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JAC Matric and Inter examination from today

Prohibitory orders will be applicable on examination centers

Prohibitory orders will be applicable on examination centers:

Matriculation-Intermediate examination will be conducted at various examination centers. Regarding this, Sadar Sub-Divisional Officer Sulochana Meena and Hussainabad Sub-Divisional Officer Anant Kumar Jha have imposed prohibitory orders on examination centers falling under their jurisdiction. Using the powers conferred under Section 163 of the Indian Civil Security Code, prohibitory orders have been declared under BNSS during the examination on the date of examination within a radius of 100 of the concerned examination centers in view of the possibility of disturbance of public peace.

Ranchi: Matriculation and Intermediate Examinations conducted by Jharkhand Academic Council (JAC) will start from February 11, which will run till March 3. Matriculation examination will be held in the first shift from 9:45 am to 1 pm. Intermediate examination will be held from 2 pm to 5:15 pm. **Time to reach the examination center** - Reach your examination center at least 30 minutes before the start of the examination. Candidates should not forget to carry their

1305 examination centers for matriculation, 795 for intermediate

1305 examination centers have been set up for matriculation and 795 for intermediate in the state. The district administration and education department have completed their preparations for the upcoming JAC matriculation-intermediate examination. Here, Sadar Sub-Divisional Officer Sulochana Meena and Hussainabad Sub-Divisional Officer Anant Kumar Jha have imposed prohibitory orders on the examination centers falling under their jurisdiction.



admit card and school ID card with them. **Items to be carried to the examination center** - Blue or black ball pen. - Pencil, scale, eraser, sharpener. **Items prohibited at the examination center** - Electronic gadgets like mobile, smart watch, Bluetooth device. - Cheating is strictly prohibited. If you try to

cheat, you will be expelled from the examination center.

Arrangements at examination centers

- Instructions have been given to install CCTV cameras at all examination centers and ensure its monitoring.

- Instructions have been given to ensure arrangements for drinking water, adequate lighting in the room, toilets and other physical facilities for the candidates.

Increase in the number of examinees compared to last year

- This year, an increase in the number of examinees has been seen in both Matriculation and Intermediate examinations, due to which a total of 7,83,711 candidates will appear in the examination.

- Compared to last year 2024, the number of examinees has increased by 12,208 in Matriculation and 5,267 in all three faculties of Intermediate.

PM Modi's discussion on exams with students, gave tips on time management to students



New Delhi: Exam Pe Charcha (2025) was organized at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi at 11 am on Tuesday. This was the eighth edition of this program. The program was based on measures to reduce stress related to exams. PM Modi discussed in detail with the students. PM Modi started the Exam Pe Charcha program by feeding sesame laddus to the students. He also gave important health tips to the students. PM Modi gave the mantra to reduce board exams and its stress. **Pressure on students to choose a career and its solution:**

When a student asked PM Modi how to manage the pressure of choosing a career by parents, he replied... pressure comes from social status and other neighbors. PM Modi advised parents not to make students stand in front of others as models. PM Modi gave the example of Sachin Tendulkar, who was interested in cricket in the early days. His parents also supported him.

What will happen if I fail?

Do not become a bookworm: PM

While addressing the children, PM Modi especially asked them to avoid becoming a bookworm. He urged the students to take care of their mental health and adopt a balanced lifestyle to avoid the pressure of exams.

PM Modi said that students should understand that exams are only a part of life and their overall development is more important than its results. He also advised that students should maintain their interest in other creative activities along with their studies, so that they remain mentally healthy and active. He said that understanding every aspect of life and gaining diverse experiences is as important as getting a good education. PM Modi also said that if a student is facing any difficulty in studies, he should see it as a challenge and not as a burden.

A student asked Prime Minister Modi... I have a worry in my mind that what will happen if I fail? How to avoid this fear? PM said that the life of those who fail does not stop. You have to decide whether to succeed in life or succeed through books. You should think that your failures are your gurus who teach you. In such a situation, you will not be afraid of them and you will have a desire to learn.

Police forces are the strong pillars of internal security, peace and law and order of any nation: Governor

Ranchi: Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar said that the police forces are the strong pillars of internal security, peace and law and order of any nation. They are always ready to work dedicatedly in public interest and state interest even in adverse circumstances. Many policemen have sacrificed their lives for the security of society and the state. He said that whether it is festivals, election work, natural disasters or the challenge of dealing with terrorism, policemen perform their duties with full devotion, courage and honesty in every situation. This sacrifice, renunciation



and spirit of service of theirs will continue to inspire everyone.

The Governor was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of the '68th All India Police Duty Meet-2025' organized at Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Stadium in

Khelgaon, Ranchi on Monday.

He said that such events not only showcase the efficiency of the police force but also provide an opportunity for mutual cooperation, exchange of new technologies and boosting the morale of the policemen.

In Shorts

Shibu Soren admitted to hospital

Delhi: Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren has gone to Delhi with his father Shibu Soren. According to the information, Shibu Soren has been taken to Delhi by a special plane for health checkup. His return date is not yet decided. He will return after the health checkup process is completed. It is being told that Shibu Soren was admitted to Medanta Hospital in Ranchi after complaining of difficulty in breathing. On the advice of doctors, he was sent to Delhi by air ambulance. Doctors are constantly monitoring the health of Dishom Guru Shibu Soren.

President Murmu took a holy dip in the holy confluence



Prayagraj: The country's first citizen, President Draupadi Murmu, took a holy dip in the Triveni Sangam on the holy land of Prayagraj on Monday. President Murmu fed the migratory birds at the Triveni Sangam.

Let us tell you, this is a historic moment of the country's first citizen taking a holy dip in the Sangam. It is worth mentioning that before this, India's first President Dr. Rajendra Prasad had also taken a holy dip in the Maha Kumbh. In view of the President's visit, security arrangements were tight in Prayagraj.

PM Modi will have a special meeting with President Trump

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday left the national capital Delhi for a four-day visit to France and the United States. At the invitation of French President Macron, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be in France from February 10-12, where he will co-chair the AI Action Summit. He will then leave for the US to meet President Donald Trump and hold talks with senior leaders of the US administration.

First meeting in Trump's second term:

This will be the first meeting between the two leaders after President Trump took office for



his second term. Earlier, PM Modi visited the USA in June 2017. In February 2020, President Trump was hosted on a state visit to India. The two leaders also spoke on the phone on 6 November 2024 and 27 January 2025. This visit is considered even more important after the recent illegal

immigrants sent from the US. **Will attend the dinner:**

After arriving in Paris on Monday evening, PM Modi will attend the dinner hosted by President Macron at the Elysee Palace. Which is being organized in honor of heads of government and heads of state. A large number of technology sector CEOs and many other eminent personalities invited to the summit are also expected to attend this dinner. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri had said that Prime Minister Modi will co-chair the AI Action Summit with President Macron on February 11.

Car of devotees returning after bathing in Maha Kumbh crashes, 3 dead



Hazaribagh: Vehicle of devotees returning after bathing in Maha Kumbh crashes in Charhi valley of Hazaribagh. Three people have died in this crash. 5 people have been seriously injured.

All the deceased and injured in the accident are women. The deceased include Ansh Devi, Sanju Devi and Soni Devi. The injured include Ranju Devi, Punita Devi, Asita Devi, Uma Devi and Jyoti Devi. It is said that all of them had left for Maha Kumbh from Ranchi and all belonged to the same family. While returning

Bus going from Chhattisgarh to Bihar overturned in Palamu, 2 dozen passengers injured, 6 in critical condition



A sleeper bus (CG15 EA 2186) carrying passengers from Ambikapur in Chhattisgarh to Ara in Bihar overturned in Hariharganj on

Monday early morning. 2 dozen passengers were injured in this. Half a dozen are in critical condition. All were given initial treatment at the Community Health Center in Hariharganj. Out of these, 6 passengers have been referred for better treatment. Some have broken legs, some have broken hands. Some have suffered serious head injuries. Most of the injured passengers are from Bihar.

after bathing in Maha Kumbh, their vehicle crashed near Charhi valley. Injured Ranju Devi said that everyone had made preparations to go to Prayagraj Kumbh together. All of them belong to the same family. On the morning of 8 February, they rented

a car and left for Prayagraj. On 9 February, everyone took a bath in Maha Kumbh. They left for Ranchi at night. During this time, a coal laden motorcycle lost control and collided with a parked truck near Charhi Ghati, due to which this incident happened.

Delhi may get a new woman Chief Minister...

Delhi: After the landslide victory of BJP in the Delhi Assembly elections, brainstorming is going on about the CM face. The names that are most discussed about the Chief Minister of Delhi include names like Pravesh Sahib Singh Verma, Vijendra Gupta and Satish Upadhyay. However, meanwhile, news is also coming that a woman MLA can also be given a chance for this post.

In the Delhi Assembly elections, BJP has won the key to power by winning 48 out of 70 seats. BJP contested the elections in Delhi without a Chief Ministerial face. In such a situation, now after winning the elections, discussions are in full swing about who will be the next Chief Minister.

According to the report of India Today, the next Chief Minister in Delhi will be chosen from among the newly



elected 48 MLAs. If sources are to be believed, a woman MLA can be given a chance for the post of Chief Minister. According to the report, a Deputy CM can also be made in

Delhi and special attention can be given to the participation of Dalits and women in the cabinet.

Let us tell you, this time 4 women have become MLAs of Delhi from BJP. These include the names of Rekha Gupta, Shikha Rai, Poonam Sharma and Neelam Pehlwan. Rekha Gupta has won from Shalimar Bagh, Shikha Roy from Greater Kailash, Poonam Sharma from Wazipur and Neelam Pehlwan from Najafgarh assembly seat.

Recently, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP President JP Nadda met in which the form of the Delhi government was discussed. According to BJP leaders, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi returns from his foreign tour next week, the BJP can stake claim to form the government and after that the swearing-in ceremony will be held.

News In Brief

Filaria Free Campaign launched

Gumla: Deputy Commissioner Gumla and Civil Surgeon Gumla successfully started the Filaria Eradication Campaign under the Sarvajan Dawah Consumption Program by consuming Albendazole and DEC tablets at Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya. On this occasion, he appealed to all the citizens that the consumption of this medicine is necessary to eliminate a serious disease like Filaria. Unless everyone consumes this medicine, Filaria cannot be completely eradicated from the society. It is known that on 10th February, medicine will be administered at all 1673 booths of the district which have been marked as Anganwadi Center Booths. And from 11th February to 25th February, DEC and Albendazole tablets given for Filaria Eradication will be administered by Saheya and Anganwadi Sevika by visiting door to door. The total targeted beneficiaries to be administered the medicine are 1014672 people.

DC held a meeting with Magistrates and Police Officers for Secondary and Intermediate Board Examination

Gumla: DC Karna Satyarthi held a meeting with all the Magistrates and Police Officers deputed for the Secondary and Intermediate Board Examination conducted by JAC, including the Magistrate of the Patrolling Team, and gave proper guidelines for conducting the examinations in a transparent and peaceful manner. It is known that under the Board Examination, a total of 55 examination centers have been set up for matriculation in the district in which 13898 candidates will participate. Whereas under Intermediate, a total of 8931 candidates will participate in Arts, Commerce and Science Faculty. The DC said that instructions have been given for conducting the examination in a malpractice-free and transparent manner and for maintaining law and order and while creating Brajgriha in the treasury and establishing the District Control Room in the office of the District Education Officer.

Dozens of schemes recommended by Amba Prasad got approval, tender issued

Approval of schemes worth more than 15 crores was received, work was stopped due to code of conduct:- Amba Prasad

DN ■ Barkagaon

Dozens of schemes recommended by outgoing MLA Amba Prasad during his tenure and hard work done before the elections have been approved. It is known that before the elections, many schemes were recommended by Amba Prasad and their DPR was prepared and submitted to the district, but due to the imposition of code of conduct, many schemes could not be approved and now all the work is slowly coming on the ground, currently schemes worth about 15 crores have been approved, whose tender has also been issued. The implementation of the schemes is to be done from DMFT head on the recommendation of Amba Prasad. The said works have



been approved on the recommendation of former MLA Amba Prasad, the same tender has also been issued by the agencies. In this regard, a list of all development schemes has been made available by issuing a press

release by MLA Amba Prasad. These schemes will be constructed **(Barkagaon Block)**- PCC road construction from Banyan tree to Saturday market via Pandey Mohalla in Pipradih village of Nayatand Panchayat of Barkagaon block area, at a cost of approximately 72 lakhs, PCC road and gadwall construction from main road to Tikri Tand via Arjun Saw Suresh Mahato's house and uprail pond in Tikri Tand under Talaswar Panchayat at a cost of approximately one crore 15 lakhs, two span bridge and gadwall construction from Mandir Chowk of Harli Panchayat to Bhuiya Toli Nala Paar Nav Prathamik Vidyalaya Harli at a cost of approximately one crore 40 lakhs.

A young man died after being hit by a goods train



DN ■ Giridih

A tragic accident has happened in Koderma. Where a young man died after being hit by a train. This incident happened in Koderma-Giridih railway line. According to the information, a young man died after being hit by a train near the Jaynagar Road railway bridge in Koderma-Giridih railway line. The deceased was identified as 23-year-old Sachin Kumar alias Bajrangi. He lives near Punjab Hotel in Jaynagar. In this incident, it was told that the young man was going to his home through the railway track. In the meantime, he came under the grip of a goods train. On receiving the information of the incident, the jawans of Koderma Police Station Panther and the family members reached the spot and took the injured youth to Sadar Hospital, where the youth died during treatment.

10th Foundation Day celebrated in Green Land Public School

DN ■ Bishnugarh

10th Foundation Day was celebrated in Green Land Public School located in village Bukna under Gaida Panchayat of the block. The program was started by cutting the ribbon by the chief guest Gaida Panchayat Samiti member cum JMM leader Mehtab Hussain. In his address on this occasion, Mr. Hussain said that the spark of education in the remote areas of Gaida Bukna Kirtodih, Bukna and Pandeydih has been known as the center of education for the last 10 years. Parents are most responsible for better education of their children. Spend maximum part of your savings in education, you will definitely get positive results. Teachers



guide children in school, parents should guide them in their homes so that they will develop the habit of working hard. Seeing the cultural program, it seems that there is no dearth of talent in the children of our area. In this era of competition, if the right platform is provided, even the children of the village can prove their mettle. Along with studies, extra-curricular activities increase the

Karma Puja is celebrated with great pomp in Jharkhand

DN ■ Maithan

Karam or Karma festival is a folk festival associated with the culture of tribals and natives of Jharkhand. It is considered a symbol of brother-sister love. According to the Hindu calendar, Karam festival celebrated on Ekadashi of Bhado month holds special significance in the tribal tradition. On this day, tribal men and women worship Karam Devta together. On this occasion, all are seen performing folk dances at various places in traditional attire of white colored saree and dhoti with red border. Along with tribals of Maithan Parulia, Amkuda, Pahadbad, etc. Basti, Sanatan Dharma



lovers also participate enthusiastically in this festival. Tribal society starts preparing for it from the eve of Karam festival. Tribal community eagerly waits for this festival. Because after Karam festival, marriage and auspicious work is started in the tribal society. People of tribal society plant the branch of Karam tree in the courtyard of their houses. The tribal women wor-

ship the Karam branch and dance around it in a traditional way. So that all their wishes can be fulfilled. Every year, Karam Puja is performed on the Ekadashi date of Shukla Paksha of Bhadrapad month. In Sanatan Dharma, this date is also known as Karam Ekadashi. Worship of Karam Branch On this day, Karam branch (Karam Dar) is worshipped.

The forest department dozed 7 illegal coal mines in Lurunga

DN ■ Barkagaon

As per the instructions of Hazaribagh West Forest Division DFO Maun Prakash, under the leadership of Hazaribagh West Assistant Forest Conservator Avinash Kumar Parmar and Barkagaon Ranger Kamlesh Singh, 7 illegal coal mines operating in the remote Lurunga notified forest area under Barkagaon block were filled by dozing. The forest department has recovered a pan, a hoe and a shovel from the mine which were brought to the Barkagaon Forest Range office. The action has created panic among the coal mafia. Hazaribagh West Assistant Forest Conservator Avinash Kumar Parmar said that continuous action is going on against illegal coal mines, illegal sand and illegal stones and will continue in the future as well. And strict action will be taken against them. According to the information received, dozens of illegal coal mines are operating around Lurunga, Chano, Rikwa, Ruddi, Sehda, Chapri and Khapiya. The coal from all these mines is dumped in the forest of Khapiya and sold in factories around Charhi and Mandu. The coal from the Barkagaon forest area is taken to nearby factories through the Mandu forest area.



Students watched Pariksha Pe Charcha in Shri Agrasen School

DN ■ Ramgarh

Students from class 6 to 12 watched the Prime Minister's program Pariksha Pe Charcha on Monday in Shri Agrasen School Bhurkunda. It was broadcast on large digital boards installed in the classrooms. The children said that they have learned a lot from the Prime Minister's Pariksha Pe Charcha program. In which staying stress-free regarding exams and leadership were prominent. The Prime Minister explained serious issues very simply. We got a chance to know that learning teamwork is necessary for better leadership. One has to be punctual and sensitive towards one's



responsibilities. The PM also talked about fighting the internal challenges. He said that if you got 30 marks last time, then try to get 35 marks this time. By doing this, we should keep increasing our target range. We also learned that respect is not something to be asked for, but it is something to be earned. For this, one has to change oneself.

Patience is very important. After the program, Principal Vivek Pradhan said that Pariksha Pe Charcha is very useful for the students. He said that this program is no less than a lifesaver for the students. PM's words have a deep impact on the minds of the children. The children have been motivated to perform better in the exams.

Villagers are happy with the restoration of electricity, I will be with the villagers in every happiness and sorrow: Engineer Mukesh Kumar Mahato

DN ■ Bishnugarh

In Rakhawa (Bich Tola) of Bakspura Panchayat under the block, JLKM youth leader Engineer Mukesh Kumar Mahato, Block President Kauleshwar Mahato, Vice President Suresh Kumar, Mukhiya Nanhku Mahato, Panchayat President Mukesh Kumar and villagers collectively inaugurated the 100 KV transformer by performing Puja and cutting the ribbon. The information about the transformer fault was given to JLKM youth leader Engineer Mukesh Kumar Mahato. He immediately took cognizance and after talking to the concerned officials, a 100 KV transformer was made available to the villagers. The villagers welcomed the chief guests by garlanding them. Addressing the villagers present, Engineer Mukesh Kumar Mahato said that due to the absence of a transformer, the vil-



lagers were facing a lot of problems in doing various electricity related works, children's studies as well as other activities were getting disrupted. Now with the installation of the new transformer, there will be light in the village and people will get rid of various problems. He also said that

if the villagers face any kind of problem, they must inform us. During this time, many women and men including Bakspura Senior Vice President Nageshwar Mahato, Pokhi Mahato, Yugal Mahato, Anoop Mahato, Talo Mahato, Sachin Kumar, Mukesh Kumar were present.

Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal will take out a grand Mangala Shobha Yatra in Bhurkunda on April 1

DN ■ Ramgarh

A meeting of Bajrang Dal was held on Monday at Shri Hanuman Temple near Bhadaninagar Railway Station. Enlightened people of Bhurkunda area were also present in it. In the meeting, the date of Mangala Shobha Yatra to be taken out on Ramnavami was decided by Bajrang Dal in Bhurkunda with mutual consent. Under this, a grand Mangala Shobha Yatra will be taken out on Tuesday, April 1. In which all the Akharas of Bhurkunda, all the village committees and Ramnavami committees will be included. To make the Mangala Shobha Yatra grand, all the Sanatanis of Bhurkunda along with the people of all the temple committees of Bhurkunda will also be included. In the meeting, the controversy over the Saraswati Puja held in Hehal was also discussed. Mainly Vishwa Hindu Parishad Bhurkunda section guardian Anamika Shrivastava, Bajrang



Dal coordinator Kishore Kumar, social worker Sagar Dangi, social worker Nitesh Ojha, Vidyarthi Parishad coordinator Shubham Giri, Vishwa Hindu Parishad president Shrawan Kumar, Chikor president Suraj Kumar, Abhishek Patel, Sujat Kumar, Vicky Kumar, Bajrang Dal's Chikor coordinator Sonu Kumar, Roshan Kumar, Prashant Singh, Neeraj Singh, Ravi Singh, Jwala Singh, Pune Singh, Rohit, Sonu, Vicky Singh and many Sanatanis were present in the meeting.

Bhojpuri singer Pawan Singh showed his magic in Baghmara



DN ■ Giridih

Bhojpuri superstar Pawan Singh performed on Sunday night on the occasion of the annual festival and nine-day Shri Ram Mahayaga of Shri Shri Ramraj Mandir located at Baghmara Chitahidham, Dhanbad. As soon as singer Pawan Singh reached the stage, his fans and audience started dancing. The entire Chitahidham echoed with the slogans of Jai Shri Ram. Singer Pawan Singh mesmerized the people by presenting Bhojpuri devotional songs with his sharp style and brilliant voice. Singer Shilpi Raj also made the devotees dance by presenting many devotional songs. Before this, before the start of Bhakti Sandhya, singer Pawan Singh, Dhanbad MP Dhulu Mahato, Baghmara MLA Shatrughan Mahato, Atul Singh, Jaidev Rai inaugurated the program by lighting the lamp.

MPL Season 2 Cricket Tournament started in Jawahar Nagar, 16 teams have participated

DN ■ Ramgarh

Mandap Premier League Season-2 Cricket Tournament was started in Jawahar Nagar Durga Mandap Ground. It was inaugurated by social worker Srinivas Agarwal, Bittu Dubey, Upendra Sharma, Deepak Kumar and Appu Mishra by jointly cutting the ribbon. On the occasion, social worker Srinivas Agarwal said that sports are an integral part of life. Sports not only leads to physical and mental development, it also teaches us discipline. He said that in the present time, like studies, there are immense career possibilities in sports as well. The



inaugural match was played between Blue Whale and Team KVS. In which Team Blue Whale won by 33 runs. In the second match, Team Shubham defeated Team Players by two wickets and entered the next round. The organizing committee said that a total of 16 teams have participated in this

tournament. The winner and runner-up teams of the final match will be awarded trophies and medals by the guests. Appu Mishra, Yash Kumar, Johnson, Abhishek Kumar, Aman, Rohit, Rohan, Rajkishan, Atul Kumar, Sagar Kumar, Gautam, Vishal etc. are working hard to make the tournament a success.

62 percent of the budget has been spent
Spending the entire amount in the next one and a half months has become a challenge

DN ■ Ranchi

Only 62 percent of the budget of the financial year 2024-25 has been spent in Jharkhand so far. The total budget of the financial year 2024-25 is Rs 1 lakh 28 thousand 900 crores. So far only Rs 78 thousand 78 crores have been spent in this. At the same time, only 40.43 percent of the central scheme has been spent. While only 65.20 percent of the state scheme has been spent. 61.97 percent of the total budget has been spent.

So far 2882 schemes have been approved

So far 2882 schemes of various departments and their subsidiary units have been approved. Under which 90 thousand crores have been approved. In this, Rs 16 thousand 253 crores have been approved for women and child development. Rs 1285 crore has been sanctioned for Panchayati Raj, Rs 5069 crore for rural works, Rs 11411 crore for rural development, Rs 2310.47 crore for agriculture.

Direct flight service from Ranchi to Prayagraj gets green signal

DN ■ Ranchi

To witness the Maha Kumbh, a large number of people are going to Prayagraj from Jharkhand every day. It is becoming difficult to get tickets in trains and buses. In such a situation, a large number of people are using private vehicles. Vehicles are being booked by forming societies from every district and city. The situation is such that people have to face traffic jams on the way. Amidst all this, IndiGo has decided to start direct flight service to Prayagraj from February 17. It has also got the approval of the Airport Authority.

Direct flight service facility from February 17

Birsra Munda Airport



Authority Director R.R. Maurya confirmed that in view of the demand of the people, direct flight service has got the green signal from February 17 to February 28. During this period, 180-seater IndiGo aircraft will go from Prayagraj to Ranchi and Ranchi to Prayagraj on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The flight will take off from Prayagraj at 10.20 am. This flight will land in Ranchi at 11.30 am. Then it

Governor Santosh Gangwar watched the live telecast of the Prime Minister's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' program with children and teachers at the District School Examination is not limited to marks only, but it is also a test of patience, dedication and confidence: Governor

DN ■ Ranchi

Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar on Monday watched the live telecast of the Prime Minister's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' program with children and teachers of Amar Shaheed Thakur Vishwanath Shahdev Mukhyamantri Utkrishta Vidyalaya (District School), Ranchi. Addressing the children, the Governor said that 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' by the Prime Minister is an inspirational initiative for the students.

This is not only a means of reducing exam-related stress, but also inspires students to move



forward with confidence and positive thinking. Examination is not limited to marks only, but it is also a test of patience, dedication and confidence. 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' teaches that exams

should be faced by making a clear plan with confidence, free from stress.

The District School has a glorious history

The Governor said that the

District School has a glorious history. Earlier, there was a belief that those who were enrolled in the district school were very meritorious students of the society. Our students and teachers should work extensively towards the excellence of the district school. They should set an exemplary example for other schools.

He called upon everyone to not limit studies only to the examination, but to imbibe knowledge. Practice regularly, use time properly and maintain self-confidence.

Mentioned the thoughts of PM Modi

The Governor said that the Prime Minister always emphasizes that we should look at the examination as an opportunity, not as a pressure. More important than defeat and victory is that we maintain continuity in our efforts, do not reduce hard work.

Difficulties will come, but the student who considers every challenge as an opportunity to learn, only he achieves success in life. The Governor interacted with everyone and encouraged everyone and wished everyone a bright future and asked them to make their active contribution in developed India @ 2047

Tight security for President Draupadi Murmu's Ranchi visit, changes in traffic system

DN ■ Ranchi

President Draupadi Murmu will come to Ranchi on February 14. The administration has implemented a three-tier security system for her security. During this time 1000 policemen and 10 IPS officers will be deployed.

The President will attend the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of BIT Mesra on February 15. Ranchi Police has made tight security arrangements for her arrival. The President will go directly to the Raj Bhavan from the airport.

SSP Chandan Kumar Sinha said on Monday that tight arrangements have been made for the President's security. Changes have also been made in traffic. He said that in view of the President's visit, changes will be made in the traffic system on February 14 and 15.



On February 14, the President will reach the Raj Bhavan from the airport via Harmu bypass. During this time, traffic will be stopped half an hour to one hour before. As the President's convoy moves forward, the traffic will be opened accordingly. Barricading and drop gates will be made at many places to stop traffic. Traffic DSP,

inspectors and policemen will be deployed on every road to manage the traffic.

For their security, 10 IPS including DIG cum SSP, City SP, Rural SP, Traffic SP, ASP CCR, more than 20 DSPs and a large number of District Force, Special Branch Inspectors will also be deployed.

Apart from this, apart from Ranchi Police, paramilitary forces and army personnel will also be deployed for security. Ranchi Police, Rapid Action Police, JAP, Echo, Lathi Party of District Force will be deployed. Security personnel have also been deployed on high buildings. Policemen of Special Branch will be deployed in various areas in plain clothes. Army personnel will also be deployed at various places at their level.

News In Brief

Police arrested 2 youths involved in robbery



Ranchi: Police arrested two youths involved in robbery. Addressing a press conference on Monday, City SP Rajkumar Mehta said that on the night of February 8 at 9.30 pm, a youth going to his home on the road near RK Market in Lalpur police station area was robbed of his mobile by two youths riding a bike.

After which a complaint was lodged in Lalpur police station. On the basis of which, Lalpur police station took action and formed a team and taking immediate action, Hrithik Soni and Ashok Kumar Singh were arrested. The bike used in the incident and the looted mobile have been recovered from them. Hrithik Kumar has a previous criminal history.

Criminals shot CCL worker in Khilari
Ranchi: Bike riding criminals shot CCL worker Pradeep Sao in Churi of Khilari police station area on Monday afternoon. The bullet hit his leg, due to which he got injured. With the help of local people, Pradeep Sao was sent to RIMS for better treatment. On receiving information about the incident, the police reached the spot and started investigating the matter. At present, the reason behind the firing has not been revealed.

Left parties protest campaign against Union Budget from 14 to 20 February

DN ■ Ranchi

The newly elected Jharkhand State Committee of CPI(M) met at the party's state office. Senior leader and politburo member Brinda Karat attended it. In this meeting, the draft of the political resolution issued for the 24th Party Congress to be held in Madurai was reported. The 24th Party Congress of CPI(M) is proposed to be held in Madurai city of Tamil Nadu from 02 to 06 April.

In yesterday's meeting of the new state committee of CPI(M), there was also a discussion on how the party can intensify its movement along with other left parties against the anti-people proposals of the Union Budget-2025. Left parties across the country have announced to run a campaign from 14 February to 20 February against the anti-peo-



ple proposal of the Union Budget.

CPI(M) Jharkhand State Secretary Prakash Viplav said that the Union Budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Parliament has not included privatization

of nuclear energy, 100% FDI in insurance sector, reduction in welfare fund for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and allocation for integrated child development has not been increased. An attempt has been made to strengthen the corporate side by making the budget provision completely one-sided.

Brinda Karat said that the nationwide campaign to be organized from 14 to 20 February in collaboration with the leftist parties for inclusion of alternative proposals in the Union Budget will be made effective in Jharkhand as well. At the same time, in the meeting of the State Committee of CPI(M), the local body elections to be held in the state were discussed and the district committees were called upon to prepare for the local body elections.

Water supply will be disrupted for four days in many areas of Ranchi

DN ■ Ranchi

Water supply will be affected in many areas of the capital Ranchi from 10 to 14 February. Chandrashekhar,



Executive Engineer of Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, said that the drinking water pipeline is being shifted due to railway overbridge and road widening work, which will result in disruption of water supply in many areas.

During this period, the department has given instructions to check the leaks in the pipeline and carry out repair work, so that there is no problem in water supply in future.

Nayasrai: The pipeline is being shifted due to the construction of railway overbridge and road widening. **Assembly constituency and surroundings:** There will be disruption in water supply due to the four-lane overbridge being constructed between Ranchi-Piska railway station.

Displaced Colony, CRPF Camp and Jagarnathpur Village: Water supply will also be affected in these areas.

Ranchi Smart City Corporation installed 50 emergency call boxes in the city

DN ■ Ranchi



On the instructions of Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Ranchi Smart City Corporation has made several arrangements for the safety of the residents of the capital. On the one hand, with the help of Command Control and Communication Center, automatic traffic management is being done in the entire city, on the other hand, help is also being taken from the command center in crime control and its detection.

Now if you are facing any emergency situation like you are passing through the road and an accident happens to you or someone in front of you, then you can directly connect with the government agencies. For this, yellow emergency call boxes have been installed at 50 important intersections of Ranchi city. As soon as the red button in this

box is pressed, a voice will come from the command control center, so that you can tell your problem.

As soon as the problem is told, the team of Smart City and Police will contact the concerned agency for your help and provide you relief. For this, you neither need a mobile phone nor need to remember any number. There should just be a yellow box around you.

If there is a road accident, chain snatching, firing, assault, molestation or any other criminal incident, this box can be used for immediate help. It is not necessary that the victim calls. An eyewitness can also call to inform for help. If there is a fire in the surrounding area, either the victim or the people nearby can use it to contact the fire brigade.

If there is an accident on the road, this box can also be used for ambu-

lance service. The victim or any person present there can inform the command center about it. If information is received about wires, electric poles falling in a storm or dead cattle lying on the road, then this information can be given to the command center.

At present, this facility has been provided at 50 centers in the city, but due to the construction of flyovers and widening of roads, some boxes have been removed. The boxes will be reinstalled as soon as the work is completed. At present, boxes have been installed at important places including Kanke Ring Road, Main Road Overbridge, Sahajanand Chowk, Shani Mandir Chowk, Harmu Chowk, Argora Chowk, Satellite Chowk, Kanke Road, Birsra Chowk, Mekan Chowk, Sujata Chowk, Kokar Chowk.

ED filed a petition in PMLA court, said- IAS Pooja Singhal should not be allotted department

DN ■ Ranchi

The suspension of IAS officer Pooja Singhal has ended and now preparations are being made to allot her a department.

Meanwhile, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a petition in the Ranchi PMLA Special Court requesting that she should not be given any department. The petition filed by ED states that if the state government gives the responsibility of any department to Pooja Singhal, then she can misuse her position and influence the case. A reply has been filed on behalf of IAS Pooja Singhal on this peti-



tion. Now the ED petition will be heard in the PMLA court on February 14.

Let us tell you that ED arrested IAS officer Pooja Singhal, accused of MNREGA scam, on May 11. Earlier, the central investigating agency raided 25 locations of Pooja Singhal on May 5, 2022. During the raid, important

information was received about unaccounted money and investments in other places. At the same time, Rs 19.31 crore cash was recovered from the residence and office of Pooja Singhal's CA Suman Singh. Let us tell you that on December 7, Pooja Singhal was released from jail under the BNS law.

News In Brief

Anita Majumdar's growing step in international modeling and acting

Dhanbad: Dhanbad's Amitabh Majumdar is making Dhanbad's name famous by leaving new dimensions in modeling and acting. Dhanbad's Anita Majumdar was invited as a celebrity guest in India's biggest fashion show Lakme Fashion Week. In this context, Dhanbad's model and actress Anita Majumdar told in an interview that Lakme Fashion Week invited me and also honored me in the upcoming Lakme Fashion Week and at the same time, there will be a ramp walk performance with Bollywood actress Ananya Pandey and other famous models. In the same month of February, Egypt's biggest fashion show International LYA Ramp Show was organized in which I was selected as the topper. Its dress designing was done by Neeta Khandelwal who is an internationally renowned dress designer and is my dress designer. With all this hard work, achievements and the support and blessings of Dhanbad residents, I am getting offers to act in many upcoming web series, albums and films.

Farewell ceremony of class XII students in DAV Baniyaheer

Jorapokhar: Class XII students of Arts, Commerce and Science streams were given farewell in DAV School Baniyaheer. This program was organized by class XI students. The program was inaugurated with a havan. After this, various types of programs were presented by the students of class XI. The program was conducted by class XI students Ananya Mishra and Ritika Prasad. The dance presented by class XI student Akanksha Bhardwaj was praised by the people present. Class IX student Riya and her group presented a very captivating dance. At the end of the program, delicious snacks were arranged by the students of class XI. The program was directed by the senior English teacher of the school, Mrs. Soma Banerjee. On this occasion, the school's Principal Ajaz Ahmed said that one should always move forward on the path of progress in life.

Deputy Commissioner inaugurated the Filariasis eradication program by taking medicine

▶ Everyone should take medicine to make Dhanbad Filariasis free : DC
▶ From 11th to 25th February, the drug administrator will go door to door to give medicine to the people who are left out

DN ■ Dhanbad

Appeal to all people to take medicine for Filariasis eradication Deputy Commissioner cum District Magistrate Ms. Madhavi Mishra inaugurated the mass drug administration started for Filariasis eradication in Sadar Hospital by taking DEC and Albendazole tablets herself. The Deputy Commissioner said that from 11th to 25th February, the drug administrator will go door to door and feed the people DEC and Albendazole in front of him. He appealed to the people of the district to cooperate with the drug administrator and definitely take the medicine to make Dhanbad Filariasis free. He also said that by taking the dose of DEC and



Albendazole once a year during the mass drug administration, this incurable disease can be controlled. He said that half a tablet of Albendazole (200 mg) should be dissolved in water for a child between 1 to 2 years. One tablet of DEC (100 mg) and one tablet of Albendazole (400 mg) should be given to a child between 2 to 5 years, two tablets of DEC (200 mg) and one tablet

of Albendazole should be given to a child between 6 to 14 years, two tablets of DEC (200 mg) and one tablet of Albendazole should be given to a person above 15 years of age, three tablets of DEC 300 (mg) and one tablet of Albendazole should be given by the drug administrator in his presence. However, children below one year of age, pregnant women, very old and seriously ill persons should not be given this dose of medicine. No one should consume this medicine on an empty stomach. During the program, the Deputy Commissioner provided kits to two patients suffering from filariasis. Civil surgeon Dr Chandrabhanu Pratapan, Sadar hospital nodal Dr Rajkumar Singh, WHO surveillance medical officer Dr Amit Kumar Tiwari, VBD official Dr Sunil Kumar, VBD consultant Ramesh Kumar Singh, DLO Dr Manju Das, Shubham Kumar and others were present on the occasion.

Hair cutting was done in Old Age Home with the help of R Launch

DN ■ Dhanbad

All the elderly parents were provided with free hair cutting, trimming and hair by R Launch. President Naushad said that this is the first time that such a program was organized in the ashram. For which I thank all the members of Roti Bank and R Launch from the bottom of my heart. Raj Thakur said that all of us members always go to such a place where people do not get this type of service. Today we all got a chance to serve in the ashram, for which I thank and express gratitude to all the members of Roti Bank and will continue to organize such programs in future as well. The President of the organization Ravi Shekhar said that there is always an effort to reach the needy people and our aim is to serve the needy people. Where all the members of the launch mainly Rakesh Yadav, Raj Thakur, Birju Thakur, Pawan Yadav, Ashish Hair Trainer, Abdul, Bharat Pankaj, Chiku Kanika, Rekha, Veera, Reena supported.



Eye check-up camp by Inner Wheel Club of Giridih Sunshine Rotary

DN ■ Giridih

An eye check-up camp was organised at CCL DAV School under the joint aegis of Inner Wheel Giridih Sunshine and Rotary Giridih. In this camp, the eyes of about 150 students from class 3 to 7 were examined. Expert technicians of Rotary Eye Hospital conducted a thorough eye examination of the students and identified their vision problems. Students who require glasses will be provided free glasses so that they can study better and their vision-related problems can be resolved. The programme began with the school management welcoming all the present members by giving flowers and applying tilak. On this occasion, IWC Giridih Sunshine President Sonali Tarve and Rotary Giridih President Rotarian Ravi Chudiwala expressed satisfaction over the success of the camp. He said that such health camps are extremely beneficial for the society



and such service work will be done in future as well. PDC Poonam Sahay, Treasurer Smriti Anand, Mona Chudiwala and other members of the club were present in this program. Club member Shabana Rawani contributed immensely in making this program successful. The school administration expressed gratitude to IWC Giridih Sunshine and Rotary Giridih for this commendable initiative and hoped for cooperation in future as well.

Giridih women's team gets third place in Kabaddi competition



DN ■ Giridih

Giridih women's team performed brilliantly and secured third place in the Krida Bharti state level Kabaddi competition held on 8 and 9 February at Teen Plate Sports Complex, Jamshepur. The players played well under the leadership of team coach Priyanka Kumari and manager Sudhir Anand. District President Rajendra Tarve and District Minister Amit Swarnkar said that this achievement has enthused the Kabaddi players of Giridih. The winning players—Rimjim, Ganga, Geeta, Pihu, Juhi, Tara, Simran, Sonu, Khushi, and Shivani—were congratulated. The team got the opportunity to participate in the competition with the financial support of Krida Bharti's patrons Pradeep Jain and Vijay Singh. Officials and sports lovers wished all the winning players a bright future.

Unorganized workers demonstrated in Jeetpur Colliery

DN ■ Jorapokhar

Unorganized workers of Jeetpur Colliery of SAIL company protested in front of the colliery office on Monday against not making their PF account online and other problems. During this, the workers also raised anti-management slogans. The workers have given their demand letter to the GM of the colliery and demanded immediate solution. Suresh Singh, who is leading the workers, said that the colliery is closed for the last one year. 15 hundred unorganized workers used to work for coal production in the colliery. The mine has been closed due to water leakage in the colliery mine. Due to the closure of the mine, the economic condition of the unorganized workers has worsened. Due to lack of money, the workers are facing problems in getting their daughter married. They are facing a lot of problems in getting their children educated on time and getting them treated when they fall ill. Mr. Singh said that due to his PF account not being online, he is facing difficulty in withdrawing the PF amount. We are forced to protest. Rajkumar Tiwari, Pradeep Mahato, Dashrath Prasad and etc were present.



People were made aware by inaugurating MDA in Nirsa Community Health Center

DN ■ Nirsa

To prevent Filariasis disease and to create awareness among people, MDA camp was organized in Nirsa Community Health Center and medicines were given. The camp was inaugurated by Nirsa Block Pramukh Asha Devi and CHC Medical Officer Dr. Sanjay Kumar by cutting the ribbon. Giving the above information, CHC Medical Officer Dr. Sanjay Kumar said that this campaign is run by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India from 10 February to 25 February every year. He said that this is a nationwide campaign, its aim is to eliminate Filariasis disease. For this, people are given free medicines. He said that if the medicine is taken once a year, then the medicine works for five years. Filariasis is also commonly called elephantiasis. He said that this disease is caused by mosquito bites, this disease also affects other parts of the body, such as hands, feet,



breasts, and hydrocele. Its infection mostly occurs in childhood. He also gave information about prevention of this disease. He said that keep the place where you live clean, pay attention to the cleaning of drains, use mosquito net and everyone should take medicine, even healthy people can take medicine. Sick people and pregnant women should not take medicine. On the said occasion, Chief Asha Devi, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Dhaneshwar Ram, Ashutosh Mukherjee, Suresh Prasad, Anindi Yadav and others were present.

Did not get help from MP, MLA, DALSA gave relief

DN ■ Dhanbad

A 65 year old man troubled by poverty got tired of visiting the offices of MP, MLA and government officials for the past several months. But he did not get any help from anywhere. Finally, DALSA took the initiative to help him and get the amount of old age pension scheme. Actually, under the 90-day outreach awareness campaign being run by JALSA, Adhikar Mitra (PLV) Dinesh Kumar Mahato and Raju Sao saw a 65 year old artist wandering on the road. Who was pleading for help from the people. The old man Anup Ram told that he has no family to take care of him. He was a painter by profession. Due to physical weakness, he is not able to do anything now. Therefore, he pleaded for help from MP, MLA. He was tired of visiting government offices several times. But he is not getting the pension amount. Due to this, a situation of starvation has arisen in



front of him. Taking immediate action on this, Junior Judge cum Secretary DLSA Rakesh Roshan took the initiative on the instructions of Principal District and Sessions Judge cum Chairman District Legal Services Authority Virendra Kumar Tiwari. Immediately spoke to the district administration and spoke to the District Social Security Officer to

restart the old age pension which was stopped for 6 months. The officer assured that their problem will be resolved soon. At the same time, on the initiative of the judge, the district administration has also assured to provide accommodation soon. The judge provided financial assistance for blankets and nutritious food on the spot to provide relief to the elderly from the cold.

Annual secondary and intermediate examination will be held at 105 centers from 11 February to 3 March

▶ Guidelines given to magistrates and police officers to conduct malpractice-free examination
▶ FIR will be lodged if caught malpractice
▶ Ban on carrying all types of electronic equipment

DN ■ Dhanbad

Annual secondary and intermediate examination will be conducted at 105 examination centers of the district from 11 February to 3 March. Necessary guidelines were given to all magistrates and police officers in New Town Hall under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner cum District Magistrate Ms. Madhavi Mishra to conduct the examination in a peaceful manner and without malpractice. On this occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed the center superintendent to register an FIR against the candidate if caught malpractice during the examination, ensure water, electricity, adequate lighting, clean toilets, CCTV and other facilities in the examination



center and monitor through CCTV during the examination period. Also, he directed the Static Magistrate and Police Officer to coordinate with each other and thoroughly check the candidates, ensure their identity and deliver the question paper to the centre on time. Senior Superintendent of Police Hrideep P

Janardhanan directed the police officers to remain vigilant while discharging their duties, to match the face of the candidate with his/her photo identity card, not to allow any kind of electronic gadgets, to reach the examination centre on time and not to allow crowd of people to gather outside the examination centre. The annual secondary examination to be held from 11 February to 3 March will be held in the first shift from 9:45 am to 1 pm and the Intermediate examination will be held in the second shift from 2 pm to 5:15 pm. Deputy Commissioner Ms Madhavi Mishra, Senior Superintendent of Police Hrideep P Janardhanan, Deputy Development Commissioner Sadat Anwar, Rural SP Kapil Chaudhary, ADM Law and Order Piyush Sinha, Sub-Divisional Officer Rajesh Kumar, District Education Officer Mrs Nishu Kumari, DSP Law and Order Naushad Alam, DSP Sumit Kumar, all Block Development Officers, all Circle Officers and others were present in the meeting.

The police team of the subdivision became champion by defeating Medha Panchayat in a friendly match

DN ■ Maithan

The police team of Nirsa subdivision became champion in the friendly cricket competition organized between police, journalists, Maithan Ceramic and Medha Panchayat in the middle school ground of DVC in Maithan with the cooperation of Maithan Ceramic. In the final match of the competition, the team of Medha Panchayat won the toss and decided to bat first and scored a total of 85 runs by losing 8 wickets in the stipulated 12 overs. In response to which, the police team of Nirsa subdivision won the competition by 6 wickets with 7



balls remaining and became champion. Earlier, the first match was played between the subdivision police team and journalists in which the police team of Nirsa subdivision batted first and scored a total of 121 runs in the stipulated 12 overs. Chasing which, the journalist team was able to score 79 runs by losing three wickets in the stipulated 12 overs. In the second match, Maithan Ceramic faced the team of Medha Panchayat. Maithan Ceramic team batted first and scored a total of 83 runs in the stipulated 12 overs.

Matric Intermediate examination should be conducted in a malpractice-free environment: DC



DN ■ Bokaro

Deputy Commissioner Vijaya Jadhav held a meeting with the Education Officer, all examination centre superintendents, BDO CO cum patrolling magistrate static magistrate etc. in the Town Hall auditorium located in Camp Two on Monday regarding

49346 students will appear for the matriculation and intermediate exams on 107 exam cadres: DEO

Bokaro. District Education Officer Jagarnath Lohara said that the number of candidates for matriculation examination in the district is 25,910. Whereas, the number of candidates for intermediate examination is 23,436. A total of 63 centers have been set up for matriculation examination and 44 centers for intermediate examination

in the district. Nationalized bank and treasury of the concerned block have been identified to keep the question papers and answer sheets. Earlier, the trainer gave detailed information to all the center superintendents regarding the guidelines issued for the matriculation-intermediate examination to be organized by the Chief

Secretary Jharkhand Government and Jharkhand Academic Council. At the same time, Additional Collector Mohammad Mumtaz Ansari, Sub-Divisional Officer Chas Ms. Pranjal Dhanda Sub-Divisional Officer Bermo Mr. Mukesh Machhua gave necessary guidelines to the center superintendents, BDO-CO cum patrolling

magistrate static magistrate etc.

On this occasion, all the center superintendents related to Chas and Bermo subdivision, BDO-CO district level officer cum patrolling magistrate static magistrate and treasury officer Bermo Bokaro, assistant public relations officer Avinash Kumar Singh and others were present.

the preparations for the Matric Intermediate examination starting from February 11 in the district. Superintendent of Police Manoj Swargiari, SDO Chas Ms. Pranjal Dhanda, SDO Bermo Mukesh Machhua, District Education Officer Jagarnath Lohara etc. were present in the meeting.

The Deputy Commissioner said that there should be no laxity where the question paper will be kept. Ensure that the question and answer sheets will be under CCTV

surveillance everywhere. There should be basic facilities like electricity, adequate lighting, toilets, drinking water etc. in the examination centres, so that the candidates do not face any kind of problem. Said that the centre superintendent will prepare a list of rooms according to the number of cameras and display it in the control room, so that there will be ease in monitoring work. At the same time, the magistrate police force carrying the question papers will take the question papers

and answer sheets from the strong room of their block on time and ensure that they reach the examination center one hour before.

Also, after the completion of the examination, the answer sheets will be deposited in the concerned treasury. Superintendent of Police Manoj Swargiari said that the concerned police station in-charge will also be in alert mode regarding the Matriculation - Intermediate examination.

Labor Employment Minister held a meeting with representatives of all industrial associations and entrepreneurs of JIADA Bokaro region

DN ■ Bokaro

A meeting was held with the representatives of all the industrial associations and entrepreneurs of JIADA Bokaro region on Monday in the Hans Regency Auditorium located in Sector One. The meeting was chaired by the Honorable Minister of Labor Employment Training and Skill Development Department and Industry Department of the state, Mr. Sanjay Prasad Yadav. JIADA Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, Deputy Commissioner cum Regional Director JIADA Vijaya Jadhav, Regional Deputy Director Manoj Kumar and others were present on the occasion. In the meeting, representatives of Laghu Udyog Bharati, Bokaro Chamber of Industries, Sankalp Udyam Shakti, MSME Entrepreneurs Association, SC-ST Udyami Vikas



Sangh, Jharkhand Industries Association, MSME Association of Jharkhand, Bokaro Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Guru Gobind Singh Educational Society Technical Campus Engineering and Management College, Bhendra Hand Tools Producers Company Limited and National Small Industries and Business expressed their views regarding the prevailing problems and their suggestions, their expectations from the gov-

ernment department. At the same time, everyone also submitted a memorandum related to their demand to the minister.

In his address on the occasion, Minister of Labor Employment Training and Skill Development Department and Industry Department Sanjay Prasad Yadav said that whatever problems have been raised by the entrepreneurs, the department government will take positive initiative to solve

them and on the suggestions given by them. If there is a need for amendment in the law, then initiative will also be taken in this direction by placing these things before the Chief Minister. Representatives of all industrial associations have seriously heard and noted the entrepreneurs' words. All necessary steps will be taken to promote industry in the interest of the state. Deputy Commissioner cum JIADA Regional Director Mrs. Vijaya Jadhav, who was present on the occasion, asked to work towards solving the problems to be resolved at the district level and regional director level. She talked about solving basic problems like road, electricity, water, holding a meeting with all PSUs to give priority to local companies in work allocation by the public sector unit established in the district, etc.

Reunion of Matric pass students of Sector 6 School of Batch 84



DN ■ Bokaro

The matric pass students of the 84th batch of Sector-6 High School, run by Bokaro Steel Plant Management, had a reunion on Sunday at the JICA Resort. The reunion program has started from the year 2023. The friends who met after about 39 years at the picnic spot in City Park in the year 2023 took an oath to meet at least once a year. In this sequence, about a dozen students gathered at the JICA Resort from the morning of February 9 and shared their life journey with each other. This time the special thing was that most of the people came with their wives.

Many students from outside Bokaro also participated in it. The atmosphere of the entire resort was filled with energy throughout the day due to songs, music and dance.

DC started the Filaria eradication program by taking medicine; target is to give medicine to 2370811 people

Starting Tuesday, for the next 14 days, people will be given medicine by going door to door

DN ■ Bokaro

Under the National Vector Borne Disease Control Program, the Filaria Eradication Program was launched under Mass Drug Administration in the Collectorate Auditorium on Monday. Deputy Commissioner cum Chairman District Health Committee Vijaya Jadhav, Civil Surgeon Dr. A.B. Prasad, Additional Collector Mr. Mumtaz Ansari, District Social Welfare Officer Dr. Suman Gupta, District BHVD Officer Dr. Renu Bharti, District Planning Officer Raj Sharma, Assistant Public Relations Officer



Avinash Kumar Singh, Principal of City College, DPM of JSLPS etc. started the Filaria Eradication Program in the district by consuming DEC tablets along with Albendazole tablets. In her address, Deputy Commissioner Vijaya Jadhav said that Filaria is a disease caused by the bite of elephantiasis mosquito. We can avoid this disease only by taking medicine.

Therefore, it is necessary to take medicine for this disease. Therefore, as a precaution, everyone

should take DEC and Albendazole medicine according to the age group.

A total of 2246 booths have been set up in all Anganwadi centres, all health sub centres, all health centres, all community health centres and schools to administer the medicine. The medicine will be administered door to door from Tuesday for the next 14 days.

She asked the civil surgeon Dr. AB Prasad and other medical officers to ensure 100% target achievement. The Deputy Commissioner asked them to organise a workshop with all the school principals of the district, members of the women self-help group of JSLPS.

DPS Bokaro Students participate in the live session of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2025'

DN ■ Bokaro

Students of DPS, Bokaro, had the privilege of witnessing the live session of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2025', an interactive initiative led by India's visionary Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. Through this enlightening session, the students imbibed invaluable tips on appearing for exams in a stress-free and joyful manner, developing a positive approach towards academic challenges.

During the engaging live interaction, the students absorbed crucial lessons on staying focused without external pressure, inculcating leadership qualities,



holistic growth, persuasive communication with parents and teachers and effective time management. The Prime Minister, in his imitable style, motivated students to remain optimistic, cultivate the habit of writing and embrace difficulties as stepping stones to success.

A key highlight of the ses-

sion was PM Modi's emphasis on conquering one's toughest subjects with a challenger's mindset, inspiring students to turn obstacles into opportunities. His words infused a fresh zeal among the young minds, encouraging them to approach exams with confidence rather than stress. He also stated the

importance of sharing one's feelings with someone to prevent emotional distress, ensuring a mentally healthy approach to academic life. The Principal, Dr. A. S. Gangwar, said that 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' is a historic initiative by Prime Minister Modi. He expressed his belief that when students appear for exams in a stress-free and joyful environment, their performance is bound to improve significantly. "This initiative continues to serve as a beacon of guidance, empowering students with the right mindset to tackle exams with enthusiasm, resilience and self-belief", he asserted.

DPS Bokaro organizes 'Surya Namaskar' Session in collaboration with the Bokaro District Yogasana Sport Association



DN ■ Bokaro

To build a foundation for a healthy lifestyle among youths, DPS Bokaro conducted a special 'Surya Namaskar' session in the school premises on Monday in alliance with the Bokaro District Yogasana Sport Association. The event was conducted as part of the Surya Namaskar Project, a statewide



initiative being held from January 12, 2025 (Swami Vivekananda Jayanti) to February 12, 2025 (Guru Ravidas Jayanti) under the aegis of the association.

The project, which is being implemented across all districts of Jharkhand, aims to encourage physical fitness and mental

well-being through the regular practice of 'Surya Namaskar'. Approximately 500 students, along with staff members, actively participated in the session, performing the 12 postures of Surya Namaskar in perfect synchronisation. The practice is widely regarded as a holistic

workout, integrating strength, flexibility and balance while also promoting mental clarity, focus and relaxation.

Dr. A. S. Gangwar, President of the Bokaro District Yogasana Sport Association and Principal, of DPS Bokaro, led the session and emphasized the importance of this ancient yogic practice. He stressed that 'Surya Namaskar' is a powerful combination of physical exercise and mindfulness, designed to enhance physical endurance, mental resilience and spiritual well-being. He further highlighted that the initiative was launched on National Youth Day to inspire young individuals to adopt a healthier lifestyle, ultimately contributing

to a stronger nation.

Brajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary of the association and Sports Teacher at DPS Bokaro, informed that the project is being executed across all districts of Jharkhand under the directives of the association's General Secretary, Bipin Kumar Pandey. On this occasion, the Vice President of the association and the school's Vice Principal, Anjani Bhushan, along with the Treasurer and the school's Administrator, Rajan Kumar Singh were present. The Joint Secretary of the organization and the school's sports faculty, Nibha Kumari, guided the participants in practicing Surya Namaskar and meditation.

Saraswati Vidya Mandir: Hundreds of students participated in the discussion on the examination

DN ■ Bokaro

All the brothers and sisters of class 10th and 12th were given important information regarding CBSE board examination. The program on examination by Prime Minister Modi was shown to all the brothers and sisters



through a projector in the school.

In the program on examination, PM Modi said that they should first read those subjects which are scaring them. Students should definitely take sun bath. Keep as much of the body in the sun as possible. Students should get enough sleep. He said that one should make their failures their teacher. Life is not just an exam. Life does not stop due to failure. Principal Sanjeev Kumar said that your regular study and teaching is the key to success. Also, the brothers and sisters of the school were given admit cards by the examination department. After the completion of the first program, the convocation ceremony of the brothers and sisters of class 12th was completed.

News In Brief

Farewell given to two retired employees in Amlo



Phusro: Farewell ceremony was organized in AADOCM Amlo of CCL Dhori area on Monday. In which extension engineer Vinod Kumar and fitter Kauleshwar Thakur were given emotional farewell on retirement. The program was conducted by RCMU branch president Jairam Singh. In the program, chief guest manager Muninath Singh garlanded Vinod Kumar and fitter Kauleshwar Thakur and gave them gifts and wished them a happy future. RCMU Ganesh Mallah said that retirement is certain one day for those who work.

Inauguration of construction work of Swang Middle School Class Room



Gomia: On Monday, Yogendra Prasad Mahato, Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Excise and Prohibition Department, laid the foundation stone for the construction of class room in Middle School, Swang under Gomya block by performing Bhoomi Pujan ritual and said that fulfilling every need of the school and students is our priority. Our main goal is to provide high quality education to all the children. On this occasion, the students welcomed the minister with a welcome song.

News In Brief

People of Larango village of Sisai cleaned the graveyard on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat

Gumla: People of the community cleaned the graveyard in Larango village of Sisai block on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat, a festival of the Muslim community. Shab-e-Barat is called Magferat or the night of forgiveness. In this festival, people of the Muslim community pray to Allah throughout the night to get their sins forgiven and go to the grave and pray for the deceased. They also ask for forgiveness from Allah for their sins. Allah forgives the sinners on this night. The grave is cleaned on this day. In this festival, the Muslim community cleans their houses. They pray for peace, prosperity and brotherhood for their family as well as the country and the world. The Muslim community celebrates this festival with great simplicity.

People were made legally aware

Kunda (Chatra): As per the instructions of the Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority, a legal awareness camp was organized in Kunda police station on Sunday. In this camp, mutual settlement agreements were made in various cases. Adhikar Mitra Ajit Kumar made people legally aware by telling them about the free helpline number 15100 issued by NALSA and also told that one can get legal information by contacting the toll free number. Police officials and others were present in the legal camp.

Bachpan Pre School inaugurated, guests formally inaugurated it

Chatra: Bachpan Pre School was formally inaugurated on Sunday near Block Mor located at Gidhaur Block Headquarters. National Player GPS Gulmohar Public School Hazaribagh Director Vidya Bakshi was present as the chief guest in the school inauguration ceremony along with Gidhaur Zonal Officer Anant Saynam Vishwakarma, Police Station Incharge Amit Kumar Gupta, retired teacher Yugeshwar Ram Dangi, Shyamsundar Dangi, teacher Naresh Paswan, Rajendra Das and Mukhiya Nirmala Devi etc.

The same team won twice in two different games

DN ■ Chatra

Two matches of Premier League Season 2 were played on Sunday at Jawaharlal Nehru Football Ground located at Gidhaur Block Headquarters. In which the first match was played between Sindwari Fighter vs Mukesh Warriors. In which, after winning the toss and batting first, Sindwari Fighter scored 147 runs by losing five wickets in the stipulated 12 overs. Coming to play the reply innings, Mukesh Warriors could score only 89 runs by losing all the wickets in 9.1 overs. Thus, Sindwari Fighter won the match by 58 runs. On the basis of better performance, Sonu Gupta was given the Man

Administration took major action against three private health institutions of Chhatarpur subdivision area which were operating against the prescribed standards

- ▶ Raids were conducted in three centres, show-cause notices were issued
- ▶ Operations were being conducted by unqualified persons, the staff of the institution disappeared after seeing the officials
- ▶ Playing with health will not be tolerated - Deputy Commissioner
- ▶ Action will be taken against those who violate the PC & PNDDT Act

DN ■ Medininagar

Administration took major action against three private health institutions operating against the prescribed standards in Chhatarpur subdivision area. On the direction of Deputy Commissioner-cum-PC & PNDDT Chairman Shashi Ranjan, raids were conducted in health institutions which



did not meet the health standards under the leadership of Chhatarpur Subdivision Officer Ashish Gangwar. Many facts have been revealed in the raids conducted in three institutions Verma Hospital, Maa Lalita Hospital and Khushi Ultrasound operating in Saraidih Road of Chhatarpur. Show-cause notices have been issued against

the operators of all the three institutions by the Deputy Superintendent-cum-Medical Officer in-charge of Chhatarpur Subdivision Hospital. They have been directed to submit a detailed explanation within 48 hours. In case the explanation is unsatisfactory/unavailable, it will be reported to the higher authorities for strict action. Sub-divisional Officer Ashish Gangwar, Circle Officer of Chhatarpur and Deputy Superintendent-cum-Medical Officer in-charge of Chhatarpur Sub-divisional Hospital were present in the raid-cum-surprise inspection. On the direction of *Deputy Commissioner Shashi Ranjan*, the action of the administration will continue under the PC & PNDDT Act. The Deputy Commissioner said that the administration is contin-

uously working towards providing better health facilities to the people of Palamu in a timely manner. Playing with health will not be tolerated. Strict action will be taken against hospitals and other institutions found without registration and whose registration validity has expired in the district. **Verma Hospital was being run without valid documents and registered doctor** Many errors were found in the raid-cum-surprise inspection of Verma Hospital. The registration validity of the hospital was found to be expired. Patients were being operated by unqualified persons. Patients were being operated by BDS Dr. Sunil Verma (dentist). The declaration form and other important documents taken from patients before the operation were

almost negligible. Not only this, no registered doctor was found in the hospital during the inspection. The investigation made it clear that the hospital was being operated without valid documents and registered doctors. Also, while operating patients without a qualified doctor, the necessary documents were not being maintained. **Doctors related to ultrasound not found in Maa Lalita Hospital** During the surprise inspection of Maa Lalita Hospital by the officials, the registration validity of the hospital was found to be expired. Also, the documents related to the admitted patients were not being maintained properly. The documents of the beneficiaries for whom ultrasound was to be done under the PC & PNDDT Act were not maintained properly.

DC should curb corruption: Bittu Pathak

DN ■ Medininagar

A delegation led by Bittu Pathak, President of Palamu District Congress Committee, met DC Shashi Ranjan. The delegation submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner and demanded that the corruption prevailing in the block cum zonal offices be brought under control. Bittu Pathak told the DC that middlemen dominate the purchase and sale of paddy. The rights of the farmers are being violated. The land papers of the person selling paddy must be checked. The owner is selling 1 acre of paddy, but the paddy of 20 acres is sold. This is the game of middlemen. Farmers should get a fair price. Corruption is at its peak in the block cum zonal offices. Without bribe, no beneficiary gets the benefit of any government scheme including housing in the block office. Bribes have to be given for birth-death, caste, income and character certificates. Money has to be paid for LPC, mutation of land in the zonal office. No work is done without paying money. From employees to officers, everyone is involved in this. Corruption is at its peak especially in Sadar Chainpur zone.



District level mining task force meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner

DN ■ Ramgarh

On Monday, Deputy Commissioner, Chandan Kumar organized a meeting of the District Level Mining Task Force in the Collectorate hall in the presence of Superintendent of Police Ramgarh Ajay Kumar.

In the meeting, first of all, District Mining Officer Nishant Abhishek gave detailed information about the work being done against illegal mining to the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police and others through PPT. The Deputy Commissioner praised the work done to stop illegal mining in the recent past and directed to take action against illegal mining in a more effective manner. The Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police took information about the work done in the light of the instructions given in the previous meeting of the Mining Task Force. While taking information about the work done by the Deputy Commissioner and



Superintendent of Police under the closure of illegal mouths, the Deputy Commissioner directed to take necessary action to close it properly immediately if information related to mining from illegal mouths is received from anywhere. To ensure a complete ban on illegal mining and proper dozing of illegal mouths, the Deputy Commissioner directed the General Managers and Area Security Officers of all the concerned projects to pay special attention to the works and ensure that no mining work of any kind is allowed from illegal mouths.

Barwadih-Dehri on-Sone passenger cancelled for two days, rack sent to Prayagraj

DN ■ Medininagar

Several special trains are being operated by the railways to control the crowd gathered once again in Prayagraj Mahakumbh. Under this, the rack of Barwadih-Dehri on-Sone passenger has been sent to Prayagraj for two days. Due to this, the operation of this train has been cancelled for two days on the scheduled route. Let us tell you that this train leaves daily from Barwadih for Dehri on-Sone in the evening. It is considered the most convenient train for daily commuters. Barwadih station superintendent AK Dwivedi said that due to non-availability of rack, Barwadih-Dehri on-Sone shuttle passenger has been cancelled. It has been kept cancelled till Tuesday. Thousands of people have been leaving for Prayagraj since last week to take a dip of faith on the main Amrit Snan Maghi Purnima of Mahakumbh. Due to this, there is a huge crowd in the trains going to Prayagraj and Banaras. In view of this, the railway management decided to make additional arrangements. Here, the rack of shuttle passenger has been attached to Ranchi-Chopan Express and sent off on Sunday. Chopan Express will be operated till Chunar instead of Chopan on Sunday.



District level road safety committee meeting held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner

DN ■ Ramgarh

On Monday, Deputy Commissioner, Chandan Kumar held a meeting of the District Level Road Safety Committee in the presence of Superintendent of Police Ajay Kumar in the District Collectorate hall. The work done in the light of the instructions given by the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police in the earlier meeting of the District Level Road Safety Committee was reviewed. During the review, the DC expressed deep concern over the road accidents in Chutupalu Valley. At present, he inquired about the regular functioning of the lights installed in the valley. On the spot, the Deputy Commissioner directed to ensure regular functioning of the lights installed in the valley under all circumstances. He also directed to complete the sign board work as soon as possible to prevent accidents in the valley area. The Deputy Commissioner also gave necessary instructions regarding vehicle



checking campaign, organizing awareness programs, identifying black spots etc. The DC directed District Transport Officer Manisha Vats to conduct regular vehicle checking campaigns and run special vehicle checking campaigns from time to time to curb illegal transportation. Superintendent of Police Ajay Kumar directed all police station in-charges to conduct regular vehicle checking campaigns in all areas of the district to make the traffic system smooth and to ensure the safety of drivers. So that awareness is spread among people and they use helmets and seat belts while driving so that accidents can be reduced.

Two-day State Tribal Development Mahakumbh Fair from today, administrative preparations complete

Municipal Commissioner, DDC and other senior officials took stock of the preparations

DN ■ Palamu

The two-day State Tribal Development Mahakumbh Fair will start from February 11, 2025 under the aegis of the Department of Tourism, Art, Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs. Administrative preparations for the fair organized at Dubiyakhad in Medininagar Sadar block have been completed. Deputy Commissioner Shashi Ranjan is taking information about the preparations every moment. He has said that the district administration has made extensive preparations to make the State Tribal Development Mahakumbh Fair historic. Honorable Minister of Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste and Backward Class Welfare (except Minority Welfare) Department Chamra Linda will attend the inauguration ceremony of the fair as the chief guest. At the same



time, the special guest will be the Honorable Minister of Finance, Commercial Tax, Planning and Development and Parliamentary Affairs Department Radhakrishna Kishore. Palamu MP Vishnu Dayal Ram, Panki MLA Kushwaha Shashi Bhushan Mehta, Daltonganj MLA Alok Kumar Chaurasia, Vishrampur MLA Naresh Prasad Singh, Hussainabad MLA Sanjay Kumar Singh Yadav will participate as distinguished guests. To give a grand look to the fair, Municipal Commissioner Javed Hussain, Deputy Development Commissioner Shabbir Ahmed,

Sadar Sub-Divisional Officer Sulochana Meena and other senior officials inspected the fair site today and took stock of the preparations going on there. The officials directed to organize a grand fair. More than 40 stalls of various departments have been set up by the district administration in the fair. Through these stalls, people will be benefited from the public welfare schemes run by the concerned department. Along with this, awareness will be created about the schemes. Along with the distribution of assets in the fair, rituals like Godbhara, Annaprasanna etc. will be completed. During the inspection of the preparations of the fair, District Welfare-cum-District Sports Officer Seva Ram Sahu, President of the Fair Organizing Committee Arjun Singh and other members were present.

Ravi Singh arrested with ganja from Bhuli C Block

DN ■ Bhuli

On the basis of secret information from a senior officer, Bhuli police arrested a person named Ravi Singh from Bhuli C Block with ganja and sent him to jail. In this regard, Bhuli OP in-charge Abhinav Kumar told in a press conference that after getting information that illegal ganja is being sold in a shop in C Block of Bhuli, after its verification, the police took further action and raided the shop of a person named Ravi Singh in C Block. Ganja kept in a blue plastic bag was recovered from the shop. Eighty-five packets of ganja were recovered from it. Which weighs about three hundred grams. A case has been registered in the recovery of ganja and the accused Ravi Singh is being sent to judicial custody. Police station in-charge Abhinav Kumar said that if illegal activities are being conducted anywhere in the area, then immediately inform the police. The identity of the informer will be kept confidential and appropriate action will be taken.



Grading examination of Taekwondo players completed, players displayed excellent game

DN ■ Chatra

Taekwondo grading examination was conducted on Sunday at Rameshwar Lal Khandelwal Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir in the city under the aegis of Chatra District Taekwondo Association, recognized by Jharkhand and District Olympic Association. It was formally inaugurated by the chief guest, sub-divisional police officer Sandeep Suman. Earlier, the chief guest was welcomed by giving a bouquet. 55 children from various schools participated in the grading examination. Addressing the program, the chief guest Mr. Suman congrat-



ulated the children and said that Taekwondo is a game of self-defense and increasing self-confidence. Children have performed very well in the grading examination. Especially the small children impressed the mind through their punches and kicks. He said that a lot of energy was seen in the children. They are full of art and talent. While wishing the children, he said that the children should reach the final 10th position of the Grand. He said that Taekwondo is a game of pride of the nation. Taekwondo is a very important sport for the country's interest. Mr. Suman promised to send both his children to play Taekwondo.

UK's richest 10% took half of colonial India's wealth: Report

NEW DELHI.The colonial extraction of wealth from India during 1765 to 1900 by the British Empire amounted to \$64.82 trillion. This wealth went in the hands of the richest 10% of Britons, who received \$33.8 trillion of the wealth, says Oxfam's latest report, which was published on Monday. Oxfam in its report titled, "Takers, not Makers" mentioned that several elitist people from the UK owe their wealth to the compensation made by the government to rich slave owners during the time when the racist system was abolished. The report further mentioned that 52% of the above-mentioned wealth ended up in the hands of the UK's richest individuals, followed by the UK's emerging middle class, which gained 32% of the wealth. The Oxfam report also mentioned that colonialism was responsible for ruining Indian industrial output by imposing strict protectionist policies that prevented Asian textiles from competing in the market. In 1750, the Indian subcontinent accounted for 25% of global industrial output, which was drastically reduced to a mere 2% by 1900, mentioned the report. Oxfam further critiqued the British colonial regime as a "drug pusher," for using the opium trade to gain advantage over its colonies.

Bankrupt airline Go First's liquidation plea approved by law tribunal

NEW DELHI. The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has ordered the liquidation of Go First airline, according to multiple media reports. A NCLT bench, led by Judicial Member Mahendra Khandelwal and Technical Member Dr Sanjeev Ranjan, granted the liquidation petition filed by the airline's Committee of Creditors, reported Bar and Bench. Go First's lenders decided to liquidate the bankrupt budget carrier's assets in August of last year after rejecting bids by interest suitors. In May 2023, the airline had filed a plea under Section 10 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), requesting admission to the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP). It may be noted that the airline had received two bids as part of the bankruptcy process, and one of them even bumped up the offer after a push by lenders. However, the bids were ultimately rejected. Go First's total dues to creditors stand at Rs 6,521 crore. Some of the creditors are Central Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, IDBI Bank and Deutsche Bank.

The approval of the liquidation plea is a welcome development for the lenders, as all hopes of the airline's revival were lost after Go First's foreign aircraft lessors were allowed to take back their planes after a prolonged legal tussle.

8th Pay Commission Gets Govt; Will Govt Also Release 18-Months DA, DR Arrears For Central Govt Employees Now?

New Delhi. Following the cabinet approval for the formation of 8th Pay Commission latest update, the demand for payment of 18 months-pending Dearness allowance (DA) that had been frozen from January 2020 to June 2021, has yet again gained steam. Gopal Mishra, Secretary, NC JCM, had in a letter to the Ministry of Finance dated January urged for the releasing of 18 months arrears of Dearness Allowance/Release which was frozen during the COVID-19 Pandemic period. "We have been demanding to the Government that in accordance with the judgments of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and also considering the fact that the economic conditions of the country is in a satisfactory level, the 18 months DA / DR arrears



due to the Central Government Employees and Pensioners which was frozen during the COVID-19 pandemic period may please be paid back to the employees and Pensioners," he wrote.

"The decision to freeze three instalments of Dearness Allowance(DA)/Dearness Relief (DR) to Central Government employees/pensioners due from 01.01.2020, 01.07.2020 and 01.01.2021 was taken in the context of COVID-19, which caused economic disruption, so as to ease pressure on government finances. As the adverse financial impact of pandemic in 2020 and the financing of welfare measures taken by the government had a fiscal spill over beyond FY 2020-21, arrears of DA/DR which mostly pertain to the difficult FY of 2020-21 are not considered feasible," MoS Pankaj Chaudhary Ministry of Finance had informed the Rajya Sabha.

"However, an amount of Rs 34402.32 crores had been saved and utilized to tide over the economic impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on account of freezing three instalments of Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief payable to Central Government employees and pensioners," he had added.

What taxpayers can expect in Budget 2025

Govt may increase exemption limit to Rs 5L from the present Rs 3L; standard deduction may be raised to Rs 1 lakh.

NEW DELHI. The run-up to Budget 2025 has raised expectations of the middle class that the government is likely to give some relief on the personal taxation space. The aim would be to give a boost to private consumption, which has been lagging for quite some time. The tax sops in the personal income tax space can be in the form of change in basic exemption limit, tweaks in the tax slab rates as well as an increase in the standard deductions. Apart from that a few other changes are also likely in respect of certain compliances to make the life of individual taxpayers easier. We list out some of the likely changes in the budget:

Higher exemption limit: Currently, income up to Rs 3 lakh is not taxed if the total income is Rs 7 lakh or more under the new

tax regime. The government might increase the exemption limit to Rs 5 lakh, which means any income between Rs 5 lakh and Rs 7 lakh would be taxed at 5%. Currently, income between Rs 3 lakh and Rs 7 lakh is taxed at 5%. Higher standard deduction: At present, the standard deduction is Rs 75,000 under the new tax regime. This could be increased to Rs 1 lakh, if the government is not considering raising the exemption limit. Standard deduction is the amount that is deducted directly from the income of an individual to arrive at the taxable income. It must be noted that taxpayers opting for the old tax regime can avail standard deduction of only Rs 50,000. Changes in tax slab: Last year, the finance minister had increased the 5% tax slab from Rs 3-6 lakh to Rs 3-7 lakh, and the 10% tax bracket from Rs 6-9 lakh to Rs 7-10 lakh. This year, the finance minister may change the 20% tax bracket from Rs 12-15 lakh to Rs 12-18 lakh. Accordingly, the highest tax rate of 30% could be applicable for income over Rs 18 lakh. Most of these changes are likely in the



new tax regime as 72% of the taxpayers have moved to the new tax regime. The government would continue to make the new tax regime more appealing for taxpayers, and therefore, may not offer much relief to those opting for the old tax regime.

Other likely changes

In cases where the employer reimburses running and maintenance expenses of motor cars, the valuation of the motor car benefit is based on the cubic capacity of the engine to determine the perquisite

value. No separate criteria have been laid out with respect to electric cars. The Budget may come out with specific rules on use of EVs.

Tax experts also hope that the government may defer TDS on PF interest (above Rs 2.5 lakh) until the withdrawal stage. They also demand that the ESOP tax deferral benefit should be extended to all employers, allowing tax payment at the sale stage. Another relief sought is on TDS deducted on sale of house property by NRIs. If the seller is an NRI, tax is withheld at a higher rate of 20% (against 1% in case of resident), and the buyer is also required to obtain a TAN, deposit the tax deducted and file e-TDS returns. "While the purchase and sale of the property is not a recurring transaction, obtaining TAN solely for the mentioned purpose may result in more inactive TANs," says Divya Baweja, partner, Deloitte India. To address this issue, the TDS process applicable for cases where the seller is an NRI may be eased by introducing challan-cum-statements similar to those applicable for a resident seller.

ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India to start 2 automotive steel units in 2025

NEW DELHI. ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India, a joint venture between ArcelorMittal and Nippon Steel, is set to commission in 2025 two production lines dedicated to manufacturing advanced automotive steel products. The company in a statement said that once operational, the production of the two units will substitute imports of high-end steel required by the entire automotive sector. Some of the offerings currently available globally will also be manufactured for the first time in India. The new lines – a Continuous Galvanizing Line (CGL) and a Continuous Galvanizing and Annealing Line (CGAL), embedding the technical know-how of the parent companies – are expected to be fully operational in



2025. These two facilities will be part of the upcoming Cold Rolling Mill 2 (CRM2) complex at its flagship plant in Hazira, Gujarat.

The two units will enable the production of ArcelorMittal as well as Nippon Steel's licensed products, with strength levels up to 1180 MPa, in both coated and uncoated steel.

This initiative builds on the previous success of AM/NS India with the introduction of Optigal and Magnelis last year. The expansion aims to meet the growing demand for high-quality, value-added automotive steel in India, which currently stands at 7.8 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) for flat steel and is projected to grow by 6-7% annually.

Dilip Oommen, CEO of ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India), said, "The dedicated two units mark a significant step toward our goal of providing high-quality, premium steel solutions tailored to the evolving needs of the automotive sector. With our wide range of products and services, we are well-positioned and preferred choice among automotive manufacturers."

Paytm Q3 FY25 results: Revenue surges to Rs 1,828 crore, gets closer to profitability

New Delhi. India's leading payments and financial services company, Paytm, reported a strong performance in Q3 FY25, with its operating revenue climbing 10% quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) to Rs 1,828 crore. The growth was propelled by the company's robust payments business and an expanding portfolio in financial services distribution. Paytm's drive toward profitability showed marked progress, with its net loss improving by Rs 208 crore YoY. The company's EBITDA also witnessed a significant improvement of Rs 181 crore QoQ, narrowing to Rs (223) crore. Its contribution margin, excluding UPI incentives, remained steady at 52%, contributing Rs 959 crore to profits. EBITDA before ESOP costs improved by Rs 145 crore QoQ to Rs (41) crore, with the company maintaining its target to achieve EBITDA profitability before ESOP costs by Q4 FY25. The revenues from Paytm's payments services segment grew to Rs 1,059 crore, while

financial services revenue rose 35% QoQ to Rs 502 crore. The platform processed a Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) of Rs 5 lakh crore during the quarter, reflecting a 13% QoQ increase. Merchant subscriptions for payment devices grew by 5 lakh



during the quarter, reaching 1.17 crore. Meanwhile, the net payment margin stood at Rs 489 crore, driven by higher subscription revenue and stable payment processing margins. The company's cost optimisation efforts continued to deliver results, with indirect costs dropping 7% QoQ and 23% YoY. Employee expenses for the first nine

months of FY25 were reduced by Rs 451 crore YoY, surpassing Paytm's annual cost-saving target of Rs 400-500 crore. Loan disbursements during the quarter totaled Rs 3,831 crore in Q3 FY25 versus Rs 3,303 Cr in Q2 FY 2025. More than 50% of these loans were issued to repeat borrowers, indicating strong customer retention. A substantial portion of the loans was distributed under Paytm's Direct Lending & Guarantee (DLG) model, known for its higher upfront cost but enhanced long-term profitability. This model's success has drawn increased interest from lenders, further strengthening the company's financial services business. Paytm continues to prioritise a compliance-first approach and innovation in its merchant payment solutions, including new devices and payment aggregation tools. The company is also focused on regaining its UPI market share to January 2024 levels, scaling its financial services offerings, and leveraging AI-driven automation to enhance.

RBI Steps To Boost Liquidity In Banking System Are Smart, Pragmatic: SBI

System liquidity moved from a surplus of Rs 1.35 lakh crore in November to a deficit of Rs 0.65 lakh crore in December, further to Rs 1.58 lakh crore deficit in January (till January 16).

Mumbai. More changes in the RBI Liquidity Management Framework are likely after the daily dynamic VRR has been taken as the first step to manage liquidity in the banking system, according to an SBI research report. "Such changes and frontloading next round of moves are smart and pragmatic by the RBI...A delicate mix of temporary and permanent liquidity injection and withdrawal remains a work

in progress," the report states. As a corollary to intervention in the forex markets juxtaposed with volatile movements in government cash balances, liquidity has been shrinking in the banking system and alarmingly blowing past the comfort zone. This persistent liquidity conundrum, along with the anticipation of a rally in DXY has prompted the regulator to revert to daily dynamic VRR (variable rate repo) to effectively manage the liquidity along the revised LMF (Liquidity Management Framework) in place from February 2020. Given that such daily VRR transactions are akin to transient liquidity injections, repo transactions should ideally compensate for changes in government cash balances, but this is somehow also substituting for permanent durable liquidity shortfall arising out of currency leakage and liquidity impact of RBI forex intervention, the report observes. "To

negate this, in a smart move RBI has started to sell in Spot and NDF forwards and then doing short-term buy-sell swaps to replace the maturing forward



sale position and also to counter the durable liquidity drain from spot intervention. We also think RBI may announce longer term (2-3 years) buy sell swaps to shore up reserves and release liquidity," according to the SBI report. In principle, liquidity

management per se still has some operational challenges like improving the market microstructure, a proper indicator of liquidity tightness in the system and most importantly maintaining a delicate balance between an effective mix of durable and transient liquidity injection or withdrawal, the report points out. According to the report, the system liquidity situation remained tight and turned to injection mode since 16 December 2024, due to many reasons like tax outflows, GST payment, forex market intervention and volatility in capital flows. Further with the implementation of Just in Time (JIT), the system liquidity has been impacted through movements in government cash balances. System liquidity moved from a surplus of Rs 1.35 lakh crore in November to a deficit of Rs 0.65 lakh crore in December, further to Rs 1.58 lakh crore deficit in January (till January 16). If we look at the injection-absorption ratio, which has increased.

Indignation & integration

One of the loveliest journeys in the world is the flight from New Delhi to Guwahati and, if you are heading to the tea gardens or the Arunachal hills, the flights to Dibrugarh or Itanagar are equally awe-inspiring. For, you fly west to east along the Himalayan ranges, past Mount Everest and the snows of Kanchenjunga. Along either side of the Himalayas, mountains that tectonic plates continue to raise heaven-wards, are two ancient civilisations. The Indian peninsula, which continental drift has embedded in the Asian plate, and the Middle Kingdom of China. Recent tensions across the border echo similar situations in the past. We had been friends. Pandit Nehru had backed mainland China's claim for a seat in the UN Security Council. Then came the flight of the Dalai Lama, in 1959, to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh. He was followed by thousands of Tibetans. A government-in-exile was set up.

Perhaps it was this sanctuary, generously given by India, after an uprising in Tibet that riled China. The origins of the conflict that erupted between the neighbours in 1962, in the wake of these events, have long been disputed. Firstly, who ruptured the happy 'Hindi-Chini bhai-bhai' discourse? Secondly, why did India not use its Air Force, which was perhaps much superior to the Chinese air force in those days? Thirdly, when war did begin, why did our Prime Minister allow the evacuation of the Indian Army from the North-east? It is time to remember another Prime Minister, who in the course of the Second World War, had vowed, "We shall fight on the beaches. We shall fight on the landing grounds. We shall fight in the fields, and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills." After the evacuation at Dunkirk in the summer of 1940, Churchill admitted in the British Parliament that "wars are not won by evacuations". In the course of having served in India's far-flung forgotten frontiers in the North-east, for a period of three-and-a-half decades, I have heard numerous people, among them politicians, officers, students and common citizens, say that the great cause of the sense of alienation of the people of North-east India was Pandit Nehru's statement at the time, after the withdrawal of the Army from the North-east, that "my heart goes out to the people of Assam and the entire region". The people of Assam and the North-east felt abandoned and at the mercy of the Chinese. The banks were making a bonfire of the paper currency in their vaults. Coins were being dumped into rivers, lakes and water bodies. The business community was decamping. There was a sense of panic and defeat. The Red Army was making its way down the mountain passes through Arunachal. The Chinese army, worried and mindful about ambushes in a territory about which they had little geographical idea, did not come down in trucks, tanks or armoured carriers. They were moving on foot, each company holding aloft at the head of every marching column the pictures of two widely different leaders. One was of Chinese premier Zhou Enlai and the other of Pandit Nehru.

As they came down the defiles of the Arunachal Himalayas into the verdant valley of the Brahmaputra, they kept on asking people, whom they came across, whether they resembled or looked like Nehru or Zhou Enlai. This was psychological warfare. The common people were being told that they resembled Zhou Enlai and the marching soldiers, and were therefore their people. In those days, what was insensitively called a lunatic asylum was located on the outskirts of Tezpur district. The doctors and the paramedics had fled. The inmates came out in a state of bewilderment onto the roadside and saw columns of the Chinese Red Army moving past. In utter confusion, some of them started clapping, believing that they owed their freedom and rescue from the facility to these men walking by.

The first administrative casualty of the advent of the Chinese was the District Magistrate of Tezpur, who had made the blunder of flying off to Kolkata to drop his wife and children. At the time of the gravest peril for the nation and the district, the officer was missing and became the first IAS officer to be dismissed in Independent India.

The sky's forgotten sweepers, invisible cleaners

Vulture conservation efforts lend hope of restoring the balance in nature's intricate web

We ruled the skies once as silent sentinels, gliding effortlessly over forests, hills and human settlements. We, the vultures, were nature's custodians of balance, the earth's invisible cleaners, ensuring that death didn't breed disease. Our wings carried the weight of civilisations' secrets, and our keen eyes bore witness to empires rising and falling. But, by the late 1980s, a shadow fell upon us — a silent, insidious plague that dimmed the skies of our tropical paradise. One by one, we succumbed, not to age or predators, but to an invisible toxin embedded in the flesh we devoured. Humans called it Diclofenac, a painkiller for their beasts of burden, but for us, it was poison. For over a decade, humans remained oblivious to the massacre. By the time the scientists discovered the truth, our numbers had plummeted into oblivion. The populations of three resident Gyps vultures — White-rumped, Long-billed, and Slender-billed — had declined significantly by 2004, pushing them to the brink of extinction. Amidst the despair came hope, from unlikely allies. The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) emerged as our champions. BNHS, in collaboration with the Forest Department of Haryana, established the Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre in Pinjore, while WII took a lead role in Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh, and beyond. At Pinjore, nestled near the verdant slopes of the Bir Shikargah Wildlife Sanctuary, scientists toiled to bring us back from the brink. Aviaries, incubators and surgical rooms became our lifeline. By February 2023, this haven housed 399 vultures, including 138 White-rumped vultures, 209 Long-billed vultures, and 52 Slender-billed vultures. Meanwhile, in Kangra, the Himachal Forest Department initiated its own efforts in 2004, protecting nesting and roosting sites in Parol, Salol, Chadev, Daulatpur and Mastgarh. Their dedication bore fruit. Recent surveys revealed 506 new nests, sheltering some 2,500 eggs. In Kangra's Pong Dam Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, a sanctuary within a sanctuary emerged — a 'vulture restaurant'. Here, de-skinned carcasses were laid out, free from toxins, inviting us to dine safely.

These became oases of life amid the poisoned lands, symbols of hope not just for us but for humanity's ability to learn and adapt. The WII's research was instrumental in identifying Diclofenac as the primary cause of our mortality. Their advocacy led to a nationwide ban on its veterinary use in 2007-2008. This was a watershed moment, a turning point in the war against extinction. Yet, the skies were far from safe. Vulture-toxic drugs, including the banned Diclofenac, still



circulated in black markets. Other harmful drugs, like Aceclofenac and Nimesulide, loomed as silent threats. To counter these dangers, humans created 'vulture safe zones' in regions like Majuli Island in Assam, the Terai in Uttar Pradesh, and Bundelkhand in Madhya Pradesh. Back in Pinjore, hope took flight. In 2023, eight White-rumped vultures — six captive-bred and two wild-caught — were released into the skies. Five survived the cautious reintroduction, and one, in a poetic twist of fate, paired with a wild bird. They nested, and when their fledgling takes wing, it will be born of the wild — a bridge between captivity and freedom. In August 2024, 10 Long-billed vultures from Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra were released, each equipped with GPS tags. As they chart their paths across the skies, they carry with them humanity's tentative steps toward

redemption. For us, the skies remain a gamble, each carcass a potential threat, each flight a testament to survival against odds. Yet we endure — a fragile thread in nature's intricate web, a reminder of the balance that sustains all life. The humans have learned that without us, death lingers and disease festers. Their efforts at Pinjore, Kangra and beyond reflect not just science but a profound humility — a recognition of their role in our near-demise and their duty in our recovery.

At the Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre and the vulture sanctuaries of Kangra, humans nurture life from fragile shells and protect roosts in ancient trees. They perfect the art of resurrection. The released birds are not merely vultures — they are symbols of coexistence, reminders that humanity holds the power to undo its errors.

Lawless in Dhaka

Bangladesh treading a perilous path

THE hope of a new dawn in Bangladesh, kindled by PM Sheikh Hasina's ouster in August last year, lies extinguished today. The vandalism witnessed this week in many parts of this young country is nothing short of self-immolation — restless protesters are actually harming Bangladesh's present as well as future while trying to erase its past. Houses of Awami League leaders were torched, while murals of the nation's founder and Hasina's father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman were demolished or defaced in several districts. It was apparently a backlash against the ex-PM's online address, in which she urged her supporters to confront the interim government, whom she accused of seizing power in an unconstitutional manner. Unfortunately, the government is itself fanning the flames. Justifying the attack on Mujib's Dhanmondi residence, chief adviser Muhammad Yunus' press office termed it a response to Hasina's 'violent behaviour'. The new rulers seem to



believe that they can create Naya Bangladesh on the bedrock of hatred and vengeance. This disturbing mindset will only push the vulnerable nation deeper

into chaos and instability. The government as well as protesters are obviously frustrated that Hasina continues to make her presence felt six months after she fled and took refuge in India. And New Delhi has stood its ground so far, giving the Yunus dispensation no assurance on the demand for her extradition. The fresh spate of violence makes it evident that Hasina will not get a fair trial if at all she is sent back to Bangladesh. Moreover, Dhaka is making things worse for itself by antagonising New Delhi, which has been its all-weather friend right from the days of the 1971 war of liberation. Hasina's long tenure was no doubt marked by autocratic excesses, but that is not reason enough to destroy the nation's heritage. Bangladesh must rein in hate-mongers and law-breakers for its own good; otherwise, the onerous task of restoring democracy will become an ever-elusive pipe dream.

Loving the country, from a distance

I am yet to meet someone who was successful overseas, has returned to the homeland and is happy about it

One of the somewhat unusual aspects of my work is that there are periods of intense activity that are followed by a complete lull. In the first, there isn't a moment to scratch one's head and in the second, there is time enough to count the follicles off one's pate. Similarly, there are short bursts of considerable interaction with an individual or a team, and then, more often than not, our paths never cross again. Some of these moments come with television productions, and others are with travellers from various parts of the world. One such was with the British comedian and TV presenter Sanjeev Bhaskar, when he was working on the series, 'India with Sanjeev Bhaskar', that aired in 2007 to mark the 60th anniversary of the Independence of India and Pakistan, and of Partition.

Bhaskar, who was appointed as the Chancellor of the University of Sussex in 2009, is better known for his comedy series, 'The Kumars at No. 42' and 'Goodness Gracious Me'. The latter was considered a game-changer with its satire and fine parody. Everything good was Indian. All famous people, real or fictitious, were Indian — Superman, Santa Claus, Sherlock Holmes, and even Leonardo da Vinci and the Queen. Seen from Western suburbia, the best place in the world was India.

It is from a distance that we Indians seem to love our country more. Often enough, satire and parody, like Sanjeev Bhaskar's, give us insights and fling truth at our faces. Beyond a couple of people who have done so for reasons that are patriotic, I am yet to meet someone who was successful overseas, has returned to the homeland and is happy about it. Most of the returnees have come for personal reasons. Yes, there are a few that I know of who have tried, but somewhere along the line, have given up and gone back to wherever they came from.

From the United Kingdom, let us shift to the other place of preferred migration for Indians, the United States. At an



estimated 7,25,000, they constitute the second largest group of illegal migrants in that country, and with the new administration, as they are caught, face deportation. On the other hand, legal migrant Indians in the US are thriving. Unlike those that moved to Britain who were often blue-collar workers, the migrants to USA were highly qualified and skilled personnel. In 1965, the Immigration and Nationality Act of the US abolished national origin quotas; this had been in place since the 1920s. Now, the doors opened to Indian professionals. They moved in droves and today, with other Asians,

constitute the wealthiest ethnic group in that country. Within my own family, I have more relatives in the US than in India. This, I do not say with pride, but with a measure of regret. They have left, stayed and thrived as legal citizens of another nation, simply because their homeland did not provide the opportunities that became available to them elsewhere. This has been the great dichotomy between what we are educated for, what we are capable of, and where we actually spend our lives. Merit and capability take a backseat, and other factors determine success or failure. Placing a warning sign

saying 'kismet' over the chasm that divides the two, is not good enough. Almost three decades back, my fairly aged parents were going for the first time to spend time with my sister in New York. Applying for visas was not the online process that one has now. On the night before their interview, on a lane behind the US embassy in New Delhi, one witnessed a story of hope, of desire, of trepidation unfold. To secure their place on the morning roll call of interviewees, I was despatched around midnight to stand in line on their behalf. That was a night of great insights. 'Jugaad' had taken over that back lane. I learnt that I could pay someone to 'stand in line' on my behalf. There was a chai-wala moving with his stove and attached kettle. Beyond parody, beyond farce, there was someone with a Polaroid camera taking photographs for those who had not brought them to submit with their applications. As the night shifted towards dawn, the place became packed. Not all who were there were proxies like me, nor were they all there for a visa. Entire families had come along. It was a night that gave me material for a short story in one of my books.

In the morning, my parents arrived and I sat down in the taxi they had hired, to wait for them. The driver must have been about my age and was from a village near Amritsar. He told me that he wanted to go abroad. He had been rejected for both USA and the UK, and was now prepared to go anywhere. "Anywhere?" "Yes, as long as it was foreign." His qualifications: he had passed the 10th and could drive. "Main pind vich nahin rehna" (I don't want to stay in the village), he said.

When my parents returned, the driver asked my parents if their passports had been visa-stamped.

"Yes," replied my father.

"What did they ask you?" the boy asked in Punjabi.

"Nothing," was the reply. "The passports were taken by an official and returned with the stamp."

300 km-long traffic jam chokes Maha Kumbh, Akhilesh Yadav's jab at UP government

► **As a result of the severe traffic jam, many devotees were unable to reach the Sangam area to take a holy dip amid the ongoing Maha Kumbh. The pilgrims have raised serious concerns over management issues.**

New Delhi. As millions of devotees are still ascending to Prayagraj to attend the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela, severe traffic jams have paralysed the city, with pilgrims not being able to reach the Triveni Sangam -- the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati rivers -- on time to take the holy dip. The Prayagraj Sangam railway station has also been closed till Friday due to excessive crowd. Taking a jab at the Uttar Pradesh government over mismanagement, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said, "The hungry, thirsty, distressed and tired pilgrims stuck in traffic jams should be looked at with a humane perspective. Are common devotees not human beings?" On Sunday, hundreds of vehicles could be seen queued up on the Sangam road and moving at a snail's pace as police barricaded the stretch for an orderly movement of pilgrims. The road connects to the Civil Lines, and if one does not want to choose that, they can take the Shastri Bridge route to reach Triveni Sangam. Police in Madhya Pradesh's Maihar said that it was "impossible to move towards Prayagraj as there is a traffic jam of

200-300 km". Since the Maha Kumbh commenced on January 13, more than 43 crore devotees have taken a holy dip in the Sangam. On Sunday, Akhilesh Yadav posted several tweets, highlighting the traffic situation in Prayagraj and called on the Uttar Pradesh government to make immediate emergency arrangements for the stranded pilgrims. In one post, the Samajwadi Party chief said, "On the occasion of Maha Kumbh, vehicles should be made toll free in UP. This will reduce travel problems and also the problem of traffic jams. When films can be made entertainment tax free, then why not vehicles be made toll free?" Akhilesh Yadav went on to say that "there is already a jam in Nawabganj 30 km before the entry into Prayagraj towards Lucknow, a jam in Gauhania 16 km before the Rewa road, and a jam of 12 to 15 km towards Varanasi and news of the crowd entering even the engine of the train is being published everywhere. Normal life has become difficult." "The UP government has failed. It is visible only in false advertisements full of arrogance but is actually missing on the ground," he added.

As a result of excessive crowd, the Prayagraj Sangam railway station has been closed until February 14. Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (Northern Railway), Lucknow, Kuldeep Tiwari, said, "Since the passengers were facing difficulty in getting out of the station due to heavy crowd outside Prayagraj Sangam station, it was decided to close Prayagraj Sangam station in view of the heavy crowd of devotees." The North Central Railway has implemented a single direction traffic system at the Prayagraj Junction station till further orders in view of the huge crowd of devotees. North Central Railway Senior Public Relations Officer Amit Malviya said that for the safety and convenience of the passengers, entry will be given only from the city side (towards platform no.-1) and exit will be only from the Civil Lines side. He said that unreserved passengers will be given entry through direction wise passenger shelter. Meanwhile, devotees have questioned the administration about mismanagement of the traffic situation.

3 labourers dead after consuming spurious liquor in dry Gujarat

Three labourers died after they consumed spurious liquor in Gujarat's Nadiad. The bodies were sent for a post-mortem examination to determine the cause of deaths.



New Delhi. Three labourers died after consuming country liquor mixed with some suspicious liquid in Gujarat's Nadiad, police said. The victims were engaged in various works like painting and selling panipuris. The families of the victims said they all died due to consumption of spurious liquor in the Jawahar Nagar area of Nadiad late Sunday night. A forensic report revealed that methanol was not present in the spurious liquor. The three bodies were sent for a post-mortem examination to determine the cause of the deaths, police said. Gujarat has been a dry state and the manufacture, storage, sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages has been banned since its bifurcation from the erstwhile Bombay State in May 1960. Last month, the Gujarat Police arrested two people after they busted an illegal manufacturing unit involved in making spurious liquor in Mehsana district. After receiving a tip-off, the police raided the factory manufacturing spurious foreign liquor, which was being made by mixing colour, malt, chemicals and alcohol, and sold by filling it in bottles with stickers of top liquor brands. In December last year, the BJP government in the state allowed consumption of alcohol at hotels, restaurants and clubs offering 'wine and dine' service in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in Gandhinagar district. All individuals employed in GIFT City and authorised visitors are allowed to consume alcoholic beverages within the designated area. However, hotels and restaurants are ordered not to sell liquor bottles.

Task cut out for the BJP to clear civic morass in Delhi

New Delhi. BJP has won massively in Delhi. Its tally of 48 seats betters its 1993 performance when it won 47 seats. Delhi since then has changed enormously, therefore the factors contributing to BJP's victory would be much different than what led it to come to power in 1993. For someone who has followed Delhi politics since 1993, there were few takeaways on factors contributing to BJP's massive mandate in 2025. First, as I had mentioned in my column last week, BJP needed the Baniyas and Punjabis to vote for them. There are 35 seats dominated by the combined votes of these two communities, it won on 29. Now this marked a massive difference from the 2015 and 2020 polls, when the saffron party, which saw these two communities as its natural voters, could win just two out of these 35 seats. Once the support of Punjabi and the Baniya voters, who voted for the BJP in the consecutive Lok Sabha elections but not in Vidhan Sabha, was ensured, moving towards not just the halfway mark of 35 but crossing it with wide margin was going to be easy. What other factors could have contributed? First and foremost the support of the Purvanchal voters. Their support was also acknowledged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his thanksgiving speech. Union Home Minister Amit Shah's announcement during the run-up to the polls that he was going to grant property rights in the 1,700 unauthorised colonies massively got the support of the Purvanchali residents living in these colonies. While mobilising support in the unauthorised colonies, BJP also made inroads into the constituencies reserved for the Schedule Castes and dominated by the minorities especially in the trans-Yamuna areas of East and North East Delhi. This also led to the chipping at the base of Aam Aadmi Party vote bank. It's not easy to dismantle a ruling party which has survived so long on voter's greed by distributing freebies. Prime Minister Narendra Modi intervening and promising to retain all the freebies which were being given by the Aam Aadmi Party, helped neutralise the attraction on this count for the Aam Aadmi Party. The saffron party went a step further by adding value to some of these freebies including the pension for women, a major support base for Aam Aadmi Party. Though the Aam Aadmi Party won a majority of the minority seats but there were signs of fracture in the Muslim support for Arvind Kejriwal's party. Some of the Muslim community leaders who won on the AAP tickets are those who have travelled from the Congress to the Aam Aadmi Party.

'Transferring cases between agencies must be exception': Delhi HC

NEW DELHI. The Delhi High Court has said that shifting an ongoing criminal investigation from one agency to another should only occur in rare and extraordinary circumstances, cautioning that such moves can severely impact police morale and must be avoided. Justice Subramonium Prasad, delivering a strong-worded order, dismissed attempts to transfer a cheating case from the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police to a superior agency like the CBI or Special Cell, stating that baseless allegations against investigating officers are not



enough to warrant such intervention. "Transfers are justified only in cases where top officials of state authorities are implicated. Mere accusations against an investigating officer do not suffice unless there is concrete evidence of collusion with the accused," the court ruled. The pleas were filed by individuals accused of defrauding homebuyers and investors, allegedly siphoning off large sums of money. The investigation, currently being handled by EOW, is focused on tracing the financial trail and identifying where the embezzled funds have been parked. Seeking to shift the probe to a Special Investigative Team led by a retired judge or a higher agency, the petitioners argued that the probe required independent oversight. Reaffirming Supreme Court guidelines, the verdict said transfers should only be ordered when it is evident that an inquiry lacks fairness.

Punjab man dies of heart attack on illegal 'dunki' route to US

A Punjab man died of a heart attack in Guatemala while attempting to reach the US via an illegal route. Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal urged young people to avoid such risks and promised efforts to repatriate his body.

New Delhi. A man from Punjab died of a heart attack in Guatemala while travelling to the United States via an illegal route, a state minister said on Sunday. Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, Punjab's NRI Affairs Minister, identified the man as Gurpreet Singh from Ajnala. He urged young people not to take such routes and instead seek skill education in India. Singh was part of a group attempting to reach the US through what is known as the 'dunki' route, a pathway used by migrants trying to enter the country. His family



reportedly paid Rs 16.5 lakh to agents for the journey. The incident comes days after 104 Indian migrants, including 30 from Punjab, were deported from the United States on a military aircraft on February 5. Dhaliwal visited Singh's family and offered condolences, news agency PTI reported. He said the government would work to bring Singh's body back to Punjab. He also said that instead of spending large sums on illegal immigration, young people could use the money to start businesses in the state.

Gujarat school principal slaps teacher 18 times, video goes viral

A Gujarat school principal was caught on CCTV slapping a teacher 18 times, prompting an investigation. The dispute involved accusations of misconduct from both sides. Authorities have launched an inquiry before deciding on further action.



New Delhi. A school principal in Gujarat's Bharuch district was caught on CCTV slapping a teacher 18 times, triggering an investigation by education authorities. The incident took place at Navyug School, where

Principal Hitendra Singh Thakor was seen striking teacher Rajendra Parmar. The dispute reportedly stemmed from complaints about Parmar's handling of mathematics and science lessons. Thakor accused Parmar of

inappropriate behaviour and verbal abuse in class. Parmar, in turn, alleged that the principal attacked him in anger during a school meeting. Following the video's circulation, District Education Officer Swatiba Raul ordered an investigation into the incident. An education inspector will submit a report before any action is taken. During the meeting, both men exchanged accusations. Parmar claimed Thakor made students massage his feet, while Thakor alleged that Parmar invited students to his home.

Man dies after brutal thrashing on bus over spilled curry in Delhi

A post-mortem revealed gruesome internal injuries, including severe trauma to his private parts, indicating extreme violence.

NEW DELHI. Infuriated over some spilled curry on a bus seat and floor, three men, including the RTV bus driver, brutally assaulted a man and shoved a rod into his private parts, and later dumped the dead body on the city outskirts, police said on Sunday. The deceased, identified as Manoj aka Babu, was a resident of Narela and worked as a cook at wedding functions. His body was discovered on February 2 after a PCR call alerted Bawana police station about an unidentified body by the roadside. Initially, no external injuries were visible, and the body was kept at BSA Hospital's mortuary. "Manoj was identified through his brother Jitendra, who had reported him missing. At

first, there were no allegations of foul play," said DCP (Outer North) Nidhin Valsan. However, a friend Dinesh had attended a wedding in Sultanpur Dabas, where they worked as cooks. "After wrapping up, they



post-mortem conducted on February 5 revealed gruesome internal injuries, including severe trauma to his private parts, indicating extreme violence. Investigations revealed that on February 1, Manoj and his

packed leftover food and boarded an RTV bus to return home. Inside the bus were the driver, Ashish aka Ashu, and two of his associates," the DCP said. While nearing Bawana Chowk, Manoj accidentally

spilled curry on the bus seat and floor. The driver and his accomplices erupted in rage. They allowed Dinesh to get off but restrained Manoj, forcing him to stay inside. "They ordered him to wipe the curry using his shirt, then began verbally abusing and thrashing him. Amid the assault, driver Ashish pulled out a rod and shoved it into Manoj's private parts. He soon fell unconscious. The assailants then dumped his body near Bawana floyver before fleeing," the DCP said. A case under relevant sections of BNS has been registered. Using CCTV footage, cops have identified and seized the RTV bus and arrested one of the accused, Sushant Sharma. The driver and another accomplice.

India in talks with US for combat vehicles, fighter jet engine deal: Report

Last month, Trump asked PM Modi, who heads to Washington on Wednesday for a two-day visit, to buy more US-made security equipment, opens new tab and move "toward a fair trading relationship".

New Delhi. India is in talks with the United States for the purchase and co-production of combat vehicles as well as finalising a fighter jet engine deal, people familiar with the matter said, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets President Donald Trump this week.

The world's biggest arms importer, India traditionally relies mainly on Russia. Last month, Trump asked PM Modi, who heads to Washington on Wednesday for a two-day visit, to buy more US-made security equipment, opens new tab and move "toward a fair trading relationship".

India and the United States have been in protracted talks over the co-production of Stryker combat vehicles made by General Dynamics, opens new tab and also used by the US Army.

They are also working to wrap up contract talks on co-production of fighter jet engines in India for the Indian Air Force, a deal agreed in 2023, said two sources who sought anonymity as they were not authorised to talk to the media.

"We certainly wish to expedite the transaction which we would like to have with the United States," Defence Production Secretary Sanjeev Kumar told reporters on Sunday, adding that such efforts were underway. But he did not elaborate. Officials of India's state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, opens new tab are set to meet in coming weeks with US officials and the aerospace unit of General Electric, opens new tab, maker of GE-414 engines, for talks to finalise the deal by March, the sources said. GE, HAL, General Dynamics, the US embassy in New Delhi and Indian defence and foreign ministries did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

New Delhi has started talks with the Trump administration on a plan to buy Stryker vehicles after they were demonstrated late last year for the Indian Army, two other sources said, also speaking on condition of anonymity.

The plan envisages that India will acquire a few hundred Strykers with a mounted anti-tank guided missile system, they added, and later co-produce them through a state-run firm, the sources said. It was not immediately clear if the two potential deals would feature in talks between Modi and Trump.

NEWS BOX

7 illegal miners killed in shootout with army in Ghana gold mine

Accra. A Ghanaian small-scale miners' association on Sunday said soldiers killed nine unarmed people at an AngloGold Ashanti mine on Saturday night, while the army said seven illegal miners had been killed in a firefight. Kofi Adams, local chairman of the Ghana National Association of Small Scale Miners, told Reuters that nine people had been killed and fourteen severely injured in the incident at the Obuasi gold mining site in the West African country's Ashanti Region.

Earlier, Ghana's armed forces said that about 60 illegal miners carrying locally manufactured rifles and



other weapons breached the mine's security fence around 11 pm (2300 GMT) on Saturday and fired on a military patrol deployed there, leading to a shootout. "This is unprecedented (and) it's difficult to understand why this happened," Adams said, noting that in the past, trespassers on the site had been scared off with warning shots.

Ghana's President John Dramani Mahama ordered an immediate investigation into the incident, the presidency said in a statement on Sunday, calling it "tragic". The government has asked AngloGold Ashanti to cover the medical expenses of the injured and the cost of burials, he presidency's statement said. AngloGold Ashanti could not immediately be reached for comment.

The Johannesburg-listed miner owns the Iduapriem and Obuasi mines in southern Ghana. The two mines produced more than 490,000 ounces of gold last year.

Would be a disgrace: Pope criticises Trump's plan to arrest illegal immigrants

Rome. Pope Francis on Sunday criticised President-elect Donald Trump's reported plan to sharply intensify immigration enforcement actions across the U.S. in the days after his inauguration. In an Italian television interview, the pontiff said it would be a "disgrace" if Trump went forward with the plan, in unusually forceful language for the leader of the global Catholic Church. "It would make the migrants, who have nothing, pay the unpaid bill," said the pope. "It doesn't work. You don't resolve problems this way."

The pope's remarks were made during a video link from his Vatican residence with the "Che Tempo Che Fa" program on Italy's Channel 9. Francis, leader of the 1.4 billion member church, is usually careful about weighing in on political issues.

The pope has made welcoming migrants a key theme of his nearly 12-year papacy, and he has previously criticised Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric. During the 2016 election, he said Trump was "not Christian" in his view.

TikTok says it's restoring service to US users based on Trump's promised executive order

World. TikTok said Sunday it was restoring service to users in the United States after the popular video-sharing platform went dark in response to a federal ban that President-elect Donald Trump said he would try to pause by executive order on his first day in office. Trump said he planned to issue the order to give TikTok's China-based parent company more time to find an approved buyer before the popular video-sharing platform is subject to a permanent U.S. ban. He announced the move on his Truth Social account as millions of U.S. TikTok users awoke to discover they could no longer access the TikTok app or platform.

Google and Apple removed the app from their digital stores to comply with the law, which required them to do so if TikTok parent company ByteDance didn't sell its U.S. operation by Sunday. The law, which passed with wide bipartisan support in April, allowed for steep fines for non-compliance.

The company that runs TikTok said in a post on X that Trump's post had provided "the necessary clarity and assurance to our service providers that they will face no penalties providing TikTok to over 170 million Americans." Some users reported soon after TikTok's statement that the app was working again, and TikTok's website appeared to be functioning for at least some users. Even as TikTok was flickering back on, it remained unavailable for download in Apple and Google's app stores. The law that took effect Sunday required ByteDance to cut ties with the platform's U.S. operations due to national security concerns posed by the app's Chinese roots. However, the statute gave the sitting president authority to grant a 90-day extension if a viable sale is underway.

Although investors made a few offers, ByteDance previously said it would not sell. In his post on Sunday, Trump said he "would like the United States to have a 50% ownership position in a joint venture," but it was not immediately clear if he was referring to the government or an American company. Trump said his order would "extend the period of time before the law's prohibitions take effect" and "confirm that there will be no liability for any company that helped keep TikTok from going dark before my order." "Americans deserve to see our exciting Inauguration on Monday, as well as other events and conversations," Trump wrote. The on-and-off availability of TikTok came after the U.S. Supreme Court held in a unanimous ruling Friday that the risk to national security posed by TikTok's ties to China outweighed concerns about limiting speech by the app or its millions of users in the United States.

California braces for dangerous situation as gusty winds fuel wildfire threat

Los Angeles. Southern Californians are bracing for gusty winds and a heightened risk of wildfires, less than two weeks after the outbreak of deadly blazes that have killed at least 27 people and charred thousands of homes. The National Weather Service has issued a warning of a "particularly dangerous situation" for parts of Los Angeles and Ventura counties from Monday afternoon through Tuesday morning due to low humidity and damaging Santa Ana winds. Gusts could peak at 70 mph (113 kph) along the coast and 100 mph (160 kph) in the mountains and foothills. Windy weather and single-digit humidity are expected to linger through Thursday, said Rich Thompson, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service. He said the fire risk is also elevated because the region hasn't seen rain since April.

Critical fire weather with wind gusts up to 60 mph (97 kph) was also forecast for Southern California communities stretching to San Diego on Monday and Tuesday, with residents urged to take steps



to get ready to evacuate such as creating an emergency kit and keeping cars filled with at least a half tank of gas. A windblown dust and ash advisory was also issued, as high winds could disperse ash from existing fire zones across Southern California. The warnings come as firefighters continue to battle two major blazes in the Los Angeles area, the Palisades and Eaton fires, which have destroyed more than 14,000 structures since they broke out during fierce winds on Jan. 7. The Palisades fire was 52% contained on Sunday and the Eaton fire

81% contained, according to fire officials. Firefighters have made progress on the perimeter of the Palisades fire, which has blackened more than 37 square miles (96 square kilometers) near the Pacific coast, but there are areas in the interior that continue to burn, said Dan Collins, a spokesperson for the Palisades fire incident. "There is always a possibility in a red flag warning something hot, or some type of burning material from the interior, could be perhaps whipped up and blown across the containment lines," Collins said.

While firefighters are fairly confident the Eaton fire further inland will remain contained, there are concerns a new fire could break out with vegetation especially dry for this time of year, said Carlos Herrera, an Eaton fire spokesperson. California Gov. Gavin Newsom has positioned fire engines, water-dropping aircraft and hand crews across the region to enable a quick response should a new fire break out, according to the governor's office of emergency

services. "This proactive approach has proven to be a critical component of California's wildfire response strategy, reducing response times and containing fires before they escalate," the office said. Damage estimates have continued to climb for the Palisades and Eaton fires nearly two weeks since they began. Inspectors have fanned out to check buildings and assess damages, but Collins said it is impossible to know whether the remaining structures affected in the Palisades fire are intact.

"Our damage inspection teams have to inspect every structure within the fire perimeter," Collins said. "They're about two-thirds of the way done." Fire officials said they were focused on repopulating evacuated areas, with residents allowed to return Sunday to the hillside area of Pacific Palisades known as the highlands. Authorities said two people were arrested Saturday while attempting to enter an evacuation zone for the Palisades fire and are being investigated for impersonating firefighters.

Hamas' Parting Gift To Israel Hostages: Souvenirs To Commemorate Captivity

World. The three Israeli hostages freed by Hamas were each given a 'gift bag' to commemorate their 15-month captivity after they were captured during the October 7, 2023 attacks on Israeli cities. These 'gift bags', according to reports, contained their photos in captivity, a photo of Gaza and a 'certificate'. Visuals show the three hostages holding up the bags and smiling before their release, apparently left with no other choice.



While a large section of social media users slammed the gesture, describing it as "sick" and a "new definition of cruelty", a section of Hamas supporters cheered it. Emily Damari, 28, Romi Gonen, 24, and Doron Steinbrecher, 31, returned to tears of joy with people

lining up on the roads to welcome them. They will be in hospital for some days for evaluation and recovery from their 15-month nightmare.

"After 471 days Emily is finally home," said her mother Mandy Damari, according to an AFP report. "For too many other families the impossible wait continues," she added. Visuals showed her holding up a bandaged

hand and waving to relatives. The Times of Israel reported that the British-Israeli dual citizen lost two fingers after she was shot by Hamas terrorists during the October 7 attack. The gunmen broke into her home, shot her dog and she was hit as she was trying to comfort her dying pet, Emily has told her friends and relatives.

Steinbrecher's family said in a statement, "Our heroic Dodo, who survived 471 days in Hamas captivity, begins her rehabilitation journey today." Celebrations were also seen at Beitunia in West Bank as the Palestinian prisoners were released from Israel's jail. The 42-day truce is aimed at channelling humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip which has been devastated by Israel's brutal counterstrike to the Hamas attacks.

Donald Trump Closes MAGA Victory Rally With His Iconic Dance Moves

Washington DC. US President-elect Donald Trump closed his pre-inaugural ceremonies in style, with a raucous campaign-style "Make America Great Again Victory Rally" in Washington on Sunday, where he showed his iconic dance move as Village People performed their disco hit "Y.M.C.A." Village People's hit track from 1978 has become somewhat of an anthem for MAGA supporters and has closed out nearly all 78-year-old Republican's campaign rallies. The Sunday event was no exception, with Trump shimmying and occasionally singing along as he stood behind crew members of Village People while they performed the song.



He also showed off his now-famous dance move, where he clapped his hands and swayed, as he took up the job of the seventh member of the Village People on stage.

The Village People's performance came as a surprise to many after the band sent a cease-and-desist letter to Mr Trump in 2023 after their popular single "Macho Man" was played at a Mar-a-Lago

event. They also endorsed the Democratic nominee, Vice President Kamala Harris.

However, when it was announced that Village People would perform at the event, the all-male group wrote in a

known for their flamboyant onstage personas and infectious dance-pop hits, the Village People rose to fame in the late 1970s - particularly with their anthem "Y.M.C.A.". Over the years, the song became synonymous with gay pride. But the song's origin story does not seem to matter to the MAGA (make America great again) supporters, who like Donald Trump view music as theme songs, fight songs, and soundtracks for memories more than works of art.

The MAGA event marked Mr Trump's first major address in Washington since his speech on January 6, 2021, that preceded the storming of the US Capitol by an angry mob of his supporters. He has said he will pardon many of the more than 1,500 people convicted or charged in connection with the attack.

statement posted on its official Facebook. "We know this won't make some of you happy to hear, but we believe that music is to be performed without regard to politics."

"Our song 'Y.M.C.A.' is a global anthem that hopefully helps bring the country

together after a tumultuous and divided campaign where our preferred candidate lost. Therefore, we believe it's now time to bring the country together with music," it added.

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Taliban minister urges Afghan government to lift ban on women's education

Kabul. A senior Taliban figure has urged the group's leader to scrap education bans on Afghan women and girls, saying there is no excuse for them, in a rare public rebuke of government policy. Sher Abbas Stanikzai, political deputy at the Foreign Ministry, made the remarks in a speech on Saturday in southeastern Khost province. He told an audience at a religious school ceremony there was no reason to deny education to women and girls, "just as there was no justification for it in the past and there shouldn't be one at all."

The government has barred females from education after sixth grade. Last September, there were reports authorities had also stopped medical training and courses for women. In Afghanistan, women and girls can only be treated by female doctors and health professionals. Authorities have yet to confirm the medical training ban. "We call on the leadership again to open the doors of education," said Stanikzai in a video shared by his official account on the social platform X. "We are committing an injustice against 20



million people out of a population of 40 million, depriving them of all their rights. This is not Islamic law, but our personal choice or nature."

Stanikzai was once the head of the Taliban team in talks that led to the complete withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan.

It is not the first time he has said that women and girls deserve to have an education. He made similar remarks in September 2022, a year after schools closed for girls and months and before the introduction of a university ban. But the latest comments marked his first call for a change in policy and a direct appeal to Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada. Ibraheem Bahiss, an analyst with Crisis Group's South Asia program, said Stanikzai had periodically made statements calling girls' education a right of all Afghan women. "However, this latest statement seems to go further in the sense that he is publicly calling for a change in policy and questioned the legitimacy of the current approach," Bahiss said. In the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, earlier this month, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai urged Muslim leaders to challenge the Taliban on women and girls' education.

Moment When 3 Israeli Hostages Reunited With Families After 15 Months

Hamas released three Israeli hostages in exchange for 90 Palestinian prisoners in the first phase of the Gaza ceasefire deal.

World. Tel Aviv was filled with hope, tears of joy and hugs on Sunday as three Israeli hostages who were held captive by Hamas reunited with their families in the first phase of the Gaza ceasefire deal. The three women - Romi Gonen, Doron Steinbrecher and Emily Damari - were handed over to the Red Cross officials by armed men in camouflaged military gear, with green Hamas headbands. The three women were held captive by Hamas during its attack on October 7, 2023, which killed at least 1200

people. The Lebanon-backed group released them in exchange for 90 Palestinian prisoners.

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu shared videos and pictures of the three women - draped in Israeli flags - reuniting with their families. Visuals showed the women embracing their mothers at a reception center, with one of the hostages waving a bandaged hand missing two fingers at her family on the other end of a mobile phone video call.

"We didn't have any sign of life from her for a whole year and this is the first time we are seeing her, and we are seeing her walking on her two feet and we are just waiting here to hug her and say how much we love her," said the family of the released hostages. Netanyahu, welcoming the

women back home, said on the phone: "I would like you to tell them: Romi, Doron



and Emily - an entire nation embraces you. Welcome home". Apart from the families of the three released hostages, thousands of people, some

cheering and crying, gathered in Hostages Square in Tel Aviv as a giant screen broadcasted the first glimpse of the women. A group of Israelis also played music and sang patriotic songs.

On the other hand, massive celebrations with fireworks took place in Gaza as buses carrying the Palestinian prisoners arrived in Ramallah on the West Bank. Ending more than 15 months of war that killed over 47,000 people, Israel began a six-week ceasefire with Hamas in Gaza on Sunday, nearly three hours after its initial schedule. Negotiations for the second phase of the agreement will begin by the 16th day of phase one.

It is likely to include the release of the remaining 94 hostages. In the last phase of the ceasefire, all the remaining dead bodies are expected to be returned.

NEWS BOX

What has made Shubman Gill a quality player: Kevin Pietersen explains

Former England captain Kevin Pietersen has highlighted a key technical adjustment in Shubman Gill's batting, which he believes has transformed him into an elite player. Pietersen praised Gill's approach against England's top pacers, Jofra Archer and Mark Wood, noting the significant improvement in his technique and temperament during the ongoing ODI series.

Gill showcased his brilliance with an 87-run knock in the series opener in Nagpur and followed it up with another composed 60-run innings in India's victory over England in Cuttack on February 9. Speaking to Star Sports, Pietersen explained that Gill's recent form is a result of a more composed and assured batting style, allowing him to tackle high-quality pace bowling with greater confidence. "I talked about a trigger when you get into big boy's cricket and you face the faster bowlers. You need a set yourself and it's a start that he's now started to take when he's been batting. I think that it's improved the way that he's played. I think it's improved him as a player, and it's calmed him down because it's given him a little bit



more time. So the technical change in that adjustment that Shubman Gill's made has made him into a quality player," Pietersen said. "What makes it even more intimidating to bowl to, is his ability to just play that pickup shot, that little punch shot of the back foot, because a bowler can't just hover short of a length. What he's is get a full attack the top of the stumps or his bounce has to be very, very good. So, he's improved this game. He'll want to keep improving, he'll want to stop getting 60 and getting out. He'll want to get the 100 like Rohit," he added. One of the defining moments of the Cuttack ODI was Rohit Sharma's return to form with a commanding century. Gill played a pivotal role in supporting his captain, forming a crucial 136-run partnership that laid the foundation for India's chase. The India vice-captain displayed his signature short-arm pulls and elegant stroke play before falling in the 17th over to a pinpoint yorker from Jamie Overton, finishing with a well-crafted 60-run knock. Gill's performances have further solidified his place at the top of India's batting order, countering the debate about reshuffling the lineup to accommodate Yashasvi Jaiswal. His consistency at the top, especially in high-pressure games, reinforces the success of India's batting order from the ODI World Cup 2023.

IND vs ENG 2nd ODI: Odisha Govt Demands Answers As Floodlight Failure Mars Cuttack ODIREport

New Delhi. The Odisha government has announced that it will seek a formal explanation from the Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) following the embarrassing floodlight failure during the second One Day International (ODI) between India and England at Cuttack's Barabati Stadium. The incident, which halted play for nearly 30 minutes, overshadowed the state's much-anticipated return to hosting international cricket after an eight-year hiatus. Barabati Stadium, which last hosted an international match in 2015, was buzzing with excitement as fans packed the stands to witness a high-stakes encounter. However, the enthusiasm turned into frustration when one of the floodlight towers lost power early in India's chase of England's 305-run target. The unexpected disruption forced players off the field and left thousands of spectators fuming. State Sports



Minister Suryabanshi Suraj, who was present at the stadium alongside Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, confirmed the government's decision to question the OCA's preparedness. "An explanation will be sought from the OCA over the floodlight glitch. It happened despite taking all precautions and making elaborate prior arrangements," Suraj stated in an interview with The Times of India. OCA Secretary Sanjay Behera attempted to explain the mishap, attributing it to logistical hurdles. According to Behera, each floodlight tower was equipped with two backup generators. However, when one generator failed, operational challenges in moving the secondary generator—partially blocked by a parked player's vehicle—led to the prolonged delay. "When one generator malfunctioned, we put the second one in service. But it required some time to move as the players' vehicle was parked between the tower and the second generator," Behera told reporters.

Varun Chakravarthy vs Kuldeep: Suresh Raina on Champions Trophy pick for India**ICC Champions Trophy: Former India batter Suresh Raina shared his views on Varun Chakravarthy vs Kuldeep Yadav debate for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy 2025.**

New Delhi. Former India cricketer Suresh Raina wants India to go with Kuldeep Yadav over Varun Chakravarthy for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy 2025. Chakravarthy recently made his debut against England in the second ODI on Sunday, February 9 at Barabati Stadium, Cuttack. The wrist spinner registered figures of 1/53 in ten overs on his debut, which included the wicket of Philip Salt. Chakravarthy has been on a rapid rise ever since his comeback to international cricket in October 2024. Hence, there have been discussions about his inclusion in the Champions Trophy squad as well.

However, Suresh Raina feels Kuldeep Yadav's experience of playing big matches



makes him an ideal candidate for the tournament over Chakravarthy. "I think Varun is more used to bowling in T20Is for now, while Kuldeep has variety and wicket-taking ability. Most importantly, he rises to the occasion in big tournaments. I still remember the way he clean bowled Babar Azam in the ODI World Cup 2019. He has a different skill in his hands,

Kuldeep carries massive experience with him of playing big matches," Raina said on Star Sports. Kuldeep is a part of India's squad for the ongoing series against England and as well as the Champions Trophy. The left-arm spinner played in the first ODI in Nagpur and registered figures of 1/53 in 9.4 overs. Earlier, he picked four wickets from three matches in the ODI

series against Sri Lanka in August 2024.

Chakravarthy's marvellous comeback in international cricket. On the other hand, Chakravarthy has been in phenomenal form ever since his comeback to international cricket. Since October 2024, he's scalped 31 wickets from 12 innings at an average of 11.25 and an economy of 7.18 with two five wicket hauls to his name. He was recently adjudged Player of the Series in the five-match T20I rubber against England, scalping 14 wickets from five games at an average of 9.85. Courtesy of his sensational performance, Chakravarthy has stormed into the top five of the ICC T20I

rankings.

The team management wants to make use of Chakravarthy's rich form in the ODI format as well. However, he will have to do something really special in the third ODI against England to make a strong case for his selection as he's in a strong competition with four other spinners.

No Pant, Arshdeep yet: Bangar backs unchanged India XI for 3rd ODI vs England

New Delhi. Former India batting coach Sanjay Bangar has advised the Indian team management to retain the same playing XI for the third and final ODI against England in Ahmedabad. Despite India having already secured the series with a win in Cuttack, Bangar believes it is crucial to maintain consistency rather than experiment with the squad by bringing in Rishabh Pant or Arshdeep Singh. India clinched the series with a 4-wicket win in Cuttack, powered by Rohit Sharma's commanding century and a steady 60-run contribution from Shubman Gill. With the Ahmedabad ODI serving as a formality, many expected India to test their bench strength, including players like Pant, Arshdeep, and Washington Sundar. However, Bangar, speaking to JioCinema, insisted that the team should stick to the current XI and avoid unnecessary changes.

IND vs ENG, 2nd ODI: Highlights "I don't think Yashasvi Jaiswal needs to play. If there's merit, you can play Arshdeep Singh, you can try Rishabh Pant. But, there's only



one match left. KL Rahul has not had that many chances to play for long. Whenever he comes on to bat, there are only a few runs left. But his keeping has been good so you might just want to continue your trust in him," Bangar said. Arshdeep might just be played because Mohammad Shami has not had the similar sharpness with his bowling... I would want to see the same

team, which has played so well so far, for another match," he added.

One of the primary talking points is India's pace combination. So far, Mohammad Shami and Harshit Rana have shared the new ball for India. With Harshit not being a part of India's 15-man squad for the Champions Trophy, there is speculation that Arshdeep could be given an opportunity in Ahmedabad to get some game time before the ICC event. However, Bangar suggests that maintaining rhythm and continuity with the current attack is a wiser choice. Another area of discussion is KL Rahul's form. The wicketkeeper-batter has yet to deliver a big knock in the series, raising questions about whether Pant should be given a chance in the final ODI. While Pant remains an integral part of India's plans, Bangar feels that changing the lineup now might disrupt the team's momentum. With the Champions Trophy on the horizon, India will look to fine-tune their best XI, and Bangar's call for stability could reflect the team's long-term strategy heading into the marquee tournament.

Days ahead of Champions Trophy, much-awaited ODI debut for Varun

CUTTACK. Just as the Indian team got together for a huddle before the toss at the Barabati Stadium on Sunday afternoon, Raghu Raghavendra, the team's throwdown specialist, dropped everything and ran towards them from the other end of the pitch where he was standing. As head coach Gautam Gambhir had started talking, Raghu snuck a cap in from the side to Hardik Pandya who passed it on to Ravindra Jadeja. Is there a debut... will Varun Chakravarthy finally get a game... questions lingered while Gambhir confirmed the same — in a video that was later shared by the BCCI — asking Jadeja to hand over the cap to Varun. Right from the time of Vijay Hazare knockouts, Varun has been the one name that has constantly come up in discussions. Although he was initially not included in the ODI squad, Varun was later added with the team management wanting to see if he could replicate the T20I performance in the 50-over format. And here he was, at 33 years and 164 days, the second-oldest ODI debut for India after Farokh Engineer (36 years and 138 days). Varun Chakravarthy, ODI cap no. 259.



The architect-turned mystery spinner, who rose from tennis ball cricket to Tamil Nadu Premier League to the Indian Premier League to the Indian team, is taking the field in a format where he has thrived at the domestic level over the past couple of years. It is not just a case of IPL and T20I performances being rewarded and India looking to make the most of a player's ability. In the last few years, Varun has also proven himself in the 50-over domestic tournament. He was the second leading wicket-taker in 2023-24 and 2024-25 seasons and with 37 wickets cumulatively, he is the number one spinner in Vijay Hazare in this period.

While he did not play in Nagpur, India captain

Rohit Sharma had confirmed that the spinner is in the scheme of things for the Champions Trophy that is set to be played in Pakistan and Dubai from February 19. "Right now we are not thinking about whether we are going to take him or not but definitely he will be in contention. If things plan out really well for us and he does what is required then definitely there is something that we need to think about," Sharma had said ahead of the first ODI. And the day came in Cuttack as Varun was introduced as early as the ninth over. Having been bamboozled by him through the T20I series, England openers did not want to take him on up front. They were happy to pick up singles and when Phil Salt did try to go after Varun, he ended up top-edging a full delivery handing the spinner his first ODI wickets. From thereon, the spinner continued to keep one end tight, bowling stump to stump in mid 90KPHs. It was only when Harry Brook hit him down the ground for a six — in Varun's sixth over on the trot — he conceded a boundary.

enough to know what is required from him. Rohit said that in his mind he just wanted to bat the way he always does and admitted that one or two knocks doesn't change things for him.

"When people have played for a number of years and scored so many runs over the years. That means something." "I've played this game for a long time now, and I understand what is required of me. So it's just about going out there and doing your things and what I did today was one of my things. In my mind, it was just about doing the things that I do. Try and bat the way I do. I've been here long enough to know one or two knocks are not going to change my mind. But, just another day in the office," said Rohit. As long as I am clear what I want to do, that's all that matters'

Rohit said that his job is to go out and play the game and give his best on the field. The Indian captain said that sometimes his mantra may not work but all he wants is to have clarity about his role.

"Our job is to just get out there and play the game. As long as you know that today, when you go to bed, you know that you've given your best, that is what matters. Every time I walk out to the pitch, I want to try and do well." "Sometimes it happens, sometimes it may not happen. As long as I am clear what I want to do, that's all that matters. Nothing else." "When you have scored so many runs, you've done something. You just need to get back to that mindset of how to get runs.

**Haris Rauf injury: Pakistan board issues crucial update ahead of Champions Trophy****The Pakistan cricket board expects Haris Rauf to make a full recovery and be fit for the upcoming Champions Trophy after he sustained an injury during the opening match of the tri-series against New Zealand on February 8. Rauf had to cut short his participation in the match during his spell.**

New Delhi. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has allayed fears of pacer Haris Rauf missing the upcoming Champions Trophy 2025 as he is expected to make a full recovery from the muscle sprain he sustained during the first match of the tri-series against New Zealand. Rauf, who was impressive in the match, was forced to leave the field due to

injury concerns after bowling just 6.2 overs. He had conceded just 23 runs and got one wicket during that time. Rauf didn't come out to bat in the match as Pakistan lost the game in the end. There were fears that the pacer could miss the upcoming ICC event, but PCB revealed that Rauf sustained a muscular sprain in the lower chest wall region. They said that the injury wasn't serious as initially thought, and he should be fit for the start of the Champions Trophy.

The PCB also revealed that, as a precautionary measure, Rauf won't be playing Pakistan's second match of the ongoing tri-series against South Africa on February 12. "Following MRI and X-ray scans, it has been confirmed that Pakistan fast bowler Haris Rauf sustained a muscular sprain in the lower chest wall region during



Saturday's match against New Zealand. The injury is not serious, and he is expected to be fully recovered for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, which commences in Karachi on 19 February."

"However, as a precautionary measure and part of his ongoing rehabilitation, he will not be

available for selection against South Africa on 12 February," read the statement on the website. Pakistan will begin their Champions Trophy campaign against New Zealand on February 19 before taking on arch-rivals India four days later. Their final group game against Bangladesh will be on February 27. Rauf is expected to form the pace trio for Pakistan in tournament alongside Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah as the current Champions Trophy titleholders aim to retain their crown. Pakistan Champions Trophy squad: Mohammad

Rizwan (captain), Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman, Kamran Ghulam, Saud Shakeel, Tayyab Tahir, Faheem Ashraf, Khushdil Shah, Salman Ali Agha, Usman Khan, Abrar Ahmed, Haris Rauf, Mohammad Hasnain, Naseem Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi.

The post shared on Instagram stories served as a reminder that healing is a continuous process and that while the scars of past trauma may remain, it's possible to find hope, embrace joy and cultivate a sense of trust in life.

Natasa Stankovic

Shares Powerful Message On Healing And Trust: 'Not Every Love Hides Pain'



Actress Natasa Stankovic recently shared a poignant message about healing and finding peace even after facing difficult experiences. On Saturday, the actress dropped a post on her social media that highlights the journey of healing and the importance of learning to trust again after experiencing pain. The post shared on Instagram stories also serves as a reminder that healing is a continuous process and that while the scars of past trauma may remain, it's possible to find hope, embrace joy and cultivate a sense of trust in life. The powerful post read, "Your trauma taught you to expect storms, but your healing is teaching you to trust clear skies—to believe that not every hello ends in goodbye, not every quiet holds a storm, not every love hides pain and not every gift carries conditions. Your heart remembers the hurt, but it can learn to welcome joy."



A day ago, Natasa Stankovic dropped a video on her social media giving fans a glimpse of her power-packed fun Friday. In her latest video on Instagram, the actress shows her fitness game by performing an extensive cardio drill using a stepper. Natasa opted for intense variations of workouts, including jumping jacks, jumps on the stepper, front and side movement and step-up workouts while moving sideways with every jump.

Talking about Natasa's personal life, the actress parted ways with her cricketer husband Hardik Pandya in 2024.

The two got hitched in May 2020 and renewed their wedding vows according to the Hindu and Christian rituals in February 2023. Hardik and Natasa, who confirmed their separation in July 2024, are parents to Agastya H Pandya. Following their separation, Natasa was brutally trolled by many on social media platforms.

On the professional front, Natasa Stankovic recently appeared in the music video Tere Krke, alongside artist Preetinder. The song was out on October 8 and fans showered her with immense praise for her return to the screen.

Meanwhile, the actress made her on-screen debut with the 2013 film Satyagraha after starring in a few advertisements. In the film, she appeared in the dance number Aiyo Ji. Over the years, the Serbian model made several special and cameo appearances in films like Fukrey Returns, Daddy and FryDay. In 2020, she was last seen in the web show Flesh.

Vicky Kaushal Relishes Litti Chokha At A Street Stall In Patna, Chhaava Actor Says 'Garda Udaa Diya'



Bollywood actor Vicky Kaushal, who will next be seen in the historical drama 'Chhaava', has been busy promoting the film. On Saturday, the actor arrived in Patna, Bihar, and was spotted relishing the local delicacy 'litti chokha' at a street stall, proving that he is a true-blue foodie! The actor shared a video of him gorging on the lip-smacking traditional dish from Bihar, and his simplicity left fans amazed. On Saturday, Vicky Kaushal took to his Instagram to share a video in which he is seen gorging litti chokha at a street stall in Patna. When asked how it tastes, Vicky showed genuine appreciation and replied with a Bihari accent: "Bohot badhiya hai (It's very tasty)." In his caption, the Chhaava actor wrote that he couldn't have missed eating litti chokha in Patna, and added a Bihari phrase 'Garda uda diya,' to express how much he loved it! He also promised some exciting news about Chhaava. "#Patna aakar Litti Chokha kaise miss kar jaayein #Chhaava exciting news coming up!" he wrote. Check out the video below!

Vicky Kaushal also re-shared this post on his Instagram stories, and wrote, "litti chokha was LIT!!!" Vicky has been on a promotional spree, and after Patna, he will be seen promoting Chhaava in Mumbai, on 9th February. He will then be visiting Amritsar, Delhi, and Pune, ahead of the film's release on 14th February. Yesterday, the actor was in Kolkata, and he shared a video of himself speaking in Bengali.

About Chhaava

Chhaava is a historical drama that revolves around the life of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the son of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. In the film, Vicky Kaushal is set to portray the character of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the eldest son of the Maratha empire's founder. The film also stars Rashmika Mandanna, Akshaye Khanna, Ashutosh Rana, and Divya Dutta in key roles.

Salman Khan Brings Up Arbaaz-Malaika's Divorce During Podcast With Arhaan: You've To Make It On Your Own



On a recent podcast episode with his nephew Arhaan Khan, Salman Khan got candid, touching upon love, life, and the divorce of his nephew's parents, Arbaaz Khan and Malaika Arora. The Bollywood superstar, who marked his debut in podcast with Arhaan's Dumb Biryani channel, advised the youngster that life is all about finding your own path. Malaika Arora and Arbaaz Khan's shocking separation announcement came in March 2016 after 19 years of marriage. They were officially divorced in May 2017 after tying the knot in 1998. Malaika Arora and Arbaaz Khan met and fell in love in their early 20s.

Briefly addressing Arhaan Khan's parents' divorce, Salman Khan said in the podcast, "This dude out here has gone through his ups and downs. After your mom and dad's relationship



(separation), you have to make it on your own. One day you will have your own family and unit. So this is what you have to work on to have your own family. The culture of having lunch and dinner with family should always be there and there should always be a head of the family, who should be respected."

The chat took a heartwarming turn when Arhaan opened up about his future plans, revealing his dream of starting his own restaurant. With a spark of passion in his voice, he talked about his love for food and creating a space where people could connect over great meals. Salman then asked Arhaan, "If you want to run a restaurant then what's with all the classes you have joined? Fighting, gymnastics... these things you are doing for the restaurant?" On the work front, Salman Khan recently delighted fans with a cameo in Varun Dhawan's Baby John. Up next, he's gearing up for some high-octane drama with the action-packed Sikandar.

Is Athiya Shetty's Pink Rose A Gift From KL Rahul?

Athiya Shetty is eagerly awaiting the arrival of her first child with cricketer husband KL Rahul. As she enjoys this special phase, the mom-to-be has been sharing glimpses of her pregnancy journey with fans. Recently, she marked Rose Day with a sweet post, leaving many wondering if KL Rahul had a thoughtful hand in picking her favourite colour. Taking to Instagram stories, Athiya shared a picture of herself dressed in a soft pink outfit. The off-shoulder top with full sleeves and a relaxed fit complemented her pregnancy glow. Posing gracefully with a pink rose in hand, she kept the giver's identity a mystery. However, fans speculated that the romantic gesture could be from KL Rahul, making the moment even more special.

While she didn't reveal more details, Athiya's subtle post added a touch of charm to her ongoing pregnancy diaries, keeping her followers engaged in her beautiful journey.



The mommy-to-be teamed her look with glam makeup and playfully used the sunshine to flex her pregnancy glow. To round off her look, she chose nearly naked eyeshadow, pink-hued lips and a touch of highlighter to add a bling to her charming appearance. Additionally, she left her tresses open to cascade down her shoulders. KL Rahul shared a few unseen photos from his time in Australia, including a heartwarming snapshot of him adoringly gazing at his pregnant wife, Athiya. Also read:

Athiya Shetty debuts baby bump, spotted hanging out with Anushka Sharma in Australia. For the unversed, KL Rahul met his ladylove in January 2019 through a mutual friend, and they instantly felt a connection. Soon, their likings blossomed into a relationship, and after dating for several years, the duo got married in 2023 at Suniel Shetty's farmhouse in Khandala. Last year in November, the couple announced their good news to their fans in a joint post. They posted a picture message featuring tiny feet and an evil eye. Alongside it, they wrote in the caption, "Our beautiful blessing is coming soon. 2025."

Since then, the couple often post glimpses of Athiya's pregnancy journey. In January 2025, KL Rahul took to Instagram and dropped a series of moments from his visit to Australia with his wife. He was in the country for the 2024-25 Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

