JHARKHAND'S OWN ENGLISH DAILY

THE AVENUE MAIL

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IPL 2025: VETERAN FAF DU PLESSIS APPOINTED VICE-CAPTAIN OF DELHI CAPITALS... - PAGE : 11

4 children charred to death as haystack catches fire in W Singhbhum

Chaibasa, March 17 (IANS) A devastating fire engulfed a house in Geetilipi village under the Jaganathpur police station area of West Singhbhum district, Jharkhand, on Monday, claiming the lives of four children, officials said.

The tragic incident occurred around 11 a.m., sending shockwaves throughout the village.

According to eyewitnesses, the fire broke out in a room where the children were playing amid a pile of straw. With no adults present in the house at the time, the flames quickly spread, consuming the entire structure.

The cause of the fire is not clear, and authorities are conducting an investigation.

A village resident, Birang Gagarai, who was fetching water nearby, was the first to notice the fire. She spotted the children trapped inside and tried to rescue them but was overwhelmed by the intense heat and flames. Despite her desperate efforts to douse the fire, the blaze rapidly grew out of control.

By the time other villagers arrived upon hearing her cries for help, the blaze had intensified, blanketing the area in thick smoke.



The fire brigade arrived approximately an hour later to douse the flames.

The deceased children have been identified as Prince Chatar (5), son of Arjun Chatar; Sahil Sinku (5), son of Chandramohan Sinku; Rohit Sundi (2), son of Sukhram Sundi; and Bhumika Sundi (5). Their bodies are yet to be recovered from the charred remains of the house.

Local authorities, including Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) Mahendra Chotan Oraon, Police Inspector Basudev Munda, Block Development Officer (BDO) Satyam Kumar, Circle Officer (CO) Manoj Kumar Mishra, and Jaganathpur Police Station In-Charge Sanjay Singh, have reached the spot to supervise rescue and relief operations.

Following the tragic event, the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Chaibasa, Ashutosh Shekhar, confirmed that the police are actively investigating the case. The exact cause of the fire is yet to be determined, and a forensic team has been dispatched to examine the site.

Speaking about the incident, SP Shekhar expressed deep sorrow and assured that a thorough probe is being conducted. He stated that all four bodies have been sent for post-mortem, and further details regarding the circumstances leading to the fire will be disclosed once the investigation concludes.

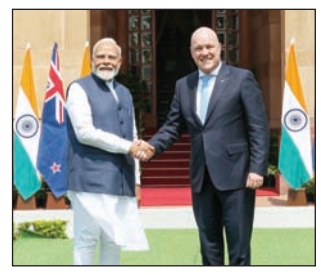
According to preliminary reports, the fire erupted suddenly while the children were playing near the straw stack, but the exact reason behind the ignition remains unknown. Authorities have not ruled out the possibilities of accidental ignition, short-circuit, or external factors.

Local police officials have cordoned off the area and are working with forensic experts to gather evidence.

The incident has left the village in mourning, with heart-wrenching scenes of grief as the bereaved families struggle to come to terms with their loss. "We tried everything to save them, but the fire was too fierce," said a distraught villager. Authorities are investigating the cause of the fire.

India-New Zealand FTA will increase potential for bilateral trade, investments: Modi

New Zealand, March 17 (IANS): The proposed India-New Zealand free trade agreement will increase the potential for bilateral trade and investment and mutual cooperation shall be encouraged in sectors such as dairy, food processing and pharmaceuticals, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said.



"We have decided to begin discussions for a mutually beneficial FTA between the two countries. This shall increase the potential for bilateral trade and investment," Modi said in his media statement following his bilateral meeting with New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon on Monday.

The two leaders agreed, within the context of the trade agreement negotiations, to also launch negotiations on an arrangement facilitating the mobility of professionals and skilled workers between the two countries, while also addressing the issue of irregular migration, according to a joint statement.

Both leaders also welcomed the signing of the India-New Zealand memorandum of understanding for defence cooperation. "This will further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation and establish regular bilateral defence engagement," the statement noted.

The leaders agreed to discussions for early implementation of cooperation in the digital payments sector, it added.

Court refuses to grant provisional bail to gangster Aman Sahu's brother Akash

Mail News Service

Ranchi, March 17: The provisional bail petition sought by slain gangster Aman Sahu's younger brother Akash Sahu to attend the last rites and other rituals of gangster Aman Sahu has been rejected.On Wednesday, the Ranchi NIA special court had reserved its decision after hearing the arguments of the NIA and Akash Sahu. The court has given its verdict on Monday.Akash Sahu, brother of gangster Aman Sahu, who was killed in the encounter, has sought provisional bail from the Ranchi Civil Court. He has filed a petition in the special court of Chhatarpur and sought provisional bail for 13 days. Akash Sahu is currently lodged in Hotwar jail. (w-rg)

Sunita Williams set to return to Earth today

New York, March 17 (IANS) With the pair of US astronauts stranded for more than nine months on the International Space Station (ISS), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has confirmed that the duo will return to Earth on Tuesday evening.Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams are to be transported home with another American astronaut and a Russian cosmonaut aboard a SpaceX Crew Dragon craft, which arrived at the ISS early Sunday.NASA said in a statement on Sunday evening that it had moved forward the astronauts' anticipated ocean splashdown off the Florida coast to nearly 5:57 p.m. on Tuesday (21:57 GMT and 3:30 a.m., March 19, IST). It was initially slated for no sooner than Wednesday.



Tata Motors to hike commercial vehicle prices by up to 2 pc from April

Mumbai, March 17 (IANS) Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, on Monday announced a price increase of up to 2 per cent across its commercial vehicle range.

The new prices will come into effect from April 1. The company said the hike is necessary to offset rising input costs, which have been impacting the automotive sector.

"Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, today announced a price increase of up to 2 per cent, across its commercial vehicle range, effective 1st April 2025," the company said in an exchange filing.

PM meets Tulsi Gabbard, presents her Gangajal from Mahakumbh

New Delhi, March 17 (IANS): Visiting US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Monday evening.

Modi presented her with a vase containing Gangajal from the recently concluded Mahakumbh in Prayagraj.

Gabbard arrived in the national capital early Sunday on a two-and-a-half-day trip. This is the first high-level visit to India by a top official of the Donald Trump administration.



Earlier in the day, Gabbard met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and held wide-ranging talks focusing on enhancing the overall India-US strategic ties, especially in areas of defence and information sharing.

According to a defence ministry statement, both Singh and Gabbar emphasised that strategic security remains a vital pillar of the comprehensive global strategic cooperation between the two nations.

Both the leaders reviewed the "significant strides" made in the areas of military exercises, strategic cooperation, integration of defence industrial supply chains and information-sharing cooperation, especially in the maritime domain, between India and the US.

They also discussed key areas such as enhancing interoperability and fostering greater integration of defence industrial supply chains to bolster resilience and innovation.

Centre approves Chandrayaan-5 mission: ISRO chief

New Delhi, March 17 (IANS) The Central government has approved the Chandrayaan 5 mission, and it will carry a whopping 250 kg rover to the lunar surface, said the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Chairman V Narayanan.

It will be the fifth flight as part of the Chandrayaan programme, also known as the Indian Lunar Exploration Programme, and aims for the exploration of the Moon.

The Chandrayaan-3 was a resounding success making India the first country in the world to make a soft landing on the South Pole of the Moon. India also became the fourth nation after the erstwhile USSR (now Russia), the US, and China to make a soft landing on the Moon.

While Chandrayaan-3 carried a 25-kg rover named 'Prayagyaan,' the new Chandrayaan-5 mission, in collaboration with Japan, will feature a much heavier 250-kg rover.

Terrorist killed in ongoing gun battle in J&K's Kupwara

Srinagar, March 17 (IANS) A terrorist was killed on Monday and an AK-47 rifle and ammunition were recovered in an ongoing operation in J&K's Kupwara district, officials said.

The exact identity and affiliation of the slain terrorist are being ascertained.

An encounter broke out between security forces and hiding terrorists in Kupwara earlier in the day.

Officials said that following intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists in the Krumbhoora (Zachaldara) village in the Rajwar area of the district, security forces started a CASO (Cordon and Search Operation).

Rain, thunderstorm hits Jamshedpur

Storm causes havoc in Jaduguda, postal worker injured

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Mar 17: Jharkhand experienced a sudden change in weather on Monday as rain and thunderstorms swept across Jamshedpur, Adityapur and nearby districts, offering much-needed relief from the heat. The Meteorological Department has issued Yellow and Orange Alerts for various regions, warning of thunderstorms and possible hailstorms until March 21.



According to the forecast, a yellow alert has been issued for March 19-20 in districts like Gumla, Palamu, Latehar, Lohardaga, Garhwa, Khunti, Simdega and Singhbhum, predicting moderate rainfall and thunderstorms. On March 21, an orange alert has been declared for Ranchi, Latehar, Simdega and other areas, cautioning residents about severe weather, including hailstorms and strong winds reaching speeds of 40-50 kmph.

Meteorologist Abhishek Anand from the Ranchi Meteorological Centre has urged people to take necessary precautions, advising, "Residents should remain indoors during thunderstorms and avoid seeking shelter under trees or near electric poles. Farmers should also refrain from going to their fields until the weather stabilizes."

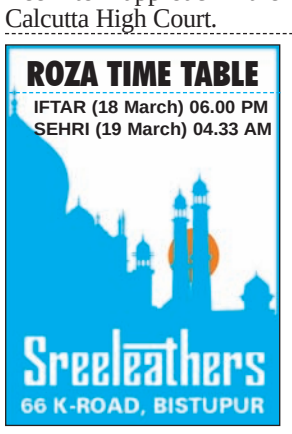
Meanwhile, in Jaduguda storm accompanied by rain wreaked havoc, causing significant destruction. Postal worker Anil Munda sustained a serious head injury when a stone, carried by the storm, struck him near Naurang Market while he was cycling to his village Bootgoda under Gwalkata Panchayat. He was immediately taken to UCIL Hospital for treatment.

The storm also caused severe damage in Dharm Deeh village, where several wooden electricity poles were uprooted. Repair work continued throughout the night. Many asbestos roofs, including those of homes and a temple, were blown away. Even recently installed cement electricity poles collapsed due to the strong winds.

In Nutan Deeh and Bago villages of Dhirol Panchayat, houses belonging to Soneshwar Sardar, Rajesh Sardar, Pukaru Sardar, Vishnu Sardar and Ringu Sardar lost their asbestos roofs, forcing families to take shelter in the open. The storm also impacted UCIL Hospital. (w/nkm)

SC dismisses plea to reinvestigate RG case

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday disposed off a plea moved by the parents of the victim in the Kolkata trainee doctor rape and murder case, seeking a reinvestigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation. The top court said the parents were free to approach the Calcutta High Court.



J'khand HC quashes FIR against 18 BJP leaders accused of clashing with police

Ranchi, March 17 (IANS) The Jharkhand High Court has granted relief to 18 BJP leaders, including BJP state President Babulal Marandi, Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth, Rajya Sabha MPs Pradeep Verma and Deepak Prakash, as well as Dhanbad MP Dulu Mahato.

A Bench led by Justice Anil Kumar Choudhary ordered the quashing of the FIR filed against these leaders in connection with a clash with police during the Yuva Aakrosh Rally in Ranchi in August last year.

The rally, organised by the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha on August 23, 2024, at Morabadi Ground in Ranchi, addressed issues such as unemployment, irregularities in government job examinations, delays in results, and the regularisation of contract workers.

Allegedly, after the rally, thousands of BJP workers attempted to breach barricades while marching toward the Chief Minister's residence, leading to a violent clash with the police.

Following the incident, an FIR was lodged at Ranchi's Lalpur police station against 51 named BJP leaders, including Babulal Marandi, former minister Arjun Munda, Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth, and then Leader of Opposition Amar Kumar Bauri, along with 12,000 unidentified individuals.



The charges included inciting riots, violating government orders, obstructing official duties, and causing harm to others. The FIR claimed that despite repeated warnings and the imposition of prohibitory orders, BJP leaders and workers defied instructions, pelting stones at on-duty police officers and leaders on stage incited the crowd to attack.

Among those named in the FIR were seven MPs -- B.D. Ram, Aditya Sahu, Deepak Prasad, Pradeep Verma, Vidyut Varan Mahto, Manish Jaiswal, and Dulu Mahato -- and 17 MLAs, including Neelkanth Singh Munda, Randhir Singh, Neera Yadav, Ramchandra Chandravanshi, Aparna Sengupta, Kushwaha Shashi Bhushan Mehta, Pushpa Devi, Samari Lal, Kedar Hazra, Raj Sinha, Naveen Jaiswal, Narayan Das, Amit Mandal, Alok Chaurasia, and Kishun Kumar Das. The 18 BJP leaders challenged the FIR in the Jharkhand High Court. After hearing the case, the court ruled in their favour, providing them with substantial relief.

HC dismiss DA case against 5 ministers in Raghubar government

Ranchi, March 17: The PIL filed in the High Court against five former ministers of Jharkhand has been dismissed on Monday.

The Jharkhand High Court dismissed the PIL filed in the disproportionate assets case of Amar Kumar Bauri, Neelkanth Singh Munda, Randhir Singh, Lewis Marandi and Neera Yadav after hearing. All of them were ministers in the then Raghubar Das government.

In the year 2020, Pankaj Kumar Yadav had filed a PIL regarding disproportionate assets. A division bench of Jharkhand High Court Chief Justice MS Ramachandra Rao and Justice Deepak Roshan on Monday heard the PIL filed in the High Court against the then ministers Amar Kumar Bauri, Neelkanth Singh Munda, Randhir Singh, Lewis Marandi and Neera Yadav.

After this, the division bench dismissed the PIL related to disproportionate assets. Pankaj Kumar Yadav had filed a PIL in the Jharkhand High Court regarding the investigation of disproportionate assets of five former ministers. He alleged that they have assets more than their income. There has been an unexpected increase in their income. He had filed a PIL demanding an investigation. (w-rg)

Mango drinking water project at risk of collapse: Saryu

Roy to meet Sanitation and Urban Development Secretaries in Ranchi today





Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Mar 17: The Mango drinking water project is at risk of falling into disrepair due to neglect and mismanagement, warned Jamshedpur West MLA Saryu Roy after a late-night surprise inspection on Sunday.

Accompanied by public facility representatives, Roy examined the intake well, water treatment plant and reservoirs from 11:30 PM to 2:30 AM to assess the project's condition.

Expressing his dissatisfaction, he proposed transferring the project from the Drinking Water and Sanitation Department to the Urban Development Department, suggesting that the Mango Municipal Corporation should oversee its operations to ensure better accountability.

"I was deeply disappointed with the current state of the project. While water infrastructure across the country is improving, this project has only deteriorated over the past six years," Roy stated.

He highlighted severe deficiencies, including non-functional pumps, poor maintenance and incomplete pipeline connections. According to Roy, only three out of the required six 375-horsepower pumps were operational at the intake well.

The water treatment process was found to be chaotic, with no systematic addition of alum, bleaching powder, or hypo solution for purification. "The filtration system is completely inadequate and some pumps remain defunct," he added.

The MLA pointed out that several areas, including Jawahar Nagar Road No. 14, Hari Mandir in Gaur Basti and Ekta Nagar in Shankosai, have pipelines laid but remain unconnected to the main water supply. "Just a few feet of missing pipeline is preventing entire settlements from receiving water," he said, emphasizing the urgent need for immediate corrective action.

During a meeting at his residence on Monday, attended by the Deputy City Administrator of Mango Municipal Corporation and engineers from the Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, it was revealed that a private agency contracted to manage the project was not being properly monitored.

"The agency has failed to maintain records of pump failures or repairs. The filtration plant still relies on sand and pebbles laid a decade ago, which have deteriorated. Even the flow meter and indicator machines are non-functional," Roy noted.

He further criticized the department for failing to clean the five water tanks in the last ten years. "How can people expect clean drinking water when basic maintenance isn't done?" he questioned. Roy stressed that unless control of the project is handed over to the Municipal Corporation, the problems will persist. He plans to meet with the Secretaries of the Drinking Water and Sanitation Department and the Urban Development Department in Ranchi on Tuesday to push for this transition. (w/nkm)

Two arrested in Bagbera firing case, weapons recovered



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Mar 17: Police have arrested two accused, Sandeep and Rakesh, in connection with the Bagbera firing case, where Mahesh Prasad was shot in Harharguttu a few days ago.

The police have also recovered weapons from their possession. Speaking about the case on Monday, DSP Law and Order Tauqeer Alam revealed that the incident stemmed from a dispute between two parties. On March 14, during Holi celebrations, an argument escalated, leading Sandeep to bring his friend Rakesh and open fire on Mahesh, injuring him.

Mahesh, despite being wounded, managed to ride his bike to the hospital for treatment.

Since the incident, both Sandeep and Rakesh had been on the run. However, the police successfully tracked them down and arrested them. After completing legal formalities, they were sent to jail. Authorities continue to investigate the case and have warned against such violent incidents in the future. (w/nkm)

DIG investigates police beating of army jawan in Bagbera

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, March 17: The investigation of the case of assault on soldier Suraj Rai posted in Kashmir in Jugsalai police station has been intensified.

Kolhan DIG Manoj Ratan Chautha along with all the officers reached the border of Bagbera , Jugsalai and inspected the spot.

During this, an attempt was made to find out where the incident took place and how it happened. Although the spot was in the Bagbera police station area, but the spot was said to be in Jugsalai area. People nearby denied that the spot was there.

After this, the police team went ahead and investigated, in which it was found that the spot took place in Bagbera area. On the other hand, in this case, the family members of the victim soldier have also handed over the CCTV footage to the DIG in the investigation, which is proving the police claim to be wrong.

Apart from this, they have demanded that all the CCTV footage installed in the police station should be investigated and the police officers should support the truth and action should be taken against the Jugsalai police station in-charge. (w/rg)

Police nab criminal and drug peddler, arms recovered

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, March 17: Jamshedpur's Kadma police has arrested notorious criminal Bhanu Majhi and arms peddler Rakesh Mandal alias Pakodi.

Police have recovered two pistols, two country-made pistols and eight bullets from them. On Monday, Jamshedpur SSP Kishore Kaushal disclosed the matter in a press conference. Kishore Kaushal said that the police had received secret information that Bhanu Majhi is sitting behind the Uliyan Gurudwara with weapons to carry out some incident.

After this, a team was formed and the accused was arrested. During the search, two weapons and three bullets were recovered from Bhanu. During interrogation, Bhanu told that he had bought the weapon from Rakesh. After this, the police also arrested Rakesh. When the police searched Rakesh's house, they recovered two more weapons from behind the house. Rakesh had hidden the weapons under a tree at the back. During interrogation, it was revealed that Bhanu had given an advance of Rs 30,000 for the weapon. The remaining amount was to be paid later.

He told that Bhanu Majhi has gone to jail many times in the case of murder and extortion. More than two dozen cases are registered against him. Last time in October 2023, the police arrested him with a weapon and sent him to jail. Action was also taken against him under CCA in jail. However, he came out on bail on 28 January. The police was taking action to expel him. The notorious criminal was roaming around to increase his dominance in the area. During this time, both were arrested with weapons and are being sent to judicial custody. (w/rg)

Marandi slams govt over Holi violence in Giridih

Ranchi, Mar 17: Leader of Opposition Babulal Marandi on Monday visited Ghorathamba in Giridih, where a Holi procession was attacked with stone-pelting and arson. He met the victims and gathered firsthand accounts of the incident, calling it "soul-stirring and extremely unfortunate." Criticizing the government's response, Marandi alleged that Hindus were being unfairly targeted. "In their own country, Hindus are being harassed for celebrating their festival. No action was taken against those who threw stones and petrol bombs, but innocent people holding abir were arrested and jailed," he said. He also condemned the assault on Vikas Sahu, calling it a shameful act. He questioned the neutrality of the police and pointed out inconsistencies in the FIR. "It is shocking that the FIR portrays only Hindus as attackers, while the real perpetrators go unpunished. This is an injustice that cannot be tolerated," Marandi added. Demanding strict action against those responsible, Marandi called upon the administration to ensure impartial investigations and justice for the victims. He warned that failure to take appropriate steps would lead to increased unrest and loss of public trust in the government. The incident has triggered widespread outrage, with community leaders demanding action against the miscreants. Marandi assured the affected families of his full support and urged the administration to restore confidence among the people by taking swift action. (w/nkm)

MoU to promote Sohrai art and women's empowerment

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Mar 17: The Tribal Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TICCI) and Usha International Limited have signed an MoU to promote Jharkhand's traditional Sohrai art and empower tribal women. The agreement was finalized at the MSME office in Ranchi.

Usha International, which runs 1,600 sewing schools, will provide skill training and self-employment opportunities for rural and tribal women. TICCI, which supports tribal entrepreneurs in 15 states, will facilitate marketing and technical knowledge exchange.

Surabhi Raj Ekka, Deputy Development Manager at Usha International, announced, "A fashion show will be organized to give national recognition to Sohrai art, ensuring economic strength for local women and a platform for Jharkhand's traditional art."

Dignitaries present included TICCI Jharkhand Chapter President Baidyanath Mandi, State Manager Flex Tirkey and Regional Manager Saykat Naskar. The partnership aims to open new avenues of innovation and business for tribal women. (w/nkm)

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Tender Notice No. : e-Tender/2025/08, dated 13.03.2025. e-Tenders are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), S.E.Railway, Kharagpur-721301 for and on behalf of the President of India 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-WEST-06-2025;** Kokpara & Gidhni : Construction of high level platform beside 3rd line at Kokpara & Gidhni stations under the jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer/West/Kharagpur; ₹ 5,03,61,493.24; ₹ 4,01,800/-. **(2) E-KGP-WEST-07-2025;** Flash Butt welding of 60kg 90UTS rails on cess using contractor's self-propelled rail cum road/Mobile FBW plants, tools, equipment and consumables under the jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer/West/Kharagpur. (2nd Call); ₹ 52,26,336.81; ₹ 1,04,500/-. **(3) E-KGP-WEST-08-2025;** Kharagpur-Midnapore : Construction of Road Under Bridge in lieu of manned Level Crossing No. KA-2 in non GQ/GD line under the jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer/West/Kharagpur; ₹ 8,86,92,907.29; ₹ 5,93,500/- **(4) E-KGP-EAST-20-2025;** Execution of work of Through Turnout Renewal (TTR) - 151 sets in Howrah-Kharagpur section under the jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer/East/Kharagpur; ₹ 4,25,05,717.47; ₹ 3,62,500/-. **(5) E-KGP-EAST-21-2025;** Manufacturing and Supply of Alumino Thermic welding portions of 60Kg/90UTS rails (700 Nos. Joints) and 60Kg/60EI-R260 grade rails (7372 Nos.) as approved by RDSO and welding in-situ with single shot crucible as per IR Specification in connection with track renewal and maintenance work in Kharagpur Division under the jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer (East)/Kharagpur. (Total 8072 Joints); ₹ 1,82,49,266.39; ₹ 2,41,300/-. **(6) E-KGP-EAST-22-2025;** Execution of Miscellaneous P.Way works at yards under the jurisdiction of (i) Assistant Divisional Engineer/Shalimar, (ii) Assistant Divisional Engineer/Santragachi & (iii) Assistant Divisional Engineer/Panskura; ₹ 3,81,39,629.90; ₹ 3,40,700/-. **(7) E-KGP-South-15-2025;** Provision of MS plate ballast retainer with ISA support at several bridges in Kharagpur-Bhadrak section under the jurisdiction of Sr. Divisional Engineer (South)/Kharagpur; ₹ 3,47,55,451.84; ₹ 3,23,800/-. **Tender Document Cost :** 0.00 for each. **Date of opening :** 01.04.2025 for sl. no. 1 and 03.04.2025 for sl. no. 2 to 7. **Completion period of the work :** 12 Months for sl. no. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 & 7 and 18 Months for sl. no. 3. **Bidding start Date :** From 18.03.2025 and upto 15.00 hrs. on 01.04.2025 for sl. no. 1 and From 20.03.2025 and upto 15.00 hrs. on 03.04.2025 for sl. no. 2 to 7. 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-1240)**

Tribal community protests against construction of Mango Municipal Office

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Mar 17: A massive public outrage rally was held on Monday in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office, organized jointly by Gram Sabha Baliguma and Godgoda. A large number of tribal community members participated, carrying traditional weapons like bows and arrows, along with musical instruments, as they protested against the construction of the Mango Municipal Corporation and Zonal Office.

According to the villagers, the proposed site for construction has been their traditional cremation ground (Madghati) and a sacred religious place of the Santhal community, known as "Bindu Chandan Jaher Gadh." They claim that despite the cultural and religious significance of the land, the district administration has



marked Khata No. 727 and Plot No. 799, 975 for office construction without Gram Sabha's consent, which they deem unconstitutional. The villagers previously submitted written protests on January 31, 2019 and January 6, 2024, but allege that their concerns were ignored by authorities. Frustrated by the administration's actions, the protesters have announced that on March 18, they will purify the cremation ground and Bindu Chandan Gadh, which they believe has been desecrated. Social workers and community leaders, including Madan Mohan Soren, Indro Mahali, Majhi Baba Ramesh Murmu, Mohan Hansda and many others, were present at the protest, vowing to continue their movement to protect their cultural and religious heritage. (w/nkm)

Moving bike catches fire in Bistupur, causes panic

Jamshedpur, Mar 17: A sudden fire engulfed a moving motorcycle in the Circuit House area under the Bistupur police station limits on Monday, creating panic among passersby. The incident occurred when a bike rider traveling towards Sonari noticed flames erupting from his vehicle. Before he could react, the fire spread rapidly, reducing the bike to ashes. Fortunately, the rider managed to escape unharmed. The sudden blaze on a busy road in one of the city's posh areas caused concern among commuters. Initial reports suggest that a short circuit in the bike's electrical system may have triggered the fire. Eyewitnesses described the situation as alarming, as flames engulfed the bike within moments. A local resident who witnessed the incident said, "It happened so fast! The rider barely managed to jump off before the fire consumed the bike.

Liquor sales soar to Rs 102 crore in Jharkhand during Holi

Jamshedpur, Mar 17: Holi celebrations in Jharkhand saw a massive surge in liquor sales, with the state consuming alcohol worth Rs 102 crore between March 11 and 14, according to a report by the Excise and Prohibition Department. The data reveals that liquor worth Rs 16.98 crore was sold on March 11, followed by Rs 25.01 crore on March 12, a whopping Rs 51.50 crore on March 13 and Rs 9.08 crore on March 14. Compared to previous years, liquor consumption during Holi has seen a significant rise. In 2024, sales amounted to Rs 92.62 crore, while in 2023, they stood at Rs 70 crore. Ranchi led the state in alcohol sales, accounting for Rs 20 crore alone, with the highest single-day sale of Rs 7.50 crore recorded on March 13. The growing liquor consumption has also boosted state revenue. Officials



have set a revenue target of Rs 2,700 crore for the financial year 2024-25 and nearly Rs 2,600 crore has already been collected. A senior official from the department commented, "The increasing revenue is beneficial for the state, but we also need to focus on responsible drinking and ensuring public safety during festive occasions." (w/nkm)

AFFIDAVIT

I, **HARSHNEET KAUR**, Daughter of GURDARSHAN SINGH, by faith of Sikh by Nationality Indian, Resident of 33, Road No.-02, Kagalnagar, Sonari, Jamshedpur, East Singhbhum, Jharkhand-831011, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows :-

1. That I am a peace loving law abiding Indian Citizen by birth.
2. That my 10th Certificate-Statement of Marks, Pass Certificate, and Migration Certificate has been lost at Sonari, Jamshedpur, on Dated 15/02/2025.
3. That if any information furnished by me in this affidavit is found to be wrong or incorrect I am fully responsible.
4. That I swear this affidavit to confirm the above facts are true and the best of my knowledge; hence this affidavit.

Dt.: 27-02-2025 **Advocate**

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Political parties to assist in voter list verification

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Mar 17: On the direction of the Election Commission of India, a crucial meeting was held at the Collectorate Auditorium under the chairmanship of District Election Officer cum Deputy Commissioner, Ananya Mittal, to further strengthen the electoral processes. The meeting saw participation from representatives of recognized political parties, where discussions revolved around ensuring free and fair elections in compliance with legal frameworks, including the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and 1951, the Registration of Voters Rules, 1960, the Election Conduct Rules, 1961, and various orders issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the Election Commission of India.

During the meeting, the District Election Officer emphasized the importance of maintaining an accurate and error-free voter list, ensuring that every eligible voter's name is recorded correctly. The process of adding, deleting, and correcting names in the voter list is an ongoing effort, and political parties were urged to collaborate closely with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) in their respective areas. He further encouraged the parties to engage their booth-level agents in updating the voter list efficiently. It was highlighted that political party agents could submit up to 10 application forms at a time to the BLO for necessary corrections and modifications.

Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner appealed to all political parties to actively promote the 1950 toll-free voter helpline number to raise awareness among the public and assist in voter registration and verification.

Representatives of political parties raised concerns about voters who have migrated or are absent from their registered residential addresses, particularly in urban and industrial areas. They proposed launching a dedicated campaign to review and remove such names from the electoral rolls. In response, the Deputy Commissioner assured that verification would be carried out in non-election years through BLOs to ensure the voter list remains accurate and updated.

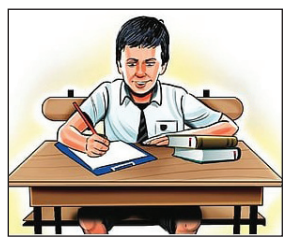
Another key topic of discussion was the monitoring of election expenditure. Political parties requested a re-evaluation of the district-level tender rates and urged for a more practical assessment of election-related expenses by the expenditure monitoring team. The Deputy Commissioner acknowledged these concerns and assured that in future, the opinions of political parties would be taken into consideration while determining expenditure rates.

The meeting was attended by several senior officials, including ADM Law and Order Aniket Sachan, SDM Dhalbhum Shatabdi Majumdar, ADC Bhagirath Prasad, Director NEP Santosh Garg, Special Distribution Officer Rahul Anand, District Public Relations Officer Panchanan Oraon, and Deputy Election Officer Priyanka Singh. Representatives of recognized political parties also actively participated in the discussions, providing valuable inputs on various aspects of the electoral process.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to ensuring transparency, fairness, and efficiency in the electoral process. The District Election Officer reiterated that collaborative efforts between the Election Commission, local administration, and political parties are essential to conducting free and fair elections. The administration assured all necessary support in streamlining election procedures and addressing the concerns raised by political parties. (w-pb)

Jharkhand to appoint over 800 teachers in model schools

Mail News Service



Ranchi, Mar 17: The Jharkhand School Education and Literacy Department will appoint more than 800 teachers to teach in English medium model schools across the state. This initiative will be implemented in the financial year 2025-26 to strengthen the education system in these institutions.Currently, model schools are operating in 89 blocks of Jharkhand, some of which have been upgraded to Chief Minister's School of Excellence. These schools provide education from class 6 to 12, with English as the medium of instruction. At present, teachers in these institutions are working on an ad hoc and deputation basis, most of whom are graduate-trained and postgraduate-trained educators.

A team of 11 teachers is required for each high school and plus-two school. Based on this calculation, the state will appoint at least 800 teachers, with more appointments possible in schools with a higher number of students, ensuring subject-wise distribution.

In addition to teacher appointments, the government also plans to introduce hostel facilities in these model schools. Many students from different blocks and districts qualify for admission but do not enrol due to the lack of accommodation. The construction of hostels will address this issue, allowing students to stay and continue their education after securing admission. With these initiatives, the Jharkhand government aims to enhance the quality of education, provide better learning environments and make English-medium education more accessible to students across the state. (w/nkm)

Jharkhand: Appointment process for CIC moves forward

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Mar 17: The long-pending appointment process for the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners in the Jharkhand State Information Commission has gained momentum after the BJP appointed Babulal Marandi as the Leader of Opposition.

The Department of Personnel, Administrative Reforms and Official Language has forwarded a proposal to convene a selection committee meeting to finalize appointments. The committee, chaired by Chief Minister Hemant Soren, includes Leader of Opposition Babulal Marandi and Minister Hafizul Hasan as members. The Chief Minister will now decide the date for the meeting.

On June 28, 2023, the Personnel Department had invited applications for one Chief Information Commissioner and six Information Commissioners. More than 35 applications were received for the Chief Information Commissioner post, while nearly 300 applications were submitted for Information Commissioner positions. However, these key positions have remained vacant for several years.

The issue had reached the Supreme Court and High Court due to prolonged delays. In a ruling on January 7, 2024, the Supreme Court directed the largest opposition party (BJP) to nominate an elected member as the Leader of Opposition for the selection committee within two weeks. The court emphasized that the appointment process must begin immediately after the nomination.

With the selection committee set to meet soon, the long-awaited process of appointing officials to the State Information Commission is now expected to move forward. (w/nkm)

Jharkhand to establish Inter-State Waterways Authority and Road Transport Corporation

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Mar 17: For the first time since its formation, Jharkhand is set to establish an Inter-State Waterways Authority Board and a State Road Transport Corporation. The state's Transport Department has taken this initiative to promote tourism and improve transportation. The budget for the 2025-26 financial year has allocated funds for both projects, marking a significant step toward modernizing transport infrastructure.

The Jharkhand Inter-State Waterways Authority Board aims to explore and develop various waterways for transportation, tourism and trade. Currently, waterways on the Ganga River in Sahibganj district are facilitating trade, transportation and employment. The new authority will conduct detailed surveys to identify additional waterways across the state. The Transport Department believes that developing water transport will ease pressure on road and rail networks while boosting business and tourism. Efforts will also be made to connect tourist destinations via waterways, offering travellers a new experience and contributing to the state's economic growth.



Additionally, the Jharkhand State Road Transport Corporation is being proposed to improve public transportation in remote areas. Many villages still lack proper road connectivity to district headquarters. The formation of the transport corporation will ensure regular bus services to such regions, enhancing mobility and accessibility. The demand for this corporation has been pending for years and now, with funds already available, the department plans to implement it in the next financial year.

Transport Minister Deepak Birua highlighted that the Bihar State Road Transport Corporation had been operational before Jharkhand became a separate state, but no such entity has existed in Jharkhand since. As a result, many transport-related schemes have faced hurdles. The upcoming Waterways Authority and Transport Corporation are expected to provide better transport services, promote economic growth and enhance connectivity across the state. (w/nkm)

Jharkhand Congress plans organizational revamp

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Mar 17: The Jharkhand Congress is set to undertake a major organizational push with a series of crucial meetings from March 26 to 30, 2025. The initiative aims to strengthen the party at the grassroots level, with key officials being assigned specific tasks to be executed over the next 100 days. Congress incharge K. Raju has written to State Congress President Keshav Mahto Kamlesh, emphasizing that these meetings will help formulate a long-term strategy for the party's growth. Senior leaders, department officials and representatives from various party wings will participate in the discussions.





The meetings will begin on March 26, with JPCC working presidents, vice-presidents and general secretaries meeting from 10:30 AM to 2 PM, followed by a session with state secretaries from 3 PM to 6 PM. On March 27, discussions will be held with members of the SC, ST, OBC and Minority Departments, along with representatives from the Youth Congress, Mahila Congress, NSUI and INTUC. The focus on March 28 will be on engaging Congress ministers, MPs, MLAs, former legislators and district Congress presidents to ensure better coordination at various levels.

On March 29, interactions with civil society organizations will take place in two phases, highlighting the party's outreach efforts beyond its core structure. The final day, March 30, will involve discussions with Congress candidates who contested the previous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, followed by a meeting with officials handling media, social media and communication strategies.

State Congress President Keshav Mahto Kamlesh stated that the outcome of these meetings will shape a special action plan for revitalizing the party in Jharkhand. He added that all party workers will be directed to function in mission mode, ensuring a stronger grassroots presence and better preparedness for upcoming political challenges. (w/nkm)

Butterfly conservation efforts to begin in Dalma

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Mar 17: Following the successful Bird Festival in Dalma, efforts are now underway to protect and attract butterflies in the region. The forest department plans to plant a variety of colorful flowers and plants to create a butterfly-friendly habitat.

The initiative is inspired by findings from the sixth Asian Conference of Researchers on Butterflies, held in 2019, where researchers identified 400 species of butterflies and moths. The event, which took place in Makulakocha, saw participation from experts across India, the UK and other countries focused on butterfly and moth conservation.

Dalma Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Saba Alam Ansari announced, "This time, a conference on butterflies is scheduled for April 4, where experts will discuss conservation strategies." He further highlighted that rare species of butterflies have been recorded in Dalma, reinforcing the need for habitat enhancement.

Renowned researcher Roger Kendrick from Hong Kong also visited Dalma, emphasizing the importance of planting specific flowers to attract butterflies. Researchers have suggested that coneflowers, zinnia, chrysanthemum, tawny castor and marigold are particularly effective in drawing butterflies. "These flowers not only add beauty to the landscape but also serve as essential feeding grounds for butterflies," said forest guard Raja Ghosh.

Butterflies are naturally drawn to bright colors such as orange, red, yellow, pink and purple. Since they land on flat surfaces to feed, flowers with flat tops or tubular-shaped clusters are most suitable for butterfly gardens. With the planned plantation of these plants, Dalma aims to become a thriving sanctuary for butterflies, much like it has for birds. (w/nkm)

Volunteers trained on FRA and claim management at blocks

Ranchi, March 17: Volunteers from amongst forest dwellers in five blocks of Jharkhand were trained on Forest Rights Act (FRA) and post claim management earlier this week at different locations.



The workshop was conducted by Phia Foundation, one of the technical partners helping the state government in the implementation of the Abua Bir Abua Dishom campaign of the government.

The campaign aims at facilitating realization of forest rights that includes Individual Forest Rights (IFR)s and Community Forest Rights (CFR) as per the Forest Rights Act (FRA)

The workshop were conducted Pakartanr block (Simdega district), Mahuadanr (Latehar), Thethaitangar (Simdega district), Manoharpur (West Singhbhum district) and Chainpur (Gumla district).

This training marked the second phase of a capacity-building initiative, following the first session conducted in December 2024.

The training brought together 152 community volunteers, including representatives from Forest

Rights Committees (FRCs), ward members and gram sabha members, to discuss progress

made since the first phase.

Discussions included community-led initiatives such as forest fire prevention during the Mahua season, passing Gram Sabha resolutions for better management of forest resources, assisting in the Community Forest Rights (CFR) claim process, and raising awareness about the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and social security schemes.

“A dedicated session focused on post-claim management, providing insights into sustainable forest resource management and the long-term vision for community forests after receiving CFRR titles, “said Archana Toppo, associate state lead Jharkhand.

Titles and community managed forest resources could ensure sustainable livelihoods, food

security and mitigate climate change among other benefits.

Block coordinator of the Phia Foundation guided participants on leveraging government schemes such as MGNREGA and CAMPA for forest development activities, including plantation on degraded land and constructing soil conservation structures like TCB (Trench Cum Bund) to prevent erosion.

The training emphasized the crucial role of community participation in forest governance and strengthened the volunteer, capacity to implement FRA effectively.

Participants reaffirmed their commitment to protecting and managing forest resources for sustainable development and ecological conservation.(w-rg)

7 BJP leaders acquitted over lack of evidence

Jamshedpur, March 17: Jamshedpur civil court on Monday acquitted seven BJP leaders in a 13 year old case. About 13 years ago, in 2012, during the Bharat Bandh program of the BJP in Jamshedpur, seven BJP leaders, mainly former president of Jamshedpur city BJP Gunjan Yadav, Vikas Singh, Rajesh Singh, Manoj Singh, Sunil Singh, Suraj Narayan and Tony Singh were made accused in the case of vandalism in the State Bank of India Mango branch and obstruction in government work.In the case that lasted for 13 years, advocates Malkit Singh and Manpreet Singh had defended the BJP members and declared them innocent. On the other hand, the then manager of the State Bank of India, Mango branch and the then SHO of Mango police station had testified in which they had only stated that the former BJP leader Vikas Singh was the one who identified them.Advocate Malkit Singh, while defending the accused, said that all the allegations levelled against them were baseless.The advocate claimed that these people were only passing by the bank during the strike, supporting the Bharat bandh.As the court could not find any concrete evidence, First Class Judicial Magistrate Arvind Kumar of Jamshedpur Court acquitted Gunjan Yadav, Vikas Singh, Sunil Singh, Rajesh Singh, Manoj Singh, Suraj Narayan, while one of the seven accused, Tony Singh, was murdered a few months ago, due to which he was excluded from the case.(w-rg)

Tensions rise ahead of Jharkhand Assembly budget session

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Mar 17: The budget session of the Jharkhand Vidhan Sabha is set to begin on March 18 after the Holi holiday, with expectations of a heated battle between the ruling INDI Alliance and the opposition BJP.

Following the selection and recognition of Babulal Marandi as the Leader of Opposition, the BJP has adopted an aggressive stance. Its MLAs have been actively cornering the government on various issues, particularly law and order. The confrontation escalated on March 11, when BJP MLAs created an uproar during the discussion on budget grants, forcing Speaker Rabindra Nath Mahato to adjourn the proceedings. In response to counterattacks from the ruling coalition, BJP MLAs boycotted the House.

Anticipating the BJP's assertiveness, the ruling INDI Alliance has also tightened its strategy. During a recent meeting, Chief Minister Hemant Soren instructed MLAs to ensure their presence in the House and maintain unity to effectively counter the opposition. The ruling party



claims that the BJP is deliberately disrupting Assembly proceedings by raising unnecessary issues instead of engaging in constructive discussions.

With both sides preparing for a political showdown, tensions in the Assembly are expected to escalate. The opposition aims to challenge the government on governance and policy matters, while the ruling party seeks to maintain control by countering BJP's attacks. The budget session is likely to witness intense debates and frequent disruptions as both factions try to assert their dominance. (w/nkm)

Lack of coordination weakens NDA opposition in Jharkhand Assembly

Ranchi, Mar 17: The NDA (National Democratic Alliance) in Jharkhand appears disorganized following the 2024 Assembly Elections, as no joint meeting of its constituent party MLAs has been held. This lack of coordination is weakening the opposition's impact in the House, benefiting the ruling government.



The BJP, the largest opposition party with 21 MLAs, has so far only held internal discussions, while NDA allies-AJSU, LJP and JDU, each with one MLA-remain on the sidelines. In contrast, the INDI Alliance convened a pre-session meeting to strategize against the government.

JDU MLA Saryu Roy emphasized the importance of unity, stating, "The NDA parties fought the elections together, but now BJP, as the largest opposition party, must take the initiative to bring all allies together."

Roy also highlighted that in other states where the NDA won, alliance partners secured ministerial positions, whereas in Jharkhand, opposition unity remains weak. The BJP's failure to engage all NDA MLAs in a collective strategy is seen as a missed opportunity to strengthen the opposition's stance in the Assembly.

Political observers suggest that unless the BJP takes proactive steps to unite the NDA allies, the opposition will struggle to challenge the government effectively. (w/nkm)

Poorva Sainiks submit memo to DC, SSP against police misconduct

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, March 17: A delegation of Poorva Sainik Seva Parishad, Jamshedpur, submitted a memorandum to the DC and SSP, protesting the alleged misbehavior by Jugsalai Police Station with Army Jawan Havildar Suraj Rai, who was on leave.

The council demanded his immediate release and legal action against the guilty policemen.

MP representative Sanjeev was present during the submission of the memorandum.

Considering the gravity of the situation, senior officials from the Army and Police Administration visited Jamshedpur to assess the matter. The district administration has assured the ex-servicemen and the Army that appropriate action will be taken to uphold the dignity of soldiers and the armed forces.

The protest saw the participation of hundreds of ex-servicemen, along with state and district officials of the Poorva Sainik Seva Parishad. Key attendees included General Secretary Siddhnath Singh, Vice President Rajesh K. Pandey, District President VinayYadav, District General Secretary Jitendra Singh, and several other notable members.

The ex-servicemen have urged the administration to review all CCTV footage from the police station and ensure a fair investigation. (w-mb)

Parsudih: Shop owner crushed to death by falling ACP sheets

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Mar 17: A tragic accident occurred in Parsudih on Monday when 50-year-old Vijay Poddar, the owner of Diamond Glass House, was crushed to death after a bundle of aluminum composite panel (ACP) sheets fell on him.

Eyewitnesses reported that Vijay was busy in his shop when he went to retrieve materials from the warehouse.

Suddenly, a heavy stack of ACP sheets toppled over, burying him underneath. Nearby shopkeepers rushed to help and managed to pull him out, but he had sustained severe injuries.

He was immediately taken to Khasmahal Sadar Hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. Following this, his family transported him to TMH Hospital, hoping for further medical assistance, but it was too late.

A local businessman who witnessed the incident said, "It was a horrifying accident. He was a well-known figure in the market and this tragedy has shocked everyone."

The incident has left Vijay Poddar's family in deep distress, with his wife and children struggling to come to terms with the loss.

He was a resident of Laxminagar under the Telco police station. Authorities have urged shop owners to ensure proper safety measures while handling heavy materials to prevent such unfortunate accidents. (w/nkm)

Adityapur police crack robbery case, arrest two notorious criminals

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Mar 17: The Adityapur police achieved success in solving a robbery case involving a brutal attack on a youth. Two history-sheeters were arrested and a chopper, stolen mobile and cash were recovered.

According to police station in-charge Rajiv Kumar Singh, on March 14 at around 3 PM, two criminals attacked Jairam Mahato, a resident of Sharma Basti, near the railway line adjacent to the Muslim Colony. The assailants stabbed him with a chopper and robbed him of Rs 2,300 in cash and his mobile phone.

Taking the incident seriously, the police, under the Superintendent of Police's leadership, formed a special raid team.

The team swiftly arrested the criminals, identified as Sheikh Rehmat Ali alias Milu and Shahid Hussain alias Negdi.

Both culprits have a history of criminal activities and confessed to the crime. Police recovered the chopper used in the attack, Rs 1,000 in cash and the stolen mobile phone. After interrogation, both have been sent to judicial custody. (w/nkm)

Advocate Umesh Sao begins tenure as Notary Public

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Mar 17: Senior member of the Jamshedpur Bar Association, Advocate Umesh Kumar Sao, has officially begun his work as a Notary Public after being appointed by the Government of India. His appointment marks a significant milestone in his legal career, which has spanned over 25 years.

To commemorate this achievement, senior advocate and socialist thinker Sudhir Kumar Pappu felicitated Advocate Sao by garlanding him and offering him sweets. The event was attended by several members of the legal fraternity, who extended their best wishes and congratulated him on his new role.

Advocate Umesh Kumar Sao successfully cleared the national-level examination conducted by the Law Department of the Government of India, following which he was granted the appointment letter by the Central Government. As a Notary



Public, he will be responsible for certifying legal documents, administering oaths, and handling affidavits.

He commenced his duties by notarizing three affidavits for Advocate Siddheshwar Babu Nandi. The occasion saw the presence of notable advocates, including Anindo Mishra, Sanjeev Singh, Rahul Prasad, Rahul Rai, Shrikant Giri, Nishant, Nand Kumar Rai, Shrikant Singh, Kulwinder Singh, and Dinesh Sahu.

The appointment of Advocate Sao as a Notary Public is seen as a boost to the legal services available in Jamshedpur, ensuring easier access to authorized legal documentation. His colleagues expressed confidence that his extensive experience in the legal profession would contribute to efficient and transparent notarial services in the region. (w/pb)

Treatment begins for Jharkhand movement leader Budhram Soy

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Mar 17: Budhram Soy, a key figure in the Jharkhand movement and former general secretary of the All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU), is currently battling severe health issues. After suffering a paralysis attack in February, he had been struggling to receive proper medical care due to financial constraints. His family had been relying on indigenous treatments until the authorities stepped in.

Following media reports highlighting his condition, the Seraikela district administration sent a team of doctors from Sadar Hospital to his village, Jojosai Tola in Bonaikela Panchayat, on Thursday. The medical team transported Soy to the hospital, where his blood samples were collected and sent to Ranchi for further testing. "We are expecting the test results after Holi and additional tests will be conducted on Monday," informed Budhram's sister, Chandmani Soy.

It is worth noting that a medical team had previously visited the village on March 11 but left without providing proper treatment, leading to frustration among activists and locals. The recent intervention has now brought hope for better medical care for the ailing leader. (w/nkm)

JMM Burmamines committee reorganises leadership

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Mar 17: The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) Burmamines Committee held a significant conference today, during which the committee was reorganized and new leadership was unanimously elected.

The event was attended by Women's Front leaders Jharna Pal and Savita Das, who participated as observers.

In the restructured committee, Ajay Pandey was elected as President, with Manoj Sharma serving as Secretary and Raju Mukhi taking on the role of Treasurer. The positions of Vice Presidents were assigned to Badal Das and Shrikant Mukhi. The conference saw the presence of several key JMM members, including Mahabir Murmu, Devjit Mukherjee, Dal, Govind Lohara, Mithun Chakraborty, Nandu Sardar, Khudu Oraon, Gopal Mahato, Prahlad Lohara, Pintu Lal, Anadi Oraon, Dhananjay Singh, Chandan Pandey, Abhishek Singh, Manoj Tanti, Rupesh Ahuja, Karan Kalindi, and Rajkumar Singh.

The reorganization aims to strengthen JMM's grassroots presence in the Burmamines region and enhance coordination among party members. The newly elected committee vowed to work towards the welfare of local residents and actively contribute to the party's growth in the region. (w/pb)

Tribal community forms akhara to protest against atrocities

Mail News Service



Gamharia, Mar 17: A large gathering of tribal community members took place at Kandra turn on Monday evening, where a new organization, Adivasi Sanvata Susar Akhara, was formed to protest against the increasing exploitation and atrocities faced by tribals across the country, including Jharkhand.

During the meeting, former Chief Minister and MLA Champai Soren was appointed as the Chief Coordinator of the Akhara. Additionally, former chief Ramdas Tudu was designated as the District Coordinator, while Sona Ram Mardi was named the Block Coordinator. Other members of the organization include Sujan Hansda, Baburam Mardi, Biren Soren and Pawan Chandra Hansda.

Following the announcement, the newly appointed members honored Champai Soren for his leadership. Hundreds of people from the tribal community came forward to take membership in the organization, pledging their support for the cause.

"The exploitation of tribals must stop. This Akhara will fight for our rights and ensure justice for our people," said one of the members. Prominent tribal leaders Ram Hansda and Bhim Hansda were also present at the meeting, along with a large number of supporters. The organization aims to unite tribal voices and demand action against injustices. (w/nkm)

From humble beginnings to SSC success: Ankesh Kumar's journey



Seraikela, Mar 17: Ankesh Kumar, a resident of Gamharia in Saraikela-Kharsawan district, has achieved remarkable success in the SSC CHSL 2024 examination, securing an All India Rank of 4. He has been selected for the Central Passport Office under the Ministry of External Affairs.

Originally from Tejpurwa village, Chhapra district (Bihar), Ankesh grew up in Gamharia, where his father, Munna Prasad Sah, worked as a driver in the Jamshedpur Industrial Area. Over the years, his father's dedication enabled them to expand their work, now owning eight vehicles operating in the industrial sector.

Inspired by his father's perseverance, Ankesh started preparing for SSC exams in 2022 through online coaching. Despite facing multiple failures, he remained determined. His hard work paid off when he cleared SSC Phase 11, securing a position in the Zoological Survey Department under the Ministry of Environment. His biggest breakthrough came with SSC CHSL 2024, where he outperformed 20 lakh candidates nationwide. In addition, he also qualified for the SSC CGL 2024, which will provide him an opportunity to work under the Ministry of Communications. "My father's struggle and determination have been my biggest inspiration. Hard work and patience have helped me achieve this milestone," said Ankesh. His family is overjoyed with his success and he hopes to inspire others through his journey. (w/nkm)

Manish surrenders in congress leader firing case, sent to jail

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Mar 17: Manish Singh, the prime accused in the firing case on Congress leader Abhijeet Singh, has surrendered before the police. Manish, who has multiple criminal cases registered against him, was on the police's radar for months. According to sources, Manish was also accused of murder and extortion, making him a wanted figure in the city's crime records. Despite several attempts, Jugsalai police had been unable to arrest him. However, following intensified police raids, he surrendered voluntarily.

A senior police official confirmed, "Manish Singh has been taken into custody. We are interrogating him and further legal proceedings are underway."

After completing the necessary formalities, Jugsalai police have sent him to jail. Meanwhile, authorities are preparing to file an application in court seeking his remand for further questioning.

The case remains under investigation and police are looking into possible connections with other criminal activities linked to the accused. (w/nkm)

Free computer training, employment scheme to launch on March 22

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Mar 17: The Purbi Singhbhum Zila Marwari Sammelan is set to formally launch its Free Computer Training and Assured Employment scheme on Saturday, March 22, at Agrasen Bhawan, Sakchi. The event will also felicitate previously trained candidates who have successfully secured employment. Mukesh Mittal, President of the Purbi Singhbhum Zila Marwari Sammelan, shared in a press release that this initiative was launched ten months ago to provide employment opportunities to talented and underprivileged students, initially focusing on the Marwari community. Training was conducted in collaboration with SIIT Computer Training Centre. Due to its success, the scheme is now being expanded to benefit students from all communities and backgrounds.

"This program aims to equip youth with essential digital skills, making them industry-ready and self-reliant," said Mittal. The training program is completely free and lasts for one year. Admission is based on a selection process (interview) to identify eligible candidates. The course covers both practical and theoretical training to ensure industry readiness. The initiative is backed by prominent members of the Purbi Singhbhum Zila Marwari Sammelan, including General Secretary Pradeep Kumar Mishra and other key figures such as Vijay Goyal, Shravan Debuka and CA Vineet Mittal.

With this expansion, the initiative hopes to empower more young individuals by providing them with valuable employment-oriented skills suited to the digital era. (w/nkm)

Neha Kumari's lethal bowling leads Dhanbad to victory over Khunti

Mail News Service



Chaibasa, Mar 17: Dhanbad secured a commanding 148-run victory over Khunti in the opening match of Group-B of the Inter District Women Under-19 Cricket Competition (2024-25), organized by the West Singhbhum District Cricket Association under the aegis of the Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA). With this win, Dhanbad earned four full points in the tournament.

After winning the toss and opting to bat, Dhanbad was all out for 204 runs in 37 overs. Middle-order batter Vrishti Kumari led the scoring with 48 runs, hitting five fours and a six. Ayesha Ali contributed 32 runs with seven boundaries, while Anjali Soren added 21 runs to the total.

For Khunti, Sapna Kumari impressed with three wickets for 48 runs, while Kajal Kumari claimed two wickets for 35 runs. Sunika Kumari and Preeti Kumari took one wicket each. Chasing 205 for victory, Khunti's batting lineup collapsed, managing only 56 runs in 23.2 overs. Interestingly, captain Kiran Oraon scored 41 runs with five fours and one six, but no other batter reached double digits.

Dhanbad's Neha Kumari delivered a sensational spell, taking five wickets for just three runs. Ankita Maurya picked up three wickets, while Vrishti Kumari bagged two, sealing a one-sided win for Dhanbad. During the prize distribution ceremony, Neha Kumari was awarded the Player of the Match for her outstanding bowling. She received a cash prize of Rs 5,000 from match supervisor Milan Dutta. The event was attended by liaison officer Shambhu Sharan, JSCA life member Abhishek, West Singhbhum District Cricket Association general secretary Asim Kumar Singh and several other dignitaries. (w/nkm)

Sudhir re-elected JMM Potka block president for seventh time

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Mar 17: The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) Potka Block Committee held its block conference at Tentala Resort under the leadership of convenor chief Baghrai Mardi. The election of the block committee took place under the supervision of observers Aditya Pradhan and Lalit Mandi.

Sudhir Soren was unanimously re-elected as Block President for the seventh consecutive time, while Bhuvaneshwar Sardar was chosen as Block Secretary for the second time. Youth activist Anupam Mandal was elected as Block Treasurer for the first time. The remaining committee positions will be filled later.



Potka MLA Sanjeev Sardar, who attended the event as a guest, highlighted the Jharkhand government's commitment to public welfare. "We are continuously working to implement government schemes at the grassroots level. The newly elected officials are experienced and energetic, capable of strengthening the organization," he said. Senior JMM leader Mohan Karmakar emphasized the party's growing public support across Jharkhand. "People's faith in JMM is increasing and we must continue to build the organization at the village level," he stated. The event saw enthusiastic participation from party workers, reinforcing JMM's grassroots strength.

Committed to my duties with devotion: Soren

Jamshedpur, Mar 17: After being re-elected as JMM Potka Block President for the seventh time, Sudhir Soren reaffirmed his commitment to his responsibilities.

"I will fulfill my duties with complete dedication. With the JMM government in power, we will work to strengthen the organization while ensuring coordination with the administration," he said.

Soren also expressed gratitude to the central leadership and local MLA Sanjeev Sardar for their trust in him. Similarly, newly elected Block Treasurer Anupam Mandal thanked the party leaders for giving him the opportunity to serve.

The newly formed committee is expected to play a crucial role in implementing government schemes and strengthening the party's outreach. (w/nkm)

MLA Sona Ram Sinku assures support to bereaved family in Gitilipi



Mail News Service

Chaibasa, Mar 17: Jagannathpur MLA Sona Ram Sinku visited Gitilipi village in Bhangaon Panchayat to console a bereaved family affected by a recent tragedy. During his visit, he also gathered detailed information about an arson incident in the area.

"This is a very unfortunate incident and we stand with you in this hour of grief," said Sinku, assuring the affected family that all government-provided facilities and compensations would be arranged promptly.

The MLA also spoke with Jagannathpur SDO Mahendra Chotan Oraon and Additional Deputy Commissioner, urging them to expedite the compensation process. He further pledged all possible support to the affected family and the community. (w/nkm)

Shanidev Trust extends help to ailing member



Mail News Service

Seraikela, Mar 17: Shri Shanidev Bhakt Mandali Trust stepped forward to support Santosh Mandal, a former executive member of the Mandali and resident of Adityapur Raidih Basti. Mandal, who lost his job due to severe lung and heart ailments, was struggling to support his family. Understanding his plight, the Trust arranged for his treatment at Bhubaneswar AIIMS and provided financial assistance. Currently, his condition has improved and he is continuing treatment independently. Mandali founder Debabroto Ghosh, along with Ashish Day, Biswajit Pramanik, Devbrata Singh Kushwah and Ratan Singh Munda, visited his residence to wish him a speedy recovery. (w/nkm)

Shri Shri Mahavir Akhara Committee forms new leadership



Gamharia, Mar 17: Meeting of the Shri Shri Mahavir Akhara Navayuvak Samiti was held at the Shiv Hanuman temple premises in Jamalpur to discuss the upcoming Ramnavami celebrations. The gathering, chaired by patron Bhagwan Singh, focused on organizing a grand event featuring tableaus and Chhau dance performances. During the meeting, the old committee was dissolved and a new leadership was elected. Krishna Singh was unanimously chosen as president, with Sudarshan Prasad as vice-president, Anil Singh as secretary, Manik Chandra Das as treasurer and Krishna Yadav as co-treasurer. Additionally, Chandan Singh was appointed youth president and Madhusudan was named media in-charge. The meeting was attended by several prominent members, including Brajeshpati Tripathi, Amir Singh and Rambachan Prasad. (w/nkm)

Gamharia: Chaurasia Parivar organizes Holi Milan



Gamharia, Mar 17: The Chaurasia Parivar of Gamharia hosted a grand Holi Milan ceremony at Sai Aanchal Apartment.

The event was presided over by senior society member Naresh Mandal and conducted by Chaurasia Parivar Jamshedpur secretary Kumud Bhagat. Satyendra Prasad, Chairman of Chaurasia family Jamshedpur, attended as the chief guest. Members exchanged festive greetings and applied abir gulal to celebrate the occasion.

The gathering saw participation from Kailash Chaurasia, chairman of the Gamharia unit, General Secretary Madan Modi, Vice President Pradeep Kumar and several members from Gamharia, Adityapur and Jamshedpur, making the event a joyful affair. (w/nkm)

JLKM welcomes new members from other parties



Gamharia, Mar 17: Several workers from different political parties joined the Jharkhand Democratic Revolutionary Front (JLKM) at its Kolhan office in Satbahini. Under the leadership of Central Organization Minister Sanjay Gorai and Kolhan SC Front President Raja Kalindi, the new members pledged their allegiance to the party. They cited their admiration for the ideologies of JLKM's central president, Jairam Kumar Mahato, as their reason for switching. "The party's soldiers are providing justice to the common people throughout Jharkhand," a new member stated. East Singhbhum District General Secretary Sunny Samant, Sanju Birua, Bharat Kumar Singh, Brij Devgam, Soni Pramanik and Bharat Sagar Sharma were formally welcomed with Palash flowers. The event was attended by prominent leaders, including Umesh Mahato, Raj Mahato, Dhiren Mahato, Prafulla Mahato and Akash Mahato. (w/nkm)

Tributes paid to Durgesh Singh, Arvind Singh Mewar

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Mar 17: The International Kshatriya Veerangna Foundation Mahasabha had organized a Holi Milan event at Tisco Club House, Bistupur, as per its pre-announced schedule. However, the celebration took a sombre turn following the sad demise of Durgesh Singh, younger son of Maharana Pratap's descendant and former King of Mewar, Arvind Singh Ji Mewar and All India Kshatriya Mahasabha National President, Dr. Kunwar Harivansh Singh. As a mark of respect, the event began with a two-minute silence to pay tribute to Arvind Singh Mewar and Durgesh Singh.

Following this, the Holi Milan formalities were completed in a simple and subdued manner. The event was attended by several notable figures, including Assistant Commissioner of GST MK Singh, Dr. MS Singh Manas (Founder of International Veerangna Foundation Mahasabha and National General Secretary of All India Kshatriya Mahasabha), BJP leader Neeru Singh, State General Secretary Samaresh Singh, District Vice President Rajesh Kumar Singh and Dr. Rana Praveen Singh and several other women dignitaries. (w/nkm)

Demand to relocate hot mixing plant

Seraikela, Mar 17: Congress District Vice President Kailash Mahato has submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner, demanding the relocation of a hot mixing plant near Kudarshahi Shiva Temple. He stated that the plant's tar emissions are polluting the environment, affecting devotees and local villagers. Mahato alleged that the plant was set up without consent from the Gram Sabha or local residents and violates pollution control norms. "This is a matter of public concern and if not addressed, we will be forced to launch an agitation with villagers and devotees," he warned.

Anvesha Sanstha honours social workers on Its 38th Foundation Day

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Mar 17: On the occasion of its 38th foundation day, social service organization Anvesha honoured various social workers and organizations for their outstanding contributions to society.

The event was held at Misty Inn Hotel under the leadership of Anvesha's founder, Alpana Bhattacharya. Team PSF (Pratik Sangharsh Foundation) was specially recognized for its over 30 years of dedicated social service. While receiving the honour, Team PSF Director Arijit Sarkar expressed gratitude and dedicated the award to his colleagues. "This recognition is a blessing and a new source of motivation for us," he said. The ceremony saw the presence of several dignitaries, including Kumares Hazra, Uttam Kumar Gorai, Ravi Shankar, Shubhendu Mukherjee, Amitabh Chatterjee and Nilay Sengupta.

The event highlighted the invaluable contributions of social workers in making a positive impact on society. (w/nkm)

Accused sentenced to 7 years for attempted murder



Chaibasa, Mar 17: The Principal District and Sessions Judge of West Singhbhum, Chaibasa, has sentenced Sanjay Behera to seven years of rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 10,000 in an attempt to murder case. The verdict pertains to Case No. 67/2023, registered at Jagannathpur police station.

The incident took place on October 4, 2023, when the victim, Komo Manjhi, was using the toilet in the morning. During this time, Sanjay Behera forcefully entered, dragged her out and stabbed her in the stomach with a knife, leaving her seriously injured. Following the attack, Chaibasa police acted swiftly, arresting Behera and placing him in judicial custody. Based on scientific evidence, a charge sheet was submitted in court. After the final hearing on March 17, 2025, the court convicted Behera under Section 307 (attempt to murder) of the Indian Penal Code.

The court's decision reflects a strong stance against violent crimes and serves as a warning against such offenses. The prosecution maintained that the conviction was based on undeniable evidence. Law enforcement officials reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring justice and maintaining public safety. (w/nkm)

Red Cross Society Seraikela to hold executive meeting today

Seraikela, Mar 17: The Indian Red Cross Society, Seraikela-Kharsawan District Executive Committee, will hold an important meeting on Tuesday at 12 noon in the Sub-Divisional Office, Seraikela. District Secretary Dayashankar Mishra stated that the meeting will review past activities, membership drives and the empowerment of the executive committee. "This meeting will focus on strengthening the committee's role in human service and public welfare while planning future initiatives," said Mishra. The gathering will also outline new programs for expanding the society's reach in the region. (w/nkm)

Rabikant honoured for contributions to literature

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Mar 17: Renowned litterateur Rabikant Bhakat was honoured for his outstanding contributions to education and literature at a multilingual literary conference and book release event organized by Vikas Educational and Charitable Trust in Janamdih, Potka Block.

He received a certificate and memento from Vikas Kumar Bhakat, with several distinguished literary figures, including Surya Singh Besra, Sunil Kumar De and Shankar Chandra Gop, in attendance. "The goal of this program is to bring together writers from diverse linguistic backgrounds and promote literary talent in rural areas," said Vikas Kumar Bhakat. A resident of Kendamundi village, Rabikant Bhakat has authored numerous books in English, Hindi and Bengali, including Indebtedness – Reason and Solution, Bhakti Varnamala (Bengali poetry collection), Hariye Jaova Chand (Bengali novel) and Blind Journey (English poetry). After retiring as a Block Program Officer, he now serves as a para-legal volunteer with the District Legal Services Authority, spreading legal awareness in communities. (w/nkm)

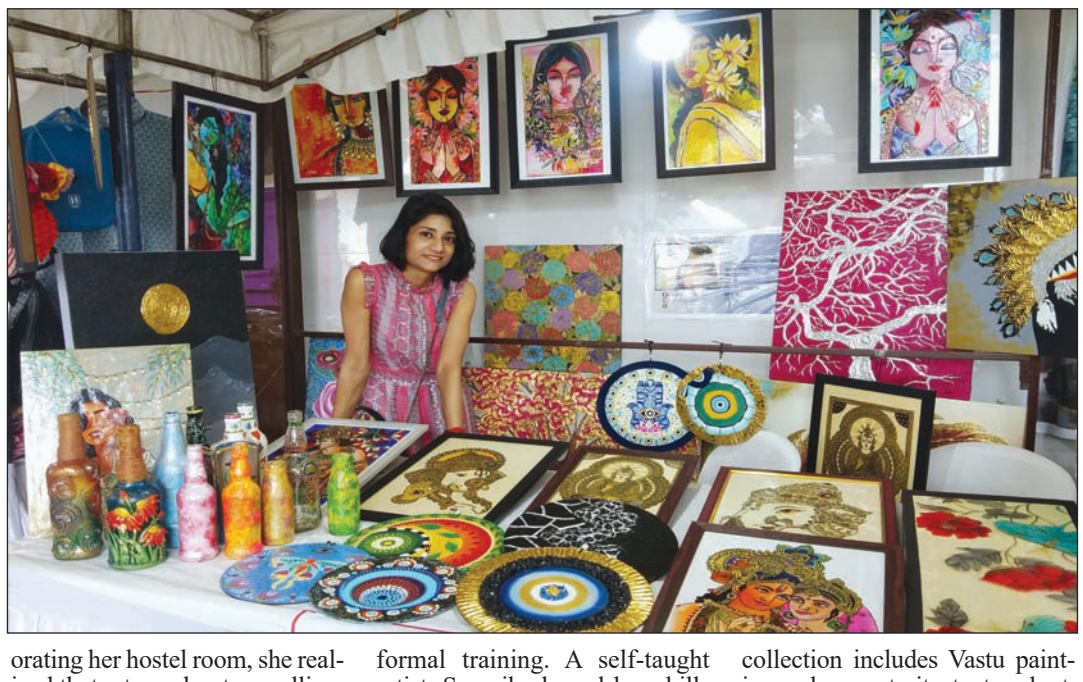
BJP leader demands direct bus services from Seraikela to Puri



Seraikela, Mar 17: BJP leader Sumit Chaudhary has demanded that all buses with permits for the Seraikela-Puri route operate directly from Seraikela, instead of starting from Jamshedpur or Rajnagar. He highlighted that many families in Seraikela have strong ties to Odisha and direct bus connectivity would reduce travel costs and difficulties. "Currently, people must first travel to Sini to catch a train, adding financial burden. If the buses are not operated from Seraikela as per their permit, their licenses should be revoked," said Chaudhary. He also urged the Deputy Commissioner and District Transport Officer to ensure compliance, emphasizing that better connectivity is crucial for economic and social development. (w/nkm)

Every art has a story – Sagarika Bhowmik's passion becomes her identity

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Mar 17: While many see waste as mere trash, an exceptional artist from Kadma, Jamshedpur, breathes new life into discarded materials through her remarkable artistry. With her magical touch, she transforms what seems useless into stunning works of art.

Art is not just about colors; it is a journey of self-discovery and passion. Sagarika Bhowmik's story embodies this sentiment—her struggles shaped her into the artist she is today. They say that determination paves the way for dreams to come true and Sagarika's journey is a testament to this belief.

Once aspiring for a career in fashion design, financial constraints led her to pursue a conventional degree instead. To become self-reliant, she worked as an HR Talent Acquisition Specialist in Pune for 5.3 years. However, fate had other plans.

In 2019, she lost her job, leaving her future uncertain. It was then that she rediscovered her passion for painting. While decorating her hostel room, she realized that art was her true calling. During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, she returned to Jamshedpur, where this challenging period allowed her to recognize her hidden talent. Though always inclined toward creative arts, she never received formal training. A self-taught artist, Sagarika honed her skills through online research, tutorials and relentless practice.

With her talent and determination, she founded Kanvastory, a home-based art and painting shop where she showcases and sells her handmade artwork. Her collection includes Vastu paintings, glass portraits, textured art, acrylic paintings, theme-based artwork, glass paintings, bottle art and more. Her goal is to provide aesthetic and artistic pieces at affordable prices for people from all walks of life.

Her work has been exhibited multiple times at Jamshedpur's popular Jam Street, where her art stalls have attracted many visitors. So far, she has successfully sold over 50 artworks. Her paintings reflect a unique blend of colors, imagination and deep emotions, captivating every viewer. But her art is not just about decoration—she also uses it to raise awareness about social issues. She firmly believes that "everything discarded can be repurposed into something beautiful," and her work proves this philosophy.

Sagarika's journey as an artist was not easy, but her family stood by her throughout. Her father, retired for 14 years and her homemaker mother played a crucial role in supporting her passion. Now, she aspires to take her art to a larger audience. Her dream is to have her artwork exhibited nationally and internationally while establishing Kanvastory as a recognized brand.

"Every piece of art tells a story and I want to share mine with the world through my creations." – Sagarika Bhowmik (w/nkm)

Showing the mirror to Pakistan

At a juncture when Pakistan is in the throes of dissatisfaction, political mayhem and turmoil, Prime Minister Narendra Modi rightly pointed out that India had tried to extend peace and friendship to the country on innumerable occasions but every time the rulers there overturned the offers and tried all possible ways to cheat our country. In a podcast with computer scientist Lex Fredman the Prime Minister rightly showed the mirror to Pakistan reflecting that the country was still trudging along the old path. This had only led to its continued losses on several fronts but it has, like a stubborn mule, refused to learn from its mistakes and follow a correct path. Pakistan, in its diehard bid to show India in poor light is turning a blind eye to its ragged social, economic and political state and is having to face humiliating situations every day on the international plane. At one point of time, it used to compete with India but now the situation is such that it stands nowhere in the competition. The Prime Minister rightly observed that Pakistan would regain sanity but when, remained an unknown factor. Till such a time, India would have to keep an open eye on Pakistan.

A large chunk of the Pakistani population is realizing the mistakes of its rulers but its government and intelligence agencies are unwilling to let go of their anti-India stance. If even after being faced with multi-cornered problems, their rulers still show abhorrence to normalizing political and trade relations with India, it only goes to reflect their stand of hatred against India. India cannot overlook the fact that Pakistan is not restraining itself from fanning unrest in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. It is also well known that the occupied Indian territories in Pakistan are being used as bastions for terrorist elements. It is necessary to keep a close watch over these elements for Pakistan continues to try and spread unrest in India and extend all possible support to the separatist segment through these terrorists. Pakistan, with the support of these terrorists has been catering to the needs of these separatists. These activities of Pakistan go to prove that it is in no mood to redeem itself. Under such circumstances, it would only be correct for India to consider taking support of South Asian countries, apart from Pakistan, and establish peace, prosperity and stability in the region.

From the Editorial Desk

PM Modi reveals why Indian talent continues to lead top tech firms globally



As Indian talents like Sundar Pichai and Satya Nadella - and many more - continue to rule top tech companies globally majorly in the US, Prime Minister Modi said on Sunday that generally, people raised in India -- especially those coming from joint families and brought up in an open society -- find it easier to lead complex tasks and large teams effectively.

In a candid conversation with American podcaster Lex Fridman, the Prime Minister said this is why, in major corporations across the globe, you'll find Indians holding key leadership positions.

"The problem-solving abilities, along with the analytical thinking of Indian professionals are truly exceptional. I believe this capability is so strong, it makes Indians globally competitive and extremely valuable on the international stage. This is the reason why in fields like innovation, entrepreneurship, startups and boardrooms, you'll find Indians achieving extraordinary results everywhere," PM Modi elaborated.

The Indian culture emphasises that there should be equal respect for the place where you're born and the place where you work and there should be no difference, according to the Prime Minister.

"As much as there is dedication to the land of birth, there should be the same sense of dedication to the land of work. You should always give your best wherever you are. Because of these rich cultural values, every Indian strives to give their best effort, regardless of their role or position. They don't wait until they're in senior roles, even in smaller roles," the PM remarked.

Secondly, they never get involved in anything questionable or unethical.

"They tend to remain dedicated to what's right and ethical. Their nature is collaborative. They easily get along with others, eventually for success. Just having knowledge isn't enough. The ability to work effectively as part of a team matters significantly more. Understanding people and harnessing their abilities is an incredibly valuable skill," PM Modi said.

The Prime Minister also mentioned space sector which was entirely government-controlled, but just a couple of years ago, "I opened it up to the private sector, and now we already have 200 startups working in space technology".

"Moreover, our missions like Chandrayaan are extremely cost-effective. India's Chandrayaan mission costs less than what Hollywood spends making a single blockbuster film. So, when the world sees how cost-effective our work is, they naturally think why not partner with India? This automatically generates respect for Indian talent globally. I believe this is a hallmark of our civilisational ethos," PM Modi noted.

Temporary workforce powering NBFC growth in India, driving financial inclusion



The temporary workforce has emerged as a backbone of the non-banking financial companies (NBFC) sector, taking on crucial roles such as collection officers, sales officers and relationship managers, a new report said on Monday.

According to the report by TeamLease Services, the sector is witnessing rapid changes in workforce dynamics, with temporary employees becoming essential in customer-facing roles.

NBFCs have become an essential part of India's financial system, achieving a strong 21 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth in net advances.

Their total balance sheet size reached Rs 21.8 lakh crore in the financial year 2024. A major factor driving this growth is the rising adoption of digital tools and an expanding customer outreach strategy.

"This shift is not only enhancing operational efficiency but also reshaping workforce roles," the report said.

Maharashtra and Gujarat dominate the contractual workforce, contributing 19.9 per cent and 11.6 per cent, respectively.

Along with states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh, the top ten states account for nearly 75 per cent of temporary workforce distribution in NBFCs.

However, the concentration of temporary jobs in a few states raises the need for a more balanced workforce distribution to promote inclusive economic growth.

Salary trends also vary across regions. Delhi and Karnataka offer the highest average salaries for temporary workers in NBFCs, with Delhi leading at Rs 23,756 and Karnataka following closely at Rs 23,607.

These salaries apply to roles such as telesales agents, rural credit officers, and administrative staff.

Women account for 21.9 per cent of the sector's temporary workforce with the highest female participation has been recorded in Mizoram (45.5 per cent).

The northeastern states set an example in promoting women's inclusion in financial services as Sikkim accounts for 35.7 per cent female employees, and Meghalaya (29.4 per cent). This progress is largely attributed to cultural acceptance and strong government initiatives.

"The NBFC sector is not just a financial catalyst but also a critical enabler of employment and inclusion," said Balasubramanian A, Senior VP and Business Head, TeamLease Services.

India's defence sector on fast track to become global powerhouse



India's defence industry is rapidly evolving into a global powerhouse as the country's defence exports surged to an all-time high of Rs 21,083 crore in FY24 -- a 32.5 per cent increase from the previous year's Rs 15,920 crore, as per a report.

According to the Nuvama report, over the past decade, India's defence exports have grown 31 times, solidifying its presence in the global market and increasing international demand.

The Indian government has set an ambitious target of Rs 50,000 crore in defence exports by FY29, reflecting its commitment to strengthening the sector.

In FY25 alone, exports are projected to reach Rs 20,300 crore, reinforcing India's position as a key player in the international defence supply chain.

One of the biggest catalysts for this growth is the rising demand from Europe. With European nations facing manufacturing constraints and workforce shortages, India is emerging as a dependable supplier of defence equipment.

The first wave of European defence orders is anticipated as early as the first half of FY26, opening new avenues for Indian defence manufacturers.

Domestically, the Indian government is taking significant steps to accelerate growth in the sector, the report said.

A large-scale defence procurement worth Rs 1.5 trillion is planned by March 2025, addressing concerns over slow order placements in FY25.

This move is expected to boost Indian defence stocks and enhance the country's military capabilities, it added.

Meanwhile, shifting global defence dynamics are creating additional opportunities for India. The United States' decision to cut military aid to Ukraine has highlighted NATO's heavy dependence on American defence funding.

With the US contributing nearly 70 per cent of NATO's total defence expenditure over the past decade, European nations are now under pressure to bolster their defence systems.

This transition is expected to drive further demand for Indian defence products, according to Nuvama.

Pakistan's dark karma haunts it in Balochistan



Deepika Bhan



A country that has been the epicentre of global terrorism is now crying foul over a train hijacking incident. This is a classic case of karma coming back to haunt it after years of aiding, sponsoring, and backing terrorist activities in various parts of the world, particularly in its neighboring country, India, and even as far as the United States.

The hijacking of its train by the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), a separatist group seeking Balochistan's secession from Pakistan, has exposed the deep-rooted issues that have existed since Pakistan's inception. From the very beginning, its leaders have harboured sinister intentions of gobbling up its surroundings. The first casualty of this expansionist mindset was Balochistan, which was an independent country in 1947 when Pakistan was created and India gained independence from British rule.

After a brief period of independence of 227 days, Pakistan forcibly annexed the region. Many Baloch nationalists did not accept this decision and viewed the annexation as an infringement upon their cultural identity and autonomy. Soon, they rose in defiance, but the Pakistani Army crushed their resistance with brutal force. The region witnessed uprisings in 1958, 1962, and 1973-77, but each time, the Pakistani establishment managed to suppress the movement.

In 2005, the movement for Baloch identity gained momentum again under the leadership of Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti, who was then Pakistan's Defence Minister and the Governor of Balochistan. He supported the armed struggle against the Pakistani state but was assassinated the following year. While his death momentarily subdued the movement, it did not end it.

The region has been simmering with unrest in recent years. Multiple violent incidents have been reported. More than 70 people were killed by the BLA in August 2024. At least 23 civilians were also shot dead after gunmen blocked highways. In a suicide bombing at Quetta railway station last year, 25 people were killed.

The latest attack -- the train hijacking or the ambushing of a bus carrying security forces -- is a manifestation of the crisis caused by Pakistan's policies. The Balochis fell victim to Pakistan's expansionist agenda in 1948, the same year it attempted to seize Jammu and Kashmir. While it succeeded in occupying Balochistan, its efforts to capture Jammu and Kashmir were thwarted by India's intervention.

In October 1947, Pakistani invaders entered Jammu and Kashmir, which was then an independent region, and brutally massacred thousands, forcibly converting many Hindus and Christians. Even Muslims who resisted them were not spared. When the situation became dire, the then-King of Jammu and Kashmir acceded to India, which swiftly intervened and prevented Pakistan's annexation of the region.

Jammu and Kashmir became an integral part of India, but Pakistan has continued to foment trouble there. Over the last four decades, it has sponsored terrorism under the guise of a separatist movement, fuelling Islamic radicalisation and attempting to revive the two-nation theory.

While Pakistan has tried to portray the violence in Kashmir as a struggle for Kashmiri identity, it has simultaneously subjugated Balochistan, where people have been desperately fighting to protect their identity and resources. Unlike Kashmir, which has witnessed significant development in terms of land, air, and internet connectivity, Pakistan has turned Balochistan into one of its most disadvantaged and disconnected regions.

Although Balochistan is Pakistan's richest province in terms of natural resources -- gas and minerals -- it remains the least developed. It lags in key indicators such as health, education, and human security. And has been facing discrimination and state repression over the decades -- forced disappearances, killings, torture and human rights abuses.

To make matters worse for the people of Balochistan, China's growing influence in the region has further fuelled the insurgency. Balochistan is a crucial part of the multi-billion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The Gwadar Port, a key component of CPEC, serves as a major trade and energy transit hub for China. However, the Baloch people have vehemently opposed Chinese projects, viewing them as exploitative.

What happened to the hijacked Jaffar Express, which was travelling from Quetta to Peshawar with over 400 passengers on March 11, remains unclear. After a 30-hour siege, the Pakistani Army claimed to have successfully ended the operation, while the BLA stated that they had escaped with 214 hostages and executed them. The truth may never be fully known, but one fact remains clear - Balochistan is rising once again.

This time, the uprising may be far more challenging for Pakistan to contain, given the multiple crises it is currently facing. It has failed to win the hearts of the people of Balochistan and is now resorting to blaming external forces. Instead of falsely accusing others, including India, of its failures, Pakistan must confront its internal problems.

It oppressed the Bangladeshis until they broke free in 1971. It attempted to incite unrest in Punjab and Kashmir and has been behind almost every major terrorist attack in India. It nurtured terrorist networks to destabilise India and other nations. Now, the chaos it sowed is finally coming back to haunt Pakistan.

The very terror network it created has turned against it, and it is now reaping the consequences of its actions. Balochistan serves as a mirror, exposing Pakistan's sinister designs.

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

Sensex, Nifty close higher driven by financial, pharma stocks



Mumbai, March 17 (IANS) The Indian stock market closed with strong gains on Monday, driven by buying in financial, pharma and select metal stocks.

Both the Sensex and Nifty saw a positive finish despite a mixed start to the day. The Sensex opened on a cautious note, briefly slipping to 73,796, down 33 points in early trade.

However, it quickly gained momentum, rallying to a high of 74,376, which was 400 points above the intra-day's low. After trading in a consolidated manner for the rest of the session, the Sensex ended the day 341 points higher at 74,170.

The Nifty index also started on a weak note, opening with a 44-point loss at 22,353. But it soon recovered and climbed to an intra-day high of 22,577. By the end of the session, the index settled at 22,509, gaining 112 points or 0.5 per cent.

Among the top-performing stocks on the Sensex, Bajaj Finserv surged 3.8 per cent to Rs 1,875. Adani Ports, Mahindra & Mahindra, Axis Bank, and Bajaj Finance also recorded gains of around 2 per cent each.

Other key gainers included Zomato, ICICI Bank, Sun Pharma, UltraTech Cement, Tata Motors, and Tata Steel.

On the downside, ITC declined by 1 per cent, while Nestle India, SBI, and Reliance Industries also ended in the negative territory.

Centre gears up to supply 906 million tonnes of coal to power sector in 2025-26



New Delhi, March 17 (IANS) The Ministry of Coal has conveyed the domestic coal supply plan of 906.1 million tonnes (MT) to the power sector for FY 2025-26 in accordance with the Ministry of Power's communication on the requirement for the financial year 2025-26, the Parliament was informed on Monday.

There is adequate availability of coal in the country at present. As per the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the coal stock at domestic coal-based power plants stands at 53.49 million tonne (MT) as on March 10, 2025, in comparison to 44.51 MT on the corresponding day of the last year 2023-24 with a growth rate of 20.20 per cent. The current coal stock is sufficient for about 20 days at 85 per cent plant load factor (PLF), Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy told the Rajya Sabha in a written reply.

During the current year 2024-25, the country has produced 929.15 MT (provisional) of coal (up to February 2025) in comparison to 881.16 MT in the corresponding period of the last year 2023-24 with a growth rate of 5.45 per cent, the minister said.

The focus of the government is on increasing the domestic production of coal to meet the energy requirement of the country. The country has witnessed highest highest-ever coal production in the year 2023-24 with the all-India domestic coal production at 997.826 MT in comparison to 893.191 MT in the year 2022-2023 with a growth of about 11.71 per cent, he stated.

The supply of coal to the power plants is a continuous process. Coal supply is continuously monitored by the coal companies and also by an Inter-Ministerial Sub-Group comprising representatives from the Ministries of Power, Coal, and Railways, the CEA, Coal India Limited (CIL), and the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) which meet regularly to take various operational decisions to enhance the supply of coal to thermal power plants, Reddy said.

Besides, an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) has also been constituted comprising the Railway Board Chairperson, the Coal Secretary, the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Secretary, and the Power Secretary to monitor the augmentation of coal supply and power generation capacity.

Bill Gates explores AI-driven 'Viksit Bharat' strategy room at NITI Aayog

New Delhi, March 17 (IANS) Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, on Monday visited NITI Aayog's Viksit Bharat Strategy Room (VBSR), where he experienced an advanced AI-enabled immersive centre designed to enhance evidence-based decision making for policymakers across the country.

The centre, which integrates cutting-edge technology, allows officials at central, state, district, and block levels to analyse data in real time and make informed policy decisions. The 'Viksit Bharat Strategy Room' was launched on March 7, 2024, as a revolutionary step in data-driven governance.

Equipped with 27 interactive screens and operated through centrally located touchscreens, the room provides a dynamic platform to explore data across states, sectors, and government programs.

Its AI-driven software, developed using machine learning and natural language processing, helps policymakers interpret complex data efficiently.

The importance of this initiative was highlighted when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the centre on July 11, 2024, reinforcing its role in advancing India's vision of Viksit Bharat.

Inspired by the success of VBSR, several similar AI-powered experience centres have been developed across India.

These include 'Tagbin BoardRoomAI', a solution designed to revolutionise boardroom decision-making with real-time insights and predictive analytics.

Maruti Suzuki India announces up to 4 pc price hike from April

New Delhi, March 17 (IANS) Leading automaker Maruti Suzuki India Ltd on Monday announced its third price hike this year - up to 4 per cent which is effective from April - to offset rising input costs amid moderating sales. The price increase on the vehicles from next month will vary depending on the model, according to an exchange filing by the company. "In light of rising input costs and operational expenses, the company has planned to increase the prices of its cars from April, 2025. The price increase is expected to be up to 4 per cent and will vary depending on the model," said Maruti Suzuki India. "While the company continuously strives to optimise costs and minimise the impact on its customers, some portion of the increased cost may need to be passed on to the market," it added in the filing.

Fino Payments Bank opens first branch in Berhampur



Berhampur, March 17: Fino Payments Bank today opened its first branch in West Bengal. Located in Murshidabad district near the Berhampur Court Railway Station the new branch premises was inaugurated by Atul Trivedi, Senior Divisional Head in the presence of Sachin Joglekar, Zonal Head, Soumen Kanrar, Regional Head and the bank staff. Fino provides banking services mostly in unbanked and underbanked areas through neighbourhood merchant points like kirana stores, mobile shops, dairy shops as well as outlets of its strategic partner Bharat Petroleum (BPCL). In West Bengal, Fino Bank has an extensive merchant network of over 40,000 points spread across all the 23 districts of the state serving over one lakh customers.

India to remain fastest growing economy in next 2 years at 6.4 to 6.6 pc growth

New Delhi, March 17 (IANS) The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) expects India to remain the fastest-growing major economy over the next two years with the country's GDP growth rate projected at 6.4 per cent for 2025 and at 6.6 per cent in 2026. The OECD report projects China's growth rate at 4.8 per cent in 2025 and at 4.4 per cent in 2026. The OECD's projections are more or less in line with the RBI's forecast of India's growth prospects. In its outlook released in February, the central bank's monetary policy committee kept the growth forecast at 6.7 per cent for FY26. The Economic Survey pegged growth between 6.3 per cent and 6.8 per cent for FY26. "The global economy has shown some real resilience, with growth remaining steady and inflation moving downwards. However, some signs of weakness have emerged, driven by heightened policy uncertainty," OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann said.

Ericsson, Volvo Group, Airtel join hands to boost Industry 4.0, 5.0 adoption in India

New Delhi, March 17 (IANS) In a bid to accelerate Industry 4.0 and Industry 5.0 adoption in India, Ericsson, Volvo Group and Bharti Airtel on Monday announced a research partnership to explore the potential of Extended Reality (XR), Digital Twin technologies and AI in the manufacturing sector. The companies said in a statement that by leveraging the power of 5G and 5G Advanced, this collaboration aims to transform industrial operations, enhance workforce training, and drive real-time process optimisation. The research engagement, to be conducted at the Volvo Group Factory and Volvo Group's R&D Centre in Bengaluru, will explore futuristic 'Industrial Metaverse' applications including human and machine interaction and collaboration.

"5G, coupled with Extended Reality applications, will help foster innovation as well as collaboration between our sites and engineers, in real-time, through the power of connectivity & digitalization backed by advanced AI technologies," said Kamal Bali, President and MD, Volvo Group India.

FOREIGN

Trump shares PM Modi's 3-hr podcast on his social media platform



Washington, March 17 (IANS) US President Donald Trump on Monday morning (Indian time) shared Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-hour-long podcast with US-based podcaster Lex Fridman on his social media platform, Truth Social.

During the conversation, PM Modi spoke about his camaraderie with Trump, emphasising their mutual trust and commitment to prioritising their respective national interests.

He lauded Trump's "humility" and noted that the former US President appeared far more prepared for a second term compared to his first.

PM Modi praised Trump's unwavering dedication to the United States, highlighting his resilience even after the recent assassination attempt.

"Even after being shot, he remained unwaveringly dedicated to America. His life was for his nation. This showed his America First spirit, just as I believe in nation first - Bharat first," PM Modi said.

He recalled Trump's personal gesture at the 'Howdy Modi' event in 2019, where he chose to sit in the audience, calling it a testament to his humility. PM Modi further expressed admiration for Trump's clarity of vision and well-defined roadmap for a potential second term.

Reflecting on his visit to the White House, the Prime Minister noted how Trump broke protocol by personally guiding him on a tour of the presidential residence. Despite not having met in person for years, he emphasised that their communication and trust remained strong.

When asked about Trump's past comment that PM Modi is a better negotiator, the Prime Minister attributed it to the US President's graciousness and humility.

"He has a clear roadmap in his mind with well-defined steps, each one designed to lead him toward his goals," he said, adding that his own approach to negotiations is always driven by India's interests.

America committed to defeat the ideology that drives 'Islamist terrorism', says US Intel chief



New Delhi, March 17 (IANS) US Intelligence chief Tulsi Gabbard, on her visit to India for the Raisina Dialogue, spoke at length about the political turmoil and turbulence in Bangladesh and stated that the United States was deeply concerned about persistent persecution of religious minorities in the country including Hindus, Buddhists, Christians and others.

Speaking exclusively to NDTV on a raft of issues, the US national intelligence chief was critical of the crumbling situation in Bangladesh and highlighted the Trump administration's firm resolve in tackling the extremist forces and 'Islamist terrorism'.

She said that the Trump administration is focused and committed to defeat the ideology that promotes "Islamist terrorism" globally. Tulsi Gabbar, the director of National Intelligence further said, "The longtime persecution, killing, and abuse of religious minorities like Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, and others has been a major area of concern for the US government and President Trump and his administration."

According to her, the Trump administration has already begun talks with Mohammad Younus-led interim government in Bangladesh.

She also spoke about the nefarious plots by extremist elements and terrorists in setting the stage for the 'Islamic Caliphate' in various parts of the world including Bangladesh, calling it a 'global pattern' and elaborated on how the Trump administration was prioritising its policies in dealing with such menace.

Speaking to NDTV, she said, "The threat of Islamist terrorists and the global effort of different terror groups are routed in the same ideology and objective -- which is to rule or govern with an Islamic Caliphate."

Pak govt summons PTI leaders over anti-state propaganda



Islamabad, March 17 (IANS) In a major political scuffle in Pakistan, the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) formed by the federal government has re-issued summons to 16 members of Imran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), including many senior party leaders, to appear before them on March 18 over allegations of spreading negative propaganda on social media, local media reported.

The JIT claimed to have conducted investigations against the PTI members on their alleged role in anti-state propaganda. Aleema Khanum, the sister of PTI founder, has also been reissued another notice to appear on March 19, ARY News reported quoting sources.

Earlier, while speaking in the National Assembly about the massive attack on Jaffar Express train in Balochistan, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif bashed PTI for allegedly "politicising" the attack and misinterpreting the situation on social media.

On the other hand, PTI parliamentarian and former National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser criticised the government's handling of national security, arguing that the Defence Minister should have briefed the House on the Jaffar Express attack instead of engaging in political mudslinging.

"It seems PTI and social media are on the minister's mind more than national security. Asif should demonstrate moral courage and tender his resignation for the serious security lapse," leading Pakistani daily Dawn quoted the parliamentarian as saying.

Three from Telangana killed in road accident in US



Hyderabad, March 17 (IANS) Three members of a family from Telangana were killed in a road accident in the United States.

According to information reaching the relatives of the deceased in Rangareddy district, Pragathi Reddy (35), her son Harveen (6) and mother-in-law Sunitha (56) were killed in the accident that occurred in Florida on Sunday morning.

The deceased hailed from Tekulapalli in Kondurg mandal of Rangareddy district.

Pragathi Reddy was married to Rohith Reddy of Siddipet who was employed in the US. The couple had two sons. The family was living in Florida. Rohith Reddy's mother Sunitha was also staying with them.

According to information received by the family of the deceased, Rohith Reddy, Pragathi Reddy, their sons, and Sunitha were travelling in a car that reportedly collided with another car in Florida. They were returning home after a weekend trip.

Pragathi Reddy, Harveen and Sunitha died on the spot while Rohith Reddy, who was driving the car and his younger son escaped with minor injuries.

Ukrainian Prez Zelensky appoints new Army Chief of Staff

Kyiv, March 17 (IANS) Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has appointed Major General Andrii Hnatov as the Chief of the general staff of the Ukrainian armed forces to replace Lieutenant General Anatolii Barhylevych. The decrees to dismiss Barhylevych and appoint Hnatov, published on the presidential website, did not specify the reasons for the replacement. Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umerov wrote on Facebook that the reshuffle in the armed forces aims to enhance their combat effectiveness, Xinhua news agency reported. "We are systematically transforming the Armed Forces of Ukraine to enhance their combat effectiveness," Umerov said in a Facebook post, applauding a promotion that he said came at his recommendation. Umerov noted that Hnatov has more than 27 years of military experience, having previously commanded a marine brigade, the troops of Operational Command East, and the Joint Forces of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

Afghan refugees: Pakistan turns down Kabul's request for extending deportation deadline



Islamabad, March 17 (IANS) Pakistan has rejected a request by the Afghan Taliban to extend the deadline for deportation of Afghan refugees, stating in clear terms that it is moving with the plan to deport all illegal and Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders from April 1. In a major policy decision announced on March 7, the Pakistani government said that all Afghan nationals in the country having Afghan Citizen Cards (ACC) will have to leave the country or face deportation and would be treated as illegal aliens after March 31.

"Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Programme (IFRP) has been implemented since November 1, 2023. In continuation to the Government's decision to repatriate all illegal foreigners, national leadership has now decided to also repatriate ACC holders," stated Pakistan's Ministry of Interior.

"All illegal foreigners and ACC holders are advised to leave the country voluntarily before March 31, 2025. Thereafter, deportation will commence with effect from April 1, 2025," read the statement.

The decision has put the fate of over 800,000 ACC holder Afghan nationals in jeopardy as Islamabad has rejected all requests from the Afghan Taliban in Kabul to delay the process of deportation by extending the deadline.

George Clooney dyes hair black, says wife Amal will hate it



New York: George Clooney, twice crowned People's Sexiest Man Alive, has long been one of Hollywood's most handsome stars. Recently, he ditched his signature salt-and-pepper look, opting for brown hair to portray Fred Friendly in the Broadway adaptation of Good Night, and Good Luck.

The actor debuted his new hair colour last week during a preview of the show in New York City, and his transformation has since become the talk of the town; for all the right reasons! While his hair stole the limelight, his outfit also made a statement. Clooney sported a black leather jacket, beige pants and Adidas sneakers, completing the look with classic black aviator sunglasses. Interestingly, the change comes just a month after George Clooney admitted that his wife, Amal Clooney, wasn't thrilled about it. "My wife is going to hate it because nothing makes you look older than when an older guy dyes his hair," he told The New York Times.

Even their 7-year-old twins, Alexander and Ella, aren't sparing him. "My kids are going to just laugh at me non-stop," he added.

While George Clooney's latest look is winning hearts, it also brings back memories of his 2015 interview with BBC Radio. Back then, the actor firmly stated, "I'm a big believer in the idea that you can't try to look younger." He also expressed his strong stance against dyeing his hair or undergoing plastic surgery, believing such efforts only make one appear older.

"You just have to try and look the best you can at the age you are and not worry about it," he said.

Woman quits bank job of 7 years to join OnlyFans for better 'Work-Life Balance'

Auckland: Layla Kelly, a New Zealand-based OnlyFans performer has revealed that she quit her banking job of over seven years to start an account on the adult platform. Ms Kelly said despite making $65,000 by the time she left the industry, she was living "pay cheque to pay cheque" and wanted better "work-life balance" which the X-rated platform seemingly provided.

"I didn't want to be chained to a corporate desk anymore," Ms Kelly was quoted as saying by news.com.au.

"I wanted a better work-life balance, and I wanted more time with my family and freedom to increase my income."

As per Ms Kelly, she decided to start the account during the end of her maternity leave. After the launch, she went from making a modest sum to earning over $250,000, which changed her life.

It also allowed her to save money for a six-figure house deposit when she hadn't even thought about buying one when working with the bank.

"I didn't even think buying a house was possible on my banking wage. The cost of living in New Zealand is really high, so even when you're being paid what is supposed to be a liveable wage, it doesn't feel that way anymore."



Bank refuses Kelly

Despite having more than enough savings, Ms Kelly revealed that one of the banks refused to assess her home loan application due to the industry she worked in.

"We had an incredible broker who went out to bat for us, and most banks were great, but there was one that wouldn't assess our application because of the industry I'm in," she explained.

"I was really annoyed. They just saw it on paper and didn't even care to have a conversation with us," Ms Kelly said, adding that the bank's stance was "hypocritical" as they must lend to people who own gambling or vape businesses.

Although she ended up securing a home loan, Ms Kelly said it was an "unfair experience", especially for a first-time home buyer.

Here's why Helen Mirren wants to do a DNA test on Harrison Ford



Los Angeles, March 17 (IANS) Hollywood star Helen Mirren shares she wants to do a DNA test to see if she is related to Harrison Ford because they get on so well in "1923".

She told People: "Harrison and I have a weird thing. (It's like) your best friend in college that you haven't seen for like 30 years, but [once] you're back, (it's) exactly [the same], only even better, actually. Even better.

"I don't know if you feel the same, Harrison, but I certainly feel like that, that there is this weird, connected[ness]. Maybe we should do a DNA (test). Maybe we are brother and sister in the end or something like that."

The Oscar-winning star last worked with Ford on 'The Mosquito Coast' in 1986, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

He said: "Well, that makes it even more bizarre."

Mirren added: "Maybe cousins. That would be better."

Ford then said that almost exactly four decades after they met on the set of the thriller, he is always aware when certain performers just "fit" together on a project and described it all as "perfect casting" in the new series.

He said: "The reality is that we met 40 or 50 years ago when we were doing 'Mosquito Coast'. And so we meet now 40 years later. I've been told that she's already signed up. She's been told I'm already signed up.

"But somehow, we find ourselves here. And there are a million different kinds of actors. They're (as) different as dentists are to one another - but when there's a fit, you feel it. It's just a perfect bit of casting."

"1923" is a Western drama television series. The series is a prequel to the Paramount Network series Yellowstone and serves as a sequel to the series 1883, with Isabel May reprising her role from the latter as narrator Elsa Dutton.

The series follows a generation of the Dutton family in 1923, during a time of various hardships including Prohibition, drought, and the early stages of the Great Depression, which affected Montana long before the Wall Street Crash of 1929.

Capital appreciation in India outpaces rental growth in 3 years, Noida's sector 150 leads

Mumbai, March 17 (IANS) The capital values in key micro-markets across the top seven cities surged by as much as 128 per cent between the end of 2021 and 2024, while rental values have grown at a comparatively slower pace, a new report said on Monday.

According to the latest data from Anarock, Noida's Sector 150 recorded the highest capital appreciation, with property values increasing by a massive 128 per cent in this period, among seven cities -- Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, NCR, Mumbai metropolitan region, Kolkata and Chennai.

However, rental values for a standard 1,000 square feet (sq ft) 2BHK in the area grew by only 66 per cent.

Similar trends were observed in major cities like Hyderabad, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), and the National Capital Region (NCR), where property prices saw stronger growth than rental values.



For instance, in Mumbai's Chembur, capital values increased by 48 per cent, while rental appreciation was slightly lower at 42 per cent.

In Mulund, rental values grew by just 29 per cent, whereas capital prices rose by 43 per cent, the report said.

Hyderabad's HITECH City and Gachibowli followed the same pattern, with capital values rising 62 per cent and 78 per cent, respectively, while rental growth was recorded at 54 per cent and 62 per cent.

Bengaluru's real estate market showed mixed trends. Thanisandra Main Road witnessed a 67 per cent rise in capital values, while rental growth lagged slightly at 62 per cent.

However, in Sarjapur Road, rental values grew faster at 76 per cent, compared to a 63 per cent increase in capital values.

"Those looking for long-term capital appreciation can target markets with high appreciation, while rental-focused investors should zero in on localities where rents are rising steadily," says Anuj Puri, chairman, Anarock Group. He added that for homebuyers, it is extremely important to weigh property price trends against rental growth to understand if buying or renting makes more financial sense in each location.

Interestingly, a few micro-markets in Pune, Kolkata, and Chennai saw the opposite trend, where rental values grew more than capital appreciation, the report added.

Pune's Hinjewadi recorded a 57 per cent increase in rental rates, whereas capital values rose by just 37 per cent.

In Kolkata's EM Bypass, rental values appreciated by 51 per cent, while capital values saw a modest 19 per cent increase.

Chennai's Pallavaram followed a similar pattern, with rental values growing by 44 per cent against a 21 per cent rise in property prices.

Hiring grows 10pc in February, demand surges for freshers, skills-based roles

Bengaluru, March 17 (IANS) India's job market continued its upward momentum in February 2025, with hiring growing 10 per cent month-over-month (MoM), according to a report on Thursday.

The report, based on the latest insights from the jobs and talent platform foundit, showed that the trend is particularly evident in fresher hiring, where employers are increasingly prioritising skills, certifications, and industry-specific expertise over formal degrees.

The share of job listings prioritising competencies over qualifications has risen from 4 per cent in 2023 to 14 per cent in 2025, reflecting a shift towards a more skills-driven workforce in line with evolving industry demands.

"The shift towards skill-based hiring is undeniable. Employers are increasingly prioritising candidates with practical expertise and industry-relevant skills," said V Suresh, CEO, foundit.



"This presents a valuable opportunity for recent graduates to focus on acquiring in-demand skills, earning certifications, and building robust portfolios that highlight their capabilities, ultimately enabling them to differentiate themselves in an ever-evolving job market," he added.

The report stated that India's fresher job market maintained steady growth in February, with hiring rising 6 per cent month-over-month (MoM), reflecting sustained employer demand for entry-level talent.

Among sectors, IT hardware and software continued to lead fresher hiring, nearly doubling its share from 17 per cent in 2024 to 34 per cent in 2025. Further, the recruitment and staffing industry has also seen notable growth in fresher hiring, highlighting the rising demand for fresh talent across various domains.

Meanwhile, sectors such as BFSI and BPO/ITES have experienced a decline in fresher hiring, reflecting changing industry priorities. Across job functions, IT remains the most in-demand field, though its share has slightly dipped.

Sales and business development, marketing and communications, and medical roles have gained traction, with marketing and communications now accounting for 11 per cent of fresher job postings -- a significant increase from previous years.

Beyond the major metropolitan areas, Tier-2 cities like Nasik, Jaipur, Surat, Coimbatore, Indore, Kochi, Thane, Vadodara, Chandigarh, and Nagpur are also emerging as key locations for fresher job opportunities.

Fresher salaries in February 2025 reveal a diverse landscape across industries. Animation, gaming, and medical/healthcare sectors lead in year-on-year (YoY) growth, showcasing a 15 per cent and 8 per cent increase respectively, while also offering competitive average salary ranges.

In February 2025, the import and export and BPO sectors recorded the strongest MoM hiring growth at 14 per cent, followed by energy at 12 per cent, and logistics and transportation at 11 per cent.

Ashwini Vaishnaw shares video of India's Hyperloop Tube, soon to be world's longest

Chennai: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw recently visited the Hyperloop testing facility at IIT Madras, where he announced that the Hyperloop tube being developed will soon become the world's longest, stretching 410 meters in length. Currently, the 410-meter-long Hyperloop test tube at IIT Madras holds the title of Asia's longest Hyperloop test facility.

The Hyperloop technology, conceptualized by Elon Musk in 2013, is a high-speed transportation system that uses vacuum-sealed tubes to propel pods at speeds over 1,000 km/h. This innovative mode of transportation has the potential to revolutionise travel, making it faster, more efficient, and environmentally friendly.

During his visit, Mr Vaishnaw also revealed plans to develop electronic components for the Hyperloop at Chennai's Integral Coach Factory, highlighting India's commitment to indigenous technology development.

Sharing a live demonstration on his Instagram account, he wrote, "Longest Hyperloop tube in Asia (410 m)… soon to be the world's longest."

Notably, the Ministry of Railways allocated Rs 8.34 crore to IIT Madras in May 2022 to drive indigenous development and validation of Hyperloop technology. The Union Minister expressed optimism about India's readiness to adopt Hyperloop transportation, citing promising results from ongoing tests.



He said that the entire testing system for Hyperloop transportation has been developed using indigenous technologies, and he congratulated all the young innovators for this achievement.

Congratulating IIT Madras on its cutting-edge innovations, Mr Vaishnaw said, "This place is so full of so much energy that I cannot describe it. I'm so happy to see young, energetic engineers working on this new technology and doing new experiments. We are providing only small help. I think that this will really lead us to some good solutions for the country, for our people, for our start-ups and for the world of technology as well."

The Hyperloop Technology

IIT Madras has been at the forefront of hyperloop research for the past seven years, significantly contributing to the field. The institute's cutting-edge facilities, including the 422-meter-long operational student-run hyperloop test tube and track at Discovery Campus, have significantly contributed to advancing the field. IIT Madras also recently hosted Asia's first Global Hyperloop Competition, supported by the Ministry of Railways, Government of India.

TuTr Hyperloop, a deep-tech incubated startup at IIT Madras, is set to launch the world's first commercial hyperloop technology-based project in India next month. This historic milestone marks a significant step towards Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat 2047.

Hyperloop technology, conceptualized by Elon Musk in 2013, represents the 5th mode of transportation, enabling high-speed travel in a near-vacuum tube. By minimizing air resistance, the capsule can reach speeds exceeding 1000 km/h, revolutionizing the future of transportation.

Redevelopment of Shalimar Railway Station underway

Mail News Service

Kolkata, Mar 17: Shalimar Railway Station, a crucial terminal of South Eastern Railway, is undergoing significant redevelopment to accommodate the growing passenger and train traffic. Initially developed as a goods terminal, it was later upgraded to serve passengers, easing congestion at Howrah Junction, one of Eastern India's busiest railway stations. Over the years, Shalimar has become an essential hub for long-distance trains, connecting Kolkata with major cities like Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, Udaipur, Puri and Bhubaneswar.

With the expansion of South Eastern Railway services, the station's importance has increased, necessitating infrastructure improvements. As a key terminal for express and superfast trains, several Mail and Express trains originate from and terminate at Shalimar. To enhance passenger experience and operational efficiency, the redevelopment plan includes a new station building, upgraded circulating areas, additional island platforms and modern amenities such as foot overbridges, lifts, escalators, ramps and travellators.

Currently, significant progress has been made in the redevelopment efforts. The structural construction of the new station building is complete, along with the development of a 12-meter-wide foot overbridge connecting Platforms 1, 2 and 3 and another bridge linking Platforms 2, 3, 4 and 5. Additional upgrades include four pit lines, six stabling lines, refurbishment of Platform 1, a new concrete road in the station area, a dedicated car parking space at the Ganga end, underpasses near Jetty and three overhead water tanks, each with a 2-lakh-gallon capacity.



To further enhance passenger convenience, five lifts in the station building and multiple escalators have been installed, providing connectivity between platforms and foot overbridges. Additionally, four travellators now link the underpass from Platform 1 to Platforms 2 and 3, ensuring smooth passenger movement.

The remaining development works are being executed in a phased manner to minimize disruption while improving overall passenger experience. Key upcoming projects include the construction and extension of platform shelters over Platforms 2 and 3, the development of a new island platform (Platforms 4 and 5) with two subway dispersals, the construction of a 64.09-meter-long road overbridge, installation of ramps and a limited-height subway, as well as the implementation of a CCTV surveillance system and an upgraded public address system.

Once completed, the redevelopment of Shalimar Railway Station will significantly enhance passenger facilities, improve connectivity and contribute to a more efficient and modern railway infrastructure under the South Eastern Railway network. (w/nkm)

Holi celebrations at RVS College of Engineering



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Mar 17: RVS College of Engineering & Technology, Jamshedpur, hosted a vibrant Holi Milan Ceremony on the eve of Holi, bringing together faculty, staff and distinguished guests in a celebration of colours and harmony.

The event was graced by RVS Educational Trust Treasurer Shatrughan Singh, Principal Prof. (Dr.) Rajesh Kumar Tiwari, T&P Head Dr. Vikram Sharma and several senior faculty members, including Dr. Surya Bahadur, Dr. Sudhir Jha and Dr. Sushant Mohanty.

Welcoming the gathering, Prof. Tiwari highlighted, "Holi is not just about colours but also about love and mutual harmony." Shatrughan Singh extended his best wishes, emphasizing that "Holi marks the culmination of spring, a time to set aside grievances and foster unity for societal progress."

The celebration saw enthusiastic participation, with faculty and staff exchanging Holi greetings with Abir and Gulal. The event concluded with a traditional feast featuring Malpua, sweets and Thandai. The successful organization was credited to Prof. D.K. Haldar, Dr. Rekha Tiwari, Prof. Kunal Sarkar and others, ensuring a memorable celebration of joy and togetherness. (w/nkm)

UCIL's Jaduguda Konark team gears up for All India DAE Hockey Competition



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Mar 17: The All India DAE Hockey Competition is set to take place in Rawatbhata, Kota, from March 24 to 28 and UCIL's Jaduguda Konark team is rigorously preparing for the tournament. The team will depart from Jaduguda on March 21.

UCIL's selected players for the competition include Tapan Kumar Majhi, Naresh Murmu, Sundar Singh, Virendra Hembram, Bharat Singh, Mangal Kisku, Durga Hansda, R. Kisku and P.K. Hess. Despite their dedication, the team faces significant challenges due to a lack of basic facilities. The players are practicing without a proper goal post, which is crucial for effective training. Additionally, they have not been provided with sports shoes, forcing them to arrange footwear and other necessary gear at their own expense. The lack of support has created frustration among the players.

Despite these difficulties, the team remains committed to giving their best performance. "We are determined to bring glory to UCIL and Jharkhand, no matter the challenges," said one of the players. However, it remains to be seen when the UCIL Sports Council will step in to address these issues, ensuring that the team gets the necessary support to compete at their full potential. (w/nkm)

Singhbhum Chamber's Holi milan fills the air with festive colours



Jamshedpur, Mar 17: The Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted a grand 'Holi Milan' event at Narbheram Hansraj School in Bistupur. The occasion was marked by vibrant cultural performances, where artists dressed as Radha and Krishna entertained the audience with traditional Holi dances.

Eminent personalities of Jamshedpur attended the function and extended Holi greetings to Chamber members. SSP Kishore Kaushal and senior entrepreneur Nakul Kamani were the chief guests. "This Holi Milan strengthens the bond among Chamber members and their families, bringing joy and unity," said Kaushal.

Chamber President Vijay Anand Moonka also addressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of such cultural events in preserving traditions. Among the notable attendees were former Chamber President Muralidhar Kedia, AK Srivastava, Nirmal Kabra, Umesh Kanwatia, Raj Pareek and Satish Singh. The event concluded on a high note, fostering camaraderie and festive cheer among participants. (w/nkm)

Daily wage worker found hanging from a tree

Gamharia, Mar 17: The body of a man was found hanging from a neem tree in Satvahini Dhirajganj under Adityapur police station. The deceased, identified as 45-year-old Tapan Kumar Mahato, was a resident of Palshabani, Patamda and worked as a daily wage laborer in the industrial area. Locals reported that he was a drug addict and had been missing for several days. On Monday morning, his lifeless body was discovered. He is survived by a married daughter and a son who is still studying. Police have taken custody of the body and sent it for postmortem to determine whether it was a case of suicide or murder. Investigations are ongoing.

Sahyog hosts vibrant Holi celebrations

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Mar 17: The multilingual literary organization Sahyog hosted Holi celebration at Tulsi Bhawan, bringing together members for a colorful and joyous event.

The celebration was filled with laughter and enthusiasm as members were welcomed with garlands made of ladyfinger, tomato, radish, and brinjal, adding a unique touch to the festivities. Sudha Goyal and Dr. Joohi Samarpita playfully greeted friends with humorous banter before embracing everyone with the traditional phrase, "Don't worry, it's Holi." The atmosphere turned even more vibrant with Jayshree's colorful gulaal, painting everyone's cheeks in festive hues. The event featured lively performances, including dance, poetry and music. Dr. Ragini Bhushan dedicated personalized poetic lines to each member, while President Dr. Mudita Chandra entertained the audience with witty jokes. The program, conducted by satirist Lalan Sharma, kept everyone laughing throughout the evening.

Renowned poets Mam Chand Agarwal and Neelambar Chaudhary enthralled the audience with satirical poetry and a Holi song. Sachin, Vidya Tiwari and Mamta Karan sang traditional Holi folk songs, while Dr. Shalini Prasad Singh mesmerized everyone with a Kathak dance performance.

Several members, including Dr. Sandhya Sinha, Dr. Pushpa Kumari, Manju, Pushpanjali Mishra and Madhuri Mishra, actively participated, making the event a memorable one. The celebration concluded on a high note with Anuj Singha's rendition of "Rang Barse," which had everyone dancing with joy. (W-mb)

पुलिस अधीक्षक का कार्यालय, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा

फिरार अभियुक्त के विरूद्ध सूचना हेतु

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है, कि गुवा (बड़ा जामदा) थाना काण्ड सं0–35/22, दिनांक–25.12.2022 धारा 379 भा0द0वि0 के प्रसंगाधीन काण्ड के प्राथमिकी अभियुक्त अजीत कुमार पाण्डे, पे0 श्यामलाल पाण्डे, ग्राम उमरी पोस्ट–लोही वर्तमान थाना बीहिया, जिला रिवा (म0प्र0) के विरूद्ध माननीय न्यायालय से निर्गत इश्तिहार का तामिला किया जा चुका है। परन्तु अभियुक्त गिरफ्तारी के डर से भागा फिर रहा हैं। यदि किसी भी व्यक्ति को उक्त अभियुक्त के बारे में कोई भी जानकारी या सुराग मिले तो नीचे दिये गये निम्नलिखित पदाधिकारी को सूचना सूचना दे सकते है, सूचना दाता का नाम–पता गुप्त रखा जाएगा।

पुलिस अधीक्षक, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा	– 9431706451
अनुमंडल पुलिस पदाधिकारी, किरीबुरू	– 9006006516
पुलिस निरीक्षक, किरीबुरू अंचल	– 9155666966
थाना प्रभारी, बड़ा जामदा ओ0पी0	– 6207048027
जिला नियंत्रण कक्ष, चाईबासा	– 0658–259911, 255164

पुलिस अधीक्षक,
पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा।

PR.NO.348617 West Singhbhum(24-25):D

कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी का कार्यालय, नगर परिषद् चाईबासा (पश्चिमी सिंहभूम)

E-mail: npchaibasa@gmail.com

दुकान आवंटन हेतु संशोधित आवेदन आमंत्रण सूचना

नगर परिषद् चाईबासा क्षेत्रान्तर्गत मधुबाजार में दुकान संख्या–G-10 दुकान के आवेदन आमंत्रित करने हेतु PR No-347872 West Singhbhum द्वारा सूचना का प्रकाशन किया गया था। कार्मिक, प्रशासनिक सुधार तथा राजभाषा विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार, राँची के कार्यालय ज्ञापांक–1479 दिनांक–11.03.2025 द्वारा दिनांक–15.03.2025 को एन0आई0एक्ट के तहत अवकाश घोषित किये जाने के कारण दुकान संख्या–G-10 का लॉटरी के माध्यम से आवंटन हेतु संशोधित तिथियों को विहित प्रपत्र में आवेदन आमंत्रित की जाती है:–

1	विज्ञापनदाता का नाम	प्रशासक, नगर परिषद्, चाईबासा
2	आवेदन बिक्री की तिथि एवं समय	18 मार्च 2025 से 24 मार्च 2025 तक प्रत्येक कार्यालय कार्य दिवस में पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे से अपराह्न 02.00 बजे तक।
3	आवेदन जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय	25 मार्च 2025 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे से अपराह्न 03.30 बजे तक।
4	आवेदन खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	26 मार्च 2025 को पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे से।
5	लॉटरी की तिथि एवं समय	26 मार्च 2025 को अपराह्न 03.00 बजे से।
6	अंतिम सूची का प्रकाशन	27 मार्च 2025 को कार्यालय सूचना पट्ट।
7	आवेदन क्रय करने का स्थान	नगर परिषद्, चाईबासा कार्यालय भवन के द्वितीय तल्ले पर।

क0 सं0	दुकान स्थल का नाम (Ground Floor)	दुकान नम्बर	आरक्षित/अनारक्षित	दुकान का साईज	सुरक्षित जमा राशि	न्युनतम मासिक किराया	आवेदन प्रपत्र का मुल्य
1	मधुबाजार	G-10	अ.ज.जा.	10'X12'	1,00,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00

नोट : दुकान आवंटन हेतु नियम एवं शर्तें कार्यालय सूचना पट्ट पर देखना अनिवार्य है।

प्रशासक
नगर परिषद् चाईबासा

PR 348611 (West Singhbhum) 24-25 (D)

पुलिस अधीक्षक का कार्यालय, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा।

फिरार अभियुक्त के विरूद्ध सूचना हेतु

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है, कि गुवा (बड़ा जामदा) थाना काण्ड सं0–31/20, दिनांक–22.08.2020 धारा 417/381 भा0द0वि0 के प्रसंगाधीन काण्ड के प्राथमिकी अभियुक्त–01. ताहिर खान उर्फ ताहिर, 02. ईदरीश खान उर्फ ईदरीश दोनो पिता जसमाल खान एवं 03. दाउद खान उर्फ दाउद पिता घौरमल खान तीनों ग्राम जहानपुर, थाना गोविन्दगढ़ (पूर्व थाना रामगढ़) जिला अलवर (राजस्थान) के विरूद्ध माननीय न्यायालय से निर्गत इश्तिहार का तामिला किया जा चुका है। परन्तु अभियुक्त गिरफ्तारी के डर से भागा फिर रहा हैं। यदि किसी भी व्यक्ति को उक्त अभियुक्त के बारे में कोई भी जानकारी या सुराग मिले तो नीचे दिये गये निम्नलिखित पदाधिकारी को सूचना सूचना दे सकते है, सूचना दाता का नाम–पता गुप्त रखा जाएगा।

पुलिस अधीक्षक, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा–9431706451
अनुमंडल पुलिस पदाधिकारी, किरीबुरू –9006006516
पुलिस निरीक्षक, किरीबुरू अंचल–9155666966
थाना प्रभारी, बड़ा जामदा ओ0पी0–6207048027
जिला नियंत्रण कक्ष, चाईबासा–0658–259911, 255164

पुलिस अधीक्षक,
पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा।

PR 348616 West Singhbhum(24-25)D

जिला दण्डाधिकारी–सह–उपायुक्त का कार्यालय,पश्चिमी सिंहभूम,चाईबासा

(जिला सामाजिक सुरक्षा कोषांग)

Email id – social.cell@rediffmail.com

–:: आम सूचना ::–

जिलान्तर्गत **"झारखण्ड मुख्यमंत्री मंईयां सम्मान योजना"** के अहर्त्ताधारी लाभुकों को नियमित रूप से भुगतान किया जा रहा है, वैसे लाभुक जिनके बैंक खाता में सम्मान राशि अंतरण नहीं हुई है मुख्यतः निम्न कारणों में एक अथवा अधिक हो सकते हैं –

1. **राशन कार्ड में दर्ज आधार संख्या का लिंक न होना। (USDD Data Not Verify)**
2. **आधार संख्या का बैंक खाता से लिंक न होना। (Aadhaar Not Seeded With Bank)**
3. **आधार कार्ड में बायोमैट्रिक अपडेट न होना । (Aadhaar Inactive)**
4. **लाभुक का बैंक खाता चालू न रहना। (Bank Account Block/Frozen/Dorment)**
5. **लाभुक की उम्र 18 वर्ष से अधिक तथा 50 वर्ष से कम न होना।**

संभवतः उपरोक्त कारणों से योजना की राशि आपके बैंक खाता में अंतरण नहीं जा सकी है।

अतः सभी अहर्त्ताधारी लाभुकों से अनुरोध है कि उपरोक्त बिन्दुओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए राशन कार्ड अपडेट/आधार कार्ड बायोमैट्रिक अपडेट तथा बैंक खाता में लिंक कराना/बैंक KYC इत्यादि कराना सुनिश्चित करेंगे। ताकि सम्मान राशि आपके बैंक खाते में निबार्ध रूप से अंतरित की जा सके।

सहायक निदेशक,
जिला सामाजिक सुरक्षा कोषांग,
पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा

PR 348586 West Singhbhum(24-25).D

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 –57/वर्ष 2024–25 जिसका पी०आर०संख्या–348328 **Building(24-25)*D** है, जो समाचार पत्रों में दिनांक 12.03.2025 को प्रकाशित हुआ है, जिसकी परिमाण विपत्र बिक्री की तिथि–19.03.2025 एवं निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं खोलने की तिथि–22.03.2025 है, में आंशिक संशोधित करते हुए परिमाण विपत्र बिक्री की तिथि–22.03.2025 एवं निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं खोलने की तिथि–24.03.2025 के क्रम संख्या–21 के कार्य के नाम–E/R to A.D.J. Quarter "A" Block (One Unit A2) at Judicial C. H. Area, Bistupur, Jamshedpur. जिसकी प्राक्कलित राशि रु० 2,49,100.00 मात्र है, के स्थान पर निम्नवत् कार्य समझा जाय :–

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रू.में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य(रू.में)	अग्रधन की राशि (रू. में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6
21	**Construction of Kutcha Helipad (with or without Barricading at various location in the District of East Singhbhum, Jamshedpur on the Occasion of Vidhansabha Election-2024.**	**2,20,416.00**	**500.00**	**4,500.00**	**7 Days**

सभी संवेदकगण इस निविदा आवेदन–पत्र के साथ एवं अगले सभी प्रकाशित होने वाले निविदा आवेदन–पत्र के साथ इस आशय का शपथ–पत्र देना होगा की उनका कोई भी कार्य एकरारित समय सीमा बीत जाने के बाद लंबित नहीं है।

अन्य कार्य एवं शर्त्तें पूर्व की भाँति यथावत् रहेगी।

कार्यपालक अभियता
भवन प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर।

PR.NO.348589 Building(24-25):D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमंडल, चाईबासा

अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या–BCD/CHAIBASA/62/वर्ष 2024–25

1. विज्ञापनदाता का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, भवन प्रमंडल, चाईबासा।
2. परिमाण विपत्र निर्गत करने हेतु आवेदन की तिथि :–दिनांक 24/03/2025 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे से अपराह्न 1:00 बजे तक ।
3. परिमाण विपत्र निर्गत करने हेतु आवेदन का स्थान :–(क) अधीक्षण अभियंता, भवन निर्माण विभाग, छोटानागपुर अंचल, राँची।
   (ख) प्रमण्डलीय कार्यालय, भवन प्रमंडल, चाईबासा ।
   (ग) सहायक अभियंता, भवन अवर प्रमंडल, चाईबासा।(प्रमण्डलीय कार्यालय)
4. परिमाण विपत्र निर्गत करने की तिथि :– दिनांक 25/03/2025 को पूर्वाह्न 10:00 बजे से अपराह्न 03:00 बजे तक ।
5. परिमाण विपत्र निर्गत करने का स्थान :– (क) अधीक्षण अभियंता, भवन निर्माण विभाग, छोटानागपुर अंचल, राँची।
   (ख) प्रमण्डलीय कार्यालय, भवन प्रमंडल, चाईबासा ।
   (ग) सहायक अभियंता, भवन अवर प्रमंडल, चाईबासा।(प्रमण्डलीय कार्यालय)
6. निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय :– दिनांक 26/03/2025 को 11:00 बजे से 2:00 बजे तक ।
7. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– दिनांक 26/03/2025 को अपराह्न 2:30 बजे ।
8. परिणाम विपत्र बिक्री की स्थान :– (क) अधीक्षण अभियंता, भवन निर्माण विभाग, छोटानागपुर अंचल, राँची।
   (ख) प्रमण्डलीय कार्यालय, भवन प्रमंडल, चाईबासा,
   (ग) सहायक अभियंता, भवन अवर प्रमंडल, चाईबासा।(प्रमण्डलीय कार्यालय)
9. निविदा प्राप्ति का स्थान :– (क) अधीक्षण अभियंता, भवन निर्माण विभाग,छोटानागपुर अंचल, राँची।
   (ख) प्रमण्डलीय कार्यालय, भवन प्रमंडल, चाईबासा,
   (ग) सहायक अभियंता, भवन अवर प्रमंडल, चाईबासा।(प्रमण्डलीय कार्यालय)
10. कार्यों का विवरणी :–

क0 सं0	प्रखण्ड	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
01	बन्दगांव	Construction of WAR ROOM at Tebo Thana in Bandgaon Block in the district of West Singhbhum for the year 2024-25	2342125	47000	5000	06 महीना
02	गोईलकेरा	Construction of WAR ROOM at Goilkera Thana in Goilkera Block in the district of West Singhbhum for the year 2024-25	2342125	47000	5000	06 महीना
03	मनोहरपुर	Construction of WAR ROOM at Manoharpur Thana in Manoharpur Block in the district of West Singhbhum for the year 2024-25	2342125	47000	5000	06 महीना
04	मझगांव	Construction of WAR ROOM at Majhgaon Thana in Majhgaon Block in the district of West Singhbhum for the year 2024-25	2342125	47000	5000	06 महीना
05	मनोहरपुर	Construction of WAR ROOM at Jaraikela Thana in Manoharpur Block in the district of West Singhbhum for the year 2024-25	2342125	47000	5000	06 महीना
06	मंझारी	UPG High School Lagra में 04 कमरों का निर्माण कार्य। **(2nd Call)**	3978600	80000	5000	06 महीना

- वैसे संवेदक जिनका निबंधन/UCAN नवीकरण लंबित है, वे निविदा में भाग नहीं लेंगे।
- विद्युत मदों के कार्य हेतु उर्जा विभाग द्वारा निर्गत अनुज्ञा प्रमाण पत्र । (निविदा की शर्तेनुसार)
- निविदा की शर्तें अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय के सूचना पटट् पर उपलब्ध है ।
- एक निबंधन पर दो से अधिक कार्यों का परिमाण विपत्र देय नहीं होगा ।
- भारतीय स्टेट बैंक द्वारा निर्गत बैंक ड्राफ्ट/डिमाण्ड ड्राफ्ट ही मान्य होगा । बैंक ड्राफ्ट/ड्राफ्ट कार्यपालक अभियंता, भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमंडल, चाईबासा के पक्ष में एवं भारतीय स्टेट बैंक मुख्य शाखा, चाईबासा में भुगतेय होगा, जिसे लौटाया नहीं जायेगा ।
- झारखण्ड सरकार, पथ निर्माण विभाग के संकल्प सह ज्ञापांक 2146 (S) राँची दि0 09/09/2020 के आधार पर निविदा का निश्पादन किया जाएगा।
- अग्रधन के रूप में NSC/TD/ FD (Vaildity 3 Years & duly discharged) मान्य होगा। जो कार्यपालक अभियंता, भवन प्रमंडल, चाईबासा के नाम से प्रतिज्ञित होगा
- परिमाण विपत्र निबंधित संवेदक या उनके द्वारा विधिवत प्राधिकृत व्यक्ति को (प्राधिकार पत्र में अंकित पहचान दस्तावेज की छाया प्रति के साथ मूल प्रति प्रस्तुत करने पर) निर्गत किया जायेगा।
- संवेदक को आवेदन के साथ इस आशय का शपथ पत्र देना होगा की उनका कोई भी कार्य एकरारित समय सीमा बीत जाने के बाद लंबित नहीं है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
भवन प्रमंडल, चाईबासा।

PR.NO.348608 West Singhbhum(24-25):D

My respect and admiration for the Sikh community has gone up 100 fold after my trip to Amritsar: Andrea Jeremiah



Chennai, Mar 17 (IANS) Actress, singer and producer Andrea Jeremiah, who went on a trip to Amritsar in Punjab recently, says that her respect and admiration for the Sikh community had gone up a 100 fold after her visit to the beautiful place.

Taking to Instagram to pen her thoughts on the place, the actress, who posted a number of pictures shot during her visit, wrote, "Amritsar !!! A short and utterly surprising trip, where do I even begin? The main draw of course was the #goldentemple, a shrine so serene and beautiful, welcoming people from all faiths."

She then wrote about the partition museum, which she said made her realise the hardships people along the borders faced during partition.

"The partition museum really opened my eyes to the immense hardship that people along the borders faced at the time of independence… which brings us to the wagah border itself ! It was heartening to see so many Indians cheering at what can only be described as a unique '#bollywood meets #bsf' arena."

Like most others who visit the place, Andrea too seems to have fallen in love with the food in Amristar.

"And the food, well, I'm not ashamed to admit I was too busy eating to actually take any pics the #lassi , #amritsarikulcha , #chole & my fave #jalebi (finally took a video at our last jalebi stop)," she wrote.

"Last but not least, the shopping !!! The colorful #phulkari fabrics on display everywhere are a feast for the eyes, the prices are almost too good to be true.

Suffice to say, my respect & admiration for the #sikh community has gone up 100 (fold) after this trip. #incredibleindia #travel #amritsar #punjab #india"

Health

HKU1 not a new virus, less likely to cause any widespread infection: Experts



New Delhi, March 17 (IANS) Even as the news of a woman in Kolkata being infected with Human Coronavirus HKU1 has raised fresh concerns, health experts on Monday said that the virus has been known for at least two decades and is less likely to cause any widespread infection.

HKU1 was named after Hong Kong University where it was originally described in 2004. HKU1 is also known as Betacoronavirus hongkonense. It is a species of coronavirus that affects humans and animals.

Dr Rajeev Jayadevan, Chairman, Scientific Committee, IMA Cochin told IANS that HKU1 is different from Covid-19, caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

"HKU1 is one of several common cold-causing viruses that belong to the coronavirus group. It is not the same as Covid-19 and is not a new virus," Jayadevan said.

"As per current understanding, HKU1 is a coronavirus subtype. It is less likely to cause any widespread infection," Dr. Harshal R Salve, Additional professor at, the Centre for Community Medicine at AIIMS, New Delhi, told IANS.

What is HKU1 and what are its symptoms?

HKU1 is one of the four common cold-causing coronaviruses -- NL63, OC43, 229E. On the other hand, three coronaviruses cause severe disease -- Covid virus, the MERS virus, and the SARS virus.

Jayadevan stated that HKU1 is not typically associated with severe disease. Most cases are mild with a runny nose, sore throat, cough, and fever. "But in vulnerable individuals, it is known to cause severe disease such as pneumonia," he said.

Global studies show that most children had at least one infection from HKU1 by 3-4 years of age.

"Most children get exposed to these viruses while growing up. But immunity against coronaviruses is not long-lasting, which means repeated infections are the norm," Jayadevan said.

As per a 2021 study, published in the Indian Journal of Medical Microbiology, by Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, HKU1 along with NL63, OC43, 229E accounted for 4.3 per cent of infection in a group of 250 children.

HKU1 in India

A 45-year-old woman from Garia, Kolkata, has been recently diagnosed with HKU1. She had been suffering from a fever, cough, and cold for the past 15 days, but doctors say her condition is stable.

Since the virus is "not commonly tested for, it is meaningless to say it wasn't found in India," Jayadevan said.

How to prevent

HKU1 spreads mainly by contact, and also through the air by standing close to someone who is coughing or sneezing. "Viruses tend to stick to commonly touched surfaces and therefore washing hands with soap and water after returning from public places is a good habit," the expert noted.

Salman Khan, Rashmika Mandanna groove to 'Sikandar Naache' in song teaser



Mumbai, March 17 (IANS) The teaser of Bollywood superstar Salman Khan and Rashmika Mandanna's new song "Sikandar Naache" from "Sikandar" has been dropped on Monday and it sets the perfect tone for a power packed dance number.

The action-packed teaser, the songs are further building excitement. After Zohra Jabeen and Bam Bam Bhole, the makers released a teaser of Sikandar Naache.

Salman took to Instagram, where he shared a peek into the song and captioned it: "Sikandar Naache song out tomorrow." This song reunites superstar Salman Khan, visionary producer Sajid Nadiadwala and choreographer Ahmed Khan after the blockbuster "Jumme Ki Raat" from "Kick", which released in 2014.

The teaser showcases a grand setup and the massive crowd of dancers, who flew from Turkey specially for this song.

Talking about the previous foot-tapping number "Zohra Jabeen", the song has been choreographed by Farah Khan. The song reunited Salman and Farah after several years.

Preity Zinta enjoys a colorful Holi with her little munchkins



Mumbai, March 17 (IANS) This year Holi was a bit more colorful for actress Preity Zinta as she celebrated the festival with her little munchkins, Jai and Gia.

Preity shared a selfie with her husband Gene Goodenough on Instagram. Up next, was a perfect family pic with their little bundle of joys. However, the 'Kal Ho Naa Ho' actress covered her kids' faces with white heart emojis. Preity's post also included a couple of group pictures with her friends from the Holi celebration.

"Holi was incredibly special this year cuz we got to celebrate with the kids ...Here is a sneak peek", Preity captioned the post.

Preity looked as gorgeous as ever in a white t-shirt, along with blue denim. She completed her look with some stylish shades and white sneakers.

Earlier this month, Preity took a religious trip from Prayagraj to Varanasi with her mother.

She posted a video on her Instagram handle, sharing glimpses of her visit to the holy places.

The 'Veer-Zaara' actress further penned a heartfelt note on her IG saying, "What an adventure this trip has been. Mom wanted to wrap up our Mahakumbh trip in Varanasi for Shivratri...So I told her, of course ma, let's go. Once we got there we found out that due to heavy crowds, cars were not allowed & roads were blocked after a point, so people could walk & do darshan at the Kashi Vishwanath temple. We decided we will go for it. From sitting in a car to an auto rickshaw to a cycle rickshaw we did it all & more, as we walked forever in crazy crowds." Preity revealed that her mom was extremely happy throughout the journey and that according to her that is the greatest 'seva' of all. Work-wise, Preity will be making her Bollywood comeback with Rajkumar Santoshi's "Lahore 1947." Touted to be a period drama, the project features Sunny Deol as the protagonist.

Taapsee wraps up 'Gandhari': Some bruises give a feeling of contentment



Mumbai, March 17 (IANS) Actress Taapsee Pannu has wrapped up the shoot for "Gandhari" and said that she gave it all to the upcoming film.

Taapsee took to Instagram, where she shared a glimpse of her upcoming film "Gandhari". She shared a motley of behind-the-scenes moments, beginning with a heartwarming shot of her playing with children blindfolded.

She then shared a picture with co-actor Ishwak Singh, writer Kanika Dhillon, and director Devashish Makhija, whose last film Joram made waves.

The celebrations soon followed-a delicious chocolate cake with "Gandhari It's A Wrap" written on it, marking the end of a fulfilling shoot. And finally, she wrapped it up with a striking picture of herself and Kanika, capturing their bond.

In the caption section, the actress talked about her intense experience filming Gandhari, describing it as a journey fueled by grit, determination, and an unstoppable drive.

"If there is a NOS mode for human body I experienced it in this film, If there is something called running on fuel of grit and determination , I saw it in this film If there is something called unified goal of "make it happen" I felt it in this film (sic)," she wrote.

The actress acknowledged the challenges and burnout that come with pushing boundaries but finds fulfillment in the struggle.

"Every time I decide to go against the tide I forget there is a price to pay, a burnout like never before, but some bruises give a feeling of contentment like never before. We gave it all! Bringing it to u soon…. Our #Gandhari (sic)."

"'Gandhari' promises a riveting storyline filled with relentless determination and intense personal stakes, set against the backdrop of gripping mystery and high-powered action. Audiences will see Taapsee Pannu as a fierce mom on a mission," reads the plot description from streaming giant Netflix,reports variety.com.

"Gandhari", which also stars Ishwak Singh marks Kanika Dhillon and Taapsee's sixth collaboration after back-to-back success with "Manmarziyaan", "Haseen Dilruba", "Phir Aayi Hasseen Dilruba" and many more.

Tamannaah Bhatia aspires to play late star Sridevi on screen



Mumbai, March 17 (IANS) Actress Tamannaah Bhatia says she would like to play late star Sridevi on screen because she was "super iconic."

Asked if she would play a style on screen, Tamannaah, who turned muse for label Bloni at the Blenders Pride Fashion Tour, said the name of the iconic actress, who passed away in 2018 due to accidental drowning.

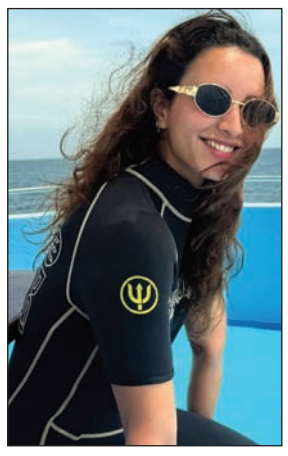
"It would be Sridevi, ma'am. I think she was super iconic, and she's somebody I always admired," Tamannaah told IANS.

Sridevi broke stereotypes, portraying a wide range of characters across diverse genres, from comedy to drama.

Tagged as the "first female superstar" of Indian cinema, Sridevi worked in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam, and Kannada language films. Her career spanned over 50 years in a wide range of genres. The actress worked on memorable films such as "Mr. India," "Sadma," "Himmatwala," "Khuda Gawah," "Laadla," "Judaai," and "English Vinglish," to name a few.

Her last movie was "Mom," a crime thriller, which was released in 2017. She played a vigilante who sets out to avenge her stepdaughter after she is sexually assaulted at a party.

Triptii Dimri heads off to face her 'biggest fear"



Mumbai, March 16 (IANS) As the saying goes, 'We're only as strong as our biggest fear'. Following the same, actress Triptii Dimri geared up to face her 'biggest fear'.

She took to her Instagram handle and dropped a picture of herself in scuba gear. It seems like the 'Animal' actress is scared of scuba diving.

"Heading out to face my biggest fear", she captioned the photo.

Her Insta stories also include a picture of a breathtaking view of water and sunset.

Triptii further shared an image of herself on the boat. She was seen in a white sleeveless top and black cap, accompanied by black sunglasses.

Meanwhile, Triptii's rumored boyfriend Sam Merchant also took to his Insta Stories and dropped a string of similar photographs of the beautiful sunset amidst water. He wrote, "Liberary, March 2025".

It looks like Triptii and Sam are vacationing together. However, the location of their latest trip is yet to be known.

Triptii celebrated her 31st birthday on February 23, 2025. Sharing a sneak peek into her birthday celebration, she revealed that she 'couldn't have asked for a better birthday'.

The 'Qala' actress took to her Instagram handle and posted a handful of pictures and clips from her birthday celebrations, which included her cutting the cake, spending time with her rumored beau Sam, and enjoying some peaceful moments in nature with her friends.

Amit Trivedi joins forces with Simran Choudhary for 'Sunn Husna Di Pariye'



Mumbai, March 17 (IANS) Simran Choudhary has teamed up with National Award recipient, composer, lyricist, and singer, Amit Trivedi, for a breathtaking video of their new song "Sunn Husna Di Pariye".

"Sunn Husna Di Pariye" is a standout track from his latest album, "AT Azaad".

Reflecting on her experience of working with Amit, Simran shared, "You know that feeling when you've admired a composer for years, learned from their music, and suddenly, you find yourself in the studio with them? It was surreal! Amit Sir gave me creative freedom-like a blank canvas to paint my own picture."

Speaking about collaborating with Simran, Amit said, "I love collaborating with beautiful artists, and when I came across her profile through Instagram, I found out that she creates her own songs, writes, performs, dances, and I thought "Woah! Who is this talent, please get her to collaborate with me." She sings in Punjabi, Hindi, Rajasthani, and English, it's mindblowing, she is so talented and I am glad to have her as a part of this album."

Being part of the "AT Azaad" album, "Sunn Husna Di Pariye" perfectly embodies the album's essence of musical freedom and exploration. With direction by Ritika Bajaj, the cinematography of the song has been performed by Vishal Sinha. Rishikaysh Jogadaand and Vivek Chachere have choreographed the song edited by Toyboy Arshad. Back in January this year, Simran teamed up with Aditya Rikhari for a soulful number, "Rehle Mere Kol."

IPL 2025: Kohli addresses fans at RCB Unbox, makes special Patidar request

Bengaluru: The Royal Challengers Bangalore conducted their Unboxing event on Monday, March 15, ahead of the 2025 season of the Indian Premier League. During the proceedings, Virat Kohli addressed the RCB fans and made a special request.

The senior batter of the franchise introduced the fans at the Chinnaswamy Stadium to their new skipper, Rajat Patidar. Kohli urged the fans to show a lot of love to the new captain, who he felt would lead the side for many years to come.



"The guy who is going to come next is the guy who will lead you for a long time. So, give him all the love that you can. He is an amazing talent. He has a great head on his shoulders, and he will do a great job for this amazing franchise and take the team forward. He has got everything that it requires," Virat Kohli said at the RCB Unbox event.

Rajat Patidar was named the captain of the RCB side after the team let go of Faf du Plessis. Patidar, who has been with the team since 2021, was named the captain of the side. The batter was presented with a plaque by Virat Kohli during the ceremony as the RCB ushered in a new era.

The fans also met the entirety of the squad at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, who are currently practising in Bengaluru ahead of their first match. RCB plays the opener of the Indian Premier League against defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders on Saturday, March 22.

RCB have amassed a new-look squad for the 2025 season of the IPL. The team let go of some of their top stars including Glenn Maxwell, Mohammed Siraj and Faf du Plessis, while wicketkeeper Dinesh Karthik retired from Indian cricket to play in the SA20.

Want to create a place in LSG where people can come and express, says Pant

New Delhi, March 17 (IANS) Ahead of starting their IPL 2025 campaign, Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) skipper Rishabh Pant said his endeavour is to create an environment in the side where people coming in can express themselves freely.



LSG are set to play their first match of IPL 2025 season against Delhi Capitals, a team which Pant captained previously, on March 24 at the ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium in Visakhapatnam. "We want to create a place where people can come and express themselves. It's just a very simple idea. It's easier to say than to do it because it requires a lot of effort from each and every individual."

"It's not just the management; I think it's because of the players we can create that environment. Because what I've always felt as a player is that if you back your players and give them enough trust, they can form you at any level. I feel there is a lot of experience in the group, and the management has a lot of experience," said Pant to his LSG teammates in a video posted on the franchise's social media accounts on Monday.

Swiss Open 2025: Sindhu, Seneye top form in Basel



New Delhi, March 17 (IANS) PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen will aim to regain top form as the USD 250,000 Swiss Open begins in Basel on Tuesday . The tournament will feature a strong Indian presence across all categories.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist and the 2022 Swiss Open champion, is seeded seventh and will face fellow Indian Malvika Bansod in the first round. Sindhu suffered a first-round exit at the All England Championship last week after returning from a hamstring injury, while Malvika registered a confidence-boosting win over Singapore's Yeo Jia Min.

In men's singles, Lakshya Sen will face HS Prannoy in the opening round. Prannoy, who won the 2016 Swiss Open, has struggled with form since his comeback from chikungunya, suffering early exits. Lakshya, on the other hand, reached the quarterfinals at the All England Championship and recently defeated Jonatan Christie.

PM Modi bursts into laughter as New Zealand PM cracks Champions Trophy joke

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his New Zealand counterpart, Christopher Luxon, held wide-ranging talks in New Delhi on Monday, focusing on strengthening bilateral ties. However, as Luxon jokingly noted, cricket was not among the topics discussed. Wondering why? PM Modi burst into laughter when Luxon quipped that he had deliberately avoided mentioning cricket to prevent a "diplomatic incident," given how the men's cricket teams of the two nations have traded blows in recent major tournaments.



"I really appreciate that PM Modi didn't bring up New Zealand's Champions Trophy loss to India, and I didn't mention our Test victories in India. Let's keep it that way and avoid a diplomatic incident," Luxon joked, drawing cheers from the room.

PM Modi's unfiltered reaction reflected his appreciation for the light-hearted cricket banter. Former New Zealand cricketer Ross Taylor, who was part of the visiting delegation, also joined in the laughter at the reference.

Reliance announces new JioHotstar subscription offers

Mumbai: Reliance Jio, India's largest telecom company by user base, revealed on Monday, March 17, that recharges above Rs 299 will allow its consumers to watch the IPL for free for the next two and a half months.

The offer grants users access to matches on the newly merged JioHotstar streaming platform, a collaboration between Reliance and Disney, the company stated. The IPL, a highly lucrative and widely streamed event, is scheduled to take place from March 22 to May 25.

Mayank Yadav starts bowling in nets as LSG await clearance from BCCI

New Delhi, March 17 (IANS) Pace sensation Mayank Yadav has started bowling in nets on Monday ahead of the start of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 season as Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) await fitness clearance from the BCCI.



The pacer is recovering from a lumbar stress injury at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru, where he has been undergoing rehab after getting injured following his India debut in the T20I series against Bangladesh last October.

Mayank on Monday posted a video of him on his Instagram story where he can be seen bowling in nets under the watchful eyes of support staff.

As per reports, the pacer is likely to miss the first half of IPL 2025 but the recent development gives hope for his early return to Lucknow fans.

MI skipper Hardik shares simple message 'believe in yourself' for young players

New Delhi, March 17 (IANS) The 2025 season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) is now just a couple of days away, and Mumbai Indians' skipper Hardik Pandya said his message for the youngsters coming into the ten-team tournament was to just believe in themselves and stay neutral amidst the highs and lows.



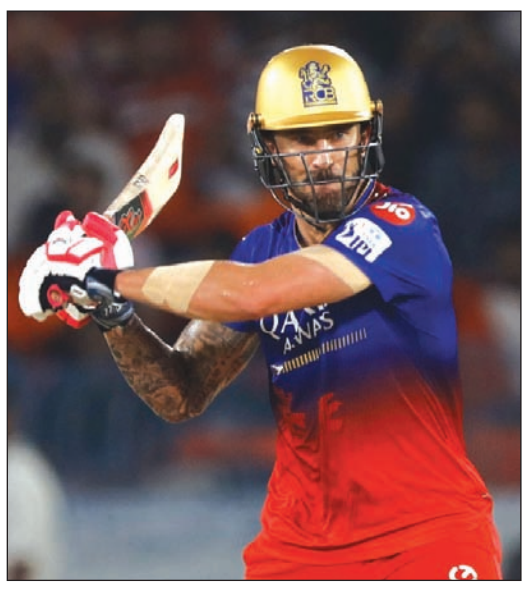
"The young players coming into the IPL are extremely talented. My message to them is simple-believe in yourself. They are here because they are good enough, but the biggest challenge at this stage is self-doubt. Sometimes, players start questioning whether they belong at this level, and that doubt can take away from their skill set.

"Managing that mental aspect is crucial. What I can offer them are the lessons I have learned over the years. In this game, there will be highs and lows. The key is to remain balanced, not just for one season but throughout their careers. Staying neutral will allow them to maximise opportunities and seize crucial moments.

"They will face tough tests, but sometimes all they need is a little patience. In terms of skill set, they are far ahead of where we were at 21 or 22. Their talent and fearless approach are already there-it's just about reinforcing their belief in themselves," said Pandya to JioHotstar.

IPL 2025: Veteran Faf du Plessis appointed vice-captain of Delhi Capitals

New Delhi, March 17 (IANS) Veteran batter Faf du Plessis has been appointed as the vice-captain of Delhi Capitals for the upcoming 2025 Indian Premier League (IPL) season. The franchise shared the news through its social media accounts on Monday.



"You mean right now? I'm at home, where else would I be? Yes, that's true, I'm vice captain of DC and I'm very excited. Delhi's been great, the boys have been fantastic, definitely feel happy and I feel ready," said du Plessis in a video posted by the franchise on its social media accounts.

The Delhi-based franchise acquired du Plessis at the base price of Rs 2 crore in last year's mega auction in Jeddah. He was released by his previous franchise - Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) - ahead of the auction.

DBMS Kadma, KPS Gamharia, DAV NIT enter semis



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 17: The Jogga Inter-School Kabaddi Competition, hosted by DBMS Kadma, commenced on Monday with an exciting start. The opening day featured matches in the girls' category, where teams showcased their skills and determination.

In the senior girls' category, DBMS Kadma, KPS Gamharia, Vikas Vidyalaya Mango, and DAV NIT delivered outstanding performances to secure their places in the semi-finals. Meanwhile, in the junior girls' category, KPS Gamharia, AIWC, Ramakrishna Mission, and NML KPS advanced to the semi-finals.

Jogga Inter-School Kabaddi

Earlier, the tournament was inaugurated by DBMS Kadma Principal Gurpreet Bhambra, who introduced the players. Vice Principal Suparna Roy, Junior vice principals. Shireen, ZSports department HOD Suprava Panda, Renu and Rakesh were also present.

A total of 14 teams-seven in each category-are participating in the competition, which will continue until March 20. The semi-final and final matches in the girls' category will be played on Tuesday.

Pakistan's Khushdil Shah fined for breaching ICC Code of Conduct in 1st T20I vs NZ

Christchurch, March 17 (IANS) Pakistan all-rounder Khushdil Shah has been fined 50 per cent of his match fee for breaching Level 2 of the ICC Code of Conduct during the first T20I against New Zealand in Christchurch on Sunday, the ICC said.

"Khushdil was found to have breached Article 2.12 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "inappropriate physical contact with a Player, Player Support Personnel, Umpire, Match Referee or any other person (including a spectator during an International Match)"," the ICC statement read.

In addition to this, three demerit points have been added to Khushdil's disciplinary record, for whom it was the first offence in a 24-month period. The incident occurred in the eighth over of Pakistan's innings, when running between the wickets, Khushdil made inappropriate physical contact with bowler ZakaryFoulkes with a high degree of force, which was reckless, negligent and avoidable. Khushdil admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by Jeff Crowe of the ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, so there was no need for a formal hearing.



Adhiraj, Navika, Rudranil & Naira emerge winners

East Singhbhum Chess Championship



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 17: The East Singhbhum District Chess Association organized district-level chess competition at JRD Tata Sports Complex to select players for the Jharkhand State Championship in Hazaribagh, scheduled from March 21 to 30.

In the Under-15 Boys category, Adhiraj Mitra emerged as the champion, followed by Nikunj Agarwal in second place, Mayan Jha in third, Devanjan Sinha in fourth, and Swastik Banerjee in fifth. In the Under-15 Girls category, Navika Jaiswal secured the top position, with Nitya Bharti second, Aditi Kashyap third, Anishka fourth and Vidyushi Munshi fifth.

In the Under-9 Girls category, Naira Aditya won first place, followed by T. Niharika, Zaira Ahmed, Divyana Agarwal and Vanya. In the Under-9 Boys category, Rudranil Rai clinched the title, with Vivan Basak, Ryan Rohal Gollapalli, Shreyansh Agarwal and Arnav securing the next positions.

The selected players will now represent the district at the state championship.

Jamshedpur FC gears up for ISL Playoff with renewed determination

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 17: Jamshedpur FC has resumed training with renewed determination as they gear up for the crucial Indian Super League (ISL) playoff match against North East United FC on March 30 in Shillong. After finishing fifth in the league table with 38 points, the team is focused on proving their mettle in the knockout stage. All players have reported back after a seven-day break, refreshed and ready to put past results behind them and start afresh.



Jamshedpur FC faces a formidable challenge, having suffered defeats both at home and away against North East United in the league stage. However, the team is determined to turn the tables and showcase their resilience. Under Khalid Jamil's leadership, comebacks have been a defining trait, and this playoff encounter presents the perfect stage for JFC to overturn their poor away record and establish themselves as genuine title contenders.

Javier Hernández expressed the squad's hunger to fight back, stating, "We know what's at stake. We have faced setbacks, but this team has the character to rise again. The break helped us reset, and now the entire squad is fully focused on the challenge ahead. Every player is eager to prove themselves, and we are working hard to ensure we give our best in this do-or-die match."

Despite back-to-back defeats in the league, Jamshedpur FC is embracing the challenge with renewed energy. The team is training with high intensity, analyzing past mistakes, and preparing tactical strategies to counter North East United's strengths. With an unwavering belief in their ability, Jamshedpur FC is ready to fight until the last whistle to secure their place in the next stage of the tournament.

Issue of Khalistani, anti-India elements in NZ raised during PM Modi-Luxon meeting



New Delhi, March 17 (IANS) India on Monday raised the issue of radical and extremist Khalistani groups operating on New Zealand soil, posing a threat to diplomats and the larger Indian community in the country.

The issue came up during the discussions held between both sides at the Hyderabad House in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his New Zealand counterpart Christopher Luxon who is currently on a five-day visit to the country.

"Certainly, this was an issue that came up. We do alert our friends to the activities of anti-India elements in their countries and their abuse of freedom of speech and other democratic freedoms to glorify terrorism and to threaten attacks against our diplomats or our parliament or our events in India. So these were also conveyed. The government of New Zealand has been receptive and has taken our concerns on board in the past as well. This was also the reaction that we got today," Jaideep Mazumdar, Secretary (East) at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), told media after the bilateral talks.

The India-New Zealand Joint Statement released later mentioned both Prime Ministers exchanging views on regional and global developments of mutual interest while agreeing to strengthen multilateral cooperation. "Both leaders agreed on the significance of ensuring the safety and security of the Indian community, including students, in New Zealand, and of New Zealanders in India and visitors to India," it mentioned. The two leaders also reiterated their "absolute condemnation" of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and the use of terrorist proxies in cross-border terrorism. "Both stressed the urgent need for all countries to take immediate, sustained, measurable, and concrete action against UN-proscribed terrorist organisations and individuals. They called for disrupting of terrorism financing networks and safe havens, dismantling of terror infrastructure, including online, and bringing perpetrators of terrorism to justice swiftly. The two leaders agreed to cooperate in combating terrorism and violent extremism through bilateral and multilateral mechanisms," read the statement. The banned US-based radical Khalistani outfit Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) has been trying to promote its secessionist agenda in several countries, including Australia and New Zealand, by holding a so-called "referendum" that calls for an independent Sikh homeland. Last year, such events were organised by SFJ in and around Auckland, New Zealand's biggest city.

Quad workshop on pandemic preparedness for Indo-Pacific begins under India's presidency



New Delhi, March 17 (IANS) The 'Quad Workshop on Pandemic Preparedness for the Indo-Pacific Region' commenced on Monday and will go on till March 19 under India's presidency of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), stated the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel inaugurated the workshop, which stemmed from commitments made at the 6th Quad Leaders' Summit in September 2024. Senior health officials and technical experts from the Quad nations -- India, the United States, Japan, and Australia -- participated in the event.

The workshop marks a significant step toward strengthening a coordinated health security framework for the Indo-Pacific. It aims to enhance global health emergency preparedness, improve resilience to health threats, and ensure effective pandemic response mechanisms.

A key focus of the workshop is implementing the 'One Health' approach, which integrates human, animal, and environmental health through a multisectoral lens.In her address, Union Minister Patel emphasised the urgency of global health preparedness."The rise of emerging and re-emerging health threats highlights the necessity of strengthened preparedness, enhanced surveillance, and well-coordinated international response mechanisms to safeguard global health security," she stated.

Reaffirming India's leadership in global pandemic preparedness, Patel informed delegates that India has contributed $10 million towards the 'Pandemic Fund', established to combat pandemics, and pledged an additional $12 million for its sustained operation.

Ayodhya's Ram temple to have no chief priest now, says Champat Rai

Ayodhya, March 17 (IANS) Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra General Secretary, Champat Rai has said that Ayodhya's Ram temple will have no chief priest from now.He made the remark on Sunday in response to a question on the appointment of a new Chief Priest after the demise of Acharya Satyendra Das.Rai said that there will be no Chief Priest now as there is no one of Das's age and respect, adding no one is as learned as him.

"We had asked Acharya Satyendra Das six months ago; there won't be any chief priest now. There is no one of Satyendra Das's age and respect; no one else has been Hanumangarhi's Mahant for so long," Rai said on Sunday."He (Acharya Satyendra Das) had been serving since 1993. He used to take Rs 100 as his monthly salary. Now, everyone is young and new; no one is as learned as him. Now, addressing anyone as the Chief Priest would be an exaggeration...," the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra General Secretary added.Das was a Hindu mahant and the chief priest of the Ayodhya Ram Janmabhoomi Temple. He had been the chief priest of the Ram Temple even before the demolition of Babri Masjid on December 6, 1992.

Curfew in Manipur's Churachandpur dist after assault on tribal leader

Imphal, March 17 (IANS) Indefinite curfew was clamped in Manipur's Churachandpur district on Monday following tension after a vicious attack on a Hmar tribal leader by some unknown miscreants on Sunday, officials said on Monday.Churachandpur district Additional District Magistrate (ADM), Thangboi Gangte, said that as per the report of the Superintendent of Police there is a serious apprehension of breach of law-and-order in the district."This is very likely to be detrimental to the peace among different communities and may result in damage to life and public property," stated ADM Thangboi Gangte.In his order, Gangte said that to "maintain law and order and to prevent any untoward incident or violence….. under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, hereby declare prohibitory order with immediate effect and until further orders, prohibiting the unauthorised procession or unlawful assembly of five or more persons and carrying arms other instruments which can be used as weapons including sticks/rods and stones."Hmar Inpui Information and Publicity Secretary said that on Sunday night a group of men caught Hmar Inpui General Secretary, Richard Laltanpuia Hmar who was on his way home, blind-folded him and beat him inside the campus of V.K. Montessori School.Laltanpuia Hmar is now undergoing medical treatment at a hospital due to excessive bleeding and injury."The perpetrators, whoever they are, must be arrested and punished by Monday, failing which Hmar Inpui shall resort to its own course of action," the Information and Publicity Secretary said in a statement.

Attempt to divide people: Waqf JPC chief slams AIMPLB's Shaheen Bagh warning

New Delhi, March 17 (IANS) As the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) intensified its protest against the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, Jagdambika Pal, Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), on Monday slammed the Muslim body for its warning of a "Shaheen Bagh-like protest," calling it an attempt to divide people.AIMPLB staged another demonstration at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, alleging that the government is conspiring to seize Waqf properties. The protest saw participation from eleven opposition parties, including the Congress. AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi and Congress leader Salman Khurshid also participated in the protest.However, AIMPLB's approach has drawn criticism from within the community as well, with Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi accusing the board of being hijacked by political interests rather than focusing on real Muslim issues.Reacting to AIMPLB's stance, Pal told IANS, "They have been opposing this bill from the very beginning. Despite this, we invited the All India Muslim Personal Law Board to present their views before the Joint Parliamentary Committee. Owaisi Sahab was also a member. We listened to everyone for 3-4 hours and recorded the opinions of every stakeholder from different states."Earlier, AIMPLB member Syed Qasim Rasool Ilyas had warned, "If the bill is implemented, the entire country will witness a protest like Shaheen Bagh."Notably, Ilyas is the father of former JNU scholar and student activist Umar Khalid, who has been behind bars since September 2020 under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) in the "larger conspiracy" case related to the 2020 North-East Delhi riots.

Proud of what Indian community does for our country: New Zealand PM



New Delhi, March 17 (IANS) New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon praised the Indian community in his country on Monday for its significant role in shaping the island nation's progress.His remarks came during his five-day official visit to India, marking the first visit by a New Zealand Prime Minister in nine years since former PM John Key.

Expressing his admiration for the community, he posted on X, "The Indian community is the third-largest ethnic group in New Zealand. India is our largest source of skilled migrants and our second-largest source of international students."

He further acknowledged their contributions, stating, "Indian-Kiwis make a massive contribution to New Zealand, and I'm proud of what this community does for our country." Highlighting the importance of this visit, Luxon mentioned that he has brought along a high-level delegation comprising community and business leaders, calling it the largest-ever group to accompany a New Zealand Prime Minister on a foreign trip.

Baloch woman illegally enters Rajasthan from Pak border, claims threat to life

Jaipur, March 17 (IANS) The Border Security Force (BSF) on Monday detained a woman, claiming to be from Balochistan, who illegally crossed the India-Pakistan border and entered Rajasthan.

The woman was apprehended at the Vijeta post in Anupgarh, Sri Ganganagar district, in the morning, officials said. She has categorically refused to return to Pakistan, claiming that her life would be in danger if she did. According to officials, the woman crossed the barbed wire fence and entered Indian territory around 5.30 a.m. The BSF jawans stationed at the Vijeta post immediately took her into custody.

During preliminary questioning, she expressed her desire to seek refuge in India, citing a threat to her life if she was sent back. The detained woman has identified herself as Humara (33), a resident of Dagri Khan village in Kech district, Balochistan. She also mentioned that her husband's name is Wasim and that her parents were originally from Karachi.

Take resolute action against pro-Khalistani factions: Rajnath Singh tells US

New Delhi, March 17 (IANS) India voiced apprehensions regarding anti-national elements operating abroad, notably pro-Khalistani factions, particularly their subversive manoeuvres of the Khalistani faction Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), active within the US.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, according to sources, urged the US government to adopt resolute measures against this organisation.

On Monday, Rajnath Singh convened with Tulsi Gabbard, the US Director of National Intelligence, in a dialogue that underscored deepening the strategic alliance between India and the United States, particularly in the realms of defence and intelligence collaboration.

On his X handle, the Defence Minister said: "Happy to have met the US Director of National Intellligence Ms@TulsiGabbard



in New Dehi. We discussed a wide range of issues which include defence and information sharing, aiming to further deepen the India-US partnership."

The meeting between these two prominent figures highlighted the critical role of strategic security as a cornerstone of the expansive global partnership between India and the US, an official statement said.

"Rajnath Singh and Gabbard assessed the remarkable progress achieved in joint military drills, strategic alignment, the fusion of defence industrial networks, and the exchange of maritime intelligence," the statement said.

The leaders also ventured into prospects for pioneering cooperation in advanced defence technologies, underscoring their mutual dedication to furthering shared strategic objectives.

K'taka govt's 4 pc Muslim quota a threat to national unity, will challenge it in court: BJP

Bengaluru, March 17 (IANS) Coming down heavily on the Congress-led Karnataka government over its decision to provide 4 per cent reservation to Muslims in tenders, the BJP has stated that this move has the potential to balkanise India. The party has also declared that it would challenge the move in the court.

Addressing the media in New Delhi, BJP National Yuva Morcha President and Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya said on Monday that this patently unconstitutional, prima facie illegal act of providing quota for Muslims will be challenged in the court."The BJP will fight against this move inside of the Assembly and outside as well. We will raise this issue in the Parliament and we will protest outside the Parliament. We will fight and oppose this in courtrooms. We will take this fight to the people in the state of Karnataka and until and unless the unconstitutional move is rolled back, the BJP's fight will continue," Surya declared.

He further pointed out, "Time and again, courts in the country, High Courts and Supreme Court have repeatedly stated that granting reservation solely on the basis of religion is unconstitutional and it's not permitted.

Even in 2004, the Congress government in Andhra Pradesh proposed this 4 per cent reservation in government tenders for Muslims. It was quashed by the Andhra High Court.

Grenade blast in Amritsar: One suspect killed in police encounter

Chandigarh, March 17 (IANS) Two days after the grenade blast at a temple in Amritsar, one suspect was shot dead in an encounter with the police, while the other managed to escape on Monday, Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said.

Acting on specific intelligence, the Commissionerate Police Amritsar decisively tracked down those responsible for the attack on Thakur Dwara Mandiron on March 15, he said.A first information report (FIR) has been registered at the Chheharta police station under the Explosive Substances Act, and intelligence-based efforts led to the identification of the accused.Police teams tracked the suspects in Rajasansi, on the outskirts of Amritsar. The accused opened fire, injuring Head Constable Gurpreet Singh and striking Inspector Amolak Singh's turban.Acting in self-defence, the police party fired back, injuring the accused. He was taken to Civil Hospital, where he later succumbed to his injuries. The other accused fled, and efforts are on to arrest him, said the DGP.In a "first attack" on a religious place in Punjab's Amritsar city, close to the border with Pakistan, two assailants hurled an explosive at the Thakurdwara Temple complex, damaging its walls and shattering its window panes, on the night of March 14.Police are tracking the suspects and claim Pakistan's involvement behind the attack.The CCTV footage showed the attackers arriving at the location on a bike. After waiting for a few seconds, one of them threw a grenade, and both fled the spot.

Oppn, religious leaders call Waqf Bill 'biggest attack' on Muslims, stage set for prolonged protests

New Delhi, March 17 (IANS) The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has ramped up its protest against the controversial Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, with several Opposition leaders labeling it a "black Bill" that seeks to unjustly confiscate properties of the Muslim community.

While the BJP stands firm on the necessity of the Waqf Bill, claiming it will safeguard national interests, the political and social divide on the matter continues to widen, setting the stage for a prolonged confrontation.

The Waqf Bill, which is designed to amend existing laws governing properties donated for religious or charitable purposes, has sparked a fierce backlash from the Muslim community.AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi voiced strong objections to it, questioning the legal reasoning behind certain provisions.

"You say no oral gifts can be made to mosques, but then how can personal property transfers to children be allowed? Which law are you invoking here?" Owaisi said, arguing that the amendments would create confusion and undermine the Waqf system's integrity.

The Samajwadi Party has also been vocal in its Opposition to the Bill.

Fakhrul Hasan Chaand, a prominent leader, criticised the Bill for disregarding suggestions put forward by various stakeholders. "The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) ignored key feedback because its chairman is a BJP member. This is not a democratic process," said Chaand.



The Samajwadi Party, along with other Opposition parties, has pledged to continue protesting until the Bill is withdrawn.

The Congress party has also criticised the Waqf Bill. Nizam Uddin Bhat, a Congress MLA, expressed concern over the Bill's implications for religious freedom and the rights of minority communities.

"This interference is unfair. Every religion must be allowed to manage its properties without governmental intrusion. The Bill is a violation of equal rights," he said.

Ujjwal Raman Singh, a Congress MP, echoed these sentiments, calling for more inclusive discussions. "The concerns of a large section of the population remain unaddressed. The Waqf Bill cannot be deemed complete without the consensus of all parties involved. A majority-driven decision might pass the Bill, but it won't necessarily create a just law," Singh warned.

On the other hand, BJP leaders, including Rajya Sabha MP Gulam Ali Khatana, have vehemently defended the Waqf Bill. Khatana emphasised that any misappropriated Waqf property would not be left unaddressed.

"The property that has been looted - our Prime Minister is not going to let it go easily," he declared. His statements reflect the government's position that the Bill aims to reclaim Waqf properties that have been allegedly misused or encroached upon.

Religious leaders have also become key figures in the protests.

Maulana Kalbe Jawad, an influential Shia cleric, harshly criticised the Bill, calling it a "destructive" piece of legislation.

He compared the Bill to a "snake," suggesting it was a dangerous manoeuvre aimed at undermining the Muslim community's rights.

The Maulana also took issue with the Bill's demands for documentation of Waqf properties, pointing out the absurdity of asking for proof of ownership for centuries-old religious sites.

"They're asking for papers from us, but will they ask the same from the temples? This is discriminatory," he remarked, stressing the unfairness of the Bill's provisions.

Amanatullah Khan, another political leader, echoed these sentiments, describing the Bill as a "conspiracy to seize land" from the Muslim community.

"This Bill is part of a larger agenda to occupy Waqf properties. If they need to create pressure, they will do so, even if it means using force," Khan alleged, further fuelling the concerns that the Bill could lead to the unlawful appropriation of religious assets.