappu Sardar used the occasion to promote a message of cleanliness. He urged the public to keep the environment clean and to show kindness and compassion towards one another. Highlighting the importance of cleanliness, he emphasized that it is vital not only for personal health but also for protecting the environment. (w/nkm)

BJP to celebrate Atal Ji’s 100th birth anniversary as Good Governance Day

Jamshedpur, Dec 24: BJP Jamshedpur Mahanagar will celebrate the 100th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee tomorrow as Good Governance Day. A special program will be held at the District BJP office in Sakchi to honour the legacy of the revered leader. BJP Jamshedpur Mahanagar President Sudhanshu Ojha announced that the celebration will begin with a ceremonial garlanding of Vajpayee’s photo, followed by discussions on his thoughts and contributions. A pledge will be taken to uphold his ideals of good governance. Former Chief Minister and Seraikela MLA Champai Soren will be the chief guest at the event, which will be attended by senior BJP leaders and workers. Ojha highlighted Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s role in steering India towards progress and good governance, citing key initiatives during his tenure, including the Golden Quadrilateral, nuclear testing, the communication revolution, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, and economic reforms. He encouraged all workers and supporters of Jamshedpur city to join the program in honour of Atal Ji’s birth anniversary. (w/nkm)

Opposition's leadership dilemma

The leadership of the opposition alliance, INDIA, in the Lok Sabha has sparked significant debate. Cracks within the alliance have become increasingly apparent. Congress, historically the dominant party, is facing challenges as some partners express reservations about its leadership role. Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has emerged as a strong contender, adding complexity to the equation.

Congress veteran Mani Shankar Aiyar recently made waves by suggesting that the Congress step back from leading the opposition. In a candid interview, he stated that leadership is not vital for Congress to maintain its relevance in the alliance. Instead, he emphasized that figures like Mamata Banerjee possess the capabilities to spearhead the opposition. Aiyar's stance reflects the growing belief among some that the Congress should prioritize collective opposition unity over a singular leadership ambition.

Mamata Banerjee has openly expressed her readiness to take charge. She has highlighted the need for inclusivity within the opposition and indicated her ability to lead from Bengal, minimizing personal disruption. Her stance has found support from allies like Lalu Prasad Yadav and Tejashwi Yadav, signalling a potential shift in the alliance's dynamics.

Despite these developments, Congress remains a significant player in the opposition. The party secured 99 seats in the last Lok Sabha elections, contributing substantially to the INDIA alliance's total of 234 seats. However, the emergence of other influential leaders, such as Akhilesh Yadav from the Samajwadi Party and Mamata Banerjee from TMC, indicates a fragmented opposition landscape. Mamata's TMC won 29 seats, underscoring her political strength.

Challenges have further strained the alliance. Nitish Kumar's defection to the NDA and the TMC's refusal to engage in seat-sharing in Bengal highlight underlying fissures. These events raise questions about the alliance's cohesion and its ability to present a united front against the NDA government.

Internally, the Congress faces additional hurdles. Criticism of Rahul Gandhi's leadership style has persisted, with some senior leaders questioning his approach. Aiyar's remarks about a "culture of praise" within the party add to this narrative, although he remains loyal to the Congress and its principles. His acknowledgment of Rahul Gandhi's leadership, while simultaneously advocating for alternative strategies, reflects the balancing act the Congress must perform.

As the 2024 elections draw near, the opposition alliance must resolve its leadership dilemma. While Congress remains central, its ability to collaborate effectively with regional powerhouses like the TMC and SP will determine its success. Allowing leaders like Mamata Banerjee to take on greater roles could foster unity and enhance the alliance's electoral prospects.

The leadership debate within INDIA is more than a contest of egos; it is a test of the opposition's willingness to prioritize collective goals over individual ambitions. Whether Congress adapts to this reality or clings to its traditional role will significantly impact the political landscape. For now, the alliance's ability to present a united vision remains uncertain, leaving the leadership question wide open.

From the Editioral Desk

Mahakumbh 2025: In a first, devotees and pilgrims to be educated on using RTI



In a groundbreaking move, the Uttar Pradesh government has unveiled its plans of apprising the devotees and pilgrims, about benefits of the Right to Information (RTI) Act and also their usage.

Marking a first of its kind initiative during the Mahakumbh, the move aims to empower citizens by raising awareness about their rights, enabling them to fight for justice.

All Information Commissioners of Uttar Pradesh will be present at the Mahakumbh to inform devotees about the various aspects of RTI. They will also be introduced to digital methods for accessing information.

Notably, the Uttar Pradesh government under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's stewardship has been spearheading an anti-corruption campaign, bringing much-needed relief to the public across the state and ensuring greater accountability and transparency among officials.

All Information Commissioners of Uttar Pradesh are expected to attend the Mahakumbh 2025 and engage with the public.

A special camp will be set up in the Mahakumbh Mela area, where digital experts will guide devotees on RTI and how to access it through platforms such as Google, Facebook, X, Instagram, and WhatsApp.

Uttar Pradesh State Information Commissioner, Virendra Singh Vats said that the RTI is a powerful tool for creating a corruption-free environment in the state.

"Efforts are, therefore, being made to ensure that the rights of common citizens are protected and that the devotees attending the Mahakumbh are made aware of the same", he stated.

He further mentioned that, for the first time, efforts on such a large scale are being made to educate devotees about their rights at the Mahakumbh.

"Devotees will learn how to use their rights effectively. Every bit of information related to RTI would be disseminated to the public and there would be discussions in which the Information Commissioners would be engaging with the public," he stated further.

In addition, the opinions of the general public will also be gathered. All Information Commissioners, along with the Chief Information Commissioner, will engage with the devotees to discuss steps that can be taken to enhance the effective use of the RTI.

Under the campaign, the common public will also be handed over books that will spark their interest.

Virendra Singh Vats mentioned that these books will contain valuable material on RTI, which will help common people access the information they are entitled to.

End of no-detention policy



The central government has scrapped the "no-detention policy" in schools. In this regard, the Ministry of Education has issued an official Gazette notification. Following the decision, regular exams will now be conducted at the end of each academic year for students in the 5th and 8th grades. Students failing these exams will not be promoted to the next class; instead, they will be given an opportunity to reappear for the exam. These students can retake the exam within two months. If they pass the re-exam, they will be promoted to the next grade. So, from now onwards the schools will be allowed to fail Vth and VIIIth standard students who do not clear the year-end exams, according to officials.

The Ministry of Education clarified that no student will be expelled from school until they complete their primary education. Anil Kumar Singhal, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Education, issued the Gazette notification regarding this change.

According to the Ministry of Education, with these new changes, students who fail will be held back in their current class. Previously, the No Detention Policy was in effect in the country. Under this policy, students up to class 8 could not be held back, and even if they did not perform well, they would be promoted to the next class. There was no provision to hold back students in the same class. These rules were part of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act.

However, the Ministry has now made significant changes. Under the new rules, exams will be held for these students, and those who fail will not be promoted to the next class.

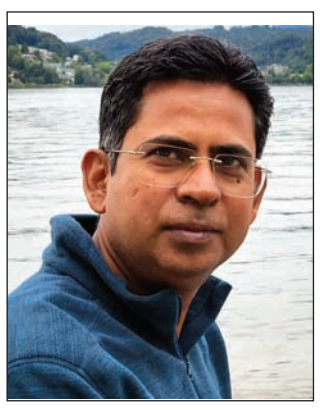
The Ministry of Education has specified the conditions under which students who fail in exams will be held back in the same class. The second change is that regular exams will now be conducted at the end of each academic year for 5th and 8th grade students.

The Ministry explained that after the regular exams if any student fails to meet the prescribed criteria, they will be given an additional opportunity for a re-exam within two months of the declaration of the result. If the student fails again to meet the promotion criteria after retaking the exam, they will be held back in the same class (5th or 8th grade).

The Ministry also mentioned that during the period when a student is held back, the class teacher will guide the student and, if necessary, the student's parents. After identifying the various stages of student failure, expert input will be provided.

Moreover, the school principal will create a list of students who have been held back due to failure. These students will receive expert input, and their progress will be closely monitored. For the overall development of the student, exams and re-exams will be competency-based.

Christmas Message: It is a message of hope and joy for all



Dr (Fr) Mukti Clarence, S.J.

The birth of Jesus Christ marks a profound and transformative moment in human history. Emmanuel- "God with us" (Matthew 1:23)- entered the world, revealing infinite possibilities and offering humanity a path to redemption. Faced with the consequences of sin and its pervasive effects on creation, God enacted an unparalleled plan of grace: He became human. Through His incarnation, Jesus exemplified the depths of divine love and the transformative power of a life lived in selfless service. His message, rooted in healing and renewal, remains an enduring call to all people. The angel Gabriel's announcement of Jesus' birth to the shepherds carries a lesson of humility and universality. Gabriel proclaimed: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people" (Luke 2:10). These shepherds, simple and unassuming, were the first to witness the arrival of the Good Shepherd. Their awe-filled response reminds us that the message of Christmas transcends social status, power, or privilege. It is a message of hope and joy for all, particularly the humble and marginalized.



Christmas: A Celebration of Hope

Christmas is fundamentally a celebration of light triumphing over darkness. The luminous Christmas lights, twinkling against the backdrop of winter nights, symbolize hope and the promise of joy amidst life's challenges. They remind us of the sacred permission to be happy and to resist despair. This defiance against darkness encapsulates the essence of Christmas-a call to shine brightly in the confidence that God's presence is enduring and transformative. This message is especially poignant in a world marred by conflict and suffering. From the ongoing war in Ukraine to the struggles in Gaza, Syria, and other regions, humanity faces profound trials. While these challenges may appear insurmountable, the message of Christmas offers an alternative vision. Instead of yielding to hopelessness, we are invited to respond with love, hope, and a commitment to peace. As Scripture assures us, "For with God nothing shall be impossible" (Luke 1:37). This season calls us to rise above adversity and embody the divine virtues of love, compassion, and unity.

The Humility and Universality of Christmas

The birth of Jesus in a stable, rather than a palace, is a powerful symbol of humility and inclusivity. It underscores that true greatness lies not in material wealth or social status but in service, love, and selflessness. This profound act of humility challenges us to embrace unity over division and to extend goodwill to all, regardless of differences. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9). Christmas also emphasizes the power of giving over materialism and greed. The shepherds' response to the birth of Christ-marked by worship and joy-offers a model of simplicity and generosity. In contrast to the acquisitiveness that often dominates contemporary celebrations, Christmas invites us to find fulfillment in giving and in acts of kindness. As Jesus Himself taught, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

A Call to Reflection and Renewal

At its heart, Christmas is not merely a ritual or tradition but a profound revelation of eternal truths. It is a celebration of God's love, the promise of peace, and the hope for a transformed world. This sacred season invites us to reflect on these truths and to renew our commitment to living lives marked by humility, generosity, and compassion. May this Christmas inspire us to become bearers of light and hope in a world often shrouded in darkness. Like the shepherds, may we approach the story of Christ with awe and gratitude, allowing its transformative message to guide our actions. Let us embrace the call to be peacemakers and ambassadors of goodwill, striving toward a world where love, unity, and peace prevail. In doing so, we honor the true essence of Christmas and reflect the enduring light of Emmanuel-God with us.

(Author is an Assistant Professor in XITE Gamharia (Autonomous) College. The views expressed are personal.)

'End of an era in Indian cinema': Priti Adani on demise of Shyam Benegal



Chairperson of Adani Foundation, Priti Adani, on Monday said the passing away of one of the pioneers of 'parallel cinema' -- film-maker and National Award winner Shyam Benegal -- marks the end of an era in the Indian cinema, adding that his legacy will continue to inspire others.

Taking to X, Priti Adani wrote: "Shyam Benegal's passing marks the end of an era in Indian cinema. A master storyteller, his films bridged art and reality, giving voice to the unheard and shaping the golden age of parallel cinema. His legacy will continue to inspire filmmakers and cinephiles alike. Om Shanti."

Shyam Sunder S. Benegal, a multiple National Award winner and among the pioneers of 'parallel cinema' - with silver screen classics like "Junoon", "Ankur", "Manthan", "Zubeida" and "The Making of the Mahatma" - passed away after a long battle with a kidney disease, his family said here on Monday.

A second-cousin brother of the late legend, actor-film-maker Guru Dutt, Benegal was 90 and breathed his last at a private hospital in Mumbai. He is survived by his wife Nira and their daughter Pia.

Conferred the Padma Shri (1976), the Padma Bhushan (1991), the Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2005) and many other national-international honours, Benegal had celebrated his 90th birthday (December 14) with many colleagues from the film industry present to meet and greet him.

The details of the last rites of his mortal remains are not yet known.

Born in Hyderabad on December 14, 1934, Benegal belonged to a Konkani-speaking Chitrapur Saraswat Brahman lineage, with his photographer-father Sridhar B. Benegal having roots in Karnataka.

At the tender age of 12, the little Shyam had shot a film using a camera presented by his dad, who inspired and nurtured his interest in film-making that became his career for over six decades.

Later, Benegal went onto study MA (Economics), founded the Hyderabad Film Society, and later started his career in 1959 as a copy-writer with Lintas Advertising Agency in Mumbai, where he rose to be the Creative Head, with over 900 ad films and sponsored documentaries under his belt.

In 1962, Benegal made his first Gujarati documentary film, "Gher Betha Ganga" (Ganga At Doorsteps), taught at the prestigious Film & Television Institute of India from 1966-1973, and later served as its Chairman twice (1980-1983 & 1989-1992).

With over 70 documentaries and short films to his credit, and a stint in the USA, Benegal made his first full-length Hindi feature film, "Ankur" (1974), that shot him to fame, bagging 3 National Awards, another 43 national-international awards/honours.

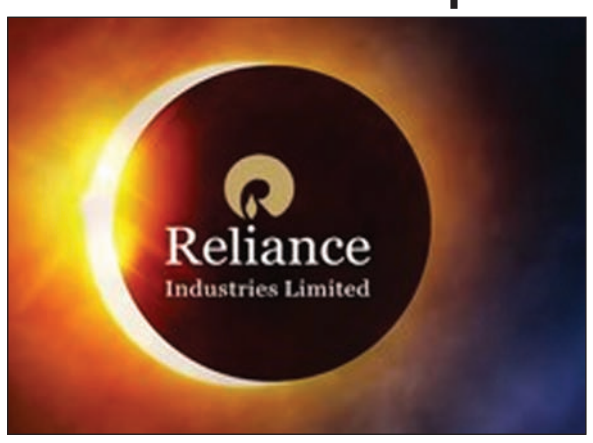
Over a film career spanning more than 60 years, Benegal made many classics like "Manthan" (1976), "Bhumika" (1977), "Junoon" and "Kalyug" (1979), "Aarohan" (1982), "Mandi" (1983), "Trikaal" (1985, "Suraj Ka Satvan Ghoda" (1993), "The Making of the Mahatma" (1996), "Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose: The Forgotten Hero" (2005), "Welcome to Sajjanpur" (2008), "Mujib: The Making of a Nation" (2023), to name a few prominent ones.

He also made noteworthy and award-winning documentaries, including on India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, "Jawaharlal Nehru" (1982) and "Nehru" (1985), on the legendary film-maker Satyajit Ray, Tata Steel's Platinum Jubilee, A Festival of India, Lost Childhood, and many more.

Benegal created memorable television serials like: "Yatra" (1986), "Bharat Ek Khoj" (1988), "Sankranti" (1997), "Samvidhaan" (2014), among several others.

Tributes poured in for Benegal on social media from actors, actresses, producers, directors, his colleagues in the Indian and international film fraternity, media groups and his legion of fans and admirers.

Reliance Industries' stock tanks 23 pc from its July high



Mumbai, Dec 24 (IANS) The stock of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), India's largest company by market capitalisation, has slipped by 23 per cent from its highest level in July this year.

If the stock fails to rise 5 per cent in the remaining five trading sessions this calendar year, the company will not only record its longest monthly losing streak since the Covid-19 markets' slump but also give negative returns for the first time in the last 10 years.

According to stock exchange data, RIL's market cap declined by about Rs 5 lakh crore from its peak of Rs 21.50 lakh crore in July to Rs 16.5 lakh crore.

Meanwhile, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), India's largest IT company owned by the Tata Group, as well as the country's largest bank by market capitalisation, HDFC Bank, are quickly catching up to dethrone the conglomerate from its top spot.

TCS' market cap surged to Rs 15 lakh crore from Rs 13.72 lakh crore in January this year, and is closest to dethroning RIL from its top spot.

HDFC Bank's market cap increased to Rs 13.74 lakh crore from Rs 12.95 lakh crore this year.

Both TCS and HDFC Bank stocks performed well in 2024. TCS railed nearly 10 per cent and HDFC Bank surged around 7 per cent (as per the December 24 closing).

Investors remain optimistic about TCS and HDFC Bank due to the global rate cut cycle. On the other hand, RIL's earnings have consistently remained weaker than estimates.

RIL's earnings per share estimates for the next year have fallen by 16 per cent since the beginning of the current financial year.

Despite the decline in Reliance Industries' earnings, brokerages remain bullish on the stock. Recently, Morgan Stanley gave an overweight rating to RIL.

Indian share market ends flat ahead of Christmas, Sensex settles at 78,472



Mumbai, Dec 24 (IANS) The domestic benchmark indices ended flat on Tuesday ahead of Christmas as selling was seen in IT, financial service, pharma, PSU bank, metal and realty sectors in Nifty.

At closing, Sensex settled at 78,472.87 down by 67.30 points or 0.09 per cent and Nifty ended at 23,727.65 down by 25.80 points, or 0.11 per cent.

Nifty Bank ended at 51,233 down by 84.60 points, or 0.16 per cent. The Nifty Midcap 100 index closed at 57,057.90 at the end of trading after dropping 35 points, or 0.06 per cent. While Nifty Smallcap 100 index closed at 18,732.65 after gaining 44.85 points or 0.24 per cent.

According to market experts, the domestic market concluded flat ahead of the holiday, with metal and power stocks dragging performance while FMCG and auto sectors gained from recent corrections.

"The near-term market trajectory hinges on the outcome of Q3 results and the Union budget, but caution prevails due to a strong dollar, high bond yields, and concerns over rate cuts. The INR hitting an all-time low, further evoked the caution," they added.

On the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), 1,980 shares ended in green and 2,016 in red, whereas there was no change in 96 shares.

On the sectoral front, except Auto, FMCG, Private Bank, Consumption and Healthcare all sectors ended in red.

Godrej Agrovet's winter strategy set to transform fish farming industry

Nalanda/ Nadia: Godrej Agrovet Limited is making significant strides in addressing the seasonal challenges faced by fish farmers with the launch of its innovative winter strategy. As temperatures drop, fish experience slower digestion and limited nutrient absorption, leading to decreased farm productivity. In response, Godrej Agrovet has introduced a multifaceted approach designed to support farmers and optimize fish health during the colder months.

DhrubajyotiBannerjee, CEO of the Aquafeed Business at Godrej Agrovet, emphasized the company's commitment to innovation, stating, "By leveraging digital platforms and community-driven initiatives, we're creating a comprehensive ecosystem that empowers farmers to navigate the most challenging seasonal constraints."

The strategy includes the MatsyaMargadarshan digital campaign, which delivers expert advice through Instagram, WhatsApp, and Facebook, helping farmers optimize their practices. The Aqua Mitra series fosters community-driven learning, while Godrej Aqua Insiders promotes sustainability and women's empowerment in aquaculture.

Fish farmers are embracing these digital solutions, recognizing their potential to drive productivity even in the challenging winter months. By combining technology with traditional farming knowledge, Godrej Agrovet is not only addressing immediate seasonal challenges but also paving the way for long-term growth in the aquaculture industry.

NCLAT approves Sapphire Media's acquisition of Big 92.7 FM



New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) In a significant move for the domestic media and entertainment industry, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has approved Sapphire Media's acquisition of Big 92.7 FM.

The principal bench of the NCLAT dismissed the [lea filed by Radio Mirchi, Orange FM and others against NCLT judgement which approved the resolution plan of Sapphire Media Limited for the radio network Big 92.7 FM, owned by Reliance Broadcast Network Limited.

"After considering the submissions, we find no grounds to interfere with the NCLT's order dated May 6, 2024, and consequently, the appeals are dismissed," according to the NCLAT bench.

"In view of the foregoing discussions and conclusions, we do not find any ground to interfere in the order of NCLT dated 06.05.2024 impugned in the above Appeals. In result, all the Appeals are dismissed," said the bench comprising Chairperson Justice Ashok Bhushan and (Technical) Member, Barun Mitra, in its order.

Big 92.7 FM is the country's largest radio network with 58 stations and a reach of over 1,200 towns and more than 50,000 villages.

The NCLAT decision will help Sapphire Media's aggressive expansions plans in media space. Sapphire Media Limited is promoted by Aditya Vashistha and Kaithal based businessman Sahil Mangla.

Sapphire media also runs a national Hindi news channel called India Daily and is a key player in the outdoor advertising space.

The tribunal upheld the order of the Mumbai bench of the NCLAT, which in a ruling on May 6, 2024, approved the resolution plan of Sapphire Media for Big FM.

The order was challenged by the applicants including Abhijit Realtors and Infraventure and Creative Channel Advertising and Marketing who filed a batch of five appeals before the tribunal.

Committed to India's digital growth amid shifting telecom landscape: Bharti Airtel

New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) Bharti Airtel on Tuesday said it recorded the highest net wireless subscriber additions in October, adding 1.93 million mobile subscribers during the month, thus reflecting steady growth amid a shifting telecom landscape.

The company said it remains committed to supporting India's digital growth and providing robust connectivity solutions. As per latest Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) data, the telecom service provider added 1,928,263 wireless users in October, marking a significant milestone. On the other hand, Reliance Jio and Vodafone Idea reported subscriber losses of 3.76 million and 1.98 million, respectively.

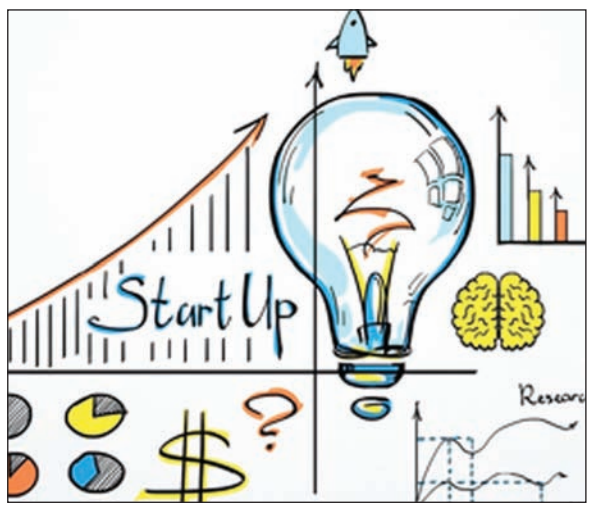
State-run BSNL added 501,224 users while MTNL saw a marginal decline of 2,273 users in October.

The total wireless user base in India fell slightly by 0.29 per cent, decreasing from 1,153.72 million in September to 1,150.42 million in October, as per the TRAI data.

When it comes to machine-to-machine (M2M) connections, Airtel holds the largest market share at 51.82 per cent with 29.08 million connections, followed by Vodafone Idea and Reliance Jio.

On the visitor location register (VLR) performance, Airtel achieved a 99.48 per cent active subscriber rate, the highest among telecom operators, underlining network reliability and quality.

Indian startup ecosystem raises over Rs 29,200 crore in 2024, witnesses record 13 IPOs



New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) In a significant year for the Indian startup ecosystem, 13 new-age companies launched their initial public offerings (IPOs), as startups cumulatively raised more than Rs 29,200 crore from the stock market.

When it comes to IPOs, the figure stood at 10 in 2021, six in 2022 and six in 2023.

This year, 13 startups cumulatively raised Rs 29,247 crore from the cash market. Out of this, the fresh issue was nearly Rs 14,672 crore and Rs 14,574 crore Offer for Sale (OFS).

In an IPO, the money raised under the fresh issue goes directly to the company. At the same time, the money raised under OFS goes directly to the investors and promoters of the company.

Among 13 startup IPOs, 10 were mainboard and 3 were SME IPOs.

The startup IPOs include TAC Security, Unicommerce, MobiKwik, TBO Tek, Ixigo, Trust Fintech, FirstCry, Menhood, Awfis, Swiggy, Digit Insurance, Blackbuck and Ola Electric.

The largest IPO among startup companies was offered by online food delivery platform Swiggy at Rs 11,327.43 crore. Swiggy's shares were listed in the stock market at a price of Rs 420 with a premium of 7.69 per cent.

Following, EV company Ola Electric was in second place with an IPO of Rs 6,145.56 crore, FirstCry at third place with an IPO of Rs 4,193.73 crore, Digit Insurance at fourth place with an IPO of Rs 2,614.65 crore and TBO Tech at fifth place with an IPO of Rs 1,550.81 crore.

Among all the mainboard startup IPOs, Unicommerce got the highest subscription of 168.39 times, MobiKwik 119.38 times, Awfis 108.56 times, Ixigo 98.34 times and TBO Tek, 86.7 times.

Among all the IPOs, TAC Security recorded the highest listing gain of 173.58 per cent, followed by Unicommerce and Mobikwik with a listing gains of 117 per cent and 57.71 per cent, respectively.

Apart from this, Ixigo, Trust Fintech and FirstCry surged 30-50 per cent on the listing.

ESIC overhauls IT systems to boost healthcare, delivery mechanism for millions



New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) In a significant step to improve healthcare services and overall delivery mechanism for millions, the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) on Tuesday said it has modernised its information and IT systems.

The Dhanwantari Hospital Information System (HIS) is now being used more widely in ESIC hospitals and dispensaries, with a 40 per cent growth in adoption, enabling healthcare providers to better manage patient care and hospital operations, according to the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

"The connection pool for the concurrent users of the Dhanwantari Module as well as the Insurance Module has been increased very significantly," the ministry informed.

Moreover, the ESIC's 'Dhanwantari Module' enables the hospitals and dispensaries, with better availability of patient records, previous case history, etc. thus ensures better patient care.

Total number of transactions has increased by 50 per cent since the beginning of the current financial year and is on a linear rise.

"After enhancing the concurrent users 10 times in the month of September, 2024, the number of incidents reported has decreased to one third. The total number of such incidents raised is only 93 for 1.5 crore transactions," the ESIC informed.

ESIC has also upgraded its IT systems, including hardware, middleware, software and network systems; enabling the system to be faster, more secure and easier to use for stakeholders across all ESIC facilities.

The transition is integral part of ongoing operations and maintenance contract with current system integrator at a total cost of Rs 312 crore for 3 years.

Meanwhile, the ESIC mobile app has also been improved to provide a more user-friendly experience and additional features.

Online appointment bookings have seen remarkable growth, with a 200 per cent increase from 2022 to 2023 and another 177 per cent increase from 2023 to 2024.

Nearly 17.80 lakh new employees were enrolled under the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) scheme during October this year.

The ESI Scheme offers medical care under 165 hospitals, 1,590 dispensaries, 105 dispensary-cum-branch-offices (DCBOs), and around 2,900 empanelled private hospitals.

Indian firms raise bumper funds from equity market in 2024, set new records



Mumbai, Dec 24 (IANS) The year 2024 has been a historic one for the Indian stock market. Corporates raised bumper funds from investors through initial public offerings (IPOs), follow-on public offers (FPOs), qualified institutional placements (QIPs) and rights issues, and set several new records.

In 2024, domestic companies raised Rs 1.64 lakh crore through 90 IPOs.

During this period, shares worth Rs 1.39 lakh crore were sold to institutional investors. This is the highest figure ever for raising capital through public issues.

In 2021, companies raised the highest amount of Rs 1.18 lakh crore through IPOs. During this period, shares worth Rs 41,997 crore were sold by the companies to institutional investors.

So far this year, 20 companies have raised about Rs 18,000 crore through rights issues. Last year this figure was Rs 7,266 crore, and in 2022, it was Rs 3,884 crore. Due to the boom in the IPO market, in December 2024, about 15 companies are going to raise Rs 25,500 crore through public issues.

The biggest-ever IPO of the Indian stock market was launched by Hyundai Motor India. Its issue size was Rs 27,870 crore.

Earlier, LIC's public issue of Rs 21,008 crore in 2022 was the biggest IPO in the country so far. In 2024, Vibhor Steel Tube's IPO received the highest subscription of 320 times.

Domestic air passenger traffic in India to clock 6.1 pc growth at 144.9 lakh in Nov



New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) The domestic air passenger traffic in India is expected to clock 6.1 per cent growth at 144.9 lakh in the month of November, compared to 136.6 lakh in October, a report showed on Tuesday.

Further, November witnessed a year-on-year growth of 13.8 per cent in comparison to 127.4 lakh in November 2023 and higher by 11.9 per cent than pre-Covid levels of 129.5 lakh in November 2019, according to estimates by credit rating agency ICRA.

For the eight months this fiscal (April-November), domestic air passenger traffic was 1074.9 lakh, with a YoY growth of 6.7 per cent and 12.3 per cent higher than the pre-Covid level of 957 lakh in the first eight months in FY2020.

Moreover, in the first seven months this fiscal (FY25), the international passenger traffic for Indian carriers stood at 190.3 lakh with a YoY growth of 15.9 per cent, and higher than the pre-Covid level of 131 lakh by 45.4 per cent, the report mentioned.

The airlines' capacity deployment in November 2024 was higher than November 2023 by 8.6 per cent, according to the report.

It is estimated that the domestic aviation industry operated at a passenger load factor (PLF) of 90.4 per cent in November 2024 against 86.3 per cent in November 2023 and 89.5 per cent in November 2019 (pre-Covid).

From April till July this year, the ATF prices were higher by 3.1 per cent, 6.4 per cent, 6.7 per cent and 4.9 per cent, respectively, on a YoY basis.

From August to December, the prices were lower on a YoY basis by 2.2 per cent, 17.8 per cent, 26.5 per cent, 19.6 per cent and 14.5 per cent, respectively, said the report.

Office leasing market in India sees 14 pc growth in 2024, Bengaluru leads

Bengaluru, Dec 24 (IANS) The office market in India saw a robust 14 per cent growth (year-on-year) in 2024, with leasing activity across the top six cities reaching 66.4 million square feet, according to a report on Tuesday. Bengaluru led the Grade A office space demand, with highest-ever leasing volume of 21.7 million square feet, marking an impressive 40 per cent growth, according to a Colliers report.

Demand scale-up was also evident in Hyderabad and Mumbai. With 12.5 and 10.0 million square feet of leasing activity respectively, both cities witnessed double-digit annual office space demand for the first time in 2024. Delhi-NCR too witnessed healthy space uptake and Grade A demand almost touched 10 million square feet mark in 2024. "New supply during the year also remained above the 50 million sq feet mark and kept vacancy levels rangebound. 2025 demand can potentially stabilise at elevated levels and annual space uptake exceeding 60 million sq feet is likely to be the new norm over the next few years," explained Arpit Mehrotra, Managing Director, Office services, India, Colliers.

Sakurajima volcano in Japan erupts



Tokyo, Dec 24 (IANS) A volcano on Sakurajima in Kagoshima Prefecture, southwestern Japan, erupted Monday, with plumes rising to 3400 metres above the summit crater, the country's weather agency said.

According to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), the eruption occurred at the Minamidake crater at 7:29 am local time (2229 GMT on Sunday). There were no immediate reports of injuries and damage to buildings.

Following the explosive event, volcanic smoke drifted southeast and weather officials warned related areas to be on alert for falling volcanic ashes.

The JMA maintained the volcanic activity alert level at three on its five-point scale, meaning that people should not approach the crater, Xinhua news agency reported.

Sakurajima, located in Kagoshima Bay in Kyushu, the country's southwestern main island, is an active composite volcano with three peaks, consisting of Kitadake, Nakadake and Minamidake.

This comes after Mount Sakurajima, a volcano in Japan's Kagoshima prefecture erupted on February 8, 2023, the weather agency said.

The JMA issued a level-2 warning on its five-tier scale, and will raise it to level 3 if volcanic activity increases, it said.

The JMA warned people within a 1-km radius against pyroclastic flows and falling rocks.

50 wild elephants electrocuted in Sri Lanka this year



Colombo, Dec 24 (IANS) Around 50 wild elephants have so far been electrocuted by unauthorised electric fences or wires in Sri Lanka this year, the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) said on Monday.

The CEB said that the wild elephants, a symbol of the country's biodiversity, are increasingly under threat of extinction due to human activities.

According to the statement, the CEB has already taken various appropriate measures regarding this illegal act, and it expects public support to protect wild elephants, Xinhua news agency reported.

In 2023, electrocution had claimed the lives of 72 wild elephants in Sri Lanka, an increase from 50 such deaths reported in 2022, the Department of Wildlife Conservation said.

According to the department, the private construction of electric fences in areas affected by human-elephant conflict has resulted in such elephant deaths.

The department has decided to take stern action against putting such electric fences and traps to kill wild elephants and action would be taken against the installation of substandard electric fences.

A total of 400 elephants died altogether in Sri Lanka in 2023, and about half of the deaths have occurred due to human-elephant conflicts.

Sri Lanka had earlier announced that it would deploy 4,500 development officers to support elephant conservation efforts.

According to Sri Lanka's environment ministry, the number of elephant deaths has dropped by 50 per cent so far this year compared with the corresponding period last year.

According to the ministry, the number of human deaths due to the conflict with wild elephants has come down by 20 per cent during the period.The statement said that the train timetable between midnight and 6 am has been changed for the transportation of goods to prevent wild elephants from being hit by moving trains.

Steps will be taken to clear a 10 metre strip on both sides of railway lines so that engine drivers can see wild elephants to prevent future elephant casualties.

Foreign Affairs Minister Vijitha Herath, who is also in charge of environment and wildlife conservation, has stressed the need to protect both humans and wild elephants while, at the same time, emphasising on preventing damage to crops and properties.

FSSAI-BMC to train 10,000 Mumbai street vendors to provide savoury yet safe, hygienic food



Mumbai, Dec 24 (IANS) Soon, the yummy streetside vada-pavs or bhelpuri or pav-bhaji that millions on Mumbai streets gorge daily, may be served with a dash of food safety and hygiene - courtesy the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation, said officials here on Monday.

In a unique initiative, the FSSAI is all set to train some 10,000 street food vendors lessons in enhancing and maintaining food safety and hygiene for the array of foods that they serve in corner stalls or roadside carts, and now even in vans, that tickle the palates of hungry people all over the city.

The reason is: to reduce public health risks and prevent Mumbaikars from consuming contaminated, unhealthy or unhygienic foods which they love, but which may be harmful for their well-being.

The BMC Administrator, Bhushan Gagrani and the FSSAI CEO, G. Kamalvardhan Rao, signed a memorandum of understanding to the effect with top officials from both sides like Vipin Sharma, Sanjog Kabre, Daksha Shah (BMC) besides Preeti Chaudhary, K.U. Methekar (FSSAI), present.

The FSSAI experts will train the street food vendors on the importance of food safety, personal hygiene, cleanliness, preparation of the place of sale, cooking or preparing the food/s, food hygiene processes, safe handling, storage, waste management, plus information on the Food Safety and Standards Act.

Gagrani said on the occasion that Mumbai is renowned as a metropolis of people who work hard and enjoy a strong bond with the street food vendors, and hence it was important to upskill them properly to keep the health of Mumbaikars robust.

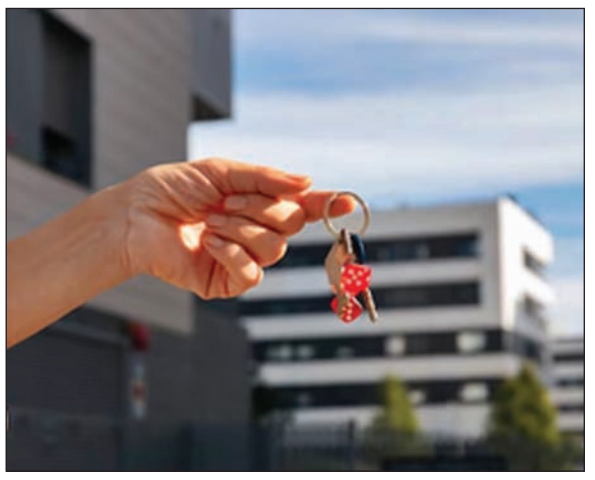
Accordingly, Mumbai's licensed street food vendors will be trained so that they can provide clean, hygienic and fresh food to the citizens to help the Mumbaikars remain 'healthy' always with access to quality foods.

The MoU envisages regular tutoring sessions for the street food sellers, round the year, in collaboration with the BMC and FSSAI, and would benefit around 10,000 licenced vendors to begin with, in all the 227 electoral divisions and Wards of the city.

"The main objective of this training is to increase the knowledge and skills of street food vendors about food safety rules, hygiene practices and safe handling of food, create awareness among them to comply with the 'Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006', reduce risks related to public health and discourage Mumbaikars from consuming contaminated, unhealthy food," remarked Gagrani.

The BMC will ensure that a maximum number of street food vendors participate, provide resources/support for the training and the selected ones will be awarded certificates.

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Demand scale-up was also evident in Hyderabad and Mumbai. With 12.5 and 10.0 million square feet of leasing activity respectively, both cities witnessed double-digit annual office space demand for the first time in 2024.

Delhi-NCR too witnessed healthy space uptake and Grade A demand almost touched 10 million square feet mark in 2024.

"New supply during the year also remained above the 50 million sq feet mark and kept vacancy levels rangebound. 2025 demand can potentially stabilise at elevated levels and annual space uptake exceeding 60 million sq feet is likely to be the new norm over the next few years," explained Arpit Mehrotra, Managing Director, Office services, India, Colliers.

The fourth quarter (Q4) 2024 saw the highest leasing during the year, at 19.7 million square feet, a 14 per cent increase over the previous quarter.

At 4.7 million square feet, flex spaces saw their highest ever quarterly leasing. The flex space demand accounted for 24 per cent of the Grade A space uptake in Q4 2024.

While technology sector continued to drive annual office space demand with almost one-fourth share in overall leasing, flex spaces accounted for almost one-fifth of the Grade A space uptake in 2024. BFSI and engineering and manufacturing sectors too demonstrated healthy leasing activity, both crossing the 10 million square feet leasing this year.

"The occupier preference for managed office spaces augurs well for leading operators, who are likely to increasingly foray into tier 2/3 cities throughout 2025 and expedite their fund-raising plans through primary markets as well," said Vimal Nadar, Senior Director and Head of Research, Colliers India.

On the supply side, Q4 2024 witnessed 15.9 million sq feet of new completions, pushing the total to 53.3 million sq feet for the year, said the report.

Covid infection does not worsen multiple sclerosis symptoms: Study



New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) A Covid-19 infection does not worsen symptoms or disability in people with multiple sclerosis (MS), according to a study.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic disease that affects the central nervous system (CNS) and is caused by an autoimmune attack on the body's healthy cells.

Researchers from the University of Texas's Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas conducted the study on 2,132 adults with MS with an average age of 65. They were followed over 18 months.

While infections are known to cause disability among people with MS, the results published in the online issue of the Neurology journal, showed that "for Covid-19 infections specifically, this was not true".

"This is good news for people with MS, that they do not need to worry about long-term worsening of their MS symptoms after a Covid-19 infection," said Amber Salter, from the varsity, and a member of the American Academy of Neurology.

In the study, a total of 796 people reported having a Covid infection, and 1,336 people reported never having Covid.During the study, participants also reported the severity of their MS symptoms and were asked about walking, hand function, bodily pain, fatigue, memory, and thinking.

Bakery product exports hit record high on growing popularity of K-food



Seoul, Dec 24 (IANS) South Korea's exports of bakery-related products, such as snacks, reached a record high this year, bolstered by the growing global popularity of Korean culture and cuisine, the customs agency said on Tuesday.

Outbound shipments of bakery products came to an all-time high of $440 million in the January-November period, up 8.3 per cent from the same period last year, according to data from the Korea Customs Service.

Snacks accounted for the largest share of the exports, representing 72.5 per cent of the total, reports Yonhap news agency.

Notably, exports of baked goods such as pies surged 18.9 per cent on-year, driven by the appeal of unique items such as steamed buns and fish-shaped pastries.

The agency attributed the growth to the rising influence of K-pop culture, which has sparked heightened global interest in the local cuisine.

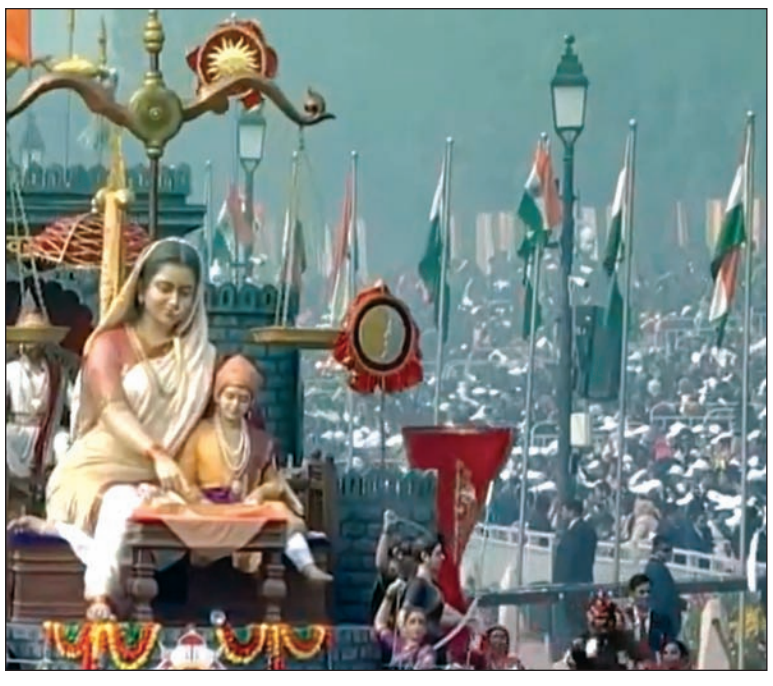
By destination, the United States ranked as the top importer, accounting for 33.5 per cent of South Korea's bakery product exports, followed by China and Japan.

Meanwhile, South Korea's exports of agricultural products reached a record high during the first nine months of 2024, led by strong demand for instant noodles, snacks and beverage products.

Outbound shipments of agricultural goods rose 8.3 percent on-year to come to US$7.38 billion in the January-September period, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. It marked a record for any nine-month figure, it added.

The growth was mainly led by strong demand for instant noodles, or "ramyeon" in Korean, as their exports jumped 29.6 percent on-year to $938 million, a record high.

'Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas' theme for 2025 Republic Day Parade tableau



New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) For the 2025 Republic Day celebrations in the national capital, the theme for tableaux has been decided as 'Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas', a Defence Ministry official said.

As part of the Republic Day celebrations, every year states, union territories (UTs) and Central government ministries and departments showcase their tableaux on the Kartavya Path.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) said in a statement that the 15 states/ UTs such as Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have been selected for showcasing their tableaux on the Kartavya Path for 2025 Republic Day celebration.

In addition, 11 Ministries/Departments of the Central government have also been selected for the 2025 Republic Day celebrations.

All the states/UTs, irrespective of their selection for Kartavya Path, are invited to display their tableaux during Bharat Parv in Red Fort (January 26-31).

The entire selection process is robust, fair, transparent, based on merit and free from any bias.

The selected tableaux would showcase India's diverse strengths and its constantly evolving cultural inclusiveness marching into a glorious future, showcasing 'Swarnim Bharat -- Virasat aur Vikas' to the world audience, the official added.

According to the MoD, since the beginning of this year, a consultative process has been adopted by the Ministry to decide on various aspects related to the tableaux.

A senior official-level meeting was held in April 2024 to deliberate on the improvement of tableaux quality.

Various suggestions received during the meeting have been included in the process.

The theme for tableaux was also decided based on suggestions from the state and UTs.

There is a well-established system for selection of tableaux for participation in the Republic Day Parade as per which MoD invites proposals for tableaux from all states/UTs and Central ministries/departments.

The tableaux proposals received from various state/UTs and Central ministries/departments are evaluated in a series of meetings of the expert committee, comprising eminent persons in the field of art, culture, painting, sculpture, music, architecture, choreography etc.

The MoD said that tableaux are one of the important components of the Republic Day Parade.

Due to the time allotted for tableaux in the overall duration of the parade, the shortlisting of tableaux is done by the Expert Committee.

While evaluating the tableaux ideas presented by various states/UTs and ministries, key aspects like conceptual uniqueness and novelty, creative expression with a clear, communicable message, combining subtlety as well as directness, striking balance between Virasat and Vikas in each tableau, exclusion of repetitive ideas, special attention to details like colours, forms, textures, flow, rhythm, proportions and balance, ensuring a well-composed aesthetic experience of grand scale were taken into consideration for the selection.

47 compassionate appointments approved in West Singhbhum

Mail News Service



Chaibasa, Dec 24: A District Level Compassionate Committee meeting was held at the West Singhbhum District Collectorate under the chairmanship of District Magistrate-cum-Deputy Commissioner Kuldeep Chaudhary. Superintendent of Police Ashutosh Shekhar and other senior officials also attended the session.

The committee reviewed 70 cases, including 13 related to dependents of individuals who died in extremist violence and 57 involving dependents of government servants who passed away during service. After thorough scrutiny, 47 appointments were approved—13 for families affected by extremist violence and 34 for dependents of deceased government servants.

"The decision aims to provide timely support and stability to the affected families," said DC Kuldeep Chaudhary.

Five cases linked to extremist violence were forwarded for further examination and action, while remaining government service cases will be addressed in the next committee meeting on January 10, 2025.

Deputy Development Commissioner Sandeep Kumar Meena, Sadar Chaibasa Sub-Divisional Officer Sandeep Anurag Topno, and Establishment Sub-Collector Kumar Harsh were among those present. The meeting underscored the administration's commitment to addressing these cases efficiently and compassionately. (w/nkm)

Leprosy and tuberculosis cases rise at East Singhbhum

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 24: A three-day medical camp was set up in different blocks of East Singhbhum last week saw a rise in the cases of leprosy and tuberculosis.

Medical camps were organized in Baharagora, Chakulia, Dhalbhumgarh, Dumaria, Ghatshila, Jugsalai Musabani, Potka and Patamda by the District Health Department. These camps were set up to educate the locals and create awareness for diseases such as malaria and leprosy, tuberculosis, Sickle cell disease.

For the diagnosis, the locals were tested for the diseases out of which majority of locals tested negative.

However there were 11 cases of leprosy and 50 cases of tuberculosis which were detected among people tested from the blocks. Ghatsila and Behragora seem to be the most affected block for both tuberculosis and leprosy.

Civil Surgeon Dr Sudhir Pal has stated that "The camps that were organised in different schools were to create awareness.

The children affected by the diseases are given medication and advised the appropriate treatment and they will be monitored further ". Further 15 ABHA cards and around 20 Ayushman cards were also created in Chakulia.

Husband acquitted in attack on pregnant wife

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 24: In a case of alleged domestic violence, Prakash Chauhan, accused of attacking his pregnant wife, Ritu Kumari, was acquitted by the court due to a lack of evidence. The incident took place on July 9, 2017, when Prakash allegedly stopped Ritu near the gate of Sadar Hospital, Khasmahal, and attacked her in an attempt to harm her unborn child. Ritu had filed an FIR at Parsudih police station, alleging that her husband and in-laws had been pressuring her to abort the child. However, the court, after considering the available evidence, ruled in favor of the accused. The case was heard by ADJ-1 Vimlesh Kumar Sahay, who found the evidence insufficient to substantiate the allegations. (w/nkm)

Snake and Animal bite management training in Dalbhumgarh

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec. 24: A one-day training program on Snake and animal bite awareness and management was conducted by the District Surveillance Unit, East Singhbhum in Dalbhumgarh on Monday.

The training was organized for all the Sahiyas, Sahiya Sathi, ANM's, pharmacists, lab technicians and medical officers at the Community Health Centre. Training was provided on what to do in case of an animal bite and also on how to treat patients on to prevent rabies and the medication required and other important details related to animal bite. The session was convened in the presence of IDPS officer Dr Asad. Chief Medical Officer Dr. Sahir Pal sharing the objective of the training stated "We want the people to be aware of the severity of these cases. In case of an animal bite the locals should not believe in jhad phoonk or exorcism rather they should be seek medical help. The state provides remedies of anti venom drugs to cure snake bites and other animal bites."

Seven-day Shiv Katha begins today at Mango Vasundhara State

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 24: The much-awaited seven-day Trishul Shiv Mahapuran Katha begins today, December 25, at Vasundhara State, located near Irrigation Colony on NH 33, Mango. The event will continue until Wednesday, January 1.

The daily sessions will be conducted by Swami Vrijnandan Shastri Ji Maharaj from Shridham Vrindavan, who will narrate the Shri Shiv Katha from 4 pm to 7 pm. During the narration, Maharaj Ji will also showcase glimpses of different forms of God.

The event is being organized by the Kiran-Umashankar Sharma family, with all preparations now complete. According to Krishna Sharma Kali, District Treasurer of BJP, the program will commence on December 25 with a Kalash Yatra and will conclude with a grand Bhandara on January 1.

Additionally, the Shiv Katha Mahotsav will be broadcast live on Aastha Channel for those unable to attend in person. (w/nkm)

Purnima slams state's failure during visit to Chhinnamastika Temple in Rajrappa



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 24: Jamshedpur East MLA Purnima Sahu, daughter-in-law of Odisha Governor Raghubar Das, visited the Chhinnamastika Temple in Rajrappa with her family to seek blessings from Maa Bhagwati. She was welcomed by Rajiv Jaiswal, the representative of the Ramgarh District MP, who presented her with a memento. During her visit, Purnima Sahu expressed strong dissatisfaction with the Hemant government, claiming that it had failed to deliver on its election promises. According to her, the state government has not been able to ensure safety for women and girls, who feel unsafe and frightened due to the rise in criminal activities, particularly molestation cases. She criticized the state's police force for its inability to manage law and order.

Sahu also pointed out that the state government had promised a financial assistance of Rs 2,500 to the people of Jharkhand under the Maiya scheme before the elections, but this amount has not yet been transferred to the beneficiaries. She further lamented that none of the promises made by the Hemant government have been fulfilled, highlighting the government's inefficiency. Reflecting on the development of the Chhinnamastika temple, she noted that during the BJP-led government in Jharkhand, significant progress had been made in beautifying and developing the temple and other tourist spots. However, since the JMM government took power, she claimed that development had come to a halt.

The visit saw the entire family of Raghubar Das, including his wife Rukmini Devi, son Lalit Das, daughter-in-law Purnima Sahu, son-in-law Jaspal Sahu, daughter Renu Sahu, and grandson Abhijeet Sahu, performing the ritualistic worship at the temple. The temple's chief priest, Chotu Panda, led the prayers. Local BJP leaders such as Pritam Jha, Deendayal Kumar, and Dhananjay Putush, along with several others, were present to mark the occasion. (w/nkm)

BSS Pranav Children World School sports meet



Yellow House emerges winner

Jamshedpur, Dec 24: Bharat Sevashram Sangha(BSS) Pranav Children World School celebrated its 34th Annual Sports Day at Jogger's Park, Sonari, with the theme "Serenity and Beauty of Nature."

Bidhan Marandi, Area Officer, Urban Services, Tata Steel Foundation, graced the event as the Chief Guest, while Manoj Kumar Singh, President of the Press Club of Jamshedpur, attended as Guest of Honour. Swami Muktat Manandaji and Swami Someshawarandaji Maharaj were also present, along with Principal Kakali Guha and the teaching staff.

The event began with a march past, followed by the official opening of the sports meet. Around 600 students from Nursery to Class 6 participated in drill displays, yoga and karate demonstrations.

In the competitions, Mohit Raj and Prashansa Sharma were named Best Athletes, while Yellow House emerged as the overall winner. The event concluded with exciting races, cheered enthusiastically by spectators.

Jamshedpur Notified Area Committee, Jamshedpur
New Kalimati Road, Sakchi-831001
E-mail ID-jnacjsr@gmail.com

Letter No:3311 Date:-23.12.2024

Corrigendum

The last date of Purchased of BOQ and submission of proposal for Rate contract of supply of various items & services invited vide-PR No.-341910 Urban Development (24-25) has been revised date- 30.12.2024

Dy. Municipal Commissioner,
Jamshedpur Notified Area Committee,
Jamshedpur

PR.NO.342810 Urban Development(24-25):D

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय,
लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल, सरायकेला
–:: शुद्धि पत्र ::–

ई–निविदा संख्या **WRD/MID/SERAIKELLA/BD/SLI-02/2024-25** जो **PR N0- 341463 (WATER RESOURCES)** 24-25*D के माध्यम से प्रकाशित की गई है, को अरिहार्य कारणवश अगले आदेश तक स्थगित की जाती है ।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल,
सरायकेला

PR 342789 Water Resource (24-25)D

झारखण्ड सरकार
(जल संसाधन विभाग)
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
खरकई बाँध प्रमंडल संख्या –2, ईचा चालियामा
(सुवर्णरेखा बहुद्देशीय परियोजना)
e-mail- eekdd2chal.icha@gmail.com

शुद्धि पत्र

एतद द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस प्रमंडल के पत्रांक **562** दिनांक 10.12.2024 को प्रकाशित निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना WRD /IGC/KDD-2/F2-01/2024-25 & WRD/IGC/KDD-2/F2-02/2024-2 , PR No.- 341909 (Water Resource) 24-25*D Dt.14.12.2024 को प्रभात खबर समाचार पत्रो में प्रकाशित निविदा को अप्रहय कारण वश रदद किया जाता है।

P.R. - 341909 (Water Resource) 24-25*D

PR 342837 Water Resource(24-25)#D

कार्यपालक अभियंता
खरकई बाँध प्रमंडल सं0–2, ईचा चालियामा

MANGO MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Request for Proposal /e-Procurement Notice
NIT No.: UDHD/MMC/RFP/ 03 /2024-25 Date: 21.12.2024
Very Short Tender Notice

1.	Name of the Work	Request for Proposal for Selection of Consultant for Project Management Consultancy services for Bioremediation and Clearing of Legacy Waste (Scientific Dumpsite Land Reclamation through Bio-mining and Resource Recovery) at existing Dumpsite, Mango under Mango Municipal Corporation, Jharkhand
2.	Mode of submission of bids	Online Tender
3.	Tender Fee &Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In INR)	Cost of Tender Document: 1,000/- *(Rupees One Thousand) only(Non-refundable)* Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) – Rs. 10,000/- *(Rs.Ten Thousand)only*
4.	Date of Publication onWebsite	23/12/2024 at 03.00 hrs
5.	Date of Start of Submissionof online Bids	23/12/2024 at 03.00 hrs
6.	Last Date/Time for submission of online bids	01/01/2025 at 17.00 Hrs
7.	Date of Technical Bid Opening	03/01/2025 at 11.00 Hrs
8.	Official Inviting Tender	Deputy Municipal Commissioner, MMC
9.	Tender fee and EMD submission address	Online through eportal https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
10.	Helpline no.	8789415324

Note: Only e-tender will be accepted
Further details are available on Jharkhand Government e-procurement website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Deputy Municipal Commissioner
Mango Municipal Corporation, Jamshedpur.

PR.NO.342727 Urban Development(24-25):D

वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक का कार्यालय
पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर।
लापताः आवश्यक सूचना



गुमशुदा पुरूष मिहिर कुमार पात्रो, उम्र–53 वर्ष।

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि आवेदक सुधीर कुमार पात्रो के द्वारा अपने भाई मिहिर कुमार पात्रो, उम्र–53 वर्ष की गुमशुदगी के संबंध में संबंधित थाना परसुडीह में लिखित आवेदन दिये हैं। जिसमें आवेदक अपने गुमशुदा भाई मिहिर कुमार पात्रो, उम्र–53 वर्ष, पिता–अजम्बर पात्रो, ग्राम–गदड़ा, फकीर टोला, थाना–परसुडीह, जिला–पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर जो दिनांक–07.12.2024 को सुबह 08:00 बजे अपनी पुत्री के घर ग्राम–धोबा–धोबिन, झारग्राम, प0 बंगाल जाने के लिए घर से निकले थे लेकिन पुत्री के यहाँ नहीं पहूँचे हैं और न ही घर वापस लौटे हैं। आवेदक एवं उनके परिवार के द्वारा अपने स्तर से काफी खोजबीन किया गया परन्तु कुछ पता नहीं चल सका है। गुमशुदा पुरुष का हुलिया निम्न प्रकार हैः–उम्र–53 वर्ष, पहनावा–काला रंग का जैकेट, ब्लू रंग का ट्राउजर, काला चश्मा और काला जुता पहने हुए हैं।

अतः आप सभी जन साधारण से अनुरोध है कि यदि उपरोक्त हुलिये के संबंध में किसी प्रकार की जानकारी प्राप्त होती है तो इसकी सूचना वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक के कार्यालय में निम्नांकित फोन नम्बर पर सूचित करें।

वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर	: 0657–2431006
पुलिस अधीक्षक नगर, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर	: 9471190203
पुलिस उपाधीक्षक, विधि–व्यवस्था	: 9431706482
थाना प्रभारी, परसुडीह	: 9431706515

वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक,
पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर।

PR 342774 Police(24-25)D

जिला दण्डाधिकारी एवं उपायुक्त का कार्यालय,
पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर
(जिला योजना)

Expression of Interest (EOI) निविदा प्रारूप

पूर्वी सिंहभूम जिला अंतर्गत Supply and Installation of ECCE Materials and Furniture with BaLA Painting and Nutri Garden in AWC in East Singhbhum, Jharkhand से संबंधित Expression of Interest (EOI) ईच्छुक प्रतिशिठत फर्म/संस्थान से दर आमंत्रित किया जाता है।

ईच्छुक प्रतिशिठत फर्म/संस्थान दिनांक–10.01.2025 के अपराह्न 12:30 बजे तक जिला योजना कार्यालय, पूर्वी सिंहभूम (समाहरणालय जमशेदपुर) में Expression of Interest (EOI) जमा कर सकते हैं। इस संबंध में विस्तृत विवरणी पूर्वी सिंहभूम जिला के वेबसाईट https://jamshedpur.nic.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

ह0/–
संयुक्त निदेशक (योजना)
–सह–जिला योजना पदाधिकारी,
पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर।

PR 342786 Planning and Development(24-25)D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर।
Email ID- rdsd–jamshedpur@nic.in
:–शुद्धि पत्रः–

इस कार्यालय का अति अल्पकालीन ई0–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या E-RDSD/JSR/13/2024-25 जिसका (PR No :– 341071 (Rural Development) 24-25)_ D का क्रमांक सं0 3 एवं 4 में वर्णित योजना का निम्न प्रकार से आंशिक संशोधन किया जाता है :–

1. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय – दिनांक 01.01.2025 को अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक।
2. ई–निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर।
3. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय – 03.01.2025 अपराह्न 02:00 बजे।
4. ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेश प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर।
5. ई–निविदा प्रकोश्ट का दूरभाश सं0 – 09431990319
6. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
7. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
8. 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।

शेष अन्य सभी शर्तें यथावत् रहेगा।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,जमशेदपुर।

PR 342735 Rural Development(24-25)D

पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर

अति अल्पकालीन ई0 निविदा सूचना संख्या :– 12/2024–25 दिनांक 24.12.2024

1	विभाग का नाम	पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, झारखण्ड, राँची।
2	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांकः– 26.12.2024, समयः– 4.00 बजे अपराह्न तक।
3	निविदा प्राप्ति (Online Bidding) की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांकः– 02.01.2025 को अपराह्न समय 4.00 बजे तक।
4	सरकार के सचिव, सूचना प्रौद्यौगिकी एवं ई0– गवर्नेस झारखंड मंत्रालय के ज्ञापांक 120, दिनांक 03.10.2023 के आलोक में विपत्र का मूल्य एवं अग्रधन की राशि ऑन लाईन जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांकः– 02.01.2025 समयः– 4.00 बजे अपराह्न तक।
5	तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांकः– 03.01.2025 समय 4.30 बजे अपराह्न
6	तकनीकी बीड खोलने का स्थान	कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर।
7	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम/पदनाम	ई0 सुनील कुमार, कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर।
8	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले कार्यालय का दूरभाष संख्या	9430158557
9	ई–प्रोक्यूरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाईन नं0	0651–2480345

क्र0 सं0	कार्य का नाम	ग्रुप संख्या	योजना की सख्या	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में)	अग्रधन की राशि (रूपये में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (रूपये में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	बहरागोड़ा प्रखंड अन्तर्गत ग्राम मानुषमुड़िया ग्रामीण पाईप जलापूर्ति योजना का बोरवेल का निर्माण कार्य।	Gr.-01	1 No.	895469.00	18000.00	1250.00	1 Months

नोट– केवल ई0 निविदा ही स्वीकार किये जायेंगे। साथ ही प्राक्कलित राशि घट या बढ़ सकती है। अधिक जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता,
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल
जमशेदपुर

PR 342788 Drinking Water and Sanitation (24-25)_D

पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर

अति अल्पकालीन ई0 निविदा संख्याः– 13/2024–25 दिनांक 24.12.2024

1	विभाग का नाम	पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, झारखण्ड, राँची।
2	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांकः– 26.12.2024, समयः– 4.00 बजे अपराह्न तक।
3	निविदा प्राप्ति (Online Bidding) की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांकः– 02.01.2025 को अपराह्न समय 4.00 बजे तक
4	सरकार के सचिव, सूचना प्रौद्यौगिकी एवं ई0– गवर्नेस झारखंड मंत्रालय के ज्ञापांक 120, दिनांक 03.10.2023 के आलोक में विपत्र का मूल्य एवं अग्रधन की राशि ऑन लाईन जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांकः– 02.01.2025 समयः– 4.00 बजे अपराह्न तक।
5	तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांकः– 03.01.2025 समय 5.00 बजे अपराह्न
6	तकनीकी बीड खोलने का स्थान	कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर।
7	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम/पदनाम	ई0 सुनील कुमार, कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर।
8	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले कार्यालय का दूरभाष संख्या	9430158557
9	ई–प्रोक्यूरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाईन नं0	0651– 2480345

क्र0 सं0	कार्य का नाम	ग्रुप संख्या	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में)	अग्रधन की राशि (रूपये में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (रूपये में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	Supplying of light goods carrier motor vehicle like Mahindra pick up van of equivalent with all applicable P.O.L including driver, one no. tube well mistry, and two nos. of labour for ordinary repairing of hand pumps in different blocks under D.W. & S. Division, Jamshedpur for 90 days for following groups.	R/M to DT Sub Division, Jamshedpur Group-01	341302.00	7000.00	750.00	3 Month
		R/M to DT Sub Division, Ghatshila Block-Ghatshila/Musabani/Dumaria Group-02	341302.00	7000.00	750.00	3 Month
		R/M to DT Sub Division, Chakulia Block-Dhalbhumgarh/ Gurabandha/Chakulia/ Bahragora Group-03	541692.00	11000.00	1250.00	3 Month

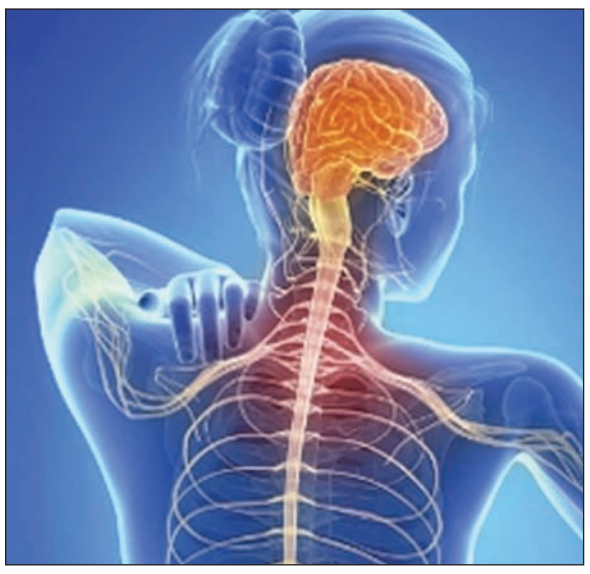
नोट– केवल ई0 निविदा ही स्वीकार किये जायेंगे। साथ ही प्राक्कलित राशि घट या बढ़ सकती है। अधिक जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता,
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल,जमशेदपुर

PR 342820 Drinking Water and Sanitation(24-25).D

Health

Covid infection does not worsen multiple sclerosis symptoms: Study



New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) A Covid-19 infection does not worsen symptoms or disability in people with multiple sclerosis (MS), according to a study.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic disease that affects the central nervous system (CNS) and is caused by an autoimmune attack on the body's healthy cells.

Researchers from the University of Texas's Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas conducted the study on 2,132 adults with MS with an average age of 65. They were followed over 18 months.

While infections are known to cause disability among people with MS, the results published in the online issue of the Neurology journal, showed that "for Covid-19 infections specifically, this was not true".

"This is good news for people with MS, that they do not need to worry about long-term worsening of their MS symptoms after a Covid-19 infection," said Amber Salter, from the varsity, and a member of the American Academy of Neurology.

In the study, a total of 796 people reported having a Covid infection, and 1,336 people reported never having Covid.

During the study, participants also reported the severity of their MS symptoms and were asked about walking, hand function, bodily pain, fatigue, memory, and thinking.

Participants also reported their level of disability based on how their condition affects daily activities like walking or standing.

The findings showed that for people with and without Covid, MS symptom severity increased nominally by 0.02 points per month.

No difference was found in MS symptom severity as well as in disability between people with and without Covid.

"Our study indicates that Covid-19 infection was not associated with immediate changes in symptom severity or disability, nor did it change the MS symptoms or disability trajectory for more than a year and a half after the infection," said Salter.

She, however, noted that the results may differ for younger people.

Science/Tech.



New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) Quantum technology, the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), and women scientists ruled the Indian science sector in 2024, according to the Union government on Tuesday.

In 2024, India's ranking in global science and technology indices rose significantly. The country secured 39th position in the Global Innovation Index among the top innovative economies globally as per Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024.

The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Report 2023 ranked India at sixth position in terms of intellectual property (IP) filings in the world. The country also improved its ranking to 49th position (2024) from 79th position (2019), as per the Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2024 report.

The ANRF Act, 2023 which came into force on February 5, "represents India's pioneering efforts to unleash Indian research and innovation talent to achieve global scientific and technological excellence", said the Ministry of Science & Technology.

In 2024, the ANRF initiated the Prime Minister's Early Career Research Grant (PM ECRG) programme, launched the EV-mission programme, unveiled the Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR) initiative, and initiated the scheme Inclusivity Research Grant (IRG).

Further, the Union Cabinet approved the National Quantum Mission (NQM) at a total cost of Rs.6,003.65 crore for eight years. It aims to seed, nurture, and scale up scientific and industrial R&D and create a vibrant and innovative ecosystem in quantum technology.

The year also saw a boost in geospatial data, infrastructure, and technology, which improved citizen services.

Under the Geospatial Capacity Building, the government initiated a fortnightly spatial thinking programme in schools across the country.

The programme spanned seven states -- Gujarat, Haryana, Odisha, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, and Rajasthan, 49 districts, and 16 schools, addressing 154 teachers and reaching out to 6,205 students in 2024.

The year also saw an increase in women's participation in science. More than 340 women scientists were supported through major fellowship programmes. Under Vigyan Jyoti, more than 29,000 girls of Class 9-12 from 300 districts of 34 states/UTs of the country benefitted through various activities and interventions.

The country also launched several climate change initiatives with four new centres of excellence and risk mapping for flood and drought.

Allu Arjun grilled for three-and-a-half hours in theatre stampede



Hyderabad, Dec 24 (IANS) Hyderabad police interrogated Tollywood actor Allu Arjun for more than three-and-half hours in the Sandhya Theatre stampede case on Tuesday.

The Pushpa star left for his residence from Chikkadpally Police Station around 3 p.m. amid tight security.

Investigating officers grilled the actor in the presence of his lawyer.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Central Zone, Akshansh Yadav led the police team which examined him. Assistant Commissioner of Police L. Ramesh Kumar and Inspector Raju Naik were also present during the questioning.

The police officers are believed to have quizzed him about the new CCTV evidence which surfaced with regard to the December 4 incident at Sandhya Theatre during the premier show of "Pusha 2: The Rule".

Allu Arjun was reportedly questioned based on a 10-minute video prepared by police compiling CCTV footage of the incident and also the statements made by him after his release from jail and also on December 21.

It was immediately unclear if the police had asked Allu Arjun to appear for interrogation again.

Earlier, amid tight security, the national award-winning actor reached Chikkadpally Police Station around 11 a.m.

The police on Monday issued a notice to the actor, directing him to appear before them for further questioning. Police had made tight security at the police station and imposed restrictions around the police station.

Allu Arjun's father Allu Arvind, other family members his lawyers also reached the police station.

A woman died and her son was critically injured in the stampede at Sandhya Theatre on December 4 during the premier show of "Puspha 2: The Rule" and the theatre management, Allu Arjun, and his team were booked for culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

The "Pushpa.." star, who is listed by police as accused number 11, was arrested on December 13. His statement was recorded at Chikkadpally Police Station and he was later produced in a city court, which sent him to judicial custody for 14 days. However, the same day the Telangana High Court granted him interim bail for four weeks. The actor was released from Chanchalguda Jail the next day.

The fresh notice to Allu Arjun came amid reports that the police are planning to approach the High Court to cancel his interim bail.

Hyderabad Police Commissioner C. V. Anand had said on Sunday that the police would take the next step in the case after taking legal opinion. The police chief on Sunday also released minute-to-minute CCTV footage of the incident at Sandhya Theatre to debunk Allu Arjun's claims. The police compiled a 10-minute video to provide a clear account of what had transpired on December 4. Anand said the video was compiled after analysing 1,000 video clippings.

Nikhita Gandhi recalls her first meeting with Shreya Ghoshal



Mumbai, Dec 24 (IANS) Pop Sensation Nikhita Gandhi on a popular music reality show recalled her first meeting with popular playback sensation Shreya Ghoshal and said that it was during a recording session for filmmaker Rajkummar Rao's film "Sanju".

Nikhita and Shreya Ghosal had lent their vocals for the Ranbir Kapoor starrer Sanju directed Rajkumar Hirani for two songs Mujhe Chaand Pe Le Chaalo and Kar Har Maidan Fateh respectively.

Reminiscing about the recording days, Nikhita said: "I remember meeting Shreya for the first time during Rajkumar Hirani's film Sanju where we both had our songs. I remember meeting her during the recording sessions and she was in the recording booth doing her takes and every take was so flawless. I remembered sitting there in awe and listening to her singing. She is one of the most flawless singers I have ever heard."

She further added,"So it was really great to meet her again and I really look up to her as an artist and the way she has honed her craft."

Nikhita had recently performed her successful tracks in AP Dhillon's Brownpoint tour that kickstarted in Mumbai and also has been travelling the globe for her live gigs.

The 33-year-old singer has sung as the face of Deepika Padukone in Raabta for the title track "Raabta". She sang " Ullu Ka Pattha" with Arijit Singh from the film Jagga Jasoos.

She lent her vocal prowess for many Hindi films including Sachin: A Billion Dreams, Jab Harry Met Sejal, Kedarnath, Luka Chuppi, Sooryavanshi and Tiger 3. Nikhita has also sung Bengali and Tamil songs from movies like Leo, Varisu, Cockpit and Kishmish. Her chartbuster hits include songs "Aao Kabhi Haveli Pe", "Poster Lagwa Do" and "Jugnu" with Badshah turned out to be a viral hit.

Sidharth, Janhvi-starrer 'Param Sundari' to release on July 25, 2025



Mumbai, Dec 24 (IANS) Actors Sidharth Malhotra, Janhvi Kapoor's cross-cultural romance film "Param Sundari" has been locked for theatrical release on July 25, 2025.

The film is by production house Maddock Films, directed by Tushar Jalota of "Dasvi" fame. It centers on a love story between a North Indian played by Sidharth and a South Indian girl, filmed in Kerala.

The film "promises a heartfelt tale of love, where two worlds collide, and sparks are bound to fly. Set against the breathtaking backwaters of Kerala, this love story is a roller-coaster of laughter, chaos, and unexpected twists you won't see coming," per a description provided by Maddock, reports variety.com.

"Its like those films that Mani-sir (Mani Ratnam) used to do like 'Saathiya' (the Hindi-language remake of Tamil drama-romance film "Alai Payuthey")," Maddock chief Dinesh Vijan told Variety.

"The kind of music it has and Janhvi playing a South Indian is interesting, Sid's playing a Northern Delhi boy and the conflict is very cool. It's like maybe taking 'Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya' forward – there's a high tech idea in there. But we are going into the 'Kantara' world of sorts – we are going a little more than than that."

In Maddock's hit sci-fi rom-com "Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya," Kriti Sanon plays SIFRA , with whom robotics engineer Aryan, played by Shahid Kapoor, falls in love. SIFRA eventually develops sentient feelings.

Rishab Shetty's "Kantara", which released in 2022, is a folk-action drama set in rural Karnataka, where a rebellious villager, Shiva, becomes entangled in a clash between his community's sacred traditions and modern greed.

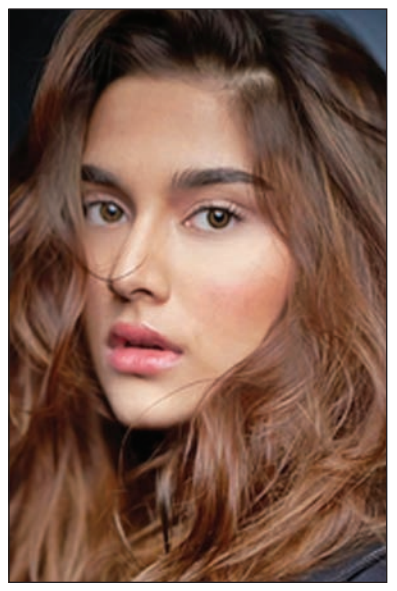
Maddock shared the poster on Instagram and wrote: "North ka swag, South ki grace – two worlds collide and sparks fly. Dinesh Vijan presents #ParamSundari, a love story directed by Tushar Jalota, coming to cinemas on 25th July 2025.Meet the suave Sidharth Malhotra as Param and the vivacious Janhvi Kapoor as Sundari."

They also revealed the characters Param played by the actor and Janhvi essaying the role of Sundari.

For Sidharth's character, the caption read: "Introducing @sidmalhotra as North ka Munda Param, all set to charm his way into your hearts!"

Sundari was described as "Introducing @janhvikapoor as South ki Sundari, here to melt your heart with her grace."

Saiee Manjrekar's birthday spread includes her comfort food, classic family recipes



Mumbai, Dec 24 (IANS) Actress Saiee Manjrekar is celebrating her birthday on Tuesday. On the occasion of her special day, the actress said that her mom has prepared a special birthday meal spread for her which includes her favorite comfort foods and some classic family recipes.

Sharing her plans for her birthday, the actress told IANS, "Birthdays for me are all about celebrating life with my loved ones. This year, I'm keeping it intimate but special, a mix of quality time with family, close friends, and maybe a little surprise element planned by someone (or myself)".

When asked about the delicacies on her special day, the actress said, "Oh, it's a feast! Think of a table filled with all my favorite comfort foods, some indulgent desserts, classic family recipes, and maybe a unique dish that becomes the talk of the evening. Food has always been a big part of celebrations for me".

She also shared how the meaning of birthdays have changed for her as she grew up. She said, "Over the years, birthdays have transformed from being just about parties and gifts to moments of gratitude and reflection. Earlier, it was all about making it grand, but now, it's more about cherishing the simple joys of life, being with the people who matter and celebrating how far I've come".

Earlier this year, the actress shot for the upcoming film 'The India House' along with actor Nikhil Siddharth in Hampi. The team started the shoot with a grand pooja ceremony held at Virupaksha Temple in Hampi in the presence of the core team.

Nargis Fakhri reveals how she bagged 'Rockstar'

Mumbai, Dec 24 (IANS) Actress Nargis Fakhri revealed that it was an ad campaign she shot for in Greece that helped her bag the 2011 blockbuster film "Rockstar" starring Ranbir Kapoor.

Nargis was chatting with filmmaker Farah Khan, who had invited the actress to her home to cook for her YouTube channel. In the vlog, Nargis cooked a quick and healthy vegetable stir fry. Farah asked Nargis which country she came from when she was in "Rockstar" directed by Imtiaz Ali."I was in… at that time I was living in Denmark, Copenhagen," said Nargis.

Farah then questioned: "How did they discover you?"To which, Nargis replied saying an "E-mail". Nargis said: "When I lived in Greece. I was a model and I got one job for a jewelry campaign. So, as a model we don't know where the ads are going. They just say you are hired, they pay us and we do the job."

'Thukra Ke Mera Pyaar' becomes most subscribed show in UP, Bihar, MP

Mumbai, 20 December 2024: UP ki kahani, Bihar ki beti now trending as India's no. 1 show on Disney+ Hotstar. A gripping tale from the heartland of India with relatable characters Hotstar Specials' Thukra ke mera pyaar became the most subscribed show ever on Disney+ Hotstar in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

Written by Kamal Pandey, produced by Bombay Show Studios, and directed by Shraddha Pasi Jairath, the show features a stellar cast, including emerging talents Dhaval Thakur and Sanchita Basu, alongside seasoned actors like Aniruddha Dave and Kapil Kanpuriya.

Dhaval Thakur, who plays Kuldeep Kumar, shared, "Thukra Ke Mera Pyaar being embraced by audiences across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh feels surreal. Playing Kuldeep was a transformative experience, and seeing the show break records is asli satisfaction. I'm thankful to Disney+ Hotstar and our incredible team for the opportunity to bring such a layered character to life and for making this a truly unforgettable journey."

Sanchita Bashu, who plays Shaanvika, expressed, "Growing up in a small town in Bihar, it's truly special to see a story from my roots being loved by everyone. It's inspiring how a narrative so deeply rooted in reality has connected with audiences. Portraying Shanvika's character has been a life-changing journey, and I'm deeply grateful to Disney+ Hotstar and our incredible team for trusting me with this role." Immerse yourself in Thukra ke mera pyaar, streaming exclusively on Disney+ Hotstar!



100th Tansen Sangeet Samaroh sets new milestone with Guinness World Records

Nabadwip, Dec 23: The 100th Tansen Sangeet Samaroh, a grand celebration of Hindustani classical music, has etched its name in history by creating a Guinness World Record for the Largest Hindustani Classical Band with 546 musicians. Held at the iconic Gwalior Fort, the event witnessed an awe-inspiring performance by the musicians, who played three of Tansen's iconic ragas: Rag Malhar, Rag Mia ki Todi, and Rag Darbari. Organised by the Cultural Department of Madhya Pradesh government, this milestone event also celebrated Gwalior's recent recognition as a UNESCO City of Music, highlighting its global significance in the world of classical music.

The record-setting performance was presided over by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav and attended by dignitaries, music lovers, and international guests. The performance left the audience mesmerised. Commenting on the achievement, Nischal Barot said, "This Guinness World Record reflects the enduring spirit of Indian classical music and flawless teamwork." A spokesperson for the Cultural Department hailed the event as a moment of pride for the nation, saying, "This achievement reflects not only the artistic excellence of our musicians but also their unity in celebrating Tansen's timeless legacy."

Champions Trophy: India-Pak clash on Feb 23 in Dubai, final on March 9



Dubai, Dec 24 (IANS) India will take on defending champions and arch-rivals Pakistan in Dubai on February 23 in the Champions Trophy 2025 as the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday announced the schedule for the marquee tournament, set to begin on February 19.

In the tournament opener, hosts Pakistan will take on New Zealand in Karachi with the final scheduled for March 9. The eight-team tournament will feature 15 matches, played across venues in Pakistan and Dubai.

The teams are divided into two groups: Group A of the tournament features current Champions Trophy holders and hosts Pakistan, along with India, New Zealand and Bangladesh, while Group B features Cricket World Cup 2023 champions Australia, alongside Afghanistan, England and South Africa.

Pakistan will host most of the matches, but all of India's group games and the first semi-final will be played in Dubai.

In Pakistan, Rawalpindi, Lahore, and Karachi will be the three venues to play host to the tournament. Each Pakistan venue will feature three group games apiece, with Lahore hosting the second semi-final.

If India qualifies for the final, it will also be moved to Dubai; otherwise, Lahore will host the championship match. Reserve days are scheduled for both semi-finals and the final.

The Dubai leg begins on February 20 with India taking on Bangladesh. Group B campaign begins on February 21, with Afghanistan squaring up against South Africa in Karachi.

A big weekend then kicks off with rivals England and Australia set to clash in Lahore on February 22, with the much-anticipated Pakistan-India clash set for the day later.

Groups:

Group A - Pakistan, India, New Zealand, Bangladesh

Group B - South Africa, Australia, Afghanistan, England

Champions Trophy 2025 schedule:

February 19, Pakistan v New Zealand, Karachi, Pakistan

February 20, Bangladesh v India, Dubai

February 21, Afghanistan v South Africa, Karachi, Pakistan

February 22, Australia v England, Lahore, Pakistan

February 23, Pakistan v India, Dubai

February 24, Bangladesh v New Zealand, Rawalpindi, Pakistan

February 25, Australia v South Africa, Rawalpindi, Pakistan

February 26, Afghanistan v England, Lahore, Pakistan

February 27, Pakistan v Bangladesh, Rawalpindi, Pakistan

February 28, Afghanistan v Australia, Lahore, Pakistan

March 1, South Africa v England, Karachi, Pakistan

March 2, New Zealand v India, Dubai

March 4, Semi-final 1, Dubai

March 5, Semi-final 2, Lahore, Pakistan

March 9, Final, Lahore (unless India qualify, when it will be played in Dubai)

March 10, Reserve day

PCB chairman hails CT agreement as 'milestone for Pakistan'



New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) "We are pleased that an agreement has been reached based on the principles of equality and respect, showcasing the spirit of cooperation and collaboration that defines our sport," Naqvi stated, highlighting the importance of this milestone for Pakistan cricket.

He further expressed gratitude to the ICC for enabling Pakistan to co-host the tournament alongside Dubai. "Hosting the Champions Trophy is a significant milestone for Pakistan, highlighting our commitment to promoting cricket at the highest level and showcasing our capabilities as a premier event organizer. Pakistan is elated to welcome the world to the Champions Trophy, and we look forward to extending our renowned hospitality to all," he added.

ICC Chairman Jay Shah also took to X to express his feelings towards the upcoming tournament.

"Very excited for the @ICC Men's Champions Trophy to start in February," read the post on X.

Axar Patel announces birth of baby boy Haksh Patel



New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) India all-rounder Axar Patel shared a heartwarming announcement, on Tuesday, revealing the arrival of his baby boy, Haksh Patel.

Axar took to Instagram to share the joyous moment, posting a picture of his son, dressed in a tiny Indian team jersey, holding his parents' hands.

"He's still figuring out the off side from the leg, but we couldn't wait to introduce him to all of you in blue. World, welcome Haksh Patel, India's smallest, yet biggest fan, and the most special piece of our hearts," Axar captioned the post.

Axar's name had been in contention for a spot in the Indian squad for the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy. However, skipper Rohit Sharma addressed the speculation during a press conference, explaining why Mumbai off-spinning all-rounder Tanush Kotian was chosen as Ravichandran Ashwin's replacement.

Rohit clarified that Axar was unavailable for selection due to personal commitments following the birth of his son. Additionally, Axar's record in overseas conditions was taken into account. While he has been an integral part of India's spin arsenal, his effectiveness has primarily been on home soil.

Kuldeep Yadav, who offers a unique left-arm wrist-spin option, is recovering from hernia surgery and is not fit for selection. Axar Patel, on the other hand, had personal commitments and is unavailable to travel. Considering overseas conditions and the balance of the team, the selectors opted for Kotian.

'A lapse, maybe on my part...': Manu Bhaker breaks silence on Khel Ratna row



New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) After a lot of debate over India's double bronze medallist at the Paris Olympics Manu Bhaker's reported exclusion from this year's list of Khel Ratna awardees, the 22-year-old pistol shooter addressed the issue publicly, acknowledging a potential lapse on her part in filing the nomination for the prestigious honour.

The controversy erupted when the National Sports Awards selection committee surprisingly omitted Manu's name from the recommendations, despite her historic achievements at the Paris Olympics. The Sports Ministry had to intervene on Monday to contain the fallout, but Manu took to social media to offer her perspective on the situation.

BGT: Kohli will figure out his own path, says Rohit ahead of Boxing Day Test

Melbourne, Dec 24 (IANS) Ahead of the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne, India captain Rohit Sharma has backed star batter ViratKohli to come back strong in the remainder of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series against Australia.

Kohli, who scored a hundred in the second innings in Perth, has endured a series of low scores of 7, 11 and 3 in the following three innings. "Modern-day greats will figure out their own way of (carving out their) path," said the skipper when asked about Kohli's form at the press conference in Melbourne on Tuesday.

However, Rohit admitted their batting order struggle but remained tight-lipped on revealing any change



and left it for the match day.

"Let's not worry about who bats where. (It is) something that we need to figure (out) and not something (that) I would be discussing here. We will do what is best for the team," Rohit said in the pre-match press conference.

Rohit faced an injury scare on Sunday when the 37-year-old batter was struck on his left knee by a delivery from throwdown specialist Daya during India's second practice session at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. This session was in preparation for the fourth Test against Australia, set to begin on December 26 at the same venue.

Despite continuing to bat briefly after the incident, Rohit required medical attention shortly afterwards. However, he dispelled any concerns about his fitness and said that he was completely fine and ready for the Boxing Day Test. "It's fine," Rohit said when asked about his fitness.

Hayden backs Kohli to shine in Boxing Day Test, calls for him to channel inner Tendulkar

New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) Former Australia opener Matthew Hayden has called for ViratKohli to resist the urge to hit the ball outside the off stump and called upon the example of one of the finest innings played by Sachin Tendulkar during the 2003-04 Border Gavaskar Trophy.

Barring Kohli's unbeaten century in the second innings of the first Test at Perth, the 36-year old has struggled with the bat and has constantly been caught with the ball outside the off-stump. Hayden believes the track at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, the venue for the Boxing Day Test, will be suitable for batters and backs the Indian great to come back to form if he can resist the urge to slash at the ball outside the off-stump.

Bokaro crowned champions, to represent Jharkhand in National Tribal Sports Meet

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Dec 24: The second day of the state-level tribal sports competition, organized by Vanvasi Kalyan Kendra at JRD Tata Sports Complex, witnessed an exhilarating football final between Bokaro and Seraikela. Emerging victorious, Bokaro's football team clinched the championship title. Earlier, the semifinals saw intense matches between Seraikela and Chatra, and Bokaro and East Singhbhum. Teams from various districts of Jharkhand participated in the tournament.

As the state-level champions, Bokaro's football team will represent Vanvasi Kalyan Kendra, Jharkhand, at the 24th National Tribal Sports Meet to be held in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, from December 28 to 31. This national event will witness participation from states across India, including northeastern regions and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Tribal players from Nepal will also compete in this prestigious tournament.

The closing ceremony featured former Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Shri Arjun Munda, as the chief guest, along with the Vice-Chancellor of Jamshedpur Women's University, Prof. (Dr.) Anjila Gupta, as the distinguished guest. Both dignitaries presented trophies, medals, and certificates to the winner and runner-up teams while extending their best wishes to the players for a bright future.

Other notable guests included Regional Organization Minister of Vanvasi Kalyan Kendra, Vinod Upadhyay; international handball coach and Tata Steel Sports Division Manager, Dr. Hasan Imam Malik; and ASIA President, Inder Agarwal. Individual awards were distributed to Amit Maji of Seraikela for Best Goalkeeper, Gurupura Hembram of Seraikela for Best Scorer, and Dharmveer Soren of Bokaro for Best Player, along with trophies and cash prizes. Referees were honored with trophies and shawls by Regional Co-Organization Minister, Shri Prafull Akant.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Arjun Munda emphasized the abundance of sports talent in Jharkhand, stating, "There is no shortage of talent in Jharkhand; what is needed is the right platform. The Vanvasi Kalyan Kendra is making commendable efforts at the national level to identify and nurture tribal talents from remote villages. If players remain dedicated and persevere, they will undoubtedly excel and bring pride to their state and country." He extended his heartfelt wishes to all the players.

Prof. (Dr.) Anjila Gupta, Vinod Upadhyay, Dr. Hasan Imam Malik, and Inder Agarwal also motivated the participants and conveyed their best wishes.

The event was coordinated by program convenor Sura Birouli, with a vote of thanks delivered by State Minister Vineet Kumar.

The ceremony was graced by prominent members of the Vanvasi Kalyan Kendra, including Regional Organization Minister Devnandan Singh, Co-Organization Minister Sushil Marandi, Doman Chandra Mahato, Amitabh Senapati, Rohit Kumar, Ruby Gautam, Ramnath Singh, Bhattu Mandi, and many other dedicated volunteers.

Karandih Block wins Vijay Bose Memorial Cricket title



Jamshedpur, Dec 24: The Karandih Block cricket team emerged as champions of the 17th Vijay Bose Memorial Cricket Tournament, organized by the Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) at Veenapani Stadium, Baharagora. Displaying outstanding performance, Karandih defeated Maubhandaar by a massive margin of 148 runs in the final match held on Tuesday.

Batting first, Karandih posted an impressive total of 262 runs for seven wickets in the allotted 25 overs. Key contributions came from Hrithik Gaud, who top-scored with 90 runs, followed by Hasan Raza (38), Yuvraj Singh (35), Rishuraj (30) and Gorango (21). In response, Maubhandaar faltered and was bowled out for just 114 runs. Hrithik Gaud's all-round performance earned him the Player of the Match and Man of the Series awards. Raju Gop was named Best Bowler, while Abdul Hamid received the Best Fielder award.

The prize distribution ceremony was attended by Administrative Officer Satyavir Rajak, JSCA treasurer Rajiv Badan, coachVikas Mishra, and Ajay Das, among others, as chief guests. Karandih's team remained undefeated throughout the tournament, showcasing their dominance and consistency.

Jsr's Navieka Jaiswal finishes runner-up

All India FIDE Rated Chess Tournament



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Dec 24: Navieka Jaiswal, a promising chess player from Jamshedpur, clinched the second position in the AICF Smart Girls Project All India Open FIDE Rated Chess Tournament 2024, held from December 18 to 22 at Agrasen Bhawan, Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh.

Competing against 120 players from 11 states, Navieka scored an impressive 7 points out of 9 rounds, earning a cash prize of Rs.15,000 along with a trophy and medal.

Her remarkable performance has been lauded by the chess community. East Singhbhum District Chess Association (ESDCA) Secretary Narendra Kumar Tiwari, along with International Arbiters Jayant Kumar Bhuiyan and Chandan Kumar Prasad, congratulated Navieka on her achievement.

Navieka's success is a testament to her hard work and dedication, and she is encouraged to continue her pursuit of excellence in chess.

Jamshedpur FC players celebrate Christmas with cultural traditions



Albino Gomes with family



Javier Siverio with family



Javier Hernandez with family

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, December 24: As the holiday season brings joy across the globe, the players of Jamshedpur FC are embracing their cultural roots by celebrating Christmas with time-honored traditions, creating a warm, family-like atmosphere within the team.

Albino Gomes, a Goan native, celebrates Christmas deeply embedded in the traditions of Goa. This year, the occasion holds added significance, coinciding with the rare Exposition of Saint Francis Xavier in Goa, a once-in-a-decade event that showcases the incorrupt body of the saint, preserved for over 400 years. Albino fondly recalls his childhood Christmas memories of crafting cribs, enjoying Goan delicacies like Navrio and Dodol, and singing carols. "Christmas is a huge festival in Goa," he says, reminiscing about the blessings of sweets and money received during carol singing. He also cherishes attending prayers at the Jesus Mary and Joseph Church in Nuvem, Goa.

For the Spanish duo of Javier Hernandez and Siverio, Christmas celebrations are marked by a festive feast of ham, roast suckling pork, seafood, cheese, and Spanish wine. The players follow the tradition of wearing red, a symbol of celebration, and take part in the Spanish New Year custom of eating 12 grapes at midnight. "For us, Christmas is a family celebration," said Javier, reflecting on his visits to the Church of San Vicente Martir in Spain. Although both miss their families during the holidays, they find comfort and joy in the camaraderie at Jamshedpur FC, which makes them feel at home.

Despite being away from home, the players stay connected with their families through video calls, sharing the warmth and joy of the festive season. Their unique celebrations foster a sense of unity and joy among the team, highlighting the importance of togetherness during the holidays.

PM holds brainstorming session with economists in run-up to Budget

New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday held a meeting with eminent economists and sectoral experts to get their views and suggestions for the upcoming Budget for 2025-26.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the budget in the Lok Sabha on February 1, 2025.

The Finance Minister was also present at the meeting which was attended by Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery, Niti Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Economic Advisor Anantha Nageswaran and eminent economists, including Surjit Bhalla and DK Joshi.

The meeting comes in the backdrop of the government's plans to continue with big-ticket investments in infrastructure projects to



spur growth and create more jobs in a slowing economy.

The Centre has launched various welfare schemes for the poor including free foodgrains and providing housing for the poor sections in both rural and urban areas.

The spike in inflation has eased in the last month as food inflation has slowed, allowing the RBI to cut the cash reserve ratio (CRR) for banks by 0.5 per cent from 4.5 per cent to 4 per cent. This is the first time since March 2020 that the CRR has been cut which will infuse Rs 1.16 lakh crore into the banking system and bring down market interest rates.

The budget is now expected to give a fiscal stimulus to accelerate growth in the economy. India has retained its status as the fastest growing major economy in the world and the buoyancy in tax collections has helped to ensure stability with the fiscal deficit well under control. This will strengthen the government's hands in preparing the next budget.

India's net direct tax collections, comprising corporate tax and personal income tax, shot up by a robust 15.4 per cent to Rs 12.1 lakh crore, from April 1 to November 10 during the current financial year, according to the latest figures released by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

The Centre's fiscal deficit at the end of the first seven months (April-October) of the current financial year works out to 46.5 per cent of the full-year target, the official data released last month shows.

This reflects a strong macroeconomic financial position with the government sticking to the fiscal consolidation path. The government aims to bring down the fiscal deficit to 4.9 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in the current financial year from 5.6 per cent in 2023-24.

Similarly, there has been a robust growth in GST collections on the back of rising economic activity.

The buoyancy in tax collections places more funds in the government's coffers and keeps the fiscal deficit in check which bolsters the macroeconomic fundamentals of the economy. A lower fiscal deficit means the government has to borrow less which leaves more money in the banking system for big companies to borrow and invest. This in turn leads to a higher economic growth rate and the creation of more jobs.

Besides, a low fiscal deficit also keeps the inflation rate in check which imparts stability to the economy.

BJP accuses Cong of neglecting marginalised communities across four generations

New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh accused the Congress of repeatedly neglecting marginalized communities across four generations and undermining the Constitution.

In a scathing attack on the INDIA bloc, Tarun Chugh alleged that successive generations of the Congress party had insulted Dr B.R. Ambedkar and neglected the rights of marginalised communities.

"Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, and now Rahul Gandhi have failed to address the issues faced by Dalits, Scheduled Tribes, and other deprived communities," he said. "Rahul Gandhi has repeatedly committed sins against the rights of the deprived over the past four generations. They have disrespected Dr B.R. Ambedkar, and the country can never forgive this. The people will never forgive the sins they have committed," he added.

On the other hand, Omar Abdullah, Chief Minister of J&K, criticised the dual governance model in J&K. In response, Tarun Chugh stated that Omar Abdullah should know that the country runs according to the Constitution.

"You have deprived Dalits of their rights, snatched away the rights of the Valmiki community, and denied the rights of the Gujjar-Bakarwal community. The governments of the INDIA bloc, National Conference, and Congress party have worked to snatch reservations," he said. Omar Abdullah called for the restoration of statehood, asserting that "a dual power centre system is never going to work." Citing the example of Delhi's fractious governance model, Abdullah described the current system in Jammu and Kashmir as impractical and urged the central government to honour its promise of statehood restoration.

Centre blatantly ignoring genuine demands of farmers: Punjab CM

Chandigarh, Dec 24 (IANS) Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Tuesday slammed the BJP-led Union government for stepmotherly treatment of farmers by not even giving them an opportunity to air their genuine demands.



In a statement, the Chief Minister said the 'self-proclaimed' global leader Narendra Modi "is more worried about intervening in the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine but the Prime Minister is apathetic towards the food growers of the country".

He said the Union government has been blatantly ignoring the genuine demands of the farmers of the country which is highly deplorable.

Mann said, "It is unfortunate that the Prime Minister is more worried about emerging as 'global leader' by intervening in international affairs rather than resolving the issues faced by the countrymen".

The Chief Minister reminded PM Modi that when the country was facing a serious crisis in food production, the hard-working and resilient farmers of the state had made the country self-reliant in grains.

He said the farmers of the state had even overexploited the only available natural resources in terms of fertile soil and water, just to fill the national food pool.

Flawed, predetermined: Rahul, Kharge on selection of new NHRC chair

New Delhi, Dec 24 (IANS) Congress on Tuesday issued a dissent note a day after President Droupadi Murmu appointed former Supreme Court judge Justice V. Ramasubramanian as National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) chairperson, saying the selection process was fundamentally flawed, predetermined and raise concerns about the impartiality and fairness of the selection process.

Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Mallikarjun Kharge, LoP in Rajya Sabha have recorded their dissent "without prejudice to the names of the Chairperson and members approved by the Selection Committee".

The dissent note dated December 18 lists four points.

It says, "Firstly, the selection process adopted by the Committee was fundamentally flawed. It was a pre-determined exercise that ignored the established tradition of mutual consultation and consensus, which is essential in such matters. This departure



undermines the principles of fairness and impartiality, which are critical to the credibility of the Selection Committee. Instead of fostering deliberation and ensuring a collective decision, the Committee relied on its numerical majority to finalize the names, disregarding the legitimate concerns and perspectives raised during the meeting." The second point reads: "The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is a vital statutory body tasked with safeguarding the fundamental human rights of all citizens, particularly those from oppressed and marginalized sections of society. Its ability to fulfil this mandate depends significantly on the inclusiveness and representativeness of its composition. A diverse leadership ensures that the NHRC remains sensitive to the unique challenges faced by various communities, especially those most vulnerable to human rights violations."

The note says the two Congress leaders had proposed the names of Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman and Justice Kuttiyil Mathew Joseph for the position of Chairperson, keeping in mind both merit and the need for inclusivity. "Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman, a distinguished jurist from the minority Parsi community, is renowned for his intellectual depth and unwavering commitment to constitutional values. His inclusion would send a strong message about the NHRC's dedication to representing India's pluralistic society. Similarly, Justice Kuttiyil Mathew Joseph, a former Supreme Court judge, belonging to minority Christian community, has consistently delivered judgments that emphasize individual freedoms and the protection of marginalized groups, making him an ideal candidate for this critical position."

According to the note, Kharge and Gandhi have for the position of members recommended the names of Justice S. Muralidhar and Justice Akil Abdulhamid Qureshi.

The note says that both of them have exemplary track records in upholding human rights. Justice S. Muralidhar is widely respected for his landmark judgments advancing social justice, including his work on custodial violence and the protection of civil liberties. Justice Akil Abdulhamid Qureshi, belonging to the Muslim minority community, has consistently defended constitutional principles and demonstrated a strong commitment to accountability in governance. Their inclusion would contribute to the NHRC's effectiveness and its commitment to diversity.

The third point of the note, mentions, "While merit is undeniably the primary criterion, maintaining a balance that reflects the regional, caste, community, and religious diversity of the nation is equally important.

K'taka govt employee digitally arrested for six hours, robbed of Rs 19 lakh



Tumakuru (Karnataka), Dec 24 (IANS) A state government employee fell victim to cybercriminals and was robbed of Rs 19 lakh after being digitally arrested for six hours in Tumakuru district of Karnataka, police said on Tuesday.

B.S. Nagabhushan, the government employee residing in Upparahalli in Tumakuru lodged a complaint with the Cyber Police wing.

According to police, the accused had called the victim officer on the phone and introduced himself as a staffer from the Mumbai Crime Branch. The accused further charged that the money had been transferred illegally from his account.

The fraudster had claimed that there was another SIM card in the name of the victim and through that SIM card people were harassed. The various persons of the gang who spoke to him threatened that his property would be seized in connection with both cases. They also told him that he would also be arrested.

After boxing him in, the accused made a video call to Nagabhushan and appeared in police uniform. The accused issued more threats and asked him not to inform the matter to anyone.

The accused had made a call at 8.30 a.m. and kept him engaged for six hours in the video conference call. In the pretext of investigation, they enquired about his bank accounts and deposits. The victim had given details about the fixed deposits in the name of his wife.

The fraudsters then forced him him to transfer the amount to other bank accounts which they gave him and maintained that the whole amount would be returned to him once the investigation was complete.

Bihar CM promises to provide help to jeevika didis

VANSHIKA SHRI

Patna, December 24: Amid an attempt to make an inroad into women voters by mainline opposition party RJD in the state, Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar promised to provide assistance to the Jeevika Didis and doled out bonanza worth over Rs201 crore during second day of his 'Pragati Yatra' in East Champaran on Tuesday, laying foundation stones and inauguration of projects.

Holding samvad (dialogue) with Jeevika didis at Sugaon in Sagauli block of the district, CM Nitish Kumar said he has stressed on the need of the development of women after becoming chief minister of the state. "... Women are becoming self-reliant jeevika schemes.

we are working for the development of women. Women are becoming self-reliant through livelihood. He said that if you all need anything else, please let us know and we will do it. We will keep working for your betterment...," said the chief minister to jeevika didis, who are regarded as the traditional voters of JD-U.

At the Jeevika Bhawan, the Jeevika didis made their mind known to chief minister and expressed their satisfaction over change in their economic as well as social conditions. "Now our husbands have stopped drinking wine due to



liquor prohibition in the state and our lot has also change in the wake of rise in our income," said a jeevika didi holding dialogue with CM on behalf of other jeevika didis.

With an apprent attempt to woo the women, known to be a traditional voter of CM Nitish Kumar and NDA, senior RJD leader and former deputy CM Tejashwi Prasad Yadav has unveiled the 'Mai Bahan Maan Yojana' (MBMY) recently and as a part of which he has promised Rs2,500 every month to the bank accounts of economically weaker women."The escatsy among the all section of the society especially women is worth watching. His (CM) popularity is soaring and sisting...," said Shalini Mishra, Janata Dal-United's leader and Kesariya MLA, where chief minister reached first on the second day of his ongoing Pragati Yatra on Tuesday.

When contacted, CPL (ML) leader and Sikta MLA Birendra Gupta described the Pragati Yadav as "photo session". "We were expecting something tangible aimed to lit the face of poor masses who are burdened by debt. Instead of meeting the people and addressing their grievances, CM went for photo session and let down the people," said Gupta.

Rescue operation on to take out Chetna from 700-ft deep borewell in Rajasthan

Jaipur, Dec 24 (IANS) Efforts were on to take out three-year-old Chetna, who fell into a 700-ft deep borewell in Kiratpura in Rajasthan's Kotputli with the rescue team now using the 'hook technique', said officials on Tuesday.

Locally termed "Jugaad", the rescue teams will try to pull out the girl with the help of a hook attached to a rod.

The child fell in the borewell on Monday and got stuck at 150 feet. Since then the rescue team has managed to bring her up by 40 ft with this hook technique.

NDRF-SDRF senior officers are supervising the operation from outside the borewell. Within the first hour, Chetna was pulled up about 15 feet. An ambulance is on standby in case of an emergency. She had been pulled up 40 feet till the time of



filing this report, said officials.

According to NDRF in-charge Yogesh Meena, Chetna had been stuck around 154-155 feet in depth. After lifting her by about 1.5 feet, the surrounding soil shifted. A J-hook (umbrella system) was attached, and an L-band was positioned to prevent her from sliding back down. The girl is trapped at a point where the soil ends and hard stone begins, making it challenging to pull her out. However, efforts continue to secure the L-band around her.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Brijesh Chaudhary assured that all possible measures are being taken to rescue Chetna safely, and the operation has been ongoing throughout the night. Due to wet soil and some swampy conditions below, the operation is facing some hurdles. However, a ring has been placed beneath her to assist in the rescue, and she is being supplied with oxygen.

State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) Sub Inspector Ravi Kumar emphasised that all agencies involved -- NDRF, Civil Defence, and local authorities -- are putting in their best efforts to rescue Chetna. Historically, similar operations were carried out by the Army, but now the NDRF and Civil Defence have sufficient resources to handle such situations, he said.

Chetna fell into the borewell while playing around 2 p.m. on Monday.

The girl has been stuck in the borewell, enduring hunger and thirst. Despite two failed attempts, the rescue teams succeeded on the third try, using an improvised technique. Before proceeding, the authorities obtained permission from Chetna's family, acknowledging that the administration wouldn't be held responsible if the child got hurt during the rescue.

At this point, Chetna's rescue from the 700-foot borewell seems imminent, as the team continues to employ the "Jugaad" method to bring her to safety, said officials.

J&K's Srinagar records season's lowest max temperature, minimum drops to minus 6.6

Srinagar, Dec 24 (IANS) Kashmir Valley froze on Tuesday as the minimum temperature fell to minus 6.6 while the maximum temperature was 2.8 a day earlier.

The Meteorological (MeT) department officials said that the maximum temperature of 2.8 recorded on Monday in Srinagar is the lowest maximum recorded so far this season.

The narrowing of the gap between the maximum and the minimum temperature is actually the reason for the extreme bone-chilling cold that the Valley has been undergoing during the last four days.

The 40-day period of harsh winter cold called locally the 'Chillai Kalan' started on December 21. This is regarded as the most miserable period of winter cold in Kashmir.

Boatmen have been virtually battling their way through the Dal Lake after breaking sheets of ice to seek passage into the water body.

Most places saw Monday's dripping water taps frozen with long icicles hanging from them in the morning on Tuesday.

Covering themselves up in layers of woollen clothes under the loose tweed overgarment, the 'Pheran', locals had to brave the morning frosty cold to light fires around water taps to defreeze them.