JHARKHAND'S OWN ENGLISH DAILY

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TAAPSEE PANNU CELEBRATES LOHRI ON SETS OF 'GANDHARI'... PAGE : 10

Kashmir India's crown, must shine better: PM

Modi dedicates Sonamarg tunnel to nation, promises statehood to J&K



Sonamarg (J&K), Jan 13 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday that Kashmir is the crown of the country, and he desires that this crown should shine better and become more glorious in the days to come.

The Prime Minister said this after inaugurating and dedicating the Sonamarg tunnel to the nation.

PM Modi started his speech by lauding the hard work of the workers who worked to make the Sonamarg tunnel possible and were not deterred from giving the supreme sacrifice.

He offered tribute to civilian workers, who laid down their lives during the construction of the tunnel he inaugurated. He said despite the grave danger to their lives, no worker wanted to go home after the terrorists attacked the Gagangir workers camp. "Nobody wanted to go home even after we lost seven friends to terrorism. My tribute to those martyrs who gave their lives for the country."

"Kashmir is the crown of India and it is my desire that this crown should become more shining and glorious. In this endeavour, the people of Jammu and Kashmir are helping me. I assure you that any roadblock in the way of realising your dreams will be removed," the PM assured the people.

He said two days back Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had uploaded some pictures and videos around the tunnel. By seeing those, my eagerness to be here increased. "When I worked here as a BJP worker, I have spent a lot of time in Sonamarg, Gulmarg, Ganderbal and Baramulla. It used to snow heavily even in those days. But, the warmth of the people of J&K did not make you feel the cold. Today is a great day, crores of people are taking part in the Maha Kumbh in Uttar Pradesh. Lohri is being celebrated in Punjab. This is the period of the 40-day intense cold of 'Chillai Kalan', which people face with a smile in Kashmir. People are coming to Sonamarg from different parts of the country and enjoy your hospitality," said PM Modi.

"I recently inaugurated the Jammu rail division. Today I have dedicated Sonamarg tunnel to the country and the people of J&K and Ladakh," he said.

Referring to Omar Abdullah's demand for statehood, PM Modi said, "Modi always fulfils his promise. Every promise will be fulfilled at the right time. Every decision has a proper time when it is taken," the PM said.

"This tunnel was started by us, and it is my decision that whatever work we start we must also inaugurate. Sonamarg and the entire area here will get a great boost. In days to come, road and railway projects will be completed. The Valley will soon be connected through railways. New roads, colleges, etc., it will be a 'Naya Kashmir' that we have been speaking about," said the PM.

"In 2040, India will be a developed nation and no family, no area of the country will be left out in that developed India. In the last 10 years, over four crore poor people got concrete houses. In days to come, three crore more people will get new homes. Free healthcare given in the country is beneficial to the people of J&K as well. New IITs, AIIMS, educational institutions, polytechnics, etc., are being opened. Today you have a good road from J&K to Arunachal Pradesh. The world's highest tunnel, highest railway bridge, and highest cable bridge are also being built in J&K. Ropeways to Shankaracharya temple, and ropeways to other places will be completed in J&K. These projects will make J&K the most connected place in the country. Through better connectivity, hitherto unexplored tourist destinations will be opened up.," the PM said in his address.

Maha Kumbh 2025: Devotees take holy dip as 45-day spiritual festival begins



New Delhi, Jan 13 (IANS) Devotees took a holy dip in Triveni Sangam -- a scared confluence of rivers Ganga, Yamuna and 'mystical' Saraswati in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj on Monday morning as this day -- Paush Purnima in the Hindu calendar -- marks the beginning of the 45-day Maha Kumbh festival.

A huge crowd of devotees, many of who have travelled from across India and the world, performed the sacred ritual 'Shahi Snan'.

Expected to host at least 45 crore people, the Maha Kumbh festival from January 13 to February 26, will showcase India's rich cultural heritage and spiritual traditions.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made by the Uttar Pradesh government in and around the city to ensure people's safety during Maha Kumbh.In a first, underwater drones capable of diving up to 100 meters have been deployed across the city to provide round-the-clock surveillance in the Sangam area. Tethered drones, capable of reaching heights up to 120 meters, have been deployed providing aerial view to identify swelling crowds or areas requiring medical or security intervention.

At least 2,700 cameras with artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities provide real-time monitoring and facial recognition technology will be used at entry points.

Apart from this, a team of 56 cyber warriors will monitor online threats and cyber help desks have been set up in all police stations in the city.

Authorities have set up 1,50,000 tents to accommodate the pilgrims along with additional toilets and sanitation facilities. At least 4,50,000 new electricity connections have been installed.

Several electric buses are being run for devotees. The Indian Railways has introduced 98 special trains to make 3,300 trips during the festival.

Special care has been taken to provide health and emergency facilities to the pilgrims visiting the Kumbh area. Temporary hospitals equipped with surgical and diagnostic facilities have been set up.

Kumbh Sah'AI'yak chatbot is a cutting-edge AI tool, designed to provide real-time guidance and updates to devotees attending the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025. It will act as a digital companion for the millions of devotees. Some of its key features include multilingual support, interactive engagement, personal navigation, and cultural insights. It can be accessed through the official Maha Kumbh 2025 mobile app or via WhatsApp.

Kerala teenager sexual assault: 43 arrested, 29 cases registered as police step up probe

Pathanamthitta, Jan 13 (IANS) The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the repeated sexual assault of a teenage girl in Kerala's Pathanamthitta district has registered 29 cases across five police stations in the state and arrested 43 individuals in connection with the case so far.

The victim, reportedly assaulted by around 62 people, has disclosed shocking details that have led to significant progress in the investigation. On Sunday alone, 13 new cases were registered, and six more arrests were made as the SIT analyzed the victim's diary and her father's mobile phone, which she had been using.

The arrested individuals include three minors and four students preparing for their Class 12 final examinations next month.

'Act of contempt': Jharkhand HC rebukes Govt over delay in municipal polls

Ranchi, Jan 13 (IANS) The Jharkhand High Court has rapped the state government for delaying municipal elections in the state, calling it an act of contempt, while emphasising that polls cannot be indefinitely postponed under the pretext of conducting the triple test process for OBC reservation in the civic bodies.



The court has also issued a notice to the Election Commission of India and scheduled the next hearing for January 16.

The case stems from a petition filed by outgoing Ranchi Municipal Corporation councillor Roshni Khalkho and others.

On January 4 last year, the High Court had ordered the state government to announce municipal election dates within three weeks. It noted that delaying elections beyond the tenure of municipal bodies constitutes a constitutional and local governance breakdown.

Khalkho later filed a contempt petition, citing the government's non-compliance with the court's order.

During a hearing before Justice Anand Sen, the state government contended that the triple test process to determine OBC reservation percentages in municipal bodies was still underway, and elections would be held once it was completed.The court expressed its dissatisfaction with this explanation, stating that postponing elections under the guise of the triple test was improper.

The State Election Commission's advocate informed the court that the Election Commission of India had not yet provided an updated voter list despite repeated requests. The state government's lack of cooperation was also highlighted during the hearing.

Taking a serious view of the situation, the court directed that a notice be issued to the Election Commission.

The terms of all municipal bodies in Jharkhand expired in April 2023. Elections for the new term were due by April 27, 2023, but have yet to take place.

The delay is attributed to the state government's decision to complete the triple test process to finalise OBC reservation percentages before conducting elections.

5 lakh school students to get bicycles

Ranchi, January 13: Some good news for eighth graders in state-owned schools of Jharkhand. The Hemant Soren-led Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) government is set to provide bicycles to 5 lakh students.



Nearly 5 lakh students of Class 8 will receive bicycles. The distribution is scheduled to begin in May 2025, following the commencement of the academic session in April 2025. Preparations for this initiative are already underway. The Class 7 examinations will be conducted in March 2025, with the results expected the same month. Admissions will commence post-results, and classes will start on April 1, 2025. The government aims to begin the bicycle distribution in May 2025.

The tender process will be completed by February-March to ensure timely distribution. If the tender process faces delays, the funds will be directly transferred to the students' bank accounts.

Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), and Other Backward Class (OBC) students will receive Rs4,500 from the Welfare Department to purchase bicycles. Meanwhile, students in the General category will be provided Rs3,500 by the Education Department for the same purpose. This arrangement has been in place for the last three years.

The SC, ST, and Backward Class Welfare Department has submitted its proposal to the government. It states that 5.20 lakh children are currently studying in Class 7. All of them are expected to appear for the upcoming examination, and approximately 5 lakh children are anticipated to secure admission to Class 8. These students will be provided bicycles for the academic session 2025-26 to ensure they face no challenges commuting to school.

Notably, last year, Welfare Minister Chamra Linda, during a review meeting, instructed officials to ensure that bicycles are distributed at the beginning of the academic session. Education Minister Ramdas Soren also supported this directive.

In the academic years 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23, funds were transferred directly to students' bank accounts due to delays in the tender process. Repeated allocation of tenders to the same company led to its exclusion from being awarded the responsibility of bicycle supply.

10 Jharkhand IPS officers promoted to junior administrative grade

Mail News Service



Ranchi, Jan 13: Ten Indian Police Service (IPS) officers of the 2016 Jharkhand cadre on Monday have been promoted to Pay Level-12 of the Junior Administrative Grade in the IPS pay matrix.

The officers receiving the promotion are Anjani Anjan, Saurabh, Amit Renu, Rishabh Kumar Jha, Shambhu Kumar Singh, Ajay Kumar Sinha, Pujya Prakash, Sahdev Sao, Amit Kumar Singh and Mukesh Kumar.

The Department of Home, Prison, and Disaster Management issued a notification formalizing the promotions, which are effective from January 1, 2025. The notification was signed by Deputy Secretary Om Prakash Tiwari under the orders of the Governor of Jharkhand.

A condition of the promotion is that the officers must complete the MCTP Phase-III training in the next available slot. However, the notification clarified that the promotions would not result in changes to the officers' current postings, as no transfer orders have been issued. (w/nkm)

Jamshedpur temperature rises to 11.4°C, Western disturbance triggers Temp rise

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Jan 13: A Western Disturbance passing through the northern parts of India has brought a noticeable change to Jharkhand's weather, leading to a significant rise in minimum temperatures across the state.

According to meteorological reports, Ranchi, the state capital, recorded a minimum temperature of 12.4 degrees Celsius, while Jamshedpur, known for its industrial prominence, noted a slightly lower minimum at 11.4 degrees Celsius. Palamu's Daltonganj logged a minimum temperature of 14.3 degrees Celsius, reflecting a warmer trend compared to previous days. Meanwhile, Bokaro Steel City, another industrial hub, recorded a minimum of 13.1 degrees Celsius.

Notably, Gumla, nestled in Jharkhand's hilly terrain, experienced the state's lowest temperature today, with a chilly 9.9 degrees Celsius. Other districts such as Chatra, Garhwa, and Deoghar also saw a rise in minimum temperatures, recording 12.6 degrees Celsius, 13.7 degrees Celsius, and 13 degrees Celsius, respectively. Hazaribagh, known for its rich flora and fauna, reported a minimum temperature of 12 degrees Celsius.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) attributes this weather shift to a Western Disturbance as a cyclonic circulation hovering over Punjab and its neighboring areas, located at an altitude between 3.1 km and 9.4 km above mean sea level. Additionally, an induced cyclonic circulation over west Rajasthan, extending up to 1.5 km above mean sea level, has further influenced the weather patterns.

"This atmospheric phenomenon has disrupted the cold wave conditions that were prevalent across the state over the past week," stated an official from the Ranchi Meteorological Centre.

IMD forecasters have also warned of another fresh Western Disturbance likely to impact northwest India starting from the night of January 14. While Jharkhand is expected to experience milder effects, a shift in temperature and cloudy conditions may persist in the coming days.

Residents are advised to remain vigilant, especially during the early morning and late evening hours, as weather conditions can still be unpredictable. Farmers, in particular, are urged to stay updated on weather forecasts to mitigate any potential impacts on their crops. The gradual rise in temperature brings some respite from the biting cold but may also signal changing weather patterns that require close monitoring, experts said.

Leadership rooted in humanity and diversity creates lasting legacies: ISB Dean

XLRI hosts international conference on respect in business and leadership

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, January 13: XLRI - Xavier School of Management, in collaboration with the JRD Tata Foundation for Business Ethics, organized a transformative three-day International Conference on Respect in Business and Leadership from January 9 to 11, 2025. The event highlighted the integration of respect into leadership and business practices, promoting ethical frameworks for a sustainable and inclusive global future.

The inaugural ceremony on January 9, 2025, was attended by esteemed dignitaries, including Soni Sinha, Chief Ethics Counsellor at Tata Steel, who remarked, "Respect is not a mere principle but a binding force that harmonizes organizational success with social good."

Prof. Dr.MadanPillutla, Dean of the Indian School of Business and Chief Guest, emphasized, "Leadership that respects humanity and diversity will always transcend profit-driven motives to create lasting legacies." Other notable speakers included Prof. Sanjay Patro, Dean (Academics), XLRI, described respect as "the invisible currency that fuels ethical leadership," and Fr. Donald D'Silva SJ, Dean (Admin-Finance), highlighted the significance of daily actions in fostering respect.

A major highlight of the conference was the launch of Fr. Kuruvilla Pandikattu SJ's book, Ethical Leadership and Sustainable Practices, where he noted, "Sustainable leadership rests on the unshakeable foundation of respect."

On January 10, XLRI introduced EthicoSphere, a pioneering platform to promote ethical leadership in academia and industry.

Dr.HimanshuRai, Director of IIM Indore, delivered the keynote, stating, "The shift from compliance to value-driven governance is essential for sustainable progress." Fr. George Sebastian, Director of XLRI, emphasized, "EthicoSphere is an initiative where integrity meets innovation, creating a blueprint for ethical ecosystems across industries." Complementing this, SoniSinha remarked, "Platforms like EthicoSphere encourage us to confront systemic challenges and find ethical solutions that align with global priorities."

Prominent speakers, including Prof. Ram Kumar Kakani (IIM Raipur), Prof. Pawan Kumar Singh (IIM Tiruchirappalli), and Prof. Sriram Narayanan (Michigan State University), emphasized respect as a cornerstone of innovation and sustainable leadership. Industry leaders like Praveen Kumar (Microsoft) and Saurav Kumar (Amadeus Labs) highlighted the role of respect in fostering trust and collaboration. As the conference concluded, XLRI reaffirmed its commitment to shaping ethical leaders and fostering respect in global business practices. The legacy of EthicoSphere aims to inspire ongoing research and collaboration, ensuring a sustained focus on ethics and respect in leadership. XLRI plans to host EthicoSphere Dialogues annually, inviting thinkers and practitioners to share insights and best practices. (W-mb)

Akhilesh Singh firing case: Statements of accused to be recorded Jan 24

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Jan 13: In the ongoing case of the attempted firing on notorious Akhilesh Singh in Jamshedpur Civil Court premises on May 24, 2014, the court of ADJ-4 Anand Mani Tripathi announced that it will close the evidence process and record the statements of 14 accused on January 24. The case stems from an incident in which Sarabjit Singh alias Chhabbu, along with his accomplice Ravindra Singh alias Honey, attempted to shoot Akhilesh Singh. The bullet misfired, and Akhilesh raised an alarm, leading to his supporters chasing and assaulting the assailants.

The FIR, based on the statement of then Sitaramdera police station in-charge Sunil Kumar Chaudhary, named Akhilesh Singh, Kanhaiya Singh, Maninder Singh, and 11 others as accused. The case continues to unfold in court. (w/nkm)

JUSCO School South Park bids farewell to class 12 students

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Jan 13: JUSCO School South Park (JSSP) organised a farewell ceremony for Class XII students on January 13, 2025.

The event brought together faculty, students, and parents to honour the achievements and milestones of the departing batch.

School Principal, MiliSinha, expressed gratitude for the dedication and perseverance shown by the graduating class throughout their academic journey.

Each graduate was presented with a token of appreciation, symbolizing their time at JSSP and the lasting impact they have made. Students of Std XII shared words of gratitude, reflecting on their experiences and expressing thanks for the unwavering support of teachers, mentors, and peers.

They spoke with optimism about their future endeavours and the journey ahead. Principal remarked, "As we bid farewell to our Class XII graduates, we celebrate not only their academic achievements but also the personal growth and resilience they have demonstrated. They leave behind a legacy of excellence and camaraderie that will continue to inspire future generations of students." The farewell ceremony concluded with the presentation of 33 titles to deserving students. Among the distinguished awardees, Sneha Singh, Satyam Kumar Jha, Shreya Singh, and Teghveer Singh received the prestigious title of THE OUTSTANDING JSSPIAN for the session 2024-25. Additionally, Kushal Divyam was awarded the title of Mr. JSSP, while Sneha Singh secured the title of Ms. JSSP. (W-mb)

Community for storytellers-Poets of Jamshedpur-launched in Steel City

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Jan 13: A community for budding poets and storytellers called Poets of Jamshedpur was launched in Jamshedpur on Monday at Starbucks. Over 50 literature enthusiasts gathered at the cafeteria to celebrate the art of words, marking the beginning of a new chapter for the city's budding writers.

Along with the launching of the community, Poets of Jamshedpur hosted a one-of-a-kind event, where poets recited their poems. Poets of Jamshedpur is an initiative taken by its founder Shrenya Soni. She said, "This community aims to bring the people of Jamshedpur a step closer to creating a community for people who share a love for literature. This space is open for all ages who can take part and express themselves through poetry and short stories."She added, "Poets of Jamshedpur would be conducting an event once or twice a month on Sundays in Starbucks for budding poets and writers.

Ajitabha Bose, a renowned author, filmmaker and publisher from Jamshedpur, was the chief guest of the event. He said, "Since there is no literary platform to celebrate literature, Poets of Jamshedpur is a good initiative to promote poetry and literature and building a community around reading."

Upon talking to the founder of Poets of Jamshedpur, Soni said, "I wanted to create a space where writers, both young and old, could share their work and connect with like-minded individuals."People attending the event were also given a platform to recite their poems and short stories. The highlight of the event was 'community poetry' which was written by everyone attending the event and the poem was read out at the end. (w/TSB)

Parvinder Sohal sets record with 10th consecutive election win Tinplate Workers Union



Jamshedpur, January 13: Parvinder Singh Sohal, a prominent officer of the Golmuri Tinplate Workers Union, has set a remarkable record by being elected unopposed for the 10th consecutive term.

This milestone, achieved through ballot, underscores his unparalleled popularity and influence in the trade union. Sohal represents the largest constituency in the union, comprising the CRM Electrical and Crane Maintenance Department, yet he has consistently won unopposed. This year, he secured a record number of votes, adding to his longstanding legacy. His journey began in 1994 when he was elected shortly after becoming a permanent employee under the leadership of labour leader and MP Siddheshwar Chaudhary and Gopeshwar Lal. Over his 31-year tenure, Sohal has held several key positions, including Union Executive Member, Assistant Secretary (twice), Joint General Secretary, and Vice President (three terms). His leadership and commitment have made him a respected figure in both the union and the wider community.In addition to his trade union achievements, Sohal has been active in social service. He has served as General Secretary of the District Congress Committee, Chairman and Advisor of the Gurudwara Managing Committee, and has made significant contributions to social work.

Expressing his gratitude, Sohal thanked the employees for their unwavering support. "The union faces significant challenges ahead, such as the new grade revision and the recruitment of permanent employees," he said. "I will continue to work selflessly to fulfill the responsibilities entrusted to me by my colleagues." (W-mb)

Bingsati to represent JWU at All India University Youth Fest



Jamshedpur, Jan 13: BingsatiDutta, a MA English student from Jamshedpur Women's University (JWU), has been selected to represent her university in Kathak dance at the 38th All India University Youth Festival (2024-25). She achieved this national-level recognition after her outstanding performance at the East Zonal Youth Festival. Her performance earned her the top position among participants from 18 universities across Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, and Odisha. This remarkable achievement highlights her dedication and passion for classical dance, and it reflects positively on the university and the state of Jharkhand. On this occasion, Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Anjila Gupta congratulated BingsatiDutta, praising her hard work and commitment to the classical arts. The entire team of Jamshedpur Women's University's sports and cultural department played a crucial role in her success. Dr.Sanatan Deep, Chairman of the department, acknowledged the significant contribution of Bingsati's training and support from Sudha Deep, Preeti, and RajrishiChakraborty in achieving this milestone. (W-mb)

XITE inaugurates Student Resource Centre

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Jan 13: XITE Gamharia (Autonomous) proudly inaugurated its new Student Resource Centre (SRC) today, aimed at enhancing students' learning experiences and ensuring seamless access to government-provided benefits. The centre is equipped with essential facilities, including a photocopy service and has designated Y. Dilip Kumar as the in-charge to assist students in filling out scholarship and competitive exam forms. Inauguration was done by Dr. (Fr.) E. A. Francis, SJ, Principal. Present were Dr. (Fr.) Mukti Clarence, SJ, Vice Principal, Ashish Singh, Head, Branding & Communication Department.

As the only autonomous college under Kolhan University, XITE has consistently demonstrated academic excellence and outstanding achievements in extracurricular activities. In addition to government scholarships, the college also offers scholarships to deserving students, reflecting its commitment to supporting the educational journey of its diverse student body. Remarkably, around 50% of the college's total students belong to tribal communities.

The college also boasts excellent sports facilities, including two basketball courts, a football ground, and two badminton courts, fostering holistic development among students. The newly inaugurated Student Resource Centre (SRC) is expected to play a pivotal role in streamlining administrative processes for students and further cementing XITE Gamharia's reputation as a premier institution for higher learning in the region. (w/pb)

Rajesh Lohar acquitted in Ganesh Nayak murder case

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 13: The court of ADJ-4 Anand Mani Tripathi on Monday acquitted Rajesh Lohar, the accused in the murder case of Ganesh Nayak, who was fatally stabbed during a dispute over alcohol in Kadma's Ramjanamnagar on April 11, 2023.

Advocate Vidya Singh, representing the defense, stated that all 11 witnesses in the case had testified, but the prosecution failed to provide sufficient evidence to establish Lohar's guilt.

Meanwhile, the co-accused, Rajesh Gope, remains at large and an arrest warrant has been issued against him. (w/nkm)

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

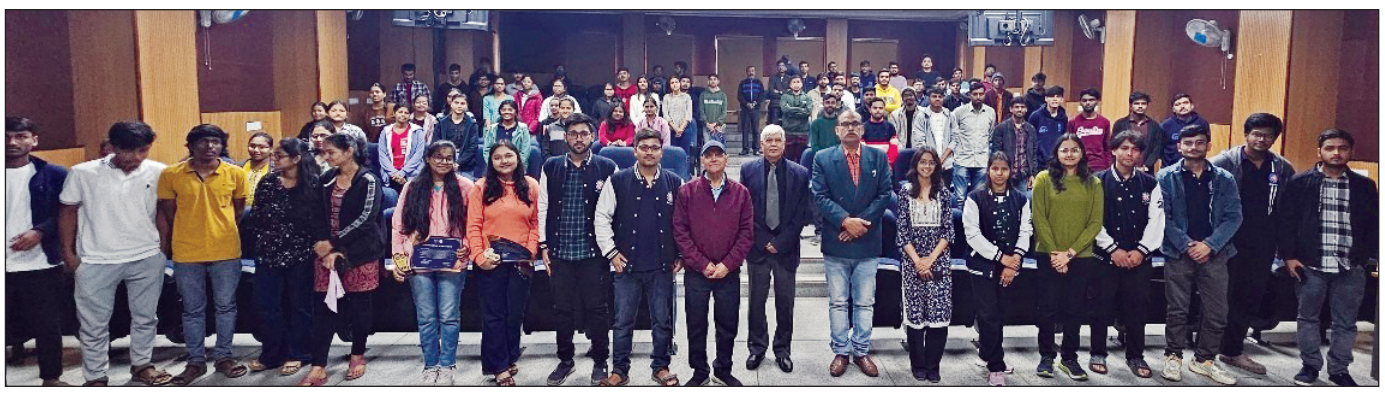
CANCELLATION OF E-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender No. ST-CKP-OT-24-25-109, Dtd. 03.01.2025 which was published earlier in this newspaper by Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, S.E. Railway, Chakradharpur may be treated as **cancelled.**

(PR-1008/C)

NSS NIT Jamshedpur organizes three-day programme on sustainable development

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Jan 13: NSS NIT Jamshedpur successfully conducted a three-day programme on Sustainable Development from 10th to 12th January. The event kicked off with a two-day case study presentation competition, where students showcased innovative ideas and solutions on various critical environmental issues.

Topics ranged from green building practices and reducing plastic waste to the impact of renewable energy and effective water management strategies. The student presentations were evaluated by a panel of judges who appreciated the creative approaches and practical solutions offered.

The programme was organized under the supervision of NSS Programme Coordinator, Dr. Jayendra Kumar, and student representatives, who played a vital role in the smooth execution of the event.

The programme culminated on 12th January with a motivational seminar featuring Himanshu Sheth as the keynote speaker. Sheth, an educationist, motivator, and life coach, is well known for his impactful stories and insights into personal and professional growth. During his address, he stressed the importance of adopting renewable resources and waste management systems to ensure that future generations can also benefit from available resources. He highlighted the advantages of bamboo as an eco-friendly material and its potential use in furniture and other products.

Sheth further elaborated on key environmental observances like Earth Day and Environment Day and urged the students to adopt biodegradable products and avoid items that contribute to environmental harm.

He also warned that if carbon dioxide levels continue to rise, up to 1 million species could become extinct by 2050.

The seminar was attended by around 100 students, who listened attentively to Mr. Sheth's advice. Dr. R.P. Singh, Dean of Student Welfare, also shared his thoughts on the connection between youth and sustainability, encouraging students to be more sustainability-conscious.

Dr. Jayendra Kumar motivated the students to work toward sustainability, emphasizing the critical role they play in shaping a sustainable future.

The event ended with the announcement of the winners of the case study presentation competition, recognizing the most innovative and practical ideas on sustainable development.

This three-day programme, organized by NSS NIT Jamshedpur, provided valuable insights into sustainability, innovation, and environmental consciousness, proving to be a highly inspiring and informative experience for all participants. (w/nkm)

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all concerned on behalf of my client **ICICI BANK Limited, Jamshedpur,** that the Original Regd. Sale Deed Serial No. 356, Deed No. 344, dated 14.02.1997, Regd. at DSRO Seraikella, executed between Adityapur Udhyami Grih Nirman Sahyog Samity Ltd. (Seller) and Gourish Kumar Jagatramka @ Gourish Kumar Jagatram, S/o Late Bishwanath Jagatramka @ Bishwanath Jagatram (Purchaser) w.r.t. a piece of homestead land measuring 2400 Sq.ft., with a pucca room measuring 150 Sq.ft. being Society Plot No. 15, at Mouza Bhatia, P.S. Adityapur, Thana No. 126, Ward No. 4 (Old), 15 (New), under Khata No. 22 (Old), 109 (New), Plot No. 405 (Old), 1481 (New), District - Seraikella-Kharsawan, was lost from the possession of Nilesh Rajgarhia, S/o Bishwanath Rajgarhia and could not be traced out. Any person or body in possession or power of the said original Regd. Deed and having any claim of right, title, interest or possession over the said original Regd. Deed or the property covered under the said Deed apart from the said Nilesh Rajgarhia, S/o Bishwanath Rajgarhia is / are required to put forward his / her / their claims to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice failing which no such claims shall be entertained.

Sd/- Pradip R. Sarkar, Advocate
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Tatanagar station will be developed at a cost of Rs 319 crore: SER GM

Divisional Committee Meeting: MPs demand enhanced railway facilities, raise operational concern



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 13: A key meeting of the South Eastern Railway Divisional Committee was held on Monday at a resort on NH-33, located in the Chandil subdivision of Seraikela district on Monday. This meeting, which was attended by MPs from the Chakradharpur and Ranchi divisions as well as senior railway officials, focused on the development of railway infrastructure and services in the region. General Manager of South East Railway, Anil Kumar Mishra, provided updates on railway expansion plans and highlighted ongoing projects aimed at improving passenger amenities and operational efficiency.

Anil Kumar Mishra informed the MPs about the development plans for Tatanagar station under the Chakradharpur Railway Division, which is set to receive an investment of Rs 319 crore. The associated tenders for the project are expected to be finalized by March. He also mentioned that Adityapur railway station is being transformed into a model station, with completion of the remaining work expected shortly.

General Manager assured the MPs that their suggestions for the development of passenger amenities and railway infrastructure would be prioritized.

Jamshedpur MP Bidyut Baran Mahto, Khunti MP Kalicharan Munda, West Singhbhum MP Joba Manjhi, Lohardaga MP Sukhdev Bhagat, Chatra MP Kalicharan Singh, and Rajya Sabha MP Aditya Sahu attended the meeting and raised significant concerns regarding the expansion of railway services in their constituencies. The MPs discussed issues related to train operations, stoppages at various stations, and the urgent need for enhanced railway facilities in their regions.

Lohardaga MP highlights Gumla's deprivation of railway facilities

Lohardaga MP Sukhdev Bhagat expressed his displeasure over Gumla's continued lack of railway facilities, even 70 years after independence. Bhagat emphasized that the meeting should not be seen as a formality, urging the railways to take concrete steps to address this long-standing issue. He reiterated his parliamentary demands for connecting the railway line from Gumla via Lohardaga, Korba, and Bano, along with the introduction of a double-line project extending to Tori and the addition of MEMU trains.

West Singhbhum MP calls for resumption of train services

West Singhbhum MP Joba Manjhi raised concerns over the trains that were discontinued during the COVID-19 pandemic within the Chakradharpur Railway Division. Manjhi urged the Railway Board to restore these services at all affected stations. He also requested the introduction of new trains to meet growing passenger demands.

Chatra MP requests extension of MEMU trains

Chatra MP Kalicharan Singh highlighted the need for expanding train services in his constituency, particularly requesting the extension of the MEMU train running from Ranchi to Chandwa and Chatra. Despite the inclusion of his region within the South East Railway Division, Singh emphasized the necessity for increased railway facilities to serve the needs of the local population.

The meeting was also attended by Tarun Huria, Divisional Railway Manager of Chakradharpur, Jasmeet Singh Bindra, Divisional Railway Manager of Ranchi and other senior officials of South Eastern Railway.

The MPs assured their full cooperation for the smooth functioning and further development of the railway services in their constituencies.(w-nkm)

Bidyut demands extension of rail facilities to Bandwan, Nimdih, Bodam and Patamda



Jamshedpur, Jan 13: The meeting was chaired by MP Bidyut Baran Mahto. As the seniormost MP present, Mahto presided over the meeting and provided a platform for MPs and their representatives to raise the demands of their respective constituencies.

During the session, MP Bidyut Baran Mahto outlined several key issues affecting Jamshedpur and the surrounding areas, focusing primarily on improving railway services. Among the major demands were the stoppage of the Ranchi Howrah Intercity Express at Chakulia on its way to Howrah, the restarting of the Antyodaya Express from Tata, and direct train services from Tata to New Delhi, Jaipur and Bangalore (via Katpadi and Tirupati).

Additionally, Mahto called for the construction of a halt at Barkola between Chakulia and Dhalbhumgarh, upgrading Sidirsai station by increasing its height and expanding passenger facilities and building a foot over bridge at Dhalbhumgarh.

The MP also highlighted the delay in constructing railway over bridges at Govindpur and Barigoda and called for the extension of rail facilities to Bandwan via Chandil, Nimdih, Bodam and Patamda.

Other demands included the construction of the Kandra Namkum railway line, increasing the number of trips of the Rajdhani Express, revising the schedule and route of Dhanbad Tatanagar Swarnarekha Express, starting a Tata Koderma Intercity via Hazaribagh Town and extending the Tata Asansol Express to Sahibganj. Furthermore, there were calls to boost the number of trips of Tatanagar SMVT Express, restart the Tata Ranchi Intercity, and extend it to Lohardaga. (w-mb)

Jamshedpur's Farah gets Swadesh Mantra Walk competition award



Jamshedpur, Jan 13: Jamshedpur girl Farah Naz, a student of Vivekananda International School, was selected as one of the winners of Swadesh Mantra Walk competition organised to celebrate National Youth Day. Farah received the award on Sunday at an event organised at Ramakrisna Mission School, Ranchi.In the state level Swadesh Mantra Walk over 63,000 students from various districts and blocks of the state had participated.The Governor of Jharkhand Santosh Gangwar was the chief guest of the event. IIM Director Deepak Kumar Srivastava and Premsons Motor Industries CMD Puneet Poddar were also present as special guests. Swami Suvirananda, the General Secretary of Ramakrishna Mission joined the ceremony through virtual telecast. Swami Suvirananda said, "There is a need for the youth to imbibe Swami Ji's virtues and follow in his footsteps."

He also blessed the winners and congratulated them. Swami Bhaveshananda, Secretary of Ramakrishna Mission, Morabadi, gave the welcome speech and expressed his gratitude to all the winners, schools and all the volunteers who cooperated in the great work and making it a success. (w/tsb)

Students of Kalakar Art Classes create abstract paintings of Tusu Festival

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Jan 13: In a unique and creative initiative, students of Kalakar Art Classes brought the spirit of the cultural festival Tusu to life through abstract paintings. The project, conducted by Saurabh Pramanik, founder of Kalakar Community, provided students with an opportunity to explore their artistic skills while connecting with their cultural heritage.

The art class, held at Pramanik's residence in Chainpur, encouraged students to depict the Tusu festival—celebrated widely in Jharkhand and West Bengal—through abstract art. Pramanik, who has always been passionate about promoting art and culture, emphasized the significance of preserving such traditional festivals through creative expression. "This type of painting is an important part of our Indian culture, particularly festivals like Tusu, which carry deep cultural meaning. It is essential for us to pass on this cultural heritage to future generations," said Pramanik.

The abstract paintings created by the students showcased the vibrant energy and celebration associated with Tusu, reflecting the festive spirit through various forms and colors. By engaging in this artistic endeavor, the students not only enhanced their creativity but also developed a deeper understanding and appreciation for the cultural values tied to the Tusu festival.

Pramanik added that such activities serve a dual purpose: they nurture the creativity of children and also bring them closer to their roots. The paintings are more than just artistic expressions; they symbolize a strong cultural identity and a commitment to preserving important traditions. The students' artwork serves as a reminder of the importance of cultural festivals in shaping both individual and collective identities. (w/nkm)

Eco Park in Chakulia set to boost tourism in 2025

Mail News Service



Chakulia, Jan 13: The New Year 2025 has brought a major gift for the residents of Chakulia and the surrounding district-a stunning ecological park nearing completion on Amlagoda Road, adjacent to Chakulia town. Spread across 78 hectares, the park is being developed by the Forest Department at a cost of ?20 crore. Once complete, it is expected to become a major tourist attraction in Jharkhand.

Forest Ranger Digvijay Singh shared, "We aim to complete the park's construction within the next two months. Work is progressing at a rapid pace." Officials claim the park will be the most beautiful ecological park ever built by the state government, promising to draw significant tourist interest and boost local tourism.

The park will feature a variety of attractions, including a beautiful flower garden, velvety green lawns, a rose garden, rock and light fountains, a swimming pool, a boating club, a maze, and specialized areas such as a children's park, senior citizens' park, and selfie points. Additional highlights include a treehouse, lily pond, gazebo, and a cafeteria. To maintain greenery, five borewells have been drilled, and a water supply system has been laid across the park.

A religious aspect adds further appeal, with a grand Shiva Kundli and a Chhath Ghat under construction. These features will provide facilities for religious worship and enhance the park's cultural significance.

MLA Sameer Mohanty of Baharagora described the project as a personal ambition. "Amlagoda Park is my dream. It will give a new identity to Chakulia and attract tourists," he stated.

Future plans for the park include the construction of a resort, for which a Rs. 10 crore proposal has already been submitted to the government. The resort will cater to tourists by offering accommodation and destination marriage facilities. "This initiative will not only promote tourism but also generate revenue for the region," an official remarked.With most attractions nearing completion, visitors have already started exploring the site. Upon full launch, the park is expected to significantly enhance the district's reputation as a tourist destination and provide new recreational opportunities for locals. (w/nkm)

State to establish 1000 new health centres, 6000 medical staff to be recruited

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Jan 13: Health Minister Dr. Irfan Ansari announced major healthcare initiatives in Jharkhand, including the establishment of 1000 Primary Health Centers (PHCs) across the state. These PHCs will have dental doctors among the staff, and 6000 medical personnel will be recruited to strengthen healthcare delivery.

Speaking at the first state-level conference of the dental cadre of the Jharkhand State Health Service Association (Jhasa), Dr. Ansari emphasized the government's commitment to accessible healthcare. "The Hemant Soren government is taking big steps to provide better and accessible health services to the patients of Jharkhand," he said.

Dr. Ansari also addressed the pressure on the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) and announced plans for a second RIMS facility, stating, "Soon, Jharkhand will get the gift of RIMS-2." He further revealed that a special campaign to improve the state's health system would be launched after January 14.

During the conference, Jhasa Secretary Dr. Mrityunjay Singh presented the association's demands, while over 150 doctors, including Director General Dr. CK Shahi and Civil Surgeon Dr. Prabhat Kumar, attended.

Highlighting dental health issues, Dr. Ansari said, "Every third person in Jharkhand is suffering from dental problems, but there are only 240 dental doctors in the state. We are committed to the respect and protection of doctors. Incidents like assault and misbehavior with doctors will no longer be tolerated."

The minister urged private doctors to collaborate with the government to enhance healthcare services. He reiterated Chief Minister Hemant Soren's vision for a robust health system, stating that significant changes in the sector would be evident after February.(w-gsd)

100-bed hostel in Potka turns into ruins due to poor location choice

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 13: A 100-bed hostel constructed for Sabar tribe students in Potka block is now a symbol of mismanagement, as it remains unused and is rapidly deteriorating. The hostel, built at a cost of several lakhs, stands empty and is subjected to daily thefts, with electrical and plumbing equipment being stolen.

The foundation stone for this project was laid on 10th October 2017 by the Jharkhand State Building Construction Corporation Limited, and the building was completed three years later. However, due to a poor site selection, the hostel has not been utilized even after four years.

Sunanda Hansda, the head teacher of Giri Bharti High School, which hosts the hostel, stated, "The building was handed over four years ago, but it remains unused. Anti-social elements are stealing fans, bulbs, and plumbing equipment from the hostel every day."

The issue arises from the fact that the hostel was constructed in an area that is not predominantly inhabited by the Sabar tribe, for whom it was intended. Panchayat Mukhiya Kumari Bhumij also expressed concern, stating, "This hostel should have been built in a Sabar-dominated area, where it would have been of real use. The wrong location choice has led to this situation."

Bhumij further mentioned that she plans to meet the Deputy Commissioner (DC) to raise this issue and seek a resolution. "I will request that the building be repurposed under a different scheme to ensure its proper utilization," she added.

Despite the serious nature of the issue, there has been no formal police complaint filed regarding the thefts, though the equipment continues to disappear. The building, once a hope for the educational upliftment of the Sabar tribe, now stands as a neglected structure, raising questions about the planning and execution of such important projects.

The lack of proper utilization and the ongoing damage to the hostel emphasize the need for careful planning and site selection for government projects aimed at community welfare. (w/nkm)

State hospitals neglect newborn screening, infant mortality rate rises

Mail News Service



Ranchi, Jan 13: Alarming gaps in newborn health screenings across Jharkhand have come to light, with only 22% of infants screened for congenital deformities between April and September last year. This negligence has raised concerns about rising infant mortality rates and the worsening of undiagnosed conditions in newborns. Out of 2.63 lakh births during the period, only 59,000 newborns underwent mandatory screenings at delivery points.

Deputy Director of Health Services and State Nodal Officer, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), Dr. Birendra Kumar Singh, expressed displeasure over the laxity and issued directives to all civil surgeons in the state. "Identifying congenital deformities at birth can significantly reduce infant mortality and ensure timely treatment for affected children," he emphasized. Dr. Singh called for strict compliance with screening protocols to address the issue.

Government guidelines under the National Health Mission (NHM) mandate that all newborns be screened at delivery points for conditions like neural tube defects, Down syndrome, cleft lip and palate, and clubfoot. However, data from the Health Management Information System (HMIS) highlights significant lapses in compliance. For instance, districts such as Giridih (1.73%), East Singhbhum (7.55%), and Ranchi (12.45%) showed dismal screening rates. Even Dumka and Deoghar, with high birth counts, failed to meet the standards.

Dr. Singh has instructed civil surgeons to seek explanations from all district hospitals, community health centers (CHCs), and primary health centers (PHCs) regarding this negligence. Despite comprehensive training provided to medical officers, GNMs, and ANMs on identifying and managing congenital deformities, these protocols are not being followed adequately. The absence of early detection has severe consequences, leading to delayed treatments and complications that could have been prevented. .(w-gsd)

Cycle distribution scheme achieves over 97% completion in West Singhbhum

Mail News Service



Chaibasa, Jan 13: A review meeting chaired by District Magistrate-cum-Deputy Commissioner Kuldeep Chaudhary at the West Singhbhum District Collectorate evaluated the progress of key welfare schemes.

The meeting, attended by Deputy Development Commissioner Sandeep Kumar Meena, Project Director-ITDA Jaideep Tigga, and other officials, highlighted the progress under the Unnati Ka Pahiya-Cycle Distribution Scheme. It was reported that 98.37% of the target for 2023-24 and 97.30% for 2024-25 had been achieved. Chaudhary directed the concerned regional officers to ensure 100% distribution of remaining cycles within a week. "We are committed to ensuring every eligible beneficiary receives the support intended under this scheme. Completing this target on time is non-negotiable," emphasized Chaudhary.

Other discussions included progress under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for 2024-25. Officials were instructed to register all eligible students on the e-Kalyan portal within a week and achieve 100% scholarship distribution. Block Education Extension Officers were tasked to compile data of students from UDISE+ and expedite the process. Similarly, under the Livestock Development Scheme, Block Welfare Officers were instructed to finalize the selection of beneficiaries and forward the applications to district headquarters after committee approval. The Deputy Commissioner underscored the importance of meeting deadlines for all welfare programs, ensuring tangible benefits to the communities they serve. (w/nkm)

AJSU demands withdrawal of false cases against Giridih MP

Jamshedpur, Jan 13: AJSU District Spokesperson Appu Tiwari issued a press release urging the state government to withdraw the false cases filed against Giridih MP Chandraprakash Chaudhary. Tiwari condemned the recent clash between peasants and JMM, particularly the incident of arson at the AJSU MP's residential office.

The AJSU party has expressed outrage over the incident and accused the ruling party of attempting to defame the MP by filing baseless cases. Tiwari urged the state police to remain impartial and not succumb to the pressure of the ruling party. He stated that AJSU workers across the state are angered by the situation and are prepared to take to the streets, awaiting instructions from their leaders on whether to protest or start a movement.

The AJSU party is closely monitoring the situation and demands an impartial investigation into the incident.

They called for the removal of the false case against MP Chandraprakash Chaudhary and a fair review of the matter. The party has indicated that it will adopt a vigilant stance and will act decisively in response to the ongoing situation. (w/nkm)

Road safety drive held on Kandra Road



Mail News Service

Gamharia, Jan 13: A road safety inspection campaign was conducted on Monday at Kandra Road by District Transport Officer Girja Shankar Mahato, Motor Vehicle Inspector Dilip Kumar, and the Road Safety Team. Vehicles lacking reflective tape were identified, and the necessary tapes were applied.

Drivers and the public were also educated on measures to prevent road accidents. "This initiative is part of our ongoing efforts to ensure road safety and awareness among the public," said District Road Safety Manager Kundan Verma. The campaign saw active participation from Road Engineering Analyst Ashutosh Kumar Singh and IT Assistant Dhrit Kumar. (w/nkm)

Kandra woman missing for 10 days, family appeals for help



Gamharia, Jan 13: Pooja Ghosh Hazra, a 30-year-old resident of Video Colony, Ward-16, under Kandra police station, has been missing for ten days. Despite extensive searches in the neighbourhood and among relatives, her whereabouts remain unknown.

Her husband, Sujaat Ghosh Hazra, reported that she left home on January 4 around 9:30 a.m. and never returned. "Her mental condition is not stable," he added. The family has appealed to the public for help. Anyone with information is requested to contact 8434132262. (w/nkm)

Ghodababa annual pooja utsav scheduled for Jan 15



Gamharia, Jan 13: The Kumbhakar Samaj has announced that the annual Pooja Utsav of Ghodababa (Bodam Than) will take place on Wednesday, January 15, at Seva Sadan, Bada Gamharia. Preparations are in full swing for the event, which will include religious programs following the morning puja.

"The temple is being painted, and special arrangements are being made to manage the expected crowds," said Bankim Chaudhary, General Secretary of Kumbhakar Samaj. Various committee members have been assigned responsibilities to ensure the event's success. (w/nkm)

Vice president of Bharat Sanskar Trust succumbs to injuries

Gamharia, Jan 13: Rajeshwar Jha, Vice President of Bharat Sanskar Trust, passed away on Monday while undergoing treatment at TMH.

Jha sustained severe head injuries in a road accident at Manjhi Tola, Adityapur, last Thursday. Expressing condolences, a Trust representative said, "His contributions to the Trust were immense. His untimely demise is a great loss to us." The Trust has conveyed deep sympathies to his grieving family. (w/nkm)

Nehru Yuva Kendra members donate blood on National Youth Day



Seraikela, Jan 13: Celebrating National Youth Day, Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) Seraikela-Kharsawan organized a blood donation drive on Monday. Accounts and Program Assistant M. Ramchandra Rao, along with three NYK members, donated blood at the Seraikela Blood Bank. Speaking on the occasion, Rao encouraged the public to donate blood in the interest of humanity and the nation. Blood Bank staff, including lab technicians Shiv Kumar Singh and Ardhendu Kumar Singh, and ANM nurse Chinta Kumari, commended the volunteers and urged more people to come forward for this noble cause. (w/nkm)

Three-day youth festival concludes at Ghatsila College

Mail News Service



Ghatshila, Jan 13: A three-day youth festival celebrating Swami Vivekananda Jayanti concluded at Ghatsila College on January 13. The event, which ran from January 11 to January 13, saw participation from 346 students in various competitions, including speech, essay writing, and drawing, all centreed on the life and philosophy of Swami Vivekananda. In the speech competition, Priya Adhikari (Intermediate) and Anushka Dutta (Graduate) secured the first positions in their respective categories. Essay and painting competitions also showcased remarkable talent, with Riddhi Rani (Intermediate), Archana Hansda (UG/PG), Pratima Hansda (Intermediate), and Sajal Kumar Seat (UG/PG) taking the top honours.

Congratulating the participants, Principal Dr. R.K. Chaudhary said, "These competitions have not only highlighted Swami Vivekananda's teachings but also brought forward the hidden talents of our students. All winners will be honoured on Republic Day, January 26." (w/nkm)

Youth Day blood donation camp collects 26 units at MGM Medical College



Jamshedpur, Jan 13: On the occasion of Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary and National Youth Day, a blood donation camp organized by the National Medicos Organization (NMO), Jamshedpur branch, saw students of MGM Medical College contribute 26 units of blood. The event was held at MGM Hospital's blood bank on Sunday. The chief guest, Dr. Santosh Gupta, NMO Jamshedpur Coordinator and Vice President of the Indian Medical Association, praised the students for their commitment. "Swami Vivekananda's teachings inspire us to face challenges with courage and to serve humanity. His faith in the youth as the architects of the nation remains a guiding light," said Dr. Gupta. He highlighted Vivekananda's famous words, "You give me 100 youth, I will change the world," emphasizing the transformative potential of young people. Dr. Shweta Sahay from MGM's blood bank expressed gratitude for the overwhelming participation of students, including Gopal Singh, Sanjay Mandal, Harsh Keshari, and others, who contributed to the camp's success. (w/nkm)

Daylight murder shocks Seraikela district: Victim shot inside studio



Chandil, Jan 13: Criminals unleashed terror in Seraikela district on Monday as they brazenly shot and killed a man in broad daylight.

The victim, Dilip Gorai, was attacked at Kalpana Studio under Chandil police station at around 11:00 a.m. According to eyewitness accounts, two motorcycle-borne youths arrived at the studio ostensibly to get their photos clicked.

While engaging in conversation with Gorai, the duo had their pictures taken. In a shocking turn of events, they suddenly opened fire on him, leaving him critically injured and bleeding inside the studio.

Hearing the gunshot, Gorai's family members rushed to the studio and were devastated by the scene. Despite efforts to save him, Gorai was pronounced dead at TMH hospital.

The criminals fled on their motorcycle in the direction of Chandil railway station. The chilling incident was captured on CCTV, providing crucial leads for the police.

Speaking on the matter, a police official stated, "We are analyzing the CCTV footage and pursuing all possible angles to apprehend the culprits. This act of daylight violence will not go unpunished."

The incident has plunged the community into grief and raised concerns about the growing audacity of criminal activities in the district. (w/nkm)

जिला दण्डाधिकारी एवं उपायुक्त का कार्यालय
पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर
(जिला योजना)

Expression of Interest (EOI) रद्द सूचना

Tender P.R No.-342786, Planning and Development (24-25)#D, Dated-25.12.2024 से पूर्वी सिंहभूम जिला अंतर्गत Supply and Installation of ECCE Materials and Furniture with BaLA Painting and Nutri Garden in AWC in East Singhbhum, Jharkhand से संबंधित Expression of Interest (EOI) ईच्छुक प्रतिशिठत फर्म/संस्थान से दर आमंत्रण हेतु निविदा सूचना प्रकाशित की गई थी। अपरिहार्य कारणवश इस Expression of Interest (EOI) को रद्द किया जाता है।

PR 344247 Planning and Development (24-25)_D

जिला योजना पदाधिकारी,
पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
एन० आर० ई० पी०,जमशेदपुर

शुद्धि पत्र

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना के अति अल्पकालिन निविदा संख्या – **NIT-06/ 2024 - 25, दिनांक 05-01-2025, PR No.- 343598 (NREP) 24-25*D** द्वारा निविदा विपत्र बिक्री और खोलनी की संशोधित तिथि निम्नवत्:–

परिमाण विपत्र बिक्री की तिथि : 24.01.2025 (शुक्रवार) अपराहन् 11:00 बजे तक।

निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि : 25.01.2025 (शनिवार) अपराहन् 5:00 बजे तक।

निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : 27.01.2025 पूर्वाहन् (सोमवार) 11:00 बजे।

PR 344252 NREP(24-25).D

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
NREP, जमशेदपुर, पूर्वी सिंहभूम

National Youth Day celebrated at Institute for Education College

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Jan 13: On the occasion of National Youth Day, which marks the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, Institute for Education College celebrated the day with great enthusiasm.

The event was organized to honor the contributions of Swami Vivekananda, who is considered a role model for the youth of India, particularly for his emphasis on education, character building, and social service.

During the event, students participated in various activities including a poster and rangoli competition, where they displayed their creativity while reflecting on Swami Vivekananda's ideals.

The students took a pledge to follow his teachings and dedicate themselves to the development of the nation.

Dr. Om Prakash, the coordinator of the event, expressed, "Swami Vivekananda's life and teachings inspire us to strive for greatness and contribute positively to society. Through such events, we hope to instil his values in the younger generation."

The event was attended by college officials including Director R. N. Mahanthy, Principal Dr. Sweety Sinha, and several faculty members, along with students. The celebration concluded with an inspiring message from the college management, urging everyone to live by the ideals set by Swami Vivekananda and contribute to the betterment of society. (w/nkm)

Government of Jharkhand
Urban Development and Housing Department
Nagar Panchayat Seraikella, Seraikella
Palace road, Seraikella
E-mail ID- npseraikella1@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM

E-Tender Notice Reference No.: NIT-06/NPS/2024-25, PR No.-343443

The revised schedule of e-Tender of "selection of Bidder for "Bioremediation and Clearing of Legacy waste (Scientific Dumpsite Land Reclamation through Biomining and Resource Recovery) at dumpsite", Seraikella, Nagar Panchayat Seraikella, Jharkhand will be as follows:

Sl No.	Particulars	Mention as per NIT	Amendment date
1.	Date of Publication of Bid on Website	04-01-2025 by 3:00 PM	15-01-2025 by 3:00 PM
2.	Last date of submission of Technical & Financial Bid Online	20-01-2025 till 04:00 PM	29-01-2025 till 04:00 PM
3.	Opening of Technical Bid	21.01.2025 by 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM	30-01-2025 by 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

PR 344255 Urban Development(24-25)#D

Administrator,
Nagar Panchayat Seraikella,
Seraikella, Jharkhand

DTO launches reflective tape installation campaign

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Jan 13: As part of the ongoing National Road Safety Month, the District Transport Office conducted a special campaign to promote road safety by installing reflective tapes on vehicles along Kandra Road.

The campaign, led by District Transport Officer Girja Shankar Mahato, Motor Vehicle Inspector Dilip Kumar, and Ravi Prasad, targeted vehicles without reflective tape, a crucial component for improving visibility during night travel.

The team worked alongside the Road Safety Team to identify vehicles lacking reflective tapes and took immediate action by applying the tapes on them. The primary aim of this initiative is to reduce road accidents, particularly in low visibility conditions. "Reflective tapes are an essential safety feature that can significantly reduce the risk of accidents, especially during night-time driving," said District Transport Officer Girja Shankar Mahato.

The campaign was part of a broader effort to educate the public about road safety and ensure that vehicles on the road are equipped with necessary safety measures. Kundan Verma, District Road Safety Manager, and Ashutosh Kumar Singh, Road Engineering Analyst, were also actively involved in the campaign. The team urged drivers and vehicle owners to prioritize road safety for the well-being of all road users. (w/nkm)

कार्यालय जुगसलाई नगर परिषद्, जमशेदपुर।

आम सूचना

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि जुगसलाई नगर परिषद् क्षेत्रान्तर्गत किसी भी जल स्रोत यथा–नदी, तालाब, झरना आदि में ठोस या तरल कचरा अथवा अन्य प्रदुषक पदार्थ डालना एक दण्डनीय अपराध है। ऐसा कृत करते पाये जाने पर सम्बंधित व्यक्ति के खिलाफ झारखण्ड नगरपालिका अधिनियम–2011 के सुसंगत धाराओं के तहत सख्त कार्रवाई की जाएगी।

सभी नागरिकों से अनुरोध है कि जल स्रोतों की स्वचछता बनाए रखने में सहयोग करें और पर्यावरण संरक्षण में अपनी भूमिका निभाऐं।

कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी
जुगसलाई नगर परिषद्
जमशेदपुर।

PR 344171 (Urban Development) 24-25 (D)

झारखण्ड शिक्षा परियोजना (समग्र शिक्षा)
पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा
नया समाहरणालय भवन, तृतीय तल (3-R) पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा
पिन– 833202, Email–jepwsm@gmail.com

आम सूचना

एतद् द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि शैक्षणिक सत्र 2024–25 में पश्चिमी सिंहभूम जिला अन्तर्गत संचालित मान्यता प्राप्त निजी विद्यालयों के प्रारंभिक कक्षा के 25% सीटों पर नामांकन हेतु पूर्व में कार्यालय के वेबसाईट पर दिए गए आवेदन के आलोक में शेष रिक्त सीटों पर नामांकन हेतु पुनः सूची कार्यालय के वेबसाईट jepwestsinghbhum.in पर प्रकाशित की गई है।

जिला शिक्षा अधीक्षक–सह–
अपर जिला कार्यक्रम पदाधिकारी
झारखण्ड शिक्षा परियोजना पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा।

PR 344151 East Singhbhum(24-25)D

Ex-Servicemen Maha Sammelan concludes with grandeur

Mail News Service





Ranchi, Jan 13: The two-day Maha Sammelan organized by the All India Ex-Servicemen Service Council (ABPSSP), Jharkhand, concluded successfully in Ranchi on January 12. The event, aimed at promoting the welfare, economic empowerment, and unity of ex-servicemen, saw participation from ex-servicemen, women power groups, and dignitaries from across the state.

Shri Santosh Gangwar, Governor of Jharkhand, graced the event as the Chief Guest, while Minister of State for Defense Shri Sanjay Seth and distinguished military officials, including Major General Paramvir Singh, Lieutenant General Vishnu Kant Chaturvedi, and Air Vice Marshal H.P. Singh, attended as special guests.

The inauguration on January 11 began with lamp lighting and floral tributes, followed by a stirring rendition of "Vande Mataram" and a welcome song by the Matrishakti group.

Lieutenant General Chaturvedi emphasized, "This platform unites us to work for the welfare of those who have served the nation selflessly."

The Sammelan honored gallantry award winners and contributors to the organization, including Mrs. Nilima Kumar, wife of Brigadier Ravi Kumar, Vir Chakra, and Honorary Captain Mago Bading, Sena Medal.

"These inspiring stories are the heart of our organization," said Colonel A.R. Sinha, State President. Key sessions focused on economic empowerment through cooperative institutions in dairy, fisheries, and poultry, as well as financial management and cyber security.

Captain Kumar Anees and Lieutenant Colonel Chandni Chako highlighted healthy lifestyle practices for those over 60.

The second day commenced with a floral tribute to martyred soldiers and the presentation of the organization's theme song, showcasing unity and purpose.

Governor Gangwar assured the development of Jari village, honouring Lance Naik Albert Ekka, Param Vir Chakra awardee, while Shri Sanjay Seth pledged to expedite its completion.

Discussions also included reserving jobs for ex-servicemen in government and public sectors. A documentary on ABPSSP's achievements, along with cultural performances of patriotic songs and dances, added vibrancy to the conference.

Recognizing significant contributors, Colonel Sinha stated, "This success reflects the collective efforts of all involved."

The event, attended by over 800 ex-servicemen and Matrishakti members, concluded with a vote of thanks by Colonel Sinha, who lauded the contributions of District Council Ranchi and other individuals, ensuring the Sammelan's success. (w/nkm)

Excise department dismantles illegal liquor den in Sarjamdih Village

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Jan 13: Following instructions from the Excise Superintendent of Seraikela-Kharsawan, a team from the Excise Department raided an illegal liquor den in the forest area of Sarjamdih village, situated within the Rajnagar police station jurisdiction. The raid led to the demolition of the illegal liquor-making operation, and over 400 kg of Mahua, a traditional alcoholic beverage, was destroyed. In addition, around 20 litres of ready-made distilled liquor were seized.

The operation was part of the ongoing efforts to curb illegal liquor trade in the region and maintain law and order. "We are committed to taking strong action against illegal liquor dens, which not only harm the community but also undermine public health and safety," said an official from the Excise Department.

In addition to dismantling the liquor den, legal action was initiated against the operator of the illicit operation. The Excise Department has been working rigorously to combat illegal alcohol production, which is a significant concern in many rural areas. (w/nkm)

Preparations underway for Republic Day 2025 in Chaibasa

Mail News Service



Chaibasa, Jan 13: A high-level meeting was held at the West Singhbhum District Collectorate auditorium under the joint chairmanship of District Magistrate-cum-Deputy Commissioner Kuldeep Chaudhary and Superintendent of Police Ashutosh Shekhar to review preparations for the upcoming Republic Day celebrations on January 26, 2025. Officials from various departments were instructed to ensure the festivities are conducted with grandeur across the district.

Key arrangements were discussed, including the main event at Police Line Ground-Chaibasa, where the national flag will be hoisted at 9:05 a.m. Flag-hoisting ceremonies will also take place at 10:20 a.m. in the offices of the District Council, Commissioner, and Sadar Sub-Divisional Officer, at 10:50 a.m. in the District Collectorate, and at 11:45 a.m. in the Indian Red Cross Society office. The meeting also outlined a series of pre-Republic Day events to engage the community. On January 24, 2025, a painting competition will be held for students from classes 1 to 7, while students from classes 8 to 12 will participate in a debate competition. Winners will be awarded at the school level. A cultural program is scheduled for January 25, 2025, in the district headquarters city, followed by a friendly cricket match on Republic Day. Departments were directed to complete preparations, including parade arrangements, visitor seating, cleaning statues of eminent personalities, and constructing decorative arches at key locations. Additionally, departments were tasked with creating tableaux showcasing achievements and public welfare schemes to be displayed during the Republic Day celebrations.

Officials emphasized adhering to deadlines to ensure smooth execution. Deputy Development Commissioner Sandeep Kumar Meena, Project Director-ITDA Jaideep Tigga, Additional Deputy Commissioner Praveen Kerketta, Additional Superintendent of Police (Campaign) Paras Rana, Assistant Collector Arnab Mishra, Assistant Superintendent of Police Nikhil Rai, and other senior officials attended the meeting. (w/nkm)

Shakambhari Mata's 11th annual festival celebrated with grandeur

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Jan 13: The 11th Annual Festival of Shakambhari Mata was celebrated with great fervor at Shri Agrasen Bhawan in Sakchi on Monday, with a grand Samuhi Mangalpath event. Organized by the Shri Shakambhari Mata Parivar Tatanagar, the one-day religious ritual began with the traditional Puja Archana and the lighting of a lamp.

The worship of Mata was jointly led by hosts Nisha-Subhash Sonthalia, Sarita-Vinod Sonthalia, Manju-Vijay Sonthalia, and Preeti-Naveen Kanwatia. Chandan Pandit performed the Puja and tied the Raksha Sutra to everyone present, while homemade cakes were offered as Prasad to the goddess. More than 251 women participated in the Mangalpath, dressed in traditional attire, creating a vibrant and spiritual atmosphere. Local artist Manoj Sharma Monu enchanted the devotees with his bhajans and recitations of Mangalpath, further adding to the devotion-filled ambiance. Throughout the ceremony, the Mangal Paath, Bhajans, Chhappan Bhog, Prasad distribution, and the lighting of lamps were the highlights of the event. The devotion was palpable as attendees chanted praises of Mata Shakambhari, and the entire ceremony created an environment of reverence.

Several eminent members of the community who contributed to the success of the festival were honored during the occasion. The religious festivities commenced at 4 pm with Shri Ganesh Vandana and culminated with the Maha Aarti at 10 pm, followed by the distribution of Prasad to all participants. Key contributors to the successful execution of the event included Nitu-Sandeep Harnathka, Manisha-Nitesh Kanwatia, Shyama-Shailesh Kanwatia, Kusum-Vishwanath Sonthalia, Kusum-Pradeep Jawanpuriya, Sumitra-Ramgopal Shah, Saroj-Sitaram Khandelwal, and Pooja-Anand Harnathka. The event's success was made possible by the collective efforts of the organization's leadership, including President Neetu Harnathka, Vice President Savita Sonthalia, Secretary Manisha Kanwatia, and Working Committee Head Sarita Sonthalia. Their combined efforts ensured a smooth and memorable festival for all the devotees. (w/nkm)

Ghatshila: Virtual VISION-24 evokes widespread response

Mail News Service

Ghatshila, Jan 13: Creative Art Division (Ghatsila) and Take 5 Communications (Kolkata) came together yet again to bring the 12th edition of VISION, the Annual Short Film Festival of Ghatsila. VISION 2024 happened virtually on December 29 with a repeat show on December 30.

SHAHAJJO (Bengali) by DhananjoyMondal, I CAN FLY (Hindi) by Amit Kumar, APNA TIME KAB AYEGA (Bengali) by AbhishekGanguli, MUJHE LAASH CHAHIYE (Hindi) by IndranilHazra and JAI HIND (Bengali) by IndrajitGhosh were the films that were screened in this edition of the Film Festival. The films were thought provoking and each of them tried to tackle specific social issues.

There has been a significant viewership for VISION over the years both in its physical editions as well as in its virtual formats and this positive vibe has resulted in the continuity of the Film Festival for 12 years now.

"It has been tough for us to do this Film Festival in a small town like Ghatsila as there is no sponsorship support in this regard. But still, battling against all odds, we have been able to do it annually and we have completed12 years which is some kind of an achievement. We are thankful to our viewers who have given their unconditional support year after year.

We would try and continue with our creative endeavour and hopefully come back to our original physical version," said Debraj Mukherjee and Tathagata Bhattacherjee, the men behind the effort.

Makar Parab: 51-year-old tradition continues in Nutandih Village

Mail News Service

Jaduguda, Jan 13: Nutandih village celebrated its 51st annual Milan Ceremony on Makar Parab with a day of sports competitions and cultural activities.

Organized by the Adivasi Resident Juan Akhara, the event saw enthusiastic participation from children and women.

President of the Akhara, Rameshwar Sardar, stated, "This tradition reflects our community's unity and cultural pride. Every year, we strive to make it more engaging." Competitions included frog races, balloon breaking, rope making, and traditional dona patta crafting. The event concluded with an award ceremony led by Sideshvar Sardar and Rameshwar Sardar, honouring the best participants. "It's a moment of joy for us to keep our heritage alive through such festivities," Sardar remarked. (w/nkm)

Makar Sankranti brings festive cheer to Kolhan, sweets in high demand

Mail News Service



Chaibasa, Jan 13: The festival of Makar Sankranti is being celebrated with enthusiasm across Kolhan, with markets bustling with the sale of traditional sweets like tilkut, chura, jaggery, and curd. The festival, marking the Sun's transition into Capricorn, is steeped in tradition and culinary delights. In Chaibasa, tilkut is being sold at prices ranging from Rs 220 to Rs 400 per kilogram, while chura ranges from Rs 60 to Rs 100. To attract customers, shopkeepers are showcasing attractively packed sweets. Kite flying, another tradition associated with Sankranti, has also gained traction, with kites priced between Rs 20 and Rs 50. "The demand for tilkut and jaggery is always high during Makar Sankranti as they symbolize good health and energy," said a local vendor. Families continue to celebrate by preparing traditional dishes and engaging in cultural activities. (w/nkm)

Bone cancer patient receives Rs 2.48 lakh aid under CM's Health Scheme

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, Jan 13: A meeting of the Incurable Disease Committee at Sadar Hospital, chaired by Deputy Superintendent Dr. Shivcharan Hansda, approved Rs 2.48 lakh for the treatment of Manoj Biruli, a 15-year-old bone cancer patient from Tantnagar block.

Manoj is undergoing treatment at Meherbai Cancer Hospital in Jamshedpur.

This is the second financial assistance granted to him, following an earlier disbursement of Rs 2.10 lakh under the Chief Minister's Serious Illness Scheme.

"It is crucial to spread awareness about this scheme so that more patients in need can benefit from it," said Rajaram Gupta, representative of MLA Deepak Birua, during the meeting.

Other committee members, including Dr. Barial Mardi and Dr. Polina Mundu, emphasized the importance of timely financial support to critically ill patients. (w/nkm)

Central team inspects health centers in Seraikela, Digital data verification continues

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Jan 13: A central team from Delhi, comprising research analyst Adarsh Gupta and Dr. Rahul Kumar, began a three-day visit on Monday to evaluate the health facilities in Seraikela-Kharsawan district.

The inspection commenced at Saraikela Sadar Hospital, Health Center Mangudih, and a Health Sub Center. This inspection is part of an effort to assess the infrastructure, operations, and accuracy of digital health records at health centers.

The team will continue their visit from January 13 to January 16, inspecting a variety of health centers across the district. On Tuesday, they will visit the Community Health Center, Primary Health Center, and Health Sub Center in Gamharia block, followed by visits to the Community Health Center and Health Sub Center in Rajnagar block on Wednesday.

Focus on digital data and health center facilities: The central team's primary objective is to evaluate the operation of health centers and verify the accuracy of digital health records (HMIS data). Adarsh Gupta explained that the team is focusing on checking the physical veracity of digitally recorded data. Based on these evaluations, a comprehensive report will be submitted to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Health worker leave cancelled: In response to the central team's visit, the Chief Medical Officer has cancelled the leave of all health workers and officials. The order specifies that leave will only be granted under special circumstances during this critical inspection period.

Evaluation of PIP and HMIS data: In addition to verifying health center facilities, the team is also monitoring the Program Implementation Plan (PIP) and ensuring that the digital health data matches physical records.

This thorough review is an important step in improving the quality of healthcare services. During the inspection, the hospital administration shared its challenges and requirements with the team. The central team provided suggestions on areas for improvement to strengthen the health centers further. This inspection is being seen as a crucial move to enhance healthcare facilities and services in the region. A meeting was held in the Civil Surgeon's office where the status of available health facilities and digital data was reviewed. The team also conducted checks on the veracity of health facilities and digital records at Sadar Hospital Seraikela, with the presence of Deputy Superintendent Dr. Nakul Prasad Chaudhary and DPM Nirmal Das. (w/nkm)

Ignoring the middle class

Delhi, often associated with wealth and affluence, takes on a surprisingly different hue during election season. The Delhi Assembly elections bring a fierce competition among the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and Congress, each vying for voter attention with a slew of welfare promises. Yet, amidst this frenzied generosity targeting specific groups, one class finds itself glaringly absent from the political discourse-the middle class.

Delhi boasts the highest per capita income in India, a fact that seemingly contradicts the urgency with which political parties announce freebies. Historically, the middle class has played a significant role in shaping political movements, as seen during the 2011 anti-corruption protests led by Anna Hazare. The movement, which culminated in the rise of AAP under Arvind Kejriwal, received widespread support from this very group. However, the current election campaigns reveal a shift in focus, with the middle class sidelined in favor of welfare schemes for the urban poor and marginalized communities.

AAP's governance model over the last two terms has revolved around welfare initiatives targeting the underprivileged. These include subsidized electricity, free water, free bus rides for women, and extensive improvements in health and education. The party's recently released campaign song, Phir Laayenge Kejriwal, appears to reach out to a broader audience, but the underlying message remains centered on freebies for specific groups. Promises for the upcoming elections include a monthly stipend for women, free treatment for senior citizens, scholarships for Dalit students, and financial support for religious workers.

The BJP, typically seen as a party emphasizing economic growth over handouts, has also adopted a welfare-centric approach in Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi assured voters that existing schemes would not only continue but be enhanced. This shift mirrors AAP's model, as the BJP seeks to counter the narrative that their governance might withdraw such benefits. Meanwhile, Congress, still struggling to regain its foothold in the capital, has announced its own set of promises, including health insurance and financial aid for women.

While these initiatives undeniably benefit large sections of the population, they starkly highlight the exclusion of the middle class. This demographic-neither affluent enough to escape the grind of daily expenses nor poor enough to qualify for welfare schemes-is often regarded as the backbone of society. They contribute significantly to the economy through taxes, yet find themselves overlooked in electoral promises.

The Delhi Economic Survey 2023-24 estimates the city's per capita income at ?4.61 lakh, far surpassing the national average of ?1.84 lakh. This statistic underscores the relative prosperity of Delhi's populace but also raises questions about the sustainability of welfare politics in a city where a substantial portion of the population already enjoys higher incomes. Should the focus not also be on empowering the middle class, which fuels economic growth, supports entrepreneurial ventures, and drives innovation?

AAP's welfare model has undoubtedly brought relief to many, but it risks alienating the very group that helped catapult it into power. The 2011 anti-corruption movement resonated with the middle class's demand for accountability, yet that spirit appears diluted in the current narrative. For a party that emerged as a voice of the common man, the lack of focus on middle-class aspirations could erode its broader appeal.

The sidelining of the middle class in Delhi's electoral landscape is symptomatic of a larger trend in Indian politics, where populist measures often take precedence over inclusive development. It is time political parties recognize the importance of engaging with the middle class not just as voters but as stakeholders in shaping a balanced and equitable future. By addressing their concerns, such as rising living costs, quality education, and reliable healthcare, politicians can pave the way for a governance model that fosters trust across all segments of society.

The middle class has long been the silent force behind Delhi's prosperity. Ignoring them in the political calculus may yield short-term gains, but it risks creating a divide that could hinder long-term progress for the capital.

From the Editorial Desk

Delhi dilemma for Congress - how far to push against AAP!



Deepika Bhan



As the BJP and AAP's aggressive campaigning for the February 5 Delhi Assembly election takes centre stage, the Congress suddenly appears to have run out of steam, rather it has held back its horses. This is intriguing given the fact that this election presents the right opportunity for the grand old party to bounce back in the national capital.

The Congress has been almost wiped out in Delhi as it has failed to win any seat in the last two Assembly polls and the Lok Sabha elections from Delhi.

However, this time there is significant scope for the Congress party as AAP has been engulfed in corruption cases, and its top leadership is on bail after being arrested on various charges. AAP's stint of five years since 2020 has been riddled with controversies and charges of no development. The national capital has witnessed significant political drama and theatrics, leaving people confused about AAP's goals, credibility, and practicality. It is here where the Congress party could have pushed itself into AAP's territories and reclaim its lost space. The BJP, in any case for both of them, is the enemy.

Even though the Congress has finally listed Rahul Gandhi to begin its campaign with a rally in Seelampur to be followed by Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, the initial aggression shown by the Delhi leaders has gone missing. The steam seems to have been taken out after Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party raised a stick.

It all started when veteran leader Ajay Maken launched a frontal attack on Kejriwal while releasing a White Paper on the "black deeds" of both the AAP government and the BJP-led Central government. He declared plans to reveal alleged 'anti-national' links between the AAP chief and certain outfits and even described Kejriwal as 'Farziwal'. The press conference was scheduled for a later date. However, Maken's press conference was postponed. Congress said it was delayed as they needed to get "some documents". Eventually, the press conference was cancelled and may not happen at all.

The reason is that AAP red-flagged Ajay Maken's statement. AAP put the Congress on notice over Maken's "anti-national" barb at Kejriwal and asked the party to take action against him or else it would approach INDIA bloc allies to "drop" the party from the Opposition bloc. AAP was also miffed by the Congress lodging a complaint against Kejriwal, accusing him of "misleading and deceiving" the people with promises of "non-existent" welfare schemes.

Apparently, the INDIA bloc back channels worked for Kejriwal and played a part in persuading the Congress top guns not to escalate its attacks on Kejriwal. Most of the Congress allies in the opposition bloc soon came out in support of Kejriwal. The rallying for the AAP chief in the bloc perhaps did the work and the Congress leashed its veteran leader Maken.

Maken, who had been at the forefront of the party's Delhi campaign has gone quiet. An unexpected twist occurred when the Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister announced the 'Pyari Didi Yojana', a scheme promising Rs 2,500 in monthly assistance to women in Delhi if the party comes to power. Why should the Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister launch the scheme and not the party's top leadership, including Priyanka Gandhi, is a question that reflects the confusion that is prevailing in the party.

By going weak before the AAP, the Congress party seems to have given up on the fight. It has left the battle to be fought by individual leaders at the local level. It may or may not be able to fetch big numbers in the Assembly. Even if it gets a few, the party will rejoice as it has been scoring zero in the past two Assembly elections.

The fight between the AAP and the Congress party is largely for the minority Muslims and the marginalised, especially the Dalits. Muslim voters constitute almost 12 per cent of Delhi's population and Dalits make up around 17 per cent of the voters. Both were the Congress' trusted vote bank which later shifted to after 2013. Perhaps, this may be the reason that Rahul Gandhi is beginning his campaign from Seelampur which has a sizeable Muslim population.

The Congress may or may not win a seat or seats in the Delhi Assembly, it, however, has exposed its weakness in the INDIA bloc before its allies - both national and regional. Its not-so-proactiveness will go a long way to further dent its image, especially that of Rahul Gandhi. The grand old party has this one chance to strengthen itself in the national capital where it has seen a drastic decline in vote share in comparison to AAP's meteoric rise. The Congress' vote share in Delhi has declined drastically over the years, dropping from 40.31 per cent in 2008 to 24.55 per cent in 2013, 9.7 per cent in 2015, and a mere 4.26 per cent in 2020.

Since Delhi's Legislative Assembly was established in 1993, the BJP came to power once The Congress ruled Delhi for three consecutive terms from 1998 to 2013. And after that, the AAP has been in power. With anti-incumbency and the plethora of cases against the ruling AAP leaders, the Congress has the perfect pitch laid to rise and better its position in Delhi's electoral battle.

However, with AAP raising its stick and INDIA bloc allies siding with Kejriwal, the Congress seems to be in dilemma at how far to push its ally AAP. If the dilemma continues, the odds could weigh heavily on Congress.

(Deepika Bhan can be contacted at deepika.b@ians.in)

After completing 91 years, Jabalpur's Lala Ramswaroop Panchang popular in foreign lands



It won't be wrong to say that Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur-based Lala Ramswaroop Panchang, the Hindu calendar, which has completed 91 years of journey, has become an integral part of the life of people across the country.

The most trusted yearly calendar now has started making a strong presence in foreign lands, including the US, the UK, the UAE and almost every part of the world wherever Indian families are living, said Prahlad Agrawal, who is the owner of Lala Ramswaroop calendar.

During an exclusive interaction with IANS, sharing the successful journey for more than nine decades of this calendar, Lala Ramswaroop Agrawal's son Prahlad Agrawal said that his father had started this calendar from his home district Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh in 1934.

"In the past 91 years, the Lala Ramswaroop calendar has reached almost every home from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and for a few years, it has also started making a presence in several overseas countries. People are sending this calendar to their children wherever they are living, and this is the reason, it has made a strong presence across the world," he added.

Prahlad Agrawal said that it was initially started as a pamphlet, having information about Hindu 'tithis' and 'nakshatras' and used to distribute to the people in Jabalpur free of cost.

The number of copies and content continued to increase as per the demand from the people, and it has become the most trusted Hindu Panchang in the country.

"After growing demand of the Panchang, for the first time, my father decided to publish as many as 500 copies. All copies were sold out within a few days, which probably made him work more on it year after year. Gradually, it became our business," he added.

Agrawal also added that for this 12-page calendar (one page is dedicated for one month), he works for the entire 365 days to collect every single information added to it.

"This is not just a calendar but the trust of millions of people. Hence, we try to provide accurate information to maintain that faith," he said.

The calendar is designed to make it accessible to the common man as it guides astrological almanack and for practising Hindu festivals.

Agrawal said that the Lala Ramswaroop calendar had started publishing about digital arrests around 10 years ago when the people were not aware of it.

The Lala Ramswaroop Panchang includes information such as 'Tithi' (Hindu date), 'Vara' (days of the week), 'Nakshatra' (group of stars), 'Yoga' (auspicious moment), and 'Karan' (half of the Tithi).

Maha Kumbh buzz: Tourism ministry helpline looks to tap influencers



With the aim to take the ongoing Maha Kumbh 2025 to global tourists, the Union Ministry of Tourism has plans to work closely with social media influencers, scholars, researchers, photographers and media by offering a toll-free Tourist Infoline (1800111363 or 1363), an official said on Sunday.

Besides English and Hindi, the toll-free Tourist Infoline operates in 10 International languages to provide help, information, and guidance to make the experience smoother and more enjoyable for international visitors.

The helpline also offers assistance in Indian vernacular languages, including Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Bengali, Assamese and Marathi, an official statement said.

The Ministry has set up the Incredible India Pavilion, a sprawling 5000 sq. ft. space at Maha Kumbh, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, which will facilitate foreign tourists, scholars, researchers, photographers, journalists, expat community and Indian Diaspora.

The Ministry has launched a major social media campaign to generate buzz about the Maha Kumbh-2025. Special hashtags such as #Mahakumbh2025 and #SpiritualPrayagraj are being used to encourage people to share their experiences and moments from the event.

Social media contests and collaborative posts with organisations like ITDC, UP Tourism, and other organisations, are amplifying the visibility of the event and inviting people to witness this spiritual extravaganza.

The Ministry of Tourism has collaborated with key tourism stakeholders like the Uttar Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation (UPSTDC), IRCTC, and ITDC to offer a range of curated tour packages and luxury accommodation options.

ITDC has set up 80 Luxury accommodations at Tent City, Prayagraj, while IRCTC is also providing Luxury Tents to accommodate the influx of pilgrims and tourists. These packages will be available in a digital brochure, which has been widely circulated to Indian Missions and India Tourism Offices for greater amplification.

A large-scale photoshoot and videography project to capture the grandeur and spiritual essence of the Maha Kumbh has also been planned.

The visuals will be shared widely across international and national media platforms, showcasing the grandeur of the Maha Kumbh and highlighting the tourism potential of Prayagraj as a spiritual and cultural destination.

Robust manufacturing, MSMEs among 5 key factors to create millions of jobs: PHDCCI



New Delhi, Jan 13 (IANS) Prioritising the manufacturing sector and strengthening the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), among others, can not only ensure sustained economic development but also generate millions of employment opportunities, the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) said on Monday.

The industry chamber proposed a comprehensive five-pronged strategy aimed at creating employment and fostering economic growth and development in the country.

These pillars include boosting rural demand and agricultural reforms, enhancing export competitiveness and fostering university-industry linkages.

The industry body, in its 100-day agenda for the government, suggested to formulate a comprehensive National Employment Policy on a mission mode approach with targeted outcomes on a quarterly basis as increased employment would strengthen India's journey towards Viksit Bharat by 2047.

PHDCCI suggests prioritising the manufacturing sector which contributes approximately 16 per cent to India's GDP and "the target should be to increase this share to 25 per cent by 2030".

Over the last few years, the government has made commendable strides by removing over 42,000 compliances, thus creating a more conducive environment for businesses.

Further, more needs to be done for the ease of doing business at the factories level so that entrepreneurs are able to deploy more and more workforce in their respective premises.

The second crucial strategy is to strengthen the MSMEs, backbone of India's economy with over 60 million MSMEs that contribute approximately 30 per cent to the nation's GDP and employ over 110 million people.

"Challenges such as easier availability of finances, robust technological infrastructure, and simplified regulatory environment should be strengthen for the futuristic growth of MSMEs," said Hemant Jain, President, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Boosting rural demand and agricultural reforms has been highlighted as the third pronged of the strategy which emphasises the importance of boosting rural demand, which is intrinsically linked to enhancing agricultural incomes.

"Rural demand, a key driver of economic growth, can significantly impact India's employment landscape. Strengthening rural economies will create new opportunities for growth, particularly in the manufacturing and services sectors," said Jain.

IPO-bound seafood marketplace Captain Fresh postsRs 229 crore loss in FY24



New Delhi, Jan 13 (IANS) IPO-bound B2B seafood marketplace Captain Fresh suffered a loss of Rs 229 crore in FY24, from Rs 295.8 crore in FY23, reducing losses by 22.4 per cent.

In last fiscal, the company's total expenses also increased by 44.8 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,648 crore. It was Rs 1,138 crore in FY23, as per its financials.

Material cost contribution was 79.55 per cent in the company's total expenses. It increased by 72.5 per cent to Rs 1,311 crore.

The company's employee expenses in FY24 declined by 32.45 per cent year-on-year to Rs 81.6 crore. Legal expenses increased by 30.56 per cent year-on-year to Rs 47 crore.

The company's transportation expenses in FY24 declined by 24 per cent year-on-year to Rs 38 crore. Other expenses remained stable at Rs 170.4 crore, according to its financials.

Captain Fresh's operating income in FY24 increased by 70.7 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,395 crore, from Rs 817 crore in FY23.

From this, 99.28 per cent or Rs 1,385 crore of income came from the sale of products. At the same time, Rs 1.3 crorewere received from the sale of services and Rs 8.7 crore from other items. If the interest income of Rs 27 crore is also included, then the gross income of Captain Fresh in FY24 was Rs 1,422 crore.

Due to loss in FY24, the company's ROCE and EBITDA margins remained at (-) 22.95 per cent and (-) 12.10 per cent. The company spent Rs 1.18 to earn one rupee in the last financial year.

The company's current assets in FY24 were Rs 1,804 crore and this also includes cash and bank balance of Rs 148 crore.

We Work India clocks nearly Rs 131 croreloss in FY24, expenses up by 19 pc



New Delhi, Jan 13 (IANS) Flexible co-working space provider WeWork India suffered a loss of about Rs 130.8 crore in FY24, down from Rs 144.5 crore in FY23.

WeWork India's total expenses last fiscal also increased by 19 per cent to Rs 1,864.3 crore. The expenses were Rs 1,566.7 crore in FY23.

The Bengaluru-based company's non-cash components such as depreciation and amortisation accounted for 40 per cent of the company's total cost. It increased by 16.9 per cent to Rs 742.8 crore, according to data accessed by business intelligence platform Tofler.

Employee costs were another major part of the company's expenses, surged by 11.9 per cent to Rs 132 crore in FY24.

The company's operating income grew 26 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,661.6 crore in FY24 from Rs 1,314 crore in FY23.

Membership fees accounted for 84 per cent of the company's total income. It grew 48.9 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,402.5 crore. Apart from this, the company received Rs 71.9 crore as other income in FY24, taking the company's gross income to Rs 1,733.5 crore.

Meanwhile, WeWork India has just raised Rs 500 crore through a rights issue, with an objective to reduce debt and increase growth.

At the end of FY24, the company had a debt of Rs 616.5 crore, and its total assets were worth Rs 4,485.3 crore, according to data.

India's retail inflation falls to 4-month low of 5.22 pc in Dec



New Delhi, Jan 13 (IANS) India's retail inflation rate, based on the Consumer Price Index, fell to a 4-month low of 5.22 per cent in December as prices of vegetables, pulses and sugar eased during the month bringing respite to household budgets, according to figures released by the Ministry of Statistics on Monday.

The easing of inflation reflects a steadily declining trend after having touched a 14-month high of 6.21 per cent in October. CPI inflation had declined to 5.48 per cent in November.

The decline in retail inflation in December was attributed to the easing of the price spiral in key food items.

"During the month of December, a significant decline in inflation is observed in vegetables, pulses, sugar and confectionary, cereals and personal care & effects," according to a Ministry statement.

The year-on-year housing inflation rate for the month of December is 2.71 per cent, down from 2.87 per cent in November. The housing index is compiled for the urban sector only.

The top five items showing the highest year on year Inflation at the All India level in December 2024 are Peas (Vegetables) (89.12 per cent), Potato (68.23 per cent), Garlic (58.17 per cent), coconut oil (45.41 per cent) and Cauliflower (39.42 per cent). The key items having the lowest year-on-year inflation in December 2024 are jeera (-34.69), ginger (-22.93 per cent), dry chillies (-10.32 per cent), LPG (excl. conveyance) (-9.29 per cent), official data show.

The easing in inflation is a welcome sign as it was the first time that the rate of retail inflation crossed the RBI's upper limit of 6 per cent in October. The RBI is waiting for the retail inflation to come down to 4 per cent on a durable basis before it can go in for an interest rate cut to propel growth.

The RBI during its last policy review slashed the cash reserve ratio (CRR) for banks by 0.5 per cent to make more funds available for lending to spur economic growth but kept the key policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent with an eye on inflation.

The CRR has been reduced from 4.5 per cent to 4 per cent which will infuse Rs 1.16 lakh crore into the banking system and bring down market interest rates.

The monetary policy decision maintains a delicate balance between controlling inflation and pushing up the growth rate in a slowing economy,

In his last monetary policy view, former RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said, "India's growth story is still intact. Inflation is on the declining path, but we cannot overlook the significant risks in the outlook. This risk cannot be underestimated."

He was optimistic about the outlook for the economy, observing that "the balance between inflation and growth is well poised."

India set to redefine global trade at 6.4 pc CAGR over next decade: Report



New Delhi, Jan 13 (IANS) India is poised to redefine its role in global trade, with a projected compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6.4 per cent in trade over the next decade, roughly in line with its high GDP growth, according to a report on Monday.

The ASEAN region and especially India, are among the greatest beneficiaries of production shifts spurred by geopolitics, such as trade tensions between the US and China.

"We project 6.4 per cent CAGR in India's total trade through 2033, to $1.8 trillion annually, roughly in line with its high GDP growth," according to the report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG).

As the world increasingly pivots toward resilient and diversified supply chains, India's 'China+1' strategy, backed by its large domestic market, skilled workforce, and forward-looking policies, positions it as a preferred global manufacturing hub.

"Strengthening partnerships with the US, EU and emerging regions like Africa and ASEAN will be pivotal for India to capitalise on this momentum and drive inclusive, sustainable growth in global trade," said Nishant Gupta, Managing Director Partner, BCG India.

India is emerging as the other big Global South trade story as it pursues favourable relations with most of the world's major economies.

Among the drivers will be India's growing popularity as a production base for companies seeking to diversify supply chains concentrated in China, hefty government incentives for manufacturing, a huge low-cost workforce, and rapidly improving infrastructure, said the report. The analysis by BCG's Center for Geopolitics estimates that global trade is set to top $29 trillion by 2033, but the routes these goods will travel is changing at a remarkable pace. The Global South, which accounts for around 30 per cent of global trade, is likely to see several major shifts over the coming decade.

Geopolitical rivalries, alliances, and aspirations are rewiring the global economy - and will continue to do so in the years ahead, accelerated by the imposition of tariffs by the US on foreign imports, the report mentioned. Without a broad increase in tariffs, world trade in goods will keep growing at an average of 2.9 per cent annually for the next eight years, but the routes goods travel will change markedly as North America reduces its dependence on China and China builds up its links with the Global South, which is cementing its power in the global trade map.

"Trade lanes were already shifting from historical patterns and looming US tariffs will accelerate this. Navigating these new dynamics will be critical for any global business," said Aparna Bharadwaj, managing director and partner at BCG, global leader of the Global Advantage practice.

In terms of product categories imported by the US, the greatest impact would be on imported auto parts and automotive vehicles, which would primarily affect trade with Mexico, the EU, and Japan.

Consumer electronics, electrical machinery, and fashion goods would be most affected by higher tariffs on Chinese goods.

"We estimate that a 60 per cent tariff rate would add $61 billion to cost of importing consumer electronics products from China into the US," said the report.

Indian corporates headed for better credit metrics in 2025-26: Fitch



Mumbai, Jan 13 (IANS) The credit metrics of rated Indian corporates are expected to improve in the next financial year (April 2025-March 2026) driven by wider EBITDA (Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization) margins, despite high capex intensity, according to the latest Fitch report.

Fitch in its report 'India Corporates Credit Trends: January 2025' said improving leverage will help most corporates maintain adequate rating headroom. "We expect India's steady GDP growth outlook, the banking sector's improved financial health and likely interest-rate cuts in 2025 to support overall credit access for corporates in FY26," the report states.

There is a widespread expectation that the Reserve Bank of India would cut interest rates in 2025 after it eased liquidity by lowering the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 50 basis points in its policy review meeting last month. Fitch also expects India's GDP growth of 6.5 per cent and robust infrastructure spending "to underpin healthy demand for cement, electricity, petroleum products, steel, and engineering and construction (E&C) companies during FY26.

Sales will decline in low-single digits for the oil and gas production and oil marketing companies (OMCs) as lower prices counterbalance a low-to-mid single-digit volume growth, the report states.

Fitch expects aggregate sales growth for Fitch-rated corporates to remain limited to 1-2 per cent in FY26 (FY25 forecast: 1.5 per cent), mainly reflecting the impact of lower prices on oil and gas upstream, and refining and marketing companies, while other sectors will see varying growth.

It expects only mid-single-digit sales growth for IT service companies, as customers in key overseas markets limit discretionary spending in light of slow economic growth prospects.

Auto suppliers' sales growth will moderate to mid-single digits amid slower volume growth in the domestic market and lower exports.

Apple clocks Rs 1 lakh crore worth iPhone exports from India in 2024: Industry

New Delhi, Jan 13 (IANS) Riding on the government's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme and rising premiumisation trend, Apple has reached Rs 1 lakh crore in iPhone exports from India in the calendar year 2024.

According to early industry estimates, Apple exported more than $12 billion worth iPhones last year, which is more than 40 per cent growth from 2023.

Apple's domestic production has surged nearly 46 per cent from a year ago, as per estimates. The Cupertino (California)-based tech giant manufactured/assembled $14 billion of iPhones in India last fiscal (FY24), with exporting more than $10 billion worth of iPhones.

Meanwhile, the Apple ecosystem has also created 1,75,000 new direct jobs in four years with "over 72 per cent women".

2024 became the year of Apple in India where the tech giant made new exports as well as domestic sale records, driven by the rising trend of premiumisation, the government's PLI scheme and aggressive retail expansion.

Apple's strategic approach in India over the past year has resulted in significant achievements and increased market importance, according to industry experts.

Top industry associations slam Zomato, Swiggy over private label food delivery



New Delhi, Jan 13 (IANS) The Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) and the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) have reiterated serious concerns over online food aggregators Zomato and Swiggy's recent move to enter the private label food delivery business. The FHRAI, which is the third largest hospitality association in the world, pointed out several issues, including unfair competition, misuse of restaurant data, and potential risks to food safety.

The NRAI, representing over five lakh restaurants -- an industry valued at Rs 5.69 lakh crore -- said that private-label food delivery undermines the principles of fair competition and poses a significant threat to the viability of thousands of restaurants across the country.

The FHRAI plans to meet the Ministry of Commerce officials to discuss these concerns and push for regulatory action to ensure fair practices in the food service industry.

"We are meeting with the Commerce Ministry very soon and have requested an expedited appointment to discuss this serious issue. The actions of platforms like Zomato and Swiggy represent a direct violation of established e-commerce regulations," said Pradeep Shetty, Vice President of FHRAI. Shetty noted that these companies were originally designed to function as neutral marketplace platforms -- connecting consumers with restaurants -- and not as direct competitors.

By introducing and selling their own food products, they undermine the very essence of a marketplace model, creating an uneven playing field that disproportionately harms restaurants, said the association.

According to the FHRAI, by leveraging data from restaurants, such as customer preferences and sales trends, Zomato and Swiggy can create personalised deals that directly impact the restaurant's business.

Sagar Daryani, President of the NRAI, said that Zomato and Swiggy "have all our data which they do not share with us. For us, there is complete consumer masking".

This strategy not only "cannibalises the business of restaurants that rely on these platforms" but also raises serious concerns under the Copyright Act and related laws, the NRAI said.

In addition, the industry bodies also raised concern over food safety standards applied to these private label products.

The hotel associations have urged regulators to take swift action to address the growing concerns related to data misuse, unfair competition, and food safety in the wake of these new developments in the food delivery market.

Tusu Festival: A mesmerizing symphony of harvest, culture, and unity

Navneet Mishra



The Tusu Festival, also known as Tusu Parab, is an exuberant celebration of culture, harvest, and community, observed predominantly in Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Odisha. Deeply rooted in the traditions of the Kudmi and tribal communities, the festival marks the end of the Poush month and coincides with Makar Sankranti, celebrated on January 14. Tusu Festival is more than a ritual-it's a confluence of gratitude, folklore, and vibrant cultural expressions.

A festival of gratitude and sacrifice

At its core, Tusu Festival is a thanksgiving to nature for a bountiful harvest, reflecting the deep bond agricultural communities share with the land. The festival is also steeped in reverence, inspired by the legend of Tusu, a young girl who, according to folklore, sacrificed herself for her people.

"This festival is not just about celebrating the harvest but also about honouring the spirit of selflessness and resilience embodied by Tusu," shared tribal elder Dhiredra Nath Mahato.

His story continues to inspire the rituals, lending the festival a profound emotional and spiritual depth.

Unmarried girls at the heart of the celebrations

A unique aspect of the festival is the prominent role played by unmarried girls. They craft intricate idols of Tusu using clay or other natural materials, decorating them with flowers, colorful fabrics and ornaments. These idols become the centrepiece of rituals, accompanied by traditional songs and dances.

"Creating the Tusu idol is a labour of love, and through this, we express our gratitude to the divine and connect with our heritage," said Priya Kumari, a young participant from Jamshedpur. The festival culminates in a grand procession where the idols are immersed in rivers, symbolizing the cycle of nature and renewal.

Songs and dances: The heartbeat of Tusu

The festival comes alive with the harmonious blend of folk songs and traditional dances. Women gather in colorful attire, singing melodies such as "Bidaai Leti Go Tusu Bala" and "Dhol Nagada Tusu Sajawa." These songs narrate tales of farewell, celebration, and shared joys, encapsulating the essence of the festival.

Dances such as the Chhau, Horse Dance and Bulbuli Dance add a visual spectacle to the festivities. Performers, dressed in elaborate costumes, bring stories to life through their movements. Instruments like the dhol (drum), mandar (hand drum) and surangi (flute) lend a rhythmic vitality, turning villages into arenas of celebration.

"Tusu Festival is our way of celebrating life itself. The songs and dances are our expression of joy and gratitude," remarked folk musician Subodh Chatterjee.

A culinary feast of traditions

Food is an integral part of the Tusu Festival, showcasing the culinary heritage of the region. Traditional delicacies like Gud Pitha (sweet rice cakes with jaggery), Til Laddus (sesame seed balls), Mudhi Laddus (puffed rice balls), and Maanso Pithas (savory rice cakes with spiced meat) are prepared with care.

"These dishes are not just food; they are memories shared with family and friends," said homemaker Rajeshwari from Odisha. The preparation and sharing of these delicacies enhance the communal spirit, making the festival even more special.

A platform for unity and inclusion

While the festival is deeply rooted in the traditions of Kurmi and tribal communities, its inclusive nature is remarkable. People from various castes, religions, and regions participate, fostering a spirit of unity. The rural fairs, cultural performances, and communal activities bridge social divides and create a space for shared celebration.

"This festival is a testament to our collective heritage. It reminds us that no matter where we come from, we are bound by our respect for nature and our shared values," said cultural historian Dr. Amitabh Das.

The spirit of competition and tradition

Traditional games like cockfighting are a major attraction during the festival, especially in the Kolhan region. "These games are more than entertainment; they are part of our identity, passed down through generations," said Manoj, a participant from Jharkhand. These activities bring a sense of excitement and nostalgia, connecting communities with their past.

Preserving the legacy of Tusu

The legend of Tusu remains central to the festival's identity, inspiring themes of sacrifice, courage, and community. Efforts are underway to preserve the festival's traditions, with schools and cultural organizations incorporating Tusu-themed activities to educate the younger generation about its significance.

"Tusu Festival is not just a relic of the past; it's a living, breathing tradition that adapts while holding onto its essence," said cultural activist Meera Banerjee. Documenting its songs, dances, and rituals ensures its survival in the face of modernization.

Farewell to Tusu

The festival reaches its emotional peak during the immersion of Tusu idols in rivers. Women sing farewell songs like "Bidaai Leti Go Tusu Bala," their voices filled with a blend of joy and melancholy. The procession, accompanied by the rhythmic beats of drums and the sounds of celebration, symbolizes the cyclical nature of life and renewal.

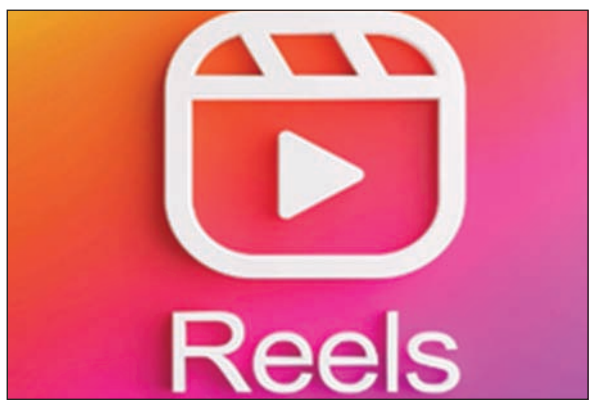
As the idols float away, they carry with them the prayers, hopes, and gratitude of the community. "This moment is bittersweet; it's a farewell, but also a promise of renewal and continuity," shared Sarita Devi, a participant from West Bengal.

A celebration of life and culture

The Tusu Festival is more than a harvest celebration; it is a vibrant tapestry of gratitude, culture, and unity. It transcends boundaries, bringing communities together to honor their shared heritage. From the rhythmic beats of traditional instruments to the aroma of festive dishes, Tusu embodies the spirit of life in its purest form.

"This is not just a festival; it's who we are," summed up elder Ramesh Munda. Indeed, the Tusu Festival is a celebration of humanity's connection to nature, its resilience, and the unbreakable bond of community.

Study links reel addiction with high BP in young, middle-aged people



New Delhi, Jan 13 (IANS) Even as watching short videos or reels on social media platforms has become an integral part of the daily lives of young and middle-aged people, a new study shows that addiction to this can lead to high blood pressure.

The team analysed data from 4,318 young and middle-aged people who self-reported screen time spent watching short videos at bedtime and also underwent medical examinations between January 2023 and September 2023.

They found that longer screen time spent watching short videos at bedtime was associated with a higher hypertension prevalence.

"The screen time spent watching short videos at bedtime was significantly associated with essential hypertension in young and middle-aged people," said the team, in the paper published in the journal BMC Public Health.

The researchers called for "strict control of screen time spent watching short videos at bedtime".

In addition, they also urged "control of body weight, blood lipids, blood glucose, and uric acid levels, and improvement of poor lifestyle, such as a high-sodium diet," which can help reduce the risk of hypertension.

Previous studies have shown that prolonged mobile phone use, that is 30 minutes or more a week can increase the risk of high blood pressure or hypertension.

Makar Sankranti 2025: Know the importance of flying kites during this time of the year



New Delhi: Makar Sankranti, a harvest festival dedicated to the sun god, celebrates the arrival of spring, marking a significant shift in astronomical and agricultural cycles. Flying kites, savouring traditional sweets, and immersing in holy rivers are key elements of the festivities.

Makar Sankranti in 2025 will be celebrated on Tuesday, January 14. According to Drik Panchang, the auspicious timings for the day are as follows:

" Auspicious Period: From 9:03 AM to 5:46 PM

" Optimal Time for Bathing and Donation: 9:03 AM to 10:48 AM

" General Auspicious Timing: 9:03 AM to 5:46 PM

Significance Of Kite Flying

On this day, people fly multicoloured kites, practice charitable deeds, and bathe in holy rivers. The custom of flying kites on Makar Sankranti is said to have originated from ancient ideas that people should be exposed to sunlight. Exposure to the sun's rays aids in the recovery of skin diseases and winter-related disorders. However, as sunlight is a significant and quality source of vitamin D, it is thought to be good for health.

According to other beliefs, flying a kite is a way to express appreciation and gratitude to God.

Gujarat and Rajasthan have the largest kite-flying events in the country. Handmade kites are produced by people of these states several months ahead of the festival. Gujarat celebrates Makar Sankranti with a grand celebration known as the "International Kite Festival," which has been organised since 1989.

The festival is celebrated in large parts of the country around the same time.

IT sector stands out in challenging week for Indian equities



New Delhi, Jan 13 (IANS) The first week of 2025 has been challenging for Indian equities, with broad-based selling dominating sentiment. Amid this weakness, the Nifty IT index stood out with a modest 1.6 per cent gain, supported by strong results and robust commentary from TCS about a demand revival in North America.

IT's outperformance highlights the importance of sectoral resilience, even during periods of market-wide selling pressure, said Krishna Appala from Capitalmind Research.

The IT sector closed in the green after a gain of 3.44 per cent on Friday.

Sensex ended at 77,378.91, down by 241.30 points, or 0.31 per cent, and Nifty settled at 23,431.50, down by 95 points or 0.40 per cent.

In the week, the domestic market channelled through rough terrain. Q3 corporate earnings projections remain modest, which is not helping investor sentiments.

"However, a glimmer of hope emerged as the initial set of results from the IT sector showed promise," said experts.

Looking ahead, the upcoming Union Budget on February 1 is expected to drive market volatility.

Key sectors like capital goods, defence and electronics may receive policy boosts, while potential incentives in infrastructure and production-linked incentives (PLI) schemes could shape the next leg of market direction. However, elevated global bond yields and muted earnings outlooks remain near-term challenges.

Once monthly injectables to become future therapeutic options for obesity: Report



New Delhi, Jan 13 (IANS) From once-weekly subcutaneously injectable medicines agonizing the glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor (GLP-1R), longer-acting candidates allowing once-monthly administration may become the next generation of obesity management drugs, according to a report.

The report by GlobalData, a data and analytics company, showed that anti-obesity medications are the industry trend that will have the greatest impact in the next 12 months.

The rising global obesity rates are creating a wave of investment into the obesity market, driving the development of possibly the next generation of obesity drugs. This includes discovering new mechanisms of action, developing oral candidates instead of injectables, and trying to decrease the burden on the patient by decreasing the frequency of administration.

While the currently available weekly injections from Novo Nordisk and Eli Lilly have garnered much popularity, these can sometimes be a burden for the patient.

Amgen and Metsera are the two companies that seem to be pioneering the option of once-monthly dosing obesity medicine, according to the report.

However, for these ultra-long-acting candidates to succeed it's important for them to show an efficacy comparable to the current available once-weekly therapies, said Costanza Alciati, Pharma Analyst at GlobalData.

Amgen's MariTide (maridebard cafradutide) was the first candidate to show good efficacy in a once-monthly dosing regimen. The drug led to 17 per cent weight loss on average in patients at 52 weeks. The patients had no weight loss plateau and up to 99 per cent of them lost more than 5 per cent of their body weight.

More recently, Metsera announced the Phase IIa results for its MET-097i candidate. It was initially developed for once-weekly dosing, but its long half-life made it a candidate for once-monthly dosing too.

The duration of the trial was short, and the number of patients was also less. Yet, MET-097i "seems very promising, facilitating a placebo-adjusted mean body weight loss of 11.3 per cent in just 12 weeks, with no weight loss plateau observed," Alciati said.

"This amount of weight loss in such a short time frame is impressive. Now, we will see if these results can be maintained in bigger trials, in a bigger cohort," Alciati added.

It is an exciting time to be in the obesity drug development space.

GlobalData predicts that GLP-1R agonists will reach sales of $125.3 billion by 2033 in the seven major markets (namely the US, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the UK, and Japan), and 90 per cent of sales will be from obesity drug sales.

"Amgen's and Metsera's drugs could definitely be part of the next generation of obesity medicines. We can expect that to include oral candidates, new mechanisms of action, and ultra-long-acting drugs. The exciting thing is that all those are already in clinical stage, thus the next-generation drugs might be closer to reaching the market than expected," Alciati said.

BIT Sindri Mining Engineering student wins Green Marathon

Dhanbad, Jan 13: Ashish Kujur, a student of the Mining Engineering Department of BIT Sindri, won the Green Marathon organized by the Eco Club of BIT Sindri in collaboration with the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Kalyaneswari Tasra Mining Private Limited (KTMPL).

Satyam from the Mechanical Engineering Department and Shiva Hembram from the Metallurgical Engineering Department secured the second and third positions, respectively.

The Eco Club felicitated the top 10 sprinters with certificates and trophies. Other position holders included Rohit Hansda, Krishan Kisku of the Electrical Engineering Department, Prasant Kumar Bawri, Praveen Kisku of the Civil Engineering Department, Rahul Kumar, Nischal Bawri and Samir Majhi



of the Chemical Engineering Department. Among the girls, Nirupa Lakra and Chayna Rana of the Chemical Engineering Department and Mayna Rana of the Production Engineering Department secured the first, second and third positions, respectively.

The 2.5-kilometer marathon was organized to mark National Youth Day under the theme "Run for Environment, Run for Youth." Over 300 students and faculty members participated in the event. BIT Sindri Director Dr. Pankaj Rai, who served as the chief guest, flagged off the race and emphasized the vital role of youth in fostering a sustainable future. He praised the initiative by the students of the Eco Club and highlighted the importance of such events in raising environmental awareness and promoting active participation.

Speaking on the occasion, Professor-in-Charge of the Eco Club, Dr. B.D. Yadav said the marathon was not just about running but also about taking a step toward a greener and healthier planet. He added that the active participation of the youth reflected their dedication to a sustainable future. General Warden R.K. Verma expressed his satisfaction with the overwhelming response to the event, noting that such initiatives underscore the institute's commitment to fostering a culture of environmental awareness and responsibility.

Delegates from SAIL and KTMPL commended the efforts of the Eco Club and stressed the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing environmental challenges.

Chief Bridge Engineer inspects Sini Engineering Workshop

Seraikela, Jan 13: Shantanu Shaha, Chief Bridge Engineer of South Eastern Railway Kolkata, visited the Sini Engineering Workshop for a departmental inspection. During his visit, he reviewed the newly constructed modular shed of the girder shop and inspected the Chief Engineer's office. A delegation from the Recognized Men's Association, led by Secretary Sonu Badaik, submitted a memorandum to Shaha outlining various issues at the workshop. These included increasing workloads in specific shops, improving facilities like toilets, addressing staff transfers and filling vacant posts.

"Immediate action will be taken to resolve these concerns," assured Shaha. The meeting also included Deputy Secretary Arga Vishwas and representatives Devashish Das, Abhay Singh and others. (w/nkm)

वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक का कार्यालय, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर

आदेश

मकर संक्रांति एवं टुसू पर्व के अवसर पर दिनांक–14.01.2025 एवं दि0–15.01.2025 को जमशेदपुर शहर में यातायात व्यवस्था निम्न प्रकार रहेगा:–

दिनांक–14.01.2025 को प्रातः 04:00 बजे से रात्रि 11:00 बजे तक।	सभी प्रकार के भारी वाहनों का परिचालन पुर्णतः वर्जित रहेगा। (बस को छोड़कर)
दिनांक–15.01.2025 को प्रातः 04:00 बजे से रात्रि 11:00 बजे तक।	सभी प्रकार के भारी वाहनों का परिचालन पुर्णतः वर्जित रहेगा। (बस को छोड़कर)

पुलिस उपाधीक्षक यातायात, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर। वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर। उपायुक्त, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर।

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JHALSA takes suo motu cognizance of 'humiliation' of schoolgirls in Dhanbad

Dhanbad, Jan 13: The Jharkhand State Legal Services Authority (JSLSA), taking suo moto cognizance of the alleged incident of undressing girls in a Dhanbad school, has directed the Dhanbad Legal Services Authority (DLSA) to conduct a probe into the matter and submit a report.

Principal District and Sessions Judge-cum-DLSA Chairman Virendra Kumar Tiwari, following the directive of the JSLSA, has constituted a nine-member committee under the Legal and Defence Council System (LDCS) Chief Kumar Vimlendu to investigate the allegations.

The committee includes LDCS Deputy Chief Ajay Kumar Bhatt, Muskan Chopra, Arun Kumar, Rajesh Singh, Hemraj Chouhan, Anamika Singh, Ravinder Sharma and Jorapokhar Police Station Officer Koleswar Ram.

Sub-Judge-cum-DLSA Secretary Rakesh Roshan, while announcing the names of the probe committee members, stated that they have been directed to submit their report as soon as possible.

According to allegations made by the guardians of the girls, on January 9, the school principal allegedly removed the clothes of 80 Class X students as part of a "Pen Day" celebration where students signed on each other's dresses.

The incident triggered widespread protests from the students' guardians as well as local MLA and MP of the district.

Taking the matter seriously, the district administration has already set up a five-member committee to investigate the allegations. Meanwhile, the Jharkhand Abhivawak Mahasangh has written to the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in New Delhi, seeking a probe and action against the principal.

One member of the DLSA probe committee revealed that they visited the school (Carmel School Digwadih) and sealed the principal's chamber to preserve CCTV footage. The team also recorded statements from the victimized girls, their guardians, and the school principal.

"We have submitted our findings to the DLSA Secretary in a sealed envelope and cannot disclose our comments," said a committee member.

The district administration's probe team, led by SDM Rajesh Kumar, is set to revisit the school to review CCTV footage, as the principal had denied the allegations of undressing students on Saturday.

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
WATER RESOURCE SDEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR DISTRIBUTION DIVISION No-08, JAMSHEDPUR.
Email-eemdd8.chandil@gmail.com

Expression of Interest (EoI)
Very short e-Tender inviting Notice no.-WRD/MDD8/JSR- 03/2024-25
Date- 11/01/25

1.	Name of Work	Annual R/M Works for Cleaning, Sweeping, Mopping, Sanitation, Plumbing, Gardening, Water supply, Upkeep of Electric appliances and DG Sets (1nos.) at Subernrekha Bhawan at Adityapur for1 (one) year under Executive Engineer, Minor Distribution Division No-08, JAMSHEDPUR, Water Resources Department, Jharkhand.
2.	Cost of bid document (Rs)	10,000.00/- (Ten thousand only) Nonrefundable Online mode
3.	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs)	5,00,00.00/- (Rupees fifty thousands only) Online mode
4.	Tender Category	Services
5.	Mode of Submission of Tender	Online through http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
6.	Pre-Bid meeting	Date-**24/01/2025** Time-**03:00**PM Office of the Chief Engineer, Chandil Complex, Adityapur. Water Resources Department,
7.	Date of publication of tender on website	Date-16/01/25 Time-02:00PM
8.	Last date/time for Submission of tender on Website	Date-27/01/25Time-03:00PM
9.	Technical Bid Opening Date	Date- 28/01/25Time-04:00PM
10.	Officer Inviting Bids	Office of the EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MINOR DISTRIBUTION DIVISION NO-08, JAMSHEDPUR, Minor Distribution Division Number -08, Jamshedpur.
11.	Contact No. of Procurement Officer	7903042327,9431366084

Note:- 1. The bidder should be fully acquainted with site before the tender.
2. Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tender(s) received or to allot the work to one or more contractor(s) without assigning any reason there of.
3. Tender Fee and Earnest Money should be deposited through online mode only as per WRD, Jharkhand letter no-907dated-04.10.2023 and I.T.& e-Governance Deptt. of Jharkhand Letter no-120 dated-03.10.2023

PR 344223 Water Resource (24-25)_D

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Minor Distribution Division Number -08, Jsr

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MINOR DISTRIBUTION DIVISION NUMBER-08, JAMSHEDPUR
Email-eemdd8.chandil@gmail.com

Expression of Interest (EoI)
Very short e-Tender inviting Notice no.- WRD/MDD8/JSR - 04/2024-25
Date- 11/01/25

1.	Name of Work	Annual Maintenance Work for Cleaning, Sweeping, Sanitation work (Cleaning of Main Long Drain, Small Drains, inspection Chamber), Plumbing work including pipe line and Water Tank, Repair of Electrical appliances and Electrical wire and Servicing and Refilling work of Transformer at Officers Colony C.H. Area , Jamshedpur for 1 (one) year under Executive Engineer ,Minor Distribution Division No08,JAMSHEDPUR Under Water Resources Department, Jharkhand.
2.	Cost of bid document (Rs)	10,000.00/-(Ten thousand only) Non refundable Online mode
3.	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs)	1,00,000.00/- (Rupees one lakhs only) Online mode
4.	Tender Category	Services
5.	Mode of Submission of Tender	Online through http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
6.	Pre-Bid meeting	Date- **24/01/25 - 03:00** PM Office of the Chief Engineer , Chandil Complex ,Adityapur.Water Resources Department,
7.	Date of publication of tender on website	Date- 16/01/25 Time- 02:00 PM
8.	Last date/time for Submission of tender on Website	Date- 27/01/25 Time- 03:00 PM
9.	Technical Bid Opening Date	Date- 28/01/25 Time- 04:00PM
10.	Officer Inviting Bids	Office of the EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,MINOR DISTRIBUTION DIVISION NO-08, JAMSHEDPUR, Minor Distribution Division Number -08,Jamshedpur.
11.	Contact No. of Procurement Officer	7903042327, 9431366084

Note:-
1. The bidder should be fully acquainted with site before the tender.
2. Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tender(s) received or to allot the work to one or more contractor(s) without assigning any reason thereof.
3. Tender Fee and Earnest Money should be deposited through online mode only as per WRD, Jharkhand letter no-907 dated-04.10.2023 and I.T. & e-Governance Dept. Jharkhand Letter no-120 dated- 03.10.2023

PR 344221 Water Resource (24-25)_D

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Minor Distribution Division Number -08, Jsr.

JHARKHAND INDUSTRIAL AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
PREPARING THE GROUND FOR ACCELERATED INDUSTRIALISATION
Vikas Bhawan, Adityapur Kandra Main Road, Adityapur, Seraikela-Kharsawan, Jharkhand-831013

Letter No.-47, Date-13/01/2025
Tender Notice

Sub.- Selection of Agency for cleaning Services at Different Phases of Industrial Area Under, Jiada, Adityapur Region.

JIADA, Adityapur Region is inviting tender to engage a competent agency to provide collection Transportation and Disposal of debris & Industrial Waste Piles from common area and road sweeping by Mechanical Power Sweeping Machine and Cleaning, Shrubs and Vegetative Clearance, Slit removal from drains and its disposal at Different Phases of Industrial Area Under, Jiada, Adityapur Region.

S. No.	Particulars	Details
1	RFP/Tender Availability	15.01.2025
2	Last date for receiving queries	20.01.2025
3	Site Visit Date	21.01.2025-23.01.2025
4	Date and time of Pre-Bidding Meeting	25.01.2025 12.00 pm
5	Response to queries	27.01.2025
6	Proposal Due Date & Time	29.01.2025 12.00 pm
7	Technical Proposal opening	29.01.2025 03.00 pm
8	Technical Presentation	30.01.2025 12.00 pm
9	Financial Bid Opening	01.02.2025 03.00 pm
10	Cost of Tender (DD- In favour of Jharkhand Industrial Area Development Authority, Payable at Adityapur))	Rs. 10000+18% GST i.e 11800.00 (Rupees Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred)
11	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the form of Demand Draft	Rs. 1000000.00(Rupees Five Lakh) to be submitted with the Tender.
12	Website for downloading Tender Documents	https://www.jiada.co.in/tenders.php. https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in/
13	Name and Address of Office inviting Tender	Office of the Regional Director Jharkhand Industrial Area Development Authority, Adityapur Region-Adityapur, Jharkhand-831013, Website: www.jiada.co.in, Email: aiada1972@gmail.com

For further details, please contact on above mentioned address and phone no. 7717766727. The detailed information is also available on Notice Board of JIADA, Adityapur Region.
Regional Director, JIADA, Adityapur Reserves the right to withdraw or cancel this advertisement at any time without assigning any reason thereof.

PR 344201 Industries (24-25)_D

ह0/– Regional Deputy Director
JIADA, Adityapur Region

जिला परिषद कार्यालय, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर

अति अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
(Through E-Procurement Mode only – www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
Notice Inviting e-Tender No: ESZP/JSR/Epro-08/2024-25

क्र0सं0	कार्य का विवरणी	प्राक्कलित राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मुल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	जमशेदपुर प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत पूर्वी छोटागोविंदपुर पंचायत में पंचायत भवन का निर्माण।	9989000.00	10000.00	6 माह
2	जमशेदपुर प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत हितकु पंचायत में पंचायत भवन का निर्माण।	9989000.00	10000.00	6 माह

1. निविदा आमंत्रित करनेवाले पदाधिकारी का नाम:- सचिव, जिला परिषद, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर।
2. वेवसाईड पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :- 16.01.2025 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे।
3. निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि :- 20.01.2025 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- 24.01.2025 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे।
5. ई–मेल पता :- ddcjsr01@gmail.com
6. निविदा से संबंधित जानकारी हेतु दुरभाष सं0 :- 8292342423
7. जिला परिषद, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर के अन्तर्गत समूचित श्रेणी या एक श्रेणी उपर निबंधित संवेदक ही निविदा में भाग ले सकेगें।
8. विस्तृत जानकारी वेवसाईट http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्य दिवस में कार्यालय अवधि में जिला परिषद, पूर्वी सिंहभूम के सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

जिला अभियंता
जिला परिषद, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर।

PR.NO.344179 Panchayati Raj(24-25):D

कार्यालय जुगसलाई नगर परिषद्, जमशेदपुर

पत्रांक:..... **आम सूचना** जुगसलाई/दिनांक:.....

एतद् द्वारा सभी सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना (शहरी) 2.0 अन्तर्गत आवासीय लाभ हेतु आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जा रहें है। यह योजना वर्ष 2024 से 2029 तक लागू है। आवास योजना के तहत निम्नलिखित 4 (चार) विकल्पों के माध्यमों से आवास का लाभ दिए जायेगें:–

1. व्यक्तिगत आवास निर्माण (BLC) – वार्षिक आय रू० 3 लाख तक।
2. किफायती आवास निर्माण (AHP) – वार्षिक आय रू० 3 लाख तक।
3. किफायती किरायेदारी आवास (ARH) – वार्षिक आय रू० 6 लाख तक।
4. ब्याज सब्सिडी योजना (ISS) – वार्षिक आय रू० 9 लाख तक।

पात्रता:–जुगसलाई नगर परिषद् अन्तर्गत निवास करने वाले आवास विहीन परिवार जिनके पास देश में कहीं भी अपने या अपने परिवार के सदस्य के नाम पर अपना पक्का मकान नही है। लाभुक मिशन के विभिन्न घटकों में से केवल एक ही घटक का लाभ लें सकेंगे।

इच्छुक लाभार्थी जुगसलाई नगर परिषद् कार्यालय में कार्यालय अवधि के दौरान सम्पर्क करें और आवश्यक दस्तावेजों के साथ अपना आवेदन जमा करें।

कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी,
जुगसलाई नगर परिषद्,
जमशेदपुर

PR 344173 Urban Development(24-25)#D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा

अति अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई– निविदा सूचना संख्या – RDD/SD/CHAIBASA/15/2024-25(3rd Call) (DMFT Fund)

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :

क्र० सं०	प्रखण्ड	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	चक्रधरपुर	होयोहातु पंचायत के UPG School Darkada में 06 कमरों का भवन निर्माण	5559200.00	112000.00	10000.00	06 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – .16.01.2025
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय – दिनांक 16.01.2025 से दिनांक 21.01.2025 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
4. ई–निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा।
5. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय –22.01.2025 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे
6. ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा।
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 8709623131 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
9. सरकार के संयुक्त सचिव ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग झारखण्ड सरकार राँची के पत्रांक 02(नि०नि०–17)–251/23 ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग 3130(अनु०), राँची, दिनांक 09.10.2023 द्वारा दिये गये निदेश के अनुपालन में सभी कागजात के साथ, निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।
11. निविदा खोलने की तिथि से 5 दिनों के अन्दर निविदादाता द्वारा अपनी आपत्ति/दावा दर्ज कराये अन्यथा अवधि बीतने के पश्चात् कोई भी आपत्ति/दावा मान्य नहीं होगा।
12. ग्रामीण विकास विभाग (ग्रामीण कार्य मामले) झारखण्ड, पथ निर्माण विभाग, एवं भवन निर्माण विभाग, झारखण्ड के अन्तर्गत पंजीकृत समुचित श्रेणी के संवेदक भाग ले सकेगें ।
13. जिन संवेदक का कार्य लंबित है उनका कार्य आवंटन पर विचार नही किया जायेगा।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

ह०/– कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा

PR 344217 West Singhbhum (24-25)_D

जिला परिषद कार्यालय, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर

अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमत्रंण सूचना संख्या – 12/2024–25

समुचित श्रेणी में निबंधित संवेदकों से निम्नलिखित कार्यो के लिए परिमाण विपत्र पर मुहरबंद निविदा आमंत्रण की जाती है।

1.	विभाग	–	जिला परिषद, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर।
2.	विज्ञापनदाता का नाम	–	सचिव, जिला परिषद, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर।
3.	परिमाण विपत्र बिकी की तिथि		दिनांक 20.01.2025 से 21.01.2025 (दिनांक 20.01.2025 को कार्यालय अवधि में उपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक एवं दिनांक 21.01.2025 को अपराह्ण 2.00 बजे तक ही आवेदन प्राप्त किया जायेगा)
4.	निविदा विपत्र बिकी का स्थान	–	जिला परिषद कार्यालय, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर।
5.	निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय	–	दिनांक 22.01.2025 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे से अपराह्न 2:00 बजे तक।
6.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	–	दिनांक 22.01.2025 को अपराह्न 3:00 बजे।
7.	मद का नाम	–	प्रधानमंत्री आदर्श ग्राम योजना मद की राशि

ग्रुप सं0	प्रखण्ड का नाम	ग्राम का नाम	योजना का नाम	कुल प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की तिथि
1	पोटका	तुरी	पंचायत तेंतला अन्तर्गत आदर्श ग्राम तुरी में तुरी फुटबॉल मैदान में चबुतरा का निर्माण।	270182.70	34835.00	5000.00	3 माह
	पोटका	हरिणा	पंचायत हरिणा अन्तर्गत आदर्श ग्राम हरिणा में हरिणा तालाब अन्तर्गत स्नानाघाट –सह– पुरुष एवं महिला चेंजिग रुम का निर्माण।	284000.00			
	पोटका	हरिणा	पंचायत हरिणा अन्तर्गत आदर्श ग्राम हरिणा में हरिणा मंदिर अन्तर्गत शौचालय का निर्माण।	199925.00			
	पोटका	दुधकुंडी	पंचायत सोहदा पंचायत अन्तर्गत आदर्श ग्राम दुधकुंडी के अत्कमित मध्य विद्यालय में पुरुष एवं महिला शौचालय का निर्माण।	372061.05			
	पोटका	दुधकुंडी	पंचायत सोहदा पंचायत अन्तर्गत आदर्श ग्राम दुधकुंडी के अत्कमित मध्य विद्यालय में साईकिल स्टैंड (60x12) निर्माण।	315371.00			
	पोटका	दुधकुंडी	पंचायत सोहदा अन्तर्गत आदर्श ग्राम दुधकुंडी में शमशान घाट का निर्माण।	300171.15			
			कुल :–	1741711.00			

नोटः– निविदा से संबंधित शर्ते कार्यालय के सूचना पट् पर देखा जा सकता है।

जिला अभियंता,
जिला परिषद,
पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर

PR 344181 Panchayati Raj(24-25).D

Barinagar Moharram Committee celebrates Urs Sharif of Khwaja Chishti

Jamshedpur, Jan 13: The Barinagar Moharram Committee celebrated the Urs Sharif of Khwaja Chishti on Sunday at Jamshedpur's Barinagar Sabri Chowk in Telco.

Maulana Ashrafullah Faizi recited the Milad Sharif while Alam Sharif and Gagar Sharif organized a Langar Sharif. The langar was distributed in the nearby houses.

Later in the evening, Firoz Firdausi and Salim Majeed Nagpuri Qawwal entertained the people by singing Qawwali. MLA Mangal Kalindi, advocate Guddu Haider, RJD member Shubham Sinha and Satish Sinha, Congress member Nandlal Singh, JMM members Md Sarfaraz and Shahid Parvez and mukhiya Chota Tudu were present during the Qawwali show.

The program was organised by deputy mukhiya Alamtaz alias Khalifa. Other members, including, Md Sharrif, Jumman, Syed Nasir, Syed, Imamul and Md Firoz, contributed to the success of this program. (w/tsb)

Kandra SKG Colony women protest over uncleaned drains

Mail News Service

Gamharia, Jan 13: The women of Kandra SKG Colony staged a protest on Saturday demanding immediate cleaning of the long-neglected drain behind the colony. They voiced concerns about the stagnant water causing severe hygiene issues and risking the spread of diseases like dengue.

Soma Ghoshal and Subhadra Das, two prominent residents shared that, numerous applications had been submitted to Kandra Panchayat, but no action had been taken. "For years, the drains have remained clogged and now dirty water is seeping into the homes of many residents," said Ghoshal.

The protestors expressed frustration with the Panchayat's inaction, urging prompt intervention. A large group of women, including Baby Devi, Sangeeta Devi, Babita Sharma and others, participated in the demonstration, demanding urgent action for the health and well-being of the community. (w/nkm)

Villagers submit canal renovation plea to Minister Deepak Birua

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, Jan 13: Revenue and Transport Minister Deepak Birua distributed blankets to villagers in Baralagia, Pandavir and Barkela panchayats on Saturday amid increasing cold weather. During his visit, villagers handed over a memorandum seeking renovation of canals and road construction.

Minister Birua assured the villagers of prompt action, saying, "Your concerns are valid, and I will ensure they are addressed soon. My team and I are committed to improving your living conditions."

The event saw enthusiastic participation, with villagers welcoming the minister warmly. Prominent attendees included Manki Hemantlal Sundi, Sivon Boypai and Bijju Boypai. (w/nkm)

Poddar Samaj to form a women's committee this year: PVKS president

Jamshedpur, Jan 13: The Poddar Vaishya Kalyan Samiti (PVKS) Kolhan organised a family get-together picnic and meeting near Jamshedpur's Dimna Lake on Sunday.

The president of the committee Arun Poddar presided the meeting. Important decisions for the year 2025 have been taken by the committee which is said to be implemented in the next review meeting. This program was enthusiastically attended by people from far flung areas. During the meeting, many people gave suggestions to build up a strong organization.

The committee's general secretary, Shrikant Dev shared the details of their expenses for this year.

He also said, "Along with strengthening the organization, a women's committee will be formed very soon in the current year."

Poddar added, "The goal of the committee is to take the organization to greater heights."

Poddar has also urged people to join the organization in maximum numbers to make the society and the organization stronger. (w/tsb)

Health

More diminished attention, better immediate recall may signal Lewy body dementia: Study



New Delhi, Jan 13 (IANS) Cognitive problems like more diminished attention, but better immediate recall and memory may help predict Lewy body dementia, according to a study.

Dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB) is the most common neurodegenerative dementia after Alzheimer's Disease, yet is usually misdiagnosed, preventing affected people from accessing care better tailored to their prognosis.

To aid in early detection which may help improve outcomes, researchers from the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus gathered information from available studies and established a cognitive profile that can differentiate DLB from Alzheimer's before the dementia stage hits.

This can "better help inform the direction of care for people with these diseases", said lead author Ece Bayram, Assistant Professor of Neurology at the varsity.The study, published in the Alzheimer's & Dementia journal, found consistencies in cognitive symptoms among people with DLB compared to people with Alzheimer's in a meta-analysis of pre-dementia stage diagnoses.

At the pre-dementia stage, people with DLB demonstrated more diminished attention, processing speed, and executive function as well as better immediate recall and memory compared to people with Alzheimer's.

The team found that people with DLB are also reactive to certain types of commonly prescribed medications for psychosis, such as haloperidol, that tend to worsen their condition.

"Identifying cognitive profiles gave us the outcome necessary to suggest guidelines that practitioners could easily be trained into better tailor plans of care," Bayram said.

"Furthermore, providing a framework for clinical assessment versus biomarker testing means more accessibility for practitioners. It is easier and cheaper to train in providing cognitive assessments than administering imaging or invasive biomarker tests," Bayram added.

Researchers say identifying the form of dementia early can guide future planning for both the person with dementia and their care partners, and ease disease by providing proper symptomatic treatment.

Karishma Kapoor celebrates her cousin's wedding



Mumbai, Jan 13 (IANS) Aadar Jain is the latest member of the Kapoor clan to take the plunge. Recently, he exchanged wedding vows with Alekha Advani in a Christian wedding in Goa.

Sharing her excitement for the happy couple, cousin Karisma Kapoor took to the stories section of her Instagram handle and dropped a photograph of a coconut, a pineapple, and some oranges with 'Celebrating Alekha and Aadar" as the caption. Karisma Kapoor also dropped a picture of a jacket with "Vows and Vibes" written on it.

Meanwhile, Neetu Kapoor also posted a picture of the Kapoor family posing together on her IG stories. The bride and groom also treated the netizens with sneak peeks into their special day. While Alekha Advani opted for a white dress with a veil and matching choker, Aadar Jain looked all handsome in a gray pantsuit and white shirt. The videos doing rounds on social media feature the happy couple hugging each other after the ceremony and also enjoying their first kiss as a married couple.

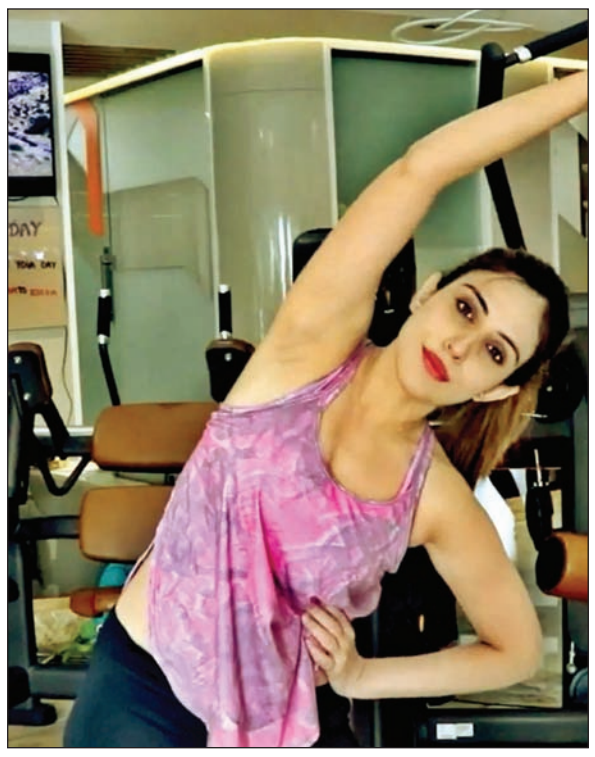
Prior to this, Aadar Jain and Alekha Advani flew to Thailand to celebrate the latter's birthday. Wishing his fiance on her special day, Aadar Jain posted a picture of the couple kissing on the beach. Posting other pictures from their fun getaway, he captioned the post, "Happy Birthday Fiancé".

Aadar Jain and Alekha Advani got rokafied back in November 2024. The roka ceremony was attended by the couple's close friends and family, including Kareena Kapoor Khan, Karisma Kapoor, Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, and Neetu Kapoor, among others. The snippets of the celebration garnered a lot of eyeballs on social media.

It might be interesting to know that Alekha Advani was a close friend of Aadar Jain's ex-girlfriend, Tara Sutaria. Aadar Jain and Tara Sutaria started dating in 2020, however, the couple went their separate ways in 2023.

Meanwhile, Aadar Jain and Alekha Advani have reportedly known one another since childhood.

Simaran Kaur: My fitness plays a key role in enhancing my on-screen presence



Mumbai, Jan 13 (IANS) Actress Simaran Kaur, who stars in "Jamai No.1" embraces pilates and a good diet as her go-to regime to stay in her best shape. She says her fitness plays a key role in enhancing my on-screen presence.

Simaran said, "I believe staying fit isn't just about looking good; it's about feeling strong and confident in your own skin. Pilates, in particular, has been a game-changer for me. It not only helps me maintain my body but also keeps me centred and happy."

She said that her character Riddhi is a strong-headed, bossy girl who knows what she wants.

"And to maintain that on-screen I have been working on my body, my body language, my posture and what better than Pilates to do this. As an actress, I understand the importance of looking and feeling the character."

She added: "My fitness plays a key role in enhancing my on-screen presence, allowing me to embody the essence of a powerful boss girl."

In the upcoming episode, the viewers will get to watch how Neel tackles all the challenges thrown by Riddhi and her mother Kanchan (Papia Sengupta) as he makes his way into their office.

Last month, Simaran reflected on her journey through 2024, sharing the valuable lessons she has learned along the way.

She had stated, "What truly matters is staying focused on your craft and believing in yourself, even during challenging times. Touch wood, there were no major setbacks, and everything happened one after the other."

She mentioned that 2024 has been a good year for her and expresses hope that 2025 will be even better than the year that's passed.

"In 2024, I accomplished a variety of things. I did Tose Naina Milaike on Dangal, which was a superhit and nearly completed 500 episodes. My character received a lot of appreciation, had a unique fan base, and it was a wonderful experience."

"The audience connected deeply with my character, and I earned numerous accolades and praise. I didn't know I could perform a comedy role, but it turned out to be very different, and I thoroughly enjoyed it," Kaur added.

Simaran Kaur went on to state, "So in 2024, I worked on diverse projects and hope to carry the same positivity and success into 2025. 2024 has been an incredible year for me and I feel very fortunate that I get to do so many different things.

This is what Sneha Ullal is doing while she has a fever



Mumbai, Jan 13 (IANS) Sneha Ullal, who has worked in movies such as "Lucky: No Time for Love" starring Salman Khan, is watching crime drama thriller "Black Warrant" while she has a fever.

Sneha, who was last seen on screen in the film "Love You Loktantra" in 2022, took to her Instagram stories, where she uploaded a picture. In the photograph, she is seen resting on a couch and holding onto a cup of tea.

There is a bottle of water kept next to her and on the screen the Netflix series "Black Warrant", starring Zahan Kapoor, Rahul Bhat, Paramvir Singh Cheema, and Anurag Thakur, is being played.

She captioned the post: "Fever on, movie on, hot tea on."

Talking about "Black Warrant", it is based on the 2019 non-fiction book "Black Warrant: Confessions of a Tihar Jailer" by Sunil Gupta and Sunetra Choudhury, about Gupta's time as a rookie jailer at Tihar Prisons.

Vishnuvardhan says Rajini's 'Billa' didn't do all that well; Rajini's publicist responds



Chennai, Jan 13 (IANS) Director Vishnuvardhan has stirred a hornet's nest by claiming that the original superhit film 'Billa', featuring Rajinikanth in the lead, didn't do all that well when it released in 1980, prompting a sharp response from Rajinikanth's publicist, Riaz Ahmed, who has pointed out that the film was a silver jubilee hit and that Vishnuvardhan could confirm this with Suresh Balaji, the producer of the original version.

Director Vishnuvardhan, who has been promoting his upcoming film 'Nesippaya', featuring Akash Murali and Aditi Shankar in the lead, recently gave an interview to a channel during the course of which he spoke about his film 'Billa', featuring Ajith Kumar and Nayanthara in the lead.

Eva Longoria donates $50,000 to families, workers impacted by LA fires



Los Angeles, Jan 13 (IANS) Actress Eva Longoria is extending a helping hand to the victims of the Los Angeles wildfires. Recently, the actress, 49, shared an emotional video message on Instagram amid the ongoing wildfires.

In her video, Longoria said she's donating $50,000 to the organisation This Is About Humanity to support frontline workers and families who have been impacted by the fires, reports 'People' magazine.

"It's been a crazy week", she said, "devastating for so many people, so many friends who've lost a lot ... Memories and things that people have worked really hard for".

As per 'People', the 'Desperate Housewives' star then revealed that she and her family evacuated their home because they were "under a warning" and "kept getting an alarm". However, she added that she is now housing friends "who had evacuated from other areas".

"We've donated clothes, I literally emptied out my pantry to take down to all of the places that are accepting donations", the actress continued. "I am going to be supporting This Is About Humanity. They are matching up to $50,000 for frontline essential workers and families that are impacted by the fires. I'm going to be matching that $50,000 personally".

The actress explained the money will "support all of these families who are working tirelessly to keep us sustained with food. These farm workers are still going out there and producing and picking our produce and dangerous conditions. And so we're going to be supporting This Is About Humanity".

She began to wrap her video with an inspirational message, telling the Los Angeles residents to "just stay strong".

Taapsee Pannu celebrates Lohri on sets of 'Gandhari'



Mumbai, Jan 13 (IANS) Actress Taapsee Pannu, who is known for 'Pink', 'Manmarziyaan', 'Haseen Dillruba' and others, is celebrating Lohri on the sets of her upcoming movie 'Gandhari'.

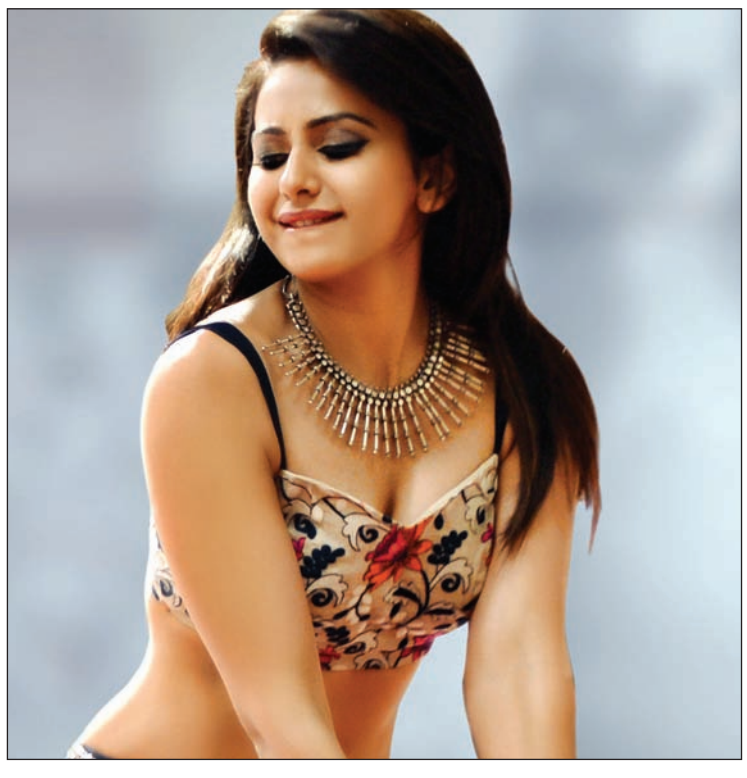
A well-placed source revealed, "Taapsee Pannu started the year with a bang shooting for her next film Gandhari. She is currently shooting for the film and is celebrating the festival on the sets of the film this year".

The source further mentioned, "It's a festival she loves and celebrates with her family, but as she is shooting this time around, she will be celebrating it on the sets of the film".

The actress is enjoying the best phases in her professional and personal lives. Last year, she tied the nuptial knot with her long-time partner, the Badminton player Mathias Boe in Udaipur. The glimpses from their wedding ceremony went viral on the Internet. In a video, which was widely circulated on social media, Taapsee, dressed in a red coloured Punjabi wedding outfit, was seen working towards Mathias as she dances to the Punjabi folk song 'Chitta Kukkar' playing in the background.

In the video, Taapsee danced in swag wearing a pair of sunglasses over the wedding outfit, and got up on the stage to hug her husband. Taapsee's sister Shagun Pannu and their gang of girls walked with the bride.

Rakul Preet celebrates 9 years of 'Nannaku Prematho', thanks Sukumar, NTR Jr.



Mumbai, Jan 13 (IANS) As the Telugu film "Nannaku Prematho" clocked 9 years in Indian cinema since its release, actress Rakul Preet Singh celebrated the moment by sharing the song "Follow Follow" from the movie picturised on her and actor NTR Jr.

Rakul took to Instagram stories, where she dropped the music video of "Follow Follow" composed by Rockstar DSP from the Sukumar-directed film, which was released in 2016.

She went on to caption the post: "@aryasukku @jrntr thankyou so much for one of my most memorable, enriching and fun experience."

"Nannaku Prematho", an action drama, is directed by Sukumar. The film, set in London, stars NTR Jr., Jagapathi Babu, Rajendra Prasad and Rakul. Nannaku Prematho marks the 25th film of NTR Jr. as an actor.

The film told the story of Abhiram, son of a businessman, who learns that his father once lost all his wealth because of a cunning man Krishnamurthy Kautilya. He decides to seek revenge on Krishnamurthy and take away his fortune.

The actress recently treated her fans with a string of stunning pictures of herself dressed in "blush pink".

She took to Instagram, where she shared a gamut of pictures of herself taken during a photoshoot. In the images, the actress is seen striking a pose dressed in a blush pink hued oversized shirt paired with some gold jewelry.

It seems she ran out of captions and asked for it from her fans as she wrote: "Chalo you guys caption this best caption ko milega reply."

Next, Rakul Preet Singh will be seen in Mudassar Aziz's "Mere Husband Ki Biwi" opposite Arjun Kapoor, and Bhumi Pednekar.

Aus Open: Djokovic sails into second round with comeback win over Basavareddy



Melbourne, Jan 13 (IANS) The record 10-time champion Novak Djokovic rallied past American wildcard Nishesh Basavareddy 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 to seal his second-round spot at the Australian Open for the 18th consecutive year.

This was Djokovic's first win under the watchful eye of newly appointed coach Andy Murray. At times, the Serb frequently glanced at the lively Murray in his coaching box, seeking an additional boost of energy.

In November last year, the Serbian, who was previously guided by Grand Slam champions Boris Becker and Goran Ivanisevic, announced three-time Grand Slam winner and long-time rival and friend Murray as his coach.

"It's all business now for us, I'm thrilled to have him in my corner. It was a little bit of a strange experience to have him courtside in my box... We played against each other for over 20 years, and it's great to have him on the same side of the net," Djokovic said of Murray.

"He gave me some great advice mid-match. It's really good we have the opportunity to exchange some feedback and get our coaches to tell us what they see. It's been a great experience (with Murray), hopefully we don't stop here," he added.

Basavareddy moved freely on the court to outlast the former World No. 1 in many of the longer exchanges.

"He was the better player for a set and a half; he deserved every bit of applause that he got. It was a great performance. These kinds of match-ups are always tricky [and] dangerous. He has nothing to lose in his first match at a Grand Slam. He pleasantly surprised me with all of his shots until the very end, so I wish him all the best for the future," Djokovic said of Basavareddy.

Djokovic, who is seeking his 11th title in Melbourne, will next continue his quest for a record-extending 25th Grand Slam title against qualifier Jaime Faria, who earlier breezed past PavelKotov 6-1, 6-1, 7-5.

A triumph in Melbourne would also secure Djokovic's status as the third man to reach 100 tour-level titles after Jimmy Connors (109) and Swiss legend Roger Federer (103).

'It wasn't an easy first round', says Swiatek after hard-fought win

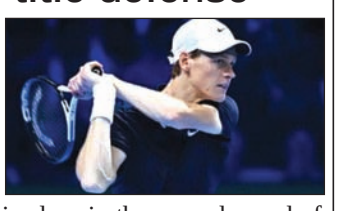


Melbourne, Jan 13 (IANS) Second seed Iga Swiatek began her Australian Open campaign with a hard-fought first-round victory on Monday, defeating the Czech Republic's Katerina Siniakova 6-3, 6-4 in one hour and 21 minutes.

The win extended Swiatek's perfect record in first-round matches at the tournament.

Facing the 28-year-old Siniakova, a nine-time Grand Slam doubles champion, Swiatek relied on a dominant first serve to secure the victory. The Polish star landed 71 per cent of her first serves with an average speed of 168 km/h and won 79 per cent of those points. In contrast, Siniakova, ranked No. 50, managed 60 per cent of first serves and won 56 per cent of those points.

Sinner survives early test to begin title defense



Melbourne, Jan 13 (IANS) World No. 1 Jannik Sinner emerged victorious 7-6(2), 7-6(5), 6-1 against Chile's Nicolas Jarry at Rod Laver Arena to book his place in the second round of the Australian Open on Monday.

The Italian, back at the site of his maiden Grand Slam triumph, admitted the match could have gone either way in the early stages. "I think today was a very close one because the first sets, they can go both ways," Sinner said. "In the third set, when I broke him the first time, that gave me a little bit of room to breathe. He is an incredible player, huge potential, so I'm happy how I handled the very tough situation in the first couple of sets and happy to be in the next round." Jarry, ranked No. 36 in the ATP Rankings, was a formidable first-round opponent. Buoyed by a lively contingent of Chilean supporters, he pressed Sinner early, generating two break points in the opening set.

Alcaraz dominates Shevchenko to win opening round



Melbourne, Jan 13 (IANS) Carlos Alcaraz, the 2022 US Open champion, began his Australian Open 2025 campaign with an emphatic 6-1, 7-5, 6-1 victory over Alexander Shevchenko at the Rod Laver Arena on Monday.

Having already captured titles at the US Open, French Open and Wimbledon, Alcaraz's arrival in Australia comes with high stakes. Victory at the Australian Open would not only cement his status among the sport's greats but also establish him as the youngest player ever to achieve the career Grand Slam - a feat even legends like Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, and Novak Djokovic had to wait years to accomplish.

Sharing his half of the draw are Novak Djokovic, a 10-time Australian Open champion, and Alexander Zverev, who has regained his formidable form.

PGTI announces action-packed schedule for first half of 2025



New Delhi, Jan 13 (IANS) The Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) on Monday announced a lucrative and action-packed first half of the 2025 season, which will tee off in February and will offer a whopping Rs 15.66 crore as total prize money. Once underway, the season will feature 11 consecutive weeks of non-stop golfing action, across as many venues, between February and April with a whopping INR 15.66 crore on offer as total prize money (excluding the Indian Open).

One of the key highlights of the season's first half is the addition of four new events on the schedule -- Chattisgarh Open Golf Championship (prize money: INR 1 crore, Venue: Fairway Golf & Lake Resort, Naya Raipur), PGTI Invitational (prize money: INR 1.5 crore, Venue: Jaypee Greens Golf Resort, Greater Noida), Indorama Open Golf Championship (prize money: INR 2 crore, Venue: Kalhaar Blues & Greens, Ahmedabad) and Calance Open (prize money: INR 1 crore, Venue: Delhi NCR). The new events also mark the beginning of PGTI's association with new title sponsors including the Government of Chattisgarh.

The PGTI has so far staged events across India in 16 States, two Union Territories, and the National Capital Territory of Delhi. With the staging of the Chattisgarh Open, the PGTI will make its first foray into the state, thus further expanding its geographical footprint in the country to 17 States.

Arun Sao, Deputy Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, expressed his excitement about the upcoming Chhattisgarh Open Golf Championship, the first-ever professional golf event in the state.

Sharing his vision for the event and its significance for the region, Sao said: "I am delighted to support the staging of the first-ever professional golf event in Chhattisgarh in association with the PGTI. The inaugural Chhattisgarh Open Golf Championship will play a pivotal role in promoting the state as an attractive golfing destination and placing it firmly on the international golfing map. This event will not only bring leading professionals from India and overseas to Chhattisgarh but will also inspire budding golfers in the state to dream big and aim high.

Gujarat Titans kickstart preparations for IPL 2025 with camp in Surat



Surat, Jan 13 (IANS) The 2022 winners Gujarat Titans have commenced their preparations for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 with a training camp in Surat on Monday, getting together some key players for early preparations.

Players Anuj Rawat, Ishant Sharma, Jayant Yadav, Kumar Kushagra, Mahipal Lomror and Arshad Khan have joined the camp along with the coaches and support staff.

Gujarat Titans built a strong 25-member squad in the mega auction, held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia last year, with the acquisition of top players including South African pacer Kagiso Rabada, England's Jos Buttler, one of India's leading fast bowlers Mohammed Siraj and all-rounder Washington Sundar.

India opener Shubman Gill, Rashid Khan of Afghanistan, Sai Sudharsan of Tamil Nadu, Rahul Tewatia of Haryana and Shahrukh Khan of Tamil Nadu were the retained players of Gujarat Titans.

The Gujarat Titans had finished eighth among 10 teams in the last edition of the IPL after losing Hardik Pandya, their captain of the first two seasons, to Mumbai Indians. Mumbai Indians incidentally ended at the bottom of the points table.

Coached by Ashish Nehra and captained by Shubman Gill, the franchise owned by CVC Capital Partners, finished with 12 points from 14 matches, winning five matches and losing seven losses with two no results.

Gujrat Titans squad: Shubman Gill (c), Jos Buttler, B. Sai Sudharshan, Shahrukh Khan, Kagiso Rabada, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Rahul Tewatia, Rashid Khan, Nishant Sindhu, Mahipal Lomror, Kumar Kushagra, Anuj Rawat, Manav Suthar, Washington Sundar, Gerald Coetzee, Mohmmad Arshad Khan, Gurnoor Singh Brar, Sherfane Rutherford, R. Sai Kishore, Ishant Sharma, Jayant Yadav, Glenn Phillips, Kareem Janat, Kulwant Khejroliya.

'Team India needs Rohit, Virat for 3-4 years more': Yograj Singh backs senior duo for CT 2025



Chandigarh, Jan 13 (IANS) Ahead of the announcement of the squad for the Champions Trophy 2025, former India cricketer Yograj Singh has backed captain Rohit Sharma and ViratKohli for next month's eight-team competition despite their poor run in the recently-concluded Border-Gavaskar Trophy series against Australia.

In five Tests, Kohli scored just 190 runs and was dismissed eight times chasing deliveries outside the off-stump. Meanwhile, Rohit, who missed the Perth Test due to the birth of his second child, managed only 31 runs across three matches before opting to sit out the fifth Test in Sydney.

The senior players came under heavy scrutiny from fans and former cricketers for their dismal performance and social media users even speculated about their retirement from red-ball cricket.

However, veteran pacer Yograj is of a different opinion and wants the duo to play 3-4 years more for the team to groom the youngsters. "I was saying that don't remove Rohit from captaincy and nor drop Virat. We need these two legends to groom the youngsters. The team needs these two players for 3-4 years more including (Jasprit) Bumrah. We have to create a solid bench strength," Singh told IANS on Monday.

"You should never break the team. In 2011 it was started and the team was broke as the power was given to one single person. We went on to lose World Cups, multiple series and even lost three-four Test series on the trot. We need to take all players together as win or loss is part of sport. In Australia, India won back-to-back (Test) series and I don't think anybody has done it except West Indies.



Women's Hockey players of JSW Soorma Hockey Club (Blue) celebrate after scoring a goal against Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers (Red) at the Hockey India League (HIL) Match 2025 at Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Astroturf Hockey Stadium in Ranchi, Jharkhand on Monday, January 13, 2025. Photo: Rajesh Kumar

SR Rungta Group advances to quarter-finals

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, Jan 13: SR Rungta Group advanced to the quarter-finals after a dominant performance against Fanatic Club in the pre-quarter final match of the 9th Ashok Kumar Jain District Knock Out Cricket Competition. The match, held at Birsa Munda Cricket Stadium in Chaibasa, saw SR Rungta Group defeating Fanatic Club by nine wickets.

Winning the toss, SR Rungta Group captain Abhishek Kachhap invited Fanatic Club to bat first. The decision proved fruitful as Fanatic Club was bowled out for just 90 runs in 21.2 overs. Krishna Devgam (Candy) top-scored for Fanatic Club with 30 runs, while Anmol Topno and Sawan Gop contributed 11 runs each. SR Rungta Group's Abhishek Mahato was the standout bowler, taking three wickets for just 14 runs. Amit Kumar Singh and Prem Kumar also claimed two wickets each, while Shyam Sharma, Aditya Raj and Vijay Rohit picked up one wicket each.

In response, SR Rungta Group chased down the target in 16.3 overs, scoring 94 runs for the loss of just one wicket. Rahul Mahato played a stellar innings of 55 runs, including eight fours and two sixes, remaining unbeaten till the end. Dipanshu Raj contributed 23 runs before being dismissed by Krishna Devgam (Candy). SR Rungta Group's victory sets up a quarter-final clash against the winner of Shah Sports Academy Chakradharpur and RK Academy Sonua on January 24. (W-mb)

One-day rural football tournament organized in Mundatand Village

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Jan 13: A one-day football tournament was held at the football ground in Mundatand village, under Mundatand Panchayat of the Seraikela block. The event was attended by Mundatand Panchayat Mukhiya Dashrath Mahali, who graced the occasion as the chief guest. Mukhiya Mahali introduced himself to the players and motivated them to perform their best while maintaining a spirit of sportsmanship. During his speech, Mukhiya Mahali encouraged the participants, saying, "Sportsmanship is key to the development of every individual and the community. Give your best, and remember that winning or losing is part of the game." He praised the efforts of all players and expressed his support for organizing such tournaments, which foster unity and well-being in rural areas.Apart from the Mukhiya, several local figures also attended the event. Panchayat Samiti Member Deputy Mukhiya Panchami Lohar, Ward Member and former Deputy Mukhiya Kalicharan Mahato, social workers Shambhu Nath Mahato, Santosh Kumar, Rajesh Mahato, Shyam Mahali, Bharat Hansda, Kalia Majhi, Biplab Mandal, Vishu Hansda and Ratan Majhi were among the key attendees. The organizers and attendees expressed their desire to continue such events regularly to strengthen the bond within the community and encourage youth participation in sports. (w/nkm)

Maha Kumbh embodies India's timeless spiritual heritage, celebrates faith and harmony: PM

New Delhi, Jan 13 (IANS) As the Maha Kumbh began on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said this is a very special day for crores of people who cherish Bharatiya values and culture, and that the Maha Kumbh embodies India's timeless spiritual heritage and celebrates faith and harmony.

Greeting the nation on the occasion of the Paush Purnima, PM Modi took to social media X to wish all pilgrims and tourists a wonderful stay in the Maha Kumbh area,

"With the holy bath on Paush Purnima, the Maha Kumbh has begun on the holy land of Prayagraj from today. On this divine occasion related to our faith and culture, I salute and greet all the devotees from my heart. I wish that this huge festival of Indian spiritual tradition brings new energy and enthusiasm in the life of all of you."

The PM said he was happy to see Prayagraj abuzz with countless people coming there, taking the holy dip and seeking blessings.

"A very special day for crores of people who cherish Bharatiya values and culture!,: he said.



"Maha Kumbh 2025 commences in Prayagraj, bringing together countless people in a sacred confluence of faith, devotion and culture. The Maha Kumbh embodies India's timeless spiritual heritage and celebrates faith and harmony," the PM added in his post.

Devotees took a holy dip in Triveni Sangam -- a scared confluence of rivers Ganga, Yamuna and 'mystical' Saraswati in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj on Monday morning as this day -- Paush Purnima in the Hindu calendar -- marks the beginning of the 45-day Maha Kumbh festival.

A huge crowd of devotees, many of who have travelled from across India and the world, performed the sacred ritual 'Shahi Snan'.

Expected to host at least 45 crore people, the Maha Kumbh festival from January 13 to February 26, will showcase India's rich cultural heritage and spiritual traditions.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made by the Uttar Police government in and around the city to ensure people's safety during Maha Kumbh.

In a first, underwater drones that are capable of diving up to 100 meters have been deployed across the city to provide round-the-clock surveillance in the Sangam area. Tethered drones - capable of reaching heights up to 120 meters - have also been deployed providing aerial view to identify swelling crowds or areas requiring medical or security intervention. At least 2,700 cameras with artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities provide real-time monitoring and facial recognition technology will be used at entry points.

Authorities have set up 1,50,000 tents to accommodate the pilgrims, along with additional toilets and sanitation facilities. At least 4,50,000 new electricity connections have been installed, with the Kumbh expected to drain more power than what 1,00,000 urban apartments in the region consume in a month.

Several electric buses are being run for devotees. The Indian Railways has introduced 98 special trains to make 3,300 trips during the festival. For healthcare facilities, temporary hospitals equipped with surgical and diagnostic facilities are set up.

Delhi CM Atishi visits Kalkaji temple ahead of filing of nomination papers

New Delhi, Jan 13 (IANS) Delhi Chief Minister and AAP candidate from Kalkaji Assembly constituency, Atishi, will officially file her nomination papers on Monday for the upcoming Assembly elections. Ahead of filing her nomination papers, Chief Minister Atishi visited the Kalkaji Temple to offer prayers and seek blessings.

Sharing her plans earlier in the day, Chief Minister Atishi posted on X, "I am going to file my nomination today. I will visit the Kalkaji Temple to take the blessings of Kalka Mai. After praying at the Giri Nagar Gurudwara, I will begin the nomination rally. Over the last five years, I have received immense love from my Kalkaji family. I am confident their blessings will continue to guide me."

In a bid to garner support for her campaign, CM Atishi had launched a crowdfunding initiative on Sunday, emphasising her party's commitment to "politics of work and honesty."



During a press conference, she provided an online donation link and revealed that she needed Rs 40 lakh to finance her election campaign.

"The AAP has always relied on small contributions from the common people to fight elections, enabling us to pursue transparent and honest politics," CM Atishi stated.

She further said that over the past five years, "you have supported me as an MLA, a minister, and now as the Chief Minister of Delhi. This journey would not have been possible without your unwavering blessings and trust."

CM Atishi faces competition in Kalkaji from BJP candidate Ramesh Bidhuri and the Congress' Alka Lamba.

The elections for all 70 seats in the Delhi Assembly are scheduled for February 5, with vote counting slated for February 8.

The AAP, which achieved a landslide victory in 2015 by winning 67 seats and retained dominance with 62 seats in 2020, is aiming for a third-consecutive term in Delhi.

Meanwhile, the BJP, which secured three seats in 2015 and increased its tally to eight in 2020, is looking to expand its foothold. The Congress, however, has yet to regain a presence in the Assembly, having drawn a blank in the last two elections.

Calling Uddhav Thackeray a traitor is insult to Balasaheb and Maharashtra: Raut

Mumbai, Jan 13 (IANS) Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on Monday criticized Union Home Minister Amit Shah for terming Uddhav Thackeray a traitor during a BJP rally, calling it an insult to Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray and Maharashtra.

"Uddhav Thackeray and Shiv Sena have committed no betrayal. It is the BJP that has fueled betrayal. Amit Shah's statement criticizing Balasaheb Thackeray's Shiv Sena and calling Uddhav Thackeray a traitor is an insult to the Hindu Hriday Samrat and to Maharashtra. Applauding such remarks is shameful," Raut said.

Raut was responding to HM Shah's comment that the Maharashtra Assembly elections had buried the "politics of betrayal" allegedly started by Sharad Pawar in 1978 and continued by Uddhav Thackeray in 2019 when he allied with the



Congress and NCP to form the government.

Defending NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Raut said, "Sharad Pawar has dedicated his life to politics and social work and has been honoured with the Padma Vibhushan. Maharashtra BJP must clarify whether they approve of such harsh criticism of a respected leader by the Union Home Minister. Outsiders, even those in high positions, cannot come to Maharashtra and insult leaders like Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray. Leaders like Balasaheb Thackeray and Pawar have built this state with pride. Those who clap for such insults should feel ashamed."

Raut accused the BJP of politicizing betrayal for its own benefit. "The BJP formed a government with traitors and now lectures about betrayal. They are the ones promoting dishonesty and unconstitutional actions in this country," he alleged.

Referring to the brutal killing of Massajog sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh in Beed district, Raut alleged that the key mastermind had not been booked under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), unlike the eight others who have been arrested.

CM Mamata Banerjee told me to resign: Kerala MLA Anvar

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 13 (IANS) Soon after submitting his resignation as legislator, estranged Independent-backed Left legislator P.V. Anvar on Monday said it was West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee who suggested that he should resign.

"I did not go to Kolkata with the intent to resign and informed Mamata Banerjee the biggest problem in Kerala is man-animal conflict which is also a major issue in the country. So I requested her to see if the TMC should raise this issue in Parliament. The TMC suggested that If I cooperate with them, they will definitely raise this in Parliament for suitable changes in the Forest Act," said Anvar.

"So I said I will act as coordinator of TMC in Kerala but she suggested that it's best that I submit my resignation. I spoke to my supporters back home and some said that I continue as a legislator but they gave me the choice to make the decision and on the 11th I decided to resign. I send an email to the Speaker, that I am resigning as a legislator and on Monday will personally submit my resignation. The rules are very clear that the legislator should give in writing about resigning and I have done it," added Anvar



and said he will not contest the Nilambur by-election.

"In the best interest, I will recommend the name of the present Malappuram district Congress committee president V.S. Joy as the candidate. From today onwards, I will be supporting the Congress-led UDF. My only agenda is to bring down the Vijayan government," said Anvar.

"Now that I have resigned, I will now take my membership in TMC," said Anvar. He then said it was P. Sasi, the political secretary to CM Vijayan, who asked him to raise an allegation of Rs 150 crore against Leader of Opposition V.D. Satheesan on the floor of the Assembly. "It was Sasi who said that he would get permission from the Speaker and then I would be allowed to raise this allegation against Satheesan. I on behalf of the people of Kerala apologise to Satheesan for raising this allegation and I request him to please accept my apologies," said Anvar.He then pointed out that it was a section in the CPI(M) that asked him to raise allegations against the police and Sasi to target CM Vijayan. "After I raised it, those who asked me remained elusive. I will not reveal who these leaders are," said Anvar.

Earlier in the day, Anvar walked into the office of Speaker A.N. Shamseer and handed over his resignation letter. Incidentally, talks about his resignation as legislator first surfaced last week when he airdashed to Kolkata and held a meeting with CM Mamata Banerjee and other TMC leaders.

On Sunday, he took to his social media stating that on Monday there will be important announcements. Keeping his word, he drove from the legislator's hostel here with the MLA board of his car masked. After spending a few minutes with the Speaker, he submitted his resignation and told him that he had resigned.

His resignation was on the cards after the Trinamool Congress in Kolkata announced that Anvar had been appointed coordinator of TMC in Kerala. It was after that speculations surfaced that the Vijayan-led Left would initiate steps to disqualify him as a legislator. Anvar deciding to take the fight to the enemy camp has now resigned forcing a by-election as the term to end for the present Assembly is more than a year.

Anvar first won as a Left-backed Independent legislator in 2016 from the Nilambur constituency in Malappuram and retained it in 2021. But after September last year, he turned the tables on CM Vijayan after turning his biggest critic and has been constantly attacking him.

Things turned for the worse when last week Anvar was arrested and had to cool his heels in jail for a day for damaging a forest office. He led his supporters to protest following the death of a person in his constituency after a wild elephant trampled him to death. He got the bail the next day.

60 pc of terrorists eliminated in J&K were Pakistanis: Indian Army chief

New Delhi, Jan 13 (IANS) Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Monday revealed that 60 per cent of the terrorists eliminated in Jammu and Kashmir in 2024 were of Pakistani origin.

Speaking at the annual press conference held at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi, General Dwivedi highlighted the consistent efforts of the Indian Army in maintaining security along the sensitive borders of the country.

He emphasised the Army's mission to ensure "full-spectrum preparedness while concurrently transforming the Indian Army into a self-reliant, future-ready force to be a relevant and key pillar of the national security apparatus that also contributes meaningfully towards national development."

He stated that the Indian Army's initiatives are in line with the goal of the Viksit Bharat 2047.

Addressing the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, he noted that the majority of terrorists neutralised in the region were of Pakistani origin.

"In the last year, 60 per cent of terrorists eliminated were of Pakistan origin. As of today, over 80 per cent of the terrorists still active in the valley and Jammu area are from Pakistan," he said.

Highlighting positive developments in the region, he added that the peaceful conduct of elections and the record influx of five lakh pilgrims are indicators of a positive change.



"The theme of 'terrorism to tourism' is gradually taking shape," he stated.

Speaking on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China in Ladakh, General Dwivedi described the situation as "sensitive but stable" and acknowledged ongoing efforts to de-escalate tensions.

He pointed out that "resolving the border issue with China requires strong strategic patience" and explained the steps taken to address lower-level issues.

"When you carry out a negotiation, you see the degree of violence and try to create distances. There is nothing called a buffer zone when you are resolving the situation," he said.

Regarding disengagement at Depsang and Demchok, he noted, "Since April 2020, both sides had advanced forward and prevented the other side from accessing traditional areas previously under paramilitary control."

"In this disengagement process, both sides have agreed to return to their original positions, restoring access to the traditional patrolling areas.," he said, adding, "Verification patrols have been conducted twice by both sides over time, and both are satisfied with the progress. Grazing grounds have also been mutually agreed upon."

Discussing the situation in Manipur, General Dwivedi said that the violence-struck region has been "brought under control" through "synergised efforts of security forces and proactive government initiatives."

However, he acknowledged, "Cyclic incidents of violence continue," and assured that measures to establish peace are ongoing.

Interstate smugglers' gang busted, ganja worth over Rs1 cr seized

Mail News Service

Patna, Jan 13: Bihar's East Champaran police on Monday claimed to have busted an interstate gang of smugglers by arresting three drug peddlers and seizing a huge quantity of narcotics from their possession.

Giving details, Swarn Prabhat, Superintendent of Police (SP), East Champaran, said that based on a tip-off, a police team intercepted two oil tankers-one of them bearing a registration number from Madhya Pradesh-and seized a large quantity of ganja from the vehicles in Motihari.

"As many as 505 kilograms of ganja were being ferried in the two oil tankers. We are trying to ascertain their forward and backward linkages," said SP Prabhat. He estimated the value of the consignment at over Rs 1 crore.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Kullupal, Ganga Ram, and Tahir Beg-all residents of Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh.

Delhi's air quality in 'poor' category, cold wave, dense fog persists

New Delhi, Jan 13 (IANS) After weeks of enduring air quality in the "very poor" category, Delhi witnessed an improvement, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) recorded at 282, placing it in the "poor" category on Monday at 8 a.m., as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Despite the improvement, a cold wave continues to grip the capital, accompanied by dense fog that has significantly reduced visibility during the morning and night hours.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a yellow alert for dense fog on Monday, cautioning residents about potential disruptions.

The day began with chilly winds, and the IMD forecast predicts a mainly clear sky, with smog or shallow fog likely to develop during the evening and night. The maximum temperature is expected to hover around 19 degrees Celsius, while the minimum could drop to 7 degrees Celsius.The recent rains, triggered by a western disturbance affecting northwest India, played a pivotal role in improving the air quality. In light of this, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) announced on January 12 the lifting of Stage III restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan (Grap) for Delhi-NCR.

However, Stage I and II measures will remain in effect to ensure sustained improvement in air quality.

The removal of Stage III restrictions eases curbs on private construction and demolition activities, reverts schools to regular offline classes for students up to Class 5, and allows BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel four-wheelers to operate without restrictions. Additionally, non-essential BS-IV diesel-operated medium goods vehicles (MGVs) are now permitted to ply.As the western disturbance weakens, the IMD predicts a drop in minimum temperatures starting January 14, with cold northwesterly winds set to return, intensifying the chill in the region.

British Navy arrests ten Indian fishermen from TN near Diego Garcia island

Chennai, Jan 13 (IANS) Even as Tamil Nadu's coastal communities continue to face challenges due to the regular arrests of fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy, another group of ten fishermen from Thothoor village in the state has been allegedly arrested by the British Navy near Diego Garcia Island in the central Indian Ocean.

Officials from the Tamil Nadu fisheries department told IANS that the British Navy detained the fishermen while they were fishing for tuna during the early morning hours of Monday.

The fishermen were reportedly arrested for allegedly crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL).

Sources from the fisheries department revealed that the same boat used by the fishermen had



previously been seized on two separate occasions for allegedly crossing international borders.

The Tamil Nadu Fisheries Department has already informed the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, about the incident.

It may be recalled that eight fishermen from Rameswaram and Thangachimadam in Tamil Nadu were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy early on January 12.

Two mechanised boats were also impounded by Sri Lankan naval authorities.

According to the Sri Lankan Navy, the arrests were made for allegedly crossing the IMBL and poaching near the Neduntheevu islet during the early hours of Sunday.

The fisheries department officials stated that they had issued tokens to 169 mechanised boats from Rameswaram jetty on Saturday morning. These boats were scheduled to return to shore on Sunday evening.

Sources further added that the arrested fishermen were taken to a naval port in Sri Lanka, where they are being questioned.

The impounded mechanised boats are also being towed to the port. The two impounded boats belong to Mukesh Kumar of Rameswaram and Maria Retrisan of Thangachimadam, with registration numbers IND TN 10 MM 879 and IND TN 10 MM 159, respectively.

Leaders of fishermen's associations across coastal Tamil Nadu have condemned the midnight arrests.

Antony John, a leader from Rameswaram, told IANS that repeated pleas from fishermen's associations to the Union government regarding such incidents have not resulted in redressal.