JHARKHAND'S OWN ENGLISH DAILY

THE AVENUE MAIL

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77th Happy Republic Day

THE JOURNEY OF INDIA AS A REPUBLIC: PAGE -11

Padma Bhushan for Dishom Guru Shibu Soren



New Delhi/Ranchi, Jan 25: Legendary tribal leader and former Jharkhand Chief Minister Dishom Guru ShibuSoren has been posthumously awarded the Padma Bhushan for his contribution to public service and the tribal rights movement. The Union Government announced the honour on Sunday as part of the Padma Awards 2026.

Soren, who passed away in 2025 at the age of 81, is regarded as one of the principal architects of Jharkhand's statehood and a towering figure in Adivasi politics. Born in 1944 in Nemra village of Ramgarh district, Soren entered public life after the killing of his father in a land dispute when he was just 13. He mobilised villagers against exploitation by moneylenders and landlords, laying the foundation for a mass movement in the Santhal region. In the early 1970s, he co-founded the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), which became the political backbone of the separate state movement. Popularly known as Dishom Guru, Soren emerged as the most recognisable face of tribal assertion in eastern India. His struggle culminated in the creation of Jharkhand in 2000. He later served three terms as Chief Minister in 2005, 2008 and 2009, and represented Dumka in the Lok Sabha eight times. He was also a Rajya Sabha member and served as Union Coal Minister in the UPA government. Leaders across party lines paid tribute, describing the Padma Bhushan as recognition of his lifelong fight for tribal dignity and social justice. While his administrative record drew mixed reviews, his historical importance in Jharkhand's political journey remains undisputed. For many, he was less a ruler and more the voice of the dispossessed. The Padma Bhushan brings national recognition to a legacy already deeply rooted in Jharkhand's collective memory as that of a movement leader who transformed resistance into statehood.

Dharmendra conferred with Padma Vibhushan posthumously



New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS): Legendary Hindi cinema star Dharmendra, former Kerala chief minister VS Achuthanandan are among the five who have been awarded Padma Vibhushan (posthumously), the country's second-highest civilian award, on the eve of Republic Day.

The other awardees of the Padma Vibhushan are KT Thomas (Public Affairs), classical violinist N Rajam (Art), and P Narayanan (Literature and Education).

As many as 19 of the Padma awardees are women, while the list also includes six foreigners/NRI/PIO/ OCI recipients. Sixteen awards are posthumous.

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla awarded Ashoka Chakra



New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS): Group Captain ShubhanshuShukla, who created history by becoming the first Indian to visit the International Space Station (ISS), was on Sunday awarded the Ashoka Chakra, India's highest peacetime gallantry award.

In June last year, Shukla became the second Indian to have gone to space and the first one to set foot on the ISS as part of the Axiom-4 mission. Shukla's 18-day space odyssey came 41 years after cosmonaut Rakesh Sharma flew aboard a Russian Soyuz in 1984.

As a fighter pilot, Shukla has an impressive record of 2,000 hours of flight experience across various aircraft, including the Su-30 MKI, MiG-21, MiG-29, Jaguar, Hawk, Dornier and An-32.

Self-reliance in defence gave Op Sindoor success: President



New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS): The historic success of Operation Sindoor was powered by India's self-reliance in the defence sector, President DroupadiMurmu said in an address to the nation today, on the eve of the 77th Republic Day celebrations. The Indian operation that involved, among many notable actions, firing the BrahMos cruise missile at Pakistani military targets and terror infrastructure in the offensive role, and the use of an indigenously developed and integrated air defence network in the defensive role, saw huge success. "Our self-reliance in the field of defence powered the historic success of Operation Sindoor," the President said, referring to the response by India after Pakistan-based terrorists killed 26 tourists in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam in April 2025. "In an atmosphere marked by conflicts in many parts of the world, India is spreading a message of peace," she added.

On Vande Mataram: President Murmu emphasised the legacy of 'VandeMataram,' saying the national song is a prayer to "divine form of Bharat Mata" and "instils patriotism" in every Indian. She also highlighted various translations of the national song, originally composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, that were vital in shaping India's freedom struggle. "Since 7th November last year, celebrations marking 150 years of the composition of our national song 'VandeMataram', have also been organised. This song, which is a prayer to the divine form of Bharat Mata, instils patriotism in every Indian," she said.

Journalist and author Mark Tully dies at 90

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS): Veteran journalist Mark Tully, a chronicler of India and an acclaimed author, breathed his last at a private hospital here on Sunday, his close friend said. Tully was 90.

The award-winning journalist was ailing for some time and had been admitted to the Max Hospital in Saket for the past week.

"Mark passed away at Max Hospital Saket this afternoon," Satish Jacob, veteran journalist and a close friend of Tully, said.

Tejashwi elevated to RJD working president post Bihar poll rout



Patna, Jan 25 (IANS): RashtriyaJanata Dal chief Lalu Prasad's younger son and heir apparent TejashwiYadav was on Sunday named the working president of the party at its national executive meeting in Patna. Yadav's elevation comes after the RJD's drubbing in the recent assembly polls, which the 'Mahagathbandhan' had fought with the 36-year-old leader as its chief ministerial candidate. In a post on X, the RashtriyaJanata Dal said the decision, which makes clear the line of succession in the party, was taken at its national executive meeting, which was attended by Yadav, Prasad and other senior leaders. Yadav's eldest sister and Patliputra MP MisaBharti, who was said to be eying that party post, was also present at the meeting.

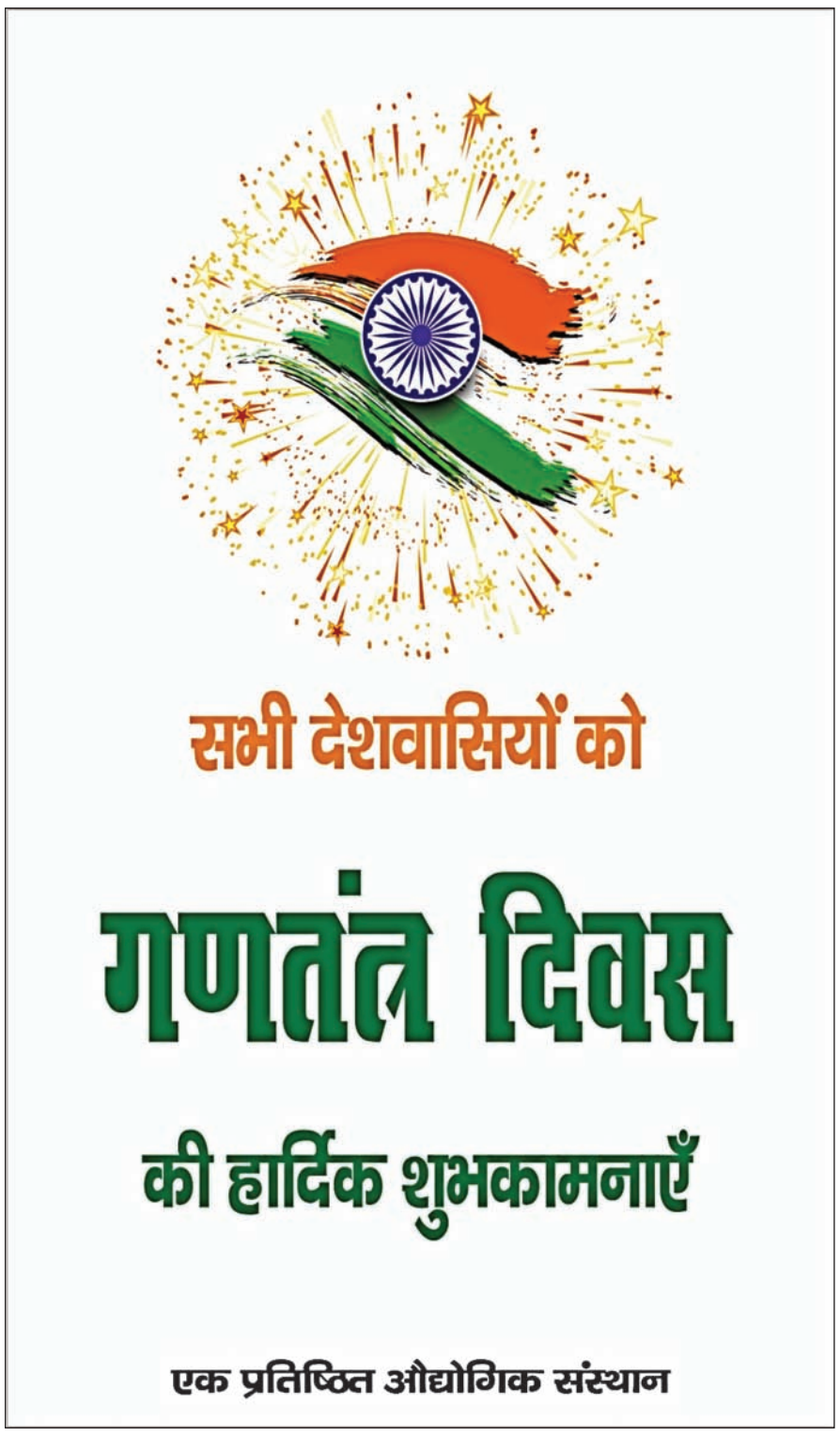
DGP Tadasha Mishra reviews law and order in Jamshedpur

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Jan 25: Jharkhand Director General of Police (DGP) Tadasha Mishra on Tuesday conducted a detailed review of the law-and-order situation in Jamshedpur, and carried out on-ground inspections across key and sensitive routes of the city. During her visit, the DGP assessed security arrangements, traffic management, police patrolling, and public movement, while interacting with officers deployed at various locations.

The city remained on high alert during the DGP's visit. She directed police officials to remain vigilant and accord top priority to crime control, stressing that maintaining public safety must remain the foremost responsibility of the force. As part of her tour, DGP Mishra also visited the spot linked to the kidnapping of businessman's son Kairav Gandhi, who has been missing for the past 14 days. She reviewed the progress of the investigation on the ground and issued clear instructions, warning that no negligence would be tolerated in such a sensitive case. Emphasising the need for swift results, the DGP instructed officers to make optimal use of technical evidence, keep close surveillance on suspicious activities, and accelerate the investigation. Following the site inspection, she reached the SSP residence, where she held a closed-door meeting with senior police officials. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the Kairav Gandhi kidnapping case, analysis of technical evidence, the role of suspects, and future investigative strategy. Jamshedpur SSP PiyushPandey described the DGP's visit as routine but significant, stating that she had issued strict directions for action against organised crime and drug-related activities. He added that special strategies are being prepared to make the city crime-free and drug-free. While confirming that important inputs were given by the DGP in the kidnapping case, SSP Pandey said further details could not be shared at this stage as the investigation is still underway. Police officials expressed confidence that concrete results in the case would emerge soon.



CM visits Oxford alma mater of Jaipal Singh Munda



London/Ranchi, Jan 25: Chief Minister of Jharkhand HemantSoren paid a significant visit to St John's College, University of Oxford, the alma mater of legendary Adivasi leader MarangGomkeJaipal Singh Munda, underscoring Jharkhand's enduring intellectual and historical ties with one of the world's leading centres of learning. During the visit, the Chief Minister toured the Jaipal Singh Munda Archives, where the College showcased rare photographs, documents and preserved records from Munda's years at Oxford. The collection highlighted his extraordinary academic and leadership journey, including photographs of the Oxford hockey team, debating society records, and personal papers such as letters and notebooks.

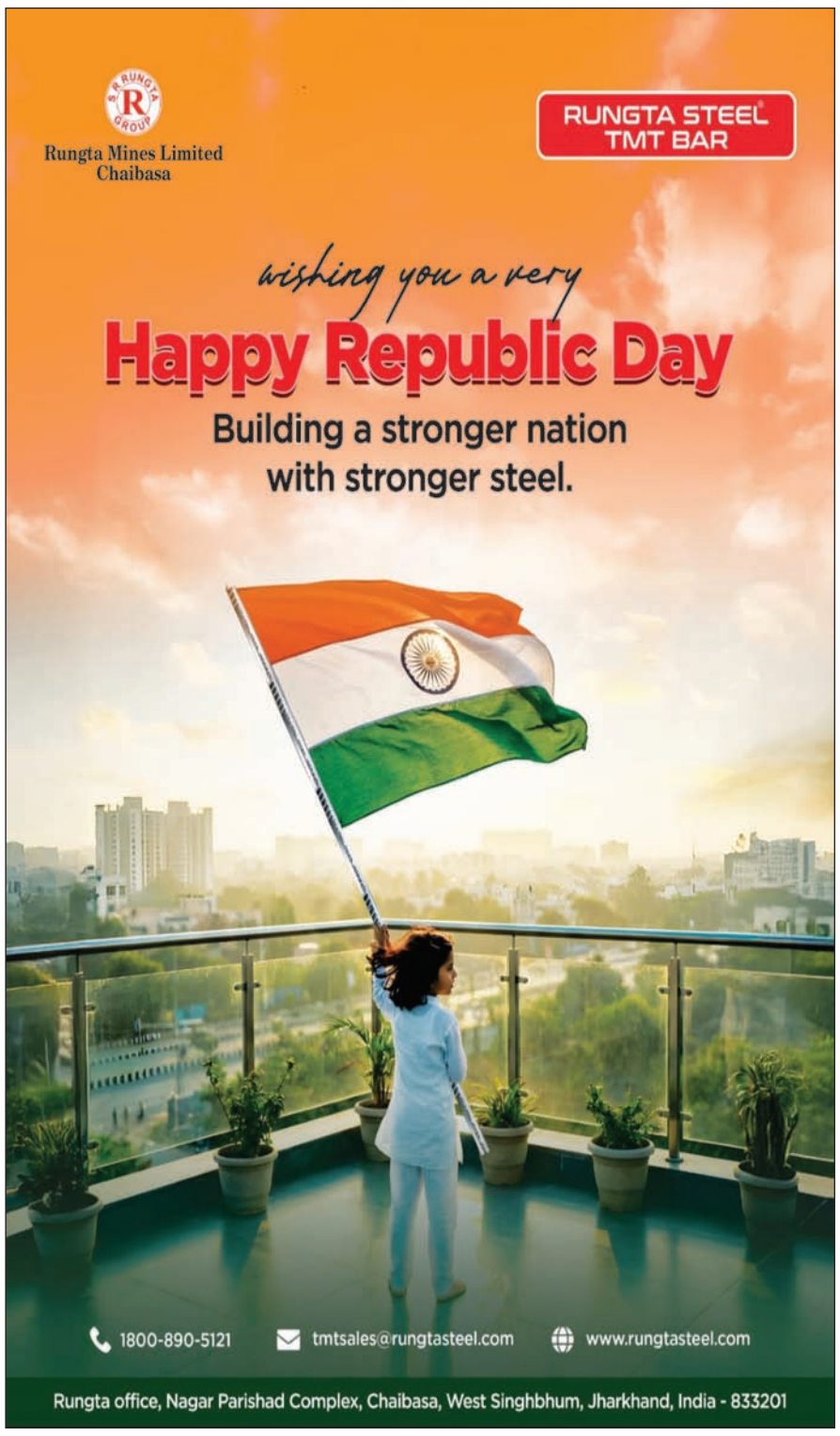
Archival records note that Jaipal Singh Munda served as Secretary and later President of the College Debating Society and represented both the College and the University in hockey, earning a prestigious Hockey Blue, before later captaining India's hockey team at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics. The Chief Minister was received by Professor Lady Sue Black, Baroness Black of Strome, President of St John's College, who welcomed and felicitated the delegation and hosted a high tea reception in honour of the visit. Appreciating the College's careful stewardship of Jaipal Singh Munda's legacy, the Chief Minister remarked that such archival preservation strengthens the living connection between Jharkhand's history and global academic institutions.

He recalled Jaipal Singh Munda's foundational contribution to indigenous rights and his early vision for a separate Jharkhand, which later inspired decades of democratic mass mobilisation.

HOLIDAY NOTICE

The Avenue Mail wishes its readers and patrons on the occasion of Republic Day. Our office and press will remain closed on 26th January, 2026. The next edition will be available on 28th January, 2026.

Editor



Operation Meghaburu breaks Maoist backbone in West Singhbhum

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, Jan 25: Once regarded as an impregnable stronghold of Left-Wing Extremism, West Singhbhum district has witnessed a decisive turnaround in the fight against Maoists, with security forces neutralising 28 Naxalites and arresting 183 active cadres over the past three years, police data revealed.

The sustained crackdown has been driven by Operation Meghaburu, a coordinated anti-Naxal drive involving the CRPF's elite CoBRA unit, Jharkhand Jaguar, and West Singhbhum District Police, focusing primarily on the Saranda and Kolhan forest belts.

Major Blow to CPI (Maoist)

The operation reached a significant milestone this week with the killing of top Maoist commander Patiram Majhi alias 'Anal Da', one of the most dreaded extremists in eastern

28 extremists neutralised in three years



India. Carrying a cumulative bounty of ?2.35 crore and wanted in nearly 150 cases, his elimination—along with 16 other Maoists in the Saranda forests—is being described by officials as a turning point in Jharkhand's anti-Naxal operations.

Senior police officers said the encounter has effectively dismantled the command and operational structure of the CPI (Maoist) in the region.

Three Years of Relentless Pressure

According to official records, the last three years have seen:

28 Maoists killed in armed encounters

183 arrests, including several area commanders and reward-carrying cadres

Large recoveries of IEDs, automatic weapons, detonators, explosives and Maoist documents

Officials noted that multiple attacks on polling booths, road projects and security installations were foiled due to timely intelligence-based operations.

Forward Bases Choke Maoist Movement

Security agencies have also focused on territorial dominance, establishing Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) in deep forest areas such as Tonto, Kuira and adjoining pockets, sharply restricting Maoist movement and supply routes.

"The backbone of the Maoist organisation in West Singhbhum has been broken," a senior police official said.

"This success reflects the courage of our jawans and precise intelligence coordination. Remaining cadres should surrender and avail benefits under the state's surrender and rehabilitation policy."

Development Gains Momentum

With the security situation improving, the district administration has accelerated developmental activities in previously inaccessible areas.

Road construction, mobile tower installations and government outreach initiatives like 'Aapki Yojana, Aapki Sarkar, Aapke Dwar' have begun reaching remote villages long cut off due to IED threats.

While security forces remain on alert against possible retaliatory attempts, officials believe West Singhbhum is closer than ever to shedding its tag as a Maoist epicentre, marking a major success in Jharkhand's long battle against Left-Wing Extremism.

Crack down on illegal sand mining in Seraikela

Seraikela, Jan 25: Acting on the directives of the Deputy Commissioner, a surprise inspection drive was conducted at around 4:00 AM on Saturday against illegal sand mining, transportation, and storage in the Birdeeh and Jargodih areas under Ichagarh Police Station areas.The joint operation was led by District Mining Officer Jyoti Shankar Satpathy, Police Inspector (Chandil), Mining Inspector Sameer Ojha, the Station House Officers of Ichagarh and Chowka, along with the local police force. During the inspection, sand-laden vehicles were intercepted and their transportation documents, quantity of minerals, and compliance with statutory provisions were thoroughly verified.During the checking, a total of 11 vehicles were found involved in various irregularities. The vehicles identified include:JH05AN4391, JH05CM0964, JH05CL6211, JH05BR8908, JH05CG8611, JH01BM7176, JH02AT7414, JH01DB5233, JH02AW1529, JH10AV7901 and JH16A9226.In view of the violations detected, all the aforementioned vehicles are being locked on the official JIMMS portal of the Mining Department. As a result, no transportation challans will be issued for these vehicles until the concerned vehicle owners deposit the prescribed penalty amount at the Mining Office in accordance with the rules.Major violations observed during the inspection included transportation of minerals without proper covering using tarpaulin and deliberate erasing or concealing of vehicle registration numbers, which are considered serious offences. The District Transport Officer has also been informed through official correspondence to ensure necessary action against the concerned vehicles under the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act and related rules.

Free eye camp begins in memory of Sona Devi

Jamshedpur, Jan 25: The 803rd free eye camp was inaugurated on Saturday at Ram Manohar Lohia Eye Hospital, Bagbera Thana Chowk, under the joint aegis of Sona Devi Memorial Educational Foundation Trust, Indian Red Cross Society–East Singhbhum, and Ram Manohar Lohia Eye Hospital. The three-day camp is being organised from January 24 to 26 in the sacred memory of Late Sona Devi, with support from Dropadi Devi Chimanlal Bhalotia Family Trust, Rajasthan Seva Sadan, and the District Rural Health Committee.The camp commenced with the screening of eye patients, during which renowned ophthalmologists Dr. B. P. Singh and Dr. Vinayak examined a total of 120 patients. Out of them, 40 patients suffering from hyper-mature cataract were selected for cataract surgery and intraocular lens implantation.The inaugural session was graced by the presence of Camp Convener Prabhakar Singh, Chairman of Sona Devi Memorial Educational Foundation Trust and Chancellor of Sona Devi University, Krishna Murari Gupta, Chairman of Matukdhari Lal Krishna Murari Charitable Trust, and noted social worker Ganesh Rao.The programme was conducted by Vijay Kumar Singh, Secretary of the Indian Red Cross Society, East Singhbhum. He informed that the selected patients will undergo cataract surgery and lens implantation on Sunday, January 25, at the newly constructed operation theatre of Ram Manohar Lohia Eye Hospital.

Tatanagar signature bridge status unclear, railways cite jurisdiction limits

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 25: The South Eastern Railway has clarified that the proposed Signature Bridge at Tatanagar station and the Tatanagar Coaching Depot expansion project do not fall under the jurisdiction of its Construction Organisation, and hence detailed information regarding these projects is not available with that office. The clarification came in response to a Right to Information (RTI) application filed by Shashank Shekhar Swain on December 30, 2025. The reply was issued on January 16, 2026, by the office of the Chief Administrative Officer (Construction), South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach, Kolkata.According to the response, since both the



Signature Bridge and Coaching Depot expansion are outside the purview of the Construction Organisation, the office is unable to provide project-related details or progress updates.

Progress on Third Line Project: The RTI reply, however, provided updates on other key railway infrastructure works. Under the third rail line project between Adityapur and Salgajhari East, the railway stated that the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) inspection for the Salgajhari East to Salgajhari West section has already been completed.

Train operations under Traffic Density Clearance (TDC) from Salgajhari West to Tata and Adityapur are expected to commence in February 2026, marking a significant step toward easing congestion on this busy route.

Fourth Line Project Gets Phased Approval

The railway further informed that the Santragachi–Jharsuguda fourth rail line project has been approved by the Railway Board in a phased manner. Approval for the Santragachi to Kharagpur section was granted on July 1, 2025, followed by approval for the Kharagpur to Jharsuguda section on October 23, 2025.

Additionally, the Bandamunda–Rourkela and Bagdehi–Jharsuguda sections have already been sanctioned.

No Details on Electric Loco Shed Expansion

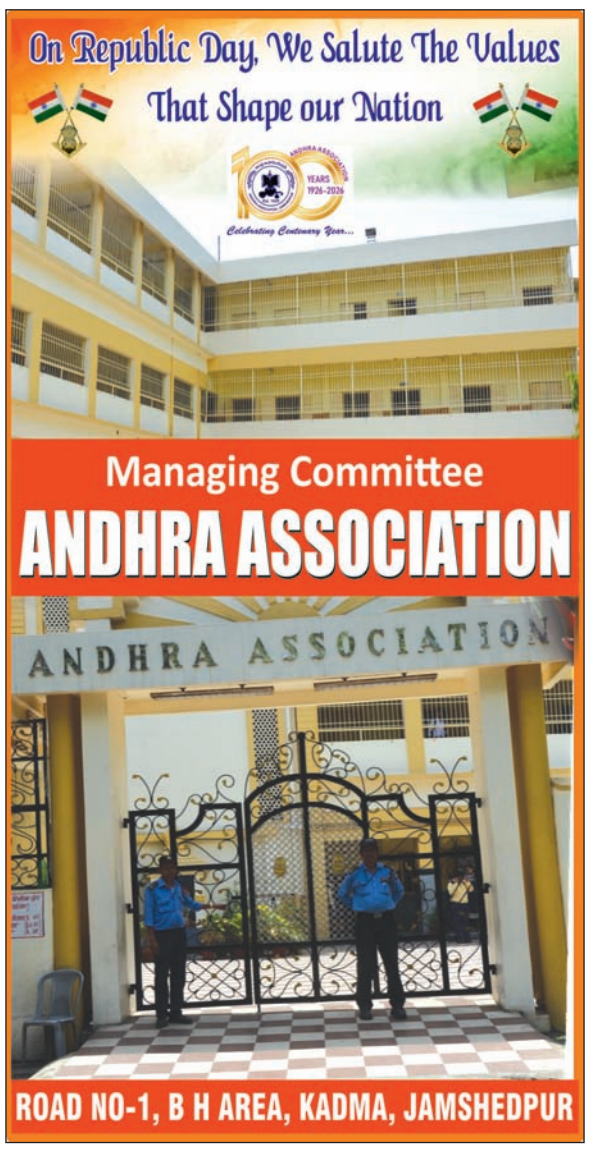
On the issue of the proposed expansion of the Tatanagar Electric Loco Shed, railway authorities clarified that this project too does not fall under the Construction Organisation of the South Eastern Railway, and therefore no information could be provided.The railway also stated that an earlier reply uploaded inadvertently on the online RTI portal on January 13, 2026, should be treated as invalid.













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Informed, vigilant voters are backbone of democracy: Alka Tiwari

Ranchi, Jan 25: State Election Commissioner Alka Tiwari on Sunday said voters are the foundation of democracy and its strength depends on how informed and vigilant they are. Extending greetings to citizens on the 16th National Voters' Day, she said the Election Commission of India was established on January 25, 1950, and the day has been observed as National Voters' Day every year since 2011 to promote voter awareness and participation.

Addressing a state-level function organised at Aryabhatta Auditorium in Ranchi on the occasion of National Voters' Day 2026, Tiwari said Election Commission of India has announced "My India My Vote" as this year's theme with the tagline "Indian Citizen at the Heart of Indian Democracy". She said commission is committed to ensuring that every voter gets equal opportunity and can exercise franchise freely, without fear or inducement, and above considerations of caste, religion, language or community. She added that to achieve this objective, commission is adopting new innovations and technologies.

Tiwari said voter registration and voter awareness are continuous processes. To facilitate inclusion of eligible citizens in electoral rolls, four qualifying dates - January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 - have been fixed. Citizens who complete 18 years of age on these dates can easily get their names included. She said Election Commission consistently works to provide voter-friendly facilities for all sections, including women, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, PVTGs and third gender voters, during registration as well as polling. She informed that 2,886 Electoral Literacy Clubs have been established across Jharkhand and election pathshalas have been set up at every polling station to promote voter awareness. Besides, 966 Voter Awareness Forums are actively contributing to electoral roll updation. Tiwari appealed to eligible citizens to register themselves through Election Commission website, concerned Booth Level Officer or Voter Helpline App and take pride in being part of world's largest democracy.



On the occasion, Chief Electoral Officer K Ravi Kumar said inclusion of name in electoral roll is essential for exercising voting rights. He said every Indian citizen who has attained 18 years of age is eligible to register as a voter. Kumar said voters can easily obtain information related to electoral roll or voter ID card from their Booth Level Officer, whose details are available on CEO website. To strengthen voter-BLO connect, Election Commission has introduced 'Book a Call' facility through which voters can contact their BLO, who will respond within 48 hours.

Kumar said Jharkhand is currently in pre-revision period of intensive electoral roll revision and mapping of 72 percent of existing voters has already been completed through BLO App. During house-to-house verification, BLOs will paste stickers containing their mobile numbers along with house number or notional house number of voters.

He said year marks a significant achievement as Election Commission of India has assumed presidency of International IDEA for one-year term from December 3, 2025. He also said Pakur district of Jharkhand has been selected for Best Election District Award at national level, calling it a matter of pride for state. During programme, message of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar to nation on National Voters' Day 2026 was screened. Closing address was delivered by District Election Officer Manjunath Bhajantri, while voter pledge was administered by Joint Chief Electoral Officer Subodh Kumar. Senior voters Samdulary Devi, Geeta Mitra and Anemullah, young voters Archit Kumar Goyal, Saurabh Kumar, Anushka Gupta, Neha Kumari and Karan Kumar Sahu, and transgender voters Nagma Rani and Guddu Singh were honoured. Officials and districts were also felicitated for outstanding performance in 2025. The event was attended by election officials, youth, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, transgender voters, NSS cadets and family members of participants.

CM to pay tributes to Gandhi, Ambedkar in London on R Day

Ranchi, Jan 25: On India's Republic Day, Chief Minister Hemant Soren will participate in a series of commemorative events in London highlighting the nation's constitutional values, democratic legacy, and civilisational heritage.



As part of the programme, he will pay floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Parliament Square, London, honouring the Father of the Nation and his enduring message of truth, non-violence, and moral leadership, which continues to inspire movements for freedom and justice worldwide.

The Chief Minister will also visit the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar House and Museum, paying homage to the principal architect of India's Constitution and a global symbol of social justice, equality, and constitutional democracy.

Later, he will tour the British Museum, one of the world's leading institutions preserving history and culture, reflecting India's long-standing engagement with global centres of learning and scholarship.

Body of disabled teen found on remote hilltop

Chatra, Jan 25: The body of a 15-year-old disabled girl, who had gone missing on December 28, was recovered from a hilltop in Jharkhand's Chatra district, police said on Sunday.

The body was recovered on Saturday from a remote hilltop in the Gidhaur police station area after locals noticed a foul smell. The post-mortem examination was conducted at Sadar Hospital, and the body was handed over to her family, they said.

She went to a picnic in a nearby forest with a group of children from the area, but did not return home. Despite extensive searches, the police could not find her, Simaria's SDPO Shubham Khandelwal said.

"No clue was found regarding murder.

National Voters' Day celebrated in East Singhbhum, election personnel honoured

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 25: On the occasion of National Voters' Day, a district-level programme was organised at Rabindra Bhavan, Sakchi, on Sunday, under the aegis of the District Election Office, East Singhbhum. Officers, Booth Level Officers (BLOs), police personnel and staff of various departments who rendered outstanding services during election duties were felicitated on the occasion. Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Election Officer Karn Satyarthi said that elections are a continuous and dynamic process. He emphasised that the success of any election depends primarily on two factors — coordinated functioning of the administrative and police machinery after the announcement of polls, and the year-long groundwork carried out by BLOs at the grassroots level. He said BLOs work continuously under challenging circumstances to keep the electoral rolls accurate and error-free, and their contribution is highly commendable. During the programme, officers, police personnel, BLOs, supervisors, PWD icons and senior citizen voters who played an important role in the successful conduct of the Ghatshila by-election were honoured. Voter identity cards were also distributed to newly enrolled voters.



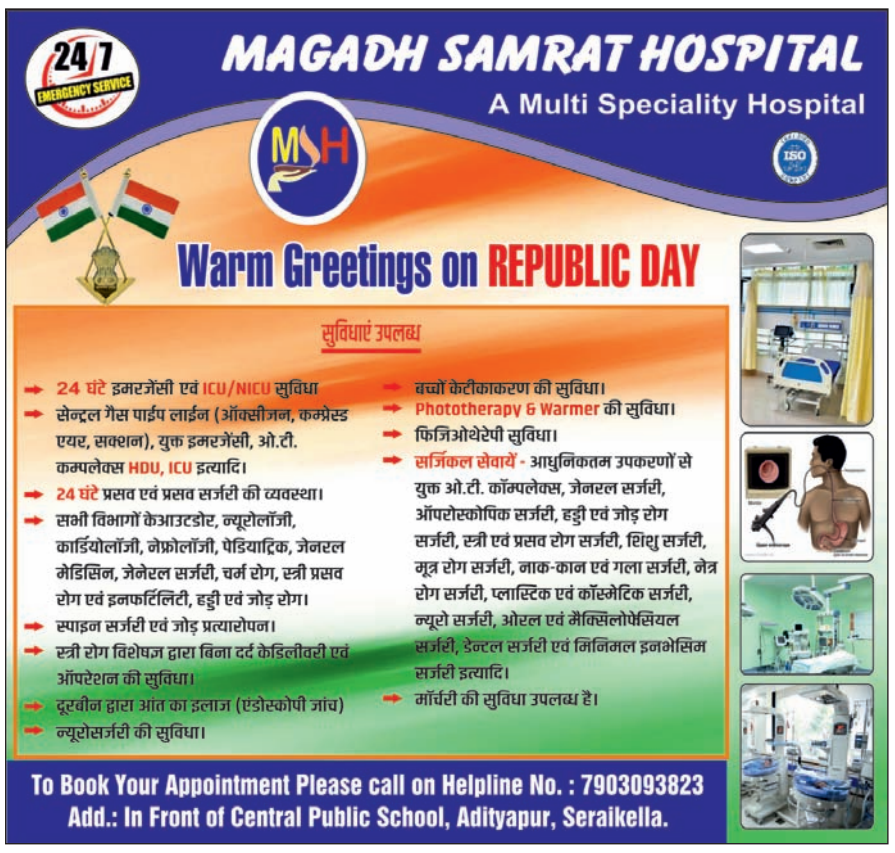
To promote voter awareness and participation, the District Election Officer administered the voters' pledge, released balloons and flagged off a cycle rally aimed at encouraging citizens to actively take part in the democratic process as responsible voters. Senior Superintendent of Police Piyush Pandey, Deputy Development Commissioner Nagendra Paswan, along with district-level and block-level officers, BLOs and other officials were present at the event, which concluded with a renewed call for strengthening democratic participation at the grassroots level.

CM Pays Tributes To Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan At Oxford University



London/Ranchi, Jan 25: Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Sunday visited the historic All Souls College at Oxford University and paid tributes to former President of India and great philosopher Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. Speaking on the occasion, he said, "Dr Radhakrishnan's life teaches us that scholarship, public service, and dialogue between cultures can guide society in the right direction".

The Chief Minister explained that Dr Radhakrishnan had a deep connection with Oxford University where he served as Spalding Professor of Eastern Religions and Ethics from 1936 to 1952 and also became a Fellow of All Souls College. He subsequently served as an Honorary Fellow of the College for a long time. "During his time at Oxford, he bridged Eastern and Western ideologies and earned worldwide respect," he said.











77th Republic Day parade to showcase 150 years of 'Vande Mataram', national progress and military strength

A grateful nation will celebrate the 77th Republic Day on January 26, 2026. President Droupadi Murmu will lead the celebrations from Kartavya Path, New Delhi, with the President of the European Council Mr Antonio Costa and the President of the European Commission Ms Ursula von der Leyen being the Chief Guests on the momentous occasion. This year's celebrations promise to be a sight to behold as the Kartavya Path, stretching from Rashtrapati Bhawan to the National War Memorial, is all decked up to present an unforgettable amalgamation of 150 years of the national song Vande Mataram, India's unprecedented progress, robust military prowess, its rich cultural diversity, and the participation of people from all walks of life.

The parade

The ceremony will commence at 1030 hrs and run for a duration of approx. 90 minutes. It will start with the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to the National War Memorial, where he will lead the nation in paying solemn tributes to the fallen heroes by laying a wreath. Thereafter, the Prime Minister and other dignitaries will head to the saluting dais at Kartavya Path to witness the parade.

The arrival of the President of India, the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission in the 'Traditional Buggy' will be escorted by the President's Bodyguard, which is the senior most Regiment of the Indian Army. As per the tradition, the National Flag will be unfurled, which will be followed by the National Anthem with a thunderous 21-gun salute using 105 mm Light Field Guns, an indigenously developed artillery weapon system. The 21-gun Salute will be presented by the 1721 Ceremonial Battery of the 172 Field Regiment.

100 cultural artists will be heralding the parade, on the theme 'Vividata Mein Ekta - Unity in Diversity', which is set to be a grand presentation of musical instruments, demonstrating the nation's unity and rich cultural diversity. Showering of flower petals will be carried out by four Mi-17 1V helicopters of the 129 Helicopter Unit in the Dhwaj Formation. Trooping the National Flag, this formation of helicopters will be led by Group Captain Alok Ahlawat.

The parade will then begin with the President taking the salute. The parade will be commanded by Parade Commander Lieutenant General Bhavnish Kumar, General Officer Commanding, Delhi Area, a second-generation officer. Maj Gen Navraj Dhillon, Chief of Staff, HQ Delhi Area, a third-generation Army officer, will be the Parade Second-in-Command.

The proud winners of the highest gallantry awards will follow. They include Param Vir Chakra winners - Subedar Major (Honorary Captain) Yogendra Singh Yadav (Retd) & Subedar Major Sanjay Kumar - and Ashok Chakra winners - Major General CA Pithawalia (Retd) & Colonel D Sreeram Kumar. The Param Vir Chakra is awarded for the most conspicuous act of bravery, valour and self-sacrifice in the face of the enemy, displayed by members of the Defence Forces, while the Ashok Chakra is awarded for similar acts of gallantry, courage and self-sacrifice, performed other than in the face of the enemy.

European Union Contingent

The European Union (EU) contingent will comprise four Flag Bearers on three gypsies. They will be seen carrying four flags - the flag of the EU, the most recognisable symbol of the European Union; the flag of the European Union Military Staff; the flag of EU Naval Force Atalanta; and the flag of EU Naval Force Aspides.

Indian Army Contingent

For the first time, the parade will showcase a phased Battle Array Format of the Indian Army, including the aerial component. The Recce element would consist of the 61 Cavalry in active combatised uniform. It will be followed by High Mobility Reconnaissance Vehicle, India's first indigenously designed Armoured Light Specialist Vehicle. Providing aerial support would be the indigenous DHRUV Advanced Light Helicopter and its armed version RUDRA in Prahar formation, demonstrating battlefield shaping.

The Combat Elements will then follow with T-90 BHISHMA and Main Battle Tank Arjun rolling past the saluting dais with aerial support from Apache AH-64E and PRACHAND Light Combat Helicopter. Other Mechanised Columns include BMP-II Infantry Combat Vehicle, along with Nag Missile System (Tracked) Mk-2. A detachment of Special Forces will follow, comprising Ajayketu All-Terrain Vehicle, Randhwaj Rugged Terrain Tactical Transport System and Dhawansak Light Strike Vehicles. Following them would be Robotic Dogs, Unmanned Ground Vehicles and four Autonomous Unmanned Ground Vehicles (NIGRAHA, BHAIRAV, BHUVIRAKSHA & KRISHNA) mounted on vehicles.

The Combat Support Element would consist of India's new generation unmanned warhead arsenal showcased through SHAKTIBAAN and DIVYASTRA, mounted on specialised High Mobility Vehicles (HMV 6x6). Equipped with cutting-edge niche technologies, together they demonstrate advanced surveillance through swarm drones, tethered drone systems, and indigenously developed tactical hybrid UAV ZOLT, employed for direction of artillery fire. Their targeting capability is reinforced by a wide spectrum of aerial loitering munitions - HAROP, Mini HARPY, Peacekeeper, ATS (Extended Range), ATS (Medium Range), and SKY STRIKER-enabling precise engagement across the depth of the battlefield.



People purchase Tri Colour on the eve of 78th Republic Day Celebrations in Ranchi, on Sunday. Photo By-Rajesh Kumar

These systems are capable of launching swarm drones, long range drones exceeding 1,000 kilometres for see and strike missions, and loitering munitions for precision strikes on critical targets.The Dhanush Gun System and Amogh Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) will follow, reflecting the spirit of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and technological self-reliance in defence manufacturing. A powerful combination of long-range precision and overwhelming firepower will be showcased through the alongside the supersonic BrahMos Weapon System alongside indigenous SURYASTRA Universal Rocket Launcher System, together showcasing deep strike dominance.

The Akash Weapon System and ABHRA Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) System - the two strong pillars of India's air defence - will also roll past the saluting dais. The Drone Shakti Lorry, developed by Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers to enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Army in forward areas, will follow.

A glass-cased Integrated Operational Centre, depicting the conduct of Operation Sindoor in brief, will also roll down Kartavya Path. A masterful blend of 'VIRASAT, VIVIDHTA AUR VIKAS' acted as the magic potion during the operation. While the BRAHMOS missile struck deadly blows to the enemy, the Akash missile systems and S-400 provided a protective shield, which reflects the Sudarshan Chakra vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

The Him Yodhas of the Indian Defence Forces will follow, comprising the Animal Contingent featuring brave soldiers alongside Bactrian Camels, Zanskar Ponies, Black Kites (Raptors) - Ingenious and Vigilant Birds; and Indian breed dogs (Mudhol Hound, Rampur Hound, Chippiparai, Kombai, and Rajapalayam) equipped with bullet-resistant jackets, cameras, GPS, radios, and advanced surveillance systems. A Glacier ATV mounted on a vehicle is also part of the Him Yodhas.

Marching down Kartavya Path would be the Mixed Scouts Contingent; Rajput Regiment; Assam Regiment; Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry; Regiment of Artillery; 4 BHAIRAV Battalion - Sikh Light Infantry Regiment; and Combined Military Bands.

Indian Navy Contingent

The Indian Navy contingent will consist of 144 young personnel, led by Lt Karan Nagyal as Contingent Commander, and Lt Pawan Kumar Gandi, Lt Priti Kumari & Lt Varun Dreveriya as Platoon Commanders. It will be followed by the Naval Tableau, presenting a vivid depiction of the theme of a Strong Navy for a Strong Nation. The tableau depicts a stitched ship from the 5th century CE, now christened as INSV Kaundinya, Gurab class ships of the Maratha Navy, and frontline indigenous platforms including the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, Project 17A Nilgiri-class stealth frigates INS Himgiri and INS Udayagiri, a Kalvari-class submarine, and the GSAT-7R (Project Rohini) communication satellite.

The tableau also features a depiction of the circumnavigation route followed by INSV Tarini as part of the Navika Sagar Parikrama-II expedition. In addition to naval personnel, young cadets from the Sea Cadets Corps, a non-governmental organisation that imparts basic nautical skills to youth in Mumbai, will march alongside the tableau.

The tableau reflects the Indian Navy's march towards Jointness, Aatmanirbharta, and Victory through Innovation 'JAI'.

Indian Air Force Contingent

The Indian Air Force contingent comprises four officers (One Contingent Commander and three supernumerary officers) and 144 airmen. The Contingent Commander would be Sqn Ldr Jagdesh Kumar with Sqn Ldr Nikita Choudhery, Flt Lt Prakhar Chandrakar and Flt Lt Dinesh as supernumerary officers. Syncing with the marching contingent would be a thrilling flypast by 02 Rafale, 02 MiG-29, 02 Su-30 and 01 Jaguar in 'Spearhead' Formation, symbolising the Sindoor Formation.

Veterans' Tableau

The Veterans' Tableau of the Tri-Services, with the theme 'Sangram se Rashtranirman Tak', will showcase the journey of veterans from the war to nation-building. The front portion, symbolising Sangram, will feature a striking three-dimensional circular wall depicting iconic war machines that shaped India's decisive moments in conflict. Crowning the wall would be the symbolic Amar Jawan Jyoti, a solemn tribute to the fallen heroes whose supreme sacrifice secured the nation's freedom and integrity. The trailer portion, representing Rashtranirman, highlights the veterans' continued service towards nation-building.

Tri-services Tableau

The Tri-services tableau would depict 'Operation Sindoor: Victory Through Jointness', representing the collective strength, unity, and integration of the Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force in safeguarding national sovereignty. The tableau represents India's resolve to respond decisively through synchronised planning, joint execution, and seamless coordination across all domains of warfare.

The visual narrative highlights precision air strikes by the Indian Air Force, swift naval manoeuvres ensuring maritime dominance, and coordinated ground offensives by the Indian Army, reflecting a decisive joint military campaign.

Indian Coast Guard Contingent

The all-women Indian Coast Guard (ICG) contingent will be led by Assistant Commandant Nishi Sharma, assisted by Assistant Commandant Apurva Gautam Hore, Assistant Commandant Lakshita and Assistant Commandant Hardik.

Guided by their motto 'Vayam Rakshamah - We Protect', the contingent would depict India's maritime strength and commitment to safety and security, representing the ICG's commitment to protecting the nation's 11,098-km coastline.

DRDO - Long Range Anti-Ship Missile

The DRDO will showcase LR-AShM with launcher during the parade. This weapon system is designed to meet the coastal battery requirements of the Indian Navy. The LR-AShM is a Hypersonic Glide Missile capable of engaging static and moving targets and is designed to carry various payloads. The missile is a first-of-its-kind with indigenous avionics systems and high accuracy sensor packages.

This hypersonic missile follows a quasi-ballistic trajectory with hypersonic speeds starting at Mach 10 and maintaining average Mach 5.0 with multiple skips. Indigenously developed sensors are provided for engaging the moving targets in the terminal phase. As this missile flies in low altitude with high speed and manoeuvrability, enemy ground and ship-based radars cannot detect this missile during most of its trajectory.

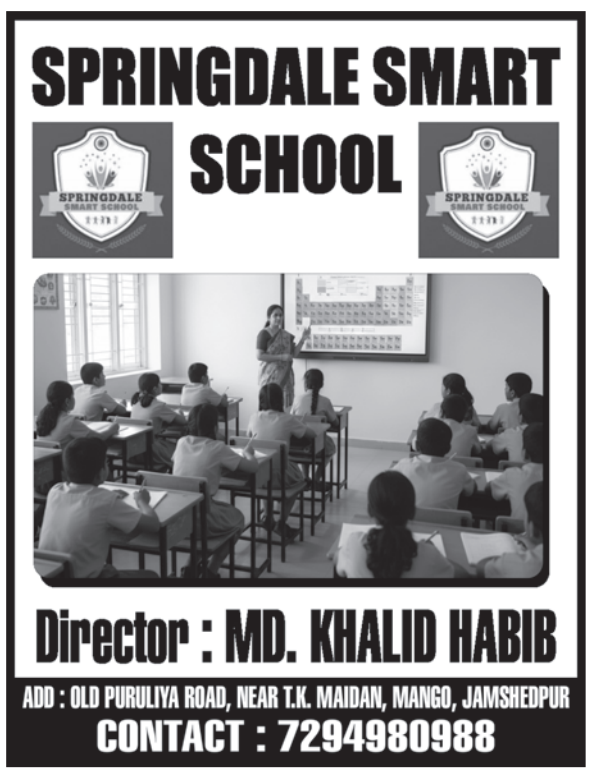
The LR-AShM is configured with two stage solid propulsion rocket motor system. These propulsion systems boost the missile to the required hypersonic velocities.

Stage-1 of the vehicle is separated after it is spent. After Stage-II burnout, the vehicle performs an unpowered glide with required manoeuvres in the atmosphere before engaging the target.

Contingents of paramilitary & other auxiliary civil forces

















Carmel students shine in "A World of Fantasy" show



Jamshedpur, January 25: Carmel Junior College organised a colourful Nursery programme titled "A World of Fantasy" for parents at the school premises on Saturday. The event showcased the talents of the youngest students through a series of joyful and creative performances.

The programme began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by School Manager Sr. Jyothi D'Souza, Principal Sr. Sharel, Vice Principal Sr. Amala Rani, Pre-Primary Coordinator Sr. Maya Peter, a parent representative, and the Nursery teachers. Principal Sr. Sharel welcomed the gathering and praised the teachers for their dedication. She also thanked parents for their constant support in the children's learning journey.

The cultural programme included a prayer song, welcome song, choral recitation, Rainbow Fairy dance, and several theme-based dances such as "I Have a Dream," "Maine Kaha Phoolon Se," "Sapne," and a lively superhero dance.

The highlight of the evening was a fashion show representing different professions and dreams, carrying the inspiring message, "Only dreamers can be achievers."The tiny tots impressed the audience with their confidence and enthusiasm on stage. For many children, it was their first stage performance, making the event special and memorable for parents and teachers alike.Parents warmly appreciated the hard work of teachers Sangeeta, Devi, Polaumi, and Komal, whose efforts made the programme a great success.

The event ended on a joyful note, celebrating creativity, imagination, and early learning.

ADLS School: Alina Ahmed honoured as top performer



Jamshedpur, January 25: ADLS Sunshine School organised a Graduation Nite for the outgoing batch of 2025-26 at Kudy Mahanty Auditorium, Kadma. The event was attended by members of the school management, Principal, teachers, parents, and students, making it a memorable occasion.

The ceremony began with the National Anthem, followed by a welcome address by Principal Manju Singh. She congratulated the graduating students on their academic achievements and wished them success in their future careers. Encouraging the students, she advised them to work hard, strive for perfection, and face upcoming challenges with passion, dedication, and perseverance.

To make the evening lively, students presented various cultural performances. The Sunshine Choir performed a motivational song to inspire the graduating batch. A dance titled "Nostalgia" and a song "Dreams to Reality" added vibrancy and emotional warmth to the programme.

During the ceremony, students were presented with yearbooks, mementos, and character certificates as a token of remembrance. The prestigious Principal's Award was given to Alina Ahmed for her consistent excellence in academics and co-curricular activities. She was praised as an all-round performer throughout her school years.

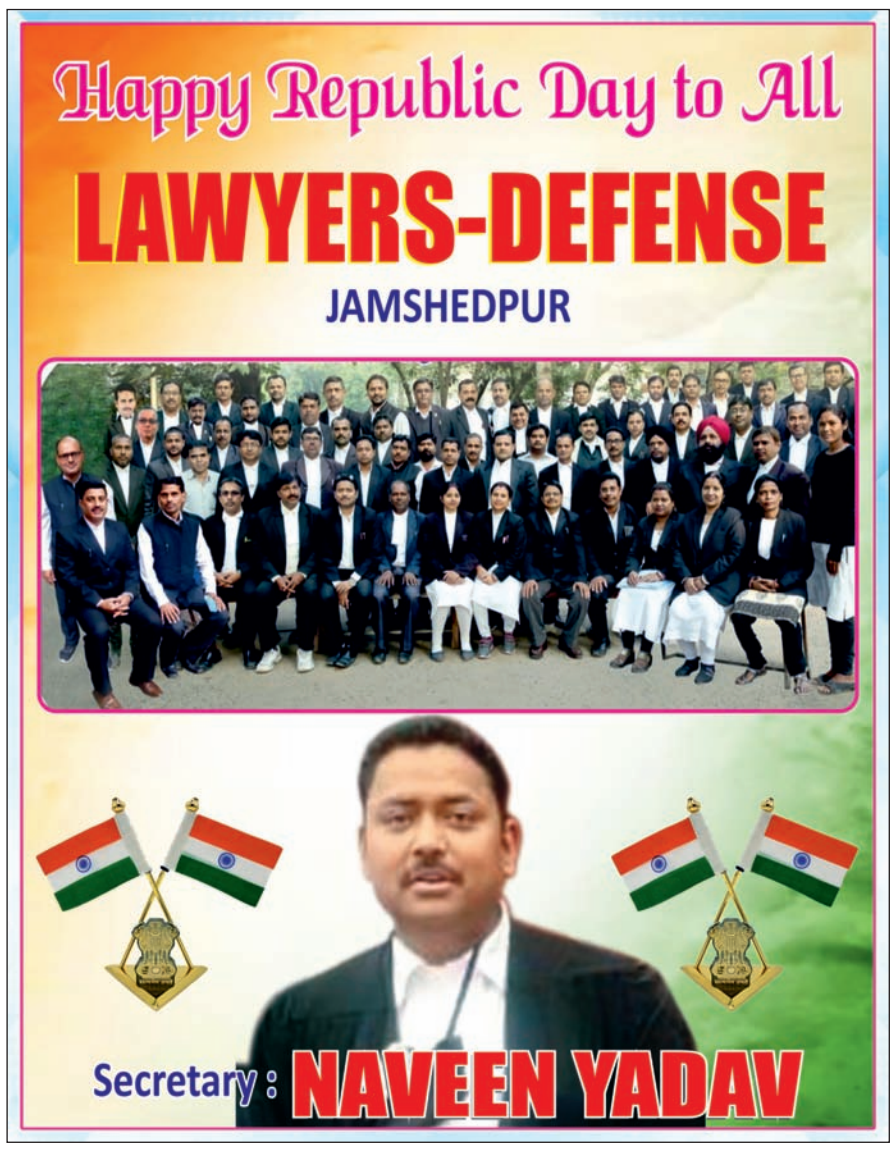
The valedictory speech was delivered by Falak Gulnaz, the School Senate President, who shared heartfelt words for teachers and fellow students.

Central Sikh Naujawan Sabha hosts drawing competition on environmental protection

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Jan 25: Under the aegis of the Central Sikh Naujawan Sabha, Jamshedpur, a drawing competition on the theme of environmental protection was successfully organised at the Telco Gurudwara premises on Sunday. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from more than 80 children and young people, who conveyed strong messages on saving the environment through their creative artwork.Participants from different age groups took part in the competition, which was divided into Group A, Group B and Group C. Within the stipulated time, the participants created attractive and meaningful drawings highlighting issues such as environmental conservation, cleanliness, greenery and saving the Earth.





Civil Court Seraikela marks National Voters' Day with pledge ceremony

Mail News Service



Seraikela, January 25: The Civil Court premises in Seraikela hosted a pledge-taking ceremony on the occasion of National Voters' Day to promote democratic values and raise awareness about the importance of voting. The programme was organised under the directions of the Jharkhand State Legal Services Authority, Ranchi, and guided by Principal District and Sessions Judge-cum-Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority, Ramashankar Singh.

Several judicial officers attended the event, including Principal Judge of the Family Court Biresh Kumar, District and Additional Sessions Judge-I B.K. Pandey, District and Additional Sessions Judge-II Deepak Malik, Chief Judicial Magistrate Lucy SosenTigga, and Civil Judge (Senior Division)-cum-Judicial Magistrate First Class and In-charge Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority AnamikaKisku. Also present were Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate and Principal Magistrate of the Juvenile Justice Board AshishAgarwal and Additional Civil Judge (Junior Division) DhritiDhairya.

Class III and Class IV staff members of the Civil Court, along with Para Legal Volunteers, actively participated in the ceremony. All attendees took a collective pledge, reaffirming their faith in the Constitution of India and committing themselves to vote responsibly, fairly, and without fear or influence.

In addition to the main event at the Civil Court, similar pledge ceremonies and legal awareness programmes were organised across various blocks and panchayats in the district by the District Legal Services Authority. These initiatives aimed to educate citizens about their voting rights and encourage wider public participation in elections.

Speakers at the event highlighted that voting is not only a fundamental right but also a constitutional duty of every citizen. They stressed that a strong democracy depends on active and informed participation by the people. Ethical and responsible voting, they noted, plays a crucial role in building a transparent and accountable governance system.

The programme concluded successfully with a renewed commitment to uphold democratic principles and promote voter awareness throughout the district.

Classmates of 1984 batch relive memories



Seraikela, Jan 25: Old friendships came alive as classmates of the 1984 batch of Seraikela Oriya Municipality organised a Ban Bhoj on the banks of the Kharkai River. The reunion turned into an emotional journey back to school days, filled with laughter, shared memories and nostalgia. Participants reminisced about classroom experiences, childhood pranks and teachers, while also paying tribute to departed classmates and mentors. Despite holding prominent positions across India and abroad, attendees set aside their achievements to reconnect as students once again. The gathering concluded with a resolve to meet again next year.



Bharat Singh Welfare Trust and Lions Club of Jamshedpur Bharat, fulfilling their social responsibilities, donated ration supplies for the community feast at the Saraswati Puja pandal located in the Shani Temple complex in Baradwari.

BJP reviews strategy for Adityapur Municipal Corporation Elections

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Jan 25: The Bharatiya Janata Party held an important meeting of district core committee members at Hotel Madhuban to review preparations for the upcoming Adityapur Municipal Corporation elections.

The meeting was chaired by District President Harekrishna Pradhan. Former State President Dineshanand Goswami, former Chief Minister Madhu Koda, BJP leader Shailendra Singh and Abhay Singh sought feedback from core committee members.

It was decided that the party would support only one candidate for the post of Mayor. District President Pradhan informed members about the applications received for the Mayor's post.

Addressing the meeting, Goswami said all opinions would be forwarded to the state leadership, which would take the final decision after considering all factors. Shailendra Singh stressed that ensuring the victory of the party's candidate would be a collective responsibility. Former Mayor Vinod Srivastava, District Council Chairman Sonaram Bodra and several senior leaders were present.

Brahmarshi Sangh holds picnic at Dimna Lake



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, January 25: The Brahmarshi Adhivakta Sangh, Jamshedpur, organized picnic near Dimna Lake on Sunday. All members of the association participated in the event, enjoyed meals together, and engaged in discussions on various topics.

Youth Congress discusses role in Municipal Elections 2026



Seraikela, Jan 25: The Seraikela -Kharsawan District Youth Congress held a meeting at the Seraikela Parishad to discuss preparations for the upcoming municipal elections. The meeting was chaired by District Youth Congress President Raja Ram Padeya. Youth Congress State Vice President Kuldeep Kumar Ravi and State Congress Committee Delegate Premendra Kumar Mishra addressed the gathering. Discussions focused on active participation of the Youth Congress, candidate selection and organisational strategy. Several block-level leaders and party workers attended the meeting.

Nagarpalika Odia Madhyamik Vidyalaya holds reunion



Seraikela, Jan 25: Classmates of the 1993 batch of Nagarpalika Odia Madhyamik Vidyalaya reunited at the Mirgichingada picnic spot, rekindling memories of their school days. The programme began with the collective singing of Vande Mataram, followed by informal interactions and recollections of classroom life.

Participants described the reunion as a refreshing break from daily responsibilities and a reminder of the lasting bonds formed during childhood.

Devansh Classes students visit Seraikela heritage sites



Seraikela, Jan 25: Students of Devansh Classes, located at the Guest House premises in Seraikela , went on an educational tour to various historical, mythological and tourist locations, including the Seraikela Raj Palace.

Under the guidance of institute head Nirmala Raut, the students learned about the rich cultural heritage and glorious history of Seraikela.

During visits to ancient temples and heritage sites, students were provided detailed information about their historical and cultural significance. The organisers said the tour proved highly beneficial from an educational and knowledge-enhancement perspective.

Bengali Jatra celebrated in Tirla village during Saraswati Puja

Gamharia, Jan 25: A vibrant Bengali Jatra (folk theatre) was organized in Tirla village on the occasion of Saraswati Puja. Former JMM candidate from the Seraikela Assembly constituency, Mr. Prem Mardi, attended the event as the chief guest. Mr. Mardi offered prayers to Goddess Saraswati, seeking peace, prosperity, and a bright future for the region. He highlighted that Goddess Saraswati symbolizes knowledge, wisdom, and discernment, and that cultural events like the Bengali Jatra play an important role in preserving folk traditions, language, and heritage. He further stated that such programmes not only entertain but also promote social harmony and cultural awareness among communities.

Voter awareness rally held at Sanskaroday Academy on National Voters' Day

Mail News Service

Gamharia, Jan 25: On the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a voter awareness programme was organized at Sanskaroday Academy, Satwahini, Julumtand, on National Voters' Day under the joint auspices of My Bharat and Sant Kabir Seva Sansthan, Gamharia.

Outgoing Deputy Mayor of Adityapur Municipal Corporation, Mr. Amit alias Bobby Singh, was the chief guest, while special guests included BJP ST Morcha State Executive Member Mr. Sanjay Sardar, outgoing councillor Mr. Abhijit Mahto, institute founder Mr. Yugal Kishore Rai, and Mr. Mukesh Kumar of Yuva Bharat.

The programme featured a voter awareness rally flagged off by the chief guest, covering Satwahini and Julumtand areas, aimed at educating citizens about their right to vote.

Several young individuals, including Shivam Kumar Pandey, Rahul Kumar Sahu, Priya Kumari, Pammi Kumari, and Mahi Kumari, were honored for their efforts in promoting democratic participation. Dr. Digvijay Bharat, Director and Principal of the school, stressed that voting is not only a right but a responsibility toward nation-building and urged the youth to encourage others to vote. Teachers, students, and local dignitaries attended the event.

Republic Day drawing competition organized for school children



Gamharia, Jan 25: A drawing competition for school children was held on Sunday by Bharti Vividh Kala Mandir to commemorate Republic Day. The event took place at Chitragupta Bhavan, Gamharia, and was inaugurated by chief guest educationist Mr. Rinku Pramanik alongside special guests teacher Mr. Ganesh Das, K.M. Srivastava, Vice President of Chitragupta Mahasamiti, and General Secretary Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma, by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Around 200 students from classes one to twelve, representing schools across Gamharia, Adityapur, and Jamshedpur, participated in the competition.

The participants were divided into four categories and given specific drawing themes. The children displayed remarkable artistic talent, creating impressive artwork under the guidance of organizers.

The competition results will be announced on Monday, with winners in each category receiving medals and shields, while all participants will be awarded certificates. District Traffic Inspector Mr. Raju has been invited as the chief guest for the award ceremony.

Key organizers present included President Kumar Sanjay, Vice President Sanjay Swarnakar, Secretary Chanchal Sahu, Treasurer Ruby Devi, Rakesh Sharma, Ajay Kumar, Santosh Pramanik, and other committee members. Students such as Joba Chandra, Barsha, Udita, Tejaswi, Homika Nandini, Bharti Kumari, Kriti Das, and Ashutosh Mishra played a significant role in the smooth conduct of the event.

Shanti Yagna to mark 129th anniv of Swami Pranvanand Ji Maharaj

Chaibasa, Jan 25: Hindu Milan Mandir, Chaibasa, in association with Bharat Sevashram Sangh, Gandhitola, will organise a series of religious and spiritual programmes on Wednesday to commemorate the 129th birth anniversary of Yugacharya Swami Pranvanand Ji Maharaj, founder of Bharat Sevashram Sangh. The day-long programme will include Vishwa Shanti Yagna, Pooja Archana, special Veer Aarti, Anna Prasad distribution and discourses on Sanatan Hindu philosophy.

The programmes will commence at 5 am with Gayatri Path and Sangh Geeta Path, followed by deeksha and blessings at 8 am. Bhajan-Kirtan will be held from 10 am, after which lectures, Maha Abhishek, Vishwa Shanti Yagna, Havan, special Veer Aarti and Prasad distribution will take place. Swami Ambikanand Ji Maharaj, Swami Shyamanand Ji Maharaj and other sannyasis and brahmacharis will address devotees.

Forty plus football team get-together promotes fitness through sports



Chaibasa, Jan 25 : A get-together of the Forty Plus football team from Kamarhatu-Matkamhatu in the Sadar block was organized on the banks of the Baripokhri River, highlighting the importance of staying actively involved in sports even after the age of forty. The programme focused on promoting physical fitness, mental well-being, and social bonding among senior players. Speakers emphasized that regular participation in sports helps maintain good health, discipline, and a positive lifestyle, regardless of age. On the occasion, senior citizens who have consistently encouraged and supported sports activities in the area were felicitated with tracksuits as a mark of respect and appreciation. The tracksuits were sponsored by Sonaram Devgam, Somay Devgam, Baigo Banra, Jogen Devgam, Bhim Singh Devgam, Dinbandhu Devgam, Mohan Singh Bari, and Bimal Birua, along with Surja Devgam, owner of Jharkhand Denga Abua Tailoring Center, Kamarhatu.

The honors were presented by Matkamhatu Panchayat head Ms. Juliana Devgam, ex-serviceman Mr. Sunil Bari, and teacher Mr. Turam Devgam, who praised the initiative and encouraged continued participation in sports for a healthy and active life.

Manoj Chaudhary leads voters' pledge for youth



Saraikela, Jan 25: On National Voters' Day, former Vice Chairman of Saraikela Nagar Panchayat, Manoj Kumar Chaudhary, administered the voters' pledge to young people in Rajbandh and urged them to take active part in the democratic process. <

Speaking at the event, Chaudhary highlighted the slogan "Vote first, then eat," stressing the importance of voting in a democracy. He said citizens should use their voting rights wisely to elect capable leaders who can solve public issues.

Expressing concern over low voter turnout in recent years, he said voting forms the foundation of democracy and must be strengthened. He added that full participation by voters would contribute to the development of the country, state, and local bodies, leading to a stronger and self-reliant India.

AFFIDAVIT

BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE

I, **VENKAT SASHI REKHA**, Wife of **Mr. TAPAN KUMAR SINGH** and Daughter of **SIDDABATHULA VENKAT NARASIMHAM**, by faith Hindu, by Nationality Indian, by Occupation -School Teacher, Resident of Flat No.6/4, B-Block, EDEN PARK, Shiv Nagar, Kadma, P.O. Kadma, P.S. Kadma, Town-Jamshedpur, District East Singhbhum, Jharkhand-831005, do hereby Solemnly affirm and declare as follows :-

1. That I am a peace loving law abiding Indian Citizen by birth.

2. That my permanent resident at above mentioned address living with my family members.

3. That my actual, genuine and correct full name before my marriage is **SIDDABATHULA V. S. -REKHA,** which has been mentioned in my Education records and as my name is also recorded /mentioned the same **REKHA S. V. SHASHI** and also my name was recorded on Voter card as such as **S. VENKAT SHASHI REKHA**, bearing Voter Card No. **JVN6191621** respectively.

4. That after my marriage name has been known as **"VENKAT SASHI REKHA".**

5. That **VENKAT SASHI REKHA** which has been mentioned/recorded in my Aadhaar Card, vide Aadhaar No. **9758 6516 2961**, PAN CARD, bearing PAN Number is **AVOPR7767G** and also recorded my Driving Licence the same name, vide D.L.No.**JH0520210020682** respectively.

6. That I am a Account Holder of HDFC BANK, Kadma Branch, Jamshedpur, vide Account No.**50100395173469**, IFSC Code: **HDFC0002776** my name has been mentioned as **"VENKAT SASHI REKHA".**

7. That, **"SIDDABATHULA V. S. REKHA", "REKHA S. V. SHASHI", "S. VENKAT - SHASHI REKHA"** and **"VENKAT SASHI REKHA",** are the name of one and same person, which is indicated/ represented to myself name.

8. That, the statement made above are true to the best of my knowledge, nothing has been concealed and if found false or incorrect, I shall be solely liable for this.

9. That I Swear this affidavit to confirm the above facts and to produce/submit the same before the Authority Concerned regarding name i.e. all are the same and one person **"VENKAT SASHI REKHA"**, for all intents; hence this affidavit for applying the **PASSPORT** for future needful purposes.

Sl. No. : 1426
Date : 04-11-2025 **Advocate**

BJP holds meeting to discuss candidates for Nagar Panchayat polls

Mail News Service



Saraikela, January 25: The BharatiyaJanata Party (BJP) organised a consultation meeting at its party office on Sunday to discuss and finalise candidates for the upcoming Saraikela Nagar Panchayat municipal elections. The meeting was chaired by Kolhan municipal election in-charge and former Chief Minister MadhuKoda, with Kolhan observer Shailendra Singh also in attendance.

During the nearly hour-long session, party leaders and workers held detailed discussions on the names of BJP-supported candidates. Two main contenders, SumitChaudhary and SanadAcharya, were prominently discussed. Feedback was gathered on their organisational strength, public image, social acceptance, and chances of winning the election. Representatives from all wards participated actively, creating an open and democratic environment. Party workers were encouraged to express their views freely, and many highlighted the grassroots connect and leadership qualities of both candidates.

Addressing the gathering, MadhuKoda said that all opinions and suggestions shared during the meeting would be forwarded to the state leadership for further consideration. He added that the final decision regarding the BJP-supported candidate would be taken at the state level and announced soon. Koda also appealed to party workers to remain united and work together for the success of the party in the elections.

The meeting was conducted by senior BJP leader Raja Singhdev. Several senior leaders were present on the dais, including BJP District President Hare Krishna Pradhan, District Council President SonaramBodra, and City President BijuDutta, along with other party officials.

The consultation meeting marked an important step in BJP's preparations for the municipal elections in Saraikela.

Rohit, Harmanpreet, Praveen set to be awarded Padma Shri



New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) Former India captain Rohit Sharma, Indian women' team captain Harmanpreet Kaur and Para-athlete Praveen Kumar are set to be honoured with the Padma Shri as the Padma Awards 2026 were announced on Sunday. This recognition marks their significant contributions to Indian sports across different formats and generations.

While the Padma Shri awards celebrated both current and former stars, India's tennis icon Vijay Amritraj received the Padma Bhushan. He is the only sportsperson to earn the country's third-highest civilian honor this year.

Amritraj's recognition adds to a notable career that has lasted for decades, both on and off the court.

He had previously been awarded the Padma Shri in 1983 and the Arjuna Award in 1974, highlighting his lasting influence on Indian tennis and sports administration.

Rohit Sharma, the former captain of Indian men's cricket team, is a key figure in modern Indian cricket. He is known for his leadership and impressive run-scoring at the highest level and led India to second T20 World Cup trophy in 2024. Harmanpreet, captain of the women's team, led India to maiden women's ICC title after hosts India clinched Women's ODI WC 2025 has also played a vital role, leading India to new successes and inspiring a generation of young cricketers with her bold batting and leadership.

Pak players to back PCB, govt's decision on T20 WC participation

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) Pakistan players showed solidarity with their government and cricket board on any decision they take regarding the team's participation in next month's World Cup, a report said.

All the top players met PCB chairman MohsinNaqvi in Lahore Sunday afternoon and assured him that any decision taken by the government and PCB will have their support," sources told Telecomasia.net.

"We are all with our government and cricket board and back their stance of protesting what happened to Bangladesh."

Naqvi met the players of the World Cup squad announced on Sunday to brief them on the team's participation in the T20I World Cup, amid uncertainty following Bangladesh's elimination from the World Cup in an unjust decision.

Jamshedpur FC appoint Sandy Stewart as assistant coach

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Jan 25: Jamshedpur FC have appointed Sandy Stewart as the club's Assistant Coach, strengthening the senior team's coaching set-up ahead of the upcoming Indian Super League (ISL) season.

A familiar face in Owen Coyle's coaching staff, Stewart reunites with the head coach after previously working alongside him in India with Chennaiyin FC and Jamshedpur FC. The Scottish coach has been Coyle's long-time assistant across multiple clubs since 2007, forming a partnership that has delivered strong results in different leagues and environments.

Sandy Stewart, equally excited to be back with the club, said,"I'm absolutely delighted to be back at Jamshedpur FC! I have fond memories of my previous stint here, and I'm excited to reunite with familiar faces and work alongside the talented team behind the scenes. Their passion and ambition are truly inspiring. Our squad is looking strong, and I have great optimism about our chances this season. Playing at home for the first time will be a new experience, and we're eager to make the most of our fabulous support. We'll give it our all to bring success to this fantastic football club." (W-mb)

Late strikes from Kartik and Ashraful seal 2-0 win for JFC U14

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Jan 25: Kartik Marandi and supersubAshrafulRahbar struck late to help Jamshedpur FC Under-14 begin their AIFF Sub-Junior League 2025-26 campaign with a 2-0 win over RKM Football Academy at the JRD Tata Sports Complex on Saturday.

With the contest remaining goalless for most of the match, the breakthrough finally arrived in the 85th minute. Karthikeyan's attempt on goal took a deflection and fell kindly for Kartik, who latched onto the loose ball, went one-on-one with the goalkeeper and finished calmly to put JFC ahead.

Just three minutes later, Jamshedpur FC sealed the result as AshrafulRahbar, who had been introduced moments earlier, made the most of his opportunity by scoring from a one-on-one situation to double the lead and ensure all three points for the young Men of Steel.

Jamshedpur FC Under-14 will next face United Sports Club in an away fixture on January 29 at Kalyani, West Bengal. (W-mb)

JFC begin training as Owen Coyle leads first session



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 25: Jamshedpur FC began their preparations with their first training session under head coach Owen Coyle at Flatlet, as the Men of Steel officially kicked off their build-up for the upcoming Indian Super League (ISL) season.

The session marked the start of an intense training camp, with the squad returning to the pitch after regrouping in Jamshedpur over the past few days. The focus in the opening session was on building rhythm, and laying the foundation for the weeks of hard work ahead.

Speaking after the training session, head coach Owen Coyle expressed his satisfaction with the group's energy and conditioning.

"The players' attitude was fantastic in the first training session. Their fitness levels I was very pleased with. They worked really hard and it was a really enjoyable session," Coyle said. The head coach also spoke about the familiarity within the squad, having previously worked with several players during his earlier stint with the club and across Indian football.

"It was great to see a lot of the boys that I've known from before, obviously from my time at Jamshedpur, and players I've worked with over the course of being in India. So yeah, it was a really enjoyable session and I look forward to many more," he added. (W-mb)

JFC U-18 thrash SAIL FA 6-0 in Elite League clash

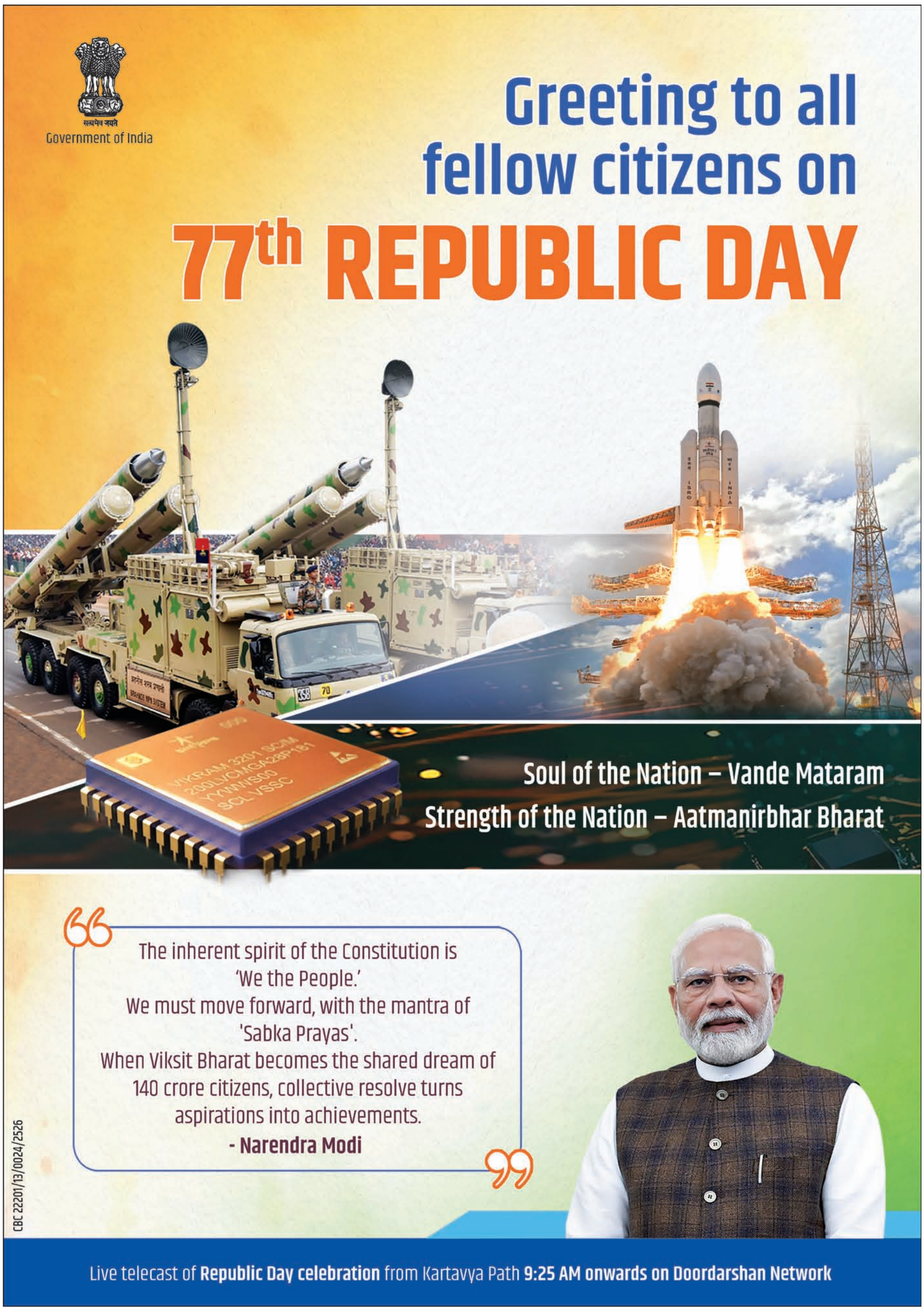


Bokaro, Jan 25: Jamshedpur FC Under-18 team returned to winning form with a dominant 6-0 victory over SAIL Football Academy in an AIFF Elite League away match on Saturday. The Young Men of Steel controlled the game throughout, with four players scoring in a one-sided contest.

Rayan C opened the scoring in the 18th minute with a fine solo effort, winning possession, beating a defender and calmly placing the ball into the far corner. Jamshedpur doubled their lead in the 24th minute after a handball inside the box led to a penalty, which Lawmsangzuala converted confidently.

Just three minutes later, Rayan was fouled again in the penalty area, earning another spot-kick. Lawmsangzuala once more made no mistake, putting Jamshedpur 3-0 ahead. Before halftime, Satyajit Das added the fourth goal as his looping cross surprisingly found the far post, giving Jamshedpur a commanding 4-0 lead at the break.

After the restart, Jamshedpur continued to dominate possession and attack. In the 50th minute, Devjit Majumdar's low cutback was finished neatly by Mars Ningthoujam to make it 5-0. The final goal came late in the match when Krishna Tudu headed in Devjit's assist, completing the comprehensive victory. The result highlighted Jamshedpur FC's strong attacking performance and control throughout the match.



Deception as a doctrine

Over the last couple of months, Intelligence agencies have been picking up information relating to the revival of the Lashkar-e-Taiba -- a terror outfit that was badly struck by the Indian Armed Forces during Operation Sindoor.

It is a well-known fact that groups such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad have been struggling to re-group owing to many factors that include dejection, disappointment and the lack of traction among the youth.

The Lashkar-e-Taiba, which remains Pakistan's most favourite proxy, is, however, coming up with newer strategies that are clearly aimed at deception. One day, it speaks about raising a women's wing, and on the other hand, it announces that it would be recruiting children to train them early into becoming terrorists.

Over the last few weeks, the focus has been on training terrorists for sea-borne attacks against India. The outfit has reportedly handed over this job to the Pakistani Markaz-e-Muslim League, which is the political wing of the Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD). The JuD is the financial arm of the Lashkar-e-Tayiba, which carried out the Mumbai 26/11 attacks.

An Intelligence Bureau official said that there is no doubt that the Lashkar-e-Taiba is indulging in all these activities. However, the scale at which they claim that these activities are taking place is slightly doubtful. These are clear mind games that the ISI is playing to confuse the Indian agencies.

Such announcements and the circulation of videos relating to their activities keep the Indian agencies guessing. This acts as a deception and diversionary tactic, the official said.

The official also added that whether it is true or not, it is something that cannot be ignored. The Lashkar-e-Taiba is capable of carrying out a sea-borne attack, and one got to witness that in Mumbai. While the outfit is capable of carrying out all these activities and has done so in the past, in the current situation, it would not be able to do so on such a scale.

The ISI has been investing a lot of resources into the outfit, which includes a hefty amount of funds. However, these activities are being carried out quietly and on a much smaller scale since they would not want the Indian Armed Forces to strike them down again, another official said.

Officials say that the current focus remains on recruitments and infiltrations. The infiltrations have become a tough affair for Lashkar-e-Taiba as there is heavy security at the borders.

Since the recruitments have been hard in recent times, the outfit has started to put up fake banners to lure the youth. When the outfit wanted to start its sea-borne training course, it put up posters across Pakistan stating that training is being given for water rescue and swimming. The posters are being put up under the names of fake organisations, and this has led to many youth falling for it.

It is only in due course of time that they realise what the real purpose of the training is. Some stick on, while many also leave, an official said.

In addition to trying to deceive the Indian agencies, such reports also help the outfit in furthering its propaganda. In order to attract the youth, the outfit has to make big announcements.

The Lashkar-e-Taiba has also been using Artificial Intelligence to create fake videos relating to the training programmes. If ten are undergoing training, the videos would depict over 100 being trained.

Although the strategy is clear, the Indian agencies are taking no chances.

"We do not want to take anything lightly, although we are aware that most of what comes out of the Lashkar-e-Tayiba is a lot of hype," an official said.

From the Editorial Desk

Bangladesh concerned over rising trend of using religion in politics



The rising concern in Bangladesh over the trend of using religion in politics, especially during elections, was recently voiced in an article published in one of the country's online Bengali news portal.

The article on Banglanews24 website cited a study by the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), which highlighted the rise of religious politics.

"The reason for this is the absence of a democratic political environment in the country for a long time, the impact of religious fanaticism and the rise of radical political forces in the domestic, regional and international arena has created this adverse situation in the country," it said.

The report mentioned political promises of "attaining paradise" if endorsing a particular electoral symbol while other sought support for the enforcement of Islamic laws.

Despite civilisation becoming "more and more modern day by day, such 'religions' of politicians are increasing day by day," the article lamented.

It accused parties and leaders of all hues in Bangladesh using religion to serve political purposes, adding, "Leaders of religion-based political parties have long been seen wearing religious attire, and they are using religion more and more during public relations."

It cited allegations against Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami for seeking votes with promises of a "ticket to paradise".

It quoted a senior leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) comparing the Jamaat's attempt with similar religious ploys in "the dark ages".

The report pointed out male leaders donning religious caps and women donning scarfs or headcovers at election rallies.

According to the article, the use of religion in politics came to the fore in the 1991 elections, when the BNP's campaign claimed that the Awami League assuming power would lead to the end of 'azan' call for prayer and the beginning of Hindu rituals in masjids.

However, it put the Awami League also in the same category, claiming party President and former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina having taken part in the 1996 election campaign wearing a black headscarf, long-sleeved blouse and launching her journey from a shrine.

It accused the party, now banned from poll participation, for having used religion while campaigning in the last five elections.

Besides, the Islamic Movement Bangladesh, which earlier formed an electoral alliance with Jamaat-e-Islami and nine other parties, left the group following a conflict over 'Sharia law', the report said.

It quoted the TIB study, saying that a total of 51 political parties are taking part in the February election, where there are 1,981 candidates in fray, with about 13 per cent being independents.

"Islamist parties make up 36 per cent of the total candidates. This is the highest in the last five elections," it added.

Comparatively, it shared, in the 2024 elections, 9.5 per cent of the candidates were from Islamic parties.

According to the report, their representation increased since the 2018 Parliamentary elections, when their participation rose to 29.66 per cent.

That number in the 2026 February poll has risen to 36 per cent, it added.

According to the article, the TIB report has pointed out to "an increase in Islamist activities in the country's internal politics and administration".

The news report concluded by saying that many analysts believe that these religious parties aim to exploit the faith of electors, a large part of whom lack education and awareness.

At the same time, it has also repeatedly been seen that such practice does not bear fruit -- no Islamist party has been able to form a government on its own earlier.

From insurgency to inclusion: ICPS paper outlines new road map for India's Maoists



The International Centre for Peace Studies (ICPS) has published a detailed policy paper by security analyst P.V. Ramana proposing a development-led road map for India's Maoist-affected regions, arguing that the recent wave of surrenders by insurgents offers a rare opportunity to shift from violence to democratic social change.

Titled 'From Bullets to Ballots: A New Development Roadmap for India's Maoists' and dated January 23, 2026, the paper notes that four Central Committee members of the Communist Party of India (Maoist) and more than 2,000 cadres and leaders across various levels surrendered in 2025 alone. This included at least 11 State Committee members, 22 district or division committee members, squad commanders and armed cadres.

In 2026 so far, at least 160 Maoists have surrendered, a trend the author expects to continue. Ramana also estimates that the movement still has a sympathiser base of nearly two lakh people.

In the paper, Ramana argues that surrendered Maoists, having renounced violence, can play a constructive role in development. "They are now willing to work among the people," he writes, adding that while former rebels may eventually form a political party, they should also pursue a clear development agenda as a "dividend of peace."

According to Ramana, ex-Maoist leaders can supplement government welfare programmes by mobilising communities in former conflict zones. "Minus the weapon everything they do is legitimate," he notes, stressing that social change must now be pursued "through ballot not bullet."

A key concept highlighted in the paper is "ownership." Ramana argues that when surrendered Maoists are physically involved in development activities, it builds trust and accountability. "This would build support, stakes, trust and an abiding relationship with the people whose lot they would seek to improve," he writes.

The paper lays out sector-wise proposals, beginning with skill development. Ramana suggests low-cost vocational training in carpentry, bamboo-based products, handicrafts, masonry and electrical work, with support from nearby polytechnic colleges. On health, he proposes using former Maoist medical teams as health volunteers in tribal hamlets lacking public health centres, with special emphasis on the timely treatment of cerebral malaria and the provision of bike ambulances.

In education, Ramana points out that many surrendered Maoists are literate and could work as teachers, initially using local dialects and later transitioning to Hindi. He also calls for community participation in road connectivity under existing schemes in Left Wing Extremism-affected areas, alongside local construction of culverts and internal village roads.

On funding, the paper recommends redirecting Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and District Mineral Fund (DMF) resources directly to local committees rather than state governments. "NMDC has Rs 240 crore earmarked for CSR activities," Ramana notes, arguing such funds should be spent locally to ensure impact.

The focus states identified include Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha. In conclusion, Ramana urges ideologically transformed Maoists to work with the government, public sector undertakings and private industry to contribute to "the larger project of an equitable, developed and prosperous India."

India's tunnel infra solving connectivity challenges, supporting economic growth



The government on Wednesday said India's tunnel infrastructure reflects a clear shift toward smarter and more resilient development, solving long-standing connectivity challenges while supporting economic growth and national priorities.

With landmark projects like the Atal Tunnel, India is rapidly expanding its tunnel infrastructure. Tunnels in India represent more than infrastructure development; they reflect the nation's determination to overcome geographical challenges.

By cutting through mountains and terrain that once limited connectivity, tunnels have enabled year-round transportation. They have also improved access to remote regions and strengthened links between communities, according to an official statement.

India's tunnelling boom is being propelled by national highway expansion, alongside strategic border infrastructure, metro rail growth, bullet-train corridors, and all-weather connectivity initiatives in remote regions.

As infrastructure scales up, tunnelling has become one of the fastest-growing construction domains.

Tucked beneath the snow-laden peaks of the Pir Panjal ranges, the Atal Tunnel stretches 9.02 km, providing a high-altitude passage that bypasses Rohtang Pass.

"It is officially recognised as the World's Longest Highway Tunnel above 10,000 feet in 2022 by the World Book of Records UK. The tunnel has cut the Manali-Sarchu distance by 46 km and reduced travel time by four to five hours," the statement added.

Another example is the Sonamarg Tunnel, a 12-km engineering feat carved through mountains at an altitude of over 8,650 feet above sea level, is set to transform travel in Jammu and Kashmir.

Built at a cost of Rs 2,700 crore, it includes a 6.4-km main tunnel, an egress tunnel, and modern approach roads creating an all-weather lifeline between Srinagar and the golden meadows of Sonamarg, and further towards Ladakh.

Once paired with the upcoming Zojila Tunnel (2028), the journey will shrink from 49 km to 43 km, with speeds rising from 30 km per hour to 70 km per hour, boosting defense logistics, winter tourism, adventure sports, and the livelihoods of the people who call these mountains home.

Moreover, the Zojila Tunnel is emerging as a monumental achievement in India's infrastructure landscape, cutting through some of the most formidable Himalayan rock formations to establish a dependable, all-weather link between Ladakh and the rest of the country.

With nearly 12 kms already completed, the project integrates advanced safety measures and a semi-transverse ventilation system designed to maintain steady airflow deep within the mountains, said the government.

India's Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail corridor has marked a futuristic leap with the breakthrough on its 4.8-km undersea tunnel section.

BJP stages protest in Adityapur over exclusion of young voters

Mail News Service



Saraikela, January 25: The BharatiyaJanata Party (BJP) on Sunday organised a large public protest in the Adityapur Municipal Corporation area, alleging that more than 25,000 newly registered young voters have been excluded from the voter list for the upcoming municipal elections.

The protest was led by senior BJP leader Ramesh Hansda.

The demonstration began from AkashvaniChowk and continued as a procession to Sharma Market and Sher-e-Punjab Chowk before returning to AkashvaniChowk.

The programme concluded with a brief street-corner meeting. A large number of women and youth participated, carrying placards and raising slogans demanding voting rights for newly registered voters.

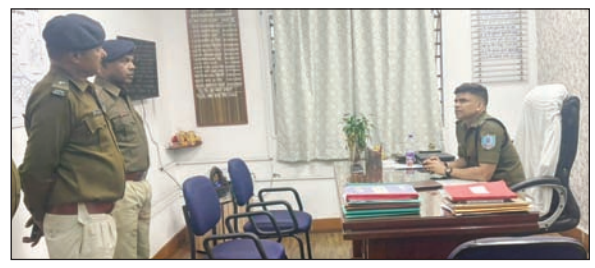
Addressing the gathering, senior BJP leader Bhogendranath Jha accused the state government of deliberately depriving urban voters, especially the youth, of their democratic rights. He said holding municipal elections based on the 2024 Assembly election voter list was unfair and against constitutional principles. Jha pointed out that in Maharashtra, recent municipal elections were conducted using an updated voter list issued by the Election Commission of India just five months earlier, even though their previous elections were held in 2017. In comparison, Jharkhand's last municipal elections took place in 2018, yet an updated voter list has not been prepared.

Ramesh Hansda said there was still time for the state government, Chief Minister Hemant Soren, and the State Election Commission to correct the issue and ensure voting rights for over five lakh newly registered young voters across Jharkhand. He described the denial of voting rights as an attempt to weaken democracy and silence the voices of the youth.

Hansda also informed that he has filed a petition in the Jharkhand High Court regarding the matter and expressed hope that the court would protect the constitutional rights of young voters. He added that the future of Indian democracy depends on youth participation and denying them their first chance to vote could harm their trust in the democratic system.

Many young voters took part in the protest, including Rajesh Chaudhary, Bishu Mahto, Pawan Mahto, Rajneesh Rathore, VijeshRao, Tikaram Lohra, Raju Nandi, Bittu Tanti, Sunil Gop, Chinmay Mahto, Michael Mahto, Rajkamal Yadav, Manmohan Hansda, Sakaro Murmu, Chhavi Rani Mahto, Sapan Mahto, Rajesh Gop, and several others.

SP conducts surprise check



Mail News Service

Gamharia, Jan 25: District Superintendent of Police Mukesh Kumar Lunayat conducted a surprise inspection of the Gamharia police station.

He instructed officers on crime control, quality investigations, maintenance of law and order, and execution of pending cases, warrants, and proclamations. Station House Officer Ramchandra Rajak and all police personnel were present during the inspection.

Man arrested for knife attack on Gamharia police patrol team

Mail News Service



Gamharia, Jan 25: Police have arrested Amit Mukhi, a young man accused of attacking a Gamharia police patrol team with a knife on June 7, 2024. Amit Mukhi had been absconding since the incident. A First Information Report (FIR) was registered at Gamharia police station naming him as the accused. He has been sent to judicial custody.

Ashoka International school bids farewell to class 10 students



Seraikela, Jan 25: Ashoka International School, Kharsawan, organised a grand farewell ceremony for the Class 10 (CBSE 2025-26) batch, marking the school's tenth outgoing batch. The programme featured cultural performances, speeches and the distribution of titles. Ashish Pradhan was crowned Mr. Ashoka while Lakshmi Shah received the Miss Ashoka title. Principal Sarika Kumari wished the students success in their future endeavours and congratulated Class 9 students for organising the event successfully.

Body of man found in agricultural field in Jhargram

Mail News Service



Jhargram, Jan 25 : Tension prevailed in parts of Jhargram district after the body of a man was recovered from an agricultural field at Betli village under Manikpara Block No. 7 on Saturday morning. The deceased has been identified as Rabindra Das, a native of Katnimara in Sankrail. He had been residing at his in-laws' house in Jaypur village, where he was engaged in farming activities on his father-in-law's land.

According to local sources, Rabindra Das was a habitual consumer of alcohol. He reportedly left home on Friday but failed to return. On Saturday morning, villagers noticed his body lying in the agricultural field and immediately informed the police. Police personnel arrived at the spot, recovered the body, and sent it to Jhargram Medical College and Hospital for post-mortem examination. The exact cause of death has not yet been determined. An investigation has been initiated to ascertain the circumstances leading to the incident.

Police officials said further action would be taken after receiving the post-mortem report.

SER conducts special ticket checking drive in Kharagpur division

Mail News Service



Kharagpur, Jan 25 : The Kharagpur Division of South Eastern Railway conducted a special ticket-checking drive on Saturday across several important trains and railway stations to curb ticketless and irregular travel.

During the drive, intensive inspections were carried out on multiple long-distance and express trains, including Train Nos. 12703, 12704, 12074, 12073, 12828, 12860, 12813, 12871, 12021, 22892, and 12841. Railway officials detected a total of 203 cases of ticketless or irregular travel and realised penalties amounting to Rs. 1,18,330 from the offenders. In addition to onboard checks, ticket inspections were conducted at major railway stations such as Kharagpur, Baleshwar, Digha, Mecheda, and several other stations across the division.

Railway authorities stated that such enforcement drives are aimed at ensuring lawful travel, safeguarding revenue, and protecting the interests of genuine passengers.

Officials added that similar ticket-checking drives will continue in the coming days to discourage ticketless travel and improve overall passenger safety and amenities.

Jhargram Raj College launches platinum jubilee celebrations



Jhargram, Jan 25 : Jhargram Raj College formally inaugurated its Platinum Jubilee celebrations on Saturday with a flag-hoisting ceremony and a procession held on the college campus.

The flag was hoisted by Jhargram District Magistrate Ms. Akanksha Bhaskar, marking the official commencement of the three-day-long programme.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Gopiballavpur MLA Dr. Khagendranath Mahato, Principal Mr. Debnarayan Roy, former Principal Mr. Nimai Chand Masanta, members of the teaching and non-teaching staff, and a large number of students. Alumni from various parts of the country and abroad also participated in the celebrations, adding to the festive atmosphere.

The Platinum Jubilee programme is being organized from January 25 to January 27 under the joint initiative of the college alumni association, student representatives, and the teachers' council. Several academic, cultural, and commemorative events have been planned as part of the celebrations to mark the institution's long and distinguished journey.

Established on May 8, 1949, as Jhargram Agricultural College, the institution is situated amid lush sal forests and has grown into one of the most prominent centres of higher education in the region. Over the decades, Jhargram Raj College has played a vital role in shaping the academic and professional careers of thousands of students.

'Shishu Shakti' ATHR programme launched

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Jan 25: On the occasion of International Girl Child Day, Deputy Commissioner Nitish Kumar Singh chaired the 'Shishu Shakti' Augmented Take-Home Ration (ATHR) distribution programme at the Kuchai block auditorium.

The initiative aims to improve the nutritional status of children in Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) categories. The Deputy Commissioner said ATHR would provide additional nutritional support alongside regular THR distribution. Officials were instructed to ensure accurate identification of beneficiaries, timely distribution and continuous monitoring. Public representatives, Anganwadi workers, health officials and beneficiaries attended the programme.

Achievers Cup Cricket tournament held at Gamharia



Mail News Service

Gamharia, Jan 25: The Marwari Yuva Manch, Tatanagar unit, organized the annual Achievers Cup cricket tournament at Tayo Colony Stadium.

Players from Jamshedpur and Seraikela competed in this 10-over tennis ball match.

District Superintendent of Police Mukesh Kumar Lunayat and a State GST officer attended to encourage participants, thrilling the audience with some impressive sixes and fours.

The officers advised teams to play with true sportsmanship and congratulated the organizers for their efforts.

The event showcased great enthusiasm among players and spectators alike. The Manch confirmed that the Achievers Cup is an annual event aimed at promoting healthy competition and community engagement through sports.

Astitva organizes free eye check-up camp

Mail News Service



Gamharia, Jan 25: The social organization Astitva, with support from Trinetram Hospital, conducted a free eye check-up camp at New Primary School, Satwahini, Julumtand. JMM Central Committee member Ganesh Mahali inaugurated the camp and also underwent an eye check-up. Dr. Pradeep and his team examined 150 patients, checking vision, blood sugar, and blood pressure. The camp identified 20 cataract patients, who will undergo free surgeries on January 30. Ritesh Mukhiya (Abhay Pratap Singh) and Ranjal Singh, directors of Maa Bhumi Mahila Vikas Sangathan, were present. The camp's success was credited to active members of Astitva, including Dinesh Gorai, school headmaster Manoj Mahto, social worker Uttam Patro, Archita Annu Choubey, and Manmohan Choubey.

The initiative aimed to promote eye health and preventive care in rural areas.

SSB organises bike rally



Kharsawan, Jan 25: To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the national song Vande Mataram, the Sashastra Seema Bal organised an awareness bike rally under the direction of 26th Battalion Commandant Rajiv Bhatt. The rally was flagged off from Raijama Camp and concluded at Jenalong-Badedih Camp.

SSB personnel and local residents participated, carrying the tricolour and chanting patriotic slogans. The national song was collectively sung at Raijama Middle School, where children were educated about its historical and cultural significance. The event aimed to promote patriotism, unity and national integrity.

RJD leaders pay tribute to Karpoori on his birth anniv

Mail News Service



Gamharia, Jan 25: The birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur, former Chief Minister of undivided Bihar, was observed at the RJD camp office in Gamharia. Party workers paid homage by garlanding his portrait.

Former Provincial General Secretary Arjun Prasad Yadav, the chief guest, praised Karpoori Thakur as a champion of social justice and the poor. The program was presided over by former District President Gaju Sao. Other attendees included State Vice President of the Scheduled Caste Cell Siyaram Baitha, District President of the Kisan Cell Shyam Sundar Malakar, State General Secretary of the Labour Cell Rajkumar Yadav, along with several party leaders and workers. The program highlighted Karpoori Thakur's lifelong dedication to social equity and his role as a messiah of the underprivileged, inspiring party workers to continue his legacy.

Annual function of Shaheed Nirmal Mahato Vidya Mandir

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Jan 25: The annual festival of Shaheed Nirmal Mahato Vidya Mandir, Maheshkudar, under Rajnagar block, was celebrated with enthusiasm and cultural vibrancy.

The programme showcased a blend of education, literature and culture.

A special attraction was the staging of the play "Hayere Mor Sonar Jharkhand," written by school principal Manik Lal Mahato, which emotionally connected the audience with Jharkhand's soil, culture and sentiments.

Students also presented colourful cultural performances.

The event featured the release of four poetry collections by noted literary figure Rabi Kant Bhakat — Antarandhra (Bengali), Patan Ki Prarthana (Hindi), Civilization (English) and Bir Re Vichar (Santhali).

Prominent literary personalities praised the initiative, highlighting the importance of promoting rural writers and strengthening society through literature.

Ex-bus conductor, paediatrician among 45 Padma Shri 'unsung heroes'

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS): A former bus conductor who set up the world's largest free-access library, a paediatrician who formed Asia's first human milk bank, and a 90-year-old tribal musician were among 45 individuals chosen for the Padma Shri award in the 'unsung heroes' category on the occasion of Republic Day, sources said on Sunday.



Anke Gowda, once a bus conductor, set up the world's largest free-access library, 'Pustak Mane', comprising more than two million books in 20 languages, along with rare manuscripts.

The 75-year-old bibliophile from Haralahalli village near Mysuru in Karnataka has been chosen for the Padma Shri for his unique effort to empower learners across India.

Joining Gowda are medical practitioners Armida Fernandes, a Mumbai-based paediatrician who set up Asia's first human milk bank; Shyam Sundar, who developed an inexpensive test for the detection of 'Kala Azar' or black fever; and veteran haematologist Suresh Hangavadi, known for his works in the field of Haemophilia, an inherited blood disorder.

Also on the list are Ladakh-based Padma Gurmet, who promotes ancient Tibetan medicine; veterinary scientist Punniamurthy Natesan from Tamil Nadu, who used traditional medicine with modern science to treat animals; Hyderabad-based geneticist Kumarasamy Thangharaj; and founder of Donate Life, Nilesh Vinodchandra Mandlewala from Gujarat, who facilitates organ donation.

The awardees include Bundeli war art trainer Bhagwandas Raikwar from Madhya Pradesh and Puducherry's K Pajanivel, who nurtured Silambam, an ancient Tamil weapon-based martial art form.

Bhiklya Ladakya Dhinda, a 90-year-old tribal Tarpa player -- a musical instrument made of bottle gourd and bamboo -- from Maharashtra; 100-year-old Yumnam Jatra Singh, a Nata Sankirtana performer from Manipur; Vishwa Bandhu, a folk dancer from Bihar; and Rajasthani folk artiste Gafruddin Mewati Jogi, who plays 'Bhapang', a traditional musical instrument, have also been awarded.

The list also includes Dharmiklal Chunilal Pandya, an exponent of 'Maanbhatt', a traditional Gujarati performing art form; and musician Taga Ram Bheel, who works to protect the fading traditional instrument, Algoza.

Banking veteran Uday Kotak awarded Padma Bhushan

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) The Centre on Sunday announced the Padma Awards on the eve of Republic Day, with veteran banker and industrialist Uday Kotak being conferred the Padma Bhushan for his exceptional contribution to the financial sector. Uday Kotak's journey is seen as one of the most remarkable success stories in India's financial sector.In the early 1990s, Kotak Finance expanded into areas such as auto loans, investment banking and stockbroking at a time when India was opening up its economy.The timing proved crucial, as economic liberalisation in 1991 created new opportunities for private financial institutions.

Patna NEET aspirant death: Semen traces point to rape, say police

Patna**, Jan 25 (IANS)** The police investigating the NEET aspirant death case in Patna on Sunday said that the forensic report of the student's clothes has detected traces of semen, a finding that suggests sexual assault of the girl.



Police will obtain a DNA profile from the traces of semen detected in the forensic report, officials said.

In another development in the case, the Patna police late on Saturday night suspended Hemant Jha, additional officer-in-charge of Kadamkuan police station and the officer-in-charge of Chitragupt Nagar police station, sub-inspector, Roshni Kumari, on charges of dereliction of duty in the case.

The 18-year-old aspirant and a resident of Jehanabad, who was preparing for the medical entrance exam NEET, was found unconscious in the room of Shambhu Girls Hostel in Patna's Chitragupt Nagar earlier this month.

She was staying at the private hostel to take coaching for the examination. She died at a private hospital on January 11 after remaining in a coma for days. Her family had alleged that she was sexually assaulted, accusing authorities of attempting a cover-up. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) is investigating the case.

A statement issued by the SSP office said, "The forensic report of the student's clothes, which she wore at the time of hospitalisation, detected traces of semen in the leggings. These clothes were provided by the family members of the victim on January 10 and further police sent these clothes for forensic examination. Now, SIT, investigating the case, will obtain a DNA profile from the semen detected in the scientific report. It will also be matched with the DNA profile of the accused arrested in the and also with the suspects".

FIR against selfie brigade for disrupting R-Day rehearsal

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) The Delhi police registered an FIR and initiated legal action after some members of the public disrupted the Republic Day parade rehearsal by clicking photographs, recording videos and taking selfies, officials said on Sunday.

A senior police officer said that a video of the matter came to the notice of the police, showing people interfering with the rehearsal at the parade venue. Such actions pose a serious risk to the safety of the participants as well as to the public present at the site, the officer said. "Legal action has been taken, and an FIR has been registered in this regard," he said. The officer also urged the spectators -- whether seated in the designated enclosures or watching from the roadside -- to strictly follow the safety norms and avoid any activity that could endanger lives or disrupt the parade. Rehearsals for the Republic Day parade involve complex movements, heavy equipment and coordinated drills, where even minor disturbances can lead to accidents, he cautioned

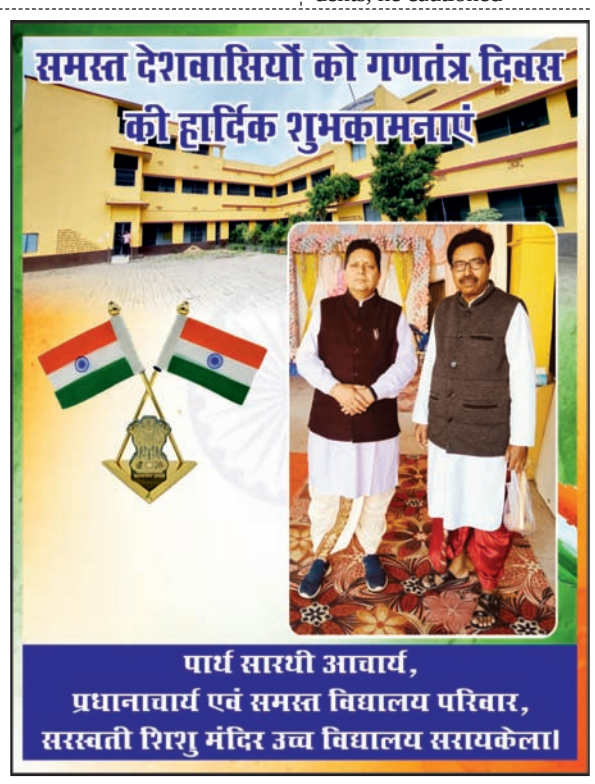




















The Journey of India as a Republic

Republic Day marks a defining milestone in India's national journey. It marks the day the Constitution of India came into force on 26th January 1950, formally establishing the country as a 'Sovereign Democratic Republic'. While independence on 15th August 1947 ended colonial rule, it was the adoption of the Constitution that completed India's transition to self-governance based on law, institutional accountability, and the will of the people of India.

This constitutional milestone is commemorated each year through observances that reflect the functioning of democratic institutions and the diversity of the nation. Republic Day celebrations bring constitutional ideals into the public domain, most visibly through the national ceremony and parade held in New Delhi along the Kartavya Path. The parade presents a coordinated display of military discipline, cultural heritage, and regional representation, with tableaux from states and Union Territories highlighting India's cultural plurality. Across the country, flag-hoisting ceremonies, official programmes, and cultural events are organised in state capitals, districts, educational institutions, and local communities. These events make Republic Day a shared civic occasion that reaffirms the values and principles enshrined in the Constitution.

77th Republic Day: 150 Years of Vande Mataram

The 77th Republic Day celebrations are organised around the central theme "150 Years of Vande Mataram". The theme runs across the Republic Day Parade, cultural performances, tableaux, public competitions, and outreach programmes, placing the national song at the heart of this year's observance while linking freedom, cultural expression, and contemporary national aspirations.

At the national level, the Republic Day Parade 2026 has been planned as a large-scale ceremonial and cultural event with enhanced public participation. The President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission will be the Chief Guests, reflecting India's engagement with key international partners. This year's parade will also feature a Battle Array format by the Indian Army for the first time, alongside traditional marching contingents and service presentations.

Key events of the Republic Day Parade 2026 include:

● A total of 30 tableaux, presented by States, Union Territories, and central ministries, built around the themes Swatantrata ka Mantra - Vande Mataram and Samriddhi ka Mantra - Atmanirbhar Bharat.

● Participation of around 2,500 artists in the cultural presentation at Kartavya Path.

● Invitation of approximately 10,000 Special Guests from across the country, representing farmers, artisans, scientists, innovators, women entrepreneurs, students, sportspersons, beneficiaries of flagship government schemes, and frontline workers.

Complementing the parade, a range of citizen-centric initiatives have been launched in the run-up to Republic Day to extend participation beyond the ceremonial space. Through platforms such as MyGov and MY Bharat, the Government has organised national competitions designed to engage citizens-especially youth and creative communities-with the Republic Day theme. These include:

● An essay competition on Swatantrata Ka Mantra - Vande Mataram.

● A painting contest on Samriddhi Ka Mantra - Atmanirbhar Bharat.

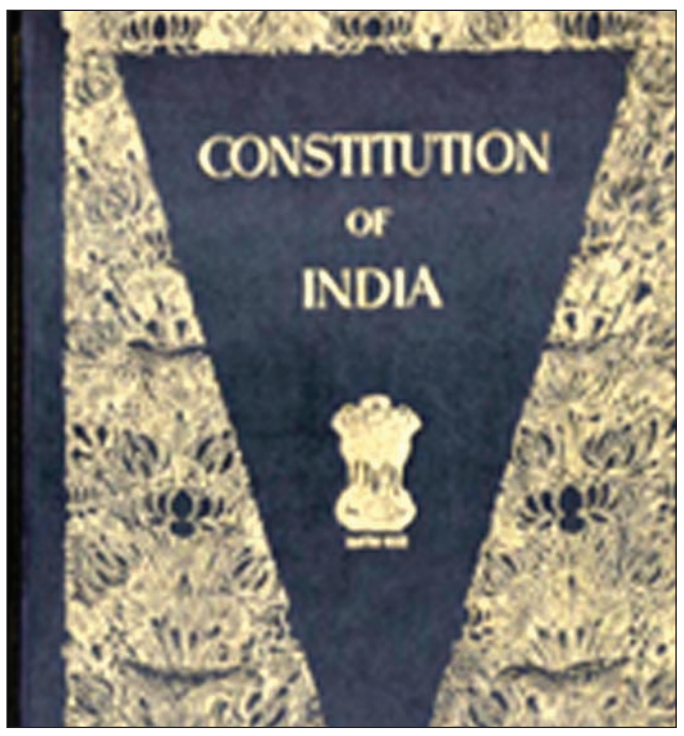
" Singing competitions featuring renditions of Vande Mataram.

● Quizzes on themes such as the evolution of Vande Mataram, India's achievements in space and sports, and national development initiatives.

Participation in these activities is facilitated through a dedicated MY Bharat portal for Republic Day 2026, which enables registration, coordination, and outreach. Selected winners are also invited to be associated with Republic Day events, creating a direct link between public engagement and the national celebration.

Taken together, the theme-driven parade, expanded public presence, and nationwide participatory programmes position the 77th Republic Day as a celebration that combines ceremonial tradition with inclusive engagement, allowing citizens to connect with the occasion both as spectators and participants.





26th January: From Purna Swaraj to the Constitution

The decision to declare 26th January as Republic Day reflects a deliberate historical choice to anchor India's constitutional beginning in the milestones of its freedom struggle. Over two decades, the date came to symbolise a clear progression-from the assertion of complete independence in 1930 to the formal adoption of a constitutional system of self-government in 1950. Understanding this journey is essential to understanding Republic Day itself, as it reveals how political aspiration was gradually transformed into a durable, constitutional order.

India's path from Independence to Republic

● 26th January 1930 - Call for Purna Swaraj

The demand for Purna Swaraj (complete independence) became a formal political objective in 1929, after resolutions adopted during the national struggle for freedom. On 26th January 1930, Indians across the country observed Purna Swaraj Day, committing themselves to the goal of complete self-rule and rejecting dominion status under British governance. This declaration and nationwide observance marked a decisive shift in the freedom movement, articulating a clear political objective that went beyond demands for constitutional reforms under colonial rule.

● 9th December 1946 - Constituent Assembly begins work

The Constituent Assembly of India met for the first time on 9th December 1946 at the Constitution Hall, now the Central Hall of Parliament House. This marked the formal beginning of India's constitution-making process. Entrusted with the responsibility of framing a Constitution for independent India, the Assembly worked for two years, eleven months, and seventeen days to complete this historic task. During this period, it held eleven sessions spread over 165 days, with 114 days devoted to detailed discussion of the Draft Constitution. Its members were chosen through indirect elections by the Provincial Legislative Assemblies, along with representatives of the princely states, ensuring that the Constitution was shaped through a broadly representative and deliberative process.

● 15th August 1947 - India attains independence

On 15th August 1947, India attained independence, bringing an end to nearly two centuries of colonial rule. The transfer of power marked the culmination of a long and sustained freedom struggle led by leaders, freedom movements, and ordinary citizens across the country. Independence restored political sovereignty to the Indian people and initiated the task of nation-building, as the newly free nation began shaping its future based on democratic ideals, unity, and self-determination.

● 26th November 1949 - Constitution of India adopted

After nearly three years of extensive deliberations, the Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution of India, completing one of the most significant exercises in democratic institution-building. The drafting process involved detailed discussions on the nature of the Indian State, the rights and duties of citizens, the balance of power between different parts of government, and safeguards for social justice and equality. The adoption of the Constitution marked the culmination of this collective effort to establish a governance framework rooted in democratic values and constitutional principles. The date of adoption, 26th November 1949, is formally recorded in the concluding line of the Preamble, underscoring its constitutional authority and historical importance.

● 26th January 1950 - Constitution comes into force

● When the Constitution came into effect on 26th January 1950, India was formally established as a Sovereign Democratic Republic, marking the beginning of constitutional governance in independent India. Through the 42nd Amendment Act in 1976, 'Socialist and Secular' were added, thereby making India Sovereign, Socialist Secular Democratic Republic. The newly drafted Constitution was enforced by replacing the Government of India Act 1935. With this, authority was given to democratic institutions operating under the Constitution, and sovereignty was placed with the people. The choice of 26th January was deliberate, as the date carried the historical legacy of the Purna Swaraj observance of 1930, when complete independence had been asserted as the national objective. By bringing the Constitution into force on this date, independent India symbolically connected the political aspirations of the freedom movement with the institutional framework of a constitutional republic.

● Republic Day Today: National Celebration and Living Constitutional Values

● Republic Day unfolds each year as a shared national moment, where ceremony, colour, and collective memory come together. From the capital to the farthest corners of the country, the day is marked by flag hoisting ceremonies and parades by armed forces and school children, creating a shared sense of significance.

● The grandest and most important of these parades is held at the Kartavya Path in New Delhi, which showcases a multi-hued image of the country's cultural heritage and military prowess. The day begins with a solemn tribute at the National War Memorial, where the Prime Minister pays homage to our fallen soldiers, setting a reflective tone before the main ceremony.

● At Kartavya Path, the arrival of the President of India formally marks the commencement of the proceedings. The unfurling of the National Flag, accompanied by the National Anthem and a 21-gun salute, signals the beginning of the parade. Marching contingents of the Army, Navy and Air Force, along with other uniformed services, pass in ceremonial formation, reflecting discipline and coordination. Mechanised columns and selected defence presentations further add to the spectacle.

A distinctive feature of the parade is the presentation of tableaux by States/ Union Territories and the Ministries, which highlight regional culture and themes of national importance. Cultural performances integrated into the procession also add visual depth without interrupting its formal rhythm. One of the main functions of the parade is to honour the martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the country and to bestow bravery awards upon military personnel and citizens. Signature segments such as the motorcycle display and the Indian Air Force fly past bring the parade to its grand conclusion.

The ceremonial observances conclude a few days later on January 29. This is called the Beating the Retreat ceremony which is held at Vijay Chowk, marking the formal close of Republic Day celebrations. 'Beating Retreat' marks a centuries old military tradition, when the troops ceased fighting, sheathed their arms and withdrew from the battlefield and returned to the camps at sunset at the sounding of the Retreat.

Tech Revolution in the Indian Startup Ecosystem: No-Code Tools Empower Non-Technical Entrepreneur



Rachna Tiwari

In a remarkable shift that is democratizing the startup landscape across India, entrepreneurs without technical backgrounds are now launching sophisticated digital businesses thanks to an array of accessible no-code tools.

As someone who transitioned from the competitive world of fashion entrepreneurship to nurturing the next generation of business leaders, I've witnessed firsthand how technology barriers that once seemed insurmountable are rapidly dissolving.

"When I started my fashion label fifteen years ago, creating even a basic website required hiring expensive developers," shares Anjali Singh, founder of a sustainable clothing brand in Jaipur. "Today, my teenage daughter built our company's mobile app in a weekend."

The AI-Powered Transformation

The integration of artificial intelligence into website and app development platforms has been revolutionary, particularly for India's vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Recent data from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade shows that over 40% of recognized startups in India now have a founder with no formal technical education-a testament to how these tools are leveling the playing field.

Several platforms stand out for Indian entrepreneurs:

Bolt has gained popularity among small business owners for its intuitive interface and affordability. "I chose Bolt because it understood the specific needs of the Indian market-from multiple language support to UPI integration," notes Rahul Verma, who recently launched an e-commerce platform for handloom products from Northeast India.

Rollout.site offers templates specifically designed for Indian businesses, including festival-themed marketing pages and culturally relevant design elements.

Dora.run/ai has become a favorite for those looking to create apps with voice commands in multiple Indian languages-a game-changer for entrepreneurs targeting Tier 2 and 3 cities.

Replit appeals to ambitious non-technical founders who want to learn basic coding while building their platforms, facilitating a gradual technological upskilling process.

Relume.io has found traction among India's creative professionals, particularly in the booming content creation economy.

Lovable.dev offers specialized features for service-based businesses, which continue to dominate India's startup ecosystem.

Beyond Metropolitan Innovation

These tools are particularly transformative beyond India's tech hubs of Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR, and Mumbai. Aspiring entrepreneurs in smaller cities no longer need to relocate to access technical talent.

"I'm based in Indore and built my entire educational platform using no-code tools," explains Shreya Patel, founder of an edtech startup focused on skills development for rural women. "Five years ago, I would have needed to move to a major city just to assemble a development team."

Educational Institutions Embracing the Change

At entrepreneurship development centers across India, from premier IIMs to state universities, curricula are rapidly evolving to incorporate these no-code platforms.

"When students-especially those from non-engineering backgrounds-realize they can build a functional prototype without writing code, it completely changes their confidence level," observes Dr. Rajiv Sharma, Director of Innovation at a leading business school in Chennai. The trend aligns perfectly with the government's Startup India initiative, which aims to foster entrepreneurship and innovation across diverse sectors and demographics.

The Road Ahead

As these tools continue to evolve with AI capabilities, the barriers to digital entrepreneurship will likely decrease further. Industry experts predict that by 2028, over 70% of new applications in India will be built with minimal traditional coding.

For aspiring entrepreneurs, my advice is simple: don't let technical limitations hold back your business vision. Explore these platforms, experiment with building your digital presence, and focus on what truly matters-solving real problems for your customers.

The democratization of technology is perhaps the most significant gift to India's entrepreneurial ecosystem in decades. As we continue to nurture the next generation of business leaders, it's heartening to see that innovation is no longer the exclusive domain of the technically trained.

(Author is a formidable force in the realm of entrepreneurship. With a career spanning eleven years, Rachna has solidified her expertise in HR, entrepreneurship, and innovation ecosystem development. Views are personal.

Republic Day Parade 2026 pays tribute to India's rivers and river guardians



Rivers are profound cultural symbols, serving as the "lifeblood" of civilizations and repositories of collective heritage and cultural diversity. In a unique initiative this year, enclosures for Republic Day Parade have been named after the Rivers, flowing across the nation, i.e. Beas, Brahmaputra, Chambal, Chenab, Gandak, Ganga, Ghagra, Godavari, Sindhu, Jhelum, Kaveri, Kosi, Krishna, Mahanadi, Narmada, Pennar, Periyar, Ravi, Sone, Sutlej, Teesta, Vaigai and Yamuna.

A total of 163 Special Guests comprising of water warriors will attend the Republic Day Parade 2026 at Kartavya Path, New Delhi as Special Guests of Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR). This comprises of 28 persons from Uttarakhand, 10 persons from Jharkhand, 40 persons from Bihar and 85 persons from Uttar Pradesh.

Ganga Praharis - Guardians of the river are motivated and trained volunteers from among the local communities working for biodiversity conservation and cleanliness of the Ganga River with the ultimate objectives of restoring the Nirmal and Aviral Dhara and conserve the ecological integrity of Ganga River under joint collaboration of National Mission for Clean Ganga and Wildlife Institute of India.

Besides the Ganga Praharis, private citizens/NGOs involved in the protection and conservation of aquatic fauna i.e. dolphins, turtles etc. and river conservation and community outreach have also been invited for witnessing the Republic Day Parade.

This Special Guest invitation not only recognizes community contribution but also provides an opportunity for rural citizens to witness a national-level ceremony of historic significance at Kartavya Path. Their presence will reinforce the message of people's participation (Jan Bhagidari) and community engagement as central elements of national development efforts. These Special guests will be seated in Periyar enclosure.

When Deepika Padukone said Farah Khan saw olden heroine charm in her during Om Shanti Om

Mumbai Jan 25 (IANS) Bollywood superstar Deepika Padukone, in a throwback interview with Lehren TV, during her debut film Om Shanti Om, had credited filmmaker Farah Khan recognising her charm that reflected the grace of old Hindi cinema actresses.



Deepika, in the interview was heard saying, “I think Farah knew or felt that I have that olden actresses style. If you have seen the song, you can see my hand movements like that, of olden times heroines. I think somewhere Farah felt that I have a little bit of the olden-day actresses in me.”

She also mentioned that it was probably because of this, Farah did not need to place too much emphasis on her body language or character detailing, refering to her movie's character where she is seen as a retro Bollywood star heroine, Shantipriya.

The actress further revealed that she, personally has closely studied legendary actresses like Hema Malini, Madhubala and Vyjayanthimala to understand their grace and screen presence. “I studied their films carefully and tried a little bit like them,” said Deepika.

Speaking about her look in the film, Deepika clarified that it was not copied from any specific actress. “There are no looks of different actresses. It is only inspired by the 70s. We have not copied any old Indian actress,” she explained.

Upasana Singh breaks silence on rift rumours with Kapil Sharma

Mumbai Jan 25 (IANS) Bollywood actress Upasana Singh, best known for her popular characters on The Kapil Sharma Show, in an exclusive conversation with IANS, has opened up about her absence from the comedy show. She has also clarified that there was never any fallout between her and comedian Kapil Sharma, putting all rumours to rest.

In a candid interview with IANS, Upasana said that Kapil continues to be like a younger brother to her, dismissing rumours of any bad blood between them.

“For me, Kapil is still like my younger brother. We talk to each other and share a good bond. If he needs me ever on the show and if I like the character , I would surely go,” she said. Recalling her journey on the show, the actress



said that she and the team stayed at the top of TRP charts for nearly two-and-a-half years. “People enjoyed my character a lot. I became Jag Bua and later Pinky Bua, and both were loved by the audience,” she added.

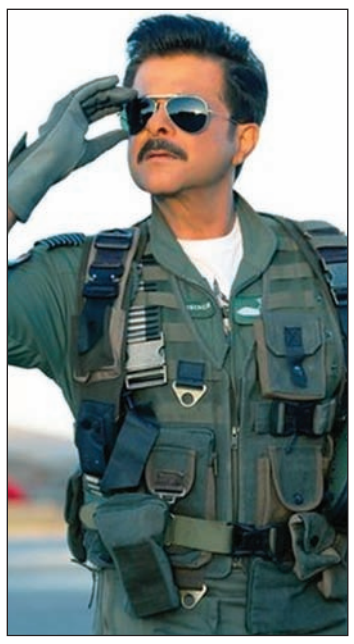
Talking about returning to Kapil’s show, Upasana stated that she was open to returning to the show, but only if she was given a significant role. She further explained that when Kapil shifted channels and offered her a part again, she did return briefly. However, things did not work out creatively.

“Kapil was extremely busy with his film commitments at that time and did not have the time to work on the detailing of my character. Because of that, it didn’t fully satisfy me as an actor,” she said.

The actress also stressed that she has no regrets and is happy with moving forward in life. “Whatever God has written for me, that is what I will do,” she said, adding that she is currently happy focusing on her film projects.

Anil Kapoor says 'Some journeys don’t end with the release' as Fighter turns 2

Mumbai, Jan 25 (IANS) It has been two years since veteran actor Anil Kapoor graced the screen as Group Captain Rakesh "Rocky" Jaisingh in Siddharth Anand's aerial action drama "Fighter".



As the project completed 2 years of release on Sunday, Anil took to his official Instagram handle and dropped a couple of pictures of himself from the flick.

Reflecting on the memories with utmost gratitude, Anil also penned a heartfelt note saying, "Two years later, Fighter still soars high. Looking back with so much gratitude for the memories that stay long after the screens fade. Some journeys don’t end with the release... (sic)."

"Here’s to the spirit, the people, and the love that keeps it alive.#2YearsOfFighter", he added.

Hema Malini reunites with Ramesh Sippy to launch 'Society Achievers' cover marking 50 years of 'Sholay'

Mumbai, Jan 25 (IANS) Veteran actress Hema Malini reunited with filmmaker Ramesh Sippy recently, when she unveiled the cover of Society Achievers cover featuring the legendary filmmaker. Ramesh Sippy attended the event with his wife, actor Kiran Juneja.

As the cover was revealed, the conversation progressed into cherished memories from a time when filmmaking demanded immense physical endurance, emotional honesty, and deep creative trust.

Hema Malini shared that her association with the filmmaker was built on creative faith. When he was casting for ‘Sholay’, with its ensemble of powerful performers, he was unsure whether to approach Hema Malini for the role. It was considered a bold career move, to be one among many towering characters in a film driven by such a strong lineup rather than being the solo leading lady.



He hesitated, wondering whether the part was right for her at that stage in her career. But Hema Malini trusted his instinct. She said, “Yes”.

That decision, born out of mutual respect and belief in storytelling over stardom, went on to become part of cinematic history. Looking back, the warmth between them reflected not just professional collaboration but deep artistic trust.

Ramesh Sippy said, “The same holds true for each of our actors”.

He, however, reflected that Sholay could never truly be recreated because the original characters and performers were once-in-a-lifetime forces.

But the actress gently countered, with affection and faith, “Maybe with new characters. New talent. And maybe you could be the one to direct it.”

‘Sholay’ blended elements of Westerns, dacoit films, and buddy cinema. Set in the fictional village of Ramgarh, the film follows two ex-criminals, Jai and Veeru, hired by a retired police officer, Thakur Baldev Singh, to capture the bandit Gabbar Singh.

Health

Common parvovirus B19 can cause serious encephalitis: AIIMS Bhopal

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) Commonly found viruses such as the parvovirus B19 (PVB19) can cause serious brain infections like encephalitis, said researchers from the AIIMS Bhopal on Saturday.

Parvovirus B19 is a common virus with which most people come into contact at some point in their lives. In some rare cases, especially in children, the elderly, and people with weakened immune systems, this virus can affect the brain.

The researchers analysed 14 international studies conducted over the past 30 years, involving more than 3,000 patients. The virus was found in approximately three out of every 100 patients.

“The common virus called parvovirus B19 can cause serious brain disease encephalitis in some rare cases,” AIIMS Bhopal shared in a post on the social media platform X.

“Encephalitis can involve high fever, headache, confusion, seizures, and sometimes permanent brain damage or death,” it added.

According to researchers, even though PVB19 is not the most common cause of encephalitis, identifying it in some cases can save the patient's life.

“For those patients in whom the cause of encephalitis is not clear, doctors can now also consider testing for this virus. Timely and correct identification can lead to better treatment and increase the chances of the patient's recovery,” the post read.

Jackie Shroff wishes Happy Birthday to his 'mentor' Subhash Ghai

Mumbai, Jan 25 (IANS) Actor Jackie Shroff used social media to share a belated birthday post for his 'mentor' and the 'ultimate storyteller', Subhash Ghai.

Sharing a couple of photos with Subhash from what looked like an event, Jackie wrote on the photo-sharing app, "50 years of cinema! A lifetime of inspiration! Happy Birthday to my mentor and the ultimate storyteller. (sic)"

It must be noted that Jackie and Subhash enjoy a long personal and professional association, which commenced from the 1983 film "Hero".

The two later went on to join forces for several other movies such as "Karma", "Ram Lakhan", "Saudagar", "Khalnayak", and "Yaadein".

Subhash turned 81 years old on



Saturday, and marking his special day, Anil Kapoor penned a heartfelt birthday post for the 'Taal' maker on social media.

In the post, Anil lauded the director's immense passion for cinema, his clarity of thought, and generosity of spirit.

Grateful for all the lessons and memories during his time with Subhash, the 'Animal' actor penned, "Happy Birthday, @SubhashGhai1 saab Your passion for cinema, clarity of thought, and generosity of spirit have left a lasting impact. Grateful for the lessons, conversations, and memories over the years. Wishing you continued good health, happiness, and success."

Just like Jackie, Anil has also collaborated with the filmmaker on several blockbusters, including "Meri Jung", "Karma", "Ram Lakhan", "Taal", and "Yuvvraaj".

It must be pointed out that both Jackie and Anil worked with Subhash on two projects, "Karma" and "Ram Lakhan".

In addition to these two, veteran actor Shatrughan Sinha also wished Subhash, saying, "Warm wishes for a very dear family friend & one of my closest friend from my FTII days, ace filmmaker, master 'show man', legendary @SubhashGhai1.

Shriya Saran talks about shooting in the pre-social media era

Mumbai, Jan 25 (IANS) Bollywood actress and South star Shriya Saran marks her 25th year in the entertainment industry this year.

The actress, talking to IANS, reflected on how the film world has evolved over the years, especially with the shift from the pre-social media era to the post social media times.

The actress, in an exclusive conversation with IANS, spoke about the changes she has witnessed on film sets over the years.

Shriya said that earlier, everything was very different. “The lights were harsh and would hurt your eyes, the cameras were different, and I remember waiting on set until I heard the sound of the camera rolling,” she said.

She highlighted that in current times, the technology has boomed and become far more comfortable, with softer lights



and advanced cameras, making the working environment easier for actors.<

Kim Kardashian reveals how she scammed the media

Los Angeles, Jan 25 (IANS) Reality star Kim Kardashian has shared how she once "scammed" the paparazzi by pretending to pay a visit to Britney Spears in a ploy to get her picture taken.

The Kardashians star has opened up about the lengths she went to boost her profile at the start of her career and she revealed she fooled photographers who were waiting outside a hotel in New York with the help of her longtime pal Jonathan Cheban, reports ‘Female First UK’.

She explained the ruse during an appearance on her sister, Khloe Kardashian's ‘Khloe In Wonderland’ podcast, saying, "It (being famous) was all I wanted, I lived for it ... "We were at a restaurant and we heard these people like, 'Oh Britney Spears is staying



at this hotel in New York'. "So this person at dinner had this crazy Phantom Rolls Royce. Jonathan and I could hardly even get a cab. So, we were like, 'Can we get a ride to our hotel?’ and the guy’s like: 'Yeah’. And, we were like we'll sit in the back”.

She further mentioned, “So, it looks like we got out with a driver at this hotel, and we got out. Paparazzi everywhere waiting for Britney. At her hotel. They weren’t following us at this point, and we got out and they were like, ‘Kim, Kim, Kim are you here to visit Britney?’ and Jonathan’s like, 'Keep your head down and just shut up'”.

Aari Arjunan-starrer '4th Floor' to hit screens in February this year

Chennai, Jan 25 (IANS) If sources close to director L.R. Sundarapandi's eagerly awaited psychological thriller film, '4th Floor', featuring actor Aari Arjunan in the lead, are to be believed, the film is to hit screens in February this year. Sources close to the unit of the film have now disclosed that the makers are looking to release the film in the later part of February this year.

Produced by A. Raja under Mano Creations and directed by L.R. Sundarapandi, the film, a unique thriller, is set in an extraordinary milieu. The story unfolds amidst a series of thrilling events in a residential building in central Chennai. Sources from the unit say that director L.R. Sundarapandi has crafted a screenplay that is full of astonishing twists and that is guaranteed to provide an unprecedented thriller experience to audiences.



As a psychological thriller, the film would look to explore the intricate connection between dreams and reality, the sources pointed out and informed that the unit of the film had now completed the entire shooting process.

"The film has been completely shot in Chennai and its surrounding areas," the sources added.

Aari Arjunan plays the protagonist, with Deepshika playing the female lead in this film. Actors Pavithra, director Subramania Siva, Thalaivasal Vijay, and Adithya Kathir too will be seen playing pivotal roles in this film. On the technical front, the film owes its visuals to gifted cinematographer J. Lakshman, who is best known for his work in popular movies like 'Poda Podi' and 'Vennila Kabadi Kuzhu'. Music for the film has been scored by Dharan of Poda Podi fame while art direction has been handled by Suresh Kalleri, known for his work in gripping social dramas 'Aneedhi', 'Jail', and the popular web series 'Mathagam'.

The sources also inform that Post-production work of the film is progressing at a brisk pace and that the team has plans to release the music and trailer shortly.

India, EU likely to seal long-pending free trade deal on Jan 27

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) India and the European Union are expected to announce the conclusion of talks on a long-pending free trade agreement on January 27, a deal that leaders on both sides have described as the "mother of all deals".

The agreement, which has been under negotiation for more than a decade, is seen as a major step in deepening economic ties between the two regions at a time of growing global trade uncertainty, as per reports.

According to a research note by Emkay Global dated January 25, a broad-based free trade agreement could significantly boost India's trade position with the European Union.

The deal may widen India's trade surplus with the EU by more than $50 billion by FY31. It could also raise the EU's share in India's total exports to around 22-23 percent, compared with



17.3 percent in FY25, providing a strong push to India's export growth. While India currently accounts for only about 0.8 percent of the EU's export market, the agreement is becoming increasingly important for Europe as well.

Europe's trade balance with India has shifted sharply in recent years, with the EU moving from a trade surplus of $3 billion in FY19 to a trade deficit of $15 billion in FY25.

The deal also fits into Europe's broader efforts to reduce its dependence on China and diversify its global supply chains.

The expected gains from the agreement are likely to come from a gradual shift in the nature of India's exports to the EU.

Higher-value products such as electronics, machinery and chemicals are expected to gain a larger share, moving beyond traditional labour-intensive goods.

This is particularly important as the EU's share in India's exports has slipped to 16.8 percent so far in FY26.

Emkay Global noted that Europe's reduced reliance on Russian energy and its push to source more goods outside China have already increased demand for Indian products such as refined fuels, electronics and chemicals. A free trade agreement could further strengthen these trends by making trade cheaper and more predictable.

In FY25, total goods trade between India and the European Union crossed $136 billion. India's imports from the EU stood at $60.7 billion, while its exports to the bloc were valued at $75.9 billion.

Trade experts say the structure of trade between the two sides is largely complementary rather than competitive.

Ajay Srivastava, founder of the Global Trade Research Initiative, said Indian exports to the EU, including smartphones, garments, footwear, tyres, pharmaceuticals, auto parts, refined fuels and cut diamonds, mainly replace imports that Europe earlier sourced from other countries.

Many of these manufacturing activities were already offshored by European firms years ago.

At the same time, EU exports to India include high-end machinery, aircraft, core electronic components, chemicals, advanced medical devices and metal scrap.

China's interests in Venezuela now subject to Trump preferences

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) With deposing Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro and taking over the country's oil industry, the US is in the position to derail China's ambitions in the South American country in the near future, according to reports.

Beijing's foothold there is in doubt as the US asserts new power over Venezuela's oil patch, reports Wall Street Journal. "Beijing's production deals, oil rigs and debt-backed supply arrangements have long bought it enormous sway in Venezuela - all of it now suddenly subject to the Trump administration's preferences," the report mentioned. Chinese government-owned oil companies hold claims to more than 4 billion barrels of Venezuelan oil, which is nearly five times as much as Chevron - the only US major that today produces in the South American nation. Venezuela's cheap oil, of which up to 50 million barrels are expected to flow to the US, may then help Washington secure its own processing capabilities. Meanwhile, President Donald Trump is encouraging US companies to re-enter Venezuela and invest $100 billion there. Chinese companies have invested around $4.8 billion in the South American country the last two decades, as per data by the US-based research firm Rhodium Group. Trump also cited Venezuela while outlining his energy, economic, and security agenda this month, saying recent US actions involving the South American nation were helping lower fuel prices and support growth.

Russia eyes India's regional aviation market, showcases civil aircraft at 'Wings India 2026'

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) Russia's decision to showcase its civil aircraft, the Ilyushin IL-114-300 and the Superjet SJ-100, at Wings India 2026 in Hyderabad marks a new phase in India-Russia economic cooperation, with a clear focus on civil aviation, a report has said.

The move signals Moscow's intent to tap into India's fast-growing regional aviation market through long-term industrial partnerships rather than a simple aircraft sales push, according to The Sunday Guardian report.

So far, India's aviation growth has largely been driven by massive aircraft orders placed by Indian airlines with Airbus and Boeing.

However, beyond these headline deals lies a fast-expanding regional aviation segment that connects tier-two and tier-three cities. Supported by airport expansion and the government's UDAN connectivity scheme, this segment carries an estimated 18 to 36 million passengers every year and represents a multi-billion-dollar opportunity across aircraft purchases, leasing, maintenance, training and operations. Russia is now aiming squarely at this market. Given the long-standing defence and industrial ties between India and Russia, experts believe New Delhi could be open to allowing Russian manufacturers to set up local production and assembly lines under the "Make in India" programme.

Union Budget: PM Modi govt on road to reform towards 'Viksit Bharat' goal

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) The Union Budgets under Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the last 11 years have become a vehicle of transformation and policy reforms, ensuring ease of doing business for industries, including MSMEs and startups, and more purchasing power for the common people.

In the first Union Budget 2014-15 under the PM Modi government, the personal income tax exemption limit was raised from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 2.5 lakh (and to Rs 3 lakh for senior citizens). Additionally, the investment limit under Section 80C was increased from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.5 lakh.

Notably, in a move to attract global capital and modernise infrastructure, the FDI cap in the defence and insurance sectors was raised from 26 per cent to 49 per cent.



The government also announced an ambitious plan to develop 100 Smart Cities across the country as satellite towns of larger cities and by modernising existing mid-sized cities, allocating an initial Rs 7,060 crore.

The budget had emphasised the "Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana" for rural roads and proposed the development of new airports and facilitating the wide use of the PPP Models.

Fast forward to Union Budget 2025-26, and we can see how the government has not only kept its promises but doubled down on reforms.

The Income Tax Bill, 2025, marks a significant step towards replacing India's six-decade-old direct tax framework, with the government seeking to balance investor confidence, taxpayer relief, and administrative efficiency with the new law.

The tax policy reforms include those in corporate tax, where a tax rate of 22 per cent was provided to those companies that do not claim specified deductions and exemptions and a 15 per cent tax rate for new manufacturing companies for a specified period, and in individual taxation, where the new tax regime provides for liberal slabs and lower rates with increased rebates. The individuals earning up to Rs 12 lakh (Rs 12.75 lakh effectively for salaried taxpayers, due to standard deduction of Rs 75,000) are not required to pay tax by these slabs, rates and rebates -- thus boosting savings, consumption, and disposable income of salaried households.

Moreover, Rs 1.7 crore farmers are set to benefit under PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, covering 100 low-productivity districts, along with Mission Aatmanirbharta in Pulses and higher KCC loans up to Rs 5 lakh.

The credit guarantee limit was doubled from Rs 5 crore to Rs 10 crore, the National Manufacturing Mission was launched, and major customs duty exemptions were announced in the last Budget to strengthen the 'Make in India' initiative and job creation.

Bajaj Finance loses over Rs 14k cr in market value last week

Mumbai, Jan 25 (IANS) Bajaj Finance's market capitalisation fell by over Rs 14,000 crore last week as weak market sentiment dragged down most of India's top-valued companies.

The sharp fall came amid a broader sell-off in equities, driven by global uncertainties, foreign investor outflows and pressure on the rupee.

The combined market valuation of nine of the top-10 most valued companies declined by Rs 2.51 lakh crore last week -- reflecting a sharp downturn in the stock market.

Bajaj Finance was among the major losers, with its market capitalisation slipping by Rs 14,093.93 crore to Rs 5,77,353.23 crore.

The benchmark Sensex witnessed heavy selling pressure during the week and fell by 2,032.65 points, or 2.43 per cent. Market experts said negative global cues, continuous selling by foreign institutional investors, a weakening rupee and muted corporate earnings weighed



heavily on investor sentiment. Ajit Mishra, Senior Vice President of Research at Religare Broking, said the markets saw a sharp sell-off with bears firmly in control throughout the week due to multiple domestic and global concerns. Reliance Industries suffered the biggest blow among the top companies, with its market valuation plunging by Rs 96,960.17 crore to Rs 18,75,533.04 crore. ICICI Bank's valuation declined by Rs 48,644.99 crore to Rs 9,60,825.29 crore, while HDFC Bank lost Rs 22,923.02 crore, taking its market value to Rs 14,09,611.89 crore. Bharti Airtel's market capitalisation dropped by Rs 17,533.97 crore to Rs 11,32,010.46 crore. Tata Consultancy Services saw its valuation fall by Rs 16,588.93 crore to Rs 11,43,623.19 crore, and Larsen & Toubro lost Rs 15,248.32 crore to settle at Rs 5,15,161.91 crore. State Bank of India's market value slipped by Rs 11,907.5 crore to Rs 9,50,199.77 crore, while Infosys saw a decline of Rs 7,810.77 crore, taking its valuation to Rs 6,94,078.82 crore. In contrast, Hindustan Unilever emerged as the only gainer among the top-10 firms, with its market capitalisation rising by Rs 12,311.86 crore to Rs 5,66,733.16 crore. Despite the weekly losses, Reliance Industries remained India's most valued company, followed by HDFC Bank, TCS, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever and Larsen & Toubro.

India reinforces global clean energy leadership at WEF 2026: Joshi

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) India has reinforced its commitment to accelerate the clean energy transition through stable policies, global cooperation and long-term investment, positioning itself as a key driver of the global energy transition, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi said after returning from the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2026 in Davos.

Joshi said his engagements at WEF 2026 renewed global confidence in India's renewable energy journey and strengthened strategic partnerships with governments, investors and industry leaders from across the world. "The discussions underlined India's resolve to move faster towards clean energy growth backed by predictable regulations, policy stability and sustained international collaboration," Joshi added.

At Davos, the minister presented India's long-term clean energy investment story, highlighting strong



coordination between the Centre and states, transparent policies and consistent stakeholder engagement.

"Global leaders and investors expressed confidence in India's ability to rapidly scale renewable energy while ensuring economic growth and social inclusion," he said.

During various sessions and media interactions, Joshi highlighted India's progress in renewable energy through people-focused programmes and strong execution.

He said global stakeholders showed strong interest in India's project pipeline and appreciated flagship schemes such as PM-Surya Ghar and PM-KUSUM, which have demonstrated India's capacity to implement large-scale clean energy programmes efficiently.

India's push to strengthen domestic manufacturing across the solar PV value chain also received positive feedback -- reinforcing the country's position as a reliable and competitive clean energy manufacturing hub.

The minister said India's growing export potential in green hydrogen derivatives was seen as an important factor in supporting energy transitions in partner countries.

Addressing global leaders, Joshi spoke about the growing role of artificial intelligence in the energy sector.

He said AI can help improve forecasting, reduce power losses, cut costs and strengthen grid reliability.

RBI may cut rates further if India-US trade deal is delayed: Goldman Sachs

Mumbai, Jan 25 (IANS) India's strong economic fundamentals continue to support a healthy growth outlook, but prolonged uncertainty over the India-US trade deal could push the Reserve Bank of India to step in with further rate cuts.



According to Goldman Sachs, if trade-related headwinds persist beyond the first quarter of FY27 and start weighing on growth, the RBI may use its remaining policy space to support the economy through additional monetary easing.

The brokerage said India's mass consumption story, especially in rural areas and among lower-income households in cities, is still in the early stages of recovery.

This recovery is being supported by a good crop cycle, higher state-level transfer payments to women in lower-income families and GST cuts that benefited the bottom end of the consumption ladder. Goldman Sachs believes these factors are helping demand gradually pick up, even though broader global uncertainties remain.

In an interaction with NDTV Profit, Santanu Sengupta, Chief India Economist at Goldman Sachs, said the India-US trade deal is expected to be finalised by the first quarter of FY27. However, he warned that if the agreement is pushed beyond this period and into the second half of the next financial year, it could create growth headwinds.

In such a situation, the government and the Reserve Bank of India may need to use their policy space to support the economy. Sengupta explained that while India's overall consumption outlook remains positive, the picture is mixed across income groups. The affluent segment of consumers, which includes the middle and top income groups, saw strong growth after the Covid-19 pandemic but is now showing signs of slowing.

India's tax-to-GDP ratio reaches 19.6 pc

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) India's combined tax-to-GDP ratio has reached 19.6 per cent, placing the country at par with several major global economies and highlighting steady progress in tax collection efficiency, according to a report by Bank of Baroda.

The ratio includes both central and state tax collections and is higher than that of several emerging markets such as Hong Kong, Malaysia and Indonesia. The report noted that while India's central gross tax revenue stands lower at 11.7 per cent of GDP, the overall integrated figure reflects stronger participation by states and better compliance across the system.

However, India still trails advanced economies such as Germany, which has a tax-to-GDP ratio of around 38 per cent, and the United States, where the ratio is about 25.6 per cent.

Bank of Baroda said this gap presents a major policy opportunity for India, especially given its favourable demographic profile. The report highlighted that the government is increasingly focusing on comprehensive tax reforms aimed at simplification, rationalisation and digitisation. These efforts are expected to push the tax-to-GDP ratio higher in the coming years.

Key regulatory steps, including the introduction of the Income Tax Act, 2025, and the rationalisation of corporate tax structures, are expected to improve transparency and make compliance easier.

The new Income Tax Act, scheduled to come into effect from April 1, 2026, is also expected to widen the tax base by bringing more of the informal economy into the formal system.

AI systems must be tested on diverse, population-scale datasets before deployment: NHA CEO

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) Artificial intelligence models in healthcare must be tested on large and diverse population datasets before being deployed on the ground to ensure trust, accuracy and inclusion, National Health Authority (NHA) Chief Executive Officer Dr Sunil Kumar Barnwal, said on Sunday. Speaking at the Federated Intelligence Hackathon on Health AI, organised as a pre-event to the India AI Impact Summit 2026 at IIT Kanpur, Dr Barnwal said India is now moving from experimentation to building benchmarked and reliable AI models for healthcare. He stressed that federated and consent-driven AI systems allow innovation to scale without centralising sensitive health data, thereby protecting privacy and strengthening public trust.

'Wings India 2026' to showcase rise of Indian aviation: Govt

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) With its unmatched scale, global participation and strategic focus, Asia's largest civil aviation event, 'Wings India 2026', is set to be a defining moment for the global aviation community, the government said on Sunday.

The event, scheduled from January 28-31 at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad, will be formally launched by Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu, in the presence of senior dignitaries from India and abroad. With over 150 exhibitors, 7,500 business visitors, one lakh general visitors, more than 200 foreign delegates, over 500 B2B and B2G meetings, and aircraft displays exceeding 31 aircraft, it is set to be a landmark event not only for India but for the global aviation community. According to the ministry, "the launch will mark the beginning of a landmark global aviation gathering that will showcase India's transformation into a major aviation hub for connectivity, manufacturing, services, innovation and sustainability". 'Wings India 2026' will highlight how India's aviation ecosystem has evolved into a powerful engine of economic growth, regional development and global integration.



Over the last decade, India's civil aviation sector has witnessed unprecedented expansion. While passenger traffic has surged multi-fold, placing India among the world's top aviation markets, hundreds of new aircraft have been inducted by Indian carriers, with record-breaking aircraft orders positioning India as one of the largest future aircraft markets globally.

"Airport infrastructure has expanded rapidly, with new greenfield airports, modernised terminals and enhanced regional connectivity under flagship initiatives such as UDAN. India is emerging as a strong hub for aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), pilot training, aerospace manufacturing, cargo logistics, and advanced air mobility," said the ministry.

A major push toward sustainable aviation, including Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), green airports and digital air navigation, is reshaping the future of flight. 'Wings India 2026' will bring together policymakers, global CEOs, investors, innovators, airlines, airports, OEMs, MROs, lessors, technology providers, training institutions and startups, making it one of the most comprehensive aviation platforms in the world.

Dharmendra, Achuthanandan, Harmanpreet, Akash missile developer among 2026 Padma awardees

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) Veteran actor Dharmendra and Left stalwart and former Kerala Chief Minister V.S. Achuthanandan have been awarded the Padma Vibhushan posthumously on the occasion of the Republic Day 2026, late JMM founder and former Jharkhand Chief Minister Shibu Soren, singer Alka Yagnik, and Malayalam superstar Mammotty the Padma Bhushan, and sportspersons Harmanpreet Kaur, Rohit Sharma, and Savita Punia the Padma Shri.

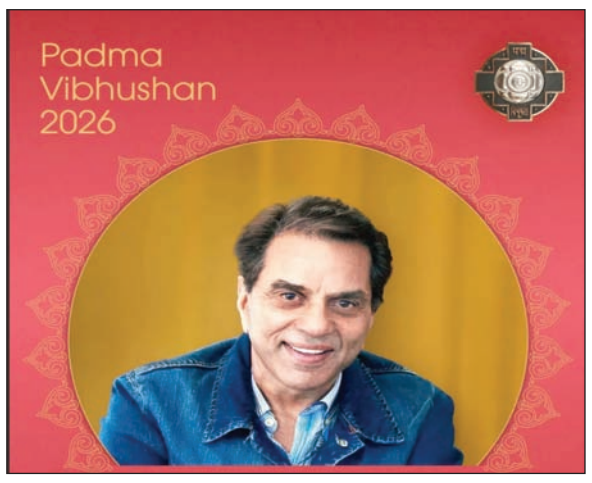
President Droupadi Murmu has approved the conferment of 131 Padma Awards, including 2 duo cases (where the Award is counted as one), an official statement said.

As per the list, announced on the eve of the Republic Day, five Padma Vibhushans, 13 Padma Bhushans and 113 Padma Shris have been awarded this year.

As many as 19 of the awardees are women, while the list also includes six foreigners/NRI/PIO/ OCI recipients. Sixteen awards are posthumous.

Announcing the second-highest national award for Dharmendra, it termed the late actor an "Enduring Hindi cinema legend who left an indelible influence on Indian popular culture through 300 films and a career spanning seven decades".

The other awardees of the Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest national award, are former Supreme Court judge, Justice K.T. Thomas, for contributing to judicial policy, and championing law reforms, classical violinist N Rajam, "who globalised Hindustani classical music in her 75-year career" and "pioneered Gayaki Ang vocal style and introduced Khayal Gayaki Ang" and Malayalam literateur and journalist P. Narayanan.



The Padma Bhushan awardees include former Uttarakhand Chief Minister and Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari. US-based Dr Nori Dattatreyudu, late advertising maestro Piyush Pandey, tennis maestro Vijay Amritraj, banker Uday Kotak, veteran BJP leader and former MP V.K. Malhotra, and influential Kerala Ezhava community leader and SNDP Yogam supremo Vellappally Natesan.

Among the recipients of the Padma Shri are India women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur Bhullar, former Indian men's cricket team captain Rohit Sharma, space scientist A.E. Muthunayagam, veteran theatre actor Anil Kumar Rastogi, Karnataka social activist Anke Gowda, who built India's largest free personal library of over 20 lakh books, acclaimed actor Satish Shah (posthumous), women's hockey player Savita Punia, and Tollywood legend Prosenjit Chatterjee.

Other leading recipients include paediatrician Armida Fernandez, who established Asia's first human milk bank and revolutionised neonatal care, significantly reducing infant mortality, veteran hockey coach Baldev Singh, who transformed the women's hockey team, accomplished aerospace engineer Chandramouli Gaddamanugu, who directed the Akash Missile System from development to deployment in Operation Sindoor, prolific Carnatic vocalist duo Gayatri Balasubramanian and Ranjani Balasubramanian, and paralympic gold medal-winning high-jumper Praveen Kumar.

The foreign recipients of the Padma Shri include globally acclaimed German museologist Lars Christian Koch, who researched the theory and practice of North Indian classical music, acclaimed Russian Indology professor and linguist Liudmila Viktorovna Khokhlova, known for her contributions to Hindi, Punjabi, Gujarati, and Marwari studies, and Georgian Vladimer Mestvirishvili, the "legendary freestyle wrestling coach, who mentored Olympic medallists and helped shape India into a global wrestling powerhouse".The Padma Awards are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. The Awards are given in various disciplines/fields of activities, viz., art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc. 'Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order, and 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field.

CEC Gyanesh Kumar hails India's transparent democratic system on National Voters' Day

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Sunday celebrated the 16th National Voters' Day (NVD-2026) with the theme "My India, My Vote - Citizen at the Heart of Indian Democracy", even as Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar hailed India as the world's largest and most transparent democracy.

Earlier, addressing the event, President Droupadi Murmu described voting as a reflection of citizens' faith in the democratic process, according to an official statement.

Speaking on the occasion, CEC Gyanesh Kumar said that India has not only been the birthplace of democracy but has also emerged as the world's largest and most transparent democratic system.

He said India's leadership of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) reflects global trust in its electoral framework.

The CEC noted that India also led the adoption of the Delhi Declaration 2026 at the recently concluded India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM-2026), described as the world's largest democracy and election summit.

He added that the India International Institute of Democracy and Electoral Management (IIIDEM) is emerging as a global training hub for election management.

The ECINET technology platform is also drawing international interest, he said.

CEC Gyanesh Kumar further asserted that a pure voters' list and active citizen participation remain the foundation of India's strong and vibrant democracy.

EAM Jaishankar meets European Council President Costa, European Commission chief Leyen

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Sunday met European Council President Antonio Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who are the Chief Guests for the Republic Day ceremony, and expressed confidence that their upcoming discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi will herald a new chapter in India-EU ties.

"Delighted to welcome President European Council President Antonio Costa and President European Commission Ursula von der Leyen to India. A great privilege to have them as Chief Guests for the 77th Republic Day celebrations," EAM Jaishankar posted on X.

"Confident that their upcoming discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi will herald a new chapter in India - European Union relations," he added.

Costa and Von der Leyen, who are the Chief Guests for the 77th Republic Day celebrations, were accorded a ceremonial welcome and Guard of Honour here on Sunday.

Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada welcomed Costa at the airport as he arrived for his state visit.

"India-EU : A partnership of Trust and Reliability. A cordial welcome to the President of the European Council Antonio Costa as he arrives in New Delhi for a State Visit to India. Received by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry; and Electronics and Information Technology Jitin Prasada," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X.

PM Modi condoles demise of journalist Mark Tully

New Delhi, Jan 25 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday expressed grief over the demise of Sir Mark Tully, a towering voice of journalism.

The Prime Minister said that Sir Mark Tully's deep connection with India and its people was vividly reflected in his works.

He noted that Sir Mark's reporting and insights have left an enduring mark on public discourse.

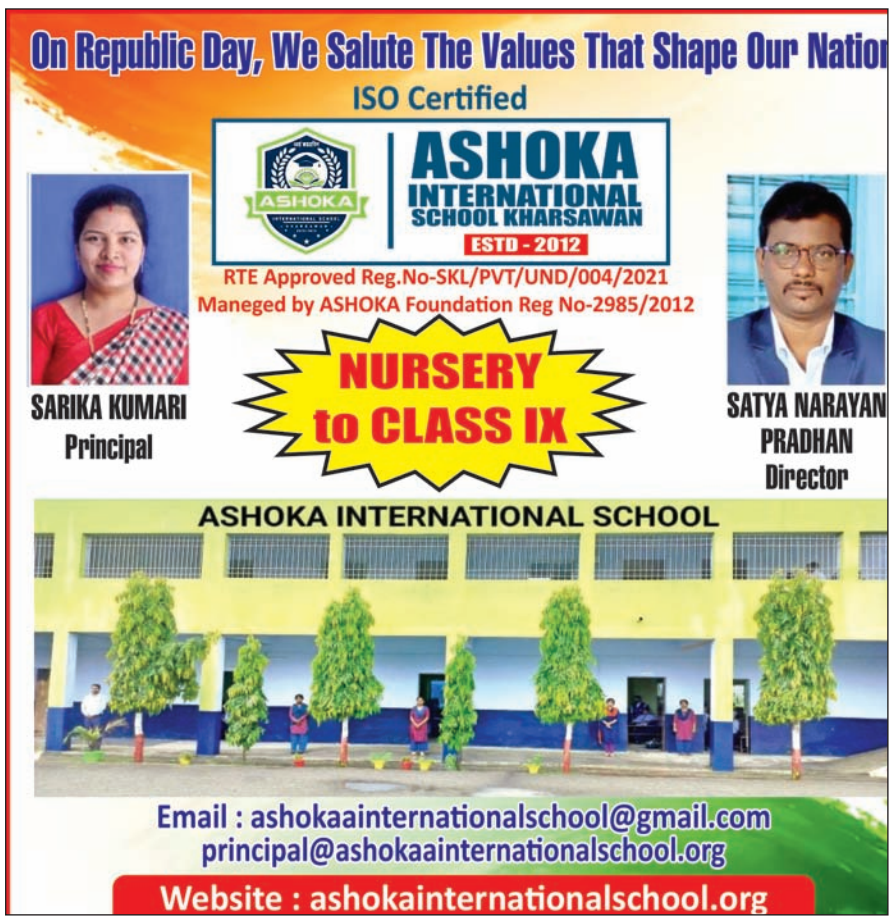
The Prime Minister conveyed his condolences to the bereaved family, friends and admirers of Sir Mark Tully.

The Prime Minister wrote on X: "Saddened by the passing of Sir Mark Tully, a towering voice of journalism. His connect with India and the people of our nation was reflected in his works.

His reporting and insights have left an enduring mark on public discourse. Condolences to his family, friends and many admirers."















Maoist commander Anal Da's tragic legacy: Two daughters who never knew their father's love

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 25: The killing of dreaded Maoist commander Anal Da alias Patiram Manjhi in Jharkhand's Saranda forests may be a major success for security forces, but behind the encounter lies a deeply tragic human story. It is the story of two daughters who grew up without ever experiencing a father's love, a wife who spent her life waiting for a husband who never returned, and an elderly mother who learnt of her son's death through a mobile phone call.

Patiram Manjhi left home nearly 25 years ago, claiming to fight poverty and injustice, but eventually erased his own existence by turning into a hardened Maoist. While he chose the path of violence, it was his family that paid the heaviest price.

From Giridih's Jharha Village to the Forests of Saranda

Patiram Manjhi hailed from Jharha village under the Pirtand police station area in Jharkhand's Giridih district. His family includes his 80-year-old mother Barki Devi, father Chhathu Manjhi, wife Shyamli Devi, and two daughters- Rani and Neelu. Barki Devi affectionately called her son "Nunwa." It was the same Nunwa who left home one day and never came back.

Barki Devi received the news of her son's death from security forces through a mobile phone call. Speaking in her local dialect, she said, "Nunwa left home and never returned. I heard about his death on the phone." The elderly woman does not receive an old-age pension, as she does not even have a bank account.

Daughters Who Do Not Remember Their Father's Face : Patiram Manjhi's daughters, Rani and Neelu, do not even remember what their father looked like. His wife, Shyamli Devi, breaks down every time his name is mentioned. She says she never got the chance to live a normal married life.



"I could not meet my husband even once in all these years while he was alive," she says. Their daughters do not remember when they last met their father, or if they ever truly did.

Drawn into Maoist Movement in the 1990s : Villagers recall that around 1990, Patiram Manjhi was influenced by movements against feudal oppression and moneylenders in the region and joined a Maoist organisation. He married Shyamli Devi in 1998, and the couple later had two daughters. Due to his involvement in extremist activities, he was arrested and sent to jail.

After his release, he returned home only to see crushing poverty. According to his wife, in 2002, he left home again, saying he was going out to work, and never returned.

A Crore-Rupee Bounty, Yet Poverty at Home : Although Anal Da later became a top Maoist commander with a bounty running into crores of rupees, his family remained trapped in poverty. Their mud house collapsed, forcing Shyamli Devi to move in with her brothers-in-law. The family survived on farming and daily wage labour. With their support, she raised both daughters and eventually got them married.

Village in Mourning, Daughters Inconsolable : After Patiram Manjhi was killed in an encounter, Jharha village was engulfed in grief as residents waited for his body to arrive. Many villagers had never seen him in person, yet everyone knew his name and his actions. Outside his house, people stood silently, their faces marked by sorrow.

His two daughters were inconsolable. They carry the lifelong pain of knowing that they had a father, but were never blessed with his love. While the death of Anal Da may have brought an end to a violent Maoist chapter, the tragedy left behind raises a haunting question- can the path of guns and bloodshed ever truly change poverty or destiny?

New committee formed for Bangiya Utsav 2026 at Jsr meeting

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 25: A crucial meeting of the Bangiya Utsav Committee was held at the Milani Auditorium in Bistupur, during which a new organizing committee for Bangiya Utsav 2026 was unanimously constituted.

Senior cultural organizers Mr. Amitabh Boxi and Mr. Anshuman Choudhury were appointed as patrons of the festival. A distinguished advisory board was also formed, comprising eminent personalities from various social and cultural organizations across Jharkhand, including Purabi Ghosh, Shubankar Chatterjee, Indrajit Ghosh, Prakash Mukherjee, Raju Dutta and Krishnendu Chatterjee of Da Milani, Bistupur, Mithilesh Ghosh of Sabuj Kalyan Sangh, Telco; Kajal Mukherjee of Sabuj Sangh, Sonari; Rituraj Ghosh; Nishit Giri of Sewabrat Neel Sangh, Kadma; Shetanko Sen of Ranchi, Rabindranath Das of Bahargora, Chittaranjan Das of Akhil Bairagi Samaj, Rabi Majhi of Suvarna Banik Samaj, Dr. Madan Sarkar of Patamda, and Begu Thakur of



Dhanbad.

Mr. Partha Sarathi Chatterjee was appointed Chairman of the newly formed committee. Yoga Guru Mr. Anshu Sarkar was named President, while Ms. Aparna Guha was appointed Executive President. Mr. Uttam Guha was elected General Secretary.

Joint Secretaries include Mr. Abhijit Sarkar (Nantu), Mr. Devjit Sarkar, and Mr. Ashok Dutta. Mr. Amit Maity was appointed Treasurer, assisted by Co-Treasurers Mr. Subir Kumar Kundu and Mr. Subhash Singh Rai. Mr. Amit Bose of Sabuj Kalyan Sangh, Telco, was entrusted with the role of Auditor, and Mr. Gora Barman was appointed President for Seraikela-Kharsawan district.

The grand Bangiya Utsav will be held on February 1 at Gopal Maidan, Jamshedpur, with participation expected from Bengali-speaking communities across Jharkhand. Renowned Bengali folk singer Ms. Arpita Chakraborty and the popular 'Sur Sangam' music group from Malda will perform at the event.

MLA Sanjib inaugurates football tournament in Potka

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 25: A vibrant blend of sports, culture, and tradition was on display in the Potka Assembly constituency on Saturday as local MLA Mr. Sanjib Sardar inaugurated a three-day football tournament and cultural programme organized by the Shri Shri Saraswati Puja Committee at Bara Bandua village under the Potka block.

Interacting with the players during the inauguration, the MLA encouraged them to play with dedication and sportsmanship. He remarked that sports not only help maintain physical fitness but also instill discipline, teamwork, and leadership qualities among the youth.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Sardar emphasized that sports and cultural activities form a strong foundation for the holistic development of society. He stated that such events generate positive energy among young people and help keep them away from drugs and other negative influences. Stressing the importance of promoting sports in rural areas, he said that providing



platforms for local talent would enable the Potka region to gain recognition at the state level.

Later in the day, Mr. Sardar attended the 41st annual sports and cultural programme organized by the Kisan Sporting Club at Baredih village under Matku Panchayat, where he was present as the chief guest. He motivated the players and participants and extended his best wishes for their performances and future endeavors.

The event was attended by members of the JMM Potka Block Committee, Matku Panchayat Committee, Majhi Baba, Nayke Baba, members of the organizing committee, and a large number of villagers. In addition, the MLA visited Pichli village under Matku Panchayat to attend the traditional Basibhat programme organized at the residence of Mr. Vishnu Mandal following Saraswati Puja. He interacted with family members and conveyed his greetings, noting that such traditional customs strengthen social harmony and mutual brotherhood.

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गणतंत्र दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं



विधायक संजीव सरदार ने पोटका विस क्षेत्र में बहाई विकास की बयार

आजादी के बाद पहली बार पोटका को मिलने जा रहा अपना डिग्री कॉलेज



35 करोड़ की लागत से खड़ियासाई में शुरू हुआ निर्माण कार्य

पोटका प्रखंड के हेंसलबिल पंचायत के खड़ियासाई में झारखंड सरकार ने आजादी के बाद पहली बार डिग्री कॉलेज का निर्माण शुरू किया। विधायक संजीव सरदार ने सैंकड़ों ग्रामीणों की मौजूदगी में भूमिपूजन कर औपचारिक शुरूआत की। विधायक ने कहा कि यह लंबे समय से ग्रामीणों की मांग थी। अब छात्राओं और छात्रों को उच्च शिक्षा के लिए जमशेदपुर या घाटशिला नहीं जाना पड़ेगा । यह हेमंत सरकार की विकासशील सोच का परिणाम है । कॉलेज के प्रशासनिक और शैक्षणिक भवन 35 करोड़ रूपये की लागत से तैयार होंगे और 21 माह में कार्य पूरा होगा ।



100 बेड का आधुनिक हॉस्पिटल और सिकल सेल लैब का उद्घाटन

पूर्वी सिंहभूम जिले के स्वास्थ्य ढांचे को सुदृढ़ करते हुए सदर अस्पताल खासमहल में 100 बेड वाला प्री–फेब्रिकेटेड हॉस्पिटल और अत्याधुनिक सिकल सेल एनीमिया लैब का उद्घघटन किया गया । इस अवसर पर झारखंड के स्वास्थ्य मंत्री इरफान अंसारी और पोटका विधायक संजीव सरदार ने संयुक्त रूप से इस महत्वपूर्ण परियोजना का शुभारंभ किया । इन हॉस्पिटल की शुरूआत से पोटका विधानसभा और आसपास के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के लोगों को बेहतर और तेज स्वास्थ्य सेवाएँ उपलब्ध होंगी । गंभीर रोगों और आपतकालीन मामलों में मरीजों को तुरंत उपचार मिलेगा । साथ ही, सिकल सेल एनीमिया की जांच अब स्थानीय स्तर पर ही संभव होगी, जिससे हजारों परिवारों को राहत मिलेगी । विधायक संजीव सरदार ने इसे पोटका के लिए ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धि बताया और कहा कि इससे समय और धन दोनों की बचत होगी ।



आसानबनी की बहुप्रतीक्षित मांग पूरी, नए स्वास्थ्य उपकेंद्र का शिलान्यास

पोटका प्रखंड के आसानबनी क्षेत्र के ग्रामीणों की लंबे समय से उठाई जा रही मांग पूरी हो गई । पोटका विधायक संजीव सरदार ने नए स्वास्थ्य उपकेन्द्र का भव्य शिलान्यास किया । विधायक संजीव सरदार ने कहा कि जनता की सुविधा और स्वास्थ्य हमारी प्राथमिकता है । बेहतर डॉक्टर, अत्याधुनिक मशीनें और 24X6 सेवाएँ उपलब्ध कराना हमारी प्रतिबद्धता है । मैं राज्य सरकार और स्वास्थ्य मंत्री का हृदय से धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि उन्होंने पोटका को प्राथमिकता देते हुए इतनी बड़ी स्वास्थ्य सुविधा दी ।



प्लस-2 उच्च विद्यालय भवन की शिलान्यास, जल्द खुलेगा सीएम स्कूल ऑफ एक्सीलेंस

पोटका प्रखंड के सानग्राम में विधायक संजीव सरदार ने +2 उच्च विद्यालय ने नए भवन का विधिवत शिलान्यास किया। 1 करोड़ 3 लाख रूपये की लागत से 10 कमरों का दो मंजिला भवन बनाया जाएगा, जिसे 15 माह में आरकेसीपीएल कंस्ट्रक्शन पूरा करेगा । विधायक ने कहा कि भाजपा सरकार ने कई स्कूल बंद किये थे, लेकिन हेमंत सरकार शिक्षा को गाँव–गाँव तक पहुँचा रही है। पोटका में जल्द ही सीएम स्कूल ऑफ एक्सीलेंस भी खुलेगा। साथ ही छह माध्यमिक विद्यालयों को प्लस–2 में उत्क्रमित किया जा रहा है, जिससे क्षेत्र के हजारों बच्चों को उच्च स्तरीय शिक्षा का लाभ मिलेगा ।



12 करोड़ की लागत से कुलियाना घाट में बनेगा पूल

पोटका प्रखंड के आसनबनी पंचायत के तिलामुड़ा मौजा स्थित स्वर्णरेखा नदी के कुलियाना घाट पर विधायक संजीव सरदार ने पुलिया का शिलान्यास किया । यह 12 करोड़ रूपये की लागत से बनेगा और 16 माह में पूरा होगा । पुल से पोटका और घाटशिला के कई गांव सीधे एनएच–33 से जुड़ेंगे, जिससे जमशेदपुर, पश्चिम बंगाल और आसपास से क्षेत्रों तक आसान संपर्क मिलेगा । पहले ग्रामीणों को लंबा चक्कर लगाना पड़ता था, अब दूरी घट जाएगी । विधायक ने कहा कि यह पुल विकसित पोटका की नींव है और इससे क्षेत्रवासियों को स्वास्थय, रोजगार और शिक्षा में सुविधा होगी। पुल मंख्यमंत्री ग्राम संतु योजना के तहत सत्यम कंस्ट्रक्शन द्वारा बनाया जाएगा ।

Ganja peddler arrested with 140 packets in Bagbera

Jamshedpur, Jan 25: Bagbera police carried out a major crackdown against drug trafficking and arrested a man with 140 packets of ganja near the Sanjay Nagar culvert. One of his associates, however, managed to flee from the spot. Based on the statement of SI Neera Tigga, a case has been registered at the Bagbera police station. The FIR names two accused - Mohd Anwar Hussain (38), a resident near the Durga Puja ground in Kitadih under Parsudih police station area, and Ramesh Kumar of Khasmahal, also under Parsudih police station. Mohd Anwar Hussain has been arrested, while efforts are on to trace the absconding accused Ramesh Kumar. Bagbera police station in-charge Gopal Krishna Yadav said the police received specific information about the sale and purchase of ganja near the Sanjay Nagar culvert. Acting swiftly on the tip-off, a special team was formed and dispatched to the location. On spotting the police, one accused fled, while Mohd Anwar was apprehended on the spot. During a search, 140 packets of ganja were recovered from his possession. The arrested accused is being interrogated, and police believe that crucial information related to the ganja supply chain and network may emerge during questioning. (W-pm)

Youth's body recovered from drain, family suspects murder

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Jan 25: Panic spread in the Kalyannagar area under Sitaramdera police station area on Sunday morning after the body of a youth was recovered from a drain.

Soon after the information surfaced, a large number of local residents gathered at the spot.

On receiving the information, Sitaramdera police rushed to the spot and sent the body for post-mortem examination.

The deceased has been identified as Rahul, a resident of Adityapur.

According to family members, Rahul was originally from Adityapur and had come to stay at his uncle's house in Kalyannagar two days ago. He had been missing for the past two days. On Sunday morning, his body was found in the drain. The circumstances surrounding the youth's death remain unclear.

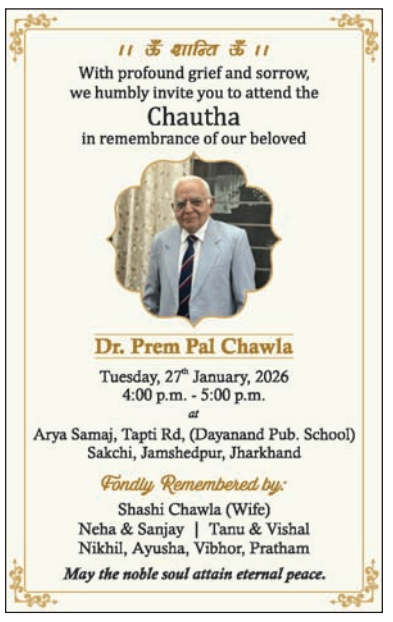
However, the family has expressed suspicion of murder. Police are investigating the case from all angles. Local residents are being questioned and the crime scene is being closely examined.

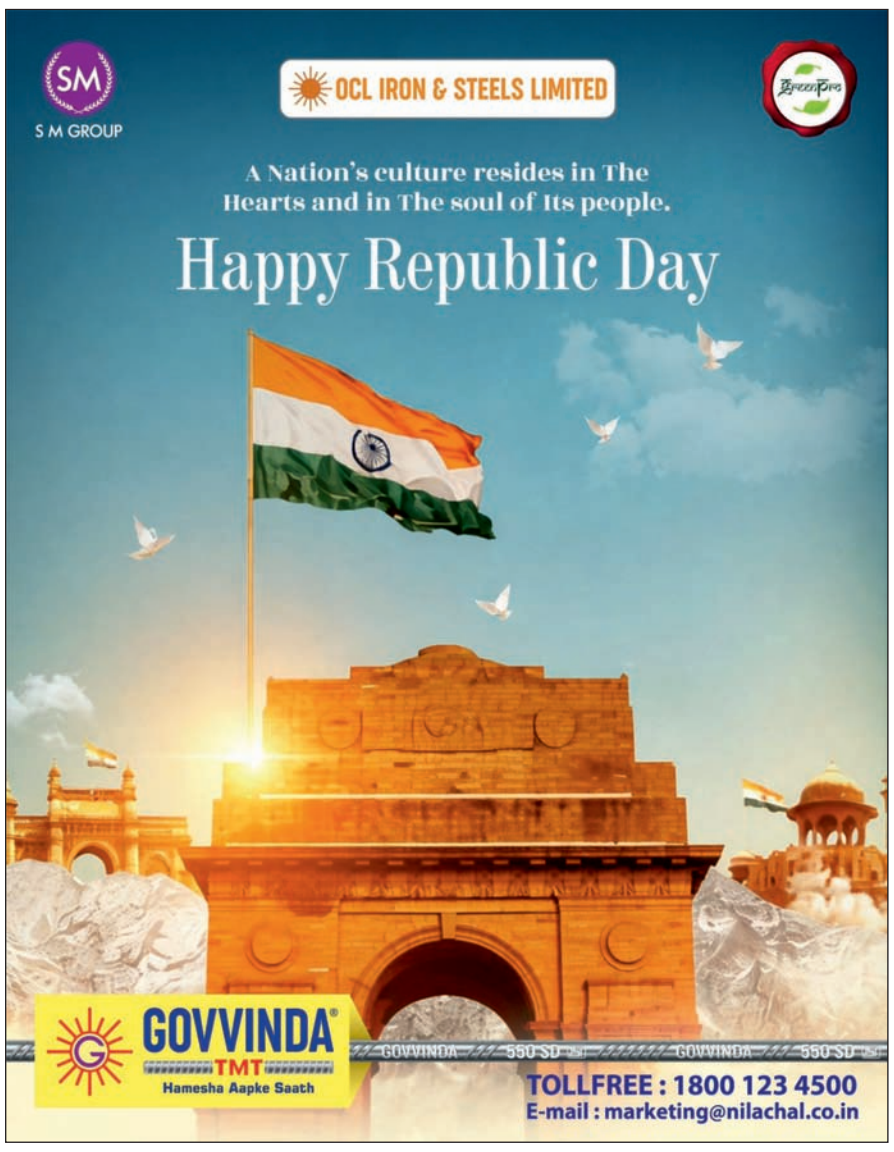
Following the incident, several speculations are doing the rounds in the area. Police officials stated that the exact cause of death will be known only after the post-mortem report is received. (W-pm)

BJP welcomes Padma Bhushan for late Shibu Soren

Jamshedpur, Jan 25: The announcement of the Padma Bhushan award for former Jharkhand Chief Minister and Dishoam Guru, late Shibu Soren, under the Padma Awards 2026 has evoked a positive response across Jharkhand's political landscape. Former Jamshedpur Metropolitan BJP district spokesperson. Ankit Anand has welcomed the decision and expressed gratitude to the Central Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In his statement, Mr. Anand said that the entire life of Shibu Soren, fondly known as Guruji, was devoted to the welfare of Jharkhand and its people. He emphasized that Guruji worked relentlessly for the upliftment of the tribal community and dedicated himself to public service, leaving a lasting impact on the socio-political fabric of the state.

Mr. Anand noted that Shibu Soren's long struggle and contributions played a crucial role in strengthening the identity of Jharkhand and empowering marginalized communities.





Uncontrolled truck runs over vegetable vendor

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Jan 25: An elderly farmer was critically injured after being run over by a speeding, out-of-control truck in the Patamda police station area of rural belt on Saturday. The incident took place in Chaura village, where the victim was packing vegetables by the roadside. The injured has been identified as Neelkanth Singh (69), a local farmer. He sustained severe head injuries in the accident and was initially admitted to MGM Hospital in an unconscious condition.

Considering the seriousness of his injuries, doctors referred him to RIMS Hospital in Ranchi for advanced treatment. According to villagers, the truck involved in the accident was being driven by Bhutnath Mahato, a resident of nearby Ghaghra village. He regularly transports vegetables from Garbeta in West Bengal to Jamshedpur. On Saturday, while returning from Jamshedpur, the driver allegedly consumed excessive alcohol and lost control of the vehicle barely two kilometres from his home, leading to the accident. On receiving information about the incident, JMM leader Subhash Karmakar informed the Patamda police and ensured that the injured farmer was rushed to the hospital. Acting on his initiative, the police seized the truck and took the driver into custody.

The truck owner, a resident of Purulia in West Bengal, has assured that all medical expenses for the treatment of the injured farmer will be borne by him.

Meanwhile, the JMM leader stated that he would also speak to the RIMS superintendent to ensure the best possible treatment for Neelkanth Singh. (W-pm)

