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# TIMES DAY

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**Akshay Kumar, Karan Johar meet PM Modi to discuss issues faced by film industry**

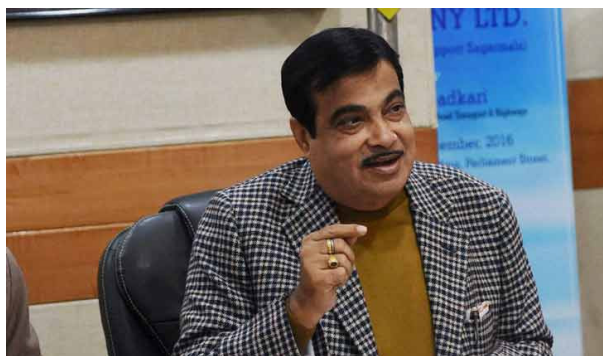
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## 13,000 BJP booth heads to interact with Amit Shah Sunday pramad



**New Delhi 19 December** : Over 13,000 BJP booth presidents will interact with party president Amit Shah at IGI Stadium Sunday. "The interaction will be followed by a question-answer session during which some will be given an opportunity to ask the party president about his election management formula in the run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha polls," head of booth management department of the Delhi BJP, Dharambir Singh, said. He said that 13,816 booth presidents and senior leaders, including ward councillors, MLAs, MPs, party president and others will attend the event. This will include Manoj Tiwari. Booth incharges are being issued barcode-based identity cards to ensure they attend the event, he said. There are a total of 13,816 polling booths across Delhi, and so far over 12,000 booth incharges have been appointed.

## Government body chief pitches for Nitin Gadkari as PM



**New Delhi 19 December** : Kishore Tiwari, who heads the government-appointed Vasant Naik Sheti Swavalamban Mission and holds MoS rank, has urged the RSS to replace Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Minister and Nagpur MP Nitin Gadkari "if the BJP wishes to win the 2019 Lok Sabha elections". He has made the demand in a letter to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat. In a press note, Tiwari said, "After the party's recent electoral debacle, animated discussions have ensued within and outside the BJP regarding the extreme unipolar (ekchhatri) and dictatorial (hukumshahi) conduct of the party's central leadership.

## Man accidentally shoots at friend while showing gun



**Thane 19 December** : A 20-year-old man was injured when his friend accidentally shot at him from a country-made revolver here in Maharashtra, police said Wednesday. A group of friends was chatting on a roadside at Kisan Nagar locality in Wagle Estate area on Tuesday night when one of them took out his revolver to show it to them, senior police inspector S M Patil said. While the man was showing the gun, he allegedly pulled the trigger accidentally and shot his friend Vijay Yadav in the stomach, the official said. Yadav was immediately rushed to a private hospital where he was undergoing treatment, Patil said. One person, whose identity was not revealed, was arrested and was booked under IPC section 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) and provisions of the Maharashtra Police Act. A probe was on into the incident and the police were also trying to ascertain how the man got the weapon and whether he had a valid licence for it, the official said.

## Panthic outfits meet in Bargari, condemn decision to end Insaaf Morcha

**Rajesh jain Ludhiana 19 December** : A few panthic organisations organised a meeting at Bargari village gurdwara on Tuesday to express their displeasure over lifting of the Bargari Insaaf Morcha on December 9, on 193rd day of the sit-in protest. At the meeting, the outfits stated that they were not taken into confidence before announcing the decision to end the protest. The meeting was called by Akali Dal (1920) and it was resolved that struggle for demands raised by the Morcha will continue. "Next meeting will decide the future course of the struggle and it will be held in Ransinh village in Moga on January 8," said



Buta Singh Ransinh, general secretary of Akali Dal (1920). Parallel Jathedar Baljeet Singh Daduwal, who present when decision to end the morcha was announced, was also

part of this meeting. "Now onwards, I will not be part of any meetings called by Jathedar Dhyansingh Mand and our struggle will continue in our own way," he said. Meanwhile, Mand had called for a meeting for starting second phase of struggle on December 20 at Fatehgarh Sahib which has been postponed to January 10 now. On Tuesday, there was heavy police presence in Bargari and even outside the gurdwara. Section 144 was implemented. There was

a thin gathering at the meeting. Buta Singh even condemned presence of heavy police force and said, "We are meeting for a public cause and a heavy police cover is uncalled for." Daduwal repeated his statement as he said, "I had not expected that Jathedar Mand will announce to end the dharna in a haste, they should have waited for few more days to see that the promises turn into reality. Apart from Sangat, I am also unhappy.

## Buskers the highlight of Christmas this year: Government

**Kolkata 19 December** : Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will inaugurate the Kolkata Christmas Festival at Allen Park in Park Street on December 21. This year, performances by buskers (street singers) will be the highlight of the festival, which is organised by the state government. Principal secretary to the departments of home and tourism affairs, Atri Bhattacharya, on Tuesday said the festival will also take place in seven other places



— Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseong in North Bengal Hills

and in churches in Jalpaiguri, Chandernagore, Bandel and Krishnanagar. "There will be illumination of churches at the seven locations from December 21 to January 1 and cultural programmes at the over 200-year-old Sacred Heart Church at the erstwhile French colony of Chandernagore from December 26 to December 28. To my knowledge, there is no Christmas celebration on such a large scale in any other Indian city," said Bhattacharya.

## Darjeeling violence: 72 chargesheeted

Raghunath thakur

**Among those named in the chargesheet are wanted GJM faction leader Bimal Gurung, his wife Asha, Roshan Giri and others.**

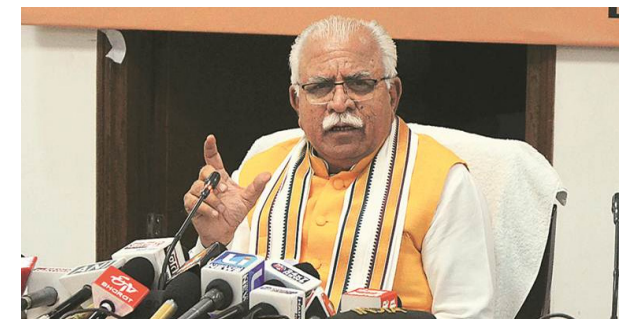


**Kolkata 19 December** : The CID on Monday filed a chargesheet against 72 people in connection with the June 8 clash between Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) supporters and police in Darjeeling, which had led to a 104-day shutdown in the Hills. Among those named in the chargesheet are wanted GJM faction leader Bimal Gurung, his wife Asha,

Roshan Giri and others. "72 people have been named in the chargesheet submitted yesterday," confirmed a CID officer, adding that 45 persons named in the chargesheet are still absconding. The accused were booked under IPC sections including 307 (attempt to murder), 147-149 (rioting with arms and unlawful assembly), 153-153A (promoting enmity between different groups),

323-326 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt), 332-353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant), 436 (mischief by fire and explosive substance), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 120B (criminal conspiracy). Sections of the West Bengal Maintenance of Public Order Act (WBMPO) and Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act (PDPP) were also invoked.

## Manohar Lal Khattar in Surat, says Rahul 'lies like Goebbels'



**Surat 19 December** : Haryana Chief Minister and BJP leader Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday compared Rahul Gandhi with Hitler's information minister, Paul Joesph Goebbels, saying that the Congress president is adhering to the principal that if a lie is spoken for hundred times it will look like truth. Khattar, who was in Surat as part of the BJP campaign to hit out against the Congress over the multi-billion dollar Rafale jet deal following the Supreme Court quashing the petitions seeking CBI probe into the purchase of 36 fighter aircraft, said, "Now if a lie is spoken for hundred times or thousand times it will remain lie and it will not be truth.

## Research, not subsidy, will make e-vehicles affordable

**Surat 19 December** : Electric vehicles will have to be affordable in order to be popular, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said Tuesday, stressing that subsidising them would not be feasible in the long run. Addressing a Delhi Dialogue and Development Commission workshop on the draft e-vehicle policy of the Delhi government, Kejriwal called upon industry leaders to invest more on research and development of electric vehicles to reduce their market prices. Incidentally, the draft policy also lays major emphasis on subsidising e-vehicles — ranging from two-wheelers to four-wheelers — for Delhi to have 25 per cent of all vehicle registrations of e-vehicles by 2023.



## WCD ministry ropes in Magsaysay winner to help trace families of women inmates at mental hospitals

Vatwani, winner of the Ramon Magsaysay Award, has helped reunite 7,000 mentally ill people with their families across the country and even in Nepal.

**Pune 19 December** : Union Minister of Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi has authorised Magsaysay award winner Bharat Vatwani to assess the condition of destitute women inmates at government-run mental hospitals in the country and help trace their families so that they can be reunited. In an official letter issued on December 12, the Union minister said that involving Vatwani



and his social workers from the Shradha Rehabilitation Foundation will pave the way for rehabilitation of the wandering mentally ill women destitutes, presently sheltered at government mental

institutions. Vatwani, winner of the Ramon Magsaysay Award, has helped reunite 7,000 mentally ill people with their families across the country and even in Nepal. "Since we set up the Shradha Rehabilitation Foundation in 2006-07, a total of 5,700 mentally ill persons have been rehabilitated and, of these, 683 have been referrals from government mental hospitals and shelter homes. "We have

been able to unite at least 166 mentally ill people from Ahmedabad Mental Hospital with their families, 193 from Bhuj Mental Hospital, 227 from the Institute of Mental Health, Chennai, 89 from Vadodra Mental Hospital, four from Mahila Ashram at Karjat and one each from Alibaug Civil Hospital, Mahila Vasti Gruh, Chembur, Bareilly Mental Hospital and Beggar Home, Chembur," Vatwani said.

## The Kapil Sharma Show first episode teaser: Kapil leaves Ranveer and Sara rolling with laughter

Sony TV has released a 30 seconds clip from the first episode of The Kapil Sharma Show featuring Simbaa actors Ranveer Singh and Sara Ali Khan. They were accompanied by the film's director Rohit Shetty.

Mumbai : The wait is finally over. Kapil Sharma's show The Kapil Sharma Show goes on air from December 29, 2018. This time, the comedian seems to be in his elements and has come all prepped up to make the audience laugh. This we say after watching the latest teaser of his show. Sony TV has released a 30 seconds clip from the first episode of The Kapil Sharma Show featuring Simbaa actors Ranveer Singh and Sara Ali Khan. They were accompanied by the film's director Rohit Shetty. In the video, we see Kiku Sharda telling the guests and audience the reason behind Kapil's



absence from television. Also, Kapil and Kiku's funny banter takes you

back to the days when Kapil left the viewers rolling with laughter even with a straight face. A couple of days back, another teaser of The Kapil Sharma Show had Salman Khan along with father Salim Khan and brothers Arbaaz and Sohail Khan laughing uncontrollably. It also had the Simmba of Bollywood Ranveer who could not stop laughing at Kapil's jokes. "Poore India ko hasaane aa raha hai #TheKapilSharmaShow, jald hi sirf Sony par," read the caption of the video. With stars like Ranveer Singh and Salman Khan gracing the first week of the Kapil's show, it will be inter-

esting to see what else the comedian has to offer to his fans. This time Kapil will be accompanied by Kiku Sharda, Sumona Chakravarti, Bharti Singh and Chandan Prabhakar. The new entrant in Kapil's crazy family is comedian Krushna Abhishek who was earlier said to be his arch-rival. The trailer of the show was released by Sony TV last month in November. Kapil Sharma started shooting for the show a few days before getting married to longtime girlfriend Ginni Chatrath on December 12. The first photos from the sets of the show went viral on social media and left fans excited for it.

## Rajinikanth starrer 2.0 crosses Rs 700 crore mark



New Delhi : Rajinikanth starrer 2.0 has been maintaining its good run at the box office despite new releases. The film has crossed the Rs 700 crore mark worldwide. The collection of 2.0's Hindi dubbed version stands at Rs 183.75 crore. Now, with the film in the third week, there are strong chances that its successful run might come to an end as Shah Rukh Khan's Zero, Varun Tej's space drama Antariksham 9000 KMPH and Dhanush starrer Maari 2 among other films will hit screens this Friday. 2.0 is the sequel to Enthiran (2010). Rajinikanth reprises his double role as Vaseegaran and Chitti. The movie also stars Akshay Kumar and Amy Jackson.

## Actor-director Penny Marshall passes away



New York : Penny Marshall, who starred in Laverne & Shirley before becoming one of the top-grossing female directors in Hollywood, has died. She was 75. Marshall's publicist, Michelle Bega, said Marshall died in her Los Angeles home on Monday due to complications from diabetes. "Our family is heartbroken," the Marshall family said in a statement. Marshall starred as Laverne DeFazio, the Milwaukee brewery worker, alongside Cindy Williams in the hit ABC comedy Laverne & Shirley. The series, which aired from 1976 to 1983, was among the biggest hits of its era. It also gave Marshall her start as a filmmaker. She directed several episodes of Laverne & Shirley before making her feature film directorial debut in Jumpin' Jack Flash, the 1986 comedy starring Whoopi Goldberg.

## Vikrant Massey joins Deepika Padukone-Meghna Gulzar's Chhapaak

The Meghna Gulzar directorial based on the life of acid attack survivor Laxmi Agarwal has finally got a title. The film starring Deepika Padukone in the lead role is titled Chhapaak. Vikrant Massey will be seen opposite Deepika in the movie.



New Delhi : The Meghna Gulzar directorial based on the life of acid attack survivor Laxmi Agarwal has finally got a title. The film starring Deepika Padukone in the lead role is titled Chhapaak. Also, it has been confirmed that Vikrant Massey will be seen opposite Deepika in the film. He will play

the role of Laxmi's partner in the movie. Trade analyst Taran Adarsh confirmed the news in his latest tweet. "IT'S OFFICIAL... Deepika Padukone and Meghna Gulzar join hands... Their first film together is titled #Chhapaak... Based on the life of acid attack survivor Laxmi Agarwal... Vikrant Massey has

been signed to enact the lead opposite Deepika," he wrote. Vikrant was last seen in Alt-Balaji's web series Broken But Beautiful where he played the role of a heartbroken husband who lost the love of his life in a car accident. Speaking about signing Vikrant for her film, Meghna, in a statement, said, "We will start the film in the third week of March 2019, and the cast is still coming together. Vikrant is somebody who I wanted to work with since Raazi. And after I saw him in A Death In The Gunj... you know there are some actors that you just want to work with — and I'm just glad I got the opportunity to have a suitable character for him in this film, which is Deepika's partner."

## Aditi Rao Hydari: I only know how to surrender myself to the director and character



Mumbai : Actor Aditi Rao Hydari will be seen next as an astronaut in the space thriller Antariksham 9000 KMPH, which releases on December 21. Just two days before the release, Aditi talks to indianexpress.com about her upcoming film and also shed lights on how she wants to take her career ahead. When Sankalp first narrated the script to me, it was very nice. But I felt like if he wanted me to do this, they would have to bring me all the way from Mumbai. He was writing the script at that time and had told me just the basic outline. I asked him why he would want to take me, because at that time, anyone could have done that part. He thought about that. I said, 'Don't change anything because I am telling you. Your script is amazing, and it will be a very good film.' Four months later, while I was shooting Sammoanam he called me and said, 'Aditi I have written the script now. I want you to hear it.'

## Akshay Kumar, Karan Johar meet PM Modi to discuss issues faced by film industry

A delegation of Bollywood producers and actors such as Akshay Kumar, Ajay Devgn and Karan Johar on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was on a one-day visit to Maharashtra,



Mumbai : A delegation of Bollywood producers and actors such as Akshay Kumar, Ajay Devgn and Karan Johar called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was on a one-day visit to Maharashtra,

at Raj Bhavan here to discuss the issues being faced by the Indian film industry. The delegation also included prominent film producers such as Ritesh Sidhwani, Siddharth Roy Kapur, the president of the Film

Producers Guild, Rakesh Roshan, Ronnie Screwvala, Vijay Singh – CEO – Fox Star Studios and Prasoon Joshi, the chairman of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). The team from the film fraternity gave an overview of the vast growth potential of the media and entertainment industry. They also pitched for lower and uniform rates of GST for the entertainment industry in India, a statement issued by PIB said. The Prime Minister said that the Indian entertainment industry enjoys immense popularity across the world. It is one of the key elements of India's rising soft power status, globally, he added.

## 118 teaser: Kalyan Ram promises an engaging thriller



Bengluru : Actor Nandamuri Kalyan Ram on Tuesday unveiled the teaser of his upcoming film 118. While the meaning behind the film's numerical title is unclear, the teaser promises an engaging thriller. Going by the teaser, Kalyan Ram's character seems to enjoy a celebrity status in the movie. He has a beautiful girlfriend, played by Shalini Pandey of Arjun Reddy fame. He is living a rich and happy life, "until that day." Glass breaks, blood spills, leading to fear and uncertainty taking control of the situation. It's a bit tricky as we are unable to guess whether it's a horror film or a crime thriller. Well-known cinematographer KV Guhan is helming the project. The movie also stars Nivetha Thomas as one of the female leads.

## Shah Rukh Khan: With Zero, I hope people understand how amazingly special it is to be ordinary

Shah Rukh Khan's Zero is all set to hit the screens on December 21. Also starring Anushka Sharma and Katrina Kaif, the actor says the film celebrates the incompleteness of a person.

New Delhi : Shah Rukh Khan as vertically challenged Bauua Singh in Zero is all set to win hearts at the theaters. In an exclusive conversation with indianexpress.com, the 53-year-old actor says Zero is a film made with an idea of treating people as equals. When Aanand and Himanshu were narrating the story, the first thing they told me before the narration was that 'Khan saab, what we want to do is take away from you all that you are known for and put you in a position, similarly for the other actors.' For instance, Katrina is imposingly known for being a diva or doing dance numbers which are sizzling etc. Similarly, for Anushka, she is a very mer-



curial actor, I find her like that honestly. You go to that actor and say I am going to make you sit in a wheelchair dealing with a syndrome, but you would still be a heroine and object of romance. So, I think that was very interest-

ing. What Aanand wanted was something contrary to what we stand for but still fit into the parameters of a commercial, family film that has all the ingredients. Also, one thing he was very clear about was that he did not

want any of us to search, ask or beg for empathy. (He said) Just let your incompleteness be celebrated. You should not look sad. The whole idea of equality is that you look at any of us, you should treat them as equals. That is a message the film sends. For me, it was a little easier because technology helped me a lot. The VFX team gave me the freedom to be how I am, except for a few technical things. For Anushka, she underwent a whole process of understanding cerebral palsy. It is a commercial film but when you are dealing with an affliction like this, you have to be true to it, but still maintain what you would like a commercial actress to do.