



My dream is to meet Virat Kohli, says Dharavi's Simran Shaikh after WPL mega deal...

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Katrina Kaif Stuns In Ethnic Outfit, Spotted At Mumbai Airport As She Leaves For...

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High court put stay on JSSC CGL result



Next hearing on January 22

Ranchi: The Jharkhand High Court, while hearing the JSSC CGL 2023, has given great relief to the petitioners. The High Court has stayed the publication of JSSC CGL results till further orders. But for the time being, the document verification will continue.

The High Court, while hearing the case, has directed the state government to register an FIR under the Examination Conduct Act 2023 on the complaint lodged regarding the leak of the JSSC CGL exam paper and submit a report after conducting an investigation.

The next hearing of the case has been scheduled for January 22.

Chief Justice's bench heard

On Tuesday, 17 December, a hearing was held in the High Court on the petition of Prakash Kumar and others in the alleged paper leak case in the JSSC CGL exam. During this, a bench of Chief Justice MS Ramachandra Rao and Justice Deepak Roshan heard. During the hearing, the High Court has stayed the results of the examination. Its next hearing will be on 22 January.

What was the demand of the

Students welcomed the order of the High Court

Students have welcomed the stay imposed by the Jharkhand High Court on the final result of the CGL exam. Student leader S Ali says that the way irregularities came to light in this exam and the candidates kept complaining, but the commission was not ready to accept it. Lathicharge continued to take place to suppress the students' agitation. Yesterday also lathicharge was done on the students. In such a situation, the commission should conduct the exam itself instead of the agency, only then will the question paper leak stop.

He said that there should be a complete investigation of this exam and action should be taken against whoever is guilty. It is worth noting that this exam has been conducted for the last eight years, which has been cancelled due to some reason or the other. The exam was conducted on 21 and 22 September. After this, the matter of paper leak came to the fore again and the controversy kept increasing. Students kept pleading from the road to the court demanding a CBI inquiry.

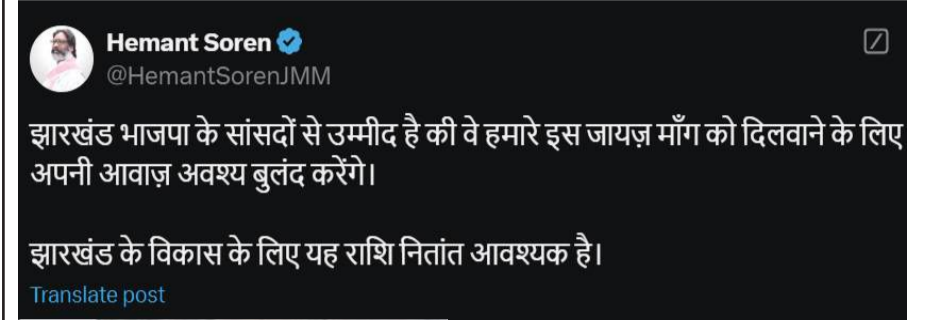
petitioners?

The petitioners say that there has been rigging in the CGL examination conducted by Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission on 21 and 22 September. They had demanded that the examination be canceled and the matter be investigated by the CBI. After hearing all the arguments, the High Court has currently stayed the result of the examination. But the document verification will continue. The court has said that the result should not be released until the court orders.

Document verification is going on from Monday

Let us tell you that a few days ago, JSSC had called the candidates for document verification from Monday 16 December. But the students were adamant on the demand to cancel the examination. At the same time, the government had converted the JSSC office into a cantonment to stop the students. Section 144 was imposed around it. But even then the students reached there to protest, after which the police lathi-charged them and chased them away.

Central Govt. said- Jharkhand has no dues Coal royalty dues are Rs 1.36 lakh crore, this amount is absolutely necessary for the development of the state: CM



CM Hemant asked BJP MPs to raise their voice

On the Centre's rejection of Jharkhand's demand for its dues, Chief Minister Hemant Soren posted a post on his social media account X. While posting, he said that it is expected from the Jharkhand BJP MPs that they will definitely raise their voice to get our legitimate demand fulfilled. This amount is absolutely necessary for the development of Jharkhand. However, no response has come from the BJP yet.

earned as revenue of Rs 1.40 lakh crore from coal is pending with the central government. There is no discrimination against the state.

Hemant has always raised this issue

During the Jharkhand assembly elections, this issue was raised prominently by Chief Minister Hemant Soren and all the leaders of JMM. The Chief Minister even said that if the central government pays this dues, then the amount of Maimiya Samman Yojana will be increased, although later he increased the amount to be given under this scheme from Rs 1000 to Rs 2500. In the first cabinet after the formation of the government, the Chief Minister had decided to take the legal route to recover the Rs 1.36 lakh crore due to the Center. After the reply of the Union Minister of State for Finance, this dispute may increase further.

Young doctors should serve in rural and tribal areas: President Murmu

Mangalagiri:

President Draupadi Murmu stressed the importance of young doctors serving in rural and tribal areas during her address at the first convocation of Mangalagiri AIIMS in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. As the chief guest, she conferred degrees on 49 MBBS students of the inaugural batch of the institute.

On arriving at Gannavaram airport by a special flight, President Murmu was welcomed by



Governor Justice Abdul Nazeer, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and other dignitaries.

Speaking at the event, President Murmu lauded the students for choosing a noble profession. "By becoming doctors, you

have embraced the responsibility of serving humanity," she said. "You have an invaluable opportunity to save lives and improve health. I urge young doctors like you to give priority to serving in rural, tribal and remote areas and contribute to inclusive healthcare," the President told the young students. Your sincerity and dedication at this level will play an important role in the health development of the nation.

30 Sensex and 48 Nifty stocks crashed

Mumbai: The sharp fall in Asian markets caused a panic in the stock market on Tuesday, 17 December 2024. At the end of trading, the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)'s main sensitive index Sensex closed at 80,656.86 points with a sharp fall of 1091.71 points or 1.34%. At the same time, the National Stock Exchange (NSE) Nifty plunged 332.25 points or 1.35% to close at 24,336.00 points.

According to Rupak Dey, Senior Technical Analyst, LKP Securities, "Nifty remained in a limited range during the session. It kept trading within the band of 24,600 and 24,800. The sentiment remains positive for the short term, as the index remains above the important moving average on the daily time frame. At the higher end, the index may continue its upward movement towards 25,000 and beyond in the short term. Crucial support at the lower end is placed at 24,500."

Vladimir Putin's close nuclear chief dies in big blast in Moscow

Moscow: A big blast was carried out just 7 km away from the Presidential Palace in Moscow. In which 300 TNT was used. Russia's nuclear program chief Igor Kirillov died in the blast.

The nuclear program chief who died in the Moscow blast was considered very close to President Vladimir Putin. It is being told that when Igor Kirillov was coming out of his apartment, a scooter parked on the side exploded. In which Igor as well as his assistant also died.

Ukraine is said to be behind the big blast in Moscow. Such apprehension is being expressed because nuclear program chief Igor was in Ukraine's target. Igor had ordered the use of banned chemicals on the Ukrainian army. However, Russia denied this allegation.

In Shorts

Weather will change in Jharkhand

Ranchi: Bone-chilling cold is wreaking havoc in Ranchi-Jharkhand. People are not getting relief even after wearing warm clothes and warming up by bonfires. The mood of the weather will change in the state. On December 20, there will be partly cloudy weather in four districts including East Singhbhum and light rain may occur at some places. According to the Meteorological Department, till December 23, fog or mist is expected in the morning in the state and after that the sky is expected to remain mainly clear. Similar weather will prevail in Ranchi and its nearby areas. In Jharkhand, the minimum temperature may gradually increase by 2-4 degrees Celsius in the next three days. After this, there is no possibility of any major change in the minimum temperature during the next two days.

Zomato gets a big blow

New Delhi: Zomato, the app that delivers food to people across the country, has suffered a major setback. Hemal Jain, Zomato's global finance head and chief financial officer of business-to-business grocery supply vertical Hyperpure, has left the company.

This information was received when the Gurgaon-based company reported it in a stock exchange filing. Shortly before Jain left the post, Zomato received a demand notice of Rs 803 crore from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) authorities. Zomato announced in a statement that it would challenge the GST demand.

1 Nation 1 Election Bill introduced in Lok Sabha



New Delhi: One Nation One Election Bill has been introduced in the third term of Narendra Modi government. This bill has been accepted by the Lok Sabha with 269 votes while 198 votes were cast against it. This bill is related to conducting simultaneous elections of Lok Sabha and all the Legislative Assemblies in the country. The opposition is opposing this bill saying that it will harm the federal structure of the country and the existence of regional parties will end.

What is special in One Nation One Election Bill?

The opposition may be opposing the proposal of One Nation One Election, but this proposal is not new for India. When elections were held for the first time in the country in 1952 after independence, they were held in this manner.

After that, in 1957 also, elections were held on the lines of

Despite the whip, more than 20 MPs were absent, BJP will send notice

The BJP has decided to send notices to more than 20 MPs of the party who were absent during the voting on the introduction of the



One Nation One Election (ONOE) Bill in the Lok Sabha. The party had issued a whip to the MPs to be present. After a heated debate after the bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha by Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, the bill has been sent to the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). As soon as two bills describing the arrangement for holding simultaneous elections were introduced in the Lok Sabha, the opposition termed it a 'dictatorial' move. However, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said that this law will not tamper with the powers granted to the states.

After about 90 minutes of debate and subsequent division of votes, Meghwal introduced the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill. 269 members voted in favor of the bill and 198 against it. Meghwal also introduced the Union Territory Amendment Bill, which seeks to align elections in the Union Territories of Puducherry, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir with Lok Sabha elections. Principles such as judicial review, federal character of the Constitution, separation of powers, secular character, supremacy of the Constitution have not changed, Meghwal said, adding that the objections to the bill were political in nature.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had supported referring the bills to a joint committee of Parliament for wider consultations at every level. There can be detailed discussions in the JPC. The JPC report will get the approval of the Cabinet. Then it (the bill) will be discussed in the House.

One Nation One Election. For One Nation, One Election, a committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind was constituted in September

2023, which did research to consider this proposal and submitted its report to President Draupadi Murmu in March 2024.

More than 1 lakh buried in mass graves in Syria; 22 found in one sack

Syria: The Assad family's more than 50-year rule in the Middle East nation of Syria has come to an end. In just 11 days of fighting, the rebel group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham won the war and dictator Bashar al-Assad had to flee to Russia hiding his face. His first statement also came a day before. In which he repeated the slogan 'I will not give up..' Meanwhile, the 'misdeeds' that took place during the rule of the Assad family in Syria are now coming to light. The word 'misdeeds' is used because like his father Hafiz, Bashar was also quite notorious for his cruelty in Syria. Killing opponents had become his habit. Mass graves have been found near the capital of Syria. According



to officials, there may be remains of more than one lakh people here. Who were either beheaded with a sword, hanged or tortured to death.

Evidence of killings during the decades-long rule of the al-Assad family has been found at Al-Qutaifa, located 40 kilometers north of the

Syrian capital Damascus. This is one of many mass graves in Syria. According to officials, doctors and forensic teams have been inspecting this place for two days. Graves are being dug and remains are being collected. According to estimates, there may be remains of more than one lakh people here.

22 bodies found in a sack

12 mass graves were also found in southern Syria. 22 bodies were found together in a sack, which included women and children. Officials say that burying 22 bodies together in a single sack is evidence of the cruelty committed during the Assad regime. There are deep marks of hanging and torture on their bodies.

News In Brief

A person's body found early in the morning on the Tata-Kandra main road

Chaibasa: A person's body was found on the road near Biko turn on Tata-Kandra main road under Adityapur police station area on Tuesday morning. There are marks of serious injury on his face. On Tuesday morning, local people saw the body lying on the roadside. Seeing which, a crowd of people gathered on the road. Later, the local Adityapur police was informed about the incident. Police station in-charge Rajiv Kumar has told that the deceased person was consuming drugs at the said place since 3 pm on Monday. He died after falling due to excessive consumption of alcohol. Police has taken the body in its custody and sent it for post-mortem.

Annual sports competition organized in DAV Barkakana

Ramgarh: Annual Sports Competition 2024 was organized for children from Nursery to Class II in DAV Barkakana. As the chief guest, the famous pediatrician of this area, Gautam Kumar, was led by the tune of the school band. He was honored by presenting a green plant. He was presented a DAV memento by the Principal of the school. Addressing the children on this occasion, the chief guest said that since ancient times, work was done for the all-round development of children. At that time, children were taught 72 arts. In old times it was said that if you study and write, you will become a Nawab, if you play and jump, you will be spoiled, this mentality was absolutely wrong because sports keeps children physically healthy and it is said that a healthy mind resides in a healthy body. The stage management for the program was done by Srishti Singh and Bhargavi Singh of class IX. After this, the school's principal Mohammad Mustafa Majid announced the start of the annual sports competition. Aditya Shankar and Srishti Dev of class IX presented the eyewitness account of the annual sports competition to the people.

A meeting related to the law and order of the district was organized

DN ■ Chaibasa

A meeting related to the law and order of the district was organized in the auditorium of the West Singhbhum District Collectorate under the joint chairmanship of District Magistrate-cum-DC Kuldeep Chaudhary and Superintendent of Police Mr. Ashutosh Shekhar. In the meeting, the senior officer directed all the Sub-Divisional Officers, Sub-Divisional Police Officers, Block Development Officers, Zonal Officers, Police Station In-charges present there that Christmas, New Year,



Sankranti and Mage festival etc. are to be organized in the coming time. For this, it is necessary to ensure proper law and order in the entire district. Especially the places including tourist places where there is a large gathering of people on the

occasion of the festival, those places should be identified in advance and all security related arrangements should be restored. For this, communication should be established with the general public by coordinating with the Manki Munda, Mukhya and

other local public representatives of that area, so that all the events can be organized in an atmosphere of peace and harmony throughout the district. In the meeting, all the district level officers, regional officers and police officers were also instructed to be present and ready in their duty area. While instructing those present in the meeting, it was said that it is the responsibility of the regional officer and police officer to keep an eye on all kinds of illegal activities being conducted in the area.

Tourist places of Barkagaon assembly constituency will be developed properly: Roshan Lal Chaudhary

Meeting organized in Deputy Commissioner's office Ramgarh regarding development of tourist places

DN ■ Bhurkunda (Ramgarh)

A meeting was organized under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner in the auditorium of Deputy Commissioner's office on Tuesday regarding development of tourist places in Ramgarh district. Barkagaon MLA Roshanlal Chaudhary, Mandu MLA Tiwari Mahato and Ramgarh district MP representative Rajiv Jaiswal along with departmental officers mainly participated in it. In the meeting, beautification and development of all the tourist places coming under Ramgarh district was discussed. On the occasion, MLA Roshanlal Chaudhary discussed the tourist places Palani waterfall, Panch Bahni temple and Nimmi waterfall falling in Ramgarh district of his assembly constituency. On



which it was decided that the work of beautification of Panch Bahni temple and development of Nimmi waterfall and Palani waterfall will be done. MLA Roshanlal Chaudhary said that all the tourist places of Barkagaon assembly constituency will be developed and beautified while taking care of every comfort and convenience of the tourists. So that more and more tourists can come to see and visit these tourist places.

Inter-district motorcycle thief gang exposed, record number of 70 stolen motorcycles recovered

DN ■ Chaibasa

Saraikela-Kharsawan Police has exposed the inter-district motorcycle thief gang and recovered a total of 70 (seventy) stolen motorcycles. On 16.12.2024, the Superintendent of Police, Saraikela-Kharsawan received secret information that three motorcycle thieves of Tamar police station area are going to come to Kuchai market to steal motorcycles.

For verification of information and necessary action.

There was information that these people have stolen motorcycles from various huts and markets of this area earlier also. For verification of information and necessary action, a special raiding team was formed by the Superintendent of Police, Saraikela-Kharsawan. While verifying the information received by the constituted raiding team, 1. Shankar Manjhi alias Sandeep, s/o Late Dhananjay Manjhi, Village Raidih Mod, Thana Tamar, District Ranchi and 2. Bhushan Machhua, s/o Vishnu Machhua, Village Raidih Mod, Thana Tamar, District Ranchi were caught with one (01) stolen motorcycle.



During interrogation.

During interrogation, Shankar Manjhi and Bhushan Machhua admitted that apart from Saraikela-Kharsawan district, they have stolen more than 100 motorcycles in the last few years from markets, huts and fairs in urban and rural areas of Ranchi, Chaibasa, Khunti and Jamshepur districts. It was accepted that they had been giving money regularly to 1. Shiv Munda alias Shibu Munda, father late Soma Munda, Village-Jojohatu, Tola Sosodih, Thana Kuchai (Dalbhanga O.P.) District Saraikela-Kharsawan and 2. Mangal Munda, father Guruva Munda, Village Badani, Thana Adki, District Khunti for selling the stolen motorcycles and

Shiv Munda and Mangal Munda used to sell all the vehicles to the villagers of Kuchai, Dalbhanga and Adki Thana area by promising to give the documents related to the vehicle later.

Taking prompt action, the police arrested Shiv Munda alias Shibu Munda and Mangal Munda on the basis of this information and on the information given by these people, a total of 30 (thirty) stolen motorcycles, which they had hidden in their house and in the forest, were recovered and seized, which they were planning to sell in the near future. During the investigation, the raiding team recovered and seized 39 (forty nine) stolen motorcycles. Raids are being conducted against the absconding accused. Thus, in the investigation so far, a total of 70 stolen motorcycles have been recovered by the raiding team. *With this recovery, a total of 25 cases of Saraikela, Ranchi, Jamshepur, Khunti and Chaibasa districts have been solved. The police is verifying the remaining seized motorcycles, there is a possibility of dozens of cases being solved during the verification.

Ashok Tripathi proved to be a true friend by donating one unit of blood to his friend

DN ■ Gumla

Tripathi said that after 6 December, in a sudden emergency situation, he got the opportunity to donate one unit of blood to his friend Surendra Prasad Sahu (resident of Shastri Nagar, Gumla) at Ranchi Health Point Hospital. After the accident, three units were urgently needed for the operation. Science says that by eating simple dal-rice, blood is formed in 24 to 72 hours, so I did this virtuous act. Fortunately, after the examination, the doctor told that your platelet count is very good and BP is also 120/80, which is found in healthy youth of twenty, twenty-five years, you will never get sick. He has been



continuously doing this work of saving people's lives by donating blood 117 times till date. Whenever this person hears about a needy person having a shortage of blood, he sacrifices his blood without hesitation, that is why he gets blessings and love from all kinds of people.

PGT Tata Steel Golf Championship begins, famous cricketer Kapil Dev inaugurates it

DN ■ Chaibasa

PGT Tata Steel Golf Championship has begun in Jamshepur. Many famous golfers of the country are trying their luck in the tournament. The tournament was inaugurated by former Indian cricket team captain Kapil Dev and former Union Minister Arjun Munda by playing golf.

Prize is three crores

PGT Tata Steel Golf Tournament with a prize money of 3 crores has been started at Golmuri Golf Course. It will be organized at Golmuri and Beldih Golf Courses for a week. Many golfers of the country are trying their luck in the tournament. Many officials of Tata Steel Sports



Department were present on the occasion.

Golf gives satisfaction

While talking to the media regarding the tournament, Kapil Dev said that he had got the good fortune of coming to Jamshepur earlier also. At that time I had come to play cricket. Today I have come to Jamshepur for the first time to play golf. I am getting a lot of satisfaction by

seeing the golf course. I wish for the success of the tournament.

Country's highest paid tournament

CEO PGT Uttam Singh said that the PGTI Golf Tournament organized by Tata Steel is the country's highest paid tournament. This year many famous golfers of the country have become a part of this tournament.

Villagers of Gondulpara took stock of the CSR works of Adani Foundation in Singrauli

During the five-day tour, the villagers took information about livelihood, mushroom production and agriculture based programs. Schemes like detergent power unit, jute bag production, sewing center and bio gas plant will also be started here

DN ■ Hazaribagh

A team of members of the affected families of the Gondulpara mining project was taken on an exposure visit by the Adani Foundation to various project areas in Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh. During this, the local villagers of Gondulpara went there and closely observed the various CSR works of Adani Foundation and interacted with the members of the affected families. During this, the villagers

interacted with the officials of the CSR department there and had positive talks on the possibilities of starting some special programs being run there in Gondulpara as well. The villagers also closely observed and understood the work of the members of the self-help group running there who have become economically empowered by improving the oil mill, detergent power unit, jute bag production and sewing center.



ter. Apart from this, the members of the project affected families also closely observed the multi-crop farming being done there and understood its cost and profit. These people also talked to a woman who is successfully running a washing powder production unit there.

Apart from this, she has also operated a bio gas plant at her place, which is being used very effectively. It was also agreed to operate it in Gondulpara. On returning to Barkagaon, feedback was taken from the villagers involved in the tour and they were also honored.

The glory of Bhagwat Katha is boundless: Pandit Ram Kumar Pathak

The seven-day Shrimad Bhagwat Katha going on in Maa Sheetla temple concluded. On the last day also, a crowd of devotees gathered to listen to the story and do the aarti

DN ■ Bhurkunda (Ramgarh)

The seven-day Shrimad Bhagwat Katha Anushtan going on since Wednesday in the premises of Mata Sheetla temple located at Bhurkunda Sayal Mod concluded on Tuesday. The last day's story reading started with Aarti. During this, the story teller priest Pandit Ramkumar Pathak told the devotees the essence of the story of Shri Krishna's leela, the story of Rukmini Haran.

In which the devotees listened to the story with devotion. Thereafter, the last day's story was concluded with Maha Aarti and distribution of Prasad. Kishore Yadav, Bhola Singh, Pintu Lal, Ashok Singh,



Ajay Yadav, Munna Yadav, Bhim Singh, Meena Devi, Reena Devi, Uttam Sinha, Mohan Kumar, Mangalam, Ganesh Srivastava, Nanhu Yadav, Rajan Nayak contributed in making the religious ritual successful.

The forest department seized two tractors loaded with coal

DN ■ Barkagaon

These days, raids are being conducted in the Barkagaon forest area under the leadership of ACF AK Parmar and forest area officer Kamlesh Kumar Singh as per the instructions of the DFO regarding illegal coal mining and trade. Late on Monday night, two tractors carrying illegal coal from Rudi forest under Barkagaon block were caught by forest personnel on the way to Gondalpara village. During this, a large number of supporters of the coal mafia stopped the tractor loaded with illegal coal for hours and kept creating a ruckus. During this time, there was a lot of commotion, tension and the situation became very scary. Seeing this, senior officer of the forest department ACF AK Parmar tried to control the situation by talking to the senior police officer of the district and division. As soon as the situation was under control, the forest department brought both the illegal coal tractors to the Barkagaon forest area office. In which an FIR has been registered against the illegal coal mine operator in Rudi forest.



PVUNL organized adolescent health awareness program in Kasturba Gandhi Residential School

DN ■ Ramgarh

PVUNL organized adolescent health awareness program in Kasturba Gandhi Residential School Patratu on Tuesday in collaboration with Swarnarekha Mahila Samiti. 122 students of class 11th and 12th participated in the program. In the program, Dr. Pratima Das of Medanta Ranchi worked to create awareness by giving detailed information on 'menstrual hygiene, period education and effect of lack of hygiene'. She solved the students' queries and common problems related to menstruation and emphasized the importance of



nutrition and healthy lifestyle. It was said that this initiative reflects PVUNL's commitment towards health and welfare under the Community Development (CD) program. Blankets were also

distributed among the girl students after the program. Many members of the committee including the President of Swarnarekha Mahila Samiti, Mrs. Rita Singh were present on the occasion.

Public Grievance Resolution Program today

IG, DIG and Commandant deputed in 23 districts for monitoring
DN ■ Ranchi
 Jharkhand Police will organize a public grievance resolution program today (18 December) in all the districts of the state. This program has started on the instructions of DGP Anurag Gupta. In the public grievance resolution program, the problems of the general public will be heard on 18 main issues and they will be helped. Jharkhand Police Headquarters has deputed 23 IG, DIG and Commandant rank officers in 23 districts for monitoring the program. The deputed officers will monitor whether the guidelines related to the public grievance resolution program are being followed properly or not, whether the complaints received from the general public are being redressed properly or not, whether action is being taken as per rules regarding the complaint received regarding misbehavior against police officers and personnel, whether the behavior of the police towards the general public is respectful or not and whether the complaints received by the SP of the district are being disposed of properly or not. However, no officer has been deputed in Ranchi.

Girls molestation case: IG suspends 2 clerks and 2 ASIs for negligence



DN ■ Ranchi

Ranchi Police has sent Firoz Ali, accused of molesting the girl students of Kanya Pathshala School, to jail. Four police personnel who were negligent in this case were suspended with immediate effect by Ranchi Zonal

IG. In this regard, it is being told that the teacher of Kanya Pathshala went to Mahila Thana to complain about the molestation of the girl students, there he was told that the matter of husband-wife is settled here. After this, he was sent to Kotwali Police Station without registering a complaint.

When the teacher reached Kotwali Police Station, the clerk there took the application and did not inform any of his senior police officer about it, nor did he take any action in time. In this case, IG suspended two clerks and two ASIs. **The accused confessed his crime during interrogation**
 In this case, an FIR was registered in Kotwali Police Station on the complaint of the school's headmistress. SIT was formed under the leadership of Kotwali DSP to investigate the case. During the press conference, City SP Rajkumar Mehta said that the accused has committed a heinous act. He has confessed his crime during interrogation. If needed, he will be taken on remand and interrogated. He has also gone to jail in a case in the past. Police will request the court to get a speedy trial of the molestation case and give strict punishment to the accused. He said that the people who gave protection to the accused are also being investigated. Action will be taken against them too.

VHP expressed concern over increasing conversions among tribal society in Jharkhand



DN ■ Ranchi

The meeting of Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Jharkhand, Dharma Prasar Department was concluded on Tuesday at the State Office, Kishoreganj Ranchi. In this, concern was expressed over the rapid illegal conversions among the tribal society of Jharkhand. Vishwa Hindu Parishad's Central Dharma Prasar Pramukh Sudhanshu Mohan Patnaik, who was mainly present in the meeting, said that stopping conversion is extremely necessary to protect the interests of the tribal society. There is a need to bring awareness about religion among the villagers through satsang and other religious activities in every village. For this, VHP workers will have to make capable efforts. Regional Organization Minister Anand Pandey said that saints should migrate among the society, which will bring harmony in the society, conversion will stop.

FIR registered in President's fake ID case, police engaged in investigation

DN ■ Ranchi

Cyber criminals are often engaged in cheating by creating fake IDs of any person, but this time cyber criminals have crossed all limits, an attempt has been made to commit fraud by creating a fake ID of President Draupadi Murmu. Taking cognizance of the matter, Ranchi Police has registered an FIR.

FIR registered and investigation started

A case has come to light of cyber criminals creating a fake Facebook account of President Draupadi Murmu. The attention of the police was drawn to this matter by a citizen of Jharkhand, after which Ranchi Police has started action by registering an FIR in the case. Ranchi SP Chandan Kumar Sinha said that an FIR has been registered in the case. The URL of the fake ID has been obtained



from the concerned person and on the basis of that the case is being investigated.

What is the whole matter?

Mantu Soni, who brought the matter of creating fake ID of the President to the notice of Jharkhand Police and Delhi Police, is a resident of Hazaribagh in

Jharkhand. Mantu Soni has written on his X handle that he received a message from the account with the photo of the President, in which it was written that 'Jai Hind, how are you. Then the cyber criminal behind the profile said that I use Facebook very rarely, you send me your

WhatsApp number. When Mantu sent his number to the alleged cyber criminal, a message came on his Facebook Messenger, which read that we have saved your number and have sent you the code of our WhatsApp, which has gone to your WhatsApp. Please send us that code quickly. It did not take long for Mantu Sonu to understand that the President can send him such a message. Mantu Soni shared the digital evidence by typing Rashtrapati Bhavan, Jharkhand Police and other agencies on X. Taking immediate cognizance of X, Ranchi SSP also asked for full Facebook details from Mantu Soni. All the details have been provided to Ranchi Police by Mantu Soni, after which a case has been registered against the unknown cyber criminal. The team of Technical Cell and Cyber Crime Branch is investigating the case.

Debate over the result of Graduate Trained Teacher Combined Competitive Examination 2016, Advocate General will present his side in the HC on January 3

DN ■ Ranchi

A major hearing was held in the Jharkhand High Court on the petition of Meena Kumari and others related to JSSC Graduate Trained Teacher Combined Competitive Examination Advertisement No. 21/2016. Debate on behalf of the applicants was completed in the single bench of the High Court. The applicants showed the court that many candidates who have less marks than the last selected candidates have also been appointed. The Supreme Court order has not been followed properly due to which there are many irregularities in the merit list. The irregularities were presented before the court, the court was requested that the number of applicants is in thousands. In such a situation, a one-member judicial commission should be formed which will investigate and take a decision on the merit list of JSSC and the personal complaints of the candidates. The



applicants also told the court that 3704 posts are vacant. It is wrong for the government to surrender them. In this context, several judgments of the Supreme Court were also shown on behalf of the applicants. The court was requested to appoint the applicants on the remaining vacant posts. The state government told the court that due to the ill health of the Advocate General, he could not present his side in the court today, so another date should be given for hearing, on which the court has fixed the date of 3 January 2025 only to know the side of the Advocate General. Senior advocate Rajiv Nanda, advocate Indrajit Sinha, advocate Amritansh Vats, advocate

Rajesh Kumar pleaded on behalf of the applicants. During the hearing, JSSC advocate Sanjay Piperal told the court that the appointment has been recommended by JSSC as per the state wise merit list. The statement of the applicants that the marks obtained by the applicant are less than the last selected candidate in the state wise merit list is wrong. The marks obtained by all the applicants are less than the last selected candidate of the state wise merit list, hence they have not been appointed. In this case, petitions were filed in the High Court on behalf of Meena Kumari and others. It is said that in the light of the advertisement for the appointment of high school teachers that was released in the year 2016, they should also be appointed. Because they have scored more marks than the cut off, if there are vacancies for high school teachers left, then they should also be appointed.

The numbers of many passenger trains will change from January 1

दादनागर - बरकाकाना पैसेंजर	08151	58023	बर्हामपुर - बोकारो स्टील रिटर्निंग मेमू पैसेंजर	03519	63619
बरकाकाना - दादनागर पैसेंजर	08152	58024	दादनागर - हटिया मेमू पैसेंजर (व्याप - त्रिकलकी)	08195	68035
बोकारो स्टील सिटी - रांची पैसेंजर	08095	58033	हटिया - दादनागर मेमू पैसेंजर (व्याप - त्रिकलकी)	08196	68036
रांची - बोकारो स्टील सिटी पैसेंजर	08096	58034	रांची - आसनसोल मेमू पैसेंजर	03097	63697
हटिया - राउरकेला पैसेंजर	08149	58659	आसनसोल - रांची मेमू पैसेंजर	03098	63698
राउरकेला - हटिया पैसेंजर	08150	58660	रांची - लोहरदगा मेमू पैसेंजर	08087	68017
हटिया - रांची पैसेंजर	08607	58663	लोहरदगा - रांची मेमू पैसेंजर	08088	68018
रांची - हटिया पैसेंजर	08608	58664	रांची - दोरी मेमू पैसेंजर	08089	68027
हटिया - रांची पैसेंजर	08617	58665	दोरी - रांची मेमू पैसेंजर	08090	68028
रांची - हटिया पैसेंजर	08618	58666	रांची - लोहरदगा मेमू पैसेंजर	08093	68037
बोकारो स्टील सिटी - बर्हामपुर मेमू पैसेंजर	03595	63520	लोहरदगा - रांची मेमू पैसेंजर	08094	68038
			रांची - लोहरदगा मेमू पैसेंजर	08091	68039
			लोहरदगा - रांची मेमू पैसेंजर	08092	68040
			आगरा - बरकाकाना मेमू पैसेंजर	08041	68041
			बरकाकाना - आगरा मेमू पैसेंजर	08042	68042

Ranchi Railway Division has changed the numbers of many passenger trains from January 01, 2025. According to the table, the numbers of many trains from Tatanagar-Barkakana Passenger to Ranchi-Lohardaga MEMU Passenger have been changed. Now these trains will be operated with a new number. For example, the old number of Tatanagar-Barkakana Passenger was 08151, now it has become 58023. At the same time, from March 1, two trains Visakhapatnam-Banaras Express will be operated with 18523 instead of 18311 and Banaras-Visakhapatnam Express will be operated with 18524 instead of 18312.

News In Brief

Re-enrollment process of Home Guard jawans from 7th January
Ranchi: Re-enrollment process of Home Guard jawans will start from 7th January. District Commandant Kaushik Kumar has issued a notice for re-enrollment of all old and new male and female Home Guards of Ranchi district. District Commandant Kaushik Kumar has said that for verification of all the above documents, the original certificates have to be brought along on the prescribed date and one has to appear in the office in uniform on the prescribed date.
Peeping ceremony organized at Jharkhand Police Wireless Headquarters
Ranchi: On Tuesday, DG Prashant Singh organized a peeping ceremony for a total of 24 newly promoted police inspector (operator) officers of Jharkhand Police Wireless cadre in the auditorium of Jharkhand Police Wireless Headquarters, Line Talab Road. Let us tell you that this promotion has happened after six years. Due to which there is a wave of happiness among the employees. On this occasion, DIG Ashwini Kumar Sinha, SP Harvinder Singh, DSP Mahesh Prajapati and other officers were present.

Hero Hockey India League: Sports lovers will be able to enjoy the game for free in Ranchi and Rourkela

DN ■ Ranchi

Hockey India has made a big announcement with the aim of increasing the reach of hockey in the country. According to this, all tickets for fans attending the matches to be held in Ranchi and Rourkela for the upcoming Hero Hockey India League (HIL) 2024-25 will be free. Meaning sports lovers will not have to buy tickets. This move is part of Hockey India's vision to take the game to every corner of the country. It will be made more accessible to its ardent supporters. Apart from the income from ticket sales, Hockey India aims to build a strong connection between the game and its ardent supporters, encouraging more and more people to experience the thrill of live hockey. Dr. Dilip Tirkey, Chairman of the Hero Hockey India League (HIL) Governing Committee, sharing happiness in this regard, has said that this is a historic moment for hockey in India. By giving away free tickets, we are ensuring that everyone, regardless of financial status, gets the opportunity to experience hockey at its best.



Our aim is to bring the sport closer to fans and inspire a new generation of players and supporters. Ranchi and Rourkela are cities with a rich hockey heritage and we want to fill the stadiums with their energy and passion. Bholu Nath Singh, Member, Hero Hockey India League (HIL) Steering Committee, echoed similar sentiments and said, "Our fans are at the heart of everything we do. This initiative of giving away free tickets is our way of expressing gratitude for their unwavering support. We want to ensure that every seat in Ranchi and Rourkela is filled with fans cheering for their favourite teams. Hero Hockey India League is not just a tournament, it

is a celebration of the game, it can be called a celebration of hockey. By making it free for all, we are reinforcing our commitment to make hockey a people's game and we hope that this initiative will be a memorable one for the fans who come to watch it." **HIL from December 28**
 It is worth noting that eight men's and four women's teams will participate in this year's Hero Hockey India League. Both the leagues will offer fast-paced and exciting games through their new formats. The sports program of the men's league will start from December 28 at the Birsu Munda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela. Its grand finale will be held on February 1, 2025. The women's league will start on January 12, 2025 at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Astro Turf Stadium in Ranchi. Its final will be held on January 26, in which a thrilling match is expected from start to finish. Also, to increase the reach of the league, select men's and women's matches will be held at alternate venues, bringing the unique thrill of Hero HIL to different regions.

Relief from power cuts and low-voltage problems

DN ■ Ranchi

Ranchi residents can now get relief from power crisis. Actually, Lohardaga-Latehar 220/132 kV grid substation and Lohardaga 220 kV double transmission line started from Monday. They have also been connected to the national grid. At the same time, Latehar grid has been connected to the national grid located at Chandwa. This will enable 24-hour power supply in Lohardaga. **Good power will be available in many other districts including Ranchi**
 By connecting this substation to the national grid, Ranchi, Lohardaga will get uninterrupted power. MD of Energy Transmission Corporation Limited KK Verma said that after the construction of Lohardaga grid, power is being supplied to the entire Lohardaga as well as Gumla and Simdega. The construction of this grid has solved the problem of low voltage. Earlier, about 70 MW of power was supplied to Lohardaga from Hatia Grid (Ranchi) Sub Station-2. After the start of 220/132 kV Lohardaga grid, the transformer load of Hatia grid substation-2 has reduced almost. The benefit of which will be seen in Ranchi and other areas.

News In Brief

Missing youth's body found in well, murder suspected

Giridih: Sensation spread in the area after the body of Ashok Kumar Sharma, a resident of Sihodih in Mufassil police station area, was recovered from a well located some distance from his house. After getting information about the incident, a large number of people gathered in the vicinity and the matter was reported to the police. Police reached the spot and sent the body to Sadar Hospital for post-mortem. It was told that Ashok Kumar Sharma was missing for four days. His family members had given an application to the police and accused some people of threatening them. Today Ashok's body was recovered from the well. At present, the police is engaged in investigating the incident.

Tribute paid to martyr Shashikant Pandey

Jorapokhar: On the 9th martyrdom day of martyr Shashikant Pandey, tribute was paid by garlanding the statue of the martyr near Jodapokhar police station. On this occasion, the Ramayana recitation which was going on since long was concluded today. Those who paid tribute included the martyr's father Rajeshwar Pandey, mother Lalita Devi, brother Shrikant Pandey, sister etc. A feast was also organized on this occasion.

Pujaris blocked the road due to disruption in water supply to the temple

Maithan: The patience of the priests, shopkeepers and local people broke on the eighth day due to disruption in drinking water supply in Kalyaneshwari temple for the last seven days. As a result, the priests along with the local people blocked the Dendua-Barakar main road today and demanded immediate supply of drinking water. On receiving the information of the incident, Kalyaneshwari and Chowrangi police reached the spot and took joint initiative and held talks with PHED officials, which was positive. The road blockade could be removed after solid assurance. The blockers said that the daily cleaning of the temple has been disrupted and domestic work.

Administrative preparations complete for public grievance resolution

DN ■ Jorapokhar

The district administration will organize a public grievance resolution camp at Tata Community Center in Digwadih on Wednesday to listen to the problems of the general public and resolve them quickly. Immediate action will be taken on complaints such as land disputes, police-related problems, delay in administrative services in the camp. For the success of the program, SDPO Ashutosh Kumar Satyam, Jodapokhar Zone Police Inspector Pankaj Bhushan and Jodapokhar Police Station Incharge Rajesh Prakash Sinha flagged off a publicity vehicle today from Jodapokhar Police Station premises, which will inform people about the camp in various areas of Sindri subdivision.



SDPO Ashutosh Kumar Satyam said that this camp is an effort to reduce the distance between the administration and the public. Police Station Incharge Rajesh Prakash Sinha said that the complaints of the public will be resolved on priority basis and settlement will be ensured on the spot. The district administration has

appealed to the people to share the information about the program in their villages and localities, so that more and more people can take advantage of it. The administration has assured that every complaint will be taken seriously and concrete action will be taken towards solution.

Martyr Shashikant, a pride for Koyalanchal: Ranjit Singh

DN ■ Putki

Tribute was paid to immortal martyr Shashikant Pandey of Koyalanchal by organizing a program on his 8th death anniversary at the central office of Gramin Ekta Manch located at Gopalichak No. 2. The president of the forum, Ranjit Singh alias Bablu Singh, calling immortal martyr Shashikant Pandey the pride of Koyalanchal, saluted his passion of giving his life for the nation and also saluted all the immortal martyr soldiers of the country and appealed to take inspiration from his passion. People present in the tribute meeting offered flowers on his picture one by one. Everyone reached the Shaheed Shashikant Chowk statue site located at Joda Pokhar and paid tribute by offering flowers. Apart from Mr. Singh, those who paid tribute at both the places included Subhash Paswan, Anil Sharma, Dilip Singh, Aniket Kumar, Nandlal Chaudhary, Rajesh Bharti, Naresh Bharti, Vinod Singh, Kamlesh Upadhyay, Bhola Sharma, Gaurav Pandey, Vikas Chaudhary, Jwala Singh etc.



Property worth six lakhs stolen from clinic operator's house

DN ■ Jorapokhar

Last night, thieves broke the lock of the house of Abhileandra Paswan, operator of Footbungalow Aastha Health Care, near the Aluminium Quarter in Bhaga Number Four Colony of Jharia police station area and stole property worth six lakhs including cash from the cupboard. The homeowner had informed Jharia police about the incident the same night. Police is investigating the incident.

People are terrified due to the incident. The homeowner told that he has a private clinic at Footbungalow turn. After coming from the clinic, he went to a wedding party at a relative's house in Bastakola at nine o'clock on Monday night with his wife and child. When he reached home after three hours, he saw that the lock of his door was broken. On getting suspicious, he immediately went to the back of the house, and found the back door also open. On entering the house, it was found that the thieves had broken the cupboard



kept in the bedroom and had stolen Rs. 80,000 cash along with five gold chains, two rings, two earrings, a necklace, a nose pin, maangtika, nose ring, mangalsutra and silver jewellery. BJP leader of the locality Rupesh Paswan went to the police station with the house owner and demanded immediate investigation of the incident.

School bags distributed among students



DN ■ Maithan

Bags were distributed in Senior Basic School located in Maithan Area 3. The program was started by the chief guest, Aiyarkund Block Pramukh Smt. Sangeeta Mahato, by providing school bags to the children. The Pramukh said that the program of Jharkhand government is undoubtedly praiseworthy. This creates interest in children to go to school and study. Today, bags were provided to students of classes I to V, while on Wednesday, bags will be provided to students of classes VI, VII, VIII and IX. On this occasion, all the teachers and headmaster of Adarsh Senior Basic School Maithan, Uttam Kumar Ghanti were present.

Trust installed water cooler at Maithan Dam

DN ■ Maithan

On the occasion of New Year, Amrit Pritam Vachan Trust Nirsa installed a water cooler machine at Kalighat Vote Ghat on Tuesday to provide clean water to tourists and local people visiting Maithan Dam. The chief guests of the program were Gurmeet Singh Dang and Dr. Surjeet Singh. The chief guest said that on the occasion of Big Day, New Year, a large number of people from far-flung areas of Jharkhand and West Bengal come to Maithan Dam Chhath Ghat, Suleman Park, Firing Range, Phool Bagan to enjoy picnic and boating, in view of the inconvenience of water, water coolers have been installed by the courtesy of the trust. This is a small effort of the trust. In future, more programs will be organized at Maithan Dam to provide more facilities to the tourists. The cooler was inaugurated by social worker Gurmeet Singh and social worker Sonaram Manjhi by cutting the ribbon. Members of Vote Ghat and tourists were present on the occasion. With the instal-



lation of water cooler, tourists visiting Maithan Dam will get pure water. Gurmeet Singh Dang said that the trust will continue to do such welfare work in the future. Gurmeet Singh Dang, Sudesh Singh, Sonaram Manjhi, Bablu Marandi, Hemlal Tudu, Maheshwar Soren, Babu Ram Marandi, Rajendra Baski, Lakhinder Hansda, Ranjan Mahato, Naresh Hembram, S Soren, Ankit Marandi, Ganesh Hembram, Saurabh Bauri, Deepu Marandi etc. were present in the program.

Police's public complaint resolution camp will be held at five places today

DN ■ Dhanbad

In a press conference held today at the City SP office located at Memco Mor, City SP Ajit Kumar informed the media about the public complaint resolution camp to be held by the police. He said that on the instructions of the DGP, a public complaint resolution camp will be organized in all 24 districts of Jharkhand on December 18. Under this, programs will be organized at five places in Dhanbad. The camp will be held at Rajasthani Dharamshala in Katras for all the police stations under Baghmara subdivision, Tata Community Hall Digwadih in Jodapokhar



for Sindri subdivision, Nirsa Polytechnic College for Nirsa subdivision, Al Iqra College Tundi Govindpur Road for the people of the area of DSP Headquarters 1 and 2 and Abhay Sundari Girls High School Hirapur for all the police stations under DSP Law and Order. A special cell has been formed at the

Legal Volunteers will be present along with the police officer for quick disposal of complaints in the program.

People will be given information about the law

In the program, people will be given information about the Victim Compensation Scheme and the new law. Apart from this, information about Zero FIR, Online FIR, Dial 112, Dial 1930 etc. will also be given. People will be made aware to avoid fraud by luring them with high profits by property related crimes, information about criminals, cyber crime, non-banking finance, multi-state cooperative.

Block-2 and IJ Area teams reached the finals



DN ■ Tisra

Two semi-final matches were played under the BCCL inter-regional T20 cricket tournament at Jelgora Stadium. The first match was played between Block-2 vs Barora Area, in which Block-2 entered the finals by defeating Barora Area. Puran Mahato of Block 2 received the Man of the Match

award. Today's second match was played between WJ Area vs IJ Area, in which the IJ Area team entered the finals by winning the match. The Man of the Match award was given to Anuj Kumar Mandal of IJ Area. The final match will be played between Block 2 and IJ Area at Jelgora Stadium from 10 am tomorrow.

Arun Kumar Sinha gets Business Excellence Award

DN ■ Giridih

Arun Kumar Sinha, a well-known businessman of Jharkhand who started his business from Giridih, has received the Business Excellence Award in the foreign land of Azerbaijan. Arun Kumar Sinha, Chairman of Rider Group of Companies, has brought many successes to the company in his journey of 27 years. Today thousands of people are working in his company. It was told that an award ceremony was organized in Azerbaijan by Radio Orange, in which selected people of the country were honored. Arun Kumar Sinha was also one of them, who was honored with the Business Excellence Award for his outstanding success. Arun Kumar Sinha's company is working in various cities of the country and it is a reliable company of manpower supply. Many prominent people of Jharkhand have congratulated and wished Arun on his success.



MP Dhullu Mahato attends Energy Parliamentary Committee meeting

DN ■ Dhanbad

MP Dhullu Mahato participated in the meeting of Energy Parliamentary Standing Committee to discuss the target of 500 GW renewable energy production in India. MP Mr. Mahato emphasized on increasing the production of renewable energy in India and discussed the efforts being made to make the country one of the largest renewable energy producers in the world. Mr. Mahato said that we all have to work together to achieve the target. This is not only necessary to strengthen our energy security, but it is an important step towards tackling



climate change and becoming the world's largest renewable energy producer. He reviewed government schemes and underlined the importance of regional development, new technologies and attracting investment. Mr. Mahato said that several steps are being taken to develop renewable energy projects in Dhanbad

and surrounding areas, which will not only boost energy production but will also create local employment opportunities. In this direction, the government has made many plans, through which not only the energy needs of the country will be met but employment and economic development will also be boosted.

Congress meeting held in the assembly hall regarding the siege of Raj Bhavan

DN ■ Bokaro

The meeting of Bokaro District Congress Committee was held in Bokaro Circuit House under the chairmanship of District President Umesh Prasad Gupta. The meeting was conducted by senior Congress leader Sushil Ku Jha. In the meeting, it was mainly decided that Bokaro District Congress Committee will ensure its participation in large numbers in the Raj Bhavan siege on 18 December and 100 years are being completed since the election of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi as Congress President on 26 December. On this occasion, Bokaro District

Congress Committee will celebrate the centenary celebrations. And will celebrate the 140th Foundation Day on 28 December. There was a special discussion about the preparations in the context of making these programs successful.

Addressing the program on the occasion, Mr. Gupta said that as per the instructions of Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee, Raj Bhavan siege will be celebrated on 18 December, centenary celebrations on 26 December and 140th Foundation Day will be celebrated and it is our priority to preserve the legacy of Gandhiji and give

him respect.

In the centenary celebrations, it is necessary to discuss Gandhiji's values, principles and the contribution of Congress in the country's independence history by ensuring the participation of common people from different communities working in the social sector along with Congress workers. Senior Congress leaders Sushil Ku Jha, Abdul Haji Malik, Satendra Prasad Yadav, Mahavir Singh Chaudhary, Aftab Alam, Imran Ansari, Gaurav Rai, Sapan Pramanik, Neelu Dubey, Nagendra Chaudhary, Nazir Ahmed, Prashant Kumar, Raja Ram Gupta, Sudhir etc were present.

One Nation One Election is the need of the country Repeated elections affect the development of the country: Viranchi

DN ■ Bokaro

Outgoing MLA Biranchi Narayan welcomed the passing of the One Nation One Election Bill from the Lok Sabha on Tuesday and said that One Nation One Election is the need of the country today. Repeated elections affect the progress and development work of the country. After independence, Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections were held simultaneously for many years but Congress started dissolving the Vidhan Sabhas for its own selfish interests and entangled the country in the process of holding repeated elections. Congress has been continuously violating the constitutional rules and procedures.

If Lok Sabha and Assembly elections are held simultaneously, then the code of conduct will not be imposed again and again and development work will continue uninterrupted. Also,



the energy and time of the Prime Minister will be saved. Political parties are always in election mode, this will reduce. Ministers, Chief

Ministers and politicians will also be able to spend their time in development work instead of elections. New people will get opportunities due to simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. Due to repeated elections, the competition of populist promises will also end. The election expenses of the country and the parties will also be reduced. Administrative officers, security forces, doctors, teachers and other employees will be relieved from the duty of repeated elections and they will be able to maintain continuity in their work.

Due to simultaneous elections in remote areas and Naxal areas, our security forces will be free from repeated election processes and the loss of security forces will also be reduced. Due to repeated elections, apathy has been seen among the voters, we will be able to get rid of this problem as well.

After protests from the displaced people, the officials who were taking the interview fled from the hotel

DN ■ Bokaro

Interviews were being conducted by HLL Life Care Limited Company in Hans Regency Hotel Sector 1, which were for D Pharma and B Pharma. No numbers were mentioned in this interview, nor was it written what percentage of reservation would be given to the displaced people. In protest against this, the interview was protested under the leadership of Displaced Slag Compartment Committee Chairman and Congress leader Raghunath Mahato. Committee Chairman Raghunath Mahato said that until the criteria for reservation in any vacancy for the displaced people is not fixed, the displaced people will not allow any kind of interview to take place in Bokaro.

Seeing this protest, the company left the hotel and ran away. If any private company conducts interviews in Bokaro, then first of all the displaced people will have to get the list from DPLR and then only they will be considered displaced here. Mainly Niranjana Mahato, Ravi Kumar, Ganesh Sao, Suryadev Singh, Arjun Singh, Yadav Singh, Bhuta Singh, Basant Mahato, Mithilesh Mahato, Mithilesh Rawani, Manoj Singh, Wahid Hasan Ansari, Phoolchand Mahato, Phuleshwar Rawani, Laxman Rawani, Sajal Kumar, Uttam Mahato, Akhtar Ansari, Ritesh Mishra, Surajkant Mahato, Pradeep Mahato, Madhusudan Rajwar, Mukesh Kumar, Ayub Ansari and hundreds of people participated in the movement.

Commissioning of five dumpers of BEML in Govindpur Phase 2. GM

DN ■ Bermo

Five dumpers were commissioned simultaneously in Govindpur Phase 2 project workshop of CCL Kathara area on Tuesday which was sent off by General Manager Excavation Subodh Kumar of Headquarters Ranchi, General Manager Sanjay Kumar of the area, Project Officer AK Tiwari, Head of Department Excavation Project Engineer Abhijeet Dutta etc. after performing proper puja and waving the green stick.

On this occasion, General Manager Excavation Subodh Kumar from CCL Headquarters Ranchi said that it is a matter of good fortune that 60



tonne capacity is to be made available by BEML. General Manager Sanjay Kumar said that the future of Kathara area has embarked on the path of writing a golden history. He said that it is a matter of good fortune to get five dumpers simultaneously in Govindpur Phase 2.

Earlier this project which used to give 80 to 90% achievement will now give 100%. CCL Safety Board member Lakhnala Mahato said that just as it is mandatory to wear safety belts in light vehicles, it would be better from the safety point of view if such a system is installed in BEML itself.

Ramcharitmanas saga of sacrifice and dedication: Sadhvi Amrita

DN ■ Bokaro

The program of Shri Ramcharitmanas and Gita Gyan Yagna organized by Divya Jyoti Jagrati Sansthan at Bokaro, BS LH, Street 9 Ground was inaugurated by lighting the lamp. Sadhvi Amrita Bharti, disciple of the founder and director of the institute, Sarv Shri Ashutosh Maharaj ji, said that the story of Shri Ramcharitmanas is the story of sacrifice and dedication. Every incident and every character of Shri Ramcharitmanas indicates something. In this human life, Sita is the soul and Shri Ram is the Supreme Soul.

The body of every man and woman is Lanka and the soul in the form of Sita

is imprisoned in this body in the form of Lanka and she always wants to meet the Supreme Soul in the form of Shri Ram, but Ravan in the form of mind does not let her meet. When the soul in the form of Sita is restless, then saints like Hanuman meet her. Sadhvi ji said that just as the soul in the form of Sita was in grief after being separated from the Supreme Soul in the form of Shri Ram, similarly a soul also gets sorrow after being separated from the Supreme Soul. Therefore, there is a need of a saint like Hanuman in our life because Shri Ramcharitmanas says that. There is no happiness like meeting a saint.

News In Brief

DTO collected 2.23 lakh fine by conducting vehicle checking campaign

Bokaro: A fine of 2.23 lakh was collected from 6 vehicles during an intensive vehicle checking campaign conducted late night by the Transport Department near the Toll Plaza under Balidih police station area on the National Highway. On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Vijaya Jadhav, DTO Vandana Shejwalkar conducted a special checking campaign and collected fines for violation of various rules of the Motor Vehicles Act. A total of 40 vehicles were checked under the campaign led by the DTO, in which fines were collected by taking action against 6 vehicles for not having reflective tape, overloading and tax failure.

Mining department seized 1 tractor

Bokaro: As per the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Vijaya Jadhav, an intensive checking campaign of mineral laden vehicles was conducted at various places in the district, in which Khetko river ghat area was inspected. During the investigation, 01 tractor was caught illegally transporting stone chips mineral near Joshi Colony, Police Center under Sector 12 Police Station, which was seized and handed over to Sector 12 Police Station.

Also, on the basis of information received from Zonal Officer Chandrapura, illegally stored stone chips and sand mineral were caught near Station Road Mahalaxmi Enterprises under Chandrapura Police Station, which was duly seized.

24 departmental teams of BSL participated in the tennis ball cricket tournament

DN ■ Bokaro

The Steel Champions Trophy Tennis Ball Cricket Tournament organized by Diploma Engineers working in Bokaro Steel Plant at Sector 4 Cricket Stadium concluded today with great pomp. General Secretary Sandeep Kumar said that a total of 24 departmental teams from various departments of Bokaro Steel Plant were participating in this tournament. 4 matches were organized every day.

In this entire tournament, a total of 36 league stage matches, 12 matches in Super-12, 2 matches in semi-finals and finally one match in the final were played. Thus a total

of 51 matches were played. On Tuesday the final match of the tournament was played between Hot Strip Mill and SMS New. SMS New won the toss and decided to field first. Batting for the Hot Strip Mill team, opener batsman Bajrang scored the highest 31 runs facing 23 balls, after which Nilesh batted brilliantly and scored 26 runs in 16 balls. In this way, HSM team scored a total of 108 runs and set a target of 109 runs for SMS New team.

In response, Nitish Tiwari, batting for SMS New team, scored 20 runs in 17 balls, after which Rakesh Nayak played a brilliant innings of 17 runs

in 6 balls. Bowling for HSM, Ajit took the highest 5 wickets and gave 28 runs. In a very exciting situation, the match was drawn in the last over.

After that, the teams were given a super over of one over each. In this, SMS New won the match. After the end of the final match, a closing ceremony was organized.

In this, Executive Director in charge of Bokaro Steel Plant Rajan Prasad was present as the chief guest, Executive Director as the special guest, Dr. BB Karunamay Kundan Kumar Chief General Manager, Nagar Seva Bhawan, and others were present.

Middlemen cannot mislead farmers: Shweta



DN ■ REPORTER

MLA Shweta Singh inaugurated the Radha Nagar PACS Limited, the paddy procurement center located in Radha Nagar under Bokaro Assembly. On this occasion, Mrs.

Singh said that it acts as a bridge between the central government and the farmers. At present, farmers can directly sell the crop grown in their land here. No middleman can mislead the farmers in between. The Ind

coalition government of Jharkhand is always ready to take decisions in the interest of farmers, due to which the families of the farmers are directly benefited.

During the tour of the area, the MLA felicitation ceremony was organized by the local people in Ravindra Bhawan located in Chas Municipal Corporation. On this occasion, Mrs. Singh said that due to the love and affection of all of you, I have got the opportunity to represent, I will serve all of you with full dedication. Inaugurated the fresh vegetable shop of Ormanjhi Kisan Utpadak Sangathan Limited in Sri Ram Mandir Market of Bokaro and while wishing them, told them to take care of quality in business. This information was given by Kunj Bihari Pathak.

DPS Bokaro's Aarush Secures First Position in Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan in Jharkhand

DN ■ Bokaro

Aarush Ranjan of Delhi Public School, Bokaro brought laurels to his alma mater by securing the first position in Jharkhand in the prestigious Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan (VVM) examination, 2024. Aarush's exemplary performance has earned him a spot in the upcoming national-level VVM examination, scheduled to be held in May 2025. He was awarded a cash prize of Rs. 5000, a certificate and a trophy in the Award Ceremony of State Level Camp held at Dhanbad.

The Vidyarthi Vigyan



Manthan, organized by the Department of Science and

Technology, Government of India and NCERT, is the largest talent search competition in the field of science.

The primary objective of this examination is to nurture interest in science among students and to acquaint them with the contributions of Indian scientists in the realm of scientific advancements.

The Principal, Dr. A.S. Gangwar congratulated Aarush on this remarkable achievement and expressed that his success would inspire others to strive for excellence in the field of science and innovation.

DPS Bokaro bags India School Merit Award 2024 with Rank 1



DN ■ Bokaro

Delhi Public School, Bokaro Steel City has achieved yet another milestone in its journey of excellence by being ranked the No. 1 school in Bokaro under the 'CBSE City-Wise Category' in the pres-

tigious India School Merit Awards 2024 held at The Taj, Bengaluru.

'Education Today', an organization known for its work at both national and international levels in the education sector conducted a survey where a total

of 1,760 schools across the country were assessed. DPS Bokaro emerged as the only school from Bokaro to receive this coveted recognition in the CBSE City-Wise Category.

The school excelled in 15 parameters, including academic reputation, leadership and quality management, parental participation, digital learning, teacher development, community service, infrastructure based on future technologies and the overall holistic development of students.

The Principal, Dr. A. S. Gangwar congratulated the entire school community for their collective effort and dedication in maintaining the school's educational excellence and emphasized the need to continue this legacy of progress.

News In Brief

District level Sahya Sathi meeting was held, many issues were discussed

Giddhaur (Chatra): On Tuesday, a review of the district level one-day Sahya Sathi was held at the Additional Community Health Center located at Gidhaur Block Headquarters. It was chaired by CS Dinesh Kumar. Where Chief Anita Yadav, In-charge Sumit Jaiswal and BPM Maruf Khan were also present. While discussing various points in the meeting, it was found that the number of women going for childbirth in the Community Health Center has decreased in the last 6 months. On which Sahya Sathi told that the incentive amount given to women after childbirth, the incentive amount given to women after sterilization is not being received these days.

People were made aware by taking out Prabhat Ferry Simaria (Chatra): As per the instructions of District Legal Services Authority Chatra Secretary Tarkeshwar Das, under the 90-day awareness campaign, on the second day, Tuesday, people were made aware by taking out Prabhat Ferry by the students of Aastha Academy Shila, operating in Shila village of Simaria block area. In Prabhat Ferry, the students raised motivational slogans like Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Jai Hind Jai Bharat, Stop Child Labor, Child Marriage Free India, Quit Drugs, Connect with Life. Prabhat Ferry was run under the leadership of PLV (Adhikar Mitra) Subodh Kumar Sharma, Umesh Prasad and Ranjan Kumar Mishra of Simaria block office. During this, the villagers were told about the schemes being run by the government. Work was done to motivate the villagers to take advantage of government schemes. Principal of Aastha Academy Sajjan Kumar Kushwaha, Sushma Kumari, Anil Kumar, Mukesh Kumar, Soni Miss, Sunaina etc. made important contributions in making the program successful.

Home Secretary and DGP reached Chatra, held a marathon meeting with officials to make the district opium free

Discussed preparations for major action, said property of smugglers will be confiscated, DGP said information is being received that less poppy cultivation is being done than before

DN ■ Chatra

On the instructions of the Chief Minister, State Home Secretary Vandana Dadel, DGP Anurag Gupta along with senior officers of police and administrative department reached Chatra on a one-day visit on Tuesday. The officers reached the Police Line ground by helicopter. During this, Deputy Commissioner Ramesh Gholap and Superintendent of Police Vikas Kumar Pandey jointly welcomed them by giving a bouquet. After this, the Home Secretary and DGP reached the



Collectorate and held a marathon meeting with the officials of the district and police administration in the meeting hall. In which, while discussing many important issues including completely banning opium cultivation in the district, confiscating the property of opium smugglers, arresting opium smugglers on a large scale and running awareness campaigns in every village about the loss caused by opium cultivation, the officers were directed to deal strictly against the people involved in this ille-



gal work. The Superintendent of Police said that in order to establish district de-addiction centres in drug-infested districts like Chatra, Hazaribagh and Latehar, further action should be taken in coordination with the respective Deputy Commissioner. Also, the SPs of Chatra, Hazaribagh, Latehar and Rural Ranchi were directed to ensure regular inspection of hotels and dhabas situated on the National Highway. So that illegal sale and purchase of poisonous substances like opium, brown

sugar etc. cannot take place in hotels or dhabas. The Home Secretary said that opium cultivation has to be stopped at any cost and in some places opium has been cultivated, an intensive campaign will be launched for its destruction. DGP Shri Gupta said directly that this is the first meeting held in Chatra. Strict action will be taken against those involved in opium cultivation. The DGP said that an Anti-Narcotics Task Force has been formed to take action against drugs, the cell will be made more powerful. The Narcotics Cell will be headed by the Superintendent of Police. The DGP said in the meeting that the areas notorious for drug cultivation and smuggling should be marked as hotspots and action should be taken. Those involved in the drug trade should not be spared under any

circumstances. He also said that if laxity is shown in any police station area or involvement is revealed then action will be taken against that police station in-charge. The DGP also accepted that in Chatra district, less opium cultivation is being reported than last time. This time, a joint team of police and forest department has started taking action in the areas where opium is cultivated. A drug-free society can be created only with the cooperation of the general public and journalists. The meeting was attended by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Ravi Ranjan Additional, Inspector General of Police (Operations) Amol Vinukant Homkar, Inspector General of Police Asim Vikant Minj, Inspector General of Police (Bokaro) Michael Esraj, Deputy Inspector General of Police.

Graduation Semester-V examination in Gulab Prasad Agarwal College is malpractice-free and peaceful: Centre Superintendent Prof. Rajkishore

DN ■ Chhatrapur

The examination of graduation session 2021-24, semester 5 and backlog is being conducted in a malpractice-free and peaceful environment in Gulabchand Prasad Agarwal College located in Chhatrapur subdivision. The examination conducted by Nilambar Pitambar University is being conducted systematically in both the shifts from 12 December 2024. For the smooth conduct of the examination, Controller of Examinations Prof. Amit Kumar Singh has been given special guidelines regarding the conduct of malpractice-free examination. The Centre Superintendent and Controller of Examinations have given clear instructions to the invigilators and candidates that the candidates who commit any kind of disturbance and malpractice during the examination will not be spared. Conducting a peaceful and malpractice-free examination is our priority.



Providing justice and help to the needy and poor is the work and duty of PLB: Santosh Kumar Pandey

DN ■ Medininagar

Providing justice and help to the needy and poor is the work and duty of Para Legal Volunteers. Those whose annual income is less than three lakh rupees will not have to pay court fees. DLSA will bear their expenses. The above words were said by Santosh Kumar Pandey, Deputy Chief of Legal Aid Defense Council. He was addressing the orientation and training program of newly selected 10 Para Legal Volunteers on two-day legal services for children with mental illness and schemes for handicapped persons in the District Civil Court on Tuesday. He gave complete information about the orientation and work-duties of Para Legal Volunteers. He said that DLSA will help those people who are not able to hire a lawyer and pay court fees. He said that not even a penny is spent in getting any kind of justice in DLSA. PLB will ensure that not even a penny is spent by the needy. He said that financial assis-



tance is also provided to the victim. He said that it is the duty of PLB to provide all the beneficial schemes of the government to the needy. He said that mentally ill or disabled people should not be considered stigmatized, rather they should be treated with proper medicine and care. They are also a part of our society. He said that PLB should encourage human rights and fundamental freedom of such people. These people should be treated with sensitivity and care. He discussed in detail about the schemes being run in their interest.

Finance Minister Radha Krishna Kishore held an important meeting with auto drivers



DN ■ Medininagar

Palamu Finance Minister Radha Krishna Kishore held an important meeting with the Deputy Development Commissioner and Municipal Commissioner in the light of the letter given by the Auto Drivers Association regarding the ban on auto driving in Daltonganj city. After discussion in this meeting, it was decided that a committee will be formed. This committee will include MP members, all MLAs of the district, representatives of Chambers of Commerce and other concerned people. This committee will consider the issues related to auto challan and take a decision unanimously. Till then auto driving will be maintained in the city as before.

Palamu DSO is the mother of ration scam: Jharkhand Kranti Manch

DN ■ Palamu

Jharkhand Kranti Manch founder cum central president Shatrughan Kumar Shatru, central president of the forum's advocate cell Adv. Dharendra Kumar Gupta, central member Krishna Baitha and forum's central member cum Palamu district president Vijay Ram issued a joint press statement in the court premises of Medininagar today and said that the ration scheme given to the poor under the Food Security Act in Palamu has fallen prey to massive corruption due to the collusion of Palamu DSO Mrs. Preeti Kisku and the officials of the supply department, which should be investigated at a high level by the departmental minister Hon. Shri Irfan Ansari and strict action should be taken against the culprits. In the statement issued, the leaders of Jharkhand Kranti Manch have said that apart from the disappearance of five months' ration in Nawabazar and Pandawa blocks, the ration of last October month



has also fallen prey to black marketing, and a lot of efforts are being made to cover it up. In a joint press statement, JKM leaders have termed the decision of Deputy Commissioner Palamu to surrender ration cards of ineligible beneficiaries as a right step taken late. If the district administration had earlier organized meetings of monitoring and vigilance committees at the panchayat, block and district levels to monitor the lifting and distribution of ration including the ineligible beneficiaries, the ration scam in various blocks of the district would have definitely stopped.

Mother's conference cum children's fair organized in Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir, Japla

Family is such a link which is the creator of the future : Ranjana Bharat

DN ■ Palamu

Mother's conference cum children's fair program was organized in Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir, Japla. The program was inaugurated by the chief guest Hussainabad School B.P.M. Ranjana Bharti, Principal of Girls Middle School, Hussainabad Neelam Pandey, Patron Dinesh ji Kashyap, President Dr. Shivprasad Mehta, Vice President Dr. Satyendra Rakesh Tiwari, Secretary Rakesh Tiwari, Satish Singh, Sanjeev Gupta, Ratna Verma, Babita Devi, Principal Kushji Pandey, Principal in charge Akhilesh Vishwakarma jointly with



lighting of lamps, offering flowers and Saraswati Vandana on the pictures of Bharat Mata, Mother Saraswati and Ahilyabai Holkar. Addressing the program, chief guest Ranjana Bharti said that children are the heritage of the nation. Only mother power can make children cultured. Children are

important for the society and the country. The sanskar aspect of the brothers and sisters studying in Shishu Mandir is very strong. Family is such a link which is the creator of the future and he said that in today's society all mothers need to be aware. Only mother is capable for the all-round development of

the child. Mother nurtures the seed, which gives sweet fruit. Giving information about the mother power, he said that at present women need to be more cautious about girls. Children should also be explained about the ill effects of mobile and it should be considered when it should be used. Principal Kushji Pandey presented its introduction. Addressing the program, he said that the role of mother is special in the educational development of brothers and sisters. Without their cooperation, physical, mental, moral and educational development cannot take place.

Clothing collection and distribution centers will be started at various places-Kaushal Kishore Bachan

DN ■ Medininagar

Kaushal Kishore Bachan started the clothing collection and distribution center in Banai village of Panki block. Mr. Bachan said that there are many people in our society who have more clothes than they can wear and some people also want to donate clothes but they do not get any proper platform, so stalls are being set up at various places. Those who have new or old clothes or any other items which they are not using themselves can bring them to the stall. Those who need clothes can take them from here. He said that he gets a lot of peace in helping peo-



ple. People should be helped, people should help in whatever way they have. The people around were very happy with the opening of the stall and praised this work a lot. He said that gradually hundreds of such stalls will be opened. He also talked

Dirt spread outside the lift and ward window of Medinirai Medical College Hospital

DN ■ Medininagar

The relatives of the patient have completely ruined the lift of Medinirai Medical College Hospital by spitting gutkha and paan in it. The relatives of the patient should know that the facility of the lift installed in the hospital is for us only. Even after this, the relatives of the patient are not refraining from doing such acts. Similarly, dirt is also seen on the window of the hospital ward. The relatives of the patient are spreading dirt in the hospital by throwing gutkha, paan and garbage on the window. At the same time, due to the negligence of Balaji's supervisor, the cleaning work-



ers are also not paying special attention to the dirt. Due to which dirt is spread all around the window of the hospital ward. At the same time, due to the dirt spread at both these places, there is a risk of infection among the patients.

Children took out Prabhat Ferry, gave the message of drug free society

DN ■ Chatra

As per the instructions of Jhalsa Ranchi, under the guidance of District Legal Services Authority Chatra, Prabhat Ferry was taken out on Tuesday by the children of Madhya Vidyalaya Mahuwari under Mayurhand block. Through Prabhat Ferry, children made people aware about drug free society, child marriage free, women respect, road safety. It was told that the objective of the outreach program is to make the law reach the last person and the reach of government schemes and to give information about rights to the people. People were moti-



vated to take maximum benefit by Adhikar Mitra Dayanand Kumar Sharma, Mojahir Hussain and Soni Kumari. Apart from this, advice was given to call on toll free number 15100 for legal advice. School teachers and villagers were involved in Prabhat Ferry.

Weekly Public Grievance Redressal Day organized

DN ■ Gumla

Weekly Public Grievance Redressal Day was organized in the district, in which more than 50 citizens from different areas of the district met Deputy Commissioner Shri Karna Satyarthi and presented their problems and applications. On this occasion, the Deputy Commissioner listened to all the problems seriously and directed the concerned officers to resolve them. Uma Kumari, a resident of Gumla, sought assistance for employment after completing MA in Geography Honors, while Sanju Kumar Oraon of Ghaghra block applied for a job on the basis of his financial condition and qualification. Ajeda Khatoun of Bharano block stated in her application that she is facing difficulty in running the house after the demise of her husband and she should be given the benefit of Abua Housing Scheme. Similarly, Shabana Bibi of Bharano also requested to give the benefit of Housing Scheme. Sunita Devi, a resident of Karaundi, referring to her single mother's situation,



appealed to give the benefit of sponsorship scheme for the education of her children. Toto resident Jabeja Khatun applied for loan waiver citing difficulty in repaying loan taken for goat rearing. Apart from this, many other applicants submitted applications for resolving personal and group disputes, as well as for availing benefits of employment, housing scheme and other government schemes. The Deputy Commissioner took all the cases seriously and resolved many cases on the spot. In some cases, solutions were provided by calling the concerned officials or through calls. The Deputy Commissioner assured all the citizens that their problems would be resolved soon.

The morale of the miscreants increased in Bihariganj, the photo of the youth waving illegal weapons went viral on social media

DN ■ Bihariganj



The morale of the criminal elements in the Bihariganj police station area of the district is very high at this time, the brunt of which is being borne by the local public. While on the one hand criminal incidents are increasing, on the other hand the youth is not refraining from uploading photos and videos with illegal weapons on social media. Recently, a photo of a youth waving an illegal weapon in Bihariganj police station area has gone viral on social media. This photo is a symbol of the fact that the youth is delib-

erately posting such photos and videos on social media to create his dominating image. Through this, he is trying to present his image in an even more negative way. Looking at this viral photo, it is clear that the youth wants to present himself as a dangerous criminal on social media. This incident has posed a serious challenge for the Bihariganj police. Based on the viral photo on social media, the police is trying to identify this youth and action is expected soon. Bihariganj police station in-charge Amit Ranjan gave information about

this and said that the police is seriously investigating the photos and videos going viral on social media. He said, "Action has been taken in such cases in the past and we will take strict action against this youth this time too." Such incidents are coming to light in many areas of Bihar, where criminals are trying to build their image by misusing social media. The police has appealed to the public to cooperate with the police in identifying the people involved in such crimes, so that criminal elements in the society can be controlled.

Inauguration of "Welcome Lady" statue: Unique display of art by art teacher Rajesh Kumar

Assistant Commissioner NC Kar unveiled the eight feet high statue at Navodaya Vidyalaya Murshidabad

DN ■ Murshidabad

PM Shri Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Araria's eight feet high "Welcome Lady" statue created by art teacher and sculptor Rajesh Kumar was inaugurated with great pomp by Assistant Commissioner NC Kar of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, Patna Division. The inauguration took place at a function held on Friday, in which the prominent teachers of the school, students and local respected guests appreciated the statue. This unique work of Rajesh Kumar was installed at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Murshidabad, West Bengal. The school's principal Tapan Kumar Mistry had specially invited him

to build this statue. Rajesh Kumar started the construction of this statue in April 2024, and with his hard efforts completed it in traditional style. Rajesh Kumar told that working in Murshidabad was a challenging task, as it is a non-Hindi speaking area. But he, along with his colleague Suryanand Tatma, accepted this challenge and learned the Bengali language. With hard work day and night, he created the "Welcome Lady" statue, which will now welcome students and visitors at the main gate of the school. Principal Tapan Kumar Mistry said that the statue of "Welcome Lady" has been installed at the



main gate of the school as an attractive and important artwork from the cultural point of view.

This statue is a symbol of "Atithi Devo Bhava" of Indian culture, which gives the message of respect and welcome to every person coming to the school. Assistant Commissioner of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti N C Kar said during the inauguration of this statue that this work not only displays the excellence of art, but it also highlights the uniqueness and dedication of the school. He praised the hard work of sculptor Rajesh Kumar and said that this statue will strengthen the identity of Navodaya Vidyalaya. Principal Tapan Kumar Mistry, in his reaction, said that the "Welcome Lady" statue is not only a great example of art, but it will also become a source of inspiration for the students and visitors coming to the school.

Meeting between Forest Department and Patra Forest Committee, discussion on forest conservation

DN ■ Barkagaon



A meeting was held between Forest Department and Forest Committee in Patra village of Talaswar Panchayat under Barkagaon block. The meeting was chaired by Bhuneshwar Mahato. Forester Ajay Kumar Yadav from the Forest Department informed about the benefits received from the Forest Department and discussed many important points related to the forest apart from forest conservation. He told the people that the villagers who do farming or land cultivation in the forest land should leave it themselves, otherwise legal action will be taken

if caught. Forest Committee Patra demanded the department to plant a forest and the people of the committee demanded a road to go to the crematorium. On this occasion, Forester Ajay Kumar Yadav, Nazir Hussain, Devchand Mahato, Jagannath Rajwar, Forest Committee Patra President Bhuneshwar Mahato, Ward Member Ajay Kumar Mahato, Mahesh Mahato, Tikeswar Mahato, Aman Mahato, Arun Mahato, Tuleswar Mahato, Tarun Mahato, Mohit Mahato, Saurabh Kumar, Sikandar Kumar were present.

Deputy Commissioner held online meeting regarding preparations to get GI tag for Mandar

DN ■ Gumla

Deputy Commissioner Shri Karna Satyarthi held a meeting on the preparations to get Geographical Indicator (GI) tag for Mandar through online video conference. This meeting was regarding the program to be held in Delhi on 20th December, where the final presentation will be given for the GI tag of Mandar. The concerned departments and experts participated in the meeting. In the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner directed that proper arrangements should be made to safely deliver Mandar to the presentation venue. The District Entrepreneur Coordinator has been entrusted with the responsibility of sending it on time with good packaging. Also, emphasis was laid on further improving the PPT to effectively present the cultural and artistic features of Mandar. For this, the help of experts



will be taken. The artisans were instructed to prepare attractive paintings and artifacts on Mandar. Also, the photography

and videography team was instructed to record the process of construction and decoration, so that it can be shown effectively in the presentation. Raidih Mandar Producer Company Limited Let us tell you that Raidih Mandar Producer Company Limited (Gumla, Jharkhand) has applied for the GI tag of Mandar. This registered organization represents the interests of the Mandar producers of the district, more than 250 artisans of the district are associated with the organization. The Deputy Commissioner said that getting the GI tag for Mandar will not only provide economic and social benefits to the local artisans, but it will also work to get the rich cultural heritage of Jharkhand recognized on the national and international platform.

MLA Niranjan Mehta congratulated Dr. Manish Mandal on becoming the unopposed secretary of ASI

DN ■ Bihariganj



Bihariganj Assembly MLA Niranjan Kumar Mehta congratulated Dr. Manish Mandal, Superintendent and Head of Gastro Surgery Department of Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (IGIMS) Patna, on being elected unopposed Secretary of ASI, Bihar Chapter. MLA Niranjan Mehta said, "Dr. Manish Mandal is a very simple and dedicated doctor, and his becoming the unopposed secretary has made not only the people of Kosi and Seemanchal region but also the people of Bihariganj Assembly proud. His field of work has always been in the

service of the people, and he has helped the people of this region a lot in the field of health services." He wished Dr. Mandal a bright future and said that his post comes with even bigger responsibilities, and he will contribute to the development of this area. On this happy occasion,

Bihariganj Medical Officer Dr. Sameer Das, doctors Dr. Manoj, Dr. Mithlesh, Dr. Indra Bhushan, Dr. Puja Bharti, former chief Rakesh Kumar Singh, former JDU block president Rajniti Sah, Anshul Abhijit Darbe, Suman Kumar Singh, Mannu Thakur, Imran Alam, former Mukhiya Rajiv Yadav, Mukhiya Sushma Singh, Munni Devi, BJP Mandal President Kanhaiya Gupta, JDU Block President Amod Mehta, Congress Block President Vishnudev Singh, RLD District President Ravi Shankar alias Pintu Mehta, RJD Block President Virendra Azad, Birendra Singh and many other dignitaries also congratulated Dr. Manish Mandal and expressed happiness on this achievement. This step is the result of hard work and dedication of Dr. Manish Mandal, and his success has awakened a new ray of pride and hope among the people of the area.

JDU leader Dr. Shanti Laxmi Chaudhary became BPSK teacher, has also been a pioneer in social service

DN ■ Mahishi

Dr. Shanti Laxmi Chaudhary, former Mukhiya of Gram Panchayat Arapatti located in the block, social worker and supporter of education, has achieved a new feat. She has been selected for the post of science teacher in a secondary school under the Bihar government by clearing the selection examination conducted by the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSK). In the result released by BPSK on Monday, Dr. Shanti Laxmi Chaudhary's name has come at 1271st position in the unreserved category of science subject.

Dedication to social work and education

Dr. Shanti Laxmi Chaudhary's life has been dedicated to education, social service and women's empowerment. She took charge as the Mukhiya of Gram Panchayat Arapatti of Mahishi block in 2016 and implemented the policies of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in her panchayat. During her tenure, many important development works were done at the panchayat level, in which special attention was given to education, cleanliness, health and women's rights. After the term as Mukhiya ended, Dr. Shanti Laxmi



Choudhary continued her social work and founded the "Devta Nibha Rajnarayan Foundation". The aim of this organization is to promote education, cultural programs and social service work in rural areas. The work done

by her has given a new direction to the area, and she has taken many initiatives to make the people of the village aware.

Educational Background and Research Work

Dr. Shanti Laxmi Choudhary's achievements in the field of education are also impressive. She obtained a Masters (M.Sc.) degree in Zoology from BN Mandal University and then obtained a PhD on "Study of Microbial Quality of Water and Fees Using Raw and Fermented Poultry Manure". Her research area is related to water quality and environmental safety, in which she has published many research articles in various national and international journals.

Family Contribution

Dr. Shanti Laxmi Choudhary credits her success to her family, especially her father Shyamanand Jha, mother Gambhira Devi, mother-in-law Nibha Devi, Siya Devi, and husband Dr. Akshay Kumar Choudhary. She says that she was able to achieve this success only with the support and blessings of the family. Apart from this, Dr. Shanti Laxmi Chaudhary has thanked all her teachers, especially Dr. Arvind Kumar and Dr. Rajiv Joshi of BN

Mandal University, who guided her in her educational life.

Spiritual belief and contribution to society

Dr. Shanti Laxmi Chaudhary also believes that her success has been possible with the blessings of the gods and goddesses. She has unwavering faith in Siddhapeeth Ugratara, Kuldevi Jwalamukhi and other gods and goddesses and believes that it is due to their blessings that she got this important success.

A round of good wishes

After achieving success in BPSK, Dr. Shanti Laxmi Chaudhary has been congratulated by many respected persons associated with society, politics and education sector. Social workers, leaders and her family members are constantly congratulating her on this achievement and appreciating her work.

Dr. Shanti Laxmi Chaudhary did not see this success only as her personal achievement, but considered it a new step towards moving forward in the field of social service and education. Now she will play her role in shaping the future of children by discharging her responsibilities in her new field of work, i.e. as a teacher.

Sri Lanka's once-Marxist president on 1st India trip

Unlike Nepalese PM Oli, who was not invited by India and visited China instead, Sri Lankan President Aruna Kumara Disanayake, popularly called AKD and once a Marxist, has chosen to come to India first (December 15 to 17) before going to China next month. Which country - India or China - will a newly elected leader in India's neighbourhood visit first has become a competitive affair. That it would be India first was determined by geography; Delhi's emergency assistance of \$4 billion when others, including China, turned away during Sri Lanka's worst economic crisis since its independence; and Foreign Minister Jaishankar being the first to invite him. Conflicted by having to choose, Colombo is calling both visits as economic investment-related, though these will be largely exploratory and about getting to know one another's interests and concerns. India is receiving a largely unknown leader from a fringe party, not the traditional United National Party (UNP) and the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP).

AKD is the leader of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna/National People's Power (JVP/NPP): the JVP having spearheaded two insurrections, both of which Delhi helped Colombo to defeat.

The JVP, representing Sinhala nationalism, was opposed to the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord, Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) and 13A devolution to Tamils. The triumph of AKD and NPP came in the aftermath of the people's uprising following the sovereign default of June 2021, in which the fiercely loyal to the Rajapaksa's Sri Lankan Army did not intervene to keep the clan in power.

Not many Lankans had heard of AKD, but most knew about JVP. Still, AKD and the NPP won historic victories in presidential and parliamentary elections in September and November, ending the rule of the two parties and five families.

For the first time, a Tamil party did not win its stronghold, Jaffna. Instead, it was the NPP, which lost only Batticaloa among the country's 25 districts. The NPP, which had just three seats, catapulted to 159 members in a 225-seat parliament. The small new cabinet includes two upcountry Tamils, none from the north and no Muslims. Only two have been ministers earlier. Lacking experience, the government will rely heavily on the bureaucracy. AKD has promised to root out corruption and review the existing contracts (including Adani's), release land occupied by the army, address concerns of the minorities, including reconciliation and issues with the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), and maintain neutrality between India and China. Till recently, government ministers would say that for security, Sri Lanka would look to India and for economy, rely on China. This was turned on its head during the economic meltdown.

After the fourth tranche of the \$2.9-billion International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan, AKD decided not to renegotiate with the IMF to reduce hardships faced by the people. Following a debt restructuring agreement, the budget will be presented on February 17, 2025. Bringing the economy back on track is AKD's biggest challenge. Another challenge is to replace the 1978 constitution with a new one, which most executive presidents had pledged to do, but wavered.

A prominent visitor to Colombo was US Assistant Secretary of State Donald Lu, who promised "unwavering support for the government's anti-corruption drive" and help recover funds taken from the country. The Verite Research think tank is conducting a study on detecting corruption in procurement processes which will come in handy. During the people's uprising, "corruption at the very top" was at the heart of the ouster of former President Gotabhaya Rajapaksa. In India's neighbourhood now, there is a third player: the US. No longer does Washington say India is in the lead, we will follow. Instead, it says it also has its own interests. Sri Lanka sits astride key sea trade routes in the Indian Ocean, with the dominant Hambantota Port with China on a 99-year lease.

Revival of India's North Korean mission reflects strategic shift

Developments in the Korean peninsula are of greater strategic importance to India today than they were four years ago.

INDIA has decided to resume normal functioning of its embassy in Pyongyang, North Korea. The embassy was closed on July 2, 2021, when Ambassador Atul Malhari Gotsurve and the entire Indian staff at the mission packed up and left for New Delhi via Russia. Like most things related to North Korea, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) never formally announced that it had shut its embassy there. However, without any Indian staff, let alone diplomats, no work was being done in the world's most reclusive consular outpost. The MEA never named a replacement for Gotsurve in Pyongyang and he was sent, 14 months ago, as Ambassador to Mongolia. A technical team and quasi-diplomatic personnel have reached Pyongyang and they are in the process of making the mission functional after a protracted period of disuse for almost three-and-a-half years, inter-agency sources in the government told me in New Delhi. Their first job is to extensively debug the building and clear it of security and spying hazards. North Korea is notorious for its dodgy intelligence methods against foreigners and bad faith in dealings with legations it has agreed to host. It may be months before an ambassador heads the mission, given Pyongyang's notorious and opaque bureaucracy and delays in making even minor decisions on foreign policy, such as agreeing to receive a new envoy.



Meanwhile, South Korea has embarked on a journey of engaging India along a road which has not been traversed by any country since the Soviet Union in the mid-1950s. This year, in a bold departure from common practice worldwide, South Korea celebrated its National Day in the sprawling Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi. Its embassy in India invited a few thousand Indians, mostly young people, to join in the mass celebration. Last year, it began its experiment of taking the message of the most important day on the South Korean diplomatic calendar to the multitudes of Delhi. The mission walked away from routine cocktail receptions in chandeliered halls, like most embassies in India do on their national days. Instead, thousands of young Delhiites swayed in the open to K-pop (Korean pop music) and other instruments of modern youth culture in Seoul, Busan, Incheon and other big cities. Reaching out to the Indian masses

was first tried in a bilateral engagement by Nikita Khrushchev, leader of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Bulganin in 1955 in Kolkata (then Calcutta). A smaller version of that Soviet outreach was tried in Ahmedabad in 2020 when the Indian diplomacy tried to sweep then US President Donald Trump off his feet with crowds he could never muster in his own country. The attempt was a non-starter because Trump was defeated in his bid for re-election later that year. But similar efforts by India and the Soviet Union yielded rich dividends. Indo-Soviet relations were consolidated with popular endorsement. South

Yeol to impose martial law and his subsequent impeachment — has impacted the country's macro-economic activities, which depend heavily on government support.

India has been cold to calls for South Korea to be invited into Quad, the four-nation, amorphous group of Australia, India, Japan and the US. Where high-level visits took place frequently and with much fanfare, they are now irregular. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has not visited Seoul since early 2019. The last visit to New Delhi by South Korea's President was a year before Modi's trip. Foreign ministers from both countries have met more often, but the frequency of their exchanges has lacked the regularity and dynamism of, say, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's engagement with his counterpart from the UAE or Singapore. India decided, in principle, to reopen its valuable Pyongyang listening outpost in February. South Block, seat of the MEA, has been in touch with Germany and the UK, which had already sent teams to North Korea around that time to consider the resumption of their diplomatic activity, which had been interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Since then, Indian diplomats have compared notes with their counterparts in Sweden and Poland, which were the first to reopen their embassies in Pyongyang. New Delhi's initiative gained urgency in November after Trump won the US presidential election. In his first presidential term, Trump had said about North Korean leader Kim Jong Un that "we fell in love". They met three times, which was without precedent. It is likely that Trump would revive his summit diplomacy with Kim when he returns to the White House. Even if those summits do not yield concrete results, Trump relishes the worldwide media attention it gives him. It was partly diversionary when he was President. It deflected criticism from real problems in the US. Developments in the Korean peninsula are of greater strategic importance to India today than they were four years ago. North Korea is a more emboldened military factor in East Asia now than it ever has been. New Delhi would want to ensure that Pyongyang's new and bigger arsenal of hypersonic and short-range weapons does not have any place in Pakistan's offensive military thinking. India also wants to calibrate North Korea's stepped-up ties with Russia against its own overall security paradigm. A listening post in Pyongyang with a competent ambassador would be a significant strategic asset for South Block.

Fix health insurance

Hidden costs, denied claims a bane

THE shocking murder of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson in the US, reportedly motivated by grievances over denied claims, has ignited a global debate about health insurance systems. While the US struggles with its own healthcare challenges, India faces a similarly disheartening reality. As per a recent survey, 43 per cent of policyholders in India reported difficulties in claim processing, ranging from rejections due to "pre-existing conditions" to opaque exclusions hidden in fine print. India's health insurance sector, touted as a safety net, often traps patients in a web of delays and financial burdens. Claims are sometimes processed so sluggishly that hospital discharges are delayed, forcing families to bear additional costs. Ambiguous contracts filled with technical jargon only worsen the plight of policyholders, many of whom are left financially and emotionally drained. Adding to the problem, insurance premiums have seen staggering hikes — over 50 per cent for one in five policyholders last year — making coverage unaffordable



for many middle-class families. This trend undermines public trust and risks turning health insurance into an

unsustainable financial burden rather than a source of relief. The lessons from the US are clear: distrust between stakeholders-insurers, healthcare providers and patients leads to systemic failures. India must urgently address this mistrust by strengthening transparency and accountability within the insurance sector. Models like managed care, which integrate healthcare delivery with insurance, can reduce costs and improve patient outcomes.

The Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India must enforce stricter transparency norms, ensure grievance redress mechanisms and penalise unscrupulous practices. Strengthening public systems like Ayushman Bharat can complement these measures by reducing dependence on private insurers. The growing disenchantment with health insurance calls for meaningful reforms. India cannot afford a system that prioritises profit over patient welfare.

INDIA bloc totters as Congress faces isolation

Alliances are stitched on the basis of strengths of the allies, not their weaknesses. The Congress is often weak in a direct fight with the BJP.

THE 2024 Lok Sabha election results initially suggested that the INDIA bloc could serve as a stable and effective opposition to challenge the Narendra Modi government till 2029. However, this coalition is already tottering. The yearend is seeing the bloc heading for a premature demise. The outcomes of the Haryana and Maharashtra Assembly polls seem to have convinced a number of INDIA members, including the Trinamool Congress, Aam Aadmi Party, Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar), Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray), Samajwadi Party and the Rashtriya Janata Dal that the Rahul Gandhi-Mallikarjun Kharge-led Congress is good for nothing. As a seemingly well-thought-out strategy, AAP came out first, announcing "zero space" for the grand old party in the Delhi Assembly elections. The remarks of Lalu Yadav and his son Tejashwi make it clear that they do not want the Congress in their mahagathbandhan for the 2025 Assembly polls in Bihar. The year 2026 has Assembly polls lined up in Kerala, Assam, West Bengal, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu, while the 2027 calendar has elections in Goa, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat. A cursory look at the political situation shows that the Congress faces the uphill task of wresting Assam from the BJP and Kerala from the LDF and retaining Himachal. In the rest of the states, it is either politically irrelevant or leans heavily on allies, like the DMK in Tamil Nadu and the Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh.



This explains why there is a churn within INDIA. Alliance politics in India is guided by certain principles and compulsions that are missing from the INDIA story as of now. Firstly, alliances are stitched on the basis of the strengths of the partners, not their weaknesses. The Congress is often weak and vulnerable when it fights against the BJP in a direct electoral battle. Arvind Kejriwal has, therefore, turned stern, even though the Congress has hinted at accepting even a single-digit figure for seat-sharing in the Delhi Assembly polls. In

Kejriwal's assessment, the Congress is a liability as far as Delhi is concerned as the minority vote is set to switch from the Congress to the AAP. The Congress is now staring at the prospect of drawing a blank in the national capital for a record third time. The 'Kejriwal formula' to drive the Congress out of the state-level alliance is emboldening the likes of Tejashwi Yadav, Mamata Banerjee, Akhilesh Yadav, Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray. Unfortunately, for the Congress, the opportunity to prove its mettle would only come during the Assam and Kerala Assembly polls of 2026. Rahul Gandhi has issued a directive to senior party leaders and colleagues not to respond to bloc leaders' comments or remarks. This is a weak and feeble attempt to let the alliance continue. The issue of the bloc's leadership is

constantly raised by several regional parties within the alliance. In fact, except for the Congress, virtually everyone in the alliance parivar has recommended or supported Mamata as its head. She has even gone to the extent of 'accepting' the responsibility. But the Congress' studied silence is blocking this move's progress. The Congress, perhaps, understands that INDIA partners want a 'co-equal' status within the bloc. Once again, the history of alliance politics in the country says something different. Alliances have worked and prospered whenever there has been a dominant partner and several minor players. For example, the UDF and LDF alliances in Kerala led by the Congress and the CPM, respectively, or the success of the NDA under the BJP. The Janata Party experiment of 1977, the National Front (1989) and the United Front (1996) were a disaster simply because they were based on the 'co-equal' recipe. The Congress, even in terms of diminishing returns, fancied itself as the first among equals due to the virtue of having 100-odd seats in the Lok Sabha. Interestingly, the leadership of an alliance was seldom sought in the past. Morarji Desai became the Prime Minister not because he was the best or a contender but for a reason — to keep Charan Singh in check. NT Rama Rao became the National Front convener in 1988-89 because he was not a contender for the post that saw Devi Lal's nomination; later, the coveted post was offered to VP Singh. During the days of HD Deve Gowda and Inder Kumar Gujral, TDP leader and Andhra Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu acted as convener and kingmaker of a short-lived United Front. In the Vajpayee era of unstable alliance politics, George Fernandes was chosen as the NDA convener. Rama Rao, Naidu or Fernandes were never heard hankering for a post that was offered to them. Ditto for Desai, Devi Lal, Gowda and Gujral. The Congress would want Mamata to know this. The stalwart who can communicate it all is Sharad Pawar. But after the November 23 Maharashtra verdict, Pawar is a king without a kingdom, bitter and lonely. He is looking for a scapegoat for his party's horrible performance in Maharashtra. And, the Congress fits the bill. While Pawar looks for a humiliating merger with nephew Ajit Pawar-led NCP, he is plotting with Mamata and Kejriwal to pin the blame on the Congress. The Congress is missing an effective manager like Ahmed Patel to launch a counter-offensive or a cogent strategy. The three Gandhis and Kharge may look powerful, but deep inside, they are vulnerable and incapable of reaching out to mavericks like Mamata, Kejriwal, Lalu and Pawar. Lastly, it must be remembered that the birth of alliances is announced with a lot of pomp and show, but their death goes unnoticed.

Construction for first next generation missile ships begins at Cochin Shipyard

➤ The advanced vessels, set to join the Indian Navy from 2027, will have cutting-edge weapons and sensors, boosting the Navy's combat readiness for future challenges.

New Delhi. The 'steel cutting' ceremony for the first ship of the Next Generation Missile Vessel (NGMV) class of the Indian Navy was held at Cochin Shipyard on Monday. This ceremony marks the official commencement of the ship's construction.

Cochin Shipyard Limited secured the contract for the construction of six NGMVs in March 2023. These advanced vessels, set to be inducted into the Indian Navy from 2027 onwards, will be equipped with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors. This will greatly enhance the Navy's combat capabilities and ensure its preparedness for future challenges.

"The construction of the ships reinforces India's commitment to build a strong and modern Navy, capable of operating in the complex maritime environment of the Indian Ocean Region," the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

The ships are designed as high-speed vessels, equipped with a powerful array of weapons and sensors, including a Surface-to-Surface Missile System, Anti-Missile Defence Systems, Air Surveillance, and Fire Control



Radars. All key equipment central to the vessel's operations has been indigenously developed and manufactured, highlighting the nation's technological prowess and aligning with the government's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, the ministry stated.

Former Mumbai Police chief, senior officials seek to cancel extortion cases

Former Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey and other officers moved the Bombay High Court seeking to quash FIRs filed against him by a builder.

Mumbai. The Bombay High Court has begun hearing a series of petitions filed by Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey and several investigators seeking the cancelling of two cases registered against them at police stations in Mumbai and Thane. The case against Pandey was filed on a complaint by businessman Sanjay Punamiya, who accused him of criminal conspiracy, criminal intimidation, extortion, forgery, and producing false evidence.

The cases stem from a conflict between two builders, Shyamsunder Agarwal and Sanjay Punamiya. Allegations and counter-allegations have been exchanged between the two, leading to legal battles. During the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government's tenure, Punamiya was arrested, and Pandey headed the Mumbai Police.

Following the change in government to the BJP-backed Eknath Shinde administration, Punamiya filed two FIRs against Agarwal and others. One of the FIRs, registered in Thane, names Pandey and other police officials. The Colaba FIR includes



Special Public Prosecutor (SSP) Shekhar Jagtap and a ministry official, who have also approached the court for relief. Jagtap's lawyers Ravi Kadam and Saurichita Chowdhary argued that, as an SPP, he was acting within the scope of his appointment and that no criminality was involved. They emphasised that he had disclosed his previous representation of Agarwal to the government before accepting the SPP role. The bench of justices Bharti Dangle and Manjusha Deshpande questioned the invocation of cheating charges against Jagtap and whether any loss was incurred by the state government. The Additional Public Prosecutor Mankuwar Deshmukh maintained that there was indeed a loss, while Jagtap's lawyers countered that he had received no remuneration for his services as SPP. Punamiya's legal representative opposed the quashing petitions, citing video evidence that allegedly suggests police officers were instructed during the MVA's tenure to target BJP leader Devendra Fadnis and Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde. The High Court is expected to continue hearing the case this week, with arguments from Pandey's lawyer, the ministry official's lawyer, and the lawyers representing the police personnel.

1984 anti-Sikh riots case: Verdict against Sajjan Kumar on Jan 8

NEW DELHI. A Delhi court is likely to deliver its verdict on January 8 in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case involving former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar. The case pertains to the murders of Jaswant Singh and his son Tarundeep Singh in the Saraswati Vihar area on November 1, 1984, a day after the assassination of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Special Judge Kaveri Baweja of the Rouse Avenue Court, who was initially expected to deliver the judgment on Monday, postponed the decision, stating, "The next date for the verdict is January 8." Kumar, who is currently lodged in Tihar jail, appeared for the hearing via video conferencing. The court had earlier framed charges against Kumar under multiple sections of the IPC



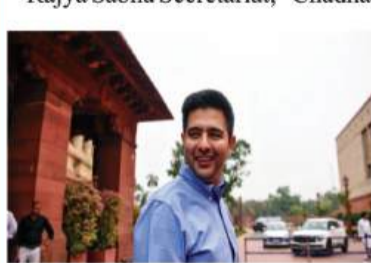
including murder (Section 302), rioting (Section 147), dacoity (Section 395), and arson (Section 436), after concluding that there was sufficient evidence to establish a prima facie case against the accused.

According to the prosecution, on November 1, 1984, a large mob, armed with weapons, looted and set fire to Sikh homes in the Saraswati Vihar area, including the house of Jaswant Singh. The attack led to the deaths of Jaswant Singh and his son, while their property was destroyed. The case was initially registered at the Punjabi Bagh police station but was later handed over to a special investigation team (SIT) set up to probe the 1984 anti-Sikh riots cases. The court observed that the accused Kumar not only participated in the violence but also allegedly led the mob that carried out the attacks.

Delhi HC judge recuses self in AAP MP Chadha's plea against cancellation of official bungalow

NEW DELHI. Delhi High Court judge Justice Rekha Palli on Monday recused itself from hearing AAP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha's plea challenging the cancellation of his official bungalow allotment. Justice Rekha Palli stepped aside from the case and directed that it be listed before an alternate bench on December 18.

Chadha, in his petition, alleged that the cancellation of his Type-VII bungalow allotment was a result of "selective targeting" due to his outspoken role in Parliament. "It clearly reflects vendetta politics by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat," Chadha asserted.



Represented by Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Chadha's legal team argued that the cancellation was unjust and politically motivated.

However, the trial court had earlier dismissed his petition on November 26, stating there was no legal basis for him to retain the bungalow.

In the trial court's ruling, Additional Sessions Judge Sumit Dass concluded that the court found no evidence of bias or mala fide intent by the Rajya Sabha House Committee and noted that Chadha's status as a licensee paying a license fee did not grant him permanent rights to the bungalow. The court also pointed out that Chadha had already been allotted another flat in accordance with the official guidelines. The judge stated, "There is no legal justification in permitting the plaintiff to retain the present accommodation."

Delhi freezes at 5.9 °C as cold wave grips city; AQI in 'severe' category

Out of 35 monitoring stations, 28 recorded air quality in the 'severe' category while some breached the 450 mark, classified as 'severe plus.'

NEW DELHI. The air quality in the national capital was in the 'severe' category on Tuesday morning with an AQI of 427 while the minimum temperature was 5.9 degrees Celsius, two notches below normal.

Out of 35 monitoring stations, 28 recorded air quality in the 'severe' category while some breached the 450 mark, classified as 'severe plus.'

The remaining seven stations recorded air quality in the 'very poor' category, according to the Samcer app, which provides hourly data from the Central Pollution Control Board. An AQI of 400 or higher is deemed "severe" and it can have an adverse effect on both healthy individuals and people with medical conditions. The weather department said, "Mainly calm winds prevailed over Delhi during the past 24 hours, bringing down visibility from

800 meters in shallow fog at Palam on Monday to 350 meters in moderate fog at Safdarjung on Tuesday morning."

It added that moderate fog conditions



(visibility between 200m and 500m) are likely to persist in Delhi over the next two days due to the expected prevalence of calm or easterly surface winds. Humidity was 97 per cent at 8:30 am. The maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to settle at 24 degrees Celsius and 5 degrees Celsius, respectively.

The Centre's air quality panel for Delhi-NCR on Monday imposed the strictest Stage 4 curbs under the winter air pollution control plan, including a ban on all construction activities, as the region's air quality deteriorated to 'severe' due to unfavourable weather conditions. Stage 4 curbs under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for winters also include a ban on the entry of polluting trucks carrying non-essential goods into Delhi and mandatory shifting of school classes, except those for X and XII, to hybrid mode. The decision to impose Stage 4 curbs came just hours after the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) implemented restrictive measures under GRAP Stage 3, following Delhi's AQI breaching the 350 mark in the afternoon.

Indian Coast Guard ships arrive in Maldives for maritime collaboration

➤ Two Indian Coast Guard patrol vessels arrived in the Maldives for a four-day visit focused on enhancing maritime collaboration, environmental protection, and regional security aligning with India's SAGAR framework.

New Delhi. The Indian Coast Guard's two patrol vessels arrived in Maldives's capital Male on Monday as part of their ongoing deployment to the Indian Ocean Region. The visit by Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) ICGS Vaibhav and Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) ICGS Abhiraj, underscores India's efforts to bolster maritime collaboration and enhance bilateral ties within the region, the officials noted.

During their four-day stay, the ship's crew will engage with the Maldives' Coast Guard (MNDG-CG) in a series of professional interactions. These interactions will focus on enhancing capabilities in Marine Pollution Response (MPR), Maritime Search and Rescue (MSAR), and Maritime Law Enforcement. The agenda also includes cross-deck training sessions, collaborative discussions, and



friendly sports events, reflecting the shared commitment to maritime safety and security.

The deployment will also underscore environmental stewardship with National Cadet Corps (NCC) personnel aboard a Coast Guard ship actively participating in an environment protection awareness programme, officials said. Conducted in

collaboration with local youth organisations, this initiative aligns with India's 'Puneet Sagar Abhiyan,' a campaign dedicated to conserving marine ecosystems.

After their Maldives visit, the vessels will continue to Sri Lanka, with planned stops in Colombo and Galle for professional engagements with their Sri Lankan counterparts. This mission aligns with India's "SAGAR" (Security and Growth for All in the Region) framework, which prioritises maritime cooperation, regional stability, and environmental sustainability. The visit showcases India's shipbuilding expertise while reaffirming its commitment to strengthening ties with IOR nations and ensuring the safety and sustainability of regional waters.

MCD House row over AAP 'failure' to clear landfills

NEW DELHI. Leader of Opposition in the MCD Raja Iqbal Singh has accused the AAP of failing to fulfil its promise of eliminating the Bhalswa landfill by December 2024. Highlighting the party's "false promises," the BJP councillor criticised AAP's handling of Delhi's landfill crisis and alleged that the city's waste management has worsened under their governance. Singh recalled that AAP had come to power in the MCD with the pledge to rid Delhi of its garbage mountains. Instead, he claimed, deadlines have been repeatedly extended, leaving the city's residents struggling with deteriorating conditions. He alleged that waste at Delhi's three landfill sites has increased to approximately 165 lakh metric tonnes under AAP's tenure, further exposing the party's inefficiency.

The Leader of Opposition pointed out that the Okhla landfill site is now scheduled to be cleared by 2025, and the Ghazipur site by 2026. However, he expressed scepticism about meeting these deadlines, citing the current pace of work. Singh alleged that the only changes witnessed under AAP's rule are the extended deadlines for waste



Under AAP, only deadlines have been extended, alleges BJP councillor

removal. Singh also accused AAP of the Delhi Assembly elections. "With resorting to hollow promises ahead of elections approaching, AAP is suddenly

concerned about Delhi's welfare, but this time, the people of Delhi will hold them accountable," he said.

He argued that the failure to address waste management reflects the broader governance crisis in Delhi, claiming that the city is in shambles under AAP's administration. Singh added that Delhiites are now aware of the ruling party's inefficiency and are prepared to teach them a lesson in the upcoming elections.

Mounting waste

According to a progress report submitted by MCD to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) in February this year, the Ghazipur landfill holds 8.40 million tonnes followed by Bhalswa at 5.45 million tonnes and Okhla at 3.4 million tonnes.

City in shambles, says BJP

Leader of Opposition in the MCD Raja Iqbal Singh accused AAP of resorting to hollow promises ahead of the Delhi Assembly polls. "With elections approaching, AAP is suddenly concerned about Delhi's welfare, but this time, the people of Delhi will hold them accountable."

What are kids Reading?



Geronimo Stilton, Captain Underpants, Wimpy Kid, Percy Jackson...kids today have much to choose from.

Pranksters George Beard and Harold Hutchins are terrorised by their principal, the mean Benjamin Krupp. They get back, and how! They turn him into a reluctant superhero who wears just briefs and a cape! If you are a 10-year-old, you would have got the story by now. This is the tale of Captain Underpants, a hot favourite among pre-teens. Then, there's the adorable mouse who publishes 'The Rodent's Gazette'. He scouts around for news instead of cheese and craves a vacation. That's Geronimo Stilton. He also has a sister, Thea Stilton, who has a separate series in her name. There's a big smile on kids' faces as they read the squiggly text that literally shivers when Geronimo is afraid.

Books for kids are big news now. There was a time when interest in books came down and technology turned temptress. But, authors such as J.K. Rowling hooked kids back to the page. Luckily, others rushed in to meet the demand.

Divya Chandran's sons Adhvik and Dhaman picked up the reading habit seeing their parents read. Today, her elder one reads National Geographic's NG Kids Magazine (for ages 6-14). There's also an NG Little Kids

Magazine (for ages 3-6).

"Adhvik loves reading about wildlife. So, I make it a point to pick up books on the subject. Dhaman likes The Berenstain Bears. When we let kids read books relating to the topics they are interested in, it keeps the reading habit alive," she says. But, yes, she does check if the books are age-appropriate.

Adventure is cool

J. Yashaswi finds Captain Underpants cool because it combines adventure, school life and an element of magic. His mother Nandini says she tries to ensure her son reads a mix of modern-day tales and vintage kids' books. So, Roald Dahl and Enid Blyton are a vital part of his reading list too.

Of late, parents and schools are encouraging children to read, if only to keep them off electronic gadgets. Book stores hold events for



children

Online store Flipkart is working at initiatives such as book readings with famous children's authors, to draw in young readers, says Anil Goteti, director-retail. Niranjani Ramanathan, who runs JustBooks library in Coimbatore, says parents are keen on books that showcase Indian culture and tradition in an easy-to-read manner. Probably why, publications by Tulika Books, Karadi Tales and Amar Chitra Katha are very popular. "It helps that most new international titles are available here too." That way, children keep pace with what others in their age group are reading across the world.

Niranjani says that a library helps because when children visit it, they end up seeing and picking up books they would have never been exposed to otherwise.

Anu Vignesh's daughter Mayanka, a Class V student, is a huge fan of Enid Blyton. She loves horses too, and so, an encyclopaedia on horses is popular on her reading list. So are pre-teen books such as the St. Claire's series. Rema Giridhar's daughter Layana, 9, reads a lot of Amar Chitra Katha and Geronimo Stilton. "We allow her to read what she wants to. When she chooses a slightly higher read, we step in as censors, so that she reads the right books," she says.

Abhirami, 15, is a voracious reader. She grew up abroad and so also reads books that are unfamiliar here. Her mother Vasanthi, an avid reader herself, says she has always encouraged Abhirami to read. "We have gently nudged her to try books a little higher than her level. This has ensured she reads all books, not just those she is used to or is comfortable with," she says. Thanks to this, Abhirami reads Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, Jerome K Jerome and PG

Wodehouse. But, she also loves Asterix! Sometimes, children's reading habits rub off on adults. That's what happened with Vasanthi. "Abhirami tells me about the new authors she's reading. It's lovely because these are authors who were not around when I was a kid. At any age, it's nice to read kiddie books," she says, rushing off to read her daughter's copy of Jacqueline Wilson's Hetty Feather. "I've to return it tonight!"

What sells online

Anil Goteti of Flipkart says that Indian authors such as Ruskin Bond, R.K. Narayan and Sudha Murthy are amongst the most popular kids' authors. Adventure is a top seller, followed by the fantasy genre. And, despite the influx of new authors and titles, Enid Blyton and R.K. Narayan are still a hit.

Top-Sellers

Ages 5 to 7 Geronimo Stilton, Roald Dahl, Captain Underpants, Wimpy Kid, Dr. Seuss
Ages 8-10 Wimpy Kid, Famous Five, Hardy Boys, Nancy Drew, Amar Chitra Katha, Percy Jackson and Narnia
Ages 11-15 Lord of The Rings, The Hunger Games, Calvin and Hobbes, Artemis Fowl, Tintin and Twilight



All people lamenting how kids these days don't read much, wake up and smell the coffee. Kids are very much reading, and a lot, because parents today are making an effort to ensure their kids start early and get hooked to reading by the time they can read independently. And it's a habit that seems to stay, once they get going.

Mridula Charlu, a senior manager at an IT firm says it's been two years since their family of four took a library membership at their neighbourhood branch of Just Books "because we all love books. We used to go to the library once a week on Saturdays, now we are not so regular," she admits. She started reading books to her now nine-year-old daughter Arundhati when she was barely one. "And then while potty-training her, we gave

her books to read to keep her entertained while she sat...that's where it really started, she laughs. "By the time she was three, she was reading independently. Now, I have to tell her to stop reading, go out and play. My husband and I read a lot as well, so I guess she picked the habit from us." Arundhati has a group of about six other classmates, who exchange books between themselves and read. Her son Agastya, now a little over four years, and Arundhati read every night before they go to bed. Some classics are also downloaded on the iPad for them to read.

There may be other many encouraging factors too, apart from enthusiastic bookworm parents. The number of good libraries that allow books to be ordered from home and are delivered at the doorstep have

increased. So have activities around books—new book launches are accompanied by storytelling sessions for children. Many libraries conduct monthly activities for kids around a theme or book that could include painting, craft, making up their own stories—all of which lead kids towards more stories and more books.

Divya Purandar is a familiar figure in Bangalore's bloggers' circles as the one who blogs at One Story A Day. It all started for Divya and her then three-year-old son Abhay when they were in America. She was bowled over by the books and library system there. She started this habit of reading her son one story a day and it's become an inseparable part of their life over the last four years. "Now he's picked up reading on his own and

I get him books from early readers' series thrice a week," says Divya. She's a member of three libraries "just for him", and apart from borrowing, also buys him books every month. "He's not really a voracious reader and doesn't grab each and every thing I get him, but now I discover he's interested in reading books on adventure, cars, and mythology, especially Amar Chitra Katha."

But why then are so many rueing that kids don't read? Mridula points out that there are two kinds of children — those that read and those that don't. Umesh Malhotra, CEO of Hippocampus library, says there are two categories of parents — those who are educated and have always believed in the power of reading, and those who are schooled and focus mostly on academics and struggle to realise the importance of the reading habit in their children's lives. "The average starting age of reader in our place is about 3.5 years and we have upward of 3,000 members. Many mothers bring their kids to our library when they are as young as one, and we have seen them evolve as readers till they are about seven. Parents have taught children the alphabet by the time they are three, and they specially take time out to make them read," he observes.

Varsha Pillai, mother to Aadya, who's just a little over two, has been reading to her daughter since she was one. She started identifying things in books before she turned two. They graduated from hard board books, to touch and feel, to small stories like the Baby Einstein series. Books are also great company for children on long journeys, she's realised. Varsha believes there are many takeaways to children learning to read early. "She is able to identify and recognise things around her. Recently we went to the Mysore zoo and she recognised a Toucan because she'd seen it in a book." Apart from going to the library regularly, Varsha also buys second-hand books that can be rough-used, and come at a much lower cost than rather expensive children's books otherwise.

Taking baby reading Steps



NEWS BOX

Australia's Hazlewood decision backfires, injured pacer likely to miss rest of series

New Delhi. Josh Hazlewood is likely to miss the rest of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy after suffering a calf injury on Day 4 of the third Test against India. Cricket Australia confirmed that the scans revealed a strain in his right calf. The senior fast bowler bowled only one over on Tuesday at the Gabba, Brisbane after suffering the injury during training in the lead-up to the day's play. Australia's decision to bring Josh Hazlewood back into the XI after he missed the second Test due to a side strain has backfired. Scott Boland played in Hazlewood's absence in Australia's 10-wicket win in the pink-ball Test. Hazlewood recovered in time for the third Test, but suffered a fresh injury.

"He is likely to miss the remainder of the Test series. A squad replacement will be made in due course," a Cricket Australia spokesperson said.

Hazlewood limped off the field after his only over on Day 4 of the third Test. The pacer bowled five overs on Day 3, picking up the crucial wicket of Virat Kohli for just 3.

Hazlewood did not look in his best shape when he walked out to the field on Tuesday. He had a lengthy chat with captain Pat Cummins and vice-captain Steve Smith before walking off the field. Without



Hazlewood, Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc did the bulk of the bowling on another rain-affected day in the Brisbane Test. Mitchell Marsh, who has had his fair share of injury concerns in the past, bowled two overs without much success.

India were reeling at 74 for 5 when they lost captain Rohit Sharma in the first session. However, Ravindra Jadeja and KL Rahul stitched a 67-run stand to steer the team out of trouble. Rahul missed out on a well-deserved hundred as he was dismissed for 84 by Nathan Lyon after a stunning catch from Steve Smith in the slip cordon. Jadeja, however, carried on and scored a crucial fifty, taking India closer to the mark needed

D Gukesh's heartfelt message to Viswanathan Anand: Inspiration from start

New Delhi. World Champion D Gukesh sent a heartfelt message to Viswanathan Anand after returning home from his incredible win over Ding Liren in Singapore. Gukesh defeated Liren 7.5-6.5 in an intense battle across 14 games to win the World Chess Championship match. With this, the 18-year-old became the second Indian after Anand to win the prestigious title.

After landing in Chennai on December 16, Gukesh would take to his official X account and thanked the Indian grandmaster. The World Champion hailed Anand as his inspiration from the start and said he learnt a



lot from him while discussing chess. Gukesh also shared a throwback image of both men in his post, something that Anand shared after the 18-year-old's World Championship win.

Anand's bond with Gukesh

Anand would share his bond with Gukesh and claimed that they speak a lot. The former World Champion hailed the 18-year-old as a fun guy and said he often calls him when he is in Chennai to share his thoughts about the sport. "The thing with Gukesh is I'm quite close to him. We speak a lot. We hang out at tournaments. He's a fun guy. Laughs a lot, is very good company and I've always enjoyed that. Besides that, I know his team well. Gukesh and I often sit and discuss chess. Every time he gets back home to Chennai, he often calls me and says, 'Sir, I want to share my thoughts', and we would go over stuff together. All these things I enjoy very much with him," Anand said. Gukesh will now take a bit of a rest before getting set for an epic clash with Magnus Carlsen in the Norway Chess tournament in 2025. The tournament will take place in Stavanger, Norway, from May 26 to June 6, 2025.

Man United secures stunning late 2-1 comeback win against Man City**City fans jeered at the final whistle as their once dominant team's woeful run of form extended to one win and eight losses in 11 games.**

MANCHESTER. Amad Diallo struck a 90th-minute winner as Manchester United staged a stunning late comeback to beat Manchester City 2-1 in the Premier League on Sunday.

Four-time defending champion City led the Manchester derby 1-0 going into the 88th minute at the Etihad Stadium. But the game was turned round in dramatic fashion as Bruno Fernandes leveled from the penalty spot and Diallo sealed victory for United — prompting head coach Ruben Amorim to declare "something magic happened."

"It was a very tough match but we believe until the end. We managed to score. We needed that win. It was important for us and for our fans," Amorim said. City fans jeered at the final whistle as their once dominant team's

woeful run of form extended to one win and eight losses in 11 games. "I'm the boss, I'm the manager and I'm not good enough. It's as simple as that," Guardiola said. It was a first derby victory for new United head coach Ruben Amorim, who led Sporting Lisbon to a 4-1 win against City in one of his last games in charge of the Portuguese club in November. But for a long time it looked like being a third-straight league loss for United after Josko Gvardiol's headed goal in the 36th. Fernandes was guilty of missing the target when through on goal in the second half and United struggled to create chances against a City team that rarely looked like adding to its lead. But in a dramatic end to the match, Diallo raced after an underhit backpass from Matheus Nunes. Nunes then brought down the United forward in the box and referee Anthony Taylor pointed to the penalty spot.

Fernandes made no mistake this time — sending Ederson the wrong way.

Moments later, Diallo ran onto a long pass from Lisandro Martinez, flicked the ball high and past Ederson before rolling it into the net from a tight angle. "We have a lot to do



but it was massive for our fans," Amorim said. United is 13th and five points behind fifth-place City, which has seen its title defense unravel during its losing run. "This is a big club and in a big club when you lose eight in 10 (11) something wrong is happening," Guardiola said. Chelsea, in second, closed the gap on Liverpool to two points after a 2-1 win against Brentford. It's now seven straight wins in all competitions for Enzo Maresca's team, which is unbeaten in 10. It's last league defeat was in October — a 2-1 loss to Liverpool. Marc Cucurella scored in the 43rd and Nicolas Jackson made

it 2-0 in the 80th for his ninth goal of the season. Bryan Mbeumo scored for Brentford in the 90th and Cucurella was sent off for a second yellow card in added time. Chelsea is four points ahead of third-place Arsenal.

Martin fired Southampton fired manager Russell Martin after being routed 5-0 by Tottenham. Last-place Southampton is nine points from safety and appears to be heading straight back to the second tier after earning promotion to the top flight last season.

The decision came on the same day as another relegation-threatened team,

Wolverhampton, fired head coach Gary O'Neil. Wolverhampton is second to last in 19th. Spurs scored all five goals against Southampton before halftime at St Mary's Stadium, with James Maddison getting two. Son Heung-min, Dejan Kulusevski and Pape Sarr also scored. Sarr double

Ismaila Sarr scored twice as Crystal Palace beat Brighton 3-1 in the Premier League on Sunday. The forward also provided an assist for Trevoh Chalobah in the win at the Amex Stadium, which lifted Palace four points clear of the relegation zone.

AUS v IND, 3rd Test: Frustrated by rain breaks, Mitchell Starc argues with umpire

New Delhi. Mitchell Starc was left frustrated by the constant rain breaks and was seen arguing with the umpire as the players were forced to leave the field once again on Day 4 of the Gabba Test. The weather in Brisbane has been a villain for Australia right from the start with only Day 2 being the only time the game went on without any interruption.

For the rest of the time, the weather conditions forced the day's play to a complete halt and at times, umpires being forced to call for early stumps. The game on Tuesday was heading towards the tea break when another drizzle started in Brisbane. However, as compared to the previous ones, it was of less intensity and the players could have stayed on. However, the umpires Richard Illingworth, Richard Kettleborough felt it was best for the players to go back in.

This would create a hilarious moment as Starc was left fuming and argued with the umpires. There was a moment when Starc was seen rolling his eyes before walking off. You can see the full video below: This was not the first time that Starc was left frustrated by the weather. During Day 3, both him and KL Rahul were visibly irritated to have the rain



stop proceedings. Rain halts Australia's momentum

The recent rain break at the stroke of team came not at the best time for Australia. The hosts had just ended the partnership between Nitish Kumar Reddy and Ravindra Jadeja, which had been frustrating them. Nitish was bowled by Cummins, which gave Australia a chance to clean up the tail of India.

KL Rahul's 84 and Jadeja's 65 not out has kept the hosts at bay for now. With rain being predicted for Day 5 as well, Australia will be hoping that there no further breaks in proceedings.

My dream is to meet Virat Kohli, says Dharavi's Simran Shaikh after WPL mega deal**WPL Auction: After securing a Rs 1.9 crore deal with Gujarat Giants, 22-year-old Simran Shaikh revealed her ambitions of playing for India. The Dharavi cricketer also said she wanted to meet her idol Virat Kohli.**

New Delhi. Simran Shaikh revealed said she dreams of playing for India after having secured a life-changing deal of Rs 1.9 crore in the Women's Premier League (WPL) auction on Sunday. The 22-year-old from Dharavi, India's biggest slum, said she also wishes to meet her idol Virat Kohli. Simran, the third of eight siblings, hails from a humble family. Her father, Jahid Ali, works as a wireman, while her mother, Akhtari Bano, has been her rock of support. Despite facing financial struggles and societal norms that discouraged girls from playing sports, Simran's family stood firmly by her side.

Speaking to the media after the auction, Simran, who will play for Gujarat Giants, revealed her ultimate ambition. "My journey has started now. I want to give my best, work

hard. I want one more jersey, which is the India jersey. I will work hard to achieve that dream," she told ANI news agency. "I like Virat Kohli a lot. My dream is to meet him," she added. Simran's passion for cricket



began as a child playing gully cricket in Dharavi. However, her path was riddled with taunts and criticism. Neighbours questioned her dedication to the sport, often advising her parents that she should focus on household chores instead. "When I used to play gully cricket as a kid, my neighbours kept saying, 'Why is a girl playing with boys? Go home and work.' They taunted my mom and dad, saying I should learn to wash utensils and other household chores," Simran recalled. "I felt bad, but their words

only made me more determined to play cricket and prove myself."

MY PARENTS ALWAYS SUPPORT ME: SIMRAN

Simran's parents, especially her mother, remained unwavering in their support. Her mother once sacrificed Rs 3,000 — a considerable sum for the family at the time — to buy Simran her first cricket kit. "I thank my parents because there is not much support for such things in my community, but they always supported me," she said. Simran's career has seen its share of ups and downs. After being bought for Rs 10 lakh by UP Warriorz in the inaugural WPL season, she struggled to make an impact, scoring just 29 runs in nine matches. She even went unsold in last year's auction. However, Simran bounced back strongly, impressing scouts with her big-hitting skills in the T20 Challenger Trophy earlier in 2024. While Simran's journey has just begun, her determination to don the India jersey and meet her idol, Virat Kohli, reflects her unwavering spirit. Simran Shaikh's story is not just about cricket but about breaking barriers and inspiring countless others to dream big, no matter where they come from.

England captain Ben Stokes 'not holding back' from bowling after latest injury**England captain Ben Stokes isn't ready to hold back on bowling after his latest injury setback during the 3rd Test against New Zealand. Stokes picked up a hamstring injury on December 16 after increasing his bowling workload during the match against the Blackcaps.**

New Delhi. England captain Ben Stokes has claimed that he won't be cutting down on his bowling workload after his latest injury setback during the third Test against New Zealand. Stokes, who had previously missed four Tests due to a torn hamstring sustained during The Hundred in August, was ruled out of further participation in the match after aggravating the same injury on Monday. He had shouldered a significantly heavier workload compared to the first two Tests,



bowling 24 overs in New Zealand's first innings. The setback occurred two deliveries into his 13th over during New Zealand's second innings, leaving England without their captain for the remainder of the game. The visitors would end up losing the game by 423 runs as Stokes decided not to come out to bat in the second innings. Speaking to BBC Sport, the England skipper said it was unfortunate to sustain the injury, but it is something that is part of the process of being

an athlete. "Every time you walk out on the field you're at risk of injury. You can't play for anything in this game." Stokes revealed that he was incredibly frustrated after sustaining the injury as he had felt that he was back in rhythm with the ball in hand. "There's no doubt I was incredibly frustrated last night, in particular with how much graft I'd put in until then," said Stokes.

"I felt so good about everything. I felt my rhythm was back with the ball, I bowled a lot of overs, my body was feeling good. "The first time I feel like a young man again is when I pick something else up."

Stokes vowed that he would come back stronger from the injury as he has always done in his career. "I'm obviously very disappointed, but every setback I come back stronger," Stokes told BBC Sport.

AUS vs IND, 3rd Test: KL Rahul's solidity reminds Sunil Gavaskar of Murali Vijay**Border-Gavaskar Trophy: Batting great Sunil Gavaskar reckons KL Rahul's composed 84-run knock in the third Test at Gabba reminds him of former Indian opener Murali Vijay.**

New Delhi. KL Rahul's composed 84-run knock in the third Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia drew high praise from batting legend Sunil Gavaskar, who likened Rahul's off-side judgment to that of former Indian opener Murali Vijay. Rahul's composed 84-run knock stood out amid India's top-order struggles, as he showcased remarkable patience and precision, earning accolades from cricket pundits and fans alike.

Rahul, who has amassed 231 runs in five

innings during the series, has been a shining light for India. His elegant strokeplay combined with intelligent judgment in leaving deliveries caught the eye, particularly on a challenging Day 4 pitch. Despite being dropped on the very first ball of the day, Rahul capitalized on the reprieve, crafting his innings with grit and determination. He reached his half-century off 85 balls and looked set for a century before being dismissed by a stunning catch from Steve Smith. Speaking on Star Sports, Gavaskar highlighted the technical brilliance that set Rahul apart from his teammates. "Except for the first ball today, where he slightly followed the delivery, his judgment outside off-stump was fantastic," Gavaskar said. He compared Rahul's technique to that of Australian batter Marnus Labuschagne and former Indian opener Murali Vijay, both known for their exceptional off-stump awareness. "KL Rahul left deliveries very



close to the off-stump so consistently that it reminded me of Marnus Labuschagne yesterday and, before him, Murali Vijay, who also had exceptional off-side judgment," Sunil Gavaskar said while speaking on Star Sports. The former Indian captain emphasized Rahul's ability to play deliveries late, a crucial skill when facing a new or swinging ball. "If you play the ball further forward, you risk edging it to slips. Rahul's ability to play late and leave balls at the last

moment was commendable. It's a level of patience and skill that stood out in this innings," Gavaskar explained.

Rahul Outshines Rohit and Kohli

Rahul's performances have been a stark contrast to the struggles of Indian stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, whose form in 2024 has been underwhelming. Since 2020, Rahul boasts the highest Test average amongst Indian batters in SENA (South Africa, England, New Zealand, and Australia) countries, outperforming Rohit and Kohli. Both Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have been grappling with significant dips in form in 2024. Rohit averages a mere 8.85, with his highest first-innings score being 23, while Kohli fares only slightly better, averaging 9.12 with a top score of 47. Their struggles have been particularly evident in the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy, where both have failed to deliver meaningful contributions.

Harshdeep Kaur

Turns 38: Interesting Facts About The 'Sufi Ki Sultana'

Having been in the Indian music industry for over two decades now, playback singer Harshdeep Kaur has truly proven that a musician's shelf life is not contained to a limited period but has the potential to be etched in people's memories forever. With humble beginnings in 2003, it has been over 20 years since Harshdeep Kaur entered the industry, bringing her unique Sufi twist to the typical Bollywood songs. The singer celebrates her 38th birthday today, on Monday, December 16. As we celebrate the singer's special day, let's take a look at some of some interesting facts about her.

Harshdeep Kaur Birthday: Interesting Facts

1. Harshdeep was born to a family of musicians and she was introduced to music at the very young age of six. While her father was a fine guitarist, she ended up learning Indian classical music from Tejpal Singh and Western classical from George Pullinkala.
2. Before making it into the music industry, Harshdeep took part in the MTV Video Gaga Contestant at 16, later even winning the title. In 2008, she won the singing competition Junoon: Kuch Kar Dikhaane Ka, where she was declared the Sufi Ki Sultana.
3. Harshdeep, who belongs to the Sikh community, is seen sporting a turban owing to religious reasons. While she would earlier perform with a dupatta on her head, it was on her brother-in-law's advice that she switched to a turban.
4. Not many know that Harshdeep played music narrators in Colors TV's Bani-Ishq Da Kalma, further also appearing in several seasons of Coke Studio in India.
5. In her celebrated musical career over the years, Harshdeep Kaur has proven her mettle as a recognised playback singer. From registering her voice with the serene Ik Onkar from Rang De Basanti to delivering some memorable tracks, she continued molding and experimenting with her music. Some of her most popular songs include Dilbaro from Alia Bhatt's Raazi, Katiya Karun from Rockstar composed by AR Rahman, and Gud Naal Ishq Mitha from Sonam Kapoor's Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga.



Vihan Verma Accuses Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Mein Of Favouritism, Calls It 'Frustrating'



TV actor Vihan Verma became a household name after he starred in Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Mein. He used to play the role of Mohit in the show, which also featured Neil Bhatt, Ayesha Singh and Aishwarya Sharma in the lead. Months after quitting the show, Vihan has now opened up about facing discrimination on the sets of the popular show. On being asked if he was ever treated unfairly on the sets of GHKKPM, Vihan told us, "To be honest, I wouldn't say I was treated unfairly, but there were days when I felt certain situations could have been more in my favour if I were a senior actor. This is quite common. People always favour seniors over newcomers, and rightly so. However, there are times when you don't expect someone to favour another person solely based on their age and seniority."

The young actor further made a shocking statement and claimed that the lead actors of a show are often favoured. "There's always an extra inclination towards the lead pair. Because they're the faces of the show, they shoot more days and hours than the rest of the cast. I faced a similar situation when I was made to wait in my room because one of the leads had a prior commitment and had to leave early, so the team was trying to wrap up their work first. While this is practical, it can be frustrating when you have your own personal commitments," he said.

However, Vihan also clarified that such incidents did not take a toll on his mental health. "I'm very secure in my work. I don't compare my status to someone else's. Everyone has had their fair share of journeys, and we all deserve better days. So, no, this hasn't affected my mental health in any way. It would take someone to stoop very low to hurt me mentally," he shared.

The actor also recalled the time when he learned that his scenes were cut short. "I came across a rumour that some of my scenes were cut because of one of the leads. Honestly, at that point, I was heartbroken because I was new to the show, and it's challenging to establish yourself in a hit show where people have great dynamics. I didn't clarify with the actor at that time, but I did much later. If something like this happens, where an actor has the authority to cut someone's lines, I think the makers are to be blamed, not the actor."

Katrina Kaif Stuns In Ethnic Outfit, Spotted At Mumbai Airport As She Leaves For Shirdi



Katrina Kaif never fails to leave fans stunned with her stunning sartorial choices, and this time was no different. The Bollywood actress channeled desi vibes, and was spotted in a beautiful ethnic suit as she was spotted at the private airport in Mumbai this morning. Katrina is reportedly heading to Shirdi to offer prayers. A video shared by paparazzo Manav Manglani shows Katrina Kaif arriving at Kalina airport in Mumbai. She was seen getting out of the car, before quickly heading inside the airport. However, as the paparazzi called out her name, she politely smiled and waved at them. The actress looked radiant as ever in an ivory kurta paired with matching flared palazzos, and a sheer organza dupatta with a scalloped hem. She left her tresses open, and wore dark sunglasses. Check out the video below!

As soon as the video surfaced on social media, fans gushed over Katrina Kaif's beauty. They dropped several heart emojis to express their love for her. Katrina Kaif and her hubby Vicky Kaushal celebrated their 3rd wedding anniversary on December 9. They went for a short trip to celebrate the special occasion, and only returned to Mumbai a few days ago. Their third wedding anniversary celebration was all about adventure, sightseeing, jungle and quality time with each other. Katrina Kaif shared several glimpses from their jungle adventure, giving fans a sneak-peek into their celebration. "48 hrs in the jungle," she wrote, while dropping photos from the getaway.

On the professional front, Katrina Kaif was last seen in Sriram Raghavan's mystery thriller film 'Merry Christmas' along with Vijay Sethupathi. The film was released in theatres on 12th January 2024. Katrina hasn't yet announced her next film. Fans had eagerly been waiting for updates on the film Jee Le Zaraa, starring Katrina, Alia Bhatt and Priyanka Chopra. While the film was announced in 2021, it faced several delays, with the dates of the actors becoming an issue. However, Zoya Akhtar and Farhan Akhtar have assured that the film has not been shelved and there is active effort being made to align everyone's schedules.

Urvashi Dholakia

Shweta Tiwari Almost Reunited For A Show Before Viral Ad: 'This 16-year Gap...'

Urvashi Dholakia and Shweta Tiwari's latest advertisement for YouTube has gone viral in no time. It features the duo, reprising their characters of Komolika and Prerna from their popular television series, Kasautii Zindagii Kay. While their war of words remains intact, this time around they're seen speaking the Gen-Z lingo, adding an unexpected twist to their rivalry. At the same, Urvashi's Komolika is heard telling Prerna, "Catfights are a misogynistic trope designed to reinforce patriarchal norms." Reacting to the wave of nostalgia netizens have been washed with, Urvashi exclusively tells News18 Showsha, "There are thousands of comments and I'm trying to read as many of them. But I'm so overwhelmed with all the positive responses. I think YouTube has hit the nail on the head. When they approached me and I read the script, I thought that it would either go completely wrong or completely right!"

So, how was it sharing screen space with Shweta after 16 long years? "We almost ended up doing one show after Kausautii Zindagii Kay but things didn't work out at the last minute. And I believe this 16-year time gap is the reason why the campaign hit an altogether different note. It was exciting. When Shweta and I meet, it's not like we meet as Komolika and Prerna, but this time, it brings back memories. The set-up was very different and so was the lingo," she says. Urvashi acknowledges that youngsters on social media have still kept Kausautii Zindagii Kay

relevant and adds, "Lots of Gen-Z crowd come up to me today and tell me how big fans their mothers and grandmothers are of me (laughs). It's very sweet. Not that we relate to it or understand it but the whole idea [of the campaign] was to reach out to the Gen-Z audience with that lingo. With the ad, we tried to create a connection between these two generations."



Both Shweta and I are thorough professionals and we knew that we were going to pull it off."

Back in the day, reports often stated how Urvashi and Shweta's onscreen rivalry may have seeped into their personal equations too. But Urvashi laughs it off and reiterates how they're still in touch.

"At that point in time, I didn't read articles about myself. But aisa kuch bhi nahi hai (laughs). All I can say is that we both played our parts to the best of our ability. Today, we meet very rarely unless we manage to find a common time when we're free. But we do have a Kasautii group and we're still in touch through it," she shares.

