



Malaika Arora
Scarlet House...

SHARE	
सेंसेक्स	: 76,724.08
निफ्टी	: 23,213.20

SARAFSA	
सोना	: 7,520
चांदी	: 100.00

(नोट : सोना 22 कैरेट प्रति ग्राम)

BRIEF NEWS

वहीं रहे जाने-माने अभिनेता आर. विजय कुमार

NEW DELHI : बुधवार को कन्नड़ भाषा के जाने-माने अभिनेता आर.

विजय कुमार का निधन हो गया। उनका अंतिम संस्कार गुरुवार को किया जाएगा।

आर.विजय कुमार को उनके रंगमंच नाम सारिगामा विजी के नाम से भी जाना जाता था। वह 77 वर्ष के थे। आर. विजय कुमार के बेटे रोहित ने बताया कि उनके पिता फेफड़े में संक्रमण की समस्या से पीड़ित थे और उनका मल्लेश्वरम स्थित मणिपाल अस्पताल में इलाज चल रहा था। उन्होंने कहा, जब वह बीमार पड़े तो हमने सोचा कि यह मौसमी संक्रमण है। लेकिन, पिछले सात दिनों में स्थिति बिगड़ती चली गई और आज सुबह करीब साढ़े नौ बजे उनके कई अंगों ने काम करना बंद कर दिया जिसके चलते उनकी मृत्यु हो गई। विजी ने 1975 में कन्नड़ फिल्म बेलुवलदा मडिलल्ली में बतौर अभिनेता अपने करियर की शुरुआत की थी।

वीमेंस इंडिया ने आयरलैंड को 304 रनों से हराया

NEW DELHI : बुधवार को भारतीय महिला टीम ने राजकोट में आयरलैंड के खिलाफ तीसरा वनडे 304 रनों से जीता। इसी के साथ भारत ने तीन मैचों की सीरीज 3-0 से जीत ली है। टीम के रनों के लिहाज से यह सबसे बड़ी जीत है। पिछला रिकॉर्ड 249 रन का था, जब टीम ने 2017 में आयरलैंड को ही हराया था। टीम ने इस मैच में अपना सबसे बड़ा स्कोर बनाया। पहले बल्लेबाजी करते हुए 50 ओवर में 5 विकेट पर रिकॉर्ड 435 रन बनाए। तीन दिन पहले भारत ने आयरलैंड के ही खिलाफ 370 रन बनाए थे। यह वीमेंस वनडे क्रिकेट का चौथा हाईस्कोर स्कोर है। हाईएस्ट स्कोर का रिकॉर्ड न्यूजीलैंड के नाम है। कीवी टीम ने 2018 में आयरलैंड के ही खिलाफ 491 रन बनाए थे। उधर, फ्रान्स स्मृति मंत्राने ने 70 गेंद में शतक लगाया। वे भारत की ओर से वनडे में सबसे तेज शतक लगाने वाली महिला क्रिकेटर बन गई हैं। स्मृति ने 80 गेंदों में 135 रनों की पारी खेली।

चार कुख्यात नक्सलियों ने किया आत्मसमर्पण

NARAYANPUR : बुधवार को छत्तीसगढ़ के नारायणपुर जिले में चलाए जा रहे नक्सल उन्मूलन अभियान में बड़ी सफलता मिली है। पुलिस ने करीब 14 साल पहले सुकमा में हुए नक्सली हमले में 76 जवानों की शहादत की घटना में शामिल रहे चार कुख्यात नक्सलियों का आत्मसमर्पण करने में सफलता प्राप्त की है। चार नक्सलियों पर कुल 32 लाख का इनाम था। इस दौरान मौजूद अधिकारियों ने आत्म समर्पण करने वाले नक्सलियों को प्रोत्साहन राशि के तौर पर 25-25 हजार रुपये के चेक भी सौंपे। सुकमा कांड में शामिल रहे पुलिस अधीक्षक ने बताया कि आत्मसमर्पित नक्सली अरब उर्फ कमलेश नेलनार क्षेत्र के 50 से अधिक गांवों में पिछले 8 सालों से आतंक का पर्याय रहा।

संकट जलवायु के तापमान में बदलाव भविष्य के लिए नुकसानदायक

ग्लोबल वार्मिंग के दीर्घकालिक नतीजे दे रहे गंभीर संकेत

PHOTON NEWS @ RESEARCH DESK :

सभी जीवों के लिए पानी और हवा की उपलब्धता संतुलित रूप में जरूरी है। प्रकृति में पानी और हवा का नेवर तथा उसकी मात्रा में परिवर्तन से प्राकृतिक संतुलन प्रभावित होता है। इससे जलवायु का तापमान भी बदलता है। विशेषज्ञों की राय में लाखों साल पहले जलवायु का तापमान आज की तुलना में अधिक था। लेकिन, धीरे-धीरे यह कम हुआ है। यह जीवों के अस्तित्व के लिए संकट है। यह महत्वपूर्ण बात है कि पृथ्वी की सतह के औसत तापमान में वृद्धि, विशेष रूप से ऐसी वृद्धि जो जलवायु परिवर्तन उत्पन्न करने के लिए पर्याप्त हो, ग्लोबल वार्मिंग कहलाती है। 1900 के बाद से वैश्विक औसत सतही तापमान में एक डिग्री से अधिक की वृद्धि हुई है, और 1970 के बाद से वार्मिंग की दर सदी भर के औसत से लगभग तीन गुना अधिक रही है। हाल के दिनों में हुई एक स्पेशल स्टडी में यह बात भर कर सामने आई है कि ग्लोबल वार्मिंग के परिणामों की भविष्यवाणी करना बहुत कठि है।

बारिश, ओले, बर्फीले तूफान और समुद्र के स्तर में वृद्धि कई कारकों पर निर्भर आने वाले दशकों में ग्रीनहाउस गैसों के उत्सर्जन की स्थिति जानना बहुत मुश्किल



हाल में जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारणों का किया गया है विशेष शोधपरक अध्ययन

लाखों साल पहले आज की तुलना में अधिक गर्म था क्लाइमेट

पृथ्वी की ऊपरी परत मोटी होने से समुद्र तल से अधिक ऊंचाई पर बन गई पर्वत श्रृंखलाएं

ग्लोबल वार्मिंग के अंतिम निष्कर्षों की भविष्यवाणी करना अत्यंत कठिन

साइंस एडवांस में प्रकाशित शोधों में भू-वैज्ञानिकों ने दी है विस्तृत जानकारी

नए शोध में बताया गया है कि लगभग 12 करोड़ साल पहले महाद्वीप के नीचे जोड़ने वाली टेक्टोनिक प्लेटों की गति में अचानक बदलाव आया। इससे चीन के पूर्वी और दक्षिण-पूर्वी तट पर पृथ्वी की ऊपरी परत मोटी हो गई, जिससे समुद्र तल से 2500 मीटर ऊपर की पर्वत श्रृंखलाएं बन गईं। मोनाशा पर्वत के स्कूल ऑफ अर्थ, एटमोस्फियर एंड एनवायरनमेंट के शोधकर्ताओं ने स्टडी में बताया कि क्रेटेशियस काल के दौरान पौधों और वन्यजीवों के विकास पर जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रभाव किस तरह पड़े। साइंस एडवांस में प्रकाशित शोध पत्र के अनुसार भू-वैज्ञानिकों ने पहली बार इस बात की जानकारी दी है कि पूर्वी एशिया में तटीय पर्वत कैसे बने, जिसकी वजह से 10 करोड़ साल से भी पहले महाद्वीप की जलवायु में भारी बदलाव हुए।

वायुमंडलीय प्रसार का बदल गया पैटर्न विशेषज्ञों ने बताया है कि पर्वत श्रृंखलाओं के निर्माण से दुनिया भर के वायुमंडलीय प्रसार का पैटर्न बदल गया। क्षेत्र में बारिश में वृद्धि हुई। इस तरह के बदलावों ने धरती को बहुत ज्यादा प्रभावित किया और इस मामले में समुद्री इलाकों से दूर शुष्क क्षेत्रों में लगभग 15 फीसद का इनामा हुआ। फलस्वरूप पूर्व दिशा की ओर रेगिस्तान का विस्तार हुआ। आने वाले दशकों में ग्रीनहाउस गैसों के उत्सर्जन के आकार की भविष्यवाणी और भी मुश्किल है, क्योंकि यह राजनीतिक निर्णयों और तकनीकी प्रगति से प्रभावित हो सकता है।

दायर चार्जशीट को कोर्ट के रिकॉर्ड में लाए सीबीआई : हाईकोर्ट

PHOTON NEWS RANCHI :

मंगलवार को झारखंड हाई कोर्ट में प्रथम और द्वितीय जेपीएससी सिविल सेवा परीक्षा की सीबीआई से जांच कराने वाली बुद्धदेव उरांव की पीआईएल यानी जनहित याचिका की सुनवाई हुई। हाई कोर्ट के जस्टिस रंगोन मुखोपाध्याय और जस्टिस अरुण कुमार राय की खंडपीठ ने सीबीआई को मामले में दायर चार्जशीट को कोर्ट के रिकॉर्ड में लाने का निर्देश दिया। इससे पूर्व सीबीआई की ओर से कोर्ट को बताया गया कि मामले में रांची की सीबीआई की अदालत में आरोप पत्र दाखिल हो चुका है। इस संबंध में स्टेट्स रिपोर्ट दाखिल करने के लिए समय दिया जाए। इस पर कोर्ट ने अगली सुनवाई पांच फरवरी तक की है। पिछली सुनवाई में खंडपीठ ने सीबीआई को जेपीएससी प्रथम एवं द्वितीय गडबडी से संबंधित केस नंबर आरसी 5/2012 और आरसी 6/2012 के अनुसंधान की स्थिति पर जवाब मांगा था।

जेपीएससी सिविल सेवा परीक्षा मामले में अदालत ने जांच एजेंसी को दिया निर्देश अब 5 फरवरी को सुनवाई, 2012 में कोर्ट ने सीबीआई को दिया था जांच करने का आदेश



- प्रथम और द्वितीय सिविल सर्विस एक्जाम में गडबडी से जुड़ा मामला
- बुद्धदेव उरांव ने दाखिल की है जनहित याचिका
- रांची में सीबीआई की अदालत में दाखिल हो चुका है आरोप पत्र

प्रथम परीक्षा में 37 आरोपी

बता दें कि जेपीएससी प्रथम परीक्षा गडबडी मामले में 4 मई 2024 को सीबीआई ने केस नंबर आरसी 5/2012 में सीबीआई की विशेष अदालत में आरोपपत्र दाखिल किया था। इसमें सीबीआई ने जेपीएससी के तत्कालीन अध्यक्ष डॉ. दिलीप प्रसाद, वरीय सदस्य गोपाल प्रसाद, सदस्य राधा गोविंद नागेश, सदस्य शांति देवी, परीक्षा नियंत्रक एलिस उषा रानी सिंह

समेत 37 लोगों को आरोपित बनाया था। इनके अलावा अपर समाहर्ता रैंक के अधिकारी सीमा सिंह, सुष्मा नीलम सोरेन, कुंवर सिंह पाहन, ज्योति कुमारी झा, अलका कुमारी, मोहनलाल मरांडी, राम नारायण सिंह, सुदर्शन मुर्मू, जेम्स सुरीन, जितेंद्र मुंडा, पूनम कच्छप, राजीव कुमार, संजीव कुमार, अनंत कुमार, परमेश्वर मुंडा, संतोष कुमार गर्ग, कमलेश्वर नारायण एवं विजय वर्मा को आरोपी बनाया है।

द्वितीय परीक्षा में 70 आरोपी

सीबीआई ने जेपीएससी द्वितीय परीक्षा गडबडी मामले में केस नंबर आरसी 6/2012 में जेपीएससी के तत्कालीन अध्यक्ष डॉ. दिलीप प्रसाद समेत 70 आरोपियों के खिलाफ सीबीआई की विशेष अदालत में आरोप पत्र दाखिल किया है। झारखंड में प्रथम और द्वितीय जेपीएससी परीक्षा में गडबडी की जांच का आदेश झारखंड हाई कोर्ट ने साल 2012 में सीबीआई को दिया था। 12 साल से अधिक समय तक सीबीआई ने की मामले की अनुसंधान पूरी कर दोनो मामलों में आरोप पत्र दाखिल किया है। बुद्धदेव उरांव ने जेपीएससी प्रथम एवं द्वितीय परीक्षा में अंको की हेराफेरी और रिजल्ट प्रकाशन में गडबडी की जांच सीबीआई से कराने का आग्रह किया है।

युद्धपोत और पनडुब्बी के जलावतरण के बाद बोले प्रधानमंत्री मोदी

दुनिया में एक प्रमुख समुद्री शक्ति के रूप में उभर रहा आज का भारत

NEW DELHI @ PTI :

बुधवार को प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने मुंबई के नौसेना डाकघर में दो युद्धपोतों और एक पनडुब्बी के जलावतरण के बाद कहा कि आज का भारत दुनिया में एक प्रमुख समुद्री शक्ति के रूप में उभर रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि भारत विस्तारवाद नहीं, बल्कि विकासवाद की भावना से काम करता है। मोदी पर महाराष्ट्र के राज्यपाल सीपी राधाकृष्णन, रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह, महाराष्ट्र के मुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडनवीस, केंद्रीय रक्षा राज्य मंत्री संजय सेठ, महाराष्ट्र के उपमुख्यमंत्री एकनाथ शिंदे, अजीत पवार तथा अन्य गणयन्त्रायण व्यक्ति उपस्थित थे। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने कहा कि आज का कार्यक्रम हमारी शानदार विरासत को हमारी भविष्य की आकांक्षाओं से जोड़ता है। उन्होंने कहा कि भारत का लंबी समुद्री यात्राओं, वाणिज्य, नौसेना रक्षा

हमारे पास लंबी समुद्री यात्राओं और जहाज उद्योग से जुड़ा एक समृद्ध इतिहास

- देश की सुरक्षा और प्रगति को बढ़ाएंगे नए फ्रंटियर प्लेटफॉर्म
- हमारी नीति विस्तारवाद की नहीं, विकासवाद की भावना से करते हैं काम



एक दशक में 33 जहाज और 7 पनडुब्बियां नेवी में शामिल

प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि पिछले एक दशक में नौसेना में 33 जहाजों और सात पनडुब्बियां शामिल की गई हैं, जिसमें 40 में से 39 नौसैनिक जहाजों का निर्माण भारतीय शिपयार्ड में किया गया। इसमें शानदार आईएनएस विक्रान्त विमानवाहक पोत और आईएनएस अरिहंत तथा आईएनएस अरिघाट जैसी परमाणु पनडुब्बियां शामिल हैं। प्रधानमंत्री ने मेक इन इंडिया अभियान को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए सशस्त्र बलों को

बढ़ाई दी। उन्होंने इस बात पर प्रकाश डाला कि भारत का रक्षा उत्पादन 1.25 लाख करोड़ रुपये को पार कर गया है और देश 100 से अधिक देशों को रक्षा उपकरण निर्यात कर रहा है। प्रधानमंत्री ने इस दुर्लभ खनिजों और मछली स्टॉक जैसे समुद्री संसाधनों के दुरुपयोग को रोकने और उन्हें प्रबंधित करने की क्षमता विकसित करने की आवश्यकता पर भी प्रकाश डाला।

और जहाज उद्योग से जुड़ा एक लॉन्च किए गए प्लेटफॉर्म उसी की समृद्ध इतिहास रहा है। आज एक झलक दिखाते हैं। प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि यह उस युग की याद दिलाता है, जब गुजरात के

हर जगह हो रही अपने हितों की रक्षा : पीएम

पीएम ने कहा कि आज भारत पूरे विश्व और खासकर ग्लोबल साउथ में एक भरोसेमंद और जिम्मेदार साथी के रूप में पहचाना जा रहा है। भारत ने हमेशा खुला, सुरक्षित, समावेशी और समृद्ध हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र का समर्थन किया है। 21वीं सदी में भारत की सैन्य क्षमताओं को बढ़ाने और आधुनिक बनाने के महत्व पर जोर देते हुए मोदी ने कहा, चाहे वह जमीन हो, पानी हो, हवा हो, गहरा समुद्र हो या अनंत अंतरिक्ष हो, भारत हर जगह अपने हितों की रक्षा कर रहा है। उन्होंने चीफ ऑफ डिफेंस स्टॉफ की स्थापना सहित किए जा रहे निरंतर सुधारों का उल्लेख किया। उन्होंने कहा कि भारत सशस्त्र बलों को और अधिक कुशल बनाने के लिए थिएटर कमांड के कार्यान्वयन की दिशा में आगे बढ़ रहा है।

बंदरगाह भारत को पश्चिम एशिया से जोड़ते थे।



कृष्ण जन्मभूमि-शाही ईदगाह विवाद पर मार्च तक सुनवाई टली

NEW DELHI : बुधवार को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने उत्तर प्रदेश के मथुरा में कृष्ण जन्मभूमि-शाही ईदगाह विवाद में मस्जिद प्रबंधन समिति की अपील पर सुनवाई मार्च तक टाल दी। प्रधान न्यायाधीश संजीव खन्ना और न्यायमूर्ति संजय कुमार की पीठ ने कहा कि उसे आज एक और मामले की सुनवाई करनी है और वह मस्जिद समिति की याचिका पर विचार नहीं कर सकती। शीर्ष अदालत बुधवार को कलकत्ता उच्च न्यायालय के उस फैसले के खिलाफ विभिन्न याचिकाओं की संयुक्त सुनवाई कर रही थी, जिनमें पश्चिम बंगाल के सरकार और सहायता प्राप्त स्कूलों में 25,753 शिक्षकों और गैर-शिक्षण कर्मचारियों की नियुक्ति को अमान्य करार दिया गया था। बता दें कि इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय की एकल पीठ ने पिछले साल एक अग्रस्त को मथुरा में मंदिर-मस्जिद विवाद से संबंधित 15 मामलों की सुनवाई को वृत्तीय देने वाली शाही मस्जिद ईदगाह समिति की याचिका खारिज कर दी थी और फैसला सुनाया था कि राष्ट्रीय युवा महोत्सव में स्वाति राज (दुमका) को भाषण प्रतियोगिता में द्वितीय स्थान प्राप्त

आज से शुरू होगी आम बजट पर चर्चा, शामिल होंगे लोगों के सुझाव



PHOTON NEWS RANCHI :

झारखंड विधानसभा में 3 मार्च को राज्य का 2025-26 का आम बजट पेश होना है। इसके पहले सरकार ने इस पर व्यापक चर्चा की तैयारी की है। बजट पर चर्चा विभागवार होगी। 16 जनवरी से शुरू हो रही चर्चा में आम लोगों के सुझाव को भी शामिल किया जाएगा। चर्चा 17 जनवरी तक चलेगी। जानकारी के अनुसार, चर्चा के दौरान विभाग के अधिकारियों, मंत्रियों और विशेषज्ञों से महत्वपूर्ण सुझाव लिए जाएंगे। सरकार ने पोर्टल के जरिए लोगों से भी सुझाव मांगे गए हैं। सुझाव मिल ली रहे हैं। राज्यहित में दिए गए सुझावों को बजट में शामिल किया जाएगा। यह बजट स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा और ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था पर केंद्रित होगा। विकास की गति में नहीं आएंगी कमी

- सरकार को पोर्टल के जरिए जनता की ओर से मिल रही है राय
- स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा और ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था पर बजट में किया जाएगा फोकस
- 24 फरवरी से शुरू हो रहा विधानसभा का सत्र, राज्यपाल ने दे दी है मंजूरी
- सेशन के दौरान कुल 20 कार्य दिवस किए गए हैं निर्धारित

बजट का 80 से 90 फीसदी राशि उपयोग कर सकती है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि चुनावी वर्ष में विकास की गति में कमी आती है। लेकिन, इस बार सरकार बेहतर प्रदर्शन करेगी।

27 मार्च तक चलेगा विस का बजट सत्र

बता दें कि झारखंड विधानसभा का बजट सत्र 24 फरवरी से शुरू हो रहा है, जिसे राज्यपाल संतोष गंगवार ने मंजूरी दे दी है। 24 फरवरी से शुरू होकर 27 मार्च तक बजट सत्र चलेगा। बजट सत्र के पहले दिन नए सदस्यों के शपथ ग्रहण के अलावा राज्यपाल का अभिभाषण और शोक प्रकाश का कार्यक्रम है। बजट सत्र के पहले दिन 24 फरवरी को साढ़े ग्यारह बजे राज्यपाल का अभिभाषण होगा। देश की दिवंगत विधुतीयां को



इस दिन याद कर श्रद्धांजलि देने के साथ सदन की कार्यवाही स्थगित कर दी जाएगी। बजट सत्र में कुल 20 कार्य दिवस निर्धारित हैं।

प्रतिभागियों को मंत्री ने किया सम्मानित प्रदेश स्तर पर युवा महोत्सव कराएगी सरकार : सुदिव्य

PHOTON NEWS RANCHI :

बुधवार को पर्यटन, कला, संस्कृति, खेलकूद और युवा कार्य मंत्री सुदिव्य कुमार सोन्ू ने नई दिल्ली में 10 से 12 जनवरी तक आयोजित राष्ट्रीय युवा महोत्सव में हिस्सा लेकर लोटे प्रतिभागियों को सम्मानित किया। मंत्री ने कहा कि राज्य सरकार झारखंड में भी राज्य स्तर पर युवा महोत्सव कराएगी, जहां पूरे राज्य से प्रतिभागी भाग लेंगे। युवाओं के विचार और उनकी प्रतिभा राज्य के विकास में सहायक होगी। उल्लेखनीय है कि राष्ट्रीय युवा महोत्सव में स्वाति राज (दुमका) को भाषण प्रतियोगिता में द्वितीय स्थान प्राप्त



- युवाओं के विचार और उनकी प्रतिभा राज्य के विकास में होगी सहायक

हुआ, जबकि शुभांगी क्षितिजा सौरभ (गुमला) और ऋषित (जमशेदपुर) का चयन (विकास) भी विरासत भी पीपीटी के माध्यम से) प्रधानमंत्री के समक्ष प्रजेंटेशन देने के लिए हुआ था।

बाद सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र सरीयाहाट में ईलाज कराया। साथ ही दो पक्षों में हुई मारपीट में घायल कई लोगों का ईलाज भी कराया गया। वहीं दूसरी ओर घटना के सरीयाहाट प्रखंड के माथकेशो पंचायत की पूर्व मुखिया तलामा सोरेन ने भी सरीयाहाट थाना में आवेदन देकर जमुनिया गांव के कई लोगों पर मारपीट का आरोप लगाया है।

पूर्व मुखिया ने अपने दिए आवेदन में बताया है कि गांव में हुए झगड़े को लेकर वो आपसी सुलह के लिए अपनी बेटी के साथ जमुनिया गांव गई थी।

इस दौरान गांव के कुछ युवकों ने उसकी बेटी और उसके साथ पुलिस की मौजूदगी में मारपीट किया। इधर खबर लिखे जाने तक दोनों महिला पुरुष को पुलिस ने अपनी अभिरक्षा में लेकर थाना में रखा है।

का सफाया करने के लिए पिछले साल लगातार अभियान चलाया। नक्सल प्रभावित जिलों में केन्द्रीय सुरक्षा बलों के साथ मिलकर अभियान चलाया गया।

नशे के चलते आपसी विवाद में हुई थी टोनी की हत्या, मुख्य आरोपी गिरफ्तार

घटना में प्रयुक्त पिस्टल बरामद, भूमि विवाद भी माना जा रहा मर्डर का कारण

● मोनी मोहंती के खिलाफ गोलमुरी, मानगो व सीतारामडेरा में भी दर्ज हैं मामले

PHOTON NEWS JSR: उलीडीह स्थित डिमना चौक के पास 15 नवंबर को हुए टोनी हत्याकांड के मुख्य हत्यारोपी मोनी मोहंती उर्फ चितरंजन मोहंती को पुलिस ने गिरफ्तार कर लिया है। उसके पास से पुलिस ने हत्या में प्रयुक्त पिस्टल भी बरामद कर ली है। मोनी मोहंती गोलमुरी के रिफ्यूजी कॉलोनी का रहने वाला है। वह पुराना शांतिर अपराधी है। मोनी मोहंती के खिलाफ गोलमुरी, मानगो और सीतारामडेरा में रंगदारी और पौक्सो समेत कुल 10 केस दर्ज हैं। हत्या को अंजाम देने के बाद मोनी फरार चल रहा था। बुधवार को पुलिस ने मोनी मोहंती



पत्रकारों को जानकारी देते सिटी एसपी कुमार शिवाशीष ● फोटोन न्यूज

को जेल भेज दिया।
डीएसपी के नेतृत्व में बनी थी टीम : सिटी एसपी कुमार शिवाशीष ने बताया कि घटना का खुलासा करने के लिए डीएसपी पटमदा वचनदेव कुजूर और डीएसपी

डिमना चौक के पास हुई थी टोनी की हत्या

15 नवंबर की रात लगभग पौने 12 बजे डिमना चौक के पास उमा टिफिन के सामने टोनी सिंह की गोली मारकर हत्या कर दी गई थी। घटना में शामिल तीन आरोपियों अविनाश सिंह, उत्तम मंडल और नितेश पोद्दार को पुलिस नहीं गिरफ्तार कर पाई थी। पुलिस उनकी गिरफ्तारी के लिए छापेमारी कर रही थी, तभी इन तीनों ने कोर्ट में सरेंडर कर दिया था। बाद में इन तीनों को पुलिस ने रिमांड पर लिया और सबूतों से पूछताछ की, तो पता चला कि हत्याकांड का मुख्य आरोपी मोनी मोहंती है।

मोनी मोहंती ने ही चलाई थी टोनी पर गोली

घटना वाले दिन मोनी मोहंती ने ही पिस्टल से गोली मारकर टोनी सिंह को मौत के घाट उतार दिया था। इसके बाद पुलिस ने मोनी मोहंती की गिरफ्तारी के लिए जाल बिछाया। साकची में प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस कर सिटी एसपी ने बताया कि पुलिस को सूचना मिली कि मोनी मोहंती उलीडीह में शिव मंदिर के पास आया हुआ है। इस पर उसे गिरफ्तार किया गया। पूछताछ में मोनी ने अपना जर्म कबुल कर लिया है। उसी की निशानदेही पर हत्या में प्रयुक्त पिस्टल बरामद हुई है।

सभी नशे में थे, तभी शुरू हुआ विवाद

मोनी मोहंती ने पुलिस को बताया कि उत्तम मंडल, नितेश पोद्दार, टोनी सिंह और टोनी का दोस्त विष्णु टुडू सभी उमा टिफिन के सामने खड़े थे। सभी ने नशा कर रखा था। इसी बीच उत्तम मंडल और नितेश पोद्दार का टोनी सिंह और उसके दोस्त विष्णु टुडू से विवाद हो गया। इसी विवाद में उत्तम मंडल और नितेश पोद्दार ने अविनाश सिंह को हथियार के साथ बुलाया। अविनाश अपने साथ मोनी मोहंती को लेकर मौक पर पहुंचा। यहीं मोनी मोहंती ने टोनी सिंह की गोली मारकर हत्या कर दी। घटना में विष्णु टुडू को भी गोली लगी थी।

पूछताछ के बाद कारण का होगा खुलासा : एसपी

घटना के पीछे कुछ लोग जमीन विवाद को कारण बता रहे हैं। मानगो में जमीन विवाद में काफी घटनाएं हो चुकी हैं। हो सकता है कि इस घटना के पीछे भी जमीन विवाद का कारण रहा हो। सिटी एसपी बताते हैं कि अभी उन्होंने कारण को लेकर ज्यादा गहराई से पूछताछ नहीं की है। पूछताछ जारी है। पूछताछ पूरी होने के बाद ही हत्या का मुख्य कारण पता चलेगा।

समाचार सार

राज्य व देश का नाम रोशन करने खिलाड़ी : मंत्री

CHAIBASA : पश्चिमी सिंहभूम जिले के टोन्टो प्रखंड स्थित मोदा में आयोजित खेलकूद सह फुटबॉल प्रतियोगिता का समापन समारोह बुधवार हुआ। इसमें बतौर मुख्य अतिथि मंत्री दीपक बिरुवा उपस्थित थे। इस मौके पर मंत्री ने कहा कि खिलाड़ी आगे चलकर अपने राज्य व देश का नाम रोशन कर सकते हैं। एवरग्रीन क्लब मोदा द्वारा आयोजित समारोह में जिला परिषद सदस्य सह ज्ञानुमो के प्रखंड सचिव राज नारायण तुबिद, दीपक तुबिद, जीतू बारी, विश्वनाथ तुबिद, जगमोहन सिंह कुंकल, बबलू तुबिद आदि भी मौजूद थे।

बाटा रोड व्यापारी परिवार ने किया जलपान वितरण

CHAKRADHARPUR : मकर संक्रांति के अवसर पर बुधवार को चक्रधरपुर शहर के बाटा रोड में बाटा रोड व्यापारी परिवार की ओर से लोगों के बीच जलपान का वितरण किया गया। इस दौरान पकौड़ी, बैंगनी, मिर्च पकौड़ा, गुलगुला, पापड़ आदि व्यंजनों का आनंद राहगीरों ने उठाया। जलपान वितरण में गोपाल खिरवाल, जितेन खिरवाल, मोहित खिरवाल, भोला भगोरिया, सुरेश बर्मन, संजय खिरवाल, मनोज अग्रवाल, गिरधारी पोद्दार आदि सक्रिय रहे।

आदित्यपुर-गम्हरिया में शराब भट्टी पर छापेमारी

SERAIKELA : आबकारी विभाग ने बुधवार को आदित्यपुर व गम्हरिया क्षेत्र की शराब भट्टी पर छापेमारी की। इसमें आदित्यपुर स्थित सपड़ा, उत्तमडीह और गम्हरिया थाना अंतर्गत गाडेडुंगरी में छापेमारी के दौरान 900 किलोग्राम जावा महुआ नष्ट किया गया और 60 लीटर महुआ शराब जब्त किया गया संचालकों को चिह्नित किया जा रहा है, जिनके विरुद्ध उत्पाद अधिनियम के तहत अभियोग दर्ज किया जाएगा।

दुसु मेला में शामिल हुए मंत्री रामदास सोरेन

GHATSILA : दिगड़ी डैम के पास बुधवार को दुसु मेला लगा था, जिसमें शिक्षा मंत्री रामदास सोरेन भी शामिल हुए। यह मेला आखान जात्रा के अवसर पर लगभग 40 वर्ष से लग रहा है। मकर संक्रांति के दूसरे दिन यह मेला लगता है। इस मौके पर विधायक प्रतिनिधि जगदीश भक्त, प्रखंड अध्यक्ष वकील हेन्ड्रम, काजल डॉन, कालीपद गोराई, गोपाल कोउरी आदि भी उपस्थित थे।

टाटा-जम्मुतवी एक्सप्रेस अमृतसर में होगी शॉर्ट टर्मिनेट

JAMSHEDPUR : दक्षिण पूर्व रेलवे जोन ने रेलवे में हो रहे विकास कार्यों के कारण टाटानगर-जम्मुतवी-टाटानगर एक्सप्रेस को अमृतसर में शॉर्ट टर्मिनेट कर दिया है। रेलवे के सकुलर के अनुसार ट्रेन नंबर-18101 टाटानगर-जम्मुतवी एक्सप्रेस को 30 जनवरी से 4 मार्च तक अमृतसर में शॉर्ट टर्मिनेट किया जाएगा। वहीं ट्रेन नंबर-18102 जम्मुतवी- टाटानगर एक्सप्रेस 2 जनवरी से 7 मार्च तक अमृतसर में शॉर्ट टर्मिनेट होगी।

नेहरू कॉलेज के शिक्षकेतर कर्मचारियों की हड़ताल शुरू

CHAKRADHARPUR : कोल्हान विश्वविद्यालय से संबद्ध जवाहर लाल नेहरू कॉलेज, चक्रधरपुर के शिक्षकेतर कर्मचारी 15 जनवरी से दो दिनों तक कलमबंद हड़ताल पर रहेंगे। ये लंबित मांगों के लिए आंदोलनरत हैं। इसके अलावा 10 जनवरी को सिंदो-कान्हू मुर्मू विवि में कर्मचारियों के आंदोलन को तोड़ने के लिए की गई कार्रवाई का भी विरोध कर रहे हैं।

वीमेंस यूनिवर्सिटी की छात्राएं जाएंगी दिल्ली

JAMSHEDPUR : जमशेदपुर वीमेंस यूनिवर्सिटी की एनसीसी कैडेट चांदमणि प्रधान और हेमंती पातर दिल्ली में गणतंत्र दिवस की परेड में भाग लेगी। दिल्ली के राजपथ पर होने वाली परेड के लिए इन दोनों कैडेट का चयन हुआ है। कुलपति प्रोफेसर डॉ. अंजिना गुप्ता ने कहा कि दिल्ली में होने वाली गणतंत्र दिवस की परेड में शामिल होना गर्व की बात है।

रेलवे आरक्षण केंद्र से पकड़ी गई 4 महिला टिकट दलाल



CHAKRADHARPUR : चक्रधरपुर रेल मंडल के राउरकेला रेलवे स्टेशन पर बुधवार सुबह करीब 8 बजे सौनियर डीसीएम आदित्य कुमार चौधरी ने रेलवे आरक्षण केंद्र का निरीक्षण किया। इस दौरान उन्होंने आरक्षण केंद्र में मौजूद लोगों के फॉर्म की जांच की। जांच के दौरान चार महिलाओं के फॉर्म में सदिह होने के कारण उन्हें आरपीएफ के हवाले कर दिया गया। पूछताछ में पता चला कि ये चारों महिलाएं टिकट की दलाली करती थीं।

नवोदय विद्यालय की दाखिला परीक्षा 18 को

JAMSHEDPUR : जवाहर नवोदय विद्यालय में दाखिले के लिए प्रवेश परीक्षा 18 जनवरी को होगी। इस परीक्षा के लिए पूर्वी सिंहभूम जिले में 14 परीक्षा केंद्र बनाए गए हैं, जहां कुल 6225 परीक्षार्थी परीक्षा देंगे। सभी परीक्षा केंद्रों पर कदाचारमुक्त तरीके से परीक्षा आयोजित करवाने के लिए कई निर्देश दिए गए हैं। बताया गया कि प्रति 24 परीक्षार्थी पर एक शिक्षक क्लॉसरूम में ड्यूटी करेंगे। गहन जांच के बाद परीक्षार्थियों को परीक्षा हॉल में प्रवेश करने दिया जाएगा। परीक्षा दोपहर 11.30 बजे से 1.30 बजे तक होगी। परीक्षा में शामिल होने वाले छात्र एडमिट कार्ड डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं और परीक्षा केंद्र पर सुबह 10.30 बजे रिपोर्ट करें। मालूम हो कि इस प्रवेश परीक्षा के जरिए जवाहर नवोदय विद्यालय की छठवीं कक्षा में दाखिला मिलेगा।

सूर्य मंदिर समिति के पतंग महोत्सव में युवाओं का दिखा उत्साह, दिखी सामाजिक समरसता की झलक

रंग-बिरंगी पतंगों से सजा आसमान, रघुवर दास ने भी उठाया आनंद

PHOTON NEWS JSR : सूर्य मंदिर समिति द्वारा मकर संक्रांति के पावन अवसर पर पहली बार भव्य पतंग महोत्सव का आयोजन किया गया। बुधवार को आयोजित इस महोत्सव में सिंदगोड़ा और आसपास के क्षेत्रों से बड़ी संख्या में युवक और युवतियों ने उत्साहपूर्वक भाग लिया। पतंग महोत्सव में राज्य के पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री एवं मंदिर समिति के मुख्य संरक्षक रघुवर दास सपरिवार एवं संरक्षक चंद्रगुप्त सिंह के अलावा जमशेदपुर पूर्वी की विधायक पूर्णिमा साहू भी मौजूद रहीं। महोत्सव में पत्रकार जगत से जुड़े कई प्रमुख लोग भी शामिल रहे। युवाओं ने महोत्सव के दौरान रंग-बिरंगी पतंगों ने आसमान को सजा दिया। प्रतिभागी अपने-अपने पतंगों को ऊंचाई तक

ले जाने और दूसरों से प्रतिस्पर्धा करने में जुटे रहे। इस दौरान पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री रघुवर दास ने स्वयं पतंग उड़ाया और युवाओं को प्रोत्साहित किया। इससे पहले, मकर संक्रांति के अवसर पर भगवान भास्कर की विधिवत पूजा-अर्चना की गई। इसमें रघुवर दास उनकी धर्मपत्नी रविमणी देवी, पुत्र ललित दास एवं पुत्रवधू पूर्णिमा साहू ने भाग लिया। भगवान भास्कर की आराधना कर यज्ञ-हवन किया। इस दौरान समिति के अध्यक्ष भूपेंद्र सिंह समेत सभी पदाधिकारी मौजूद रहे। महोत्सव के पश्चात सोन मंडप परिसर में पांच हजार से अधिक श्रद्धालुओं के बीच भोग प्रसाद के रूप में खिचड़ी, चोखा, चरनी और अचार का श्रद्धापूर्वक वितरण किया गया। प्रसाद वितरण



सिंदगोड़ा के शंख मौलान में पतंग उड़ाते रघुवर दास व अन्य ● फोटोन न्यूज

की व्यवस्था को सुचारु रखने के लिए पुरुष और महिलाओं के लिए अलग-अलग काउंटर बनाए गए थे। इसके अलावा, पेयजल के लिए अलग काउंटर की व्यवस्था की गई थी। प्रसाद वितरण में सामाजिक समरसता की झलक देखने को मिली। इस अवसर पर

झारसुगड़ा व बिमलगढ़ सेक्शन पहुंचे डीआरएम, लगाई फटकार



निरीक्षण करते डीआरएम तरुण हुरिया ● फोटोन न्यूज

CHAKRADHARPUR : चक्रधरपुर रेल मंडल के डीआरएम तरुण हुरिया बुधवार को राउरकेला व बिमलगढ़ सेक्शन का निरीक्षण किया। आजाद हिंद एक्सप्रेस से पहुंचे डीआरएम ने झारसुगड़ा रेलवे स्टेशन पर चल रहे निर्माण कार्य का निरीक्षण किया। इसके बाद डीआरएम राउरकेला होते हुए दोपहर लगभग 11.30 बजे झूमता रेलवे स्टेशन पहुंचे। वहां उन्होंने नव निर्मित रेलवे स्टेशन, बंद पड़े रनिंग रूम और अन्य निर्माण कार्यों का जायजा लिया। उन्होंने वहां स्टेशन के प्लेटफार्म पर लाइट की व्यवस्था के अभाव, सीएमएस मशीन के सही जगह पर मौजूद नहीं होने, प्लेटफार्म पर शेड का उचित स्थान

पर नहीं होने और पुराने रनिंग रूम को बंद रखने आदि पर नाराजगी जताई। उन्होंने संबंधित अधिकारियों को इन समस्याओं को जल्द से जल्द सुधारने की हिदायत दी। इसके बाद डीआरएम अपने विशेष सेलून से बिमलगढ़ रेलवे स्टेशन रवाना हो गए। बिमलगढ़ जाते समय उन्होंने लाठीकाटा, चांदीपोश, चंपाझरण, पाटासाही आदि रेलवे स्टेशनों का भी निरीक्षण किया। इन सभी स्टेशनों पर डीआरएम ने निर्माण कार्यों का जायजा लेते हुए संबंधित अधिकारियों को दिशा-निर्देश दिए। निरीक्षण के बाद डीआरएम राउरकेला होते हुए चक्रधरपुर रवाना हो गए। इस दौरान उनके साथ रेलवे के विभिन्न विभागों के अधिकारी और कर्मचारी मौजूद थे।

सड़क दुर्घटना में तीन युवक हुए थे घायल, एक की हो गई मौत

सरायकेला में ट्रक को ओवरटेक करने के चक्कर में हुई दुर्घटना



अस्पताल में पहुंचे परिजन

PHOTON NEWS SERAIKELA : सरायकेला जिले के एनआर प्लस टू हाई स्कूल के पास मंगलवार रात मेला देखने आ रहे तीन दोस्त सड़क दुर्घटना में गंभीर रूप से घायल हो गए थे। इलाज के दौरान बुधवार सुबह एक युवक की मौत हो गई, जबकि दो अन्य का इलाज जारी है। मृत युवक की पहचान सोमचंद माई (20) के रूप में हुई है। वह गम्हरिया थाना रोड का निवासी था। उसके चाचा नारायण हांसदा ने बताया कि सोमचंद रात करीब 11.30 बजे अपने दो दोस्तों के साथ मेला देखने घर से निकला था। उसी दौरान उनकी मोटरसाइकिल ट्रक

ट्रक चालक फरार
सुर्जों के अनुसार, दुर्घटना के दौरान ट्रक चालक मौके से फरार हो गया। पुलिस ने शव को पोस्टमार्टम के लिए भेज दिया है और मामले की जांच शुरू कर दी है। मृतक सोमचंद के दो बच्चे थे और वह पिछले दो साल से गम्हरिया थाना मोंड स्थित अपने ससुराल में रह रहा था। उसके माता-पिता वाडिल थाना क्षेत्र के नागाडीह में रहते हैं। दुर्घटना के बाद इलाके में शोक की लहर है। पुलिस मामले की जांच कर रही है।

हांसदा में जानू की स्थिति गंभीर बताई जा रही है। उसका इलाज भी एमजीएम अस्पताल में चल रहा है।

पीपीपी ट्रॉफी क्रिकेट-2025 प्रतियोगिता की तैयारी शुरू



बैठक करते विधायक सुखराम उरांव ● फोटोन न्यूज

CHAKRADHARPUR : नगर परिषद के विवाह भवन में बुधवार को विधायक सुखराम उरांव की अध्यक्षता में चक्रधरपुर के प्रबुद्ध लोगों की बैठक हुई। इसमें कई सालों से बंद पड़े प्ले फॉर पीस एंड प्रोग्रेस (पीपीपी) ट्रॉफी-2025 क्रिकेट प्रतियोगिता पुनः प्रारंभ करने का निर्णय लिया गया। प्रतियोगिता के लिए संचालन समिति का गठन किया गया, जिसमें प्रायोजक की जिम्मेदारी सांसद जोबा मांझी व विधायक

सुखराम उरांव ने ली। संचालन समिति में नारायण अग्रवाल, शीन अनवर, बैरम खान, बबई दा, शेष नारायण लाल, डॉ. शिवपूजन सिंह, चुनू रहमान, निक्कू सिंह, गुड्डू सिंह, अवध खिरवाल, जय कुमार व दीपक शान का शामिल किया गया है। शेष नारायण लाल व गुड्डू सिंह ने बताया कि यह क्रिकेट प्रतियोगिता चक्रधरपुर की शांति, भाईचारागी, सोहार्द, आपनत्व, उन्नति, विकास के लिए आयोजित किया जा रहा है।

दुसु प्रदर्शनी में हड़ीमारा गांव को मिला प्रथम पुरस्कार



SONUA : पश्चिमी सिंहभूम जिले में सोनुवा के गजपुर में बुधवार को दुसु मेला लगा, जिसमें हाड़ीमारा गांव को प्रथम, सरासपोस गांव को द्वितीय और निश्चिंतपुर गांव को तृतीय पुरस्कार मिला। कार्यक्रम में महिलाओं ने दुसु प्रतिभा और दुसु चोइल को साथ लेकर दुसु गीतों पर आकर्षक सांस्कृतिक नृत्य किया। सोनुवा के गजपुर गांव में आदिवासी कुड़मी समाज द्वारा आयोजित मकर मिलन समारोह और दुसु प्रदर्शनी में पुरुलिया से आए नरहरि महतो ने कुड़मी समाज की भाषा, संस्कृति और परंपरा के साथ दुसु के बारे में महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी दी।



अजमेर जिला रेगिस्तानी जिलों में शामिल नहीं है परन्तु अजमेर का पुष्कर चारों ओर से रेगिस्तान की रेत से घिरा है। यहाँ जैसलमेर में सम जैसे आकर्षक देतीले घोरें नहीं हैं परंतु सैलानियों को राजस्थान की ग्रामीण संस्कृति से बखूबी परिचित कराते हैं।

आकर्षण

पुष्कर में पर्यटकों के लिए कार्तिक पूर्णिमा पर ऊंट उत्सव, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हॉट एयर बैलून फेस्टिवल, सावित्री मन्दिर पर केबल राइड, वराह घाट पर पुष्कर आरती, रॉक क्लाइम्बिंग, रैपलिंग, क्रैड बाइकिंग, साइकिलिंग, सनसेट के साथ केमल सफारी, पूरी रात केमल सफारी, केमल सफारी के साथ लक्जरी नाईट कैपिंग, केमल कार्ट सफारी, जीप सफारी, हॉर्स राइडिंग, ज़िप्लिनिंग मनोरंजन के प्रमुख आकर्षण हैं। पर्यटक रेगिस्तान के अनदेखे क्षेत्र के इन आकर्षणों का यहाँ लुत्फ उठा सकते हैं। जयपुर के पास रेगिस्तान देखने की इच्छा रखने वाले पर्यटकों के लिए जयपुर से मात्र 150 किमी. एवं अजमेर से 11 किमी.दूरी पर पुष्कर सर्वश्रेष्ठ विकल्प है। पूरे वर्ष ही भारत एवं अन्य देशों के पर्यटक पुष्कर का डेजर्ट क्षेत्र देखने आते हैं और ग्रामीण केमल सफारी, नाईट कैपिंग,लजीज व्यंजन और लोक नृत्यों का लुत्फ उठाते हैं।

प्रतिवर्ष यहां पर कार्तिक पूर्णिमा को पुष्कर मेला लगता है, जिसमें बड़ी संख्या में देशी-विदेशी पर्यटक भी आते हैं। हजारों हिन्दु लोग इस मेले में आते हैं और अपने को पवित्र करने के लिए पुष्कर झील में स्नान करते हैं। भारत में किसी पौराणिक स्थल पर आम तौर पर जिस संख्या में पर्यटक आते हैं, पुष्कर में आने वाले पर्यटकों की संख्या उससे कहीं ज्यादा

है। इनमें बड़ी संख्या विदेशी सैलानियों की है, जिन्हें पुष्कर खास तौर पर पसंद है। हर साल कार्तिक महीने में लगने वाले पुष्कर ऊंट मेले ने तो इस जगह को दुनिया भर में अलग ही पहचान दे दी है। मेले के समय पुष्कर में कई संस्कृतियों का मिलन देखने को मिलता है। एक तरफ तो मेला देखने के लिए विदेशी सैलानी बड़ी संख्या में पहुंचते हैं, तो दूसरी तरफ राजस्थान व आसपास के तमाम इलाकों से आदिवासी और ग्रामीण लोग अपने-अपने पशुओं के साथ मेले में शामिल होने आते हैं। मेला रेत के विशाल मैदान में लगाया जाता है। ढेर सारी कतार की कतार दुकानें, खाने-पीने के स्टाल, सर्कस, झूले और न जाने क्या-क्या। ऊंट मेला और रेगिस्तान की नजदीकी है इसलिए ऊंट तो हर तरफ देखने को मिलते ही हैं। वर्तमान में इसका स्वरूप विशाल पशु मेले का हो गया है।

मनोरंजन

दिलचस्प ऊंट सौंदर्य प्रतियोगिता , सजे-धजे ऊंट का नृत्य, मटकीफोड, लम्बी मूछें और दुल्हन की प्रतियोगिताएं पर्यटकों का खूब मनोरंजन करती हैं। रात्रि में लोक कलाकारों के सुर-ताल की जुगलबंदी और रंगबिरंगे नृत्यों से पर्यटक आनन्दित होते हैं। अनेक प्रदर्शनियां भी सजाई जाती हैं। परेड और दौड़ को हजारों देशी और विदेशी पर्यटक रुचिपूर्वक देखते हैं। स्मृतियों को सजोने के लिए पर्यटक हर तरफ फोटो खींचते नजर आते हैं। पर्यटकों के लिए पुष्कर में सरोवर एवं कई मन्दिर भी पर्यटकों को आकर्षित करते हैं। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हॉट एयर बैलून भी प्रबल आकर्षण बन गया है।

ब्रह्मगा मन्दिर

पुष्कर सुरण्य नागा पहाड़ की गोद में रेतीले

धरातल पर बसा है। पुष्कर का महात्म्य वेद, पुराण, महाकाव्य, साहित्य, शिलालेख एवं लोक कथाओं में वर्णित है। पुष्कर को मंदिरों के शहर के रूप में भी जाना जाता है। यहाँ लगभग 500 मंदिर बताए जाते हैं। ब्रह्माजी का मंदिर देश भर में अकेला प्रसिद्ध मन्दिर है। धरातल से करीब 50 फीट की ऊंचाई पर स्थित मन्दिर के प्रवेश द्वार के भीतरी भाग पर ब्रह्मा का वाहन राजहंस है। प्रमुख मंदिर के गर्भगृह में ब्रह्मा जी की बैठी हुई मुद्रा में प्रतिमा स्थापित है। चतुर्मुखी इस प्रतिमा के तीन मुख सामने से दिखाई देते हैं। प्रतिमा को करीब 800 वर्ष पुराना बताया जाता है। सैंकड़ों वर्षों से प्रतिमा का प्रतिदिन जलस्नान व पंचामृत अभिषेक किया जाता है। मंदिर के आंगन में ब्रिटिशकालीन एक-एक रूपये के सिक्के जड़े हैं। संगमरमर के कलात्मक स्तंभ मोह लेते हैं। मंदिर परिक्रमा मार्ग में सावित्री माता का मंदिर स्थापित किया गया है। परिसर में अन्य मन्दिर भी दर्शनीय हैं।

पुष्कर सरोवर

अर्धचन्द्राकार पवित्र पुष्कर सरोवर प्रमुख धार्मिक पर्यटक स्थल है। यहां 52 घाट बने हैं, जिन पर 700 से 800 वर्ष प्राचीन विभिन्न देवी-देवताओं के मंदिर बनाए गए हैं। देश के चार प्रमुख सरोवरों में माना जाने वाला पुष्कर सरोवर की धार्मिक आस्था का पता इसी बात से चलता है कि यहां स्नान करने से मोक्ष की प्राप्ति होती है। प्रातःकाल की वेला में जब सूर्योदय होता है तथा गोधूली की वेला में जब सूर्यास्त होता है पुष्कर का दृष्य अत्यंत ही मनोरम होता है। इस दृष्य को देखने के लिए घाटों पर सैलानियों और श्रद्धालुओं का जमावड़ा देखा जा सकता है।

वराह मन्दिर

प्राचीनता की दृष्टि से करीब 900 वर्ष पुराना वराह मंदिर का निर्माण अजमेर के चैहान शासक अर्णीराज ने कराया था। पुष्कर सरोवर के वराह घाट के पास स्थित वराह चौक से एक रास्ता बस्ती के भीतर इमली मोहल्ले तक जाता है, जहां यह विशाल मंदिर स्थापित है। करीब 30 फुट ऊंचा मंदिर, चौड़ी सीढ़ियां तथा किले जैसा प्रवेश द्वार आकर्षण का केन्द्र है। बताया जाता है कि कभी मंदिर का शिखर 125 फीट ऊंचा था, जिस पर सोन चराग (स्वर्ण दीप) जलता था, जो दिल्ली तक दिखाई देता था। मुख्य मंदिर में विष्णु के अवतार वराह भगवान की मूर्ति स्थापित है। मूर्ति के नीचे सप्त धातु से निर्मित करीब सवा मन वजन की लक्ष्मी-नारायण की प्रतिमा है। यहीं पर बून्दी के राजा द्वारा भेंट किया गया लोहे का सवा मनी भाला रखा गया है। जलझूलनी ग्यारस पर लक्ष्मी-नारायण की सवारी धूमधाम से निकाली जाती है। चैत्र माह में वराह नवमी के दिन भगवान का जन्मदिन मनाया जाता है। जन्माष्टमी व अन्नकूट के अवसर पर उत्सव आयोजित किए जाते हैं। मंदिर में विशेष कर चावल का प्रसाद चढ़ता है। वराह घाट पर संध्या आरती का दृश्य देखे ही बनता है।

श्री रमा वैकुण्ठ मंदिर

ब्रह्मा जी के मंदिर के बाद इस मंदिर का विशेष महत्व है, जिसे रंगा जी का मंदिर भी कहा जाता है। मंदिर करीब 20 बीघा भूमि पर बना है। मंदिर का प्रवेश द्वार आकर्षक एवं विशाल है। भीतर जाने पर सामने ही रमा वैकुण्ठ का मंदिर नजर आता है। मंदिर के ऊतंग गोपुरम पर 350 से अधिक देवताओं के चिह्न बने हैं। यह गोपुरम दक्षिण भारतीय स्थापत्य कला शैली का अनुपम उदाहरण है। मंदिर के सामने

प्रांगण में ही एक बड़ा स्वर्णिम गरूड़ ध्वज नजर आता है। मंदिर के पास अभिमुख गरूड़ मंदिर स्थापित है। मुख्य मंदिर के चारों तरफ पक्के दालान के बीच में तीन-चार फीट ऊंचे चौकोर बड़े संगमरमरी चबूतरे पर मंदिर स्थित है। मुख्य प्रतिमा व्यंकटेश भगवान विष्णु की काले पत्थरों की आभूषणों एवं वस्त्रों से सुसज्जित है। इसी को वैकुण्ठ नाथ की प्रतिमा कहा जाता है। मंदिर में ही श्रीदेवी, तिरुपति नाथ, भूदेवी, लक्ष्मी व नरसिंह की मूर्तियां भी हैं। परिक्रमा मार्ग में दोनों तरफ दीवारों पर आकर्षक रंगीन चित्र एवं संगमरमर के कलात्मक स्तंभ बने हैं। सम्पूर्ण परिक्रमा मार्ग अत्यंत लुभावना लगता है।

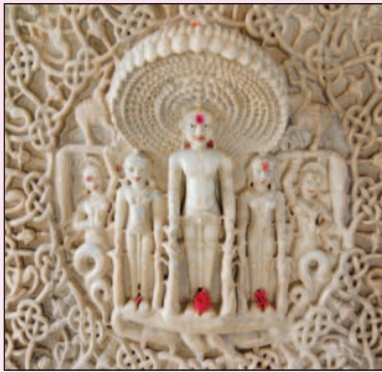
रंगनाथ वेणुगोपाल मंदिर

दक्षिण भारत स्थापत्य शैली पर आधारित भगवान रंगनाथ वेणुगोपाल का विशाल मंदिर वराह चौक के पास स्थित है। मंदिर का निर्माण दक्षिण भारत के एक सेठ पूरनमल गनेरीवाल द्वारा 1844 ईस्वी में करवाया गया था। मंदिर का गोपुरम और कलश दूर से ही नजर आता है। विशाल द्वार से अंदर प्रवेश करने पर पक्का दालान और कमरे बने हैं। यहीं पर उतंग स्वर्णिम गरूड़ ध्वज है, जिसके पास गरूड़ का छोटा सा मंदिर है, जो भगवान वेणुगोपाल की तरफ मुख किए हुए है। दांयी ओर मुख्य मंदिर की सीढ़ियां जाती हैं। गर्भगृह में बंशी बजाते हुए भगवान वेणुगोपाल की श्याम वर्ण की लुभावनी प्रतिमा है। मंदिर मकराना के श्वेत पत्थर से निर्मित है, जिसके दोनों ओर जय-विजय द्वारपाल हैं। इसी मंदिर में रूकमणी, श्रीकृष्ण, भूदेवी, सत्यभामा की पंचधातु की प्रतिमाएं हैं। चैत्र माह में भगवान रंगनाथ का विवाह उत्सव मनाया जाता है।

राजस्थान में अरावली पर्वत की घाटियों के मध्य चारों ओर जंगलों से घिरे रणकपुर में भगवान ऋषभदेव का चतुर्मुखी जैन मंदिर है। जंगलों से घिरे होने के कारण इस मंदिर की भयत्ता देखते ही बनती है। भारत के जैन मंदिरों में संभवतः इसकी इमारत सबसे भव्य एवं विशाल है। रणकपुर मंदिर उदयपुर से 96 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर है।

इस मंदिर की इमारत लगभग 40,000 वर्गफीट में फैली है। आज से करीब 600 वर्ष पूर्व 1446 विक्रम संवत में इस मंदिर का निर्माण कार्य प्रारंभ हुआ था, जो 50 वर्षों से अधिक समय तक चला। कहा जाता है कि उस समय में इसके निर्माण में करीब 99 लाख रुपए का खर्च आया था। इस मंदिर में 4 कलात्मक प्रवेश द्वार हैं। मंदिर के मुख्य गृह में तीर्थंकर आदिनाथ की संगमरमर से बनी 4 विशाल मूर्तियां हैं। करीब 72 इंच ऊंची ये मूर्तियां 4 अलग दिशाओं की ओर उन्मुख हैं। इसी कारण इसे चतुर्मुख मंदिर कहा जाता है। इसके अलावा मंदिर में 76 छोटे गुम्बदनुमा पवित्र स्थान, 4 बड़े प्रार्थना कक्ष तथा 4 बड़े पूजन स्थल हैं। ये मनुष्य को जीवन-मृत्यु की 84 योनियों से मुक्ति प्राप्त कर मोक्ष प्राप्त करने के लिए प्रेरित करते हैं।

इस मंदिर की प्रमुख विशेषता इसके सैंकड़ों खंभे हैं जिनकी संख्या करीब 1,444 है। यहां आप जिस तरफ भी नजर घुमाएंगे आपको छोटे-बड़े आकारों के खंभे दिखाई देते हैं, परंतु ये खंभे इस प्रकार बनाए गए हैं कि कहीं से भी देखने पर मुख्य पवित्र स्थल के दर्शन में बाधा नहीं पहुंचती है। इन खंभों पर अतिसुंदर नक्काशी की गई है। इन खंभों की खास विशेषता यह है कि ये



राणा के नाम पर इसे रणपुर कहा गया, जो बाद में रणकपुर के नाम से प्रसिद्ध हुआ। आज का रणकपुर पुरानी विरासत और इसे सहेजकर रखने वालों के बारे में भी संदेश देता है जिनके कारण रणकपुर मात्र एक विचार से वास्तविकता में बदल सका।

वैसे भी राजस्थान अपने भव्य स्मारकों तथा भवनों के लिए प्रसिद्ध है। राज्यस्थान में स्थित रणकपुर मंदिर जैन धर्म के 5 प्रमुख तीर्थस्थरलों में से एक है। यह मंदिर खूबसूरती से तराशे गए प्राचीन जैन मंदिरों के लिए प्रसिद्ध है। मंदिर परिसर के आसपास ही नेमीनाथ और पार्श्वनाथ को समर्पित 2 मंदिर हैं, जो हमें खजुराहो की याद दिलाते हैं। यहां निर्मित सूर्य मंदिर की दीवारों पर थोड़ाओं और घोड़ों के चित्र उकेरे गए हैं, जो अपने आप में एक उत्कृष्ट उदाहरण के समान हैं। यहां से लगभग 1 किलोमीटर दूरी पर माता अम्बा का मंदिर भी है।

कैसे पहुंचें:-

सड़क मार्ग:- उदयपुर देश के प्रमुख शहरों से सड़कों के जरिए जुड़ा हुआ है। उदयपुर से यहां के लिए प्राइवेट बसें तथा टैक्सियां उपलब्ध रहती हैं। आप यहां अपने निजी वाहन से भी जा सकते हैं।

रेलवे:- यहां पहुंचने के लिए निकटतम रेलवे स्टे शन उदयपुर ही है, साथ ही रणकपुर के लिए सभी प्रमुख शहरों से रेलगाड़ियां उपलब्ध हैं।

वायु मार्ग:- रणकपुर पहुंचने के लिए नजदीकी हवाई अड्डा उदयपुर है। दिल्ली, मुंबई से यहां के लिए नियमित उड़ानें हैं।

आसपास के क्षेत्रों में पावापुरी सिरोही, संधवी भेरुतारक तीर्थ धाम, माउंट आबू, दिलवाड़ा का विख्यात जैन मंदिर भी हैं, जहां आसानी से पहुंचा जा सकता है।

अरावली पर्वत की घाटियों में बसा रणकपुर जैन मंदिर

सभी अनोखे और अलग-अलग कलाकृतियों से निर्मित हैं। मंदिर की छत पर की गई नक्काशी इसकी उत्कृष्टता का प्रतीक है।

मंदिर के निर्माताओं ने जहां कलात्मक दोर्माजला भवन का निर्माण किया है, वहीं भविष्य में किसी संकट का अनुमान लगाते हुए कई तहखाने भी बनाए गए हैं। इन तहखानों में पवित्र मूर्तियों को सुरक्षित रखा जा

सकता है। ये तहखाने मंदिर के निर्माताओं की निर्माण संबंधी दूरदर्शिता का परिचय देते हैं।

विक्रम संवत 1953 में इस मंदिर के रखरखाव की जिम्मेदारी एक ट्रस्ट को दे दी गई थी। उसने मंदिर के पुनरुद्धार कार्य को कुशलतापूर्वक कर इसे एक नया रूप

दिया। पत्थरों पर की गई नक्काशी इतनी भव्य है कि कई विख्यात शिल्पकार इसे विश्व के आश्चर्यों में से एक बताते हैं। हर वर्ष हजारों कलाप्रेमी इस मंदिर को देखने आते हैं। इसके अलावा यहां संगमरमर के टुकड़े पर भगवान ऋषभदेव के पदचिह्न भी हैं। ये भगवान ऋषभदेव तथा शत्रुंजय की शिक्षाओं की याद दिलाते हैं।

रणकपुर का निर्माण कैसे हुआ- इस मंदिर का निर्माण 4 श्रद्धालुओं- आचार्य श्यामसुंदरजी, धरन शाह, कुंभा राणा तथा देपा ने कराया था। आचार्य सोमसुंदर एक धार्मिक नेता थे जबकि कुंभा राणा मलगढ़ के राजा तथा धरन शाह उनके मंत्री थे। धरन शाह ने धार्मिक प्रवृत्तियों से प्रेरित होकर भगवान ऋषभदेव का मंदिर बनवाने का निर्णय लिया था।

कहा जाता है कि एक रात उन्हें स्वप्न में नलिनीगुल्मा विमान के दर्शन हुए, जो



Trump’s new term draws near amid scepticism

AS the United States readies for the inauguration of Donald Trump as its 47th President, I have a sense of déjà vu. Trump’s swearing-in as the 45th President is the only presidential inauguration that I skipped since I was posted to Washington as a foreign correspondent in the final full year of the Bill Clinton presidency 26 years ago.

I skipped the ceremonies on the advice of bipartisan political contacts and reliable security sources. Behind their well-meaning advice was the primary fact that I am a journalist. My badge at the inaugural ceremonies would identify me as one. Moreover, I would be in the media enclosure near the Reflecting Pool, which, on a clear day, will reflect the swearing-in of new presidents on the steps of Capitol Hill. During that poll season which saw Trump emerging victorious, the Republicans treated the media as an enemy. This was not entirely without reason. The bulk of the US media — especially the mass subscription liberal media on the east and west coasts — was unfair to Trump throughout the campaign. He did not have a level playing field in dealings with American journalists. I am brown in complexion. Black people are an inalienable part of the US social fabric. If they are trifled with by rednecks in a city like Washington, which is predominantly black, there will be consequences for the perpetrators of white racism. Not so with the brown-skinned minuscule minority, who are also meek compared to African Americans. This also shows very visibly in the ongoing mud-slinging against H-1B immigrants. The underlying anger which culminated in the January 6, 2021, riot on Capitol Hill was already there when Trump was being sworn in for the first time. Trump began his presidency with a peeve that the US media had deliberately under-reported the crowds at his inauguration. If the most important day of a person’s political life begins with a grievance against the institution of the Fourth Estate, he is likely to spend the rest of his public life undermining that institution. Never mind that the Fourth Estate is one of the pillars of democracy in the US. Trump did not succeed in this destructive mission as President. That was not for want of trying every day for four years from 2017.

But his next presidency may be different. The spate of resignations in the mainstream American media in recent weeks — including the dissolution and reconstitution of the Editorial Board of The Washington Post in October — are ominous. Partisan new owners of legacy media have chosen to kow-tow to Trump even before he has moved into the White House. Social media will mostly be the new President’s facilitator instead of an outlet for free expression. Meta’s latest decision to get rid of independent, third-party fact-checkers in the US is the latest assault on truth in that country.

A saving grace is that institutions in the US are strong. That is why they survived the tenure of the 45th President. Officers of the Metropolitan and Capitol Police paid with their lives to save the high-domed edifice, which is emblematic of the world over, of the oldest democracy on earth. On January 20, they will once again be prepared to offer the ultimate sacrifice to protect those they may not personally like and whom they have voted against in Washington, Maryland and Virginia, the tri-points which are similar to the National Capital Territory (NCT) surrounding Delhi. In a tribute to the strength of America’s institutions, law enforcement agencies are allowing demonstrations against the incoming President. A major rally in Washington in support of Trump is also planned on the day before he takes office. It is praiseworthy that in a media briefing last week, US Secret Service spokesperson Anthony Guglielmi said such demonstrations are not being viewed as security threats and upheld the rights of people to protest. There are few other countries where this can happen. The Secret Service is the lead agency in charge of security at the presidential inauguration. Unlike the run-up to Trump’s first swearing-in and the start of Joe Biden’s presidency soon after the violent attack on the Capitol, fate ordained that there would be a dress rehearsal of safeguards on a presidential scale during all of last week.

Disclosure curbs enfeebling RTI law

Much remains to be done by the Supreme Court to ensure effectiveness of the Act

THE Supreme Court’s recent ruling on the Right to Information (RTI) Act has invited widespread comment and much appreciation from activists. “An institution has been created,” said Justice Surya Kant; he then pointedly asked Additional Solicitor General Brijender Chahar, appearing for the Union of India, “What is the use of this institution if you do not have persons to perform the duties under the law?” The Bench asked the government why only people from a specific background (bureaucracy) were the favoured few to be appointed information commissioners. “We can take judicial notice of how many people from different walks have been appointed... The entire Commission is overloaded with one set of candidates,” was Justice Kant’s telling comment. Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for RTI activist Anjali Bhardwaj, had pleaded, “There has been only regression and not progress after the court’s intervention. They are killing the RTI because nobody is interested in giving information. So, the best way to kill the law is to render the information commissions defunct.”

The intervention in question was the decision on a writ petition (civil) of 2019, of which the present ruling is a follow-up. Justice AK Sikri, a judge with high sensitivity to the nuances of the RTI Act, had referred to a report published in March 2018, titled, ‘Report Card on the Performance of Information Commissions in India’. It found that eight information commissions had a waiting time of more than one year for an appeal or complaint to be heard, which was calculated on the basis of the number of appeals and complaints pending as on October 31, 2017, as against the monthly disposal rate. By not filling vacancies in information commissions in a timely manner, the Central and state governments are, in his view, frustrating the very purpose of the RTI Act as receiving information in a time-bound manner is the ‘very essence’ of the law. The judgment directed in Conclusion (v): “We would also like to impress upon the respondents to fill vacancies, in future, without any delay. For this purpose, it would be apposite that the process for filling of a particular vacancy is initiated one to two months before the date on which the vacancy is likely to occur so that there is not much time lag



no doubt merits appreciation by the public, to whom the right to freedom of speech belongs under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, and therefore, ownership of the right to any information held by its server, which is the government that it elects. Yet, in so lauding the judgment, it is well to remember that the apex court has much to answer for in enfeebling the exercise of this right by the citizenry, having gone so far as to exceed its own brief, which is limited, by actually amending the Act.

Former Information Commissioner Shailesh Gandhi, who served with me in the Central Information Commission (CIC) that I chaired and is now a leading RTI activist, lamented in a recent article in The Leaflet that “our right to information is being transformed into a right to deny information before our very eyes”. After quoting from the Supreme Court ruling in P Ramachandra Rao vs State of Karnataka (2002), which lays down the limits of any

court’s jurisdiction in ruling on any law as, “Courts can declare the law, they can interpret the law, they can remove obvious lacunae and fill the gaps but they cannot entrench upon the field of legislation properly meant for the legislature”, Gandhi cites the court’s decision of 2012, unremedied thus far, in *Girish Deshpande vs Central Information Commission & Others*. Relying on the clause to protect privacy under Section 8(1)(j) of the Act, the judge went on to give licence to refuse most information at will to public information officers, first appellate authorities, information commissioners and courts. This ruling can and indeed has too often been used to deny information for which the Act mandates suo motu disclosure under Section 4. The Supreme Court gave no reasoning for this unequivocal conclusion, but merely stated that the information sought was ‘personal’ and need not be given unless a larger public interest could be demonstrated. It chose to ignore whether the information sought stemmed from a public activity or whether or not its disclosure would amount to an unwarranted invasion of the privacy of the individual, which are provisions enunciated in the Act and have been elucidated repeatedly by rulings of the CIC and the courts. It is necessary to consider the areas in which reasonable restrictions can be placed on the RTI while denying information on the grounds of privacy. These are defined in Article 19(2) of the Constitution and can be encapsulated in two words: ‘decency’ and ‘morality’. Transgression of either would amount to an invasion of privacy. Yet, Justices KS Radhakrishnan and Dipak Misra have given short shrift to these limits and constricted the Act itself in a judgment repeatedly taken recourse to by those in authority seeking to deny disclosure.

And so, while we might heave a sigh of relief at the stand taken to uphold the spirit of our Constitution by the SC, we should urge the revered institution that much remains to be done not only to make the instruments of enforcement — Central and state information commissions — useful but also to ensure the effectiveness of the law to uphold what has been described by the court as a constitutional right.

Workers in peril

Paying the price for employers’ negligence

SITTING ducks — that’s what all those nameless, faceless workers are who toil day and night on development projects across the country. Their safety is of little concern to their employers, even though the infrastructure sector continues to be a key driver of Indian economy. When 40-odd labourers were rescued from Uttarakhand’s Silkyara tunnel in November 2023 — the risky operation was watched by the entire nation with bated breath — it was hoped that lessons would be learnt to ensure safer working conditions at construction sites. That hope has proved to be short-lived. Two workers were killed when a centring frame collapsed during the laying of a slab at an under-construction building in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, on Saturday. The same day, 28 workers were trapped when the shuttering of an upcoming building caved in at Kannauj railway station in Uttar Pradesh. It took a 16-hour operation, involving personnel of the national and state disaster response forces and the railways, to rescue all of them. In contrast,



frantic efforts to save labourers from a watery grave in a flooded rat-hole coal mine in Assam have proved futile. Criminal negligence is at the core of such mishaps, even

as the rescuers put their own lives at risk to extricate survivors. Brazen disregard for the law by public or private entities shows enforcement agencies in a poor light. Why are the humble workers not regarded as nation-builders? Why are they left to fend for themselves? Such apathy does not behove a country that aspires to become developed (Viksit) by 2047. The Buildings and Other Construction Workers Act, 1996, puts the onus on employers to set up safety committees and ensure that steps are taken to prevent accidents. Non-compliance with provisions of the Act is a punishable offence, yet offenders rarely get their just deserts. For the hapless worker, there won’t be a miraculous escape every time. He or she deserves a safety net — financial as well as physical.

Legal framework to protect digital data must be flexible

The goal of the draft DPDP Rules is to strike a balance between the right to privacy and technological advancement.

THANKS to our growing digital dependence, the majority of our personal data is now in the digital form. To facilitate the implementation of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, which creates a framework for processing digital personal data in India, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has created the draft Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules, 2025.

By providing necessary details and in an effort to strike a balance between the need to process personal data for legitimate purposes and the right of individuals to protect their data, it seeks to fortify the legal framework for the protection of digital personal data. The government has given stakeholders 45 days to give inputs or comments on the draft rules. The journey of data protection legislation is intriguing. The World Economic Forum (WEF) started a project called “Rethinking Personal Data” in 2010 to deepen the collective understanding of how a principled, collaborative and balanced personal data ecosystem can evolve. The main goals of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which was created by the European Union in 2018, are to simplify the regulatory framework for international business and to improve individuals’ ownership and rights over their personal data. In fact, the UK also kept the law even after breaking with the EU. Additionally, countries such as Brazil, South Korea, South Africa, Japan and Turkey — and the American state of California — adopted the GDPR as a model for protecting personal data. China’s Personal Information Protection Law became operative in November 2021. In today’s social media-driven world dominated by the Big Techs, data localisation is a delicate issue. Data localisation refers to actions

that restrict data flow within a jurisdiction’s boundaries. Under the Data Protection Act cleared in August 2023, the Government of India had stated that it would merely inform the territories where Indian personal data cannot be taken to. Following immaculate lobbying efforts by the tech companies against a provision in an earlier draft bill that required severe localisation rules, this was viewed as a significant victory. Companies were required to keep copies of certain sensitive personal data, such as financial and health information, within India under the Data Protection Bill, which was first introduced in 2019 and later withdrawn from Parliament in 2022. Additionally, it was forbidden for companies to export any undefined “critical” personal data from India. Rob Sherman, vice-president and deputy chief privacy officer of Meta, said in 2022 that the country’s data localisation regulations might make it “difficult” for the business to provide its services there. And Keith Enright, the chief privacy officer at Google, stated that norms for data localisation should be as “narrowly tailored as possible”.

Significantly, the draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025, reinstated data localisation, a Big Tech annoyance that had been eliminated in the Data Protection Act, 2023. The goal is to establish a central body that will collaborate with sectoral regulators and other ministries to successfully deploy local data storage without interfering with business operations. The government is considering giving the industry two years to transition to the new law and set up their systems for compliance.

The introduction of possible obligations for “significant data fiduciaries” with relation to cross-

border data sharing is an intriguing feature in the draft regulations. While businesses and organisations that gather and handle personal data are considered data fiduciaries, “significant data fiduciaries” will be chosen based on the quantum and sensitivity of the personal data they handle as well as



the potential threats to India’s sovereignty and integrity, electoral democracy, security and public order. It is anticipated that the Big Tech companies, such as Amazon, Microsoft, Apple, Google and Meta, will be categorised as important data fiduciaries. Additionally, the draft regulations permit tech businesses to put in place a system for obtaining “verifiable” parental approval prior to processing children’s personal data. In essence, when companies expressed dissatisfaction over the potential difficulty of implementing the rule, the government has decided not to propose a mechanism from its end and has instead left it up to the companies to choose a system. In the event of a data breach, data fiduciaries will be required to notify affected parties “without delay” about the breach, including its nature, scope, timing and location; the

implications that the breach is likely to have for the impacted user; and the steps that have been taken or are being taken to reduce risk, among other things. Failure to take adequate precautions to avoid a data breach could result in a fine of up to Rs 250 crore.

The Data Protection Act has given the government or its agencies broad exemptions for processing the personal information of residents on the basis of “public order”, “friendly relations with other states”, and “national security”, among other things. Additionally, the government has suggested that health experts, educational institutions, creche and daycare facilities be excused from requiring parental agreement before processing children’s personal data. “Yet, we can’t just hit the ‘pause button’ and let these issues sort themselves out. Building the legal, cultural, technological and economic infrastructure to enable the development of a balanced personal data ecosystem is vitally important to improving the state of the world,” the 2011 WEF report said. For similar reasons, we also urgently need a concrete law. The goal of the draft DPDP rules is to strike a balance between the right to privacy and technological advancement. In the near future, the quantum, dynamics and discoveries of the hidden potential and risks of personal data will undoubtedly vary due to the constantly shifting pattern, purview, domain, demand and scope of data transmitting into an unknown horizon. Additionally, there ought to be a dynamic alteration in the pattern with technological evolution, our intrusion into the AI world and changes in the global climate, geopolitics and trade. Any legislation pertaining to the protection of personal data should have the ability to easily and continuously adapt to the changes.

'IT hiring may not keep pace with biz growth'

BENGALURU. As IT firms saw revenue productivity increase amid lower headcount, HCLTech CEO C Vijayakumar said adding headcount may not necessarily keep pace with revenue growth.

He noted that the IT industry's requirement for skilled professionals will continue to rise steadily, leading to higher billing rates. "I think you should keep in mind that some of the growth came from improving utilisation for many companies. There are also some onshore-offshore mix changes that could have driven growth. The service industry has a long-term correlation with adding people. I don't think that is changing. Maybe the people addition may not be at the same level as revenue growth, but your wage bill increase will continue to rise in line with the revenue because you need higher-skilled and more experienced people. All of that will drive the wage bill higher," Vijayakumar told TOI in a post-earnings interaction on Tuesday.

TOI reported that the Indian IT sector's overall revenue per head grew approximately 6% year-on-year in the initial six months of FY25. With a single-digit growth outlook, many large IT firms have not added people for the last two years, and this could be the reason for improved revenue productivity.HCLTech has reduced its fresher recruitment target from 10,000 to 7,000 for the year. HCL added 2,134 employees in the Dec quarter, taking the total headcount to 220,755. When asked about rolling out low single-digit hikes, Vijayakumar clarified that the average hike for eligible candidates was around 7%.

Even as developers are coming to grips with how GenAI will impact their roles, especially with low to medium complexity code already being automated, Vijayakumar said, "I think it's about embracing generative AI that is really the big message to the developer community. If you can embrace and see in the new scheme of the workflows and see where incremental value can be added."

Sula Vineyards rises 4% after posting highest revenue in Q3FY25; details

NEW DELHI.Sula Vineyards share price gained 3.87 per cent at Rs 389 a piece on the BSE in Wednesday's intraday trade. This came after the company reported a strong sales update for the quarter that ended December 31, 2024 (Q3FY25). India's leading wine producer, Sula Vineyards announced its Q3 and nine-month (9M) FY25 sales update, showcasing strong performance in its core segments. For Q3FY25, Sula recorded its highest-ever revenue from Own Brands at Rs 194.7 crore, reflecting a 1 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) growth. The Elite & Premium portfolio, featuring brands like the 'Source' and 'RASA', led this growth with a 6 per cent Y-o-Y increase.

The wine tourism business continued its impressive trajectory, posting its highest-ever Q3 revenue of Rs 16.4 crore, an 11.5 per cent Y-o-Y growth. This performance was driven by increased guest spending and strong occupancy rates at Sula's properties. Net revenue for Q3FY25, including other income, stood at Rs 217.3 crore, marginally lower by 0.7 per cent Y-o-Y. For the nine-month period ending December 2024, net revenue grew by 1.7 per cent Y-o-Y to Rs 489 crore, with Own Brands contributing Rs 436.5 crore (a 3.6 per cent increase) and wine tourism contributing Rs 39.9 crore (a 4.1 per cent rise).

On the equities front, Sula Vineyards share price has underperformed the market, falling 24 per cent in the last six months, while losing 38 per cent in the last one year. In comparison, the BSE Sensex has slipped 4.9 per cent in the last six months, while gaining 4.6 per cent in the last one year.

Maruti Suzuki stock hits 12-week high; rallies nearly 4% on healthy outlook

NEW DELHI. Shares of Maruti Suzuki India (MSIL) hit a 12-week high of Rs 12,194.50 on the BSE in Wednesday's intra-day trade on a healthy outlook. The stock of the passenger cars and utility vehicles company is trading at its highest level since October 22, 2024. It had hit a 52-week high of Rs 13,675 on August 1, 2024.

Thus far in the month of January 2025, MSIL has outperformed the market by surging 12 per cent after reporting healthy volumes for the month of December 2024, with a growth of 29.6 per cent year-on-year (YoY) at 1.78 lakh units. Exports witnessed double digit volume growth with an increase of 39.2 per cent YoY at 37,419 units. In comparison, the BSE Sensex is down nearly 2 per cent so far in the month.

With long-term growth drivers remaining intact, persistent strong growth in SUVs (approx 45 per cent of domestic sales), increasing penetration of compressed natural gas (CNG) (approx. 35 per cent of volumes), a surge in exports, and the entry of electric vehicles (EV) by the end of FY25, analysts remain upbeat on MSIL's long-term operating performance.

While analysts at Emkay Global Financial Services remain cautious on the overall passenger vehicles (PV) space (weak underlying fundamentals, intensifying competition in EVs), the brokerage firm said they prefer MSIL therein on a relative basis, on emerging green shoots in small cars, relatively better launch visibility (7-seater SUV in H2CY25), undemanding valuation (below LTA on 1YF basis).MSIL's strategy of consistent new launches, export expansion highlighted by achieving 3 million cumulative exports, and efforts to normalise inventory levels contributing to its volume growth and robust sales performance, are upsides for the company, according to the brokerage firm.

PepsiCo enters bidding for Haldiram stake against Temasek, Alpha Wave: Report

PepsiCo has initiated discussions with the Aggarwal family, who own Haldiram, for a minority stake.

NEW DELHI.PepsiCo has joined the race to acquire a stake in Haldiram Snacks Food, India's largest ethnic snacks company, reported The Economic Times. The company has initiated discussions with the Aggarwal family, who own Haldiram, for a minority stake. This makes PepsiCo a late entrant in a competition that already includes global investment firms Temasek and Alpha Wave Global.Executives quoted in the report said PepsiCo's leadership from its

New York headquarters has started direct talks with the Aggarwal family in recent weeks. These discussions are still at an early stage and may not necessarily result in a deal. Unlike its Indian unit, the funding for this stake purchase will reportedly be led by PepsiCo's US-based parent company.The Aggarwal family is seeking a valuation of Rs 85,000-90,000 crore for Haldiram as they look to bring in an external investor for the first time.

Temasek and Alpha Wave Global have already submitted binding offers for a 10-15% stake in Haldiram. These offers were made last month, putting the firms in an advanced stage of negotiations. Temasek is said to be leading the discussions, with reports suggesting a potential investment of over \$1 billion as per the report.Haldiram is a market leader in ethnic snacks, offering over 500 types



of products, including namkeen, sweets, ready-to-eat meals, and pre-mixed food items. The company reported revenue of Rs 12,800 crore in FY24, more than double that of PepsiCo's snacks business in India, which earned Rs 4,763.29 crore during the nine-month period from April to December 2023.

For PepsiCo, which dominates the western snacks market with brands like Lay's,

Kurkure, and Doritos, this move could provide a foothold in the fast-growing ethnic snacks segment. PepsiCo holds a 24% market share in western snacks but has limited presence in traditional Indian snacks like namkeen and bhujia.

The Indian snacks market, worth Rs 42,694.9 crore in 2023 according to IMARC Group, is expected to grow to Rs 95,521.8 crore by 2032. However, it is highly fragmented, with numerous regional players such as Balaji, Bikanerwala, and Bikaji Foods competing alongside Haldiram. These regional brands often offer lower prices, direct distribution, and better retailer margins, challenging larger players like PepsiCo.PepsiCo India has been under pressure to expand its snacks division, especially as its beverages business is managed almost entirely by Varun Beverages Ltd (VBL), a listed company under RJ Corp.

Sensex, Nifty open higher; IT stocks rebound after recent slump

NEW DELHI. Benchmark stock market indices opened higher on Wednesday, driven by a rally in IT stocks which has been under pressure for the past couple of trading sessions. The market was also helped by a rise in banking and energy sector stocks.The S&P BSE Sensex gained 144.53 points to 76,644.16, while the NSE Nifty50 added 16.15 points to 23,192.20 as of 9:30 AM.Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services said that with only five more days to go for Trump's inauguration as US president, soon there will be clarity on Trump's actions and its likely impact on the markets. It appears that the dollar and US bond yields have peaked for now.

"There are reports that Trump will begin with low tariff hikes putting pressure on major exporters to the US, even while leaving room for negotiations. If this



scenario plays out, further rise in dollar and US bond yields will be arrested. Till then, the FII selling will continue, preempting any rally in the market," he added.Nifty IT rebounded and gained 0.49%, setting a positive tone for the market.Nifty Midsmall Services showed strong performance, rising 1.21%, while Nifty Realty climbed 1.04%. Nifty Midsmall IT & Telecom advanced 1.07%, and Nifty PSU Bank gained 0.70%. Nifty Oil & Gas and Nifty Metal both moved up by 0.70%

and 0.66% respectively.

The banking sector remained firm with Nifty Bank rising 0.40% and Nifty Private Bank adding 0.30%. Nifty Auto gained 0.20%, while Nifty Financial Services showed a modest increase of 0.06%.On the declining side, Nifty Midsmall Healthcare led the losses with a drop of 1.57%, followed by Nifty Healthcare Index falling 1.48%. Nifty Pharma declined 1.38%, while Nifty FMCG slipped 0.66%. Nifty Consumer Durables fell 0.30%, and Nifty Financial Services Ex-Bank marginally decreased by 0.01%. Nifty Media remained unchanged at 0.00%."Market will witness lots of stock-specific action in response to the Q3 results. Market has been rewarding performers delivering better-than-expected results and punishing those delivering worse-than-expected results. Therefore, look out for performers," said Vijayakumar.

Meta To Lay Off 3,600 Employees, Mark Zuckerberg Targets Low Performers

New Delhi. Meta, the parent company of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp is planning to let go of about 3,600 employees or nearly 5 per cent of its workforce, according to a report from Bloomberg. The company led by CEO Mark Zuckerberg has made the decision to dismiss these workers due to their performance being deemed below expectations. Meta, which employed around 72,400 people as of September, aims to replace these positions with new hires.CEO Mark Zuckerberg, in the memo explained that the decision to let go of employees is part of a strategy to "raise the bar on performance management and move out low-performers faster." Such layoffs are a common practice



Why is Meta laying off employees and who will be affected?

Meta is cutting jobs as part of its goal to reach 10 per cent "non-regrettable" attribution by the end of the current

performance cycle, as per the memo. The job cuts will primarily affect employees who have been with the company long enough to receive a performance review and are considered underperforming. Meta has assured those impacted that they will receive "generous severance."

Microsoft to Cut Low-Performing Employees

Microsoft is also planning to let go of low-performing employees. The company is following a similar approach to Meta. While the exact number of affected workers hasn't been disclosed, a recent report from Business Insider suggests that multiple departments, including some key ones, will be impacted. This move aligns with Microsoft's ongoing practice of restructuring under CEO Satya Nadella, aiming to maintain a high-performing workforce.

Quadrant Future Tek soars 44% in 2 days; zooms 85% against issue price

NEW DELHI.Shares of Quadrant Future Tek (Quadrant) rallied nearly 20 per cent to Rs 537.80 on the BSE in Wednesday's intra-day trade, extending its Tuesday's 20 per cent surge amid heavy volumes. The stock of electrical cables company has soared 44 per cent from its listing price, after making a strong market debut on Tuesday. It has zoomed 85 per cent against its issue price of Rs 290 on the BSE. At 10:06 AM; Quadrant was quoting 18 per cent higher at Rs 531, as compared to 0.30 per cent rise in the BSE Sensex. A combined 12.49 million equity shares representing 31 per cent of total equity of the company changed hands on the NSE and BSE on Wednesday.

Quadrant is a research-focused company specialising in Train Control and Signalling Systems under the KAVACH project, enhancing safety and reliability for Indian Railways. It also manufactures specialty cables for railways, defence, and renewable energy, using advanced Electron Beam

technology for superior performance. The company has received significant contracts for its KAVACH system and partners with RailTel to expand its deployment in India and abroad.



The company sits on a strong order book, including a notable Rs 979 crore contract for KAVACH implementation, which highlights its robust revenue visibility. Strategic partnerships, such as with RailTel for KAVACH deployment, bolster its position in domestic and

international markets. With favourable industry tailwinds and increasing demand for its offerings, Quadrant is well-positioned for sustained growth, analysts at Nirmal Bang Securities said in IPO note.

Quadrant primarily operates in two business divisions, specialty cables and train control and signalling division. Under the specialty cables divisions, the company faces competition with other players providing specialty cables to railways namely Apar Industries, Polycab and Radiant Corporation Pvt. Ltd. As on the date of Red Herring Prospectus (RHP), entities namely, Medha Servo Drives Pvt. Ltd, HBL Power Systems and Kernex Microsystems (India) has been approved by The Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO) for supply of KAVACH equipment based on initial system design approved.

Quadrant, specialising in the production of specialty cables and advanced train control and signaling systems, such as the

KAVACH project for Indian Railways, leverages cutting-edge technologies like Electron Beam Cross Linked polymers. These innovations enhance the durability and performance of its products across demanding sectors including railways, defense and electric vehicles. With significant infrastructure developments and government initiatives like the Rs 557 crore funding for the KAVACH project, Quadrant is well positioned within its industry, said analyst at KRChoksey Shares and Securities in a note.

"With a PE ratio of 79x and an EV/EBITDA of 34x, Quadrant Future Tek Limited's valuation is notably higher than some of its peers, justified by its strong market position, robust growth prospects and solid financial performance, evidenced by a robust ROE of 33 per cent. The premium valuation is further underpinned by its large addressable market and significant project wins, specifically in KAVACH, which enhances its growth potential and ensures sustainable growth prospects," the brokerage firm said.



necessary clearances.

This project is part of the company's broader strategy to expand its renewable energy portfolio. In December, Adani Green Energy launched a wholly owned subsidiary, Adani Green Energy Sixty-Eight Limited (AGE68L), aimed at generating, distributing, and supplying power using wind, solar, and other renewable energy sources.Financially, the company reported robust earnings in the second quarter of FY25, with a net profit of Rs 515 crore, marking a 39% year-on-year growth. Total income rose by 30.4% to Rs 3,376 crore, though expenses also increased by 31.3% to Rs 2,837 crore.Despite these gains, Adani Green Energy's stock has declined by 38% over the past year. Its relative strength index (RSI) currently stands at 42.9, suggesting neutral momentum, as per Trendlyne data.

The stock's moving average convergence divergence (MACD) is at -75.3, signaling bearish sentiment. Additionally, shares are trading below key moving averages, including the 20-day, 50-day, and 200-day SMAs.Analysts maintain a positive outlook, with the average target price pegged at Rs 1,966, implying a potential upside of 95%. Of the four analysts covering the stock, the consensus recommendation is a 'Buy.'

outhouses were neglected, and the garden was a mess of unruly hedges and a riot of weeds," the first chapter of Kidwai's book reads. Congress MP Tariq Anwar from Katihar, Bihar, who worked at 24, Akbar Road, recalls the early days: "Following the split, Congress started out with 24, Akbar Road, as a temporary office, but we stayed there." Anwar, who has worked with four generations of the Gandhi family, added, "Indira Gandhi used to come to the office regularly. I have worked with Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, and Rahul Gandhi. Indiraji always gave importance to young leaders. After she became PM in 1980, as an MP, I got more opportunities to interact with her. I have seen the party's many ups and downs at 24, Akbar Road, and have numerous memories attached to the office. I will miss the old office and hope it will be a new beginning for the party."

NEWS BOX

South Korea's Yoon becomes 1st sitting President to be arrested

World. South Korean authorities arrested impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol on Wednesday over insurrection accusations related to his December 3 martial law declaration, investigators said.A motorcade was seen leaving the gates of his hillside residence where Yoon has been holed up for weeks behind barbed wire barriers and a small army of personal security.Earlier more than 3,000 police officers and anti-corruption investigators had gathered there before dawn, pushing through throngs of Yoon supporters and members of his ruling People Power Party protesting attempts to detain him.Yoon's lawyers have argued attempts to detain him are illegal and are designed to publicly humiliate him. The warrant investigators secured for his arrest is the first ever issued against an incumbent South Korean president.

As local news broadcasters reported that Yoon's detention may come soon, some minor scuffles broke out between tearful pro-Yoon protesters and police near the residence, according to a Reuters witness at the scene.Yoon's declaration of martial law stunned South Koreans and plunged one of Asia's most vibrant democracies into an unprecedented period of political turmoil. Lawmakers voted to impeach him and remove him from duties on December 14.Separately, the Constitutional Court is deliberating over to uphold that impeachment and permanently remove him from office.

Impeached South Korean President Yoon Arrested Over Failed Martial Law Bid

Seoul. South Korean authorities on Wednesday arrested impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol over insurrection accusations related to his brief declaration of martial law on December 3, investigators said. He is the first sitting president in South Korea's history to be arrested.According to reports, the suspended President was seen leaving his heavily fortified residence in central Seoul in a convoy to the offices of the Corruption Investigation Office (CIO) after a joint team of investigators and police said they had executed the arrest warrant.

Mr Yoon had been holed up at his hillside residence for weeks, behind a small army of personal security to avoid arrest. His lawyers have argued attempts to detain the impeached Presidnet were illegal and were designed to publicly humiliate him.On Wednesday morning, his lawyer announced that the president had agreed to speak to investigators and that he had decided to leave the residence to prevent a "serious incident".

President Yoon has decided to personally appear at the Corruption Investigation Office today," Seok Dong-hyeon said on Facebook, adding that Yoon would also deliver a speech.More than 3,000 police officers and anti-corruption investigators gathered at his residence before dawn, pushing through throngs of Yoon supporters and members of his ruling People Power Party protesting attempts to detain him.Shortly after, investigators announced that Mr Yoon had been arrested. "The Joint Investigation Headquarters executed an arrest warrant for President Yoon Suk Yeol today (January 15) at 10:33 am (0130 GMT)," they said in a statement.Following his arrest, Yoon can be held for up to 48 hours on the existing warrant. Investigators would need to apply for another arrest warrant to keep him in custody.

It was their second effort to arrest Yoon.A first attempt on January 3 failed after a tense hours-long standoff with members of Yoon's official Presidential Security Service (PSS), who refused to budge when investigators tried to execute their warrant.

Mr Yoon's declaration of martial law last month stunned South Koreans and plunged one of Asia's most vibrant democracies into an unprecedented period of political turmoil. Lawmakers voted to impeach him and remove him from duties on December 14.Separately, the Constitutional Court is deliberating over whether to uphold that impeachment and permanently remove him from office. Mr Yoon's impeachment trial began Tuesday with a brief hearing after he declined to attend.

Sheikh Hasina's niece Tulip Siddiq resigns from UK government over Bangladesh graft probe

LONDON. UK's anti-corruption minister and niece of ousted Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina, Tulip Siddiq, resigned on Tuesday after being named in an investigation into the graft accusations against her aunt.The resignation came days after Dr Muhammed Yunus, the caretaker head of Bangladesh government made serious allegations of corruption against her.UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer has accepted her resignation.In a letter to Starmer, Siddiq wrote: "Sir Laurie has confirmed that I have not breached the ministerial code. As he notes, there is no evidence to suggest that I have acted improperly regarding the properties I have owned or lived in, nor any evidence to suggest that my assets derive from anything other than legitimate sources."

She further stated, "My family connections are a matter of public record. When I became a minister, I provided full details of my relationships and private interests to the government."Siddiq acknowledged that continuing in her role as Economic Secretary could distract from the government's work. She emphasized, "My loyalty is and always will be to this Labour Government in the UK and its program for national renewal and transformation. Therefore, I have decided to resign from my ministerial position."

Siddiq had previously voluntarily referred herself to an independent watchdog.Following consultations with officials, she was advised to declare her aunt's position as the former prime minister of Bangladesh and to recuse herself from matters related to Bangladesh to avoid any perception of a conflict of interest.

Trump would've been convicted in 2020 poll case had he not been reelected: Report

World. US Special Counsel Jack Smith said that evidence from the 2020 election interference case was enough for President-elect Donald Trump's conviction, but his victory in last year's presidential polls made it impossible to do so. In an over 130-page report published on Tuesday, Smith concluded that Trump engaged in an "unprecedented criminal effort" to retain power after he lost to Joe Biden five years ago.The Special Counsel also detailed how Trump tried to overturn the election results and accused him of plotting to obstruct the collection and certification of votes.“As set forth in the original and superseding indictments, when it became clear that Trump had lost the election and that lawful means of challenging the election results had failed, he resorted to a series of criminal efforts to retain power.” CNN quoted the report as saying.The report, that came less than a week before the President-elect's inauguration on January 20, also said the



"throughline of all of Trump's criminal efforts was deceit, knowingly false claims of election fraud, and the evidence shows that he used these lies as a weapon to defeat a federal government function foundational to the United States' democratic process".In August 2023, Trump was charged with working to overturn the election, but the case was delayed by appeals and ultimately significantly narrowed by the Supreme Court, which held for the first time that former Presidents enjoy sweeping

immunity from criminal prosecution for official acts.

“The (Justice) Department’s view that the Constitution prohibits the continued indictment and prosecution of a President is categorical and does not turn on the gravity of the crimes charged, the strength of the government’s proof, or the merits of the prosecution, which the Office stands fully behind,” the report said.

"But for Trump's election and imminent return to the Presidency, the Office assessed that the admissible evidence was sufficient to obtain and sustain a conviction at trial."The President-elect had pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Although much of the evidence cited in Smith's report was already made public before, it also includes some new details like prosecutors considering charging Trump with inciting the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol under a US law known as the Insurrection Act.But prosecutors ultimately concluded that such a charge

posed legal risks and there was insufficient evidence that Trump intended for the "full scope" of violence during the riot, a failed attempt by a mob of his supporters to stop Congress from certifying the 2020 election.

The indictment charged Trump with conspiring to obstruct the election certification, defraud the US of accurate election results and deprive American voters of their voting rights.Smith's office determined that charges may have been justified against some co-conspirators accused of helping Trump carry out the plan, but the report said prosecutors reached no final conclusions.

Meanwhile, a second section of the report details Smith's case accusing Trump of illegally retaining sensitive national security documents after leaving the White House in 2021. But the Justice Department said that it would not make that section public as legal proceedings continue against two Trump associates charged in the case.

Federal Probe Begins Into Deadly Los Angeles Fires

Los Angeles. A huge federal probe was under way Tuesday into what caused the deadly Los Angeles wildfires, with millions in the city clamoring for answers.Social media has exploded with theories about what started blazes that tore through the city of Altadena and the upmarket neighborhood of Pacific Palisades, killing at least 24 people and leaving whole communities in ruins.Suggestions include downed power lines, deliberate arson, a stray firework and the reignition of an earlier fire.

But Jose Medina of the federal Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), which is leading the inquiry, said it was too early to say.

"We know everyone wants answers, and the community deserves answers. ATF will give you those answers, but it will be once we complete a thorough investigation," he told reporters.The ATF is working with local law enforcement, as well as the Forest Service and the US Attorney's office, in an operation that will involve around 75 people.Fire investigators, chemists, electrical engineers and sniffer dogs trained



to detect accelerant will be doing painstaking fieldwork to find the seats of the two fires, he said.A team will also be deployed to gather clues from the local community and online, conducting interviews with possible witnesses.

"We are following all the leads and processing all the physical evidence," Medina said."ATF is determined to leverage every available resource to deliver a thorough and transparent investigation.Internet users have leapt on a video posted by trail runners that shows them running away from smoke in hills above Pacific Palisades.

But one of the men, Beni Oren, told the Los Angeles Times they had nothing to do with the fire, and had actually been fleeing for their lives in the video.

"It's definitely kind of infuriating that people are blaming us," he told the paper."Just knowing as a matter of fact... that we didn't do it but then seeing the amount of people that have different theories is overwhelming."Local media reported that a number of homeowners in the Altadena area have launched a lawsuit against power company Southern California Edison after a video appeared to show flames at the base of an electrical transmission tower.

North Korean Troops "Blowing Themselves Up" To Avoid Capture In Ukraine

Kyiv. After an intense battle with Russian forces this week, Ukrainian special forces were scouring dead bodies from the snowy western terrain of the Kursk region, where they discovered corpses of over a dozen North Korean enemy troops. Among them, they found one soldier was still alive. But as Ukrainian soldiers approached him, the lone North Korean detonated his own grenade, blowing himself up to avoid being captured, Ukraine's Special Operations Forces said in a post on X, describing the intense fighting in the occupied Kursk region.



testimonies of defectors that some North Korean soldiers are resorting to extreme measures as they support Russia's three-year war with Ukraine.

'Soldiers Being Brainwashed'

The incident is the latest documentation of the lengths the North Korean troops are willing to go to avoid capture and become prisoners of war to be presented as proof of Pyongyang and Moscow's blatant military alliance. The "brainwashed" Hermit Kingdom

troops, who are being told it is treason to be taken prisoner, are posing a new challenge for Ukraine, officials said.

"Self-detonation and suicides: that's the reality about North Korea," Kim, a 32-year-old former North Korean soldier who defected to the South in 2022, told Reuters."These soldiers who left home for a fight there have been brainwashed and are truly ready to sacrifice themselves for Kim Jong Un," he added, referring to the reclusive North Korean leader.Kim had reportedly worked for North Korea's military in Russia for about seven years up until 2021 on construction projects to earn foreign currency for the regime. According to him, for some North Korean soldiers, being captured and sent back to Pyongyang would be seen as a fate worse than death.

Qatar Says Gaza Truce Deal In "Final Stages": What We Know So Far

Doha. Key mediator Qatar said negotiations for a Gaza truce and hostage release deal were in their "final stages" on Tuesday, expressing hope an agreement could be reached "very soon".Qatar, Egypt and the United States have intensified efforts to broker a ceasefire to enable the release of hostages taken during Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel.Late on Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu went into a meeting with top security officials to discuss the deal, his office said."The ball is now in Hamas's court," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said earlier. "If Hamas accepts, the deal is ready to be concluded and implemented."US President Joe Biden and his Egyptian counterpart Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said in a phone call on Tuesday that both sides needed to show "flexibility" to get a deal over the line, according to a statement from Sisi's office.



Biden had said the day before that an agreement was "on the brink" of being finalised, just ahead of the inauguration of his successor, Donald Trump.Qatar foreign ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari on Tuesday said the negotiations were in their "final stages"."Certainly we are hopeful that this would lead very soon to an agreement," Ansari said, while adding that "until there is an announcement... we shouldn't be over-excited".

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar, meanwhile, said during a visit to Rome that there was a "true willingness from our side to reach an agreement". Hamas's October 7 attack, the deadliest in

Israel's history, resulted in the deaths of 1,210 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally of official Israeli figures.On that day, militants also took 251 people hostage, 94 of whom are still being held in Gaza, including 34 the Israeli military says are dead.Israel's retaliatory campaign in Gaza has killed 46,645 people, a majority of them civilians, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory, whose figures the UN considers reliable.'Act Now'Relatives of Israeli hostages and war-battered Palestinians in Gaza waited anxiously for the deal to be finalised."Time is of the essence," said Gil Dickmann, cousin of former hostage Carmel Gat, whose body was recovered from a Gaza tunnel in September."Hostages who are alive will end up dead. Hostages who are dead might be lost," Dickmann told AFP at a rally in Jerusalem. "We have to act now."Umm Ibrahim Abu Sultan said from Khan Yunis in southern Gaza that she had "lost everything" in the war.

US to lift Cuba's terrorism tag in exchange for release of political prisoners

World. The Biden administration said on Tuesday it would remove Cuba from its terrorism blacklist, while Cuba said separately it would release upward of 500 prisoners from its jails, dual announcements poised to reshape US-Cuba relations just days before Donald Trump takes office.President Joe Biden's announcements effectively roll back many of the sanctions put in place by President-elect Trump during his previous term ending in 2021. If they endure, they would represent the most significant advance in US-Cuba relations since the Obama-era detente.Trump, a harsh Cuba critic who designated the island a state sponsor of terrorism - has not yet commented on the measures but has promised a hard line on the communist-run country. He also nominated US Senator Marco Rubio, the son of immigrants from Cuba and an outspoken critic of the island's government, as Secretary of State.Biden's announced

plans - subject to the review of Congress and the incoming Trump administration - would lift Trump's 2021 designation of Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism, easing sanctions on an island already suffering a deep economic crisis.They would also revoke a 2017 Trump order that restricted financial transactions with some military- and government-linked Cuban entities, according to a senior administration official.Biden also seeks to prevent individuals from filing lawsuits against both Cuban entities and foreign companies under the Helms-Burton Act over property seized following Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution, the official said.

Just one hour after the US announcement, Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel announced his government planned to "gradually" release 553 prisoners following talks with Pope Francis.Cuba faced sharp criticism from rights groups, the United States and the European Union



following the imprisonment of hundreds of protesters after riots on July 11, 2021, the largest since Castro's revolution.

It was not immediately clear whether the prisoners to be released had been detained following those protests.A Cuban foreign ministry statement said the decision reflected the "humanitarian nature of the Cuban justice system" but did not tie the prisoner release to the Biden announcement.Cuba's government called

the breakthrough a step in the "right direction," but accused the US of continued "economic warfare" against the island, warning that the measures could be quickly rolled back and that the Cold War-era US trade embargo against Cuba remained.Trump, who takes office on Jan. 20, may seek to revive the sanctions overturned by Biden once in office. His transition team and Rubio's Senate office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.An official said Biden and Trump's teams had "been in communication" on the topic.

In a brief letter to Congress, Biden said the actions announced on Tuesday were "necessary to the national interests of the United States and will expedite a transition to democracy in Cuba."

PRISONER RELEASE

Cuba has been discussing the possibility of a prisoner amnesty with Vatican officials since at least 2023.

NEWS BOX

NorthEast United hold FC Goa to thrilling 1-1 draw

GUWAHATI. Hosts NorthEast United FC came from behind to hold FC Goa to a 1-1 draw in a fiercely-contested Indian Super League (ISL) match here on Tuesday.Mohammad Yasir gave FC Goa the lead in the 65th minute, but Jithin MS equalised for NorthEast United in the 76th minute as the two teams shared the spoils. This was the 11th draw between the two sides, the highest number of stalemates between any teams in the competition's history.

The Highlanders began the game on the front foot, with Guillermo Fernandez and Alaeddine Ajaraie making threatening runs that kept the FC Goa defenders on alert.

However, the first clear opportunity of the match fell to FC Goa when Dejan Drazic delivered a precise cross to Armando Sadiku in the penalty area. Sadiku's header, however, lacked the power to trouble Gurmeet Singh in goal.Shortly afterwards, Ajaraie came close to opening the scoring when Buanthanglun Samte sent a long pass his way. The Moroccan forward raced through on goal but saw his effort tipped over the bar by Hrithik Tiwari.Despite soaking up pressure from the hosts for much of the first half, FC Goa finished the half on a strong note.The second half began in a similar fashion, with NorthEast United showing great intent but struggling to break through FC Goa's resolute defence.

In the 59th minute, assistant coach Naushad Moosa made a tactical adjustment, introducing Nestor Albiach and Ninthoinganba Meetei in place of Guillermo and Muthu Mayakkannan.

Nestor almost made an immediate impact when he combined with Ajaraie in a slick give-and-go move, but Hrithik lost the ball amidst a crowd of players, allowing Odei Onandia to clear the danger.Against the run of play, FC Goa broke the deadlock in the 65th minute. Jay Gupta sent a long ball into the penalty area, which Mohammad Yasir played towards Brison. The youngster returned the ball to Yasir, who fired it into the bottom-right corner, giving the Gaurs a crucial lead.

The Highlanders responded with determination, opting for counter-attacking football. Ajaraie showcased excellent hold-up play before delivering a brilliant through ball to Jithin MS, who calmly slotted the ball past Hrithik in the 76th minute to restore parity.Both teams pushed for a winner in the closing stages, but neither could find the decisive goal, leaving the match tied at 1-1.

Trying to focus on building my innings, says Shafali Verma

CHENNAI. Shafali Verma is very much aware of where she stands at the moment. The India opener last turned up in the Blues during the ODI series against New Zealand after the early exit in the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup. Verma had scores of 33, 11 and 12 in the home ODIs versus White Ferns after finishing the global event with a disappointing 97 runs at 24.25. She was neither a part of the team that toured Australia nor the home series against West Indies and Ireland.In these trying times, the 20-year-old has gone back to the domestic circuit. From the senior women one-dayers — where she finished as leading run-scorer with 527 runs at 152.31 SR — to the ongoing senior women challengers in Chennai, Verma has been accumulating runs for fun.It was no different on Monday as Team A, which had already qualified for the final, took on Team D at the MA Chidambaram Stadium.During the chase of 212, Verma smashed 115 off 70 balls — a knock that had 14 fours and six 6s — and by the time she got out the victory was all but sealed. It was her third century in the format since getting dropped and she has also scored five fifties. Apart from the lone LBW shout early on against Saika Ishaque, there was not a moment where she looked like she was getting out. So much that it felt like she was too good for this level.

Ask her if making a comeback to the Indian team has been an extra motivation, Verma answers it in a matter of fact manner.“I think this is my job to do well for the team. I know I am dropped from the (Indian) team but it is my job to play well for the team (whichever I play for). And now, my focus is on challengers and I want to do well in the final and we win the trophy,” she told the select media at the venue after the match on Monday.

The 20-year-old said that the message from the team management has been about believing in herself and backing your strengths. While there is no doubt about her batting ability, one of the concerns raised was about her fielding. Although she didn't do much wrong in that department on Sunday, one has to wait and see how things are going forward.

For Verma, the focus has been on spending time in the middle and playing the long innings. She admits that not much has changed in terms of her batting technique but is trying to build the innings and convert starts. She is aware of the fact that the longer she stays, the higher the possibility of her team winning.

Liverpool held to draw by Nottingham Forest, Manchester City let 2-goal lead slip

New Delhi . Liverpool were forced to settle for a draw by in-form Nottingham Forest while Manchester City capitulated and let a 2-goal lead slip away from home against Brentford on Tuesday, January 14. Elsewhere, Chelsea had captain Reece James to thank for their draw against Bournemouth, while Graham Potter got his first win as West Ham United manager as they edged past Fulham in a 5-goal thriller.

Diogo Jota's crucial second-half header salvaged a 1-1 draw for Liverpool against an impressive Nottingham Forest on Tuesday, preserving their six-point lead at the top of the Premier League. Forest, enjoying an extraordinary campaign after narrowly escaping relegation last season, stunned the league leaders early on. Chris Wood struck in the eighth minute, capitalising on a vibrant atmosphere at the City Ground.

Liverpool, whose sole league loss this season came against Forest in September, seemed on course for another upset. However, Jota rose to the occasion in the 66th minute, nodding in from a corner to restore parity. The visitors pushed for a winner, with Jota and



Mohamed Salah both testing Forest goalkeeper Matz Sels late on. Sels' heroics ensured Forest held on for a valuable point, leaving Liverpool six points clear of second-placed Forest, who have played one game more.

Manchester City let lead slip

Elsewhere, Manchester City squandered a two-goal lead as Brentford mounted a dramatic late comeback to secure a 2-2 draw in a thrilling encounter. City, aiming to build momentum after a turbulent November and December, looked to have turned a corner following recent wins over Leicester and West Ham. Yet their defensive frailties resurfaced at the Brentford Community

Hours after shock PSL retirement, Pakistan pacer Ihsanullah makes U-turn

New Delhi . Hours after announcing his shock retirement from the Pakistan Super League (PSL), pacer Ihsanullah decided to reverse his decision. The 22-year-old claim that he had made the call in the heat of the moment and apologised for his actions.Ihsanullah officially announced his retirement from the PSL following his omission from the season 10 draft. The 22-year-old expressed frustration over the lack of recognition despite his consistent performances, leading to his decision to step away from Pakistan's premier T20 competition. Speaking in a candid interview with Public News, Ihsanullah shared his disappointment at being overlooked during the draft held on January 13. He clarified that his decision was not made in the heat of the moment but was a well-considered choice after thoroughly reflecting on the situation.

The pacer also claimed that he would make the doubters 'chase him' by bowling at a



pace of 150-160 km/h.However, as quoted by ARY News, Ihsanullah has gone back on his statements and said he made the retirement call purely on emotions. The 22-year-old also said that his friends and family messed with his head.“There's no plan for retirement, I announced the decision yesterday in emotions”.

“When I wasn't picked in the PSL draft, my friends & family also messed with my head and I announced retirement in the heat of the

moment”.Ihsanullah also vowed to work hard and make a comeback in domestic cricket to ensure he would have buyers next time around and also apologised to the Multan Sultans for his statement.

Ihsanullah, who made a name for himself with an impressive 22 wickets at an economy rate of 7.59 during PSL 8 for Multan Sultans, quickly caught the attention of selectors and earned a spot in Pakistan's T20I squad. He made his international debut against Afghanistan in March 2023 and later featured in a series against New Zealand. Ihsanullah also earned his maiden ODI cap during the same series.However, his promising rise was abruptly derailed by an elbow injury, which led to significant controversy over the handling of his recovery. An independent investigation into the matter resulted in the resignation of Pakistan's chief medical officer, further highlighting the mishandling of his rehabilitation process.

James to the rescue for Chelsea
Meanwhile, Reece James rescued Chelsea with a stunning 95th-minute free-kick to earn a 2-2 draw against Bournemouth at

Stamford Bridge. James, returning from injury as a second-half substitute, curled a brilliant shot into the far corner, denying Bournemouth a famous win.Chelsea had dominated the first half, taking the lead through Cole Palmer. However, Bournemouth levelled early in the second half when Justin Kluivert converted a penalty.

The visitors then shocked the home crowd in the 78th minute, with Antoine Semenyo blasting a fierce strike past Robert Sanchez at the near post to make it 2-1. Despite James' late heroics, it was another frustrating outing for Chelsea, who are now winless in five league matches. They remain fourth on 37 points, while Bournemouth sit seventh with 34 points.West Ham United edged past Fulham in a thrilling 3-2 victory on Tuesday, marking a winning start for new manager Graham Potter in his Premier League debut with the Hammers. Despite being outplayed for much of the first half, West Ham struck twice in quick succession to turn the tide. Carlos Soler opened the scoring, and Tomas Soucek doubled the lead just two minutes later, leaving the visitors stunned.

Australian Open: Aryna Sabalenka survives 2nd set scare to beat Jessica Bouzas

New Delhi . Defending Champion and World No.1 Aryna Sabalenka was able to survive a major second set scare against Spain's Jessica Bouzas Maneiro to progress to the third round of the Australian Open 2025 on Wednesday, January 15. Sabalenka was able to win the match 6-3, 7-5 to win her second round match after finding herself in a lot of trouble in the second set of the match.Bouzas, a star on the rise in tennis, made the World No.1 sweat as she was leading in the second set 4-1 and 5-2 at one point before the Belarussian made a stunning comeback to win the match. Sabalenka didn't have the best of times in the first match against Sloanne Stephens as she was forced to fight hard in the first set before winning the match. A similar sort of script unfolded in the game on Wednesday.



Sabalenka started the game by breaking the young Spaniard's serve and took a 2-0 lead. However, Bouzas would bounce back by breaking the World No.1's serve to cut the deficit. The chaos would continue as the duo would trade breaks once again as Sabalenka was left frustrated, despite leading the set 3-2. However, the World No.1 snapped back into form, putting her service woes behind her and fired off three winning games to take the first set. The Spaniard was, however, on the top of her game in the second set with confidence on the baseline coming to her aid.

Errors started to creep into the game of Sabalenka, who found herself trailing 2-5 and on the verge of losing the second one. However, the World No.1 would dig deep and broke Bouzas to make the game 5-5. The Spaniard would have 2 double faults to allow Sabalenka to take the lead in the contest and serve for the match.Despite having 2 match points, Sabalenka was given a bit more trouble by Bouzas, who would make it deuce and hold the chance of forcing it into a tiebreaker. However, the World No.1 was able to hold on and extend her winning streak in Melbourne to 16 matches.Sabalenka will now face Clara Tauson in the next round.

Aakash Chopra questions India's T20 World Cup hero's absence in England series

New Delhi.Former India cricketer turned commentator, Aakash Chopra questioned the absence of India all-rounder Shivam Dube from the squad for the upcoming T20I series against England. Dube last played for India in the T20I series on the tour to Sri Lanka in July 2024. He was further picked for the following series against Bangladesh but didn't feature in the playing XI.However, he was dropped from the team for the subsequent four-match T20I series in South Africa due to injury. Recently, Aakash Chopra spoke about Dube's sudden mysterious absence from T20Is despite him being a part of India's T20 World Cup 2024 winning squad."What happened to Shivam Dube? I wanted to talk about Ruturaj (Gaikwad) as well but he is not able to make his place. Rajat Patidar is



also there. Obviously, there is a lot of batting. However, now I am going to focus a little bit on Shivam Dube. He was a member of the T20 World Cup-winning team," Chopra said on his Youtube Channel.

Furthermore, Chopra mentioned Dube's valuable contribution in the final of the tournament where the southpaw scored a quick-fire 27 off 16 balls, smashing three

fours and a six.

Dube's remarkable performance in Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2024-25

"When you win, everyone should get the credit. He even played decently in the final.

Before that, there were definitely some questions that he wasn't fielding or batting well. However, then he played well and became the T20 World Cup champion," Chopra added.

Dube recently had a good season for Mumbai in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2024-25, scoring 151 runs from five innings at an average of 75.50 and a stunning strike rate of 179.76 with a highest score of 71 not out off 37 balls vs Services. In his T20I career so far, Dube has scored 448 runs from 24 innings at an average of 29.86 with three fifties to his name. With the ball, he's scalped

11 wickets in 23 innings. It remains to be seen when does he get the opportunity to don India's T20I jersey again.

Australian Open: Olympic champion Zheng stunned, Mirra Andreeva survives scare

New Delhi. The Olympic champion and last year's runner-up at the Australian Open, Zheng Qinwen, was dumped out of the competition, while Mirra Andreeva survived a major scare against Japan's Moyuka Uchijima to win the match in 3 sets. Zheng was defeated 7-6, 6-3 by Laura Siegemund in what was a frustrating day for the Chinese star on Wednesday. The Olympic champion was looking to emulate her compatriot Li Na's run during the 2014 edition and win the tournament.Zheng faced early pressure, narrowly saving a break point in the third game with the help of her powerful serve. However, Siegemund, the oldest player in the women's draw, showed no signs of intimidation, matching Zheng from the baseline and disrupting her rhythm. Despite Zheng's reputation for her strong serve, Siegemund excelled in her returns, hitting 11 winners off the return in



the opening set. At 4-4, the German created two break-point opportunities after Zheng received a time violation. Although Zheng saved the first, an unforced error on the second handed Siegemund the break.

Serving for the set, The German faltered as her footwork deserted her, allowing Zheng to break back comfortably. The set headed into

a tiebreak, where Siegemund capitalised on two mini-breaks to lead 6-3 and clinched the set on her first opportunity.Riding on the momentum, Siegemund broke Zheng's serve early in the second set to take a commanding 2-0 lead. Zheng, appearing sluggish, managed to level the score after benefitting from two moments of good fortune—a net cord winner and a miraculous return that skimmed the sideline after traveling around the post.However, Zheng's composure unravelled after a second time violation in the next game cost her a first serve at 15-30. Frustrated, the Olympic champion argued with the umpire about her inability to see the shot clock, but her protests were dismissed. The incident left her visibly rattled, and she double-faulted on break point, gifting Siegemund a 3-1 lead.Zheng's struggles continued as a string of unforced errors

handed Siegemund a 4-1 advantage. The German maintained her focus and served out the match, securing a memorable victory. Siegemund now advances to the third round, where she will face the winner of the all-Russian matchup between Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova and Anastasia Potapova.

Andreeva survives Uchijima test

The 14th seed Andreeva was forced to dig deep into her arsenal by Uchijima as she won the match 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 to reach the third round. The 17-year-old had won the first set but found herself in all sorts of trouble in the rest of the game.

The Russian dropped the second set to the Japanese star and found herself almost exiting the competition. Uchijima, who was serving for the match in the third set with a 5-4 score, was unable to hold on to her advantage and allowed Andreeva to force a tiebreaker.



Seema Kiran Sajdeh Gives A Special Shout To

Malaika Arora

'Scarlet House, Take A Bow'

Bollywood BFFs Seema Kiran Sajdeh and Malaika Arora recently enjoyed quality time with one another At Scarlett House Bombay. And their families had also joined them. From posing with their close ones to indulging in some scrumptious meals, the evening was completely filled with love and laughter. Seema posted a couple of pictures on her Instagram handle to update her fans about the beautiful evening. In the opening frame of Seema Kiran Sajdeh's carousel, she was seen posing for a group picture with her best friends, Malaika Arora and her sister, Amrita Arora. Seema's son, Nirvan Khan, Malaika Arora's son, Arhaan Khan, and Amrita Arora's husband, Shakeel Ladak, also joined the frame captured on a lovely spot in the Mumbai restaurant. In the following slide, Seema was seen descending the stairs, followed by the other glimpses, giving a sneak peek into the guests joining them. The Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives fame's pictures also featured Abedin Sham, a co-founder of Abode Bombay, a boutique hotel in Mumbai, Richa Sajdeh and her husband, Buntly Sajdeh, the Managing Director and CEO of Dharma Cornerstone Agency.

A few of the pictures also showed the delicious snacks all the pals savoured over there. One slide showed a plate filled with rice on one side and what appeared to be delicious prawn curry. A glass of some drink was also kept near the platter. Following this, we can spot an assortment of some lovely dishes in another frame. From tarts, pasta and khichdi to many other dishes, the picture screamed deliciousness in all senses.

Seema also posed for some fun selfies with Malaika, Amrita, and their close ones. And in the last picture she was seen pouting towards Amrita, showing her love towards her BFFs. Sharing the bunch of photos and videos, Seema gave a shoutout to the restaurant and wrote, "Scarlet house take a bow." She further hashtagged the post with words like "what a vibe", "great food", "smashing in", "new spot", "absolutely fabulous", "bandra", "must visit", "some of my fav peeps"

Soon after Seema dropped the post, Malaika commented, "Thank u @seemakiransajdeh love u." Meanwhile, Amrita mentioned her love towards her and penned, "Seemus," followed by red hearts. Many social media users also showered love on them. One user added, "Seema's son can definitely make it in Bollywood. Looks great," while another stated, "Wow looks amazing!" One more comment can be read as "Food looks delic." "Wow beautiful pics," another comment read while someone said, "Bhai ki family h." For the hangout, Seema stunned in a white top teamed with denim pants and a pair of white sneakers. Malaika wore a white crop top with black shorts and heels. While Arhaan sported a white shirt with matching pants, Nirvaan picked a black T-shirt with matching pants and white sneakers. Seema and Malaika's wonderful bond is evident in the recent joyful moments featuring their sons and respective families. For those unaware, the duo were previously married to the Khan family. While Malaika was married to Arbaaz Khan, Seema was married to Sohail Khan.



Sidharth Malhotra Flies Out Of Mumbai With Kiara Advani Ahead Of His 40th Birthday



Sidharth Malhotra is all set to celebrate his 40th birthday on January 16. Looks like the Shershaah actor and his wife Kiara Advani have jetted off for a vacay ahead of his special day. The couple made a stylish appearance at the Mumbai airport on Tuesday morning, and as usual, shelled out major couple goals as they walked hand-in-hand. Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani were spotted at the Mumbai airport by the paparazzi. They looked uber-chic as they got out of the car, and headed towards the airport. The Kabir Singh actress looked gorgeous in a grey V-neck sweater paired with white pants. She left her hair open, and accessorized her stylish look with dark sunglasses and a red handbag. Meanwhile, Sidharth Malhotra looked dapper in a black tee layered with a matching jacket and jeans. He also donned dark sunglasses. Kiara and Sidharth held hands and politely smiled for paparazzi pictures, before making their way inside the airport. Check out the video below!

Soon after the video surfaced, fans gushed over the lovely couple. While one Instagram user commented, "The og couple," another one wrote, "Aww cutest." Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani tied the knot on 7th February, 2023, in a traditional Hindu wedding ceremony in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. The couple never fails to shell out major couple goals. In December, they melted hearts on social media when they shared a cosy Christmas photo. In the picture, the couple can be seen giving a warm hug, while standing in front of a beautifully decorated Christmas tree. Taking to Instagram, the couple wrote, "Merry Christmas from us to you."

On the professional front, Kiara Advani was recently seen in 'Game Changer', starring Ram Charan. Next up, she has Farhan Akhtar's 'Don 3' in which she will be seen opposite Ranveer Singh. If reports are to be believed, she will also be seen opposite Yash in his next film 'Toxic'. Meanwhile, she will also reportedly be entering the Maddock Films supernatural universe with the film 'Shakti Shalini'.

Aamir Khan's Daughter Ira Khan On Her Bond With Brother Junaid: 'We Fought Every Single Day Until...'



While Aamir Khan's son Junaid Khan stepped foot into Bollywood with Maharaj last year, his daughter Ira Khan has no plans to foray into the film industry. In a recent chat, Ira opened up about her relationship with her brother Junaid Khan, who will soon make his big-screen debut with the film Loveyapa. Junaid is 5 years older than Ira, and the latter said that they both fought a lot until he finished school. Post that, their sibling bond evolved, and they actually became very close. Speaking with People Of India about her bond with Junaid Khan, Ira said, "I don't know whether this happens with all siblings but either I wanted to be exactly like him in some aspects, while in some aspects I had to be exactly the opposite. He liked Manchester United. So I had to not like Manchester United." She further added, "We fought every single day till he finished school. When he went to college, he got a life, so he stopped troubling me and then we actually became very close. So it was a very big shift but it was a fun shift."

When asked about her relationship with her father Aamir Khan, and whether she knew about his celebrity status since childhood, she said, "I probably didn't fully understand it. But I have known, since I could remember, that he is a celebrity." She also mentioned that students in her school were also aware. "I don't think anyone judged me, but yeah, people wanted to be friends with me because they were excited about who my dad was. But I don't think anyone necessarily thought bad of me. At least not to my face." "With all parents, until you're a certain age, you don't see them as people. You see them as your parents. And in that sense, it was the same. He would travel and be on shoot, and I lived with my mom. But he would always check if anyone in school was troubling me or if everything was fine. We played a lot of board games and we were very competitive. All three of us- Junaid, dad and me. During Covid, we spent a lot of time together," she continued. Meanwhile, Ira Khan has been showing her support for her brother Junaid Khan's upcoming film 'Loveyapa' with Khushi Kapoor. Just yesterday, she shared a video of team Loveyapa's fun, goofy reel which shows Junaid, Khushi and others singing and swaying to the title track of the film. Ira Khan was amazed to see her brother Junaid Khan's fun, lively and playful side.

Rupali Ganguly

Opens Up On Being Considered A 'Failure' In Film Industry: 'Casting Couch Existed...'

Rupali Ganguly has opened up about facing the casting couch in the film industry. In a recent interview, the Anupamaa actress mentioned that she was considered a 'failure' in films because it was her conscious decision to step away from Bollywood. "I didn't do well in films, and that was a choice I made because predominantly casting couch existed in the industry at that point of time. Maybe some people didn't come across it, but people like me did, and I decided not to make that choice. So, you are considered a failure because you come from a film family," she said, as quoted by Pinkvilla.

The actress further expressed her gratitude towards Rajan Shahi and talked about how the television show Anupamaa changed her life. "I did feel small back then, but thanks to Anupamaa, I feel very proud. The show gave me the stature that I always dreamt of. It has been a life-changing experience," she added.

Rupali Ganguly's Anupamaa is one of the top television shows today, which has been ruling the TRP charts for years now. However, a report recently claimed that the actress is likely to quit Rajan Shahi's show. Later, Rupali also broke silence on the report and called it baseless. In an emotional message, Rupali Ganguly

expressed her deep connection with Anupamaa and said, "Wow, people really have some overactive imagination. But thank you for talking about me and talking about the show. What can I say? Every person has a core, and my core, I believe, is gratitude. My husband and I both believe that whatever Rajan Ji has given me—the recognition, the platform, the position—I will never be able to repay it in this lifetime. And Anupamaa is not just a show for me; it's an emotion, it's my home, my second home, all my fur babies are



here, and the unit has become like a family."

"So, does anyone leave their family, their home? And God forbid, may it never happen in life. If Rajan Ji ever says that he doesn't need me anymore, then I might fight with him, or argue, and say, 'Please let me stay in Anupamaa.' I opened the gate for this show, and I will remain part of this show till the end. Even if I have to face obstacles, I will not leave," she added.

