JHARKHAND'S OWN ENGLISH DAILY

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BUTTLER STEPS DOWN AS ENGLAND'S WHITE-BALL CAPTAIN FOLLOWING CT DEBACLE - PAGE : 11

Govt adding digital technology in education for student's benefit: CM

Hemant Soren hands over tab to 28,945 govt school teachers

Mail News Service



Ranchi, Feb 28: Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren claimed that the state government is taking steps to improve the education system in the state by incorporating new technologies in the school system.

Hemant Soren said these things while addressing the tablet distribution program among 28945 government primary schools in a function organized by the School Education and Literacy Department in Ranchi on Friday. “Today the era has become digital. There is no sector left which is untouched by digitization. Digital services are also changing rapidly. Every day - digital services are being upgraded. One cannot keep away from digitalisation. In such a situation, it is better that you make yourself and the coming generation technically strong according to the time,” said Soren.

“Only when you are digital friendly will you be able to move forward,” said Soren, who also launched the school report card for quality education promotion and a mandatory 50-hour integrated-continuous capacity development program for teachers online. The Chief Minister said that many concrete steps are being taken towards providing digital services to the government schools of the state. In this episode, a new chapter is being started today with the provision of tablets to primary schools.

“With this, all reporting work from attendance in schools will be done through digital medium. At the same time, the use of tablets will make it easier to monitor the work related to children's studies, teachers' training, supervision, biometric attendance and on that basis it will help a lot in improving the education system,” said Soren. The Chief Minister said that today's education system has been digitized on a large scale.

“Smart classes are running in schools. Digital educational materials are being used. Online coaching classes are going on. In such a situation, if our children are not digital friendly, then their path ahead will not be easy. They will have to face many challenges and problems at every step. Keeping this in mind, the government has started a campaign to provide quality education to the children studying in government schools and to strengthen them digitally,” said Soren. The Chief Minister said that the government is encouraging the promising children of the state through various means so that they can move forward. The Chief Minister said that the issue of digital services being affected in rural areas comes up again and again. The problem of digital connectivity creates hindrance in all types of work and services, due to which people face a lot of problems. In such a situation, the government will take steps towards installing mobile towers in all panchayats so that all government work done through digital medium can be conducted smoothly, easily and conveniently. (W-rg)

Jharkhand's economy projected to grow 7.5 pc in 2025-26 fiscal: Economic survey



Ranchi, Feb 28 (IANS): The Jharkhand economy is expected to grow by 7.5 per cent in the 2025-26 fiscal, the state economic survey said.

The economic survey, tabled in the assembly by Jharkhand Finance minister Radha Krishna Kishore on Friday, estimated that the state's economy will grow at 6.7 per cent in the current financial year of 2024-25.

"The economy of Jharkhand has grown steadily in the last three years. It is estimated to grow by 6.7 per cent in the current financial year of 2024-25 and by 7.5 per cent in the next financial year of 2025-26," the survey said.

It claimed that the economic growth rate of Jharkhand exceeded that of the country in the years following the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Between the years 2020-21 and 2023-24, Jharkhand grew at an average annual rate of 9.1 per cent, while the country grew at an average annual rate of 8.3 per cent," it said. The survey gives a positive indication of the state's intention to make Jharkhand a Rs 10 trillion economy (Rs 10 lakh crore) by 2029-30. "The economy at current prices has been estimated to be Rs 4,61,010 crore in the year 2023-24. If it grows at the rate of 14.2 per cent per annum, it will exceed Rs 10 lakh crore by the year 2029-30. The past performance of the state's economy gives the confidence that a 14.2 per cent growth in its nominal GSDP (GSDP at current prices) is achievable," the survey said.

The state government during the previous budget of 2024-25 had expressed its intention of making Jharkhand a Rs 10 trillion economy by 2029-30. The survey states that the per capita income of the state is one of the lowest in the country. "It has ranked 26th amongst the 28 states of the country in the year 2022-23. It is only ahead of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh," the survey said.

The inflation rate has mostly remained within the limit of six per cent, which is RBI's stipulated upper limit, it said.

"The average rate of inflation in Jharkhand was 5.7 per cent in the year 2023-24 and this year (up to October 2024, it is at 4 per cent)", the survey stated.

India, EU to strike trade deal by end of 2025: PM Modi



New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen have agreed to expedite the conclusion of the India-EU free trade agreement (FTA) by the end of the year and hold further focused discussions on the defence industry and policy to explore opportunities from new initiatives and programmes, according to a joint statement issued after the meeting between the two leaders on Friday.

The leaders committed to task their respective negotiating teams to pursue negotiations for a balanced, ambitious, and mutually beneficial FTA with the aim of concluding them within the course of the year. Officials were asked to work as trusted partners to enhance market access and remove trade barriers. They were also tasked to advance negotiations on an Agreement on Investment Protection and an Agreement on Geographical Indications. The two leaders welcomed the progress made by the second ministerial meeting of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) that took place during the visit in fostering deeper collaboration and strategic coordination at the intersection of trade, trusted technology, and green transition. The two leaders have also agreed to direct the India-EU Trade and Technology Council to further deepen its engagement to strengthen semiconductor ecosystems, trustworthy and sustainable Artificial Intelligence, high-performance computing, 6G, Digital Public Infrastructure, joint research and innovation for green and clean energy technologies with a focus on trusted partnerships and industry linkages across these sectors, including the recycling of batteries for electric vehicles (EVs), marine plastic litter, and green hydrogen.

CM launches health insurance scheme for govt employees

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Feb 28: Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren gave a big gift to lakhs of state government employees by launching the State Employee Health Insurance Schemes.

Addressing a program organized by the health department in the state assembly auditorium Chief Minister said that just as our government has restored the old pension scheme and has worked to provide financial support to the state employees even after retirement, in the same way, through the State Employee Health Insurance Scheme, this big step has been taken towards bearing the entire cost of proper treatment of the employees.

“Now government employees of any category of the state do not need to worry about the cost of treatment of their illness. Through this scheme, the government will bear the cost of their entire treatment,” said Soren.

“People face a lot of problems on the financial front in the course of treatment of their disease. Because of this, our government is engaged in a campaign to improve the health system, so that people can get the best possible treatment at the least cost,” added Soren.

The Chief Minister said that Jharkhand is a backward and poor state facing challenges of paucity of resources.



“But despite all this, the government is trying to root out various problems here. In this episode, the work of strengthening the health system is going on at a fast pace amidst limited resources,” added Soren.

Incidentally, State Employees Health Insurance Scheme will be implemented from 1 March 2025.

In the first phase, all the working state employees are going to get the benefit of this scheme. Whereas for other category employees, this scheme will be implemented from 1 May 2025.

The benefit of this scheme will be available to the employees of all the services of the state, members of the Legislative Assembly, retired employees, family pension recipients and their dependents, former members of the State Legislative Assembly, serving / retired officers willing to All India Services, regular employees working / retired in various boards, corporations, institutions, institutions of the state government, working / retired teachers and non-teaching staff of universities and colleges and registered advocates.

Under this, beneficiaries will be able to avail cashless treatment up to Rs 5 lakh in any hospital in the country included in the panel of the Health Department. In case of serious diseases, medical expenses up to Rs 10 lakh will also be borne. If there is any additional expense in the treatment, it will be provided from the corpus fund. At the same time, in special circumstances, the facility of air ambulance will also be made available to the beneficiaries. (W-rg)

India needs 35-40 fighter jets annually to replace aging fleet: IAF



New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS): The Indian Air Force (IAF) requires the production of at least 35 to 40 fighter jets per year to replace its aging fleet, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh said on Friday. Speaking at the Chanakya Dialogues conclave on "Bharat 2047: Atmanirbhar In War", Singh also stressed the urgency of ramping up domestic aircraft manufacturing to maintain operational readiness.

"This target is not impossible," Singh asserted, pointing out that Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has already committed to producing 24 Tejas Mk1A jets annually starting next year. The Air Chief further noted that additional support from Sukhoi production lines and potential private sector participation could help bridge the gap in aircraft supply.

Reaffirming the IAF's commitment to self-reliance, Singh said that the force would prioritise indigenous defence systems even if their performance was slightly lower than global alternatives.

GDP grows at 6.2% in Q3 2024-25

New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS): India's economy grew by 6.2% in the third quarter of the financial year 2024-25, according to data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). The growth rate in nominal GDP for the same quarter has been estimated at 9.9%. The latest figures suggest a steady expansion of the economy, with the real GDP growth rate for the second quarter of FY 2024-25 being revised upward to 5.6%. "Growth Rate of Real GDP for 2024-25 is estimated as 6.5%. Real GDP has observed a Growth Rate of 6.2% in Q3 of FY 2024-25," said a press release. For the full financial year 2023-24, India recorded a real GDP growth rate of 9.2%, marking the highest annual growth in the past 12 years, except for the exceptional rebound in 2021-22.

Sensex plunges 1,400 points, Nifty 420 amid threat of tariff War

New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS): The Sensex plunged over 1,400 points while the Nifty tanked 420 points in line with global markets, which have been rattled by US President Donald Trump's announcement of an additional 10% tariff on China. At the end of the day's trading on Friday, the benchmark Sensex closed at 73,198.10 - 1,414.33 points, or 1.9%, down - while Nifty settled at 22,124.70, down 420.35 points or 1.86%. The BSE benchmark index is down 12,780.15 points, or 14.86%, from its peak of 85,978.25 on September 27, 2024. Nifty has tanked 4,152.65 points, or 15.8%, from its lifetime high of 26,277.35 on the same day. Experts said the increased foreign fund outflows have also negatively impacted investor sentiment. "Stock markets dislike uncertainty, and uncertainty has been on the rise ever since Trump was elected the US president. The spate of tariff announcements by Trump has been impacting markets and the latest announcement of additional 10% tariff on China is a confirmation of the market view that Trump will use the initial months of his presidency to threaten countries with tariffs and then negotiate for a settlement favourable to the US," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services said.

32 rescued after avalanche hits Badrinath, over 25 still trapped

Dehradun, Feb 28 (IANS): Rescue operations are underway in Badrinath in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district after an avalanche struck a Border Roads Organisation (BRO) camp near the high-altitude border village of Mana on Friday, trapping around 25 workers under the snow.

Initially, there were a total of 57 workers, of which 32 have been rescued so far and sent to an Army camp near Mana village. Some of the rescued workers are reported to be in critical condition.

The avalanche struck between Mana and Mana Pass in the morning, engulfing the labourers engaged in snow-clearing operations essential for Army movement towards the India-Tibet border. Chamoli District Magistrate Sandeep Tiwari confirmed the incident, stating that multiple teams were battling challenging terrain, heavy snowfall, and rain to rescue the trapped workers. There were no immediate reports of casualties.



Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami assured that all efforts were being made to ensure the safe evacuation of the stranded workers.

"Out of the 57 BRO labourers trapped, 16 have been rescued. Rescue operations are ongoing with assistance from the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and other departments. Our disaster management team and the entire administration are fully alert," the Chief Minister said in a post on X earlier.

J'khand workers among those feared trapped

Ranchi, Feb 28 (IANS): Workers from Jharkhand are also among those feared trapped under an avalanche that buried a camp of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district on Friday, an official said.

The exact number of workers from Jharkhand or their details, however, are not known. "There have been reports of several workers working under BRO in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district being trapped under a broken glacier," Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren said in a post on X. The labourers were working to clear snow near the high-altitude border village of Mana in Chamoli when the avalanche hit their camp between Mana and Badrinath. Soren said: "According to information, relief and rescue operations are being carried out by BRO, ITBP and others. I pray for the safety of all workers from Marang Buru (supreme tribal deity) who have been affected by this incident." When contacted, State Labour Commissioner, Sanjeev Besra, however, said he was not in a position to comment on the issue at present.

DC reviews residential schools: Teachers' salary linked to online attendance

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 28: In a comprehensive review meeting held at the Collectorate Auditorium, Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal evaluated the functioning of residential schools managed by the Education and Welfare Departments.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Development Commissioner Aniket Sachan and other departmental officials. The review covered various aspects, including student enrollment, online attendance of teachers and students, performance in Matriculation and Intermediate Pre-Board exams, availability of basic facilities, and infrastructure requirements in residential schools.

During the review, it was observed that teachers in many residential schools were not consistently marking their online attendance. Taking serious note of this issue, the Deputy Commissioner instructed that teachers' salaries would be disbursed strictly according to their online attendance records. Furthermore, the school management was directed to ensure mandatory online attendance for both students and teachers and to submit these reports promptly to the district office. Additionally, instructions were given to conduct regular health checkups for children in all residential schools.

The meeting also highlighted the need for infrastructure development and improvement of basic amenities in several schools. Proposals included the construction of additional classrooms at KGBV Jamshedpur, a boundary wall at KGBV Chakulia, expansion of hostel capacity at KGBV Ghatsila, construction of dormitories at KGBV Baharagora, playground leveling at KGBV Gudabanda, and safety enhancements at KGBV Dhalbhumgarh, including the installation of lightning conductors. The availability of drinking water in all schools was also reviewed to ensure adequate supply.

Addressing the attendees, Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal emphasized that the district administration is committed to ensuring the availability of basic facilities in schools as per state government guidelines. He stressed the importance of not only providing facilities but also enhancing the students' interest in academics and extracurricular activities. He urged the schools to make optimal use of available sports resources and playgrounds to promote physical fitness and overall development.

During the review of enrollment status in the three Chief Minister Utkrishta Vidyalayas of the district, the Deputy Commissioner directed that no seat should remain vacant. He highlighted that this is an ambitious scheme by the state government aimed at providing quality education through the CBSE board, similar to private schools. He assured that the enrollment process would be conducted transparently to maintain credibility and inclusivity.

The meeting was attended by District Welfare Officer Shankaracharya Samad, District Planning Officer Mrityunjay Kumar, District Education Officer Manoj Kumar, District Education Superintendent Ashish Pandey, along with principals, wardens, and other stakeholders of residential schools. (w/pb)

Potka MLA demands ESI facility for contract labourers

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 28: During the budget session of the Assembly, Potka MLA Sanjeev Sardar raised the pressing issue of medical facilities for contract labourers working in underground mines. He demanded the implementation of the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) scheme for hundreds of labourers employed in the uranium mines at Jadugora, Narwa, Turamdih, Bhatin, and Banduhudang in East Singhbhum district. MLA Sardar pointed out that the Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), which operates these mines, does not provide essential ESI medical coverage to contract labourers, leaving them vulnerable to severe health risks due to the hazardous nature of their work.

He emphasized the urgency of this matter, urging the state government to intervene and ensure health safety measures for these workers.

Highlighting the harsh working conditions faced by the labourers, Sardar stressed that access to ESI facilities is a basic right that must be provided to safeguard their well-being. He further stated that ensuring these medical benefits would not only improve health security but also boost morale and productivity among the workforce.

This demand from the Potka MLA has sparked hope among the contract labourers, who have long been struggling for adequate medical facilities. The labor community is now looking forward to the government's response, anticipating a positive change in their healthcare rights. (w/pb)

TMH to launch Spine Clinic and Stroke Unit on March 4

Jamshedpur, February 28: Tata Main Hospital (TMH) is set to inaugurate a Spine Clinic and a Stroke Unit on March 4, 2025, enhancing medical facilities in the city. The Spine Clinic will be a dedicated multi-specialty center for the comprehensive management of complex spinal issues, ensuring specialized care for patients.

Alongside, the Stroke Unit will focus on the rapid assessment and treatment of stroke patients, improving emergency response and recovery outcomes.

ChanakyaChaudhary, Vice President, Corporate Services, Tata Steel, stated that these healthcare advancements are part of the Founder's Day celebrations. He also announced that the MTMH upgraded hospital will soon have a new Operation Theatre (OT), further enhancing surgical care.

Jamshedpur to get first Pet Crematorium today

Jamshedpur, February 28: In a significant step towards providing a dignified and environmentally responsible solution for pet owners, Jamshedpur's first pet crematorium will be inaugurated on March 1, 2025. The facility, funded by Tata Steel, aims to offer a safe, hygienic, and structured method for the disposal of pet remains. The crematorium, located near the Kennel Club in Jubilee Park, will be inaugurated by Chanakya Chaudhary, Vice President, Corporate Services, Tata Steel, in the presence of RuchiNarendran. This initiative reflects Tata Steel's commitment to sustainable and community-centric projects.

With the increasing number of pet owners in the city, the crematorium will ensure a respectful farewell for beloved pets while also addressing environmental concerns. Previously, pet owners had limited options for pet burials, often leading to improper disposal.

The new facility provides an eco-friendly alternative, reducing the ecological impact. The pet crematorium is expected to bring relief to animal lovers in Jamshedpur, setting an example for other cities to adopt similar humane and sustainable initiatives.

SDO cracks down on malpractices at matric exam centres

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 28: In a bid to ensure a peaceful and malpractice-free conduct of the annual secondary and intermediate examinations organized by the Jharkhand Academic Council (JAC), Sub-divisional Officer (SDO) of Dhalbhum, Shatabdi Majumdar, conducted a surprise inspection of Matric Board Examination Centres in the Jamshedpur urban area. During the inspection, she assessed the law and order situation and issued necessary guidelines to ensure a transparent and fair examination process.

This initiative is part of a series of inspections being conducted by the SDO, LRDCC, Block Development Officers (BDO), and Circle Officers (CO) across various examination centers. The District Magistrate cum Deputy Commissioner has directed all officials to remain vigilant, conduct surprise inspections, and ensure the smooth and successful completion of the examinations.

During her visit, SDO Shatabdi Majumdar emphasized strict adherence to examination protocols. She instructed teachers that no more than two students should be seated on a single bench, ensuring adequate spacing to prevent any unfair practices. She also reiterated that mobile phones, smartwatches, headphones, and other banned electronic devices are strictly prohibited inside the examination hall. To maintain the integrity of the examination process, the SDO instructed the deployed police force to carry out thorough checks on students in both the first and second shifts before allowing them into the examination hall. This precautionary measure aims to eliminate any scope for malpractice and uphold the sanctity of the examination. (w/pb)

Scooter rider dies in road accident, friend critical

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 28: A road accident claimed the life of 22-year-old Aniket Singh, a resident of Birsanagar Zone No. 2, on Thursday night. His friend, Akshit's brother Anurag, who was riding pillion, sustained severe injuries. According to police sources, Aniket and Anurag were returning from Peepla on NH-33 when their scooty collided with a parked trailer near Gurma, under MGM police station limits.

Aniket was immediately rushed to MGM Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries. His father, Praful Kumar Singh, shared his grief, stating, "He was pursuing B.Tech from Galudih after completing his diploma from Al-Kabir and had come home on vacation. He had just told us he was visiting a friend."

The police have conducted a post-mortem and handed over the body to the grieving family. (w/nkm)

Night temperature to rise gradually, says IMD forecast

Jamshedpur, Feb 28: The night temperature is set to rise gradually over the next few days, according to a forecast issued by the Ranchi Meteorological Centre of the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The prediction comes as Jharkhand transitions from winter to warmer days, impacting both minimum and maximum temperatures. The IMD's forecast also suggests that a few isolated places in northern Jharkhand are likely to experience light rain today and tomorrow. A duty officer at the Ranchi Meteorological Centre explained, "The weather is in a transition phase due to the departing winter. The maximum temperature would also witness a gradual rise." Currently, no significant synoptic system prevails over Jharkhand. However, an induced cyclonic circulation is present over northwest Rajasthan at an altitude of 1.5 km above mean sea level. This system is influencing the weather pattern, contributing to the gradual increase in temperatures across the state. Statistics from the Ranchi Met Centre reveal a rising trend in minimum temperatures in most parts of Jharkhand. In Jamshedpur and its surrounding areas, the minimum temperature has already touched 18-19 degrees Celsius. Meanwhile, in Chatra, the minimum temperature was recorded at around 11 degrees Celsius, the lowest in the state. Meteorologists attribute the changing weather pattern to the retreat of winter and the onset of warmer conditions. They expect temperatures to rise further as the season progresses. Residents are advised to prepare for warmer nights and fluctuating weather conditions in the coming days. With the winter season drawing to a close, Jharkhand is set to experience a transition in its weather pattern, marked by a steady increase in both day and night temperatures. (w/pb)

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

E-Tender Notice No. RSO-RR-MOU-25-27-6. For & On behalf of President of India, Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical), Chakradharpur, S.E. Railway invites E-Tenders in **"Two Packet System"** (Packet-1 : Technical Bid and Packet-II : Financial Bid) for the under mentioned work. Manual offers are not allowed against the tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of work:** Upkeeping of Running Room at Manoharpur (MOU) for 730 days. **Tender Value :** ₹ 77,20,668.80. **E.M.D :** ₹ 1,54,400/-. **Cost of tender form:** ₹ 5,000/-. **Place of opening of e-tender:** Office of the Sr. DEE(OP)/CKP, S.E. Railway. **Date and time of closing of tender :** 15:00 hrs. of 20.03.2025. **Date and time of opening of tender :** 15:30 hrs. of 20.03.2025. Tender can be viewed at website **http://www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderer/bidder must have Class-III digital signature certificate & must be registered under IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering. **(PR-1190)**

186th Founder's Day: Lighting display at Jubilee Park from March 3 to 5

Vehicles to be allowed inside from 10 pm to 11 pm

186th birth anniversary of Founder J N Tata

5 parks & 26 roundabouts across Jsr to be illuminated

Theme: 'Leadership in Market, Technology and Cost'

Tata Sons Chairman to pay homage

Jamshedpur, February 28: Jamshedpur is gearing up to celebrate the 186th birth anniversary of JamsetjiNusserwanji Tata, the visionary founder of Tata Steel and Jamshedpur, on March 3, 2025.

Final preparations are underway, with a focus on commemorating Founder's Day on the theme 'Leadership in Market, Technology and Cost'.

The celebrations will feature the illumination of over 40 significant sites across Jamshedpur, including heritage buildings, parks, and roundabouts. The use of colourful lights as a key part of the celebrations will be a welcome reminder to citizens and visitors of the beauty of the city, this information was jointly provided in a press meet at CFE on Friday by Tata Steel Vice President (Corporate Services) Chanakya Chaudhary, Tata Steel UISL MD RiturajSinha, and GM RK Singh.

They informed that various activities are planned for Founder's Day 2025, including homage programmes at Jubilee Park, Jamshedpur Works and Postal Park, sports events. RK Singh said that Jubilee Park's mesmerizing lighting display will be accessible to the public from March 3 to March 5. Spectators can enjoy the illuminated scenery from 5 pm to 10 pm. Additionally, from 10 pm to 11 pm, the captivating lighting can be experienced through vehicles, providing a unique viewing opportunity for visitors. Laser Show will be operational from March 3-5 at Jubilee Park.

Along with Jubilee Park four other parks including Dorabji Tata Park, Postal Park, BirsaMunda Park, and Centenary Park (Tinplate) have also been illuminated, Singh added.

Rangoli to pay tribute to Ratan Tata

Ritu Raj Sinha informed that Rangoli will be designed opposite JN Tata statue to pay tribute to former Tata Sons chairman Ratan Tata who passed away on October 9, 2024.

ChanakyaChaudhary, Vice President, Corporate Services, Tata Steel informed that on the occasion of Founders day city will get several new facilities including Stroke unit and spine clinic at TMH which will open on March 4 while MTMH upgraded hospital will get OT.

New Prem Jyoti Prangan School: Prem Jyoti Prangan School beside BSNL Office, Phalgu Road, Northern Town, will be inaugurated with Modern Infrastructure by East Singhbhum DC Ananya Mittal on March 1. Chanakya Chaudhary and RuchiNarendran, Managing Trustee JEM Foundation will also be present.



Drive through Town Illumination

- From Lady Gandhi Roundabout to CH Area roundabout via RMCE - 1.1 Kms
- CH Area to Airport Roundabout - 0.8 Kms
- KS Link Road - 1 Kms
- Rankini Mandir Roundabout to Flatlet - 0.5 Kms
- Bistupur Postal Park Roundabout to CH Area Roundabout - 1.3 Kms
- Tata Steel UISL Roundabout to Baug E Jamshed - 1.3 Kms
- Baug e Jamshed to Jubilee Park Sakchi Gate - 0.6 Kms
- Agrico Roundabout to Sidhgora Petrol Pump 1 Kms
- Tinplate kali Mandir Roundabout to Tinplate Material Gate 1 Kms

Pedestrian's Entry (3rd to 5th March 2025)

- Illumination Timings 5 PM to 10 PM
- Entry from : i) Sakchi Gate ii) CFE Gate iii) Nicco Park Gate
- Exit From : i) Sakchi Gate ii) CFE Gate iii) Parsee Gate
- Vehicular Movement- (3rd to 5th March 2025)
- Timings : 10 PM to 11 PM
- Viewing Route: Entry (CFE Gate) ' Lake Area Turning 'Sakchi Gate 'Nicco Park Gate ' Parsee Gate ' Statue Area ' Exit (CFE Gate)

Parking Areas outside Jubilee Park

- In front of Sacred Heart Convent School
- Near Sakchi Gate (Designated Parking Area)
- Bodhi Ground near RajendraVidyalaya
- Armoury Ground

Tata Steel Foundation has funded the construction of a new building for PremJyotiPrangan School, offering a modern and sustainable learning environment.

Pet Crematorium: Chaudhary further said that pet crematorium will be inaugurated near Kennel Club in Jubilee Park on March 1.

Pet Crematorium will be inaugurated by ChanakyaChaudhary, Vice President, Corporate Services, Tata Steel in presence of RuchiNarendran.

Jubilee Park: Chanakya Chaudhary said that N Chandrasekaran, Chairman, Tata Sons will pay homage to the Founder on March 2, 2025 at Jubilee Park by N Chandrasekaran, Chairman, Tata Sons on March 2, 2025. Chairman will also switch on the illumination inside the Jubilee Park on March 2. He will also pay homage to founder inside Tata Steel Jamshedpur Works on March 3, 2025 and at Postal Park, Bistupur on March 3. The Founder`s Day celebrations at Jamshedpur Works will also be live streamed for employees.

Postal Park: Chairman Tata Sons to pay homage to the Founder at Bistupur Postal Park on March 3. Pageantry parade by the social organisations which has been a regular affair during Founder's Day has been discontinued this year, informed ChanakyaChaudhary.

Security arrangements strengthened for public safety : RK Singh informed that a security helpdesk has been set up with ambulances stationed at the Statue Area and Lake Turn for medical assistance. Watchtowers and help desks are placed at key locations, with public address systems for lost and found coordination. Around 200 police officials and 150 security volunteers will manage pedestrian movement, supported by CCTV surveillance and metal detectors.

Founder's Day Sports : Founder's Day Sports 2025 is scheduled this year for two days on March 2 & 3 at the JRD Tata Sports Complex between 8am-5pm. (W-mb)

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Tender Notice No.: e-Tender/GSU/2025/02 For and on behalf of President of India, the Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti, South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-Tender for the following works **before 15.00 hrs.** on the date mentioned against items and will be **opened at 15.30 hrs.: Sl. No.; Tender No.; Description of work; Tender Value; Earnest Money : (1); E-KGP-GS-03-2025**; Kharagpur-Bhadrak : Provision of safety fencing from KM 115.40 to KM 287.20 on route B with speed 130 kmph and above Under CPM/GSU/KGP in Kharagpur Division ; **₹142,14,84,041.11**; ₹72,57,400.00 **(2); E-KGP-GS-04-2025**; Howrah to Duan & Balichak-Rakhamines : Provision of safety fencing from KM 0 to KM 233.40 on route A with speed 130kmph and above under CPM/GUS/KGP in Kharagpur Division; **₹177,20,64,194.03**; ₹90,10,300.00. **Tender Document Cost** : ₹0.00 (for Sl. 1 & 2) ; **Date of opening :** 16/04/2025 (for Sl. 1 & 2) ; **Completion period of the work :** 12 Months (for Sl. 1 & 2). **Bidding Start Date :** from **02.04.2025** and up to **15:00 hrs.** on **16.04.2025**. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/descriptions/specifications of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all tenders. **(PR-1195)**

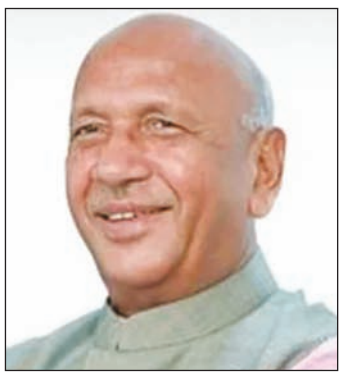
Sr. Project Manager (GS)/GSU/Chakradharpur acting for and on behalf of President of India invites e-Tenders against Open Tender **: Sl. No.** : 1; **Tender No. : CKP-GSU-Fencing-24-25-01**; **Name of Work :** Provision of safety fencing along the track by Metal Beam Crash Barriers, fixed Knots fencing Bezinal-2000, Pre-stressed Concrete and by brick work with RCC column from Km. 233.880 to 515.117 (281.237 Tr. Km.) between Asanbani-Jharsuguda Station. ; **Tender Value : ₹202,94,87,150.07**; **EMD :** ₹1,00,00,000 ; **Cost of Tender form :** ₹0.00 ; **Date of opening :** 04.04.2025. The tenderer /bidders must have class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered under on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/ bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. The tender can be viewed at website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**. **NOTE** : e-Tender forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (Authority-Rly. Bd's letter No. 2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/Policy dtd.16.07.2020). **(PR-1196)**

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Cable Town residents to get Tata Steel power after court verdict

HC verdict supports Roy's stand on electricity issue, Tata Land department officials accept court ruling





Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 28: In a significant ruling, the Jharkhand High Court has paved the way for residents of Cable Town and Cable Basti to receive electricity connections from Tata Steel UISL (TSUISL).

The verdict, delivered on Friday, instructed residents to apply for power connections individually, reinforcing the long-standing stance of Jamshedpur West MLA Saryu Roy. This decision has provided much-needed relief to the residents, who have been struggling to secure legitimate power supply due to administrative roadblocks. Expressing his satisfaction with the ruling, Roy stated that for the last three years, he had been advocating that Tata Steel had no difficulty in providing electricity connections to Cable Town and Cable Basti. However, instead of acknowledging this, officials continuously demanded a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the resolution professional of the bankrupt Cable Company, a document that was neither issued nor likely to be issued in the future. The High Court's verdict has now validated his assertions, leaving Tata Steel with no option but to provide electricity connections to the residents. Following the court's decision, senior officials from Tata Steel's Land Department confirmed their acceptance of the ruling and assured Rai that they would soon initiate the process of providing electricity connections.

They are currently awaiting the certified copy of the High Court's order, which is expected to be uploaded on the court's website within the next couple of days. Once received, Tata Steel will proceed with the necessary steps to facilitate power supply to the residents. Congratulating the residents of Cable Town and Cable Basti, Roy expressed his joy, stating that their long-awaited demand had finally been met. He acknowledged the patience and perseverance shown by the residents throughout this prolonged struggle.

He also recalled that three years ago, through his efforts, every household in the Cable area had successfully received drinking water connections from Tata Steel. With the electricity issue now resolved, he emphasized that justice had been served. Additionally, he extended his gratitude to Tata Steel management and the writ petitioner for their contributions in achieving this milestone. (w/nkm)

HC verdict a big relief for Cable Town: Srivastava

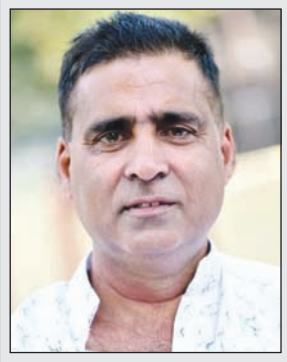


Jamshedpur, Feb 28: Janata Dal (United) East Singhbhum District President Subodh Srivastava welcomed the recent High Court decision directing Tata Steel to provide individual electricity connections to every house in Golmuri Cable Town and Cable Basti of Jamshedpur. According to Srivastava, the verdict follows a writ petition filed under the guidance of MLA Saryu Roy, aimed at resolving a long-standing electricity supply issue faced by the residents. "This decision will benefit all residents of Cable Town and finally resolve a very old and complex problem," he stated.Residents had been demanding individual electricity connections for years. Despite repeated appeals by MLA Saryu Roy, Tata Steel maintained that it required a no-objection certificate from the bankruptcy resolution professional to proceed. However, with the High Court's decision, the company is now obligated to provide connections to all houses. The ruling is seen as a major relief for Cable Town residents, who have been struggling with electricity issues for a long time. (w/nkm)



"The verdict of the High Court is the result of our long-fought battle. We worked as a team and this has led to our victory. The initiative was taken by the petitioner Vinod Singh a few years back, we backed him as a team and this made all the difference. The decision has been in our favour. We are relieved today. We are confident that the availability of electricity will pave the way for overall development and improve living standards in Cable Town and Cable Basti. We had demanded individual power connections for the residents so that the consumers could get the direct benefits. We are hopeful that the decision will pave the way for better tomorrow". - ***Shiv Shankar Singh***

"This is a victory for the residents who have been waiting for a basic necessity like electricity. It is good to see justice delivered, ensuring that people's rights are safeguarded. The residents of Cable Town and Cable Basti have shown immense patience throughout this long battle. This verdict will significantly improve their quality of life, enabling better educational and economic opportunities. We hope Tata Steel UISL will expedite the connection process without further delays. Access to electricity is fundamental for development. This step will not only brighten homes but also empower the community. I appreciate the High Court's decision and Tata Steel UISL's willingness to comply. It's a great example of justice and corporate responsibility working hand in hand" - ***R Swaroop***



Terror suspect case: All accused acquitted after nine years

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 28: The court of ADJ-1 Vimlesh Kumar Sahay on Friday delivered its verdict in the case of terror suspects linked to Al-Qaeda in Jamshedpur, acquitting all the accused due to lack of evidence. The three main accused in the case were Maulana Kalimuddin Mujahid of Mango, Mohammad Abdul Rehman Ali Khan alias Maulana Mansoor of Cuttack (Odisha) and Abdul Shami of Dhatkidih.

The case dates back to 2016, when an FIR was registered based on the complaint of then Bistupur police station in-charge Jitendra Singh. Acting on information from the Delhi Special Team, the police interrogated Ahmed Masood Akram Sheikh, a resident of Dhatkidih. During a second round of questioning on January 25, 2016, Masood admitted to being associated with the terrorist organization. Masood disclosed that his first meeting with the group occurred in 2003 in Sakchi, where he met Abdul Rehman alias Katki, who had undergone jihadi training in Saudi Arabia. He further revealed that Raju alias Naseem Akhtar, a resident of Mango, had provided him with weapons and the police later recovered a loaded pistol from Masood's house.Investigations also suggested that Kalimuddin's house served as the organization's base, from where youth were recruited into the terrorist group. Masood also claimed that Abdul Shami, a resident of Dhatkidih, had undergone terrorist training in Pakistan. A total of 16 witnesses testified in the case.Despite significant allegations, the court acquitted all the accused due to insufficient evidence. However, the case remains an important reference for security agencies, as it provided crucial insights into terror networks and recruitment strategies. (w/nkm)

High Court rejects pleas in graduate-level teacher exam case

Ranchi, Feb 28: The Jharkhand High Court has dismissed 10 petitions challenging the graduate-level teacher recruitment process. The decision was delivered by a division bench of Justice S. Chandrashekhar and Justice Ratnakar Bhengra.

Petitioners alleged irregularities in the examination and demanded a re-evaluation and a new merit list. However, the court found no substantial evidence of misconduct.

"The recruitment process will proceed without interruption," the court stated. With this decision, the path for teacher appointments in Jharkhand has been cleared. (w/nkm)

Centre urges Jharkhand to amend laws to curb illegal mining



Mail News Service

Ranchi, Feb 28: The Central Government has raised concerns over rising illegal mining in Jharkhand and has advised the state to align its mining policy with central guidelines. The Union Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change presented these recommendations in an affidavit filed with the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

The affidavit stated that the Special Evaluation Committee (EAC), based on an earlier NGT directive, reviewed illegal mining cases in Jharkhand. It found significant gaps in the affidavits submitted by the state government and the Jharkhand Pollution Control Board, recommending necessary changes. The ministry emphasized that Jharkhand must revise its sand mining policy according to the Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines (SSMG), 2016 and the Sand Mining Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines (EMGSM), 2020.

To curb illegal mining, the Centre suggested that Jharkhand implement an IT and GIS-enabled monitoring system under SSMG 2016. This would include RFID tags and GPS tracking for mineral and sand transport trucks, along with weighbridges equipped with CCTV at stockyards. Additionally, it called for installing CCTV cameras at checkpoints near major consumption centres to verify transport permits.

Furthermore, the process of preparing district survey reports for minerals beyond gravel should comply with the guidelines issued by the Central Ministry in July 2018. The Centre also recommended amendments to the Jharkhand Mining Policy 2017, in line with notifications issued by the Central Government in 2017 and beyond. (w/nkm)

Sahiya workers to promote family planning door-to-door

Jamshedpur, Feb 28: In East Singhbhum, Sahiya workers will now visit households to raise awareness about family planning among women and their families. Awareness campaigns and camps are being organized in all blocks through community health centres, with a strong push to intensify efforts until March.

Although sterilization and other family planning procedures are conducted regularly, officials are aiming to increase participation.

Special camps will be held to reach more people and community health centre in-charges will visit panchayats to promote the initiative.

The program primarily targets families with two children, offering multiple contraceptive options, including female sterilization, no-scalpel vasectomy (NSV) for men, contraceptive pills, condoms, Antara injections and other medications.

Family Planning Counseling Centres are also playing an active role in educating the public. In Patamda block alone, around 120 sterilization procedures were conducted in three days.

To encourage participation, financial incentives are provided to women who undergo sterilization, as well as to Sahiya workers assisting in the campaign. Patamda CHC in-charge Christopher Besra confirmed that efforts are progressing rapidly and will be further accelerated in the coming weeks. (w/nkm)

Garbage collection delays in Jamshedpur: Protest threat if issues persist

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 28: Growing frustration over inadequate garbage collection and poor sanitation services has prompted residents in several areas under the Jamshedpur Notified Area Committee (JNAC) to demand immediate corrective action.

Complaints about clogged drains, uncollected waste and malfunctioning streetlights have been mounting, leading to an ultimatum issued by local representatives. A delegation led by public facilities representative Mukul Mishra met with the Deputy Municipal Commissioner of JNAC on Friday, presenting a detailed memorandum outlining the critical problems faced by residents in Sonari, Kadma and Bistupur.

The memorandum highlighted several key issues, including cleaning contractors failing to deploy the required number of workers as per tender agreements, drains in non-company areas getting blocked due to excessive waste accumulation and delayed garbage collection leading to piles of trash emitting foul odors.

It also pointed out that household waste collection was highly irregular, with officials frequently citing vehicle breakdowns as an excuse. Additionally, the absence of JCBs and tractors to remove garbage from major intersections has resulted in unhygienic conditions across various locations.

The delegation made it clear that if authorities fail to take corrective action by March 6, they, along with affected citizens, will stage a protest at the JNAC gate on March 7.

They emphasized that residents are growing increasingly frustrated with the indifferent attitude of officials responsible for sanitation and waste management. If timely measures are not implemented, public dissatisfaction will escalate into a large-scale demonstration.

Responding to the concerns raised by the delegation, the Deputy Municipal Commissioner assured that the expired contracts for cleaning services would be renewed soon. He acknowledged the severity of the issue and reaffirmed that sanitation and waste management were priorities for the administration. Steps would be taken to ensure that cleaning and garbage collection efforts are resumed efficiently.

Residents are now closely monitoring the situation, expecting tangible improvements before the March 6 deadline. If their demands remain unmet, they are prepared to proceed with their planned protest to ensure their grievances are heard and addressed.

Among those present in the delegation were Dharmendra Prasad, Neeraj Singh, Sunny Singh, Vivek Pandey, Pintu Singh, Santosh Bhagat, Pradeep Singh and Atul Singh Uttam Kumar. Their collective stand underscores the urgency of the matter and the need for immediate government intervention to restore sanitation services in affected areas. (w/nkm)

13 including woman arrested with Rs 15 lakh worth of brown sugar

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 28: The Jugsalai police in a major crackdown on drug trafficking, have busted a brown sugar smuggling racket and arrested 13 people, including a woman. The arrested individuals were caught with 150 grams of brown sugar worth Rs 15 lakh, along with eight mobile phones, Rs 7,920 in cash and other materials.

Addressing a press conference, City SP Kumar Shivashish identified Abdul Hamid (27) as the kingpin of the operation. Hamid, a resident of Baliguma Kamalpur in Seraikela-Kharsawan, allegedly sourced the brown sugar from Odisha and Adityapur before distributing it in Jugsalai and other parts of Jamshedpur.

Other arrested members include Mohd Zakir, Sajjad Khan alias Aman, Sheikh Afridi alias Khadbad, Arif Khan alias Peelat, Mohd Javed, Mohd Altaf, Mohd Chad, Mohd Arwaz alias Rohit, Nagma Khatun, Mohd Amir Gaddi, Amrit Gudiya and Sawan Das.

They were apprehended near Kharkai River, Parvati Ghat, while preparing packets for sale. The police also revealed that three of the accused were involved in a recent firing incident in Jugsalai.

"All of them have been sent to judicial custody and further investigations are underway," confirmed SP Kumar Shivashish. (w/nkm)

102 shopkeepers face eviction in Mango

Jamshedpur, Feb 28: The threat of eviction looms over 102 shopkeepers near Mango Haat as authorities prepare to take action against illegal encroachments. Most of these shopkeepers lack proper documentation and demarcation of the area has been completed. A report on the illegal settlements is expected soon, after which encroachment notices will be issued.

Following the establishment of Mango Haat, this is the first time a formal land measurement has been conducted. The land was originally allotted to 52 vendors for selling agricultural produce. However, over time, 94 additional vendors set up shops, bringing the total to 146. Despite this, the latest count now reveals 248 shopkeepers operating in the area. Market committee officials believe only 20-30% of shopkeepers possess valid allotment papers. Many original allottees sold their shops multiple times, making it difficult for current shopkeepers to prove legal ownership. The authorities will issue notices asking shopkeepers to submit their documents. Those unable to provide proof will be deemed encroachers and face eviction. The Marketing Secretary plans to seek assistance from the Mango Zonal Officer to carry out the eviction drive. Despite past notices, many shopkeepers have failed to submit documents, leaving their claims in doubt. However, the market committee remains open to verifying legitimate claims if proper documents are provided. (w/nkm)

Traffic jams loom as flyover and pipeline work progress in Mango

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 28: Commuters in Mango should brace for traffic congestion in the coming days as construction work on Dimna Road will restrict vehicle movement to a single lane near Sona Store. Vehicles travelling in both directions will have to share the lane from Dimna to Mango, causing potential traffic snarls.

Additionally, the small bridge in Mango was closed on Thursday evening for the laying of a new pipeline.

The pipeline, part of the ongoing Mango-Sakchi flyover construction, will run alongside an existing one from Dimna Lake to the Sakchi Water Treatment Plant.

Jusco has completed preparations for the project and is awaiting final approval.



Deepak Sahay, Executive Engineer, Road Construction Department, stated, "Due to the pipeline work, vehicles will ply only on the Dimna-Mango lane for a few days."

High-tension wire to be laid underground : Another significant development in the flyover project involves relocating a 1.33 lakh volt high-tension wire underground near Hathighodha Temple.

The wire currently crosses the river above the construction site but is positioned too low for safety. Special materials for this work are being imported.



Special diamond cutters ordered for river pillars : While multiple pillars for the flyover are being erected in the Swarnarekha River, work on three of them has been delayed due to the presence of hard granite-like rock. To tackle this, the contracting company, Dinesh Chandra R Agarwal, has sourced specialized diamond cutters from abroad.

Authorities expect increased congestion on Dimna Road once work commences. The final traffic diversion plan is pending approval from the Deputy Commissioner and is likely to be implemented by the weekend. (w/nkm)

Jamshedpur Workers College celebrates National Science Day

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 28: National Science Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Jamshedpur Workers College, marking the conclusion of a week-long science festival. The event honored the remarkable contribution of Indian physicist Sir C.V. Raman and his discovery of the Raman Effect.

The celebrations began on February 22 with an awareness campaign, where students were introduced to various scientific concepts. As part of this initiative, essay and speech competitions were organized, allowing students to showcase their writing and presentation skills.

The event also featured theme-based essay, poster and oral presentation competitions, designed to assess and enhance students' communication abilities.

A key highlight of the festival was the scientific model of an



alternative irrigation system, developed by students from the Physics Department.

This innovative model, based on a turbo jet engine and solar energy system, aimed to promote sustainable agricultural practices and sparked immense interest among students in environmental science and technology.

On the final day of the event, Principal Dr. Satyapriya Mahalik delivered an insightful address, explaining the myths of superstition and witchcraft through the lens of science. His speech was widely appreciated for its informative and rational approach in dispelling age-old misconceptions.

Adding a creative touch to the event, students from the Geography and Chemistry departments staged a mime performance depicting the progress of science. The act, successfully directed by Professor Dr. Surabhi Sinha, captivated the audience and effectively conveyed the evolution of scientific advancements.

The event also saw active participation from Dr. Vajda and Dr. Sangeeta, Heads of the Department of Psychology, who engaged students with interactive sessions and discussions. Their contributions added depth to the program, ensuring a holistic learning experience for all attendees.

To conclude the event, IQAC Coordinator Professor Priyanka Pradhan delivered the vote of thanks, encouraging students to take part in scientific activities and contribute to global progress.

The week-long celebration not only highlighted the ideals of global science but also inspired students to work for the betterment of society. (w/nkm)

Special session on 'Prosperous and Great India @ 2047' at Srinath University



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 28: Srinath University hosted a special session on 'Prosperous and Great India @ 2047', where academicians, entrepreneurs and senior office bearers of Swadeshi Jagran Manch shared their vision for a self-reliant and empowered India by 2047.

The chief guest, Satish Ji, All India Co-Organizer of Swadeshi Jagran Manch, emphasized the importance of economic self-sufficiency, urging youth to focus on entrepreneurship instead of seeking jobs.

Other speakers, including Amarendra Ji, Ajay Upadhyay Ji, Manoj Kumar Singh Ji (KVIC) and Bande Shankar Singh Ji, highlighted the need for promoting innovation and indigenous products.

Addressing the gathering, Chancellor of Srinath University, Sukhdev Mahato Ji, underscored the importance of linking education with self-reliance and encouraged students to adopt innovation and hard work as core principles. The event inspired students to contribute towards building a strong, independent and prosperous India in the coming decades.

Tata displaced people take demands to Governor



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 28: A delegation of displaced families from Tata Company met Jharkhand Governor Santosh Gangwar at Raj Bhavan in Ranchi, demanding rehabilitation, compensation, jobs, land return and the cancellation of the 1996 survey Khatian.

The delegation, including Harmohan Mahato, Deepak Ranjit, Ashok Gaur, Gaur Hembram, Abod Singh Sardar and others, expressed frustration over land being occupied by outsiders while displaced families continue to suffer. "We have been fighting for our rights for years but have received no justice," said Ramchandra Mahato, one of the displaced persons.

Governor Gangwar assured them of government intervention and promised discussions with State Land Reform Minister Deepak Birua. The displaced families remain hopeful for a swift resolution. (w/nkm)

DC to inaugurate new Prem Jyoti Prangan School today

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 28: PremJyotiPrangan School beside BSNL Office, Phalgu Road, Northern Town, will be inaugurated with modern infrastructure by East Singhbhum DC Ananya Mittal on March 1. ChanakyaChaudhary and RuchiNarendran, Managing Trustee JEM Foundation will also be present.

Tata Steel Foundation has funded the construction of a new building for PremJyotiPrangan School, offering a modern and sustainable learning environment, informed ChanakyaChaudhary, Vice President, Corporate Services, Tata Steel.

Birsanagar: Young man commits suicide

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 28: A 29-year-old man, Avinash Kumar Singh, allegedly took his own life by hanging himself at his residence in Birsanagar Zone No. 1B on Thursday night. According to family members, Avinash had been suffering from depression for several years. His condition reportedly worsened after losing his father ten days ago. His younger brother, who had gone out for wedding videography, found Avinash hanging from the terrace when he returned home at 4 AM. The family rushed him to MGM Hospital, but doctors declared him dead. Avinash had completed a diploma from Ranchi and was working in Adityapur. His treatment for depression was ongoing in Ranchi. His marriage was under discussion in the family, but he was reportedly struggling with mental health issues since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The police have sent the body for post-mortem and further investigations are ongoing. (w/nkm)

Bharat found guilty in robbery-murder case, Rajesh acquitted

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 28: The ADJ-4 Court of Anand Mani Tripathi has declared Bharat guilty in a 2014 robbery and murder case, while another accused, Rajesh Mishra, was acquitted due to lack of evidence. A third accused remains absconding. The court is set to announce Bharat's sentence on March 1.

The case dates back to June 23, 2014, when an FIR was lodged at Sitaramdera police station based on the statement of Mrityunjay Kumar Singh. According to the complaint, Mrityunjay and his uncle Sudama Singh had arrived in Jamshedpur from Aurangabad by bus. Early in the morning, they got off at the Mango bus stand and went to a nearby riverbank.

As they were returning, an unidentified youth confronted them at knife point, demanding valuables. The attacker snatched Rs 3,000 cash, a mobile phone and a driving license from Sudama Singh. When Sudama attempted to resist and retrieve his belongings, the assailant stabbed him 7–8 times, fatally wounding him. The accused and his accomplices then fled the scene.

During the Test Identification Parade (TIP), the attacker was identified as Bharat Bhaiya, leading to his conviction. Eight witnesses testified in the case, strengthening the prosecution's argument.

With one accused still on the run, the court proceedings will continue, determining the final sentence for Bharat in the coming days. (w/nkm)

Street Play 'Swachhta Hai Jaruri' promotes cleanliness awareness

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 28: In a bid to promote cleanliness and hygiene awareness, the artists of Geeta Theatre staged a compelling street play titled 'Swachhta Hai Jaruri' at Jai Prakash Madhya Uchcha Vidyalaya, Mango Shankosai. The initiative was organized for Cube Adityapur Waste Management Private Limited as part of the cleanliness survey awareness drive.

The street play emphasized that cleanliness is often misunderstood as merely removing garbage from sight, while in reality, uncollected waste continues to affect health and hygiene. The performance illustrated the impact of poor sanitation on towns and individuals, urging citizens to dispose of garbage properly. The actors encouraged residents to use the door-to-door garbage collection vehicles and to maintain two



separate green and blue dustbins at home to facilitate the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (RRR) waste management approach.

Following the performance, officials from Cube Adityapur Waste Management and Mango Municipal Corporation conducted a quiz based on the play's key messages. Students who provided correct answers were rewarded.

The campaign extended beyond Mango as the street play was later performed in Kapali, Adityapur and Jugsalai, where community members took a collective cleanliness oath and participated in awareness activities.

The play featured performances by Anand Sardar, Adarsh Yadav, Pradeep Ram and Shreya Chhetri, while Geeta Kumari and Prem Dixit played key roles in making the event engaging and impactful. (w/nkm)

Five cleared in Bagbera molestation case

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 28: The Special POCSO Court, presided over by Judge Sirish Dutt Tripathi, acquitted five individuals on Friday in a case involving the alleged molestation of a minor and an attack on her family.

The accused—Suraj Mandal, Anil Mandal, Usha Devi, Laxmi Devi and Ashwin Mandal—were freed due to insufficient evidence.

The incident, which occurred on September 26, 2022, led the minor's father to file an FIR at Bagbera police station.

The complaint stated that his daughter was frequently harassed and molested by Suraj Mandal on her way to school.

When the family confronted Suraj's relatives about the matter, they allegedly retaliated on October 10, 2022, by storming the family's home with some women, verbally abusing them and physically assaulting them.

Defense advocate Om Prakash argued on behalf of the accused and the court found that the evidence presented did not prove the allegations beyond a reasonable doubt. Consequently, all five accused were acquitted. (w/nkm)

DC holds review meeting on mid-day meal program

Seraikela, Feb 28: A review meeting on the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) program was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Ravi Shankar Shukla. The meeting, conducted via video conferencing, was attended by Deputy Development Commissioner Ashish Agarwal, Additional Deputy Commissioner Jaivardhan Kumar, District Education Officer Kailash Mishra and other officials.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Shukla emphasized the importance of timely fund allocation for the mid-day meal program to ensure smooth operations in schools. He instructed officials to ensure that the allocated funds are transferred to schools without delay.

Additionally, officials were directed to provide a detailed expenditure report for PM Nutrition and MDM funds utilized in the current financial year. The review aimed at improving efficiency and transparency in the implementation of the scheme to benefit schoolchildren across the district. (w/nkm)

Geeta Theatre stages "Nasha Kare Nash" to raise awareness on drug abuse

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 28: A powerful street play titled "Nasha Kare Nash" was staged at Michael John Auditorium, Bistupur, during the Role of Youth in Disaster seminar organized by Civil Defence Jamshedpur.

The play, performed by Geeta Theatre, highlighted the dangers of drug addiction and its devastating effects on individuals and society. Speaking about the initiative, Prem Dixit, Secretary of Geeta Theatre, stated, "Geeta Theatre has been working alongside Civil Defence Jamshedpur in the anti-drug campaign. Our artists have performed this play in various parts of the city, including Uliidih in Mango and Oraon Basti in Sitaramdera."

The anti-drug awareness campaign was initiated under the guidance of former Deputy Commissioner and Dhalbhum Sub-Divisional Officer Piyush Singh. Since its inception in 2021, the play has been staged over 50 times, with actors including Geeta Kumari, Prem Dixit, social media influencer Tushar Karan, K Divya, Abhiranjan, Annat Sardar, Shreya Chhetri, Pradeep Ram and Adarsh Yadav. Written by Geeta Kumari, the play continues to be performed without remuneration, driven by the spirit of social service.

In recognition of their commitment, the entire Geeta Theatre team was honored by Civil Defence Jamshedpur for their voluntary contributions in spreading public awareness about drug addiction. (w/nkm)

Gram pradhans gain insights from exposure visit

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 28: Under the Gram Sashaktikaran Project by Youth Unity for Voluntary Action (YUVA), an exposure visit was organized for Gram Pradhans and Gram Sabha leaders from Tentla, Narada and Tangrain Panchayats. The initiative aimed to strengthen self-governance and promote democratic values.

The participants visited Madi Darmi Toli in Panchayat Dari, Lapung Block, where they attended a Gram Sabha meeting in collaboration with Karra Society. Discussions focused on enhancing community participation and implementing development projects at the Panchayat level.

Leaders shared their village achievements and challenges, exchanging knowledge about innovative rural development models. Inspired by the success stories, they resolved to implement effective governance strategies in their villages.

"This visit has given us practical knowledge on strengthening our Gram Sabhas," said a participant. The event was coordinated by Jaiprakash Sahu, Sikandar, Khelram Mahali, Shivram and Yudhishthir Gope. (w/nkm)

Dashrath Pradhan elected district president of Journalist Welfare Association

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Feb 28: The Saraikela-Kharsawan district unit of the All India Small and Medium Journalist Welfare Association (AISMJWA) elected its new office bearers during a meeting held at Saraikela Parishad on Friday. The election was conducted in the presence of the association's central general secretary Pritam Singh Bhatia, Jharkhand co-incharge Shankar Gupta and state spokesperson Arun Majhi. Dashrath Pradhan was unanimously elected as the district president, while Suman Modak was appointed acting district president and Santosh Sahu was chosen as the district general secretary. The program was conducted by Sanjay Mishra.

Addressing the gathering, Pritam Singh Bhatia emphasized the need for unity among journalists. "The association is committed to protecting journalists' rights. The Jharkhand government is providing insurance to government and non-government workers, but journalists remain excluded despite repeated demands. We must unite and raise our voices for our rights," he said.

Jharkhand-Bihar co-incharge Shankar Gupta assured that the newly elected team would work towards strengthening the association and standing firmly in the interest of journalists. State spokesperson Arun Majhi also highlighted the challenges faced by journalists today and urged young reporters to come forward with enthusiasm and determination.

The meeting saw the participation of various senior journalists, including Kolhan incharge Ajay Mahato, former district president Golak Bihari, Funny Bhushan Tudu and others. (w/nkm)

Eight family members acquitted in Mango Assault Case

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 28: The court of Additional District Judge-4 Anand Mani Tripathi acquitted eight members of the same family on Friday due to lack of evidence in a case related to an assault over a land dispute in Mango Dhobi Line Daiguttu. The case, which dates back to the morning of February 11, 2017, involved a conflict between neighbors over house construction.

Two witnesses testified in court, but their statements were insufficient to establish guilt. As a result, the court acquitted the accused—Shambhu Karmakar, Krishna Karmakar, Rahul Karmakar, Meera Karmakar, Mamta Karmakar, Niyati Karmakar, Kanhai Karmakar and Subodh Karmakar—all residents of Mango Daiguttu Road No. 6. The case was initiated after Jagmohan Prasad filed an FIR at Mango police station, alleging that his elder brother, Anand Mohan Prasad and others were brutally attacked with weapons and sticks by the accused. However, due to a lack of substantial evidence, the court ruled in favor of the accused, leading to their acquittal. (w/nkm)

Crucial executive meeting of state IMA at Dhanbad on Mar 2

Dhanbad, Feb 28: Executive committee meeting of Indian Medical Association (IMA) Jharkhand chapter will be held in Dhanbad on Sunday (March 2).

IMA state president Dr AK Singh and secretary Dr Pradeep Kumar Singh said that at the meeting will discuss on pending issue of Medical Protection Act (MPA) implementation, amendment in Clinical Protection Act and exodus of doctors from state.

Since, this is first executive meeting after state government, all branch president, secretary and executive committee members of 24 districts have been asked attend. Besides them, all chairpersons, secretary of different wings of IMA Jharkhand have been directed to present report of their activities and requirement of organization at the meeting. IMA president and secretary said that almost all states in the country have amended in Clinical Protection Act. Even Bihar cabinet has two days ago amended and exempted 40 beds hospital from limit of Act but Jharkhand government has yet to act on it. " IMA is surprised that last year the then health minister Banna Gupta and addition al chief secretary (ACS) health Arun Kumar Singh held several meeting with IMA for amendment in CEA but matter is still pending", said Dr AK Singh and Dr Pradeep Kumar Singh.

Two-week FDP on AI and Wireless Sensor Networks concludes at NIT Jamshedpur

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 28: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Jamshedpur, in collaboration with the E & ICT Academy, NIT Patna, successfully concluded two Faculty Development Programs (FDPs) titled "AI-Based Image Processing for Biomedical Applications (AIIPBM-2025)" and "Next-Generation Wireless Sensor Networks (NGWSN-2025)."

These programs aimed to equip faculty members and researchers with advanced knowledge in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Biomedical Image Processing, and Wireless Communication, fostering innovation in academia and research.

The inaugural session on February 17, 2025, was presided over by Prof. Gautam Sutradhar, Director, NIT Jamshedpur, who emphasized AI's transformative role in biomedical research and healthcare innovations. He also highlighted the significance of wireless sensor networks in revolutionizing industrial automation, smart cities, and healthcare monitoring.

Prof. R. V. Sharma (Deputy Director, NIT Jamshedpur) and Prof. M. K. Sinha (Dean, R&D) addressed the participants, stressing the growing relevance of these technologies in modern academia.

The two-week FDPs attracted participants from IITs, NITs, IIITs, and other leading institutions. The AI-based Image Processing FDP covered topics like Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), Transformer Architectures, U-Net Models, DICOM Data Processing, and Medical Image Segmentation, providing hands-on training in AI-driven X-ray, MRI, and CT scan analysis.

The Wireless Sensor Networks FDP focused on 5G and 6G networks, LPWAN technologies (LoRaWAN, NB-IoT), Industrial IoT, Smart Grid Technology, and communication security, offering insights into real-world applications.

During the valedictory session on February 28, 2025, Prof. Ashutosh Kumar Singh, Director, IIIT Bhopal, and Prof. N. Biradar, Principal, RVITM, lauded the participants for their enthusiasm and commitment to advancing these fields.

The FDPs were successfully coordinated by Dr. Prashant Kumar, Dr. Jayendra Kumar, and Dr. Mrutyunjay Rout, with Dr. Mayank Srivastava and Dr. Munendra Kumar serving as conveners. Students Ayush Kumar Agrawal, Ajit Kumar, Pankaj Kumar, and Shashi Prakash played a crucial role in organizing and managing logistics. (w/nkm)

BJP district president questions JMM membership campaign



Seraikela, Feb 28: BJP District President Uday Singhdev has raised concerns over the membership campaign of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), alleging that the party is misleading innocent villagers.

Addressing a press conference, Singhdev claimed that JMM workers are pressuring women to join the party by spreading misinformation. "They are telling women that unless they pay ?10 for JMM membership, they will stop receiving money under the Mahila Samman Yojana. Some are even misleading people into believing that non-members will be removed from ration card lists or denied benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana," he alleged. Terming these tactics unethical and illegal, Singhdev demanded strict action from the district administration against those involved. He accused the JMM-Congress government of failing to fulfill its promises and resorting to deceitful politics ahead of elections.

Former BJP district president Vijay Mahato, district vice president Rakesh Mishra and other party leaders were present at the press conference. (w/nkm)

District-level disability check-up camp conducted in Seraikela

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Feb 28: A district-level monthly disability check-up camp was organized at Sadar Hospital, Seraikela, under the chairmanship of Civil Surgeon Dr. Ajay Kumar Sinha and the supervision of Deputy Superintendent Dr. Nakul Prasad Chaudhary.

During the camp, specialist doctors assessed the disability percentage of 71 individuals. Dr. Ajit Tudu, an orthopedic specialist, examined 47 orthopedic cases, while Dr. P.M. Bara assessed 8 eye-related disabilities.

Dr. Pradeep Kumar, an ENT specialist, checked 8 ENT-related disabilities and Dr. Mahesh Hembram, a mental health expert, evaluated 8 individuals with mental disabilities.

The camp was efficiently conducted by assistant Mewalal Honhaga, with Sadar Hospital Manager Sanjit Rai and other officials present. (w/nkm)

Science Day celebrated at Institute for Education College

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Feb 28: Institute for Education College marked National Science Day with enthusiasm, fostering scientific awareness among students. The event featured Principal Father Vincent Vinod Fernandes SJ of Loyola School as the chief guest, who was welcomed with traditional music, dance and a floral bouquet. He inaugurated the program with a ceremonial lamp lighting. "The theme this year, 'Empowering Indian Youth for Global Leadership in Science and Innovation for Developed India,' highlights the role of young minds in shaping the future," said college Principal Dr. Sweety Sinha.

A variety of competitions, including chart, model, quiz, speech, essay and PPT presentations, were organized. Medha Pandey secured first place in the chart competition, while Siddhant Pani won the model contest. Additionally, Neta Soy and Himanshu Das were recognized for their curiosity and contributions to science. The event concluded with faculty members congratulating the students for their achievements, reinforcing the institution's commitment to fostering scientific curiosity and innovation. (w/nkm)

Writer-Reader Dialogue Program inspires students

Seraikela, Feb 28: A Writer-Reader Dialogue Program was held at Adityapur Auto Cluster Auditorium on Friday under the joint aegis of the District Administration and Sahitya Kala Foundation. Renowned author Naveen Chaudhary engaged in an insightful conversation with school students. The event was inaugurated by Additional Collector Kumar Rajat, Additional Municipal Commissioner Parul Singh and other dignitaries. Chaudhary presented key insights from his book Khud Se Behtar, emphasizing the importance of self-improvement and continuous learning. "In today's world, students must compete with themselves, striving to be better each day," he said. "Set goals, identify obstacles and keep pushing forward in your chosen field." He also discussed 15 career success principles outlined in his book. The interactive session saw students actively engaging with the author, asking questions and seeking guidance. Speaking to journalists, Chaudhary praised the district administration's initiative and suggested that such programs should be organized in other districts as well to inspire young minds. (w/nkm)

Inter-school quiz competition held on National Science Day



Jamshedpur, Feb 28: An Inter-School Science Quiz Competition was organized at High School Ko Gopabandhu Vidyapeeth, Telco, on National Science Day, celebrating the contributions of Sir C.V. Raman.

The event was inaugurated by Vrindavan Sahu (Secretary, Shri Ganesh Mahavidyalaya), Treasurer Harendra Kumar and Principal Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari. Principal Tiwari emphasized the importance of fostering scientific curiosity among students.

A total of 48 students from 12 schools participated. Community High School, Barigora, secured first place, while Vidyasagar High School, Bamangora, took second and third places. Winners were honored with shields.

The event was conducted by teacher Nikki Shweta, while Vice Principal Manju Kumari delivered the vote of thanks. The competition successfully promoted scientific awareness among young minds. (w/nkm)

JMM expands membership drive in Haat Tola



Mail News Service

Seraikela, Feb 28: The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) intensified its membership campaign in Haat Tola under the leadership of Nagar Coordinator Mandal Pramukh Shambhu Acharya. The drive saw hundreds of men and women joining the party, inspired by its vision and leadership. "Every community has its unique culture and just as society thrives with unity, Jharkhand's progress is intertwined with JMM's growth," said District Coordinator Bhola Mahanthy. He credited the increasing faith in Chief Minister Hemant Soren's governance for the rising membership numbers. City chief Shambhu Acharya announced plans to expand the initiative with a door-to-door membership campaign. Several key party workers, including Kedar Agarwal, Govind Dogra and Shahzad Alam, actively participated in the event, ensuring its success. (w/nkm)

Police destroy illegal opium cultivation in West Singhbhum

Mail News Service



Chaibasa, Feb 28: In a crackdown on illegal opium cultivation, the police in West Singhbhum conducted a campaign on 28th February 2025 and destroyed opium plantations spread across approximately 6.5 acres.

According to official reports, about five acres of illegal opium cultivation were eradicated in Tupudang village under Bandgaon police station, while another 0.5 acres were cleared in Tamsai village under Golaikera police station. Additionally, influenced by the police's continuous awareness campaigns, villagers in Soymari, Dongebeda and Lukudburu in the Karaikela police station area voluntarily destroyed about one acre of illegal cultivation.

Authorities have been taking strict action against such activities, reinforcing their commitment to eradicating illegal drug cultivation in the district. Officials emphasized that awareness among villagers is also playing a crucial role in curbing the menace. (w/nkm)

Trainee IPS officer Rishabh Trivedi becomes Ghatshila PS in-charge

Mail News Service



Ghatshila, Feb 28: Trainee IPS officer Rishabh Trivedi has been appointed as the new station in-charge of Ghatsila Police Station. He officially took charge on February 27.

On the second day of his tenure, Trivedi visited Ghatshila College to inspect the ongoing intermediate examinations. Impressed by the well-organized system, he met Principal Dr. R.K. Chaudhary, who welcomed him with traditional customs.

Dr. Chaudhary shared that Rishabh Trivedi hails from Banda, Uttar Pradesh. He completed his intermediate studies in Kanpur, pursued LLB and LLM from Hyderabad and later obtained an MA from the School of Economics, London. Before joining the 2023 batch of IPS, he worked as an advocate in Delhi High Court.

On this occasion, Dr. Chaudhary invited him to speak at an upcoming cybercrime awareness program, to which Trivedi gladly agreed.

The event was attended by MLA representative Jagdish Bhakat, Police Inspector Madhusudan De, Dr. SK Singh, Professor Indal Paswan, Dr. DC Ram, Dr. Sandeep Chandra and Dr. SP Singh, among others. (w/nkm)

National Science Day celebrated at Mahadevpur School

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Feb 28: National Science Day was observed with great enthusiasm at Upkramit Madhya Vidyalaya, Mahadevpur, under the leadership of Seeni Tata Trust's Field Coordinator Bahalen Barla.

During the event, Bahalen Barla explained the significance of February 28, 1928, when Indian scientist Sir C.V. Raman discovered the Raman Effect. "The goal of this celebration is to empower youth in the field of science and encourage scientific thinking," he stated.

A variety of science-based activities were conducted, including microscopic study of onion peel, floating of an egg in salt water and the use of turmeric as an indicator. The activities were led by science teacher Himanshu Shekhar Singh and social science teacher Kishore Hembram. Students actively participated, making the event both educational and engaging. "It was fascinating to see science come alive through these experiments," said a student. The celebration successfully ignited curiosity among young minds, reinforcing the importance of scientific exploration. (w/nkm)

Palash flowers bring vibrancy to Seraikela forests

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Feb 28: As spring arrives, the forests of Seraikela-Kharsawan are adorned with the vibrant hues of Palash flowers, also known as Tesu in some regions. These flowers, which peak around the festival of Holi, enhance the natural beauty of the forests in areas such as Seraikela, Kharsawan, Kuchai, Chandil, Ichagarh and Neemdih. Palash flowers are not just visually appealing but also have significant cultural and medicinal value. Villagers traditionally prepare natural herbal colors from Palash petals for Holi. "We soak the flowers in water, boil them and use the extracted color for celebrating Holi," said a local resident. Beyond their festive use, the Palash tree has medicinal properties. Ayurveda utilizes its leaves, bark and flowers for treating various ailments. For centuries, the people of remote areas have relied on Palash-based remedies, highlighting the tree's importance beyond its seasonal bloom. (w/nkm)

Farewell ceremony of Mata Parvati at Baba Bhootnath Shamshan Kali Temple

Mail News Service



Chaibasa, Feb 28: A special religious event was organized at Shri Shri Baba Bhootnath Shamshan Kali Temple on the occasion of Mahashivratri, where the traditional farewell of Mata Parvati took place. This was followed by a grand Bhandara (feast), attended by thousands of devotees.

"This tradition has been followed for the last ten years," said Raju Yadav, President of the Organizing Committee. He explained, "Just as a feast is held when a daughter-in-law arrives home, we honor this custom in our temple with a Bhandara every year."

On Mahashivratri, a special tableau is taken out from Bhootnath Temple, passing through the city before reaching Durga Temple, where the divine wedding ceremony takes place at night. The next morning, Mata Parvati is bid farewell with full rituals, followed by the community feast.

The event witnessed active participation from committee members, including Secretary Vinod Singh, Vice President Vasant Yadav, Treasurer Santosh Sahu, Deputy Secretary Shekhar Yadav and others.

"This event not only strengthens religious beliefs but also fosters love, unity and brotherhood in society," said a devotee. The grand celebration continues to draw devotees from far and wide, enriching the spiritual and cultural fabric of the region. (w/nkm)

Organizing a massive event

The Maha Kumbh concluded with a religious, spiritual, philosophical and cultural aura. The Maha Kumbh proved to be the biggest ever attended massive event. The huge crowd that dotted Prayagraj through 45 days was beyond the wildest expectation. Instead of the 40 crore pilgrims who were expected, the attendance count went up to a whopping 60 crore. This only went to prove that the Indians were highly influenced by the land's religious, spiritual, cultural and traditional values. This influence led to pilgrims swarming Prayagraj without any invitation. They did not need to be invited. Their religious, spiritual, cultural and traditional zeal attracted them to Prayagraj and the Maha Kumbh. The head count of pilgrims went beyond the population of many countries. The Maha Kumbh exhibited a new found realization in people of their cultural and traditional values. This realization, in fact, was the reason that while organizers were calculating a gradual decline in the attendance of disciples towards the final days of the Maha Kumbh, hoards of devotees swarmed in at Sangam for the holy dip. The Maha Kumbh not only drew international attention for the attendance of a record-breaking human congregation at one place but also because the event happened in the age of digital revolution. The Maha Kumbh established once again that the uniqueness of India lay in its thousands of years old religion, spirituality and philosophy. The crores of devotees attending the Maha Kumbh at Prayagraj underlined that although science and spirituality were different realms, but they too had similarities as both tried to discover the mysteries of life.

It is indeed disappointing that while the biggest event on earth was in full swing, there were some people who exposed their narrow-mindedness. These people deliberately forgot that some problems were bound to crop up while organizing an event of such magnitude. Undoubtedly, the problems that occurred could have been avoided by planning well in advance, but by magnifying these slips, such people wrongly and needlessly dismissed this Maha Kumbh as useless and an exercise in futility. If this Maha Kumbh has left an indelible mark, then those who had tirelessly worked to organize this event should get a large chunk of the credit. The citizens of Prayagraj should be thanked for the hospitality to the 60 crore devotees who clamoured for the holy dip in the Sangam. Now that it is clear that large crowds are expected to participate in socio-religious events then alertness must be stressed on better crowd management and security. The VIP culture at pilgrimage sites should be done away with. It should be clearly understood that at pilgrimage sites there is no demarcating line between the rulers and subjects.

From the Editorial Desk

New Google India campus, one of its largest globally, set to build for the world



To further bolster India's digital transformation, tech major Google on Wednesday inaugurated 'Ananta' campus here which is one of the company's largest offices globally.

Stressing that India has always played the role of a strategic nerve centre in the tech discourse -evident in the thriving startup and app ecosystems, the digital public infrastructure and the depth and diversity of Indian creators - the company said 'Ananta' is part of its ongoing efforts to build with and for India and the world.

"For Google, India has always represented a very special opportunity, not just to reach millions of users within the country with our products and platforms, but also have them shaped by Indian ingenuity, helping them become even more useful for the billions of users we create for globally," said Anand Rangarajan, Vice President, Google Deepmind.

Located in Bengaluru, one of the world's fastest-growing tech hubs, Ananta is "one of our most ambitious ground-up developments".

A collaboration between Google India and a local development and design team, the Ananta campus embodies Google's latest thinking in workplace design. The building's name, Ananta, means 'infinite' or 'limitless' in Sanskrit," said Sunil Rao, Vice President, Global Delivery, Google Cloud India.

The purpose-built campus features one of India's largest installations of electro-chromic glass, and a sculpted, fluid facade for architectural interest.

Google said that 'Ananta' will enable it to deliver world-class products, foster deeper partnership with our customers, and continue to focus on solving the most complex challenges facing users, businesses and startups in India and around the world.

Last week, Google CEO Sundar Pichai highlighted the "incredible opportunities" that artificial intelligence (AI) will bring to India, following his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the AI Action Summit in Paris.

The Alphabet CEO also noted the potential for close collaboration between "we" (Google) and India to advance the country's digital transformation.

"Delighted to meet with PM Narendra Modi today while in Paris for the AI Action Summit. We discussed the incredible opportunities AI will bring to India and ways we can work closely together on India's digital transformation," said Pichai on X social media platform.

EU scrambling to weather US tariff threats



The EU trade chief is on a business trip in Washington to talk with his US counterpart in hopes of averting a tariff war with the United States.

Given that the US fresh tariff measures, if unanswered, will take its toll on the flailing EU economy, the trip of Maros Sefcovic, the European Commission's Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, is part of the bloc's latest efforts to deescalate the trade tension, which is mainly centered on the EU's trade deficit with the United States.

The US administration announced on February 10 that it would impose a 25-per cent tariff on steel and aluminum imports and proposed "reciprocal" trade policies, which was met with a swift backlash from the EU.

"The European Commission views President (Donald) Trump's proposed 'reciprocal' trade policy as a step in the wrong direction," the commission said in a statement.

The US moves put the EU on high alert as they will inevitably pile pressure on the exports, the manufacturing industry and the economy of the bloc.

The EU could lose up to 3.7 million tonnes of steel exports to the United States, the second biggest export market for EU steel producers, warned the European Steel Association in a statement

A lot of the steel plants in the EU, which have already been struggling under the burdens of rising costs and weaker demand, will be forced out of business, according to the association, Xinhua news agency reported.

Bert Colijn, an economist at ING, believes that additional tariffs would "lead to a prolonged downturn in European industry."

The proposed "reciprocal tariff" policy will also deal a heavy blow to the struggling EU auto industry, especially Germany. The "reciprocal tariff" issue has been contended by industry insiders who argue that the tariffs are more complicated than they appear to be.

Hildegard Mueller, President of the German Association of the Automotive Industry, noted that the United States, which criticizes the EU's 10 per cent tariff on imported passenger cars, imposes a 25 per cent tariff on imported pick-up trucks, which are among its best-selling vehicles.

Once hailed as the "engine of the European economy," the German output has shrunk for two consecutive years, making it one of the worst performers among EU member states. The German government revised its 2025 growth forecast from 1.1 per cent to 0.3 per cent in January. The new US tariffs will compound the plight of the German economy as German exports of steel and auto products to America are set to decline.

The US tariffs also weigh on France, whose economy contracted in the last quarter of 2024. French companies in the automotive, pharmaceutical and wine industries fear that US tariff measures could reduce their exports to the US market. The French government is currently grappling with high public debt and fiscal deficits.

The US trade policy is also on the radar of the European Central Bank (ECB), which is scaling back its restrictive monetary policies by cutting interest rates. In case of a trade war, resurging prices can delay or even derail the rate-cutting cycle of the ECB. ECB President Christine Lagarde previously warned that the US government's planned tariffs "would have a negative impact globally."

Trade ministers from the EU's 27 member states reached consensus at a video conference last week in the wake of the US announcement of new tariffs.

Negotiations, as the EU trade ministers believe, will be the best option for the EU to avert a tariff war.

The EU remains committed to constructive dialogue and is ready to negotiate to find solutions where possible, Sefcovic said. At the Munich Security Conference, he voiced the EU's willingness to discuss trade deficits, automobiles, soybeans, liquefied natural gas (LNG), and other issues that can be resolved at the negotiating table.

In an apparent bid to address the US concern of the trade deficit with the EU, the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has previously proposed expanding LNG imports from the United States as a viable trade strategy. The EU is also considering importing more agricultural products and military equipment from the United States and reducing its tariff on US cars from the current 10 per cent to 2.5 per cent.

Since tariffs have been long known as the hallmark of the Trump administration, the EU has already acted preemptively to mitigate the looming threat of new US tariffs. Despite opposition from some member states, the EU reached a free trade agreement with the South American trade bloc MERCOSUR to hedge against the uncertainty of US trade policies and diversify trade relations. The EU and Canada also agreed to strengthen trade and investment ties this month.

Meanwhile, countermeasures are also in the pipeline as von der Leyen vowed that the EU would act to safeguard its economic interests and the US tariffs "will not go unanswered."

The EU chief has vowed that the "unjustified" tariffs will trigger "firm and proportionate countermeasures" from the EU.

According to sources with the European Commission and the European Parliament, the EU has already penciled in a list of retaliatory measures.

Bernd Lange, Chair of the European Parliament's International Trade Committee, warned that the EU could immediately retaliate against the US double tariff rates. Products such as motorcycles, jeans, peanut butter, whiskey, and other items that impact US exporters could be targetted, with special attention given to products from US states with strong Republican support and traditionally strong US exports.

Some European Commission officials revealed that the EU will look into the possibility of putting in place stricter import restrictions, including limiting imports of agricultural products like soybeans which are grown using EU-banned pesticides, in response to the US "reciprocal tariffs."

Also inside the EU's toolbox is the EU's Anti-Coercion Instrument, which came into effect at the end of 2023. Under the act, the EU is entitled to take retaliatory measures against third countries that attempt to economically coerce EU member states into changing policies. A broader range of countermeasures have been made available, allowing the EU not only to impose tariffs on goods but also to restrict third-country companies from participating in public procurement projects or to limit services trade and investment.

While the United States goes into trade deficit with the EU in goods, it has a surplus in services trade. The EU has been an important market for many US tech giants, such as Amazon and Microsoft. The EU could weaken intellectual property protections for US companies in the EU market and use regulatory measures to restrict the operations of American tech companies in Europe.

Under the Digital Markets Act and the Digital Services Act, the EU has already launched investigations into Apple, Alphabet, X (formerly Twitter) and Meta. In addition, the EU may revive the "digital services tax," imposing levies on digital services such as online advertising and data sales provided by American tech companies.

US tariffs: Bilateral negotiations provide collateral benefits to India



US trade tariff reciprocity may turn out be more of white noise and overall bilateral negotiations provide a collateral benefit to India, through fostering a conducive environment of cooperative dynamism across defence, energy security, innovations, technology, critical minerals, maritime security, investments and higher education, a special SBI Research report said on Monday.

The largest and most vibrant democracy stands tall as a natural allay to US "in the Indian Ocean from a strategic, as also economical perspective", according to the report from the State Bank of India's Economic Research Department, titled "Collateral benefits: IND-US trade set to transcend new boundaries".

"Our estimates show overall incremental tariff levels even at 15 per cent-20 per cent imposed by USA would still limit the impact on exports to US only in the range of 3-3.5 per cent, which again should be negated through higher export goals," said the SBI report.

India has diversified its exports kitty, pitched value addition, exploring alternate areas and works on new routes that transcend from Europe to USA via the Middle-East, redrawing new supply chain algorithms that foster strategic inclusivity, it emphasised.

Both India and the US have adjusted their tariff structures over the years, reflecting evolving trade policies and economic priorities.

While the US tariffs on Indian exports have remained relatively stable, India's tariff adjustments appear to be more dynamic.

"The US tariff rate on Indian goods increased from 2.72 per cent in 2018 to 3.91 per cent in 2021, before slightly declining to 3.83 per cent in 2022. India's tariffs on US imports have risen from 11.59 per cent in 2018 to 15.30 per cent in 2022," the report showed.

The US is India's top export destination, accounting for 17.7 per cent share of total exports in FY24.

"We have also estimated the likely fall in Indian exports if USA imposes a retaliatory tariff of 15 per cent (3x the present aggregate) on India. This helps in capturing sensitivity of exports to tariff fluctuations," said the SBI report.

Both nations plan to sign this year a new ten-year 'Framework for the US-India Major Defence Partnership in the 21st Century'. Both countries aim to more than double the total bilateral trade to $500 billion by 2030.

Adoption of circular economy can create 1 lakh jobs in India



Adoption of a circular economy -- which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing, and recycling existing materials -- can ensure zero waste of fashion and help create 1 lakh jobs in India, according to a report on Monday.

The report by Primus Partners, in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra, outlines a strategic roadmap to transform India's textile industry into a sustainable and circular economy by 2047. It was released at Bharat Tex 2025, held from February 14-17 at Bharat Mandapam.

The opportunity to address textile waste is valued at $3.5 billion over the next five years, requiring robust policy support, industry collaboration, and active consumer engagement. The shift towards circular fashion could generate employment, about 1 lakh across recycling, sustainable manufacturing, and innovation, the report said.

The report presents a comprehensive analysis identifying key barriers to the adoption of sustainable practices, based on a survey conducted among industries and citizens. These challenges include financial constraints, limited adoption of green technologies, skill gaps, low awareness and demand for sustainable products, and fragmented policies.

In addition, the growing influence of ultra-fast fashion, driven by social media trends, has further exacerbated the issue of textile waste.

The report integrates the 5F approach -- farm, fibre, factory, fashion, and foreign -- to ensure sustainable practices are embedded at every stage of the textile value chain.

Further, to enhance textile-waste infrastructure and market development, it proposed setting up textile waste collection centres.

"To tackle India's textile waste issue, a comprehensive approach is essential, including a unified B2B digital marketplace for pre-consumer waste, consumer education, revised textile labelling, and skill development," said Kanishk Maheshwari, Co-Founder, and Managing Director of Primus Partners.

Strengthening the policy and regulatory framework, the report also calls for a national policy for sustainable textiles and an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme for the sector.

India needs to grow by 7.8 pc to reach high-income status by 2047, a possible target: World Bank

New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) A new World Bank report on Friday said that India needs to grow by 7.8 per cent on average over the next 22 years to achieve the country's aspirations of reaching high-income status by 2047 -- a target that is possible to achieve. The new 'India Country Economic Memorandum' titled 'Becoming a High-Income Economy in a Generation,' finds that this target is possible.

Recognising India's fast pace of growth averaging 6.3 per cent between 2000 and 2024, the WB report noted that India's past achievements provide the foundation for its future ambitions. Getting there however would require reforms and their implementation to be as ambitious as the target itself."Lessons from countries like Chile, Korea and Poland show how they have successfully made the transition from middle- to high-income countries by deepening their integration into the global economy," said Auguste Tano Kouame, World Bank Country Director.

"India can chart its own path by stepping up the pace of reforms and building on its past achievements," Kouame added. The report evaluates three scenarios for India's growth trajectory over the next 22 years. The scenario which enables India to reach high-income status in a generation, requires India to achieving faster and inclusive growth across states; increasing total investment from current 33.5 per cent of GDP to 40 per cent (both in real terms) by 2035.

Sensex crashes 1,414 pts, Nifty ends at 22,125 amid US trade tariff fears



Mumbai, Feb 28 (IANS) The Indian stock market on Friday witnessed a sharp sell-off as weak global cues and trade tensions weighed on investor sentiment and both the domestic benchmark indices ended the day with heavy losses.

The Sensex plunged 1,414 points, or 1.9 per cent, to close at 73,198 after touching an intraday low of 73,141.

The index lost 2,113 points, or 2.8 per cent, over the week and dropped 4,303 points, or 5.6 per cent, in February.

The Sensex has now fallen nearly 15 per cent from its all-time high of 85,978.

The Nifty 50 also suffered significant losses, falling 420 points, or 1.86 per cent, to close at 22,125 after hitting a low of 22,105 during the intraday session.

The index lost 5.9 per cent in February and is now down nearly 16 per cent from its record high of 26,277.

"In the near term, Nifty is expected to find support around 21,800-22,000. A sustained move above 21,800 could lead to a significant recovery, while failure to hold this level may trigger another sharp decline," said Rupak De, Senior Technical Analyst at LKP Securities.

The market opened on a weak note after US President Donald Trump announced plans to impose tariffs on Canada and Mexico starting March 4.Additionally, Trump threatened to levy an extra 10 per cent tariff on China, further worsening global trade concerns.

Selling pressure was broad-based, with all sectoral indices closing in negative territory.

As the domestic benchmark indices ended the intra-day session lower, the IndusInd Bank emerged as the top loser, plunging 7 per cent.

Tech Mahindra, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, Tata Motors, Titan, Infosys, and Nestle India fell between 4 per cent and 6 per cent.

Star Health Insurance: India's largest home health care network

Jamshedpur, Feb 28: Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited (Star Health Insurance), India's largest retail health insurance company, becomes the country's largest Home Health Care (HHC) provider byexpandingits HHC initiative to 100 locations across India. The program, launched in July 2023, now serves over 85% of Star Health Insurance's customer base, offering cashless doorstep medical care within 3 hours with no out-of-pocket expenses.Improves accessibility, availability and affordability of healthcare in Bharat. Anand Roy, MD & CEO, Star Health Insurance, said, "At Star Health, we believe that health insurance goes beyond providing financial coverage. It is a bridge to accessible and affordable healthcare for every individual. Our vision is to remove barriers such as high hospitalization costs, logistical challenges and the stress associated with seeking care. By bringing quality medical care closer to customers we aim to ensure their comfort and peace of mind. This initiative is tangible proof of our focus on transforming health insurance delivery by ensuring that it is accessible, affordable, and designed around the evolving needs of our customers."

PLI boost: India exporting high-end electronics now, says Ashwini Vaishnaw



New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) India is making significant strides in the electronics sector as the country begins exporting high-end electronic components to global manufacturing hubs, Union Minister for Railways, Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Friday.

In a post on social media platform X, Vaishnaw highlighted the government's commitment to boosting the production of components, sub-assemblies, and capital equipment for both domestic and international markets.

"India is approaching 'new frontiers' in electronics manufacturing," he wrote.

Vaishnaw added that the country has begun exporting high-end electronic components to global manufacturing destinations.

"We aim to achieve exports and increase value addition via this well-planned move," he said.

The PLI 2.0 scheme and Make in India initiative have encouraged domestic production and reduced dependency on imports, allowing Indian manufacturers to compete on the global stage.

The Electronics and IT Minister recently shared a post on X, showcasing a laptop that is both "Designed" and "Made in India."

The video emphasised the laptop as a symbol of India's advancing expertise in hardware development and innovation.

"Designed in India and Made in India," the Minister captioned the video on X.

BoB organizes torn note exchange camp



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 28: The main branch of Bank of Baroda, Bistupur, organized a special camp in Bistupur market for the exchange of torn and old currency notes. A large number of traders and customers participated, exchanging damaged notes for new ones and collecting loose notes and coins for business convenience.

Chief Manager Pushpendra Kumar stated, “As per the Reserve Bank of India's guidelines, this initiative aims to systematically withdraw old and torn notes from circulation and replace them with new currency and coins.”

The camp saw active participation from bank officials, including Tarun Kumar Dutta, ensuring a smooth exchange process. (w/nkm)

India's fiscal deficit in April-Jan touches 74.5 per cent of full year target for FY25



New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) India's fiscal deficit for the first 10 months of the current financial year (April-January) stood at Rs 11.70 lakh crore, or 74.5 per cent of annual estimates, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on Friday.

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit for the financial year ending March 2025 is estimated at Rs 15.69 lakh crore.

Total receipts stood at Rs 24 lakh crore, while overall expenditure from April to January was Rs 35.70 lakh crore. They were 76.3 per cent and 75.7 per cent of this fiscal year's revised budget targets.

The overall deficit is in line with the targeted figure of 4.8 per cent of GDP fixed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as part of the fiscal consolidation path, said ratings agency ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar.

The government spending for the ten months stood at Rs 35.7 lakh crore, reaching 75.7 per cent of the annual target. Capital expenditure, allocated for infrastructure development, amounted to Rs 7.57 lakh crore, or 74.4 per cent of the yearly goal.

Revenue receipts stood at 23.71 lakh crore rupees, of which tax revenue was 19.04 lakh crore rupees and non-tax revenue was 4.68 lakh crore rupees.

Tax and non-tax revenues were 74.4 per cent and 88.1 per cent of the revised budgeted estimates.

FOREIGN

US Embassy grants visa to comatose Indian student's family



Washington, Feb 28 (IANS) The US Embassy on Friday granted a visa to the family of an Indian student who suffered critical injuries in a road accident in Washington and has been comatose since then.

The student identified as Nilam Shinde, 35, a post-graduate student at California State University, suffered fractures in both arms and both legs after a car hit her from behind on February 14.

She required brain surgery and has been comatose since then.

Shinde is still in a critical condition, but her health has shown slight improvements, her family said.

The family, hailing from Maharashtra's Satara district, which had lost hope of seeing Shinde after several attempts to get a visa failed, will be taking the next flight to the country.

Ukraine peace deal will happen 'fairly quickly or not at all': Trump



Washington, Feb 28 (IANS) The UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer pressed President Donald Trump for a more substantial US commitment to protecting Ukraine if the war ends and warned his US counterpart not to reward Russian President Vladimir Putin in any peace deal.

But in Oval Office talks and a later press conference, Trump publicly brushed aside those pleas, insisting that it was "now or never to negotiate an end to the brutal war".

Speaking alongside Starmer at a joint press conference, Trump said a deal to end the war would "happen fairly quickly or not happen at all".

"We're working very hard to get that war brought to an end. I think we've made a lot of progress," Trump said, whose week of high-level meetings concludes on Friday with a visit by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Trump's refusal to acquiesce to Starmer's requests was a blow to European leaders who came to the White House this week to air their concerns that his aggressive efforts to end Russia's war on Ukraine will result in conceding too much to Putin.

The Starmer trip comes just two days after French President Emmanuel Macron came to Washington to deliver the same message.

Zelensky's visit on Friday is expected to produce a controversial minerals deal that Trump contends will give the US access to his country's precious metals as "payback" for the tens of billions in military and development aid Washington sent their way since Russia invaded in early 2022.

The US President will likely adopt the same hard-nosed attitude as Zelensky, who is expected to sign a modified economic development and mineral deal after first bluntly rejecting the idea.

Trump suggested on Thursday that having US companies inside Ukraine mining critical mineral sites will be enough to deter Russia from a second invasion, although some of Ukraine's most lucrative deposits are located in the parts of its territory now occupied by Russian forces.

"I don't think anyone is going to play around if we're there with a lot of workers," the US President said.

He also made it clear that he doesn't plan to make nice with Zelensky as the two leaders have escalated their feud in recent weeks. When asked if he would apologise for calling Zelensky a "dictator", Trump sidestepped the question.

"I think we are going to have a very good meeting tomorrow," Trump said.

Starmer lavished Trump with gifts and produced a surprise personal invitation from King Charles for a state visit to Britain. Trump accepted the offer, although no date for the visit was announced.

The invitation makes Trump the first elected politician in modern times to be hosted for two state visits by a British monarch, a point repeatedly played up by the visiting Prime Minister. Trump also was invited for a state visit by the late Queen Elizabeth in 2019.

"This is really special. This has never happened before. This is unprecedented and I think it just symbolises the relationship between us," Starmer said.

Pakistan reports two more polio cases



Islamabad, Feb 28 (IANS) The National Institute of Health (NIH) of Pakistan has confirmed two more Wild Poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases of 2025.

According to an NIH statement, the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the institute confirmed one case each from southern Sindh province and eastern Punjab province.

"This is the third polio case from Sindh and the first from Punjab this year," said the statement, adding that five polio cases have been reported in the country so far in 2025.

A total of 74 polio cases were reported in Pakistan last year.

Last week, in another incident of health workers being attacked in Pakistan, unknown gunmen had killed a police officer while he was providing security to the polio vaccination team in Damadola, Mamund, Bajaur district of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

As per Bajaur police officials, gunmen on motorbikes attacked the polio vaccination team which was engaged in a door-to-door vaccination campaign to give polio drops to children. The police official deployed to guard the polio team was shot dead by the attackers who later fled the scene.

Russia says foiled terrorist attack on senior Church figure



Moscow, Feb 28 (IANS) Russia on Friday accused Ukraine for making an attempt to assassinate a senior Russian Orthodox Church figure, 66-year-old Georgy Alexandrovich Shevkunov, the Tikhon of Simferopol and Crimea who is also a member of Russian President Vladimir Putin's advisory council on culture and the arts.

The Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation (FSB) said that it prevented a terrorist attack on the senior bishop that was allegedly planned by the Ukrainian Defence Ministry's Main Directorate of Intelligence.

Russian media reported that cleric Nikita Ivankovich and Denis Popovich, an aide to the bishop, have been arrested for planning the attack.

"In this case, it is clear that the Kyiv regime does not disdain anything. Nothing is sacred, this is confirmed once again. That is all that can be said," Dmitry Peskov, Press Secretary of the Russian President, told reporters on Friday.

Israel army says killed Hezbollah militant behind weapon deals



Jerusalem, Feb 28 (IANS) The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said in a statement on Friday that it killed Hezbollah militant Mohammed Mahdi Ali Shaheen in an airstrike in northeastern Lebanon on Thursday evening.

The statement added that he was targetted in the Lebanese town of Hermel by the Israeli Air Force with intelligence guidance.

According to Lebanese health authorities, the strike, carried out by two drones, targetted a vehicle, resulting in one death and one injury.

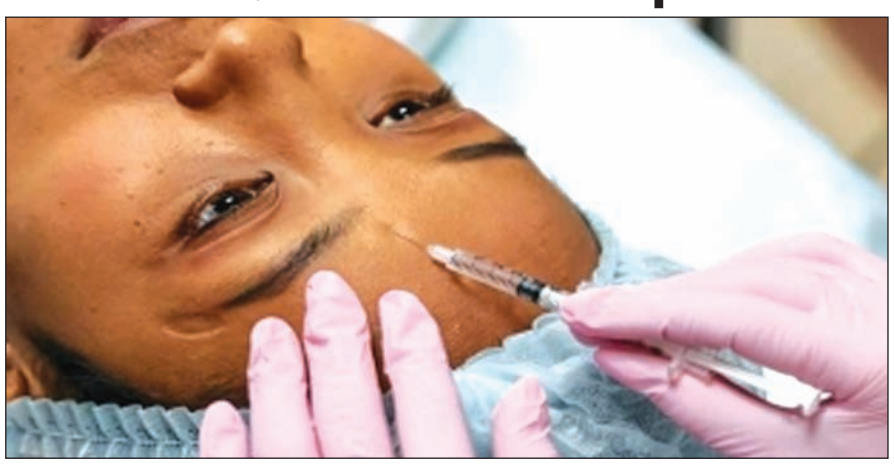
The IDF claimed that Shaheen had been coordinating terrorist transactions for the purchase of weapons on the Syria-Lebanon border since the ceasefire agreement between Lebanon and Israel came into effect.

"Shaheen was a significant terrorist in Hezbollah's geographical unit, which is responsible for the Bekaa area, and has recently been involved in transporting weapons from Syria to Lebanon," it said.

According to the IDF, he mediated the arrival of the shipments and their distribution to the various Hezbollah units to continue Hezbollah's establishment and reinforcement, Xinhua news agency reported.

"His actions posed a threat to Israel," the statement read.

1 in 6 US parents support teenagers getting laser hair removal, chemical skin peels



New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) Every sixth parent in the US is in support of their teenage children indulging in non-surgical cosmetic procedures such as laser hair removal, chemical skin peels, teeth whitening and dermal fillers, according to nationwide study published on Monday.

The study led by the University of Michigan Health CS Mott Children's Hospital, based on a national poll showed that more than 16 per cent parents believe that teenagers should be allowed to receive these types of aesthetic treatments for any reason as long as they have approval from their guardians.

But, half of parents only support teenagers getting non-surgical cosmetic procedures if there's a valid reason. While 50 per cent said the reason should not be "being bullied about appearance", less than 40 per cent say improving mental health is a good reason.

"Parents were conflicted about the circumstances under which non-surgical cosmetic procedures are appropriate for teenagers," said Mott Poll Co-Director and Mott pediatrician Susan Woolford.

"Interestingly, similar proportions of parents rated the validity of teenagers wanting to look good for a special occasion on par with wanting the procedures due to mental health or bullying," Woolford added.

The nationally representative poll is based on responses from 989 parents of children ages 13-17 surveyed in August 2024. The increased popularity of these procedures may be associated with social media content that exposed teenagers to idealise images of faces and bodies, Woolford said.

"Teenagers are susceptible to feeling insecure about their appearance when compared to digitally altered pictures depicting an appearance that is probably unattainable naturally," she said. "This problem is exacerbated by the pressure to post pictures of themselves to garner validation."

However, it's important for parents to find ways to help teenagers understand the distortions presented in the media while also exploring their reasons for wanting to change their appearance, she said.

"If a teenager asks for a non-surgical cosmetic procedure, parents should consider the emotional and mental health implications," she said.

Further, the poll showed that parent opinions of the age at which youth should be able to obtain such services also varied. More than half selected 18 years of age or older, 27 per cent said ages 16-17 was old enough and 17 per cent said 15 or younger was also fine.

But, nearly a third of parents think teenagers should be prohibited from these procedures under any circumstances.

Are mental health issues among men, boys overlooked?



New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) While the discourse around gender equality is gaining momentum, mental health crises among men and boys are being ignored, according to a UK-based psychology expert.

In his latest book, Benjamin Hine, Professor of Applied Psychology at the University of West London (UWL), UK, argued that men struggle to negotiate harmful notions of masculinity and are not included in conversations around gender.

Hine stated that body image, fatherhood, and sexual relationships are the key reasons stressing out men and boys. He called for addressing their concerns without framing them as "the problem". The book also explored a range of other issues like education, gaming addiction, and homelessness -- most of these issues are often ignored because men are too readily seen as 'the problem' rather than 'having problems', Hine said.

An urgent shift in thinking is needed to help men who struggle, said the professor while stressing the need to boost cultural and gender inclusivity, evidence-based approaches, and early intervention to improve gender equality.

"In today's rapidly shifting societal landscape, where the discourse around gender equality has gained significant momentum, the unique set of challenges faced by men and boys frequently goes unnoticed or is overshadowed," Hine said.

"Men, like all individuals, are complex human beings with their own unique struggles, vulnerabilities, and challenges."

Crucially, inclusive, intersectional approaches for men and boys of all backgrounds, including across ethnic, religious, and gender/sexual identities, should be part of natural thinking for all organisations, including an immediate priority on men's mental health and high suicide rate, said Hine.

Hine noted that making young men feel 'excluded or alienated' from gender discussions, which often justifiably focus on critical issues facing 'women and marginalised groups', "can leave men feeling resentful and lead to them feeling lonely, alienated, depressed, and engaging with extreme views, especially when they seek solace in toxic online spaces".

Part of the problem, he argues, is that issues said to affect women and those that impact men have often been rigidly separated when they are in fact closely linked, the Professor said.

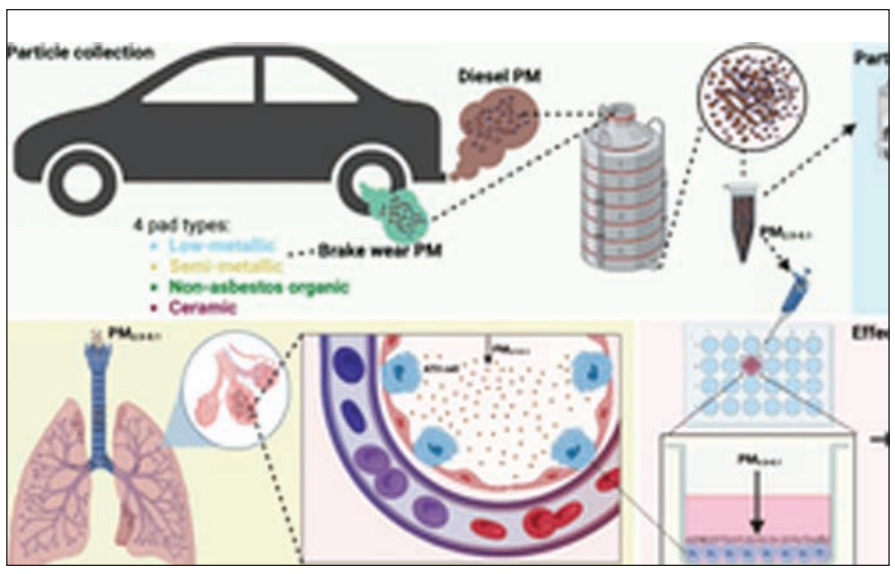
Pollution from car brake-wear more harmful for lungs than diesel exhaust: Study

New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) Exposure to pollution from car brake wear can prove to be more harmful to the lungs than diesel exhaust, according to a study.

The study, led by researchers from the University of Southampton in the UK, emphasised that focusing on particulate matter (PM) exhaust emissions alone may be inadequate to mitigate the health effects of vehicle-derived pollution.

Airborne PM2.5 is known to reach the alveolar regions of the lungs and is associated with more than 4 million premature deaths per year worldwide. While road traffic -- diesel exhaust emissions -- is a major source of PM in urban environments, non-exhaust emissions, especially from brake wear, represent an increasing component of traffic-related PM, about which there is a paucity of information.

The researchers argued that car brake wear is also not on the target list in exhaust emission reduction measures.



In the paper, published in the journal Particle and Fibre Toxicology, the team found that brake-wear particulate matter from copper-enriched non-asbestos organic, and ceramic brake pads induced "the greatest oxidative stress, inflammation" on lungs.

It also affected a pathway implicated in diseases associated with air pollution exposure, including cancer, and pulmonary fibrosis, as well as causing perturbation of metabolism.

"We demonstrate here that brake-wear PM may perturb cellular homeostasis more than diesel exhaust PM. Our findings demonstrate the potential differences in effects, not only for non-exhaust vs exhaust PM but also amongst different sources of non-exhaust PM," said James G. H. Parkin, School of Clinical and Experimental Sciences, University of Southampton.

The study demonstrated that copper-enriched brake-wear PM has a greater detrimental effect than diesel exhaust PM. The perturbations caused by copper-enriched PM have the potential to contribute to the development and progression of a range of diseases, negatively impacting healthy living and lifespan.

"Our results suggest that current legislation, which focuses on PM exhaust emissions, may be inadequate to mitigate the health effects of vehicle-derived PM, and that regulations also need to target not only non-exhaust PM emissions but also specific components of PM," Parkin added.

Flexible workspace sector in India reaches all-time high gross leasing volume



New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) India's flexible workspace sector registered an all-time high gross leasing volume (GLV) of 12.4 million square feet (MSF) in 2024, a report showed on Monday.

This marks a 57.5 per cent year-on-year growth, reflecting the surging demand for agile, new age and cost-effective office solutions across key cities, according to Cushman & Wakefield's office data.

Flexible workspace sector includes business centres, coworking centres and managed offices.

Flexible workspace sector's gross leasing volume now accounts for 14 per cent of India's total office leasing (89 MSF), underscoring its growing significance in the commercial real estate landscape.

Among India's top flexible workspace markets, Bengaluru led with 3.4 MSF of leasing volume, nearly doubling its previous year's tally.

Mumbai, meanwhile, recorded a 3 times growth in GLV, reaching 1.9 MSF, a testament to rising demand in India's financial capital.

Delhi NCR at 2.3 MSF GLV, Hyderabad at 1.6 MSF GLV, and Pune at 1.6 MSF GLV, also emerged as strong flexible workspace hubs, said the report. With new companies (GCCs) entering the country and existing companies prioritising operational flexibility, cost efficiency and end-to-end customisation, demand for agile, dynamic, managed office solutions continues to surge, said Ramita Arora, Managing Director Bengaluru and Head - Flex, India, Cushman & Wakefield.

According to the data, evolving business priorities, the need for flexibility, the shift toward hybrid work models and strong enterprise demand for managed office solutions fuelled historic highs in flex seats leased.

Around 224,000 seats were leased in 2024 by end occupiers from flexible workspace operators, a 44 per cent increase over 2023 (156,000 seats). In terms of cities, Bengaluru again dominated with a 29 per cent share (64,000 seats) in total seats leased in the year and maintained its status as India's leading flexible workspace market. Bengaluru was followed by Pune (39,000 seats) Delhi NCR (38,000 seats) and Mumbai (28,000 seats) with shares of 18 per cent, 17 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively in total seats leased.

'Pariksha Pe Charcha': Punjab boy shares experience of meeting PM Modi



Nawanshahr, Feb 28 (IANS) 16-year-old Sarvesh Jangra from Rahon town in Nawanshahr district, Punjab, had the privilege of meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' programme. Speaking to IANS, Sarvesh expressed his happiness over the meeting, sharing that the anxiety he once had about exams has now dissipated.

His family was also thrilled, with his parents expressing joy over their son's meeting with the Prime Minister.

Talking to IANS, Sarvesh explained, "I owe this opportunity to my teachers, who encouraged me to participate in this programme about exams. They urged me to take part, and it was their support that helped me reach this stage.

"Out of all the students in Punjab, three were selected - one boy and two girls - and I was fortunate to be one of them. There was no exam involved. My school sent in the audition video, and after a selection process in Punjab, the final selection was done in Delhi. That's when I found out I had been chosen."

Reflecting on his experience, Sarvesh added, "It was an unforgettable experience. I felt great meeting students of my age from different parts of India and especially talking to PM Modi.

"It was a huge privilege to speak with him, and PM Modi spent about one-and-a-half hours talking to us students. He was warm and approachable, with a friendly nature that made the entire interaction feel comfortable. I truly enjoyed our conversation, and it was a moment of great fortune for me."

Sarvesh's father, Pawan Kumar Jangra, also shared his thoughts, stating, "I think this programme is extremely important. Sarvesh is studying hard, and this programme brought much-needed relief to him. It eased the stress surrounding exams. No one there seemed stressed, and with PM Modi's guidance, almost all the pressure has melted away. It felt really great."

Sarvesh's uncle also shared how he is feeling proud that his nephew met with PM Modi.

"It is great that my nephew met PM Modi ji," he added.

'Pariksha Pe Charcha' serves as an interactive platform where the Prime Minister directly engages with students, teachers, and parents.

Each edition of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' highlights innovative approaches to tackle exam-related anxiety, fostering a celebratory attitude toward learning and life.

Swadeshi Jagran Manch advocates self-reliance and entrepreneurship

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 28: Swadeshi Jagran Manch, which has been promoting local products, Indian culture, organic farming and environmental protection for the past 34 years, is now intensifying its Swavalambhi Bharat Abhiyan to encourage self-employment among the youth. Addressing a press conference, Shri Satish Kumar, All India Co-Organizer of Swadeshi Jagran Manch, emphasized the forum's commitment to empowering young individuals with entrepreneurial skills to generate employment opportunities.

He stated, "Our mission is to guide aspiring entrepreneurs through Swavalambhi Sahayata Kendra and digital platforms, paving the way for a fully employed, poverty-free and prosperous India."

The campaign is focused on three key areas. Firstly, it aims to promote Swadeshi products and Indian culture in daily life, which will help boost small and cottage industries while creating new employment opportunities.

Secondly, the initiative stresses the importance of entrepreneurship as a means of sustainable employment. To support this, the forum is working on establishing training centers in every district to equip youth with essential business skills.

Lastly, a digital signature campaign is being run to advocate for the formation of an Entrepreneurship Commission at both national and state levels. This commission would facilitate structured entrepreneurship training, ensuring that young men and women receive the necessary support to become self-reliant.Swadeshi Jagran Manch is actively operating Swavalambhi Sahayata Kendra in every district of Jharkhand and is also organizing Swadeshi Melas in ten districts to promote small and cottage entrepreneurs. Additionally, the forum is raising awareness about Jharkhand's total fertility rate, advocating for families to have at least three children to maintain a strong workforce for the future and sustain the country's self-employment model. The press conference was attended by Bandeshankar Singh, Ajay Kumar Upadhyay, Amarendra Singh, Pankaj Singh and Mukesh Thakur, who reiterated their commitment to driving this movement forward. (w/nkm)

Congress pays tribute to Dr. Rajendra Prasad

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 28: The East Singhbhum District Congress Committee observed the death anniversary of India's first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, at the Tilak Library Congress office in Bistupur. The program began with District Congress President Anand Bihari Dubey offering floral tributes to Dr. Rajendra Prasad's portrait. Speaking on the occasion, Dubey said, "Dr. Rajendra Prasad was a true example of simplicity and dedication. As the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly, he played a crucial role in shaping the Indian Constitution along with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar."

Several Congress leaders, including State Secretary Samanta Kumar, Khagenchandra Mahato, Brajendra Tiwari, Sanjay Singh Azad, Ranjit Singh and others, attended the event and paid their respects. (w/nkm)

Sundi samaj protests for caste certificate amendments



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 28: Members of the Sundi community staged a massive rally in Sakchi, demanding amendments in the caste certificate process and their inclusion in the Scheduled Caste category in Jharkhand.

Led by Nandlal Sahu, the community submitted a three-point demand memorandum to Governor Ananya Mittal through the District Deputy Commissioner.

Their demands included the recognition of the Sundi community as SC, similar to neighboring West Bengal and a simplified caste certificate process.

"Our community is aware of its rights. If our demands are ignored, we will launch an intense movement from the streets to the legislature," warned Nandlal Sahu.

Prominent community leaders, including Sunil Gupta, Shakuntala Devi and Amit Sahu, participated in the rally. (w/nkm)

Thieves steal from closed house in Kapali

Jamshedpur, Feb 28: Thieves targeted a closed house in Islam Nagar Mazar Gali, Kapali, making away with Rs 30,000 in cash.

The house, belonging to Adam, was empty as the family had traveled to Ranchi to visit relatives. On their return Thursday night, they found both the front and back doors broken. A neighbour, Shabab, informed the police, who are now investigating the case.

"We have reported the theft and the police are checking CCTV footage from nearby houses," he

Devotional Bhajan Sandhya enthralls devotees in Kharsawan

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Feb 28: A grand Bhajan Sandhya was organized at the Chhota Shiv Mandir premises in Kharsawan, where renowned singers mesmerized the audience with devotional songs. Singers Kumar Babula, Munn Yashasvi, Master Jugnu, Shweta Kumari and Shweta Tiwari from Dhanbad delivered captivating performances dedicated to Lord Shiva. The event commenced with the soulful rendition of Shri Ganesh Ji Mere Angna Padhare, followed by audience-requested songs like Shri Ram-Janaki Baithe Hain Tere Seene Mein, Swagatham Suswagatam Bhole Baba Ko Swagatham, Nache Kanwariya Shiv Ke Dham and Durga Hai Meri Maa Ambe Hai Meri Maa. The performers also presented songs in multiple languages, including Bhojpuri and Odia. Instrumentalists, including Sandhir Pramanik on Dholak and Umesh Singh on the keyboard, added to the evening's charm with their musical expertise. The devotional gathering witnessed enthusiastic participation, with devotees dancing to the spiritual melodies.

Prominent attendees included Shiv Prasad Shadangi, Pramukh Manendra Jamuda, Deputy Mukhiya Sushila Nayak, Panchayat Samiti member Jolly Mishra, Shibo Nayak, Karpuri Shadangi, Lukesh Raut, Vimal Agarwal, Pratap Mishra, Vicky Acharya, Shyami Mohapatra, Bikul Pradhan, Pulendu Raut and a large number of devotees. (w/nkm)

District Skill Development Committee meeting held

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Feb 28: The District Skill Development Committee meeting was conducted through video conferencing under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Ravi Shankar Shukla. The meeting saw the participation of Deputy Development Commissioner Ashish Agarwal, Assistant Collector Kumar Rajat, Labor Superintendent Avinash Thakur and officials from various departments.

Labor Superintendent Avinash Thakur provided an update on the skill training being conducted at the Birsa Skill Training Centers across different blocks of the district. He also shared details on the number of students enrolled session-wise.

Deputy Commissioner Shukla directed Thakur to coordinate with industrial institutions and tailor the training programs to meet industry requirements. He emphasized the importance of setting up Birsa Skill Training Centers in all blocks and ensuring that 100% of interested individuals receive training in their preferred fields.

The Deputy Commissioner also stressed the need for widespread awareness about skill training opportunities and local employment initiatives. "Students who have completed training should be identified and linked to suitable employment or self-employment opportunities," he stated. He further instructed officials to facilitate self-employment for trained individuals by providing benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Srijan Yojana, Mukhyamantri Rojgar Srijan Yojana and other government welfare schemes. (w/nkm)

SER ensures smooth travel for Maha Kumbh pilgrims

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 28: Indian Railways has undertaken a massive logistical effort to facilitate the travel of millions of pilgrims attending Maha Kumbh 2025, introducing special trains from various cities.

South Eastern Railway (SER) has played a key role in ensuring smooth transportation by running multiple Mahakumbh Special Trains, including Ranchi-Tundla-Ranchi (two pairs), Tatanagar-Tundla-Tatanagar (one pair), Titlagarh-Tundla-Titlagarh (six pairs), Bhubaneswar-Tundla-Bhubaneswar (six pairs), Puri-Tundla-Puri (three pairs), Tirupati-Banaras-Tirupati (four pairs) and Narsapur-Banaras-Narsapur (two pairs). Additionally, 16 regular trains with stoppages at Prayagraj are running across SER's jurisdiction, benefiting pilgrims from Ranchi, Tatanagar, Bokaro, Rourkela, Kolkata and other locations.

To ensure a safe and comfortable journey, SER has made special arrangements at major stations, including additional help desks, drinking water facilities, first aid services and enhanced security measures.

A dedicated team of Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP), along with railway staff, Scouts and Guides and Civil Defence volunteers, managed the crowd efficiently. CCTV surveillance was increased at key stations and patrolling on trains and platforms was strengthened. The railway administration deployed extra staff to ensure the punctual operation of special trains, preventing any inconvenience to passengers. Special attention was also given to catering services, with quality food provided through authorized vendors. To maintain order at stations, public announcements were made through the Public Address System, advising passengers to avoid unnecessary crowding and follow safety protocols. (w/nkm)

West Singhbhum registers fifth consecutive victory in U-23 Cricket

Mail News Service



Chaibasa, Feb 28: Continuing their stellar performance in the Inter-District U-23 Cricket Tournament, West Singhbhum defeated Dumka by five wickets, securing their fifth consecutive win and maintaining their top position on the points table with 20 points. Batting first at Latehar District Sports Stadium, Dumka managed 114 runs in 26.4 overs. Sachin Kumar Munda top-scored with 31, while left-arm spinner Ashish Kumar Singh's brilliant spell of 5/41 dismantled the batting lineup.

West Singhbhum comfortably chased the target in 18 overs, with Shubham Singh (42) and Lalit Singh (35) leading the charge. Dumka's Preet Singh claimed three wickets. For his exceptional bowling, Ashish Kumar Singh was named "Man of the Match" and received a Rs 5,000 prize from Latehar District Cricket Association General Secretary Amlesh Kumar Singh.

West Singhbhum will face Hazaribagh in the quarter-finals on March 3, aiming to continue their dominant run. (w/nkm)

UCIL distributes cleanliness materials

Jaduguda, Feb 28: On the concluding day of UCIL's Swachhata Pakhwada campaign, cleanliness materials were distributed to students in five government schools across the region. The initiative aimed at promoting hygiene and awareness among schoolchildren. The event commenced at Baghjata Primary School, where materials such as flower brooms, coconut brooms, five litres of phenyl and 200ml of Dettol handwash were handed over to the school administration. (w/nkm)

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर

–:: शुद्धि–पत्र ::–

एतद् द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या–**53/वर्ष 2024–25** जिसका **शुद्धि पत्र का पी०आर०संख्या–347029 Building(24-25)D** है, जो समाचार पत्रों में **दिनांक 24.02.2025** को प्रकाशित हुआ है, के सभी शर्त्तें को निरस्त करते हुए निविदा की शर्त्तें कार्यालय के सूचना पट्ट पर एवं ***www.jharkhand.gov.in*** पर भी देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
PR 347431 Building(24-25)#D भवन प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर

कार्यालय,
अभिहित अधिकारी-सह-अपर मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी,
पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा (खाद्य सुरक्षा शाखा)

पश्चिमी सिंहभूम (चाईबासा) जिला अंतर्गत खाद्य कारोबारियों (FBO) हेतु FoSTaC Training, हाईजीन रेटिंग एवं Audit of High Risk Business किया जाना है।

अतः FSSAI से अभिप्रमाणित इच्छूक Training Partner न्यूनतम एक सौ (100) FBOs (02 batch of 50 FBOs) हेतु FoSTaC Training, पन्द्रह (15) खाद्य कारोबारियों हेतु हाईजीन रेटिंग एवं दो (02) खाद्य कारोबारियों हेतु Audit of High Risk Business से संबंधित पृथक Quotation अभिहित अधिकारी–सह–अपर मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी, सदर अस्पताल, चाईबासा–833201 को डाक/Speed Post के माध्यम से अथवा acmo.chaibasa@gmail.com पर email के माध्यम से दिनांक–06 मार्च, 2025 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक उपलब्ध कराना सुनिश्चित करेंगे।

नोटः– 1. उक्त समय के बाद प्राप्त Quotation पर विचार नहीं किया जाएगा।
2. FoSTaC Training हेतु स्वा० चि० शि० एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग का आदेश सं०सं० खाद्य SFL–15–02/2019 365(16) स्वा०, दिनांक–24.11.2021 का अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करेंगे।

ह०/–
खाद्य सुरक्षा पदाधिकारी,
पश्चिमी सिंहभूम।

ह०/–
अभिहित अधिकारी–सह–
अपर मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी,
पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा।

PR.NO.347345 West Singhbhum(24-25):D

जिला दण्डाधिकारी एवं उपायुक्त का न्यायालय,
पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर

Sarfeasi Case No.47/**2023-24**
Bank of India, Circuit House Branch -Vrs- Shri Prakash Narayan Tiwary

आवश्यक सूचना
नोटिस

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि उपरोक्त मामला में Shri Prakash Narayan Tiwary, S/o Laxmi Narayan Tiwary, R/o-1021, Panchwati Nagar, Sonari, Jamshedpur, East Singhbhum 831011 को उपायुक्त, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर के न्यायालय में Sarfeasi Case No.47/**2023-24** की सुनवाई हेतु दिनांक 07.03.2025 को तिथि निर्धारित है।

निदेश दिया जाता है कि दिनांक 07.03.2025 को अपना पक्ष रखने हेतु उपायुक्त, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर के न्यायालय में स्वयं अथवा अपने अधिवक्ता के माध्यम से उपस्थित होना सुनिश्चित करें।

प्रभारी पदाधिकारी,
विधि शाखा।
पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर।

PR.NO.347372 District(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/23/2024-25 (अनाबद्ध निधि)
1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :

क्र० सं०	प्रखण्ड	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	सदर	मुख्य सड़क से कस्तुरबा गांधी बालिका विद्यालय (CM School of Excellence) चाईबासा तक पी०सी०सी० पथ निर्माण।	2849100.00	57000.00	5000.00	03 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 05.03.2025
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय – दिनांक 05.03.2025 से दिनांक 10.03.2025 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 –11.03.2025 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 तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
9. सरकार के संयुक्त सचिव ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग झारखण्ड सरकार राँची के पत्रांक 02(नि०नि०–17)–251/23 ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग 3130(अनु०), राँची, दिनांक 09.10.2023 द्वारा दिये गये निदेश के अनुपालन में **सभी कागजात के साथ, निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।**
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।
11. निविदा खोलने की तिथि से 5 दिनों के अन्दर निविदादाता द्वारा अपनी आपत्ति/दावा दर्ज कराये अन्यथा अवधि बीतने के पश्चात् कोई भी आपत्ति/दावा मान्य नहीं होगा।
12. ग्रामीण विकास विभाग (ग्रामीण कार्य मामले) झारखण्ड, पथ निर्माण विभाग, के अन्तर्गत पंजीकृत समुचित श्रेणी के संवेदक भाग ले सकेगें।
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

ह०/–
कार्यपालक अभियंता
PR 347452 West Singhbhum(24-25)#D ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, सरायकेला

अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या – 20/2024–25

1. विज्ञापन दाता का नाम एवं पता – कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, सरायकेला।
2. परिमाण विपत्र की बिक्री की तिथि – दि0 03.03.2025 से 08.03.2025 तक।
3. निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय – दि0 10.03.2025 के अपराह्न 2.00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय – दि0 10.03.2025 के अपराह्न 2.30 बजे।
5. परिमाण विपत्र बिक्री का स्थान – 1) कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, सरायकेला। 2) उपविकास आयुक्त का कार्यालय, सरायकेला–खरसावाँ
6. निविदा प्राप्ति एवं खुलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, सरायकेला।
7. कार्य का विवरणी :

क्रम सं0	कार्य का नाम (सरायकेला–खरसावाँ जिला अन्तर्गत) (समाज कल्याण)	प्राक्कलित राशि (रू0 में)	अग्रधन की राशि (रू0 में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (रू0 में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की तिथि
1	सरायकेला–खरसावाँ जिला के बाल विकास परियोजना राजनगर अन्तर्गत पुहा में आँगनबाड़ी केन्द्र भवन निर्माण।	11,08,200.00	22,200.00	2500.00	03 माह
2	सरायकेला–खरसावाँ जिला के बाल विकास परियोजना चाण्डिल अन्तर्गत मातकमडीह–1 एवं रांका–2 में आँगनबाड़ी केन्द्र भवन निर्माण।	22,16,400.00	44,400.00	5000.00	03 माह
3	सरायकेला–खरसावाँ जिला के बाल विकास परियोजना चाण्डिल अन्तर्गत हेंसाकोचा टोला–माचाबेड़ा में आँगनबाड़ी केन्द्र भवन निर्माण।	11,08,200.00	22,200.00	2500.00	03 माह
4	सरायकेला–खरसावाँ जिला के बाल विकास परियोजना नीमडीह अन्तर्गत बाड़ेदा–2 में आँगनबाड़ी केन्द्र भवन निर्माण।	11,08,200.00	22,200.00	2500.00	03 माह

8. यह निविदा उपायुक्त, सरायकेला–खरसावाँ के ज्ञापांक 338/स0क0, दिनांक 27.02.2025 के शर्त्तों/बंधेजों से आच्छादित होगी।
9. निविदा के नियमों एवं शर्त्तों को कार्यालय के सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
PR 347404 Rural Work Department(24-25)#D ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, सरायकेला

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

अति अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई– निविदा सूचना संख्या – RDD/SD/CHAIBASA/22/2024-25 (अनाबद्ध निधि)
1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :

क्र० सं०	प्रखण्ड	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	बन्दगाँव	नकटी डैम में चढ़ने एवं उतरने के लिए 08 फीट चौड़ा सीढ़ी रेलिंग सहित का निर्माण।	3905500.00	79000.00	5000.00	03 माह
2	बन्दगाँव	नकटी डैम में पर्यटकों के लिए महिला एवं पुरूष शौचालय का निर्माण।	1330000.00	27000.00	2500.00	03 माह
3	सोनुवा	पनसुवा डैम में चढ़ने एवं उतरने लिए 08 फीट चौड़ा सीढी रेलिंग सहित का निर्माण।	2390200.00	48000.00	5000.00	03 माह
4	सोनुवा	पनसुवा डैम में पर्यटकों के लिए महिला एवं पुरूष शौचालय का निर्माण।	1330000.00	27000.00	2500.00	03 माह
5	मझगांव	बेलमा डैम में चढ़ने एवं उतरने के लिए 08 फीट चौड़ा सीढ़ी रेलिंग सहित का निर्माण।	1174400.00	24000.00	2500.00	03 माह
6	मझगांव	बेलमा डैम के ऊपर में सड़क का निर्माण कार्य।	9048300.00	181000.00	10000.00	04 माह
7	मझगांव	बेलमा डैम में पर्यटकों के लिए महिला एवं पुरूष शौचालय का निर्माण।	1331500.00	27000.00	2500.00	03 माह
8	मझगांव	बेलमा डैम में पर्यटकों के लिए सर्विस पी०सी०सी० पथ का निर्माण।	2482300.00	50000.00	5000.00	03 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 05.03.2025
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय – दिनांक 05.03.2025 से दिनांक 10.03.2025 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 –11.03.2025 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 तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
9. सरकार के संयुक्त सचिव ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग झारखण्ड सरकार राँची के पत्रांक 02(नि०नि०–17)–251/23 ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग 3130(अनु०), राँची, दिनांक 09.10.2023 द्वारा दिये गये निदेश के अनुपालन में **सभी कागजात के साथ, निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।**
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।
11. निविदा खोलने की तिथि से 5 दिनों के अन्दर निविदादाता द्वारा अपनी आपत्ति/दावा दर्ज कराये अन्यथा अवधि बीतने के पश्चात् कोई भी आपत्ति/दावा मान्य नहीं होगा।
12. ग्रामीण विकास विभाग (ग्रामीण कार्य मामले) झारखण्ड, पथ निर्माण विभाग, झारखण्ड, के अन्तर्गत पंजीकृत समुचित श्रेणी के संवेदक भाग ले सकेगें।
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

ह०/–
कार्यपालक अभियंता
PR 347454 West Singhbhum(24-25)#D ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा

Health

H5N1 in cats: Chhindwara on high alert, normalcy expected after March 4



Bhopal, Feb 28 (IANS) Normalcy is expected to return after March 4 in Chhindwara town as the H5N1 virus was detected in domestic cats. The meat, chicken, and egg markets are closed and people are advised to visit government hospitals if they have any flu-like symptoms.

The entire tribal-dominated district has been on high alert since February 10. This is the first time in India that domestic cats have been detected with bird flu.

On January 10, according to a senior government official, 99 domestic cats fell sick and were brought to a veterinary hospital, later two of them detected the H5N1 virus. Although avian influenza usually does not infect humans, in rare cases, illnesses in humans from avian influenza virus infections have ranged in severity from no symptoms or mild illness to severe disease that resulted in death.

"The virus might have been transmitted from chicken to these cats fed by their caretakers," a senior government officer said adding, "So far only local market of chicken and meat has been declared closed for 21 days."

The H5N1 virus -- commonly associated with birds -- has been detected in cats. In response, the district administration has implemented precautionary measures, including a 21-day prohibition on the sale and purchase of mutton, chicken, and eggs. Meat and poultry shops in the affected areas have also been sealed.

The cats were brought to the local veterinary hospital and doctors were unable to diagnose their problem. After initial efforts to treat them, the doctors intimated the Bhopal district lab. A team of experts visited Chhindwara and collected samples.

"To investigate, samples from several cats were sent to Pune's National Institute of Virology on January 15 and 22. By February 10, the results confirmed the presence of the H5N1 virus in two samples. Taking swift action, the administration targeted the source of the infection," Dr HGS Pakshwar, the deputy director of animal husbandry department Chhindwara, told IANS over the telephone.

He further said that raw meat samples were collected from shops linked to the deceased cats' diet. Bird flu traces found at these shops prompted the destruction of related meat and eggs, accompanied by a 30-day closure of the establishments.

Moreover, samples from 65 people in contact with the infected cats were also tested. "All results came back negative. Nevertheless, health officials remain vigilant, with ongoing surveillance in the area in a radius of 10 km."

To control the spread, authorities destroyed 40,000 eggs and culled 500 hens and chickens.

Kiara-Sidharth announce pregnancy: Karan Johar, Samantha, Shilpa Shetty, Sonakshi Sinha and others send good wishes for couple



Mumbai, Feb 28 (IANS) Bollywood couple Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra are expecting their first child.

The couple, who tied the knot in 2023, shared the happy announcement on social media with a heartwarming post that garnered immediate attention and love from the film industry. B-Town celebs, including Samantha Ruth Prabhu, Shilpa Shetty, Ektaa Kapoor, Sharvari, Athiya Shetty, Rakul Preet Singh, Huma Qureshi, Sonakshi Sinha, Rhea Chakraborty, Sonu Sood, and Karan Johar, among others, flocked to the comments section to congratulate the couple.

Sonu Sood commented, "Congratulations." Ektaa Kapoor wrote, "Raaaaaatan will truly be lambiyaaan sleepless nights are here." Samantha said, "Omg congratulations."

Shilpa commented, "Awwwww congratulations are in order." Rakul expressed her excitement, writing, "Omggggg congratulations guys so so happy." Neha Dhupia wrote, "Congratulations, you guys, best news ever." Ishaan Khatter wrote, "Congrats guys! And bless up, lil one! Safe journey." Manish Malhotra dropped heart emojis. Neena Gupta wrote, "Congratulations."

"Omg how sweeeeet!!! Congratulations you guys," wrote Sonakshi. Karan Johar, who shares a close bond with the couple, took to his social media handles to shower love on Kiara and Sidharth.

Announcing the good news, Kiara and Sidharth shared a joint post on Instagram, writing, "The greatest gift of our lives… Coming soon."

The couple shared an image, which shows hands gently holding a pair of white knitted baby booties with delicate ribbon bows.

Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra got married on February 7, 2023, in a private ceremony at the Suryagarh Palace in Jaisalmer, with only their close family and friends present. Following the intimate wedding, the couple celebrated with a grand, star-studded reception in Mumbai.

They first met while working together on their 2021 film "Shershaah." In the critically acclaimed war drama, Sidharth portrayed Captain Vikram Batra, while Kiara played his girlfriend, Dimple Cheema. It is reported that their relationship blossomed during the film's shoot.

Despite rumors circulating since 2020 about their relationship, neither Kiara Advani nor Sidharth Malhotra addressed it publicly. However, filmmaker Karan Johar seemed to confirm the relationship in 2022 when he casually mentioned on Koffee With Karan that Sidharth was indeed dating Kiara.

Seerat Kapoor: Revisiting 'It's Complicated' has been an incredible journey



Mumbai, Feb 28 (IANS) Actress Seerat Kapoor, who portrays the lead role in the film "It's Complicated", has expressed her excitement over her film's re-release.

The actor expressed, "Revisiting It's Complicated has been an incredible journey. The overwhelming response to its re-release is a testament to the film's enduring connection with audiences. It's heartwarming to see both longtime fans and new viewers embracing the story with such enthusiasm."

It was in 2011, when Seerat worked as assistant choreographer in Ranbir Kapoor's Rockstar. She announced in 2014 that she would appear in Run Raja Run opposite Sharwanand, directed by Sujeeth. Run Raja Run was a commercial success.

In the same year, she was seen playing the role of Nancy in "Zid", a thriller, directed by Vivek Agnihotri. The film stars Karanvir Sharma, Mannara Chopra and Shraddha Das in the principal roles.

Pavail Gulatie on 5 years of 'Thappad': 'Took me nearly 7 takes to get the shot right'

Mumbai, Feb 28 (IANS) As his film "Thappad" clocked five years in Hindi cinema on Friday, actor Pavail Gulatie, who called the film a "blessing in disguise", said it took him "nearly seven takes" to get the shot right.

"Thappad has been the most thrilling ride for me, and it's a film that I will cherish forever. It came to me as a blessing in disguise, and I'm happy that it happened," Pavail said.

Released back in 2020, 'Thappad', which is directed by Anubhav Sinha, is a commentary on gender norms, relationships, and the societal restrictions and expectations imposed on women. 'Thappad' is a film talks about domestic abuse with actress Taapsee Pannu's dialogue, 'Sirf thappad hai, par nahi maar sakta' leaving a deep impact.

"'Thappad', the film, is all about one slap, and slapping someone is not the nicest thing to do. It took me nearly 7 takes to get the shot right, and Taapsee Pannu was very determined to get the scene correct, at the right angle and the right impact." The actor still remembers being full of nervousness.



"It was a party scene, and everyone was present. They did their bit to calm me down, but the scene was sensitive and emotionally furious. But I'm glad it turned out the way it should have turned out. Every anniversary of Thappad is a reminder that change takes time, but it happens steadily," shared Pavail.

In 'Thappad', Pavail Gulatie stepped into the shoes of Vikram Sabharwal, the happily married earning man of the house. The story revolves around the married couple, whose life takes a turn when Vikram's promotion gets compromised. Angered, he ends up in an argument with his superior. When his wife, essayed by Taapsee Pannu tries to break him from the argument, Vikram slaps her publicly. Pavail took to his Instagram, where he also shared a throwback picture from the shoot of "Thappad". The picture featured him posing alongside Anubhav and Taapsee.

"Five years ago a dream came true and I am still living it! THAPPAD will always be the most special film in my life. It's made me who I am," he wrote in the caption. He added: "Sometimes I wish I could go back in time and relive it all over again! Wow, it's been 5 years.

"Inn Galiyon Mein' new release date locked; Makers treat with a vibrant Holi anthem 'Uda Hawa Mein Rang Hai'



Mumbai, Feb 28 (IANS) As movie buffs wait for the release of "Inn Galiyon Mein", the makers have officially announced the new release date for the drama. The project will be reaching the cinema halls on March 14, 2025.In addition to this, the makers have also treated the netizens with a vibrant Holi anthem, "Uda Hawa Mein Rang Hai" from the film. The newly released track perfectly captures the spirit of Holi, celebrating unity, joy, and togetherness.

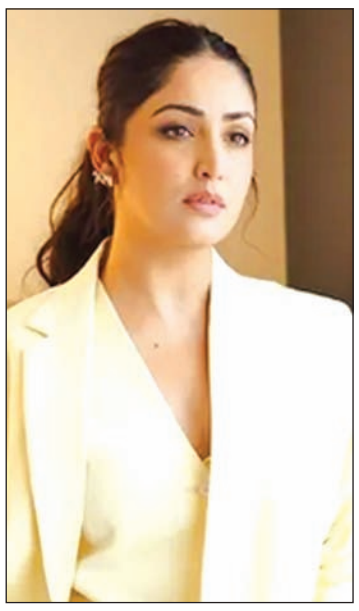
Arvind Sagole's vibrant composition, paired with Vimal Kashyap's heartfelt lyrics, shines through the soulful vocals of Nakash Aziz.

Talking about "Uda Hawa Mein Rang Hai", director Avinash Das shared, "With Inn Galiyon Mein, we wanted to tell a story that resonates with modern age love, heartfelt, and deeply connected to our culture. Holi is a festival that brings people together, and Uda Hawa Mein Rang Hai captures that spirit of love, joy, and unity. We can't wait for audiences to experience the energy of this song and the emotions of the film when it releases on 14th March 2025."

Recently, the makers dropped the primary track from the movie, "Patang Ki Dor".

Speaking about the song, composer Amaal Mallik shared, "This song holds a special place in my heart.

Exclusive! Yami Gautam reveals why she wants her film 'Article 370' to re-release in theatres



Mumbai, Feb 28 (IANS) Bollywood actress Yami Gautam recently opened up about her desire for her film 'Article 370' to be re-released in theatres.

While the film originally had a limited release, Yami, who was expecting her baby at the time, didn't have the opportunity to experience it with a live audience. Now, the actress shares why she is eager for fans to see the film on the big screen and why it holds such a special place in her heart.

When asked about the films she wishes to re-release in theatres, Yami Gautam told IANS, "That's a question for the audience! But personally, I would love to see Uri or Vicky Donor on the big screen again. Also, Bala, A Thursday, and Article 370-especially Article 370 because I didn't get the chance to watch it with an audience.

Ashutosh Gowariker extends special invitation to PM Narendra Modi for son Konark's wedding



Mumbai, Feb 28 (IANS) Filmmaker Ashutosh Gowariker has extended a heartfelt invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the grand wedding of his son, Konark.

A source informed us that the Gowariker family holds great admiration for Prime Minister Modi's leadership and legacy. This invitation is a sincere expression of their respect and gratitude. Konark Gowariker is set to marry Niyati Kanakia in a grand wedding ceremony on March 2 in Mumbai.

Niyati is the daughter of renowned real estate mogul Raseh Babubhai Kanakia of Kanakia Builders. According to a close source, the wedding promises to be a star-studded affair, with close friends and family from both the film industry and corporate world coming together to celebrate and bless the couple. Meanwhile, Konark recently gave fans an inside look into the wedding preparations by sharing a video on his Instagram. In the clip, he and his fiancée, Niyati Kanakia, were seen in traditional attire. Additional posts showed the couple rehearsing a dance together, although Niyati had a minor mishap during practice. A few days ago, Konark expressed his gratitude to his friends for their support and assistance with the wedding preparations for him and Niyati.

Manjari Fadnnis opens up about her Indian classical music training

Mumbai, Feb 28 (IANS) Actress Manjari Fadnnis revealed that she has resumed her Indian classical music training.

The actress, who officially began her music journey last year, told IANS, "It's been going good! Restarted with my Indian Classical Music Training on 2nd Jan with my music teacher Sucheta Bhattacharjee. I am really excited about my journey in music that I officially began last year and have lots of plans around it."

"So working on that… While my Film Pune Highway is close to its release... Just waiting on the dates to be officially announced. Besides that, spend a beautiful time at Goa with Family & a very close friend. So, in all its been a wholesome beginning to this year, she added.



In addition to her acting projects, Fadnnis also mentioned her musical pursuits, revealing that a single titled "Titli Ki Aawargi," composed by her dear friend Gourav Dasgupta, is set to be released soon, along with a few other singles.

Manjari also spoke about her recent photoshoot in red sari and revealed the concept behind it. "I'd like to give credit to M. Fahim. It was his idea! He's a dear friend and an excellent photographer. Fahim wanted to create something completely unique, something no one has seen me in before. He envisioned a concept involving Fire, Water, and Rain-capturing me in a personal, introspective moment, just enjoying nature, completely uninhibited and with no makeup."

She went on to mention, "I had never done anything like this before, and it was a perfect opportunity to explore new sides of me. I've always wanted to refresh perspectives about myself and break the stereotypes people might have formed. That's when M. Fahim came up with his brilliant idea.

Amitabh Bachchan finally clears suspense on 'Time to go' post



Mumbai, Feb 28 (IANS) Veteran actor Amitabh Bachchan recently sent shockwaves through his fanbase with a cryptic tweet that simply read, "Time to go."

The cryptic post quickly fueled speculation, with many users wondering if the actor was signaling his retirement from films and his show, "Kaun Banega Crorepati."

However, the mystery surrounding Bachchan's tweet was cleared up during the latest episode of "Kaun Banega Crorepati 16," where the legendary actor addressed the speculation head-on.

The makers shared a promo video of the episode where Big B humorously responded to a contestant's playful request for him to dance.

KL Rahul dismisses Rohit, Shami injury concerns ahead of NZ clash

Champions Trophy

Dubai, Feb 28 (IANS) After both Rohit Sharma and Mohammed Shami had left the ground with respective fitness issues during their win against Pakistan, wicket-keeper batter K.L. Rahul confirmed there are no concerns fitness-wise heading into the final group clash against New Zealand on Sunday. Both India and New Zealand have qualified for the semifinals from Group A, with hosts Pakistan and Bangladesh set to make early exits after consecutive defeats in the tournament.

The two sides last faced each other in an ODI in the 2023 World Cup semifinal, where Men in Blue sealed the tie by 70 runs at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai to qualify for the summit clash. "Fitness-wise, everything seems pretty okay. There are no real concerns about anyone missing, as far as I know. Everyone has been at the gym; everyone has been in training," said KL Rahul.

With there being only one rest day between India's Group A clash against New Zealand and their semifinal, it would not have been unprecedented if some



senior players were to rest ahead of the knockout stages. However, Rahul does not see that happening.

"Luckily, I am not part of the leadership group. I don't have to make that decision. There will be some temptation to try out players who have not gotten a game. But I don't think that will happen in the Champions Trophy because there is just one day's break between the final group-stage game and the semifinal," he added.

Rahul also addressed his selection over Rishabh Pant in the ODI setup and claimed that with high-level backups, the temptation to keep changing the side is always there.

When Pant was recovering from a life-threatening car crash, Rahul became India's primary keeper-batter in ODIs since August 2023, proving to be a great middle-order bat and reliable keeper in the 50-over World Cup, amassing 452 runs and effecting 17 dismissals. "There is (competition with Pant), I won't lie. He is a very talented player and has shown all of us what he can do, how aggressively he can play, and how quickly he can change the game. So there is always a temptation in the team with the captain and the coach to think if they should play him or play me," said Rahul.

Australia qualify for semis after rain washes out Lahore game



Lahore, Feb 28 (IANS) Australia became the third team to secure qualification to the 2025 Champions Trophy semi-final after their match against Afghanistan at the Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore, was abandoned due to rain and the ensuing wet outfield on Friday. This is the first time since 2009 that they have been able to go through the group stage.

India and New Zealand have qualified from Group A and now, Saturday's match between South Africa and England will decide who between the Proteas and the Afghans go ahead from Group B.

Australia have qualified despite winning just one of their three matches in the group stage of the tournament. They comfortably beat rivals England in the campaign opener. Their next match against South Africa was washed out even without the toss. And now, this Afghanistan clash couldn't go beyond 12.5 overs in the second innings (much less than the minimum limit of 20 overs), and the two teams shared points again.

Australia, thus, ended the group stage at four points. England (zero points after two games) and Afghanistan (three points after three games) can't match that tally and thus can't beat the Aussies to one of the spots.

Saturday's match will also determine where the teams will finish in the points table. If South Africa beat England, the Proteas will end first with five points. They'll finish second if they lose and in case the match ends in another wash-out then the team with better net run-rate between South Africa and Australia will finish higher. The first-placed team will play the second-placed team from Group A in the semi-final and vice-versa.

Afghanistan aren't completely out of contention either, though their chances of going to the next round are quite bleak due to the huge gap between their and South Africa's NRR.

Afghanistan will be eliminated if the South Africa-England match ends in a no result. For them to qualify, the Englishmen will have to beat Temba Bavuma's team by at least 207 runs if they bat first. If England bats second, they will have to chase down the target within 11.1 overs, assuming a first-innings total of 300.

England, already eliminated from the semi-final race, have nothing to fight for except their pride.

Vidarbha seize first-innings lead after Dubey's historic spell on Day 3



Nagpur, Feb 28 (IANS) Vidarbha's left-arm spinner Harsh Dubey carved his name in Ranji Trophy history on Day 3 of the final against Kerala at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium, becoming the highest wicket-taker in a single season of the tournament to bowl out the visitors on 342 handing his side a minor lead of 37 runs.

Dubey achieved the milestone of 69 wickets when he dismissed M.D. Nidheesh after Tea, his third wicket of the innings. Earlier in the day, he had trapped Aditya Sarwate for 79 and removed Salman Nizar, the team's leading run-getter this season, leg-before just before lunch. With this, Dubey surpassed Bihar's Ashutosh Aman, who had taken 68 wickets in the 2018-19 season, setting a new record with 69 scalps in the 2024-25 edition.

Dubey's extraordinary season has been instrumental in Vidarbha's campaign, particularly his match-winning performance in the semifinal against Mumbai, where he claimed seven wickets in the second innings. His consistency has placed him in an elite club of bowlers, making him only the sixth player to go past 60 wickets in a season.

Additionally, Dubey has been a valuable contributor with the bat, amassing 472 runs in 17 innings, including five half-centuries, making him only the fourth player in Ranji history to achieve the rare all-rounder's double of 450-plus runs and 50-plus wickets in a single season.

Kerala had resumed the day at 131/3, with Sarwate and captain Sachin Baby at the crease. The day began on a promising note for Kerala, with Sarwate and Baby adopting a cautious approach against a disciplined Vidarbha attack.

Harsh Dubey becomes highest wicket-taker in a single season: Vidarbha's left-arm spinner Harsh Dubey etched his name in the Ranji Trophy record books, setting the record for most wickets taken during a single season, picking up 3-88 on the third day of the final against Kerala at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium here on Friday. Bowling in Kerala's first innings after Vidarbha posted 379 on being asked to bat first, Dubey achieved the milestone with his third wicket of the innings, dismissing M.D. Nidheesh after Tea on Day Three. Earlier, the young left-arm spinner had sent back Kerala's top scorer, Aditya Sarwate, for 79 before trapping Salman Nizar-Kerala's leading run-getter this season-LBW just before lunch.

Buttler steps down as England's white-ball captain following CT debacle

Karachi, Feb 28 (IANS) England skipper Jos Buttler has announced his decision to step down as captain of the white-ball side after Saturday's game against South Africa, which will complete England's engagements in the ongoing Champions Trophy 2025. England have already been eliminated from the event after losses to Australia and Afghanistan.

Buttler was appointed as Eoin Morgan's successor in June 2022 and won the T20 World Cup in Australia later that year. The 34-year-old announced the decision in the pre-game conference on Friday. "I am going to step down as England captain, it's the right decision for me and the team. Hopefully, somebody else can come in and work alongside Baz



to take the team to where it needs to be.

"It's quite clear that this tournament was going to be important in regards to my captaincy and two losses out of the tournament, with the hangover of some of the tournaments before. I reached the end of the rope for my captaincy, and it's a shame; I am sad about it. With Brendon (McCullum) coming in, I was excited to work alongside him and take the team forward, but it has not worked out that way, so it feels like it's the right time for a change," said Buttler.

Over the past two years, England have not made their usual mark in ICC tournaments, further indicating a need for change. They were eliminated from the 2023 ODI World Cup after finishing seventh in the league stage and followed it with a semi-final exit after losing against India in the 2024 T20 World Cup. The 2025 Champions Trophy ushered in the Brendon McCullum era for the English side, but the early exit from the tournament resulted in Buttler's decision to step down. He also reflected on the 'disappointment and sadness' he felt but hopes he can get back to enjoying the game without any additional pressure.

"There's a sort of disappointment and sadness, but I'm sure it will pass in time, and I can get back to enjoying my cricket.

49 pc hopeful of India winning CT, only 17 pc aware of Pak hosting the event: Ipsos

New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) After India sealed the semifinals spot in the Champions Trophy, the Ipsos IndiaBus shows 59 per cent Indians are interested in the tournament, with 35 per cent uninterested and 6 per cent being neutral.

However, excitement was seen to be brimming across target groups and demographics, among those interested. 81 per cent claimed to be excited about the tournament, men and women equally at 81 per cent, while SEC A (89 pc), SEC B (78 pc) and SEC C (77 pc) showed high excitement levels.

In fact 92 per cent of those in the metros were the most excited. Even across regions, there is an interesting mix of excitement, the west (83 pc),



north (83 pc), east (79 pc) and south (77 pc) had the majority super excited about watching the tournament.

The 9th edition of the ICC Champions Trophy contested by the top eight ranked teams qualified from the 2023 Cricket World Cup are India, Bangladesh, New Zealand and Pakistan making up Group A while Group B has Australia, England, South Africa and Afghanistan and that is leading to all the excitement among cricket frenzy fans.

In fact, at least 66 per cent claimed to be excited about the participating teams and players. For 3 in 10 it was the format and schedule of the tournament leading to the excitement.

Which was further ratified by citizens with more choosing day-night matches (36 per cent), night matches (21 per cent) over day matches (14 per cent).

When asked about how bright the prospects were of India lifting the trophy, the views were a mixed bag with 49 per cent highly hopeful of India winning the coveted trophy, 31 per cent were circumspect, while 20 per cent were less hopeful of India taking away the trophy, the survey data shows.

Interestingly, awareness of the of host country for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 was abysmally low. Only 17 per cent were aware of Pakistan hosting the tournament. 49 per cent wrongfully attributed the host nation to India and 28 per cent were undecided. Even England (4 per cent) and Australia (2 per cent) were wrongfully named as the host nation.

Cricket is a great binding factor among citizens across demographics, regions and social strata. After all, cricket is a religion in India, the sport with highest stickiness. World's best teams playing in the ODI format is also a big draw among cricket lovers," says Parijat Chakraborty, Group Service Line Leader, Public Affairs, Corporate Reputation, CSR and ESG, Ipsos India.

Lawmsangzuala's hat-trick secures JFC Reserves' spot in RFDL National Leg

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 28: Jamshedpur FC Reserves triumphed in the North East Zonal Round of the Reliance Development Foundation League (RFDL), thanks to a stunning hat-trick by their young striker, Lawmsangzuala. His stellar performance not only secured his team's place in the RFDL National Leg but also capped off an impressive campaign, where he finished as the second-highest goal scorer with nine goals. Reflecting



on his achievement, Zuala expressed his excitement, saying, "Scoring a hat-trick in the final match and helping Jamshedpur FC qualify is an incredible feeling! It's a testament to our hard work and dedication."

Zuala credited his goal-scoring success to teamwork, training, and mental preparation, highlighting the support of his teammates in creating scoring opportunities. Playing against older and more experienced players in the zonal round, he believes, has helped him develop his skills, improve decision-making, and stay focused under pressure.

As Jamshedpur FC Reserves prepares for the National Leg in Mumbai, Zuala acknowledges the challenge ahead but remains confident in his team's abilities. "We've already proven ourselves in the zonal round. Now, we need to stay focused, work together, and believe in our strength," he said.

Inspired by football legends Cristiano Ronaldo and Ronaldo Nazario, Zuala aims to contribute significantly in the National Leg by scoring and assisting as much as possible to help Jamshedpur FC Reserves qualify for the national championship. His talent and determination will be crucial as the team takes on the country's best in the next stage. (W-mb)

'Pak legends take money to hurl abuses at their country': Yograj

Chandigarh, Feb 28 (IANS) Former India cricketer Yograj Singh has slammed Pakistan legends for not lending a helping hand to the youth set-up of the country and said they "abuse" their own country for the sole purpose of earning "money".

Pakistan's final Group A fixture against Bangladesh was washed out in Rawalpindi due to rain on Thursday which meant that they ended their Champions Trophy campaign without a win. With only one point thanks to a washout, Pakistan finished their first home tournament in 29 years at the bottom of their group.

"The problem with Pakistan is that all the retired players like Wasim Akram, Shoaib Akhtar, Waqar Younis or Inzamam-ul-Haq, I respect them a lot but what's wrong is wrong. The difference between India and Pakistan is that players



like Rahul Dravid, VVS Laxman and Yuvraj Singh have all helped in developing future Indian players.

"I love my country which is also why I was ready to sacrifice my son, who had cancer, but they don't hold the same passion.

Islamabad United to take on Lahore Qalandars in opener on April 11

Lahore, Feb 28 (IANS) The Pakistan Super League (PSL) Season 10 will begin from April 11 with defending champions Islamabad United taking on two-time champions Lahore Qalandars at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

The six-team tournament will see 34 matches from April 11 to May 18, with Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium set to host 13 matches, including two eliminators and the final on May 18.

Also, the upcoming edition will feature an exhibition match, which will be played on April 8 in Peshawar. The teams of the match will be confirmed in due course.

Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium will host 11 matches, including Qualifier 1 on May 13. Karachi's National Stadium and Multan Cricket Stadium will host five matches each. The tournament will also feature three double-headers, with two matches on weekends (Saturday) and one on a national holiday (Labour Day).

Karachi Kings, the winners of the league's fifth edition, will begin their campaign on April 12 in their own backyard against runners-up of the last edition, Multan Sultans.

Jamshedpur FC set for away test against Kerala Blasters

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 28: With playoff qualification secured, Jamshedpur FC will look to maintain their momentum as they face Kerala Blasters in an important Indian Super League (ISL) clash at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Kochi on March 1. The Men of Steel are determined to finish the league stage strongly, with their sights set on climbing higher in the standings.

Head coach Khalid Jamil has emphasized the need for focus despite securing a top-six finish, stating, "This is a crucial game for us. Just because we have qualified doesn't mean we can relax. Every match matters, and



we must approach it with the same intensity and preparation."

Jamshedpur FC will be buoyed by their recent form, including a dominant 2-0 win over Mohammedan SC, where Ritwik Das and Nikhil Barla found the net. Ritwik's return from injury has added attacking depth, while Barla's first ISL goal has given him a confidence boost. The midfield, led by Javi Hernandez and Imran Khan, has been crucial in creating opportunities, while the defense, marshaled by Eze and Pratik Chaudhari, has remained solid.

Kerala Blasters, on the other hand, will be looking to bounce back after a mixed run of results. Playing at home, they will be eager to put on a strong performance in front of their passionate supporters. Jamil acknowledged the challenge ahead, stating, "Kerala Blasters are a strong side, and playing away makes it even more important for us to stay disciplined and focused."

This fixture holds special significance for winger Sreekuttan, who began his career with the Blasters' reserve team. "Playing in Kerala is always special for me. Now, returning as an opponent in the ISL is a unique moment, and I'm really looking forward to it," he shared. With both teams eyeing crucial points, an intense battle is expected in Kochi. Jamshedpur FC will be aiming to keep their winning run intact, while Kerala Blasters will be desperate to put up a strong fight at home. The match will be live on JioHotstar and StarSports3 from 7:30 Pm onward. (W-mb)

Shah chairs high-level meet for dismantling narcotics network, eliminating inter-state gangs

New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday chaired a high-level meeting on the national Capital's law and order situation, attended by Delhi Chief Minister Rekhta Gupta, Minister Ashish Sood and Commissioner of Police, and deliberated on a wide array of issues ranging from national security, bringing 2020 riots perpetrators to justice and clampdown on narcotics trade and traffickers.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the double engine government will work with double speed for a developed and safe Delhi, to realise the expectations of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



The Home Minister called for the need to safeguard the national Capital from intruders and to stop their illegal infiltration, an issue that also echoed during the Delhi Assembly elections.

He advocated strict action on the network that helps Bangladeshi and Rohingya intruders enter the country, get their documents made and facilitate their stay in the city.

"The issue of illegal intruders is also related to national security, and it should be dealt with strictly and they should be identified and deported," the HM said.

He also called for "eliminating inter-state gangs in Delhi with a ruthless approach" and said that a top to bottom and bottom to top approach should be adopted for dismantling the entire network of narcotics trade. The Home Minister further suggested that the Delhi government should appoint special prosecutors for quick disposal of 2020 Delhi riots cases and asked the Delhi Police to start the process of recruitment for additional posts soon.

Urging the need to make the police force more versatile and result-oriented, he opined that the DCP-level officers should go to police stations and organise public hearing camps and solve the problems of the public. "Delhi Police should identify the places where there are daily traffic jams and Delhi Police Commissioner and Chief Secretary should meet and find a quick solution to this, so that the public can get relief," he further suggested.

A broad consensus also emerged on action against under-performing police stations and sub-divisions.

He also asked the Delhi government to prepare a 'Monsoon Action Plan' to deal with waterlogging by identifying the flooding prone areas in advance.

MP: Incineration of Union Carbide's waste begins at Pithampur industrial site

Bhopal, Feb 28 (IANS) The first round incineration of Union Carbide's hazardous chemical waste, which was shifted from Bhopal to Pithampur industrial site, began on Friday, complying with directions from Madhya Pradesh High Court.

A team of senior officials from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board (MPCB) reached Ramky factory and prepared a standard operating procedure (SOP) for disposal of 10 tonnes of waste in the first phase.

The waste from five out of a total of 12 truck containers was unloaded under the supervision of the Dhar district collector and the officials from other responsible authorities, including CPCB and MPCB and incineration started. Dhar district collector Priyank Mishra said the trial incineration of 10 out of around 337 tonnes of hazardous waste began on Friday, and the entire process will take around 72 hours to complete.

The incineration process is being monitored by a team of CPCB officials.

Pune rape case: Police to give Rs 1 lakh reward to last informer

Pune, Feb 28 (IANS) The bounty reward in the arrest case of Dattatray Gade, the accused in the Pune bus rape matter, will be given to last informant, said Pune Police Commissioner on Friday, adding that they are also probing whether the accused tried to commit suicide after the crime. Hours after the arrest of Gade from his native village Gunat in Maharashtra's Shirur taluka, the Pune Commissioner of Police, Amritesh Kumar, thanked the villagers for extending cooperation to the teams in nabbing the accused involved in the rape of a 26-year-old woman inside the state transport bus in Swargate bus depot. Kumar said the police would give a reward of Rs one lakh to the last informant from the village. He also announced that the police will felicitate the villagers for the manner in which they cooperated with the police during the search operation. He said the accused would be produced in the court during the day. "After checking 23 CCTV cameras in the state transport bus depot and 48 CCTV footage outside the depot, we identified the accused within one and a half to two hours. For the last two days, we have been conducting the search operation.

CAG report exposes financial mismanagement, loot under Hemant govt: Marandi

Ranchi, Feb 28 (IANS) Former Jharkhand Chief Minister and state BJP President Babulal Marandi has alleged that the latest CAG report exposes widespread financial mismanagement, corruption, and irregularities in the Hemant Soren-led government.

Marandi described the five-year tenure of the previous government as a period of repeated failures and demanded that the state government issue a white paper detailing its work so far.

Citing the report of the central government auditor, he pointed out that as of March 2022, Jharkhand faced a severe shortage of medical personnel. Out of 3,634 sanctioned posts for medical officers and specialists, 2,210 remained vacant -- constituting 61 per cent of the total requirement.

The audit also highlighted a critical lack of staff nurses and paramedics in government hospitals across the state, alongside an alarming shortage of essential medicines.

According to the CAG report, between 2020-21 and 2021-22, the availability of essential medicines at community health centres, district hospitals, and medical colleges ranged from just 5 per cent to 35 per cent, indicating a shortage of 65 per



cent to 95 per cent.

The BJP leader termed the state's Covid-19 management as particularly shameful.

According to the CAG, the Central Government had released Rs 483.54 crore for Covid-19 management, requiring the Jharkhand government to contribute Rs 272.88 crore as its share.

However, against the total provision of Rs 756.42 crore, the state released only Rs 291.87 crore from central funds and Rs 145.10 crore of its share -- utilising just Rs 436.97 crore, which accounts for a mere 32 per cent of the total available amount.

Marandi further alleged that due to the mismanagement of Covid-19 funds, key healthcare infrastructure projects -- such as district-level RTPCR laboratories, a Centre of Excellence in Pediatrics in Ranchi, pre-fabricated structures in CHCs, PHCs, and HSCs, as well as liquid medical oxygen plants -- were not completed.

The absence of district-level laboratories during the pandemic forced officials to send collected samples to other districts, which delayed testing and treatment.

Raising concerns over financial irregularities, the BJP leader termed the approval of a Rs 19,125 crore utilisation certificate a serious issue, asserting that the possibility of large-scale corruption cannot be ruled out.

CM Gupta reverses AAP govt's stand, agrees to sign MoU with Centre for health centres

New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) The Rekha Gupta government in Delhi is preparing to sign an MoU with the Centre for implementation of the PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), a major reversal of the previous AAP government's decision to oppose the scheme, an official indicated on Friday.

A big signal of Chief Minister Gupta overturning the previous AAP government's decision came on Friday with the Delhi government withdrawing a petition from the Supreme Court wherein it had opposed a Delhi High Court direction to enter into an agreement with the Centre for the ABHIM scheme.

A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and P.K. Mishra on Friday permitted the withdrawal of the



petition when Delhi government's counsel Advocate Jyoti Mendiratta said, "We are going ahead with the implementation of the scheme".

The High Court's direction to the Delhi government in January came on a 2017 Public Interest Litigation (PIL) which claimed that non-implementation of ABHIM scheme in Delhi was not justified at a time when it was benefitting residents of 33 states and UTs.

The High Court had directed the AAP government to implement the ABHIM scheme on pilot basis and scale it up later.

The Rekha Gupta government's decision to work in close cooperation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is in sync with the ruling BJP's election promise to improve health services in the city.

An indication of the Chief Minister's priority for improving health services came in her first Cabinet meeting when she unveiled a blueprint to activate 1,139 urban public health centres or Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (U-AAMs) under the ABHIM scheme with an investment of Rs 2,406 crore from the Centre.

To showcase the BJP-led Delhi government's vision and commitment to improving health services, the Health Department has also been tasked by the CM to set up within 30 days 11 new model U-AAMs - one each in every district - under the supervision of the District Magistrates.

An additional 413 Urban Health Centres are to be built to supplement the existing 553 Mohalla Clinics that would also be upgraded to U-AAMs, as per a note prepared by the Health Secretary for the Cabinet's consideration.

Not received death certificate yet: Murdered doctor's parents accuse Mamata govt of passing the buck

New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) The parents of RG Kar Medical college doctor, who was raped and murdered on the hospital campus on August 9 last year, on Friday said that Mamata Banerjee-led state government is responsible for their daughter's tragic fate. They also accused the state government of passing the buck and failing to deliver justice, even a year after the horrifying case of rape and murder that shook the entire nation.

The parents of the murdered woman doctor of R G Kar hospital said this after meeting the CBI director, regarding the ongoing probe into the crime. They recently traveled to Delhi to raise their concerns before the investigating agency.

"We met CBI Director Praveen Sood and discussed the verdict given by the Sealdah Court. We also sought clarity on what the CBI has done so far in the investigation and requested the director to



ensure my daughter gets proper justice. The supplementary chargesheet, which was scheduled for submission in court, was also a point of discussion," said the victim's father.

Raising concerns over procedural delays, he added, "We have not even received my daughter's death certificate yet, so we urged the CBI director to help us obtain it. He assured us of his support."

Baba Khatu Shyam fair begins today in Rajasthan's Sikar, lakhs of devotees expected



Jaipur, Feb 28 (IANS) The famous Baba Khatu Shyam fair begins in Rajasthan's Sikar on Friday with 'darshan' from 5 p.m. onwards. The fair, which will continue till March 11, is expected to attract lakhs of devotees from across the country.

This year, the temple premises have been adorned like the Vaishno Devi temple. At the Singh Gate, a depiction of Barbarik (grandson of Bhim and son of Ghatotkacha) offering his head to Shri Krishna has been created. Additionally, the temple will feature red cloth-tied coconuts and bells, similar to those seen at the Vaishno Devi temple.

The Baba Shyam's court has been decorated with 65 varieties of flowers sourced from eight countries.

The temple premises feature 20 unique floral species, including Hydenia, Pinonopsis, Imposia, Dishbird, Red Berry, and Orchid from Holland, South Africa, Colombia, New Zealand, China, Italy, and Bangkok. Indian flowers like roses, carnations, lily anthurium, alconia, and kishtivam have also been used. Special darshan arrangements have been made, and like last year, devotees will proceed for darshan through 14 designated lines.

A carpeted path has been laid from Ringas to Khatu to facilitate smooth movement. Pilgrims will cover an 8-kilometre journey before reaching Baba's darbar. Further smooth arrangements have been made for disabled and elderly devotees. Fair in-charge SDM Monika Samor stated that this year, nine blocks have been created in Charan Khet, compared to seven blocks last year, to accommodate the growing crowd.

The VIP darshan will remain closed except for those with government protocol passes. A separate entry line has been set up 250 meters from the temple near Lala Mangeram Dharamshala for elderly and disabled devotees. Wheelchair users will be allowed direct access through this dedicated passage. Also, special traffic and parking arrangements have been made.

CM Mann commits to make Punjab drug-free in 3 months

Chandigarh, Feb 28 (IANS) Announcing a crusade against the drug menace, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday asked Commissioners of Police, Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendent of Police to make Punjab drug free in three months.

He said the government would set up special courts to ensure speedy trial of drugs cases and ensure conviction of the culprits.

Taking part in deliberations at a meeting with the top police officers, CM Bhagwant Mann said, "This is a historic moment as the Punjab government has adopted a zero-tolerance policy against drugs and is launching a crusade against this menace."

CM Mann said Punjab Police has a long and glorious history of tackling hostile law and order situations, and expressed hope that the police force would uphold its glorious tradition and make the state completely drug-free, with the active support and cooperation of the



public.

CM Mann said there is no dearth of funds and assured full support and cooperation to the police and the civil administration for this cause.

He said preventive measures should be taken in schools and colleges so that the youth of Punjab doesn't fell prey to the scourge of drugs. CM Mann said the supply line of drugs should be snapped and those selling the drugs should be put behind bars.

CM Mann said the government will also ensure that the drug peddlers and their families do not get any sort of subsidy in terms of free power, water or healthcare so that this factor acts as a deterrent for criminals.

CM Mann said all the necessary formalities regarding it would be finalised soon, adding if any further amendment in the NDPS Act will be required to ensure exemplary action against drug peddlers, it would be flagged up with the Union government.

He said the war against drugs should be transformed into a mass and social campaign for which the officers must plan big.

Green nod issue: SC offers shield to Isha Foundation's yoga centre against sealing, demolition

New Delhi, Feb 28 (IANS) In a reprieve to Sadhguru's Isha Foundation, the Supreme Court on Friday put brakes on Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board's plan to take coercive steps against the spiritual organisation for undertaking construction in the Coimbatore hills without a green nod a decade ago.

A bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice N.K. Singh offered a shield against sealing or demolition at the Yoga Centre on the Velliangiri hills but, at the same time, cautioned the Foundation to take prior environmental permissions as per law for any future construction.

"It goes without saying that if there is any need for expansion in future, the Respondent no.1 (Isha Foundation) will seek prior permission of the competent authorities," said the bench. The bench had earlier noted that the Yoga Centre, which was in the pollution board's firing line, was entitled to the exemption - from prior environmental nod - as it is an educational centre.

The apex court's relief to the Foundation was also partly linked to a two-year delay in the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) decision to challenge a Madras High Court order favouring the Foundation.

The High Court had earlier quashed a show cause notice issued to the Foundation for carrying out construction in the Velliangiri hills between 2006 and 2014 without obtaining environmental clearance.

Need to find solutions to critical technological challenges: Rajnath Singh

Hyderabad, Feb 28 (IANS) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday stressed the need to find solutions to critical technological challenges as he called upon the youth to inculcate a scientific temper and excel in frontier technologies by making the best use of the internationally competitive infrastructure being established in the country. In his address at the inauguration of Vigyan Vaibhav, a two-day science and technology extravaganza organised here by DRDO and others as part of National Science Day celebrations, the Defence Minister pointed out that warfare is increasingly moving from hardware to software. "New technological breakthroughs are on the horizon and we have to take a lead in transformative technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, Machine Learning, and Clean Tech. India can remain strong and secure in adverse situations if it has solutions to critical technological challenges," he said while urging youth to adopt a scientific outlook and critical thinking and try to go beyond the ordinary. He recalled the words of former President Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam that science is a beautiful gift to humanity and we should not distort it but use it for the betterment of society. The Defence Minister reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government's commitment to harness modern technology for



the safety and security of the nation, terming education in the field as crucial for the future. India's youth possesses tremendous potential and it is the government's endeavour to harness their capabilities to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047, he said.

Rajnath Sigh said that it is the joint responsibility of the Centre and states to ensure that no child is left without a good education.

"I am aware that education is a concurrent subject under the Indian Constitution. It is the joint responsibility of the Centre and states to ensure that our future generation gets the best of education, that no child is left without a good education and that the generations ahead are not only future-ready but also globally ready," he said.

He asserted that New Education Policy 2020 aims to transform science education in the country by encouraging creativity, critical thinking and innovation. He said the theme of this year's National Science Day i.e. 'Empowering Indian youth for global leadership in Science and Innovation for Viksit Bharat' reflects the same approach.