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SHREYAS IYER NAMED ICC MEN'S PLAYER OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH : 11

JMM not just a party, it reflects people's aspirations: CM

Hemant Soren elected JMM central president, Shibui Soren made 'founding patron'

Ranchi, Apr 15: Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren was on Tuesday elected as the central president of the ruling JMM, while his father Shibui Soren was made the "founding patron" of the party, a JMM leader said.

Shibu Soren had been the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha's chief for the past 38 years, while his son Hemant served the party as its executive president since 2015, he said.

Senior party leader and Dumka MP Nalin Soren proposed the name of Shibu Soren as the founding patron during the JMM's 13th Central Convention and it was seconded by the Maheshpur MLA Stephen Marandi.

Thereafter, Shibu Soren proposed the name of Hemant Soren as the central president of JMM, which was passed unanimously.

"The responsibility that respected Baba Dishom



Guruji (Shibu Soren) has given me, the faith that lakhs of party colleagues have shown in me, I will work hard day and night to fulfill it. This support of all of you is my strength," Hemant Soren later posted on X.

He said that he would serve the people of the

JMM's 13th convention concludes

state with double strength. Addressing the concluding ceremony of two-day convention, the JMM central president said, "The party would decide its future journey from this point. We will move towards a long road after the end of this convention."

The CM said that Shibu Soren devoted his life to the uplift of the poor and marginalised people of Jharkhand.

"Despite limited resources, he took the pledge to protect the people and 'Jal Jungle, Jamin (water, forest and land) of Jharkhand, which is not an ordinary feat. The entire country knows him as Guruji," he said.

On being elected as the central president of the

JMM, Hemant Soren said he has been given a great responsibility.

"I am preparing a roadmap so that we can take the ideals of the party to greater heights. JMM is not a party but a reflection of the thoughts of the people of Jharkhand," he said.

The CM said India is the biggest democracy in the world but it is still reeling under discrimination on the basis of caste, creed and economic condition.

"The state government is preparing schemes for the betterment of 3.25 crore people of Jharkhand. We do not discriminate on the basis of religion. The benefits of Maiya Samman Yojana are reaching all the sections of the society," he added.

The CM also announced that an ex gratia of Rs 1 lakh would be provided after the death of any 'andolankari' (who fought for Jharkhand statehood).

IMD forecasts above normal monsoon in 2025

New Delhi, Apr 15: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on April 15 forecast above normal monsoon for 2025, predicting neutral El Nino conditions.

Quantitatively, the monsoon rainfall (June-September) over the country as a whole is likely to be 105% of the long period average (LPA), which is 87 cm, with a model error of +/-5%, said the weather department in its first estimate for SouthWest Monsoon. "The southwest monsoon seasonal (June to September) rainfall over the country as a whole during 2025 is most likely to be above normal (104% of the Long Period Average (LPA)). Quantitatively, the seasonal rainfall over the country as a whole is likely to be 105% of LPA with a model error of +/-5%," said IMD in a press release. IMD said it sees most parts of the country to receive normal to above normal monsoon, which falls in the range of 96-105% of the Long Period Average. IMD said neutral El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) condition are likely to continue during the 2025 monsoon season. M Mohapatra, DGM, IMD said, "Forecast indicates that neutral El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions are likely to continue during the monsoon season."

Two hardcore Maoists from C'garh surrender in Jharkhand

Latehar (Jharkhand), April 15 (IANS) Two hardcore Maoists affiliated with the banned CPI-Maoist surrendered before police and security forces in Jharkhand's Latehar district on Tuesday, officials said. The surrendered Maoists have been identified as Amarjeet Birjia and Mithilesh Korba, both residents of Balrampur district in neighbouring Chhattisgarh. According to the police, the duo was actively involved in Maoist activities in the Latehar region and were considered key operatives of the squad led by notorious Maoist commander Chhotu Kharwar. The surrender took place in the presence of Latehar Superintendent of Police Kumar Gaurav and CRPF Commandant Yadaram Bunkar, who welcomed the rebels into the mainstream by garlanding them.

SC to hear pleas against Waqf Amendment Act today

New Delhi, April 15 (IANS) The Supreme Court is slated to hear on Wednesday a clutch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025. As per the cause list published on the website of the apex court, a bench, headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjeev Khanna and comprising Justices Sanjay Kumar and K.V. Viswanathan, will take up the matter for hearing on April 16. Multiple petitions have been filed before the top court challenging the constitutional validity of the recent amendments introduced in the Waqf Act, 1995. On the other hand, several BJP-ruled states, including Haryana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Assam and Uttarakhand, have approached the Supreme Court seeking to defend the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

ED files chargesheet against Sonia, Rahul Gandhi in National Herald case

New Delhi, April 15 (IANS) Taking a big step against political heavyweights, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) filed a prosecution complaint in a Special Delhi court against Congress MPs Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi in the alleged National Herald or Associated Journals Limited (AJL) money laundering case, a lawyer said on Tuesday.

The Special Court has fixed April 25 for hearing arguments on taking cognisance of the prosecution complaint.

Others named in the chargesheet include Congress Overseas Chief Sam Pitroda, Suman Dubey, and others.

The fresh trouble for Congress-controlled AJL comes close to the ED serving notices to registrars of property in Delhi, Mumbai and Lucknow to take possession of attached properties worth Rs 661 crore.

These properties were attached after the investigation revealed significant generation, possession and use of proceeds

of crime to the tune of Rs 988 crore.

In Delhi, notices were pasted on the wall of AJL

Rules, 2013. In Mumbai, a notice was also served on Jindal South West Projects



property-5 (A), Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg in Central Delhi, which is home to media houses and newspaper offices.

The notices were served on Friday in compliance with Section 8 of PMLA, 2002 and Rule 5(1) of the Prevention of Money Laundering (Taking Possession of Attached or Frozen Properties Confirmed by the Adjudicating Authority)

Limited, which is occupying the 7th, 8th, and 9th floors at Herald House, Bandra (East).

Jindal South West Projects was directed to transfer the rent/lease amount every month in favour of the Director, Directorate of Enforcement.

In Lucknow, notices were pasted on property number 1, Bisheshwar Nath Road.

Earlier, the ED conducted searches and seizures at multiple locations, uncovering incriminating documents linked to the alleged money laundering activities.

Investigation revealed that Young Indian, a private company beneficially owned by Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, acquired AJL properties worth Rs 2,000 crore for a mere Rs 50 lakh, significantly undervaluing its worth.

The ED probe also indicated that Young Indian and AJL properties were used for the generation of further proceeds of crime in the form of bogus donations to the tune of Rs 18 crore, bogus advance rent to the tune of Rs 38 crore and bogus advertisements of Rs 29 crore.

The investigation by ED commenced in 2021, based on a cognizance order issued on June 26, 2014, by the Metropolitan Magistrate Patiala House Courts in New Delhi, following a private complaint filed by Subramanian Swamy.

Four children drown in water-filled pit in Garhwa, village in shock

Garhwa, April 15 (IANS) In a heart-wrenching incident, four children drowned in a pit filled with water in Ursugi village of Jharkhand's Garhwa district on Tuesday afternoon, officials said.

All the victims were residents of the same village, Ursugi. The deceased have been identified as Lucky Kumar, 8, son of Awadhesh Ram; Akshay Kumar, 12, son of Santosh Ram; Narayan Chandravanshi, 16, son of Babul Chandravanshi; and Hariom Chandravanshi, 13.

According to locals, the children were playing near a 'dobha' (small pond) adjacent to the village. At some point, they entered a deep pit filled with water, possibly for bathing. Tragically, they were unable to come out and drowned.

By the time villagers were alerted and reached the spot, it was too late. The children were pulled out and rushed to Garhwa Sadar Hospital, where doctors declared all four dead.

The tragedy has plunged the village into mourning, with the families of the victims inconsolable.

Following the incident, senior officials, including Garhwa SDO Sanjay Kumar, visited the hospital and met the grieving families.

This is the latest in a series of drowning incidents in Garhwa. In the last five days alone, nine children have lost their lives due to drowning in rivers, ponds, and water bodies across the district.



Petrol pump manager shot dead in Hazaribagh

Hazaribagh, April 15 (IANS) A petrol pump manager was shot dead by unidentified criminals while he was on his way to deposit cash at a bank in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh district on Tuesday, police officials said.

The incident occurred in the Ichak police station area, highlighting the deteriorating law and order situation in the region.

The victim has been identified as Shankar Kumar, a resident of the Hazaribagh district.

According to the police, Shankar was carrying the cash collection of the last four days from the petrol pump located at Salpami on the busy Ranchi-Patna Road. He left the premises around 11 a.m. on Tuesday when he was intercepted by the assailants, who attempted to rob him.

Eyewitnesses said that when Shankar resisted the robbery attempt, the attackers opened fire at him.

Jharkhand slips to 12th position in policing in survey report

Mail News Service

Ranchi, April 15: A survey report claims that the condition of policing in the state has fallen further than before. According to the India Justice Report-2025 of an organization named Tata Trust, the policing of the state has deteriorated in the last five years. The condition is such that in 2020 it was at ninth rank.

At the same time, in the year 2021, it improved and reached the sixth rank. But in the year 2022, the situation got worse. Jharkhand Police came to 11th position and by 2025, the condition of Jharkhand Police got worse, Jharkhand Police came to 12th position. Telangana ranks first among the states with a population of more than one crore. While Jharkhand's neighboring state Odisha is at eighth and Bihar is at tenth position. It is worth noting that the India Justice Report was started by Tata Trust in 2019. The fourth report has been released on Tuesday. This report has been prepared in collaboration with organizations like Center for Social Justice, Common Cause, Commonwealth, Human Rights Initiative, Daksh, TISS-Prayas, Vidhi Center for Legal Policy and How India Lives. The condition of Jharkhand in providing justice has become worse than before. According to India Justice Report 2025, the condition of Jharkhand in providing justice to the people has become much worse than before. In this case, Jharkhand is at 13th place in the year 2025, while it was at seventh place in 2022, eighth in 2020 and 16th in 2019. Tata Trust has prepared this ranking on the basis of the performance of 18 large and medium states of the country. At the same time, Kerala is at number one in this matter. Neighboring state Bihar is at 15th place. (w-rg)

Four-hour jam cripples Mango, school children worst hit

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, April 15: A four-hour-long traffic jam on the Mango Bridge brought life to a standstill on Tuesday, leaving hundreds of commuters stranded under the blazing sun, with school children and office-goers bearing the brunt of the jam.

The jam, which began around 10:30 am, blocked several major routes including Dimna Chowk to Mango Bridge, Payal Talkies to Mango Chowk, Old Purulia Road, Bus Stand Roundabout, and the Old Bridge stretch. The situation was aggravated as several desperate commuters resorted to driving on the wrong side, further escalating the gridlock.

While traffic police were deployed at key points, they struggled to control the snarled-up lanes as honking vehicles, school vans, and motorcycles remained stuck for hours. The bottleneck is being attributed to the ongoing construction work of the much-awaited Mango Flyover, which has significantly reduced road space and increased pressure on alternate routes.

For school-going children, the jam proved particularly harsh. Several vans carrying students remained immobile under the mid-day sun, causing immense discomfort.



"We left school at 11 am, but my son reached home after 2:30 pm. There was no water in the van, and the children were exhausted and dehydrated," said Rupa Sinha, a resident of Dimna Road and mother of Kerala Samajam Model School. "This is becoming a daily torture."

Ten-year-old Samarjit Das, sitting inside a jam-packed van, said, "It was so hot. We couldn't even roll down the windows properly because of the fumes from

other vehicles. I just wanted to go home."

The jam also disrupted the routines of many office-goers and people commuting to hospitals. Anil Kumar, who works at a private bank in Sakchi, said, "I had a client meeting at noon. I got stuck at Payal Talkies and missed it. This is not just an inconvenience anymore—it's affecting our livelihoods."

Reports also surfaced of patients being stuck in ambulances due to the congestion. One local resident, Pushpa Mahato,

shared, "We saw an ambulance stuck near Mango Chowk for over 20 minutes. The driver was pleading for space, but no one could move."

Mango residents expressed growing frustration at the lack of effective traffic management and planning.

"Every day is the same story. No proper diversion, no traffic marshals, and no accountability," said Rajesh Prasad, a local shopkeeper. "The flyover may be a long-term solution, but the administration must handle current traffic better."

Many pedestrians were also forced to walk long distances under the scorching sun after abandoning public transport due to the jam. "I walked from Dimna Chowk to Old Purulia Road just to get to work. There was no other way," said Salma Bano, a nursing assistant.

A police official said, "We understand the public's pain. The ongoing flyover construction has narrowed key routes, and any surge in traffic—like school hours—causes massive bottlenecks. We are trying to deploy more personnel and manage flow better."

However, he also urged citizens to cooperate. "People driving on the wrong side and blocking intersections makes our job harder. We request patience and discipline from commuters." (w-pb)

NDA delegation meets SSP over arbitrary two-wheeler checks in Jamshedpur

Submits letter from MLA Saryu Roy, seeks humane and tech-based reforms

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Apr 15: Acting on the instructions of Jamshedpur West MLA Saryu Roy, a delegation from the NDA (National Democratic Alliance) met East Singhbhum Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) on Tuesday. They submitted a letter written by the MLA highlighting public distress caused by the ongoing two-wheeler vehicle checks across Jamshedpur. The delegation conveyed that residents particularly the elderly and those walking in parks or shopping at vegetable markets are being harassed by unregulated and frequent police checks. "People are facing extreme inconvenience due to vehicle checks at multiple locations on the same road. Parents picking up their children from school on



two-wheelers are especially troubled," the delegation said. They further alleged that traffic police personnel often remain hidden and suddenly appear in front of moving vehicles to stop them, increasing the risk of accidents. "Such practices must be immediately discontinued," the delegation insisted. Raising

concerns about biased enforcement, the members said, "Reports from several neighbourhoods indicate selective checks, which create doubts about the impartiality of the traffic police and give an impression of appeasement."

The NDA team urged the SSP to ensure that the police do not

appear to be focused solely on "revenue collection." They also advocated for leniency towards senior citizens, small children and people traveling in emergency situations on humanitarian grounds.

The delegation proposed a tech-based solution: "Use digital platforms for issuing challans

and send them to the violator's registered address. Additionally, checks should be carried out using CCTV surveillance, as done in Ranchi."

SSP assured the delegation of prompt action based on their suggestions. He admitted, "Currently, not all city areas have CCTV coverage, which makes surveillance-based enforcement difficult. However, other suggestions will be acted upon quickly." He also invited citizens to report any irregularities in vehicle checking directly to him by phone. The delegation included Dharmendra Prasad, Anuj Choudhary, Anjan Sarkar, Bhim Singh, Lalan Chauhan, Amarendra Mallick, Rakesh Singh, Sheshnath Pathak, Tarak Mukherjee, Dweepal Biswas, Ranjit Aich, Sanjeev Singh and Ajit Singh. (w/nkm)

Man bludgeoned to death in Jamshedpur

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, April 15: Panic spread in the Kapali OP area near Mango on Tuesday afternoon after a body was discovered in Demdubi. The deceased was identified as Mohammad Hussain, a resident of Ansar Nagar. Preliminary investigations suggest that Hussain was brutally murdered by being bludgeoned with a stone.

Local residents informed the police immediately upon discovering the body. A police team soon arrived at the spot and began an investigation. A liquor bottle was also recovered from the scene. The body has been sent for post-mortem examination.

According to the victim's family, Hussain worked as a Paris putty technician and was scheduled to leave for Hyderabad for work on the same day. In the morning, he received a phone call from a friend and left the house on his motorcycle. Family members further revealed that Hussain had a dispute three days ago with a youth named Afaq, who had allegedly fired shots during the altercation. Out of fear, Hussain did not report the incident to the police. The family suspects that Afaq may be behind the murder. (w/pb)

Woman found dead, uncle alleges murder

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Apr 15: A 35-year-old woman, Vinita Singh, died under mysterious circumstances on Monday night in Baghra village, under Bodam police station limits. Her husband, Sadanand Singh, claimed she fell asleep intoxicated after work and was unresponsive when he tried to wake her for dinner around 10 PM. She was later declared dead. The body was sent for postmortem at MGM Medical College on Tuesday. Police stated that no external injury marks or signs of illness were found. They are awaiting the postmortem report to determine the cause of death.

However, Vinita's uncle, Sarveshwar Singh from Chaliyama village (Nimdi PS), alleged foul play. "She had frequent disputes with her husband. I was informed about her death by a relative, not the family. I believe my niece was beaten to death by her husband," he said. Sarveshwar intends to file an FIR against Sadanand Singh, alleging murder. Vinita leaves behind one daughter and three sons. (w/nkm)

Five illegal water connections busted in Mango, Rs 60,000 fine collected

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, April 15: In an important step to curb unauthorized water usage, the newly formed Drinking Water Task Force in the Mango Municipal Corporation area caught five illegal water connections during a surprise raid on Sunday. The enforcement drive, led by Assistant Municipal Commissioner Aaqib Javed and Arvind Agarwal, resulted in the collection of fines totaling Rs. 60,000.

The raids were carried out in key localities including Jawahar Nagar Road No. 04, Road No. 13, and the vicinity around Big

Bazaar. Out of the seven locations inspected, illegal water connections were detected at five spots.

The task force has been constituted under the directions of District Magistrate-cum-Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal to ensure prompt redressal of drinking water-related issues. The operation is being overseen by Project Director, ITDA, Dipankar Chaudhary, who heads the task force.

Assistant Municipal Commissioner Aaqib Javed stated that these surprise checks will continue in the future to ensure compliance and discourage illegal tapping of municipal water. "Those who have not yet



taken legal water connections should do so immediately by paying the prescribed fees," he cautioned.

In addition to the enforcement drive, efforts are underway to

strengthen the local water supply infrastructure. The Mango Municipal Corporation has proposed the purchase of two submersible pumps and two water tankers to meet the increasing

demand and resolve supply issues in water-stressed areas.

To make the system more responsive and accessible, a dedicated helpline (8603533700) has been activated. Residents are encouraged to report drinking water-related complaints and concerns on this number for timely intervention. The crackdown and infrastructure boost come at a time when water scarcity and supply issues are growing concerns during the summer months. Officials emphasized that such enforcement and support measures aim to ensure equitable and uninterrupted access to drinking water for all legal consumers. (w/pb)

We must be rooted in self-sufficiency and collective spirit: Dr. S. George

XLRI inaugurates new academic year for PGDM and Emerging CHRO Programs

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, April 15: XLRI - Xavier School of Management, Jamshedpur, inaugurated the new academic year for its distinguished programs PGDM (General Management) and PGDM (HRM) for Emerging CHROs at the Tata Auditorium, XLRI Jamshedpur. The solemn yet spirited event began with a Prayer Service and Lighting of the Lamp, invoking blessings for the journey ahead.

A total of 150 students were formally welcomed: PGDM (GM) Batch 2025-26: 120 students (48 Female & 72 Male), PGDM (HRM) for Emerging CHROs (Batch-4): 30 students (12 Female & 18 Male)

Both programs span 18 months, focusing on grooming high-potential professionals into



ethical and impactful leaders.

Dr. (Fr.) S. George, S.J., Director of XLRI Jamshedpur, addressed the incoming students with a powerful reflection on wholehearted living, emphasizing values such as courage, empathy and connection. He drew from philosophical and spiritual traditions to stress the

importance of interdependence in today's world. "Courage is not the absence of fear, but the ability to move forward despite it. And in the 21st century, we must be rooted in both self-sufficiency and a collective spirit," he shared.

Dr. Sanjay Patro, Dean (Academics), welcomed the students with a reminder of

XLRI's founding principle 'MAGIS', the relentless pursuit of excellence and the greater good. He encouraged students to embark on this new academic journey with humility, curiosity and a deep sense of purpose.

Dr. (Fr.) Donald D'Silva, S.J., Dean of Administration & Finance, led a moving interfaith prayer for knowledge, unity,

justice and leadership grounded in ethics and human dignity.

Senior faculty members including Prof. Purna Chandra Padhan (Associate Dean, GM Programme), Prof. Manoj Thomas (Associate Dean, Corporate Programmes) and Prof. R. K. Premarajan (Programme Director, Emerging CHROs) graced the event and participated in the ceremony.

The Prayer Service included readings from the Bhagavad Gita, Bible, Guru Granth Sahib, and the Holy Quran, symbolizing XLRI's commitment to inclusivity and holistic education. Students also took an Honour Pledge, promising to uphold ethical conduct, respect diversity and embody the values of excellence and integrity throughout their journey. (w-mb)

NHES marks Art Day with vibrant student creations

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, April 15: Narbheram Hansraj English School (NHES) celebrated World Art Day with great enthusiasm, showcasing the creative talents of its students through a variety of traditional and modern art forms. The event featured impressive artworks in



Madhubani, Mandala, and Worli styles, reflecting the students' artistic expression and cultural appreciation.

Principal Paramita Roy Chaudhury highlighted the importance of such events in promoting creativity, emotional well-being, and a sense of community among students. She emphasized that art serves as a powerful outlet for self-expression and stress relief.

Parents praised the students' work, appreciating the creativity on display. The celebration was organized by Tr. Mahesh and Tr. Bhaskar, who encouraged students to explore the transformative power of art. (w-mb)

Govt must sack minister who disrespected constitution: Raghubar



Jamshedpur, Apr 15: Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das has strongly condemned the statement of a state minister who claimed Sharia law supersedes the Indian Constitution. Das labeled the remark as "unfortunate, shameful and disrespectful," especially when the nation celebrates the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution.

"On one hand, the minister takes oath under the Constitution to assume office and on the other, he declares Sharia above it. This exposes their real face," Das said. He demanded the minister be immediately sacked from the cabinet and advised him to join bodies like the Muslim Personal Law Board if he prefers Sharia over the Constitution. "Will such ministers also advocate Sharia punishments like public

flogging?" he asked.

Das also took aim at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of hypocrisy. "Rahul Gandhi often flaunts the Constitution, but ministers in the government supported by his party in Jharkhand outrightly reject it. Will he show courage to withdraw support from the JMM-led government, or will he continue with this farce?" he questioned. (w/nkm)

Jsr police crackdown on criminals, 41 arrested

Jamshedpur, Apr 15: In a major crackdown on criminal elements, Jamshedpur Police launched a district-wide operation late Sunday night, resulting in the arrest of 41 fugitives. As part of the intensified drive, police interrogated a total of 839 suspects across various areas. The operation also led to the recovery of one stolen motorcycle and a scooter. Authorities inspected 163 hotels and lodges to identify individuals with criminal backgrounds. Additionally, young men loitering at railway stations

and bus stands were rounded up and questioned. The traffic police took action against 18 vehicle drivers under the Motor Vehicles Act for various violations.

City SP Shivashish Kumar stated that such drives will be carried out regularly to keep criminal activities in check. He urged citizens to cooperate with the police and share any relevant information that could help maintain peace and order in the city. "Our goal is to make Jamshedpur crime-free. Public support is crucial in this mission," the SP added. (w/nkm)

Gas-laden trailer overturns in Sakchi



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Apr 15: A trailer carrying gas cylinders lost control and overturned after hitting a divider near Hathi-Ghoda Temple in Sakchi around 4 AM on Tuesday. The accident caused momentary panic but no major damage. The driver sustained injuries and was rushed to MGM Hospital for treatment. Sakchi police arrived swiftly and managed the situation. Traffic was restored after a short disruption. (w/nkm)

'Evolve With Singh' inspires young minds at Vikas Vidyalaya

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, April 15: A transformative career awareness seminar was conducted for the students of Class 9th and 10th at Vikas Vidyalaya, Mango, Jamshedpur, by Aayush Singh, founder of Evolve With Singh.

The aim of the seminar was to create awareness about evolving career paths, inspire students to explore their potential, and encourage informed decision-making early in their academic journey. Aayush, through his initiative "Evolve With Singh", focuses on bridging the gap between academic learning and real-world career demands, offering both school-level and college-level services.

During the seminar, students were introduced to a wide range of career opportunities beyond traditional streams



such as medicine and engineering. The session included interactive discussions

on future job trends, Myths vs Truths about careers, and the importance of early

guidance. Aayush emphasized the role of 1:1 sessions involving both students and parents, designed to help families align on career planning with professional insight. Over 120 students actively participated in the session, asking thoughtful questions and engaging in career-related conversations with curiosity and excitement.

Beyond school engagements, Evolve With Singh also caters to college students through services like resume building, mock interviews and career road mapping, aiming to make them job-ready and self-aware as they transition into the workforce.

Aayush, an alumnus of Loyola School, Jamshedpur, holds a B.Tech from VIT Vellore, an MBA from NMIMS Mumbai and a PG Diploma in Digital Marketing from MICA. (w-mb)

Take swift, strict action against drug trade: CS directs officials

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Apr 15: Chief Secretary Alka Tiwari has directed the Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Superintendents of Police (SPs) to closely monitor drug production, distribution and consumption across the state. During a state-level Narcotic Coordination Committee (NCORD) meeting held on Tuesday, she emphasized taking swift and strict action against elements involved in illegal drug trade.

"The illegal drug trade is a growing concern and we need to ensure prompt legal actions. Additionally, awareness campaigns should be more effective to curb this menace," Tiwari said. She also raised concerns about the

sale of narcotics and syrups at medical stores and instructed authorities to identify and take strict action against this illicit network.

Tiwari also asked for a list of all licensed medical stores to be shared with the Home Secretary, aiming to take effective action against unlicensed stores.

The meeting also highlighted significant progress in eradicating illicit poppy cultivation. In 2024-25, the state destroyed poppy crops in 27,015 acres, six times more than the 4,860 acres in 2023-24. In drug-related cases, 803 cases have been registered, with 1,062 arrests made in 2024 so far.

Sixfold increase in poppy crop destruction The state's crackdown

on illegal poppy cultivation continues to intensify. Reports from the NCORD meeting indicated that poppy crops were destroyed in 27,015 acres during 2024-25, a dramatic increase compared to the previous year.

In the year 2023-24, only 4,860 acres of poppy crops were destroyed, but efforts in 2024 have proven much more effective. This major crackdown aims to curb the cultivation of opium poppy, a primary source of illicit drugs in the region.

Training enforcement agencies on narcotics control

To bolster control over illegal drug trade, continuous training is being provided to law enforcement officials. Officers from the Narcotics Control Bureau



(NCB) are training state police officers on the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act at the Research and Training Institute in Hotwar, Ranchi.

"The collaboration between the NCB and state police is essential for effective enforcement of

the NDPS Act," said Tiwari, stressing the importance of coordination between law enforcement agencies. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been introduced to streamline communication between the NCB and state police.

Focus on disposal of seized drugs

The meeting also focused on the timely disposal of seized narcotics. Some districts have faced delays in this process and DCs have been instructed to prioritize its completion. In addition, the construction of 'Malkhanas' (evidence rooms) in each district to store seized drugs was emphasized.

For districts without adequate space, prompt solutions will be sought.

Public participation in drug control via 'Mans Portal'

To encourage public involvement in combating the drug menace, the state government launched the 'Mans Portal' in July 2024. This platform allows citizens to provide confidential information about illegal drug activities, with rewards for accurate information after verification. According to NCB reports, over 60,000 tips have been received via the portal, including 70 from Ranchi alone.

Quick procurement of narcotic testing kits

District DCs and SPs have been directed to procure essential drug testing kits, including DD kits,

precursor kits and ketamine kits, within 15 days. These kits will enable quicker identification of narcotics and serve as initial reports for court proceedings in case of delays in forensic analysis.

The meeting also discussed the establishment of special courts for the fast-tracking of drug-related cases, as well as financial investigations and property seizures. The presence of senior officials from various departments, including Principal Secretary of the Home Department Vandana Dadel, DGP Anurag Gupta and Secretary of Social Welfare Manoj Kumar, ensured comprehensive deliberations on the issue. All district DCs and SPs participated virtually. (w/nkm)

RIMS director - minister heated debate, several decisions taken at council meeting

Mail News Service

Ranchi, April 15: A strange situation arose in the meeting of the governing council of RIMS when director Dr Rajkumar and minister Irfan Ansari got entangled with each other. There was also a heated debate between the two. During this, the RIMS director offered to resign.

It happened that the members of the governing council made several allegations against the RIMS Director. He said that Dr Rajkumar takes many important decisions himself, whereas permission of the Governing Council is necessary for this. It is clear from this that the Director is misusing his powers.

Irfan Ansari clearly said that indiscipline will not be tolerated. He said that strict action will be taken against those who do not follow the rules. Additional Chief Secretary Ajay Kumar Singh also talked about maintaining discipline.

Other important decisions taken at the meeting include:

- Decision to build a new RIMS: The entire structure of RIMS will be demolished and a new RIMS will be built, the estimated cost of which is Rs 783 crore.
- CT MRI Machine: CT MRI machine will be installed in RIMS soon.



- Moksha Vahan: 5 new Moksha Vahan will be purchased to transport the bodies of the deceased to their homes.
- Assistance for last rites: The poor and the family of the deceased will be given an assistance of ₹5000 for the last rites.
- OPD timings: OPD timings have been extended till 6:00 pm.
- Completion of pending restorations: Pending restorations will be completed soon.
- Non-technician manpower: 100 non-technician manpower will be hired.
- Solution to parking problem: Parking problem in RIMS will be eliminated and illegal money collection will stop.
- Appointment of guards: 50 guards will be hired on permanent basis and 50 guards will be hired through outsourcing.
- Regular meeting: Governing council meeting will be held every month under the chairmanship of the minister.
- Action on private practice: Salary of replaced doctors found doing private practice will be stopped and the department will take strict action. (w-rg)

Rules for inter-dist teachers transfer to change

Mail News Service

Ranchi, April 15: The School Education and Literacy department is going to make changes in the inter-district transfer rules of teachers of district level cadre.

Departmental minister Ramdas Soren has given his consent to the proposal regarding changes in the rules related to inter-district transfer. After this, the school education department will complete the necessary process and send the proposal for approval.

In view of the increasing number of applications for inter-district transfer on the basis of several conditions of the previous transfer policy, the

department has decided to amend the inter-district transfer policy after a high-level review.

In 2019, the School Education Department had formulated a policy for inter-district transfer of teachers of the district level cadre. After this, this transfer policy was amended in 2022. According to that amendment, if husband and wife working in the Center, State or any undertaking are working in different districts, then they have the right to avail the facility of inter-district transfer. Similarly, if a teacher or teacher is suffering from an incurable disease, then this facility is also provided to them. Apart from this, the facility of inter-district transfer has

also been given to Divyang and female teachers. The department says that on the basis of the above conditions, a large number of inter-district transfer applications are being received from female teachers. Transfer applications are being received on the basis of any member of the family of the teacher or teacher suffering from an incurable disease. Apart from this, transfer applications are also being received from Divyang and single parents. Therefore, now there are proposals for many important changes in the policy related to inter-district transfer. As soon as the state government approves it, it will be implemented.

HC rejects petition of Chitfund Co director

Mail News Service

Ranchi, April 15: The High Court has rejected the petition of Arup Chatterjee, director of chitfund company Care Vision Infrastructure and Agrotech Limited.

In the petition, a demand was made to cancel the FIR lodged against the company at the Tisri police station in Giridih on the complaint of Maharaj Singh. It was said in the petition that Dhanbad CBI had registered an FIR

(RC8-A/2015-D) against this company. After investigating this FIR, the CBI has filed a charge sheet on 30 November 2022.

It was said in the petition that after the CBI filed a charge sheet against the company, Maharaj Singh has lodged an FIR accusing the company of fraud. Since in a similar case, the CBI has filed a charge sheet against the company after investigation. Therefore, investigation cannot be done again in the same kind of case.

The petition was heard in the court of Judge Ananda Sen. During the hearing, advocates Indrajit Sinha and Rishabh Kumar presented arguments on behalf of the accused. Deepak Bharti presented arguments on behalf of the CBI. After hearing the petition, the court rejected the petition of Arup Chatterjee. That is, the investigation of the FIR registered in the police station in the case of fraud against the company will continue. (w-rg)

Deoghar villagers await road repairs after four years of appeals

Jamshedpur, Apr 15: For the past four years, villagers of Edalbera in Deoghar Panchayat have been demanding the reconstruction of a 2.7 km dilapidated road connecting NH-18 to RBS College. Despite numerous pleas to government authorities, the road remains in disrepair.

The road, built in 2011 under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, serves not only the engineering college but also local schools and surrounding communities. Dust clouds and frequent accidents have made it a safety hazard.

Villagers have submitted repeated memoranda to district and state-level leaders, including the Deputy Commissioner, MLA, MP, Chief Minister and even the Prime Minister and President. Despite these appeals, no action has been taken.

"This road has been in bad condition for years. It is very difficult to walk on it. People have met with accidents at night," said Mangalu Singh, a resident. Ranjan Sharma added, "Many roads around this area have been rebuilt, but ours is being ignored."

Sunita Singh pointed out, "If this were a city road, it would have been fixed by now. Rural neglect is clearly visible."

1136 seized vehicles to be auctioned in Jamshedpur

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Apr 15: In a move to ease traffic congestion and clear public spaces, the district police have initiated the process to remove over a thousand seized vehicles lying outside police stations across the city. For the first time in 40 years, authorities are preparing to auction the confiscated vehicles that have long been creating obstructions and posing safety risks on the roads near police stations.

According to official data, a total of 1,136 vehicles are currently seized across 27 police stations in the district. Of these, court proceedings have been completed for 120 two-wheelers and 57 four-wheelers, while cases involving 555 two-wheelers and 252 four-wheelers are still pending. Additionally, 135 two-wheelers and 17 four-wheelers have been recovered as



unclaimed and have no known heirs-making them eligible for immediate auction after due legal process. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kishore Kaushal stated, "A list of vehicles confiscated in police stations has been sought. After the list is received, a summary of disposed and pending cases will be prepared. With

the court's permission, the vehicles will be auctioned."

The accumulation of seized vehicles outside police stations such as Mango, Sakchi, Sitaramdera, Sidgora, Sundernagar and Kadma has been a persistent issue, often resulting in daily traffic jams and difficulties for pedestrians. In front of Sakchi Police Station, trailers and trucks have been blocking the main gate for years, while at Sitaramdera, buses, cars and bikes occupy the entire stretch of road, increasing the risk of accidents. Similar conditions prevail outside Sundernagar and Kadma stations, where vehicles are not only stacked dangerously but also contribute to chronic congestion. With this long-overdue initiative, the district police aim to restore order around police premises and ensure safer roads for the public. (w/nkm)

Staff from 65 Jharkhand colleges face job loss due to policy shift

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Apr 15: Non-teaching staff from the intermediate wings of 65 affiliated colleges in Jharkhand are facing an employment crisis due to the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which mandates 10+2 education be conducted in schools, not colleges.

Dozens of staff have been protesting in front of Raj Bhavan for three consecutive days, demanding job reassignment in Plus Two schools or other educational departments. Employees from 18 degree colleges under Kolhan University are part of the protest.

"Many of us have worked 15 to 20 years on minimal wages. Now we are being shown the door," said one protestor. "We are not even young enough to apply for new positions. The government must accommodate us."

The Jharkhand Academic Council had directed phased reduction in intermediate enrolment beginning in 2023. Ranchi University has already begun implementation.

Employees claim the government must act as even court directives had advised the state to create employment rules for the affected staff. Until reemployment is guaranteed, the indefinite protest will continue. (w/nkm)

Drug network uncovered in Jsr: FIR against four

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Apr 15: The Bistupur police have intensified their crackdown on the drug network operating in the city, following the arrest of two key players and the recovery of a large cache of banned drugs. On Saturday, police arrested Chandan Pandey and Ravi Ranjan Chaudhary, both residents of Bhojpur district in Bihar, who were allegedly trying to expand a drug supply network across Jamshedpur.

Investigations have revealed that the duo was supplying drugs to Dheeraj Kumar of Ulidih and Kallu of Sonari - both of whom are currently absconding. An FIR has been registered against all

four accused for storing and selling banned medicines without a license. Authorities suspect the involvement of a larger network, including local drugstore operators.

The racket reportedly sourced cough syrups and tablets from Kolkata via courier services. These were then sold at exorbitant prices, with a cough syrup bottle worth Rs 100 being sold to addicts for Rs 200-Rs 250 and tablet strips priced at Rs 50 being pushed for Rs 150-Rs 200.

During the operation, police seized 475 bottles of Vinserecut cough syrup and 90 tablets of Nitrosun 10, collectively valued at over Rs 1 lakh. This seizure adds to a growing list of drug-relat-

ed busts in the city - notably, a previous case on Dimna Road under Ulidih police station, where narcotic drugs worth Rs 25 lakh were recovered and three persons arrested.

A senior police officer said, "We are actively searching for Dheeraj Kumar and Kallu. The network is deep-rooted and we suspect more people, including medical shop owners, to be involved. The youth and teenagers are particularly at risk and we are determined to dismantle this dangerous trade." The investigation is ongoing to trace the full extent of the supply chain and identify all parties involved in the illegal drug distribution network across Jamshedpur. (w/nkm)

Jharkhand to spend Rs 2.55 crore on influencers to boost tourism

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Apr 15: In a bid to promote tourism and attract both national and international travellers, the Jharkhand government has proposed a plan to engage internet media influencers under the newly drafted Jharkhand State Tourism Influencer Engagement Guideline-2025. The Tourism, Art, Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs Department has invited suggestions and objections from stakeholders on the draft guideline, which outlines the role of influencers in promoting the state's natural beauty, heritage and adventure tourism offerings.

As per the proposal, 50 internet media influencers will be roped in and paid according to their follower base, with payouts ranging from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 10 lakh. A total of Rs 2.55 crore will be allo-



cated for the initiative annually. The influencers will be categorised as nano (25k-50k followers), micro (50k-1 lakh), macro (1-5 lakh) and mega (above 5 lakh). The maximum payouts per

category are Rs 3 lakh, Rs 5 lakh, Rs 7 lakh and Rs 10 lakh respectively.

The influencers are expected to be actively present on platforms such as Instagram, YouTube,

Facebook and Twitter (X), creating engaging content including reels, stories, vlogs, live sessions, carousels and informative threads. Their task will be to highlight nature-based tourism spots like waterfalls, forests and mountains; showcase tribal culture and heritage; promote adventure activities like trekking and rock climbing; and encourage eco-tourism and visits to lesser-known destinations. The guideline not only focuses on content creation but also outlines a structured monitoring mechanism, influencer eligibility, payment models, content dissemination protocols and compliance standards. Officials believe this initiative will help reshape Jharkhand's image as a vibrant tourist destination and empower local communities through increased visitor footfall and sustainable tourism development. (w/nkm)

Jharkhand braces for thunderstorms, hail, and gusty winds till April 18

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, April 15: Unstable and volatile weather conditions are expected to grip Jharkhand over the coming days, with widespread thunderstorms, lightning, hail, and gusty winds predicted to sweep across various regions of the state. According to the Ranchi Meteorological Centre, these stormy conditions are expected to intensify and engulf the entire state by April 18.

The weather office has issued a warning for multiple districts, urging residents to exercise caution as sudden changes in weather could lead to hazardous conditions. On April 15, isolated

pockets in the south-eastern, adjoining central, and north-eastern parts of Jharkhand witnessed hailstorms accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds reaching speeds of 50 to 60 kilometers per hour.

In addition, parts of western and north-eastern Jharkhand may experience gusty winds between 40 and 50 kilometers per hour, coupled with thunder and lightning. The inclement weather is expected to persist across most parts of the state on April 16 and 17, with wind



speeds continuing to reach up to 50 kmph. However, the western region may see a brief respite on April 17.

The current spell of turbulent weather has been attributed to a Western Disturbance located as a trough at mid to upper tropospheric levels. This trough extends at around 5.8 kilometers above sea level along latitude 83°E and north of latitude 20°N. This system is significantly influencing the atmosphere over Jharkhand and neighboring states.

Additionally, a trough extending from a cyclonic circulation over northeast Madhya Pradesh to south coastal Odisha, passing through Chhattisgarh at about 1.5 kilometers above sea level, is also contributing to the development of intense weather activity. The interaction of these

systems is creating favorable conditions for the formation of cumulonimbus clouds—responsible for thunderstorms, lightning, and hailstorms. Given the forecast, local authorities and disaster response teams have been placed on alert. The meteorological department has advised people to remain indoors during thunderstorm activity, avoid sheltering under trees, stay away from open fields, and unplug electronic appliances during lightning events. Farmers are also being advised to take precautions to protect their crops, particularly those sensitive to hail and heavy rain. (w/pb)

MLA Sanjiv congratulates Hemant Soren on becoming JMM President

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Apr 15: Potka MLA Sanjiv Sardar congratulated Chief Minister Hemant Soren on being unanimously elected as the new President of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM). He said the leadership change marks a new era for the party, strengthening its resolve for social justice and development of the marginalized, tribal and farming communities. The transition was formalized during the party's 13th Central Convention, where former president Shibu Soren was declared the party's founder-patron. Hemant had served as acting president since 2015 and now formally assumes the party's reins.



Sardar praised Hemant's vision and commitment to strengthening Jharkhand's political, economic and social landscape. (w/nkm)

CKP Division pays tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar



Jamshedpur, Apr 15: Chakradharpur Division solemnly observed the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at 11:00 AM today, paying rich tributes to the principal architect of the Indian Constitution. The event highlighted Dr. Ambedkar's lifelong dedication to social justice, equality and human rights. Railway officers and staff gathered to honour Babasaheb's legacy with floral tributes and a collective sense of reverence. Divisional Railway Manager Shri Tarun Huria addressed the gathering, emphasizing Dr. Ambedkar's visionary role in shaping a democratic and inclusive India. He said, "Babasaheb's life and ideals continue to inspire generations. His unwavering commitment to uplift the marginalized laid the foundation for an equitable society." (w/nkm)

108 ambulance workers continue indefinite strike



Seraikela, Apr 15: A meeting between the striking 108 Ambulance staff and officials from Samaan Foundation ended in failure on Monday. The workers, on strike since Saturday, demanded pending honorarium payments dating back to February. "Our families are facing starvation. We will return to work only after the payment process begins," the workers stated in unison during the discussion held in the presence of nodal officer Dr. Chandan Kumar. Yogesh Kumar from Samaan Foundation explained, "The delay is due to banking procedures. We request everyone to resume duty; payments will be made soon." However, the workers refused to accept verbal assurances and resolved to continue their indefinite strike. (w/nkm)

MYM Surbhi branch distributes sanitary pads



Jamshedpur, April 15: The Steel City Surbhi branch of Marwari Yuva Manch (MYM) organized a sanitary pad distribution drive for girl students at the Government Tribal High School in Sitaramdera on Tuesday, under their 'Nari Chetna' initiative. Along with distributing pads, the branch also installed a sanitary pad vending machine at the school to promote menstrual hygiene awareness. In a separate effort under the programme 'Jan Seva,' the branch addressed the needs of animals amid the scorching heat. At the Sakchi Ramlila Ground, they arranged water, fodder, and fresh green vegetables for cows. Women volunteers personally fed the cows green vegetables mixed with jaggery, showcasing compassion and care for animals. President Jyoti Agarwal, Secretary Payal Agarwal, Treasurer Pooja Agarwal, along with Kavita Agarwal, Preeti Agarwal, Shruti Agarwal, Dr. Ruchita, Bindiya Naredi, and Khushboo Agarwal comprised the Surabhi team members. (w/gsd)

5 compassion posts cleared

Seraikela, Apr 15: A district-level Compassionate Appointment Committee meeting was held under the chairmanship of District Magistrate-cum-Deputy Commissioner Ravishankar Shukla. The meeting discussed eight cases—four from the Education Department, one each from the Collectorate, State Insurance, Kharkai Canal Division Adityapur and the Superintendent of Police Office. After thorough review and discussion, five cases were unanimously recommended for appointment.

The remaining three were deferred pending clarification from respective departments. Present at the meeting were DDC Ashish Agrawal, ADC Jayvardhan Kumar, District Treasury Officer Aparna Singh, Seraikela SDO Nivedita Niyati, Deputy Election Officer Surendra Oraon and others. (w/nkm)

Displaced families hold symbolic sit-in at Gamharlia Block

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, April 15: Members of the Adivasi Moolvasi Visthapith Karmchari Swavalambhi Sahakari Samiti, Padampur, launched a phased agitation on Wednesday by staging a one-day symbolic sit-in at the Gamharlia block headquarters, pressing for their five-point charter of demands. During the protest, a memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister was submitted to the Circle Officer (CO), highlighting their long-standing issues and seeking timely justice. The committee also issued a 15-day ultimatum to the administration for action.

Committee member Bhola Hembram outlined the key demands, which included Permanent jobs for land donor shareholders according to their qualifications, immediate



compensation to pending raiyatdars post-acquisition, full ownership rights of housing provided to displaced families and permanent employment under company rolls for displaced men and women for at least 10 years.

The sit-in was attended by several affected individuals including Bhola Hembram, Pradhan Mardi, Bhairav

Hembram, Kalicharan Sardar, Ganesh Ruidas, Sanjay Mardi, Suresh Hansda, Birsingh Baskey, along with members from around 99 families.

The protest highlighted the growing unrest among displaced communities who had long awaited rehabilitation, compensation, and employment support. (w/gsd)

Water crisis in Seraikela: Ex-vice chairman demands action



Mail News Service

Seraikela, Apr 15: Former Vice Chairman of Seraikela Nagar Panchayat, Manoj Kumar Chaudhary, has written to the Deputy Commissioner blaming irresponsible engineers of the Drinking Water and Sanitation Department for frequent water supply disruptions in the city.

He stated that the department's rapid response teams exist only on paper. Even minor malfunctions at the Water

Treatment Plant take hours to fix, severely affecting residents who solely depend on piped water, as there are no wells or handpumps in the city.

He suggested installing a dedicated power line from the local substation to the plant, as current power faults in the urban grid shut down the entire water lifting system. Chaudhary demanded departmental action against negligent officers and advised regular maintenance and backup machinery to avoid

Water supply resumes



Seraikela, Apr 15: In response to the disrupted drinking water supply in the urban area, Seraikela Nagar Panchayat Administrator Shashi Shekhar Suman inspected the Urban Water Supply Project managed by PHED. During the inspection, officials informed that both faulty motors had been repaired and water supply resumed from Tuesday evening. From Wednesday onwards, regular water supply will continue as it was earlier. (w/nkm)

repeated disruptions. He also issued an ultimatum to the Executive Engineer to ensure immediate improvements in the system. (w/nkm)

Poila Boishakh celebrated at Tagore Society

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Apr 15: Tagore Society celebrated the Bengali New Year (Poila Boishakh, 1432) with a cultural program at Rabindra Bhavan. General Secretary Ashish Chaudhuri emphasized the importance of preserving tradition and culture. "This day marks a fresh beginning for the Bengali community. Amid life's rush, we must maintain harmony with family and society so future generations



continue these traditions," he said.

The event featured soulful musical performances by students and teachers of Tagore School of Arts, under the direction of Principal Chandana Chaudhuri.

Songs like Oi Pohailo Timir Rati, Navonande Jago, Tomar Surer Dhara and He Mor Devota were presented in chorus, captivating the audience. Alok Sinha on tabla and Abhro Chatterjee on Yashraj played a

significant role in enhancing the musical experience. The program highlighted the community's devotion to heritage and art, making the Bengali New Year celebration vibrant and memorable. (w/nkm)

Fire Day at Irvine School

Mail News Service

Ghatshila, Apr 15: Irvine Adventist School observed National Fire Service Day on Tuesday with a live demonstration and awareness session.

Ghatshila Fire Officer Ramasish Ram, accompanied by Dhanjay Rajwad and Mukesh Topno, demonstrated fire safety equipment and explained emergency protocols to students. Ram emphasized the importance of the day and the need for fire safety awareness. Principal George Ranjit Hembram expressed gratitude to the guests for their valuable insights. (w/nkm)

Congress appoints Chhoterai Kisku supervisor of Rajnagar block

Seraikela, April 15: The Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee (JPCC) has appointed senior party leaders as block-level supervisors in Seraikela-Kharsawan district for the months of April, May, and June. The appointments were announced through an official letter issued by State Congress President Keshav Mahato Kamlesh. As per the announcement, Ramashray Prasad has been appointed as the overall supervisor for the Seraikela-Kharsawan District Congress Committee. Other block-wise appointments of party supervisors include Kharsawan - Debu Chatterjee, Kuchai - Kailash Mahato, Seraikela Rural - Doman Mahato, Gamharlia - Jameel Ashraf Baban, Rajnagar - Chhoterai Kisku, Neemdih - Mathura Prasad Mahato, Chandil - Kharid Sardar, Ichagarh - Radha Krishna Jaiswal, Seraikela Nagar - Ravindra Mandal, Kapali - Taslima Mallik and Adityapur - Sureshchhari Ram. These appointments aimed to strengthen organizational activities and coordination at the grassroots level over the three-month period. (w/gsd)



Ambedkar jayanti at Dhatkidih mukhi basti

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, April 15: The birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna and architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, was celebrated with reverence by the Mukhi community at Thakkar Bappa Club in Dhatkidih Mukhi Basti.

Former Zila Parishad Vice President Rajkumar Singh attended the event as the chief guest and paid floral tributes at Dr. Ambedkar's statue. In his address, he highlighted the life and contributions of Baba Saheb and urged people to follow his inspirational message, "Be educated, get organized, and struggle."

To mark the occasion, Rajkumar Singh distributed study material among 100 children from the local community in a



gesture to promote education. Prominent persons who attended the event included former President of Mukhi Samaj Kalyan Samiti Sagar Mukhi, former General Secretary Vikas Mukhi, former Treasurer Vikas Mukhi, Dheeraj Mukhi, Anoop Mukhi, Kamlesh Mukhi, Prashant Mukhi, Sudhir Mukhi, and others. (w/gsd)

Utkal Association celebrates Odia New Year with poetry recital

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, April 15: The Utkal Association celebrated the Odia New Year, also known as Pana Sankranti, with great enthusiasm at its premises on Monday. The occasion was marked by traditional offerings, along with a vibrant poetry recitation session.

The chief guest of the event, Dr. Prabhat Pani, highlighted the rich history of the Odia language and literature. He emphasized the depth and cultural significance of Odia literary works. Guest of



Honour and Registrar of Kolhan University, ParshuramShiyal, described Odia as an ancient and refined language, noting its

abundance of timeless compositions.

Dr. Bidhu Bhushan Bhuiya, HOD, PG, Odia Department at

Kolhan University, paid tribute to eminent Odia writers such as Fakir Mohan Senapati, GangadharMeher, Radhanath Roy, Gopabandhu Das, Manoj Das, and Ramakant Rath, who elevated the language to international prominence.

The event was chaired by Sanjay Patra, a renowned educationist and chairman of the association. Writers were warmly welcomed,

continuing the tradition of celebrating the Odia New Year with literary fervor.

The poetry recitation session was conducted by B.B. Bhuiyan. Several poets including Manicharan Sahu, Kashinath Gaur, Aditya Kabi, Shasmita Patra, and others presented their original compositions.

The event's success was ensured through the dedicated efforts of General Secretary Tarun Kumar Mahanty, PratibhaMahantu, Manoranjan Gaur, and members including Manoranjan Giri, Niranjan Nayak, Prashant Mahanty, Kishore Nayak, Manoj Sahu, and Sukanta Raut. (w-n/m)

Kitchen shed gifted to Veergram residents



Jaduguda, Apr 15: Fulfilling a prior promise, Potka MLA Sanjib Sardar has provided a kitchen shed worth Rs. 6.5 lakhs to the residents of Veergram in the Jaduguda police station area. The facility will be officially handed over on April 17 during a public function. The request for the shed was made two months ago by Dr. Sunder Lal Das, president of the Adim Jharkhand Vaishnav Bairagi Committee. "This shed will be useful during public events at the local Radha Rani Temple," he said. (w/nkm)

DC holds weekly Janata Darbar

Mail News Service

Saraikela, April 15: Deputy Commissioner Ravi Shankar Shukla conducted the weekly Janata Darbar at the District Collectorate office, where he personally listened to the concerns of citizens from across the district and took prompt steps to address them.

During the session, the DC interacted with individuals who had come forward with personal and social grievances and directed concerned officials to take appropriate and timely action on the applications received, in accordance



with government rules. He also emphasized ensuring that all eligible beneficiaries received benefits under various government welfare schemes. Key issues raised during the Janata Darbar included land-related matters, compassionate

appointments, rehabilitation concerns, non-payment of minimum wages and pending dues by Bharat Rubber Pvt. Ltd., Gambaria and irregular drinking water supply in Nagar Panchayat, Saraikela. Several complaints were resolved on the spot, while the rest were forwarded to respective departments with instructions for immediate

action. The initiative reflected the administration's commitment to public service and accountability through direct dialogue with the citizens. (w/gsd)

BJP Mahila Morcha submits memo over drinking water crisis

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Apr 15: The BJP Mahila Morcha submitted a memorandum to Deputy Commissioner Ravi Shankar Shukla demanding immediate resolution of the drinking water crisis plaguing the town for the last three days.

Led by Pinky Modak, Raja Singhdeo and Sanad Kumar Acharya, the delegation blamed poor coordination between the water supply, electricity and municipal departments for the water supply disruption. "People are forced to roam from door to door for water," said Modak.



Acharya stressed the need for proper inter-departmental coordination. "Leakages in the water valves and erratic electricity supply prevent proper storage and distribution," he said, adding that

JUSCO power connection should be considered for reliable water pumping. "If the government cannot ensure two-time water supply, it has no right to govern," he added. (w/nkm)

Basudev Mahato urges timely completion of road projects

Mail News Service

Seraikela, April 15: Block Deputy Chief Basudev Mahato submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner, demanding the immediate resumption and completion of two crucial road construction projects under the Chief Minister Gram Road Strengthening Scheme.

In his memorandum, Mahato highlighted that two roads - one from Dhatkidih to Sindri via Lakadbad, Lakshmiposh, and Chaitanpur, and another from Upar Dugni to Chadakpathar via Ulidih, Mundatand, and Panarol - were inaugurated by the



inconvenience to the people. He urged the Deputy Commissioner to investigate the irregularities and ensure prompt completion of both road projects in the interest of the local residents. (w/gsd)

Chief Minister on December 16, 2023. However, since then, the projects have remained incomplete. According to Mahato, the contractor initiated work by digging up both roads and laying ballast but failed to proceed further. No rolling or water compaction was carried out, and the construction work had remained stalled for nearly a year. As a result, the incomplete roads had caused significant

BJP wants to replace Constitution with Manusmriti: Congress

Congress will protect the Constitution and nation at any cost: Chandrashekhar Das

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, Apr 15: The West Singhbhum District Congress Committee strongly criticized the BJP on Tuesday, accusing it of attempting to undermine the Constitution and revive Manusmriti. The statement followed BJP's actions on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's birth anniversary, which Congress alleged to be disrespectful to the Constitution. District Congress President Chandrashekhar Das addressed party workers during a protest meeting, asserting that without the Constitution, India cannot



progress. "India's Constitution stands apart globally. Unlike the U.S., where women waited over 150 years for voting rights, our Constitution granted equal suffrage from the outset," he said. Das added that Babasaheb

Ambedkar had once said the Constitution couldn't have been imagined without Congress, calling it a blend of his progressive vision and Congress's commitment to social harmony. He accused BJP of trying to disman-

tle this legacy and bring back Manusmriti's caste-based system.

"There are two ideologies today—one supporting the Constitution and the other backing Manusmriti. We stand firmly with the Constitution," he said, warning that any alteration by BJP would drag the country into a regressive social order. He emphasized that Congress has always fought for the people and would continue to do so, no matter the cost. Party leaders including Trishanu Roy, Mohan Singh Hembrom, Purn Chandra Kayam, Md. Salim and others were present. (w/nkm)

135th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar celebrated at Women's College

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, April 15: The History Department of Women's College, Chaibasa, commemorated the 135th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar.

The event began with the ceremonial lighting of lamps by Principal Dr. Preetibala Sinha along with faculty members. Dr. Sinha extended greetings on the occasion and encouraged students to follow the ideals and vision of Dr. Ambedkar.

Head of the History Department, Dr. Amrita Jaiswal, highlighted his significant contributions to the empowerment of Dalits, marginalized communities and especially women. She elaborated on the rights ensured by Ambedkar, including



maternity leave, voting rights, right to property, equal pay and non-discrimination.

Assistant Professor Dr. Lalita Sundi urged students to draw inspiration from Ambedkar's life and struggles. Dr. Nivaran

Mehta, Head of the Sanskrit Department, delivered a lecture in Sanskrit, emphasizing Ambedkar's legacy as a champion of social justice. Dr. Suchita Bara from the Hindi Department spoke about his

pivotal role as the architect of the Indian Constitution and a true nation builder. Dr. Meera from the Home Science Department encouraged students to adopt Ambedkar's principles in their daily lives, while Dr.

Prashant Khare from the Economics Department outlined Ambedkar's academic journey and scholarly contributions. The program also included competitions for students, with enthusiastic participation from both undergraduate and postgraduate history students.

The winners of the events were:

Speech Competition: 1st - Pinky Rawat (PG), 2nd - Kapra Tudu (UG), 3rd - Bobby Rani

Painting Competition: 1st - Rani Kumari, 2nd - Priyanka Gope

Quiz Competition: 1st - Priyanka Tudu, 2nd - Kapra Tudu, 3rd - Mulgi Sundi

The vote of thanks, along with prize announcements and distribution, was conducted by Assistant Professor Dr. Anjana Singh. (w/gsd)

Three-day akhand harinam sankirtan begins at Veergram, Jaduguda



Mail News Service

Jaduguda, Apr 15: A spiritual three-day '24-Hour Akhand Harinam Sankirtan Mahayagya' began Tuesday at the Radha Rani Temple in Veergram, organized by the Adim Jharkhand Vaishnav Bairagi Committee.

The ceremony commenced with Vedic rituals performed by priest Arun Nando Dev Goswami and Krishna Chandra Das. "Our ancestors began this tradition 200 years ago and we are committed to carrying it forward," said Dr. Sunder Lal Das, president of the organizing committee.

Devotees from Purulia and Bankura districts have joined the event, creating a spiritually charged atmosphere. On the concluding day, April 17, Potka MLA Sanjib Sardar will attend as chief guest and participate in various associated programs. (w/nkm)

Awareness van flagged off for 'Poshan Pakhwada 2025'



Seraikela, Apr 15: DC Ravi Shankar Shukla on Tuesday flagged off a nutrition awareness van from the district collectorate premises as part of Poshan Pakhwada 2025, observed from April 8 to 22.

The initiative aims to spread key nutrition messages across remote blocks of the district. "Focus will be on the first 1,000 golden days of a child's life, use of the Poshan Tracker beneficiary module, tackling child obesity through healthy lifestyles and the inclusion of leafy greens, milk, fruits and eggs in daily meals," said Shukla.

The event saw participation from SP Mukesh Kumar Lunayat, DDC Ashish Agrawal and District Social Welfare Officer Satya Thakur. All attendees pledged to make India free from malnutrition and spread awareness in every home, school, village and city. They also vowed to stand against child marriage. (w/nkm)

Saraikela Chhau artistes condemn Padma Shri Shashadhar Acharya's remarks

Mail News Service

Saraikela, April 15: An emergency meeting of Saraikela Chhau artistes was held at the premises of the Rajkiya Chhau Nritya Kala Kendra where artists expressed strong opposition to Padma Shri Shashadhar Acharya for referring to them as "Bhasmasur."

In a unified voice, the artists condemned the remark as disrespectful and a sign of mental bankruptcy. They pointed out that despite not receiving Padma Shri recognition for the past five years, they never opposed the administration's decision to honor Shashadhar Acharya on stage during the annual Chaitra festival. Yet, they were now being publicly insulted.

The artistes alleged that Shashadhar Acharya had abandoned the State Chhau Art Center 35 years ago for personal



gain and was now returning with vested interests. They accused him of attempting to re-enter the institution for self-promotion and financial gain, after facing setbacks in bodies like the Sangeet Natak Akademi and ICCR.

They also criticized him for distorting the traditional Ang Bhangi and Surtaal of the

classical Chhau style and falsely claiming to have taught Padma Shri Guru Makardhwaj Daroga, whom they regard as a father figure in the art form.

The gathering also cast accusations of nepotism and financial mismanagement during earlier Chaitra festivals, where Shashadhar was allegedly involved in biased distribution

of performance slots and funds.

Prominent artiste Bhola Mohanty clarified that this year's Chaitra Festival cum Chhau Mahotsav was conducted with complete transparency, and even groups from Shashadhar's family were invited and allowed to perform. Only Shashadhar failed to attend and was making false accusations of being

excluded.

The artistes also challenged Shashadhar to prove any allegations of financial embezzlement, declaring they were open to consequences if found guilty. Mohanty further stated that he had already raised the issue of filling five vacant posts at the Art Center in the State Assembly through MLA Dashrath Gagarai, refuting Shashadhar's claims of advocacy.

Concluding the meeting, the artistes demanded a public apology from Shashadhar Acharya within 24 hours, failing which they would burn his effigy in protest at 5:00 PM the following day.

Among those present were prominent Chhau artistes including Manoj Kumar Chaudhary, Sudeep Kavi, Brajendra Patnaik, Neeraj Patnaik, Ashish Kar and many others. (w/gsd)

Bengal immersed in anarchy

There is no greater shame that the anarchy let loose in Bengal has become the face of terror and people are being forced to seek shelter in one's own country. The manner in which Hindus in Murshidabad were targeted and their homes and temples ransacked, goes to prove that not only are the protestors of the amended Waqf laws keen on fanning communal hatred but are also sanguine that neither the Bengal police nor the Mamata Banerjee government will act against them. The temerity of the agitators is such that they are not refraining from casting their ire on the BSF. Their audacity scared the Hindus in Murshidabad and they were forced to seek shelter in neighbouring districts and even in Jharkhand. This scary condition reflects that once again the rule of law had to surrender to the rashness of the so-called agitators against the amended Waqf Board act. A similar event had occurred in Bengal earlier. After the Vidhan Sabha elections in May 2021, Trinamool supporters had unleashed such terror on their political rivals that the latter had to take refuge in Assam. Even at that time, the police remained fence sitters.

This violent condition is due to the idleness of the Bengal police. Behind the mask of protest against the Waqf Amendment Bill, the agitators are triggering violence in Murshidabad and other cities and suburbs. The dangerous situation is expanding more so because Hindus are being targeted directly. One cannot be satisfied with the Calcutta High Court taking cognizance of the anarchic conditions let loose by the Waqf Amendment Bill protestors and directing the posting of CRPF in all affected areas because the state government and Trinamool leaders are playing their hush-hush game while stating to the world that the situation in Bengal is under control. The height of deceit is that some leaders of the Trinamool Congress are blaming the BSF for the sordid plight. Under such circumstances how can it be expected that the rowdy elements would be leashed and the victims of their atrocities get justice? It may not be surprising that the victims of violence who had to leave their hearths and homes may never be able to return to their dwellings. It is not only necessary for the central government to step into this scene of Bengal anarchy and take control but also for the Supreme Court to take cognizance of the Bengal mayhem. It has to make the Mamata Banerjee government answerable for the brazen and rowdy acts of the protestors against the amended Waqf Board Act.

From the Editorial Desk

Hyundai Motor aims to implement Level 2+ self-driving tech by 2027

Hyundai Motor Group on Friday outlined a roadmap to implement advanced autonomous driving technology across its vehicle lineup, aiming to apply Level 2+ features by the end of 2027.

The goal was announced during the group's Pleos 25 developer conference, held at COEX in Seoul, where Hyundai invited domestic and global software developers to showcase its latest innovations in software-defined vehicle (SDV) technology, reports Yonhap news agency.

According to Song Chang-hyeon, head of the group's autonomous vehicle platform (AVP) division, Hyundai is enhancing its in-house autonomous driving systems using artificial intelligence (AI) deep learning, high-performance neural processing units (NPUs) and lightweight model



architectures tailored for on-vehicle performance.

Hyundai's Level 2+ system will rely on camera and radar-based perception and is designed to evolve over time through continuous learning, making the vehicle a "learning

machine."

The autonomous driving road map is part of the group's broader transformation into a software-centric mobility technology company, which includes the development of its new software plat-

form, Pleos, and infotainment system, Pleos Connect.

The group is also decoupling hardware and software in its vehicle architecture to maximise software flexibility. This shift will enable more efficient

over-the-air updates and streamlines the integration of new autonomous features across vehicle models.

Meanwhile, Hyundai Motor Group will invest \$21 billion in the United States through 2028, as U.S. President Donald Trump is ramping up tariff pressure to boost domestic manufacturing.

The group's Executive Chair Euisun Chung, alongside Trump and Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry, made the announcement on the multipronged plan that includes an investment of \$8.6 billion for the automotive sector, \$6.1 billion for the steel industry, component parts and logistics, and \$6.3 billion for future industry sectors and energy.

Chung also said that Hyundai will open a new \$8 billion automotive plant in the US state of Georgia.

Locals express gratitude as Rajouri-Poonch highway, Bathuni bridge work progresses

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is making significant strides in upgrading the crucial Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch Highway.

This ambitious project includes widening the 180 km highway, constructing five tunnels, and building multiple bridges to enhance road safety, reduce travel time, and ensure all-weather connectivity.

A major highlight of the project is the 250-metre Bathuni Bridge, which has already reached 40 per cent completion.

"Work is going on round-the-clock using modern equipment and skilled manpower. We are confident that the bridge will be ready for traffic by December," said project structural engineer Vishav Mehra.

The upgraded highway is expected to boost economic activities, ease civilian mobility, and strengthen strategic infrastructure in the border region of Jammu and Kashmir.

Local residents have expressed deep gratitude to the central government and the BRO for their unwavering commitment to the region's development.

Speaking to IANS, Gulzar Ahmed, a resident of Rajouri said, "The highway we are standing on used to be a hotspot for accidents. It was a narrow road, but today it's a wide, well-constructed highway. Look at the entire stretch from Jammu to Srinagar-huge highways have been built. The central government has constructed large roads, and where four lanes were required, they've delivered four lanes."

"We never imagined such wide roads, open spaces, and massive highways in Rajouri-Poonch, let alone large tunnels. There are almost four tunnels from Jammu to Poonch, with three already finalised. The work on the fourth



tunnel in Poonch is also nearing completion.

"I never thought a train connected to Delhi would reach Srinagar, but now, thanks to the central government, we have a massive bridge in Reasi district. Imagine, a train running across that bridge from Srinagar to Delhi. We are grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for this incredible gift to the people of J&K."

Karan Shreyal, another local, also praised the development.

Shreyal said, "Jammu and Poonch are now part of an extensive road network across Jammu and Kashmir."

"Look at the Pir Panjal tunnel, where I'm standing. Its construction was completed rapidly. The

promises made by the central government for Jammu and Kashmir have been fulfilled. People never imagined tunnels would be built here, yet the government has reached even the remotest mountains.

"This initiative is taking Jammu and Kashmir in a new direction, making it a prominent region in India. The second-highest railway bridge in the world, the Chenab Rail Bridge, is right here in our own Jammu and Kashmir."

"The railway service from Katra to Kashmir is a significant achievement. Previously, Kashmir was accessible for only seven months a year, but now, with the new infrastructure, it remains open year-round. In Ladakh, efforts are underway to construct a major route through the district tunnel,

ensuring year-round accessibility."

Shreyal further added, "Traveling from Poonch to Jammu used to take six hours, but once the road is fully completed, it will take just 3 to 4 hours. From Rajouri, the journey to Jammu will be reduced to about 2.5 hours if the speed limits are optimised. This is a remarkable achievement, and we sincerely thank the Government of India, Prime Minister Modi, and Minister Nitin Gadkari for these monumental developments."

The ongoing infrastructure projects are not just about connectivity, they represent a transformative era for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The enhanced road network will foster economic growth, improve emergency response times, and strengthen the region's strategic security framework.

Maha: Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana provides relief from rainy day troubles with pucca homes

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), one of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship schemes, has proven to be a blessing for many poor families in Latur, Maharashtra.

Under this scheme, numerous families have successfully secured pucca homes, bringing them much-needed relief from the hardships of rainy days.

Beneficiaries have expressed their heartfelt gratitude to PM Modi for this transformative initiative.

A local beneficiary woman shared her experience with IANS, saying: "Earlier, my house was very small. I faced a lot of trouble during the rainy season. However, after having the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana benefits, our house has become pucca. I am deeply grateful to PM Modi for this gift."

Venkat, another beneficiary, also expressed his happiness.

"My house has been made permanent due to the PMAY. Previously, my house was kutcha, but after joining the scheme, I received financial assistance of Rs 2.40 lakh, which helped us build a permanent home. I sincerely thank PM Modi," he said.

Jayant Dutta shared, "Before benefiting from the PMAY, my house was made of mud. Now, after joining the scheme, I have a pucca house, which has significantly



improved my living conditions."

Umesh Pathak praised the scheme, saying: "With the help of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, my kutcha house has been transformed into a pucca one. We used to face a lot of difficulties during the rainy season, but now our family is very happy to have a secure home."

Corporator Gopal Dhanure highlighted the scheme's impact in Latur, saying that many poor families in Latur district have benefited from the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

"Kutcha houses have been converted into permanent homes, bringing joy and security to these families. Everyone is grateful to PM Modi for this initiative," said Corporator Gopal Dhanure.

Launched on June 25, 2015, PMAY is a national programme aimed at providing affordable housing for all, with a target to construct 1.12 crore

houses for eligible families in urban areas.

The scheme not only focuses on building houses but also promotes empowerment, with many beneficiaries being women, single mothers, widows, and marginalised communities.

Over 2.67 lakh houses have been approved specifically for women, and 90 houses have been allotted to transgender individuals.

Recently, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) approved the construction of 3.53 lakh more houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0).

This expansion covers ten states and Union Territories, including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh.

The initiative reflects the government's continued commitment to providing secure and dignified living spaces for the country's underprivileged populations.

Gujarat can witness one of the hottest years in 2025

Janvi Sonaiya

As Gujarat grapples with soaring temperatures, Ahmedabad recorded a high of 42°C (108°F) on Thursday, with a predicted forecast similar for the coming days.

Over the past few decades, Gujarat has witnessed a consistent increase in both minimum and maximum temperatures. Scientists warn that 2025 could be one of the hottest years on record if current trends continue.

The IMD's 'State-Level Climate Change Trends in India' report indicates an annual rise of approximately 0.02°C in these temperature metrics. While this increment may seem marginal every year, its cumulative effect over time has led to more frequent and intense heatwaves.

The IMD predicts that the intense heat will per-

sist throughout April and May, with maximum temperatures ranging between 41°C to 45°C (106°F to 113°F) in parts of Gujarat. A slight respite is expected with the onset of the monsoon season in June, although temperatures are still projected to remain above normal during this period.

Experts suggest that several factors contribute to this warming phenomenon. Rapid urbanisation and industrialisation have transformed cities like Ahmedabad and Surat into heat islands, where concrete structures and asphalt surfaces absorb and retain heat, elevating local temperatures.

Additionally, deforestation for agricultural expansion and urban development has diminished the natural cooling effects of vegetation, further exacerbating the heat. Gujarat's geographical features also play a role.



Its extensive coastline along the Arabian Sea means that rising sea temperatures can influence local climate conditions.

"Urbanisation in cities like Ahmedabad and Surat has replaced natural landscapes with heat-trapping

concrete, asphalt, and steel. These materials retain heat well into the night, increasing not just daytime but also nighttime temperatures. It's a classic case of the urban heat island effect," said a climate scientist at the

Gujarat Ecology Commission.

Further, Gujarat's semi-arid geography makes it more vulnerable to temperature extremes. Unlike forest-rich regions, dry land heats up faster and offers minimal natural

cooling. This makes rural populations and agricultural workers especially susceptible to heatstroke and dehydration.

In May 2010, Ahmedabad experienced an extreme heatwave, with temperatures soaring to unprecedented levels. Studies indicate that during this period, there was an estimated 43 per cent increase in all-cause mortality, translating to approximately 1,344 excess deaths compared to similar periods in 2009 and 2011.

More recently, in May 2024, Gujarat recorded 187 cases of heatstroke, with Ahmedabad accounting for 69 of these cases. Notably, 152 of these cases across the state, including 66 in Ahmedabad, were reported in the last ten days of May when average temperatures reached 44.6°C.

In the agricultural sector, increased heat stress

adversely affects crop yields, threatening food security and the livelihoods of farmers.

Health-wise, the prevalence of heat-related illnesses has surged. For instance, during a heatwave in 2010, Ahmedabad recorded 76 heatstroke deaths in a single week.

Subsequent analyses revealed an excess of 800 deaths during that period, highlighting the severe impact of extreme heat on public health.

In response to the increasing heat, the Gujarat government has implemented several measures to mitigate the impact on its citizens.

The Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA) has developed action plans for high-risk cities, focusing on early warning systems and public awareness campaigns.

Furthermore, the gov-

ernment has advised residents to take precautions against heat-related illnesses, emphasising the importance of staying hydrated and avoiding direct sun exposure during peak hours. The health impacts of rising temperatures are profound.

Studies have shown a significant increase in heat-related illnesses and mortality during extreme heat events.

For instance, the 2010 heatwave in Ahmedabad was associated with a 41.3 per cent increase in all-cause mortality. To combat this, the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation has launched heat wave preparation and warning systems aimed at protecting vulnerable populations.

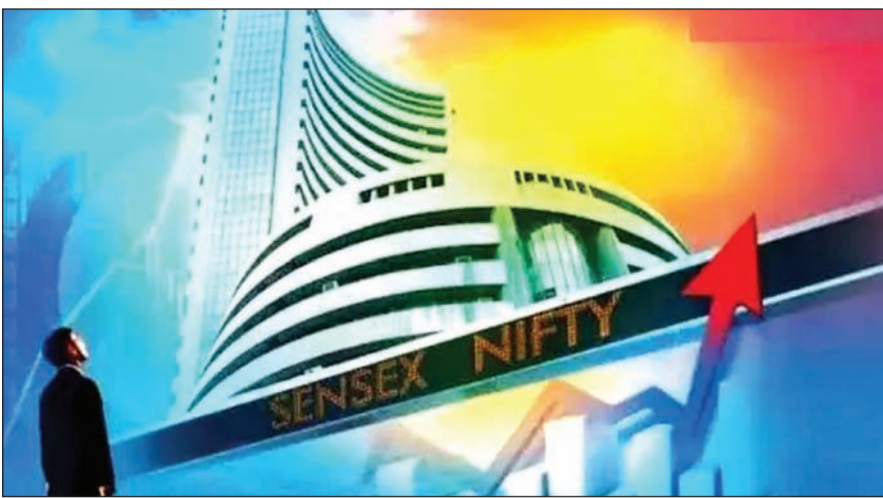
Looking ahead, projections indicate that Gujarat's mean temperature could rise by up to 5°C by the end of the 21st century.

Indian stock market cheers US tariffs relief; Sensex jumps 1,578 points

Mumbai, April 15 (IANS) Indian stock markets saw a strong rally on Tuesday as benchmark indices surged over the 90-day reciprocal tariffs relief by the US administration, amid similar relief likely for the automotive sector.

The Sensex opened with a sharp jump of nearly 1,700 points at 76,852 and quickly touched the intra-day's high of 76,908. The index then moved in a narrow range near the day's peak, supported by strong buying in private banks, metal stocks, IT companies, and infrastructure-related shares.

By the end of the session, the Sensex had gained 1,578 points, or 2.1



per cent, to close at 76,735. Among the index heavyweights, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, and Axis Bank together accounted for nearly 50

per cent of the day's gains, contributing around 750 points to the overall rally.

Similarly, the Nifty opened at its day's high of 23,368 and settled just

slightly lower at 23,329, rising 500 points or 2.2 per cent for the day.

Global markets, especially in the US, have recently seen a smart

rebound, largely on hopes that President Donald Trump may announce more tariff exemptions, which lifted investor sentiment worldwide.

"Markets are adjusting the new reality of daily Trump twists and turns," said Vikas Gupta, CEO and Chief Investment Strategist at OmniScience Capital. He added that sometimes when tariffs look like they have been temporarily removed the markets will react positively, when something unexpected happens they will react negatively.

Among the top gainers on the Nifty were IndusInd Bank, Shriram Finance, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Motors and

Axis Bank.

Broader market indices, including the Nifty 500, Midcap, and Small Cap indices, also traded firmly in the green. Among sectoral performers, Realty, Automobiles, Metals, Financial Services, and Media emerged as the top gainers.

"Further optimism was fuelled by reports that President Trump is considering similar tariff relief for the automotive sector," Sundar Kewat of Ashika Institutional Equity said.

The Indian rupee also strengthened against the US dollar, ending 28 paise higher at 85.77 compared to Friday's closing rate of 86.05.

Swiggy shares tank 38 pc this year amid mounting losses, slowing growth

Mumbai, April 15 (IANS) Swiggy's share price has taken a sharp hit this year by plunging 38.32 per cent year-to-date (YTD) on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), as investor sentiment weakens over the company's rising losses and margin pressures.



The stock, which closed flat at Rs 334.5 on Tuesday, has been under sustained pressure amid growing concerns about its quick commerce business and slowing growth in the food delivery segment.

Over the past six months, the stock has fallen 26.64 per cent, while the last one-month data shows a decline of 6.05 per cent on the NSE.

Even though Swiggy saw a minor recovery of 4.29 per cent in the past five days, the broader trend remains negative as analysts warn of persistent challenges ahead.

Bank of America (BofA) last month downgraded Swiggy's rating to 'underperform', slashing its target price from Rs 420 to Rs 325.

India's retail inflation falls to 3.34 per cent in March, lowest level since August 2019

New Delhi, April 15 (IANS) India's annual inflation rate, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), declined to 3.34 per cent in March this year, compared to the same month of the previous year, the lowest level since August 2019, according to figures released by the Ministry of Statistics on Tuesday.

Food inflation, during March, slowed to 2.69 per cent, which is the lowest level since November 2021.

The significant decline in headline inflation and food inflation during the month of March 2025 is mainly attributed to decline in inflation of vegetables, eggs, pulses, meat & fish cereals and milk, according to the official statement.

The key items with the lowest year-on-year inflation in March are ginger (-38.11 per cent), tomato (-34.96 per cent), cauliflower (-25.99 per cent), jeera (-25.86 per cent) and garlic (-25.22 per cent).

The year-on-year housing inflation rate for the month is 3.03 per cent. Corresponding inflation rate for the month of



February, 2025 was 2.91 per cent. The housing index is compiled only for the urban sector.

Fuel & light inflation rate for March is 1.48 per cent. While the education inflation rate for the month is 3.98 per cent, the figures showed.

Retail inflation in the country has been on a declining trend in recent months. The Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy Committee has reduced its inflation forecast for 2025-26 to 4 per cent from 4.2 per cent earlier as the "outlook for food inflation has turned decisively positive", RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said last week.

Headline inflation moderated during January-February 2025

following a sharp correction in food inflation. The outlook for food inflation has turned decisively positive. The uncertainties regarding rabi crops have abated considerably, and the second advance estimates point to a record wheat production and higher production of key pulses over the last year," he said.

The RBI Governor observed that along with robust kharif arrivals, this is expected to set the stage for a durable softening of food inflation.

"The sharp decline in inflation expectations in our latest survey for three months and one year ahead would also help anchor inflation expectations, going ahead," he pointed out.

IREDA clocks 49 per cent jump in Q4 net profit at Rs 502 crore



New Delhi, April 15 (IANS) The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) has announced a robust 49 per cent jump in net profit to Rs 502 crore for the January-March quarter of financial year 2024-25, compared to the corresponding amount of Rs 337 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal year.

The country's largest pure-play green financing NBFC has recorded a revenue of Rs 1,392 crore during the fourth quarter which represents a 37.7 per cent increase from Rs 1,916 crore in the Q4 of FY 2023-24. The government-owned NBFC's loan sanctions for the fourth quarter recorded a 27 per cent rise to Rs 47,453 crore while loan disbursements for the quarter rose 20 per cent to Rs 30,168 crore.

The IREDA's total loan book has expanded to an impressive Rs 76,250 crore during the quarter, which represents a 28 per cent increase over the corresponding figure of Rs 59,698 crore at the end of the January-March quarter of financial year 2023-24.

The IREDA also signed an agreement for a 26 billion Japanese yen loan from the SBI's Tokyo branch, which includes a green shoe option of 10 billion Japanese yen on March 28 this year, to expand its lending. This five-year unsecured facility, with bullet payment at maturity, is set to strengthen IREDA's global market presence.

The landed cost, after hedging, is expected to be below 7 per cent for the External Commercial Borrowing, making it more cost-effective than similar-tenure loans in the domestic market, according to the IREDA statement.

India's total exports touch record \$820.93 billion in 2024-25 despite global challenges

New Delhi, April 15 (IANS) India's total exports of goods and services increased by 5.5 per cent to a record \$820.93 billion during the financial year ended March 31, 2025, compared to \$773 billion in the previous fiscal year, despite the uncertainties in the global market, according to Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal.

Merchandise exports have touched \$437.4 billion, with non-petroleum exports rising 6 per cent year-on-year at \$374.08 billion in FY25.

India's trade deficit expanded to \$21.54 billion in March, from \$14.05 billion in February, according to data compiled by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Merchandise exports went up marginally by 0.7 per cent to \$41.97 billion during the month. However, merchandise imports shot by a double-digit 11.3 per cent to \$63.51 billion, leading to a wider trade deficit.

As compared to the previous month, exports clocked a 13.75 per cent increase while imports went up by 24.6 per cent.



The figures come amid the chaos in global markets triggered by the hike in US tariffs. India is in talks with the US for a bilateral trade agreement while the US has agreed to pause the duty hike for a period of 90 days.

The first phase of the bilateral trade agreement between India and the US is likely to be concluded within the tariff-pause period of 90 days fixed by the Donald Trump administration, according to official sources.

The terms of reference for the agreement have been finalised and further negotiations are scheduled to take place primarily through video conferenc-

ing, although if required Indian negotiators may visit Washington or US officials can come to Delhi, senior officials said.

At the same time, a close watch is being kept to ensure that other countries do not route their exports through India to circumvent the higher tariffs imposed on them. Similarly, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has also been alerted to ensure that Indian exporters do not use other countries as a conduit for re-exporting.

The officials said that India has been a trusted partner to the US, and such manoeuvres could negatively impact its image.

India becoming a global AI leader under PM Modi's vision: JK Tech CEO



New Delhi, April 15 (IANS) India is rapidly emerging as a global force in the field of artificial intelligence (AI), and the credit goes to the focused efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said Sameer Nagpal, President and CEO of JK Tech, on Tuesday.

Speaking to IANS on the sidelines of an event in the national capital, Nagpal highlighted how the government's initiatives have created an encouraging environment for innovation, research, and technology-driven growth in the field of AI.

"India is moving swiftly in the AI space under PM Modi's leadership. The government is not only supporting AI development but is also focusing on its implementation across various sectors such as healthcare, governance and digital infrastructure," Nagpal mentioned.

According to him, this momentum will lead to significant innovations in the near future. He explained that in today's digital age, data is the new oil.

"If companies can ensure they are working with quality data, they will be able to generate better insights and make more informed decisions," he noted.

"Right insights come from right data," he told IANS, adding that the government's push for AI will enable both large and small companies to grow by using cutting-edge technologies.

Nagpal further stated that India is already a major player in the global IT industry. With the launch of a national-level large language model (LLM) backed by the government, India is poised to make a mark in global AI development as well.

"This will help India take a leadership position in the AI revolution," he emphasised.

Echoing similar sentiments, JK Tech's Founder and Director, Abhishek Singhanian, told IANS that Indian engineers -- both in India and abroad -- are doing remarkable work in the field of AI. He appreciated PM Modi government's decision to allocate Rs 10,000 crore for AI research and development, calling it a major step in building India's AI ecosystem.

Popular international beauty brands available on Myntra's M-Now

New Delhi, April 15 (IANS) Myntra, one of India's leading fashion and lifestyle platforms, on Tuesday announced extending its premium range of international beauty brands, on M-Now, its speed proposition.

For the first time, beauty lovers can now quickly get their hands on their favourite international beauty and personal care products and have them delivered to their doorsteps starting in just 30 minutes in select pin codes.

Myntra is elevating the pursuit of premium beauty, making coveted interna-



tional brands effortlessly accessible. Now, the indulgence of a premium skincare ritual or the allure of a signature fragrance is with-

in reach. Myntra is not just offering beauty; it's unlocking immediate access to some of the world's most desired

brands, seamlessly integrating premium offerings into the rhythm of modern life.

"Beauty is witnessing remarkable adoption on

Myntra, and we've been dedicated to curating a selection of the finest international beauty brands for our customers. Through M-Now, we're not just offering products; we're delivering an experience -- allowing our customers to access high-quality, coveted beauty items with unparalleled efficiency, right when they need them," said Venu Nair, Head of Strategic Partnerships and Omnichannel, Myntra.

"This strategic expansion underscores our commitment to ensuring our customers have the best possible selection, deliv-

ered at lightning-fast speed," he added.

The brands available on M-Now include CeraVe's hydrating cleansers and restorative moisturisers; Yves Saint Laurent's (YSL) iconic fragrances, such as Libre and MYSLF; MAC Cosmetics's comprehensive range of makeup products, including lipsticks, setting sprays, and eyeshadow palettes; Dyson's technologically advanced Dyson Airwrap, for professional hairstyling; Carolina Herrera's perfumes, including the sophisticated 212 Women fragrance.

India's WPI inflation declines to 2.05 pc in March

New Delhi, April 15 (IANS) India's annual rate of inflation based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) slowed to 2.05 per cent in March, down from 2.38 per cent in February, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Tuesday.

The positive rate of inflation in March is primarily due to an increase in the prices of manufactured products, the figures showed.

The month-over-month change in WPI for March was in the negative zone at (-) 0.19 per cent as compared to the previous month of February, reflecting the declining trend in inflation. There was a decline in the prices of food as well as fuel and power groups compared to the previous



month, which resulted in the overall month-on-month inflation rate turning negative.

Meanwhile, retail inflation has also been on a declining trend. The Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy Committee has reduced its inflation forecast for 2025-26 to 4 per cent from 4.2 per cent earlier as the "outlook for food inflation has turned decisively positive," RBI

Governor Sanjay Malhotra said last week.

"Headline inflation moderated during January- February 2025 following a sharp correction in food inflation. The outlook for food inflation has turned decisively positive. The uncertainties regarding rabi crops have abated considerably, and the second advance estimates point to a record wheat production and

higher production of key pulses over that last year," the RBI Governor said.

He observed that along with robust kharif arrivals, this is expected to set the stage for a durable softening of food inflation.

"The sharp decline in inflation expectations in our latest survey for three months and one year ahead would also help anchor inflation expectations, going ahead," he pointed out.

Furthermore, the fall in crude oil prices augurs well for the inflation outlook. Concerns on lingering global market uncertainties and recurrence of adverse weather-related supply disruptions, however, pose upside risks to the inflation trajectory, the RBI Governor said.

IIT Delhi, Micron tie up to power next-gen semiconductor research in India

New Delhi, April 15 (IANS) The Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi (IIT-Delhi) on Tuesday announced that it has partnered with Micron Technology, Inc. to promote advanced research in electronic materials and artificial intelligence (AI)-driven modelling.

This collaboration, formed through IIT Delhi's Corporate Relations office, aims to strengthen the link between academic research and real-world industrial needs, especially in the fast-evolving semiconductor sector. The joint effort will focus on developing new solutions using modern technology and scientific knowledge to tackle major challenges in semiconductor manufacturing.

Researchers will work on electronic materials and use AI-powered neural models to predict and prevent fatigue and fracture in copper-based electronic components.

These efforts are expected to improve the reliability and performance of semiconductor devices.

Professor Preeti Ranjan Panda, Dean of Corporate Relations at IIT Delhi, expressed pride in the collaboration.

"At IIT Delhi, we are committed to fostering industry-academia collaborations that drive impactful research and innovation," he said.

"Our association with Micron Technology is a perfect confluence of academic rigor and industrial expertise, propelling advancements in electronic materials and AI-driven modeling and addressing critical challenges in the semiconductor industry," Panda mentioned.

How much does short trip to space cost - like singer Katy Perry's tour

Washington: Pop star Katy Perry, with five other women, completed a brief foray into space on Monday, reaching the edge of the cosmos aboard one of billionaire Jeff Bezos's rockets. Bezos's fiancée Lauren Sanchez, as well as CBS host Gayle King, former NASA rocket scientist Aisha Bowe, scientist Amanda Nguyen and film producer Kerianne Flynn, were also part of the first all-female spaceflight in more than 60 years.

The "Roar" singer and her crew were lofted more than 60 miles (100 kilometers) above the Earth's surface in a vessel from Blue Origin, the space company owned by the Amazon founder. The

flight brought the passengers beyond the Karman line -- the internationally recognized boundary of space.

The vessel lifted off from West Texas at 9:31 am ET and traveled to the edge of space, where the passengers experienced a brief period of weightlessness before returning to Earth in a flight lasting around 11 minutes, according to a live broadcast by Blue Origin.

The women went to space aboard Blue Origin's New Shepard spacecraft, which can carry up to six passengers on a short journey beyond the Earth's atmosphere. Including Perry and her crew, as many as 58 people have travelled to space aboard



Blue Origin's spacecraft since it began the civilian programme in 2021.

Who Can Book A Blue Origin Flight?

Anyone can book a trip to space on a Blue Origin flight, albeit they have deep pockets. The company's website has a reservation page where potential passengers can fill out a form listing basic information like their name, address, and birth year. It also contains a section where the company asks passengers to describe themselves in 500 words or fewer.

The only requirement for filling the form is that the applicant must be 18 years old or older.

How Much Does Space Travel Cost

The exact cost of Blue Origin's civilian mission is a bit of a mystery as the

company does not disclose it. However, there is an acknowledgment at the bottom of the reservation page alerting the flyers that a "fully refundable deposit" of \$150,000 will be collected to "begin the order process."

On its first crewed flight in 2021, Blue Origin had auctioned off a seat for \$28 million, according to The New York Times.

Blue Origin's competitors, Virgin Galactic, have even offered rides between \$200,000 and \$450,000, according to the Associated Press.

Does Everyone Need To Pay?

But not everyone has to pay millions of dollars to make a journey to space. Celebrities like Star Trek

star William Shatner and American television host Michael Strahan reportedly flew on the New Shepard suborbital launch vehicle for free as a "guest" of Blue Origin.

Roman Chiporukha, co-founder of space travel booking company SpaceVIP, told The Observer that "It's not about money; it's about who you are, your social capital, whether you align with their launch purposes. It's kind of a package deal."

According to a CNN report, even on the April 14 flight, "some passengers" flew "free of charge," while others did not. The company declined to say who paid for their trip.

Tamil Nadu student attacks classmate with machete in fight over pencil

Chennai: A Class 8 student from a matriculation higher secondary school at Palayamkottai in Tamil Nadu's Tirunelveli district sustained multiple injuries after he was allegedly attacked by a classmate with a machete on Tuesday, who later surrendered in police station.

The shocking incident reportedly stemmed from a quarrel over a pencil that occurred two months ago.

The attack took place around 10 am within the school premises. According to police, the two students had been frequently quarrelling since the initial disagreement, and the tensions escalated dramatically on Tuesday.



The accused student brought a machete to school and attacked his classmate, inflicting serious injuries to the head, shoulders, and hands.

In a courageous attempt to protect the victim, the class teacher, identified as Revathi (44), also sustained injuries on her hands.

Both the injured student and the teacher were rushed to a private hospital, where their condition is reported to be stable.

Following the incident, the accused student walked to the nearby Palayamkottai police station -- just 200 meters from the school -- carrying the machete and surrendered himself to the authorities.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Tirunelveli East) Vinodh

Shantharam and Palayamkottai Inspector of Police Thillai Nagarajan visited the school and launched an investigation into the incident.

While the pencil-related dispute was cited as the immediate trigger, school sources indicated that the attack may have been linked to a complex love affair involving some students.

This incident has sent shockwaves through the academic community and law enforcement, especially as it comes just a month after a similar violent episode.

On March 9, a Class 11 stu-

dent from Srivaikundam in the neighbouring Thoothukudi district was brutally attacked by a group of three while on his way to appear for a public examination. The student suffered deep injuries to the spine and skull and remains under treatment.

In another disturbing case from August 2023, a Scheduled Caste Class 11 student and his sister were attacked in their home in Nanguneri, Tirunelveli district, by schoolmates belonging to an intermediate caste.

These recurring incidents prompted the Tamil Nadu government to appoint a special

committee headed by retired Justice K. Chandru to examine and recommend measures to prevent violence in schools.

Notably, in April 2022, a Class 12 student from a government school near Cheranmahadevi lost his life after being attacked with stones by juniors during a dispute over the wearing of a 'caste band'.

As investigations continue, there is growing concern over the rise in student-related violence in Tamil Nadu's schools, prompting urgent calls for reform and preventive measures.

Extended loneliness triples risk of early death in middle-aged women

Sydney, April 15 (IANS) A study published on Monday revealed for the first time a causal link between chronic loneliness and early death among middle-aged Australian women.

Researchers analysed two decades of data from the Australian Longitudinal Study of Women's Health, involving over 57,000 participants.

The findings after examining data from women aged between 48 and 55 show that women who consistently reported feeling lonely over a 15-year period were three times more likely to die early compared to those who did not report loneliness.

Women without persistent loneliness had a 5 per cent risk of death, while that risk rose to 15 per cent among those with ongoing feelings of loneliness, according to the researchers of the University of Sydney, the University of New South Wales, and Western Sydney University, Xinhua news agency reported.



"Loneliness is a risk factor that should be screened for by clinicians, just as we would screen for high blood pressure or cholesterol. We also need to raise the public awareness of loneliness to demystify and destigmatize loneliness," said the study's lead author, Neta HaGani.

Prof. Melody Ding from the University of Sydney, the study's senior author, said women in middle age are more likely to be the primary caregivers for both young children and elderly parents, as well as

going through major life transitions such as menopause, retirement or children leaving home, factors that can contribute to social isolation.

The study, published in BMJ Medicine, also found a dose-dependent relationship -- the more frequently loneliness was reported, the higher the risk of early death.

While comparable long-term data on men's health is lacking, Ding said midlife is a period of transition that may affect women more adversely.

This 100-year-old woman can hold a plank longer than most athletes



New York: A New York woman celebrated her 100th birthday with something that not even people younger than her can perform - taking a five-minute plank test. At Bay Shore's Great South Bay YMCA, Geraldine "Jerry" Leo is an inspirational figure for capabilities that can put even the most accomplished athletes to shame.

Besides performing a five-minute plank, Ms Leo has flawless hearing, fast tempo, and hand-eye-foot coordination.

The fitness enthusiast loves practising planks, an abdominal workout that uses only the toes and forearms to bridge the body up. "It works your core absolutely beautifully," Ms Leo said.

While her class can hold a plank for not more than two minutes, Ms Leo chooses to stay in the position for an additional three minutes without sweating.

Ms Leo's instructor, Elizabeth Grant, described her plank as "really unbelievable," adding, "Jerry is an inspiration to everyone who meets her."

"Her form is beautiful and she can teach people how to do it the right way," Grant told ABC7.

Despina Tenedorio, director of health and wellness at the Great South Bay YMCA, described Ms Leo as a powerful woman.

Ms Leo's friend Marion Saturno called her "my hero" and said, "She defi-

nately puts some of the class to shame, including me."

The centenarian claimed the YMCA played a significant role in her life. Ms Leo joined because her late husband, Dominick, urged her to visit the place when it first opened in 1991. "The Y keeps me alive and going in all aspects of my life," Ms Leo told ABC7.

The Long Island woman also attends a Friday weightlifting class. The YMCA and the Babylonian mayor are both celebrating Ms Leo's milestone on her birthday.

Ms Leo revealed her longevity secret. "Be consistent, be positive, and keep moving in whatever you do. That's very important," she added.

Birkin bag for \$1,400: Chinese suppliers offer luxury brand items at shockingly low prices

Beijing: China is retaliating against US President Donald Trump's tariffs by promoting direct sales of luxury goods from Chinese manufacturers to consumers at significantly lower prices. The products range from handbags to apparel and cosmetics, with prices notably lower than retail. On X, many American TikTok users shared videos from Chinese suppliers showcasing high-quality products made for luxury brands like Birkin and Louis Vuitton. These suppliers offer direct sales to consumers at a fraction of the retail price, often without the brand logos. In these videos, Chinese suppliers emphasise high-quality materials and skilled labour to manufacture the products.

One user shared one such video on X wrote, "China TikTok is so messy rn because now that the Chinese government has legalised Counterfeit products of all American goods because of the tariffs, they're now exposing a lot of Big brands and how their stuff is manufactured and encourages you to buy them in-house China for cheaper."

A supplier of Birkin bags revealed that the production cost of a bag selling for \$34,000 (Rs 29,23,320) is around



\$1,400 (Rs 1,20,372). The supplier claimed that the bag makers receive a minimal profit margin, while the luxury brand retains the majority of the profit due to its logo and branding. "More than 90 per cent of the price is for the logo, but if you do not care about the logo and want the same quality, same material, you can just buy from us," he says in the video.

Another TikTok user shared a video of a Chinese manufacturer selling Birkenstock footwear and wrote, "My fyp is suddenly filled with Chinese manufacturers



trying to sell directly to Americans. The gag is that even with paying the import tariff and shipping, it's still way cheaper than buying the same products through American corporations. We are not winning this trade war lmao."

"China is definitely having their moment... The tea is steaming hot," a user wrote, sharing a video of a Chinese supplier offering replicas of Fila, Under Armour, and Lululemon products at significantly lower prices. The supplier claimed Lululemon items, typically \$100, can now be bought for \$5-6.

Some Chinese manufac-

turers have also created detailed videos showcasing their production processes to counter the perception that "Made in China" implies poor quality. Meanwhile, other suppliers have even offered free global shipping and, in some cases, even covering import duties.

Notably, the US and China are engaged in a heated trade war, with the US imposing tariffs of up to 145% on Chinese goods and China retaliating with duties of up to 125%. Recently, China's Ministry of Commerce urged the US to lift its retaliatory tariffs after a US announce-

ment exempted certain consumer electronics, like smartphones and laptops, from these duties. Many on the internet argued that the US can't win the trade war against China, given China's manufacturing prowess and competitive pricing. Some users are speculating that direct sales might become the only affordable option for luxury goods if tariffs keep rising. Others wondered why American consumers still buy these items at full price from retail stores when they're now available at a fraction of the cost through direct sales.

India, US likely to ink first tranche of trade pact before Fall deadline

New Delhi, April 15 (IANS) India and US are working to sign the first tranche of a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) to bring down tariffs before the agreed timeline of the fall of 2025 as the terms of reference for the pact have already been finalised.



the US," Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal told journalists. He said both India and the US would benefit if the trade deal is wrapped up before the Fall of 2025.

"When we said we want to do a first tranche of BTA with the US by fall, that doesn't mean we can't do it before fall. If we end up doing the BTA before fall, then it will be good for both India and the US," he added.

If both the countries come to an agreement on reducing tariffs, it would lead to higher trade for US and India. The 90 day pause is not country specific, it is for everyone.

US President Donald Trump paused the implementation of steeper duties for several nations, including India, on April 9.

Meanwhile, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal told journalists last week that "very good negotiations" with the US

were underway.

He said that India presents a compelling case to the United States for a bilateral trade deal, given the outlook on growth and demography.

"Looking at the growth, India offers in the next 25-30 years with a large, aspirational, young population who will add to the demand for goods and services, we believe India will be a compelling case to enter into a good agreement with the US," Goyal said at a press conference.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Trump have set an ambitious target of \$500 billion bilateral trade by 2030 in a joint statement during the Indian PM's visit to Washington.

No winners in US-China trade conflict as Asia-Pacific braces for impact: Report

New Delhi, April 15 (IANS) There are no winners in a trade conflict and the tussle between China and the US raises the risk of economic and geopolitical fallout, a report by S&P Global Ratings said on Tuesday.

Home to sizable manufacturing activities, Asia-Pacific is highly dependent on exports to the U.S. and China for growth. At the same time, Asia-Pacific depends on the US mostly for security.

The region could find itself pushed to take sides or walk a delicate line between the two large economies, the report stated.

To counteract tariffs, Asia-Pacific governments are exploring the formation of regional trade blocs or bilateral trade agreements. These efforts could accelerate, expediting the need to relocate supply sources and production.

10 killed in van-trailer collision in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



Islamabad, April 15 (IANS) A collision between a passenger van and a trailer on Tuesday left 10 people dead and at least 10 others injured in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, police said.

According to police in the area, the accident occurred when an over-speeding trailer collided with the passenger van coming from the opposite direction on the Indus Highway in the Karak district of the province.

Police and rescue teams rushed to the site and shifted the injured to a nearby hospital, where several injured people were in critical condition.

Iran confirms Muscat to host second round of nuke talks with US

Tehran, April 15 (IANS) Iran has confirmed that Muscat, the capital of Oman, will remain the venue for the second round of "indirect" negotiations between Tehran and Washington.

"Following consultations, it was decided that Muscat continues to be the host of the second round of the negotiations, which are scheduled to be held on Saturday," the semi-official Mehr news agency quoted Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei as saying on Tuesday.

In the first round of Muscat talks on Saturday, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi engaged in "indirect" discussions with US Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff, facilitated by Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Albusaidi. These talks



focused on Iran's nuclear programme and the potential removal of US sanctions.

The talks in Muscat followed US President Donald Trump's statement in early March that he had sent a letter to Iranian leaders, delivered through the United Arab Emirates, proposing negotiations on Iran's nuclear programme, Xinhua news agency reported. Iran later agreed on indirect talks.

Iran signed a nuclear deal in July 2015 with six major countries -- Britain, China, France, Germany,

Russia and the United States. Under the deal, Iran agreed to limit its nuclear activities in exchange for sanctions relief.

However, Trump unilaterally pulled his country out of the deal in May 2018 during his first term, and reimposed sanctions on Iran, prompting Tehran to scale back its commitments under the deal. Since then, efforts to revive the nuclear agreement have made little progress.

On Monday, Italy had signalled that the new round of talks between the United States and Iran on Tehran's nuclear programme will be held in Rome.

Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani noted that Italy has agreed to host the meeting following requests from the negotiating parties and Oman, which is serving as a mediator.

Three climbers confirmed dead on China's mountaineering hotspot Yuzhu Peak

Beijing, April 15 (IANS) Three climbers who earlier went missing had been confirmed dead on Yuzhu Peak, a popular mountaineering destination in northwest China's Qinghai Province, the Qinghai provincial sports authorities said on Tuesday.



the missing climbers had bypassed the mandatory registration process. Later that same day, the rescue team located the bodies of all three climbers on the mountain.

On Monday morning, emergency response authorities alerted the provincial sports department that three climbers had gone missing on Yuzhu Peak. A rescue team, comprising police officers, firefighters and experienced mountaineering guides, was swiftly dispatched to conduct search operations.

Upon reviewing registration records, officials discovered that

the missing climbers had bypassed the mandatory registration process. Later that same day, the rescue team located the bodies of all three

climbers on the mountain. Due to harsh weather conditions, the rescue team was forced to suspend operations and take shelter at the Yuzhu Peak

mountaineering base camp in Qumalai County in Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture during their return, Xinhua news agency reported. They resumed efforts to transport the bodies of the three climbers on Tuesday.

Local authorities in Qumalai, citing preliminary investigations, said the victims circumvented the checkpoint before ascending the mountain. Rescue efforts were further hampered due to the absence of mobile signal coverage in the mountains.

The exact causes of the tragic deaths are still under investigation.

Towering 6,178 metres above sea level and crowning the eastern ridge of the Kunlun

Mountains, Yuzhu Peak draws mountaineering enthusiasts from all over the world, including quite a few novices.

With its approachable altitude and awe-inspiring vistas, it offers a gentle yet thrilling introduction to high-altitude exploration.

The Kunlun Mountain - name originating from the Mongolian word, meaning Horizontal - constitute one of the longest mountain chains in Asia, extending for more than 3,000 km. In the broadest sense, the chain forms the northern edge of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau south of the Tarim Basin, states the China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF).

Two polio workers abducted in northwest Pakistan

Islamabad, April 15 (IANS) Two health workers affiliated with Pakistan's anti-polio campaign were abducted by unidentified gunmen in the country's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, police said Tuesday.



from official duties related to the country's polio eradication campaign, police said.

The incident occurred in the Kulachi area of Dera Ismail Khan district, where armed men intercepted a passenger bus en route to Dera Ismail Khan and forcibly took the two workers -- Raz Muhammad and Muhammad Asif -- to an unknown location, a local police official said.

The victims were returning

world where wild poliovirus remains endemic. Polio workers have frequently been targeted in attacks, particularly in the northwest and southwest

regions. One of the reasons for the presence of the virus is the refusal of the majority of the people to have their children vaccinated. Polio health workers have been victims of targeted killings and attacks by militant groups, who have opposed anti-polio campaigns in the country.

On Sunday, the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme said in a statement that Poliovirus has been detected in sewage samples from 20 districts across Pakistan following test results from the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health (NIH).

जिला शिक्षा अधीक्षक-सह-नोडल पदाधिकारी, आर०टी०ई, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर

निजी विद्यालयों के प्रवेश कक्षा में आरक्षित सीट पर नामांकन संबंधी आवश्यक सूचना-

एतद् द्वारा सर्व साधारण एवं अभिभावकों को सूचित किया जाता है कि शैक्षणिक सत्र 2025-26 के लिए निःशुल्क और अनिवार्य बाल शिक्षा का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2009 के तहत निजी विद्यालयों के प्रवेश कक्षा के 25 प्रतिशत आरक्षित सीट पर नामांकन हेतु बच्चों का आवेदन आनलाईन पोर्टल- <http://rteastingsinghbhum.com> के माध्यम से भरा गया है। सूचित किया जाता है कि आनलाईन पोर्टल पर आवेदन के साथ संलग्न कुल 157 बच्चों का जन्म प्रमाण पत्र एवं 24 बच्चों के अभिभावक का आय प्रमाण पत्र अस्पष्ट (Not Clear/Blurred/Not Visible) है। जिस कारण उनके प्रमाण-पत्र का सत्यापन नहीं किया जा सका है। संबंधित फार्म संख्या सहित सूची उचित पोर्टल पर अपलोड कि गई है। पोर्टल पर प्रदर्शित सूची अनुसार उनके अभिभावकों / पालकों से अनुरोध है कि स्थान - कार्यालय-जिला शिक्षा अधीक्षक, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर पता- स्टैंडिंग रोड, ब्लड बैंक के सामने, घटकीडीह में दिनांक 16.04.2025 से 17.04.2025 तक समय-10:00 बजे पूर्वान्ह से 02:00 बजे अपराह्न तक अपने बच्चे का जन्म प्रमाण/आय प्रमाण पत्र की स्वच्छ प्रति जमा करें, ताकि उक्त प्रमाण पत्र सत्यापित किया जा सके। निर्धारित समय से विन्म्व होने पर संपूर्ण जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

पोर्टल पर भरे गये आवेदन में त्रुटि सुधार जैसे-नाम के स्पेलिंग,जन्म तिथि गलत अंकित हो जाना, घर से निकटतम स्कूल का पुनः चयन हेतु पोर्टल को दिनांक 16.04.2025 से 17.04.2025 तक के लिए लॉर्ड करने का निर्णय लिया गया है। उक्त अवधि में त्रुटि सुधार किया जा सकता है।

जिला शिक्षा अधीक्षक-सह-नोडल पदाधिकारी, आर०टी०ई, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर

PR 350421 (School Education and Literacy)25-26*D

South Korea: 11 register for PPP's presidential primary race



Seoul, April 15 (IANS) Eleven candidates have registered to compete in the conservative People Power Party's (PPP) primary for the June 3 South Korean presidential election, the party said on Tuesday, as the two-day registration period came to a close.

Notable contenders include former Labour Minister Kim Moon-soo, former PPP Chairman Han Dong-hoon, PPP lawmakers AhnCheol-soo and Na Kyung-won, and former

Daegu Mayor Hong Joon-pyo. Incheon Mayor YooJeong-bok and North Gyeongsang Gov. Lee Cheol-woo also entered the race.

South Korean Acting President and Prime Minister Han Duck-soo did not register, as previously confirmed by the party's floor leader, despite ongoing speculation about his possible bid.

The PPP's election committee will review the applications and announce the list of candidates advancing to the first round of the primary on Wednesday. The party plans to finalise its nominee on May 3.

Meanwhile, three candidates registered for the liberal Democratic Party's (DP) primary during its one-day registration Tuesday, Yonhap news agency reported.

पुलिस अधीक्षक का कार्यालय सरायकेला-खरसावाँ आवश्यक सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि गुमशुदा रविन्द्र सिंह सरदार उम्र- 24 वर्ष, पं०-हरिपदो सरदार, पता-खुदीबेड़ा, पंचायत- डुमरा, पोप+थाना- काण्डा, जिला- सरायकेला-खरसावाँ। दिनांक- 04.04.2025 को करीब 09 बजे सुबह दवा खरीदने बोल के घर से निकले, जो अभी तक घर वापस नहीं आया है। इस संबंध में पता लगाने का काफ़ी प्रयास किया गया एवं आवेदक अपने रिश्तेदारों एवं परिजनों द्वारा अपने स्तर से काफ़ी खोजबीन किया गया परन्तु रविन्द्र सिंह सरदार का पता नहीं चल सका है।

- 1. नाम- रविन्द्र सिंह सरदार उम्र करीब 24 वर्ष
2. रंग- गोरा
3. ऊँचाई- 5 फीट 3 इंच,
4. भाषा- हिन्दी, बंगला,
5. पहनावा- सफेद पैंट, टी शर्ट, सफेद के संग पीला बोर्डर।
अतः सभी जन साधारण से अनुरोध है कि यदि उक्त गुमशुदा रविन्द्र सिंह सरदार उम्र करीब 24 वर्ष, के संबंध में किसी प्रकार की सूचना मिले तो निम्नांकित फोन नम्बर पर संपर्क कर इसकी सूचना देने का कष्ट करेंगे।
विज्ञापन दाता का नाम-पुलिस अधीक्षक, श्री मुकेश कुमार लुनावार (भा०पु०से०) पत्र वाहक का नाम एवं पद -आ० / सुरेश अंगरिया, मो०न०-8789639100 मो०न०- 9431706529 पुलिस अधीक्षक, सरायकेला-खरसावाँ। 9431706530 पुलिस उपाधीक्षक, सरायकेला-खरसावाँ। 9431706532 अनुमण्डल पुलिस पदाधिकारी, सरायकेला। 9431706547 पु०नि० सह थाना प्रभारी, काण्डा। Email Id sp-seaikela@jhpolicе.gov.in

PR 350361 Police (25-26)_D

जिला दण्डाधिकारी-सह-उपायुक्त, का कार्यालय, सरायकेला-खरसावाँ

आयुष्मान भारत मुख्यमंत्री जन आरोग्य योजनान्तर्गत जिला स्तर पर सिविदा पर DPC (District Programme Coordinator) नियुक्ति हेतु विज्ञापन

कार्यकारी निदेशक, जसास, स्वास्थ्य, चिकित्सा शिक्षा एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, झारखण्ड, राँची के पत्रांक 02 (स्था०) AB-PMJAY-18/19-888, दिनांक 27.12.2024 के आलेख में आयुष्मान भारत मुख्यमंत्री जन आरोग्य योजनान्तर्गत जिला स्तर पर सिविदा पर DPC (District Programme Coordinator) नियुक्ति हेतु निम्नांकित शर्तों के अधीन आवेदन आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं-

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Post	Qualification	Scope of Work	Salary
01	District Programme Coordinator	01 UR-01	Essential Qualification MBBS/MBA in healthcare or Master of health/Hospital administration or Master of Public Health full time regular university degree. At least 2 Years experience in implementation of government health insurance industry of TPA. Age up to 45 Years.	Supervises the operation at district level including overall administration of AB-NHPM in the district. Ensuring compliance with the guidelines on beneficiary identification, utilization of Services, awareness generation expansion of hospital network, monitoring, audit, training reporting, MIS etc. Maintaining the quality and timeliness of Programme data for report generation. Random reviews of pre-authorizations and claims. Work with the teams across functions and other stakeholders to ensure smooth flow of data to state level on a periodic basis. Organize routine, periodical and surveillance visits to all the entities participating in the scheme to ensure that all processes are running as per defined standards. Any other work assigned by JSAS/District Nodel Officer Required Skills. Strong analytical and management Skills. Ability to Manage teams. Strong strategic focus and project management Skills. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills. Strong business focus. Fluent in English Language.	Rs. 50 Thousand Per Month.

PR.NO.350333 Health Med Edu and Family Welfare(25-26):D

Vivek Agnihotri prays to Maa Kali for peace in Bengal on Pohela Boishakh

Mumbai, April 15 (IANS) On the auspicious occasion of Pohela Boishakh, filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri offered prayers to Maa Kali, seeking blessings for the restoration of peace and harmony in Bengal.

Marking the Bengali New Year with a heartfelt gesture, Agnihotri shared his devotion and hopes for unity, love, and healing in the region. Taking to his Instagram handle, the director shared a couple of images of him and wrote, "On this #PoilaBoishakh, I



bow to Maa Kali and pray that peace and harmony are restored in Bengal. I urge the youth to rise with

courage and wisdom... and lead the Indic renaissance. Bengal must never become another Kashmir. Shubho Nobo Borsho. Jai Maa Kali. Jai Hind. Pic courtesy: The sets of #TheDelhiFiles Bengal Chapter."

In the first image, Vivek is seen standing in front of a striking backdrop featuring a photo of Goddess Kali. In another image, the powerful picture of Goddess Kali is prominently displayed, symbolizing strength and devotion. Pohela Boishakh, the

Bengali New Year, marks the start of the traditional Bengali calendar. It marks the vibrant beginning of the Bengali New Year. Pohela Boishakh is a day filled with immense joy, cultural pride, and vibrant enthusiasm, celebrated by Bengalis worldwide. This year, the festivities will take place on Tuesday, April 15.

Speaking of Vivek Agnihotri, on April 14, the filmmaker offered a sneak peek into the editing room of his latest project, "The Delhi Files: The Bengal

Chapter." Agnihotri shared a photo from the edit room, which includes a shot of a newspaper with the headline: "Riots in Murshidabad!" He captioned the post, #TheDelhiFiles: Bengal Chapter. Coming Soon. This photo is from the edit room. The scene was written a year ago and filmed last November. I never imagined it would mirror reality so soon. #TheDelhiFiles is set to uncover truths long buried-past, and present. GET READY."

Health

Valve disorders may raise risk of severe heartbeat condition

New York, April 15 (IANS) People with a certain heart valve abnormality may be at an increased risk of developing severe heart rhythm disorders also known as arrhythmias, according to a study on Tuesday.



Researchers from the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden showed that the valve abnormality called Mitral annular disjunction (MAD) increases the risk of ventricular arrhythmias -- a dangerous type of heart rhythm disorder that, in the worst case, can lead to cardiac arrest.

The team found that the risk of arrhythmias persists even after successful valve surgery.

MAD is often associated with a heart disease called mitral valve prolapse, which affects 2.5 per cent of the population and causes one of the heart's valves to leak. This can lead to blood being pumped backward in the heart, causing heart failure and arrhythmias. The disease can cause symptoms such as shortness of breath and palpitations.

The study, published in the European Heart Journal, showed that people with MAD were more likely to be female and were on average eight years younger than those without MAD.

They also had more extensive mitral valve disease. Although the surgery was successful in correcting MAD, these patients had more than three times the risk of ventricular arrhythmias during five years of follow-up compared to patients without preoperative MAD.

"Our results show that it is important to closely monitor patients with this condition, even after a successful operation," said Bahira Shahim, Associate Professor at the Department of Medicine, Solna, Karolinska Institutet.

In the study, the researchers investigated the risk of cardiac arrhythmias in 599 patients with mitral valve prolapse who underwent heart surgery at Karolinska University Hospital between 2010 and 2022.

The study aims to further explore new hypotheses such as that MAD causes permanent changes in the heart muscle over time, and that MAD is a sign of an underlying heart muscle disease.

Big B: Most worthless activities during the day is to search an issue on 'the net'



Mumbai, April 15 (IANS) Megastar Amitabh Bachchan feels that one of the "most worthless activities" during the day is to search an issue on the internet.

"One of the most worthless activities during the day is to search an issue on the net...(sic) the cine icon wrote in his blog

The thespian revealed that it is because of distractions. "The moment you zero in on the desire, you find yourself getting, quite unnecessarily, interested in all the other ones that come at you in a drove... and by the time you realise that you need to get back to why you came to the net in the first place... YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN WHY (sic)."

The star shared that he was on the social media platform to read comments and then got distracted.

"I went to the X and the FB to check the comments and got so engrossed in all what the others were saying, that when I came back to this page, I was at sea on the topic or the material I was about to put here... too much too soon available (sic)," he said. Earlier, Big B had revealed the special gift his actor-son Abhishek Bachchan gave him.

He spoke about how the art of handwriting is replaced by typing on digital devices.

"The age of handwriting has been overtaken by the punches on the black square... and the generation of the young now in their curriculum are giving their work here on this medium... and no one writes," he added.

R Madhavan reflects on his glorious 25 Years: 'A Journey beyond my wildest dreams'

Mumbai, April 15 (IANS) One of the most versatile actors, R Madhavan marked 25 glorious years in the Indian film industry on Monday.

The 'Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein' actor chose to commemorate the occasion in the most soulful and humble way, with a visit to the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Joining him were his 'Kesari' Chapter 2' co-stars, Akshay Kumar, and Ananya Panday, as the trio sought blessings ahead of their much-anticipated film's release on April 18.

Madhavan took to his official IG and dropped a picture of him offering prayers, alongside Akshay and Ananya. He penned a heartfelt note on the photo-sharing app, reflecting on his 25 wonderful years in the Indian cinema.

He said, "25 Glorious,



Wonderful, Rewarding and Blessed years as a Film actor... Journeys beyond my wildest dreams...with Ecstasy and Agony for constant companion, yet with all the LOVE earned that overwhelms my Heart to this day... And So... during this very spontaneous Pilgrimage on this very

Auspicious and Special

day (14th April 2000 when my FIRST FILM ALAI-P A Y U T H E Y Released).Just To Surrender and show GRATITUDE for all the blessings that can either be Explained nor Justified AAAAAA... Thank You and Guide me."

As mentioned in the post, Madhavan made his

debut with Mani Ratnam's 2000 flick "Alai Payuthey" and never looked back since. From memorable roles in "Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein", "3 Idiots", and "Tanu Weds Manu" to the critically acclaimed "Shaistaan", Madhavan's journey has been rich with diverse characters and impactful stories.

Sanjay Dutt starrer 'The Bhootnii' gets a new release date

Mumbai, April 15 (IANS) The makers of the highly anticipated horror action-comedy, "The Bhootnii" have decided to change the film's release date.

The Sanjay Dutt-led drama will now arrive in the cinema halls on 1st May 2025. As the film involves, the team is working on extensive VFX that shall be par excellence, and the makers remain committed to delivering a top-notch cinematic experience for audiences.

Sharing the new release date of "The Bhootnii", the makers informed, "Insaan mohabbat wali date fix kar sakta hai, bhootnii ke aane ki nahi... woh kab aayegi, kaise aayegi, yeh sirf wahi jaanti hai! Laga tha 18th April ko aayegi lekin ab aa rahi hai 1st May ko, taiyaar rehna! #TheBhootnii- in cinemas 1st May 2025!"

If released on April 18 as planned, "The Bhootnii" would have locked horns with Akshay Kumar's "Kesari Chapter 2" at the box office.



Recently, Navneet Malik who will play the young Dutt in the film opened up about the challenges he faced while preparing for his role.

Sharing insights into the preparation, pressure, and passion that went into portraying the iconic star during his younger days, Navneet told IANS, "It's truly been a pleasure to work with the legendary Sanjay Dutt. In fact, in the film, I'm portraying none other than Sanjay Dutt himself. But I won't reveal the entire story or the exact details of my character just yet. I'd really appreciate it if everyone goes to the theatre and watches the film - and then, of course, we can have a conversation about it."

The trailer of the movie has received a thunderous response. Aside from Dutt, "The Bhootnii" also stars Mouni Roy, Sunny Singh, Palak Tiwari, Beyonick, and Aasif Khan in prominent roles.

Isha Malviya: Never had second thoughts while playing any character



New Delhi, April 15 (IANS) Television actress Isha Malviya embraces every role with passion and says that she finds joy in playing any character on screen, as it showcases her versatility.

Talking about what she finds harder - playing a character completely different from herself or one that closely resembles the actress, Isha told IANS: "It gives me a different kind of pleasure and really boosts my confidence. It makes me feel proud that I'm a versatile actress who can take on any role."

She expressed her confidence and commitment in her acting choices.

"So, honestly, I've never had second thoughts while playing any character-that's never been on my mind."

The 21-year-old actress said that she doesn't feel pressured by the expectations of the tough industry.

"I don't take pressure, and honestly, I believe you can't make everyone happy. So working just to prove something to others isn't my approach. I work for myself," she said.

The actress is focussed on her goal.

"For me, having a clear goal is essential-without it, there's no direction. I always keep in mind what I want to achieve, whether it's in the next 30 days, 30 months, or even 30 years. That clarity keeps me going," said Isha.

Mandira Bedi on 53rd b'day: This year, I just want to be surrounded by my tribe



Mumbai, April 15 (IANS) As Mandira Bedi turned 53 on Tuesday, the actress and television presenter said that this year, she just wants to be surrounded by "people who feel like home" to her.

"This year, I just want to be surrounded by my tribe. Family, close friends, people who feel like home-that's the real celebration," she says.

Her birthday is a quiet one this year, just her children and the people who matter most.

"I've always valued connection over everything. Time with my children, conversations that stay with you, memories that don't need filters-that's what I'm holding onto."

Looking forward, Mandira wants to take on roles that challenge her to grow as an actor and is focused on exploring stories that push.

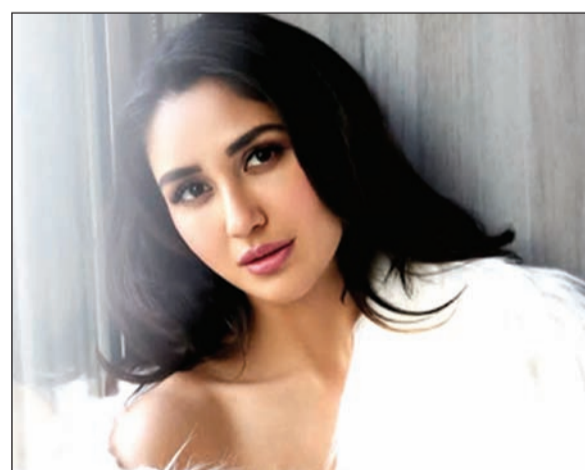
"I'm looking forward to challenging roles and characters, ones I haven't explored yet. With new mediums, languages, and so much change in content, I am excited to take on roles that are new and different from what I have already played onscreen," she shares. Mandira, who has recently become the face of pickleball in India, has worked across Bollywood and South Indian cinema with films like Saaho and her recent Malayalam debut, Identity, alongside Tovino Thomas and Trisha Krishnan.

Nikita Dutta reveals she realized her Bollywood dream with Saif Ali Khan's 'Jewel Thief'

Mumbai, April 15 (IANS) The gripping trailer of Saif Ali Khan's "Jewel Thief" reached the audience on Tuesday. Speaking during the event, Nikita Dutta shared that she was able to realize her Bollywood dream because of the heist drama.

Spilling her excitement and insights into her role in "Jewel Thief", Nikita spoke candidly about what she took away from this exciting project.

She shared, "I've been part of Sid Anand's world, which I feel is a huge thing because I mean, I feel as an actor, especially as a female actress, I would say. I don't think I've lived the



classic Bollywood heroine tag, which, thanks to you and Mamta, I have gotten this opportunity to play the classic Bollywood heroine.

And I'm not saying just because you're going to see me dancing. It's just overall to get the heroine feeling. I think I've gotten that from

this film. So that's my take-away from being a part of Sid Anand's world with this film." Over the years, Nikita has been known for her versatile roles in many films such as "Kabir Singh", "Gharat Ganpati", "The Waking of A Nation", and many more but this opportunity allowed her to embrace the quintessential Bollywood glamour and elegance. With Nikita as Farah, "Jewel Thief" will star Saif Ali Khan as Rehan Roy - a charming and cunning thief, Jaideep Ahlawat as Rajan Aulakh - a cool and calculated mafia boss, and Kunal Kapoor as Vikram Patel - a relentless detective.

'Higher Love' from 'Smurfs' featuring DJ Khaled, Cardi B, Natania & Subhi out

Mumbai, April 15 (IANS) The wait is finally over. The much-anticipated track from "Smurfs", "Higher Love" is here.

Brought to life by DESI TRILL, featuring global superstars DJ Khaled, Cardi B, Natania, and Subhi, this song also marks a historic moment as it features Punjabi music in a Hollywood animated film for the first time.

The video of "Higher Love" seamlessly blends mainstream hip-hop with a vibrant Punjabi twist - getting everyone moving from the very first note.

Natania's smooth English vocals paired seamlessly with an energetic Punjabi hook from Subhi, while DJ Khaled and Cardi B bring their signature star power to the track, creating a cultural crossover that's sure to make waves worldwide.

Treating the netizens to the song, the makers penned, "Higher Love" Official Music Video by DESI TRILL featuring DJ Khaled, Cardi B, Natania & Subhi Out Now. #SmurfsMovie releasing on July 18 in English & Hindi in theatres near you." On the collaboration, DJ



Khaled said, "I'm excited about the movie but I'm grateful to be part of this song, thank you for inviting me in another one"

"It's been an adventurous, smurfy experience right here at the music video set today. Yeah, but I am so grateful that we pulled it off. We are all here and we are excited and we are ready to party", said Subhi.

The tale of "Smurfs" begins when Papa Smurf (John Goodman) is mysteriously taken by evil wizards, Razamel and Gargamel, Smurfette

(Rihanna) leads the Smurfs on a mission into the real world to save him. With the help of new friends, the Smurfs must discover what defines their destiny to save the universe.

The project features an all-star voice cast including Rihanna, James Corden, Nick Offerman, JP Karliak, Daniel Levy, Amy Sedaris, Natasha Lyonne, Sandra Oh, Octavia Spencer, Nick Kroll, Hannah Waddingham, Alex Winter, Maya Erskine, Billie Lourd, Xolo Maridueña with Kurt Russell and John Goodman.

Shreyas Iyer named ICC Men's Player of the Month for March

Dubai, April 15 (IANS) India batter Shreyas Iyer has been named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for March leading India's runscoring charts and starring in the latter stages of their historic ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 triumph.

Iyer overcomes New Zealand duo Jacob Duffy and Rachin Ravindra to win the honour. This accolade marks back-to-back wins for Indian players in the ICC's monthly award series, with Shubman Gill bagging the same recognition in February.

"I'm truly honoured to be named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for March. This recognition is incredibly special, especially in a month where we lifted the ICC Champions Trophy - a moment



I will cherish forever. "Being able to contribute to

India's success on such a high stage is something every cricketer dreams of. I'm grateful to my teammates, coaches, and support staff for their unwavering support and belief. A heartfelt thank you to the fans as well - your energy and encouragement keep us going every step of the way," Iyer said in a statement.

Iyer finished as the highest run-scorer with 243 runs,

playing a crucial role in India's Champions Trophy triumph. With 172 runs coming at an average of 57.33 during the final three games of the Champions Trophy, Iyer was a leading light for India as they secured a landmark third win in the competition's history.

The top-order batter first struck a match-winning 79 in 98 balls to ensure India came out on top in their final group-stage match against New Zealand.

A vital 45 runs in partnership with Virat Kohli then helped India navigate a challenging semi-final against Australia, before he once again laid the foundations for a successful run chase in the breathless final against New Zealand, hitting a controlled 48 in 62 balls as India sealed a four-wicket victory.

Satwik-Chirag return as BAI names 14-strong squad for BWF Sudirman Cup Finals 2025

New Delhi, April 15 (IANS) The Badminton Association of India (BAI) has announced a 14-member-strong India squad for the BWF Sudirman Cup Finals 2025, with the world No. 10 men's doubles duo Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty making a return to action after an injury break. The squad also includes former world champion PV Sindhu, World Championships medallists Lakshya Sen and HS Prannoy. The biennial tournament, which is the World Mixed Team Championships, will be held in Xiamen, China from April 27 to May 4.

India qualified for the prestigious mixed team championships based on their world ranking and will be eyeing to first seal their knockout berth from a tough Group D lineup that also includes former champions Indonesia, two-time

runners-up Denmark, and England. "The selectors have picked the best possible combination in all the five categories despite some injury worries. We are no longer dependent on one or two disciplines to win the tie and that makes us a formidable force in any team event. We are confident that the team will not only make its mark in the group stages but can go on to create history by winning a medal," said BAI general secretary Sanjay Mishra.

India Squad for Sudirman Cup-Men: Lakshya Sen, HS Prannoy, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty, Hariharan Amsakarunan, Ruban Kumar R, Dhruv Kapila, Sathish Kumar Karunakaran

Women: PV Sindhu, Anupama Upadhyaya, Tanisha Crasto, Priya Konjengbam, Shruti Mishra, Aadya Variyath

IPL 2025: After unbeaten run comes to a halt, DC eye quick fixes against inconsistent RR

New Delhi, April 15 (IANS) With their unbeaten streak over and the top ranking in the points table, not theirs anymore, Delhi Capitals (DC) will look to make quick fixes and strengthen their chances for an IPL 2025 playoffs spot when they face an inconsistent Rajasthan Royals (RR) at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Wednesday.

RR hold a slight edge against DC in the head-to-head record, with the inaugural IPL winners emerging victorious in 15 matches while losing 14 games. As far as RR's record in New Delhi is concerned, they have won five times while losing on seven occasions.

Expectations were high from DC to keep their winning streak going as they returned to their original home ground on Sunday. But the Mumbai Indians had other ideas, cleverly using the ball change rule to cause a DC batting collapse after the halfway mark and consigning the hosts' to a dramatic 12-run defeat.

Despite the loss, what would have gladdened the DC think-tank was impact player Karun Nair shining brightly with a breathtaking 40-ball 89 in his first game of the tournament. With proper execution of scintillating shots, especially against Jasprit Bumrah, Nair was clearly a man



on the mission - to make DC win - till he was outclassed by a Mitchell Santnerjaffa.

With Faf du Plessis being hampered by injuries and Jake Fraser-McGurk having a lean run, Nair stepping up for DC came as a big boost. But if du Plessis returns against RR, how the DCC top-order would look surely makes for an interesting watch.

The key for DC will be for their middle and lower order to step up with back-up strategies, especially after MI outclassed them

with the ball change rule. From a bowling perspective, barring Kuldeep Yadav and Vipraj Nigam, others were expensive and they have some work to do in stopping from leaking runs aplenty.

Meanwhile, RR are coming to New Delhi after getting a nine-wicket thrashing at the hands of Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in Jaipur. A major issue for RR has been their batting hasn't clicked as a unit and the lack of batting depth in the side isn't helping their cause either. At Jaipur, Yashasvi Jaiswal and DhruvJurel stepped up to take the side past 170, but they would have liked more from captain Sanju Samson, who struggled to adapt to the demands of a slow pitch and had a slow start in powerplay.

India to tour Bangladesh for white-ball series in August

New Delhi, April 15 (IANS) India will tour Bangladesh for a white-ball series comprising three ODIs and as many T20Is, scheduled from August 17 to 31 in Mirpur and Chattogram, as the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announced the schedule on Tuesday.

The Indian team will arrive in Dhaka on August 13 ahead of the ODI series opener on August 17 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur. The third and final ODI will be played in Chattogram, which will also host the first game of the three-match T20I series on August 26. The action will head back to Mirpur for the second and third T20Is.

This will mark India's first white-ball only tour of Bangladesh since 2014. Moreover, the T20I series will be



the first time Bangladesh will host India in a bilateral series at home. The most recent T20I series

between the two teams took place in 2024, when Bangladesh toured India and the hosts secured a comfortable 3-0 victory.

Speaking about the upcoming series, BCB chief executive Nizam Uddin Chowdhury expressed his excitement over hosting one of the world's top cricketing sides. "This series promises to be one of the most exciting and most anticipated events in our home

calendar. India have set the benchmark in international cricket across all formats and the cricket-loving millions in both countries are sure to enjoy this contest. Bangladesh and India have played some very competitive matches in recent years, and I am confident that this will be another hard-fought and entertaining series." Chowdhury was quoted by ESPNcricinfo as saying.

Schedule for India's tour of Bangladesh

- ODI Series:**
1st ODI - August 17, Mirpur
2nd ODI - August 20, Mirpur
3rd ODI - August 23, Chattogram
- T20I Series:**
1st T20I - August 26, Chattogram
2nd T20I - August 29, Mirpur
3rd T20I - August 31, Mirpur

'I missed gold, but I'll train 10 winners': Malleswari's mission renewed after PM Modi meet

New Delhi, April 15 (IANS) India's first female Olympic medalist, Karnam Malleswari, expressed immense joy after her first one-on-one meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, describing it as a moment that reignited her drive to contribute further to the nation.

During his visit to Yamunanagar, Haryana, where the former world champion weightlifter has established her academy, PM Modi met the two-

time world champion weightlifter and commended her efforts to nurture young athletes.

Having retired from the sport in 2004, the 49-year-old, along with her weightlifter husband Rajesh Tyagi, opened her first academy in Yamunanagar, Haryana in 2017.

Speaking to IANS, the 49-year-old stated that she had requested PM Modi to visit her academy; however, due to his busy schedule, he instead



invited her to meet him. "I have an academy in Yamunanagar, and I had requested the Prime Minister to visit. His (PM Modi's) schedule was very

tight, so instead, he invited me to meet him. I was very happy to meet him. He said, 'You have done a great job for the country, and you are still doing wonderful work.'

"I told him about my academy, where children from underprivileged families are being trained. PM sir said, 'I know that.' He gave me his best wishes, saying, 'What you are doing is a noble mission for the upcoming Olympics.'" Karnam told IANS on Tuesday.

JFC's Lawmsangzuala wins Golden Boot with 16 goals in RFDL

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, April 15: Jamshedpur FC's young sensation Lawmsangzuala has made his mark in the Reliance Foundation Development League (RFDL) 2024-25 season, winning the coveted Golden Boot award as the highest goalscorer in the tournament. With an impressive 16 goals in the entire tournament, Lawmsangzuala showcased his exceptional skill and determination on the field.

Lawmsangzuala's journey to the top was marked by outstanding performances in each round of the RFDL. He scored 5 goals in the regional round, helping Jamshedpur FC Reserves take the top position. His grit and determination led to 9 goals in the zonal round, paving the way for the team's historic qualification



for the national championship. Although the team finished 4th in the national championship, Lawmsangzuala's 2 goals in the

Golden Boot award, Lawmsangzuala expressed his gratitude to his teammates, coaches, and the club. "I could

get the Golden Boot only because of the trust and understanding I've developed with my teammates and coach's confidence in me," he said.

"Playing against physically stronger and older players has definitely pushed me to work harder on my game. I've learned to be more strategic and focused on the field."

Head Coach Kaizad Ambapardiwalla praised Lawmsangzuala's exceptional performance, saying, "Zuala has been exceptional throughout the tournament, not just because he scored 16 goals, but because of the intelligence, hunger, and work rate he brought into every game. For someone so young to show that level of consistency and maturity is truly special. He's a big part of this team's identity and future."

Lawmsangzuala's success in the RFDL is a shining example of Jamshedpur FC's systematic approach to developing youth talent. Coming from the club's youth setup, Lawmsangzuala's rise to stardom is a testament to the club's commitment to nurturing young players.

On receiving the Golden Boot award, Lawmsangzuala expressed his gratitude to his teammates, coaches, and the club. "I could

West Singhbhum defeats Bokaro in thrilling women's cricket match

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, Apr 15: In a nail-biting encounter at the Birsamunda Cricket Stadium, host team West Singhbhum edged past Bokaro by two wickets in the Inter-District Senior Women's Cricket Super Division match, strengthening their claim for a spot in the finals.

Anamika Kumari's brilliant bowling performance (4 wickets for 25 runs) and Chandmuni Puri's unbeaten knock of 38 runs proved instrumental in West Singhbhum's victory. The match was delayed by two hours due to heavy rain the previous night and both umpires reduced the game to 36 overs per side.

Winning the toss, Bokaro opted to bat first and managed to post 138 runs for 9 wickets. Bokaro was in deep trouble at 97 for 8, but lower-order batter Rinni Barman's resilient 26-run knock helped



stabilize the innings. Contributions also came from Abha Chauhan (30), captain Khushbu Kumari (19) and Vijeta (17).

In response, West Singhbhum chased the target in 31.1 overs, scoring 139 for 8. Besides Puri, Rashmi Gudiya added 32, Anamika Kumari 21 and captain Priyanka Sawaiyan 10. Khushbu Kumari was the standout bowler for Bokaro, taking 3 wickets for 23 runs.

Anamika Kumari was awarded Player of the Match for her all-round performance and received a cash prize of Rs 5,000, presented by match observer and JSCA Women's Selection Committee member Charanjit Kaur. (w/nkm)

Plans afoot for Indoor Stadium in Jsr, multi-sports complex in Chakulia

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, April 15: The administration has instructed the identification and proposal of land for the construction of a district-level indoor stadium (1 acre) within the district headquarters and an 8-acre multi-sports stadium in Chakulia block.

In a significant step toward enhancing sports infrastructure in East Singhbhum, a proposal to set up a district-level indoor stadium was put forth during the District Sports Management Committee meeting held at the Collectorate Auditorium, Jamshedpur. The meeting, chaired by Deputy Development Commissioner (DDC) Aniket Sachan, was convened under the directions

of District Magistrate-cum-Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal and focused on bolstering athletic development and infrastructure across the district.

During the meeting, key discussions were held to identify and allocate land for the construction of a modern indoor stadium at the district headquarters. The DDC instructed the District Sports Officer (DSO) to coordinate closely with the Additional Deputy Commissioner and the Officer-in-Charge of Tata Lease to expedite the identification of a suitable 1-acre plot for the proposed facility. The proposal, once finalized, will be sent for administrative approval and funding allocation.

The proposed indoor stadium



is expected to serve as a hub for year-round training and hosting of district-level competitions in various disciplines, including badminton, table tennis, basketball, volleyball, gymnastics, and more. It will cater not only to professional athletes but also to school and college students, amateur players, and sports enthusiasts from across the district.

Officials emphasized that such a facility would greatly help athletes practice even during monsoons or extreme weather conditions, which currently hinder year-round training. Alongside the indoor stadium, the committee also discussed the identification of 8 acres of land in Chakulia block for the development of a multi-sports stadium, which would

serve as a regional center for outdoor sports activities.

The DDC further directed the District Sports Officer to compile a comprehensive list of all sports clubs and associations active in East Singhbhum, with a focus on verifying their registration status. He emphasized the need for greater transparency and accountability in the functioning of these

bodies to ensure they are actively contributing to the growth of sports in the region.

In a move aimed at supporting grassroots talent, directions were issued to promote awareness regarding the Player Welfare Fund and to take necessary action for the appointment of certified trainers in the district's day-boarding sports programs. These trainers will play a key role in identifying and grooming young athletes from an early age, particularly in government schools.

The committee also proposed the utilization of retired trainers and former athletes for imparting free sports training in government schools. The DDC was asked to prepare a list of such experienced individuals and

collaborate with the District Education Officer and District Education Superintendent for their placement in schools under suitable arrangements.

Another key agenda item was the registration of Sidho-Kanhu Youth Sports Clubs under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The DDC directed all Block Development Officers (BDOs) to ensure timely completion of registration processes and mobilize local participation through these clubs.

Many noted that a dedicated indoor facility in the district has been a long-standing demand of local athletes and coaches, and its realization would mark a transformative shift for sports in East Singhbhum.



Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren, 49, was appointed national president of the ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) on Tuesday after former chief minister Shibu Soren, 81, stepped down from the post to make space for his son. Shibu Soren, who has been JMM's national president since 1987, made the announcement at the party's two-day national convention in Ranchi on Tuesday. He has been appointed as the party's founder patron.

PM Modi discusses expansion of Green Strategic Partnership with Danish counterpart

New Delhi, April 15 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday spoke with Denmark PM Mette Frederiksen, emphasising that both countries continue to work extensively together in several fields, including the Green Strategic Partnership.

"Glad to speak with PM Mette Frederiksen today. Reaffirmed our strong support for the India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership and enhancing cooperation across sectors for the benefit of our people. We also discussed regional and global developments of mutual interest," PM Modi posted on X after the phone call.

Recalling high-level exchanges between both countries ever since the launch of the Green Strategic Partnership in 2020, the leaders noted the expansion of the Green Strategic Partnership in various fields which have created favourable conditions for Danish investments in India to contribute to green transition. The leaders also discussed regional and global issues of mutual interest. Prime Minister Modi said that he was looking forward to the 3rd India-Nordic Summit scheduled to be held later this year in Norway, and his meeting with Prime Minister Frederiksen at that time. Denmark is also the only country in the world with which India has a Green Strategic Partnership. Both leaders had co-chaired a Virtual Summit between India and Denmark in September 2020 and launched a Green Strategic Partnership between the two countries that envisioned co-operation in the field of environment/water and circular economy and sustainable urban development including Smart Cities.



24 Bangladeshi infiltrators arrested from village near coastal border in Bengal's Sundarbans

Kolkata, April 15 (IANS) As many as 24 Bangladeshi infiltrators, including women and children, have been arrested from a village close to the coastal border with Bangladesh in the Sundarbans area of West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district during the last 24 hours, officials said on Tuesday.

Of the 24 infiltrators, 11 are women, nine are men, and the remaining four are children. They were arrested from a village located within the Chilmari forest in the Sundarbans area.

According to the Superintendent of Baruipur police district, Palash Chandra Dhali, a police team conducted a raid on the village, based on specific information from their sources of illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators hiding at the village within the Chilmari forest.

"None of them has any valid document of permission to enter India. In the face of interrogation, they



Bangladeshi citizens will be presented to a district court on Wednesday. It is learnt that none of the 24 Bangladeshi residents were even carrying any document that could prove their identities as Bangladeshi citizens. The police are now interrogating them to

NHRC to send team to probe rights violation in Murshidabad

New Delhi, April 15 (IANS) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Tuesday decided to send a team to West Bengal's Murshidabad to inquire into rights violation in the troubled district due to violent protests against the Waqf Act, 2025.

Taking note of a complaint received by the Commission, an NHRC Bench presided over by its member Priyank Kanoongo took cognisance, in terms of Section 12 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, in the matter.

"Given the seriousness of the matter, the Director General (Investigation), NHRC, is directed to assign a team of officers from the Investigation Division

of the Commission to conduct an on-spot inquiry at Murshidabad, West Bengal. The inquiry report should be submitted to the Commission within a period of three weeks," Kanoongo said, expressing his intention to accompany the team.

The NHRC Bench's order said the present complaint pertains to various social media news articles highlighting the alleged murder of two named victims (father and son) due to the ongoing protest against the Waqf Act.

The complainant alleged that goons from the Muslim community have been on an attacking spree, targeting men and women from the Hindu community and their properties.

admitted that they entered the Indian side through the coastal route," Dhali said. The arrested know their real intention to enter the Indian territo-

Murshidabad violence: Two held in connection with murder of father, son

Kolkata, April 15 (IANS) Two persons have been arrested so far in connection with the murder of Hargobindo Das and his son Chandan Das, at Samsernanj in Murshidabad district of West Bengal last week. The murder of the father and son took place when the entire district was on the boil after protests against the newly-promulgated Waqf (Amendment) Act, turned violent. Confirming the arrests of two persons in this connection, the Additional Director General of Police (South Bengal), Supratim Sarkar, said that one of the two suspects had been arrested from Birbhum district, while the other was held from Suti area in Murshidabad only. However, Sarkar did not disclose the identities of the two arrested suspects. "They were nabbed after night-long search operations. One has been arrested from Birbhum and the other from Murshidabad," Sarkar told media persons on Tuesday afternoon.



ry. Some of them had admitted that they had come to India in search of a livelihood. The investigating officials are not ruling out the possibility of the involvement of an international human trafficking racket behind this development.

SC adjourns hearing on suo moto case relating to Lokpal's power to take complaints against HC judges

New Delhi, April 15 (IANS) The Supreme Court on Tuesday adjourned hearing on a matter where it has suo moto (on its own motion) stayed the operation of a decision of the Lokpal holding that the anti-corruption body can entertain complaints against High Court judges.

A Special Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai, Surya Kant and Abhay S. Oka, when assembled in the post-lunch session, said that the suo moto case would take at least two hours of hearing and decided to list the matter for final hearing on April 30. In the previous hear-



ing, the Justice Gavai-led Bench appointed senior advocate Ranjit Kumar as an amicus curiae (friend of the court), clarifying that the apex court would only examine the question of jurisdiction of the Lokpal and would not enter into the merits of the allegations raised by the complainant.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, the second highest law officer of the Centre, submitted that High Court judges, a constitutional functionary, will never fall within the ambit of the anti-corruption law.

In an interim order passed on February 20, the

Supreme Court stayed the operation of the impugned decision of the Lokpal after the anti-corruption body referred the two complaints to the office of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) containing the allegations that a sitting additional judge of a high court influenced his colleague and an additional district judge who had to deal with the suit filed against the complainant by a private company.

"Something very very disturbing," the Justice Gavai-led Bench had remarked as it issued notice to the Union government and the Registrar of the Lokpal.

Japanese Ambassador meets 97-year-old freedom fighter Asha Sahay in Patna

Patna, April 15 (IANS) On his official visit to Bihar, Japanese Ambassador to India Keiichi Ono paid tribute to India's freedom movement by meeting Asha Sahay Choudhry, a veteran of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's Rani of Jhansi Regiment.

Born in 1928, Choudhry joined the regiment inspired by Netaji's call for India's independence. Now 97, she lives in Patna and remains a symbol of courage and patriotism.

"I had the honor of meeting Ms. Asha Sahay Choudhry, who was born in Japan in 1928 & joined the Rani of the Jhansi Regiment, inspired by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, dedicating herself to



India's independence. Deeply admire her devotion to her motherland & wish her continued health," Ambassador Ono posted on the social media platform X.

Asha Sahay Choudhry was born in Kobe, Japan, in 1928. Her father, Anand Mohan Sahay, was a Minister in the Cabinet of the Azad Hind Government and a Political Adviser to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Asha met Netaji with her mother, Sati Sen Sahay when she was 15. She was formally inducted into the Rani of the Jhansi Regiment in early 1945. She trained in Bangkok and was imprisoned after the Japanese surrender. She was reunited with her father in April 1946.

In a heartwarming cultural moment, the ambassador also embraced Bihar's culinary traditions, posting a now-viral photo of himself relishing the state's iconic litti-chokha.

"Namaste Bihar! Finally got a chance to eat the world-famous litti-chokha -- awesome taste! Ajab swad ba!" he wrote, delighting social media users.

Errant pvt schools will face action for unfair fee hikes: Delhi CM Gupta

New Delhi, April 15 (IANS) Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday warned private schools of harsh consequences if they increase fee arbitrarily and vowed to issue notices to managements of all institutions which have allegedly hiked fee in violation of rules. "Schools indulging in illegal activities will have to face the music," said CM Gupta, confirming that parents have been complaining about some schools' high-handedness. "We have been getting complaints from parents. This is for sure that no school has a right to harass students or effect an enormous fee hike," she said, adding that there were rules and regulations for increasing fees.

SC expresses concern on Allahabad HC's observation that rape victim 'herself had invited trouble'

New Delhi, April 15 (IANS) The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed its concern over a bail order of the Allahabad High Court where it had observed that the victim "herself had invited trouble" and was also responsible for the alleged rape committed on her by the accused.

"There is another order now by another judge. Yes, bail can be granted. But what is this discussion that 'she herself invited trouble, etc'. One has to be careful when saying such things," remarked a bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and A.G. Masih as it dealt with the matter where it had suo moto (on its own motion) stayed the Allahabad High Court judgment holding that grabbing breasts and breaking the pyjama string



was not enough for charge of attempt to rape.

The Justice Gavai-led Bench said that it will hear the suo moto matter, including the plea of the victim's mother, after four weeks. Staying the impugned part of the Allahabad HC judgment, the apex court, on March 26, said that the observations depicted a total lack of sensitivity and an inhumane approach on the part of the author of the judgment. "We have perused the said judgment and order dated 17.03.2025. We are at pains to say that some of the observations made in the impugned order and particularly in paragraphs 21, 24, and 26 depict a total lack of sensitivity on the part of the

author of the judgment," it said. "But since the observations appearing in paragraphs 21, 24, and 26 are totally unknown to the cannons of law and depict a total insensitive and inhuman approach, we are inclined to stay the said observations," it added.

The Supreme Court has registered a suo moto case titled 'In Re: Order dated 17.03.2025 passed by the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad in Criminal Revision No. 1449/2024 and ancillary issues' following a letter from senior advocate Shobha Gupta, who urged the Chief Justice of India (CJI) to take cognisance of the observations made by a single-judge Bench of the Allahabad High Court while modifying a summoning order.

BJP leaders hail 'Kesari: Chapter 2' as powerful, urge Congress to watch it

New Delhi, April 15 (IANS) Bollywood star Akshay Kumar, along with prominent political leaders including Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, and BJP leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa attended the grand premiere of 'Kesari: Chapter 2' in the national capital ahead of its theatrical release.

Akshay Kumar, who portrays lawyer C. Sankaran Nair in the film, said he initially knew only what history books taught about the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, but the film offered him a deeper understanding of that dark chapter in India's freedom struggle. Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri praised the film for its historical resonance and emo-



justice," he wrote, adding, "The unifying message of this movie must reach people across the length and breadth of the country." Delhi Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa took a pointed swipe at the Congress, urging its leaders to watch the film. Speaking to IANS, he said, "Before the youth, this message is for the Congress. They erased the name of C. Sankaran Nair from history -- the man who fought for justice after Jallianwala Bagh. This film shows what the Congress tried to hide.