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JASPRIT BUMRAH AMONG THREE INDIANS NAMED IN ICC TEST TEAM OF YEAR 2024 PAGE :11

8 killed in blast at ordnance factory in Maharashtra's Bhandara

New Delhi, Jan 24 (IANS) At least eight people were killed and seven others injured in a massive blast at an ordnance factory in Maharashtra's Bhandara district on Friday.

The blast occurred around 10.30 a.m. at the factory in the district, said District Collector Sanjay Kolte. Rescue and medical staff were searching for survivors while firefighters were engaged in containing the situation.

Confirming the deaths in the incident, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said, "Preliminary reports say that eight people had been killed and seven others were injured in the blast." He said this while addressing a press Conference organised by the Association for Industrial Development in Nagpur. Halting the media event, the Minister paid condolences and offered a minute silence in respect.



"There has been an accident of blast at Ordnance factory Bhandara today morning. The rescue & medical teams are deployed for survivors and rescue is underway," authorities have said in a statement.

District Collector Kolte said a

roof collapsed and at least 12 people were under it during the explosion.

Five of them were rescued and an excavator was being used to remove the debris.

The blast was of such an intensity that it was heard from 5 km

away. A thick smoke was seen rising from the factory in a video captured from a distance.

The cause of the explosion is not yet known. An investigation is underway.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis wrote on X in Marathi, "There are reports that 13 to 14 workers were trapped after the roof collapsed in an ordnance factory explosion in Bhandara district. Five of them have been safely evacuated. The District Collector and Superintendent of Police are at the scene and all kinds of assistance are being provided. SDRF and Nagpur Municipal Corporation teams have also been called for rescue operations and they will arrive soon. The district administration is involved in rescue operations in coordination with the defence forces. Teams have also been kept ready for medical assistance."

It is worth mentioning that the Special Assistance

Submit utilisation certificates on time to receive central funds: Jharkhand CS

Ranchi, January 24: Jharkhand Chief Secretary Alka Tiwari on Saturday has directed the secretaries of all concerned departments to ensure the timely submission of utilization certificates for funds received under the Special Assistance Scheme for capital investment provided by the Centre.

She emphasized that submitting utilization certificates promptly will strengthen the state's claim to the remaining funds under this scheme. She also noted that timely compliance would enhance the state's reputation as one that completes projects on time while maintaining financial discipline.

It is worth mentioning that the Special Assistance



Scheme for Capital Investment by the Central Government provides interest-free loans to states for 50 years. On Friday, the Chief Secretary reviewed the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SACI) with the secretaries of the relevant departments.

During the review, it was reported that for the

financial year 2023-24, Jharkhand was allocated Rs5,255.14 crore by the Central Government, out of which Rs4,580.62 crore has been received so far. For the financial year 2024-25, the state submitted a proposal for Rs4,302 crore, and the Centre has approved Rs2,763 crore. Out of this, Jharkhand has already received Rs1,233 crore.

Saraswati-Lakshmi puja at home but no concern for daughters: SC rebukes Jharkhand man

New Delhi, Jan 24 (IANS) The Supreme Court made a scathing remark on Friday while hearing the petition of Yogeshwar Sao, a resident of Hazaribagh, Jharkhand, convicted in a dowry harassment case.

A Bench comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice N. Kotiswar Singh criticised the appellant for neglecting his daughters and mistreating his wife.

The Bench remarked, "What kind of man are you who does not even care for his daughters? How can we allow such a heartless person to come to our court? All day at home, sometimes Saraswati Puja, sometimes Lakshmi Puja... and then all this."

The court emphasised that any relief for the petitioner would only be considered if he agreed to transfer agricultural land to his daughters.

Yogeshwar Sao, also known as W. Sao, a resident of Katkamdag village, was convicted in 2015 under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code by the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court of Hazaribagh which found him guilty of harassing his wife,



Poonam Devi, for a dowry of Rs 50,000 and sentenced him to two-and-a-half years of imprisonment.

Sao and Devi were married in 2003 and had two daughters. In 2009, Poonam Devi filed an FIR alleging dowry harassment, forced surgical removal of her uterus, and her husband's subsequent remarriage.

She also filed a petition in the family court for maintenance for herself and her daughters. The family court ordered Sao to pay Rs 2,000 per month to his wife and Rs 1,000 per month to each daughter until they reached adulthood.

Sao appealed against his conviction in the Jharkhand High Court, which upheld the trial court's verdict in September

Resolute in ensuring no discrimination happens against girl child: PM on National Girl Child Day

New Delhi, Jan 24 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday reiterated the government's commitment to keep empowering the girl child and ensure a wide range of opportunities for her.

He said that their feats will continue to inspire the nation.

While lauding the accomplishments of the girl child on National Girl Child Day, he posted on X, "Today, on National Girl Child Day, we reiterate our commitment to keep empowering the girl child and ensure a wide range of opportunities for her. India is proud of the accomplishments of the girl child across all fields. Their feats continue to inspire us all."

He said the government was focused on various sectors to empower the girl child. "Our Government has focused on sectors like education, technology, skills, healthcare etc which have contributed to empowering the girl child. We are equally resolute in ensuring no discrimination happens against the girl child," PM



Modi further said in the post.

National Girl Child Day, celebrated every year on January 24, is a significant occasion dedicated to highlighting the rights, education and welfare of girls.

Initiated in 2008, by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development, the day aims to raise awareness about the importance of empowering girls and creating an environment where

they can thrive without the barriers of gender discrimination.

According to a government press release, National Girl Child Day is an opportunity to raise awareness about the rights of girls and ensure they are provided with equal opportunities and support, free from gender biases.

The day also seeks to highlight the inequalities faced by girls, promote education for them and

encourage society to value and respect girls as equals.

"A key focus is on changing societal attitudes towards girls, addressing issues like female foeticide, raising awareness about the declining sex ratio and fostering a more inclusive and equitable environment for the girl child," the release mentioned.

The Modi government launched its flagship scheme, 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' (Save daughters, educate daughters), in 2015 to boost the child sex ratio and empower girls through different measures.

National Girl Child Day serves as a platform to discuss and address the various challenges faced by girl children. These include issues such as child marriage, female foeticide, and lack of access to education and healthcare. The day is an opportunity to create a dialogue around these issues and to come up with solutions to address them, the press release said.

Anant Singh surrenders in Barh court over firing incident involving Sonu-Monu gang

Patna, Jan 24 (IANS) Former MLA Anant Kumar Singh surrendered at the Barh sub divisional court on Friday.

He is facing allegations of entering the house of gangsters Sonu Singh and Monu Singh and allegedly threatening them with dire consequences and firing on their house in Nauranga-Jalalpur village.

An FIR was lodged by Urmila Devi, the mother of Sonu and Monu Singh, accusing Anant Singh and his associates of threatening them and firing.

The events unfolded on Wednesday afternoon in Nauranga Jalalpur village, located under the jurisdiction of the Pachmaha village police station in Patna district.

"They have lodged an FIR against me and hence I surrendered before the court to respect the law. Now, I am going to jail following a court order," Anant Singh said.

Rakesh Kumar, the ASP cum SDPO of the Barh range, confirmed the developments.

"Security measures have been heightened at various locations, including the court premises, Nauranga-Jalalpur village, and Ladma village, the native village of Anant Singh. Anant Singh surrendered in the sub divisional court Barh and we are waiting for the court's directive on how to proceed with the case following the surrender of Anant Singh," Kumar said.

ASP Kumar also mentioned that raids are ongoing to locate and arrest other individuals involved in the case.

The law enforcement authorities are actively pursuing



leads to ensure all culprits are brought to justice.

Earlier in the day, Patna police arrested two individuals, Sonu Singh and Raushan Kumar Singh, in connection with this case.

Raushan Kumar Singh is noted to be a close associate of Anant Singh.

Former MLA Anant Singh had gone to the village for negotiations with Sonu Singh and Monu Singh, the accused parties. However, the meeting escalated into a

confrontation, leading to several rounds of firing by both sides.

During the clash, Uday Yadav sustained gunshot injuries and is currently receiving treatment at the Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH).

Following the firing incident, three FIRs have been lodged in Pachmaha police station in the district.

The first FIR was lodged by Mukesh Singh, the house owner, who filed a FIR against Sonu Singh and Monu Singh, accusing them of illegally grabbing his house.

It is alleged that Sonu-Monu locked the house, prompting Mukesh to seek the help of Anant Singh.

Urmila Devi, the mother of Sonu Singh, filed a counter-FIR against Anant Singh and his supporters, claiming that they attacked her house during the confrontation.

The police themselves registered an FIR against Sonu Singh, Monu Singh, and their associates.

This FIR mentions a scuffle with the police that occurred when officers attempted to unlock Mukesh Singh's house during the incident.

According to villagers, the root cause of the incident was a house dispute.

It is alleged that the Sonu-Monu gang forcibly took possession of a house belonging to Mukesh Singh. Upon learning of this, Anant Singh, accompanied by his supporters, visited the site to intervene. However, this led to a heated confrontation between the two sides, escalating into indiscriminate firing.

Madhya Pradesh Govt bans sale of liquor at religious sites

Bhopal, Jan 24 (IANS) In a significant step, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav-led Madhya Pradesh cabinet on Friday approved a proposal to put a ban on the sale of liquor at religious sites in the state.

"In a special cabinet meeting held in Maheshwar today under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, a decision was taken to ban liquor at various religious places in the state," the Madhya Pradesh government said in an official statement.

Approval for the proposal was made during a special cabinet meeting held on the 300th birth anniversary year of Ahilyabai Holkar, the 18th-century ruler of the Holkar dynasty, in Khargone district's Maheshwar, the kingdom of the Holkar dynasty.

However, it is yet to be known when this order will be implemented.

Chief Minister Yadav along with his



cabinet ministers visited the royal throne in the historic fort and paid homage to the statue of Ahilyabai by offering flowers. "Lokmat's incomparable contribution to the cultural consciousness of India, the construction and renovation of monasteries and temples, will always be remembered," CM Yadav said in a statement.

The ban on liquor will be implemented at 17 religious sites, such as Ujjain, Orchha, Salkanpur, Chitrakoot, Omkareshwar, Maihar, Amarkantak and Pashupatinath temple areas along with some others in Madhya Pradesh.

Jamshedpur, Jan 24: The winter chill is expected to make a strong comeback in Jharkhand, with a predicted drop in temperatures over the next few days. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD)'s Ranchi Meteorological Centre, the mercury is likely to fall by 3-4 degrees Celsius in the coming four days due to prevailing weather conditions.

The drop in temperature is attributed to the dominance of north-westerly winds, which are bringing colder air into the region. The Met Centre also noted that there are no significant synoptic conditions affecting the state at present, allowing the chill to intensify further.

Several parts of the state have already begun experiencing a dip in temperatures. Ranchi recorded a minimum temperature of 13.8 degrees Celsius, while Jamshedpur recorded 14.6 degrees Celsius. Daltonganj was slightly cooler at 12 degrees Celsius, and Bokaro reg-

istered a minimum temperature of 12.2 degrees Celsius.

The lowest minimum temperature in the state was recorded in Chatra, where the mercury dipped to a chilly 9.2 degrees Celsius, marking it as the coldest location in Jharkhand

IIT-ISM inks MoU with GSI to explore natural hydrogen in Nicobar

Dhanbad, Jan 24: IIT-ISM Dhanbad on Friday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Geological Survey of India (GSI) in Kolkata for the exploration of natural hydrogen in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The research project aims to establish a robust framework for evaluating the feasibility of harnessing this renewable resource.

An official after the MoU signing stated that the collaborative effort will be led by the Subsurface Energy and Storage Systems Lab, in conjunction with the Exploration Seismic and Simulation Lab, both under the Department of Applied Geophysics at IIT-ISM Dhanbad.

The official added, "Natural hydrogen, increasingly recognized as a clean energy source, has the potential to significantly contribute to India's renewable energy landscape." According to the details shared, exploration studies will focus on locating and understanding the geological formations that could host natural hydrogen reservoirs within the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The collaboration also aims to bring together academic expertise, cutting-edge technology, and GSI's extensive geological insights to innovate solutions in the field of subsurface energy storage. "This collaboration with the Geological Survey of India is a remarkable opportunity to explore new frontiers in energy. Natural hydrogen represents a sustainable energy source, and our research has the potential to support broader energy needs and contribute to climate goals," said the official.

The Met Centre also reported a cyclonic circulation over southwest Madhya Pradesh, which exists at an altitude of 0.9 km above mean sea level. However, this system is unlikely to have any significant influence on Jharkhand's weather, leaving the region under the dominant effect of cold north-westerly winds.

Weather experts have warned that the cold wave conditions might prevail in isolated pockets across the state as the chill intensifies. Residents are advised to prepare for colder mornings and evenings over the next few days, with temperatures expected to hover below seasonal averages.

The return of the chill might also lead to an uptick in cases of cold-related illnesses. Health officials have urged citizens, especially children and the elderly, to take precautions to stay warm and avoid exposure to the cold.



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BJP seminar honours Baba Saheb Ambedkar, slams Congress for undermining the Constitution

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 24: Under the Samvidhan Gaurav Abhiyan, BJP Jamshedpur Mahanagar organized a seminar on Friday to honour the legacy of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and celebrate 75 years of the Indian Constitution. The event, held at Tata Auditorium in Bistupur, featured BJP Jharkhand Executive State President Dr. Ravindra Rai as the keynote speaker, with MP Bidyut Baran Mahato and other prominent leaders in attendance.

Dr. Ravindra Rai inaugurated the seminar by lighting a lamp alongside tributes to Dr. Ambedkar, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.

He urged attendees to uphold the spirit of the Constitution, stating, "The BJP is committed to safeguarding the ideals and principles of Baba Saheb



Ambedkar. Our government has honoured his contributions through initiatives like the Dr. Ambedkar International Center and declaring November 26 as Constitution Day."

Targeting opposition parties, Dr. Rai accused Congress of weaponizing the Constitution for political gain. "Parties without any concrete issues are trying to shine their politics by using the Constitution as a tool. Congress, in particular, has repeatedly undermined constitutional

values, from the Shah Bano case to the imposition of Emergency in 1975," he remarked.

He further accused Congress of conspiring against Dr. Ambedkar, saying, "The Congress worked to marginalize Baba Saheb, even trying to defeat him in elections. It was only in 1990, under a BJP-supported government, that Dr. Ambedkar was posthumously honoured with Bharat Ratna."

MP Bidyut Baran Mahato echoed these sentiments, criticizing Congress's "double standards and hypocrisy." He said, "Those who repeatedly insulted Baba Saheb are now misleading the public using his name. Their lack of knowledge about the Constitution exposes their shallow agenda."

The seminar concluded with a call to protect the Constitution's values and propagate Dr. Ambedkar's ideals. Senior leaders, including Sudhanshu Ojha and Pawan Agarwal, also attended the event. (w/nkm)

Announces examination dates for contractual NHM Posts

Jamshedpur, Jan 24: The Health Department has released the schedule for the written examination and efficiency test for the recruitment of 303 posts under the National Health Mission (NHM) in Purbi Singhbhum district. The tests will be conducted from 4th February to 8th February 2024 for various positions.

Out of the total applications, 623 are complete, while 313 are incomplete. Applicants with incomplete documentation can submit the required certificates to the Civil Surgeon Office before the examination date to become eligible. The examinations will be held at designated venues, including the Graduate College and the Civil Surgeon Office, with candidates required to carry a government-issued photo ID. The complete list of candidates and additional details can be accessed on the official website www.jamshedpur.nic.in.

Key posts include ANM-RCH, Staff Nurse-RCH, Block Data Manager, and others, with vacancies ranging from one to 219. This recruitment drive aims to strengthen healthcare services in the district under NHM initiatives. (W-pb)

KGS bids emotional farewell to Class X and XII students

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 24: It was a day filled with emotions, nostalgia and heartfelt wishes as Kavayta Global School (KGS) organized a memorable farewell for its outgoing Class X and Class XII students. The ceremony was marked by warm gestures, creative performances and words of wisdom from teachers and school leaders.

Students of Class IX and XI came together to present a soulful farewell song and a beautifully choreographed dance, making the event lively and memorable. The performances were a testament to their admiration and affection for their seniors.



Principal and Director, Kabita Agrawal, in her emotional

address, wished the students a blessed career ahead and reminisced about their early days at the school. "Each one of you will always remain in my heart, just like the little children who first walked through these gates years ago. May you achieve great success in life," she said.

Echoing her sentiments, Creative Director Sunita Sinha shared her warm wishes. "Seeing you grow into confident and talented individuals has been a joy. May your journey ahead be as remarkable as your time here," she remarked.

One of the highlights of the event was the crowning ceremony. Rabiya Tabassum and

Ranveer Pratap Singh Chouhan from Class X were honoured as Ms. KVGS and Mr. KVGS, respectively. From Class XII, Pari Gupta was crowned Ms. KVGS, while Samarth Singh received the title of Mr. KVGS.

The farewell concluded with heartfelt exchanges of memories between teachers and students, leaving everyone teary-eyed yet hopeful for the future. The school community came together to wish the departing students success, happiness and a bright future ahead.

It was a fitting farewell to mark the end of a cherished chapter and the beginning of new journeys. (w/nkm)

Sacred Heart Convent School triumphs in Seuli Seal memorial quiz

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 24: Sacred Heart Convent School emerged as the winner of the 34th Inter-School Seuli Seal Memorial Quiz Contest, hosted by D.B.M.S. English School on January 24, 2025.

The event, held in memory of Seuli, a former student of the school who passed away on March 3, 1989, witnessed enthusiastic participation from 24 schools.

The quiz, open to students of classes V, VI, and VII, was conducted by renowned quizmaster Vinod Menon, known for hosting inter-school and

Gulmohar High School clinches second place



ASISC quiz competitions. After a rigorous preliminary round testing students' knowledge across diverse subjects, six teams advanced to the finals: Sacred Heart Convent School, D.B.M.S. English School, Kerala Public School Kadma, Little

Flower School, Gulmohar High School, and Hill Top School.

The final comprised five engaging rounds, challenging participants to demonstrate their quick thinking and knowledge on a variety of topics. In a closely fought contest,

Sacred Heart Convent School secured the top spot with 290 points. Gulmohar High School came second with 279 points, while Little Flower School finished third with 253 points.

The quiz was attended by members of the School

Management Committee including Principal Rajani Shekhar, and Vice-Principal P.K. Sahu. The audience, which included students and faculty, thoroughly enjoyed the information quiz that combined education with entertainment. (W-mb)

National Girl Child Day celebrated with empowerment initiatives

Jamshedpur, Jan 24: Adarsh Sewa Sansthan organized a special event today in Burmamines to celebrate National Girl Child Day, aiming to promote the importance of the girl child and raise awareness against societal issues like child marriage. Over 100 participants, including children, youth and community members, attended the event held near Gandhi Basti Ground.

The program was marked by the honouring of four young champions—Saraswati Singh, Tania Gorai, Durgeshwari Mukhi and Barsha Kumari—for their exceptional efforts in preventing child marriages in their community. These girls spearheaded an

awareness campaign to combat this social evil and their contributions were celebrated by the gathering.

The event also featured vibrant cultural performances by the children of Bal Sangathan, showcasing the talent and energy of the girls in the community. The program began with a welcome song and an educational session on the POCSO Act.

Secretary of Adarsh Sewa Sansthan, Prabha Jaiswal, along with other members, also attended the event, which concluded with a commitment from the community to promote girl empowerment and equality. (w/nkm)

De' Hamray opens 43-key hotel in Sakchi

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, January 24: Hotel De' Hamray, equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, was inaugurated on January 24 at Kalimati Road, Sakchi. The hotel was jointly inaugurated by Jamshedpur MP Bidyut Baran Mahato, Jamshedpur West MLA Saryu Roy, and Chairman of the Finance Commission Jharkhand, A.P. Singh (IAS).

MP praised the opening of Hotel De' Hamray, recognizing it as a significant initiative for the business landscape of Jamshedpur. He noted that the hotel will create numerous employment opportunities, which is an essential aspect of local economic development.

MLA Saryu Roy extended his congratulations to the Khanuja family, stating that the hotel will offer a perfect stay for visitors coming from outside Jamshedpur. He expressed confidence that the hotel would become a notable destination for both leisure and business travellers.



AP Singh emphasized that the growth of businesses such as Hotel De' Hamray contributes to the overall development of Jharkhand, fulfilling social responsibilities and providing a model of entrepreneurship. He also highlighted the hotel's role in promoting the state's growth.

After the inauguration, Ranbir Singh Khanuja, Managing Director of Hotel De' Hamray, provided detailed insights about the hotel's offerings. He shared

that the hotel boasts 43 rooms, including superior, club, and suite rooms, all equipped with modern amenities to ensure comfort and luxury for its guests. The hotel features spacious banquet halls suitable for events of all sizes, ranging from intimate gatherings to large-scale functions.

Ranbir emphasized the expertise of the hotel's chefs, who are trained and experienced in serving a wide range of dishes that cater to customers' tastes. He also revealed plans to open a state-of-the-art gym and wellness

center, which will further enhance the hotel's appeal for health-conscious guests.

Earlier, the inauguration ceremony was attended by a distinguished group of dignitaries, including senior advocate Manoranjan Das, Tata Works Union President Sanjeev Chaudhary, Tata Motors Union President Gurmeet Singh Tote, General Secretary R.K. Singh, and Takht Harmandir Sahib Patna Secretary Indrajit Singh. Prominent Congress leader Ramashray Prasad, Bijay

Khan, State Bank of India Senior Manager Amit Singh, Jharkhand Gurudwara Management Committee President Sardar Shailendra Singh, BJP District President Sudhanshu Ojha, and others.

The program also witnessed the presence of BJP State Working President Dr. Ravindra Kumar Rai, BJP's Nagendra Tripathi, Jamshedpur East MLA Purnima Sahu, Satya Prakash, former State BJP President Dr. Dineshan Goswami, among others. (W-mb)

AFFIDAVIT

I, Nikhil Chandra Pramanik, S/o Guhi Ram Pramanik, R/o. Anand Vihar Colony Mango, P.O.- M.G.M. Town Jamshedpur, Dist. East Singhbhum, Jharkhand, Jharkhand : 831018, so hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:-

1. That I am an Indian citizen since birth. And I am residing at above stated Address.

2. That my actual and correct name is 'Nikhil Chandra Pramanik' which is mentioned in my Aadhar and bearing No. 7418 4315 2119, and pan Card bearing no. PLAPP2985K.

3. That my name is mentioned in my Bank A/c. bearing No. 45741001856 of Bank of India Mango, Dimna Chowk Branch as Nikhil Pramanik.

4. That I was to rectify my correct name in my old Bank A/c as 'Nikhil Chandra Pramanik' is place of 'Nikhil Pramanik'. Hence this affidavit.

5. That I swear this affidavit to confirm the above facts to be true and correct.

Advocate

Encroachment crisis at Mango Haat: Farmers left without space to sell produce

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 24:

The Marketing Secretary of Krishi Utpadan Bazar Samiti market, Abhishek Anand, has written a formal letter to the Mango Circle Officer, urging immediate measurement and demarcation of the Mango Haat land to address ongoing encroachment issues. The letter highlights that the lack of clear boundaries has allowed some individuals to illegally construct permanent and temporary structures on the Haat's land, leaving farmers struggling to find space to sell their agricultural produce.

"Encroachment has left no proper place for farmers to sell their crops," Anand stated in his letter. "Farmers are now forced to operate from other parts of Mango Bazaar, creating chaos and inconvenience



Farmers selling vegetables by the roadside in Mango, while the haat market built by the administration remains unused and littered with dirt.



for both sellers and buyers." Mango Haat, which was originally planned to accommodate 142 shopkeepers who were allotted land in 1977, now faces severe irregularities. According to the Marketing Secretary, many shopkeepers have occupied more land than

originally allotted, while some have sold their land or shops altogether. This has created confusion regarding the actual status of land use and encroachment.

"The current state of irregularities will only become clear once the land is measured and

demarcated. This will help free the Haat's land from encroachments and restore space for farmers to operate," Anand explained.

Farmers, the primary stakeholders of Mango Haat, have been left in the lurch due to this unchecked encroachment. The letter emphasizes the

urgency of the matter, urging the Zonal Officer to take swift action. "Demarcation must be done at the earliest so that farmers can sell their produce in a proper and adequate space," Anand requested.

The issue of encroachment has not only disrupt-

ed the intended purpose of Mango Haat but has also caused significant inconvenience to the local agricultural economy. The resolution of this issue is critical to ensuring a fair marketplace for farmers and upholding the integrity of the Haat's original design. (w/nkm)

Saryu tweets to CM and Health Minister: Demand for probe into Rs 700 Crore health scam



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 24: Jamshedpur West MLA Saryu Roy has raised concerns over a potential scam of Rs 700 crore in the health department. Taking to Twitter, Roy tagged Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Health Minister Dr. Irfan Ansari, demanding a thorough investigation into the matter.

Roy alleged that the health department had received Rs 700 crore from the disaster relief fund, but officials have failed to provide an account of the expenditure. "There has been a shortage of funds in the health department for the last five years and officials are unable to explain where the money has gone," he stated.

The MLA further alleged widespread corruption within the department, claiming that the scam involves employees at all levels, from peons to secretaries. "This scam cannot be exposed as long as those involved remain in their positions. Health Minister Dr. Irfan Ansari must take immediate action to remove these officials and employees who have been sitting idle for years," Rai emphasized.

Roy has been vocal about irregularities in the health department, having raised the issue several times in the state assembly. He asserted that if an investigation is conducted, it will uncover multiple layers of corruption that have taken place over the past five years. "I will continue to raise this matter in the assembly until justice is served," he said.

The MLA's allegations come amidst growing concerns over the mismanagement of funds in the health department, particularly during a time when public healthcare systems require robust financial support. Roy has urged the government to ensure transparency and accountability by initiating an unbiased probe.

No official response has yet been issued by the Chief Minister or the Health Minister regarding these allegations. The matter has sparked widespread discussion in political and public circles, with demands for immediate corrective action gaining momentum. (w/nkm)

NIT dir urges students to tackle real-world challenges in fluid dynamics

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 24: The Mechanical Engineering Department of NIT Jamshedpur hosted five-day workshop titled "Taming Turbulence: Advancements in Flow and Acoustic Control." Sponsored by the Jharkhand Council on Science, Technology, and Innovation, the workshop aimed to deepen engineering students' understanding of modern techniques in managing fluid dynamics and acoustic behavior.

The event featured expert-led lectures by faculty members from IITs and NITs, as well as practical demonstrations. Participants were introduced to cutting-edge methods in turbulence control, flow optimiza-



tion, and acoustic noise reduction. Topics covered included advanced computational fluid dynamics (CFD) models, active and passive flow control techniques, and the application of innovative materials to reduce noise and vibrations in various systems.

The workshop emphasized

the transformative potential of these advancements across industries such as aerospace, automotive, and energy production. Students explored how these techniques can enhance performance, efficiency, and sustainability while reducing the environmental impacts of noise and turbulence.

Prof. Goutam Sutradhar, Director of NIT Jamshedpur, encouraged students to apply their newfound knowledge to address real-world challenges in fluid dynamics and acoustic control. Prof. Sanjay, Head of the Mechanical Engineering Department, commended the organizing faculty-Dr. Shailesh

Jha, Dr. Rinku Gouda, Dr. A.K. Patel, and Dr. K.S.K. Sudhamshu-for the success of the event.

Dean of Research Prof. M.K. Sinha lauded the active participation and dedication of students, while Deputy Director Prof. R.V. Sharma praised the organizers and urged them to host similar workshops regularly.

The workshop proved to be a transformative experience for all involved, equipping participants with advanced skills and knowledge to contribute to the continued progress of flow and acoustic control technologies, which are critical for improving performance and sustainability across a wide range of engineering sectors. (W-mb)

Singhbhumi Chamber's efforts lead to proposal for rail coach assembly plant in Kolhan

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 24: The Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) has achieved a significant milestone in its efforts to boost industrial development in Kolhan. A proposal to establish a rail coach assembly plant in the region has been submitted to the Jharkhand Government's Industry Department by a reputed company. The news has been confirmed by various sources, including reports in local newspapers, much to the delight of the Chamber and the people of Jamshedpur.

Vijay Anand Moonka, President of the SCCI, expressed his satisfaction, stating, "This is a moment of pride for the Chamber as well as for the people of Jamshedpur. Our consistent efforts have borne fruit. The establishment of a rail coach assembly factory in Kolhan will not only contribute to the local economy but also bring the region to the forefront of industrial development."

The SCCI has been at the forefront of advocating for the growth of Kolhan, particularly Jamshedpur. Moonka mentioned



that the Chamber had been tirelessly urging the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Union Ministers to push for the establishment of large-scale government or public sector companies in the region. Such companies, according to Moonka, would create new markets and accelerate the pace of pro-

duction for local industries. This would not only benefit Jharkhand but the entire country as well.

Last year, in April, a delegation from the SCCI met with the Honourable Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav and requested the establishment of a company related to the manufacture of railway parts. The

Minister had given assurances and the proposal now stands as a result of those efforts. The company has requested approximately 200 acres of land from the Jharkhand Government to set up the plant.

This development promises significant progress for Jamshedpur, generating employment opportunities and boosting the region's economy. The establishment of a rail coach assembly plant will also contribute to increasing the revenues of both the state and central governments. Manav Kedia, Honorary General Secretary of the Chamber and Puneet Kanwatia, Vice President, emphasized the urgency of the state government's action to facilitate the land allocation. Kedia added, "The establishment of the plant will not only enhance industrial growth but will also open new avenues for entrepreneurs and businesses in the region."

Chamber members, including Vice President Anil Modi, Advocate Rajiv Agarwal and others, have urged the Industry Department to take swift action on the matter and ensure that the proposed plant is set up in Kolhan. (w/nkm)

Teachers' Morcha threatens legal action over delay in JAC appointments

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Jan 24:

The Jharkhand Rajya Vitarahit Shiksha Samyukt Sangharsh Morcha has decided to file a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the High Court on January 29 if the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Jharkhand Academic Council (JAC) are not appointed by January 28. The move comes amidst growing concerns over the future of 25 lakh students whose examinations are scheduled for January, February and March.

In a meeting held by the Morcha's President Board, it was resolved that a PIL would be filed seeking immediate appointments to these critical posts. "The future of lakhs of students is at stake. We will urge the court to direct the government to make these



appointments without delay," a Morcha representative said.

The 8th-grade exam is scheduled for January 28, followed by the 9th-grade exams on January 29-30. However, the admit cards for the 9th-grade exams, which were supposed to be available from January 20, have yet to be released. "This delay has created uncertainty and confusion among students and

schools," the Morcha added.

The Morcha further highlighted operational challenges, including the lack of arrangements to pay employees handling confidential work, delays in forming governing bodies for schools and colleges and stalled approval of grant amounts due to missing governing body letters.

"There is no one to over-

JAC releases SOP for Class 8 and 9 Board Exams

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Jan 24: The Jharkhand Academic Council (JAC) has issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the upcoming board exams of classes 8 and 9. The class 8 exam is scheduled for January 28, while the class 9 exam will be conducted on January 29 and 30. Both exams will be held on OMR sheets.

This year, 5.18 lakh students will appear for the class 8 board exam, while 4,67,849 students will take the class 9 exam. The class 8 exam will be conducted in two papers.

Details of Class 8 Exam Papers

First Paper: Hindi, English and additional subjects, each carrying 50 marks.

Second Paper: Mathematics, Science and Social Science, each carrying 50

marks. As per the SOP, strict protocols will be followed to ensure transparency and fairness during the examinations. The question papers will be opened in the presence of two teachers and two students before the start of the exam.

The absence of leadership is paralyzing the system," said Kundan Kumar Singh, one of the attendees at the meeting.

see critical tasks at JAC. The question papers will be opened in the presence of two teachers and two students before the start of the exam.

A JAC official stated, "The OMR-based format will allow for quick evaluation and ensure greater accuracy in results. The process of opening question papers under supervision will reinforce trust and transparency in the system."

The council has urged schools and exam centers to strictly adhere to the issued guidelines to ensure smooth conduct of the exams. The students have been advised to arrive at the exam centers well in advance and carry all required documents, including admit cards. (w/nkm)

With less than a week to go before the exams, the Morcha fears significant disruptions if immediate action is not taken. "This is about the future of our

children. If the government fails to act, we have no choice but to seek judicial intervention," a spokesperson declared. (w/nkm)

Final rehearsal for Republic Day parade



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 24: The district is all set to celebrate Republic Day 2025 with grandeur as the final preparations for the district-level main function gain momentum. The event will take place at Gopal Maidan, Bistupur, where the Honorable Minister of School Education and Literacy and Registration Department, Jharkhand, Ramdas Soren, will grace the occasion as the chief guest. The flag hoisting ceremony will take place at 09:05 AM on 26 January.

To ensure that everything is in place for the grand celebration, a full dress rehearsal of the Republic Day parade was organized at Gopal Maidan today. The rehearsal was jointly inspected by Senior Superintendent of Police Kishore Kaushal, ADM Law and Order Aniket Sachan, and SDO Dhalbhum Shatabdi Majumdar.

The parade featured an impressive lineup, including one platoon of JAP-6, three platoons of the district police force (including auxiliary police), one platoon of district home guards, two platoons of NCC (both women and men), as well as a platoon of Scouts and Guides.

During the inspection, senior district officials also reviewed other preparations at the venue. They issued necessary instructions to ensure that all arrangements are completed on time for the district-level ceremony. The function promises to be a significant and well-organized event, showcasing the district's commitment to honoring the spirit of Republic Day. (w-pb)

Life imprisonment for couple in dowry-related murder

Jamshedpur, Jan 24: A court in Jamshedpur has sentenced Mangal Soren, his mother Sumitra Soren and father Masu Soren to life imprisonment for the murder of Fulmani Soren. The accused were also ordered to pay a fine of Rs 25,000 each.

The case, presided over by ADJ-8 Kankan Pattadar, revolved around the brutal murder of Fulmani in the Bodam police station area. The verdict was delivered on Thursday after six witnesses provided testimony regarding the events that unfolded on May 25, 2019. According to the prosecution, Fulmani's father, Anil Hansda from Patamda Tola Madal Kocha, filed an FIR at the Bodam police station alleging that his daughter was murdered for dowry and her body was subsequently discarded in a forest. Anil stated that his daughter had been married two years prior to the incident and during her time at her in-laws' home, she was frequently subjected to physical abuse due to ongoing demands for money.

On the day of her disappearance, a neighbour, Boli Hembram, alerted Anil that Fulmani was missing. Concerned, he visited his daughter's in-laws' home but received no information regarding her whereabouts. Days later, he discovered that an unidentified body had been found and upon visiting the site, he identified it as Fulmani's. The condition of the body suggested that it had been decomposing, with her head particularly damaged. The court's verdict reflected the serious nature of the crime, with the sentences for murder being imposed under sections 302/120B of the Indian Penal Code, along with an additional seven years and a fine of Rs 5,000 under section 201. All sentences will run concurrently, ensuring that justice is served for Fulmani Soren and her grieving family. (w/nkm)

Eshani and Amandeep share 'Best All-Rounder' award

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 24: Sacred Heart Convent School celebrated the graduation ceremony of 2024-25 batch of Class XII students in the school premises on January 24, 2025.

The heartwarming celebration honoured the students' academic achievements and personal growth. The event saw 140 graduates, along with their parents and dignitaries, filling the school lawn, creating an atmosphere of joy and pride.

The exhilarating part of the ceremony was the distribution of awards which left many in tears of joy.

EshaniChowdhury and AmandeepKaur shared the prestigious Best All-

Sacred Heart Convent School holds graduation ceremony



Rounder Award for their outstanding performances during the academic year 2024-25. SimranChhabra was also honored with the Most Outstanding Student trophy for her exemplary contributions.

Earlier, the ceremony began with a formal procession of Sisters, teachers, and graduates, followed by the lighting of the ceremonial lamp.

School President KhyatiBakhshi delivered the Valedictory speech, reflecting on the values and lessons instilled at Sacred Heart Convent School and proudly high-

lighting the collective achievements of her classmates. School principal Sister M. Steffi A.C. addressed the gathering with wise words, encouraging the graduates to

carry the values of faith, integrity, and courage into their future endeavors. Her speech provided guidance and inspiration as the students prepared to embark on the next chapter of their lives.

Dr. Asif Ansari, a proud parent, expressed his appreciation for the school's role in shaping the girls into confident young women ready to make a difference in the world.

The ceremony concluded with a beautiful hymn performed by the school choir, followed by the School Anthem.

Parents, visibly proud of their children's accomplishments, expressed gratitude to the faculty and management for nurturing their wards in the institution's tradition of excellence. (W-mb)

Netaji Jayanti celebrated at Sai Aman Play School



Mail News Service

Chaibasa, Jan 24: Sai Aman Play School, located in Sadar Bazar, celebrated the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose with great enthusiasm. The event began with a young child offering flowers to Netaji's photograph, symbolizing respect and gratitude for the freedom fighter.

Principal Bonolta Ghosh addressed the gathering, stating, "Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose sacrificed his life for the nation. His sacrifice and ideals should always inspire us." The program was attended by teachers Shweta Kumari, Ankita Kumari and Ishika Chakraborty, who actively participated in organizing the event. The school emphasized the importance of remembering the contributions of freedom fighters and instilling patriotic values in young minds. (w/nkm)

Chaibasa startup 3D Spot to participate in R-Day Parade

Chaibasa, Jan 24: Local startup 3D Spot has earned a significant milestone by being invited to participate in the Republic Day parade at Kartavya Path, New Delhi, on January 26, 2025. Selected under the Government of India's Startup India initiative, the startup specializes in 3D modeling and has gained recognition for its contributions to the Digital India mission.



Founder Arya Gupta, son of Mithilesh Kumar, an assistant teacher from Bamebas, expressed his pride, saying, "This invitation is a great honor for 3D Spot and a proud moment for Jharkhand." The Republic Day parade will host around 10,000 special guests, including achievers from various fields. This recognition marks a significant achievement for 3D Spot and highlights the potential of startups in rural and tribal regions. (w/nkm)

Congress pays tribute to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in Chaibasa

Chaibasa, Jan 24: Congress leaders and workers gathered at Congress Bhawan in Chaibasa to commemorate the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. The event began with garlanding Netaji's photograph as a mark of respect.

Party members praised Netaji's role in India's independence. Chandrashekhar Das remarked, "Netaji's powerful speeches and leadership as the Congress National President united the country in the fight for freedom."

The event witnessed the participation of prominent Congress members, including Trishanu Rai, Laxman Hasada and Janvi Kudada, who reiterated the importance of remembering Netaji's unparalleled contributions to the nation's independence. (w/nkm)

Step by Step playschool now renamed as 'Learn with Dolly Aunty'

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 24: CH Area (East) based play school 'Step by Step with Dolly Aunty' has announced the renaming of its school as 'Learn with Dolly Aunty'. The decision has been taken as part of its ongoing efforts to enhance and align its identity with the values and vision of the institution.

The change reflects the school's commitment to providing a nurturing and modern educational environment for young learners.

Dolly Upadhyay, principal, 'Learn with Dolly



Aunty', said that the updated name symbolizes

the school's dedication to fostering holistic development and creativity in early childhood education. All operational aspects, including curriculum and facilities, will remain unaffected, ensuring a seamless transition for students, parents, and staff.

"We extend our gratitude to all stakeholders, including parents and the school management committee, for their support and encouragement during this transition. The new name has been effective from now, and necessary updates will be reflected across all official communication channels and documents. (W-pb)

Dhanbad, Jan 24: Thirty-five achievers from Jharkhand have been selected as 'Special Guests' to witness the Republic Day Parade at Kartavya Path, New Delhi, on January 26. These individuals have excelled in various fields and have been recognized for their remarkable contributions, according to the Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Defence.

The invitees include disaster relief workers, prominent sarpanches, winners under the PM YASAVI scheme, best-performing self-help group (SHG) members, ASHA and Anganwadi workers, start-up founders, and other distinguished individuals.

The selection also celebrates those who have utilized government

schemes effectively and contributed to the vision of a 'Swarnim Bharat' (Golden India). Among the chosen achievers, Ranchi district has the highest representation, with seven individuals selected. Gumla district follows with three representatives, while Dhanbad has two. Other achievers hail from districts across the state. The list of invitees features individuals such as Rajeev Kumar Singh from Deoghar, Omkar Gupta from Giridih, and Aarya Gupta and Amartya Kumar from Chaibasa. It also includes Raju Oraon, Basant Oraon, and Parmeshwar Mahli from Lohardaga, alongside Arshad Ansari, Aditya Ranjan, and Nutan Pahan from Ranchi. Aparna Devi from Dhanbad and others from

various districts have also been recognized for their accomplishments. In addition to these achievers, several tribal beneficiaries have been invited to highlight their success stories. Notable among them are Manga Asur, Pusa Asur, and Jerko Asur from Pokhrapath, as well as Kismati Asur from Gumla. Other invitees include Lila Devi and Manibala Devi from Ranchi, Mamata Bera from Singhbhum, and Chuku and Budhmaniya Birhor from Gumla. Over the past year, these individuals have made significant strides in their respective fields, becoming symbols of progress and inspiration for the state. Their invitation to this prestigious event acknowledges their efforts and emphasizes the importance of recognizing grassroots achievers who contribute to societal growth and development.

Hundreds of AJSU-Party members resign

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Jan 24: Office bearers and workers of the All Jharkhand Student Union (AJSU)-Party Ranchi Mahanagar collectively resigned from their position on Friday in Ranchi.

This collective resignation decision was taken in support after youth leader Abhishek Kumar Jha resigned from the party. The party workers in their resignation letter marked to AJSU supremo Sudesh Kumar Mahato they wrote that a statement given in a recently organized program is hurtful and it hurts their self-respect as they were loyal towards the organization.

The comminque to the AJSU president mentioned, "The statement not only lowered the morale of the workers but also weakened their faith in the organization."

According to the party workers, "AJSU-Party leadership needs to understand and respect the contribution of its party workers." One of the party workers who resigned said, "When the workers are not respected, the credibility of the organization weakens." He added, "Collective efforts are needed to take the organization to new heights. The resignations raise serious questions on the future of the party and it points towards an introspection towards the party leadership." (w/tsb)

CAs to select players today for cricket tourney

Jamshedpur, Jan 24: Jamshedpur Chartered Accountants (CAs) Society is organizing two-day cricket tournament, JCAPL 2025, aimed at promoting sportsmanship among chartered accountants. The tournament will take place on February 8 and 9 at the Tube Makers Club in Telco. Around 100 chartered accountants, members of the CA Society and the Jamshedpur Branch, are expected to participate in the event.

The selection of players for the tournament will take place through a team auction on January 25, at 4:30 PM at the United Club, Bistupur. The auction will be led by Society President CA Kaushalendra Das and Secretary CA AnandAgarwal. Program coordinator CA SugamSaraiwala and media in-charge CA Ravi Gupta provided details about the event. The tournament is set to serve as both a source of entertainment for sports enthusiasts and chartered accountants and a platform to foster mutual cooperation and teamwork among the participants. This is the first time such an event is being organized, and it is expected to strengthen the spirit of camaraderie within the profession. (W-mb)

KCC students dive deep into weather forecasting mysteries

Jamshedpur, Jan 24: Karim City College's Geography Department electrified students with its 16th Annual Workshop on Celestial and Meteorological Observation, transforming complex weather science into an engaging learning experience.

Principal Dr. Mohammad Reyaz and Head of Geography Dr. Ale Ali spearheaded the event, focusing on critical meteorological instruments. "Meteorological observation is essentially evaluating atmospheric elements," explained Dr. Ali, highlighting the workshop's scientific core. Dr. Alok Kumar Chaubey simplified meteorology's essence, defining it as the "science of atmosphere" and emphasizing weather forecasting's significance. Experts like Dr. Surabhi Sinha elaborated on specialized equipment like rain gauges, while Shobha Muwal decoded barometric pressure measurement.

Dr. Pasarul Islam showcased an impressive array of celestial monitoring tools, including telescopes, sundials, thermometers, windvanes, GPS, anemometers and binoculars. This comprehensive demonstration provided students unprecedented insights into atmospheric and astronomical observation techniques.

Featuring distinguished faculty from Karim City College and Workers College, the workshop epitomized interdisciplinary learning. Dr. Farzana Anjum concluded the session, ensuring students gained comprehensive understanding of meteorological sciences. (w/nkm)

Hazaribagh to host Jharkhand Master Badminton Championship

Dhanbad, Jan 24: The Yonex-Sunrise Jharkhand State Master Badminton Championship cum selection trial for the state team will be held in Hazaribagh from February 14 to 16 at Curzon Ground.

Providing this information, K Prabhakar Rao, Secretary of the Jharkhand Badminton Association and Joint Secretary of the Badminton Association of India (BAI), said that the last date for entry into the championship is February 10. Singles and doubles matches for men and women across nine age categories—above 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, and 75 years—will be conducted. A player can participate in only three events.

"On the basis of performance in this championship, Jharkhand's men's and women's teams will be selected for the All India Master Badminton Championship," said K Prabhakar Rao. The BAI Joint Secretary added that only players with a valid BAI ID will be allowed to participate in the championship. Players with inactive IDs will not be permitted. Since Jharkhand players have been winning trophies in various age-group events of the Master National Championship, a large number of men and women are expected to participate in the event.

Amar Jyoti school organizes road safety awareness program

Mail News Service

During their visit, the Union officials engaged with the special children and differently-abled young women residing at Cheshire Home.

They interacted with individuals across all age groups and distributed food items, spreading joy and creating a warm

atmosphere. The children expressed their happiness and excitement at the Union's presence.

Speaking on the occasion, Gurmeet Singh, Union President, praised Cheshire Home for its dedication to supporting those who are often forgotten by their families.

"Cheshire Home's commitment to these special children is truly admirable and an example for others to follow," he remarked.

General Secretary RK Singh commended the love and care with which Cheshire Home nurtures its residents. (W-mb)

Mahato; and District Board Baba Premanand.

"The Ram Darbar Shri Hari Mandir Rath is a symbol of our rich cultural heritage and our dedication to promoting the values of Hinduism," said Pankaj, the Chariot Organizing Chief. "We are proud to bring this magnificent chariot to the people of Seraikela and we hope it

inspires devotion and unity among our community."

The event was attended by village elders, women and children, as well as students from various schools and colleges. The

presence of Acharya Pushpa and several prominent Sanatanis added to the spiritual significance of the ceremony.

The inauguration marked the beginning of a new chapter in the celebration of our cultural festivals and traditions and the Ram Darbar Shri Hari Mandir Rath is set to become a beloved icon in Seraikela. (w/nkm)

riding.

Principal Sister Surabhi welcomed the guests and prohibited children from bringing motorized vehicles to school. She also appealed to the parents to restrict them in this matter.

Santosh Mishra who is a renowned cyclist was also present as guest. He gave road safety related information to the children.

Bhagat said, "It is

mandatory to use seat belt while driving a car and while riding a two-wheeler, both the driver and the pillion rider must wear helmets."

Azadnagar police station peace committee secretary Mukhtar Alam Khan, human welfare trust trustee Syed Asif Akhtar and all the teachers and staff of the school were present. (w/tsb)

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"We extend our gratitude to all stakeholders, including parents and the school management

Jharkhand agitators honoured in grand ceremony at KU

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, Jan 24: A grand honour ceremony was organized at Kolhan University auditorium in Chaibasa, West Singhbhum district, to felicitate 181 Jharkhand agitators from 16 zones for their contributions to the formation of the state. The event, led by Revenue, Registration and Land Reforms Minister Deepak Birua, was attended by Singhbhum Divisional Commissioner Hari Kumar Kesari, Kolhan Police DIG Manoj Ratan Chauth, District Magistrate Kuldeep Chaudhary, SP Ashutosh Shekhar and other senior



officials.

The ceremony began with a traditional welcome for the dignitaries, followed by the lighting of the ceremonial lamp. Minister Birua and the officials

honoured the agitators by presenting them with robes and certificates as a token of appreciation. The event also included the Voter's Day oath, led by the Divisional

Commissioner, in anticipation of National Voter's Day on January 25. Addressing the gathering, Minister Birua acknowledged the sacrifices of the agitators, stating, "I congratulate all the comrades whose dedication brought the dream of Jharkhand state to reality. The government is committed to continuously improving the welfare schemes for agitators, including pensions and other benefits. Together, we will realize our vision of a better and prosperous Jharkhand."

Deputy Commissioner Kuldeep Chaudhary expressed deep respect for the agitators, adding, "The formation of Jharkhand was made possible

through your relentless efforts. As we approach the 76th Republic Day, honouring your sacrifices is a meaningful gesture to celebrate your legacy."

SP Ashutosh Shekhar echoed the sentiments, saying, "Your struggle and determination have gifted us this land as Jharkhand state. On behalf of the Chaibasa Police, I extend my gratitude and congratulations for your invaluable contribution."

The event concluded with an atmosphere of pride and gratitude as the agitators were celebrated for their vital role in shaping the history of Jharkhand. (w/nkm)

Devotees celebrate foundation day of Shiromani Kankali Baba temple

Mail News Service

Gamharia, Jan 24: Foundation day of Shiromani Kankali Baba temple celebrated in Devanagari, Gamharia on Friday. Large number of devotees from various areas of Jamshedpur, including two hundred local families participated in the celebrations. The worship of Kankali Baba was done by the temple priest and the collective aarti was done by the devotees. Five special devotees took chhaank as prasad. Along with the distribution of bhunja prasad, khichidi was also served to everyone. This grand celebration was organized under the patronage of committee convener Anil Kumar, president Krishna Kumar Gupta, vice president Shambhu Kumar, secretary Ramanand Gupta, joint secretaries Prabhakar Shah and Ajay Shah and treasurer Brakishore.



The temple was established ten years ago on Jan 24, 2014 by the local Kanu clan under the then president of Kanu Jagran Manch, Late Dayanand Sah.

On the invitation of the coordinator of the temple, Anil Kumar, patron of Kanu Jagran Manch, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand, Krishna Kumar Gupta, President RK Shashi, Secretary Shambhu Kumar, Treasurer Brakishore, Executive Member Akhilanand Gupta, Swapan Kumar Sao and other members also participated. (w/tsb)

Institute for Education College students' day out at Ganjia Dam

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Jan 24: A picnic was organized for the B.Ed students of sessions 2022-24, 2023-25, and 2024-26 at the Institute for Education College. The event was held at the Ganjia Dam picnic spot, where both students and faculty participated in a series of fun-filled activities, including sports competitions, music, and dance performances.

The picnic was organized with the support of College Director R.N. Mahanty, Principal Dr. Sweety Sinha, and Treasurer Kinshuk Mahanty. Teachers and staff members, including



Dr. Om Prakash, Dr. Vandana Kumar, Suman Kumar, Shrawani Mukherjee, Archana, Indu Kumari, Nisha Rani, Rashmi Sharma, Nivedita Mandal, Madhuri Kumari, Govind, Mustafa, K.K. Dubey, Manbodh Das, Sameer Anand, Payal Bala

Khalko, Sanjay Kumar, Sanjeet, Shivani, Subhadra, and Kavita, joined the students in making the event a success.

The program aimed to foster bonding among students and faculty while providing a break from the academic routine. (W-mb)

Ashok Bhalotia laid to rest, SCCI pays tribute

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 24: Former president of the Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) and industrialist, Ashok Bhalotia, was laid to rest at Parvati Ghat on Friday amidst an outpouring of grief from the business and entrepreneurial community. Hundreds of people, including family, friends, and colleagues, gathered to bid a tearful farewell to the respected leader and entrepreneur. Bhalotia's mortal remains were brought to the SCCI building, where members, officials, and well-wishers paid floral tributes. Leading the tribute, SCCI President



Vijay Anand Moonka expressed deep sorrow over the loss, saying, "Ashok Bhalotia was not just a leader but a guiding light for all of us. His contributions to the business community will remain

unparalleled. We have lost a mentor and a guardian."

Former SCCI presidents Muralidhar Kedia, Vijay Mehta, and Nirmal Kabra, paid homage to the late leader. (W-mb)

Investigation into Vani Vidya Mandir School dispute ongoing

Gamharia, Jan 24: Block Education Extension Officer (BEEO) Dinesh Kumar Dandapat visited Vani Vidya Mandir School to address an ongoing management dispute. Both parties presented their grievances and the BEEO directed them to submit evidence supporting their claims. Dandapat stated, "An inquiry committee has been formed by the District Education Officer. The investigation is delayed due to pending documents, but we are committed to resolving the matter soon." The dispute, which has persisted for months, revolves around administrative and management issues. The district education department has assured a thorough investigation to bring clarity and resolve the situation amicably. (w/nkm)

SMC training program inaugurated to strengthen school management

Seraikela, Jan 24: A two-day training program for School Management Committee (SMC) members commenced across various schools in the block, with an inaugural meeting chaired by SMC Chairperson Poonam Devi at Balk Madhya Vidyalaya. Discussions focused on creating a vision for "Mera Vidyalaya Mera Abhiman," implementing the Right to Education Act and understanding the National Education Policy-2020.

Participants deliberated on the roles and responsibilities of the SMC, including ensuring student enrolment and retention, promoting mutual cooperation and overseeing initiatives like Prayas Co Project Impact, Project Rail and FLN. Headmaster Gangaram Ti emphasized, "This training will empower SMC members to actively contribute to the holistic development of schools." Cluster Resource Workers Rajendra Nanda and Bahalen Barla provided subject-wise insights, stressing the importance of coordination between teachers and SMC members. Attendees included SMC members Akhilesh Poddar, Renu Mukhi and Lakshmi Devi, along with teachers, who pledged to work collectively toward improving educational outcomes. (w/nkm)

Zila Parishad member encourages players at rural football tournament



Seraikela, Jan 24: Zila Parishad member Shambhu Mandal attended the renowned rural football competition organized at Mathadih in the Seraikela block as the chief guest. He inaugurated the event by kicking off the first football and interacting with the players.

Addressing the participants, Mandal said, "Continuous practice with dedication and sincerity leads to great success. Jharkhand is a land of sports talents and I urge all players to give their best performance with true sportsmanship." The event brought together numerous sports enthusiasts, with key figures like Ashish Mahato, Pradyumna Mahato, Shrivam Baske and Gaurav Pradhan also in attendance. The competition is a testament to the region's passion for sports and commitment to nurturing young talent. (w/nkm)

Momin Conference distributes clothes to mothers



Chaibasa, Jan 24: Marking the 109th birth anniversary of Abdul Razzaq Ansari, founder of Momin Conference and Apollo Hospital, the organization distributed clothes to mothers of children undergoing treatment at the Malnutrition Treatment Center (MTC) on Friday. The event, held on the premises of Sadar Hospital, celebrated Ansari's lifelong dedication to helping the poor and underprivileged. Speaking on the occasion, District President of Momin Conference, Moazzam Biharai, said, "Abdul Razzaq Ansari devoted his life to uplifting the marginalized by establishing schools and hospitals to provide affordable education and healthcare. His legacy continues to inspire us."

Congress leaders pay tribute to advocate Anand Kumar Gope



Chaibasa, Jan 24: Congress leaders gathered on Friday at the residence of senior Congress leader Dr. Nandal Gope in Tungri New Colony to pay tribute to his late brother, senior advocate Anand Kumar Gope, during the shradha karm ceremony.

Expressing grief, Congress members said, "The passing of Anand Kumar Gope is an irreparable loss. His simple and

affectionate personality will be remembered forever. May God grant peace to his soul and strength to his

family in this difficult time."

Prominent Congress leaders present included Chandrashekhar Das, Trishanu Rai, Diku Savaiyan and Sikur Gope, alongside family members and supporters. The event was filled with heartfelt condolences and fond memories of the late advocate's significant contributions to society. (w/nkm)

RJD pays tribute to Jananayak Karpuri Thakur on birth anniversary

Gamharia, Jan 24: The RJD camp office in Gamharia marked the 101st birth anniversary of former Bihar Chief Minister Jananayak Karpuri Thakur with a tribute ceremony. Party workers garlanded his photo and reminisced about his contributions.

RJD State General Secretary Arjun Prasad Yadav highlighted Thakur's legacy, saying, "He dedicated his life to social justice and upliftment of the marginalized."

His ideals continue to inspire us." The program, presided over by Gaju Saay, saw participation from prominent leaders, including Women Cell District President Shusita Barik and District Spokesperson Mukesh Jha.

Ex CM Raghubar leads Samvidhan Gaurav Abhiyan in Chaibasa

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, Jan 24: Former Chief Minister of Jharkhand and senior BJP leader Shri Raghubar Das was given a grand welcome at the West Singhbhum district office as part of the Samvidhan Gaurav Abhiyan program. District President Shri Sanjay Pandey led the enthusiastic gathering of party workers who greeted Das with cheers and slogans.

Das, accompanied by hundreds of supporters, paid tribute to Dharti Aaba Bhagwan Birsa Munda by garlanding his life-size statue near the Chaibasa bus stand. Speaking to the crowd, he reiterated the BJP's commitment to protecting the Constitution and the rights of tribal communities. "The tribal society has a significant role in India's progress and their rights will always be safeguarded under the Modi government," he stated.

During a public meeting at Chaibasa Gadi Khana, Das emphasized Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts to ensure the upliftment of

Shambhu Mandal welcomes BJP leader

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Jan 24: Zila Parishad member Shambhu Mandal extended a warm welcome to former Chief Minister Raghubar Das at the BJP district office in Seraikela. Mandal presented a bouquet to Das and discussed key organizational and regional issues during the meeting.

Congratulating Das on his return to the mainstream of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Mandal expressed his admiration for the former CM's contributions to the state. He said, "The BJP has always been strengthened by the leadership of figures like Raghubar Das and his guidance will inspire us to work harder for regional development."

The interaction marked a significant moment for party workers, emphasizing unity and dedication toward addressing

local issues.

Raghubar Das received a warm welcome at Lal Building Chowk in Gamharia, led by BJP Block President Amresh Goswami. Party workers presented him with a bouquet of flowers and expressed their admiration for his leadership.

Das thanked the workers and encouraged them to work unitedly for the welfare of the

region. "The enthusiasm of BJP workers here is inspiring. Together, we will continue to serve the people," he said.

The event witnessed participation from BJP leaders like Pramod Pathak, Vivek Kumar and Kamlesh Singh, who reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the party's presence in the district. (w/nkm)

groups through landmark initiatives in education and employment." Taking a dig at the Congress, Das accused the party of constitutional violations. "Congress has repeatedly misused the Constitution, be it during the Emergency or through the dismissal of elected state governments. The Shah Bano case is another example of how they compromised constitutional values for appeasement politics," he asserted. The program also featured a seminar at Madhav Sabhagar, where Das highlighted the Constitution as the foundation of social justice and equality. A speech and painting competition organized by the BJP Yuva Morcha honoured participants with prizes, fostering awareness of constitutional values among the youth. Prominent BJP leaders, including Geeta Koda, Badkunwar Gagarai, JB Tivid and Sanjay Pandey, graced the occasion. The event concluded with a resolution by all attendees to protect and promote constitutional values in society. (w/nkm)

January heatwave

The onset of January typically ushers in chilly winds, cozy mornings, and the familiar embrace of winter. However, this year, the narrative has taken a troubling turn. In an unprecedented shift, people across India are experiencing unseasonal heat, leaving even January-a month synonymous with cold-feeling like summer. This anomaly has raised concerns among farmers, scientists, and citizens alike, pointing to the larger, unsettling reality of climate change and environmental disruption.

Recent data paints a stark picture of the situation. Cities like Jamshedpur, which traditionally enjoy mild January weather, are experiencing daytime temperatures exceeding 30 degrees Celsius. In comparison, last year on January 21, Jamshedpur recorded a far cooler 21 degrees. Similarly, Ranchi's temperature has risen from 17 degrees to a staggering 27 degrees, and Delhi, which normally hovers around 12 degrees, has recorded 26 degrees this year. This dramatic temperature rise in such a short span has baffled many and sent shockwaves across various sectors, particularly agriculture.

The Indian Meteorological Department has attributed this unseasonal warmth to changes in wind patterns caused by western disturbances. While such disturbances are not new to the region, their increasing frequency and intensity underscore the broader implications of global climate change. The department has reassured that colder days may return soon, but the abruptness and extremity of these changes cannot be dismissed as a fleeting phenomenon. They serve as a stark reminder of the ecological imbalance humanity has caused.

For farmers, this weather change is more than an inconvenience-it's a looming crisis. Agriculture in India is heavily dependent on predictable weather patterns. Winters provide a crucial window for the cultivation of certain crops, and the rising temperatures risk stunting growth, reducing yield, and affecting overall food security. While vegetable prices currently remain low in many parts of the country, this could change drastically if the erratic weather persists. A decline in crop production would not only affect farmers' livelihoods but also strain consumers with soaring prices.

The repercussions extend beyond agriculture. India already grapples with extended periods of heat during the summer, a time when electricity consumption soars due to the relentless demand for cooling. If winter months-the only respite from this cycle-also become warmer, energy consumption will increase year-round, placing an unsustainable burden on power grids and exacerbating environmental degradation. The productivity of workers, too, suffers during intense heat, particularly in outdoor or labor-intensive jobs. Adding the burden of unseasonal heat to the equation will further strain the economy and societal well-being.

The shifting seasons have become more erratic in recent years. Monsoons now frequently arrive late, impacting water availability and agricultural cycles. Similarly, winters, once predictable and robust, have started arriving late and departing prematurely. The early retreat of winter this year, marked by unusually warm January days, is another worrying chapter in this story.

At its core, this unusual weather pattern is a clarion call to humanity. The way the environment is being tampered with-it through deforestation, industrial pollution, or unchecked urbanization-has triggered cascading effects on climate systems. Rising temperatures, melting glaciers, erratic rainfall, and unseasonal heatwaves are not isolated events but interconnected outcomes of human activity.

While the Meteorological Department's prediction of a return to cooler weather offers a glimmer of hope, the larger concern remains: are we equipped to deal with a future where such disruptions become the norm? If winters continue to shorten, if summers become longer and harsher, and if agricultural cycles remain vulnerable, the cumulative impact on the environment, economy, and public health will be catastrophic.

The need for urgent action cannot be overstated. India, like the rest of the world, must prioritize sustainable practices to mitigate the effects of climate change. Renewable energy, reforestation, water conservation, and eco-friendly agricultural methods are not mere buzzwords; they are lifelines to ensure a stable future. On an individual level, reducing carbon footprints, embracing green habits, and spreading awareness about climate change can contribute to collective progress.

This January has offered an unsettling preview of what an unchecked climate crisis could look like. Sweating in January may seem trivial at first glance, but it is emblematic of a far more significant problem. It is a reminder that our planet is under stress, and every passing day without decisive action brings us closer to irreversible damage. The time to act is now-before the seasons, and our lives, spiral further out of balance.

From the Editorial Desk

India one of the world's fastest-growing economies, global hub for startups



India stands at the forefront as one of the world's fastest-growing economies and a global hub for startups and digital innovation, a World Economic Forum (WEF) report said on Monday.

According to the report, launched by the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) India, the liaison office of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in India, the country's advocacy for and pursuit of developmental templates where technology serves as a bridge rather than a barrier are highly relevant and the Forum is proud to act as its partner in shaping a more human-centric, planet-friendly and resilient future.

The C4IR India continues to expand, it is now focusing on cutting-edge areas such as AI, climate tech, and space tech, with exciting potential for creating lasting value for society," Jurgens added.

C4IR India aims to reach 10 million citizens by scal-

ing its flagship initiatives and upcoming projects. These include the 'AI for India 2030' initiative, which seeks to unlock AI's potential for societal benefit; the 'Space Economy' initiative, aimed at positioning India as a leader in space technologies; and the 'Climate Technology' programme, which will focus on developing climate-smart urban centres.

According to S Krishnan, Secretary, MeitY, "Our partnership with the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution India focuses on developing a multistakeholder community to leverage Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies for critical challenges on health, education, smart cities and agriculture.

"AI for India 2030 is an important initiative in partnership with MeitY, enabling stakeholders across industry and startups to partner with government to realise the potential of AI," he added.

A collaboration between the World Economic

Rising neglect of animals highlights human indifference to nature



Abhijit Roy

Does this planet just belong to humans? This subject may bother any sensitive person, but we cannot deny the fact that we regard this vast tract of land as our own. Otherwise, what might be the cause when the human beings are fighting for their fundamental rights, and at the same time nature's other living beings have no words to say for their well-being.

Previously, the elders of the family would keep vegetable peels, roti-rice, and water outside their homes so that animals on the streets could eat them and fill their stomachs. Grains were spread in the courtyards of the houses for birds such as eagles, crows, and sparrows to eat, but this mindset has now changed totally. People now feed animals only to those stuffs which they themselves cannot consume and that too in a plastic bags.

Since animals lack hands, they devour the entire bag rather than opening and consuming it, resulting in a high number of untimely deaths each day. Sparrows, which used to peck at grains tossed by humans, now eat garbage poured down in drains. No one account that many birds perish each day as a result of being burnt by hot rice water from our kitchen drains. Concrete jungles are being built in the name of industrialization and progress in the country and around the world, displacing these homeless creatures from their settled homes.

What else can we call it if not misfortune? When



political parties have no problems challenging the actions of the government administration in support of the people's intrusion, why don't they raise their voices to stop the destruction of these rare creations of nature? Every day, these animals travel several kilometers in quest of food. They even die as a result of plunging into open drains behind our houses. Those survive by chance are killed after being severely battered by people while trying to get food in marketplaces or on the streets. The Jharkhand government has established animal hospitals in each district's towns. However, you cannot fathom greater treatment than what is provided in those hospitals, which lack even the most basic arrangements. If these creatures are used appropriately,

they can be extremely beneficial to our society. A few years ago, a letter from the Indian Police Training Center in Chennai was sent to the Superintendents of Police in all districts of the country, requesting that every police station in Naxal-affected areas feed and raise the dogs living in their area in order to prevent Naxalites from attacking police stations in the future.

Although this instruction was not strictly enforced, there have been reports of positive results from areas where such steps were implemented. Because Jharkhand is one of the country's most insurmountable states, this experiment is predicted to be extremely successful. While indiscriminate forest cutting has pushed wild animals' lives to the brink

of extinction by encroaching on their habitat and food, it has also made it difficult for animals like cows, bulls, buffaloes, and dogs, who have coexisted with our human society for centuries, to find food. These days people's attitudes have shifted dramatically. They have become more greedy than before. They no longer want to leave their high-rise homes to feed the mute beasts who roam the streets. This could be referred to as change in worldly terms. By the way, this is not just happening in Jharkhand, but all around the country. Every citizen of this country has been given the significant responsibility outlined in Article 51A of the Indian Constitution. Similarly, in our Sanatan Dharma, we are encouraged to be friendly to these helpless creatures, yet our public representatives have never raised any questions in Parliament or in legislative assembly on their behalf. Anyway, this is not to be anticipated of individuals who practice vote-bank politics.

(Author is a columnist. The views expressed are personal opinion of the author.)

Pilgrims praise PM Modi, CM Yogi for Maha Kumbh arrangements, selfie point major attraction

Devotees thronging Prayagraj to take a dip in Triveni Sangam the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati in Prayagraj, are expressing happiness over the arrangements made by the Centre and state government.

Selfie point with a huge cut out of Maha Kumbh and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has become a major attraction of the event with the people queuing up to click a photo at the spot.

Talking to IANS, several devotees, soaking in the spiritual energy of the event, opened up about their experience.

Anand Dubey, a devotee from Jharkhand, said cleanliness and security arrangements are up to the mark and thanked the Modi and Yogi governments for the same.

Dubey said: "Swachhta Abhiyaan is being followed properly and we are not noticing any litter."

Police personnel deployed at every naka were extending all help to devotees who are new to this place, he said.

On Digital Kumbh, he said that through an app, we can find out about food, administrative information or any particular point.

Another devotee Mukesh said that he reached Prayagraj via train by booking a Tatkal ticket and did not face any inconvenience.

Mukesh, a devotee from Jamshedpur said: "People who have reached here are



lucky. Digital Kumbha has been successful. Free tents are also available. We didn't face any difficulty. Everything is so good."

Akash Khare from Mumbai said arrangements for everything are good and we are lucky to have made it to the Maha Kumbh. The ghats are clean. Toilets are available at every 100 metres.

Ashwin Ghule from Mumbai said: "I feel lucky to have reached here, all arrangements are good. Toilets are available at every 100 metres.

Sanjay Pande from Lucknow, who clicked a selfie with cutouts of PM Modi and CM Yogi Adityanath, also hailed the government for the arrangements.

Raghuroop from Haryana said: "Yogi ji and Modi ji have made brilliant arrangements. We have taken selfies with the two great leaders."

Chandan Kumar from Gaya said time to time sanitation workers clean

the toilets.

Shailesh Kumar Pandey from Jharkhand said he was having an amazing experience.

Sanatani Suraj said: "I am feeling very good after coming here."

Meanwhile, two devotees, who are observing 'Kalpvaks', also shared their experience at the event.

Udaybhan Sharma said: "While observing 'Kalpvaks' (one-month stay) one has to take a dip in the Sangam before sunrise, listen to seers and visit them.

He also shared that he has been observing Kalpvaks for the past 17 years while noting that it is a very difficult practice if all the rules and regulations of the religious practices are observed properly.

"However, the divine experience is such that if you once visit a Kumbh, you cannot stop yourself from coming the second time," he said.

On how he feels during the month-long stay, Sharma said he felt blessed.

Another devotee Pushpa Sharma said: "Kalpvaks is difficult but can't be done in the village...old people can have food twice as they have to take medicines but the rule allows only one meal a day. And I am doing this."

Sourabh Singh from Ettawah, a small vendor selling Prashad said: "Trade has increased. There is no dearth of anything."

Another vendor, Jaihind Kashyap, from Auriya, said he has been visiting the city since 2021.

Expressing joy over increased sales, he said that whatever he brings from 'mandi' (wholesale market) in the morning is sold by evening.

Halki Bai from Jabalpur, who was selling vermicillion at the Kumbh Mela, said she is doing well. "Food is provided for free. Everything is fine,"

she said.

Manish Kashyap, a shopkeeper from Mathura said he is elated over the arrangements. "There is no tension."

This Maha Kumbh, which commenced on January 13, is expected to attract millions of devotees, with the event continuing until February 26, 2025.

Notably, Indian Railways has stepped up its efforts to ensure the health and safety of pilgrims with well-equipped medical facilities at key railway stations, including Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj Junction.

The observation rooms are equipped with crucial medical equipment such as Electrocardiogram (ECG) machines for heart-related concerns, defibrillators for cases of cardiac arrest, oxygen concentrators for respiratory issues, and glucometers for diabetic patients.

Tata Electronics acquires 60 pc stake in Pegatron India to boost local iPhone production

Mumbai, Jan 24 (IANS) In a fillip to the government's 'Make in India' initiative, Tata Electronics on Friday acquired a controlling 60 per cent stake in Pegatron Technology India, which produces Apple products like iPhones.

The acquisition boosts the company's position as a major player in India's electronics manufacturing industry.

This follows Tata Electronics' acquisition of Taiwanese electronics

manufacturer Wistron's India operations (based in Narsapura, Karnataka) for \$125 million less than a year ago, furthering Tata Sons' Chairman N Chandrasekaran's vision of significant investments by the Tata Group in electronics manufacturing.

Both Tata Electronics and Pegatron would integrate their teams, with Pegatron undergoing a rebranding as part of the collaboration as the part of the deal.

"The acquisition of a



majority stake in Pegatron Technology India Private

Limited fits into Tata Electronics' strategy of

growing our manufacturing footprint," said Dr

Randhir Thakur, CEO and MD of Tata Electronics.

We look forward to a new era of AI, digital, and technology-led manufacturing as we bring up these new facilities and expand our operations in India, he added.

Pegatron's India plant has nearly 10,000 employees, and the company manufactures iPhone 13 and 14 devices.

Earlier this month, Tata Electronics received approval from the Competition Commission

of India (CCI) to proceed with the stake acquisition. This move is part of Tata Electronics' strategy to grow its presence in Apple's iPhone production network in the country.

As part of the deal, Pegatron India will undergo rebranding to reflect its new ownership structure and business direction while continuing to deliver high-quality electronics manufacturing services.

Established in 2020 as a greenfield venture of the Tata Group, Tata

Electronics currently employs over 50,000 people and has significant operations in Gujarat, Assam, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

The iPhone contract manufacturers in India now include Foxconn, Tata and Pegatron.

Riding on the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme and growing premiumisation trend, Apple clocked Rs 1 lakh crore in iPhone exports from India in the calendar year 2024.

Utkarsh SFBL opens new outlet in Masalia

Dumka, Jan 24: Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited (Utkarsh SFBL) proudly announces the inauguration of its new banking outlet in Masalia, Dumka, Jharkhand. With this launch, the Bank has footprinted 94 banking outlets in Jharkhand and 1043 outlets nationwide.

Residents of Masalia, Dumka will benefit from a comprehensive suite of banking products, including savings accounts, current accounts, fixed deposits, and recurring deposits. The Bank also provides various loan products, such as housing loans, business loans, loan against property, credit, insurance, and investment products. The Bank's infrastructure, digital banking capabilities, and ATM network ensure a seamless banking experience.

Commenting on the expansion, Mr. Govind Singh, MD & CEO, Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited, said, "The launch of our new banking outlet in Masalia, Dumka, reinforces our commitment to providing accessible financial services in Jharkhand. Masalia, nestled in the heart of Dumka, carries cultural significance as part of the Santhal Pargana region, known for its vibrant tribal heritage and natural beauty. By introducing a wide array of banking solutions, including micro-loans through the JLG model, we seek to address the financial needs of this unique community, fostering opportunities for their economic and social upliftment."

NPAs of Indian banks likely to decline by another 0.4 per cent by March: Fitch

New Delhi, Jan 24 (IANS) The gross non-performing assets (NPAs) ratio of Indian banks may decline by another 0.4 per cent to 2.4 per cent by March 2025 followed by a further 0.2 per cent dip in the next financial year, according to rating agency Fitch.

Although the stress in retail loans is rising, particularly in unsecured credit, robust growth, recoveries and write-offs are expected to offset the increase in non-performing loans, the Fitch report said.

It pointed out that currently, lending stress appears to be concentrated in smaller unsecured personal loans of less than \$600 (over Rs 51,000).



Besides, the exposure of large Indian banks to such riskier loans may be proportionally lower than that of the overall financial system.

Such risky loans are extended more by Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and fintechs to low-income

borrowers. The RBI expects the impaired-loan ratio to trough in the Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25) before rising to around 3 per cent in FY26, from the 2.6 per cent reported in the first half of FY25 (1HFY25). "We believe the differ-

ence from our forecast partly reflects variance of opinions on the timing and extent of risk crystallisation, banks' exposure at risk, loan growth and India's economic performance," the Fitch report explained.

Unsecured personal loans and credit card borrowing grew at a compound annual growth rate of 22 per cent and 25 per cent, respectively, in the three years to FY24. The pace slowed to 11 per cent and 18 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y), respectively, in the first half ended September 2024 (1HFY25), following an increase in risk weights attached to unsecured lending.

Piramal Pharma launches Little's diaper pants campaign with Yami Gautam

Patna, Jan 24 : Piramal Pharma Limited's India Consumer Healthcare (ICH) has announced the launch of its new campaign, #SwitchToSofter, for its flagship baby care brand, Little's®. The campaign features actress Yami Gautam as the brand's new ambassador and introduces Little's Fluffy Soft Diaper Pants-crafted with superior imported materials to ensure 12-hour absorption, an anti-rash formula, and a wetness indicator for all-round protection and enhanced softness for babies.

Young mothers often turn to family, friends, and their social circles instead of actually conducting proper research themselves when selecting baby products. Brand Little's aims to break this trend by convincing mothers to make an informed choice by trying the brand, which promises to give smoother and softer diapers, which can be felt tangibly. The brand strongly conveys this message through a #SwitchToSofter campaign with their new brand ambassador, Yami Gautam. Sai Ramana Ponugoti, CEO, Piramal Consumer Healthcare, said, "Little's Fluffy Soft Diaper Pants have been thoughtfully designed to meet these needs with comfort, protection, and innovation." Speaking on this association with Little's, Yami Gautam said, "As a new mother, I am incredibly happy to partner with Little's, a brand that truly understands the needs of both babies and mothers."

IndiGo clocks 18.6 pc drop in Q3 profit at Rs 2,448.8 crore

Mumbai, Jan 24 (IANS) InterGlobe Aviation, the parent company of IndiGo, on Friday reported a 18.6 per cent drop in its consolidated net profit for the third quarter (Q3) of the financial year 2024-25 (FY25).

The company posted a profit of Rs 2,448.8 crore in Q3, down from Rs 2,998.1 crore during the same period last year.



The decline in profits was largely due to a 20 per cent rise in its expenses,

which reached Rs 20,466 crore, compared to Rs 17,064 crore in the same period last year.

As a result, the airline's profit after tax (PAT) margin fell by 4.30 basis points to 11.1 per cent, down from 15.4 per cent in Q3FY24.

The budget airline's revenue from operations grew by 13.7 per cent, reaching Rs 22,110.7 crore, compared to Rs 19,452.1 crore in Q3 FY24.

Flipkart partners with Industrial Training Institute in Kalyani

Durgapur/Malda, Jan 24 : Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, has partnered with the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in Kalyani, West Bengal, through a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to upskill the youth under its Supply Chain Operations Academy (SCOA). The MoA outlines the establishment of a Center of Excellence (CoE) Lab equipped with a classroom and a simulation lab to provide training in Supply Chain Operations. The initia-

tive aims to generate employment opportunities by enhancing the skills of local youth. Flipkart SCOAs training programs are tailored to upskill students and young individuals in key e-commerce supply chain operational roles. The MoA was signed in the presence of Flipkart and Mr. Kuntal Ghosh - Principal, ITI Kalyani. As part of this initiative, Flipkart's Supply Chain Operations Academy (SCOA) will offer free training and certification upon successful completion of an

assessment. Hemant Badri, Senior Vice President and Head of Supply Chain, Customer Experience, and Re-Commerce, stated, "At Flipkart, we are committed to transforming India's e-commerce supply chain, and our partnership with ITI reflects this goal." Jyotirmay Chatterjee (ITI Kalyani, Principal) said, "The partnership between ITI and Flipkart is a significant step in empowering youth with valuable skills and employment opportunities."

FOREIGN

US President Trump calls for 'immediate' talks with Putin to end Russia-Ukraine war



Washington, Jan 24 (IANS) US President Donald Trump has told reporters that Russia "should want to make a deal" with Ukraine to end the "horrible war" and emphasised he would meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin immediately.

"So, I think Russia should want to make a deal. Maybe they want to make a deal. I think from what I hear, Putin would like to see me. We'll meet as soon as we can. I'd meet immediately. Every day we don't meet soldiers who are being killed in the battlefield," Trump said during an Oval Office signing ceremony.

Trump described the conflict as one of the deadliest conflicts since World War II, emphasising that millions of lives have been lost on battlefields and farmlands, and that millions of soldiers are being killed.

While virtually addressing the World Economic Forum (WEF), Trump said, "Our efforts to secure a peace settlement between Russia

and Ukraine are now hopefully underway. It's so important to get that done, millions of soldiers are being killed. Nobody has seen anything like it since World War II. They are laying dead all over the fields, farmlands... It's time to end that war."

He added, "I really would like to be able to meet with President Putin soon and get that war ended. That's not from the standpoint of economy

or anything else. It is from the standpoint of millions of lives that are being wasted. Beautiful, young people are being shot on the battlefield. I have seen pictures of what has taken place and it is a carnage. We really have to stop that war, that war is horrible."

When asked whether Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is open to negotiating, Trump responded: "He's lost a lot of sol-

Trump orders declassification of assassination files of John F Kennedy, Martin Luther King

Washington, Jan 24 (IANS) US President Donald Trump signed the executive order ordering the declassification of records regarding the assassinations of President John F Kennedy, Senator Robert F Kennedy, and the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Jr,

and said it is time for the American people to know the "truth".

Sharing the detailed document, the White House said, "Providing Americans with the truth after six decades of secrecy."

"The Executive Order estab-

lishes the policy that, more than 50 years after these assassinations, the victims' families and the American people deserve the truth," the statement added.

The executive order directs top administration officials to present a plan to declassify the documents within 15 days.

Switzerland.

"Our efforts to secure a peace settlement between Russia and Ukraine are now hopefully underway," the US President said while speaking virtually at the forum in Davos on Thursday.

President Trump on Thursday

said peace efforts between Russia and Ukraine are "hopefully" underway while speaking virtually at the World Economic Forum in Davos, which is so has Russia," before adding, "But Russia has lost more."

Earlier this week, Trump posted on Truth Social that he would impose high tariffs and further sanctions on Russia if Putin fails to end the war in Ukraine.

President Trump on Thursday

said peace efforts between Russia and Ukraine are "hopefully" underway while speaking virtually at the World Economic Forum in Davos, which is so has Russia," before adding, "But Russia has lost more."

Earlier this week, Trump posted on Truth Social that he would impose high tariffs and further sanctions on Russia if Putin fails to end the war in Ukraine.

President Trump on Thursday

And as the Russia-Ukraine war enters into its fourth year, Western officials assess Russia's incremental gains along the frontline add as many as 1,500 deaths and injuries a day, and the toll nears 700,000 casualties for the war, according to the UK Defence Ministry. And US officials estimated about a year ago that some 70,000 Ukrainian soldiers had been killed and nearly twice that number wounded.

Israel's Netanyahu defends 'great friend' Musk over salute row at Trump inauguration rally



Jerusalem, Jan 24 (IANS) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said billionaire tech mogul Elon Musk was being "falsely smeared" in a row over a gesture he made at Donald Trump's inauguration that critics described as a Nazi salute.

"Elon is a great friend of Israel," Netanyahu posted on Thursday on X, the social media site owned by Musk.

The billionaire, whom Trump has tasked with slashing US government spending, "repeatedly and forcefully supported Israel's right to defend itself against genocidal terrorists and regimes who seek to annihilate the one and only Jewish state", Netanyahu added.

He mentioned Musk's visit to Israel in the aftermath of the October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas. That trip

followed a separate row in which the Tesla chief executive was accused of anti-Semitism.

At the time, Musk had endorsed a

post accusing Jewish people of "hatred against whites", calling it "the actual truth". He later apologized.

Mexican President rules out early US-Mexico-Canada treaty review

Mexico City, Jan 24 (IANS) Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has said that there is no need to expedite a review of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) which was proposed by her US counterpart Donald Trump.

Speaking at her daily press conference at the National Palace in Mexico City late Thursday, local time, Sheinbaum emphasised that "according to the decrees signed by President Trump," a review of the agreement could begin in 2026, not sooner.

"What typically begins is a consultation process involving business leaders, workers and various societal sectors to assess the agreement's implementation. Again, the best approach is to adhere to what is written in the decrees," she said.

An article in The Wall Street Journal, citing sources close to Trump, reported Tuesday that the US President wants to renegotiate the USMCA by leveraging tariff increases on Mexico and Canada. The primary goal appears to be revising automotive regulations to compel car manufacturing plants to relocate to the United States, Xinhua news agency reported.

In response to Mexican business leaders' calls to prepare for potential tariffs, Sheinbaum said "there is nothing concrete" so far, stressing the importance of awaiting the outcome of the "dialogue already established with the US government."

South Korea: Court denies prosecution's request for extension of Yoon's arrest



Seoul, Jan 24 (IANS) South Korea's Seoul court on Friday rejected the prosecution's request to extend President Yoon Suk Yeol's detention beyond its initial period. Earlier in the day, the special prosecution team investigating allegations related to Yoon's short-lived martial law bid submitted a request to the Seoul Central District Court to extend Yoon's detention until February 6. This request came a day after the Corruption Investigation Office for High-ranking Officials (CIO) transferred the case to the prosecution. On Friday, the Seoul Central District Court dismissed the request, citing a lack of probable cause to continue the investigation under the prosecution's authority, as the case had already been referred by the CIO. The CIO had transferred the case to the prosecution earlier as the agency does not have the legal mandate to indict a president. By law, a suspect can be held under arrest for up to 10 days, with a possible extension of another 10 days. Yoon was arrested on Sunday. With the court's rejection of the extension request, the prosecution now faces a tight deadline to conduct in-person interrogations of Yoon, who has so far refused to cooperate with the CIO's questioning.

Obama divorce rumours: TV host's "Political Earthquake" remark is viral

New York: TV presenter Megyn Kelly has reacted to divorce rumours surrounding former US President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama. The host of The Megyn Kelly Show has termed it a "political earthquake" if true.

"I do not know whether this is true, but if it is, it truly would be a political earthquake in democrat circles, never mind America," she said.

Megyn Kelly added, "I don't remember a presidential divorce in modern history."

A clip featuring Megyn Kelly was shared on X (formerly Twitter) by journalist Collin Rugg.

Megyn Kelly can be heard saying, "There seems to be some momentum picking up in the rumour mill about their marriage." She added that while Michelle



Obama skipping the funeral of former US president Jimmy Carter raised eyebrows, her absence from Donald Trump's inauguration "confirmed that something was going on between her and Barack."

Megyn Kelly's reaction came after a viral post on X shared a screenshot of a leaked DM [direct message] allegedly from Jennifer Aniston's friend. The message hinted at a relationship between the FRIENDS actress and Barack Obama. It read, "He's with Jennifer Aniston. My old manager, now a friend, is connected to her inner circle. At a gathering with Jennifer's friends, the affair came up casually - Jennifer herself admitted it. They were sitting with a psychic, which makes it sound surreal, but it's definitely not a secret among her closest friends."

Barack Obama shared an adorable birthday note for Michelle on her 61st birthday last week. Sharing a picture of himself and Michelle, he wrote, "Happy birthday to the love of my life, Michelle Obama. You fill every room with warmth, wisdom, humour, and grace - and you look good doing it. I'm so lucky to be able to take on life's adventures with you. Love you!"

Replying to the post, Michelle Obama said, "Love you, honey!"

The two met in 1989 at a law firm Sidley Austin LLP. They fell in love and married in 1992. They are parents to - Malia, 26, and Sasha, 23.

"Of all the things she has achieved in her remarkable life, Michelle considers being a mother her greatest accomplishment," read the biography on their website.

Foreign investments by Indian firms register double digit growth at \$37.7 billion in 2024



New Delhi, Jan 24 (IANS) Overseas FDI investments by Indian companies shot up by a robust 17 per cent to \$37.7 billion in the calendar year 2024 from \$32.29 billion in the previous year, reflecting the increasing strength of the country's corporate sector in taking up foreign ventures.

Outbound foreign direct investment (OFDI) equity investments, loans and guarantees issued to firms abroad. FDI comprising equity investments rose by as much as 40 per cent to \$12.69 billion during 2024 from \$9.08 billion in 2023.

Under the loan category, OFDI by Indian companies stood at \$8.7 billion in 2024, up from \$4.76 billion in the previous year. The guarantees issued by Indian firms to foreign firms, which also include their own subsidiaries, declined to \$16.29 billion in 2024, compared to \$18.44 billion in 2023.

Construction and engineering giant Larsen and Toubro's (L&T's) \$2.4 billion investment in its Saudi Arabia subsidiary, L&T Hydrocarbon Saudi Company, in February 2024 was the largest overseas investment by an Indian company in the year.

The company secured a \$4 billion order from Saudi's state-owned Aramco in FY24 for the gas company's expansion projects, according to L&T's exchange filings.

L&T's power transmission and distribution arm has bagged "mega" orders valued between Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000 crore to expand and strengthen electricity grids in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The recent orders pertain to ±500kV HVDC transmission links associated with these interconnections, two 380kV overhead transmission lines and a bulk supply 380kV Gas Insulated Substation in Saudi Arabia and two major 400kV Gas Insulated Substations in UAE, according to a company statement.

The second largest foreign investment was made by public sector oil company Bharat Petroleum's wholly owned subsidiary Bharat PetroResources which issued guarantees worth \$669 million in August in favour of its international arm in Netherlands, BRPL International.

Bharat PetroResources is engaged in oil and gas exploration and production assets abroad which include the development of a large hydrocarbon field in Brazil.

The big deals also include an equity investment of \$629 million by healthcare technology company, Sagility India, in its US-based wholly owned subsidiary, Sagility (US) Holding. Among the other big transactions of 2024 were a \$385 million guarantee issued by Adani Ports and SEZ towards its joint venture in Isreal, Mediterranean International Ports ADGD, and a \$440 million loan by Tata Steel to T Steel Holdings Singapore.

The countries in which the Indian companies have invested include Singapore, the US, the UK, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Oman and Malaysia.

Bengaluru is closed for...: Social media post reignites Kannada language debate

Bengaluru: In recent times, the Kannada language row in Karnataka has sparked significant debate, particularly in Bengaluru, a city known for its multicultural population. While advocates suggest people learn the language, claiming it's a way of respecting the local culture, critics argue that such a demand is exclusionary in a cosmopolitan setting. Now, a post stating "Bengaluru is closed for north India and neighbouring states who don't want to learn Kannada" has sparked a heated debate, reigniting the Kannada language row on social media.

In the post, the X user suggested that people who don't respect the local language and culture should avoid Bengaluru.



"Bengaluru is closed for north India and neighbouring states who

doesn't want to learn Kannada. They don't need Bengaluru when they can't

respect language and culture," the user wrote.

Since being shared, the post has garnered significant attention on social media.

Accumulating over 50,000 views and over 200 comments. The post has

triggered a heated debate. While some users agreed with the X user's sentiments, others slammed the user saying that learning another language is a personal choice and cannot be forced on an individual.

"I agree with your point,

"You are confused as always. Learning other lang is personal choice. And respecting other culture and language is other point. You can always respect other's culture and lang even someone doesn't speak that lang."

"India is closed for you, who doesn't want to learn at least top 5 spoken language of India. You don't need India when you can't respect Indians language and culture," commented another.

"I suggest Karanataka immigration department to ask non kannadigas to show their KAFL (kannada as a foreing language) test score before entering karnataka," jokingly wrote a third user.

"You are just pathetic and evil spreading hate. Shame on you," remarked one user.

Spine and pain clinic opens at SNMMCH after RIMS, MGMMCH

Mail News Service

Dhanbad, Jan 24: Shahid Nirmal Mahto Medical College Hospital (SNMMCH) Dhanbad has become the third medical college hospital in Jharkhand to launch a Spine and Pain Clinic for patients.

SNMMCH Principal Dr. K.K. Lal, while inaugurating the ambitious clinic, stated that it would provide great relief and relaxation to patients suffering from severe joint pain.

In Jharkhand, such clinical facilities are currently available only at the Rajendra Institute of Medical Science (RIMS) Ranchi and Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Medical College Hospital (MGMMCH) Jamshedpur.

Superintendent Prof. (Dr.) S.K. Chourasia highlighted the importance of the Spine and



Pain Clinic, stating that it would not only offer relief from pain

but also reduce the side effects associated with painkiller

drugs.

"Generally, patients use painkiller drugs, which can harm the kidneys and cause ulcers. However, at this clinic, advanced treatments for joint pain will be provided without drugs."

A single injection every six months or a year will treat the root cause of the pain," said Dr. Chourasia. The superintendent was scheduled to attend the inauguration ceremony but had to skip it due to an urgent official meeting at the state headquarters.

Prof. (Dr.) D.P. Bhushan, HoD Orthopaedics, remarked that joint pain complaints have become a common issue. He attributed this to a lack of proper nutrition, which leads to various types of pain.

"Of course, with the opening of this clinic at SNMMCH,

patients will receive advanced treatment and significant relief from joint pain," said Dr. D.P. Bhushan.

Dr. P.K. Sengar, Assistant Professor and HoD Anaesthesia, who is in charge of the Spine and Pain Clinic, noted that the majority of patients suffer from joint pain, with even the younger generation increasingly becoming victims of this issue.

With the opening of the Spine and Pain Clinic at SNMMCH Dhanbad, patients from North Chotanagpur and Santhal Pargana will benefit greatly.

"At present, the clinic will attend to patients two days a week, on Wednesdays and Thursdays," said Dr. Sengar. The clinic at RIMS Ranchi operates two days a week, while MGMMCH Jamshedpur serves patients one day a week.

Road safety awareness program organized by Jamshedpur police



Jamshedpur, Jan 24: Jamshedpur Police along with Nehru Yuva Kendra, East Singhbhum and Karim City College organized a road safety awareness program from January 17 to 23 at Sakchi police station to spread awareness among both the community and students about the importance of following traffic rules as Jamshedpur has witnessed an increasing number of road accidents and instil responsible behaviour especially among the youth. NSS volunteers, accompanied by the police, carried banners and placards with slogans such as 'Follow traffic rules, save lives', 'Don't drink and drive' and 'Wear helmet, ride safely' to raise awareness to the people of Sakchi. DSP Traffic Shree Neeraj delivered interactive sessions on important topics of road safety including the importance of helmets and seatbelts, dangers of speeding and drunk driving. NSS volunteers organized an oath ceremony at KCC. Traffic controller Shankar Kumar along with the students of KCC took an oath to follow traffic rules, drive responsibly and encourage others to do the same. DSP Traffic Shree Neeraj, traffic controller Shankar Kumar, district youth officer Anjali Kumari, Principal of Karim City College Dr. Md Riyaz, program officer of NSS Dr. Ale Ali, coordinator of NSS Syed Sajid Parvez attended the road safety awareness program and the oath ceremony. (w/tsb)

AIMA writes to health minister to debar MMCH principal from duty

Dhanbad, Jan 24: The Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA), New Delhi, has written to Jharkhand Health Minister Dr. Irfan Ansari, requesting the immediate removal of Dr. P.N. Mahto, Principal of Medinairi Medical College Hospital (MMCH),

Palamu, following allegations made by MBBS girl students against him. FAIMA stated that the medical fraternity in Jharkhand is alarmed by the alleged inappropriate behavior, harassment, and threats by the MMCH principal toward undergraduate students.

"There have been several incidents that raise questions about the working style of the MMCH principal and prove that Dr. P.N. Mahto is an inefficient administrator," said Dr. M. Janga, Chairman of FAIMA.

This marks the first time FAIMA has questioned the ability of a medical college principal in Jharkhand. National Executive Member of FAIMA, Dr. Jaideep Kumar Choudhary, who is also the Patron of the Jharkhand Junior Doctors Network (JDN), confirmed receiving a copy of the letter. He stated that the national body has taken serious note of the allegations made by the girl students against the MMCH principal.

Copies of the letter have also been sent to the Chief Minister, the Additional Chief Secretary of Health, the Deputy Commissioner of Palamu, and the Superintendent of MMCH, Palamu.

Dr. Jaideep Choudhary, who is also the Patron of JDA RIMS and Vice-President of IMA JDN, condemned the behavior of the principal and warned that students might be forced to take further steps if no action is taken. FAIMA expressed concern that, despite the superintendent being informed several times by the girl students about the principal's unethical and unprofessional behavior, no action was taken. As per the allegations reported to the superintendent by the girl students, the principal allegedly made inappropriate comments, such as: "You girls should keep the testosterone levels of your male batch mates in check." Students also accused him of saying: "If you (girls) want to make physical relations, go to a hotel." FAIMA also criticized the principal for removing CCTV cameras near the toilets of the girls' hostel. The letter noted the principal allegedly pressured students to withdraw their complaints against him filed with the superintendent. "FAIMA is hopeful that you will consider the complaint made by the students of MMCH so that they may receive a better environment to study and, like others, become better medical professionals," the letter concluded.



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Health

'No need to panic', says K'taka govt on Monkeypox case



Bengaluru, Jan 24 (IANS) A case of Monkeypox (MPox) was confirmed on 22nd January 2025 by the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune in a 40-year-old male in Mangaluru, a native of Karkala in Udupi district, an official of the Karnataka Department of Health and Family Welfare said on Thursday.

He added that the patient, who has been residing in Dubai for the past 19 years, arrived in Mangalore on January 17.

"Upon his arrival, he exhibited symptoms of rashes and had a history of fever two days prior. He was promptly isolated at a private hospital, and his MPox samples were referred to Bangalore Medical College (BMC) and subsequently to NIV, Pune," he said.

He added that the person is stable and does not have any serious complications.

"He is likely to be discharged shortly. The patient's 36-year-old wife, who received him at the airport has been identified as a primary contact and has been advised isolation for a few days to watch the development of any symptoms," he said.

A government statement said that in general, MPox is a mild self-limiting disease in most cases, except for a few immune-compromised patients having co-morbidities who need to exercise greater caution. The treatment for the disease is generally management of symptoms like medication for fever, body aches and antibiotics for secondary infection from infected lesions/rashes etc as well as ensuring sufficient hydration, nutrition, rest, etc.

Further, MPox generally spreads only through very close and intimate contact. The infectivity of the disease is not as severe as that of Covid, it noted.

The public is advised not to panic about the reporting of the above-said case in view of the mild nature of the disease as well as its much lesser infectivity.

But they are advised to watch for common symptoms associated with the disease like skin rashes along with fever, headache, muscle aches, chills, sweating, sore throat & cough and get themselves tested, especially if they have a travel history to countries declared as high risk for this virus or if they have been in very close contact with persons affected with MPox.

There are no advisories or special instructions from the Central government at present with regard to mandatory testing of travellers from other countries.

Further, though there is a vaccine for MPox which is generally advised for high-risk populations like healthcare workers, the same is not advised by the Central government presently in view of a very insignificant number of cases of MPox detected to date, the release stated.

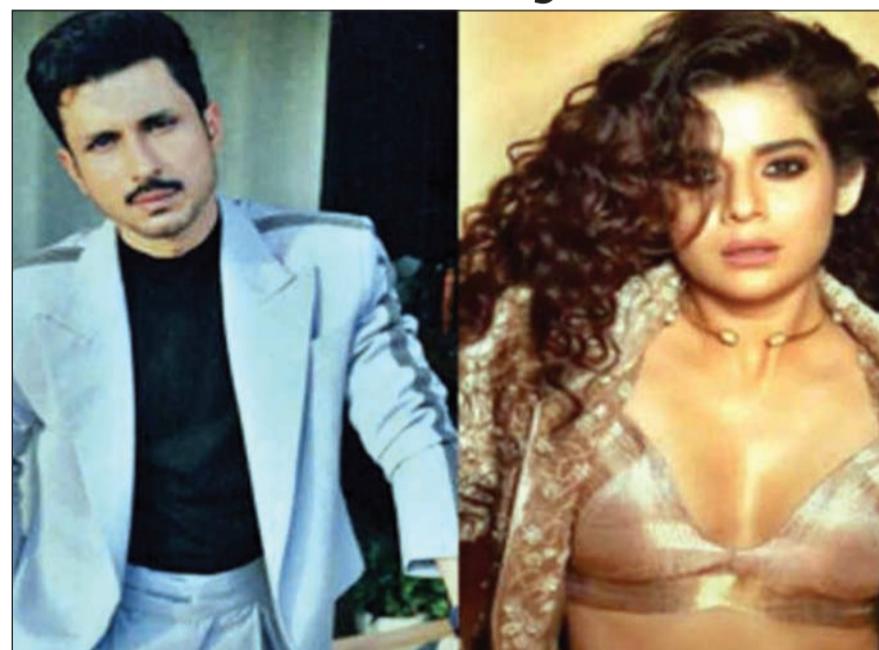
Sources stated that this is the first case of MPox in the country.

Amol Parashar on Mithila Palkar: Always wanted to collaborate on a romantic film

Mumbai, Jan 24 (IANS) Actor Amol Parashar, who is starring alongside Mithila Palkar in 'Sweet Dreams', has heaped praise on the actress and said that the two always wanted to collaborate on a romantic film.

Amol said: "Working with Mithila has been an incredible experience. She's not just a fantastic co-actor but also someone who brings so much warmth and creativity to every scene. We've always wanted to collaborate on a romantic film, and Sweet Dreams gave us the perfect opportunity to bring that to life."

He added: "Having Faye D'Souza as part of the film added a completely new and exciting dimension.



Dia praise worthy initiative on 'National Girl Child Day'

Mumbai, Jan 24 (IANS) Commemorating National Girl Child Day, Dia Mirza shared a moving video, urging everyone to pay attention to girl child's education. She gave an example from her own childhood saying while she was raised to be an independent woman, a lot of girls do not get this opportunity.

Dia Mirza was heard saying in the video, "As a little girl, I was raised to believe that I have infinite potential and I want my daughter to have the same self-belief. However, millions of girls are denied this gift due to sexual violence, poverty, climate crisis, and exclusion from education. The pandemic alone put almost 10 million secondary school girls at risk of dropping out. In April 2021, we learned that just over 20% of girls between 15 and 19 completed at least 12 years of schooling."



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Bollywood Wives' Neelam Kothari, Maheep Kapoor, Bhavna Pandey, Seema Kiran shell fitness goals

Mumbai, Jan 24 (IANS) Neelam Kothari, Maheep Kapoor, Bhavna Pandey, and Seema Kiran Sajdeh are the constant faces on the popular show, "Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives". Recently, an interesting video of the four has surfaced on social media.

The Instagram clip opens with Neelam Kothari, Maheep Kapoor, and Bhavna Pandey walking toward a gym when Seema Kiran Sajdeh says, "Why has Seema called us here, I thought we were here for lunch".

To this, Seema Kiran Sajdeh reacts by saying, "I have called you for some squat and pickleball".

Bhavna Pandey expresses her shock with the following words, "Seema when you said pickle I thought we were going to come here and eat food".

However, later we see all four of them having a fun time sweating it out in the gym and on the court.

The post was captioned, "From Squats to Serves! The BollyWives are leveling up their fitness game at Squat Up - where strength meets fun! With a state-of-the-art gym and a pickleball court, it's time to sweat it out and play hard. Come join the



fun!!"

Riddhima Kapoor reacted to the video with the following words, "Fit & Fab", with a red heart and fire emoji.

Recently, Neelam Kothari celebrated her 14th wedding anniversary with hubby Samir Soni. Commemorating their special day, the yesteryear diva took to her official Instagram account and dropped a string of throwback pictures of the lovebirds.

The first photo features Neelam Kothari and Samir Soni twinning in black attires. This was followed by a couple's selfie in casual outfits. The last pic of the post was most likely from a wedding as both of them posed in ethnic attires. Sharing the pictures on her official Instagram handle, Neelam Kothari wrote as caption, "Happy anniversary babe!! 14 and counting."

The latest season of "Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives" has a Delhi vs Mumbai theme. While Riddhima Kapoor Sahni, Shalini Passi, and Kalyani Saha Chawla are a part of the Delhi team, Maheep Kapoor, Seema Sajdeh, Bhavna Pandey, and Neelam Kothari represent Mumbai.

Kangana Ranaut bashes Indian politicians over 'pin-drop silence' on 'Emergency' protest

Mumbai, Jan 24 (IANS) Kangana Ranaut's latest cinematic venture "Emergency" has managed to create quite a stir. After the biographical drama faced protest, the diva used social media to take a dig at the Indian politicians for their pin-drop silence on the matter.

For the unversed, the screening of "Emergency" at a theatre in London on January 18 came to a halt after some pro-Khalistan activists stormed inside the cinema hall and staged a protest. Not just that, the protesters even engaged in a verbal spat with the cinema-goers inside the theatre.

Recently, British politician Bob Blackman raised the matter in Parliament saying that everyone must stand against the suppression of free speech.

He was quoted saying, "On Sunday, many of my constituents gathered and paid for a screening of the film 'Emergency' in the Harrow Vue cinema. At about 30 or 40 minutes into the screening of the film,



"Emergency" film in cinemas. Some cinemas have even pulled the film in fear of more disruption. We must stand up to anyone trying to silence free speech."

In response, Kangana Ranaut reshared Bob Blackman's post on X. Bashing the Indian politician for their silence, the 'Queen' actress wrote, "British MP raises his voice for my fundamental right of free speech mean-

while pin drop silence from Indian politicians and feminists."

Additionally, several theatres across Punjab including Ludhiana, Amritsar, Patiala, and Bathinda refrained from screening "Emergency" after members of the SGPC protested against the political drama. In order to ensure safety, the Police force was also deployed outside the malls and cinemas in the state.

Malavika Mohanan gears up for intense sequences in 'Sardar 2'



Mumbai, Jan 24 (IANS) Bollywood actress Malavika Mohanan is currently filming high-octane, intense forest sequences for her upcoming film "Sardar 2."

An industry insider has revealed new details about Malavika's new project. According to the source, the actress has begun filming the second schedule of her highly anticipated film Sardar 2 in Dindigul, Tamil Nadu. The actress is said to be shooting some high-stakes, action-packed scenes.

The source revealed, "Malavika is currently shooting for the next schedule of Sardar 2, a major Tamil film starring Karthi. She recently began a new schedule in Dindigul, Tamil Nadu. Malavika is filming some intense forest sequences."

Directed by P. S. Mithran, "Sardar 2" is the much-anticipated sequel to actor Karthi and director PS Mithran's hit 2022 film of the same name. The action drama, which also features SJ Suryah, picks up the intense story of espionage, action, and drama.

"Sardar," a gripping spy action thriller, featured Karthi in dual roles as a father and son. The film followed the journey of a cop who, determined to overcome the stigma of being the son of a national traitor, uncovers his father's hidden secrets and discovers a larger conspiracy at play.

Malavika, who made her debut with Yudhra alongside Siddhant Chaturvedi, is also gearing up for her Telugu debut. She is set to star in "The Raja Saab" alongside pan-India actor Prabhas. Touted as a horror comedy, the film is written and directed by acclaimed filmmaker Maruthi. The movie will also feature Nidhi Agerwal as another female lead.

Speaking about "The Raja Saab," Malavika had earlier shared, "It's my Telugu debut, and I waited long for it. I wanted the right film to come my way to foray into the industry. I think nothing gets better than Prabhas, sir. It's in the rom-com space, a very fun, easy film."

She added, "It's lighthearted and will cater to a universal audience. We are still shooting for it, and the film should be released in April next year. I am really looking forward to it."

On the work front, Varun is presently working on Anurag Singh's highly-awaited "Border 2". Aside from him, Sunny Deol, Diljit Dosanjh, and Ahan Shetty will also be seen essaying crucial roles in the sequel.

The first leg of the filming is taking place in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. "Border 2" is expected to be released on Republic Day in 2026.

Varun Dhawan says 'my ride or die' to Natasha Dalal on their anniversary



Mumbai, Jan 24 (IANS) One of the most adored couples in B-town, Varun Dhawan and Natasha Dalal are celebrating another year of togetherness. Wishing his better half on their anniversary, the 'October' actor dropped a few unseen pictures from their holidays on social media.

In the first pic dropped on Instagram, Varun and Natasha can be seen getting all cozy with their furry friend Angel. This was followed by a photo of the lovebirds on the beach. The last snap on the post was of these two locking lips amidst a beautiful background. Varun's latest Insta post was captioned, "my ride or die I promise to take u on a h oliday next anniversary".

For those who do not know, Varun and Natasha are child-

hood sweethearts. They met

Cooper School in Mumbai. The

during lunch break at school.

during school days as both of

Natasha on the basketball court

Varun proposed to Natasha

met during school days as both of

them went to the Maneckji

several times, however,

she refused to accept his proposals, before finally saying yes. Varun kept his love life a secret before finally confessing about his relationship with Natasha on Karan Johar's chat show, "Koffee With Karan", in 2018. The couple tied the knot in a lavish wedding on 24th January 2021 after a long courtship. The lovebirds welcomed their first child, a baby girl, Lara on 3rd June 2024.

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Injury scare for Abhishek Sharma as India face England in second T20I in Chennai today



Chennai, Jan 24 (IANS) India received a significant injury concern ahead of the second T20I against England at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, as opener Abhishek Sharma twisted his right ankle during a warm-up session on Friday evening.

Sources close to the team told IANS that the incident occurred during a routine warmup exercise when the left-handed batter was visibly in pain and had to be attended to by the physio.

Abhishek's inclusion in the playing XI will be assessed after a fitness test that will be performed before the start of the game.

Although Abhishek managed to walk off the field after receiving immediate treatment and even headed to the nets at the MAC B Stadium, he didn't take part in the batting drills. Limping noticeably during the session, his condition has cast doubts over his availability for Saturday's match.

Abhishek's potential absence could be a significant blow for India, given his outstanding performance in the series opener at

If he is ruled out, India faces a tricky decision as the squad lacks a designated third opener. The team might opt to promote one of the middle-order batters, such as Tilak Varma or Dhruv Jurel, to partner Sanju Samson at the top. Both Varma and Jurel are capable batters but untested as openers in international cricket.

Despite the injury scare, India's team composition is likely to remain focused on depth in both batting and bowling. In the first T20I, the inclusion of all-

Carse replaces Atkinson in England's playing XI, Smith added to squad

Chennai, Jan 24 (IANS) Pacer Brydon Carse will replace Gus Atkinson in England's playing XI for the second T20I against India at MA Chidambaram Stadium here on Saturday.

The visitors made only one change in their side after suffering a crushing seven-wicket defeat in the series opener in Kolkata on Wednesday. Wicket-keeper Jamie Smith has also been added to the 12 player squad, England Cricket informed on X.

In the first T20I, Atkinson had a miserable day in the middle as he conceded a staggering 38 runs in his

England's XI for second T20I: Ben



Duckett, Phil Salt (WK), Jos Buttler (C), Harry Brook, Liam Livingstone, Jacob Bethell, Jamie Overton, Brydon Carse, Jofra Archer, Adil Rashid, Mark Wood,

Eden Gardens, Kolkata. The left-hander top-scored with a brilliant 79 runs in the first T20I, laying the foundation for India's comfortable win. His aggressive stroke play and ability to dominate the powerplay have made him a pivotal player at the top of the order.

Despite the injury scare, India's team composition is likely to remain focused on depth in both batting and bowling. In the first T20I, the inclusion of all-

rounders like Hardik Pandya and Nitish Kumar Reddy proved vital in maintaining balance, while the spin trio of Varun Chakravarthy, Axar Patel, and Ravi Bishnoi offered control and variety.

India's reliance on all-

rounders and spinners will likely persist, especially given the conditions in Chennai, which favor turn and grip. However, the potential absence of Abhishek Sharma could

disrupt their batting order and force a reshuffle. A more conservative approach might be adopted, with a greater emphasis on building partnerships at the top before unleashing the middle-order firepower.

England, trailing 1-0 in the series, will be looking to capitalise on any disruption in India's plans.

Their powerful batting lineup,

bolstered by captain Jos Buttler and Harry Brook, will aim to test the Indian

Harry Brook urges England to strike back

Chennai, Jan 24 (IANS) After a seven-wicket loss in the first T20I in Kolkata, England's top-order batter Harry Brook has emphasised the importance of maintaining relentless pressure on India's bowling attack in the second game of the five-match series. The match will take place at the iconic MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Saturday, with the visitors aiming to level the series at 1-1.



Brook candidly praised India's performance in the opening game, admitting the hosts executed their plans exceptionally well. "India is a very good side, so we knew what they were gonna hit us with, and yeah, they played an exceptional game," Brook said during a pre-match press conference.

Despite the setback, Brook remains optimistic and stressed that England's philosophy under head coach Brendon McCullum, who is serving his first series as the new white remains unchanged. "We just need to keep pushing, the same messaging Baz has been saying throughout. We need to look to put pressure on their bowlers and try to take wickets throughout their innings. You've always got to go a little bit above and beyond to exceed."

Brook was full of praise for captain Jos Buttler, who led England's resistance with a valiant 68 in the first T20I. "He is obviously very experienced in India.

bowlers once again. With also consider including an additional spinner to conditions at Chepauk likely to favor slower bowlers, England might

Jasprit Bumrah among three Indians named in ICC Test Team of Year 2024



Dubai, Jan 24 (IANS) India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja have been named in the ICC Men's Test Team of the Year 2024.

Other than the Indian trio, the team features four players from England, two from New Zealand and one each from Australia and Sri Lanka.

Australia's Pat Cummins captains the ICC Men's Test Team of the Year for the second successive year, earning his place thanks to another memorable stint in which he guided his side to the

ICC World Test Championship Final, overseeing victories against Pakistan, New Zealand and India, and picking up 37 wickets in his nine Tests at an average of 24.02.

ICC Men's Test Team of the Year: Yashasvi Jaiswal

Ranji Trophy: Jadeja picks 12 wickets to guide Saurashtra to resounding victory over Delhi

Rajkot, Jan 24 (IANS) Ravindra Jadeja put on a vintage display of spin bowling on a turning track in Rajkot, taking a match haul of 12 wickets and steering Saurashtra to a comprehensive 10-wicket victory over Delhi inside two days in their Ranji Trophy Group D clash at Niranjan Shah Stadium.

The emphatic win kept Saurashtra firmly in contention for a knockout spot while leaving Delhi's chances hanging by a thread.

The match began with Saurashtra opting to bowl first on a rank turner, a deliberate move by skipper Jaydev Unadkat to exploit their spin strength. After bowling out Delhi for 188 runs in the first innings, Saurashtra posted a challenging 271 in their first innings, thanks to gritty contributions from their middle order.

Delhi's reply was disastrous. Jadeja, returning to domestic cricket to regain match fitness ahead of international assignments, was unplayable. He claimed 7/38, dismantling Delhi's batting lineup, which folded for a meagre 94 in just 25.2 overs. Dharmendra Jadeja supported him with two scalps.

Delhi's Rishabh Pant failed to make an impact. He managed just 1 in the first innings, falling to Dharmendra Jadeja while attempting an ill-timed slog-sweep.

Delhi began their second innings on the back foot, trailing by 83 runs. Ravindra Jadeja returned with even greater energy, exploiting the spin-friendly conditions to devastating effect, running through Delhi's lineup once again.

Pant briefly counterattacked, scoring 17, but was undone by Ravindra Jadeja's extra bounce, edging to first slip. Captain Ayush Badoni was the lone bright spot for Delhi with a gritty 44, but the rest of the lineup crumbled under relentless pressure.

Zuala's hat-trick headlines JFC's 9-1 rout of SKMSF Academy



Jamshedpur, January 24: Jamshedpur FC extended their dominance in the U-17 Elite Youth League with a thumping 9-1 victory over SKMSF Academy in their third consecutive win, played at the JRD Tata Sports Complex on Friday. Lawmsangzuala shone with a remarkable hat-trick in a match that was one-sided from start to finish.

The home side asserted their authority early, with Zuala opening the scoring in the 10th minute, courtesy of a precise assist from Heerangamba Seram. Rashitoi doubled the lead three minutes later

with a stunning goal directly from a corner. Moments later, Ronald made it 3-0, capitalising on a perfect cross from Zuala.

Sachin Singh extended the lead to 4-0 in the 14th minute, and Seram joined the scoresheet in the 30th

Women's HIL: Soorma Club seal spot in final with 4-2 win over Bengal Tigers



Ranchi, Jan 24 (IANS) The last Pool stage match of the Women's Hockey India League (HIL) 2024-25 witnessed Soorma Hockey Club defeat Shrami Rahr Bengal Tigers 4-2 at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Astro Turf Hockey Stadium here on Friday.

With this victory, Soorma Hockey Club set up the Final clash against Odisha Warriors on 26 January.

Charlotte Englebert (1', 17', 47') dominated the game, scoring a superb hat-trick while Hina Bano (9') pitched in with a goal for Soorma. Captain Vandana Katariya (48') and Shilpi Dabas (58') found the back of the net in the last quarter but were unable to change the outcome of the game.

Charlotte Englebert took the Tigers by surprise as soon as the game began by picking up a loose pass from the top of the circle and thundering a shot past

the goalkeeper Grace O'Hanlon. Soorma, after gaining the early advantage in the game, maintained the pressure high up the pitch in the minutes that followed.

Halfway through the

quarter, Sharmila Devi

found Hina Bano from the

right wing, who dashed

across her marker in front

of the goal and squeezed

the ball past Grace to

double Soorma's lead.

The high press by Soorma

rewarded them with multiple goal-scoring opportu-

nities and a penalty corner

as the quarter came to a

close but they were unable

to find the back of the net

again. The Tigers struggled

to play out of their

defence as the second

quarter began as well.

Within minutes, Englebert

received the ball on top of

the circle and picked out

the bottom right corner

with a reverse shot and

made it 3-0 for Soorma.

The Tigers began foray-

ing into Soorma territory

as the quarter unfolded

with Rosin Upton rushing

into the circle and forcing

Savita to make a save on

one such occasion. But

Soorma had the majority

of the possession and

goalscoring chances with

Maria Verschoor bossing

the midfield with her inter-

ceptions and quick transi-

tions.

The third quarter began with the Tigers showing a lot more confidence on the ball, earning a penalty corner within a few minutes but they failed to muster a shot on goal. The Tigers aimed to attack down the left wing in search of a way back into the game and soon after, Kathryn Mullan had the chance to score but her shot sailed wide. The Tigers showed more initiative as the quarter came to a close with Binima Dhan and Vandana Katariya unleashing a snapshot each on the Soorma goal but Natalia Salvador made two spectacular saves to maintain the clean sheet.

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The second half saw Savita make a save on one such occasion. But Soorma had the majority of the possession and goalscoring chances with Maria Verschoor bossing the midfield with her interceptions and quick transitions.

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sheet.

No Indian, Australian in Asalanka-led ICC Men's ODI Team of the Year for 2024

Dubai, Jan 24 (IANS) No Indian and Australian cricketers were featured in the ICC Men's ODI Team of the Year for 2024, which is led by Sri Lankan all-rounder Charith Asalanka. The International Cricket Council unveiled the ODI Team of the Year, celebrating the standout stars, who showed a great balance of star power, consistency and versatility.

The Asalanka-led team features Saim Ayub (Pakistan), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (Afghanistan), Pathum Nissanka (Sri Lanka), Kusal Mendis (wk) (Sri Lanka), Sherfane Rutherford (West Indies), Azmatullah Omarzai (Afghanistan), Wanindu Hasaranga (Sri Lanka), Shaheen Shah Afridi (Pakistan), Haris Rauf (Pakistan), AM Ghazanfar (Afghanistan).

Pakistan's Ayub capped off his breakout season by selection at the top of the order in the ICC Men's ODI Team of the Year. He only debuted in November, but arrived immediately, scoring a combined 125 runs from three ODIs in Australia before scoring a maiden ODI ton in Zimbabwe shortly after. Three of his last five innings have produced centuries, including two in South Africa in December, a three-match series that saw him average 78.3. Afghanistan's Gurbaz continues to produce the game-wrecking performances he's been known for ever since his famous century on debut in 2

Atishi asks EC to restore Punjab Police protection for Kejriwal

New Delhi, Jan 24 (IANS) Delhi Chief Minister Atishi, in a letter to the Election Commission on Friday, accused a conspiracy to physically harm AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal. She criticized Delhi Police for lapses in security and called for the reinstatement of his Punjab Police protection.

Addressing a press conference, CM Atishi alleged lapses by Delhi Police in protecting Kejriwal, who has a Z-plus security cover, and blamed BJP workers for attacking the former CM and his vehicle during campaigning on several occasions since October.

"Delhi residents love Kejriwal and they will not pardon the BJP for these acts. Every attack on Kejriwal adds to the love of the public for him," she said, seeking restoration of Punjab Police security for Kejriwal.

She said BJP workers and the Delhi Police are working together to cause harm to Kejriwal. "Not a single person has been arrested for attacks on Kejriwal. No action has been taken against any Delhi Police personnel," she said, seeking an audit of Kejriwal's security arrangement and threat to him.



Atishi mentioned several instances of attacks and breach of security of Kejriwal including October 24 in Vikaspuri, November 30 in Malviya Nagar, January 18 in New Delhi constituency, and in Hari Nagar on Thursday.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann said police from his state provided security to Kejriwal as there was credible input of threat to Kejriwal's life in Punjab and Delhi.

"A Z-plus security protected needs to be provided security wherever he goes in the country,"

he said.

CM Mann said that the AAP has no faith in Delhi Police and their personnel are helping the BJP candidates.

Mann said we have approached the ECI seeking "free and fair" ground for contesting the election. "We have said that we are not satisfied with the security being provided to Kejriwal. Since the security set up in Delhi is stretched for protecting the city ahead of R-Day, we want permission to provide our security," he said.

The Punjab Chief Minister also

dismissed allegations of rival parties in Delhi that vehicles from his state were being used in the AAP campaign in the city. "They are losing the elections and their hatred for Punjabis is visible in such remarks. Are all vehicles in Delhi with number plates of other states carrying goons?" he asked.

Earlier, Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav said on Thursday that following instructions from the EC and the Delhi Police, they have withdrawn components of the Punjab Police deployed for the security of the former Chief Minister.

"From time to time, we get reports of threats to Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and Arvind Kejriwal and we share them with agencies concerned.

Following the directions of the Delhi police and the Election Commission today, we withdrew the component of the Punjab police in the security of Kejriwal ji," Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav told the media in Patiala.

Delhi Assembly elections will be held on February 5 and the results will be declared on February 8.

Congress vows to set up 'Department for Purvanchalis'

New Delhi, Jan 24 (IANS) The Delhi Congress on Friday sought to woo Purvanchali voters ahead of the February 5 Assembly elections by proposing to set up a separate government department to focus on the needs of 35 lakh migrants from east Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Addressing a joint press conference, congress leaders Supriya Shrinivas and Kanhaiya Kumar highlighted the contribution of Purvanchalis in Delhi's development and accused the AAP and the BJP of only treating them as a vote bank.

A separate 'Department for Purvanchalis' will do justice to the needs of 35 lakh people from the community living in Delhi, said Shrinivas.

Pollsters believe that the Purvanchali voters have the potential to influence results on 30-45 seats out of the 70 Assembly segments in Delhi.

Kanhaiya Kumar said the Congress is committed



to fighting against unequal treatment of anyone. "Delhi belongs to everyone but often Purvanchalis are ill-treated even though they are offering services to build and run the city," he said.

Highlighting the party manifesto as a "Congress Coupon", Kanhaiya Kumar, a former president of the JNU students' union, said if the Congress comes to power, its guarantees will result in the community saving Rs 10 lakh over five years.

"A middle-class family can do so much with the savings of Rs 10 lakh in five years," he said.

Hitting out at the AAP government of Arvind Kejriwal for poor development, he said voters must back the Congress for the overall development of the city.

Kanhaiya Kumar hit out at the AAP and the BJP for working for each other in the election. "When Arvind Kejriwal is fighting without joining hands with us, the onus is on him to prove who is fighting this election with," he said, adding that the AAP came into being while opposing the Congress.

He also supported Rahul Gandhi's proposal for a caste census.

Close relative of Indian cricketer killed in tiger attack in Kerala

Wayanad, Jan 24

(IANS) A 45-year-old tribal woman, aunt of Indian cricketer Minnu Mani, was mauled to death by a tiger on Friday in Mananthavady of Kerala's Wayanad district.

The deceased was identified as Radha, the wife of a temporary Forest Watcher.

Expressing deep pain over the demise of her aunt, Mani said she wished the killer tiger was taken to task.

Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra expressed deep sadness over the incident.

In the last 10 years, this is the eighth incident that a person has been killed by a tiger in the Wayanad district.

After the news of the killing of Radha spread, the locals were up in arms

and began a protest after State Minister of SC/ST O.R. Kelu reached the place.

Following detailed talks, Kelu said a decision had been taken to kill the tiger.

A sum of Rs 11 lakh will be paid to the family of Radha as compensation of which Rs five lakhs will be paid on Friday itself," said Kelu.

Following the conciliation talks, the protesters handed over Radha's body for post-mortem.

The incident occurred when Radha's husband dropped her on the main road, near the coffee estate owned by a private individual. As Radha was walking towards her workplace, the tiger attacked her, leading to her death.

Incidentally, the issue of man-animal conflict

across Kerala, especially in areas bordering the forests, has become a major issue, and the latest incident took place a day after the Kerala Assembly witnessed a heated debate on this vexed problem.

Leader of Opposition V. D. Satheesan slammed Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan for "failing" to rise to the occasion to handle this vexed issue, and said during 2019-20, the number of man-animal conflicts which stood at 6,341 rose to 9,838 cases during 2023-24.

On Saturday, Satheesan will embark on a 10-day protest rally demanding the protection of hill district farmers' rights to address their issues. Satheesan's rally will start from the hilly area in Kannur and end in the state capital district.

New Delhi, Jan 24 (IANS) Congress General Secretary and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is expected to begin the party's poll campaign in Delhi from January 26, even as Lok Sabha's Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, scales back his outreach efforts for the upcoming elections ostensibly due to his reported ill health.

A senior leader involved in the Congress' campaign management in Delhi confirmed that Priyanka Gandhi will address her first rally in northeast Delhi on Sunday evening, marking the start of her participation in the Delhi Assembly polls.

"All Congress candidates have sent requests to the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) asking that Priyanka campaign on their seat," said a senior DPCC functionary.

"However, she will focus only on critical areas, especially since Rahul Gandhi's campaign schedule remains uncertain due to his health," the functionary added.

On Thursday, Rahul Gandhi cancelled a rally in northeast Delhi's Mustafabad, raising concerns about his availability for future events.

While Gandhi has another rally lined up at Madipur for Friday, however, leaders said his



participation at the moment still remains uncertain.

Delhi Congress Chief Devendra Yadav, however, expressed optimism regarding Rahul's involvement.

"Rahul Gandhi's rally in Madipur is still on schedule, and he will address a large gathering there," Yadav said, adding that after Republic Day, all senior Congress leaders, including Priyanka Gandhi, will actively campaign.

Delhi's 70 Assembly seats will go to the

polls on February 5.

So far, Rahul Gandhi has addressed one major rally in Seelampur on January 13 and released two short videos, criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) governments during his visit to AIIMS OPD patients.

At a rally in Sadar Bazar, Yadav announced Rahul Gandhi's absence, reading a message from him: "I regret not being able to join the meeting due to my health. My best wishes to all of you. I will try to campaign in Delhi and visit Sadar once I recover."

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who won the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat in Kerala in a by-election on November 23, is expected to focus on areas in northeast Delhi, Old Delhi, and east Delhi - areas where Congress leaders are expected to perform relatively well.

"Her schedule is still being finalised, but we aim to include as many outreach events as possible," said a third Congress leader involved in planning.

One of the leaders cited above said they hope to divide campaign responsibilities between the Gandhi siblings to maximise coverage in constituencies with strong Congress prospects.

Kota IG calls for comprehensive review of coaching institutes amid rising suicide cases

Kota, Jan 24 (IANS) In response to the alarming rise in suicide cases among coaching students, Kota Range Inspector-General (IG) of Police Ravi Dutt Gaur has announced plans to convene a large-scale meeting with operators of coaching institutes.

The initiative aims to address the pressing concerns of students' well-being and mental health, especially as coaching centres continue to play a crucial role in the academic lives of students preparing for competitive exams like NEET and JEE.

IG Gaur highlighted the critical need for a thorough evaluation process during student admissions. "The question of relieving the child of tension is of utmost importance," he remarked.

Gaur suggested that it is essential to assess whether the student truly has an interest in the field they are pursuing.

"This decision should be made by the student and their parents," he said, emphasising that the child's genuine aspirations must be considered from the outset.

Once admitted, he proposed that coaching institutes take a more personalised approach to assessing stu-

dent progress.

"For students who may not have the potential to succeed in a particular field, it is the responsibility of the coaching teachers to guide them away from the field and suggest alternative career options," Gaur explained.

He also urged that students facing financial difficulties be offered reduced fees or other provisions to ensure they are not overwhelmed by worries over the financial burdens being borne by their parents.

A more holistic approach to student welfare is also on Gaur's radar. He proposed the formation of a selection committee at the time of admission, which would involve interviews with the students and their parents.

"We need to ensure that the child truly wants to pursue a career in engineering or medicine," Gaur said.

"We should also consider involving psychologists in these discussions to better understand the child's mental and emotional readiness," he said.

He stressed that students who are genuinely interested in their studies tend to thrive and do not feel the intense stress that often leads to trag-

ic outcomes.

"Children who are forced into fields they are not passionate about or who face external pressure are more likely to experience stress," he added.

Gaur also encouraged open communication between students, their parents, and their teachers.

"It's important that students feel they can openly discuss their personal problems, whether with their parents, teachers, or hostel wardens," he stated.

In line with this approach, Gaur suggested that coaching institutes create smaller student groups to maintain close, personal communication with each student, ensuring teachers are aware of their students' academic and personal challenges.

"By fostering this kind of environment, teachers can better understand the student's life outside of studies," he noted.

Additionally, IG Gaur acknowledged the role of technology in modern education, particularly mobile devices. While there are concerns about excessive use of mobiles, he highlighted that, when used correctly, mobile technology can be a powerful tool for students.

Manipur Police to identify people making 'false, provocative narratives' on social media

Imphal, Jan 24 (IANS) Manipur Police and their intelligence wing will soon launch a hunt to identify the people who are making "false, fabricated posts, motivated comments, provocative narratives" on various social media platforms, and will take appropriate legal actions against them, officials said on Friday.

A senior Home Department official said that police have been instructed to check the activity of YouTubers, social media influencers, Facebook page admins, X and various other social media users.

Police would take legal action and hold awareness campaigns against misusing social media platforms, the official said. He said that the government steps were planned in view of the ethnic strife in Manipur and "false, concocted posts, motivated comments, provocative descriptions and hate commentaries" in various social media by a section of people creating law and order problems in the state.

Earlier also the Manipur government took legal action against those who made false and flawed comments and narratives in various social media.

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, who also holds the Home portfolio, on Thursday, warned of legal action against those misusing social media platforms and said that a special police team would be constituted to look into such cases.

"No one, no matter how influential or strong they are, are not authorised to be the moral police of the society and take the law into their hands," the Chief Minister had said and added that the government would not allow a section of social media users to incite communal flare-ups. He also strongly rebuked those using fake names or identities to create animosity/flare-ups among communities, inciting anti-national feelings among the youth, and said those using fake names can also be arrested.

Karpoori Thakur is messiah of social justice, says VP on his 101st birth anniversary

Mail News Service



Patna, Jan 24: Delivering a keynote speech on the occasion of 101st birthday anniversary former Bihar CM and Bharat Ratna Karpoori Thakur, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar described him "Messiah of Social Justice" who implemented reservations, opening vast opportunities for a large population in Bihar's Samastipur district on Friday.

He said Karpoori Thakur is the great son of India who essayed a new history of social and political transformation. "He broke centuries-old stagnation and opened the doors of immense possibilities for a large population. He was the great man who started the new era of equality. He dedicated his life to those on the margins of society, who were ignored by all," the vice president said.

The late leader who earned the reputation of becoming the first chief minister of Bihar from non-Congress socialist leader was decorated with Bharat Ratna posthumously

Ballari (Karnataka), Jan 24 (IANS) Cyber criminals have siphoned off Rs 2.3 crore after targeting a rural bank in Ballari district of Karnataka, said officials on Friday.

According to police, the incident was reported from the Ballari District Credit Cooperative (BDCC) bank in the limits of Hospet Town police station. The bank operates in the neighbouring Vijayanagar and Ballari districts.

The case has now been transferred to Ballari Cybercrime, Economic Offences, Narcotics (CEN) police station.

The preliminary investigations have indicated that the accused had targeted RTGS and NEFT transactions after managing to hack the system. The accused were able to change the account numbers and IFSC codes from XML files.

The police said the cyber crooks struck on January 10 when the cash transfers were made from the

BDCC bank to the IDBI bank. The

investigations have revealed that though the beneficiary names were not changed, instead of money getting transferred to their account, it was credited into 25 different bank accounts of various banks in different states in north India. Sources

stated that the fraud came to light after a series of complaints on January 10. Many branches of the BDCC bank have reported cases in

this regard.

The authorities came to know about the cyber fraud on January 13. It came out in the investigation that the deposits of more than Rs 5 lakh have gone into other accounts. The bank has suspended the RTGS/NEFT transfers following the online fraud coming to light. The authorities have filed an initial complaint with Hopset Town police station.

The police have registered a case under the IT Act and various sections of the BNS Act and investigating the crime.

An incident of cyber criminals conning a Japanese national and extorting Rs 35 lakh from him was reported from Bengaluru on December 27, 2024.

Hiroshi Sasaki, a 59-year-old Japanese national, has complained in this regard with the South East Cybercrime, Economic Offences, Narcotics (CEN) Crime police station. A case of a state government employee falling victim to cyber-criminals and being robbed of Rs 19 lakh after being digitally arrested for six hours in the Tumkur district of Karnataka was reported on December 24, 2024. According to police, the accused had called the victim