

Business & Entertainment

Free food scheme

The Centre provides rice at Rs 3 per kg and wheat at Rs 2 per kg to 81.35 crore eligible Indians under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). Each member of a poor family is entitled to 5 kg of foodgrains every month. The poorest families, covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana, get 35 kg of foodgrains each per month. The decision not to charge even the highly subsidised rates for a year from January comes with the announcement of discontinuation of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana from December 31. Under this scheme, which was launched in April 2020 amid the Covid pandemic, 5 kg of free foodgrains was provided to every person on top of the NFSA entitlement. The welfare programme was extended several times, the latest being in September, when the government added another three months, possibly keeping in mind the crucial state elections.

Editorial

The move to provide free grains under the food law is likely to soften to an extent the blow suffered by the poor on account of disbanding of the Garib Kalyan Yojana. The safety net remains, but has been trimmed. Fiscal pressures and tight supplies globally have likely played a part. The discontinued food programme had been popular for helping absorb the pandemic shock, but it increased the need for an abundant supply of cheap grains. This year, India has had to restrict exports after an erratic weather-hit harvest and the upheaval in global agricultural markets owing to the Russia-Ukraine war.

75 per cent of the rural populace. The high number of beneficiaries is a reality check on the plight of millions in one of the world's fastest-growing economies. Unemployment remains the most pressing concern. As fiscal prudence guides policy-makers, the government needs to keep exploring fresh interventions so that the benefits of a booming India reach the last mile.

Raveena Tandon goes the Aranyak way

The Anvayins Kaziranga Ultra Run 2023 scheduled for January 28, 2023 has a unique social objective - to express support for the rare-one horned rhinoceros and deepen public consciousness for the glorious animal.

Noted Bollywood actor, Raveena Tandon has come on board to support the cause of rhinos while promoting Northeast India. A wildlife enthusiast and activist herself, Raveena will also be visiting the Kaziranga National Park in early 2023 with Anvayins for a rendezvous with the animal and understand the various efforts for its conservation. Speaking at the press conference held at Mumbai on December 21, 2022, Raveena said, "It is important for mankind to understand that life is about coexistence. When you build roads across the jungle, it is important to fence them and make overhead or underground pathways for animals. Man-animal conflict will always exist, but when initiatives like Anvayins Kaziranga Ultra Run initiated by Nishikant Das are conceived to protect the rhino and other wildlife, they will always have my support."



The Anvayins Kaziranga Ultra Run 2023, the first ever ultra-run in Assam, will have four race categories for runners to choose from - 52 KM 26 KM, 14 KM and 5 KM. This trail runs through pristine rural settings, paddy fields and tea plantations that promise to make their city counterparts look less exciting. The Government of India through the Ministry of Development of Northeast Region (M-DoNER) has extended its support for the initiative while Sports Authority of India has endorsed the event under its Fit India Movement program. We are proud to be associated with Bandhan Bank as they present this event. We are also delighted to have HDFC ERGO as Wellness Partner and HDFC Life as Life Insurance Partner. Resort Borgos, one of the premium properties at Kaziranga has joined as the Venue Partner. The event is organized by Anvayins Travels Private Limited, a Northeast India focused travel and hospitality platform that offers curated journeys through the region. Kaziranga, arguably the best-known face of Assam, is home to the rare one-horned rhinoceros. After a steady decline in its population largely due to poaching, the number of rhinos has gradually increased in the last decade due to focused efforts by the government and various foundations dedicated to rhino conservation. In line with the goal of the ultra-run, a portion of funds available in excess of expenses of the event will be contributed towards the conservation of the Kaziranga rhino. Nishikant Das, founder and CEO, Anvayins expressed, "This event not only aims at making a contribution to the cause of rhino conservation but also is another initiative by Anvayins to facilitate a deeper understanding of Northeast India, a land of exquisite natural beauty and extraordinary socio-cultural practices amongst the rest of the country. Accordingly, we are determined to make it an annual national event."

Dr. Lalit Bhasin honoured

Dr. Lalit Bhasin honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award This honour was bestowed in the distinguished presence of many King's Counsel from England and several legal luminaries from India. The venue in the House of Lords was overlooking river Thames and the London Eye.



Mr. Harish Salve, eminent Senior Counsel of India was also conferred Lifetime Achievement Award. The Award presenters were Ms. Lubna Shuja, President of the Law Society of England and Wales, Mr. Virender Sharma, Member House of Commons, Mr. Marc Fenhall, President Bar Council of U.K. and Mr. Ajit Mishra, Chairman U.K. - India, Legal Partnership.

Hindustan Zinc extends support by providing Oncology Vehicle to RNT Medical college, Udaipur

Udaipur: Hindustan Zinc, has always been at the forefront of ensuring health, be it of its employees or local communities. On 60th Foundation Day of Rabintra Nath Tagore (RNT) Medical Institution, the company handed over Oncology Vehicle to the Hospital for greater good. Mr. C.P. Joshi - Speaker Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha, Mr. Gulab Chand Katariya - Member of Legislative Assembly, Mr. Arun Misra - CEO, Hindustan Zinc, and RNT Head and Principal - Dr. Lakhan Poswal were present during the ceremony.

The Oncology Vehicle inaugurated under Hindustan Zinc's Swasthya Sewa project will add

to our consistent efforts to support and strengthen the medical infrastructure for extending quality medical care to the community. The Vehicle is well equipped with the latest systems and designed for early detection of various cancers like Lung Cancer, Breast Cancer, Cervical cancer, and Oral & ENT screening. The objective is to further provide access to cutting-edge therapies, treatment delivery that emphasizes value-based care, and a focus on the patient and caregiver experience.

On the occasion, Mr. Arun Misra, CEO of Hindustan Zinc, said, "Hindustan Zinc has always been committed



towards ensuring welfare of the communities around. The Oncology vehicle will monitor and aid in conducting cancer screening tests

by visiting different rural areas of Udaipur and nearby districts. The idea is to provide high-quality healthcare to the doorsteps of our communi-

ties. A team of highly skilled and knowledgeable doctors with extensive experience in various areas of cancer care will be utilizing this Mobile

Preventive Oncology vehicle.

Hindustan Zinc has extended various healthcare facilities, such as OPDs through Mobile Health Vans, special health camps, and awareness sessions in the villages around its business locations. A total of 7 Mobile Health Vans operate across 182 villages in Rajasthan and one in Uttarakhand. Aside from MHVs, health services are also provided by company-run hospitals and homeopathic centre. Over the course of the year, more than 2 million patients have benefited from various health initiatives and programs conducted by Hindustan Zinc.

"My dream of working with Vikram Gokhle will always remain unfulfilled: Shabana Azmi

A prayer meeting in fond remembrance of veteran Artistes Vikram Gokhle was held at ISKCON Mumbai and was graced by the late actor's wife Vrushali Gokhle as well as actors of the likes of Shabana Azmi, Johnny Lever, CINTAA General Secretary Amit Behl, CINTAA Treasurer Abhay Bhargava, Sanjay Bhatia, Smita Jaykar, Gajendra Chauhan, Varun Badola, Rajeshwari Sachdev, Ravi Jhankal, Sudhir Pandey, Deepak Qazir Kejriwal, Anang Desai, and the CINTAA Executive Committee Members among others.

Dominic Luquer, General Secretary, FIA expressed his

solidarity on behalf of the global union. "The International



Federation of Actors (FIA), representing performers'

unions, guilds and professional associations in more

than 25 countries around the world, mourns the passing of

National Film Award winner Vikram Gokhle, President of the Cine & TV Artistes' Association (CINTAA) and one of Bollywood's greatest actors of all time. Coming from a family with a strong foothold in the Indian film industry, Vikram was an incredibly talented actor, celebrated and respected in his country and abroad for hundreds of roles in Marathi theatre as well as Hindi films and television. A hard-worker and perfectionist, he honed his talent to the finest of crafts, delivering stunning performances that will remain in the memory of all for times to come.

Vikram was also a convinced social activist and a selfless human being, spending

much of his own time and resources to help people in need and fellow performers.

"Vikram Gokhle's name alone brings me an overwhelming sense of happiness. Such a sweet, compassionate and respected man."

His presence made us feel safe. He never imposed, only guided us as the experienced actor he is. I have seen his performances in theatre and film, and wanted to work with him, but since I mainly work in Gujarati theatre, we never got the chance to work together on stage. But then came De Dhana Dhan and Bhoole Bhalaiya, where we worked morning, evening and night. He had a very majestic and

intense aura, and that reflected in his interactions with each of us," said Pooja Rawal.

Added Subhash Ghai, "Vikram Gokhle was an institution in himself. He has left behind unforgettable works that inspire future generations. Vikram ji is not just an inspiration as an actor. He was as inspiring as a human being. God bless him!"

Vikram Gokhle, the stalwart of Indian cinema, who passed away at 77 due to multiple organ failure, had many notable films, including Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam, Agneepath, Natrang, Khuda Gawah among others. He has left a void in this industry that will always remain.

The country got the pain of partition as the gift of freedom

Udaipur: The artists of Udaipur's theatre organization Natyansh Society of Dramatic and Performing Arts staged the play "Shab-e-Hijraan" on Saturday evening. "Shab-e-Hijraan" means the night of separation.

The historic day of August 15, 1947, when India got freedom from years of slavery, was yet another unfortunate day for the nation. India was gifted with independence as well as partition and countless nights of separation which became a part of the life of the common man.

Hindi and Urdu literature is full of tales of the struggle and pain of migrants who left their native places after the partition of India. Raavi Paar is one such story written by renowned writer and lyricist Sampurna Singh Kalra 'Gulzar'. The play 'Shab-e-Hijraan' has been prepared based on this story.



The play is set in the era of 1947 when the sun of freedom was rising for the people of India, but the cost and consequences of this freedom were still unknown to all of them. The British government's decision to divide India on the basis of religion devastated the lives of many, resulting in the biggest exodus in human history as the Indo-Pak partition.

Synopsis

Darshan Singh, the main character of the story, being troubled by the daily riots, for the safety of his family, makes up his mind to go to the Gurudwara with all the people, but when his Bhaba ji (father) does not agree, he stays in his house. After some time Bhabaji suddenly dies. Shortly after the death, Darshan Singh comes to live at the Gurudwara with his biji (mother) and pregnant wife. Distressed by the news of the riots, he decides to go to India. The day his wife, Shahani gives birth to twins, a special train arrives to pick up the refugees. Darshan Singh also leaves with his wife and children. Due to the cold on the way, a child dies. Darshan Singh unknowingly throws the living child into the river instead of the dead child when the river Ravi comes on the way. In this way, the play throws light on the state of mind of the people involved in the riots. This story tells how much our country lost even after getting independence. On one side there was the celebration of independence and on the

other side the sorrow of partition.

All the actors in the drama presented the sufferings and struggles of the common people who migrated from Pakistan to India and from India to Pakistan through their best performance and acting. The drama presented a glimpse of undivided India by showcasing the brotherhood between Hindus and Muslims, love for each other's traditions, lifestyle and religious beliefs.

The Punjabi attire of the characters, the purity of the dialogues, the ups and downs of emotions and the quality of expression brought the play to a different level. At the end of the play, Faiz Ahmad 'Faiz's' one - "Jo hum par guzri so guzri, magar Shab-e-Hijraan, hamare ashq teri aqibat (future) sanwar chale" by all the artists touched the audience.

In the cast

Program coordinator Mohammad Rizwan Mansuri said that Urvashi Kanwari, Yash Shakhweepiya, Mahaveer Sharma, Bhuvan Jain, Harsh Dubey, Mukul Khandia, Arshad Qureshi, Harshita Sharma, Dimple Khatir and Agastya Hardik Nagda enthralled the audience with their acting skills.

The play was adapted, conceived and directed by Amit Shirmali. Clothing configuration at the backstage - Urvashi Kanwarani, music coordinator - Bhuvan Jain, music operation, decoration and stage operation - Rekha Sisodia, lighting direction - Ashfaq Noor Khan Pathan, lighting operation - Mohammad Rizwan Mansuri. Stage assistants - Vinit Kanwarani and Yogeeta Sisodia cooperation was received.

Les Petits adds premium collection

New Delhi: Les Petits, the luxury fashion brand for kids, has come up with a premium collection from the leading international brands - Mayoral and Versace. With the new Mayoral collection, Les Petits has forayed into a sustainable offering in the Indian market.

By bringing the sustainable Mayoral collection, Les Petits is amping up the luxury kids' wear segment with eco-friendly products. It aims to raise the bar with durable, comfortable, and high-quality clothing well complemented by unique designs in line with the latest trends. With this offering, the brand conforms to fashionable clothing that manifests functionality at the same time. It caters to the varied requirements of kids enabling them to comfortably don the attire while accentuating the look with the exclusive fabric underscoring delicate detailing of urban tone.

In recent years, sustainable clothing has been on the virtue of making inroads in the market. This phenomenon has translated into conscious purchasing habits among consumers. Even parents want to give their children the best fashion while making environmentally wise selections for their kids. Being a luxury kids' wear brand, Les Petits diversified its collection with sustainable products to cater to the requirements of the parents while doing its bit as a conscious and responsible brand.

The collection from Versace brings the opportunity to embrace the much-coveted Italian fashion in the most opulent and exuberant form. The premium collection is the depiction of the designer's extravagant spirit that translates the sleek designs into the finest fashion statement. The striking designs can be a treasure for kids' wardrobes.



Speaking on the new collection, Ms Swati Saraf, President, Les Petits said, "Having set a benchmark by bringing leading international brands in the Indian kids' wear market, we consistently want to broaden the scope of the industry. As a lot of conversation is happening around sustainable clothing, we thought of venturing into this terrain as well. Understanding that children are quite sensitive to varied materials, this was a much-needed move to provide them with safe and natural products. And being a responsible brand, this is also a positive step towards a sustainable future with a focus on durable and recyclable products".

ARMY COMMANDER'S POLO CUP 2022 PLAYED AT JODHPUR WITH GREAT FERVOR

Jaipur: In continuance with the rich traditions and history of Jodhpur, Maharaja Gaj Singh Sports Foundation hosted the 23rd Jodhpur Polo Season 2022 at Jodhpur Polo Ground, from 06 to 31 December 22. In the series of eight exhibition matches, Army Commander's Polo Cup Exhibition Match 2022 was organised between Jodhpur Chargers



and Marwar Knights. Lieutenant General A K Singh, GOC - In - C Southern Command was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The match was also witnessed by Maharaja Gaj Singh II, Chief Benefactor of Jodhpur Polo and

Equestrian Club Institution, Lieutenant General Rakesh Kapoor, General Officer Commanding of Konark Corps and other military and civil dignitaries. The match commenced by throwing of ball by the Chief Guest and the breath taking match kept the audience (approximately 1200) sitting on the edge of their seats as it progressed towards an awe-struck crescendo. The post match Pipe and Brass Band display by Indian Army, remained the centre of attraction for the spectators.

The aim of this cup was to highlight the amity between the Royal Traditions of Rajasthan region and the culture of Indian Army along with their mutual legacy of warriors. Marwar Knights won the match, displaying exemplary coordination between man and horse.

The prize winners were felicitated by the Chief Guest. The event marked a symbol of solidarity and pride wherein the personnel of Indian Armed Forces and senior civil dignitaries witnessed the grand sport in its full colour and fervour

"African Digital Training Ambassador Award-2022"

Dr. Deepak Kumar Shrivastava, INELI South Asia Mentor, Divisional Librarian and Head, Government Divisional Public Library Kota, was awarded "African Digital Training



Ambassador Award-2022" by Africa's first synchronous learning platform for world leaders LAPLAGE METAVERSE Abuja, Nigeria - West Africa. Dr. Osaz Managing Director, LAPLAGE METAVERSE (LPMV) and the entire management team greet to Dr. Shrivastava for their exceptional strategy and impact on Public Library System of India.

Notable that La Plage Meta Verse starts training and grooming New Digital Facilitators. Dr. Shrivastava is the first Indian public librarian who has been selected and honored for this award and important responsibility. It is worth mentioning that Dr. Deepak Kumar Shrivastava is currently an International South Asia Mentor and a pioneer in promoting research by African Research Scholars.

Important to mention that Dr. Shrivastava has been selected for this Award on the basis of the feedback given by foreign researchers to this La Plage Meta Verse. Dr. Shrivastava is the first Indian Librarian of a public library whose name is considered for This Ambassadorship Award.