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RISHAV RAJ SHINES ON DEBUT AS JHARKHAND CRUSH TN BY AN INNINGS AND 114 RUNS : PAGE-11

JMM breaks away from Grand Alliance

To contest six seats independently in Bihar elections

Mail News Service

Patna/Ranchi, Oct 18: In a major political development ahead of the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) has announced that it will contest the elections independently, delivering a serious blow to the Grand Alliance (Mahagathbandhan). Jharkhand Chief Minister and JMM Chief Hemant Soren declared that his party would field candidates on six Assembly seats in Bihar including Chakai, Dhamdha, Katoria, Manihari, Pirpainti and Jamui. The announcement came amid ongoing uncertainty and internal disagreements over seat-sharing within the Grand Alliance.



JMM's Central General Secretary and spokesperson Supriyo Bhattacharya confirmed the decision, emphasizing that the announcement was made on an auspicious day, Dhanteras, associated with Goddess Lakshmi, and Pradosh Tithi, dedicated to Lord Mahadev. Bhattacharya highlighted that while the JMM had always main-

tained a respectful alliance with the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) in Jharkhand, it had faced repeated neglect in Bihar. "In the 2019 Jharkhand Assembly elections, the RJD was allotted seven seats, and its lone winner, Satyanand Bhokta, was made a cabinet minister for five years. In 2024, the RJD received six seats, four of which it won, and again, one member was given a key ministerial post. We have always re-

spected the RJD in Jharkhand. But in Bihar, we were consistently told to wait. The JMM can endure anything but not the compromise of self-respect," Bhattacharya stated. The JMM's campaign in Bihar will be spearheaded by Hemant Soren himself, supported by a strong team of 20 senior party leaders, including Kalpana Soren, Basant Soren, Stephen Marandi, Mohammad Tajuddin, Uday Shankar Singh, Hemlal Murmu,

Deepak Birua, Sudibya Kumar Sonu, Hafizul Ansari, MP Vijay Hansda, Supriyo Bhattacharya, Vinod Kumar Pandey, Abhishek Prasad Pintu, Fagu Besra, Pankaj Mishra and Sunil Srivastava. The JMM's decision to go solo added to the growing disarray within the Grand Alliance, which includes the RJD, Congress, Left parties and Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP). Unlike the NDA, which has finalized its seat-sharing agreement among the BJP, JDU, LJP (Ram Vilas), HAM, and RLSP, the Grand Alliance continued to struggle with internal conflicts.

Both the RJD and Congress have already declared candidates for multiple seats without coordination, leading to potential multi-cornered contests that could benefit the NDA.

Political analysts believed that JMM's exit from the alliance might further weaken the opposition bloc in Bihar and could split votes in key constituencies, ultimately giving the NDA an electoral advantage in the upcoming polls. (w/gsd)

Ghatshila by-poll turns triangular, Ramdas Murmu to challenge JMM and BJP

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Oct 18: The upcoming Ghatshila assembly by-poll has taken a triangular turn with the Jharkhand Loktantrik Krantikari Morcha (JKM), led by Jairam Mahato, announcing its candidate Ramdas Murmu.

The party made the declaration through an official press release, confirming Murmu's entry into the contest against the heavyweights - Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The by-poll was necessitated following the demise of former education minister and three-time MLA Ramdas Soren, who had represented the JMM.

On Friday, both JMM's Somesh Soren and BJP's Babul Soren filed their nomination papers amid massive rallies and shows of strength from their respective parties.

Senior leaders accompanied both candidates during



the filing process, which was followed by spirited public meetings in the constituency.

So far, four candidates have filed their nominations for the Ghatshila by-poll. The last date for filing nominations is October 21, while scrutiny will take place on October 22. Candidates will have until October 24 to withdraw their nominations.

In the 2024 Assembly elections, the late Ramdas Soren had defeated BJP's Babul Soren by over 22,000 votes, retaining the seat for JMM.

Known as a grassroots

leader, Soren had served as the party's East Singhbhum district president and was inducted into Chief Minister Hemant Soren's cabinet as education minister after the INDIA bloc's victory in 2024. His political journey began as a village head (gram pradhan) before rising through the ranks of the JMM.

With Ramdas Murmu's entry, the Ghatshila by-poll is now shaping up to be a three-cornered battle, promising a high-stakes political contest in one of Jharkhand's most politically sensitive constituencies. (w/pm)

Trump says India has 'de-escalated' on Russian oil

Washington, Oct 18 (IANS) US President Donald Trump on Friday reiterated his claim that India has "de-escalated" on buying Russian oil, as he met his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the White House.



"India is not going to be buying Russian oil anymore. And they have already de-escalated, and they have more or less stopped; they are pulling back. They bought about 38 per cent of the oil, and they won't be doing it anymore," he added. Trump on Wednesday asserted that he has been "assured" that India won't be buying oil from Russia, while adding that he understood that it couldn't be done "immediately." "He assured me today that they will not be buying oil from Russia... You can't do it immediately. It's a little bit of a process, but the process is going to be over with soon, and all we want from President Putin is... stop this," he noted. He added that if India doesn't buy Russian oil, it makes it "much easier" to end the conflict.

"Within a short period of time, they will not be buying oil from Russia, and they'll go back to Russia after the war's over," he emphasised.

Trump also described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "great man" and India as "an incredible country."

Nishikant Dubey claims Rajiv Gandhi influenced 1977 Boeing deal

New Delhi, Oct 18 (IANS) BJP MP Nishikant Dubey on Saturday accused former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of exerting undue influence over a 1977 Indian Airlines aircraft purchase, alleging that he intervened to secure a deal with Boeing for personal commission instead of opting for Airbus, despite opposition from key government bodies.

In a post on X, Dubey directly targeted Congress MP and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, questioning his father's alleged involvement.

"Rahul Gandhi ji, in the pursuit of commission in 1977, did your father get Air India to purchase three Boeing aircraft instead of Airbus? Did your father attend meetings illegally without any authority? Did the opposition from the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry not apply to your family for the sake of the commission?" he wrote.

The controversy dates back to the final months of the Emergency under then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, when Indian Airlines decided to purchase three Boeing 737 aircraft.

8 pilgrims killed in Maharashtra after bus falls into ravine

Mumbai, Oct 18 (IANS): At least eight pilgrims were killed in a tragic accident in Nandurbar, Maharashtra on Saturday when a bus lost control and fell into a deep ravine at Chandshali Ghat. The victims were returning from a visit to the Astamba Devi temple when the incident occurred, police said.

According to authorities, the driver lost control while navigating the steep ghat road, causing the vehicle to plunge into the ravine. The impact was so severe that passengers were thrown from the bus, which was completely damaged.

Local police rushed to the scene and immediately sent the injured to Taloda Sub-District Hospital, while those seriously wounded were referred to the district hospital for advanced treatment. The bodies of the deceased were sent for post-mortem and later handed over to their families.

The Astamba Devi temple is a significant pilgrimage site, especially among the tribal community, attracting large numbers of visitors from Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Chandshali Ghat, where the accident occurred, is known for its steep and treacherous terrain, increasing the risk for vehicles navigating the route.

Every inch of Pak's territory now within BrahMos reach: Rajnath

Lucknow, Oct 18 (IANS) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said that "every inch of Pakistan is now within the range of the BrahMos missile", as he hailed the successful delivery of the first batch of BrahMos missiles produced at the Lucknow facility of BrahMos Aerospace.



Speaking at the flagging-off ceremony in Lucknow, where he was joined by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Singh said India's defence manufacturing capabilities have entered a new era, with Lucknow emerging as a major centre of the country's security and self-reliance.

"Lucknow is no longer just a city of 'tehzeeb' (etiquette); it has become a city of technology and industries. Every step taken from here is a step towards India's security and self-reliance," he said.

Recalling that the facility was inaugurated in May

2025, Singh noted that within just five months, the first batch of missiles was ready for delivery -- calling it a "record of credibility and capability."

He underlined that BrahMos has become a "symbol of India's growing indigenous capabilities," and praised its combination of speed, accuracy, and power. "For us, it is a matter of pride that today BrahMos has become the backbone of

the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force," he said.

Referring to Operation Sindoor, Singh said it had demonstrated that "victory has become a habit for India."

He described the military operation as the "biggest proof" of the country's strength, adding, "What happened in Operation Sindoor was just a trailer, but that trailer alone made Pakistan realise that if India

can create Pakistan, then when the time comes... You all are wise enough to understand."

He added that BrahMos's successful performance in Operation Sindoor has strengthened global confidence in India's defence capabilities. "The practical demonstration of BrahMos has instilled confidence not only in our people but also across the world," he said.

Jharkhand Police review security in Bihar border districts

Ranchi, Oct 18: The Jharkhand Police on Saturday reviewed security arrangements in districts bordering poll-bound Bihar and asked officers concerned to intensify operations against Maoists and criminal gangs, according to a statement.

IG (Operations) and state police nodal officer Michael Raj S held a review meeting with the superintendents of police (SPs) of Hazaribag, Garhwa, Chatra, Giridih, Godda, Palamu, Koderma, Deoghar, Sahibganj, and Dumka districts via video conference, it said. He asked the district police heads to strengthen the interstate and checkpoints and intensify operations against Maoists and criminal gangs, the police statement said. The nodal officer also directed

them to prevent the interstate movement of illegal liquor, narcotic items, illegal firearms and illicit money in a bid to ensure fair and peaceful elections in Bihar.

The SPs were directed to "share intelligence inputs regarding interstate wanted criminals, warrant holders and history-sheeters", and take necessary action, it said.

He also instructed them to "take strict and effective joint action against the leaders and members of active interstate organised criminal gangs, as well as wanted criminals from Bihar residing in Jharkhand".

The elections to 243 seats of the Bihar assembly will be held on November 6 and 11, and votes will be counted on November 14.

Will shatter India's geographical immunity: Munir

New Delhi, Oct 18 (IANS) In an escalation of rhetoric, Pakistan's Army Chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, has warned that Pakistan's expanding military capabilities could "shatter the misconceived immunity of India's geographical war space." His statement, delivered during a high-profile address at the Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) in Kakul, signifies yet another round of nuclear sabre-rattling by Islamabad. This time, it comes against the backdrop of ongoing Pakistani airstrikes on Afghan civilians near the border. Munir, addressing graduating cadets, asserted that while there is "no space for war in a nuclearised environment," even a "minor

provocation" from India would invite a "decisive, beyond proportions" response from Pakistan. "Should a fresh wave of hostilities be triggered, Pakistan would respond much beyond the expectations of the initiators," he said. "With diminishing distinction between combat and communication zones, the reach and lethality of our weapon systems will shatter the misconceived immunity of India's geographic vastness." Munir went on to warn of "deeply hurting retributive military and economic losses" and said the responsibility for any future escalation, potentially with "catastrophic consequences for the region and beyond" would rest solely with India.

Bihar elections: Grand Alliance in disarray as allies clash on eight seats

Patna, Oct 18 (IANS) Even after the first round of nominations is over, the Grand Alliance in Bihar has failed to reach a consensus on seat sharing. As a result, eight candidates from the alliance are now locked in direct contests against each other, exposing deep fissures within the opposition bloc.

The nomination process for the first phase of the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections concluded on Friday, but the Grand Alliance - comprising the RJD, Congress, CPI, CPI-ML, CPIM, and VIP - has yet to formally announce its seat-sharing arrangement.

Despite the nomination deadline passing, there is still no clarity on how many seats each constituent party will contest.

Internal disagreements have marred the alliance's coordination.

So far, the Congress has released a list of 48 candidates, while the CPI(ML) has announced 18 candidates.

However, the lack of coordination has led to a situa-



tion where the allies are competing against one another in the very first phase of the election.

In at least eight constituencies, Grand Alliance partners have fielded rival candidates.

The RJD has given a ticket to Shivani Shukla, daughter of strongman Munna Shukla, from Lalganj.

Shivani, accompanied by her mother Annu Shukla, filed her nomination soon after receiving the party symbol.

However, the Congress has also fielded Aditya Kumar Raja from the same seat, setting up a direct intra-alliance clash in Lalganj.

Apart from Lalganj, RJD's Ajay Kushwaha is contesting against Congress's Sanjeev Kumar in Vaishali.

In Tarapur, RJD's Arun Shah is contesting against VIP's Sakaldev Bind.

In Bachhwara (Begusarai), CPI's Awadhesh Rai is competing against Congress's Garib Das.

On Gaura Bauram, RJD's Afzal Ali is contesting against VIP's Santosh Sahani.

In Rajapakad, CPI's Mohit Paswan is contesting against Congress's Pratima Das.

In Rosera, CPI's Laxman Paswan is contesting against Congress's B.K. Ravi and one more seat where the Grand Alliance constituent partners are contesting against each other.

Paid leave declared for all workers

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Oct 18: To ensure maximum voter participation in the Ghatsila Assembly By-Election 2025, the District Election Officer, Karn Satyarthi, has issued an important directive granting paid leave to all voters working in both government and private sectors within the Ghatsila Assembly Constituency on the day of polling, November 11, 2025.

The order has been issued in accordance with the instructions of the Election Commission of India and under Section 135(b) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. The provision ensures that every eligible voter is able to exercise their democratic right without facing any employment-related obstacles.

According to the directive, every person employed in any business, profession, industrial undertaking, or any other establishment and entitled to vote in the election shall be granted leave on the polling day. Employers have been instructed not to deduct or reduce wages of such employees for availing leave to vote.

Ghatsila bypoll



Furthermore, if an employee is on a daily wage or contractual basis, they must still be paid their usual wages for the day, even if they do not work on account of the polling holiday.

The order also specifies penalties for non-compliance. Any employer found violating the provisions of Section 135(b) may be liable to a fine of up to five hundred rupees. However, the section provides an exception for electors whose absence from work may cause potential danger or substantial loss in connection with the employment

they are engaged in. Additionally, in light of the polling for the Ghatsila Assembly By-Election 2025, November 11 has been declared a public holiday under Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881. Consequently, all government offices, public establishments, and institutions within the Ghatsila Assembly Constituency will remain closed on the day of polling.

The District Election Officer emphasized that this step aims to uphold the spirit of democratic participation and to facilitate every eligible citizen's right to vote freely and conveniently. By ensuring paid leave and declaring a public holiday, the administration seeks to remove barriers that might prevent voters from casting their vote.

Citizens have been urged to make full use of this opportunity and contribute to strengthening democracy by turning out in large numbers on November 11. The district administration has appealed to all voters to participate responsibly and uphold the values of a free, fair, and transparent electoral process. (W-pb)

Monkey's sudden appearance at BJP Rally interpreted as Lord Hanuman's blessings

Mail News Service

Ghatsila, Oct 18: A rather unusual yet heartwarming moment stole the spotlight at the BJP's election rally for the Ghatsila Assembly by-election when a monkey climbed onto the stage and embraced a party leader, leaving the crowd both astonished and delighted. The incident occurred during the nomination event of BJP candidate Babulal Soren, attended by several senior leaders including State BJP President Babulal Marandi and former Chief Minister Champai Soren. As the leaders addressed the gathering, the monkey suddenly appeared on stage and quietly sat beside BJP leader Ramesh Hansda.

At first, there was a moment of panic among those present, fearing the animal might turn aggressive. However, to everyone's surprise, the monkey behaved calmly, even hugging Ramesh Hansda affectionately, as if in a gesture of blessing. Hansda responded kindly, offering the monkey some food, while the audience quickly pulled



out their mobile phones to capture the unexpected scene.

The spontaneous act soon took on a spiritual tone. Many in the audience interpreted it as a divine sign of Lord Hanuman's blessing, given the timing and the symbolism associated with the monkey God in Hindu belief. Laughter and devotion filled the air as people discussed the rare sight, calling it a "miracle of Hanumanji" and a "good omen" for the party. Reacting to the incident, Ramesh Hansda said, "When the monkey came near me, I was scared at first. But when it didn't harm anyone and instead hugged me, I felt

as though Lord Hanuman Himself had come to bless me. It seemed to say, 'Keep doing your work faithfully; success will follow.'"

After a brief stay on stage, the monkey calmly descended and walked toward the crowd before disappearing into the nearby area. The rally then continued peacefully.

The episode has since become the talk of the town in Ghatsila, with many BJP supporters viewing it as a symbolic and auspicious sign ahead of the by-election— an unexpected yet memorable moment where politics and faith beautifully intertwined. (w/gsd)

Flag march conducted in Gamharia to ensure festive peace

Mail News Service

Gamharia, Oct 18: Ahead of Diwali, Chhath and other upcoming festivals, a flag march was conducted in Gamharia under the "Prahari" initiative, following the directives of SP Mukesh Kumar Lunayat. The march was led by SDPO Seraikeela, with Adityapur Police Station In-charge Vinod Kumar Murmu and Gamharia Police Station In-charge Kunal Kumar participating. The team interacted with shopkeepers and residents at Lal Building Chowk, Chhota Gamharia Durga Puja Ground and nearby markets, urging them to celebrate peacefully. "The march aims to curb crime, harassment, illegal parking and other disturbances during the festive season," said Kunal Kumar. A large contingent of armed police from Adityapur and Gamharia stations joined the operation to maintain law and order. (w/nkm)



Jharkhand police nab two naxals in Chhotanagpur area

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, Oct 18: Under the guidance of the Director General and Inspector General of Police, Jharkhand, the state police, along with COBRA, CRPF, Jharkhand Jaguar, and other central paramilitary forces, have been conducting sustained operations against all naxal organizations, yielding significant successes in recent months.

Top leaders of the banned CPI (Maoist) - including Misir Besra, Anmol, Mochu, Anal, Asim Mandal, Ajay Mahto, Sagen Angaria, and Ashwin - along with their squads, remain active in the Kolhan-Saranda region, carrying out anti-



national activities and targeting police and security forces.

Based on timely intelligence, co-ordinated operations are regularly conducted by

Jharkhand Police, COBRA, CRPF, and Jharkhand Jaguar to neutralize these threats.

On the night of October 9-10, naxalites damaged a culvert in

the Ratamati area under Chhotanagpur police station by planting an IED. Following this incident, a case was registered on October 10, under sections 326 (B), 3(5) of BNS, 4 of the Public Property Damage Act-1984, Sections 3/4/5 of the Explosives Act, and 17 CLF Act, and investigations were initiated. Acting on technical and human intelligence, police successfully arrested two naxal squad members involved in the incident:

Recovered Items:

22 pieces of 09-volt batteries
Around 200 meters of electric wire

Arrested Naxalites:

1) Albret Lomga, alias Rengo Lomga, approx. 19 years old, son of Joseph Lomga, resident of Gram Sinkal, Bandgaon Police Station, West Singhbhum, Chaibasa; currently residing at

Nurda, Chhotanagpur police station.

2) Vikas Lomga, alias Rapa Lomga, alias Gabri Lomga, alias Balka Lomga, approx. 20 years old, son of Late Satri Lomga, resident of Gram Sinkal, Bandgaon police station, West Singhbhum, currently residing at Nurda, Chhotanagpur police station.

Jharkhand police has appealed to those involved in naxal activities to avail the state government's surrender and rehabilitation schemes and reintegrate with mainstream society. (w/pm)

Teen girl abducted in Bagbera, two accused on the run

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Oct 18: A 17-year-old girl was allegedly abducted from Bagbera in the outskirts of Jamshedpur, prompting police to launch a manhunt for two accused who have been absconding since the incident.

According to the complaint lodged by the victim's family, the accused have been identified as Lal Babu Chandravanshi (40) and Deepu Chandravanshi alias Ruwani, both residents of Garabasa near Govardhan Baba Temple.

The incident reportedly occurred around 11:30 a.m. on October 16, when the teenager had stepped out of her home for some work and did not return.

Her family searched for her throughout the day but failed to locate her.

The next morning, on October 17, they approached Bagbera police station and filed a written complaint, alleging that the two men had abducted the girl with the intent to harm her.

They also accused the duo of using abusive language, harassment, and issuing threats.

Following the complaint, police registered a case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code related to abduction, assault, and criminal intimidation.

Bagbera police station officer-in-charge said that a special team has been formed to trace the accused. "We are analysing mobile phone locations and CCTV footage from nearby areas. Both accused will be arrested soon," the officer assured.

The incident has sparked tension and outrage in the local area, with residents demanding action against the culprits. (w/pm)

Two minors sexually assaulted at Sakchi hotel, four held

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Oct 18: A case of sexual assault on two minor girls has been reported from a hotel in the Sakchi area.

Police have arrested four persons in connection with the incident, which occurred on the evening of October 16. According to the police, the victims, both aged around 12 years, were allegedly lured to Kailash Hotel located in Sana Complex, Sakchi, by the accused, who then committed the offence.

Acting on a tip-off, the Sakchi police conducted a raid and

apprehended all four suspects from the hotel premises.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Kailash Mishra of Bihar Green under Sonari police station, Karan Kumar Rana of Itkhori in Chhata district, Raunak Kumar Das alias Shreyash of Shastri Nagar Block No. 4, Kadma, and Tarun Sharma alias Golu of Sonari near CP Club. Police informed that the victims have been sent to MGM Hospital for medical examination, and necessary legal procedures, including the recording of their statements before a magistrate, are being initiated.

A case has been registered under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Preliminary investigations indicate that the accused were known to each other and had planned the act in advance.

The police are also interrogating the hotel management regarding the circumstances under which the room was allotted and the lack of verification procedures. The incident has drawn concern among residents, who have called for a fair and swift investigation to ensure justice for the victims. (w/pm)

Crowds flock to markets on Dhanteras for festive shopping



Gamharia, Oct 18: Dhanteras festivities turned markets in Gamharia and Kandra into bustling hubs of activity as people thronged shops from noon till late night to make festive purchases. Jewellery, utensils and electronics shops witnessed the highest rush, while stalls selling Ganesh-Lakshmi idols, earthen lamps and brooms also drew heavy crowds. Streets and footpaths were lined with makeshift stalls decorated for the occasion. "By evening, there was hardly space to move," said a local vendor. Police personnel were deployed across key points to manage traffic and ensure public safety. Despite brief traffic jams, the festive enthusiasm remained undeterred and shoppers continued till late hours. (w/nkm)

One in police net for vandalism at Bistupur DC Lounge

Jamshedpur, Oct 18: The police have cracked the case of the vandalism at Bistupur DC Lounge that took place on the evening of October 13.

Based on CCTV footages, Md. Mustaq Gaddi (37) was identified as the person who entered the lounge's salon carrying an iron rod. He was arrested on Friday, and the rod was seized from his possession.

City SP Kumar Shivashish stated that an SIT team was formed under the direction of the SSP, led by DSP CCR Manoj Thakur, to investigate the incident. Using CCTV evidence, the police successfully apprehended Gaddi.

Further details revealed that Gaddi, along with some associates, had been involved in an altercation in Sakchi. One of the victims was related to the DC Lounge operator. In retaliation, Gaddi targeted the Bistupur DC Lounge, carrying out the vandalism.

Two other FIRs related to incidents in Bistupur and Sakchi are also under investigation. Md. Mustaq Gaddi has been sent to judicial custody. (w/pm)

MLA writes to DC urging proper arrangements at Chhath Ghats

Mail News service

Jamshedpur, Oct 18: Ahead of the Chhath festival, Jamshedpur West MLA Saryu Roy has written to the Deputy Commissioner of East Singhbhum, urging necessary arrangements at various Chhath ghats to ensure the convenience and safety of devotees. In his letter, Roy emphasized that access paths to the ghats should be leveled, ghats cleaned and bleaching powder sprayed to maintain hygiene. He also highlighted the need for lifeguards, changing rooms, adequate lighting and clear marking of danger zones in the river, along with other essential safety measures.

Roy's representatives and Janata Dal (United) workers recently conducted inspections of several ghats to assess the ground situation. Based on their survey, he identified key locations requiring attention, including Sonari Dumuhani Ghat, Dobo Pul Ghat, Baccha Singh Basti Ghat, Kapali Ghat, Tilu Bhatta Ghat, Sakchi Gandhi Ghat, Kadma Shastrinagar Ghats (Block 3, Nirmal Colony, Road No. 1 & 9, Green Park, Satish Chhath Ghat, Neel Sarovar Ghat), Ramjanmanagar Ghats and several others across Kadma. Further, Roy requested arrangements at Mango area ghats, including Gokul Nagar (Road 4), Anukul Thakur Ghat, Gaud Basti, Bagra Kuli

Ghat, Shanti Nagar Surya Mandir Ghat, Works College Ghat, Sai Suraj Ashram Ghat, Shankosai Ramnagar Ghat, Shyam Nagar Ghat, Chanakya Puri Colony Ghat, Intek Well Ghat, Gurudwara Road Akali Ghat, Baikunthnagar Road No. 4 Ghat, Vastu Vihar Ghat and Paridh Ghat, as well as Lakshman Nagar Ghat. Roy stressed that these measures are crucial to ensure devotees, especially Chhath vratis, do not face any inconvenience during the festival. Copies of the letter were also sent to the Additional Municipal Commissioner, Mango Municipal Corporation and Jamshedpur Notified Area Committee for coordination and prompt action. (w/nkm)

Woman arrested for gold theft at Mahalaxmi Jewellers

Mail News Service,

Jamshedpur, Oct 18: A woman from Jamshedpur was arrested for stealing a gold ring from Mahalaxmi Jewellers after attempting to deceive the shop staff by swapping it with a roll-gold (brass) ring. The accused, Chandni Devi, wife of Sonu Sinha, a resident of Gwala Basti, Sidgora, was caught in the act.

Based on a written complaint filed by Tapan Rana, son of Vibhishan Rana of Dayal Market, JADUGUDA, police registered Case No. 62/25 under Sections 318(3), 303(2), 317(2) and 3(5) of the BNS. Chandni Devi's accomplice, Pintu Sahu, a resident of Hazaribagh, has also been named in the FIR.

Police recovered the stolen gold ring and seized ₹11,020 in cash from the accused. She was formally arrested and sent to judicial custody. Police said her attempt to steal in a "clever yet secretive manner" backfired, leading to her immediate arrest. (w/nkm)

Saryu Roy questions police conduct in DC Lounge incident, writes to SSP

Mail News service

Jamshedpur, Oct 18: Jamshedpur West MLA Saryu Roy has raised serious questions regarding the police's handling of the DC Lounge vandalism incidents in Sakchi and Bistupur. In a detailed letter to the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Rai has sought explanations about the late-night movements and actions of certain police officials, including the Bistupur Police Station In-charge and officer Gopal Pandey, whose roles he described as "suspicious."

Rai questioned why the Bistupur Police Station Officer went to Sakchi DC Lounge around 11:30 PM, several

hours after attackers from Ramdas Bhatta had assaulted people there at 6:30 PM using injection syringes and other weapons. "Why did the Bistupur officer enter Sakchi's jurisdiction at midnight and threaten local residents for half an hour? Did he have permission from senior district police officials?" Roy asked in his letter.

He further questioned why officer Gopal Pandey appeared more active than his superior and allegedly retrieved a youth hiding in a nearby teacher's house. Roy demanded to know the youth's identity and whether the Bistupur officer had informed the Sakchi police before taking such action.



The MLA alleged that the two officers might have visited Sakchi to destroy evidence or protect the interests of the attackers who vandalized the Sakchi and later the Ramdas

Bhatta DC Lounge outlets. "If their behaviour was biased, how can we expect an impartial investigation from Bistupur police?" Rai wrote.

Roy also accused the Bistupur officer of returning five motorcycles left by the attackers at the Sakchi site instead of seizing them as evidence. "The officer should have made an inventory, seized the vehicles and coordinated with Sakchi police for further action under the relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita," he said, calling the act "a criminal offence."

Referring to media reports about the formation of an SIT and the recovery of a hammer

allegedly used in the vandalism, Rai expressed skepticism about the police's claim of success. He said he had received CCTV and video footage showing a group of 30-40 youths, many wearing sports jerseys marked "RD Bhatta," attacking people outside DC Lounge, Sakchi. "The footage clearly shows the planned nature of the assault," he stated. Roy urged the SSP to conduct a comprehensive and impartial investigation into the roles of the Bistupur Police Station In-charge and Gopal Pandey. He warned that treating the case as resolved could worsen law and order in the city, especially in the Ramdas Bhatta area. (w/nkm)



Gold, Gadgets and Glitter: Jamshedpur celebrates Dhanteras with enthusiasm

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Oct 18: The festive spirit gripped the city as residents thronged markets and showrooms to celebrate Dhanteras, the auspicious beginning of Diwali. The city witnessed a massive shopping rush in the early morning, with glittering jewellery stores, electronic outlets, and automobile showrooms bustling with enthusiastic buyers.

Despite intermittent drizzles, the excitement among shoppers remained undiminished. Roads leading to major markets such as Bistupur, Sakchi, and Kadma were choked with vehicles, while

parking lots remained full throughout the day. Traders, too, had reason to cheer as sales across categories saw a remarkable surge compared to last year.

Traditionally, Dhanteras is considered the most auspicious day for purchasing gold and silver. This year, however, a noticeable shift was seen in consumer preferences. While jewellery stores continued to attract loyal customers, electronic goods dealers reported an unexpected boom. Products such as LED televisions, smartphones, washing machines, and kitchen appliances flew off the shelves, reflecting changing urban aspirations.

"A new trend has emerged where people are choosing electronic gadgets over gold ornaments. Working professionals, especially the younger generation, prefer to invest in items that add value to their daily lives. Our sales of electronic goods have shot up by nearly 60 percent this season, thanks to attractive festive discounts and easy finance options," said an electronics dealer in Bistupur.

Jewellery outlets, however, were no less crowded. Long queues were seen outside prominent jewellers, with families purchasing coins, bangles, and lightweight ornaments. "Gold remains a

symbol of prosperity and tradition. Most buyers prefer small items as a token purchase on Dhanteras, keeping the custom alive," said a local jeweller.

Automobile showrooms also witnessed brisk business as many people took delivery of their newly purchased cars and two-wheelers on this auspicious day. "Customers want their vehicles to arrive on Dhanteras. It's considered a lucky start. Our sales have nearly doubled, and advance bookings were overwhelming this time," said a representative from a popular car dealership.

Markets across Jamshedpur wore a festive look, illuminated with

colorful lights and decorated with flowers and rangoli. Sweet shops, utensil stores, and home décor outlets also reported heavy footfall. Families could be seen shopping together, buying gifts, diyas, and idols of Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesha in preparation for Diwali. Dhanteras, also known as Dhanvanti Trayodashi, is celebrated on the thirteenth lunar day of Krishna Paksha in the Hindu month of Kartik (October–November). The festival derives its name from the word "Dhan", meaning wealth. Devotees worship Goddess Lakshmi, the Goddess of prosperity, and Lord Dhanvantari, the divine physician.

For the mercantile community in particular, Dhanteras holds immense significance, symbolizing both spiritual and material prosperity. The city's traders, goldsmiths, and showroom owners described the day as "excellent for business" and a welcome revival after months of sluggish sales.

As dusk fell, homes and marketplaces across Jamshedpur shimmered with diyas and lights, marking the onset of Diwali with renewed hope, joy, and prosperity. The city's vibrant mood reflected not just the economic upturn but also the enduring faith in traditions that continue to unite people year after year. (W-pb)

Govt ensures healthcare access for poor ED files chargesheet against PLFI chief Dinesh Gope

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Oct 18: In a landmark and humane decision, Jharkhand government has declared that no poor person in the state will lose their life simply due to lack of a ration card or inability to afford medical treatment. Dr. Irfan Ansari, Minister of Food, Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs, announced this progressive move aimed at safeguarding vulnerable patients.

Dr. Ansari highlighted that numerous cases emerged from across the state where impoverished and helpless patients were unable to avail benefits of schemes like Ayushman Bharat, Mukhyamantri Jan Arogya Yojana, or Abua Health Security Plan because they did not possess ration cards. Addressing this gap, the government has

permanently reserved a quota of 100 ration cards in each district specifically for seriously ill poor families to ensure timely medical care.

To implement this, the department has issued a notification under the Jharkhand State Food Security Scheme (JSFSS), which mandates immediate issuance of ration cards to eligible beneficiaries suffering from critical illnesses. Additionally, under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), out of 3,38,675 vacancies available in 24 districts, 100 vacancies per district will be reserved for such families.

Minister Ansari further explained that these three lakh vacancies under NFSA will be filled on a priority basis to maximize the reach of food grains and health security benefits. This permanent arrangement aims to

eliminate delays in providing assistance to those in need in the future. Dr. Ansari emotionally stated, "Every poor person in Jharkhand is like my family. When someone dies due to lack of treatment, it is not just a death but a defeat of our compassion. I have vowed that such deaths will no longer happen in Jharkhand."

He emphasized that this initiative reflects Chief Minister Hemant Soren's commitment to ensure that every poor, tribal, and needy person in the state receives the real benefits of government schemes.

The announcement has sparked widespread joy and relief across Jharkhand. Social organizations, doctors, and the general public have hailed Dr. Ansari's move as a historic step that will transform the lives of the poor. (W-rg)

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Oct 18: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a prosecution complaint against banned Naxalite outfit PLFI Supremo Dinesh Gope along with 20 others. The chargesheet names Gop's two wives and several companies accused of aiding money laundering. This is the second chargesheet filed by the ED against Dinesh Gop. According to the ED, the PLFI chief allegedly collected extortion money amounting to Rs 20 crore from coal traders and contractors through a well-planned racket. Out of this, Rs 3.36 crore is suspected to have been laundered. Investigations revealed that Gop played the role of mastermind in laundering these extorted funds.

Gop reportedly used shell companies registered in the names of

his wives, Shakuntala Kumari and Heera Devi, to channel the illicit money through banking routes by creating fake business transactions. The ED also found that hawala operators and local money agents were used to launder the funds.

Post laundering, the extorted money was used to purchase luxury vehicles, cover family expenses, and fixed deposits were made in the names of family members. Earlier, the ED had filed a chargesheet against Nivesh Kumar, linked to laundering Rs 4 crore, out of which Rs 2 crore was connected to Dinesh Gop. The accused individuals include Nivesh Kumar from Dhurwa Adarsh Nagar, Dinesh Gop himself, Sumant Kumar associated with M/s Adi Shiv Shakti Minerals Pvt. Ltd., Shakuntala Kumari who is director of M/s Shiv Shakti Minerals and M/s Bhavya Engicon, and Heera Devi

connected with M/s Shiv Shakti Samridhi Infra Pvt. Ltd. Also named are Vinod Kumar from Madhukam, Chandrashekar Kumar owner of M/s Rekha Petroleum, and Nand Kishore Mahto who is an aide to Dinesh Gop. Companies such as M/s Shiv Shakti Samridhi Pvt. Ltd., M/s Bhavya Engicon, and M/s Shiv Adi Shakti Minerals are part of the case as well. Other accused include Jitendra Kumar from Singh Mod Prem Nagar, Nand Lal Swarnkar from Chhattarpur Delhi, Janardan Kumar Soni from Harmu Bypass, Vinay Kumar Jalan from Cart Sarai Road Upper Bazaar, Phuleswar Gop from Khunti, Jay Prakash Singh Bhuiyan from Rania, Arun Kumar alias Amit Jaiswal from Torpa, Arun Gop from Lapung, Faisle Musa from Doranda Kumhar Toli, and the company M/s Rinkiohen Marketing based in Hatia, Ranchi. (W-rg)

Mixer truck rams stationary dumper near Gamharia Police Station

Mail News Service

Gamharia, Oct 18: A serious road accident occurred near Gamharia Police Station on Saturday morning when a mixer truck rammed into a stationary dumper parked along the service road.

The impact was so strong that the mixer truck's driver was trapped inside the cabin for nearly an hour before being rescued with the help of locals. According to eyewitnesses, the dumper was parked near the police station gate when the mixer truck, reportedly coming from the wrong direction at high speed towards Pindra Beda, collided with it after the driver allegedly dozed off. The injured driver was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Traffic movement on the route remained disrupted for some time until police arrived and cleared the vehicles from the road, restoring normal flow. (w/nkm)

Five held in Kadma robbery case, weapons and stolen valuables recovered

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Oct 18: Police have cracked the sensational robbery case reported recently in the Kadma area, in which valuables worth around Rs 20 lakh were looted.

Acting promptly, police have arrested five accused and recovered weapons along with stolen items from their possession.

City SP Shivashish informed that on the evening of October 9, around 7:30 pm, a group of seven to eight masked men armed with weapons barged into

the house of Deep Raj Singh, a resident of Ramnagar Road No. 2, Kadma.

The assailants reportedly held the family hostage in one room and decamped with jewellery and valuables worth about Rs 20 lakh.

Following the incident, an investigation was launched under the supervision of the Senior Superintendent of Police.



(SIT) was constituted, which, after a professional probe,

successfully solved the case.

Those arrested have been identified as Mohammad Saddam, Faheem Alam, Krishna

Lohar alias Paari, Sayoraj Singh alias Jasse, and Kunal Singh Munda.

Police have recovered a country-made pistol, two live cartridges, a gold bracelet, a Titan wristwatch, a scooter, and a battery-operated auto-rickshaw used in the crime.

According to police, all the arrested individuals have criminal records and were previously involved in serious offences such as murder, theft, and burglary.

Raids are continuing to nab the remaining absconding accused. (w/pm)

537 temporary firecracker licenses issued in Jamshedpur



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Oct 18: Ahead of Diwali and Chhath, the district administration has granted temporary firecracker licenses to 537 vendors at 24 open grounds across the district. The initiative aims to ensure organized and safe celebrations. Amid the Ghatshila assembly by-election, the Election Commission revised its earlier guidelines on license distribution. Initially, only vendors licensed in 2024 were to be granted permission, leaving nearly 150 new applicants ineligible. After these vendors met Deputy Commissioner Karn Satyarthi and submitted their concerns, the DC forwarded a report to the Commission. Following this, the revised order allowed

Major Distribution of Licenses

- Sakchi Ambagan: 101
- Kadma Ganesh Puja Ground: 84
- Club House, Bistupur: 17
- Durga Puja Ground, Baridih: 39
- Circus Ground, Golmuri: 18
- Bagbera Wireless, Ground: 6
- Near Harijan School, Bhalubasa: 15
- Sunday Market, Birsanagar: 7
- Durga Puja Ground, Burmamines: 27
- Gaddha Ground Sidhgora: 15
- Near Ram Mandir, Sonari: 23
- Subuj Kalyan Sangh, Telco: 35

all new applicants-except in Ghatshila-to receive temporary licenses. The organized distribution of licenses is expected to ensure safe, festive celebrations across the district. (w/pm)

Fire safety lapses uncovered at Aam Bagan firecracker stalls

Jamshedpur, Oct 18: In the lead-up to Diwali, the Aam Bagan ground in Jamshedpur has been adorned with colorful firecracker stalls, as per the directives of the district administration. However, a recent inspection by the fire department personnel revealed serious lapses in fire safety compliance. During a targeted safety audit, officials discovered that several vendors were storing expired fire extinguishers at their stalls, a glaring violation of safety protocols. Authorities warned that such negligence could have catastrophic consequences and instructed shopkeepers to immediately replace the outdated equipment, failing which punitive measures will be enforced. The fire department also issued specific instructions to enhance on-site preparedness, including keeping water-filled drums and maintaining four to five bags of sand at each stall to tackle potential fire incidents. The proactive inspection underscores the administration's commitment to ensuring a safe and joyous Diwali for all, reminding vendors and visitors alike that celebration must never come at the cost of safety. (w/pm)



ACB registers case against Inspector for alleged extortion from coal trader

Ranchi, Oct 18: Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered an Intelligence Report (IR) against Inspector Ganesh Singh and initiated an investigation. According to ACB sources, Ganesh Singh is accused of demanding money from a coal trader based in Dhanbad. Previously posted in ACB, Singh is currently serving in Jharkhand Jaguar and also holds additional responsibility as NGO in-charge at the DGP office.

Initial inquiry was conducted following a complaint by the coal trader, which led to formal registration of the case on Friday. ACB officials have confirmed this development. Reports reveal that Ganesh Singh was earlier posted in Hazaribagh district, where he faced similar allegations of extortion from another coal trader, which had also been investigated.

Ganesh Singh held dual responsibilities during his tenure at ACB, including the NGO in-charge position at the DGP office. After the removal of DGP Anurag Gupta and appointment of ADG Priya Dubey as ACB chief, police headquarters transferred Ganesh Singh to Jharkhand Jaguar. The ongoing probe seeks to uncover further details regarding the extortion charges against him. (W-rg)

UNIMONI FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED

RO: N.G. 12 & 13 Ground Floor, North Block, Manjal Centre, Dickenson Road, Bangalore - 560 042. CIN No. U85110KA1995PLC018175

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public that Auction of pledged Gold Ornaments will be conducted by UNIMONI FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED on 22.10.2025 at 10:00 am at the respective centers given below. The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Loan Accounts of our various Customers who have failed to pay their dues. Our notices of auction have been duly issued to these borrowers. The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Overdue Loan Accounts of our various Customers mentioned below with branch name.

Auction Centre Address & Loan Nos: JHAMSHEDPUR (JHA - 1st Floor, Holding No 89/Aakash Building, Water Works Rosakchi, Jamshedpur -831001, Contact: 9334064424) 2161791, 2124777, 2164427.

(Reserves the right to alter the number of accounts to be auctioned &/ postpone/cancel the auction without any prior notice)

TC Employees' union delegation meets TMWU leaders



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Oct 18: A delegation of the newly formed TC Employees' Union paid a courtesy visit to the Tata Motors Workers' Union office on Saturday. The delegation met Union President Shashi Bhushan

Prasad and General Secretary R.K. Singh, who were warmly felicitated with traditional angavastras.

In return, Tata Motors Workers' Union (TMWU) extended a similar gesture, presenting angavastras and mementos to all visiting union

officials, including TC Employees' Union General Secretary Avinash Anupam and other office bearers.

During the meeting, General Secretary R.K. Singh briefed the visiting delegation on the functioning, management and operational style of Tata Motors

Workers' Union. He emphasized discipline, teamwork and mutual trust as the foundation of successful union work.

President Shashi Bhushan Prasad and R.K. Singh conveyed best wishes to the TC Employees' Union, encouraging them to work responsibly in the interests of both workers and management. The TC Employees' Union delegation included Avinash Anupam, Joint Secretary Shambhu Sharan, Assistant Secretaries Nitesh Kumar and Anjay Kumar, Treasurer Kamlesh Kumar, Vice Presidents Ratan Pramanik and Pradeep Sahu and Committee Member Rajan Prakash. Several officials and committee members of Tata Motors Workers' Union were also present during the meeting. (w/nkm)

Civil Defence trains railway staff in life-saving techniques



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Oct 18: Tata Nagar Railway Civil Defence organized a comprehensive training session on Basic Life Support (BLS), CPR and the management of Foreign Body Airway Obstruction (FBAO) at the New Electric Loco Shed auditorium. The session included PowerPoint presentations and live mock drills.

Inspector Santosh Kumar of Railway Civil Defence stated, "According to the National Safety Council, FBAO is a

major cause of accidental deaths among children under 16." He explained that children often choke due to food or small objects while playing, leading to blockage of oxygen flow and potentially fatal complications.

To address such emergencies, participants were trained in the Heimlich maneuver—a proven technique to clear airway obstructions. CPR demonstrations were also conducted, teaching staff how to respond to cardiac arrest, electric shock, or respiratory failure at the workplace. The CPR session emphasized the "Three Cs" — Check, Call and Care — and highlighted the "Golden Hour" principle. Demonstrators Ramesh Kumar and others showcased infant CPR techniques as well. Senior Section Engineer (General) R.N. Mahato thanked the Civil Defence team for organizing the valuable training session. (w/nkm)

Bansal Classes felicitates meritorious students of VIG English School

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Oct 18: Bansal Classes, Jamshedpur honored outstanding students of VIG English School, Govindpur, for their exceptional performance in the BOOST Scholarship Exam. Students from Classes 6 to 12 received Certificates of Merit during a special ceremony organized at the school.



Center Director Chandan Jaiswal and Head Counselor Saurya Bora of Bansal Classes distributed certificates and congratulated the students for their achievements. "We aim to nurture young

talent and provide them with quality guidance to excel in academics," said Jaiswal.

The BOOST Scholarship Exam, conducted across various schools in Jamshedpur,

witnessed participation from over 4,000 students. The initiative seeks to identify and support talented learners by offering enhanced learning opportunities.

The event was graced by the school's principal, teachers and parents, who applauded the students' efforts and expressed gratitude to Bansal Classes for their educational outreach. (w/nkm)

'Ek Diya Shaheedon Ke Naam' held in Gamharia



Gamharia, Oct 18: Ahead of Diwali, Swadeshi Jagran Manch organized a patriotic event titled 'Ek Diya Shaheedon Ke Naam' at Durga Puja Maidan in Chhota Gamharia. The event was chaired by district convener Ajit Kumar Singh, with Rashmi Sahu conducting the proceedings.

Chief Guest Subedar CK Singh from the Sonari Army Camp and special guest Manoj Kumar Singh, former chairman of the Khadi Gramodyog Board, graced the occasion. Lighting the ceremonial lamp, Singh said, "This initiative to honor all martyrs collectively is highly commendable." He urged citizens to promote Swadeshi by purchasing indigenous products during Diwali and in daily life.

The event featured patriotic songs and dance performances that filled the atmosphere with nationalism. Children who participated in earlier quiz and drawing contests were felicitated.

Prominent attendees included Bhagwan Singh, Amit Singhdeo, Rajan Sahu and several community members. (w/nkm)

जिला दण्डाधिकारी-सह-उपायुक्त का कार्यालय, सरायकेला-खरसावाँ (विधि शाखा)

T.A. Misc Case No. 75/2025-26
आवेदक 1. जनता माहली, पिता- स्वो शत्रुघ्न माहली, 2. संतोष माहली, पिता- स्वो सोनु माहली, पता- गोंव- माहलीमुरुफ, थाना- सरायकेला, जिला- सरायकेला-खरसावाँ (वादी)।
बनाम
M/s RUNGTA MINES LTD (प्रतिवादी)
:: आम सूचना ::
एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि आवेदक 1. जनता माहली, पिता- स्वो शत्रुघ्न माहली, 2. संतोष माहली, पिता- स्वो सोनु माहली, पता- गोंव- माहलीमुरुफ, थाना- सरायकेला, जिला- सरायकेला- खरसावाँ के मौजा- माहलीमुरुफ, थाना नं०- 220 के अन्तर्गत :-

खाता	प्लॉट	रकबा
74	457	0.21 ए०
74	453	0.22 ए०
75	455	0.04 ए०
75	456	0.16 ए०
42	458	0.21 ए०
		कुल 0.84 ए०

अतः यदि किसी को उल्लिखित भूमि हस्तान्तरण में कोई आपत्ति हो तो दिनांक- 24.10.2025 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न में उपायुक्त, सरायकेला-खरसावाँ के न्यायालय में लिखित/ मौखिक आपत्ति पत्र दाखिल करना सुनिश्चित करें। निर्धारित तिथि के पश्चात किसी प्रकार की आपत्ति पर कोई विचार नहीं किया जाएगा।
मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं न्यायालय के मुहर से दिनांक 24.09.2025 को सूचना निर्गत किया गया।
उप-समाहर्ता,
विधि शाखा,
सरायकेला-खरसावाँ

Cracker market to operate from one designated site in Seraikela

Seraikela, Oct 18: Following orders from Deputy Commissioner Nitish Kumar Singh, Seraikela Nagar Panchayat has begun relocating all retail firecracker stalls to a single designated site near Gundicha Temple.



A municipal inspection team visited various market areas on Saturday and directed vendors to

remove unapproved stalls from roadsides and public crossings. City

Manager Sumit Suman said, "Retailers have been instructed to comply with the government's order. Those failing to do so will face strict action."

Officials emphasized that the move aims to prevent fire hazards and ensure compliance with safety norms under the Explosives Rules, 2008. (w/nkm)

Vidya Jyoti School celebrates Diwali with cultural flair



Gamharia, Oct 18: The Vidya Jyoti School at TGS Colony, Gamharia, celebrated Diwali with grandeur and enthusiasm. The school was illuminated with colorful lights and lamps, while students decorated rangolis and shared sweets.

Students performed dance dramas based on Ramayana episodes — from the marriage of Lord Rama and Sita to the slaying of Ravana — earning praise from all present. Through their performances, students showcased the ideals and values embodied by Lord Rama.

Principal Sunil Kumar Jha and Vice Principal Anand Kumar Singh extended festive greetings and highlighted the festival's moral significance. The celebration concluded amid applause from teachers, students and parents gathered in large numbers. (w/nkm)

Diwali glows at Shepherd English Medium School



Mail News Service

Jaduguda, Oct 18: The Shepherd English Medium School came alive with the spirit of Diwali as students celebrated the Festival of Lights with creativity and joy. The school organized a vibrant Rangoli

competition, transforming every corner into a colorful display of festivity. Principal Mudrika Sharma praised the students' creativity, saying, "The beauty and originality of the rangolis have mesmerized everyone." The event concluded with the

selection and felicitation of winners by founder Mudrika Sharma, Principal Banerjee and teachers. Class 10 students Shrutika, Sushila, Shalu, Anushka, Samresh and Prasanjit bagged the first prize, while Class 7 students Beauty, Kusum and Manisha took second place. The third position went to Class 9 students Ashish, Kamal, Lakhan, Suraj, Roshan, Shubham and Sonaram.

"The festival inspires us to move from darkness to light," Principal Sharma added, appreciating students' enthusiasm and festive spirit. (w/nkm)

Students celebrate Diwali at Utkramit Middle School, Ukri



Saraikela, Oct 18: The spirit of Diwali lit up the Utkramit Middle School at Ukri, Sini, where students celebrated the festival with joy and creativity. The event began with teachers lighting lamps, symbolizing

the victory of light over darkness. A rangoli competition was held among six student groups. The program was presided over by Headmaster Vijay Kumar Mahato and attended by Block Resource Person Gautam Kumar, who distributed prizes to the winners. Addressing the students, Mahato said, "Diwali teaches us the values of truth, non-violence and cleanliness." He urged everyone to celebrate an eco-friendly Diwali, spreading light without harming the environment. (w/nkm)

RPF rescues two runaway minors at Shalimar Station



Mail News Service

Kharagpur, Oct 18: In a proactive child safety intervention, Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel at Shalimar Railway Station rescued two minor boys found loitering on Platform No. 1 (SRC End) around 11:00 hrs today. The boys were waiting for a train without tickets or valid travel documents, raising concerns about their safety. Upon questioning, the minors

revealed they had run away from home intending to travel to Talcher, Odisha, in search of work. Recognizing their vulnerability, the RPF immediately intervened under the initiative Operation Nanhe Farishte, a program dedicated to protecting children at railway stations.

The rescued minors, along with their belongings, were safely handed over to Childline Howrah at 14:15 hrs. Childline will provide care, support and guidance to ensure the children's well-being. PC/RPF/SHM said, "Protecting vulnerable children is a priority. Operations like Nanhe Farishte help ensure their safety and prevent potential harm during travel."

This incident highlights the RPF's ongoing dedication to child protection and passenger safety, reinforcing their vigilance across railway stations nationwide. (w/nkm)

RPF Kharagpur recovers lost items, foils theft attempts

Mail News Service

Kharagpur, Oct 18: The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Kharagpur Division has demonstrated exceptional vigilance in passenger safety through its initiatives, Operation Amanat and Yatri Suraksha, with significant recoveries and preventive actions between October 13 and 16, 2025.



Under Operation Amanat, RPF personnel reunited passengers with lost belongings. On October 15, following a Rail Madad complaint, the team at Santragachi Station recovered a bag left on Train No. 12840 (Coromandel Express) containing clothes and eatables

worth Rs 5,000, promptly returning it to the owner. On October 16, RPF/Hijli, in coordination with Belda camping staff, retrieved a bag from Train No. 12074 (Coach D8-2) with mobile phones, documents and clothes valued at Rs 45,000. Similarly, on

October 13, RPF/Baleswar recovered a black pithu bag near Platform No. 2 containing clothes, documents and gadgets worth Rs 5,000, which was safely returned after verification.

Under Yatri Suraksha, the RPF prevented multiple thefts. On

October 16, a suspect was detained near the lift on Platform No. 1 at Baleswar Station for stealing a Redmi 5G mobile (Rs 20,000). Another male suspect, involved in snatching a OnePlus 11 5G (Rs 60,000) from Train No. 12822 (Dhauri Express), was apprehended the same day. Both cases were handed over to GRPS/Baleswar.

RPF Kharagpur Division officials stated, "Our teams remain committed to protecting passengers and their property, ensuring a secure travel environment." These actions earned appreciation from commuters for their professionalism and prompt response. (w/nkm)

जिला दण्डाधिकारी-सह-उपायुक्त का कार्यालय, सरायकेला-खरसावाँ (विधि शाखा)

T.A. Misc Case No. 80/2025-26
आवेदक 1. अरुण महतो, 2. अमृत महतो, दोनों के पिता-स्वो लक्ष्मण महतो, पता-पंचायत- ईटाकुदर, रूतकाटंद, पो०-मानिक बाजार, रूतकाटंद, जिला-सरायकेला-खरसावाँ (वादी)।
बनाम
M/s PEARL REGENCY HOTEL PVT. LTD (प्रतिवादी)।
:: आम सूचना ::
एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि आवेदक 1. अरुण महतो, 2. अमृत महतो, दोनों के पिता- स्वो लक्ष्मण महतो, पता- पंचायत- ईटाकुदर, रूतकाटंद, पो०- मानिक बाजार, रूतकाटंद, जिला- सरायकेला-खरसावाँ के मौजा- दुगनी, थाना नं०- 199 के अन्तर्गत:-

खाता	प्लॉट	रकबा
513	492	69 डी०
		कुल 69 डी०

अतः यदि किसी को उल्लिखित भूमि हस्तान्तरण में कोई आपत्ति हो तो दिनांक- 21.10.2025 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न में उपायुक्त, सरायकेला-खरसावाँ के न्यायालय में लिखित/ मौखिक आपत्ति पत्र दाखिल करना सुनिश्चित करें। निर्धारित तिथि के पश्चात किसी प्रकार की आपत्ति पर कोई विचार नहीं किया जाएगा।
मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं न्यायालय के मुहर से दिनांक 14.10.2025 को सूचना निर्गत किया गया।
उप-समाहर्ता,
विधि शाखा, सरायकेला-खरसावाँ।

जिला दण्डाधिकारी-सह-उपायुक्त का कार्यालय, सरायकेला-खरसावाँ (विधि शाखा)

T.A. Misc Case No. 81/2025-26
आवेदक 1. अकलु लायेक, 2. नन्दो लायेक, दोनों के पिता- स्वो कालीपदो लायेक, पता- गोंव- हुतुप, थाना- ईचागढ़, जिला- सरायकेला-खरसावाँ (वादी)।
बनाम M/s PEARL REGENCY HOTEL PVT. LTD (प्रतिवादी)।
:: आम सूचना ::
एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि आवेदक 1. अकलु लायेक, 2. नन्दो लायेक, दोनों के पिता- स्वो कालीपदो लायेक, पता- गोंव- हुतुप, थाना- ईचागढ़, जिला- सरायकेला-खरसावाँ के मौजा- दुगनी, थाना नं०- 199 के अन्तर्गत:-

खाता	प्लॉट	रकबा
521	488	13 डी०
	489	54 डी०
		कुल 67 डी०

अतः यदि किसी को उल्लिखित भूमि हस्तान्तरण में कोई आपत्ति हो तो दिनांक- 21.10.2025 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न में उपायुक्त, सरायकेला-खरसावाँ के न्यायालय में लिखित/ मौखिक आपत्ति पत्र दाखिल करना सुनिश्चित करें। निर्धारित तिथि के पश्चात किसी प्रकार की आपत्ति पर कोई विचार नहीं किया जाएगा।
मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं न्यायालय के मुहर से दिनांक 14.10.2025 को सूचना निर्गत किया गया।
उप-समाहर्ता,
विधि शाखा, सरायकेला-खरसावाँ।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर

अति अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या- 09/2025-26 दिनांक 17.10.2025
आगामी-45 घांटशिला (अनुसूचित जाति) विधानसभा उप चुनाव 2025 के दौरान CAPF/ECHO के आवासन हेतु निश्चित स्थलों में मूलभूत सुविधा New toilet/bathroom, DT along repair of existing toilet/bathroom, distribution pipe line and soak-pit etc. का निर्माण कार्य हेतु निविदा का आमंत्रण।

ग्रुप सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि (₹० में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (₹० में)	कार्य अवधि
Group-01	Construction of new toilet/ bathroom, DT, Submersible Motor Pump and repairing of existing toilet/ bathroom, distribution pipeline and soak-pit as per site condition at 12 Nos. of accommodation location of CAPF/ECHO in Ghatshila Block for (45) Ghatshila (S.T) Assembly by election 2025 under D.W. & S. Division, Jamshedpur.	1201052.00	24100.00	2500.00	07 दिन
Group-02	Construction of new toilet/ bathroom, DT, Submersible Motor Pump and repairing of existing toilet/ bathroom, distribution pipeline and soak-pit as per site condition at 13 Nos. of accommodation location of CAPF/ECHO in Musabani, Dhalbhumgarh and Gurabandha Block for (45) Ghatshila (S.T) Assembly by election 2025 under D.W. & S. Division, Jamshedpur.	998047.00	20000.00	1250.00	07 दिन
1	विभाग का नाम	पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, झारखंड, राँची			
2	विज्ञापनकर्ता का नाम	कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर			
3	परिमाण विपत्र विक्री की अंतिम तिथि	दिनांक- 29.10.2025 समय 4:00 बजे अपराह्न			
4	निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक- 30.10.2025 समय 2:00 बजे अपराह्न			
5	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक- 30.10.2025 समय 4:30 बजे अपराह्न			
6	परिमाण विपत्र की विक्री का स्थान	पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर/ पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता अवर प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर			
7	कार्यालय, जहाँ निविदा जमा करना है।	पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर			

नोट- 1. विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु सूचना पट्ट पर देखें या अधीक्षक/कार्यपालक के कार्यालय में सम्पर्क करें।
2. निविदा की राशि एवं अग्रधन की राशि पट्ट-बंद सकती है।
3. प्राक्कलित राशि एवं अग्रधन की राशि पट्ट-बंद सकती है।
कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
PR 364535 Drinking Water and Sanitation(25-26)#D
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, जमशेदपुर

Strict guidelines issued for firecracker storage and sale ahead of Diwali, Chhath

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Oct 18: In view of the upcoming Diwali and Chhath festivals, the Seraikela district administration has issued detailed guidelines regarding the storage, sale and use of fireworks under the provisions of the Explosives Rules, 2008. Officials have made it clear that the sale and display of fireworks will only be permitted at locations approved by the administration. Any unauthorized temporary firecracker shop operating without permission will face strict legal action.

According to the issued directives, fireworks must be stored in closed and secure sheds made of non-combustible materials, ensuring no access to unauthorized persons. Each storage and sales shed must be at

least three meters apart from one another and a minimum of fifty meters away from any protected building, public area, or sensitive workplace. Sheds must not face each other and the use of open flames—such as oil lamps or gas lanterns—within the shed's premises is strictly prohibited.

Electric bulbs and fittings are required to be permanently fixed on walls or ceilings, with a main switch provided for every row. No fireworks display is permitted within a 50-meter radius of any firecracker shed and the administration has capped the number of temporary stalls at 50 per cluster.

Electrical wiring and equipment used in sheds must be securely fixed to prevent sparking or short circuits. The sale of firecrackers producing sound



levels above 125 decibels (A) or 145 decibels (C), measured from a distance of four meters, is strictly prohibited. Each shop must be equipped with a functioning fire extinguisher and sellers must be trained in its operation. Explosives must be stored only in approved buildings

or containers and any stock exceeding 2.5 kilograms of explosives or 0.5 kilograms of other classes must be kept in strong, sealed containers. Licensed vendors must maintain proper stock and sales records in Form-32 and Form-33. Any theft, damage, or loss of fireworks must be reported immedi-

ately to the nearest police station and licensing authority. Officials authorized for inspection must be granted entry and full cooperation.

The administration has also prohibited displaying fireworks in shop windows or above them and all firecracker packets must remain sealed with intact packaging at the time of sale.

Appeal to Citizens:

The district administration has urged citizens to celebrate responsibly and follow all safety norms. Children should burst crackers only under adult supervision, wearing cotton clothes to avoid fire risks. Water, sand, or fire extinguishers should be kept nearby. Citizens are advised not to burst fireworks near hospitals, schools, petrol pumps, old-age homes, or

gas pipelines.

Officials have also urged people to avoid using loud or smoke-emitting firecrackers to protect the environment. In case of any accident or injury, individuals should contact the nearest health center or emergency helpline immediately. Defective or malfunctioning firecrackers should not be used and must be reported to authorities.

A district official stated, "Any individual or shop found violating the Explosives Rules, 2008, or operating without permission will face stringent legal action."

The administration emphasized that these measures aim to ensure public safety, prevent accidents and promote an eco-friendly celebration during the festive season.

CPS Adityapur celebrates eco-friendly Diwali



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Oct 18: Central Public School (CPS), Adityapur, celebrated Environment-Friendly Diwali 2025 with great enthusiasm on October 17 and 18. Students and teachers actively took part in various creative activities, including card making, diya decoration, plant distribution, rangoli making, and showcasing eco-friendly decorative items.

The event aimed to promote environmental awareness and encourage the celebration of a clean, safe, and cracker-free Diwali.

Principal of CPS appreciated the students' creativity and participation, while the school management praised their efforts and urged them to continue supporting environmental conservation initiatives. The celebration filled the school premises with festive spirit and a strong message of responsibility towards nature.

Little stars shine bright at DPS Kindergarten Fest

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Oct 18: Dayanand Public School (DPS) organised an inter-school kindergarten fest, "Tiny Tunes and Tales," celebrating creativity, learning, and joy among young learners. The vibrant event brought together around 300 pre-primary students, along with their parents, from various schools across the city.

The school campus buzzed with excitement as children from Nursery to UKG participated in fun-filled activities designed to encourage learning through play. The fest featured nearly 15 engaging events, including Diya painting, Diwali card making, and lantern crafting, aimed at enhancing children's cognitive, social, and motor skills.

The event was graced by



Gian Taneja, Chairman, Siksha Samity; Rajiv Talwar, Vice Chairman, Siksha Samity; and Principal Swarna Mishra, along with distinguished guests from other schools.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, a special "Fashion Show: Festive Mood" was organised for both students and their parents. The ramp turned into a colourful display of cre-

ativity and confidence as participants showcased vibrant festive attire representing various cultural traditions.

Principal Swarna Mishra expressed joy at the enthusiastic participation and said the fest aimed to provide a platform where children could express themselves freely while learning in a happy and supportive environment.

JALSA at XLRI: When rhythm became roadmap for peace and harmony

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, October 18: XLRI - Xavier School of Management, Jamshedpur, witnessed a spectacular evening of unity and celebration as SPIC-MACAY hosted JALSA - The Garba Night, marking the first major cultural event of the academic season. More than a festival, JALSA became a living expression of XLRI's values where diversity met togetherness and joy became a shared leadership lesson.

The evening began with an auspicious Aarti, invoking peace, harmony and inclusivity. What followed was not just a performance but a participative experience where students, faculty and staff danced side by side,



erasing hierarchies and embodying the spirit of community.

Unlike a conventional celebration, JALSA was

participation by design. The Garba circles were structured to ensure that everyone from first-timers to seasoned dancers felt wel-

come. The event stood out for its intentional inclusivity, thoughtful design and mindful celebration of culture. Every element from

lighting to choreography was crafted to create belonging, joy and psychological safety. Speaking about the event, representatives from ADSA (Associate Dean Student Affairs) shared, "JALSA was not just a festival but a reflection of how community, empathy and inclusion can be built through culture. It reminded us that peace is not silence it's synchronized diversity." From spontaneous laughter to extended hands guiding hesitant steps, JALSA turned Garba into a leadership metaphor many rhythms, one harmony; many voices, one song. It symbolized what XLRI stands for: nurturing responsible leaders who value collaboration, empathy and inclusion as the foundation of excellence.

Valley View School hosts cultural fest "RANGMANCH"

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, October 18: Valley View School celebrated its annual cultural fest, "RANGMANCH," on October 16 and 17, with great enthusiasm. The event was inaugurated by Chief Guest Rajesh Kumar Rai, Senior Program Executive, All India Radio, while Manoj Kumar, DSP, City, attended as Guest of Honour.

In his address, Rai highlighted the importance of students participating in cultural fests, saying such events boost confidence, foster teamwork, enhance communication skills, and help overcome stage fear, contributing to overall personality development.

Around 450 students from Nursery to Std 12 took part in the two-day celebration, competing in literary, creative, and performing arts events, making the fest a vibrant showcase of talent, creativity, and learning.

DSM School for Excellence conducts CPR training



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Oct 18: A CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) training session was held at DSM School for Excellence, Jamshedpur, in collaboration with St. John Ambulance, Jharkhand State Centre, to raise awareness about first aid and life-saving skills. The session, organised in the school hall, was graced by Raj Singh, State Vice-President; N. B. Chatterjee, Nodal Officer; Dr. Sudhakar Singh, HOD Medical; P. Bhaskar Rao, Training Coordinator; and Shashank Kunal, Assistant Secretary of St. John Ambulance. Experts provided practical training on performing CPR on adults, children, and infants, along with demonstrations of first aid for burns, injuries, choking, and cardiac arrest. Students and teachers actively participated, gaining confidence in handling emergencies. Principal of DSM School thanked the St. John Ambulance team for the informative session. Saplings were presented to guests as a token of appreciation and a symbol of life and growth.

Laser Show at Jubilee Park now at 6 PM and 7 PM

Jamshedpur, October 18: Tata Steel UISL has announced revised timings for the Laser Show at Jubilee Park, effective October 25, 2025, for the winter season. According to the update, there will be two shows daily: the first from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm and the second from 7:00 pm to 7:30 pm. The company requested all visitors to take note of the updated schedule and plan their visits accordingly. Tata Steel UISL looks forward to welcoming guests to enjoy the spectacular Laser Show under the new winter timings.

'Green finance, renewable energy, nature-based solutions key to India's future'

XLRI hosts 12th Dr. Verghese Kurien Memorial Oration on "Ecological Security for a Viksit Bharat"

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, October 18: XLRI - Xavier School of Management, Jamshedpur, hosted the 12th Annual Dr. Verghese Kurien Memorial Oration at the Tata Auditorium on October 18. The highlight of the event was the address by Dr. Vinod B. Mathur, Former Chairperson of the National Biodiversity Authority of India and Former Director of the Wildlife Institute of India, who spoke on the theme "Ecological Security for a Viksit Bharat."

The program began with a prayer song by the XLRI Choir, followed by the ceremonial lamp lighting. The annual oration, an initiative of the Fr. Arupe Centre for Ecology and Sustainability (FACES), pays tribute to Dr. Verghese Kurien, the architect of India's White Revolution, whose legacy of rural transformation and social upliftment continues to inspire generations. The oration serves as a platform for thought leaders to share



ideas that can shape a sustainable future.

Dr. Tata L. Raghu Ram, Chairperson of FACES, presented the Annual Report, highlighting the centre's initiatives in sustainability, climate action, and social responsibility. He underscored the importance of balancing development with environmental sustainability, citing lessons from past large-scale projects that impacted ecosystems and communities. Dr. Raghu Ram also highlighted

XLRI's ongoing research and initiatives on globalization, self-care, and climate change, supported by international collaborations including IUCN and ICSSR. Key developments include a new degree program on sustainable leadership, rural immersion initiatives, and CSR-focused education. Faculty contributions to policy, especially in ESG and national standards, were also recognized.

Dr. (Fr.) Sebastian George, S.J., Director of

XLRI, welcomed the gathering and reiterated the institution's commitment to sustainable development, social justice, and ethical leadership.

During his address, Dr. Vinod B. Mathur emphasized that India's vision of becoming a Viksit Bharat by 2047 depends on balancing ecological and economic security. He stressed that nature-positive growth can create jobs, strengthen resilience, and protect livelihoods. Urging the adoption

of green finance, renewable energy, and nature-based solutions, he highlighted the need for inclusive development that integrates environmental sustainability with economic progress. Dr. Mathur concluded that lasting prosperity for India can only be achieved when ecological security becomes central to the nation's growth narrative, a vision that aligns with XLRI's commitment to societal welfare.

The session concluded with an interactive Q&A, allowing students and faculty to discuss sustainability challenges and actionable solutions. Dr. Sanjay Patro, Dean (Academics), delivered the Vote of Thanks, expressing gratitude to Dr. Mathur and all dignitaries for their participation. The program ended with the National Anthem and a fellowship interaction, reflecting XLRI's enduring mission to combine academic excellence with ethical values and social responsibility.

BJP leader meets Civic Officer over local issues

Seraikela, Oct 18: Pinky Modak, President of the BJP Mahila Morcha, Seraikela Nagar, met the Executive Officer of Seraikela Nagar Panchayat, Sameer Bodra, on Saturday to discuss pressing civic issues faced by residents.

During the meeting, she raised concerns regarding drainage problems in Dhubasai locality and the water tower at Patnaik Tola, urging the administration to take prompt action.

Pinky Modak emphasized that timely intervention is essential to ensure public convenience and hygiene. "These issues directly affect residents' daily lives and we expect the administration to resolve them at the earliest," she said. Executive Officer Sameer Bodra assured her that the matters will be reviewed and necessary steps will be taken soon. The meeting reflected a constructive approach towards addressing local problems through dialogue and coordination between civic authorities and community representatives. (w/nkm)

Zindagi Fest 2025 inspires young changemakers at Kavyapta School

From cultural performances to scientific exhibits, students celebrate the legacy of world leaders in art and innovation

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Oct 18: Kavyapta Global School hosted its much-awaited annual event, Zindagi Fest 2025, on October 16 and 17, with the inspiring theme "Voices of Change." The two-day celebration paid tribute to four remarkable changemakers - Lata Mangeshkar, Marie Curie, Florence Nightingale, and John McCarthy - whose contributions in music, science, healthcare, and technology continue to influence generations.

The fest aimed to help students learn from these global icons through creative performances, research-based projects, and interactive exhibits that combined knowledge with imagination.

The opening day was filled with colours, music, and enthusiasm as



students from Nursery to Grade 6 presented captivating performances depicting the lives and achievements of the four honourees. Through dances, songs, and skits, the young participants showcased creativity and confidence, winning the admiration of the audience.

The event began with Principal Director Kabita Agrawal's welcome address, in which she highlighted how Zindagi Fest, started

in 2015, has grown into a celebration of inclusive learning and self-expression. "This platform encourages students to think deeply, act creatively, and connect learning with real-life inspiration," she said.

Creative Director Sunita Sinha expressed pride in the teamwork of students, parents, and teachers, noting that the collective spirit makes each edition of Zindagi Fest more memorable.

The chief guests for the inaugural day included Banna Gupta, former Jharkhand Health Minister; Rajiv Kumar, Vice President, Amosys Consulting Services; Anindita Chakraborty, Principal Scientist (R&D), Tata Steel; and Dr. Swati Soren, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, Kolhan University.

Speaking at the event, Banna Gupta praised the school's initia-

tive and the enthusiasm of the students. "Children are like clay, constantly evolving and growing. Events like this shape their creativity and values in remarkable ways," he remarked.

The second day of Zindagi Fest turned the school into a vibrant hub of innovation, where students from Grades 7 to 12 showcased their research projects and models inspired by the fest's theme. The exhibitions blended science, art, and storytelling to present the achievements of the four celebrated personalities.

The guests for the exhibition day included Dr. Sanjay Patro, Dean (Academics), XLRI; Vijay Anand Moonka, former President, Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Subhrajit Basu, Assistant Vice President, Tata Business Excellence Group.

Naxalites on the brink: A historic turning point in India's fight against left-wing extremism

In a major breakthrough, the recent surrender of 258 Naxalites in Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra within just two days marks a defining moment in India's decades-long battle against left-wing extremism. Once a formidable movement that spread across nearly 200 districts, the so-called "Red Corridor" has now contracted to only 11 districts - a clear sign that Naxalism is gasping for its final breath.

According to official data, 312 Naxalites have been neutralized in encounters with security forces this year alone, while 836 have been arrested. The most significant blow came in May when security forces killed CPI (Maoist) General Secretary Narasimha alias Nambala Keshav Rao alias Basavaraju, the mastermind and ideological head of the insurgency. His death dealt a crippling blow to the Maoist leadership structure, leaving the organization fragmented and demoralized. Several senior Politburo members have either been killed or captured, and many remaining cadres are surrendering under intense pressure.

This year alone over 1,600 Naxalites have laid down their arms and chosen to return to the mainstream. Their surrender represents more than a tactical success; it is a moral victory that underscores the fading appeal of the violent ideology they once championed. The Maoist dream of an armed revolution has been shattered by a combination of consistent security operations, better intelligence and the gradual but steady reach of governance and development.

A crucial factor behind this success has been the changing attitude of local populations. For decades, Naxalites exercised control over tribal and remote regions through intimidation and violence, isolating these areas from state development programs. They projected themselves as protectors of tribal rights while exploiting local grievances to sustain their movement. However, as government schemes and welfare programs began reaching these once-neglected areas, the people started realizing the benefits of peace and progress. Roads, schools, healthcare centers, and employment programs have not only improved lives but also eroded the Maoists' influence.

Yet, while the decline of Naxalism is undoubtedly a major national achievement, the journey ahead remains challenging. The government's 2015 National Policy and Action Plan provided a comprehensive framework to tackle left-wing extremism not just through force, but through development and empowerment. The policy emphasized improving governance, ensuring land rights, promoting livelihood programs and strengthening education and healthcare systems in affected areas.

Now that violence has subsided in many regions, the focus must shift toward accelerating these developmental initiatives. Rehabilitation, infrastructure expansion and social inclusion must form the cornerstone of post-conflict reconstruction. Above all, local communities - particularly tribal groups must be placed at the heart of every policy decision. Only when these citizens feel truly empowered and connected to the democratic process can the remnants of extremism be permanently uprooted.

The collapse of Naxalism represents a triumph of democracy, development and determination. But sustaining peace requires continuous effort, empathy and inclusive growth. The government's next big task is to ensure that the promise of progress reaches every village and every family once caught in the shadow of the gun. Only then can India truly declare victory over one of its longest internal security challenges.

From the Editorial Desk

Rural women pave way for self-reliance with cow dung crafts in Koderma this Diwali

While earthen and electronic lamps are commonly available, few people know that lamps can also be made from cow dung. At the Pehalwan Ashram in Bhakra, located in the remote Satgawan block of Koderma district in Jharkhand, 15 different products, including lamps and idols of Ganesha and Lakshmi, are being crafted from cow dung in anticipation of Diwali and Chhath Puja. Through these cow dung crafts, rural women are paving the way for self-reliance.

This Diwali, the lights that illuminate homes will also bring hope to the lives of women in the villages. At Pehalwan Ashram, the confluence of tradition, environmental consciousness, and self-reliance is evident. The lamps and idols being created from cow dung are not only eco-friendly but also stand as powerful symbols of women's empowerment. By producing and selling these items, rural women are not just earning a livelihood; they are also elevating their standard of living and gaining economic independence.

Vijay Kumar, Treasurer of the National Jharkhand Seva



Sansthan, along with Neetu Kumari and Ishan Chand Mahato, who received training in Bhuj, Gujarat, have taught local women the skills to create these crafts. In addition to lamps and idols, they are making decorative door garlands, "Shubh Labh" and Swastik symbols, incense sticks, cups, and nameplates with festive greetings like "Shubh Deepawali" and "Jai Chhathi Maiya." Made from cow dung and

sawdust, these products are sun-dried and then painted in vibrant colours, giving them a striking appearance.

Manoj Dangi, Secretary of the National Jharkhand Seva Sansthan, shared that preparations for Diwali began with Dhanteras. He noted that the cow dung products were recently featured at the Diwali fair organised by the IAS Officers' Wives Association in Ranchi,

where many senior state officials appreciated and purchased them. These eco-friendly items are believed to absorb radiation and spread positive energy.

After use, they decompose naturally, enriching the soil as manure, and thus cause no environmental harm. Additionally, by utilising dung from old, non-milking cattle, these animals are also being protected.

Once known as a

Naxal-affected area, the Satgawan block of Koderma is now emerging as a hub of empowerment and sustainability. Through cow dung crafts, Pehalwan Ashram is advancing three key goals: women's empowerment, cow protection, and environmental conservation - contributing meaningfully towards building a developed and self-reliant India.

Rohit, Virat & Australia - audition for 2027 or a farewell tour?

As India gears up for the high-voltage ODI series against Australia, the spotlight inevitably falls on two modern greats - Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli.

The duo, who have defined an era of Indian cricket, were seen training intensely in Perth, looking as sharp and motivated as ever. But amid the excitement, a cloud of uncertainty looms large - is this the last dance for India's iconic pair?

Both Rohit and Virat have served Indian cricket with unmatched consistency and leadership. Yet, with



a generational shift underway and the rise of new stars under young skipper Shubman Gill, speculation about the veterans' future refuses to die down.

Some believe the management might be using this series as a litmus test - giving them one last shot before gradually transitioning to younger legs. Others argue that form and fitness should be the only yardsticks, and if the two perform in Australia, they deserve to stay in contention till the 2027 ODI World Cup.

What's certain is that the series

means more than just runs and wickets. For fans, it's a chance to relive the magic of Rohit's effortless stroke play and Kohli's fierce determination - traits that have brought India countless memorable victories.

For the team, it's about striking the perfect balance between experience and youth as Gill begins his journey as India's new leader Down Under.

Whether this tour marks a new beginning or the closing chapter of a golden era, one thing is undeniable - the cricketing world will be glued to Rohit and Virat once again, hoping

their bats do the talking, just as they have for over a decade.

The opening clash between India and Australia will take place at the Optus Stadium in Perth on Sunday, October 19.

India's ODI squad for the Australia tour includes Shubman Gill (Captain), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer (VC), Axar Patel, KL Rahul (WK), Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Mohammed Siraj, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Dhruv Jurel (WK), and Yashasvi Jaiswal.

Diwali: A festival of inner as well as outer illumination



Lalit Garg

Diwali is not merely a festival of lamps; it is an occasion to dispel the darkness that dwells within the soul. It is the very heartbeat of Indian culture, radiating joy, prosperity, and harmony into human life. This grand five-day celebration begins with Dhanteras and culminates on Bhai Dooj. Yet, its meaning transcends festivity-it is a profound spiritual journey. Diwali is more than a ritual; it embodies religious, social, cultural, and economic significance. It reminds us that true light is not external but resides within. Our inner luminosity is the real wealth-manifesting through our deeds, compassion, and wisdom. The five days of this sacred festival offer a rare opportunity to annihilate the inner demons of ego, envy, hatred, and greed. The essence of Diwali lies in moving from darkness to light, from ignorance to knowledge, from denial to acceptance. When millions of lamps are lit, they illuminate not only

homes but also hearts. Each lamp whispers a message-no matter how dark the circumstances, the flame of righteousness and faith must continue to burn, never to be extinguished.

Diwali is interwoven with numerous historical, religious, and philosophical episodes. It marks the return of Lord Rama to Ayodhya after fourteen years of exile and his victory over Ravana-symbolizing the triumph of truth, virtue, and dharma. According to the Mahabharata, it also commemorates the return of the Pandavas after twelve years of exile and one year in disguise. In the Jain tradition, Diwali holds supreme sanctity-it is the day of Mahavira Nirvana, when Lord Mahavira attained liberation. His Nirvana was not merely the end of a body but the awakening of the eternal soul-a moment when he kindled the lamp of emancipation amid the world's darkness. In Buddhism, it symbolizes remembrance of enlightenment, and in Sikhism, it is celebrated as Bandi Chhor Divas-the day when Guru Hargobind Ji was released from imprisonment and freed several other captives. Across these traditions shines a unifying essence-freedom from darkness, illumination through wisdom, and a journey from ego toward the soul. As the Upanishads declare: "Tamaso Ma Jyotirgamaya" - From



darkness, lead me to light. Diwali has evolved into not just a national but a global festival. It is celebrated with great fervor not only in India but also in countries like Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Mauritius, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, the Netherlands, Canada, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States. As the understanding of Indian culture deepens and the Indian diaspora expands,

the glow of Diwali continues to spread across continents. In some nations, it remains a celebration among Indian communities, while in others it has blended beautifully with local traditions-becoming part of the shared cultural heritage of humanity. Another significant aspect of Diwali is Govardhan Puja, which symbolizes gratitude toward nature. It teaches us that prosperity stems not merely from human labor but also from the grace of nature. True worship lies in honoring the cow, the grain, and the tree, the soil, and water-

the sacred foundations of life itself. The festival concludes with Bhai Dooj, celebrating affection, trust, and mutual protection among siblings-a light of love and togetherness in the family and society. According to legend, it was on this day that Lord Vishnu, in his Narasimha incarnation, destroyed the tyrant Hiranyakashipu. The churning of the ocean also occurred around this time, bringing forth Goddess Lakshmi, the deity of wealth and prosperity, and Lord Dhanvantari, the god of health and healing. Though today's Diwali

sparkles with grandeur and glitter, its truest meaning lies in kindling the inner lamp. Just as we cleanse our homes, we must also purify our hearts-banishing the darkness of jealousy, anger, and selfishness, and filling our souls with truth, compassion, and service. Mahatma Gandhi once said, "The truest lamp is the one that shows the way in darkness, not the one that merely decorates." When we ignite a lamp within-of humanity, humility, and coexistence-that itself becomes the highest form of worship. Diwali is a festival of

light, of human endeavor, of self-realization. It awakens the dormant consciousness within us. It inspires us toward purity of thought and environmental awareness. There is an eternal flame burning inside every human being. Its light may sometimes flicker, but it never extinguishes-it is the timeless glow of the soul. Saint Kabir beautifully expressed this truth: "Bahar se to kuch na deese, bhetar jal rahi jot" -Nothing may be seen outside, yet the lamp within ever burns. Those who have reached that inner flame become luminous themselves-and

their radiance lights up the world. Knowledge is the greatest lamp of all; when the flame of wisdom burns bright, the darkness of ignorance vanishes. Today, humanity faces grave challenges-war, terrorism, fear, violence, pollution, and moral decline. Yet man himself is the creator of this darkness. To dispel it, he must light the lamp of dharma-for where the sun of righteousness rises, no shadow of darkness can remain.

The message of Diwali extends beyond boundaries-it offers a new vision for society, culture, and humanity. It is not merely a row of lights but a direction for life itself. It teaches us not only to light our homes but to brighten someone else's world too. The greatest victory of light is when it reaches the deepest corners of darkness. As Harivansh Rai Bachchan wrote: "Light a lamp, but such a one that emits no smoke; Let there be light, but never pride." When the inner lamp is lit, all outer lamps shine with it. For Diwali to be truly meaningful, the lamps outside and the lamps within must both be kindled - because wherever a lamp burns, it spreads light. A lamp's message is timeless: never flee from life-transform it. For in escape lies cowardice, but in transformation lies creation, growth, and the radiant purpose of life. (Author is a columnist. Views are personal.)

GST benefits extended to people, Rs 20 lakh crore consumption boost likely: Centre

New Delhi, Oct 18 (IANS) The government on Saturday said that the benefits of recent GST cuts, which came into force from September 22, have been extended to consumers in the festive season, as consumption is one of the key engines for growth.

Addressing the media here, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Railways and Electronics and IT Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw, said recent GST reforms have brought about a positive trend in terms of consumption.

"Tax reductions have not only happened for the festive season. These reductions mean more collections, so better fiscal room to give something



back. Demand will sustain even after the festive season," said FM Sitharaman.

She said that the GST dispute resolution mechanism has taken off very well.

Since the implementation of the GST reforms, the National Consumer Helpline logged 3,981 calls concerning GST issues (as of October 2). Of those, 31 per cent were queries

and 69 per cent were formal grievances handled for further action.

Out of the total, 1,992 grievances have been forwarded to the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) for further action, while 761 grievances have been referred in real time to the relevant convergence partner companies for direct resolution.

According to Sitharaman, the majority

Data is the new oil, data centres new refineries: Ashwini Vaishnaw

New Delhi, Oct 18 (IANS) Underlining India's ambitious digital transformation agenda, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, on Saturday described data as "the new oil" and data centres as "the new refineries."

Speaking at the 'NDTV World Summit' here, the minister emphasised the government's vision of Aatmanirbharta, saying India aims to become self-sufficient in critical minerals and digital infrastructure in the coming years.

"We must make sure that the talent in our country finds opportunities here rather than going out," Vaishnaw told the gathering. Commenting on India's

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), Vaishnaw said the government is "going big on digital credit," as part of its effort to make financial services more accessible through technology.

Hailing the fast and efficient rollout of the 5G network within the country, the minister noted that India's achievement has drawn global attention.

"India rolled out 5G at a pace that amazed the world. We have the second-largest 5G network in the world. This helped us reach out to far-flung areas. About 90 per cent of the country is covered with 5G network," the minister noted.

of complaints are related to a gap between the understanding of the GST cuts and what has actually been rolled out.

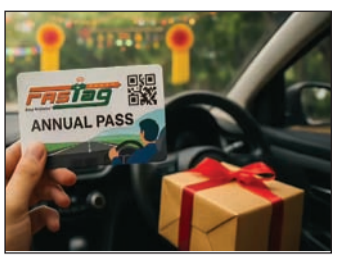
On GST cuts and their

benefits, the Finance Minister said that drugs and medicines and related equipment are being monitored to ensure GST cuts are being passed on.

The automobile sector has been very encouraging about GST cuts being passed on to consumers, which has led to an increase in sales.

FASTag annual pass a perfect gift for travellers this Diwali: Govt

New Delhi, Oct 18 (IANS) The National Highways Authority of India's (NHAI) 'Rajmargyatra' app enables users to gift the FASTag annual pass, the government said on Saturday, urging citizens to consider this "perfect gift for travellers" during the Diwali and festive season.



Users can activate a pass by clicking the "Add Pass" option on the application and then entering the recipient's vehicle number and the contact details of whom they want to gift the pass. After simple OTP verification, the annual pass will get activated on the FASTag attached to that vehicle, allowing for seamless travel without the need for frequent recharges, an official statement said.

FASTag annual pass provides a seamless and economical travel option to the National Highway users and is applicable on about 1,150 toll plazas across India.

The annual pass costs Rs 3,000 and is valid for one year or up to 200 toll plaza crossings. The pass is applicable for all non-commercial vehicles with a valid FASTag. The annual pass gets activated within two hours on the existing FASTag linked to the vehicle after payment of a one-time fee payment through the 'Rajmargyatra' App.

Tata Salt leads the conversation on iodine awareness

Mednapore/Malda, Oct 18 : This World Iodine Deficiency Day (WIDD), Tata Salt, India's pioneer and market leader in iodized salt, has reaffirmed its commitment to combating iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) in children across the country. As the first national branded iodized salt, Tata Salt continues to play a vital role in raising awareness about iodine, a crucial micronutrient essential for mental development, particularly during early childhood. Iodised salt is more than just a government-mandated iodine addition that's found in our kitchens. It's a simple ingredient that not only adds taste to our meals but also contributes to our well-being in so many ways. Since salt is a widely used product, it became the most common medium for iodine addition through universal salt iodisation (USI) program and has been helpful in preventing iodine deficiency disorder (IDD).

Zoho's Sridhar Vembu warns of massive bubble in US stock market

New Delhi, Oct 18 (IANS) Zoho's Chief Scientist and Co-founder Sridhar Vembu on Saturday agreed with former IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath, regarding the huge economic bubble in the US stock market.

Vembu said that a systemic event like the global financial crisis of 2008-9 cannot be ruled out.

Zoho's founder responded on social media platform X to Gopinath's warning saying, "I agree with Dr Gita Gopinath. The US stock market is in a clear and massive bubble. The degree of leverage in the system means that we cannot rule out a systemic event like the global financial crisis of 2008."

Vembu also warned that the gold price trend is indicative of a systemic financial risk.

"Gold is also flashing a big warning signal. I don't think of gold as an investment, I think of it as insurance against systemic financial risk. Ultimately finance is all about trust and when debt levels reach this high, trust breaks down. I am sure AI will work hard to repay all the debt in the system," his X post read. His post tagged Gopinath's warning which said that global exposure "to US equities is at record levels." "A stock market correction would have more severe and global consequences as compared to what followed the dot-com crash.

ICICI Bank's Q2 PAT rises 5 pc YoY to Rs 12,359 crore, NII up 7.4 pc

New Delhi, Oct 18 (IANS) India's second-largest private lender, ICICI Bank, reported a 5.2 per cent year-on-year increase in profit after tax (PAT), reaching Rs 12,359 crore for Q2 FY26.

The bank in its exchange filing said that net interest income (NII) rose by 7.4 per cent to Rs 21,529 crore, with a net interest margin of 4.30 per cent. Profit before tax excluding treasury grew by 9.1 per cent year-on-year to Rs 16,164 crore in the quarter.

"Average deposits grew by 9.1 per cent year-on-year to Rs 15,57,449 crore in Q2-2026. The average current account and savings account (CASA) ratio was 39.2 per cent in Q2 2026," the exchange filing said.

Average savings account deposits increased by 8.5 per cent year-on-year and 3.2 per cent sequentially in Q2 2026. ICICI Bank informed that its core operating profit grew 6.5 per cent YoY to Rs 17,078 crore in Q2FY26, compared to Rs 16,043 crore in the year-ago period. The net NPA ratio was 0.39 per cent at the end of the quarter, the release said.

Growing India-Egypt ties open doors for collaboration in EV, renewables, fintech

New Delhi, Oct 18 (IANS) The strategic dialogue between India and Egypt will enhance bilateral partnership amid "immense potentials" for collaboration in electric vehicles, food security, defence, technology, and start-ups, according to a new report.

There are immense potentials in improving relations, including in the emerging and niche areas such as startups, renewable energy, AI, fintech, electric vehicles, food security, etc. Investments, energy and defence ties are the most important areas for cooperation, Muddassar Qamar, associate professor at the



Center for West Asian Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, was quoted by Arab News as saying in its report.

Egypt is keen for investment by Indian companies in to meet local market needs and expand exports, particularly through the

Suez Canal Economic Zone, which offers extensive investment incentives and various tax and customs exemptions. India and Egypt are seeking further cooperation in startups, fintech, cyber and artificial intelligence, Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar said after the two countries held their first strategic dialogue on Thursday.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr Badr Abdelatty arrived in New Delhi for a two-day visit, during which he co-chaired the inaugural India-Egypt Strategic Dialogue with Jaishankar. EAM Jaishankar appreciated

the intensified collaboration since the establishment of the India-Egypt Strategic Partnership in 2023. He noted that both sides discussed enhancing cooperation in political, economic, defence, maritime, and counterterrorism areas.

Anil Trigunayat, a former ambassador who has served on Indian missions in the Middle East and Europe, told Arab News that both sides agreed to explore possibilities in digital public infrastructure, fintech, pharmaceuticals, start-ups, and innovation, as well as investments in renewables.

Federal Bank's Q2 profit falls over 9 pc to Rs 955 crore

Mumbai, Oct 18 (IANS) Federal Bank on Saturday reported its net profit for the second quarter of the current financial year (Q2 FY26) at Rs 955.26 crore, down 9.5 per cent year-on-year (YoY).

The private sector lender had posted a net profit of Rs 1,056.6 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago (Q2 FY25). However, the bank's profit surged over 10 per cent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) from Rs 861.75 crore in the previous quarter.

Despite a decline in net profit, Federal Bank's total income jumped over 3.5 per cent YoY to Rs 7,824.3 crore from Rs 7,541.23 crore. The net interest income (NII) for the quarter stood at Rs 2,495 crore, while the operating profit stood at Rs 1,644.17 crore.

According to its exchange filing, total deposits increased 7.36 per cent YoY, while net advances grew 6.23 per cent YoY.

Meanwhile, the total expenditure for the July-September period stood at Rs 6,180 crore, up 3 per cent YoY from Rs 5,975.87 crore in the same quarter a year ago.

GST cuts fuel nationwide festive sales, boost consumption growth

New Delhi, Oct 18 (IANS) The recent GST rate cuts have sparked a nationwide shopping surge, making Navratri sales one of the largest consumption waves in years in automobiles, consumer electronics and e-commerce, according to industry estimates. Analysts projected festive and wedding season turnover to exceed Rs 7 lakh crore. Digital payments jumped tenfold overnight, from Rs 1.18 lakh crore on September 21 to Rs 11.31 lakh crore on September 22, as shoppers rushed to take advantage of GST savings, according to industry data. Delhi's festive sales are estimated at Rs 75,000 crore, while Ahmedabad experienced nearly a 10 per cent



increase in cotton fabric demand following GST reductions on garments priced under Rs 2,500.

The automotive and consumer durable sectors received a huge boost from the GST reforms. Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) reported a 34 per cent year-on-year increase in Navratri auto sales, marking the highest growth to date.

Maruti Suzuki India doubled its

sales compared to last year, delivering 165,000 cars in eight days, including a record 30,000 vehicles on Ashtami, while two-wheeler manufacturers saw showroom footfall double.

Consumer durable sales increased by 40-45 per cent, led by premium product categories, the industry estimates said. All leading consumer electronics brands and dealers saw strong double-digit growth.

E-commerce platforms also emerged as one of the biggest beneficiaries of the festive GST cut, as Amazon India reported a 29 per cent increase in same- and next-day deliveries in metropolitan areas and a 37 per cent rise in two-day deliveries to tier-2 and tier-3 cities.

Priyanka Kumari becomes champion of Asmita Cycling competition

Dhanbad, Oct 18: Priyanka Kumari of Dhanbad Cycling Academy became champion of Khelo India Asmita Cycling City League Competition held at Koynanagar.

Sameeksha Kumari of Birsa Munda Shishu Niketan, Rajnagar bagged 1st prize in junior event of the competition.

Senior participants had to cover 18 km while 10 km was fixed for junior girls in the race.

The competition was organized by Jharkhand State Cycling Association on direction of national



Cycling Federation in which over 300 girls of different schools participated. Dhanbad MP dhulu Mahto was chief guest and he flagged of the race.

Winners of the competition Senior group 1st Priyanka Kumari, 2nd Shivani Kumari, 3rd Sangeeta Hembram Junior group- 1st

Sameeksha Kumari, 2nd Vaishavi Kumari, 3rd suman Kumari.

On the occasion chief instructor of competition Jitendra Kumar Mahto, Rajkumar Mehta (Giridih), Dhananjay Prasad Mahto, Abhishek Pandey, Alok Kumar, Aghnu Rawani, Abhishek Kumar Mahto, Shiva Mahto, Anjali Kumari, Baby Kumari, Abhimanyu Kumar, Pushpa Kumari, Bheem Kumar Mahto, Shubham Kumar Rajak, Ravi Kumar, Vikas Kumar, and Krishna Ram were also present.

Yes Bank's Q2 net profit drops 18 pc sequentially to Rs 654 crore

Mumbai, Oct 18 (IANS) Yes Bank's net profit for the second quarter of the financial year 2025-26 (Q2 FY26) stood at Rs 654.47 crore, down 18 per cent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) from Rs 801.07 crore in the April-June period (Q1 FY26), it was announced on Saturday.

The private sector lender also reported a 3 per cent decline in its total income QoQ to Rs 9,023.15 crore -- from Rs 9,348.11 crore in the previous quarter.

However, the bank's net profit for the July-September period jumped 18 per cent year-on-year (YoY) from Rs 553.04 crore in Q2 FY25.

Meanwhile, its total expenditure for the period stood at Rs 7,726.6 crore, down over 3 per cent from Rs 7,990.07 crore in the April-June period (Q1 FY26). According to Yes Bank's exchange filing, the non-interest income (NII) for the quarter was Rs 1,644 crore, up 16.9 per cent (YoY), while operating profit stood at Rs 1,296 crore.

Till September 30, the total deposits stood at Rs 2.96 lakh crore, and advances crossed the milestone of Rs 2.5 lakh crore.

SNMMCH Dhanbad gets 10 PG seats approval in 3 faculties

Dhanbad, Oct 18 : Shahid Nirmal Mahto Medical College Hospital (SNMMCH) Dhanbad has got approval of 10 post graduate (PG) seats in three departments from 2025-26 academic sessions.

National Medical Commission (NMC) has granted approval in Surgery, Gaenecology and Biochemistry departments. In this regard NMC has uploaded notification in its site.

Approval has been given four seats each in surgery and gaenecology department and two seats in biochemistry. Now total PG seats in SNMMCH Dhanbad became 19.

Last year NMC had given approval of nine PG seats to SNMMCH (six in medicine department and three in orthopaedics).

SNMMCH principal Dr SK Chourasia said that on basis of faculty strength he had applied in four faculties surgery, biochemistry, gaenecology and pathology. But NMC gave approval in 3.

Prof (Dr) Chourasia (principal cum HoD surgery) who is going to retire from service this month, said that his dream of launching PG course has been fulfilled. "College missed the seats in pathology is of course personal set back for me", he said.

Did not apply for 150 seats

Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Medical College Hospital (MGMMCH) and Tata Manipal Medical College got approval of 50 additional MBBS seats each (total 150) from 2025-26 session but SNMMCH Dhanbad did not get.

The official sources said that SNMMCH had not applied for 150 MBBS seats to NMC. Dr KK Lal was at that time principal of the college. Same time MGMMCH and Tata Manipal had sent application. That is why MBBS seats of

SNMMCH did not increase.

Principal Prof (Dr) Chourasia justified decision of not applying for 150 MBBS seats saying that college would have to face heavy penalty.

"Due to lack of infrastructure required for 150 MBBS seats, college did not apply. NMC imposes heavy fine if institution applies for 150 seats without having proper infrastructure. So, it was decided to avoid applying", said Dr Chourasia.

As per NMC guidelines for 150 MBBS seats, institution

has to 180 seats Lecture Theatre. SNMMCH has three Lecture Theatre but all trio has capacity of 120 seats only.

Only 6 Professors in college

Major drawback for SNMMCH is that institution has only 6 professor including two in surgery (principal Dr SK Chourasia and superintendent Dr DK Gindauria). Dr Sunil Kumar Verma (biochemistry), Dr Dharmendra Kumar (eye), Dr Raj Laxmi Tubid (gaenecology) and Dr Ajay Kumar (blood Bank). Rest 22 departments are without professor.

BIT Sindri ECE Dept holds online session on GATE preparation

Dhanbad, Oct 18: BIT Sindri Electronics and Communication Engineering Department on Friday, in collaboration with the ECE Society, organized an online session on "GATE ECE Preparation Strategies."

Prayanshu Singh, an alumnus of B.I.T. Sindri (ECE, 2019-2023 batch), currently pursuing M.Tech in Communication Systems Engineering at IIT (BHU), Varanasi conducted the session and guided the students.

While addressing the session Prayanshu Singh said that concept

clarity, regular revision, and mock test analysis are the keys to get success in GATE.

He shed light on the importance of core subjects like Network Theory, Control Systems, Analog Circuits, and Digital Electronics in building a strong foundation for the test.

Sharing his own journey from B.I.T. Sindri to IIT (BHU), he motivated students to remain consistent and disciplined, "Smart work with the right mindset always pays off. In GATE", he said. An interactive Q&A,

was also organized during the session and Prayanshu Singh satisfied students from his reply. ECE Society expressed gratitude to Singh for his valuable guidance to students in GATE preparation.

Electronics and Communication Engineering Department head Dr Amar Prakash Sinha who conducted the session expressed satisfaction over the programme. On the occasion ECE department faculty members and students were present in large numbers.

Amid Afghan conflict, Pak Army chief Asim Munir's anti-India nuclear rhetoric

Islamabad, Oct 18 (IANS) Pakistani Army Chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, has issued fresh threats against India. While Pakistan itself was raining bombs on Afghan civilians, Munir doubled down on anti-India nuclear rhetoric, claiming Islamabad's expanding military capabilities could "shatter the misconceived immunity of India's geographical warspace."

Delivering a highly provocative address at the Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) in Kakul, Munir claimed that there was "no space for war in a nuclearised environment." But in the very next sentence, he warned that even a "minor provocation" would invite a "decisive, beyond proportions" response from Pakistan.

"Should a fresh wave of hostilities be triggered, Pakistan would respond much beyond the expectations of the initiators. With diminishing distinction between combat and communication zones, the reach and lethality of our weapon systems will shatter the misconceived immunity of India's geographic vastness," he said.

"The deeply hurting retributive military



and economic losses inflicted will be much beyond the imagination and calculations of the perpetrators of chaos and instability."

The Pakistani leader further cautioned that the onus of ensuing escalations, "one that may ultimately bear catastrophic consequences for the entire region and beyond, will squarely lie with India."

Pakistani airstrikes on Kabul kill 5, leave dozens injured

Kabul, Oct 18 (IANS) At least five Afghans were killed and dozens of others were injured in recent Pakistani airstrikes on Kabul, local media reported on Saturday.

Several of the injured are reportedly undergoing treatment at Emergency Hospital in the Afghan capital, where doctors said nearly 40 wounded people were brought in following the airstrikes.

According to Zabiullah, one of the doctors at Emergency Hospital, some patients were in critical condition and receiving intensive care.

"We were sitting in the car when the plane came and attacked; after that, I don't remember anything. I was half-conscious, and when I opened my eyes, I was already taken to the hospital, and one of my hands had been amputated," Afghan media outlet TOLO news quoted one of the victims, 17-year-old Ahmad Wali, as saying.

Mawludin, another victim, describing the horrific attack, said, "When the



explosion happened, glass fell on me from above. My friends pulled me out, but I wasn't fully conscious. When I got outside, I saw the situation was terrifying; everything was dark, and there was dust everywhere. Everyone, old and young, was in a terrible condition."

Following clashes between Afghan border forces and Pakistani troops, around 20,000 families have been displaced from Spin Boldak city in Afghanistan's Kandahar province, according to local officials

Afghanistan's Defence Minister arrives in Doha for negotiations with Pakistan

Doha, Oct 18 (IANS) A high-level delegation of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, led by the Taliban regime's Defence Minister Maulvi Muhammad Yaqub Mujahid, has arrived in Doha for negotiations with the Pakistani side, the country's Ministry of Defence confirmed on Saturday.

This crucial visit comes in the backdrop of deteriorating ties between Afghanistan and Pakistan as Islamabad continues to use military force to attack several areas in Kabul, which has led to deaths of many civilians, including children and women.

According to several reports, nearly 200 Afghans have lost their lives in these attacks while nearly 60 Pakistan soldiers have also been killed.

The Qatar-mediated negotiations between Afghanistan and Pakistan take place amid an extended, but uneasy truce. Afghans along the Durand Line continue to be targeted by the Pakistani forces even after the two neighbours had agreed to a ceasefire following a fierce battle last week. Late Friday, Pakistan conducted air strikes in three locations in Paktika province, according to reports. The bombing, which has killed at least 17 people, including three Afghan cricketers, broke the temporary ceasefire agreed upon by the two sides on Wednesday, October 15.

Pak airstrikes kill Afghan cricketers: Kabul pulls out of T20 series, seeks ICC ban on Pak

Kabul, Oct 18 (IANS) At least three Afghan cricketers were killed in a Pakistani airstrike in Afghanistan's Paktika province, the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) confirmed.

The players had travelled from Urgan to Sharana, near the Pakistan border, to participate in a friendly cricket match.

The ACB identified the deceased players as Kabeer, Sibghatullah, and Haroon, adding that five other civilians also lost their lives in the strike.

"In this heartbreaking incident, three players (Kabeer, Sibghatullah, and



Haroon), alongside five other fellow countrymen from Urgan District, were martyred, and seven others were injured. The players had earlier travelled to Sharana, the capital of Paktika province, to participate in a friendly cricket match. After returning home to Urgan,

they were targeted during a gathering," the ACB said in a statement.

Describing the strike as a devastating blow to the country's sports community, the ACB expressed "deep sorrow and solidarity" with the bereaved families and people of Paktika.

'Let both claim victory': Trump urges Russia, Ukraine to 'stop' war after Zelensky meeting

Washington, Oct 18 (IANS) US President Donald Trump hosted his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky at the White House, a day after holding a two-and-a-half-hour-long phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

After the meeting, Trump posted his assessment on Truth Social, calling his meeting with Zelensky "very interesting and cordial."

"The meeting with President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine was very interesting, and cordial, but I told him, as I likewise strongly suggested to President Putin, that it is time to stop the killing, and make a deal!" he wrote.

Trump also advocated that both leaders should "stop where they are" and "claim victory."

"They should stop where they are. Let both claim victory, let history decide! No more shooting, no more death, no more vast and unsustainable sums of money spent. This is a war that would have never started if I were



President. Thousands of people being slaughtered each and every week -- no more, go home to your families in peace!" he added.

While speaking to the media ahead of the bilateral meeting, Trump appeared to move away from his earlier position of providing Tomahawk missiles to Ukraine, saying "he would rather have them not need Tomahawks."

"We are going to be talking about tomahawks, and would much rather have them not need tomahawks. Would much rather have the war be over, to be honest. We are in it to get the war over," he added.

Trump said that the United States needs those missiles for its own security.

"We need tomahawks. And we need a lot of other things that we've been sending over the last four years to Ukraine," he noted.

However, the Ukrainian leader once again pressed Trump for the Tomahawks, which have a range of around 2,500 kilometres and could hit targets deep inside Russia.

"Ukraine has thousands of our production drones, but we don't have Tomahawks. That's why we need Tomahawks," the Ukrainian President added.

Iran says ready to help ease Pak-Afghan tensions



Tehran, Oct 18 (IANS) Afghanistan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi and Iranian counterpart Seyed Abbas Araghchi on Saturday held a telephonic discussion amid growing tensions between Kabul and Islamabad.

Both ministers reviewed regional developments and bilateral ties with Araghchi reportedly stressing restraint, dialogue to resolve conflicts, cooperation on the Helmand River, border security, and advancing regional peace and stability.

During the call, Araghchi expressed deep concern over the recent clashes between Afghanistan and Pakistan. He urged both sides to exercise restraint and halt the hostilities, citing that continued tensions between the two neighbors would not only cause humanitarian losses but also undermine the stability of the entire region.

"The Iranian foreign minister also reiterated Tehran's readiness to help ease tensions and facilitate constructive dialogue between the two countries. For his part, Minister Muttaqi briefed Araghchi on the latest developments and stressed that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan favours dialogue and peace over military confrontation," Iran's leading Mehr News Agency reported.

Trump officials discussing setting up meeting with Kim Jong-un during Asia trip

Seoul, Oct 18 (IANS) Officials of US President Donald Trump's administration have privately discussed arranging a meeting between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un during his upcoming visit to Asia, Yonhap news agency reported citing a CNN report Saturday.

The officials, however, have "not yet done any of the serious logistical planning they would need to do to arrange such a visit" and there have been no communications between Washington and Pyongyang, according to the report which cited sources familiar with the matter.

Trump's initial outreach to Kim earlier this year also went unanswered as the North declined to accept the letter, the report said.

The White House remains far more focused on preparing a meeting between Trump and



Chinese leader Xi Jinping during the trip, though officials have "left the door open" to a meeting with Kim, it added.

Trump's interest in a possible meeting with Kim was initially piqued during his summit with President Lee Jae Myung at the White House in August, during which Lee suggested that the Asia-Pacific Economic

Cooperation (APEC) gathering could offer an opportunity to meet with Kim, according to CNN.

The APEC summit is slated to take place in the southeastern city of Gyeongju on October 31 and November 1.

South Korea's top envoy to the United States said Friday that there is no indication yet that US President and North

Korean leader will meet on the occasion of the APEC summit.

Ambassador Kang Kyung-wha made the remarks during a parliamentary audit at the South Korean mission to the UN in New York, amid lingering speculation that Trump could seek reengagement with Kim when he visits South Korea for the APEC Summit.

India's sacred Buddha relics draw 50,000 devotees in Russia's Kalmykia

Kalmykia (Russia), Oct 18 (IANS) Over 50,000 devotees, many of whom waited in queues stretching up to one kilometre, have paid homage at a monastery here which is hosting an exposition of India's Sacred Relics of Lord Buddha, an official said on Saturday.



The exposition from India has drawn an unprecedented response in the Republic of Kalmykia, Russia, he said.

As of Sunday, over 50,000 devotees have paid their reverent homage to the relics, enshrined at the iconic Geden Sheddup Choikhorling Monastery, popularly known as the 'Golden Abode of Shakyamuni Buddha', an official of the Ministry of Culture said in a statement.

The sacred relics, recognised as a National Treasure of India, were brought to the capital city of Elista by a high-level delegation, led by Keshav Prasad Maurya, Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, and including senior Indian monks.

The delegation is conducting special religious services and blessings for the predominantly Buddhist population of Kalmykia, the only region in Europe where Buddhism is the predominant religion, said the statement.

The spiritual fervour has been palpable since the exposition began on October 11, it said.

"Today, a queue of devotees stretched nearly one kilometre from the monastery, highlighting the profound resonance of this event. The Golden Abode, a significant Tibetan Buddhist centre that opened in 1996 and is situated in the vast Kalmyk steppe, has witnessed a continuous inflow of pilgrims since early morning," said the statement.

Qatar stresses 'pressing need' to establish nuclear-weapons-free zone in Middle East

New York/Doha, Oct 18 (IANS) Qatar has reiterated its firm position that the establishment of a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East is more urgent than ever, given the current regional and global security challenges.



This was affirmed in a statement delivered by Khalid Ibrahim Al Mansouri, member of Qatar's delegation to the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, during the First Committee's discussions on nuclear weapons at UN Headquarters in New York. Qatar's Foreign Ministry stated on Saturday. Al Mansouri stressed that the proliferation of nuclear weapons remains a deeply troubling concern for the international community, as it significantly heightens the risk of accidents and potential attacks—threats that carry catastrophic consequences for humanity and future generations.

He warned that the continued

development and modernization of nuclear arsenals, along with threats to use them, further exacerbate global tensions and undermine both regional and international peace and security. Qatar emphasised that global efforts to achieve comprehensive nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are foundational to building safe and peaceful societies. Al Mansouri noted that the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by the UN General

Assembly reflects a growing international awareness of the dangers posed by nuclear proliferation, beginning with the risks associated with testing and weapons development.

He further highlighted that the possession of nuclear weapons complicates existing armed conflicts, worsens regional crisis, and contributes to a heightened state of global insecurity.

"In light of escalating tensions stemming from regional and international conflicts—as well as the increasing incorporation of nuclear weapons into military doctrines and continued testing of delivery systems—Qatar stressed the critical need for regional and international consensus in the Middle East. Building good-neighbourly relations, he said, must be a priority for resolving disputes, enhancing security, and protecting civilians and vital infrastructure," read a statement issued by the Qatar's Foreign Ministry.

Seven killed in mass shooting in South Africa's Cape Town

Cape Town, Oct 18 (IANS) Seven men were killed in a mass shooting in Cape Town, Western Cape Province of South Africa, on Friday night, local police confirmed on Saturday.



The incident occurred on Road R53 in Philippi East, a suburb in Cape Town's Cape Flats area, where seven men aged between 20 and 30 were fatally shot in what authorities described as a "senseless act of violence."

According to a statement issued Saturday morning by the South African Police Service (SAPS), police in the Western Cape have launched a large-scale manhunt following the shooting.

"Detectives attached to

the Provincial Serious and Violent Crimes Unit have been assigned to the case and are pursuing every available lead to identify and apprehend those responsible for this brutal attack," the statement said.

"The Western Cape police management has strongly condemned this senseless act of violence and confirmed that the investigation has been prioritized to ensure that the perpetrators are swiftly

brought to justice," it added, Xinhua news agency reported.

In the statement, Provincial Police Commissioner Thembisile Patekile expressed concern about the level of violence and appealed to community members to assist the police by sharing any information that could aid the investigation.

"Community cooperation is crucial to bringing those responsible

to book and restoring safety to our neighborhoods," Patekile said.

The motive behind the shooting remains unclear, and no arrests have been made.

Cape Town has seen a surge in gun violence and gang-related killings in recent months, prompting warnings from civil society that the Western Cape Province, of which Cape Town is the capital city, is facing a full-blown crisis.

In September, mounting gun violence in Cape Town, which had claimed at least a dozen lives across the metropolis in over one week, prompted the local government to shut down selected minibus taxi routes for 30 days.

Dhanteras shopping rush lights up Chaibasa markets



Mail News Service

Chaibasa, Oct 18: Dhanteras brought festive cheer to Chaibasa on Saturday, with markets witnessing heavy crowds and record sales. From early morning, people

thronged jewellery shops, utensil stores, electronic showrooms, garment outlets, and two-wheeler agencies.

Residents shopped for gold, silver, utensils and other auspicious items, while decorative lights, diyas,

sweets and crackers filled the festive air. Popular areas like Sadar Bazaar, Rungta Chowk, Durga Mandir, Gandhi Maidan and Bus Stand Chowk remained bustling throughout the day.

To ensure smooth traffic and safety, police deployed extra personnel in crowded zones. Local traders reported that this year's sales exceeded last year's figures.

Lakshmi-Ganesh idols were priced between 50 and 1,200, while brooms — considered auspicious — sold for and 40-80. Dealers confirmed bookings of around 300-350 two-wheelers during the festival.

A trader said, "After two slow years, this Dhanteras has revived market confidence. Sales are significantly higher."

Dhanteras market booms in Seraikela with Rs 4.5 crore in expected sales

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Oct 18: The Dhanteras market in Seraikela saw record-breaking sales this year, with traders expecting transactions worth around and 4.5 crore over the two-day celebration.

Due to differences in the lunar calendar, many residents observed Dhanteras on both Saturday and Sunday, leading to sustained crowds in jewellery, electronics, and vehicle showrooms.

Gold shops reported business worth and 60-80 lakh, while motorcycle showrooms — decorated like wedding venues — recorded sales worth over and 2 crore. Appliance and utensil dealers also reported brisk trade, with combined sales of nearly and 50



lakh. Chamber of Commerce president Prem Chandra Agarwal said, "This year's festive market has surpassed expectations. Consumer

enthusiasm has driven sales across all sectors."

Online shopping activity also surged, complementing the offline market boom. (w/nkm)

Food safety team inspects shops in Seraikela ahead of festivities



Mail News Service

Seraikela, Oct 18: Acting on the directive of Deputy Commissioner Nitish Kumar Singh, a food safety team led by Assistant Chief Medical Officer and Food Safety Officer Subir Ranjan conducted surprise inspections in Seraikela's Sanjay Chowk, Ward-4, and Garage Chowk on Saturday.

The team inspected sweets, dairy items, fried snacks, and packaged foods. One kilogram of chhena from a local sweet shop was found substandard and immediately destroyed. Vendors were warned not to sell food wrapped in newspapers due to health hazards.

Ranjan said, "Any future violation will invite strict action under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006."

A sample from the renowned "Seraikela Laddu" shop was collected for lab testing. The inspection team, including officers Ghanpat Mahato and Kartik Mahato, confirmed that similar surprise checks will continue throughout the festive season.

Citizens have been urged to report any suspected adulteration or unhygienic practices directly to the district administration or food safety department for prompt action. (w/nkm)

Former Union Minister Arjun Munda attends Mansa Puja, prays for prosperity of the region and nation

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Oct 18: The festive spirit of Mansa Puja has swept through the rural heartlands of Seraikela-Kharsawan district, as villages decked up their temples and community spaces to worship Goddess Mansa, revered as the deity of snakes and fertility. Among the several celebrations held across the region, one of the most significant took place in Harijan Basti, Sini, where Former Union Minister and MP Arjun Munda participated in the rituals organised by the HC Club, marking a night of devotion, tradition and cultural pride.

The celebrations began late on Friday night with the formal inauguration of the grandly decorated puja pandal. As the chief guest, Arjun Munda offered prayers to Goddess



Mansa, seeking blessings for the well-being and prosperity of the district's residents, his party workers and the nation.

Speaking on the occasion, Munda recalled the long-standing tradition of this festival in the area. "This Mansa Puja has been celebrated here since 1974 and every year, it grows in

scale and splendour," he said. "Our rural festivals reflect the living essence of our culture and traditions. It is our collective duty to preserve them, especially in today's times when modernization threatens to overshadow our roots."

The former Union Minister expressed his gratitude to the

organisers for maintaining this decades-old tradition, describing such local festivities as the "soul of India's cultural identity." He emphasized that festivals like Mansa Puja not only strengthen community bonds but also serve as a reminder of the region's devotion to faith and nature.

The event saw the

participation of several dignitaries and community leaders, including District Council member Laxmi Sardar, Mantu Sharma, Murli Pradhan, Chittaranjan Singh, Paritosh Rai, Ranglal, Sunita and Motilal, alongside members of the Puja Committee — Panchmukhi, Chittaranjan Mukhi, Somanath Mukhi, Mukesh Mukhi, Anil De and local Mukhiya Jaywanti Murmu. The celebration in Sini exemplified the collective devotion of the community, with villagers, youth and women all coming together to offer prayers, sing devotional songs and participate in rituals that continued late into the night. The atmosphere reverberated with chants, the fragrance of incense and the sound of traditional drums that lent a divine rhythm to the festivities. (w/nkm)

Police conduct foot patrol in Seraikela to strengthen festival security



Mail News Service

Seraikela, Oct 18: To ensure public safety during Dhanteras and Diwali celebrations, police conducted a large-scale foot

patrol on Saturday under the leadership of Seraikela SDPO Sameer Kumar Savaiya.

The patrol, which began at 2:30 PM from Seraikela police station, covered key areas

including Bus Stand, Patnaik Tola, and Garage Chowk before returning to the station. The team included trainee DSP Pooja Kumari, Officer-in-Charge Vinay Kumar Singh and all station personnel.

Savaiya stated, "We have deployed adequate forces at major intersections. The aim is to maintain law and order so that citizens can celebrate safely."

Police have urged residents to stay vigilant, avoid overcrowded areas and cooperate with authorities for a peaceful Diwali. (w/nkm)

Illegal sand mining crackdown in Jaduguda, two tractors seized

Jaduguda, Oct 18: In a major crackdown on illegal sand mining, District Mining Officer Arvind Oraon led a raid on the Gura River in Inchda village, Jaduguda, seizing two sand-laden tractors.

The seized vehicles include a red Mahindra tractor (JH05U-8367) and a blue Sonalika tractor without registration. A case has been filed under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Jharkhand Minor Mineral Rules, 2017. Oraon said, "This joint operation by the mining department and police marks the

first strong action in Jaduguda in over 40 years. We are committed to stopping illegal sand extraction."

Locals had complained that unchecked sand mining was damaging roads and causing difficulties for schoolchildren. Officials revealed that nearly 40-50 tractors were transporting sand daily from the river, sold at and 4,000- and 5,000 per load.

The operation has created panic among the sand mafia, who had long turned the Gura River stretch between Inchda and Saspur villages into an illegal extraction hub. (w/nkm)

Arpan Parivar spreads Diwali cheer in Rajnagar's Chawadbandha



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Oct 18 : Continuing its spirit of service, Arpan Parivar celebrated Diwali with underprivileged children and families in Chawadbandha village, Rajnagar. The organization distributed warm clothes, crackers and gifts, filling the remote village with joy and festive spirit.

Smiles lit up the faces of children as volunteers reached out to spread happiness. Local villagers and children enthusiastically joined the celebration, turning the event into a heartwarming festival of sharing.

"Every initiative of ours aims to spread smiles, hope and light in the lives of those who need it most," said an Arpan Parivar member. "It is our duty and privilege to bring happiness and positivity to society."

Members reaffirmed their commitment to continue social service with dedication and compassion. The event saw active contributions from Jugun Pandey, Bibhash Majumdar, Prince Singh, Deepak Singh, Ghanshyam Bhirbharjya, Sarbjit Singh Tobi, Kamlesh Pathak, Shuru Patro, Kashinath Pradhan, Debashish Jha, Rama Rao, Lakhikant Ghosh, Sourav Rajak, Ram and Vishal, among others. (w/nkm)

Mansa Puja observed with deep devotion in Dhatkidi Village

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Oct 18: While Sini's Harijan Basti saw the attendance of a national leader, the neighbouring Dhatkidi village witnessed equally fervent devotion as villagers installed a majestic idol of Goddess Mansa and offered prayers with utmost sincerity. The celebrations began with the ritual of Ghatwari — the ceremonial filling of sacred water pots by devotees, which were then carried in a procession to the temple premises.

Priests Ramanath Hota and Rupak Hota conducted the traditional ghat sthapana (pot installation) and invoked the blessings of Goddess Mansa through Vedic chants and rituals. Devotees observed nirjala upvas (fasting without water) as a mark of their deep faith, praying for the happiness, prosperity and protection of their families.

After the completion of rituals, prasad was distributed among the villagers. Community member Sohanlal Mukhi shared that Mansa Puja holds special importance in rural Jharkhand. "This festival is among the most



significant in our villages," he said. "People believe that worshipping Mansa Devi shields them from snake bites, scorpion stings and other venomous creatures, especially during the monsoon season. It is part of our living folk tradition."

Explaining the deep-rooted faith associated with the celebration, Hem Sagar Pradhan, a social activist from the Mahalimurup area, noted, "The worship of Goddess Mansa

embodies both devotion and practicality. In agrarian societies surrounded by forests and fields, where snake encounters are common, people see Mansa Devi as their protector. Over generations, this belief has become a central part of rural life." The event at Dhatkidi drew a large turnout of devotees, who sang hymns, performed traditional dances and lit lamps in honour of the deity. The beautifully decorated idol of

Mansa Devi was adorned with flowers, vermilion and sacred ornaments. Children participated by carrying small lamps, symbolising the victory of faith over fear.

Among the attendees were Sohanlal Mukhi, Ashok Mahato, Dharendra Mahato, Subhash Chandra Mahato, Nagen Mahato, Krishna Mahato, Budheshwar Das, Kamaldev Das and Lakhinder Nayak, among others. (w/nkm)

Preparations in full swing for 29th Shri Shyam Janm Mahotsav

Mail News Service

Chandil, Oct 18: Preparations are in full swing for the 29th Shri Shyam Janm Mahotsav organized by Shri Shyam Kala Bhawan, Chandil. The committee members are working tirelessly to ensure a grand celebration.

Kala Bhawan President Sanjay Choudhary informed that a grand Shobha Yatra will be taken out on October 31 from the Shyam Temple, covering the entire Chandil market before concluding at the temple premises. The Delhi-based Chirag Group will present a devotional dance drama during the procession.

On November 1, a Bhajan Sandhya will be held at 6:31 p.m.



near Chaudhary Bagan, featuring renowned devotional singers. Delhi's Rishabh Dabla Group will perform an enchanting Shyam Shringar, while artists from West Bengal will construct a magnificent

Shyam Darbar. Many dignitaries, including Rajeev Gupta, Durga Choudhary, Subhash Sharma and Harish Sultania, are expected to attend the celebrations. (w/nkm)

Rotary Club honours trainers at Samsung Technical School

Mail News Service

Gambaria, Oct 18: The Rotary Club of Varanasi Central organized a special felicitation program under the Saksham Bharat initiative at Samsung Technical School, Chandpur Industrial Estate, Varanasi. The event recognized the contributions of the institute's trainers and consultants for their role in promoting skill development.

Club president Rtn. Rajesh Bhatia praised the institution, saying,



"Established in 2014, this school is truly realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat. Every student trained here has either started their own venture or secured employment — this is the

institute's success." Secretary of The Small Industries, Neeraj Parikh, lauded Rotary's service efforts and assured continued support for the institution's growth.

Senior Manager and institute-in-charge

Ashutosh Kumar shared that over 350 youths have become self-reliant this year through skill training. He credited GM L. Rajasekhar's guidance for the institute's success.

During the ceremony, Rotary officials honored Ashutosh Kumar, trainers Ram Sagar, Sangeeta Kumari, Vijay Kumar, Anvesh, Vikas Thakur, Rajeev Kiran and consultant Ajmer Sahil with mementos. The event was conducted by Gyanendra Upadhyay and concluded with a vote of thanks by Satish Bajaj.

Ankita Lokhande gives glimpse into her 'modern AnVi ki fairytale'

Mumbai, Oct 18 (IANS) On the occasion of Dhanteras on Saturday, actress Ankita Lokhande shared a glimpse into her 'modern AnVi ki fairytale' with husband Vicky Jain.

Ankita took to Instagram, where she shared a string of romantic pictures posing with Vicky from her previously held Diwali bash.

"The Modern Fairytale #AnVi ki Fairytale No dragons, no rescues, no glass shoes, just a King and a Queen who chose each other every single day, even when the story got hard," she wrote.

She then went on to wish everyone on Dhanteras, which is the first day that marks the festival of Diwali. It is celebrated on the thirteenth lunar day of Krishna Paksha in the Hindu calendar month of Ashwin or Kartika.

"Wishing you all lots of #Dhan this #dhanteras," she added.

Ankita Lokhande, who is the former girlfriend of late star Sushant Singh Rajput, married Vicky in December 2021.

The couple first came together on screen in the 17th edition of Bigg Boss, hosted by Bollywood superstar Salman Khan.



Munawar Faruqui emerged as the winner and Abhishek Kumar was the runner-up in the 17th edition.

A.R. Rahman, Arijit Singh, Irshad Kamil reunite for 'Tere Ishk Mein' title track

Mumbai, Oct 18 (IANS) The makers of "Tere Ishk Mein" have unveiled the title track of the upcoming film starring Kriti Sanon and Dhanush for which Oscar-winner A.R. Rahman along with Arijit Singh and Irshad Kamil have joined hands.

The title track is finally out and it gives fans a first glimpse into the world of 'Tere Ishk Mein', which is emotional, grand, and laced in Rahman's timeless sound.

The track blends Rahman's soul-stirring composition, Singh's unmistakable voice, and Kamil's signature poetry, a combination once again destined to dominate playlists.

The video gives an emotional glimpse into the film, hinting at an



intense and passionate love story of loss, longing, and unspoken pain between the two characters.

On October 1, the makers of Tere Ishk Mein unveiled the teaser of the upcoming film, which promises an emotional ride as it is packed with passion, pain, and the relentless pursuit of love that seems destined to remain unfulfilled.

Scheduled to hit the theatres on November 28 in Hindi and Tamil, the film's teaser captures the magnetic tension between Shankar and Mukti. This will be the first time Kriti will be sharing screen space with Dhanush.

As per a statement, after earlier glimpses into their lives, the film's teaser now reveals a narrative steeped in passion,

and the relentless pursuit of love that may remain unfulfilled.

It introduces a love that defies reason, one that destroys and redeems in equal measure.

Gulshan Kumar, T-Series, and Colour Yellow present 'Tere Ishk Mein', produced by Aanand L Rai and Himanshu Sharma, produced by Bhushan Kumar and Krishan Kumar.

The film directed by Aanand L Rai and written by Himanshu Sharma and Neeraj Yadav, is an A.R. Rahman musical with lyrics by Irshad Kamil. Starring Dhanush and Kriti Sanon, the film is scheduled to release worldwide in Hindi and Tamil on November 28, 2025.

Kajal Aggarwal wishes happiest birthday to her 'darling baby sister' Nisha

Mumbai Oct 18 (IANS) Actress Kajal Aggarwal shares an extremely close bond with her sister Nisha Aggarwal, and the siblings are often seen making appearances on each other's feeds.

As Nisha turned a year older on Saturday, Kajal used social media to pen a lovely birthday post for her darling baby sister.

The 'Singham' actress posted a string of unseen photos of herself with Nisha on her official Instagram handle.

From chilling at the beach together to playing with each other's kids, Kajal and Nisha never fail to give out sister goals.

Kajal also accompanied



the pictures with a heartfelt note for her dear sister that read, "Happiest birthday, my darling baby sister! (Though at this point, we might have to retire that word) (Tongue out face emoji) (sic)."

Expressing her admiration for Nisha, the 'Hey Sinamika' actress went on to write, "You've grown into such a beautiful, strong, and inspiring woman- inside and out. Watching you embrace life with grace, laughter, and courage fills my heart with pride. Here's to all the incredible memories behind us and the magical moments still to come. Also, You've aged like fine wine- slightly more expensive, occasionally

unpredictable, but always worth it."

"You wear every decade like such a queen! (Crown emoji) Happy birthday, my forever favourite troublemaker! Love you endlessly, you gorgeous grown up! (Dizzy and red heart emoji) @nishaaggarwal," she added.

Work-wise, Kajal has concluded the shoot for her upcoming drama "The India Story," where she will be seen sharing screen space with Shreyas Talpade.

The makers, MIG Production & Studios, announced the conclusion of the shoot by sharing a new poster from the show.

Health WHO calls for immediate action to end lead exposure



New Delhi, Oct 18 (IANS) Even though preventable, lead exposure remains a serious global health threat and continues to affect millions of children and adults alike, said the World Health Organization on Friday, calling for immediate action to tackle the growing burden.

Lead is present in numerous everyday materials, including paint, batteries, cosmetics, and even spices. It contaminates air, water, and soil, resulting in persistent exposure in communities worldwide.

It is linked to approximately 1.5 million deaths annually, primarily from cardiovascular disease, and causes irreversible neurological and behavioural damage, especially in children. Young children absorb significantly more lead than adults, leading to reduced IQ, learning difficulties, and behavioural problems. Lead exposure also harms the developing foetus.

There is no safe level of lead, and immediate action is needed to eliminate exposure and protect future generations, said the WHO ahead of the 13th International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW), from October 19 to 25.

"No level of lead is safe. Every child deserves a future free from this poison," said Dr Ruediger Krech, Director, Department of Environment, Climate Change, One Health and Migration a.i., at the WHO.

"Every child, in every corner of the world, deserves a future free from the lifelong harm that can be prevented. This week, we call on governments, communities, and health-care providers to act decisively to eliminate lead exposure and protect the health and potential of the next generation," Krech added. While progress has been made, including the ban on lead in petrol and efforts by many countries to restrict lead in paints, the WHO stressed that voluntary measures are not enough.

Comprehensive bans on the production, import, sale, and use of lead-based paints must be implemented and strictly enforced to prevent exposure, particularly among children. WHO urged all governments, organisations, and communities to act decisively to protect children and future generations from this preventable health threat.

Lead exposure also remains an economic challenge in the 21st century, according to a new global study, including researchers from the Kolkata's Jadavpur University and the National University of Singapore (NUS), among others.

Censor Board clears Rashmika Mandanna's 'Thamma' for release with U/A certificate



Chennai, Oct 18 (IANS) The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has now cleared director Aditya Sarpotdar's eagerly-awaited horror comedy 'Thamma', featuring actress Rashmika Mandanna in the lead, for release with a U/A certificate.

Asian Suresh Entertainment, the distribution firm that is releasing the Telugu version of 'Thamma', took to its X timeline to share a poster that showed that the film had been cleared by the Censor Board. It wrote, "Certified U/A and loaded for Diwali. Get ready to witness #Thamma on the big screen! In cinemas on Oct 21st! #ThammaTelugu Release by @asiansureshent #ThammaThisDiwali #ThammaOn21stOct"

The film has triggered huge excitement ever since the makers released the trailer of the film.

The trailer begins with Rashmika introducing Nawazuddin Siddiqui's character Yakshasan as the protector of the world. However, he suddenly decides to go rogue and becomes the 'Thamma' himself. The trailer also gives a fleeting glimpse of some romantic moments between Ayushmann and Rashmika. Soon after, Alok (Ayushmann), to his horror, finds himself turned into a vampire, with a missing heartbeat and fangs. This leads him on a journey full of unexpected challenges that come with his newfound identity.

It may be recalled that Rashmika had been unable to attend the trailer launch event of the film as she was shooting for 'Cocktail 2'. Apologising for her absence at the event, the actress had said, "Hi guys, I am so sorry that I couldn't be at the trailer launch. I am shooting for 'Cocktail 2' in Sicily right now, but I really really hope that you liked the 'Thamma' trailer and the brand new Maddok horror comedy. "Revealing how special her character in the film was, Rashmika added, "Tadaka is such an important and strong character, and I had the honor and the privilege of playing her. I absolutely loved playing her part on screen. I can't wait for all of you to watch Thamma in the theatre this Diwali."

Varun Dhawan grooves to 'Perfect' playing on radio, wishes Happy Diwali

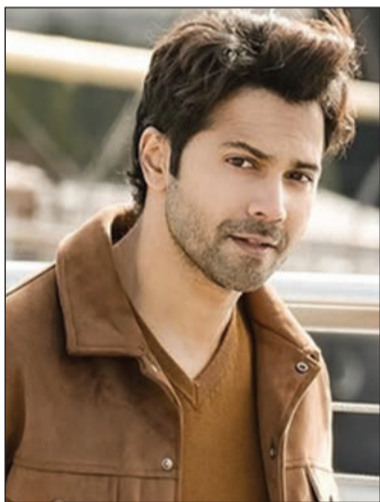
Mumbai, Oct 18 (IANS) Actor Varun Dhawan's "Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari" fever is still on as he grooved to the track 'Perfect' playing on radio and went on to wish everyone Happy Diwali.

Taking to his Instagram stories, Varun shared a video of him sitting in the car and singing "Perfect", which was playing on the radio.

After singing a few lines, he said: "Back in the bay, Perfect is playing on the radio. Perfect time. Sunny Sanskari Happy Diwali (sic)."

Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari is a romantic comedy film written and directed by Shashank Khaitan and produced by Dharna Productions. It stars Varun, Janhvi Kapoor, Sanya Malhotra, Rohit Saraf, Maniesh Paul and Akshay Oberoi.

The film's plot follows Ananya and Vikram, who are heartbroken after their partners abandon them. Sunny and Tulsi team up to crash the wedding of their exes.



The song has been performed by Guru Randhawa, as he brings his signature flair into the colourful world of 'Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari'. The music and lyrics for the are by Guru Randhawa, Gill Machhra, and Rony Ajnali, and produced by Dilmaan.

On the acting front, Varun is all geared up for the release of his upcoming epic war drama "Border 2" starring Sunny Deol, Diljit Dosanjh, Ahan Shetty. The film is locked for a January 22, 2026 release.

Directed by Anurag Singh, Border 2 also stars Medha Rana, Mona Singh and Sonam Bajwa with production by Bhushan Kumar and JP Dutta.

While 'Border' was based on the events of Battle of Longewala, 'Border 2' is presumably based on the Kargil War which occurred in 1999. The conflict between the two countries was mostly limited. During early 1999, Pakistani troops infiltrated across the Line of Control (LoC) and occupied Indian territory mostly in the Kargil district.

India responded by launching a major military and diplomatic offensive to drive out the Pakistani infiltrators.

Jackie Shroff celebrates 40 years of 'Teri Meherbaniyan'

Mumbai Oct 18 (IANS) Four decades ago today, Jackie Shroff and Poonam Dhillon's Bollywood drama "Teri Meherbaniyan" reached the cinema halls.

As the project completed 40 years of release, Jackie took to the Stories section of his Instagram and dropped a video compilation of some power-packed scenes from Vijay Reddy's directorial, along with the text overlay, "#40YearsOfTeriMeherbaniyan".

Backed by K.C. Bokadia, "Teri Meherbaniyan" is a remake of Vijay Reddy's 1984 Kannada outing "Thaliya Bhagya" starring Shankar Nag. The movie has also been remade in Telugu as "Nammina Bantu", in Malayalam with the name "Ithente Neethi", and in Tamil with the title "Nandri".

The drama features Jackie as Kram, Poonam as Bijli, Raj Kiran as Gopi, Swapna as Sharda, Doggie Brownie as Moti, Asrani as Munim Banwarilal, Sadashiv Amrapurkar as



Sardarilal, Amrish Puri as Thakur Vijay Singh, and Satyen Kappu as Bijli's Father.

The drama talks about residents in a remote village suffering under the ruthless Thakur Vijay Singh (Played by Amrish Puri) until the honest newcomer Ram (Played by Jackie Shroff) challenges him. When Ram helps a young couple elope and get married, Thakur Vijay Singh resorts to brutal revenge.

Aside from the lead cast, Dog Brownie also played a pivotal role in the film, making it a symbol of the unique bond between a man and his most loyal friend.

The technical crew of

Deepika Singh has sumo squat session with niece

Mumbai, Oct 18 (IANS) Popular television actress Deepika Singh had a fun workout session with her niece and also went on to wish everyone Happy Diwali.

Deepika took to Instagram to share a video of herself and her adorable little niece performing 10 sumo squats. The duo also took on a challenge to hold the final squat position, testing their core strength and balance.

For the caption, Deepika wrote: "May your home glow with warmth, your heart with love, and your days with happiness. Happy Diwali in advance and Happy Shubb Dhanteras everyone #withmyneice #videobymytrainer #diwaliwishes #deepikasingsh."

Deepika is currently seen on the show 'Mangal Lakshmi,' which is an official adaptation of Kannada TV series "Bhagyalakshmi," also stars Sanika Amit, Naman Shaw and Shubham Dipta. Directed by Faheem Ahmad, the daily soap airs every Monday to Friday on Colors.

The basic crux of the story follows the character of Mangal, who embarks on a quest to find her sister Lakshmi's a perfect match. However, love and trials test their sisterhood, unveiling destiny's power.

Talking about Deepika, she made her television debut with Diya Aur Baati Hum, where she played IPS Sandhya Kothari Rathi opposite Anas Rashid. It proved to be a breakthrough in her career.

Following a break, Deepika returned to television in 2019. She played dual roles



of Sandhya Patwardhan Jindal and Sakshi Patwardhan Salgaonkar opposite Namik Paul and Vin Rana, in Kavach... Mahashivrati. She also played an advocate in the web series Halala.

In 2022, the actress made her film debut with Titu Ambani opposite Tushar Pandey.

Last month, the actress talked about the concept of remarriage. Deepika had told IANS in an exclusive quote: "Playing Mangal has been very close to my heart because, in many ways, I relate to her. Just like Mangal, I am also a mother, a wife, and someone who is balancing her personal life with her career."

Rohit, Virat back for final dash, ODI captain Gill eyes smooth take-off

I won't shy away from taking advice from them: Gill on leading Rohit and Kohli

Perth, Oct 18 (IANS) There's something inherently cinematic about the Indian team sheet for Sunday's first ODI against Australia in Perth. The cast includes two men who have defined an era, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, and a fresh-faced captain in Shubman Gill, whose leadership story is just beginning. It is as if Indian cricket is attempting to shoot its sequel while the heroes of the original are still very much on set.

The stage could not be more fitting: Australia, a land that has shaped, tested, and at times humbled India's biggest names. This time, however, the script carries two parallel plots, the long-awaited comeback of Kohli and Rohit to their favourite format and Gill's first full assignment as India's ODI captain. And the audience is ready: ticket sales for India's



tour, three ODIs followed by five T20Is, have been massive, with over 50,000 expected at Optus Stadium, a crowd size reached only twice in the venue's history.

Seven months after their last international appearance and nearly five months since their

final IPL outing, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma return to the format that still feels distinctly theirs. For two batters who have mastered almost every aspect of the modern game, ODIs remain their most expressive canvas, familiar, demanding, and deeply personal. New appointed ODI

skipper Shubman Gill shared his thoughts on captaining the batting stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli and admitted that he won't shy away from taking any advice from the veterans if he is in a difficult situation. After replacing Rohit as Test skipper following his retirement earlier this year, Gill also assumed the ODI captaincy from the 38-year-old ahead of the tour of Australia.

Speaking to reporters on Saturday about leading the two former skippers Rohit and Virat, Gill said, "They are the kind of players, when I was a kid I used to idolise. The kind of game that they used to play, the kind of hunger that they had are something that inspired me. And it's a big honour for me to be able to lead such legends of the game and learn from them."

"Even in the series, there were so many instances where I

would be able to learn from their experience. And whenever I think I would be in a bit of a difficult situation, I wouldn't shy away from getting any suggestions or advice from them," he added.

Asked about his learning from Rohit and Kohli while playing under their reins, Gill replied, "There are some things I observed as a player that I really liked when I was playing under them. How they converse and what kind of communication and messaging that they had with the players is something that helped me get the best out of myself when I was playing under them."

"And as a captain now, that's the kind of captain that I would want to be. Where all my players feel very secure in the job that they have to do and the communication with what I want from them is very clear.

Tanvi Sharma dominates China's Liu Si Ya to reach final

Guwahati, Oct 18 (IANS) Tanvi Sharma came up with a near-perfect performance against China's Liu Si Ya to reach the girls' singles final of the BWF World Junior Championships 2025 at the National Centre of Excellence here on Saturday.



The 16-year-old followed in the footsteps of compatriots Aparna Popat and former world No. 1 Saina Nehwal to become only the third Indian female player to reach the summit clash of the world junior championships, registering a clinical 15-11, 15-9 win over Asian Junior Championships silver medallist Liu in just over half an hour.

The top-seeded Indian will now take on second-seeded Anyapat Pichitpreechask of Thailand, who fought back to beat compatriot Yatawemin Ketkieng 10-15, 15-11, 15-5 in the other semifinals.

Having become the first Indian female player to be assured of a world junior championships medal in 17 years, Tanvi came out all guns blazing in the semifinals against Liu from the very first point. The Indian went for winners early in the first few exchanges and wasn't afraid to play the late flicks and sharp cross-court pushes from the front court to keep her opponent guessing.

India go down 1-2 to Aus as late goal seals Sultan of Johor Cup 2025 title

Johor, Oct 18 (IANS) The Indian junior men's hockey team produced a fighting performance but went down 1-2 to Australia in the Final of the Sultan of Johor Cup 2025 in Johor, Malaysia, on Saturday.

India conceded a goal in the 13th minute before hitting back through Annol Ekka (17') early in the second quarter to draw level. The contest remained evenly poised until the final moments, when Ian Grobbelaar (59') converted a late penalty corner to seal the title for Australia. India began on a promising note, moving the ball around with short, crisp passes that gave them the bulk of possession in the early exchanges.

Rishav Raj shines on debut as Jharkhand crush TN by an innings and 114 runs

Coimbatore, Oct 18 (IANS) : Jharkhand recorded a commanding innings and 114-run victory over former champions Tamil Nadu in their Ranji Trophy Group A clash at Coimbatore on Saturday, with debutant off-spinner Rishav Raj delivering a match-winning performance.

Jharkhand humbled former champions Tamil Nadu by an innings and 114 runs with young off-spinner Rishav Raj, playing his maiden first-class match,

grabbing four wickets on the fourth and final day of the Ranji Trophy Group A match in Coimbatore on Saturday. With Jharkhand virtually assured of a victory on Friday after asking Tamil Nadu to follow-on, it was a matter of time before the fragile Tamil Nadu batting crumbled. Rishav, 24, who had started the TN collapse on Friday by dismissing teenage opener, came back refreshed on the final day to take two more wickets to return excellent figures of 4/49 on debut.

Jharkhand, who has scored 419 in the opening essay, had dismissed TN for 93 in the first innings and enforced a follow-on. But TN batters could not put up a fight and were dismissed for 212 in 79 overs as the Ishan Kishan-led side earned a bonus point. Kishan was declared 'Player of the Match' for his superb 173.

Tamil Nadu could add just 11 runs to their overnight total before 17-year-old Jeganathan Hemchudeshan, making his first-class debut, was removed by pacer

Sahil Raj (2/28), who finished the match with a six-wicket haul.

TN veteran batter Baba Indrajith, who has 16 first-class centuries, was the next to depart, beaten by Rishav's spin to be caught by Shikhar Mohan on 22.

However promising batter C Andre Siddarth, playing his 10th First-class match, defied the Jharkhand bowling by playing cautiously to score a workmanlike 80 off 180 deliveries (12x4).

Back in India, Nikola Stojanovic focused on Super Cup success with JFC

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Oct 18: Jamshedpur FC's new Serbian signing Nikola Stojanovic has made his ambitions clear ahead of the upcoming Super Cup, declaring that his only focus is on winning trophies with the Red Miners.

The 30-year-old midfielder, who led Inter Kashi to the I-League title last season, brings a wealth of experience and a fierce competitive mindset to Steven Dias' side. Known for his leadership and set-piece prowess, Nikola joins a squad that finished runners-up in last season's Super Cup and is determined to take the final step this time around.

"Nothing more, nothing less than winning," said Nikola Stojanovic with conviction when asked about the mentality he hopes to bring to Jamshedpur FC. "I've



always carried a winning mindset within me, and I hope we'll all share that together here."

The Serbian playmaker spoke highly of his early interactions with head coach Steven Dias, noting that both share a similar footballing vision. "I spoke with the coach and I think we have the same understanding of the game. I've met the teammates and everything feels just as I hoped. I believe I'll fit in well with this group," he said. As he embarks on his fifth season in Indian football, having previously represented Mohammedan SC, Gokulam Kerala, and Inter Kashi, Nikola expressed enthusiasm about continuing

his journey in the country. "I'm really happy to be back in India. Like I said, I hope we'll be on a winning path with Jamshedpur. I'm excited and can't wait to get started," he added. The Serbian also had a brief but heartfelt message for the fans: "Just come and support us. We will do our best to bring some joy back."

Looking ahead to the Super Cup, Nikola said the team has been putting in the work to be ready for their opening match. "We're training hard and I think we'll be ready for the first game and the group stage," he said.

When asked about facing defending champions FC Goa in the group opener, a rematch of last season's final, Nikola was confident yet composed. "Nothing changes. Jamshedpur is a really tough team and that's my mindset," he concluded. (W-mb)

Alireza's Super 10 helps Bulls confirm top-eight spot after win over Dabang Delhi

New Delhi, Oct 18 (AINS) Bengaluru Bulls confirmed their place in the top eight with a comprehensive 33-23 win against Dabang Delhi K.C. in a Season 12 match of the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) at the Thyagaraj Indoor Stadium here on Saturday. Alireza Mirzaian notched another Super 10, also registering the most raid points by an overseas player in a PKL Season.

The Bulls defenders also played their part with Sanjay registering four tackles, and Yogesh and Deepak bagging three tackles each. The win also helps Bengaluru Bulls move to third place on the points table. Meanwhile, Mohit Deswal was the standout player for Dabang Delhi with seven touch points and four tackle points.

Dabang Delhi K.C. took a three-point lead in the initial exchanges with Akshit Dhull and Mohit Deswal frontlining as the two raiders. Surjeet Singh marked the first tackle of the game, before Aashish Malik opened Bengaluru Bulls' account, and their captain followed it up with a tackle.

Women's WC: After refreshing break, India eyes win over formidable England



Indore, Oct 18 (IANS) In the thick of the festive spirit, all cities in India make for an illuminating look through decorative lights, diyas lit up in various shapes and joy being all around.

Amidst this festive atmosphere and heat being at its best, a refreshed India will be back in action to restart its quest of

entering the semi-finals when it faces a formidable England in a must-win clash at the Holkar Stadium on Sunday.

By the time the match will be on, one can expect for the 30,000-seater stadium located bang in the centre of the city to be packed to the rafters. The buzz around the India-England clash has already spilled into the city, with locals starting to make their match-day predictions with the casual ease of seasoned pundits.

But inside the Indian dressing room, despite having a relaxing week-long break, the mood is bound to be serious. India's campaign, buoyed by early wins over Sri Lanka and Pakistan, is now at a precarious point after defeats to South Africa and Australia in Visakhapatnam.

Chinmaya Telco, Trans Excel triumph in basketball finals

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Oct 18: The "Inter-Team and Inter-School Basketball Tournament" concluded at the TML Sports Complex on October 18, 2025, with exciting matches in men's, boys', and girls' categories. The tournament was organized under the aegis of the Tata Motors Sports Department.

In the inter-team category, Trans Excel faced Nano Warriors in a closely contested final. Trans Excel emerged victorious with a convincing 44-18 win. Chetan Kumar of Trans Excel was named the best player of the tournament for his outstanding performance.

In the inter-school category for boys, Vidya Bharati Chinmaya Vidyalaya defeated Hill Top School with a score of 68-52, dominating the match from start to finish. In the girls' category, Chinmaya once again outclassed



Hill Top School, winning 51-27. Neeraj Kumar (boys) and Akancha Kumari (girls) from Vidya Bharati Chinmaya Vidyalaya were selected as the best players of the tournament.

The winners and runners-up were felicitated by City Superintendent of Police Kumar

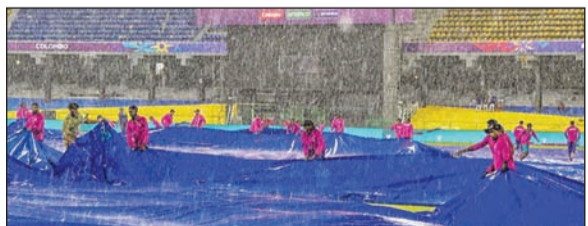
Shivashish, ER Head Soumik Roy, Rajat Kumar Singh, Head of Town Administration, and Ashish Sen from Town Administration, Tata Motors.

The tournament highlighted teamwork, skill, and competitive spirit among participants, while also promoting sportsmanship

and enthusiasm for basketball across schools and teams in the city.

This year's finals reflected high energy and strong performances, with both Trans Excel and Vidya Bharati Chinmaya Vidyalaya showcasing exceptional talent and strategy on the court. (W-mb)

Rain washes out New Zealand - Pakistan CWC25 clash



Colombo, Oct 18 (IANS): New Zealand's ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 clash against Pakistan was abandoned after rain played spoilsport at the R Premadasa International Stadium in Colombo on Saturday. The result meant that both teams shared the points, confirming South Africa's qualification for the semi-finals after their fourth consecutive win, which came against Sri Lanka on Friday. New Zealand still remain in fifth place on the World Cup table with four points from five matches while Pakistan, still searching for their first win, remain at the bottom. With New Zealand winning the toss and electing to bowl, rain had earlier interrupted play during the first innings before the match was reduced to 46 overs per side. The New Zealand bowlers then tightened their grip on the game, reducing Pakistan to 92/5 in 25 overs.

Zoravar Sandhu wins men's trap world championship bronze

ISSF World Championship Shotgun 2025

Mail News Service

New Delhi, Oct 18: 31-years after he shot his first junior world championship and 27-years after he shot his first senior worlds, Zoravar Singh Sandhu of India at the ripe young age of 48, clinched the men's trap bronze at the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Championship Shotgun 2025. Shooting at the Malakasa Shooting Range in Athens, Greece, on Friday (Oct 17), the Indian overcame rain, shadows and the most unsuitable bib number, to nail down 31 of the first 40-targets in the 50-shot final. He finished behind former Olympic champion and now world champion Josip Glasnovic of Croatia, who won gold with 44-hits and junior world champion Andres Garcia of Spain, who won silver



with a score of 39.

"It was a great experience. It was a tough range, tough conditions to shoot but that's how it is and here we are. I would like to thank my family and my

coaches and teammates for their support," said a visibly pleased but amazingly calm Zoravar after the final. A thrilled National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) President, Shri. Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo, said after the results came through, "It is yet another historic moment for Indian shooting with Zoravar helping us win only a second individual world championship medal in trap. It shows the level of confidence of our Shooting squad that with every international outing, new barriers are being breached. Full marks to Zoravar for his commitment and dedication and also to Peter Wilson and the entire coaching staff, who since coming on has helped our Trap squad get better and better." Zoravar's challenge began early on Friday morning with his first task being ensuring qualification, despite missing just one target out of 100, over the first four rounds of qualification spread over the past two days.

He missed the seventh target but got 21 out of the first 22 before missing the

23rd target to log a 23 for the fifth and final round. A total of 122 (24,25,25,25,23) over five rounds would turn out to be enough as overnight leader and former world championship silver medalist Anton Glasnovic, equaled the world record with a perfect score of 125, to top the table.

Anton's brother Josip qualified second with 124, while American world number two William Hinton was sole third with 123. Zoravar went into a three-way shoot-off with Garcia and Frenchman Antonin Desert, was the first to miss and so went into the six-man final with the highest bib number of six, a huge disadvantage as any ties before the last 10-targets would mean he would have to bow out.

The Indian was then the first to miss in the final, missing his 2nd target, but got nine out of the first 10 to be fifth in the initial stages. Josip's first miss came on the 12th target and Anton after not missing over three days, had four after the first 15. (W-mb)

Bengal CM writes to PM opposing appointment of interlocutor for Gorkhaland issue

Kolkata, Oct 18 (IANS)

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, on Saturday, had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi opposing the decision of the Union government to appoint former Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA) and ex-Director General of the Border Security Force, Pankaj Kumar Singh, as an interlocutor for the tripartite talks over a permanent political solution to the longstanding demand for a separate Gorkhaland statehood, forking out the hills of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, and Kurseong, and the parts of the plans in the Terai and Doars regions in north Bengal.

"I am surprised and shocked to know that the Union government has ap-



pointed retired IPS officer Pankaj Kumar Singh as an interlocutor to hold discussions on the issues relating to Gorkhas in Darjeeling hills, Terai and Doars regions of West Bengal," the letter said.

In the letter, Chief Minister Banerjee has claimed that the decision to appoint the interlocutor was

taken without consultation with the state government although the matters related to the appointment related to the "governance, peace and administrative stability of the area under Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA)", an autonomous body under the West Bengal government. "Such unilateral action is

inconsistent with the spirit of cooperative federalism that forms one of the fundamental principles of our Constitution," she said in the letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In the letter, the Chief Minister had also claimed that the current situation of peace and harmony in the region has been possible because of the concentrated and continuous efforts of the West Bengal government led by her since 2011.

She also said that the state government is of the view that any initiative concerning the Gorkha community or the GTA region should be undertaken by the Union government only in full consultation with the West Bengal government, in order to maintain peace and harmony in the region.

Near total shutdown in Telangana over reservation for Backward Classes

Hyderabad, Oct 18 (IANS) Road Transport Corporation buses went off the roads across Telangana while most of the shops, business establishments and educational institutions remained closed on Saturday as the state-wide bandh called by Backward Classes JAC and supported by all political parties evoked a near total response.

The bandh called by the Joint Action Committee (JAC), consisting of 136 Backward Classes associations in support of 42 per cent reservation for Backward Classes (BCs), impacted normal life in Hyderabad and other districts.

Buses of state-owned Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) remained confined to depots as leaders of Backward Class groups



and political parties staged protest demonstrations in front of the depots. The suspension of bus services caused severe inconvenience to people in and around Hyderabad and in other districts ahead of Diwali.

The JAC, headed by Rajya Sabha member R. Krishnaiah, has appealed to all sections, caste groups and political parties to support the shutdown.

Krishnaiah, who is a BJP MP, termed the bandh as a

non-political one aimed at demanding justice for the BCs.

The JAC exempted emergency services like hospitals and ambulances from the bandh.

Private educational institutions declared a holiday, while government-run schools and colleges also remained closed.

The government offices were functioning as usual. Employees belonging to Backward Class communities attended duties wearing

black badges.

In a rare show of unity, all political parties, including the ruling Congress and opposition BRS and BJP, have declared support for the shutdown call.

Ministers and MLAs of the ruling party also participated in the protests in various parts of the state.

Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS) and Jubilee Bus Station (JBS) in the state capital wore a deserted look. Passengers were seen waiting for buses.

Railways approves final survey for Devgarh-Marwar broad gauge line

New Delhi, Oct 18: The Ministry of Railways has sanctioned the Final Location Survey (FLS) for a 72-km broad gauge railway line connecting Devgarh Madariya to Marwar Junction. Once approved, the project will establish the shortest rail link between Jodhpur and Bikaner to Chittorgarh and Udaipur, significantly cutting travel time and boosting both passenger and freight operations across

Rajsamand, Udaipur, and Pali districts.

According to officials, the new line will provide modern rail access to underserved areas and open new market opportunities for local farmers by reducing transportation costs. "The project will transform connectivity in the Marwar region, converting the once-slow narrow tracks into a faster, more efficient rail corridor," the Ministry said in a statement.

Strategically aligned with the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), the line is expected to strengthen the Jodhpur-Pali industrial belt—a growing logistics and manufacturing hub in western India. The improved connectivity will enhance supply chains, attract investments, and connect industries more effectively with ports and national markets.

Tourism is also set to benefit, as the route will improve access to destinations like Kumbhalgarh Fort, Charbhuja Temple, and Dwarkadheesh Temple in Kankroli. The region's marble, granite, and cement industries will gain from reduced logistics costs under Indian Railways' Mission 3000 MT, aimed at boosting freight capacity.

The project, coupled with the ongoing and 969 crore Nathdwara-Devgarh Madariya gauge conversion, will further drive socio-economic growth and improve access to education, healthcare, and jobs for tribal communities in the region.

Wanted Maoist Geeta, carrying Rs 5 lakh bounty on head, surrenders

Raipur, Oct 18 (IANS) In a continuing wave of defections from the insurgency, Geeta, alias Kamli Salam, a female Maoist commander active in Chhattisgarh's Kondagaon district, surrendered to police authorities on Saturday. Her decision comes just a day after the largest mass surrender in the state's history, when 210 Naxalites, including senior leaders, laid down arms in Jagdalpur, indicating a seismic shift in the region's decades-long conflict. Geeta, who served as Maoists Tailor Team Commander in the East Bastar Division, had a bounty of Rs 5 lakh on her head, announced by the Chhattisgarh government.

She surrendered before Superintendent of Police Akshay Kumar, citing disillusionment with the movement and inspiration drawn from the recent wave of surrenders.

Delhi court dismisses plea challenging arrest of Anil Ambani aide Ashok Pal

New Delhi, Oct 18 (IANS) A Delhi court on Saturday dismissed a petition challenging the arrest of Ashok Kumar Pal, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Reliance Power Limited, a company owned by industrialist Anil Ambani.

The Patiala House Court rejected the plea, which questioned the legality of Pal's arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Pal, a close aide of Ambani, was arrested on October 11 under charges of money laundering in connection with a fake bank guarantee case linked to the Anil Dhirubhai Ambani (ADA) Group. According to the ED, Pal played a central role in diverting company funds and submitting fake bank guarantees worth over Rs 68 crore to the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), allegedly to defraud a public sector enterprise. He is currently in judicial custody. Following his arrest, Pal resigned from his position as CFO of Reliance Power. The ED's investigation stems from a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) FIR related to alleged financial irregularities involving Yes Bank and several ADA Group entities.

Farmers are backbone of Madhya Pradesh's economy, says CM Yadav

Bhopal, Oct 18 (IANS) Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said on Saturday that farmers are the backbone of the state's economy and their welfare is the state government's top priority. He added that the BJP-led state government is committed to strengthening financial condition of farmers by increasing their income through every possible means.

The Chief Minister made this statement while addressing the Kisan Aabhar Sammelan organised at his residence on the occasion of payment under the Bhavantar Scheme for soybean.

He said that the Bhavantar Scheme protects farmers against fluctuations in market prices and is a major initiative for their welfare.

Denied ticket, JDU's Gopal Mandal files as independent, Upendra Kushwaha's wife enters Sasaram fray

Patna, Oct 18 (IANS) In a major political twist ahead of the Bihar Assembly elections, four-time JDU MLA Narendra Kumar Neeraj alias Gopal Mandal from Bhagalpur's Gopalpur constituency has filed his nomination as an independent candidate after being denied a party ticket.

The Janata Dal United (JDU) has replaced Mandal with former MP Bulu Mandal as the official NDA candidate from Gopalpur.

Fearing denial, Gopal Mandal had earlier staged a protest on the streets of Patna, urging Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to reconsider



the decision - but to no avail.

On Saturday, Mandal arrived with a large crowd of supporters to file his nomination papers.

Later, while addressing a gathering, he became visibly emotional and broke down in tears. Amidst sobs, he declared,

"I will never leave Nitish Kumar," and raised slogans of "Nitish Kumar Zindabad."

His emotional outburst moved his supporters, who also joined in the chants.

Gopal Mandal is known for his unusual activities, especially making an objectionable comment against JDU MP from Bhagalpur, Ajay Kumar Manda.

Gopal Mandal also levelled serious corruption charges against Ajay Kumar Mandal. The latter, in reply, lodged an FIR against him in Bhagalpur district and alleged that he is tarnishing his political and public image.

Aurangabad railway station renamed Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar station

Mumbai, Oct 18 (IANS) The Maharashtra government has issued a gazette notification to rename the Aurangabad railway station to Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar station.

The government's move comes two years after the name of Aurangabad city was renamed to Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar. The government's move coincided with the ongoing preparations by ruling MahaYuti and opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi for the local and divic body elections.

The BJP-led MahaYuti government issued a gazette

notification on October 15 to rename the Aurangabad railway station to Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar station. The renaming process, though, was originally initiated by the Shiv Sena-led Mh Vikas Aghadi government.

Aurangabad was originally named after Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, and the renaming was done to honour Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's son Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj.

Aurangabad railway station was opened in 1900. It was made by the 7th Nizam of Hyderabad, Mir Osman



Ali Khan. The railway station is located on the Kacheguda-Manmad section. This section mainly

serves Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar city (formerly Aurangabad). The station falls under the

Nanded division of the South Central Railway zone. It has rail connectivity with major cities in the country.

Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar city is a tourist hub, surrounded by many historical monuments, including the Ajanta Caves and Ellora Caves, which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It is also known as the City of Gates, each of which has a local history, built during the Mughal Era, and 2 ASI-protected monuments (Bibi ka Maqbara and Aurangabad caves), as well as many more within city limits.

The demand for the renaming of Aurangabad sprang up in the late 1980s. Over 25 people were killed in a communal riot in 1988, and in the subsequent elections, the Shiv Sena won the Aurangabad municipal corporation elections.

On May 8, 1988, Bal Thackeray announced the renaming of the city to 'Sambhaji Nagar' and a resolution was passed by the municipal corporation in 1995. Following this, the then Shiv-Sena-led government issued a notification seeking objections and suggestions from the people.

Not targeting RSS: CM Siddaramaiah on activity ban row

Mysuru, Oct 18 (IANS) Responding to criticism over the alleged targeting of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in the garb of making it mandatory for all private organisations to obtain permission for conducting events at public places, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah clarified that his government is not targeting the Sangh.

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru, Siddaramaiah said, "What we have done is that all organisations must obtain permission. That rule was framed during the tenure of the BJP government led by Jagadish Shettar. We have just repealed it. When the rule was



brought during the BJP government, why didn't they do anything? Why did they not oppose?"

When asked whether his government is targeting the RSS, he stated, "We are not targeting RSS. The rule applies to all private organisations. BJP is always indulging in politics; they

don't know anything. They won't take up the works for the poor and carry out politics."

Responding to the confusion over the RSS foot march in Kundapur, he stated that, as a previous order was issued under the BJP government led by Jagadish Shettar, our government has also issued a similar order. No opposition was raised against the order issued by the BJP government. The order does not target any specific organisation.

The BJP has engaged in politics instead of considering the public interest. The Police Department will ensure that public peace is not disturbed in this matter.

BrahMos most capable weapon for India and its allies across the world: CM Yogi Adityanath

New Delhi, Oct 18 (IANS) A new milestone in India's stride towards 'Aatmanirbharta' in the defence structure was achieved on Saturday as Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath flagged off the first batch of supersonic BrahMos missiles produced at the Lucknow unit of BrahMos Aerospace Limited.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath hailed BrahMos as "the most capable weapon to protect not only India but also our friendly countries across the world."

He said that the missile's production in Lucknow, re-

aligned through the efforts of the Defence Minister, fulfils Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Make in India' vision and marks a proud moment for the nation.

"BrahMos, developed in Lucknow through the efforts of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has become a symbol of national prosperity. Only when citizens are safe can they sleep peacefully, and the Lucknow-made missile ensures the safety and prosperity of the entire nation. I express my heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for this," he remarked.

Highlighting the success of the UP-Defence Manufacturing Corridor, the CM recalled that it was first announced at the 2018 Investors Summit, with one of the two national corridors allotted to Uttar Pradesh.

Notably, work is progressing across six nodes—Lucknow, Kanpur, Agra, Aligarh, Jhansi, and Chitrakoot—with major projects including BrahMos in Lucknow, Bharat Dynamics Limited in Jhansi, and AK-203 rifles in Amethi.

Similarly, over 2,500 acres have been allotted so far, generating employment for more than 15,000 youths.

Tripura shines at National Conclave, wins multiple awards for tribal development

New Delhi, Oct 18 (IANS) Tripura has achieved a significant milestone in tribal development by securing multiple national honours at the National Conclave on Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan (AKA), officials said on Saturday.

A senior official of the Tripura Tribal Welfare Department said that the state was conferred with two prestigious national awards -- best performing state in the implementation of PM-JANMAN and best performing state in the implementation of Dharti Aaba

Janbhagidari Abhiyan (DAJA).

North Tripura district was also honoured as the best performing district under PM-JANMAN, while Gomati District was recognised for its exemplary performance in both AKA and DAJA, and the Unakoti and Dhalai Districts earned national acclaim for their outstanding contributions under DAJA.

The official said that these accolades reflect the unwavering commitment of the Tripura government to inclusive tribal development and grassroots empower-



ment. Under PM-JANMAN, the state has completed the construction of 15,584 houses, with 1,632 more underway; op-

erationalised 141 new Anganwadi Centres; provided functional tap water connections to 38,014 PVTG (Particularly

Vulnerable Tribal Groups) households.

Under this programme, 11,692 households were electrified through grid connectivity and 1,051 through solar grids; 10 mobile network towers; 18 multipurpose centres with 32 more in progress; formed and operationalised 30 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras; and initiated construction of 67 roads covering 205 kilometres.

The Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan, launched on June 15 (2025) as part of the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, stands as India's

largest tribal empowerment campaign, the official said.

Tripura's saturation camp model has been particularly impactful, with 4,036 camps engaging over 12.7 lakh participants. The campaign addressed critical needs such as identity documentation, financial inclusion, health coverage, and access to social welfare benefits. According to the official, to ensure district-level momentum, Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha designated one Minister as Prabhari for each district, fostering coordinated and responsive implementation.