

1. हमें अपना फीडबैक, सुझाव या टिप्पणियां देने के लिए दिए गए बार कोड को स्कैन करें या मेल करें।
2. आप हमें अपनी रचनाएं, कविता या आलेख भी भेज सकते हैं। जिसे हम अपने आने वाले अंक पर प्रकाशित करेंगे।

महाकुंभ में सनातन सेवा ट्रस्ट ने खोला सेवा शिविर



JHARSUDUDA : सनातन सेवा ट्रस्ट ने पारडीह काली मंदिर के महंत विद्यानंद सरस्वती के निर्देश पर प्रयागराज में होने वाले महाकुंभ में सेवा शिविर खोला है। ट्रस्ट ने शिविर के लिए 50 कंबल भेंट किए हैं। महंत विद्यानंद सरस्वती ने कहा कि यह शिविर न केवल ब्रह्मलुओं की सहायता करेगा, बल्कि समाज में सेवा और परोपकार की भावना को भी प्रेरित करेगा। इस अवसर पर ट्रस्ट के प्रतिनिधि सोनू ठाकुर ने कहा कि ट्रस्ट का उद्देश्य केवल धार्मिक कार्यों तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि समाज के हर वर्ग के प्रति सेवा भावना को आगे बढ़ाना है। इस मौके पर ट्रस्ट के संस्थापक सदस्य डॉ. राजीव कुमार, वीर सिंह, समाजसेवी वेदप्रकाश उपाध्याय, सागर राय आदि भी उपस्थित थे।

राजगांगपुर में तीन ट्रेनों का ठहराव शुरू



CHAKRADHARPUR : दक्षिण पूर्व रेलवे के चक्रधरपुर रेल मंडल में राजगांगपुर रेलवे स्टेशन पर शनिवार से तीन ट्रेनों का ठहराव शुरू हुआ। संबलपुर-गोरखपुर मौर्य एक्सप्रेस, हटिया-बेंगलुरु एक्सप्रेस और पुणे-हावड़ा आजाद हिंद एक्सप्रेस के ठहराव की शुरुआत के दौरान केंद्रीय जनजातीय मामलों के मंत्री व सुंदरगढ़ के सांसद जुएल ओराम भी उपस्थित थे। मंत्री ने कहा कि इन तीनों ट्रेनों के ठहराव की मांग भरे क्षेत्र के लोग लंबे समय से कर रहे थे। इस अवसर पर व चक्रधरपुर रेल मंडल के डीआरएम तरुण हरिया सहित काफी संख्या में स्थानीय लोग, रेलवे के अधिकारी और जनप्रतिनिधि मौजूद थे।

10 आदिवासी छात्रों को मिलेंगे 10-10 हजार रुपये



GHATSHILA : घाटशिला कॉलेज के 10 प्रतिभाशाली आदिवासी छात्र-छात्राओं को आदिनीती डेवलपमेंट फाउंडेशन की ओर से 10-10 हजार रुपये प्रोत्साहन पुरस्कार दिया जाएगा। फाउंडेशन की डायरेक्टर नितिशा बेसरा ने शनिवार को इससे संबंधित पत्र प्राचार्य डॉ. आरके चौधरी को भेजा। पुरस्कार राशि 7 जनवरी को कॉलेज परिसर में चर्चित छात्रों को प्रदान किया जाएगा। इसके साथ ही फाउंडेशन के सहयोग से घाटशिला कॉलेज में शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान पर केंद्रित राष्ट्रीय व अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर का सेमिनार भी किया जाएगा। फाउंडेशन की डायरेक्टर नितिशा बेसरा ने अपनी शिक्षा आईआईटी कानपुर व हार्वर्ड विश्वविद्यालय, अमेरिका से प्राप्त की है। अभी नीतिशा यूएस के जॉन्स हॉपकिंस यूनिवर्सिटी के भारतीय शाखा दिल्ली में डिप्टी डायरेक्टर हैं। उनकी ओर से यह ऑफर लेटर उनके पिता पूर्व विधायक सूर्य सिंह बेसरा ने प्राचार्य डॉ. चौधरी से मिलकर दिया।

सरायकेला से 17,249 छात्र देंगे मैट्रिक परीक्षा



SARAIKELA : समाहरणालय सभागार में उपायुक्त रवि शंकर शुक्ला की अध्यक्षता में शनिवार को माध्यमिक व इंटरमीडिएट परीक्षा को लेकर बैठक हुई। इसमें जिला शिक्षा पदाधिकारी संजय गुप्ता ने बताया कि वर्ष 2025 में कुल 17,249 विद्यार्थी माध्यमिक की परीक्षा में शामिल होंगे। इसके लिए जिले में कुल 57 परीक्षा केंद्रों का चयन किया गया है। वहीं इंटरमीडिएट की परीक्षा में कुल 12,189 विद्यार्थी शामिल होंगे, जिसके लिए कुल 38 परीक्षा केंद्रों का चयन किया गया है। उपायुक्त ने जिला शिक्षा पदाधिकारी को ऐसे केंद्र जिनकी दूरी अधिक है, उसमें सुधार करने तथा क्षेत्रीय पदाधिकारी के माध्यम से सभी परीक्षा केंद्रों पर उपलब्ध सुविधाओं की सूची तैयारी करने के निर्देश दिए। बैठक में पुलिस अधीक्षक मुकेश लुणावत, जिला परिषद अध्यक्ष सोनाराम बोदरा व जिला शिक्षा अधीक्षक कैलाश मिश्रा भी उपस्थित थे।

दो उग्रवादियों के घरों पर चिपकाया इशतेहार

CHAKRADHARPUR : पश्चिमी सिंहभूम जिले के टोकलो थाना पुलिस ने शनिवार को दो उग्रवादियों के घरों पर इशतेहार चिपका कर उन्हें समर्पण करने को कहा है। टोकलो थाना के प्राथमिक अभियुक्त अमित मुंडा उर्फ चुका मुंडा पिता सुखराम मुंडा ग्राम तामराना थाना तमाड़ जाकर पुलिस ने नोटिस चिपकाया। पुलिस ने परिजनों से जल्द से जल्द थाना में समर्पण कराने को कहा। दूसरे उग्रवादी गुलशन मुंडा उर्फ गुलशन सिंह मुंडा पिता सोमरा मुंडा ग्राम बारहातु थाना बुंदू निवासी के घर पर भी पुलिस ने इशतेहार चिपकाया। इस संबंध में टोकलो थाना प्रभारी परमेश्वर उरांव ने बताया कि दोनों के खिलाफ टोकलो थाना में मामला दर्ज है।

हुनर की ताकत : पारंपरिक व्यवसाय को नया आयाम देने का कर रहे प्रयास

सोलर चाक के उपयोग से कुम्हारों की बढ़ रही आमदनी

PHOTON NEWS KHUNTI :

जिले के कुम्हार अब इलेक्ट्रिक सोलर चाक के उपयोग से अपने पारंपरिक व्यवसाय को नया आयाम दे रहे हैं। हाल ही में जिला प्रशासन के जरिये आयोजित प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम के दौरान सोलर चाक चलाने और इसके लाभ की जानकारी प्राप्त करने के बाद कुम्हार अब इस तकनीक का कुशलतापूर्वक उपयोग कर रहे हैं। प्रशिक्षित कुम्हार सोलर चाक की सहायता से मिट्टी के बर्तन, दीये, मूर्तियां और अन्य सामग्री का निर्माण आसानी से और कम समय में कर रहे हैं। इस आधुनिक तकनीक ने न केवल उनकी कार्यक्षमता को बढ़ाया है, बल्कि उत्पादकता में भी उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि हुई है। खूंटी के एक प्रशिक्षित कुम्हार ने कहा कि सोलर चाक से



काम करना बहुत आसान हो गया है। पहले जहां हमें अधिक समय और मेहनत करनी पड़ती थी, अब उसी काम को कम समय में पूरा कर सकते हैं। इससे हमारी आय में भी सुधार हो रहा है। उपायुक्त

मानसिक रूप से बीमार बताई जा रही महिला, पुलिस ने किया अरेस्ट

महिला ने डेढ़ साल की बेटी को गला रेतकर मार डाला

PHOTON NEWS GUMLA :

गुमला जिले के घाघरा प्रखंड अंतर्गत बड़ाअंजयातु गांव में मां ने अपनी डेढ़ वर्षीय पुत्री की गला रेतकर हत्या कर दी। पुलिस ने शनिवार को शव को कब्जे में लेकर पोस्टमार्टम के लिए सदर अस्पताल भेजा। जानकारी के अनुसार, मां फूलमनी देवी ने अपनी डेढ़ वर्षीया पुत्री नीतू कुमारी की तेज धार सब्जी काटने वाली छबैटोह से गला रेत दिया। घटना की सूचना मिलने पर पुलिस दल-बल के साथ शनिवार को घटनास्थल से आरोपी मां को गिरफ्तार किया। मृत बच्ची और आरोपी के पति कैलाश गोप ने बताया कि शुक्रवार की देर रात वह घर में खाना बना रहा था। इसी क्रम में फूलमनी देवी से बच्ची को गरम कपड़ा पहनाने कहा। इस पर उसकी पत्नी बच्ची को लेकर घर में रखे सब्जी काटने वाली बैठी से गर्दन रेत हत्या कर दी। हल्की आवाज



पुलिस गिरफ्त में आरोपी महिला।

होने के बाद मैंने कमरे में देखा कि उसकी पत्नी ने बच्ची की गला रेतकर हत्या कर दी है। इसके बाद आसपास के लोगों को घटना की जानकारी दी। कैलाश गोप ने बताया कि उसकी पत्नी की मानसिक स्थिति ठीक नहीं थी। वर्ष 2018 से प्राइवेट अस्पताल में उसका इलाज चल रहा था। इधर कुछ दिनों से फूलमनी देवी की तबीयत खराब होने के कारण उस दवा को बंद कर दूसरी दवा चल रही थी। सभी चीज ठीक ही था कि कल अचानक इस तरह की घटना को फूलमनी ने अंजाम दे दिया। इस संबंध में थाना प्रभारी

कारगिल बलिदानी विश्राम टाना भगत की पत्नी का हुआ निधन

PHOTON NEWS LOHARDAGA :

जिले के कैरो थाना क्षेत्र के एड़ादोन गांव निवासी कारगिल बलिदानी विश्राम टाना भगत की पत्नी तारामणि का शनिवार को निधन हो गया। तारामणि का शव लोहरदगा शहर के उपनगरीय क्षेत्र पतराटोली के करम टोली मोहल्ला स्थित उनके घर में मिला। इसके बाद इसकी सूचना प्रशासनिक अधिकारियों को दी गई। तारामणि जिला आपूर्ति कार्यालय में कार्यरत थीं। विश्राम टाना भगत के बलिदान होने के बाद तारामणि को अनुमंडल कार्यालय में तृतीय श्रेणी में नौकरी मिली थी। तारामणि लोहरदगा करम टोली स्थित अपने इस घर में अपनी बेटी, भतीजा, भतीजी के साथ रहती थीं। कहा जा रहा है कि तारामणि को तबीयत दो दिनों से खराब थी। वह शनिवार सुबह सोकर उठीं और तबीयत ज्यादा खराब होने की बात परिजनों



से कही। इसके बाद तारामणि घर के अंदर अपने कमरे में सोने चली गईं। जब दर तक तारामणि सोकर नहीं उठीं, तो बच्चे कमरे में देखने गए तो अचेत पाया। इसके बाद आसपास के लोगों को इसकी जानकारी दी। आसपास के लोग मौके पर पहुंचकर देखा तो उनका निधन हो चुका था। हालांकि घटना को लेकर तरह-तरह की बातें कही जा रही हैं। सदर थाना प्रभारी सह पुलिस निरीक्षक रमेश मोहन ठाकुर ने कहा कि उन्हें किसी तरह की घटना की जानकारी नहीं मिली है।

आधा दर्जन ट्रेनें आज रद्द कल से 10 दिन नहीं चलेगी टाटा-बिलासपुर

JSR : चक्रधरपुर और रांची रेल मंडल में पावर ब्लॉक लेने के कारण रविवार को करीब आधा दर्जन ट्रेनें रद्द रहेंगी, जबकि टाटानगर- बिलासपुर-टाटानगर एक्सप्रेस 6 -16 जनवरी के बीच रद्द रहेगी। रेलवे के सफुल्लर के मुताबिक बिलासपुर-टाटानगर एक्सप्रेस 6 -15 जनवरी के बीच रद्द रहेगी। वहीं टाटा-बिलासपुर एक्सप्रेस 7-16 जनवरी के बीच रद्द रहेगी। इसके साथ ही टाटानगर-हटिया-टाटानगर एक्सप्रेस भी 7-16 जनवरी के बीच रद्द रहेगी। टाटा-हटिया-टाटा भेयू 7 से 12 जनवरी तक रद्द रहेगी। इन ट्रेनों के लगातार 10 दिनों तक अप-डाउन रद्द रहने से हजारों यात्रियों को परेशानी होगी, खासकर वैसे यात्रियों को, जिन्होंने पूर्व से ही टिकट बुक किया है। इसके साथ ही, पासल बुकिंग करने वाले लोगों को भी समस्या होगी।

PHOTON NEWS GHATSHILA : पूर्वी सिंहभूम जिला खो-खो एसोसिएशन के तत्वाधान में मऊभंडार ताम्र प्रतिभा मैदान में खेले जा रहे तीन दिवसीय झारखंड स्टेट 18वें सीनियर खो-खो चैंपियनशिप (ब्यांज एंड गर्ल्स) में शनिवार को लीग के साथ-साथ नॉकआउट राउंड के भी मैच खेले गए। दिन-रात के खेल में लड़के व लड़कियों के लिए 8-8 पल बनाए गए हैं। लड़कियों के लीग राउंड मैच में शनिवार को रांची और साहेबगंज के बीच हुए एकतरफा मुकाबले में रांची की लड़कियों ने 3 प्वाइंट और एक इनिंग से मैच जीता। इसी तरह, रामगढ़ की लड़कियों ने कोडरमा की लड़कियों को 14 प्वाइंट से हराया। पलामू के खिलाफ हजारीबाग की टीम ने 4 प्वाइंट और एक इनिंग से जीत

खूंटी में धारदार हथियार से युवक की ले ली जान, सड़क किनारे पड़ा मिला शव

KHUNTI : खूंटी जिला स्थित तोरपा थाना क्षेत्र में शनिवार की सुबह एक अज्ञात युवक की हत्या का सनसनीखेज मामला सामने आया। पुलिस ने शव को तोरपा-सिमडेगा मार्ग के किनारे ओरमैजा गांव के पास से बरामद किया। पुलिस शव की पहचान करने के साथ हथारों का सुराग ढूंढने में जुटी है। शव की खोज उस समय हुई, जब कुछ लोग मॉर्निंग वॉक पर निकले थे। उन्होंने सड़क किनारे शव पड़ा देखा। सूचना मिलने के बाद पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची, जिसमें एसडीपीओ फिस्टोफर केर-केडू और थाना प्रभारी प्रभात रंजन पांडेय भी शामिल थे। शव कबल से ढंका हुआ था और गले पर धारदार हथियार से वार के निशान थे, जो यह



संकेत देते हैं कि हत्या अत्यंत क्रूरता से की गई थी। घटनास्थल पर मिले साक्ष्य से यह प्रतीत होता है कि अपराधियों ने हत्या कही और की, और शव को सड़क किनारे लाकर फेंक दिया। पुलिस ने शव की जांच के दौरान युवक की जब से गांजा, खैनी और गांजा पीने वाला विलम बरामद किया। इससे यह अनुमान लगाया जा रहा है कि युवक किसी न किसी मादक पदार्थ से जुड़ा हुआ था।

तरुण कुमार से पूछे जाने पर उन्होंने कहा कि घटना की सूचना मिलने पर घटनास्थल से आरोपी महिला को हिरासत में लिया गया है। घटना में प्रयुक्त तेज धार वाली

जमशेदपुर में आज निकलेगा डहरे दुसू

JAMSHEDPUR : बृहद झारखंड कला संस्कृति मंच की ओर से रविवार को डहरे दुसू निकलेगा, जो मानगो स्थित डिमना चौक से साकची के आमबगान मैदान तक जाएगा। मंच के दीपक रंजित ने बताया कि डहरे दुसू परब-2025 की तैयारी पूरी हो गई है। इस वर्ष का मुख्य आकर्षण बोड्राम, पटमदा, गालुडीह और पश्चिम बंगाल के बांदवान की छऊ टीम होगा। इसके अलावा धनबाद, बोकारो और पश्चिम बंगाल के जंगलमहल से दुसू नृत्य टीम, बोड्राम से घोड़ा नाच टीम और पश्चिम बंगाल, मेदिनीपुर, पुरुलिया और झाड़ग्राम के अलावा धनबाद के कई झूमर और दुसू गीत कलाकार भी रहेंगे। पूरी शोभायात्रा को नियंत्रित करने के लिए 300 वॉलंटियर सफेद टीशर्ट में तैनात रहेंगे। डिमना, संकोसाई, मानगो और आमबगान में पानी और बाहर से आने वाले कलाकारों के लिए डिमना में भोजन की व्यवस्था रहेगी।

घाटशिला के मऊभंडार स्थित ताम्र प्रतिभा मैदान में चल रही प्रतियोगिता खो-खो चैंपियनशिप में खेला गया नॉकआउट मैच



खो-खो प्रतियोगिता में शामिल लड़कियां।

● फोटोन न्यूज

दर्ज किया। वहीं, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम के खिलाफ पूर्वी सिंहभूम की ए टीम ने 5 प्वाइंट से मैच जीता। रोमांचक मुकाबले में देवघर ने गिरिडीह को एक प्वाइंट से मात दिया। नॉक राउंड मुकाबलों की बात करें तो साहेबगंज के खिलाफ डे बोर्डिंग की टीम ने 15 प्वाइंट व एक इनिंग से जीत दर्ज किया। देवघर की लड़कियों ने 3 प्वाइंट

पंचायती राज विभाग की योजनाओं की हुई समीक्षा

KHUNTI : डीआरडीए स्थित सभागार में शनिवार को जिला पंचायती राज पदाधिकारी शिशिर कुमार की अध्यक्षता में पंचायत राज विभाग के जरिये संचालित कार्यों की समीक्षा बैठक आयोजित की गई। बैठक में कई महत्वपूर्ण बिंदुओं पर विस्तार से चर्चा और समीक्षा की गई। इनमें मुख्य रूप से जीपीडीपी-जीपीएफटी ट्रेनिंग के तहत टीएमपी पोर्टल में इंटी की प्रगति, 15वें वित्त आयोग के तहत व्यय को एक सप्ताह में 50 फीसदी तक बढ़ाने, पंचायत ज्ञान केंद्र का अधिष्ठान, जनप्रतिनिधियों के मानदेय, सभी पंचायतों में बायोमेट्रिक मशीन का अधिष्ठान और संचालन सुनिश्चित करने, पंचायत सुदृढ़ीकरण और 15वें वित्त आयोग की उपयोगिता प्रमाण पत्र की स्थिति, पंचायत भवन की स्थिति और भारत नेट रिचार्ज की समीक्षा की गई।

लातेहार के चर्चित मुंशी हत्याकांड का खुलासा



घटना के बारे में नीडियो को जानकारी देते एसपी गौरव कुमार। ● फोटोन न्यूज

PHOTON NEWS LATEHAR : लातेहार जिले में चर्चित मुंशी हत्याकांड का पुलिस ने शनिवार को खुलासा कर दिया। पुलिस ने इस मामले में शामिल पांच आरोपियों को गिरफ्तार किया है, जिसमें भुवनेश्वर सिंह, रमेश सिंह, छोटेलाल उरांव, रामचंद्र उरांव और सनोज उरांव शामिल हैं। सभी आरोपी लातेहार के भुसुर पंचायत के निवासी हैं। पुलिस ने घटना की जांच के दौरान आरोपियों के पास से तीन देसी राइफल और हत्या में प्रयुक्त टांगी भी बरामद की है। पुलिस की छापेमारी के बाद मामले का पदार्पण हुआ और घटना से जुड़े सभी आरोपियों को गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया। एसपी कुमार गौरव ने पत्रकारों को बताया कि 26 दिसंबर को अपराधियों ने बाल गोविंद साहू, जो औरंगा नदी

पर पुल निर्माण कार्य में मुंशी और नाइट गाई के तौर पर कार्यरत थे, की धारदार हथियार से हत्या कर दी थी। हत्या के बाद अपराधियों ने एक उग्रवादी संगठन का नाम लेते हुए पर्चा भी घटनास्थल पर फेंका था, लेकिन पुलिस की जांच से यह स्पष्ट हुआ कि हत्या एक सामान्य अपराधी समूह ने की थी। गिरफ्तार आरोपियों ने पूछताछ में बताया कि उन्होंने क्षेत्र में दहशत फैलाने के लिए इस प्रकार की घटना को अंजाम दिया था। छापेमारी दल में डीएसपी अरविंद कुमार, पुलिस इंस्पेक्टर दुलड चौड़े, सब-इंस्पेक्टर विक्रान्त कुमार उपाध्याय, भागीरथ पासवान, मनोज कुमार रमाकांत गुप्ता, राहुल सिंह और सुरेंद्र कुमार महतो समेत अन्य पुलिस अधिकारियों का योगदान महत्वपूर्ण रहा।

कृषाणु राॅय के घर हुई चोरी मामले में पुलिस ने पांच आरोपियों को भेजा जेल

PHOTON NEWS GHATSHILA :

घाटशिला थाना क्षेत्र के गोपालपुर निवासी कृषाणु राॅय के बंद पड़े घर में 31 दिसंबर की रात को चोरी हो गई थी, जिसमें चोरों ने कोई सामान नहीं छोड़ा था। इस मामले में पुलिस ने पांच आरोपियों को न केवल गिरफ्तार किया, बल्कि अधिकांश सामान भी चोरों के घर से बरामद कर लिया। थाना प्रभारी मधुसूदन दे ने शनिवार को बताया कि कृषाणु राॅय ने घाटशिला थाना में गुप्तवार को लिखित शिकायत दर्ज कराई थी। उन्होंने लिखित शिकायत में उल्लेख किया था कि गोपालपुर स्थित उनके घर से अज्ञात चोरों द्वारा बंद घर का ताला तोड़ कर पलंग व ड्रेसिंग टेबल, लगभग सभी फर्नीचर व घरेलू उपयोग के सामान सहित सोने-चांदी के आभूषण भी ले गए। वरीय पदाधिकारी के



पुलिस गिरफ्त में आरोपी।

● फोटोन न्यूज

आदेशानुसार एक विशेष छापेमारी दल का गठन कर कांड का उद्घेदन करने के लिए छापेमारी की गई। छापेमारी के दौरान इस घटना को अंजाम देने वाले पांच अपराधियों को गिरफ्तार किया गया तथा उनके पास से चुराए गए सामान भी बरामद किए गए। अपराधियों ने कांड में सलिपता भी स्वीकार कर ली है। सभी को

न्यायिक हिरासत में जेल भेज दिया गया है। गिरफ्तार आरोपियों में विजय नामाता (19 वर्ष), शिवा भालू उर्फ अय्यु (19 वर्ष), अजय कुमार (24 वर्ष), अमित कुमार सिंह (23 वर्ष) सभी गोपालपुर कटिंगपाड़ा व रंजीत मंडल (32 वर्ष) दाहीगोड़ा थाना घाटशिला, जिला पूर्वी सिंहभूम के रहने वाले हैं।

एटक ने मनाई मजदूर नेता केदार दास की जयंती



आज खेला जाएगा फाइनल मुकाबला

रविवार को शेष बचे मैचों के साथ फाइनल खेला जाएगा। मालूम हो कि खो-खो चैंपियनशिप में लड़के और लड़कियों की कुल 29 टीमें हिस्सा ले रही हैं। झारखंड के 16 जिलों से बॉयज व 13 जिलों से गर्ल्स की टीम चैंपियनशिप में हिस्सा ले रही है। एक टीम में 15-15 खिलाड़ी हैं, जबकि एक-एक मैनेजर तथा रेफरी शामिल हैं। इन सभी के बीच कई रोमांचक मुकाबले हो रहे हैं, जिसे देखने के लिए दर्शकों की भीड़ जुट रही है। खेल के सफल संचालन के लिए तीन कोर्ट बनाए गए हैं, जहां-जहां अलग-अलग मैच खेले जा रहे हैं।

तो बोकारो ने ऑल स्पोर्ट्स एकेडमी के खिलाफ 12 प्वाइंट और एक इनिंग से गेम जीत लिया है। शाम तक लड़कों व लड़कियों के नॉकआउट राउंड के मुकाबले खेले जा रहे थे।

रोटरी क्लब ऑफ जमशेदपुर वेस्ट का बेल्टीड क्लब में सेमिनार आयोजित

108 एंबुलेंस शुरू करने वाले डॉ. सुधाकर ने सुनाई कहानी

PHOTON NEWS JSR :

रोटरी क्लब ऑफ जमशेदपुर वेस्ट के तत्वावधान में शनिवार को बेल्टीड क्लब में सेमिनार हुआ, जिसमें 108 एंबुलेंस शुरू करने वाले डॉ. सुधाकर ने अपनी कहानी सुनाई। बेंगलुरु से आए प्रसिद्ध डॉ. सुधाकर वाराणसी (108 आपातकालीन सेवाओं के जनक) ने अपने प्रेरक अनुभव साझा किए। उन्होंने भारत में 108 इमरजेंसी एंबुलेंस सेवा की शुरुआत और इसके विस्तार की कहानी सुनाई। डॉ. सुधाकर ने बताया कि उनके मित्र की सड़क दुर्घटना में मृत्यु के बाद उन्होंने समाज में एंबुलेंस सेवा की आवश्यकता महसूस की। उन्होंने एक टीम बनाकर प्राइवेट कंपनियों



के सहयोग से 108 एंबुलेंस सेवा की शुरुआत की। आज यह सेवा पूरे भारत में 37,000 एंबुलेंस के साथ सक्रिय है और भूटान व श्रीलंका में भी कार्यरत है। उनके प्रयास से अब तक 1.5 लाख लोगों की जान बचाई जा चुकी है। कार्यक्रम का संचालन रोटरी क्लब

ऑफ जमशेदपुर वेस्ट के अध्यक्ष डॉ. अमित मुखर्जी व धन्यवाद ज्ञापन अमरेश सिन्हा ने किया। इस दौरान डॉ. सुधाकर ने गांधीजी के गीत पर आधारित बांगुरी की धुन भी सुनाई। कार्यक्रम में शहर के सभी रोटरी क्लब के प्रमुख सदस्य उपस्थित रहे।

Quiet confidence & lasting impact of MMS

THE passing of Manmohan Singh, India’s Prime Minister from 2004 to 2014, has led to an unexpected eruption of nostalgia and appreciation. Singh’s modesty and low-key style made it easy for many to overlook his achievements in boosting India’s economic growth and elevating its global standing. His death, at 92, has thrown a spotlight on an impressive record.Singh will be remembered as one of the world’s most important — and most unlikely — political leaders.

first met him in the late 1980s in the East Delhi housing complex where my family lived at the time. Singh had finished his term as Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and was looking to buy a simple apartment in our locality. A friend of mine called to ask if he could bring Singh to see ours. Singh came and met us and chatted with my mother. But he never moved to the area because soon thereafter, he was appointed Secretary-General of the South Commission in Geneva; and, after that, in 1991, he became India’s Finance Minister. In 2004, my mother called me, excitedly informing me that the soft-spoken, unassuming Singh had just become India’s Prime Minister.In 2009, when I was Chair of the Economics Department at Cornell, Singh invited me — quite out of the blue — to join his government as Chief Economic Adviser. I agreed, but only if he assured me regular, direct access to him. He said he would, and he did. I met with him about once a month and got to know him well during the nearly three years in his government.

By that point, Singh had already laid the groundwork of India’s economic liberalisation, with the most important reforms carried out between 1991 and 1993, when he was Finance Minister.The transformative effect was evident from the subsequent acceleration in India’s economic growth.India’s early investment in the sciences and engineering during this period nurtured talent not only in research and development but also in corporate leadership and policymaking.Singh’s sharp intellect was guided by a sure moral compass. Former US President Barack Obama rightly described him as a person of “uncommon wisdom and decency.”

While the electorate often took this to be a sign of weakness, his modesty was rooted in self-confidence. He felt no need to proclaim his talents from the rooftop. He was unruffled by criticism and saw no sense in attacking his critics.

In 2005, when he visited Delhi’s Jawaharlal Nehru University, well-known for left-wing activism, students with black flags turned out to protest. The university authorities were embarrassed and furious, and offered to take strong action against the students. Show-cause orders were sent to some students and the Delhi police also detained some.

It was Singh who intervened on the students’ behalf, arguing that they were exercising their “democratic rights.”Later, in a speech at the university, he quoted the famous aphorism attributed to Voltaire: “Every member of a university community, if he or she wishes to aspire to be worthy of the university, must accept the truth of Voltaire’s classic statement: ‘I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.’ That idea must be the cornerstone of a liberal institution.”It was also a cornerstone of Singh’s own political career. Because he took ethics seriously, he insisted on the highest standard of honesty. When, in 2010, inflation was raging, some bureaucrats suggested that it might be best not to hurt his political standing by releasing so much price data. But he put his foot down, insisting there should be no compromise on statistical transparency, even if it dented his poll numbers.This raises a puzzling question. In a world where political success seems to depend so much on intrigue, dissimulation and subterfuge, how did such a person make it to the top?My belief is that he would not have made it on his own. It was the political leadership of the time that recognised the need for a person of his talents to have the space to craft and implement seemingly unpopular economic policies.

TB doesn’t have an adult vaccine yet. Why not

What is urgently needed is a vaccine that is effective before and after TB exposure, and in all age groups.

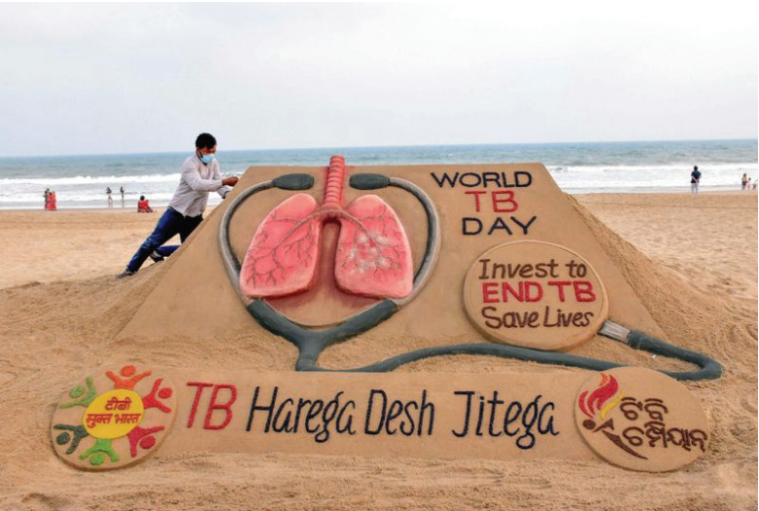
Tuberculosis (TB) remains the leading infectious cause of death in the world, including India. According to the Global TB Report 2024, an estimated 10.8 million people fell ill with TB in 2023 and 1.25 million died. India accounted for 26 per cent of the world’s cases and an equal percentage of global TB deaths in 2023 — the highest for any country.In 2015, 194 countries adopted the WHO End TB Strategy, committing themselves to end the disease by 2030 as part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). India set 2025 as the target year for TB elimination —five years ahead of the global target of 2030. The End TB strategy aims to achieve the targets of 80 per cent reduction in TB incidence rate and 90 per cent reduction in the number of TB deaths vis a vis 2015.

Despite a very high level of political commitment and increased financial resources over the past few years, the progress in TB control has globally remained rather slow. With only a year to go, India, too, will surely miss its 2025 target of TB elimination.There are several possible reasons for this slow progress. Most important among them is the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic, which led to widespread disruptions in healthcare, including TB drug supplies and redirection of human resources to address the pandemic.This severely hampered active TB case detection, diagnosis and treatment, thereby reversing the gains made in the recent past. The global deaths due to TB in 2021 increased for the first time after experiencing a decline for many years.The treatment of TB takes six months. But adherence to regular intake of medicine over such a long duration often becomes challenging for many patients.Also, TB comes in different forms — latent infection (which may remain dormant for years), subclinical and clinical TB. Each of these forms requires different tests to diagnose. Many patients latently infected with TB are, in fact, unaware that they have the disease as they may not exhibit the TB symptoms.Drug resistance, too, is an alarming obstacle to TB prevention and cure, making the treatment harder, expensive and longer to complete. Treatment of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) is complicated and takes up to two years.Plus, interaction between TB and HIV is a challenge to public health as HIV infection can complicate the management of TB in many ways. HIV-associated

TB often presents as extra-pulmonary disease and sputum-negative. Thus, diagnosis by sputum examination becomes difficult. The TB-HIV interaction increases the rate of drug resistance and enhances the risk of complications. These factors make the fight against TB more challenging.

The most critical issue, however, is the lack of an effective adult vaccine. It has for long been a critical hindrance in the fight against TB. The only licensed vaccine presently available is the Bacille Calmette Guerin (BCG) vaccine. It does prevent severe infection among children, but its efficacy against pulmonary TB in adults is limited.

As of January 2024, there were only 17 TB vaccine candidates listed in the active clinical trial pipeline. This is in stark contrast to the rapid and extensive development of vaccines seen during the Covid-19



pandemic, which took less than a year to develop and be used as an effective public health intervention.

Thus, the target of TB elimination cannot be achieved without substantial technological breakthroughs and their wide application in government programmes.

Top priorities for research and innovation include the development of rapid point-of-care tests for diagnosing TB. Among them are rapid molecular tests which are highly accurate and faster than traditional/conventional microbiological tests. These improved tests can be performed near the patient or in the community-based health centres. They provide quick results, thereby helping in timely treatment. These tests should detect TB and

Haryana’s graft taint

Bribery cases against cops reveal the rot

HARYANA has had a ‘double-engine’ government since 2014. It’s no mean feat that the BJP has won three Assembly elections on the trot in this state adjoining the Capital. No wonder voters continue to have great expectations in terms of good & clean governance. Even as the euphoria over the party’s stunning victory in the October 2024 state polls is waning, a sobering fact has come to light — of the 104 trap cases in which officials were caught red-handed by Haryana’s Anti-Corruption Bureau last year, 34 involved members of the police force. It is a good sign that the ACB is cracking down on corrupt officials, but what about deterrence and fear of the law? The functioning of the government and the police comes under a cloud when those tasked with law enforcement themselves demand and accept illegal gratification. Other departments have a better record, but



there is no room for complacency as they also have their black sheep who need to be weeded out. It was the anti-corruption plank that had helped the BJP

decimate the scam-tainted UPA a decade ago, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasising his zero-tolerance approach with the slogan, “Na khaunga na khane dunga”. However, the rot in Haryana shows that the initiative to cleanse the system remains a work in progress.

Speaking at a ‘Good Governance Day’ event last week, the Haryana Governor rightly stated that information technology was the most effective means of curbing corruption. Indeed, e-governance has made a difference, but unscrupulous people are adept at finding new ways to bypass rules and procedures. The Union Government, which is often accused by the Opposition of misusing Central agencies to settle political scores, must pay greater attention to Haryana, which is at risk of becoming a bad advertisement for the much-touted anti-corruption campaign.

Death penalty merits a rethink

Yemen case should prompt India to reflect on this mode of punishment

THE efforts to save an Indian woman on death row in Yemen should make us rethink whether we ourselves ought to continue with the severest of punishments. Nimisha Priya, a nurse, has been found guilty of murder. She allegedly injected the victim (who was known to her) with sedatives while visiting him in jail. So far, attempts to prevent her execution have failed.One last attempt is being made, and that is to offer blood money to the family of the deceased and seek forgiveness. The blood money is said to be \$40,000 (around Rs 34 lakh). A substantial sum, if not the entire amount, has been raised and deposited by the family with a lawyer. The financial part seems to have been taken care of, and only forgiveness is anxiously awaited. Our government is doing all it can to assist the family.We always say “let the law take its course”, and so it is in the case of this woman. So why is the government extending a helping hand to avert her execution? Is it because the government believes she is not guilty or was not given a fair trial? Is it because she is an Indian and the government will do what it can to save the life of an Indian? Is it because the government feels the punishment is too harsh? Whatever be the reason, the government must be commended for rendering assistance.

This case should prompt the government to reflect on the need to have the death penalty on the statute books. After all, when we execute a person, we are taking the life of an Indian citizen. It hardly matters whether the Indian is executed in our country or on foreign soil. True, our courts are circumspect and extremely careful in awarding the death penalty — they do so in the rarest of the rare cases. But would it not be proper for the prosecution to refrain from demanding the death penalty?



What purpose is served by executing a person? The usual answer, when the death penalty is discussed, is that it is a deterrent against heinous crimes. Unfortunately, there is no evidence to support that argument. The US has a high number of persons on death row; it also executes a rather large number of them. Has this deterred individuals from committing murders or mass shootings in schools or most recently the carnage in New Orleans?

On the other hand, it appears that despite the abolition of the death penalty, cases of heinous crimes have not increased. France did it in 1981; over four decades later, there is no evidence that the count of heinous crimes has risen. Zimbabwe, which abstained from

voting on the UN resolution for a moratorium on the death penalty in December last year, has now abolished capital punishment. Let’s wait for the impact of this decision.

Tens of thousands of rape and murder cases are registered in our country every year. We also have several instances of terror attacks. I believe that in all these cases involving heinous crimes, justice will be served to a great extent if investigations are concluded expeditiously and the trial is completed within a year. For this, our police need to be highly trained to investigate crimes; our prosecuting authorities and prosecutors should also be fully equipped with solid and scientific evidence.

In a recent case reported by a newspaper, 48 out of 49 witnesses turned hostile. What does this tell us about our criminal justice system? Only that a massive overhaul is needed. But, instead of improving our system, there is a demand for the imposition of the severest possible punishment — death sentence. That won’t help us improve the system.

courts across the country need to expedite trials and disposal of appeals in criminal cases so that a conclusion is reached quickly. Perpetrators of crimes, heinous or otherwise, will get the message that they will be hauled up sooner rather than later and will have to serve time in prison.Some courts have begun to take the view that sending a person to the gallows may not necessarily be the best solution. In the recent past, there have been cases in which courts have awarded 20-25 years’ rigorous imprisonment to a convict instead of the death sentence. Sometimes, such long terms of incarceration are awarded without any provision for remission. There have been a few cases in which the convict was sentenced to imprisonment for the rest of his or her life. Is this as bad or as good as the death penalty? Many countries seem to think so. Don’t forget that Abu Salem was extradited from Portugal on the condition that he would not be given the death penalty.There is no doubt that the abolition of the death penalty is a very controversial and tricky subject, particularly in cases of rape, murder, sexual abuse of children and terror attacks. Nevertheless, we need to discuss this subject threadbare and have some sort of a policy or consensus; otherwise, the death penalty may get reduced to a game of chance. Meanwhile, let’s pray for the woman in Yemen.

Brigade group to develop housing project in Bengaluru

NEW DELHI. Realty major Brigade Group on Friday said it has signed a definitive agreement for a land parcel located on Whitefield-Hoskote Road, Bengaluru. Spanning 20 acres, the residential project will have a saleable area of nearly 2.5 mn Sqft, a gross development value (GDV) of Rs 2,700 crore, and a land cost of about Rs 630 crore through its subsidiary Ananthay Properties.Brigade said with its thriving job market, Whitefield continues to attract homebuyers seeking proximity to their workplaces. The seamless connectivity through road, rail, and upcoming Metro extension further enhances Whitefield’s appeal.Pavitra Shankar, MD of Brigade Enterprises, stated, “We remain focused on acquiring prime land in key markets to strengthen our land holdings. This project plays a major role in supporting our long-term residential expansion strategy.”

BSNL loses 0.87 mn users to private telcos, gains 0.46 mn users in November

NEW DELHI. State-owned telecom service provider Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) saw a significant drop in customers in November 2024, losing nearly 0.87 million users while gaining only 0.46 million new ones.This marks the highest customer churn for BSNL since private telecom companies like Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea raised their mobile tariffs up to 25% in July.There was a major rise in customer migrations to BSNL from other telcos from July to November 2024. However, the migration of customers to BSNL has slowed down recently,



possibly due to customer dissatisfaction with their network. By July 2024, only 0.31 million users left BSNL. This number further dropped to 0.26 million in August, 0.28 million in September, and increased to 0.51 million in October 2024. Meanwhile, the number of new subscribers joining BSNL surged significantly in August (2.1 mn), September (1.1 mn), and October (0.7 mn). As per TRAI data, for the first time since the tariff hike by private telcos, Airtel added 1.9 million users in October 2024. However, Jio, India’s largest telco, continued to lose subscribers, losing 3.76 million, while Vi lost 1.97 million customers. BSNL added 0.5 million customers during the same month.

Kotak Bank COO Nagnur quits, second exit after Vaswani joined as chief executive

MUMBAI. Kotak Mahindra Bank, which is under serious regulatory curbs since April last year for not fortifying its tech-architecture and has been banned from any online/mobile app-based services, has said Milind Nagnur, its chief technology officer who is also its chief operating officer, has resigned from the bank. This is the second senior-level resignation from the bank after the new CEO, Ashok Vaswani, was chosen by the RBI in January 2024 to replace founder Uday Kotak who resigned 15 months before his term was to end.arly May last year, KVS Manian, who was with the bank since the beginning and a right hand of Uday Kotak, had called it quits with immediate effect and he joined the Federal Bank as CEO from September.In an exchange filing on Friday, the bank said Nagnur’s resignation letter dated January 3 says his last day at the bank will be February 15. An interim structure has been put in place at the bank to ensure smooth functioning, it added. Nagnur, who cited personal reasons for his departure, has said in the resignation that he planned to move back to the US to care for family members. In April 2024, the Reserve Bank had barred the bank from onboarding new customers through its online and mobile banking channels, as well as from issuing fresh credit cards. The regulator had observed “serious deficiencies and non-compliances” for more than a year in the bank’s IT inventory and user access management, among other things.

HUL eyes skincare brand Minimalist in Rs 3,000 crore deal

MUMBAI. FMCG giant Hindustan Unilever is closing in on talks to acquire D2C beauty brand Minimalist in a deal that could value the startup at about Rs 3,000 crore, sources aware of the discussions told TOI. "The talks are ongoing but they are at an advanced stage and should close soon," a source said. The acquisition will allow HUL to offer a wider and varied slate of products to consumers who are looking beyond the traditional beauty and personal care solutions, seeking differentiated products. Jaipur-based Minimalist - which counts Peak XV Partners as its largest institutional investor - sells a range of skin, body and hair care products. "In line with our Sbusiness strategy, on an ongoing basis, we evaluate various strategic opportunities for the growth and expansion of our business. We will make appropriate disclosures whenever there is any material development that requires disclosure under applicable laws," an HUL spokesperson said in a statement. Peak XV Partners did not comment, while Minimalist could not be immediately reached for one.

Indians' consumption of pulses, cereals declines by 5% as spending patterns shift: SBI report

NEW DELHI. Indian households have significantly altered their spending patterns over the past 12 years, shifting focus from food to non-food items, according to an analysis by the State Bank of India (SBI).A deeper analysis of the report also revealed several key trends. Consumption of cereals and pulses has significantly declined, dropping by over 5 percent in both rural and urban areas. The report stated, "A significant drop (more than 5 percent) in 'Cereal & Pulses' consumption in both rural and urban areas."The report also noted that this shift in consumption from food to non-food items observed in both rural and urban areas reflects evolving preferences driven by economic growth, government policies, and lifestyle changes.It added, "Consumption behavior has shifted from food to non-food items... It is interesting to observe the change in consumer preferences in both rural and urban areas over the last 12 years."The report highlights a



substantial drop in the share of expenditure on food items. In rural areas, the percentage of spending on food decreased from 52.9 percent in 2011-12 to 47.04 percent in 2023-24, marking a decline of 5.86 percentage points. Urban areas witnessed a smaller but significant reduction, with the share

falling from 42.62 percent to 39.68 percent, a drop of 2.94 percentage points.Conversely, non-food items have gained prominence in household budgets. The share of non-food expenditure in rural areas increased from 47.1 percent in 2011-12 to 52.96 percent in 2023-24, registering a 5.86

percentage point rise.Urban areas also experienced growth in non-food spending, with the share rising from 57.38 percent to 60.32 percent, an increase of 2.94 percentage points.On the other hand, spending on toiletries has increased, driven by the success of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and growing awareness about hygiene.Interestingly, the share of taxes and cess in household expenditure has decreased, potentially due to the rationalization of GST rates. Meanwhile, spending on clothing and footwear has also declined, a trend attributed to reduced GST rates compared to the earlier taxation system. The shift from food to non-food spending highlights India's changing socio-economic landscape. Rising incomes, improved living standards, and government initiatives promoting hygiene and affordable taxation have reshaped consumer priorities, particularly in rural areas.

Oil refiners may see fall in profit next financial year

Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are expected to maintain healthy marketing margins, thanks to lower Brent crude oil prices and a forecasted 3-4% increase in India’s petroleum product demand.

region, and reduced benefits from fluctuations in global crude oil prices. However, oil marketing companies (OMCs) are expected to maintain healthy marketing margins, thanks to



lower Brent crude oil prices and a forecasted 3-4% increase in India’s petroleum product demand in financial year 2024-25 (FY25).

“Fitch Ratings expects India’s petroleum product demand to rise by 3-4% in the financial year ending March 2025 (FY25), compared with increases of 3% in 7MFY25 and 5% in FY24. This is supported by rising consumer,

industrial and infrastructure demand...The growth in petroleum product demand is likely to be broad-based, with diesel and petrol accounting for the majority,” reads the report.The report also noted that India’s total gas consumption is expected to increase by around 10% in the financial year 2025 (FY25), driven by growing demand from key sectors and government policies promoting the use of cleaner fuels. Natural gas production in India is expected to grow at a low single-digit rate in FY25, supported by development projects on the western and eastern coasts. However, this growth rate is slower than the 9% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) seen between FY21 and FY24.

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) imports are expected to increase by around 20% in FY25, driven by growing demand and lower international gas prices. This will make gas more affordable for price-sensitive sectors.

Demand for CNG vehicles soars in 2024 due to stricter emission norms

NEW DELHI. Demand for CNG-powered cars rose sharply in 2024 even as total passenger vehicles (PV) grew by less than 5% during the calendar year. Partho Banerjee, senior executive officer of marketing and sales at Maruti Suzuki India (MSIL) said they sold 453,000 units in the period of April-December, a growth of 26.3% over 2023.

“In terms of the CNG penetration, the contribution has now increased to 38.7%. During the same period last year, it used to be 31.4%, indicating a growth of nearly 7.3%,” added Banerjee. In CY24, CNG sales were over 5.76 lakh units for MSIL. The carmaker’s total PV sales in 2024 stood at 17.91 lakh units, up by 2.7% year-on-year.Rohan Kanwar Gupta, vice President & sector head, corporate ratings at ICRA said improving CNG availability and favourable operating economics aided by its superior mileage, have aided an increase in the

adoption pace of the powertrain over the past few years (17% in H1 CY24). Gupta added that the launch of various variants by leading OEMs has also



enhanced the options available to the buyers and has in turn further aided demand for CNG vehicles. “Stricter emission norms and restrictions on polluting vehicles are expected to result in a continuation of a general shift towards cleaner vehicles over the medium term, thereby leading to an increase in adoption of CNG, hybrid

and EV powertrains,” he said.

For Hyundai Motor India (HML), CNG vehicles contributed 13.1% of its domestic sales in CY24. Hyundai sold 605,433 units in CY 2024, up 0.6% when compared to CY 2023 sales. . “The introduction of our innovative Hy-CNG Duo technology in 2024 resonated well with buyers, resulting in the highest CNG contribution of 13.1% to HML’s domestic sales in CY24, as against 10.4% in CY23,” said Tarun Garg, whole-time director and COO at HML. Similarly, Tata Motors saw a surge in demand for CNG-powered vehicles. “We registered a 77% growth in our

CNG volumes, selling over 120,000 CNG vehicles in CY24,” said Shailesh Chandra, managing director of Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd. Contrary to this growth, Tata Motors electric vehicle sales grew by just 6% year-on-year to 16,119 in the October-December quarter.

EV sector needs no more subsidies: Minister Piyush Goyal

Currently, the government offers subsidies and incentives under the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)’ scheme.

NEW DELHI. The electric mobility sector doesn’t need additional incentives as existing subsidies available to them are good enough to give necessary kickstart to the sector, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said after meeting the stakeholders here on Friday.The representatives of the sector met the minister for a discussion on the charging and battery swapping infra. “E-mobility sector is ready and set to fly. They don’t need additional incentives. In almost all sectors now, there are options available by which -emobility can be marketed. It’s a good economic case to move from ICE engine to EVs and hybrids,” the minister

told the media. “Everybody was unanimous in the room across sectors that they don’t require subsidies.”Currently, the government offers subsidies and incentives under the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)’ scheme. Under the scheme, subsidies are given for purchase of electric two-wheelers (e-2W), e-three-wheelers (e-3W), e-ambulances, e-trucks, and other emerging categories of EVs. Apart from that, funding is provided for acquisition of e-buses, establishment of a network of charging stations and upgrading of the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) testing facilities.The government has made a outlay of `10,900 crore for the scheme, effective October 1, 2024, and will remain in force until March 31, 2026. The Centre offers a production-linked incentive scheme for automobile and auto component industry (PLI-AAT) with an outlay of `25,938 crore for enhancing manufacturing capabilities for advanced automotive products including EVs and their components. The scheme incentivises various categories of EVs

including e-2W, e-3W, e-4W, e-trucks & e-buses.“Newer incentives for EV are not needed at the moment. Centre is offering an array of benefits to promote EV adoption. Many industry players have yet



to fully leverage existing initiatives like auto PLI schemes. We anticipate 2025-2026 to be a pivotal period for the EV ecosystem in India,,” said Puneet Gupta, director, S&P Global Mobility.oyal said the government is planning to make the setting of charging infra easier by allowing those who set up charging stations to self-monitor and self-regulate. “We want the RWAs and office complexes to have these charging stations. Nobody needs to invest in setting up these stations

– auto and battery companies are happy to make the investments,” Goyal told the media. On whether the battery swapping model would be encouraged, Goyal said it is a business case that should be left to consumers and companies.“Newer incentives for EV are not needed at the moment. Centre is offering an array of benefits to promote EV adoption. Many industry players have yet to fully leverage existing initiatives like auto PLI schemes. We anticipate 2025-2026 to be a pivotal period for the EV ecosystem in India,,” said Puneet Gupta, director, S&P Global Mobility. Goyal said the government is planning to make the setting of charging infra easier by allowing those who set up charging stations to self-monitor and self-regulate. “We want the RWAs and office complexes to have these charging stations. Nobody needs to invest in setting up these stations – auto and battery companies are happy to make the investments,” Goyal told the media. On whether the battery swapping model would be encouraged, Goyal said it is a business case that should be left to consumers and companies.

One in three patients upset with Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital services

➤ The survey, conducted between September and October, shed light on critical areas where the hospital is failing its patients.

NEW DELHI. A recent survey conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has highlighted significant dissatisfaction among patients visiting Safdarjung Hospital, one of Delhi's largest tertiary care centres. The feedback, collected under the Union Health Ministry's "Mera Hospital" initiative, found that 30% of the 6,545 surveyed patients were unhappy with the hospital's services.

The survey, conducted between September and October, shed light on critical areas where the hospital is failing its patients. One of the primary reasons for dissatisfaction was the behaviour of hospital staff, with 41% of the unhappy patients citing rude conduct by doctors and nurses. Specifically, 39% of respondents were dissatisfied with the behaviour of doctors,

while 10% felt the nurses were unprofessional. The Pediatrics Surgery department emerged as the most criticized,

with dissatisfaction levels ranging from 26% to 40%. The issue of staff behaviour was compounded by operational inefficiencies.

Long queues were flagged as a major concern by 48% of respondents, while 15% were frustrated by excessive crowding.

Cleanliness remained a persistent problem, with 13% of patients voicing their discontent. Affordability also emerged as a challenge, as 17% of those surveyed found the cost of treatment to be unsatisfactory.

A significant 29% of patients felt that doctors did not listen to their complaints attentively, a sentiment that was unanimous among Pediatrics department patients. Additionally, 43% of respondents reported no relief in their symptoms following treatment, raising questions about the quality of care provided.



with 60% of its patients expressing dissatisfaction. Other departments, such as Neurology, General Surgery, Medical Oncology, and Medicine, also faced scrutiny,

GRAP III back as air quality plummets in Delhi



NEW DELHI. An extreme cold wave continued to envelop the national capital and its surrounding areas on Friday morning. A thick layer of fog settled over the region, leading to significantly reduced visibility and disruptions in traffic during the morning. Additionally, air quality plummeted to 'very poor' level prompting the authorities to impose GRAP 3.

Today marked the fifth consecutive day of the cold wave in the NCR, with maximum temperatures taking a noticeable dip. The heavy fog made road travel hazardous, prompting caution among commuters.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) also issued an orange alert for Delhi, predicting "dense to very dense fog," along with partly cloudy skies for the day. The weather forecast indicated a low of 8 degrees Celsius.

Meanwhile, the maximum temperature in the city settled at 21.2 degrees Celsius, 1.9 degrees above average and the minimum temperature was recorded at 7 degrees Celsius. The IMD has also forecasted that Delhi might experience light to moderate rain on January 6. Until that day, the visibility in Delhi is expected to be low.

In Noida, all schools have been ordered to close for classes that begin before 8 am due to the adverse weather conditions. The foggy conditions affected flight operations too. Over 100 flights were delayed at the Delhi airport on Friday morning as visibility dropped to zero in some areas due to dense fog.

Forecasts from the weather department and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology suggest that the air quality could worsen further due to unfavourable weather conditions. In response, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has instructed authorities in the Delhi-NCR region to promptly enforce stage 3 restrictions to curb further deterioration.

"In an effort to prevent further deterioration of the air quality and in pursuance of the Supreme Court's directives, the Sub-Committee on GRAP hereby decide to invoke all actions under Stage III (Severe air quality of Delhi) of the extant schedule of GRAP, with immediate effect, in addition to the stage I and II actions already in force," read the CAQM order.

Delhi cafe owner's suicide: Cops intensify probe, to question kin and friends

NEW DELHI. The Delhi Police is likely to question the family members, close friends and the in-laws of Puneet Khurana, a cafe owner who died by suicide in northwest Delhi's Model Town area, sources said on Friday.

The probe gained momentum after videos and audio clips, purportedly linked to the case, began circulating on social media. Authorities have sent these digital files, along with Khurana's mobile phone, to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for analysis. "We are focusing on understanding the circumstances that may have led to his extreme step. Insights from those close to him are crucial," said an official privy to the probe. Police sources earlier said Khurana had recorded a 54-minute video in his mobile phone before hanging himself. A 2.5-minute clip from the video is being shared on social media in which Khurana can be heard saying that he was depressed and also listing the reasons for his depression.

A key video, dated October 12, 2023, accessed by TNIE, captured Khurana in conversation with his father-in-law, Jagdish Pahwa, regarding a Rs 2 crore payment for a house registered in his wife's name. Khurana's family alleged that Pahwa later reneged on this promise, escalating the tension between the two families. The couple, married in 2016, had also been embroiled in disputes over their shared business assets. Khurana, co-owner of the bakery chain, Woodbox Cafe, was found dead at his Model Town's Kalyan Vihar residence on December 31.

Nigerian national nabbed with MDMA worth Rs 5.28 lakh in Delhi

NEW DELHI. The Delhi Police's Crime Branch has nabbed a 49-year-old Nigerian national involved in drug trafficking on New Year's Eve, recovering 66 grams of methamphetamine (MDMA) worth Rs 5.28 lakh in the international market, police said on Friday.

The accused was identified as Uche Chukwu Kalu. According to police, he was arrested near Om Vihar in Uttam Nagar, during an operation by the crime branch. "Kalu, arrived in India on a business visa in 2010, had been staying illegally since its expiration," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Satish Kumar.

The DCP further said that previously, he was jailed in connection with a 2015 murder case registered at Bindapur Police Station, where he, along with his associate killed a girl after injecting her with drugs and threw her body in a drain. Released on bail in August 2024, Kalu resumed drug trafficking, leading to his arrest again. Police said that a team laid a trap in Uttam Nagar and intercepted Kalu after a brief chase. "A search of his belongings yielded 66 grams of MDMA crystal and powder forms. Further investigation is underway," the officer added.

Seven Bangladeshi nationals arrested for illegal stay in Delhi

NEW DELHI. Amid crackdown against illegal immigration, the Delhi Police has apprehended seven Bangladeshi nationals residing unlawfully in the capital in two separate operations, officials said on Friday. The first operation, led by the Southeast District Police, resulted in the detention of five individuals - Sheikh Sofiul Alam Sabbir, Md. Takdirul Khan, Bijoyohmod Sahi, Habibur Rahman, and Md. Musa Miah Khan.

According to DCP (Southeast) Ravi Kumar Singh, these persons had entered India last year under the guise of visiting the Bosnia Embassy to obtain work permits. However, their visas had long expired, rendering their stay illegal. "They were apprehended on January 1 and subsequently presented before the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) for deportation proceedings," Singh stated.

Adding to the crackdown, legal action has been initiated against the owner of the guesthouse where these illegal immigrants were residing. The DCP emphasised that compliance with the Foreigners Act, 1946, is crucial to ensure proper monitoring of foreign nationals.

In the second operation, the Southwest District Police detained and deported a couple, Liyacet (54) and his wife (39), who had been illegally staying in the city since 2012.

Must follow law of land: Union Minister on Blinkit's 10-minute ambulance service

➤ After Blinkit launched a 10-minute ambulance service in Gurugram, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said the quick commerce company should follow "the law of the land".

NEW DELHI. Blinkit, which launched a 10-minute ambulance service, must make sure that it complies with "the law of the land", Union Minister Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday.

Goyal's remarks came after the quick e-commerce platform flagged off a 10-minute ambulance service in select areas of Gurugram as a pilot project.

"As regards Blinkit with ambulance services or medicines being delivered, my only submission would be that they have to make sure that they meet the law of the land, and whatever other legal requirements should be properly taken care of. No laws of the land should be broken," Goyal told reporters. He said that other legal requirements regarding the 10-minute ambulance service

should be properly taken care of. ABOUT THE BLINKIT 10-MINUTE AMBULANCE SERVICE Users can book an ambulance in



emergency situations and will be able to see the option to call for an ambulance on the Blinkit app. The company has promised that the ambulance will be dispatched and reach the person who has booked it within 10 minutes.

Albinder Dhindsa, Founder and CEO of Blinkit, said the Blinkit ambulances are equipped with essential life-saving equipment, including oxygen cylinders, automated external defibrillators, stretchers, monitors, suction machines, and critical emergency medicines and injections.

Each ambulance will be staffed with a paramedic, an assistant and a trained driver to assist users during emergencies. "Our aim is to provide a reliable and affordable ambulance service that can respond to emergencies swiftly," Dhindsa said.

Highlighting the goal of Blinkit's ambulance service, Dhindsa said that Blinkit will operate the service at an affordable cost for customers and the company was not looking to make a profit from it.

Showdown on Kolkata bridge as Babul Supriyo confronts BJP MP on erratic driving

➤ The incident occurred as Babul Supriyo was on his way back to his residence in Howrah, when he became annoyed by persistent honking from the car behind him.

Kolkata. Kolkata's iconic Second Hooghly Bridge witnessed a political drama on Friday night when Bengal minister Babul Supriyo and BJP MP Abhijit Ganguly got embroiled in an altercation. The incident occurred as Supriyo was on his way back to his residence in Howrah, when he became annoyed by persistent honking from the car behind him.

Sources said an agitated Babul Supriyo halted his vehicle and approached the car behind him, demanding an explanation for the erratic driving. He found out that the vehicle belonged to BJP MP Abhijit Ganguly, who was seated at the back of the car. Witnesses said a tense confrontation ensued, with Supriyo vocally expressing concern about the dangerous driving. Videos of the incident showed a huge crowd near Abhijit Ganguly's vehicle as the dramatic episode played out on the bridge. Matters escalated when Supriyo accused Ganguly of using abusive language during the altercation. An irate



Supriyo demanded a formal apology, asserting that such behaviour was unacceptable. Ganguly, however, remained silent as Supriyo vowed to escalate the matter through appropriate

official channels. The situation drew the attention of bystanders and was soon brought under control by police officers who were on duty nearby.

Farmer unions to reject new agriculture-marketing policy

NEW DELHI. Farmers' organisations collective Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) will organise mahapanchayat in Tohana (Haryana) on January 4 and in Moga (Punjab) on January 9 to adopt resolutions to reject the new draft policy on agriculture marketing.

They dubbed the National Policy Framework on Agriculture Marketing (NPFAM) as more dangerous than the three repealed Farms Acts of 2019 and against the federal structure of the country.

The SKM said the NPFAM is designed to promote corporate interest by integrating agricultural production and marketing at the cost of the welfare of small producers and farmers.

The proposed reforms are want to redesign value chain-based capacity-building

framework to integrate both the private and public sectors through advanced technologies such as blockchain and artificial intelligence.



"In the name of reform, the government effectively allows the private sector, specifically, corporate agribusinesses, to establish dominance over production, processing, and marketing," said P Krishnaprasad, All India Kisan Sabha, a

part of SKM. Also, the proposed laws will undermine the federal rights of the state government under which jurisdiction the agriculture market falls, the farmers alleged.

Farmers leaders analysed the proposed framework and found that the root cause of the acute income crisis faced by farmers is fundamentally social and political instead of technical reform alone.

Moreover, the policy document fails to address any provisions that would hold these corporate forces, including processors, traders, and exporters, accountable for sharing a fair portion of the surplus they extract from the market.

➤ The SKM said the NPFAM is designed to promote corporate interest by integrating agricultural production and marketing at the cost of the welfare of small producers and farmers.





Janhvi Kapoor

Reacts To ‘Laddooo’ Khushi Kapoor, Junaid Khan’s Loveyapa’s First Song; Calls It ‘Fresh’

Khushi Kapoor and Junaid Khan starrer Loveyapa’s first song has finally been released today. The song has been getting love from all corners. Janhvi Kapoor also reacted to the song and called it fun, fresh and young. The rom-com, directed by Laal Singh Chaddha filmmaker Advait Chandan, is releasing on February 7, 2025. Taking to her Instagram stories, Janhvi Kapoor shared the poster of the song and wrote, ‘This looks so fun, fresh and young!!! Can’t wait!!! And my laddooo Khushu looking so cute!!! @khushikapoor.’ Produced by Phantom Studios and AGS Entertainment, Advait Chandan’s Junaid’s first foray into the romantic comedy genre has fans eager to see the chemistry between this fresh and exciting pair.

The title track is a burst of energy, with lively beats and lyrics that perfectly resonate with youth and Gen-Z audiences. The song’s relatable vibe hints at the film’s mass appeal, making it clear that Loveyapa will be a hit among younger viewers, raising anticipation and excitement for its release.

Junaid Khan, son of Aamir Khan, made his acting debut last year in Siddharth P. Malhotra’s Maharaj alongside Sharvari and Shalini Pandey. His portrayal of Karsandas Mulji earned positive reviews. Meanwhile, Khushi Kapoor, daughter of the late Sridevi, stepped into the industry with Zoya Akhtar’s The Archies, which premiered on Netflix in 2023. Earlier, Hindustan Times reported, “The first leg of the shoot wrapped up in Mumbai, and now the duo is filming in the Capital. The team started shooting here three-four days ago, and the schedule will go on for another 10-12 days. While the supporting cast has been joining the shoot as and when needed, Junaid and Khushi are going to be here for the entire schedule.”



The film is reported to be a remake of the 2022 Tamil hit Love Today, which starred and was directed by Pradeep Ranganathan. On the other hand, Janhvi Kapoor had quite a few releases in 2024. She made a cameo in Shahid Kapoor and Kriti Sanon’s Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya, which was followed by the release of the Mr & Mrs Mahi.

Sidharth Malhotra and Janhvi Kapoor are all set to share screen space for the first time in a romantic comedy-drama Param Sundari. The makers have shared the motion poster which has left all fans in awe. The release date has also been announced. It will be hitting the theatres on July 25, 2025. Fans have also reacted. Taking to their Instagram handles, Sidharth and Janhvi shared the motion poster and wrote, “North ka swag, South ki grace – two worlds collide and sparks fly. Dinesh Vijan presents #ParamSundari, a love story directed by Tushar Jalota, coming to cinemas on 25th July 2025. Meet the suave Sidharth Malhotra as Param and the vivacious Janhvi Kapoor as Sundari.” Apart from Param Sundari, Janhvi will also be seen next year in Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari.

Sandeep Reddy Vanga And Navdeep Praise Upendra, Compare Him To Ranbir Kapoor’s Character In Animal



Sandeep Reddy Vanga and Navdeep praised Upendra, calling him a visionary and comparing him to Ranbir Kapoor’s character in Animal, during an episode of The Rana Daggubati Show on Prime Video. The latest episode of the show featured filmmaker-actor Upendra, along with Navdeep, Faria Abdullah, and Sharmiela Mandre. Upendra shared stories about his early days, his views on love and marriage, and his unique approach to filmmaking. The episode kicked off with Sandeep Reddy Vanga and Navdeep hailing Upendra’s fearless approach to cinema in an introductory video. Navdeep compared Upendra to Ranbir Kapoor’s character in Animal and dubbed him as “the OG real wild animal.” Sandeep Reddy Vanga also heaped praise on him, adding, “He made Om when he was just 22. He was the youngest director in the country at that time. His screenplay felt like a film within a film.”

Upendra recalled, “I lived in a very tiny house. To earn some money, I made paper covers and sold them to fruit vendors. That’s when I started writing. I approached a director as a writer, and he made me his AD. From there, I moved to becoming a co-director, then director, and finally acting in my own films.”

Reflecting on his personal journey and experiences with love and marriage, Upendra admitted, “Marriage is a great institution. It is so good. I deceived you all by delivering lines like: ‘There is no love. Love is trash.’ Many of you followed it, but very quietly, I got married. I wanted to find out whether there was any truth to what I said. After experiencing it, I am fixed now.” One of the most fascinating moments of the episode unfolds when Upendra reminisces about adding an unexpected twist to a love scene in his 2002 film Super Star. He recounts, “During my trip to Thailand, I saw a tiger and wrote a love scene around it.” Created, hosted, and executive produced by Rana Daggubati under the banner of Spirit Media, the unscripted Telugu Original eight-episode series boasts an exciting line-up of guests, including Dulquer Salmaan, Naga Chaitanya Akkineni, Siddhu Jonnalagadda, Sreeleela, Nani, S.S. Rajamouli, Ram Gopal Varma, and many more.

Bandish Bandits Star Shreya Chaudhry Calls Hrithik Roshan Her Fitness Inspiration: ‘My Forever Crush’



Bandish Bandits Season 2 has been one of the most talked-about shows since its release. And all eyes are on the leading lady of the show – Shreya Chaudhry. She has been soaking in all the love and appreciation coming her way. Recently the actress shared her inspiring fitness transformation story. As a young teen, Shreya struggled being overweight, often facing self-doubt. But the turning point in her life came in when she watched her idol Hrithik Roshan openly talk about his journey from struggling with injuries and weight gain to reclaiming his fitness. Shreya says, “I was always the chubby kid in the room. It felt like no matter what I did, I couldn’t lose my weight enough. Maybe I wasn’t motivated enough. Then came Hrithik Roshan and as a fan girl, his fitness journey has been truly inspiring. He spoke openly about his struggles and how he overcame them and I couldn’t be more inspired to win one day at a time. I also wanted to take control of my own fitness.” Shreya also shared some inspiring photos of her transformation on her social media and captioned it as, “Story time – I love every version of me, every single one reflects what I was going through mentally. No regrets. No looking back. I have wised up and toughened up too. I did want to be fit though. Not for any other reason to begin with but just health. I was going through some stress and I was constantly advised to be active, and take care of my fitness and health.. I remember reading an article of @hrithikroshan (my forever crush) about being fit and how he handled his ups and downs. I have been one of Hrithik’s biggest fans since I was a child and that article changed my life. In hindsight I think I owe my fitness journey to him. So, here it is ... an appreciation post for my cinematic idol who inspired me to take care of myself, to make my health a priority. You inspire millions including me.

She added, “Taking care of my health helped me pursue a passion that I always had ... acting.. so, here I’m .. punching through the good days and the bad days and keeping my eyes on the prize.. Thank you everyone for the love and the motivation.. ?? Here’s to fitter 2025.”

Rasha Thadani’s

Antics With Her Bodyguard As She Poses For Paps Is All Things Cute

Rasha Thadani’s cute antics as she sweetly interacts with the paparazzi is our favourite thing on Instagram today. Here we bring you a video from her latest casual appearance wherein she is seen teasing her bodyguard, showcasing his unique hairstyle to the shutterbugs. The light-hearted moment between paps and the soon-to-be actress captured fans’ hearts, prompting them to share the clip among Internet users. The video



opens with Rasha Thadani pointing fingers towards her bodyguard as he cutely smiles looking away from the camera. It appears she wanted to highlight his hairstyle while candidly speaking with the photographers. The cute expressions and child-like joy on Rasha’s face are too adorable to miss. Later, we can see her making her way to the building after bidding adieu to the photographers, waving hands at them. For her casual day out,

Rasha was dressed in a co-ord set which comprised a grey strapless corset top and relaxed-fit pants.

Set to make her Bollywood debut, Rasha Thadani has been out and about in the city for the promotional endeavours of her upcoming film Azaad. Helmed by Abhishek Kapoor and backed by Ronnie Screwvala and Pragya Kapoor, the film also stars Ajay Devgn, Amaan Devgn and Diana Penty in key roles. As for the storyline, it is set against the backdrop of pre-independence India and explores an intriguing journey of love and loyalty. Ajay Devgn takes on the role of a master horse rider in the film. His character sneaks away from the brutal English army but not without his horse.

However, his life takes an unexpected turn after his horse goes missing. Later, he seeks help from the young boy, played by Aaman as they both set out on a mission to find the horse. On the other hand, Raveena Tandon’s daughter Rasha will essay the role of a royal family member and Aaman’s character’s love interest. Diana Penty will be seen playing Ajay’s lady love. With the film’s release scheduled for January 17, fans are buzzing with excitement whereas makers are leaving no stone unturned to keep the hype intact. Earlier, they dropped the trailer of the film followed by releasing songs that have garnered love from fans.

