

# THE AVENUE MAIL

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RICKELTON TON, SOUTH AFRICA QUICKS THRASH AFGHANISTAN BY 107 RUNS- PAGE : 11

## BJP skips MLAs meeting ahead of budget session

Mail News Service

**Ranchi, February 21:** Meeting of legislative party-representatives in the assembly was held on Friday in the presence of chief minister Hemant Soren before the forthcoming budget session.

Sixth session of Jharkhand Legislative Assembly and the second (budget) session of Jharkhand Legislative Assembly will run from 24 February to 27 March 2025. An important meeting of the leaders and representatives of the legislative party was held on Friday presided over by speaker Rabindranath Mahato for the successful and smooth conduct of the budget session.

Many ministers and MLAs of the ruling party including Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren were present in this meeting.

The government wants

### Jharkhand Budget Session from Feb 24



that there should be a meaningful debate on the budget and concrete decisions should be taken for the development of the state.

This is the first budget session of the Hemant government after the big victory of the ruling coalition in the recently concluded assembly elections in Jharkhand. The government aims to make the budget such that it is dedicated to the overall development of Jharkhand and

some special provisions should be made for every section.

This time the Jharkhand government has taken suggestions from the public and experts before making the budget.

And suggestions were taken from experts. On the instructions of finance minister Radhakrishna Kishore, the general public was asked for their needs and priorities under 'Abua Budget'. The government claims that this

budget has been made completely inclusive and development oriented, so that every section of the state can benefit.

MLAs of the main opposition party of the state, BJP, were absent in this important meeting. BJP has not yet announced its leader of the opposition, due to which there was no representation from the party in this meeting. Many speculations are being made in the political corridors about

### "Leader of oppn important in house"

**Ranchi, February 21:** "It is very important for the leader of the opposition to be in the house. The house functioning is affected by the absence of the leader of the opposition inside the house," said assembly speaker Rabindra Nath Mahato.

He was answering the questions of the journalists. He said that both the leader of the house and the opposition have an important role inside the house. Both of them are two wheels of the vehicle. The speaker appealed to the main opposition party BJP through the media to consider this. It is known that till now the BJP has not chosen the leader of its legislative party.(w-rg)

this distance of BJP.

While the government is ready to run this budget session smoothly, the opposition parties have made full preparations to surround the government.

BJP is making a strategy to attack the government especially regarding the amount of 'Maiya Samman Yojana'. BJP leaders say that at the time of elections, the Mahagathbandhan government had promised that an assistance amount of Rs 2500 will be given in the account of every woman, but this scheme has not been implemented yet. The opposition is preparing to corner the government on this issue accusing it of breaking its promises.

In the budget session, there is a possibility of a heated debate not only on economic provisions but also on many other burning issues. The opposition parties can corner the government on issues like employment, farmers' problems, law and order and corruption.(w-rg)

## Tata Steel to face impact from US tariffs: TV Narendran

**Mumbai, Feb 21 (IANS)** Tata Steel CEO and Managing Director T.V. Narendran on Friday said the government is considering the steel industry's request for the imposition of anti-dumping duties very seriously as cheap Chinese imports are flooding the Indian market and the situation looks even grimmer in the wake of a possible hike in US tariffs.



Narendran said he is hopeful that the government will soon issue an update on the issue after detailed clarifications received from the industry."The Indian Steel Association (ISA) has already filed an application with the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) on the dumping issue which is under review.

Speaking to a leading business news channel, Narendran said India is one of the best places in the world to produce steel and the Indian steel industry has built very modern and efficient steel plants. The country was also endowed with a lot of iron ore reserves. However, the issue is the low price that foreign entities are willing to sell steel. He pointed out that the profitability of the Chinese steel industry, is pretty much negative and most of these state-owned companies were losing money. However, in India, the steel industry is mostly private-dominated and unless it is profitable, the companies will not invest in new capacity, he added.

Narendran said that Tata Steel would be both directly and indirectly hit if the US President goes ahead with his proposal for hiking tariffs on imports.

## Jharkhand IRS officer, JPSC topper sis, mother found dead



Mail News Service

**Ranchi, February 21:** Jharkhand JPSC-1 topper Shalini Vijay, her mother and brother have committed suicide together in Kerala. The bodies of all three have been seized from the government residence in Kakkanad, Ernakulam, Kerala. In the incident, the police have seized all three bodies and started further action. This incident has raised questions in the minds of people that why three members of the same family committed suicide. The topper's father Manish Vijay is working as Additional Commissioner in the Customs Department in Kakkanad, Kerala. He is absconding from home.

In the incident, Shalini Vijay, who was the topper of the first batch of Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC-1), her mother Shakuntala and brother committed suicide. Shalini Vijay was the topper of JPSC-1 and was working in Jharkhand at the rank of Deputy Collector for a long time. Two years ago she went on leave, after which she did not return to duty.

Shalini Vijay was a resident of Kerala. According to sources, Shalini Vijay, her brother Manish, who was an Assistant Commissioner of Central Excise, and mother were found dead in the government residence at Kakkanad in Ernakulam, Kerala.

The bodies of Shalini Vijay and her brother Manish were found hanging in the house, while the body of her mother Shakuntala was found on the bed.

According to the police, all three had committed suicide several days ago. Manish Vijay had taken leave about a week ago. When he did not reach the office even after the leave was over, the people working with him reached his house. When his colleagues reached the house, they found that a foul smell was coming from the house."(w-rg)

## Court rejects ED's plea against Puja Singhal's posting as Sec DoIT

Mail News Service

**Ranchi, Feb 21:** In a major relief for IAS officer Puja Singhal, the Ranchi PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) Special Court has rejected the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) petition seeking to bar her from holding a government department. The court ruled that the decision to assign a department to Singhal rests solely with the state government and does not warrant judicial interference. The ED had argued that if the Jharkhand government assigned any official position to Singhal, she might misuse her authority and influence the ongoing money laundering case against her. However, the court dismissed the plea, affirming that the government has the exclusive right to decide her posting. Singhal, who was arrested by the ED on May 11, 2022, in connection with the MNREGA scam, was released from jail on December 7, 2024, under the new BNS law. Though she remains an accused in the case, her suspension was lifted following her release.

Singhal rests solely with the state government and does not warrant judicial interference. The ED had argued that if the Jharkhand government assigned any official position to Singhal, she might misuse her authority and influence the ongoing money laundering case against her. However, the court dismissed the plea, affirming that the government has the exclusive right to decide her posting. Singhal, who was arrested by the ED on May 11, 2022, in connection with the MNREGA scam, was released from jail on December 7, 2024, under the new BNS law. Though she remains an accused in the case, her suspension was lifted following her release.

## Coaching institute operator nabbed in JAG paper leak case

Mail News Service

**Ranchi, February 21:** Jharkhand Academic Council (JAC) has become strict in the case of leaking of 10th board Hindi and Science papers in Jharkhand, while the police has also taken action. School-coaching operator Prashant Kumar Sao, resident of Markacho in Koderma district, has been arrested.

It is alleged that he is the son of local BJP leader Prakash Saha. Apart from this, two students have also been detained.

Information about paper leak has also come to light in Giridih, Garhwa and East Singhbhum districts. Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police are also investigating the matter in these three districts. Many peo-

ple have been questioned in Garhwa. Jharkhand Academic Council has sought investigation report from the Deputy Commissioners of all these districts by Friday.

It is being told that the accused Prashant runs a private school and coaching center in Jamu of Markacho block. He is being questioned. Prashant has told the police that a student named Prince Rana, a resident of Markacho, gave him the question paper. Prince is deaf and dumb, who was going to appear in the examination this time. Prince has gone to Bangalore for treatment with his father Indradev Vishwakarma and mother Aarti Devi.

It is alleged that he could not appear in the exam because he missed the train

coming back from Bangalore. When the police raided Prince's house, his grandmother and younger brother Gautam were found there. The question paper was sold in a WhatsApp group for just Rs 350. Prince is the admin of this group.

After joining the group, Rs 350 was demanded through QR code in exchange for providing the question paper. A password was created to unlock the PDF of the question paper. Those who paid the money were provided the password. When the science paper was distributed in the first session on Thursday at 9.45 am, it was exactly like the already viral question paper. After this, the examination of both Hindi and Science subjects has been canceled.(w-rg)

## Exam cancellation alerts vigilance

**Jamshedpur, February 21:** In view of the cancellation of the Hindi and Science examinations of the Jharkhand Academic Council (JAC) Matric due to the leak of question papers on social media, the district administration of East Singhbhum has taken stringent measures to curb the spread of misinformation. Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal has instructed officials to remain on high alert and closely monitor social media platforms to prevent any misleading information.

Following concerns about potential rumors being spread with malicious intent, Senior Superintendent of Police has formed a special team under the leadership of DSP (Cyber Crime) to keep the cyber cell on alert. The team is actively monitoring social media and messaging platforms like WhatsApp to trace any false news related to the examination. If any such activity is detected, the culprits will be identified promptly, and strict legal action will be taken against them.

The district administration has

released a list of officials to be contacted in case of any suspicious activity related to the spread of misinformation: Manoj Kumar Thakur, Deputy Superintendent of Police, CCR-cum-Cyber Crime, Jamshedpur - 9431706486, Srinivas Kumar, Police Inspector-cum-Station In-charge, Cyber Crime, Jamshedpur - 7004307240, Krishna Kumar, Police Inspector, Cyber Crime, Jamshedpur - 7909083416, Anuj Kumar, Police Sub-Inspector (Operations), Cyber Crime, Jamshedpur - 7050912109, Krishna Kamlesh Kumar, Police Sub-Inspector (Operations), Cyber Crime, Jamshedpur - 7050762848, Prem Kant Mishra, Senior Assistant Inspector, In-charge Technical Branch, Jamshedpur - 9431779111

The district administration has urged citizens to refrain from spreading unverified information and to report any suspicious messages to the concerned authorities. The move aims to maintain peace and order while ensuring a fair examination process. (w-pb)

## DGP reviews Sahara Group-related cases

Mail News Service

**Ranchi, Feb 21:** DGP Anurag Gupta conducted a review meeting regarding cases related to the Sahara Group at the Jharkhand Police Headquarters. ADG Suman Gupta, IG Asim Vikrant Minj, and other officials were present. The DGP emphasized, "A speedy investigation must be conducted to ensure justice for victims. Modern technology and data analysis tools should be used to analyze evidence and take swift action against the cul-



prits." Officials were instructed to put in every possible effort to resolve pending cases effectively. Jharkhand Jaguar marks 17

years in extremism combat

The 17th foundation day of Jharkhand Jaguar (STF) was celebrated at its camp in Tender Village. DGP Anurag Gupta, the chief guest, lauded the force's contribution to countering left-wing extremism since its formation in 2008.

"In these 17 years, Jharkhand Jaguar has reached new heights in eliminating extremism," he said. Paying tribute to the fallen soldiers, he added, "Many brave warriors have sacrificed their lives to maintain peace and progress in the state." (w/nkm)

## India, Pak agree to stick to ceasefire agreement

**Jammu, Feb 21 (IANS)** India and Pakistan held a flag meeting on Friday on the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district to address recent cross-LoC firing incidents.

To de-escalate tension on the LoC in the wake of recent incidents of cross-LoC firing and an improvised explosive device (IED) blast in which two soldiers, including a captain, were killed, the flag meeting was held, officials said.

The Brigade commander-level flag meeting was held at the LoC crossing point, Chakan Da Bagh in the district. "Both sides held that the maintenance of peace and tranquillity on the borders was essential. The meeting lasted for around 75 minutes and was held in a congenial atmosphere.

## Deeply troubling: Govt after Trump claims US interference in Indian election

Mail News Service

**New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS)** Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday said that the reports on the US Agency for International Development (USAID) \$21 million funding for 'voter turnout in India' is "deeply troubling".

United States President Donald Trump's recent allegation that USAID funds were being used to interfere in India's election process erupted in a political row in the country.

It "raises worries of interference in Indian internal matters, and relevant agencies are looking into it," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal. He also added that it would be premature

to make a public comment at this stage and hopefully, we can come up with an update on that subsequently.

Both Congress and BJP alleged external interference in India's election process. The period referred to the interference is in 2012 when the BJP accused the Congress-led UPA of "systematically enabling the infiltration of India's institutions by forces opposed to the nation's interest."

Last week, Tesla founder and head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), which has been formed with a mission of slashing federal spending in the US, posted that they



identified \$486 million to the "Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening." \$22 million was spent for an "inclusive and participatory political process" in Moldova, while \$21 million for voter turnout in India.

Following the revelation, Congress's Pawan Khera hit back at the BJP and said, "This definitely

is external interference in India's electoral process. Who gains from this? Not the ruling (BJP) for sure!" he said.

He alleged that because of the interference, the opposition (BJP) back in 2012 benefitted and won the 2014 election with USAID/Soros support.

During his speech in Miami earlier this week, Trump announced the can-

## Rahul working with anti-India forces to rig polls, 'defeat' Modi: BJP

**New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS)** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia on Friday accused Congress MP Rahul Gandhi of indulging in anti-national activities and colluding with foreign forces to "defeat" Prime Minister Narendra Modi whom his party has failed to beat in elections.

Bhatia said that Rahul Gandhi cannot digest the fact that PM Modi has become a global leader while seeking answers from the Congress leader about the revelation made about USAID's attempt to influence Indian elections and his links with American investor George Soros and US politician and anti-India baiter Ilhan Omar. "Congress leaders are working against the development and unity of the country through their rhetoric and actions," he said, addressing a press conference.

cellation of the USAID grant to India and claimed that the previous Joe Biden-led administration was attempting to interfere in India's 2024 Lok Sabha

# East Singhbhum: DMFT approves 9,675 priority schemes for mining-affected areas

Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur, Feb 21:** In an important step towards uplifting mining-affected areas, the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) Council approved 9675 priority schemes in a meeting chaired by District Magistrate and Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal at Town Hall, Sidhgora.

The meeting saw the participation of MP Jamshedpur Bidyut Baran Mahto, MLA Jugalsai Mangal Kalindi, MLA Bahragoda Sameer Mohanty, representatives of MLA Jamshedpur East and West, Deputy Development Commissioner Aniket Sachan, Civil Surgeon Dr. Sahir Pal, Director NEP Santosh Garg, and other key officials.

The council emphasized the effective utilization of DMFT funds under the Pradhan Mantri Mineral Sector Welfare Scheme, which aims to develop mining-affected areas and



implement welfare schemes. It was revealed that 14169 schemes were received from Gram Sabhas held from mid-January to February, out of which 9675 schemes were selected based on priority.

These selected schemes are aimed at improving the standard of living for people in both directly and indirectly affected mining areas. The breakdown includes: 1206 schemes for drinking water

supply, 3 schemes for environmental protection and pollution control, 300 schemes for health sector improvements, 1367 schemes for education enhancement, 60 schemes for women and child welfare, 78 schemes for skill development and livelihood creation, 866 schemes for sanitation, 80 schemes for agriculture sector, 4755 schemes for infrastructure development, 348 schemes for irrigation, 581

schemes for energy and water catchment development and 32 other schemes.

Of these, 3960 are high-priority schemes, while 5716 are categorized as other priority schemes, including 8438 schemes for directly affected areas and 1390 schemes for indirectly affected regions.

District Magistrate Ananya Mittal emphasized that 70% of DMFT funds would be allocated to high-priority sectors,

including drinking water supply, environmental protection, health, education, women and child welfare, skill development, sanitation, agriculture, and animal husbandry.

The remaining 30% would go towards other priority areas such as infrastructure development, irrigation, energy, and watershed development.

He underscored the importance of transparent and effective implementation and

announced a special training session in March for all Panchayat heads. This training will ensure that scheme selection and implementation are conducted as per DMFT guidelines. The three-level implementation process includes: Selection at Gram Sabha level, Priority decision by the Management Committee and Final approval at the Trustee Council Meeting.

Mittal reiterated the district administration's commitment to work transparently for the rehabilitation of mining-affected communities, socio-economic development, and environmental protection. He urged Panchayat heads to select schemes with sensitivity to enhance the overall development of Gram Panchayats.

Mahto stressed that health, education, and livelihood promotion should be given top priority, ensuring long-term improvements in the standard

of living for local residents. He stated that the selected schemes would be implemented over the next five years, with active monitoring and support from the district administration.

Mangal Kalindi emphasized the need for continuous monitoring to maintain quality and effectiveness in the schemes implemented by DMFT.

He called for a focus on long-term impact and urged the Gram Sabha to select meaningful and sustainable schemes.

Sameer Mohanty highlighted the importance of participatory governance and urged Panchayat heads to make the partnership meaningful by actively participating in the selection and implementation of schemes. He recommended prioritizing agriculture resource enrichment, employment generation, and educational schemes for sustainable development. (w/pb)

## AIDSO protests paper leak, burns effigy of Education Minister



Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur, Feb 21:** The All India Democratic Students' Organization (AIDSO) Jamshedpur Nagar Committee staged a protest at Sakchi Roundabout, burning an effigy of the Education Minister over the recent paper leak scandal in Jharkhand.

The protest follows the confirmation that the Class 10 Science exam paper, conducted by the Jharkhand Academic Council, was leaked and circulated on social media. District Secretary Shubham Jha called it a serious issue affecting students' futures and criticized the government's failure to curb such incidents. "Paper leaks have become a recurring tragedy in both academic and recruitment exams, exposing the involvement of officials and employees," he said. AIDSO has demanded a high-level investigation and strict punishment for those involved. The organization warned of large-scale protests if immediate action is not taken. State President Samar Mahato, State Secretary Soni Sen Gupta and several others participated in the protest. (w/nkm)

## Social worker Ram Kumar Gupta passes away

**Jaduguda, Feb 21:** Social worker Ram Kumar Gupta passed away on Friday after battling paralysis for six months. His last rites were performed at Jaduguda Mukti Dham, attended by dignitaries including Pradeep Agarwal and many members of the business community. His passing has left a wave of mourning in the community. "He was a dedicated social worker who always stood for the welfare of others. His absence will be deeply felt," said a grieving community member. Many attendees paid their respects with moist eyes, recalling his contributions to society. (w/nkm)

## Biker dies after crashing into parked tractor

**Seraikela, Feb 21:** A tragic accident occurred on Seraikela-Chaibasa Express Highway near Tangrani village on Friday at 7:00 PM when 25-year-old Upendra Gope died on the spot after colliding with a parked tractor. His 21-year-old companion, Ganesh Gope, sustained serious injuries and was rushed to Sadar Hospital, later referred to Jamshedpur MGM Hospital. Local sources said the tractor was parked due to fuel depletion, leading to the fatal crash. The impact was severe, causing Upendra Gope to suffer fatal head injuries. Neither of the riders was wearing a helmet. A resident said, "They had gone to Seraikela's weekly market and were returning home when the accident happened." The police and ambulance arrived promptly after being informed by locals. (w/nkm)

## XLRI to host 2nd edition of XL Runathon on Feb 23

**Jamshedpur, Feb 21:** XLRI Jamshedpur is set to host the 2nd Edition of XL Runathon on Sunday, 23 February, starting at 5 AM at the XLRI Football Ground. Following the success of its inaugural edition, XL Runathon continues to promote health, community spirit, and social responsibility with the tagline "Run for the Greater Good." The event features three categories - 2K Walk, 5K Run, and 10K Run - catering to participants of all fitness levels. Bib Distribution will take place on Saturday, 22nd February 2025, from 10 AM to 5 PM at the XLRI Football Ground. Participants will receive a T-shirt, Medal, E-Certificate, Carry Bag, Cap, Coupon, and Refreshments. More than just a marathon, XL Runathon 2025 aims to make a social impact by directing its proceeds towards the education of underprivileged students. The event is open to all citizens, with registrations available at xlrathon.xlri.ac.in. After Jamshedpur, the event will expand to Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad, taking the movement nationwide. The organizing team includes Dr. (Fr.) Sebastian George, S.J. (Director, XLRI), Dr. (Fr.) Donald D'Silva, S.J. (Dean, Administration & Finance), Ranaveer Sinha (Global President, ALCOM), Ronnie D'Costa (President, ALCOM Jamshedpur Chapter) etc. (w/pb)

# BJYM protests Matric paper leak, burns effigy of Hemant Soren

Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur, Feb 21:** Outrage erupted over the leak of Hindi and Science question papers of the Jharkhand matriculation exam, with Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) activists staging protests across the state.

In Jamshedpur, under the leadership of BJYM President Nitish Kushwaha, hundreds of workers marched from the BJP district office to Sakchi roundabout, raising slogans against Chief Minister Hemant Soren and burning his effigy.

"The state government has failed miserably in pre-



venting repeated paper leaks, endangering the future of students," said BJP Metropolitan President Sudhanshu Ojha. BJYM leaders slammed

the state's education policies, citing previous leaks in JPSC and JSSC exams. "Despite CCTV monitoring, paper leaks continue, exposing the government's

negligence," said BJYM District President Nitish Kumar. The protestors warned of further action if the government does not ensure strict measures

## Matric paper leak shows govt's incompetence: Dinesh

**Jamshedpur, Feb 21:** The matriculation exam paper leak has once again raised serious concerns about the state's education system, with senior BJP leader Dinesh Kumar strongly criticizing the Hemant Soren government. "Everything in this government runs on God's mercy," Kumar said. "From JPSC and JSSC exams to matriculation, every major examination has been affected by leaks. Big mafias operate freely under government protection."

He demanded a thorough investigation into the issue and strict punishment for those responsible. "The future of students is at stake and the government must act now, or the entire education system will collapse," he warned. BJP leaders vowed to continue their fight against the corruption within the education system, urging the government to take immediate corrective measures. (w/nkm)

against the paper leak mafia. (w/nkm)

## International Mother Language Day at Karim City College

Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur, Feb 21:** Karim City College, Sakchi, Jamshedpur's literary and cultural organization 'SPARK' (Society for Promotion of Art and Culture) and IQAC jointly organized a program on International Mother Language Day. On this occasion, a meeting was organized in the college auditorium which was presided over by Principal Dr. Mohammad Reyaz and representing languages ?? like Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Odia and English, Dr.

Firoz Alam, Prof. Mohammad Isa, Dr. BN Tripathi, Dr. Anupam Mishra and Dr. Basudhara Rai expressed their views on the importance of different languages ??and mother tongues. On this occasion, Ipsida Ankit Umme Habiba, Sushant and Ayesha Firdaus presented poems of famous poets in different languages.

On this occasion, Principal Dr. Mohammad Reyaz addressed the gathering and said that today we are celebrating International Mother Language Day. Its purpose is

to protect and promote our mother tongues because our culture resides in these mother tongues. The meeting was conducted by Adrija Malik and the vote of thanks was given by Prof. A.K. Das. Apart from the college secretary Dr. Mohammad Zakaria, SPARK coordinator Dr. Yahya Ibrahim, Dr. Itikhar Nabi, Dr. Firoz Ibrahim, Dr. Indrasen Singh, Dr. Kausar Tasneem, Dr. Tufail Ahmed and Major Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed, many teachers and a large number of students were present in this meeting. (w/pb)

## Four arrested in Bistupur shooting case

**Jamshedpur, Feb 21:** Police have arrested four accused in connection with the firing on Shivam Ghosh at Dhatkidih Main Road under Bistupur police station limits. So far, eight individuals have been detained and are currently being questioned regarding their involvement in the attack. According to the police, the arrested accused confessed that the attack was a result of a dispute that began in jail and escalated due to factionalism after their release. Based on the statement given by Shivam Ghosh's elder brother, Animesh Ghosh, a case has been registered against Shibu alias Soheb Akhtar (Kadma), Asif, Kaifi (Mango), Somesh Rao alias Sumi

Rao (Kadma Ramjanmanagar), Vishal Dhiwar and Manoj Dhiwar, among others. Police identified the accused through CCTV footage and technical evidence and conducted continuous raids to nab them. Four suspects have been arrested, while the search for the remaining accused is ongoing.

In light of the incident, police patrolling has been increased to maintain law and order in the area. Senior police officials are personally monitoring the case. "The criminals will not be spared under any circumstances," a police officer stated. Meanwhile, Shivam Ghosh is currently undergoing treatment at TMH. (w/nkm)

# "Mini India": VC highlights linguistic unity at JWU's event

Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur, Feb 21:** A vibrant display of linguistic and cultural harmony marked the celebration of International Mother Language Day at the Sidhgora Campus of Jamshedpur Women's University (JWU). The event emphasized the importance of mother tongues in preserving cultural heritage and promoting linguistic diversity.

The program commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp, followed by the release of a book authored by Dr.



Tayyaba Sheikh, a faculty member of the English Department. The book encapsulates her experiences and emotional journey from childhood to motherhood. Dr. Sudhir Kumar Sahu, Head of the Humanities Department,

introduced the theme of the event and stressed the need to revive endangered cultures. In his welcome speech, he highlighted the historical and cultural struggles associated with languages, emphasizing that lan-

guage is a collective creation of multiple communities.

The cultural segment began with a mesmerizing Sanskrit song performed by Ruby Pradhan and Aastha Sharma from the Sanskrit Department. Dr. Rama Subramanyam, Controller of Examinations, spoke about the significance of Tamil and encouraged everyone to take pride in their native languages. Bhavana Kumari from the Geography Department recited a heartfelt Maithili poem, while Sunaina Ojha from the Oriya Department shared her self-composed poetry.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Anjila Gupta extended warm wishes on the Silver Jubilee of International Mother Language Day. She described the multilingual atmosphere of the event as a representation of "Mini India." She highlighted the spiritual significance of mantras, verses, and traditional phrases in different cultures and underscored the importance of mastering one's mother tongue, drawing inspiration from scholars such as Agastya Muni, Charak, and Sushruta, who made remarkable contributions through their linguistic expertise. (W-nb)

# Thunderstorms and rain likely in next 24 hours

Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur, Feb 21:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast thunderstorms and rain in southern and eastern regions of Jharkhand over the next 24 hours. According to the Ranchi Meteorological Centre, isolated areas in these regions are likely to experience thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds. The maximum wind speed is expected to reach 40-50 kmph, posing a potential risk of temporary disruptions.

The weather office has issued an alert for Saturday, predicting thunderstorms and lightning in isolated places over southern and eastern Jharkhand. The situation is expected to continue on Sunday,

with thunderstorms likely over southern and central parts of the state. Residents in these regions are advised to exercise caution, particularly during outdoor activities, and stay updated on weather alerts.

A Western Disturbance is presently seen as a cyclonic circulation over north Pakistan at an altitude of 3.1 to 4.5 km above mean sea level. It is accompanied by a trough aloft in the middle and upper tropospheric level. The axis of this trough is located at 5.8 km above mean sea level, extending roughly along Longitude 70°E to the north of Latitude 30°N.

Satellite images also indicate an induced cyclonic circulation over West Rajasthan, extending up to 1.5 km above mean sea level. This

system is contributing to the unstable weather conditions over eastern India, including Jharkhand.

Additionally, a trough from Gangetic West Bengal to Telangana is observed, stretching from north Bangladesh to Telangana across Gangetic West Bengal, interior Odisha, and south Chhattisgarh. This trough extends up to 1.5 km above mean sea level and is influencing the cloud formation and precipitation patterns over Jharkhand.

The IMD has advised residents in affected areas to take necessary precautions against thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds. People are advised to stay indoors during heavy lightning and avoid taking shelter under

trees. Farmers have also been alerted to protect their crops from potential wind and hail damage.

Most parts of Jharkhand woke up to overcast skies on Friday, with moderate humidity. The day-time temperatures are expected to be pleasant, but a drop in night temperatures is anticipated after the rainfall. "The weather is likely to improve gradually by Monday, with the disturbance moving eastward. The unexpected thunderstorms and rain are expected to provide temporary relief from the warm weather, but the gusty winds and lightning could pose challenges. The residents are urged to stay vigilant and prepared for any adverse weather developments," said an official. (w/pb)

**AFFIDAVIT**

I, Vandana Murarka W/o Rahul Murarka resident of H. No. 183, G.P.Road, Jugsalai, Jugsalai District-East Singhbhum, Jharkhand-831006, being my Aadhar no. 4835 5685 5041, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:

- That I am Indian citizen since birth.
- That before my marriage my name was Vandana Shah according to my Aadhar card basis 4835 5685 5041 basis.
- That my marriage has solemnly with Rahul Murarka my name has been change from Vandana Shah to Vandana Murarka.
- That the Vandana Shah and Vandana Murarka both are one and same person i.e. my self name only.
- That the abovementioned paragraphs are true to the best of knowledge.
- That I am swearing this affidavit to confirm the matter to submit the same to the authority concern.

EC-0714 Advocate  
Dt. : 21.02.2025

# Ranchi lawyers protest against Advocate Amendment Bill 2025

Mail News Service

**Ranchi, Feb 21:** Advocates from Ranchi Civil Court took to the streets on Friday, marching from the New Bar Bhawan Complex to Albert Ekka Chowk in a strong protest against the Advocate (Amendment) Bill 2025. The demonstration, led by Ranchi District Bar Association President Shambhu Agarwal and General Secretary Sanjay Vidrohi, saw lawyers voicing their concerns over the proposed changes that they claim threaten their autonomy and professional rights.



According to Vidrohi, the lawyers are opposing several provisions of the bill, including the reorganization of Bar Councils at the national and state levels, changes in the election process for the State Bar Council and a complete ban on strikes and court boycotts, with provisions for disciplinary action against violators. The bill also mandates a profes-

sional development fee for advocates, introduces compensation provisions for clients in case of lawyer negligence and requires five-year verification of advocates to maintain their registration. Additionally, it proposes

regulation of foreign law firms, a ban on convicted advocates contesting elections and the termination of voting rights for non-practicing lawyers. Another controversial aspect is the Central Government's authority over the Bar Council of India, which lawyers believe could lead to excessive government interference in the legal profession. "This bill is an attack on our profession. It imposes unfair restrictions and grants the government excessive control over the legal system," said one of the protesting lawyers. The Bar Association has warned of escalating protests if the government does not reconsider the proposed amendments. (w/nkm)

## Lawyers burn draft in Jamshedpur

**Jamshedpur, Feb 21:** Lawyers in Jamshedpur staged a protest on Friday by symbolically burning the draft of the proposed Advocate Amendment Act 2025 at the District Civil Court premises. The protesting advocates alleged that the amendment aims to curtail their constitutional rights and weaken their autonomy. "The proposed Section 35A is a direct attack on our rights under Article 19 of the Constitution. The Bar Council of India is being given undue authority to suspend lawyers and the government is trying to interfere by nominating its representatives," said a senior advocate during the



protest. Lawyers argued that the Act attempts to redefine advocacy by introducing a "legal practitioner" category, which they believe threatens their profession's independence. They

also questioned why the government seeks control over foreign law firms while tightening regulations on Indian advocates. Prominent advocates, including Sudhir Kumar Pappu, Sushil Jaiswal, JB

Singh, TN Ojha and Vineeta Singh, participated in the demonstration. Lawyers vowed to continue their opposition until the government withdraws the proposed amendments. (w/nkm)

## Tatanagar Station redevelopment budget increased by Rs 21 Crore



**Jamshedpur, Feb 21:** The Railway Ministry has increased the budget for the redevelopment of Tatanagar railway station by Rs 21 crore, raising the total allocation from Rs 327 crore to Rs 348 crore. The additional funds will be utilized for enhancing passenger amenities and security, further improving the station's infrastructure.

The redevelopment project will be executed under the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode, with the main work set to begin in June. A tender for the Rs 327-crore project had already been issued by the South East Railway Zone and the railway authorities aim to finalize an agency for the redevelopment by April.

The upgraded station will feature modern amenities, including three-storey buildings at both entry gates, as well as escalators and lifts on all platforms. The project is expected to not only improve passenger convenience but also contribute to the economic growth of Jamshedpur by enhancing transport infrastructure.

"The Railway Board has directed that Tatanagar station should be redeveloped to provide safety and convenience comparable to an airport," said an official from South East Railway. "This additional allocation will help us achieve that goal by ensuring world-class facilities for passengers."

With the station upgrade, authorities anticipate improved connectivity, better security and an overall boost in passenger experience. The railway station redevelopment aligns with the central government's broader vision of modernizing key railway hubs across the country. (w/nkm)

# XLRI honors women social entrepreneurs at XL-JESEY Awards

## Corporate policies and innovation key to women's empowerment: Experts

Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur, Feb 21:** The second edition of the XLRI Jamshedpur Emerging Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award (XL-JESEY 2025) was held recently, celebrating visionary social entrepreneurs who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to driving social change through innovative and sustainable business models. Hosted by the Centre of Inclusiveness at XLRI Jamshedpur, XL-JESEY aims to recognize and support social entrepreneurs who create meaningful impact through their ventures.

This year's theme, "Novel Approaches in Women Entrepreneurship," honored individuals whose entrepreneurial initiatives empower women while addressing critical social, economic, and environmental challenges.

The XL-JESEY 2025 award was presented to three exceptional entrepreneurs whose efforts have significantly impacted their communities: Premlata Poonia, founder of Hamari Laado, was awarded the top honor for her unwavering dedication to girls' education and women's empowerment in rural India. Anuradha Richhariya, Managing Director of Lalitpur Mahila Kisan Producer Company Limited, was recognized for her contributions to strengthening



women-led agricultural enterprises. Aruna Tirkey, founder of Ajam Emba, was honored for her work in reviving indigenous cuisine and empowering tribal women through sustainable food entrepreneurship.

Each of the three winners was awarded a cash prize of Rs1,50,000 in recognition of their remarkable contributions to social entrepreneurship.

The XL-JESEY 2025 awards ceremony was the highlight of the eighth edition of the Social Entrepreneurship Conclave (SEC-8), hosted by the SIGMA-oikos committee of XLRI Jamshedpur. This conclave brought together visionaries, policymakers, and entrepreneurs to discuss

"Women Entrepreneurship & Inclusive Growth." The event saw participation from 150+ attendees, including students, industry leaders, and social entrepreneurs, fostering a meaningful dialogue on the role of women in shaping the entrepreneurial landscape.

The conclave commenced with a keynote address by Roopa Roshan Sahoo, IAS (Revenue Divisional Commissioner for the Southern Division, Berhampur), who shared insights on policy frameworks, structural challenges, and opportunities to foster an equitable entrepreneurial ecosystem for women in India.

The event featured two engaging panel discussions:

### Panel 1: Corporate Initiatives & Policies for Women Empowerment

Moderated by Manasmita Jena (Executive Council Member, SVNIRTAR, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India), the panel explored how corporations and policymakers can drive meaningful change. Esteemed panelists, including Ameyavikrama Thanvi (Supreme Court Advocate), Prof. Sammita Samanta (Founder & Chairperson, SOUL Limited), and Mohini Priya (Supreme Court Advocate), discussed the significance of corporate policies, leadership representation, and funding access for women entrepreneurs.

### Panel 2: Driving Innovation Through Women-Centric Entrepreneurs.

This session, featuring Padmavati Uttarwar (Advisory Board Member for several organizations), Premlata Poonia (Founder, Hamari Laado), Bhavana Issar (Founder & CEO, Caregiver Saathi), Usha Paliath (CEO, Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs of India), and Aiswarya Chandrashekar (Chief Impact Officer, FIA), highlighted innovative business models that cater to women and their evolving socio-economic roles. The discussion centered on overcoming barriers, leveraging technology, and fostering mentorship to scale women-led ventures.

## Congress leader Surendra Singh dies in road accident

Mail News Service

**Giridih, Feb 21:** Congress leader Surendra Singh, a former block president from Bengalabad, lost his life in a road accident on Friday. The incident led to a large gathering of locals and the Bangabad police station reached the spot to investigate.

According to reports, the 65-year-old leader was traveling from his village in Jhaldiha to Giridih when a truck's tire burst nearby. The pressure from the air blast caused a stone on the road to hit his chest, embedding itself in his body, leading to his immediate death.

## Raghubar suggest CM for improving traffic bottlenecks in Jsr

Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur, February 21:** Former chief minister Raghubar Das gave suggestions to chief minister Hemant Soren to make traffic smooth in Jamshedpur.

In a letter to Hemant Soren, Raghubar Das has informed that due to economic activities, operation of heavy vehicles etc. and other business activities, the general public of the city is facing jams and traffic inconveniences.

It also informs that lives and property are being lost due to increasing road accidents every day, which is a matter of great concern.

"In order to reduce the traffic pressure in Jamshedpur city and provide relief to the public, the following infrastructure development schemes were approved by the government earlier.



Unfortunately, the situation has become more serious due to the pending of these schemes," the letter states.

The letter draws attention to the pending schemes like construction of Govindpur overhead road and bypass in Jamshedpur, the tender for this project was

executed at a cost of Rs 138.74 crore, but the construction work is pending. Construction of bridge and path connecting NH-33 from Litti Chowk to Swamarekha River. The foundation stone of this scheme was also laid, but further action is pending. "In public interest, there is a

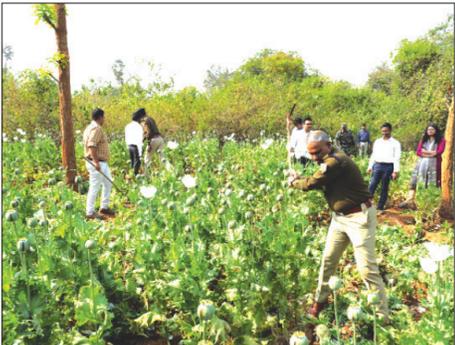
need to get the construction of path and bridge from Tata Motors to Litti Chowk via Theme Park till NH-33 done soon. Construction of new inter-state bus terminal on NH-33 in Mango. The plan for construction of new inter-state bus terminal on NH-33 was approved for shifting the bus stand located near Mango bridge. Under this scheme, only the boundary wall has been constructed, the remaining work is still pending, it is necessary to complete it soon," the letter states. "If the implementation of the above projects is completed on time, the people of Jamshedpur will get great relief and the traffic system will improve a lot. This will not only speed up the industrial development of the state, but will also ensure the safety and convenience of the citizens," Das writes in the letter. (w-rg)

# Jharkhand's biggest crackdown on illegal opium trade

## Over 50 drones, 200 tractors, 1000 soldiers deployed to destroy opium crops

Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur, Feb 21:** In a massive anti-narcotics operation, Jharkhand police have wiped out opium cultivation spread across 16,000 acres in Khunti, Chaibasa, Saraikela and Ranchi. Over 1,000 security personnel, 200 tractors and 50 drone cameras were deployed in this month-long operation, making it one of the biggest crackdowns on illegal opium trade in the state's history.



According to police estimates, nearly 60,000 kg of opium has been destroyed before it could reach the market. Each acre produces about four kilograms of opium and the crop from this region is known for its high quality, making it highly sought after in Rajasthan, Punjab and

Haryana. Authorities have arrested 125 individuals linked to the illegal trade, dealing a major blow to the mafia controlling opium cultivation in Jharkhand. The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) reports that the crackdown has already spiked opium prices in the

grey market by 30-40%. The price per kilogram, which was Rs 3 lakh last year, has now surged to Rs 5 lakh due to disrupted supply chains.

## Illegal sale of banned gutkha rampant in Jamshedpur

**Jamshedpur, Feb 21:** Despite a state-wide ban on gutkha and pan masala containing tobacco, these products continue to be sold openly across the city, including in posh areas and near schools. Many small and large grocery stores are openly stocking the banned items, violating government regulations.

Shockingly, the sale of gutkha has been observed near Kerala Public School in Kadma, Carmel Junior College in Sonari and DBMS College, even though the law prohibits the sale of intoxicants within 100 meters of school and college premises. While the district administration is aware of this violation, no concrete action has been taken. The Health Department has

clearly prohibited the storage, distribution and sale of gutkha, with a formal notification reinforcing the ban. State Health Minister Dr. Irfan Ansari has stated that the law will be strictly enforced across Jharkhand, warning that strict action will be taken against violators. However, enforcement appears weak in Jamshedpur, as gutkha is being sold openly in areas like Sakchi, Bistupur, Kadma and Sonari, particularly in colonies and bastis.

Public concern is growing over the indifferent approach of the authorities, raising questions about the effectiveness of the ban. Stronger enforcement and immediate action against violators are needed to curb this illegal trade and protect public health. (w/nkm)

has flourished under mafia networks. This year's large-scale operation, involving advanced surveillance through drone cameras, has significantly weakened their grip. Officials have vowed to continue the crackdown and eliminate opium cultivation from the region completely, ensuring that Jharkhand does not remain a hotspot for the illicit drug trade. (w/nkm)

### E-Auction Notice for Leasing of Advertisement & Parking over Chakradharpur Division

For and on behalf of the President of India, Union of India, the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Chakradharpur Division, South Eastern Railway invites e-auction for leasing of various assets Advertisements & Parking over Chakradharpur Division, which is notified in the <https://www.ireps.gov.in/website>. The details of the e-auction are as follows : **Sl. No. 1, Category :** Advertisement, **Catalogue No. :** AdvtOOHCCKP-25, **Date of Auction :** 03.03.2025, **Auction Start Time :** 11:30 hrs, **Auction Close Date :** 03.03.2025, **Auction Close Time :** 14:00 hrs., **Sl. No. 2, Category :** Advertisement, **Catalogue No. :** AdvtTrainInt.Ex, **Date of Auction :** 04.03.2025, **Auction Start Time :** 11:30 hrs, **Auction Close Date :** 04.03.2025, **Auction Close Time :** 13:00 hrs., **Sl. No. 3, Category :** Parking, **Catalogue No. :** Parking-ROU-25, **Date of Auction :** 03.03.2025, **Auction Start Time :** 11:30 hrs, **Auction Close Date :** 03.03.2025, **Auction Close Time :** 13:00 hrs. Interested parties to take note of this and go through the website as mentioned above for details of the site and related information about the e-Auction notice. For enquiries/clarifications if any, please contact the office of the undersigned.

(PR-1164) Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Chakradharpur

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(Under AECs, an Autonomous body, Dept. of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India)  
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(Affiliated to CBSE Delhi, Affiliation No. 3489002, School No. - 66237)  
Phone - 0657-2953561 e-mail: aecsjad1@yahoo.com

NO : AESC/J/B-20/2025 February 15, 2025

## TEACHERS REQUIRED

Teachers are required, on purely contractual basis, for the post mentioned below in Atomic Energy Central School, at Jadugoda, Narwapahar & Turamdih (English Medium School, affiliated to CBSE) for the academic year 2025-2026.

**PGT -** English, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Maths, History, Economics, Geography, Computer Science, Hindi, Commerce.

**TGT -** English, Social Science, Hindi/Sanskrit, Math/Physics, Bio./Chem. Special Educator, Computer Science, PET, Art, Counselor

**PRT -** Music

**PRT -** (English, Maths & Science)

Preparatory Teacher-Balvatika

Candidates may appear for skill test & practical classroom observation at the date and time mentioned our detailed advertisement along with the required document and one photograph.

For further details, please visit the website [www.uraiumcorp.in](http://www.uraiumcorp.in) and [www.aecsucil.nic.in](http://www.aecsucil.nic.in)

(N.K.BLAHATIA)  
Co-ordinating Principal  
CBC:48134/12/0057/2425 AECs, Jadugoda Centre

# Overwhelming response to Radiant Jharkhand, 4000 visit on second day

Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur, Feb 21:** The 'Radiant Jharkhand' exhibition, organized for the first time by Visual Myths, will conclude on February 23. On the second day, the exhibition witnessed a footfall of 4000 visitors, with a majority of youth and students from various educational institutions of Kolhan participating actively. The exhibition featured over 30 stalls from government and non-government institutions, providing valuable information on education, career

opportunities, and placement. The event aimed to empower students and youth by offering them insights into central government schemes and career-oriented programs. A large number of students were seen exploring the stalls, gathering information on career opportunities and placement avenues. Each stall had experts guiding visitors about their respective departments and initiatives. Free pamphlets, leaflets, and coffee table books were also distributed to provide detailed information about the



schemes. Geological Survey of India (GSI): Displayed minerals found in different parts of Jharkhand, with a special focus on dinosaur eggs from millions

of years ago and human brain remains from five million years ago. This exhibit generated immense curiosity among the youth. CSIR National Metallurgical Laboratory (NML): Provided insights into ongoing research and developments in the field of metallurgy. Reserve Bank of India (RBI): Educated visitors on financial literacy and digital banking initiatives. Central Mining and Fuel Research Institute: Offers information on mining technologies and fuel research. Aadhaar (UID) Stall: Saw a

large number of visitors updating their biometrics and gathering information about Aadhaar-related services. Neetu Pal Gupta of Visual Myths expressed her gratitude for the enthusiastic participation and overwhelming response from the youth and students. She emphasized that the objective of the exhibition was to educate and empower the youth by providing them with accurate and valuable information about career paths, government schemes, and educational opportunities. (w/pb)

## Kross Ltd donates ultrasound machine to Chandil Hospital

Mail News Service

**Chandil, Feb 21:** Kross Limited, one of India's leading auto components manufacturers, has donated an advanced ultrasound machine worth approximately Rs 19 lakh to the Sub-Divisional Hospital, Chandil, under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.



The inauguration ceremony took place on February 21, 2025, in the presence of Hon'ble Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth, MLA Savita Mahato,

Kross Limited Chairman Shri Sudhir Rai and other dignitaries. "The installation of this ultrasound machine is a significant

step in strengthening healthcare facilities in Chandil," said District Commissioner Ravi Shankar Shukla, who officially inaugurat-

ed the equipment.

Previously, Chandil residents had to travel to Jamshedpur for ultrasound tests. The hospital authorities expressed their gratitude, stating that the machine will greatly enhance diagnostic capabilities and patient care.

The event witnessed the participation of local dignitaries, hospital staff and Kross Limited's senior management, marking a major milestone in the company's commitment to community development. (w/nkm)

## Intl Mother Language Day celebrated at Shiksha Niketan



**Jamshedpur, Feb 21:** Students of Shiksha Niketan School, Telco, marked International Mother Language Day with a vibrant program showcasing various languages. The event, held during the morning assembly on February 21, 2025, aimed to promote linguistic diversity and cultural appreciation.

Principal Sumita Dey, along with other teachers, attended the event, where stu-

dents presented cultural performances and speeches in different languages. The program highlighted the importance of preserving and respecting one's mother tongue. "Language is not just a means of communication but also an expression of our identity and heritage," said a senior faculty member. The celebration left a lasting impact on students, reinforcing the significance of multilingualism. (w/nkm)

## Former Mukhiya, ward member accused of misusing government hand pump

**Jamshedpur, Feb 21:** A former Mukhiya and a current Ward Member of East Kitadih Panchayat have been accused of illegally using a government-installed hand pump for personal purposes. A written complaint regarding the matter has been submitted to Dhalbhum SDO Shatabdi Majumdar, demanding action against them. According to complainant Samar Kundu, the hand pump was originally installed near Sujay Kundu and Baby Kundu's residence using government funds. It was meant to serve residents of Bahagarh Naya Basti and surrounding areas, but Sujay Kundu allegedly damaged the pump and installed a private motor in its bore, restricting access for public use. His aunt, Baby Kundu, a current Ward Member, has also been accused of aiding



in this misuse. "The people of Bahagarh and Naya Basti are facing severe water shortages, especially during the summer. The government hand pump was the only reliable water source for the colony and now, due to its unauthorized privatization, residents are forced to search for drinking water elsewhere," the complaint stated. Despite multiple objections from locals, Sujay Kundu, citing his status as a teacher and Baby Kundu, using her political influence, have allegedly threatened residents who opposed their actions. The complainant has urged authorities to restore public access to the borewell and take strict action against the accused. A copy of the complaint has also been submitted to the BDO of Jamshedpur block for further investigation. (w/nkm)

## Railway employees demonstrate on All India Demands Day

Mail News Service

**Dhanbad, Feb 21:** East Central Railway Karmchari Union (ECRKU) Dhanbad branch on directive of All India Railway Mens Federation today celebrated All India Demands Day here by holding massive demonstration at main gate of Carriage and Wagon Depot. As per pre announced programme railway employees (members of ECRKU) assembled at Carriage and Wagon Depot main gate demonstrated in support of their 10 points pending demands.

The union leaders on the occasion announced that ECRKU will intensify the agitations if the Dhanbad Rail Division management delayed in implementing the demands. Later on a delegation

of union met Depot in-charge Abhay Mehta and handed over demand letter to him.

Main demands of ECRKU are immediate filling up vacant posts, immediate halt on privatization and outsourcing in railway works, construction of new quarters in place of dilapidated quarters, arrangement of basic facilities in railway colony, no work should be taken from railway employees more than 8 hours.

Netaji Subhash, Jitendra Kumar, Saw, NK Khawas, Prasant Bannerji, Viman Mandal, Surendra Chouhan, Dilip Kumar, Santosh Kumar, NC Roy, Gulab Chandra Pandit, Vikash Gorai, Daud Ansari, Saurav Kumar, CD Hajam, Ruchi Kumari, Bindu Devi, Babita Kumari, Priti Devi, Laxmi Devi and other also

## 4 trains crossing via Dhanbad Rly Div to run late from tomorrow

**Dhanbad, Feb 21:** Four trains crossing via Dhanbad Rai Division will run late from tomorrow due to yard remodelling of Kasta Rail station under Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay Rail Division.

Giving this information senior official of Dhanbad rail division said that train no 13554 Varanasi-Asansol- Express will run 120 minutes late from February 22 to February 25 between DDU and Paraiya stations.

Train no12802 New Delhi- Puri Purushottam Express, that will start from New Delhi will run 30 minutes late between DDU and Anugrahanaraya Road stations on February 24.

Train no1 2802 New Delhi- Puri Purushottam Express, that will start from Delhi will run 45 minutes late between DDU and Anugrahanaraya Road stations on February 25.

Train no 13554 Varanasi- Asansol Express, that will start from Varanasi, will run 60 minutes late between Dehri- On Sone and Paraiya Stations on February 25. (w/ss)

addressed the meeting after demonstration. (w/ss)

## Govt doctors' state election body gets accolades from all quarters

Mail News Service

**Dhanbad, Feb 21 :** The four members election committee of Jharkhand State Health Services Association (JSHSA), the frontal organization of state government doctors, has got accolades from all quarters including health minister Dr Irfan Ansari for conducting the 2025-27 polls fair and transparent.



The election committee, comprising deputy director health Dr Lal Majh, deputy director Dr Pankaj Kumar, Dr RK Singh and Dr Vikash Kumar Gupta despite busy scheduled of office responsibility, ensured smooth voting in Ranchi and other 23 districts of state in one month preparation.

For fairness of election, all four election committee members delivered ballots box in all 24

district under their supervision. Such transparent preparation was never witnessed in past in JSHSA election. Barring convener post candidate Dr Sidheswar Baskey of Ranchi, no protest from any other candidate was lodged.

Impressed by successful election of JSHSA even health minister Dr Irfan Ansari highly appreciated Dr Majh and other three election officers during in office

-bearer installation held at Ranchi IMA Hall on February 16. Newly elected JSHSA secretary Dr Thakur Mritunjay Kumar Singh also praised all four election committee members for holding fair and transparent polls and said that other organizations of state have also sought their help in conducting their organizational poll. "Impressed by working style of JSHSA election commit-

tee, Indian Medical Association (IMA) state secretary Dr Pradeep Kumar Singh has highly praised and requested to join in conducting election of his (IMA) organization", said Dr Thakur Mritunjay Kumar Singh. JSHSA founder also hails JSHSA founder Dr Sumant Mishra also praised chief election commissioner Dr Lal Majh, Dr Pankaj Kumar, Dr RK Singh and Dr Vikash Kumar Gupta for conducting the election smoothly and transparent.

Dr Mishra, who served as president and secretary along with Dr Praveen Chandra for several terms, said 2025-27 election was tense but Dr Majhi and his team tackled the situation brilliantly and got confidence of all candidates. (w/ss)

## Two youths caught stealing truck batteries, beaten by public

Mail News Service

**Gamharia, Feb 21:** Two youths were caught red-handed while attempting to steal batteries from a truck near the crematorium Kali temple in the industrial area. Upon spotting them, locals apprehended and beat them before handing them over to the Adityapur police. A large crowd, including passers-by and truck drivers, gathered at the scene. "We caught them red-handed and handed them to the police," said a local resident. After receiving the information, police arrived at the spot, took custody of the accused and brought them to the station for further action. (w/nkm)

## JWC observes International Mother Language Day



**Jamshedpur, Feb 21:** International Mother Language Day was celebrated at Jamshedpur Workers College (JWC) with a focus on language preservation.

Addressing the event, Principal Dr. Satyapriya Mahalik highlighted that language is deeply connected to politics, culture and identity. "Indian languages are under threat and it is our duty to protect them," he emphasized, citing the National Education Policy (NEP) for its role in promoting regional languages.

Dr. Mahalik also released five new Odia-language books written by him, adding to his 37 published works. Senior faculty members including Dr. Amarendra Singh, Dr. Javed Iqbal and Prof. Sunita Gudiya launched the books. Students and teachers shared their thoughts in multiple languages, reinforcing the importance of linguistic diversity. The event concluded with a pledge to preserve and promote native languages. (w/nkm)

## Bhatli Parivar takes holy dip at Mahakumbh 2025



**Jamshedpur, Feb 21:** A group of 25 members from Shri Shyam Bhatli Parivar, Jamshedpur, took a sacred dip at Triveni Sangam in the Brahma Muhurta during Mahakumbh 2025.

Following the ritual bath, the group explored the grand event via a helicopter ride, witnessing the spiritual congregation from above. Impressed by the seamless organization of the Mahakumbh, the Bhatli Parivar lauded the 24x7 service of the Uttar Pradesh Police and honoured the police team with a memento. Prominent members of the trip included Gagan Rustagi, Lalit Danga, Murari Nanigaka, Madan Agarwal and many others. The pilgrimage was a spiritually enriching experience for the group, reinforcing their faith and devotion. (w/nkm)

## Experts discuss on low-cost sensors for air quality at IIT ISM Dhanbad

Mail News Service

**Dhanbad, Feb 21 :** Industry professionals and research scholars across the country began discussion on Low-Cost Sensors and Automation Air Quality monitoring in Mining Industry at IIT ISM, Dhanbad on Thursday. The two-day (20-21) programme is being organized by the Department of Environmental Science & Engineering (ES&E) in collaboration with the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

The experts discussed fundamental aspects of air pollution, its sources, composition, and detrimental effects on climate change and human health.

Other key discussions held on performance assessment of LCS, calibration techniques, economic benefits of LCS, and real-world applications in mining



industries. Prof. Saifi Izhar, assistant professor (ES&E) and coordinator of the program, emphasized the global challenge of poor air quality, citing industrial fossil fuels and mining as significant contributors. He pointed out that conventional air quality monitoring relies on high-cost equip-

ment, which limits its accessibility and deployment. He also highlighted the challenges in industrial automation, stating that a lack of interdisciplinary knowledge and high infrastructural costs have hindered its widespread adoption. He said that with the increasing availability of automated

systems, there is a growing demand for skilled professionals in these domains. Academic institutions can play a crucial role in bridging this gap by fostering interdisciplinary expertise and technological integration. Prof. Alok Sinha, HoD Environmental Science & Engineering, stressed the impor-

tance of real-time pollution monitoring. He stated that early detection using low-cost sensors enables timely mitigation measures, such as water sprinkling, to reduce pollution levels effectively. Prof. Somnath Chattopadhyaya, HoD Mechanical Engineering, reiterated the severe impact of air pollution on human health.

He emphasized that the hands-on training provided during the program would have a lasting impact on participants, significantly enhancing their understanding and practical application of air quality monitoring techniques.

Prof. Zafar Alam, assistant professor (Mechanical Engineering) proposed vote of thanks and underscored the importance of translating theoretical knowledge into practical implementation. (w/ss)

# Congress Jharkhand in-charge K Raju in Ranchi, vows to strengthen party

Mail News Services

**Ranchi, Feb 21:** The newly appointed Jharkhand in-charge of the Congress, K Raju, arrived in Ranchi on Friday to a grand welcome at Birsas Munda Airport. Speaking to the media, Raju emphasized his commitment to revitalizing the party at the grassroots level and boosting the morale of party workers.

He stated, "Our goal is to strengthen the Congress organization in villages and ensure greater participation from SC, ST, OBC and minority communities."

His appointment is seen as a strategic move aimed at rejuvenating the party in the state, particularly with the upcoming



elections in focus. A large number of senior Congress leaders, including state president Keshav Mahato Kamlesh, former state president Rajesh Thakur, Deepika Pandey Singh, Pradeep Yadav, Rajesh Kachhap and

Bandhu Tirkey, were present to welcome him. Before beginning his official engagements, Raju paid floral tributes to the statues of Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar, Karpoori Thakur, Bhagwan Birsa Munda and

## Congress in-charge K Raju welcomed

**Jamshedpur, Feb 21:** The newly appointed in-charge of Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee, K Raju, arrived at Ranchi airport to a warm welcome.

Under the leadership of East Singhbhum District Congress Committee President, a large number of senior Congress leaders and district officials gathered to receive him.

A procession was taken out, leading K Raju to the State Congress office, where leaders, including District President Anand Bihari Dubey, Samanta Kumar, LB Singh, Paritosh Singh, Parvinder Singh, and Dharmendra Sonkar, greeted him with bouquets on behalf of East Singhbhum District Congress Committee. (w/nkm)

other leaders.

Raju's Jharkhand tour, scheduled from February 21 to February 25, includes meetings with district, block and divisional Congress leaders in Chaibasa, Seraikela and Jamshedpur. On

February 23, he will meet with board and corporation officials, followed by one-on-one discussions with Congress ministers and MLAs to assess the party's organizational strength and future strategies. (w/nkm)

# Health dialogue program organized by TSF



Mail News Services

**Gamharia, Feb 21:** A one-day health dialogue program was conducted by the Mansi Project of Tata Steel Foundation at Chhota Gamharia's community hall. The event was inaugurated by BDO Abhay Kumar Dwivedi, CHC in-charge Dr. Lakshmi Kumari and Sahayachi Mandal Prabhjot Kaur.

Health workers (Sahiya) shared their case studies and success stories, followed by various competitions, where winners were honored. Block Coordinator Champavati Hansda and others, including Lakshmi Mahato, Anjani Kumari, Baha Mardi and Shaili Murmu, were present along with ANMs, Sevikas and Mansi Mitras from different villages. (w/nkm)

## UCIL CSR Director gifts water towers to Jaduguda villages



Mail News Service

**Jaduguda, Feb 21:** To address drinking water shortages before summer, UCIL CSR's independent director Prabhakar Kumar Panda inaugurated eight water towers in multiple villages during his two-day visit to Jaduguda.

During a function in Bhatin village, Panda laid the foundation stone for a water tower, instructing the contractor to complete it by March.

"Uranium belongs to the people and UCIL is committed to their service," he said, emphasizing the need for nationalism and future-oriented education.

Additionally, Panda distributed tribal musical instruments, jute bags, bottles and flutes to students of Lugu Murmu Residential Tribal School. In a cultural initiative, 10 village heads were honored and gifted Dhamsa and Madal drums to promote Jharkhand's heritage.

The event was attended by M.K. Singhai, Manoranjan Mahali, Tapodhir Bhattacharya, Rajiv Bada and local village leaders. (w/nkm)

## Viddiri Flag Day: Review meeting at Sohada Football Ground

Mail News Service

**Jaduguda, Feb 21:** The Adivasi Bhumij Samaj Viddiri Flag Day Organizing Committee held a review meeting at Sohada Football Ground in Potka on Friday, discussing preparations for Viddiri Flag Day, which was held on February 12.

The meeting focused on event arrangements, cultural team participation, and guest feedback. It was noted that any shortcomings from the event should be addressed for better organization next time.

It was decided that cultural team representatives will meet in late March to plan strategies for preserving social, cultural, and traditional identity. Advisory Committee members, including Siddheshwar Sardar, Jaipal Singh Sardar, and Harish Bhumij, were present at the meeting. (w/nkm)

## Bal Mela promotes creativity and learning at Neemdih School

Mail News Service

**Chaibasa, Feb 21:** To foster intellectual, skill and emotional development in children, a Bal Mela was organized by Aspire Sanstha at Upkrant Madhya Vidyalaya, Neemdih under Sadar block. Head Teacher Krishna Devgam emphasized the importance of developing children's head, hand and heart through creative activities.

"Bal Mela provides an opportunity beyond bookish knowledge, helping children build skills and moral values essential for becoming responsible citizens," said Devgam.



Various competitions such as clay art, rangoli, painting, science exhibition, math race, biscuit race and balloon bursting were held. The winners in each category were felicitated by School Management Committee Chairman Damu Sundi

and teachers.

A large number of students and organizers, including Vikas Nag, Rajesh Hansda, Suresh Savaia and Holika Devgam, participated in the event, making it a grand success. (w/nkm)

## Sidhgora: Grand procession marks fifth anniversary of Shri Ram Temple



Mail News Service

**Jamshedpur, Feb 21:** The fifth anniversary of Shri Ram Temple in Sidhgora's Suryadham complex was celebrated with a grand procession organized by the Surya Mandir Samiti. Thousands of devotees participated, chanting "Jai Shri Ram" as flowers were showered along the route.

Former Chief Minister and Surya Mandir Samiti's Chief Patron Raghuraj Das joined the procession barefoot, carrying Shri Ramayan on his forehead. "This grand celebration is a testament to the devotion and dedication of the temple committee, BJP workers, and the city residents," he said, expressing gratitude to all supporters. The grand chariot procession featured Acharya Rajendra Ji Maharaj, saints from Prayagraj Mahakumbh, and vibrant tableaux of Shri Ram Darbar and Veer Bajrangbali, accompanied by fireworks, DJ music, and saffron flags. The procession began at Baba Vishwanath Temple and concluded at Surya Dham, where Shri Ram Darbar's Aarti and Prasad distribution took place.

Surya Mandir Samiti Chairman Bhupendra Singh urged devotees to attend the Shri Ram Katha from February 22 to 28 at Shankh Maidan, narrated daily by Acharya Rajendra Ji Maharaj from Vrindavan. (w/nkm)

## Outsourcing employees of Police Training Center demand jobs

**Jaduguda, Feb 21:** Outsourcing employees of the Jaduguda Police Training Center met JMM leader Bagh Rai Mardi at his Matigoda office, demanding employment assistance. The contract of International Security Private Limited, Ranchi, which employed 280 male and female workers, ended on January 15, leaving workers jobless and struggling for livelihood.

Contract worker Dinesh Patra accused the contractor of embezzling wages and PF payments. "Our wages till January 15 were not paid properly, and there are irregularities in our PF accounts," he alleged. The workers have sought support from Bagh Rai Mardi to help reinstate their jobs. Whether the JMM leader takes concrete action or merely offers political assurances remains to be seen. (w/nkm)

## Kudmali Language Day celebrated on International Language Day



Mail News Services

**Gamharia, Feb 21:** The Adivasi Kudmi Samaj observed Kudmali Language Day at the community hall in Badakankada Panchayat to promote language preservation. District Vice President Reena Mahato led the event, where District President Manoj Mahato urged community members to write 'Kudmali' in the language column during the census to safeguard its heritage.

A cultural program was also performed by children. Among those present were Chandranath Mahato, Akash Mahato, Sarita Mahato and Lalita Mahato, along with several others. (w/nkm)

## Shrimad Bhagwat Gyan Yagna begins



Mail News Services

**Gamharia, Feb 21:** The week-long Parikshit Parayan Gyan Yagna of Shrimad Bhagwat commenced on Friday at Gaud Gopal Seva Ashram, Ratanpur, Raghunathpur in Dumra Panchayat.

The event began with a grand Kalash Yatra, where 108 women devotees carried Kalash from a local pond, toured the entire area and installed them at the ritual site. From February 22, spiritual discourses will be delivered by Nayananda Das Baba.

The yagna will conclude on March 1 with Purnahuti and a grand Bhandara. Present at the event were Zila Parishad member Pinky Mandal, Mukhiya Poo Hansda, social worker Suraj Singh and others, including committee members Sumit Mandal, Shiv Pramanik and Ramesh Mandal. (w/nkm)

# BJYM burns effigy of CM Hemant Soren over exam paper leak

Mail News Service

**Chaibasa, Feb 21:** The Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), West Singhbhum staged a protest on Friday, burning an effigy of Chief Minister Hemant Soren at Post Office Chowk in Chaibasa.

The demonstration was held in response to the leak of the matriculation examination question paper, with protestors demanding strict action against those responsible.

During the protest, BJYM leader Chandramohan Tiu criticized



the state government, stating, "The students of Jharkhand are repeatedly being betrayed under the Hemant Soren govern-

ment. This is not the first time such an incident has occurred. Several exams have been canceled due

to paper leaks, causing immense trouble for students."

He further demanded the resignation of the Education Minister on moral grounds and insisted that the government take immediate action against the culprits.

BJYM leaders Pratap Katiyar Mahato, Jai Kishan Biruli, Satish Puri, Hemant Kesari, Shiva Bajaj, Roop Das, Bhim Singh, Manikant Poddar, Pawan Sharma, Ranjan Prasad and several others participated in the protest, emphasizing that if stringent measures are not taken, student futures will continue to be at risk. (w/nkm)

## Cong leaders prepare for Jharkhand in-charge's visit to Chaibasa



**Chaibasa, Feb 21:** The Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee is preparing for the arrival of newly appointed in-charge K. Raju on February 22, 2025. He will hold a crucial meeting at Congress Bhawan, Chaibasa, with leaders from West Singhbhum, Saraikela-Kharsawan and East Singhbhum districts.

In a preparatory meeting, District Congress President Chandrashekar Das expressed excitement over K. Raju's visit,

stating, "His leadership will inject new energy into Congress workers in Kolhan." Several Congress officials and members have been assigned responsibilities to ensure the event's success.

The meeting was conducted by Md. Salim and the vote of thanks was given by Jai Prakash Mahato.

Among those present were Sunil Sharma, Trishanu Rai, Imtiaz Khan and Haricharan Kumar. (w/nkm)

## X-Ray machine inaugurated at Manjhari Community Health Centre

Mail News Service

**Chaibasa, Feb 21:** Residents of Manjhari block will no longer have to travel far for X-ray services, as a new X-ray machine has been installed at the Community Health Centre (CHC), Manjhari, to enhance healthcare services.

The facility was inaugurated on Friday by Block Pramukh Sushila Bari, who officially cut the ribbon.

Speaking at the event, Sushila Bari emphasized the government's commitment to improving healthcare infrastructure in the state.

"The Hemant Soren-led government is determined to provide the best medical facilities and strengthen hospital infrastructure.

Every government hospital will be



upgraded with modern amenities to ensure that people do not have to rely on private hospitals," she said.

With the installation of the X-ray machine, patients will no longer need to visit private diagnostic centres, thereby saving both time and money.

"This facility will ensure better

treatment without unnecessary financial burden," she added.

The event was attended by Medical Officer In-Charge Dr. Shankar Tudu, Dr. Parmanand Biruwa, BPM Babul Hembrom, Pilka Panchayat Mukhiya Vinita Mardi, along with several health workers and local officials. (w/nkm)

## Food safety awareness drive launched in Chaibasa

Mail News Service

**Chaibasa, Feb 21:** In a bid to ensure compliance with the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, a promotional vehicle was flagged off from Sadar Hospital, Chaibasa, by Civil Surgeon Dr. Sushanto Majhi and Additional Chief Medical Officer in the presence of Food Safety Officer Abhishek Anand.

The vehicle will inform the public about a food license and registration camp to be held at the Food Safety Office in Madhu Bazar from February 24, 2025. Officials emphasized that obtaining a food license is mandatory for all food businesses, including hotels, restaurants, dhabas, grocery stores, bak-



eries and juice vendors. Food traders must provide an Aadhaar card, passport-size photo and electricity bill or rent agreement for registration. Meat and chicken shop owners also require a No Objection Certificate from the Panchayat or Municipal Corporation. Authorities warned that

legal action and penalties would be imposed on businesses operating without a license. "This initiative aims to ensure food safety and hygiene compliance, benefiting both businesses and consumers," said Food Safety Officer Abhishek Anand. (w/nkm)

## Delhi too gets BJP government

The BJP leadership in Delhi has once again thrown a surprise in the form of first-time legislator Rekha Gupta being selected as the Chief Minister. In the past too, the BJP had played the wild card in other states by opting for members who were not being considered as candidates or were not in the running for the Chief Minister's post. The selection of Rekha Gupta as Delhi's Chief Minister reflects that the BJP had taken into consideration all equations and sent out similar messages to women in the rest of the country. Presently, Rekha Gupta is the second woman Chief Minister after Mamata Banerjee in the country. It must not be overlooked that going by past records, women have sped ahead of their male counterparts and have become a formidable vote bank. Selecting Rekha Gupta as the fourth woman Chief Minister of Delhi has once again underlined that any BJP leader could claim the top spot. This message has a special meaning because no other political party has been able to send out any such message.

With Rekha Gupta taking the oath of office, a BJP government has been put in place in Delhi after 27 years. The challenges before the Rekha Gupta government are not limited to fulfilling the many attractive electoral pledges but also to neutralizing the bucket loads of problems existing in Delhi and going about grooming it as the capital of a country with expectation as a progressively developing nation. Being the capital of a country, Delhi wields the brush for a better international portrait. Definitely, Rekha Gupta has organizational and administrative experience but there are too many challenges that she will have to confront. The challenges are seemingly multi-pronged especially in view of the fact that Delhi is riddled with persisting problems over the past 10 to 12 years. In spite of being the national capital, certain areas are bereft of development. It is strange that in some localities of Delhi, there is no drinking water pipeline. Delhi's basic infrastructure goes on to crumble while it whimpers under pollution and traffic jams. The Yamuna River flowing through Delhi is polluted. The problems in Delhi continued to grow because the then AAP government and the Centre did not see eye to eye in resolving the woes. This difference of opinion and action only led to mounting problems. With BJP now holding the reins of Delhi administration, the centre-state leg-pulling game will expectedly be over but the problems of the Capital will really be over when every angle of the administration goes to show its sincerity and commitment.

From the Editorial Desk

## Manufacturing as a great place to work in India rises to 87 pc



Manufacturing sector employees at the best workplaces in India are 2.7 times more likely to stay in psychologically healthy environments, and the overall view of manufacturing as a great place to work has risen to 87 per cent in 2025, according to a report on Thursday.

As India's manufacturing industry advances toward Industry 5.0, the need for companies to prioritise not just technological innovation, but also the well-being of their workforce, has never been more critical, said the report by Great Place To Work.

"As the industry advances toward Industry 5.0, the focus isn't just on smarter machines but on fostering workplaces that prioritise employee well-being. To combat employee burnout, organisations are taking steps to improve work-life balance, make leaders more approachable, and enhance employee engagement," said

Balbir Singh, CEO, Great Place To Work, India.

"Leading organisations are building a culture of trust and psychological safety, and when employees feel valued, they are 2.7 times more likely to stay. To overcome challenges, organisations need to continuously listen and empower their employees, to shape the industry's future," he added.

The report showed that even as companies continue to foster positive and inclusive cultures, challenges remain. The voice of employees consistently highlights the need for more action around psychological safety, care, and equitable growth.

Best Workplaces have responded by implementing mechanisms for regular feedback, ensuring fair task allocation, and introducing flexible shifts to accommodate the needs of their workforce.

For their business and corporate employees, these companies have

adopted flexible work models, extended paid leave, and created opportunities for career growth and leadership development.

These have also expanded benefits packages to include wellness programmes, zero-interest loans, bonuses, and a broader range of support systems to meet the diverse needs of their teams, the report said.

Some of the best workplaces for manufacturing recognised for their exceptional culture and employee satisfaction, listed in the report include Apollo Tyres, Orient Cement, Tata Steel India, Amara Raja Power Systems, Sula Vineyards, and Bajaj Energy.

"These companies are not just focused on producing goods -- they are committed to producing an environment where employees thrive, grow, and feel valued," the report said.

## The Silent Struggle: How China is systematically erasing Tibet's identity



China's coercive and violently assimilationist policies towards its religious and racial minorities are not unknown. Despite the regular condemnation that it receives from the international community and civil society regarding its egregious violations of human rights, China disregards all opposition and persists unabated on its path.

A glaring example of this is the unmitigated political, physical, cultural, and spiritual violence that the CCP metes out to the Tibetans. The Tibetans, many of them exiled from their native homeland, continue to struggle for autonomy as well as the freedom to live with dignity and practice their unique cultural traditions, and represent one of the most powerful forces against Chinese hegemonic aggression today.

After invading the Tibetan plateau in 1949, the CCP enacted complete annexation of the region in 1951, which till date is referred to by the Chinese government as 'peaceful liberation from feudal serfdom'.

Thereafter, the subsequent decade was characterized by mass protests and uprisings by Tibetans, which were brutally suppressed by the Chinese regime, forcing the Dalai Lama, the highest spiritual leader and head of Tibetan Buddhism, to flee Tibet in 1949 and seek asylum in neighboring India.

The Dalai Lama's flight was followed by more than 80,000 Tibetans over the years, thereby consti-

tuting a significant population of Tibetans who are forced to live outside of Tibet.

The ones who live inside are subjected by the Chinese government to a host of policies aimed at erasing their culture, severing the next generation from the consciousness of a distinct Tibetan identity, and demographic engineering in order to marginalize the Tibetans further.

Often termed as 'cultural genocide' and 'Sinicization', these policies range from banning the Tibetan language in favour of Mandarin in schools and public institutions, to official interference in the religious practices of the Tibetans such as the determination of reincarnations of major spiritual leaders.

For the Tibetans, their form of Buddhism, i.e., Tibetan Buddhism, plays a profound and fundamental role in structuring the social, political, cultural, philosophical, and spiritual mores of their society.

So intertwined have the political and the religious been for the Tibetans that their highest spiritual leader also serves as the highest seat of political power.

The 14th Dalai Lama, or Tenzin Gyatso, due to his persistent struggle for Tibetan rights to meaningful autonomy as well as his global campaign for peace, human rights, and universal responsibility, is a world-revered figure who was also awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1989.

For the Chinese government which already

perceives him as a threat due to his tremendous influence over Tibetans, his exceptionally charismatic, resilient, and globally hailed characteristics make him even more potent.

Therefore, it comes as no surprise that the CCP consistently engages in malicious propaganda against the venerated leader, from labelling him an erstwhile slave-owning theocrat to even a paedophile.

In fact, as early as 1996, the CCP forbade the possession and display of the Dalai Lama's images in Tibet, construing it as solidarity with Tibetan secessionism.

Forcing Tibetans not to stick pictures of their spiritual leader on their walls and instead, put portraits of Mao Zedong and Xi Jinping, obviously constitutes a grotesque abuse of power and subjugation of a people.

Such is the CCP's urge for totalitarian control that the party, which under Mao was expressly averse to religion, has now taken an interest in deciding who should succeed the Dalai Lama.

The party has repeatedly asserted that it reserves the right to decide on the Dalai Lama's reincarnation through the 'golden urn' process, and to preside over it, it has convened a committee comprising government-selected Tibetan monks and CPC officials, triggering concerns of a possible split within Tibetan Buddhism.

It should be remembered here that the six-year-old Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, who was named

by the Dalai Lama as the reincarnated Panchen Lama in 1995, was arrested soon after, never to be found again, while the CCP nominated his replacement.

Furthermore, the Chinese government has also pursued the systematic destruction or downsizing of Tibetan Buddhist monasteries as well as village and private Tibetan schools.

For instance, over a period of a year till September 2017, Chinese authorities demolished significant parts of the Sichuan-based Larung Gar Buddhist Academy, one of the largest Tibetan Buddhist study centres in the world, citing a risk of disaster. About 4,725 homes were crushed and 5,000 residents were evicted from what was once inhabited by between 10,000 to 40,000 monks, nuns, and students.

To add insult to injury, the evicted residents were forcefully subjected to a 're-education' program, which essentially means indoctrination into the CCP's ideology.

Similarly, the government has routinely ordered the closing down of private Tibetan schools, such as the 2024 case of Gangjong Sherig Norling School, and the 2021 case of Gaden Rabten Namgyaling School, so that the next generation of Tibetan children are not exposed to their language, religious/spiritual practices, values, and ways of being.

To supplement the destruction of Tibetan educational institutions,

the Chinese government forces Tibetan children to attend residential schools, uprooting them from their homes, wherein they are injected with Mandarin-based education as well as Chinese majoritarian ideology. Chinese President Xi Jinping, on a visit to one such school in 2024, declared that education must "implant a shared consciousness of Chinese nationhood in the souls of children from an early age".

Additionally, reports have also revealed how these Tibetan children suffer from distressing loneliness, depression, and other psychological harm in the boarding schools.

As per estimates by the Tibetan government-in-exile, there have been over 150 cases of self-immolation by Tibetans since 2009.

Despite relentless Chinese aggression and extremely invasive and advanced surveillance, the resistance of the Tibetans persists. As the 112th Tibetan Independence Day approaches on February 13th, it is imperative that the Tibetan struggle, which has gone on for over three quarters of a century, is honoured and amplified.

The international community must focus and intensify its efforts towards the liberation of the Tibetan people, as they have stood up as a pillar of strength, resilience, and pride, and taught the world to not bend even in the face of back-breaking oppression.

## Delhi poll results: Did turncoats prosper or suffer after switching sides

The 2025 Delhi Assembly elections were marked by not just high-voltage campaigns and tri-cornered contests between political parties including the AAP, BJP and Congress but also saw them launching diatribes and vitriolic attacks on each other. Another notable point that became a highlight of the 2025 Assembly elections was the crossing-over of leaders, from one party to another.

In the Delhi elections alone, more than 40 candidates reportedly switched sides in the hopes of getting poll tickets and also went on to contest the elections on their new party's tickets.

The party hoppers also caught the interest of election analysts and observers as they bagged tickets and went to contest polls, hoping to secure their seat in the upcoming Assembly session.

Here is how the turn-



coats fared in Delhi elections:

In Rajouri Garden, BJP's Manjinder Singh Sirsa managed an easy victory over rival Dhanwati Chandela from the AAP by over

18,000 votes. He had switched loyalties from the Akali Dal to the BJP in 2021. Earlier, he had won the Rajouri Garden seat in 2013 and 2017 on an Akali Dal ticket.

In Gandhi Nagar,

BJP's Arvinder Singh Lovely won the Gandhi Nagar Assembly constituency by a margin of over 12,000 votes and defeated his closest AAP rival Naveen Chaudhary. Having

served as Congress Delhi chief, he switched over to BJP before the elections.

Tarwinder Singh Marwah was three-term Congress MLA who switched to BJP and also

emerged as a giant killer. He defeated former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia by a close margin.

Kailash Gahlot, erstwhile minister in the Kejriwal government

was the most notable face from the ruling party to jump ship and join the BJP ahead of the Assembly elections. The former AAP leader contested on a BJP ticket and was ahead of his

closest AAP rival by about 9,000 votes, as per latest trends.

Apart from Gahlot, former AAP minister Raaj Kumar Anand contested on a BJP ticket from Patel Nagar and was seen trailing against the AAP nominee by over 4,000 votes.

South Delhi's Chhatrapur witnessed a battle between the turncoats as the two party-hoppers locked horns in the constituency. Three-time BJP MLA Brahm Singh Tanwar contested on an AAP ticket, while sitting AAP MLA Kartar Singh Tanwar had moved to the BJP. The latter won the elections by a margin of over 6,000 votes.

Jitender Singh Shunty was a BJP MLA and also gained prominence for social service during the Covid pandemic. Last year he crossed over to the AAP and contested as its candidate. However, he was found to be behind the BJP candidate by about 5,000 votes.

## Need to preserve high growth momentum, maintain price stability: RBI Governor

**New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS)** Stronger policy frameworks and robust macro fundamentals remain the key to resilience and fostering overall macroeconomic stability, according to RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra.

In the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting held earlier this month, the minutes of which were released by the central bank on Friday, Malhotra said that domestically too, there is a need to preserve the high growth momentum, while maintaining price stability, necessitating monetary policy to use various policy instruments to maintain the inflation-growth balance.

Headline inflation, after moving above the upper tolerance band in October,



has moderated in November and December. "Going forward, food inflation pressures are

likely to see significant easing on robust kharif harvest arrivals, winter season correction of vegetable prices and a promising rabi crop outlook," said Malhotra.

The food inflation outlook is turning decisively positive. Moreover, the budget proposals on agriculture and the commitment to fiscal consolidation, among others, are positive for price stability and would help to anchor inflation expectations over the medium term, he said.

"These would provide greater impetus to disinflation of headline CPI and its eventual alignment with the target rate in FY 2025-26. CPI inflation for Q4 is projected at 4.2 per cent and that for the financial year 2025-26 at 4.2 per cent," the RBI

Governor emphasised.

According to the Reserve Bank, the real GDP growth for the current year is estimated at 6.4 per cent, a softer expansion after a robust 8.2 per cent growth last year.

Even though the GDP growth is expected to recover in the second half of 2024-25 and 2025-26 from 6.0 per cent recorded in the first half of 2024-25, the growth rate projected by various forecasts for 2025-26 varies from 6.3 to 6.8 per cent.

"This will be supported by healthy rabi prospects and an expected recovery in industrial activity. From the demand side, consumption and investment are also expected to improve," Malhotra added.

## Japan is India's 5th-largest source of foreign investment: Piyush Goyal

**New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS)** Japan has been a key ally in India's economic growth, with foreign direct investment (FDI) from Japan exceeding \$43 billion between 2000 and 2024, making it India's fifth-largest source of foreign investment, Union Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, said on Friday.

The India-Japan partnership is rooted in brotherhood, democracy, culture and economic cooperation, reflecting a unique fusion of Sushi and Spices, distinct yet complementary, Goyal added.

Addressing the India-Japan Economy and Investment Forum, the minister highlighted that the 'Seven Lucky Gods' of



Japan have origins in Indian tradition, underscoring the deep cultural ties between the two nations.

The Minister further stated that the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

(CEPA), signed in 2011, has significantly strengthened bilateral trade, with over 1,400 Japanese companies operating in India and 11 industrial townships across eight states hosting Japanese enterprises.

## Stock market ends lower amid broad-based weakness, weak global cues



**Mumbai, Feb 21 (IANS)** The Indian stock market closed lower on Friday and on a weekly basis, the Nifty and the Sensex extended their losses amid weak global cues and broad-based weakness.

At the closing bell, Sensex closed 424.90 points, or 0.56 per cent, down at 75,311.06 while the Nifty shed 117.25 points, or 0.51 per cent, to close at 22,795.90.

Nifty Bank closed at 48,981.20, down 353.35 points or 0.72 per cent.

Overall, Nifty closed lower in 12 out of the last 13 trading sessions. Sectoral indices struggled, with 12 of 13 major indices closing in the red.

The NSE Nifty Auto was the worst-performing sector, while the NSE Nifty Metal rose the most. The Nifty Auto index dropped 2.5 per cent following reports that the government may slash import duties on electric vehicles.

Vikram Kasat of PL Capital-Prabhudas Lilladher said that Indian equity benchmarks opened lower, tracking weakness in global markets.

Concerns over US retaliatory tariffs and persistent foreign selling continued to weigh on sentiment. "Overnight losses on Wall Street, driven by a rise in US jobless claims and weak corporate outlooks, added pressure," he mentioned.

Hindalco Industries, Tata Steel, and Eicher Motors were the top gainers, while Mahindra & Mahindra, ICICI Bank, and Bharat Petroleum were among the top losers in the index.

According to market experts, the domestic market continued to exhibit broad-based weakness, primarily influenced by investor concerns over the hawkish tone of the US Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) minutes, which signalled prolonged higher interest rates that could constrain liquidity in emerging markets (EMs).

## Meesho launches creator marketplace to boost content commerce

Mail News Service

**Ranchi, Feb 21:** In a bid to revolutionize e-commerce, Meesho has launched one of India's largest creator marketplaces, introducing three key features under its content commerce strategy. The Meesho Creator Club offers an in-house affiliate program providing real-time analytics, fast payouts and collaboration opportunities for influencers from tier-2 to tier-4 cities. Video Finds allows users to discover and purchase products through engaging short videos, while Live Shop enables real-time product demonstrations by sellers and influencers, making instant purchases easier. "The creator economy in India is expanding rapidly and this initiative will enhance connections between creators, sellers and customers," said Prasanna Arunachalam, General Manager (Monetization & Content Commerce) at Meesho. This move is expected to empower content creators and small businesses while transforming online shopping experiences. (w/nkm)

## TRAI recommends DTH authorisation fee cut to 3 pc of AGR, to abolish it by FY27

**New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS)** In a bid to ease the financial burden on direct-to-home (DTH) operators, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Friday released recommendations on 'Framework for Service Authorisations for provision of Broadcasting Services under the Telecommunications Act, 2023'.

The telecom regulator recommended a reduction in the authorisation fee for DTH services from the current 8 per cent to 3 per cent of the adjusted gross revenue (AGR).

In addition, TRAI also



proposed the complete phasing out of the authorisation fee for DTH players by the end of fiscal 2026-27. Aiming to promote growth and enhance ease of doing business in the sector, TRAI also recommended

to reduce bank guarantees and processing fees for DTH and HITS services.

This recommendation comes as part of TRAI's broader efforts to streamline the regulatory framework for broadcasting services under the new Telecommunications Act, 2023.

The government has notified the Telecommunications Act, 2023 which repeals the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. However, the appointed date for various sections of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 is yet to be notified.

"Section 3(1)(a) of the

Telecommunications Act, 2023 mandates authorisation for those intending to provide telecommunication services, subject to the terms and conditions, including fees or charges, as may be prescribed," according to the Ministry of Communications.

On October 30, 2024, the Authority initiated a consultation process by releasing a consultation paper and sought stakeholder's comments.

Based on the comments and counter-comments, TRAI has collated and restructured the terms and conditions into a simplified authorisation framework.

## Govt reclassifies barytes, felspar, mica, quartz in major category to boost mining of critical minerals

**New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS)** The Ministry of Mines announced on Friday that it has shifted minerals barytes, felspar, mica, and quartz from the list of minor minerals to the category of major minerals to pave the way for extracting critical minerals from mines.

Quartz, felspar, and mica are found in pegmatite rocks, which are an important source of many critical minerals such as beryl, lithium, niobium, tantalum, molybdenum, tin, titanium, and tungsten. These minerals have a vital role in various new technologies for electronics, EVs, defence, renewable energy, and health-care sectors.

When the leases of quartz, felspar, and mica are granted as minor mineral leases, the leaseholders do not declare the existence of critical minerals or extract the critical minerals associated with them such as lithium and beryl as their primary objective is to use these minerals as minor



minerals for construction, and making glass and ceramic products. Consequently, the critical minerals associated with these minerals are neither getting extracted nor reported, according to a Mines Ministry statement. Similarly, baryte has various industrial applications, being used for oil and gas

drilling, electronics, TV screens, rubber, glass, ceramics, paint, radiation shielding and medical applications. Baryte is used to make high-density concrete to block X-ray emissions in hospitals, power plants, and laboratories. Baryte often occurs as concretions and vein fillings in limestone and dolostone. It is found in association with ores of antimony, cobalt, copper, lead, manganese, and silver. Baryte, with iron ore, occurs in a pocket type of deposit which cannot be mined in isolation. While mining either of the minerals, the production of associated minerals is inevitable.

The move follows the recent approval of the National Critical Mineral Mission by the Union Cabinet on January 29. The mission envisages exploration and mining of critical minerals within the country including recovery of these minerals from mines of other minerals, overburden and tailings.

## Tesla needs to produce cars in India to scale, keep price between Rs 25-30 lakh: CLSA

**New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS)** In order to scale in the expanding Indian electric vehicle (EV) market, US major Tesla will need to manufacture its cars within the country and price them in the Rs 25 lakh-Rs 30 lakh range, global brokerage CLSA said on Friday.

According to CLSA, Tesla would need to establish manufacturing in India to scale up with its current portfolio and "price its vehicles at less than Rs 3.5-4 million (around Rs 35-40 lakh) on-road, even if import duties are reduced to sub-20 per cent levels".

The brokerage further said in its note that Tesla's entry would not have any significant impact on domestic players like Maruti Suzuki India, Hyundai Motors India and Tata Motors, as penetration of India of EVs in India is evolving and offers plenty of growth opportunities. India's EV penetration stands at an estimated 2.4 per cent. The average selling price of cars in India is \$14,000 (or

more than Rs 12.13 lakh), whereas the cheapest Tesla model in the US is sold at \$35,000 or around Rs 30.3 lakh, according to the brokerage.

If Tesla positions itself with Model 3 at an on-road price that is 20-50 per cent higher than models like Mahindra XEV 9e, e-Creta, e-Vitara etc, then it "would not significantly impact domestic EV models", said the brokerage.

If Tesla launches an EV at a price of \$25,000 (Rs 21.6 lakh), then the features and specifications would be "meaningfully compromised versus its traditional models", according to CLSA.

As Tesla gears up to enter India this year, the government is reportedly working on modifying the terms of a new policy that promotes the manufacturing of EVs in the country. The Centre may also offer further import duty relief.

## RBI Dy Governor red-flags excessive loans for risky capital market investments

**Mumbai, Feb 21 (IANS)** Excessive borrowing in unsecured loans and the euphoria in derivative capital markets is a cause for concern, Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor Rajeshwar Rao said on Friday.

"Of late, we have seen some concerns of excessive borrowing in unsecured segment and from derivative euphoria in the capital markets," Rao said at a conference, jointly organised by the Indian



Institute of Management Kozhikode and the National Stock Exchange, here. The temptation of short-term gains can easily

overshadow the long-term financial security of individuals, he stressed.

While the RBI along with other financial sector regulators is taking steps to educate the customers, financial sector entities also need to shoulder part of the responsibility, the Deputy Governor pointed out.

The absence of financial literacy leads people to fall prey to unscrupulous players which erodes the trust of the people in the system, he observed.

## Kerala Global Summit: India-US trade pact to be mother of all deals, says Piyush Goyal

**Kochi, Feb 21 (IANS)** The much-anticipated Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) between India and the United States will be the "mother of all deals", Union Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, said on Friday.

Addressing the 'Invest Kerala Global Summit' here, the minister said India will soon start discussing a strong and powerful bilateral trade deal with the US. "It will be the mother of all deals, providing huge opportunities for both Indians and Americans while complementing each other's strengths in a turbulent economic world," he stressed. The minister further



stated that Kerala offers unique opportunities in every sphere including tourism, manufacturing and logistics. The BTA is an agreement between India and the US initiated during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington, DC, to meet US President Donald Trump.

## India expands ties with UK in telecom, AI, emerging tech



**New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS)** India and the UK have expanded their collaboration in key areas of telecom, artificial intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies, the government said on Friday.

Dr Neeraj Mittal, Secretary (Telecom) visited the UK to engage with the Department of Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), UK and explore opportunities for collaboration in next-generation telecommunications, AI, and space technology, further strengthening the Indo-UK ties in these critical areas.

A roundtable discussion was convened with key UK stakeholders from DSIT, leading business entities such as BT and Ericsson, and innovation hubs and centres, including SONIC Labs, UK Telecom Labs, TITAN, JOINER.

Representatives from the UK Space Agency, European Space Agency, Innovate UK, and the UK Technology Innovation Network (UKTIN) also participated, exploring avenues for mutual cooperation.

Dr Mittal highlighted India's leadership in the telecom sector and its rapid advancements in next-generation network technologies.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between SONIC Labs and the Centre for Development of Telematics (CDOT). The agreement focuses on Open RAN-related policy and technical matters, including 5G Open RAN and AI in 4G/5G.

The telecom Secretary met Chris Johnson, National Scientific Adviser, and Dave Smith, National Technology Adviser of DSIT.

The discussions centred on emerging technologies and their applications in 5G, 6G, digital infrastructure security.

# Man fired for taking leaves during notice period, viral post sparks discussion

**Bengaluru:** Reddit has become a popular platform for employees to share their job struggles, office experiences, and workplace concerns. Various subreddits have emerged where employees can anonymously share their stories, seek advice, and connect with others who face similar challenges. Now, a Redditor shared his distressing experience with his company which unexpectedly terminated him during the notice period and refused to provide him with a relieving letter. In his post, the user, who goes by oreki791 on the platform, revealed that he resigned from the job due to a toxic work environment and excessive unpaid overtime. However, when he took a couple of leaves during the notice period, the company decided to



terminate him and refused to provide a relieving letter, risking his future job prospects.

"Basically I was on notice period in this company I joined 2 months ago (put papers because toxic environment - making me do unpaid overwork) and after I took couple of leaves during the notice period, the hr called to tell me that the company has decided to terminate me and that they will not be providing any relieving letter etc," the Redditor user wrote.

"Is there anything I can do to get that Exp letter as they had provided me a hike on my previous salary and by 200 percent and without this my current CTC will go down significantly and hurt me while job hunting. What actions can I take? Should I take?" he added.

# Notice to Zomato soon over Honey Singh concert ticket sales

**Mumbai:** The Maharashtra Cyber Cell is set to issue a show cause notice to Zomato's ticketing platform for selling tickets to singer Honey Singh's concert without mentioning the buyer's name.

Singer Honey Singh's concert tickets were sold without the buyer's name on the ticket and hence a show cause notice is being sent to Zomato, an official said. The Cyber Cell, say sources, wants an explanation as to why tickets were sold without identifying the buyers.

The action comes after the alleged ticket black-marketing case during the British band Coldplay's concert. Authorities are investigating whether this violates any ticketing regulations or poses security risks.

Honey Singh, who is making a comeback after staying away from the limelight for years, has



announced one of his biggest tours, the 'Millionaire India Tour'. The musician will be covering 10 cities across India as part of this tour. Taking place between February and March 2025, the tickets for the 'Millionaire India Tour' are available on Zomato and Insider.in.

# Robot Apocalypse Begins? 'Synthetic Human' springs to life



**Warsaw:** Scientists in Poland have built a robot that moves incredibly like a human. It's called Protoclone, and it's unlike other robots because it has fake muscles, bones, and joints under see-through skin.

Protoclone is prepared by Clone Robotics, a start-up based in the United States and Poland. It is a full-bodied synthetic human prototype that has captivated and unsettled audiences in equal measure.

Usually, robots walk in a stiff, awkward way. But Protoclone's movements



are very smooth and life-like. A video shows it hanging from a ceiling and moving its arms and legs, almost like a puppet. It looks a bit scary, kind of like something from a science fiction movie.

The company that made it says Protoclone is the first robot that can walk on two legs with a body that works like a real human's. They are working to make robots move more naturally.

Clone Robotics shared the video with a caption that reads, "Protoclone, the world's first bipedal, musculoskeletal android. The

Protoclone is a faceless, anatomically accurate, synthetic human with over 200 degrees of freedom, over 1,000 myofibres, and 500 sensors."

The video quickly went viral on social media, racking up millions of views and sparking widespread discussion.

"Finally, it has legs!!! I've been waiting since middle school to see this," commented one user.

"While this alternative line of robotics may start slow, in just two years it could surpass humanoid robotics," said another user.

# Eating too much sugar as a kid is going to affect them all life

**New Delhi:** If there's one thing in life that everyone in the world cannot get enough of, it's sugar. While we know that kids love their sweets, too much of sugar can lead to some not-so-sweet health issues. According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the consumption of excess sugar can not only lead to many health problems but also create addictive-like responses similar to responses seen in drug addiction.

Let's take a look at the negative ways in which the excess consumption of sugar can affect the health of children.

### 1. Weight Gain

Foods loaded with added sugars, like candies and pastries, are often high in calories but low in nutrients. Regularly munching on these can lead to weight gain and, over time, obesity. Obesity can pave the way for serious health problems like type 2 diabetes and heart disease. The World Health Organization (WHO) has stated that high sugar intake is greatly responsible for the rising rates of childhood obesity.

### 2. Dental Problems

It's not just you who loves sugar, it's also the harmful bacteria in the mouth that can't get enough of it. When these bacteria feast on sugar, they produce acids that can erode tooth enamel,



leading to cavities and tooth decay.

### 3. Energy Spikes

Ever noticed how kids can bounce off the walls after a sugary snack,

only to crash and feel cranky later? Consuming a lot of sugar can cause rapid spikes in blood sugar levels, giving a quick energy boost fol-

lowed by a sharp drop.

This rollercoaster can lead to mood swings, irritability, and difficulty concentrating.

### 4. Risk of Chronic

### Diseases

Starting healthy habits young is key. Early-life sugar consumption has been linked to an increased risk of chronic diseases later on. It is very important to monitor sugar consumption from a young age to promote long-term health.

### 5. Immune System Impact

Too much sugar might also affect the functioning of one's immune system. High sugar diets can suppress immune function, making kids more susceptible to infections.

When it comes to children, treats are fine in moderation, but being mindful of sugar intake can help set the stage for a healthier future for them.

# Australian woman loses 42 kg of weight in one year, reveals her secret

**Sydney:** Zoe Lewis, who was once stuck in a demoralising yo-yo dieting cycle, has changed her life and body, losing a whopping 42 kg in more than a year. Weighing a high of 107 kg, the current 23-year-old fitness influencer eschewed temporary fads for a long-term lifestyle transformation, demonstrating that permanent weight loss is possible through persistent, healthy routines. Sharing her journey with nearly 40,000 TikTok followers, Lewis aims to empower others to embrace a more balanced and effective approach to fitness and well-being.

The moment when everything had changed

"I have always been an overweight person, with my weight fluctuating between 85-100 kg most of my adult life," the Gold Coast woman told news.com.au. "I was following fad diets and workout plans which would bring me down to a lower weight, and as soon as I stopped them, I'd jump right back up to 90-100 kg."

"I hated the way I felt and looked, and I wanted to be better for myself. So the day I hit 107 kg, I decided to quit the



fads and begin my 14-month weight loss journey to 65 kg."

Despite being at her heaviest, Ms Lewis said she was still fit in some ways and attended circuit training gyms, albeit inconsistently.

However, she believed the main issue was that she didn't consider herself to be an inherently "active" person.

Learning new things and forming healthy routines

"I never found a routine that worked. I would make it to the

end of a six-week challenge, then go right back to old habits," she explained.

"I never walked and would instead take the opportunity to lie in bed when I had free time.

"My diet was atrocious and consisted mostly of take-out, easy-made meals from the grocery store and sweets, and I never found myself cooking. I barely had vegetables, and my gut health was incredibly bad."

Unlike her past attempts, when Ms Lewis became serious

about losing the weight, she made sure to really educate herself, ensuring her diet wasn't restrictive and she had proper knowledge about how food worked in the body.

"I learnt why protein, fats, and carbohydrates are important and why walking and strength training were the best ways to lose weight," she said.

"I continually adjusted my diet and routine throughout the process to ensure I continued to lose weight healthily."

# US woman complains about 'Wrong' lottery ticket - ends up winning Rs 17 crore

**Virginia:** A woman who got upset over being given the wrong ticket while playing the lottery ended up winning \$2million.

Kelly Lindsay, of Carrollton, intended to play her favorite Virginia Lottery scratcher game but instead received a Money Blitz ticket.

Despite the error, Lindsay went to the car park and scratched it.

It revealed a seven-digit figure. 'And I got over not being happy about it,' she told lottery officials as she redeemed her prize.

Lindsay opted to take a one-time cash payment of \$1.25million before taxes instead of annual payments over 30 years amounting to \$2million, according to the Virginia Lottery on Tuesday.

She was pictured smiling widely while holding a jumbo check with her winnings written and a picture of the scratcher ticket on it.

Her odds of winning the top prize were one in 1,142,400 - and it was one of two, meaning there is a second winner who has yet to come forward. The chances of winning any prize in Lindsay's new favorite game are one in 3.29.

Lindsay purchased the ticket at Race Way Carrollton gas station at 13028 Carrollton Boulevard.



She resides Isle of Wight County, which got over \$3.7million for kindergarten to 12th grade education from the state lottery last year. The Virginia Lottery gives all profits to K-12 and last year raised more than \$934million, or 10% of the state's budget for education.

Lindsay is the latest lottery player to get lucky through a weird mistake.

In May 2021, a North Carolina woman also won \$2million after unknowingly buying a Powerball ticket past the deadline for the same night's drawing. However, her \$3 Quick Pick ticket wound up being valid for the following drawing, which she won.

# DISHA meeting held to review development schemes

## Mail News Services

**Seraikela, Feb 21:** A meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) was held at the District Collectorate Auditorium under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Union Minister of State, Ministry of Defense, Government of India. The meeting focused on reviewing the implementation and progress of various government schemes, ensuring that all projects were being executed efficiently. Hon'ble MP Singhbhum Joba Manjhi, MP Khunti Shri Kalicharan Munda, MLA Kharsawan Shri Dashrath Gagrai, MLA Ichagarh Savita Mahato, District Council President Shri Sonaram Bodra, Deputy Development Commissioner Shri Ashish Agarwal and other district officials were present.

Various schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Electricity, Food Supply, Drinking Water and Sanitation, MNREGA, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, KCC, Education, Health, Social Welfare and Road Construction, were reviewed. Officials were directed to ensure the timely completion of pending projects, with particular emphasis on removing delays and bringing visible progress. "DISHA meetings will be conducted every three months to systematically review development projects," said Shri Sanjay Seth, emphasizing the need for consistent oversight and progress monitoring.

**Action plan for sports and tourism development ordered:** In the DISHA meeting, Shri Sanjay Seth emphasized the importance of formulating a concrete



development plan for sports and tourism in the district. He directed officials to focus on providing better opportunities for the youth in sports while also working on developing tourism to boost the district's economy. To ensure greater efficiency in project execution, he instructed departments to coordinate closely with local public representatives for laying foundation stones and inaugurating new schemes. "Public representatives should be informed about all approved schemes so they can actively assist in their

implementation," he added. By enhancing sports infrastructure and tourism initiatives, the district aims to unlock new avenues for growth, nurture local talent and improve economic prospects.

**Urgent directives for infrastructure and public services issued :** Reviewing the slow progress of various development projects, the Hon'ble Union Minister issued strict instructions for immediate corrective measures and completion of all pending works within the stipulated timeframe. He directed

authorities to restore electricity services in unconnected villages, replace damaged poles and hanging wires and expedite road construction under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. He further warned that action would be taken against negligent contractors who failed to meet deadlines. The minister also stressed the importance of providing clean drinking water by repairing damaged hand pumps and water towers, ensuring that all villages are connected to the Har-Ghar Jal-Nal Yojana.

Additionally, he called for swift action on industrial pollution complaints and asked officials to identify and assist families affected by natural disasters, ensuring that they receive housing benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. "Complaints received through various channels must be resolved promptly to benefit the public," the minister emphasized.

**Health services to be strengthened across the district:** Addressing healthcare concerns during the DISHA meeting, the Hon'ble Union Minister emphasized the need to strengthen healthcare facilities across the district by making optimum use of available resources. He directed officials to ensure the presence of doctors, nurses (NM) and community health officers (CHO) in all sub-health centers to provide better medical services to the people.

Further, he instructed the authorities to guarantee uninterrupted electricity, clean drinking water and toilet facilities in all Anganwadi centers. To support education and youth development, he urged schools to improve basic infrastructure, ensure the availability of sports equipment and achieve 100% enrollment of eligible students in residential schools. Stressing the government's commitment to inclusive growth, he said, "The government's goal is to bring the most marginalized individuals into the mainstream by effectively implementing welfare schemes." The minister also emphasized the need for wide promotion of government programs to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries are reached, reinforcing the commitment to holistic district development. (w/nkm)

## Utkalmani Adarsh Pathagar elections in March



## Mail News Services

**Seraikela, Feb 21:** A meeting of Utkalmani Adarsh Pathagar, Seraikela, was held under the chairmanship of its president, Bhavani Shankar Kabi, where General Secretary Jalesh Kabi presented the organization's financial report. The meeting decided to conduct fresh

elections for office bearers, as the current term was nearing completion. It was agreed to enroll new members before the election. Membership forms will be available at Pathagar Bhawan from February 22 to March 5, 2025, between 6:00 PM and 9:00 PM, for a fee of ₹50. Following the enrollment process, the elections will be held in

the second week of March. Key members present included Bhola Mohanty, Chandra Shekhar Kar, Pawan Kabi, Haldhar Dash, Kashinath Kar and other committee members. The meeting concluded with discussions on strengthening the organization and increasing participation among community members. (w/nkm)

## Jharkhand teams depart for National Softball Championship in Nagpur

**Seraikela, Feb 21:** The Jharkhand men's and women's softball teams left for Nagpur to participate in the 46th National Senior Softball Championship 2025. The players were selected following an exhibition match and state-level trial held at Godda Gandhi Maidan on January 28, 2025.

In the men's category, selected players include Shubham Kumar, Sanjeet Kumar, Avinash Kumar, Kumar Rishi Raj and others, with Alok Kumar as the coach and Shivam Raj as the manager. The women's team features Mamta Kumari, Sunaina Gupta, Ruby Kumari and others, under the guidance of coach Akash Mohanty and manager Anu Kumari.

The teams departed from Tatanagar on the morning of February 21, receiving a warm send-off from Jharkhand Softball Association's Executive President, Amlesh Singh and Secretary, Balram Kumar Tanti. "We have full confidence in our players. They are well-prepared and we wish them success at the national level," said Tanti. The championship is expected to be a highly competitive event, with teams from across India participating. (w/nkm)

## Mother Language Day celebrated with Odia-speaking students



## Mail News Services

**Seraikela, Feb 21:** Mother Language Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Buritopa village under Kharsawan block, focusing on Odia-speaking students. The event saw the presence of Sushil Sarangi, District Supervisor of Utkal Sammelan, who distributed free books and reading materials to children. Odia teachers Padmasini Pradhan, Ranjit Mohanty and Renu Maharana were also present.

Addressing the gathering, Sushil Sarangi emphasized the significance of learning in one's mother tongue, citing the 1961

Kothari Commission's recommendation to include native languages in the curriculum. "The language a child learns in their mother's lap is their true mother tongue," he said. He highlighted that India has 681 spoken languages, but only 15 are officially recognized, including Odia. He further noted that Odia has been granted classical language status by the Government of India and holds the position of the second official language in Jharkhand. On this occasion, teachers and students pledged to protect and preserve Odia language, literature and culture. (w/nkm)

## Condolence meeting held for Sr advocate Aniruddh Mahato



## Mail News Services

**Seraikela, Feb 21:** A condolence meeting was held at Bar Bhawan, Seraikela, following the sudden demise of senior advocate Aniruddh Mahato of the Seraikela Bar Association. The meeting, presided over by Bar Vice President Kedar Nath Agarwal, paid tribute to the late advocate, who was around 72 years old.

A two-minute silence was observed and prayers were offered for his soul. In honor of his contributions, all advocates abstained from judicial work for the day. Remembering him, his colleagues described him as a simple and dedicated legal professional. "His guidance and expertise will be deeply missed," said one of his fellow advocates.

Prominent members present included Devashish Jyotishi, Jalesh Kabi, Lakhindra Nayak, Kamakhya Prasad Dubey, Ashish Patra, Anil Sarangi, Dashrath Mahato, Tapan Mahato and other senior advocates. The legal fraternity expressed deep sorrow at his passing and vowed to continue his legacy of integrity and commitment to justice. (w/nkm)

## Shree Sakchi Gujarati English School gets ICSE affiliation



**Jamshedpur, Feb 21:** Shree Sakchi Gujarati English school celebrated its ICSE affiliation on Friday in school campus.

The event was led by Principal Dr Moushami, Secretary Ketan Adeshra and President Rashmin Ranpara. This was followed with cultural programme where attendees celebrated in style. Highlights of the afternoon included a special awards ceremony, photo opportunities, and various interactive activities that enhanced the experience.

The Principal said: "It was a truly magical afternoon, and we are delighted by the positive response from our students and staff. Seeing our students come together to celebrate in such a vibrant and respectful manner was a testament to their hard work and spirit." (W-pb)



Zila Parishad member Shambhu Mandal, along with his supporters, joins the Akhand Shri Hari Nam Kirtan in Nengtasai under Chamaru Panchayat, offering prayers for the prosperity of the state.

**कार्यालय नगर निगम, आदित्यपुर**  
कल्पनापुरी, आदित्यपुर इन्डस्ट्रीयल एरिया, आदित्यपुर  
e-mail : mcadityapur1@gmail.com

**आम सूचना**

एतत् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि आदित्यपुर नगर निगम क्षेत्रान्तर्गत Construction & Demolition Waste सड़क के किनारे फेंकना दण्डनीय अपराध की श्रेणी में आता है और इसके लिए दंड 1000/- (एक हजार रुपये) प्रतिदिन के दर से जुर्माना देय होगा। Construction & Demolition Waste उठाव हेतु अलग से व्यवस्था आदित्यपुर नगर निगम के द्वारा की गई है। सभी व्यवसायिक एवं आवासीय क्षेत्रों के भवन निर्माण के दौरान निकलने वाले Construction & Demolition Waste मलबा, बालू, ईट, गिट्टी एवं गारा सामग्री के उठाव के लिए आदित्यपुर नगर निगम के सफाई प्रमारी श्री शशि शेखर, मो 910-8789813788 एवं बायो क्युब, जोर-दू-जोर एजेंसी, मो 910-8670379961 पर संपर्क कर निर्धारित शुल्क का भुगतान कर Construction & Demolition Waste का उठाव करवा सकते हैं, ताकि आदित्यपुर शहर को साफ-सुथरा रखा जा सके।

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PR 346917 Urban Development (24-25)\_D

**कार्यालय, आदित्यपुर नगर निगम**  
(अभियंत्रण शाखा)  
कल्पनापुरी, आदित्यपुर इन्डस्ट्रीयल एरिया, आदित्यपुर  
e-mail : mcadityapur2@gmail.com

**ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**  
पुनः ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-UDD/AMC/11/2024-25 दिनांक- 20.02.2024

सूच सं०	वार्ड सं०	कार्य का नाम	निविदा की राशि	अग्रघन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	2					
2	05	Construction of RCC drain 2'X 2' from House of Aniruddh Bhagat to House of Vijay Thakur in the lane before Bhagat Medical in ward no 05 under AMC	10,04,312.00	20,500.00	5,000.00	3 माह
13	35	Laying of 450mm dia hume pipe drain from House of Parash Ji to House of Viktar Puri via house of Sushil Kr, Pravin sahu , Akash Paswan , in Ward No. 35 under AMC	10,91,925.00	22,000.00	5,000.00	3 माह
15	13	Construction of RCC drain from amit bari House to govardhan das in Ward No. 13 under AMC.	15,16,341.00	30,500.00	5,000.00	3 माह
16	03	Construction of RCC drain 2'x 2' from House of Rambachan Yadav to house of Rambachan Pandit in ward no 03 under AMC	3,33,484.00	7,000.00	1,000.00	3 माह
17	04	Construction of 300mm NP2 drain from to Dev Kr Singh House to Vodafone tower in Ward No. 04 under AMC.	5,90,365.00	12,000.00	5,000.00	3 माह
19	10	Construction of 300mm NP2 drain from beni mahato to HYDT in Ward No. 10 under AMC.	5,65,127.00	11,500.00	5,000.00	3 माह
21	16	Construction of 300mm NP2 drain from pratima patnayaak to jyoti kumar in Ward No. 16 under AMC.	8,03,427.00	16,500.00	5,000.00	3 माह
22	24	Construction of RCC drain and Paver block front house of Gunjan karwa to house of Amrit Mahto in Ichhapur at ward 24	5,76,111.00	12,000.00	5,000.00	3 माह
23	24	Construction of 300mm dia hume pipe drain from house of Gurucharan Mukhi to Main drain in Ichhapur at ward 24	4,56,801.00	9,500.00	1,000.00	3 माह
24	29	Construction of paver block road and 300 mm dia hume pipe drain from near house of sanjay to krishna and sanjeev to sila devi and anil tiwari to anup das and rajnish to manoj in ward no 29 Under AMC	8,32,733.00	17,000.00	5,000.00	3 माह

वेबसाइट पर निविदा अपलोड करने की तिथि दिनांक- 03.03.2025 (अपराह्न 6:00 बजे से)

निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक- 12.03.2025 (अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक)

निविदा खोलने की तिथि दिनांक- 13.03.2025 (अपराह्न 03:00 बजे)

निविदा आमंत्रण करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम अग्र नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम आदित्यपुर

निविदा से संबंधित जानकारी हेतु मोबाईल नम्बर 8709782566

ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाइन नम्बर 7488840585

• Only e-tenders are acceptable. Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

• पथ निर्माण विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार, रॉबी के संकल्प सं० 2146 दिनांक 09.09.2020 में निहित प्रावधानों से यह निविदा प्रक्रिया अचक्रवर्ति होगी।

PR 346909 (Urban Development)24-25\*D प्रशासक नगर निगम, आदित्यपुर

**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, यंत्रिक प्रमण्डल, चाण्डिल**  
Email id- eemechanicaldiv.chandil@gmail.com

**e-Procurement Notice (One Envelope System)**  
ई0 निविदा प्रसंग संख्या : WRD/SMP/MD/CHANDIL/04/2024-25 दिनांक :- 21.02.2025

क्र.सं.	निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता-	कार्यपालक अभियंता, यंत्रिक प्रमण्डल, चाण्डिल।
1	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय -	दिनांक 25.02.2025 को 11:00 बजे पूर्वाह्न
3	निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय -	दिनांक 25.02.2025 से दिनांक 12.03.2025 को अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक।
4	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय -	दिनांक 17.03.2025 को 11:00 बजे पूर्वाह्न।
5	परिमाण विपत्र की राशि एवं अग्रघन की राशि को जमा करने की तिथि -	Through e-tendering portal ( <a href="https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in">https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in</a> ) as per SOP issued by Information Technology and e-Governance department ( Govt. of Jharkhand) vide letter no. 120 Dated 03.10.2023.
6	ई0 प्रोक्यूरमेंट पदाधिकारी का दूरभाष संख्या-	8986809170
7	ई0 प्रोक्यूरमेंट सेल का दूरभाष संख्या -	0657-2371765
8	कार्य का विवरण -	

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest money (Rs.)	Cost of Tender Paper (Rs.)	Time of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6
(A)	Fabrication and erection of new gates at Burudih Dam including Three Year Maintenance.	64,18,039.00 (Sixty four lakhs eighteen thousand thirty nine only)	1,29,000.00 (Ten thousand only)	10000.00 (Ten thousand only)	90 days (including three years maintenance)
(B)	Renovation of Deshbandh Reservoir including five years maintenance.	49,39,343.00 (Forty nine lakhs thirty nine thousand three hundred forty three only).	99,000.00 (Five thousand only)	5000.00 (Five thousand only)	90 days (including five years maintenance)

अधिक जानकारी के लिए हमारे वेबसाइट <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> देखें।  
नोट: केवल ई0-निविदा स्वीकार होगा एवं प्राकृतिक राशि घट एवं बढ़ सकती है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता, यंत्रिक प्रमण्डल, चाण्डिल

PR 346924 (Water Resource)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/19/2024-25(3<sup>rd</sup> Call) (CSR Fund)

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणों:

क्र.सं०	प्रखण्ड	कार्य का नाम	प्राकृतिक राशि	अग्रघन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	Noamundi	Construction of PCC Road From Main Road to Plot no 1, Dwellling unit (Sail, Gua,iron ore maies) at Gua block Noamundi	588600.00	11800.00	1250.00	3 माह
2	Noamundi	Construction of PCC Road From Main Road to Plot no 2, Dwellling unit 40 (Sail, Gua,iron ore maies) at Gua block Noamundi	1177400.00	24000.00	5000.00	3 माह
3	Noamundi	Construction of PCC Road From Main Road to Plot no 3, Dwellling unit 100 (Sail, Gua,iron ore maies) at Gua block Noamundi	1508500.00	30200.00	5000.00	3 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि - 24.02.2025

3. ई-निविदा प्राप्त करने की तिथि एवं समय - दिनांक 24.02.2025 से दिनांक 01.03.2025 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 - 03.03.2025 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 तदनुसार अग्रघन की राशि देय होगी।

9. सरकार के संयुक्त सचिव ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग झारखण्ड सरकार रॉबी के पत्रांक 02(नि०नि०-17)-251/23 ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग 3130(अनु०), रॉबी, दिनांक 09.10.2023 द्वारा दिये गये निर्देश के अनुपालन में सभी कागजात के साथ, निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि **Online Mode** द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।

10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि का ई-मुग्तान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रघन 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 पश्चात कोई भी आपत्ति/दावा मान्य नहीं होगा।

12. ग्रामीण विकास विभाग (ग्रामीण कार्य मामले) झारखण्ड, पथ निर्माण विभाग झारखण्ड, जल संसाधन विभाग झारखण्ड, के अन्तर्गत पंजीकृत समुचित श्रेणी के संवेदक भाग से संकेतें।

13. जिन संवेदक का कार्य लंबित है उनका कार्य आवंटन पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट [www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in) एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

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

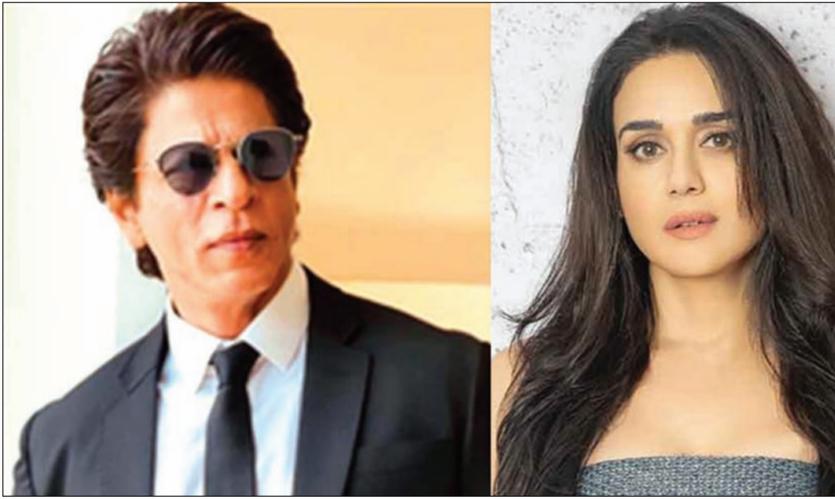
PR 346937 (West Singhbhum)24-25\*D

## Preity Zinta fires back at trolls questioning her opinion and choices with SRK's iconic dialogue

**Mumbai, Feb 21 (IANS)** Bollywood actress Preity Zinta recently responded to trolls questioning her marriage to Gene Goodenough by quoting Shah Rukh Khan's iconic dialogue from their film "Veer Zara."

While addressing the trolls questioning her opinions and decision to marry Gene Goodenough, the 'Soldier' actress shared an iconic SRK dialogue: "Kabhi bhi ek dost ki zarurat pade to yaad rakhiyega, ki sarhad paar ek aisa shakhs hai jo aap ke liye apni jaan bhi de dega" ("Whenever you need a friend, remember that there is someone across the border who would give their life for you.")

In a recent post on X, the 'Jaan-E-Mann' actress expressed her frustration with the increasing negativity and toxicity online, highlighting how people are quick to judge celebrities based on their social media activity. She shared her



experience of how her first interaction with an AI chatbot was dismissed as a mere 'paid promotion' stunt. Zinta also touched on the unfortunate

trend of labeling supporters of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as 'bhakts,' while those who express pride in being Indian are often labeled as 'andh bhak-

ts.' The 'Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna' actress wrote, "What's happening to people on social media? Everyone has become

so cynical. If one talks about their first chat with an AI Bot then people presume it's a paid promotion, if you appreciate ur PM then you are a bhakt & god forbid, if you are a proud Hindu or Indian ???then ur an Andh Bhakt ! Let's keep it real folks & take people for who they are & not who we think they should be ! Maybe we all need to take a chill pill and just be happy to communicate with each other. Now don't ask me why I married Gene ? I married him cuz I love him kyuki sarhad par ek aisa shaks hai, jo mere liye aapni jaan de sakta hai samjhe If you know you know .... Ting !"

On the professional front, Preity is preparing for her comeback to the Hindi film industry with Rajkumar Santoshi's much-anticipated directorial "Lahore 1947." In this period drama, she will share the screen with actor Sunny Deol.

### Health

## Addressing mental health needs, reducing stigma key for adolescent wellbeing: Experts



**New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS)** Addressing mental health needs and reducing stigma is crucial for the well-being and development of adolescents, said psychology experts on Friday.

Adolescence is a crucial period of rapid physical, psychological, and social changes that can lead to significant stress. Various studies suggest that stress among adolescents is on the rise, posing a threat to their mental well-being.

This stress can also have an impact on an adolescent's psychological well-being influenced by inherent biological factors, such as brain development and hormonal changes, and behavioural factors like being bullied; coping skills, and resilience.

"The effects of bullying leave scars far beyond visible and have long-lasting impacts on mental health. Many who experience bullying struggle with anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, and even thoughts of self-harm," said Prof. Rajesh Sagar, Professor of Psychiatry from AIIMS New Delhi.

"Addressing this hidden crisis requires a collective effort from researchers, educators, and health professionals to foster resilience and create safer environments for adolescents," he added.

He was speaking at an event, held in the national capital, to shape policy recommendations and intervention strategies for adolescent mental health in India. The event focused on equipping adolescents with essential life skills to enhance their resilience against such stressors.

"Addressing mental health needs and reducing stigma related to mental health is important among adolescents. India is home to more than 250 million adolescents and for the better health of the nation it is imperative that we take all steps necessary to improve the psychological well-being of these future adults who would lead the country in the next decades," said Prof. Pallab Maulik, Director of Research at The George Institute for Global Health India.

The event also highlighted the healthy use of technology and social media emphasising their potential to provide mental health support while mitigating risks.

At another event in the national capital, Dr. Pratima Murthy, Director, NIMHANS stressing the need for increased awareness, and early diagnosis of mental disorders.

"One in ten people suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder," Murthy said, adding the condition "is like any other disorder, and recognising it is crucial".

He also noted how advances in genetics and brain imaging can significantly aid mental health treatment.

## Karan Johar is all praise for TVF writers: They are rooted, they are commercial, and mazedaar

**Mumbai, Feb 21 (IANS)** TVF has delivered several mega hits shows such as "Panchayat", "Kota Factory", "Gullak", "Aspirants", "Permanent Roommates", "TVF Pitchers", and "TVF Tripling". Renowned filmmaker Karan Johar has expressed admiration for TVF's writers.



During his appearance on Komal Nahta's "Game Changers", the 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' maker was asked which writers he would bet on. To this, Karan Johar replied, "But jo TVF hai na The Viral Fever, unke jo writers haina, vo kamal ke writers hai. They are rooted, they are commercial, and mazedaar writers hai. Bahoot acha likhte hai (The writers of TVF are fabulous. They are rooted, commercial, and fun. They write very well)."

During the same interaction, KJo talked about his experience working with Alia Bhatt, Sidharth Malhotra, and Varun Dhawan in the 2012 drama "Student of the Year." The filmmaker spoke about his bond with the trio and how he believed in their potential from the beginning. Karan Johar was asked who he had bet on before starting the film. Reacting to this, the filmmaker shared that he never treated them like newcomers, but like stars right from day one.

KJo stated, "No, I'm telling the truth, I won't lie. For me, it was just that I told my team - Siddharth and Varun, these two were my assistants, and I met Alia for the first time when she came from school. And when I launched them, I told everyone on the set, the choreographer, the production, the designer, to treat these three like megastars."

## Rakhi Sawant summoned by Maharashtra Police Cyber Cell amid ongoing Ranveer Allahbadia controversy

**Mumbai, Feb 21 (IANS)** Amid widespread controversy over podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia's remarks on "India's Got Talent," TV personality Rakhi Sawant has been summoned by the Maharashtra Cyber Police.

The actress-dancer is asked to appear on February 24 to record her statements. Last year in October, Sawant appeared on Samay Raina's show "India's Got Latent," where she had a heated argument with co-judge Maheep Singh, which escalated when she threw a chair on stage. The incident took place in Delhi and quickly went viral after an audience member shared the footage online. Reports suggested that Rakhi repeatedly interrupted Maheep Singh with inappropriate jokes, escalating tensions between them throughout the show.

This culminated in a heated exchange that led to the abrupt end of the episode. Meanwhile, on February 24, popular YouTubers Ashish Chanchlani and



Allahbadia appeared before the Cyber Cell to give their statements. Yesterday, stand-up comedian Shashwat Maheshwari was summoned to record his statements.

The Maharashtra Cyber Department has already recorded statements from three individuals linked to the ongoing investigation, including Raghu Ram and Devesh Dixit. As the investigation progresses, more individuals who appeared in the episodes are being

summoned for questioning. Following the controversy sparked by Ranveer Allahbadia's inappropriate comments on the show, comedian Samay Raina removed all episodes of "India's Got Latent" from YouTube. In response, the Supreme Court directed Allahbadia to submit his passport to the investigating officer at the Nodal Cyber Police Station in Thane.

Additionally, the Supreme Court has prohibited Allahbadia and his

associates from airing any shows on YouTube or other platforms until further notice. For those unfamiliar, Allahbadia appeared on "India's Got Latent" with fellow content creators, including Ashish Chanchlani, Jaspreet Singh, and Apoorva Mukhija. During one episode, Allahbadia faced significant backlash after asking a female contestant an inappropriate and offensive question, which quickly ignited outrage among viewers.

## Pranali Rathod, Akshay Dev Bindra to play leads in 'Kumkum Bhagya' post leap

**Mumbai, Feb 21 (IANS)** As "Kumkum Bhagya" is all set for a generational leap, fresh faces Pranali Rathod and Akshay Dev Bindra are all set to play leads in the show.

Pranali said, "The year 2025 is truly special since I am going to be part of an iconic show Kumkum Bhagya. Prarthana is a new and different character for me, and I'm excited to bring her to life."

She said that the show is popular for its storytelling.

"The show has always been known for its heartfelt storytelling and strong relationships, and stepping into this world is a wonderful experience. Kumkum Bhagya has been loved by audiences for years, and I look forward to them embracing this new chapter with the same warmth and enthusiasm."



asm," added the actress.

At the center of this leap is Prarthana, played by Pranali, the daughter of Rajvansh and Poorvi. Raised by a humble Pandit

and his wife, she is soft-spoken, hardworking, and devoted to her family. Despite her simple upbringing, she shares a deep friendship with

Raunak, essayed d by Akshay Dev Bindra, a charming and flamboyant young man from an affluent family.

## Sonakshi Sinha shares glimpse from Salman's nephew Ayaan Agnihotri's album launch

**Mumbai, Feb 21 (IANS)** Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha recently shared glimpses from the album launch event of Salman Khan's nephew, Ayaan Agnihotri.

The launch event, held in Dubai to celebrate Ayaan's musical debut, saw several notable faces from the industry in attendance, including Sonakshi herself, who took to social media to share her excitement. On her Instagram, the 'Akira' actress posted a series of photos where she is seen posing with Ayaan and her husband Zaheer Iqbal. Sinha wore a stylish blue-colored outfit that she styled with statement earrings.

For the caption, the 'Heeramandi' actress wrote, "Flew to Dubai just to let this guy know how proud we are of him!!! @ayaanagnihotri - AGNI is here with



#UniversalLaws... check it out, show lots of love."

Interestingly, Salman Khan is also in Dubai to

launch Ayaan's debut music track, "Universal Laws," which is released on February 20. Ayaan, known by his stage name Agni, has made his debut as a singer, composer, and rapper with his track "Universal Laws." A source close to the development revealed that Arbaaz Khan, Sohail Khan, Alvira Khan Agnihotri, Arpita Khan Sharma, Bobby Deol, and several other stars will be in attendance, making it one of the most star-studded musical launches of the year. After its star-studded launch in Dubai, "Universal Laws" will be available worldwide on Agni's official YouTube channel and all major streaming platforms. Ayaan Agnihotri, the son of Atul Agnihotri and Alvira Khan Agnihotri, had previously collaborated with his uncle Salman Khan on the track "You Are Mine," composed by Vishal Mishra.

## Ekta Kapoor shares adorable 'Nikamma Kiya' moment with son Ravie

**Mumbai, Feb 21 (IANS)** TV Czarina Ekta Kapoor spent some adorable moments with her son Ravie while taking a car-ride and grooving to the number "Nikamma Kiya".

An avid user of social media, Ekta took to Instagram, where she shared a video. In the clip, the filmmaker and TV producer is seen grooving to the tunes of the track "Nikamma Kiya Is Dil Ne" from the film "Kyaa Dil Ne Kahaa". The track was originally picturised on Esha Deol and her brother Tusshar Kapoor. Ekta's son Ravie could be seen sitting on the backseat with his nanny.

"Nikamma kiya lallalalalalla," she wrote as the caption.



"Kyaa Dil Ne Kahaa" released in 2022 and was directed by Sanjay Chhel. The film was a remake of the Telugu film

Swayamvaram. However, the song was revamped for the 2022 action comedy "Nikamma" starring Shilpa Shetty, Abhimanyu Dassani and Shirley Setia. Directed by Sabbir Khan, it was a remake of the 2017 Telugu film Middle Class Abbayi.

In other news, earlier this month, Ekta visited the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj to take a holy dip. She shared a few sneak peeks of the visit. She was seen making the most of her time during her trip.

On the Bollywood front, Ekta's last production venture was "The Sabarmati Report", which received praise from several prominent leaders.

## Shreya Ghoshal says 'Namo Shankara' is more than just a song

**Mumbai, Feb 21 (IANS)** Renowned singer Shreya Ghoshal's new track 'Namo Shankara' is out and she said that it is more than just a song as it is a heartfelt journey that connects to the cosmic energy of Shambho Shiva.

As MahaShivratri approaches, Ghoshal has come up with "Namo Shankara", a song that is pure bhakti and energy combined, read a statement.

Composed by Kinjal Chatterjee and Shreya Ghoshal, with lyrics by Shraddha Pandit, this song is an invocation of Lord Shiva. Shreya shared "The wait is over! Namo Shankara is out now! Let the resonance of this soul stirring ode to Lord Shiva awaken the Mahadev within you."

"This is more than just a song-it's a heartfelt journey, that connects you to the



cosmic energy of Shambho Shiva," she added.

With damru beats, Sanskrit chants, and Shreya's vocals, the track carries a power that awakens devotion and transports listeners to Mahadev's cosmic realm.

# Injury-hit Aus meet out-of-touch Eng in batting-friendly Lahore

## Jos Buttler not taking injury-struck Australia lightly: Expect a tough challenge

Lahore, Feb 21 (IANS): Would you believe it, not only have Australia and England been drawn in the same group at a global tournament, but their Champions Trophy returns also start against one another. Universe (ICC), you've done it again! And yet, amid such predictable money-grabbing comes a bit of shameful excitement. Even without mentioning the "A" word, these are two bitter rivals in unique states. A champion Australia side shorn of some of those champions, and an England side increasingly desperate to rediscover former glory.

The lack of Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood gives the ODI World Cup holders a less intimidating feel, and subsequently shifts the



onus on a batting line-up led by Travis Head's brand of "Ah, we'll have a go". Quite how that responsibility will manifest itself to what is more or less an established group of batters remains to be seen particularly as captain Steven Smith,

standing in for Cummins and the injured Mitchell Marsh, who would have likely deputised, weighs up the right combinations for his top seven. That Australia can call upon Nathan Ellis, Sean Abbott, Spencer Johnson and Ben

Dwarshius to fill big bowling boots reflects the enviable depth of Australian cricket, even if those bowlers' most notable successes - Abbott aside - have come exclusively in T20s. Extrapolating that to 50-over cricket will be its own challenge. Australia are not putting much stock in the fact they arrive off the back of a 2-0 ODI series loss against Sri Lanka. The same could be said of England, even if their 3-0 defeat to India elicited far more anger and ridicule.

Not training enough and golfing too much were the main takeaways outside a group that actually seems in good spirits considering they have now lost all four ODI series since the 2023 World Cup. To be expected, of course, as negative vibes have no place in Brendon

McCullum's house. In keeping, England's break to the UAE came with a view of shedding the baggage from a travel-and defeat-heavy month in India, with added benefit of escaping the press hysteria around focusing on the wrong kind of white ball. But McCullum's task requires a more hands-on and technically focused approach with a group which continues to look uneasy with bat and ball in this format.

How much of that McCullum can change in such a short space of time - he has only been in charge of the limited-overs set-up for a month - will be determined over the coming weeks. Right now, it probably helps to have a familiar foe on the horizon to drum up a little extra heart and vigour.

# Rickelton ton, SA quicks thrash Afghanistan by 107 runs



Karachi, Feb 21 (IANS): South Africa showcased an all-round performance to register a thumping 107-run victory over Afghanistan in SA vs AFG ICC Champions Trophy 2025 match at Karachi's National Stadium on Friday (February 21). Proteas delivered a clinical performance with bat and ball to setup a routine win. A century from Rickelton with fifties from van der Dussen and Markram lit up the first innings, and then the South African pacers troubled Afghanistan with their discipline. Wickets kept tumbling at regular intervals, and Afghanistan, chasing 316 runs, were finally bundled out for 208.

**Ryan Rickelton's classy ton :** After winning the toss, South Africa opted to bat first and put up a strong total of 315/6, courtesy of a brilliant century from opener Ryan Rickelton. Ryan Rickelton continued his fine form, making a strong statement with a well-crafted century. The opener scored 103 off 106 balls, striking seven fours and a six before Rashid Khan finally dismissed him. His 129-run stand with Temba Bavuma for the second wicket provided a solid platform for South Africa.

**Temba Bavuma, Van der Dussen, and Markram chip in:** Skipper Temba Bavuma played a crucial knock of 58 off 76 balls, including five boundaries. Rassie van der Dussen kept the momentum going with a fluent 52 off 46 balls, hitting six fours and a six. Aiden Markram added the finishing touch with a quickfire 52 off 36 deliveries, smashing six fours and a six to push South Africa past the 300-run mark.

**Afghan Spinners fail to deliver :** Afghanistan's spin attack, usually their strength, failed to make an impact in this match. Mohammad Nabi was the only spinner to make inroads, taking 2/51 in his 10 overs. Rashid Khan remained wicketless despite bowling his full quota, conceding 59 runs. Noor Ahmad also struggled, giving away 65 runs in nine overs while picking up just one wicket.

## India vs Pak: It's do-or-die, but we feel no added pressure : Rauf

Dubai, Feb 21 (IANS): Pakistan fast bowler Haris Rauf said the defending champions are looking to move past their defeat against New Zealand and focus on the high-stakes Group A game against India on Sunday, February 23. "Everybody is doing well in the camp. We are focused on doing well. We will try to give our best and ensure we win the match. There is no pressure. We are very relaxed. We are all positive, we will approach the game like any other." Haris Rauf told the press ahead of Pakistan's first training session in Dubai.

# KKR's IPL trophy tour thrills fans

## Draws massive crowd at P&M Mall Jamshedpur



Jamshedpur, Feb 21: The Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) IPL 2024 Trophy Tour made a historic stop in Jamshedpur on Friday, drawing thousands of enthusiastic fans to P&M Mall in Bistupur. As part of their nationwide celebrations, KKR brought their championship trophy to Jharkhand, giving supporters a chance to witness the team's ultimate prize up close.

The event, which began at 4 PM, saw an overwhelming turnout as fans flocked to the mall to catch a glimpse of the prestigious IPL trophy. The excitement was palpable, with supporters cheering, clicking pictures, and celebrating KKR's third IPL title. The team also engaged with the crowd, distributing special

giveaways and souvenirs to lucky attendees. Jamshedpur was one of the key stops on KKR's first-ever nationwide Trophy Tour, a unique initiative allowing fans across India to be part of the championship celebrations. The event highlighted the deep connection between the franchise and its supporters beyond their home city of Kolkata. The Trophy Tour began in Guwahati and will continue to several cities, including Ranchi on February 23 (JD Hi Street Mall), Gangtok on February 28 (West Point Mall), Siliguri on March 2 (City Center Mall), Patna on March 7 (City Center Mall), Durgapur on March 9 (Junction Mall), before culminating in Kolkata on March 12 (City Center Mall). This marks the first time an IPL team has organized a Trophy Tour outside its home base, reinforcing KKR's commitment to engaging with fans nationwide and celebrating their championship glory with the people who support them.

# Ranji Trophy: Vidarbha enter final after beating Mumbai

New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS) Left-arm spin bowling all-rounder Harsh Dubey picked a five-wicket haul as Vidarbha entered their second consecutive Ranji Trophy final after beating defending champions Mumbai by 80 runs in Nagpur.

Vidarbha, who were the Ranji Trophy runners-up last year, will host Kerala in the title clash happening from February 26 in Nagpur. In the morning, Kerala reached their first-ever Ranji Trophy final by the slimmest of margins against Gujarat in Ahmedabad.

Gujarat needed three runs to achieve the all-important first innings lead, but Arzan Nagwaswalla went for a lofted drive and was caught by Sachin Baby at first slip after the ball ricocheted off Salman Nizar's head at short leg.

It meant Kerala bowled out Gujarat for 455, as they took the first innings lead by two runs, which was enough for them to take the Ranji Trophy final. Kerala had previously taken a one-run lead against Jammu and Kashmir in the quarter-final in Pune. Eventually, the game ended in a draw as Kerala made 114/4 in second innings, with Jalaj Saxena unbeaten on 37.



In Nagpur, victory was a foregone conclusion for Vidarbha from the time day five began. Shivam Dube, Suryakumar Yadav and Akash Anand fell without doing much as Mumbai were quickly reduced to 124/6.

Shams Mulani (46) and Shardul Thakur (66) put on a 103-run stand for the seventh wicket to keep Vidarbha at bay, before the former was run-out. It was followed by pacer Yash Thakur getting a ball to keep a little low and castle Shardul. After Tanush Kotian fell, Mohit Awasthi and Royston Dias put on a stand of 52 runs for the last wicket, before the former was trapped lbw by Dubey, the leading wicket-taker of this Ranji Trophy.

# Abhishek misses century as Kalimati XI defeats Dalma XI by 50 runs

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 21: In an exciting clash of the Media Cup Cricket Tournament on Friday, Kalimati XI registered a convincing 50-run victory over Dalma XI at Keenan Stadium. The highlight of the match was Abhishek Singh's explosive innings, as he fell just short of a century, scoring 99 runs off 51 balls. Captain Ratnesh Tiwari also made a valuable contribution with 35 runs off 31 balls, helping Kalimati XI post a formidable total of 166/3 in 15 overs.

In response, Dalma XI struggled to chase the target, managing only

## Dimna XI, Suvarnarekha XI match ends in a tie



116/7 in 15 overs. Buland Iqbal was the top scorer for Dalma XI with 50 runs off 29 balls, while Prasenjit could only add 12 runs. Abhishek Singh also shined with the ball, taking three crucial wickets.

Earlier in the day, the match between Dimna XI and Suvarnarekha XI ended in a thrilling tie. Suvarnarekha XI scored 127/2, and Dimna XI matched the total with 127/8, leading to a deadlock.

# Carlos Alcaraz crashes out of Qatar Open after shock defeat in quarter-final

Doha, Feb 21 (IANS): World No. 3 Carlos Alcaraz suffered a shocking exit from the Qatar Open, losing to Costa Rica's Jiri Lehecka in the quarter-finals on February 20. Despite mounting a comeback in the second set, Alcaraz could not complete the turnaround and ultimately fell 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 in an intense contest.

The defeat marked a major upset in the tournament, especially following World No. 7 Novak Djokovic's



surprising fourth-round loss to Italy's Matteo Berrettini. With Alcaraz and Djokovic out of the competition, the title race

has taken an unexpected turn. Lehecka will now face eighth-seeded Jack Draper of Great Britain in the semi-finals. Draper

secured his place by defeating Berrettini in a hard-fought 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 victory.

The match between Alcaraz and Lehecka was thrilling from the start, with the Czech player displaying remarkable composure under pressure. He fired eight aces and capitalized on four of eight break point opportunities, sealing the biggest win of his career. The loss marks a setback for Alcaraz, who was looking to regain top form after injury setbacks in previous tournaments.

# Ganguly's convoy meets with minor accident on NH in Bengal

Kolkata, Feb 21 (IANS) Former Indian cricket team captain as well as the erstwhile President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Sourav Ganguly's convoy met with a minor accident on the National Highway near Singur in Hooghly district of West Bengal late on Thursday night.



Fortunately, the cricketing legend has been reported to be safe as neither Ganguly nor his driver received any injury in the accident.

The vehicle in which the former cricketer was

travelling also did not have any major damage. The fact that there was no report of injury to anyone or major damage to any vehicle has been confirmed by the district police superintendent Kamanashish Sen.

Even the waiting period for the former cricketer's vehicle on the National Highway following the accident did not last for more than 10 minutes.

It is learnt that the driver of Ganguly's vehicle had to apply a sudden brake as a truck loaded with goods attempted to overtake them.

Due to the sudden braking, the car behind Ganguly's vehicle collided with the ex-cricketer's car and the other cars tailing that vehicle also rammed into each other from behind, leading to a chain reaction of crashes.

# Jamshedpur Super League: Dominant wins mark matchweek 15

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 21: Matchweek 15 of the Jamshedpur Super League Blue Cubs 2024-25 witnessed thrilling encounters at the Tintplate Sports Complex, with dominant performances defining the latest round of fixtures in both the Under-13 and Under-11 categories. In the Under-13 division, Carmel Red Devils showcased their attacking prowess with a convincing 3-0 victory over Junior Tigers Tintplate. Chakradharpur



Sagar Star delivered a commanding 6-0 win against Kadma JMFA Strikers, while Dhatkidih

JFC Iron matched that scoreline with a 6-0 rout of Kishor Sangh Kadma. Loyola Heroes and

Bhalubasa Star Club secured comfortable wins, with the former getting a walkover against Sarjamda Captain Jhansi XI and the latter defeating Dhatkidih Lion Heart 3-0. The most competitive clash saw Dhatkidih Undefeatable FC edge past 7 Star Tintplate 3-2 in a tightly contested affair.

In the Under-11 category, Bhalubasa 7 Star Club secured a walkover win against JPS Avengers, while Dhatkidih Fire Giants overpowered the same opponents 3-0. Kadma JMFA United FC

secured a solid 3-0 victory over KingSon Loyola, and Chakradharpur Sagar Star claimed a walkover against Legend of Loyola. Bistupur Biswajit Mani Mela dominated JPS Hunters 6-1, while Carmel Fighters put in an impressive 5-0 performance against Laxminagar Clever FC. Kishor Sangh Kadma also received a walkover win against Sonari Union Jack Jokers. With the league entering a crucial phase, teams are stepping up their performances in pursuit of top honors.

# New gym building inaugurated at Tintplate Recreation Club

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 21: A new gym building at the Tintplate Recreation Club, located in the Sports Complex, was inaugurated today under the joint aegis of Tata Steel Limited (Tintplate Division) and the Golmuri Tintplate Workers Union. The facility was formally dedicated to the club in the presence of senior officials and union representatives.



The event was graced by Ujjal Chakraborti, Executive-in-Charge, Tintplate Division, Tata Steel as the chief guest,

while Tintplate Union President Rakeshwar Pandey attended as the special guest. The upgraded facility aims to benefit company employees, their families,

and local residents by providing improved sports, study, and health-related amenities.

During the inauguration, Ujjal Chakraborti assured full support for the smooth

functioning of the club and emphasized the company's commitment to further enhancing its facilities.

The event was attended by several dignitaries, including Sarojati Day, Singh Rajan, Saroj Kumar, and senior management officials.

Representing the union were President Rakeshwar Pandey, Club Secretary Parvinder Singh Sohal, General Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh, along with Sai Babu Raju, Jagjit Singh, Sanjay Kumar, Amrit Jha, Niranjana Mahapatra, and many others.

# Prabhakar Rao re-elected Secretary, Deepak Verma President

## Jharkhand Badminton Association elects new executive committee

Mail News Service

Hazaribagh, Feb 16: The Jharkhand Badminton Association (JBA) held its Executive Body & Annual General Meeting (AGM) on February 16, 2025, in Hazaribagh, electing new office bearers to lead the organization's efforts in developing badminton across the state.

In the elections, Prabhakar Rao was re-elected as the State Secretary, reaffirming his leadership and vision for the sport. Deepak Kumar Verma was elected as the President, while Suresh Lal Ram took charge as the Treasurer. The newly formed executive committee pledged to



enhance badminton infrastructure, implement structured training programs, and increase opportunities for young players to compete at national and international levels.

They emphasized their commitment to fostering talent and

strengthening Jharkhand's presence in the Indian badminton circuit. With renewed leadership, the Jharkhand Badminton Association aims to advance the sport's reach and nurture promising players, ensuring a bright future for badminton in the state.

# Rekha Gupta govt terminates AAP volunteers, other staff posted by Kejriwal, Atishi offices

New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS) The BJP's new government in Delhi led by Rekha Gupta has relieved from duties all officials or employees who were deployed by the previous AAP government in diverted capacity in the offices of Chief Minister and Ministers and sent them back to their respective departments, said an official on Friday.

A note prepared by Deputy Secretary (Services) Bhairab Dutt on "Termination of co-terminus appointments in the offices of Chief Minister or Ministers" was circulated among all departments on Thursday, reminding them about the impending fresh appointments.

The government order said that the formation of a newly-elected government warrants fresh appointment of staff of all categories as appointments automatically get terminated on the resignation of the then Chief Minister and Ministers.



Accordingly, the deployment and appointment of officers has to take place afresh after taking of oath and assumption of office by the new Chief Minister and Cabinet Ministers, it said.

While terminating the services of the AAP government's appointees - mostly consultants, advisers or officers on special duties -- Deputy Secretary Dutt cited the Central government's instructions for the appointment of co-terminus staff.

"Whenever new Ministers are appointed, Ministries/Departments of Government of India have been authorised to create, on their personal staff, posts of various grades. Such posts are to be continued by the Ministries/Departments as long as the Ministers concerned hold office and are to be treated as automatically abolished on their demitting office," it said.

# BJP disputes leading daily's fact-check on USAID funds for India, calls it cover-up

New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS) US President Donald Trump's 'revelations' on the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funds, particularly his reference to \$21 million funding to India for voter turnout, triggered a political storm in the country with BJP and Congress engaging in a bitter exchange.

The raging row over the US' alleged attempts to influence electoral outcome in India got a fresh twist on Friday, as a leading daily reported that the \$21 million mentioned by Trump didn't go to India but was rather intended for Bangladesh.

The newspaper report, in stark contrast to Trump's admission of the Biden administration's attempts to influence for-



The BJP's IT cell chief Amit Malviya claimed that the leading daily was doing a cover-up for foreign interference through USAID-funded George Soros' Open Society Foundations.

Disputing the paper's fact-check, Amit Malviya said that the Indian

Express article misrepresents the reference to \$21 million funding tranche intended to 'promote' voter turnout in India.

"What the Indian Express sidesteps is the 2012 Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Election Commission of India - under the leadership of S.Y. Quraishi - and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), an organisation linked to George Soros' Open Society

Foundations, which is primarily funded by USAID," said the BJP's IT cell chief in a post on X. He also claimed that the report remains silent on subsequent funding, beginning in 2014, under various categories aimed at interfering in India's election process.

# Two sisters sold off by mother rescued among 16 in West Champaran

Mail News Service

Patna, Feb 21: Bihar's West Champaran police in coordination with Mission Mukti Foundation on Friday rescued as many as 15 girls, including a minor who was allegedly sold off twice after being handed to an orchestra troupe by mother and is alleged to have conceived for second time during her exile from her native place in West Bengal.

In an official statement, Bettiah police said a majority of girls rescued are minor who were rescued during the course of raids at suspected locations in Jagdishpur and Nautan area of West Champaran. "Further investigation into the matter is underway," said Vivek Deep, sub divisional police officer (SDPO), Bettiah, adding ten people have also been detained in this connection.

The minor girl who hails from West Bengal's Bardhaman district, lambasted her mother for pushing her in prostitution for a paltry sum of money.

"I was sold for ₹10,000, my sister for Rs 5,000 by my mother and that I

have to withstand sexual assaults over the years, resulting in termination of an eight month old pregnancy before got conceived for second time" said the minor girl who was rescued from Jagdishpur near Bettiah.

She said after being first sold to an orchestra owner, she has been sold on multiple occasions in the past five years.

The operation was carried out following a request to the police superintendent, Bettiah from Rajesh Kumar Singh, registrar National Commission for Protection of Child Right (NCPCR), dated February 14, 2025, seeking police assistance in the rescue of seven-eight minor girls. The local police launched the raids in coordination with Mission Mukti Foundation, Rescue and Relief Foundation.

Mission Mukti Foundation's director Virendra Singh said the case served to exemplify the broader issue of child trafficking in India, where poverty and social neglect often lead to such desperate measures. "The case of the two sisters

from Burdwan highlights the grim reality of child trafficking and exploitation in India. Four years ago, their mother sold them for money - one for Rs10,000 and the other for Rs 5,000 - to a woman named Payal. This act initiated a harrowing journey for the sisters, as they were first taken to Bettiah and subsequently sold to a man named Jitendra, who forced them into prostitution," said the director of Mission Mukti Foundation in a press note.

"After managing to escape, the sisters returned home, only to be given away again by their mother to a man named Ramsagar. Under Ramsagar's control, they were subjected to further exploitation in the obscene orchestra profession. Tragically, Ramsagar impregnated the elder sister and, upon discovering her pregnancy, aborted it in the eighth month. Following this, both sisters were sold to different individuals, perpetuating a cycle of abuse and trafficking. Reports indicate that the younger sister exhibited signs of physical abuse, with bruises observed on her body," he added.

# Bangladesh told it should not normalise terrorism: MEA

Mail News Service

New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS) External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar, during his meeting with Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Advisor Touhid Hossain in Muscat earlier this week, had conveyed that it is important that Bangladesh should not normalise terrorism, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) revealed on Friday.

The EAM had held a series of meetings with his counterparts from the neighbouring countries, including Bangladesh, on the sidelines of the Indian Ocean Conference in Muscat, on February 16.

While Jaishankar mentioned that the conversation with the Foreign Affairs Advisor of the Interim Government in Dhaka was focused on bilateral relationship, as also on BIMSTEC, the



Bangladeshi side stated that Hossain highlighted the importance of holding the meeting of SAARC Standing Committee and urged the Indian government to consider the matter.

"Regarding whether SAARC came up for discussion or not... Yes, the matter was brought up by the Bangladesh side when the EAM met with Bangladesh's Foreign Advisor in Muscat. It was

acknowledged that everyone in South Asia is aware of which country and what activities are responsible for stymying SAARC. EM conveyed that it is important for Bangladesh not to normalise terrorism," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told reporters in New Delhi during a media briefing.

EAM Jaishankar and Hossain had last met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York in September, marking the first high-level engagement between India and Bangladesh's interim government after former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ouster in August 2024. The Bangladeshi media had also reported after the meeting that during their meeting, which lasted less than half an hour, EAM Jaishankar and Hossain emphasised the importance of working to overcome the challenges that have arisen in the current context of bilateral relations and also discussed "the topic of organising" a meeting between the Chief Advisor Professor Muhammad Yunus and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Summit to be held in Bangkok, later this year.

# Indian Railways' efforts made Maha Kumbh grand : Yogi Adityanath

Mail News Services

New Delhi, Feb 21: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath commended Indian Railways for its remarkable efforts in facilitating the Maha Kumbh event. Speaking in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, he highlighted the extensive beautification and expansion of nine railway stations in Prayagraj district, along with the creation of holding areas to manage the massive influx of devotees. Over 3,000 special trains were operated, ensuring seamless transportation.

Praising the Railway Minister's personal involvement and continuous coordination, CM Yogi acknowledged the dedication of the Railway Board chairman, general managers and divisional railway managers. Their proactive efforts played a crucial role in making the event grand and well-organized.

Indian Railways deployed more than 13,500 trains, including over 3,500 special ones, with 13,000 personnel managing security and logistics. Advanced monitoring systems, 1,186 CCTV cameras and holding areas for 150,000 passengers ensured smooth crowd management. The introduction of 48 digital ticketing services, multi-lingual announcements and enhanced passenger facilities further contributed to the event's success.

CM Yogi lauded Indian Railways' commitment to making Maha Kumbh a divine and unforgettable experience, emphasizing its role in ensuring a safe and efficient travel experience for millions of pilgrims. (w/nkm)

# Bengal school job case: CBI charge sheet against Sujay Bhadra adds section on tampering with evidence

Mail News Service

Kolkata, Feb 21 (IANS) The CBI, in a fresh charge sheet in West Bengal's multi-crore cash-for-school job case filed before a special Kolkata court on Friday, has added a section on punishment for tampering of evidence against prime accused Sujay Krishna Bhadra.

Sources aware of the development said that in the chargesheet Bhadra had been charged under Section 238 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which was Section 201 in the erstwhile Indian Penal Code (IPC), which deals with "causing of disappearance of evidence".

It is learnt that the CBI had charged Bhadra under the section dealing with punishment for tampering with evidence following specific clues secured by the investigating officials substantiating the direct involvement of the accused in destroying evidence, both in paper document format as well as digital data.



The central agency has also elaborated on its findings on the matter. At the same time, sources added,

Bhadra had also been accused under various sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and the Information Technology Act, 2000.

Two other persons have been named in the charge sheet along with Bhadra. They are Santanu Bandopadhyay and Arun Hazra, both accused middlemen in the alleged scam.

Bhadra is currently out on bail after a division bench of the Calcutta High Court, last week, granted him interim bail in the CBI-registered case for medical treatment purposes. Earlier, another bench of the high court granted him bail in the case registered in the same matter by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), which is conducting a parallel probe in the school-job case.

However, despite granting bail, the division bench had imposed strict conditions on Bhadra on his movements and even meeting people.

# Assam CM, family take holy dip at Sangam



Guwahati, Feb 21 (IANS) Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma took a dip in Maha Kumbh on Friday and said that words cannot describe his experience. Taking to X, CM Sarma wrote, "Words fail to describe the experience of my dip

today at Triveni Sangam, which is not just a confluence of rivers- It is a convergence of faith, spirituality and heritage of crores of Santanis."

"#MahaKumbh is the divine bridge connecting Manushya with Mahadev," he added.

# Ganga water is pure and suitable for bathing: 'IIT Baba' rejects CPCB report

Mail News Service

New Delhi, Feb 21 (IANS) Acharya Jaishankar, the IIT graduate who gave up his lucrative career in the US and turned to spirituality, has dismissed the CPCB report on 'polluted water' in the river Ganga, particularly in Prayagraj, the venue for Maha Kumbh.

Acharya Jaishankar, speaking to IANS, contested the findings of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) report and said that the water at the Sangam was fit for bathing and also better than before (referring to days when he studied in college and took regular dips).

The CPCB in a recent report to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) claimed that the amount of faecal coliform bacteria in Ganga water has increased in Prayagraj during the Maha Kumbh, due to which the pollution level of the river has gone up, much beyond the standard levels.

ITT-ian Jaishankar rejected the report, saying "We have just come back from there after taking a bath. We did not see anything as mentioned in the report. The water is flowing and as far as bacteria is concerned, how can it survive?"

Making strong arguments for 'Ganga fit for bathing' Acharya said, "I have been seeing the water of Ganga while studying in Banaras, and now it is better than before. We did not see any problem. People come here not to see the system, but for faith, so the water report does not matter to them."

# Reflect on your parents' rule: Union Minister Lalan Singh to Tejashwi Yadav

Mail News Service

Patna, Feb 21 (IANS) The political battle over the law and order situation in Bihar has intensified with Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, popularly known as Lalan Singh, countering Tejashwi Yadav's criticism of the Nitish Kumar government, saying that he should see the period when his parents were ruling Bihar.

While Tejashwi Yadav accused the current administration of failing to curb rising crime, the Union Minister defended the Nitish Kumar government by drawing comparisons to the lawlessness during the tenure of Lalu Prasad Yadav and Rabri Devi.

Rajiv Ranjan Singh pointed to the 1990s era of rampant crime, particularly kidnappings for ransom. "Tejashwi Yadav lacks political maturity and merely criticizing the government on paper won't help him become Chief



Minister. Tejashwi Yadav should tell what a crime is. Normal incidents cannot be categorized under crime. He should see the period when his parents Lalu Prasad Yadav and Rabri Devi were ruling Bihar, how the kidnappings were taking place and how the ransom was taken from the victims. Kidnapping was the industry then," Singh said.

Earlier, Tejashwi Yadav criticised Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's administration, alleging a significant deterioration in the state's law and order situation.

Through a series of social media posts, Yadav has highlighted 137 criminal incidents reported since January 2025, referring to the current governance as "Rakshasa Raj (demonic rule)". Tejashwi Yadav also targeted Nitish Kumar's Pragati Yatra and said it was a misuse of state exchequer and taxpayers' money. On this, Lalan Singh highlighted Nitish Kumar as the architect of Bihar's development while dismissing Tejashwi Yadav's criticisms as baseless.