JHARKHAND'S OWN ENGLISH DAILY

THE AVENUE MAIL

JAMSHEDPUR •WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026 • VOL : 33 NO : 215 • RS.3/- • PAGES - 12 • www.avenuemail.in



GENELIA D'SOUZA GETS TEARY EYED SEEING HER 'BABY BOYS' FEATURE WITH SALMAN KHAN IN...: PAGE-10

Jharkhand municipal polls announced for 48 urban local bodies, voting on Feb 23

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Jan 27 : After a prolonged delay, the Jharkhand Election Commission on Tuesday announced the schedule for elections to 48 urban local bodies in the state. Polling will be held on February 23, while counting of votes will take place on February 27.

State Election Commissioner Alka Tiwari announced the schedule at a press conference here on Tuesday, stating that the Model Code of Conduct has come into force with immediate effect in all 48 municipal areas.

The election process will begin on February 4 with the filing of nominations. Scrutiny of nomination papers will follow, and February 6 has been fixed as the last date for withdrawal.

She said election symbols will be allotted on February 7. Voting will be held in a single phase across the state from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on February 23, and results will be declared on February 27.

The elections will be conducted through ballot papers and on a non-party basis. The commission has clarified that the NOTA option will not be available, making it mandatory for voters to choose from the contesting candidates.



Elections will be held in 48 urban local bodies, including nine municipal corporations, 20 municipal councils, and 19 nagar panchayats, covering a total of 1,087 wards.

Notably, polls in 13 urban bodies have been pending since 2020, while elections in the remaining municipal corporations and councils -- including Ranchi -- have not been held since 2022.

For the first time in the state, reservations have been provided for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women, and Other Backward Classes across all municipal bodies.

Among municipal corporations, the Mayor's post in Ranchi has been reserved for Scheduled Tribes. The post will be unreserved in Dhanbad, Bokaro, and Deoghar, while Palamu and Mango have been reserved for women. In Hazaribagh, the Mayor's post is reserved for Extremely Backward Class-I, in Giridih for Scheduled Castes, and in Adityapur for Scheduled Tribes.

In municipal councils, the chairperson's post in Garhwa, Chatra, Dumka, Chaibasa, and Kapali will be unreserved, while Vishrampur, Pakur, Mihijam, Chirkunda, and Jugsalai have been reserved for women.

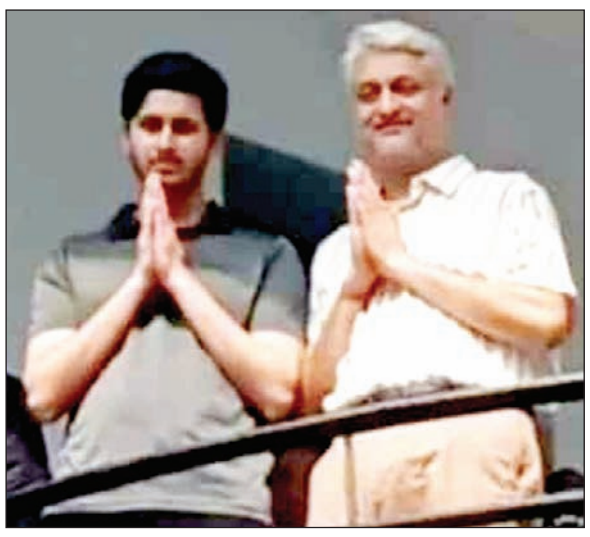
Municipal elections in major cities such as Ranchi, Dhanbad, Jamshedpur, Bokaro, and Deoghar are expected to be closely watched across the state.

Kairav Gandhi rescued, no ransom paid

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 27 : In a decisive success for the East Singhbhum Police, 24-year-old Kairav Gandhi, who was abducted earlier this month, has been rescued safely after sustained police pressure compelled the kidnappers to flee, abandoning the victim on a highway stretch in Jharkhand.

Jamshedpur Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Piyush Pandey addressed a press conference on Tuesday afternoon to provide the official account of the high-profile kidnapping and subsequent rescue of Kairav Gandhi, the son of local businessman Devang Gandhi.Dismissing earlier speculations, the SSP clarified that Kairav was abducted from the Kadma-Sonari Link Road, one of the city's busiest areas, on January 13. The kidnappers intercepted his vehicle and abandoned it at the scene. Notably, the culprits reportedly used a vehicle bearing a "Police" sticker to execute the crime, likely to avoid suspicion during the initial getaway.



Ransom Demands and Police Strategy

The SSP confirmed for the first time that the family had indeed received calls for ransom. While the exact amount discussed between the family and the kidnappers remains confidential, the SSP stated that the police advised the family against paying the ransom.

"Our primary objective was the safe recovery of the victim. We maintained constant pressure on the kidnappers, which eventually made it impossible for them to negotiate or hide safely," SSP Pandey said.

The Rescue Operations

Over the course of 14 days, seven special teams conducted raids across multiple states, including Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, and Odisha. The SSP revealed that the police had finally managed to zero in on the kidnappers' precise location.

Sensing that they were surrounded and fearing a direct confrontation or "encounter" with the police, the criminals abandoned Kairav on the stretch between Chauparan and Barhi and fled into the darkness. A police team moving in from the opposite direction secured the youth shortly after.

Victim's Condition

The SSP confirmed that Kairav Gandhi was not subjected to physical assault or exploitation during his 13 days in captivity. Following his rescue, he was immediately reunited with his family, as their priority was his return home after the long ordeal.

Search for Culprits Continues

While Kairav is safe, the SSP emphasized that the mission is not over. "We have significant leads on the gang involved. Our teams are currently in pursuit, and we expect to make arrests very soon," he added.

Jamshedpur affected as banks join nationwide strike

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 27: Banking services across Jamshedpur and other parts of the state were severely disrupted on Tuesday as bank employees observed a nationwide one-day strike demanding the implementation of a five-day workweek.

The strike had a widespread impact, with public sector banks, private banks, and regional rural banks remaining completely shut.

Bank employees stayed away from work and staged demonstrations outside their respective branches, raising slogans against the government.

Essential services such as cheque clearance, cash withdrawals and deposits, demand drafts, and other routine banking operations were suspended, causing significant inconvenience to customers.



The strike was called by the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU). Employees said they have been pressing for a five-day workweek since 2015, but no concrete decision has been taken so far.

They argued that several government departments and institutions already follow a five-day schedule, making the continued denial of the same facility to bank employees unjustified.

Addressing gatherings during the protest, union leaders highlighted the mounting pressure in the banking sector due to staff shortages, increasing business targets, the growing burden of digital transactions, and prolonged working hours.

They said these factors are adversely affecting employees' health and family life.

According to the unions, the introduction of a five-day workweek would not only provide much-needed relief to bank employees but also enhance efficiency and improve the overall quality of customer service.

In Jamshedpur, bank employees were seen holding banners and placards, urging the government to take a positive decision on their long-pending demands.

They warned that if the issue remains unresolved, the unions would be compelled to intensify their agitation in the coming days. (w- pm)

Four youths killed in tragic road mishap

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 27: A horrific road accident claimed the lives of four young men after a speeding truck rammed into a motorcycle in West Singhbhum district on Tuesday, sending shockwaves across the region.

One of the deceased was reported to be a resident of Jamshedpur.

According to preliminary information, the accident occurred when the truck, allegedly moving at high speed, collided head-on with the motorcycle on a busy stretch of road.

The impact was so severe that all four youths riding the bike died on the spot. Their bodies were found badly mangled, highlighting the intensity of the collision.

Local residents rushed to the spot after hearing the loud crash and immediately informed the police.

A team from the near-by police station reached the spot, cordoned off the area, and initiated rescue and investigation work.

The bodies were later sent for post-mortem examination.

The identities of the victims are being formally verified, while police officials confirmed that at least one of the deceased hailed from Jamshedpur, intensifying grief among family members and friends in the city.

News of the tragedy spread quickly, leading to an atmosphere of mourning in the victims' native places.

Preliminary investigation suggests reckless driving and over speeding as possible causes of the accident, though police said the exact circumstances would be established after a detailed probe.

The truck involved in the accident has reportedly been seized, and efforts are underway to trace and question the driver.

This tragic incident once again underscores growing concerns over road safety in the region.

Locals have demanded stricter enforcement of traffic rules and better monitoring of heavy vehicles to prevent such devastating accidents in the future. (W-pm)

India, Canada agree to boost energy cooperation

New Delhi, Jan 27 (IANS) India and Canada on Tuesday signed a joint statement to strengthen cooperation in the energy sector during the India Energy Week 2026 held in Goa. The agreement marks a renewed push to deepen bilateral ties in areas such as oil, gas, clean energy and long-term investments.

The joint statement followed a bilateral meeting between India's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, and Canada's Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Timothy Hodgson.Hodgson's participation at India Energy Week 2026 was significant as it marked the first time a Canadian Minister attended the event.



During the meeting, both ministers formally launched the renewed India-Canada Ministerial Energy Dialogue.They stressed that energy security and diversified supply chains are critical for the economic growth, safety and overall well-being of both countries.The meeting was held in line with the direction given by the Prime Ministers of India and Canada during their interaction on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in June 2025 in Kananaskis, Canada.

At that time, both leaders had underlined the need to restart senior-level and working-level engagements between the two countries.

India and Canada acknowledged that their energy sectors complement each other well. Canada aims to become a global energy superpower in both clean and conventional energy, with a strong focus on expanding exports.

India, on the other hand, is emerging as a central player in the global energy market due to its large and growing demand.

Canada highlighted its expanding capabilities in liquefied natural gas, crude oil, and liquefied petroleum gas exports, especially to Asian markets.India noted that it is the world's third-largest oil consumer, fourth-largest LNG importer and third-largest LPG consumer, with one of the largest refining capacities globally.India is also expected to account for more than one-third of the growth in global energy demand over the next two decades.

CM returns from UK visit

Ranchi, Jan 27: Chief Minister Hemant Soren arrived in Ranchi on Tuesday after his official visit to Davos and the United Kingdom (London). At Birsa Munda Airport, he was given a grand welcome with traditional drums and music by a delegation from the Federation of Jharkhand Chamber of Commerce and Industries along with local citizens.

Under CM Soren's leadership, an 11-member Jharkhand delegation participated for the first time in the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, marking a historic milestone for the state. The forum brought together global investors, industrialists, and prominent personalities. Addressing the media at the airport, CM Soren said the WEF visit provided Jharkhand a platform to present its potential on a global stage. He emphasized that the insights and experiences gained would help accelerate the state's development, particularly in sectors such as education, natural resources, and youth empowerment. Soren highlighted that the government aims to convert the state's immense potential into tangible progress and ensure future generations receive better opportunities and direction.



High-speed bike crashes into dumper, one dead

Jamshedpur, Jan 27: A tragic road accident claimed the life of a youth and left another seriously injured on Monday in the Sundernagar police station area of East Singhbhum district.The incident occurred on the main road leading towards Hata, where a speeding motorcycle lost control and rammed into the rear of a dumper. The impact was so severe that the rider died on the spot, while the pillion rider sustained critical injuries.Eye-witnesses said the motorcycle was moving at a very high speed. As it approached the dumper, the rider reportedly failed to control the vehicle and crashed into it from behind.

Arijit Singh 'calls off' playback singing

Mumbai, Jan 27 (IANS) Superstar singer Arijit Singh has shocked fans by announcing his retirement from playback singing. The singer in a social media note, has revealed that he will no longer take up any new assignments as a playback vocalist.



He wrote, "Hello, Happy new year to all. I want to thank you all for giving me so much of love all these years as listeners. I am happy to announce that I am not gonna be taking any new assignments as a playback vocalist from now on. I am calling it off. It was a wonderful journey."

The singer also thanked his listeners for their unwavering love and support over the years and calling his journey as a playback singer "wonderful".

Row erupts over bid to remove Padma Shri awardee Haji Ramakdu from voter roll

Ahmedabad/Junagadh, Jan 27 (IANS) A fresh political controversy has emerged in Gujarat after an application was filed to remove Mir Hajibhai Kasambhai, also known as Haji Ramakdu, from the electoral roll in Junagadh, even as the celebrated folk artist was recently named among the recipients of the Padma Shri 2026.

Haji Ramakdu, an octogenarian folk musician renowned for his dholak performances and contributions to bhajans, santvani, ghazals and qawwali across India and abroad, was honoured with the Padma Shri on the eve of the 77th Republic Day, recognising his six decades of artistic work.

The controversy stems from an objection filed under Form-7 during the state's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls.

A local Bharatiya Janata Party councillor allegedly submitted the form claiming that Haji Ramakdu had permanently relocated, and sought to have his name deleted from the voters' list.

Congress leaders challenged this, saying the artist has lived in Junagadh for decades and questioned why his name should be removed.

Spokesperson Manish Doshi criticised the move in a statement, saying: "The very person who, through his art, has brought recognition to Gujarat, the country and the world is now facing an attempt to have his name removed from the electoral roll."



He urged that the procedure be reviewed and the basis of the objection examined.

Doshi noted that similar challenges had been raised previously in the case of Shahabuddin Rathod, a prominent humourist and Padma Shri awardee whose name was reportedly targeted under the SIR process earlier this month.

Rathod, known nationally for his work in Gujarati literature and performance, confirmed at the time that a Form-7 had been filed in his name without his consent, and that he had approached the local administration.

"Even if someone fills the form in my name, my voter registration cannot be cancelled without proper verification," he said.

Under the election rules, Form-7 may be used to object to an inclusion or seek the removal of a name from the electoral roll, but authorities are required to verify claims and give individuals an opportunity to respond before any deletion takes place.

The Congress has framed these instances as part of broader concerns over the SIR exercise, which has seen thousands of deletion requests statewide.

Party leaders are calling for transparency in the process and review of alleged misuse of objection procedures during the revision of electoral lists.

The Chief Electoral Officer has not issued a public statement on the specific objections in the Haji Ramakdu case.

Action must be taken against forces weakening the nation: Roy

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Jan 27: Jamshedpur West MLA Saryu Roy on Sunday called for firm action against elements and forces that, according to him, pose a threat to India's unity and internal security.

Addressing the gathering after unfurling the national flag at the Republic Day function in Baridih, Roy said that while India has made significant economic progress, a large section of the population is still struggling to become self-reliant, and efforts are underway to bring them into the national mainstream.

Highlighting the spirit of the Constitution, Roy said it is founded on the principle of "unity in diversity" and provides freedom to religious minorities to follow their faith.

However, he alleged that in several instances this freedom has been misused, leading to threats to the country's unity and integrity and adversely impacting internal security.

He added that governments are attempting to tackle these challenges, but the problem still persists.

Referring to certain states, Roy remarked that there are regions which, in his view, do not fully align themselves with the idea of India.

He termed the alleged restriction on the use of Hindi in Tamil Nadu as a serious issue. He cautioned that direct action against such states could fuel separatist tendencies, but pointed out that the Constitution empowers the central government to take strict steps, including dissolving a state government, if it acts against constitutional principles.

"The Constitution embodies both flexibility and firmness, and it is the responsibility of the government to enforce it appropriately," he said.

Roy further observed that while external threats exist along the borders, internal challenges are even more serious. Drawing a parallel with the 1970s, he said Naxalism was once a major challenge but has now largely been eliminated.

Similarly, he stressed, decisive action is needed against forces seeking to weaken the nation from within.

Speaking later after flag hoisting at his office-cum-residence in Bistupur, Roy said that any law not in conformity with the Constitution is struck down by the courts.

He noted that the Constitution allows for amendments according to changing circumstances and has been amended more than 100 times so far.

However, he argued that the original spirit of the Preamble should not be altered, recalling that the words "socialism" and "secularism" were added during the Emergency.

Roy concluded by stating that India has made remarkable progress in economic and defence sectors over the last 76 years, but continues to face multiple challenges.

"The solutions to these challenges lie within the Constitution itself. The core essence of our Constitution is unity in diversity, and strict action is necessary against those who refuse to uphold it," he said. (W-pm)

Jusco School, Kadma celebrates Republic Day with enthusiasm



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 27: Jusco School, Kadma celebrated the 77th Republic Day with great enthusiasm on its campus. Principal Mrs. Jhumjhumi Nandi hoisted the National Flag and encouraged students to take pride in the nation and remain committed to its service.

The programme, conducted by Hashir and Shreya, featured inspiring speeches by Abhinav in Hindi and Sayak Pan in English, highlighting devotion to the Constitution and the country. A colourful dance performance depicting India's unity in diversity received loud applause.

Vice Principal Mrs. Anindita Roy, coordinators Qamar Ali and Seema Tiwari, teachers and students were present. The celebration concluded with the distribution of sweets.

MNPS celebrates Republic Day with cultural performances



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 27: Motilal Nehru Public School celebrated the 77th Republic Day with dignity and patriotic fervour. Chief Guest Akhilesh Dubey hoisted the National Flag in the presence of school dignitaries, followed by the National Anthem. Students presented impactful speeches in Hindi and English, while cultural performances included patriotic dances, choir songs, yoga displays and a special presentation honouring achievers of the past five years. The programme was anchored by senior students and concluded with a vote of thanks encouraging all to uphold national values and constitutional ideals.

106th Battalion RAF celebrates Republic Day



Jamshedpur, Jan 27: The 77th Republic Day was celebrated with enthusiasm at the 106th Battalion, RAF, Sundernagar. Deputy Commandant Bachan Dev Kumar hoisted the National Flag and addressed personnel, emphasising loyalty, discipline and service to the nation. Various cultural and patriotic programmes were organised with enthusiastic participation from jawans and officers. The RCWA 106 RAF also celebrated the occasion, with Mrs. Seema Mishra hoisting the flag and members presenting colourful cultural performances. The celebrations concluded with a grand dinner attended by personnel and their families, filling the battalion premises with patriotic spirit.

SDSM School for Excellence celebrates Republic Day



Jamshedpur, Jan 27: S.D.S.M. School for Excellence celebrated the 77th Republic Day with zeal and pride. Principal Mrs. Moushumi Das unfurled the National Flag and addressed the students, emphasising the importance of remembering the sacrifices of national leaders. She highlighted that true patriotism lies in practising values such as responsibility, unity, integrity, empathy and courage in daily life. The celebration reinforced a spirit of gratitude, dignity and collective progress among students.

R-Day celebration at Shiksha Niketan School



Jamshedpur, Jan 27: Shiksha Niketan School, Telco celebrated the 77th Republic Day with enthusiasm. Chairman of the Management Committee Mr. Jyotirmoy Das hoisted the National Flag and released the school magazine. Students presented patriotic dances and drills, while Principal Mrs. Sumita Dey highlighted the theme "150 Years of Vande Mataram" and encouraged students to become responsible citizens.

DAV, Adityapur celebrates R-Day with patriotic fervour



Jamshedpur, Jan 27: DAV Public School, NIT Campus, Adityapur celebrated the 77th Republic Day with enthusiasm and national pride. The programme began at 9 a.m. with active participation from students, teachers and staff.

Dr. Manju Dubey, former Civil Surgeon and renowned gynaecologist, attended as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, she stressed the importance of constitutional values and urged students to become responsible citizens.

Principal Ms. Rekha Kumari highlighted that Republic Day is a reminder of the ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. She paid tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and emphasised the role of education, discipline, integrity and empathy in nation-building. She noted that patriotism is reflected through honesty, respect for diversity and environmental responsibility.

The celebration concluded on a patriotic note, leaving a lasting impression on all present.

Loyola School, Telco celebrates 77th Republic Day

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Jan 27: The Loyola School, Telco celebrated the 77th Republic Day with pride, enthusiasm and deep patriotic spirit. The programme began with the ceremonial escort of Principal Mrs. Charanjeet Ohson and Administrator Rev. Fr. Gerry, accompanied by the school band.

A welcome address highlighted the constitutional values of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity, followed by the hoisting of the National Flag and the National Anthem. Students Jason (Std IX) and Aadhya (Std VII) delivered the formal address, paying tribute to freedom fighters and the Constitution.

The cultural segment featured a patriotic choir, a Republic Day speech by Shifa Minz, a thought-provoking skit on equality and justice, a vibrant cultural dance, and a poem recitation by Aastha that reminded students of their civic duties.

In her vote of thanks, the Principal expressed gratitude to the management, teachers, students and parents, urging students to become responsible citizens. The programme concluded with patriotic slogans and a resounding "Jai Hind".

Tata Steel UISL marks 77th Republic Day with patriotic fervour

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Jan 27: Tata Steel UISL celebrated the 77th Republic Day with great enthusiasm and patriotic spirit at Jusco Green on Monday.

The commemorative event witnessed active participation from senior officials, employees and union representatives, reflecting the organisation's deep respect for national values.

The celebration began with the unfurling of the national flag by Atul Kumar Bhatnagar, Managing Director, Tata Steel UISL, in the presence of Raghunath Pandey, President, Tata Steel Utility Services Union, along with other union office bearers and members of the senior leadership team. Adding vibrancy to the occasion, students from Jusco School, Kadma, and members of Tata Steel UISL's Security Team presented colourful cultural performances. Their patriotic songs and dance sequences enthralled the audience and beautifully highlighted India's unity in diversity. Addressing the gathering, Bhatnagar underlined the importance of Republic Day and the enduring values enshrined in the Indian Constitution.

He reaffirmed Tata Steel UISL's strong commitment to sustainability, innovation and community development, emphasising that these pillars align closely with the nation's vision of inclusive growth and long-term progress. The celebration concluded with Tata Steel UISL reiterating its resolve to contribute meaningfully to national development while upholding its core values of excellence, responsibility and integrity, in the true spirit of the Republic. (W-pm)

RVS Academy celebrates R-Day with patriotic grandeur

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Jan 27: R.V.S. Academy celebrated the 77th Republic Day of India with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour on its campus. The ceremony began with the hoisting of the National Flag by the Honourable Chairman, Mr. Binda Singh, in the presence of Executive Committee Member Mr. Shakti Singh, Principal Mrs. Veesha Mohindra, Vice Principal, coordinators, teachers, parents and students. The occasion was marked by a solemn rendition of the National Anthem, reflecting unity and national pride.

A spectacular march past by the four school houses-Rose, Violet, Sunflower and Aster-was a major highlight. Students displayed remarkable discipline, coordination and team spirit through their synchronized movements. Addressing the gathering, Principal Mrs. Mohindra emphasised the importance of the Indian Constitution and urged students to uphold the values of equality, justice and integrity. Chairman Mr. Binda Singh, in his inspiring address, recalled the sacrifices of freedom fighters and encouraged students to contribute towards a strong and self-reliant India while preserving national values. The programme featured patriotic group songs, vibrant dances, and speeches in Hindi and English. Cultural performances centred on the themes "Vande Mataram - 150 Years of National Pride" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat." The celebration concluded with a vote of thanks by Vice Principal Mrs. Puja Suman, followed by the distribution of sweets.

Govind Vidyalaya, Tamolia holds cultural events on R-Day



Jamshedpur, Jan 27: Govind Vidyalaya, Tamulia celebrated the 77th Republic Day with enthusiasm on January 26. The Chief Guest, Mrs. Rukmani Sharma, Founder of Govind Welfare Trust, hoisted the National Flag and took the salute of the parade. In the presence of school officials, the Chief Guest released the school magazine and encouraged meritorious students. Certificates and medals were awarded to students for achievements in academics and extracurricular activities. The programme included cultural performances by students and was conducted by teacher Shikha Singh along with student anchors. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks, marking a memorable celebration.

AIWC Academy of Excellence marks R-Day with dignity and pride



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 27: AIWC Academy of Excellence celebrated the 77th Republic Day with dignity and patriotic enthusiasm. The Chief Guest, Mr. Partha Sarathi Bhattacharya, jointly unfurled the National Flag with Principal Ms. Jasbeer Kaur Gill, followed by the National Anthem.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest highlighted the significance of the Constitution and urged students to uphold unity, discipline and responsibility. Students from Classes VI to IX and XI participated through Hindi and English speeches and patriotic songs.

The programme concluded on an inspiring note, instilling pride and national consciousness among students and staff.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **RADHAY SHYAM MAHATO**, S/o. Jharu Mahato, Resident of Kuluptanga Basti, Moti Nagar, Adityapur, P.S.-R.I.T., A1, Dist.-Seraikela-Kharsawan, State-Jharkhand - 831013, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:-

That, my son name of **KAMDEV MAHATO**. That, by mistake my son name has been mentioned in Aadhar Card bearing No. **5046 8071 2757** as **KAMDEV KUMAR MAHATO** (Incorrect Name) instead of **KAMDEV MAHATO** (Correct Name) in the said documents birth certificate vide Registration Number **B202520043510000279** and issue date 24.06.2025. That is also to categorically state that my son correct name is **KAMDEV MAHATO**. That I therefore request the concerned authorities to may please update and rectify my name as **KAMDEV MAHATO**.

Sd/- Deponent

AFFIDAVIT

I, **RADHAY SHYAM MAHATO**, S/o. Jharu Mahato, Resident of Kuluptanga Basti, Moti Nagar, Adityapur, P.S.-R.I.T., A1, Dist.-Seraikela-Kharsawan, State-Jharkhand - 831013, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:-

That, my son name of **BODHAN MAHATO**. That, by mistake my son name has been mentioned in Aadhar Card bearing No. **6008 6488 0071** as **BODHAN KUMAR MAHATO** (Incorrect Name) instead of **BODHAN MAHATO** (Correct Name) in the said documents birth certificate vide Registration Number **B202520043510000276** and issue date 24.06.2025. That is also to categorically state that my son correct name is **BODHAN MAHATO**. That I therefore request the concerned authorities to may please update and rectify my name as **BODHAN MAHATO**.

Sd/- Deponent

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Divisional Railway Manager/Engg., Chakradharpur acting For & On behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Open Tender. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Sl. No., Tender Notice No. & Name of work** are as follows : **1. CKP-WEST-25-26-39.** Execution of zonal works for residential buildings under Jharsuguda settlement under SSE(Works)/ Jharsuguda for period ending upto 30.06.2027 (2nd Call). **Tender Value :** ₹ 1,61,00,000/-. **EMD :** ₹ 2,30,500/-. **2. CKP-SOUTH-25-26-28.** (I) Through Sleeper Renewal (Primary){TSR(P)} by PQRS machine/Manually including deep screening work. by BCM/Manually, Execution of Cess repair, construction/ repair of drain & other miscellaneous P-Way related works for 22.650 Tkm in Padapahar-Nayagarh & 7.586 Tkm in Barajamda Jn.-Bolanikhadan Section. (II) Through Sleeper Renewal (Primary){TSR(P)} by PQRS machine including deep screening work by BCM, Execution of Cess repair & other miscellaneous P-Way related works for 2.850 Tkm in Rajkharsawan Jn. - Padapahar (DN) Section, under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN(South)/ Chakradharpur. **Tender Value :** ₹ 5,00,35,324.47. **EMD :** ₹ 4,00,200/-. **3. CKP-SOUTH-25-26-29.** Through Turnout Renewal (TWS) for total 269 sets in different yards of Rajkharsawan Jn.-Padapahar, Padapahar-Nayagarh, Padapahar-Bolanikhadan & Barajamda Jn.-Gua section under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN (South)/Chakradharpur. (2nd Call). **Tender Value :** ₹ 2,14,78,912.46. **EMD :** ₹ 2,57,400/-. **Cost of Tender form :** ₹ 0 for each. **Date of opening :** 12.02.2026 for Sl. No. 1 and 16.02.2026 for Sl. No. 2 & 3. The tender can be viewed at Website **http://www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderer/ bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/ bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering. **Note :** e-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (Authority-Rly. Bd.'s letter No. 2020/CE-I /CT/3E/GCC/Policy dtd. 16.07.2020). **(PR-1095)**

Printed and published by Uma Shankar Singh on behalf of Pioneer Publications and printed at DB Corp Limited, Hata Road, Karandih, Imli Chowk, Jamshedpur Jharkhand. and Published from Road No. 2, Contractors Area, Bistupur, Jamshedpur-831001. **City Office:** Matri Bhawan, New Kalimati Road, Sakchi, Jamshedpur. Managing Editor : Gyaan Chandra Jaiswal. Editor : Vimal Agarwal. RNI No: 58974/93 Vol.-33, No.- 215. Postal Registration No: G-50, Ph. : 0657-2439238, 2436905 email: avenuemail@gmail.com, avenuemailnews@gmail.com www.avenuemail.in

Dignity, safety of Jharkhand citizens top priority: CM

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Jan 27: During his visit to London, Jharkhand chief minister held an interaction with citizens of Jharkhand origin currently employed in the United Kingdom. The interaction included nurses, caregivers, domestic workers and others engaged in the service sector.

Participants shared their experiences of working abroad and spoke about the social, cultural and emotional bond they continue to maintain with Jharkhand despite having lived and worked in the UK for several years. They also drew the Chief Minister's attention to various challenges faced while working overseas.



Listening carefully to the concerns raised, the Chief Minister stated that the Government of Jharkhand would study the provisions of laws framed by the Government of India for Indians working abroad. Hemant Soren emphasised that just as systems are in place to safeguard the rights of workers within the State, similar efforts would be explored to ensure the protection of rights, dignity and welfare of Jharkhand-origin workers employed overseas.

In this regard, the Chief Minister also held discussions with the Indian Ambassador concerning the welfare of Jharkhand-origin workers in the UK. The Chief Minister affirmed that the Government of Jharkhand accords the highest priority to the dignity, safety and well-being of its citizens working abroad. He stressed that overseas employment should offer respect, security and better opportunities. He further acknowledged the significant contribution of Jharkhand-origin nurses, caregivers and semi-skilled workers abroad, whose work strengthens the State's identity at the global level.

Minister pushes for stronger child safety in schools

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Jan 27: Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department, Deepika Pandey Singh, participated today in the State Level Consolidation on Child Safety Mechanisms in Schools of Jharkhand, held in Ranchi.

The minister described the initiative as a significant and commendable step toward reinforcing child safety frameworks in schools across the state. The programme included detailed discussions on the effective implementation of child protection and safeguarding policies, aimed at ensuring a safe, respectful, and fear-free environment for students.

Speaking at the event, the minister stressed the urgent need for strong institutional mechanisms to protect children from violence, harassment, and abuse. She highlighted the critical role of panchayats in this effort, noting that initiatives like "Bal Mitra Gram" and village-level child protection committees can strengthen coordination with the education department and enhance child protection at the grassroots level. Mrs. Pandey Singh also reaffirmed the Jharkhand government's commitment to child welfare, safeguarding child rights, and providing a safe and inclusive education system. She emphasized that continuous collaboration with all relevant departments and institutions will be pursued to achieve these objectives. (W-rg)



President of The Milanee Shekhar Dey unfurls the national tri-colour during the 77th Republic Day celebration on the club premises in Bistupur on Monday.

National workshop on e-content development at Karim City College

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 27: A one-week national workshop on "Developing E-content for Online Teaching" has been underway at Karim City College, Jamshedpur, since January 22, bringing together educators to strengthen digital teaching capabilities in line with emerging academic needs. The workshop is being organized by the Faculty of Commerce in collaboration with the Department of Computer Science, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, and is sponsored by the Jharkhand State Higher Education Council, Department of Higher and Technical Education, Government of Jharkhand, with co-sponsorship from Punjab & Sind Bank.



The technical sessions have been enriched by eminent academicians from across the country. Dr. Ajay Semalty, Course Coordinator of India's most popular SWAYAM MOOC and Associate Professor at H.N.B. Garhwal University, Srinagar (Garhwal), delivered insightful lectures on developing a learning ecosystem aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP), preparing proposals for SWAYAM MOOCs, and the planning and development of high-quality MOOCs. His deliberations offered participants a clear framework for systematic and goal-oriented online course design. Another key resource person, Prof. (Dr.) Mansaf Alam of Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, addressed participants on the use of artificial intelligence–based tools for content creation, cloud-based e-content development, and Creative Commons policy and content development, underlining the role of emerging technologies in enhancing the reach, effectiveness, and creativity of digital learning. Participants widely appreciated the sessions, describing them as practical, informative, and relevant to the evolving demands of online education. The active interaction during question-and-answer sessions reflected strong engagement and a keen interest in adopting new digital teaching practices. Course Coordinator Dr. Md. Moazzm Nazri expressed gratitude to the resource persons and observed that such national-level workshops play a vital role in empowering educators to respond effectively to the rapidly changing landscape of higher education in the digital era. (W-pb)

Jsr Photographers Association celebrates R- Day with flag hoisting ceremony



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 27: The Photographers Association of Jamshedpur organized a grand flag hoisting ceremony on the occasion of the 77th Republic Day, celebrating the spirit of patriotism, unity, and national pride. The ceremony was held at the association's temporary office at Sonal Video, Kadma, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from members of the photography community.

The national flag was jointly hoisted by Association Secretary Daljit Singh along with founding members Mukesh Prasad and Rupesh Prajapati. Following the hoisting, all present members sang the National Anthem and paid salute to the Tricolour.

A large number of office bearers, senior photographers, and members were present on the occasion, including Joint Secretary Rajesh Chauhan, Joint Treasurer Vinay Kumar, Executive Members Ranjit Singh Gabari, Om Prakash Sah, Ravi Kushwaha, founding members Mukesh Prasad, Rupesh Prajapati, Babulal Prasad, Balaji, Abhimanyu Kumar, senior photographer Didar Singh Bhogal, former treasurer Somen Sarkar, and over 50 other members and senior photographers associated with the organization.

Addressing the gathering, speakers highlighted the historical importance of Republic Day and emphasized the vital role played by photographers in documenting and preserving the nation's cultural, social, and historical legacy. Members were encouraged to continue working with honesty, unity, and professional responsibility in their respective fields. (W-pb)

St. John's High School celebrates 77th R-Day with patriotic fervour

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 27: Nation's 77th Republic Day was celebrated in a dignified and patriotic atmosphere at St. John's High School, Jamshedpur, where students and teachers came together to honour the spirit of the Constitution and the nation.



The programme began with the hoisting of the national flag by the school's esteemed Principal, Ashu Tiwary, in the presence of the Vice-Principal and teaching staff. This was followed by the collective singing of the National Anthem, resonating with a deep sense of unity and national pride.

A disciplined march-past by high school students drew admiration from the audience, reflecting the values of discipline and dedication. A high school student then administered the National Pledge, with students and teachers pledging to uphold the unity, integrity, and prosperity of the nation.

Students delivered thought-provoking speeches in Hindi and English, highlighting the significance of Republic Day, the Indian Constitution, civic responsibilities, and the vital role of youth in nation-building. The celebrations were further enriched by patriotic songs that echoed love for the country.

An attractive fancy dress competition on the theme of patriotism was organised for primary students, showcasing inspiring portrayals of freedom fighters and India's rich cultural heritage. Patriotic dance performances by both primary and high school students added colour and vibrancy to the event. Addressing the gathering, Principal Ashu Tiwary urged students to imbibe constitutional values, maintain discipline, and contribute meaningfully to the nation's progress as responsible citizens. (W-pb)

BJP celebrates 77th R-Day with patriotic zeal in Jamshedpur



Jamshedpur, Jan 27 : The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) celebrated the 77th Republic Day with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour in Jamshedpur on Monday. The national flag was hoisted at the district BJP office in Sakchi by Jamshedpur Metropolitan President Sanjeev Sinha, who also paid tribute to the Tricolour.

Hundreds of BJP workers gathered on the occasion and saluted the national flag while singing the National Anthem and raising slogans of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Vande Mataram." The party workers took a collective pledge to protect the unity and integrity of the nation.

Addressing the gathering, District President Sanjeev Sinha extended Republic Day greetings to the people of Jamshedpur and Jharkhand. Recalling the freedom struggle that began in 1857 and culminated in independence in 1947, he said that countless sacrifices and struggles led to the framing of the Indian Constitution. He highlighted that the Constitution came into force in 1950, marking India's transformation into a sovereign republic and laying the foundation for the world's largest democracy.

Several senior BJP leaders and workers were present at the programme, including outgoing District President Sudhanshu Ojha, former District President Chandrashekhar Mishra, Rambabu Tiwari, Dinesh Kumar, Kulwant Singh Bunty, Rita Mishra, Babua Singh, Rajiv Singh, Renu Sharma, Anil Modi, Sanjeev Singh, Krishna Sharma Kali, Sanjeet Chaurasia, Akhil Singh, Binod Singh, Amit Singh, Ujjwal Singh, Kishore Ojha, Dharmendra Prasad, Ajay Srivastava, Binod Rai, Amit Mishra, Lucky Singh Rajput, Chintu Singh, Umesh Pandey, Pradeep Mukherjee, and hundreds of other party workers. The celebration concluded with renewed commitment to uphold constitutional values and serve the nation with dedication.

Incab Kerala Public School celebrates 77th Republic Day

Jamshedpur, Jan 27: Incab Kerala Public School celebrated the 77th Republic Day with enthusiasm and dignity. Mrs. SangeethaSamant, Head of Quality Enhancement and Research at KPS, attended as the Chief Guest.



The Chief Guest and Principal Ms. D. Sonali jointly hoisted the National Flag, followed by the National Anthem. A well-coordinated parade was organised by the sports teacher, while students presented patriotic songs, speeches and dances.

In her address, Mrs. Samant highlighted the significance of the Indian Constitution and encouraged students to actively contribute to nation-building. The Principal emphasised that true patriotism lies in honesty, hard work and service to the nation. The vote of thanks was delivered by Saik Khan of Class IV. The programme concluded successfully under the guidance of the teaching staff.

Purnima Sahu reviews power, water crisis in Antyodaya Ashrams

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 27 : Jamshedpur East MLA Purnima Sahu held a crucial review meeting with officials of Tata Steel UISL (formerly Jusco) to address the long-standing electricity and drinking water problems affecting Antyodaya Ashrams in the Sitaramdera and Burmamines areas.



The tripartite meeting was convened at the MLA's Agrico residence office and was attended by Tata Steel UISL General Manager R.K. Singh, heads of the Water Management and Electricity departments, and representatives of 18 Antyodaya Ashrams. Detailed discussions were held on irregular water supply, weak electricity infrastructure, and the urgent need for sustainable solutions in the residential welfare institutions.

During the meeting, MLA Purnima Sahu issued clear directions to Tata Steel UISL officials to resolve all power and water-related issues in the 18 Antyodaya Ashrams within a fixed timeframe of three months.

She stressed that the progress of the work must be monitored regularly and treated as a priority. Highlighting the social importance of Antyodaya Ashrams, Sahu said these institutions cater to the most vulnerable and deprived sections of society, and the absence of basic amenities such as water and electricity is unacceptable. She underlined that it is the collective responsibility of the government and service-providing agencies to ensure dignified living conditions for residents of such welfare homes. In response, Tata Steel UISL officials assured that a phased action plan would be implemented to strengthen water supply and electricity infrastructure in all the concerned ashrams, ensuring permanent and reliable solutions. Following the meeting, residents and caretakers of the ashrams expressed relief and satisfaction, thanking MLA Purnima Sahu and Tata Steel UISL for taking prompt and decisive steps. (W-pm)

NSS unit of Srinath University conducts financial literacy camp



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 27: The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Srinath University organised a Financial and Digital Literacy Awareness Camp at Udaipur village in the Saraikela-Kharsawan district on January 26 to mark the 77th Republic Day. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from villagers, women, children and NSS student volunteers.

A special financial literacy session was conducted for women, focusing on government welfare schemes such as Bima SaktiYojana and Atal Pension Yojana. The NSS team explained the objectives, benefits, eligibility criteria and application procedures in a simple and accessible manner, encouraging women to plan for long-term financial security.

Alongside this, a digital literacy session was organised for all villagers, covering basic smartphone usage, digital payments, online banking, access to government services and cyber safety. The session helped villagers gain confidence in using digital platforms for everyday needs.

To engage children, eco-friendly bag-making activities using reusable and paper materials were organised, promoting creativity and environmental awareness.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of NSS Head Mrs. Shalini Ojha, with support from Mrs. Ruby Santra and Mr. Chandan Kumar, along with committed NSS volunteers. The initiative strengthened community engagement and reflected the true spirit of NSS and nation-building.

Aagaman 26 welcomes freshers at BIT Mesra

Mail News Service



Ranchi, Jan 27: The Birla Institute of Technology (BIT), Mesra hosted its annual Freshers' Fest, Aagaman'26, providing new students with a vibrant and comprehensive introduction to campus life.

Organised by the institute's Rotaract Club, the three-day event blended cultural expression, creativity and collaboration, setting the tone for the academic journey ahead.

The inaugural session began with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony and formal addresses by Dr. Praveen Srivastava, Dean (Student Welfare), Dr. Dilip Kumar Upadhyay, Associate Dean (Student Welfare), and Mr. Gautam Shandilya, Faculty Head of Rotaract.

The first day featured instrumental music, energetic dance performances and group singing by students.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Shandilya noted that the enthusiasm, preparation and teamwork displayed by the freshers reflected the supportive and participative environment fostered at BIT Mesra.

The second day maintained the festive spirit, with the Freshers' Competition as the main attraction.

Participants impressed the audience through ramp walks and individual talent displays, while a comedy act drew loud applause. An open mic session followed, and the day concluded with a lively band night on the campus grounds.

On the final day, students took part in Stranger Games at the IC Arena, a puzzle-based event designed to test logical reasoning and time management.

The celebrations then moved to CAT Hall for BIT Got Talent, where students presented short performances across disciplines. The competitive segment culminated in the final round of Mr. and Miss Freshers.

The fest concluded with Beatdrop at the NCC Ground. Reflecting on the event, Dr. Srivastava emphasised the importance of such initiatives in helping students connect beyond classrooms and embrace values of cooperation and community.

Jhargram Medical College celebrates 77th Republic Day



Jhargram, Jan 27: The 77th Republic Day was observed at Jhargram Medical College with ceremonies at both the hospital premises and Academic Building. Dr. Snehashis Das, senior specialist in the Medicine Department, unfurled the National Flag at both locations. Doctors, staff, faculty, and students participated in a brief programme marking the day with patriotism and dignity.

Participants honoured in sports competitions during Saraswati Puja



Baharagora, Jan 27: In Madhuabera village, Pathri Panchayat, participants of sports competitions held during the Public Saraswati Puja were awarded prizes and medals. Chief Guest Gram Pradhan Dhaneshwar Munda and ex-Mukhiya Ramchandra Hembram distributed the awards. Events included musical chairs, biscuit race, needle and thread race, candle race, conch blowing, running race, drawing, and dance competitions. Key contributors to the event were Ashok Kumar Jana, Shubhajit Dhara, Durga Pad Munda, Pinku Jana, Sharad Chandra Munda, and several others.

Historic ballot-based elections held at Ghatshila Press Club

Mail News Service



Ghatsila, Jan 27 : The Ghatshila Press Club conducted its elections through ballot papers for the first time, marking a significant step in democratic practice. The presidential election witnessed a close contest between Mohammad Parvez and Sushil Agarwal, with both candidates securing 37 votes each. Following mutual discussions, the election committee declared Mohammad Parvez as President, considering his long experience in journalism, while Sushil Agarwal was appointed Executive President. Rupesh Dubey was elected General Secretary and Pankaj Singh Treasurer. The elections were held at Subhashit Resort, Ghatshila, with participation from 77 journalists. Former MLAs Pradeep Balmuchu and Tapas Chatterjee were present and congratulated the newly elected office bearers.

Akhil Bhartiya Teli Sahu Mahasabha celebrates Republic Day at Sakchi

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Jan 27 : The 77th Republic Day was celebrated under the banner of the Akhil Bhartiya Teli Sahu Mahasabha at Bhamashah Chowk, Sakchi. District President Rakesh Sahu hoisted the national flag at 11 am in the presence of community members of all age groups. Several district-level office bearers and regional representatives attended the ceremony, including Chandrika Prasad, Pappu Shah, Suresh Kumar, Shivlochan Sah, Ashok Sahu, Women's President Pooja Sahu and others. The gathering paid tribute to the Constitution and reaffirmed commitment to national unity and social harmony.

The event concluded with patriotic slogans and collective greetings on Republic Day.

Republic Day celebrated at St. Anthony's High School, Khasmahal



Jamshedpur, Jan 27: St. Anthony's High School observed Republic Day with Principal Mr. B.D. Singh hoisting the national flag. In his address, he emphasized that true patriotism involves respecting national symbols, using resources wisely, supporting national guardians, following rules, contributing skills, and conserving the environment, alongside raising awareness about democratic duties.

Republic Day Celebrated at SERSA Stadium, Kharagpur



Mail News Service

Kharagpur, Jan 27 : The 77th Republic Day was celebrated with patriotic fervour at SERSA Stadium, where Divisional Railway Manager Lalit Mohan Pandey unfurled the National Flag.

Senior railway officials, employees and their families attended the ceremony.

The event reflected a strong sense of national pride and unity, with tributes paid to the ideals of the Indian Constitution and the spirit of the Republic.

Baldwin Farm Area High School celebrates Republic Day

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Jan 27 : Baldwin Farm Area High School, Kadma, celebrated the 77th Republic Day with enthusiasm and patriotic fervour on its campus.

The programme commenced with the hoisting of the National Flag by Principal Dr. Subhosree Sarkar, followed by the National Anthem.

Secretary Prabhas Kumar, Administrator Sachin Kumar and SMC Member Ajay Kumar were present as dignitaries. Students from all classes participated in an impressive march past, showcasing discipline and unity.

A series of cultural performances, including patriotic songs and dances, added colour to the celebration and highlighted India's democratic values and rich heritage.

In her address, Dr. Sarkar encouraged students to uphold constitutional ideals and actively contribute to nation-building.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Mrs. Archana Bose, who expressed gratitude to all participants for making the event a success.

Health check-up camp organized at Kandra toll plaza during Road Safety Month

Seraikela, Jan 27: A health check-up camp was conducted at Kandra toll plaza on the Tata-Seraikela road under the guidance of District Transport Officer Girija Shankar Mahto as part of National Road Safety Month 2026. Over 70 road users and drivers received check-ups and guidance on safe driving practices.

The program highlighted the importance of healthy drivers and vigilant citizens in promoting road safety.

MLA Purnima hoists Flag at Sanjay Sadbhavna market on R-Day



Jamshedpur, Jan 27: The 77th Republic Day was celebrated at Sanjay Sadbhavna Market with MLA Purnima Das Sahu as the chief guest. She hoisted the national flag, released tricolor balloons, and extended greetings to the nation. Senior BJP leaders, shopkeepers, and citizens attended the event.

MLA Purnima urged everyone to uphold constitutional principles and contribute to the nation's development.

Shri Shanidev Bhakt Mandali Trust members donate platelets to save patient



Seraikela, Jan 27: Eight blood donors from the Shri Shanidev Bhakt Mandali Trust donated single-donor platelets to help a cancer patient in urgent need.

The donors included Milan Kanti Santra, Vishwajit Pramanik, Mantu Singh Modak, Ayushman Garg, Abhishek De, Ravi Murmu, and Avinash Raj.

founder and patron, Debobroto Ghosh, commended the selfless act, stating that the Mandali salutes these donors for fulfilling their duty to save the life of a stranger.

Marwari Sammlen marks R-Day with Flag hoisting



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 27: The East Singhbhum District Marwari Conference celebrated the 77th Republic Day with a grand flag-hoisting ceremony on Maharaja Agrasen Marg, Kashidih, Sakchi. District President Mukesh Mittal unfurled the national flag, following which members paid homage by collectively singing the national anthem.

Addressing the gathering, Mittal extended Republic Day greetings and spoke on the significance of the Indian Constitution.

He said the Marwari Conference reflects the spirit of the Constitution by bringing together people from diverse castes, classes and ideologies.

Emphasising inclusivity, he stated that the organisation symbolises India's cultural richness rather than representing any single community.

Vice President of the Jharkhand Provincial Marwari Conference, Nand Kishore Agarwal, also addressed the gathering, highlighting the fundamental rights and duties enshrined in the Constitution. Several members shared their views during the programme.

The event was smoothly conducted by Akash Shah and concluded in a patriotic atmosphere.

Grand Republic Day parade held at Jhargram stadium

Mail News Service



Jhargram, Jan 27 : The 77th Republic Day was celebrated with pride and grandeur at Jhargram Stadium, where the district administration organised a ceremonial programme. District Magistrate Akanksha Bhaskar and Superintendent of Police Manav Singla took the salute at an impressive march past accompanied by a gun salute. A total of 22 contingents from schools and other institutions participated in the parade, while 23 tableaux showcased government schemes, development initiatives and social awareness themes.

Nine cultural teams added colour and vibrancy to the celebrations.

Addressing the gathering, DM Akanksha Bhaskar described the Constitution as the soul of the nation and emphasised the need to uphold democratic values. She said Jhargram's red soil symbolises labour and sacrifice, while its hills and forests reflect natural beauty.

Sant Nandalal Smriti Vidya Mandir celebrates 77th Republic Day with patriotic zeal

Mail News Service



Ghatsila, Jan 27: The 77th Republic Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Sant Nandalal Smriti Vidya Mandir, Ghatsila. The programme began with the hoisting of the national flag by Principal Dr. Srinivas Mishra, who later inspected the marching contingents along with Administrative Officer and NCC Officer Prasenjit Karmakar and saluted the Tricolour.

Primary section students enthralled the audience with disciplined drill displays and vibrant dance performances. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Mishra described the Constitution as a "beautiful gift from our ancestors" and highlighted its historical significance and the message of unity in diversity.

Class IX student Sikandar Murmu presented a patriotic song, while Class VII student Shreyashi Patra shared her thoughts on the occasion. The programme was conducted by Shruti Banerjee and Soumya Suman of Class IX, and the vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. Karmakar.

School Administrator Mrs. Shobha Ganeriwal, management committee member Nirmal Jhunjhunwala, and several senior teachers were present. The school's boys' parade won first prize, the girls' parade secured second place, and the cultural programme won first prize in competitions organised by HCL. Special appreciation awards were also received for the national anthem and parade presentations.

Women organize mehendi and bhajan program ahead of 37th Shyam Mahotsav

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 27 : Preparations for the 37th Shri Shri Shyam Mahotsav, to be held at the Sakchi Market Shiva Temple on January 29, are in their final stages, with devotional enthusiasm building across the city. The grand festival is being organized by Shri Shri Sakchi Shiva Temple and Shri Shyam Parivar.

As part of the pre-festival celebrations, women organized a Mehndi ceremony on Tuesday, January 27. Alongside this, the Radha-Rani Mandali conducted a Bhajan program to welcome Shyam Baba. Adding to the spiritual fervour, women devotees decorated nearly 1,500 Shyam flags with peacock feathers in preparation for the grand Nishan Yatra.



Providing details about the festival, Shyam Parivar patron Umesh Shah and President Girdhari Lal Khemka said that renowned Bhajan singers Sanju Sharma and Vivek Sharma from Kolkata will perform devotional songs in Baba Shyam's darbar on January 29. Popular local Bhajan singer Mahavir Agarwal will also participate. The eternal flame (Akhand Jyoti) will be lit at 8:30 pm, followed by an all-night Bhajan-Kirtan starting at 9 pm. They further informed that after the Nishan Puja at 11:30 am on Thursday, a grand Nishan Yatra will commence at 2 pm from Sakchi Shiva Temple, passing through various city routes before returning to the temple. Over 1,500 devotees are expected to participate. Major attractions of the Mahotsav include the grand darbar, divine decorations, perfume showers, Chhappan Bhog, Akhand Jyoti, and a magnificent Kirtan.

Cheshire Home observes R-Day with patriotic enthusiasm



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 27: Cheshire Home celebrated the 77th Republic Day with dignity and patriotism.

The National Flag was hoisted by Joint Secretary Dr. Jaya Moitra in the presence of staff, residents, and dignitaries. Following the National Anthem, Dr. Moitra highlighted the importance of equality, compassion, and service enshrined in the Constitution, while appreciating the Home's ongoing work in caring for and empowering its residents.

Municipal Elections 2026 announced for Chaibasa and CKP



Mail News Service

Chaibasa, Jan 27: The State Election Commission has announced the schedule for the Municipal General Elections 2026, District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner Chandan Kumar informed during a press briefing held at the District Collectorate auditorium. The West Singhbhum district has two municipal councils—Chaibasa and Chakradharpur.

Chaibasa Municipal Council comprises 21 wards with 38 polling booths and a voter strength of 36,344, while CKP Municipal Council has 23 wards, 49 polling booths, and 45,265 voters. The election notification will be published on January 28, nominations will be filed from January 29 to February 4, scrutiny will take place on February 5, withdrawal of candidature on February 6, symbol allocation on February 7, polling on February 23 if required, and counting of votes on February 27.

BJP holds workshop on 'Developed India – G Ram G Yojana' in Seraikela

Seraikela, Jan 27: The Bharatiya Janata Party organised a one-day workshop at the Durga Temple Ground in Seraikela to create awareness about the central government's "Developed India – G Ram G Yojana." Rajya Sabha MP and National President of the Scheduled Tribes Front Sameer Oraon attended as the chief guest, while State Convenor Dinesh Kumar was present as special guest. Addressing party workers and citizens, Oraon said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is moving rapidly towards becoming a developed and self-reliant nation by 2047. He stated that the scheme focuses on increasing farmer productivity, expanding employment guarantee days, strengthening administrative systems, and ensuring transparent implementation of development projects through Gram Sabhas.



Chinmaya Vidyalaya South Park celebrates 77th Republic Day



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 27: Chinmaya Vidyalaya South Park observed the 77th Republic Day with patriotic fervour. Chief Guest Mr. B. Chandrashekhar, Chairman of the Vidyalaya, along with the Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Principal, hoisted the National Flag and inspected the parade. The celebration featured a disciplined March Past, patriotic songs, and an inspiring speech, emphasizing the importance of upholding constitutional values.

The program concluded with the National Song and a vote of thanks.

JP School, Sankosai celebrates Republic Day with patriotic rally



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 27: JP School on Sankosai Dimna Road celebrated Republic Day with zeal and patriotism.

The program began with a patriotic rally starting from Sankosai Road Number 5 and passing through the main roads to Ram Nagar, spreading messages of national pride. Chief Guests V.C. Bhogta and Abhishek Kumar, Officer-in-Charge of Ulidih Police Station, hoisted the National Flag and inaugurated a newly constructed computer lab dedicated to supporting the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" initiative. Students showcased cultural programs including patriotic songs, speeches, and dances. Chief Guest V.C. Bhogta praised the school's efforts in promoting discipline, culture, and education in a rural area, urging local support for its initiatives. The program was attended by the school principal, coordinator, teachers, students, and parents.

Xavier School, Gamharia celebrates 77th Republic Day with patriotic spirit



Gamharia, Jan 27: Xavier School, Gamharia, marked the 77th Republic Day with enthusiasm and patriotic fervour.

The National Flag was hoisted by chief guest Father Kuruvila S.J., followed by a ceremonial salute from the students.

The program featured cultural performances by the students that celebrated national pride.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Father Sebastian Puthenpura S.J. urged everyone to pledge lifelong protection of the nation and its Constitution, ensuring equality and pride for all citizens irrespective of caste, creed, or wealth. Vice Principal Sister Nivedita, along with Sister Savita, Brother Amalraj, teacher Shweta Verma, and the school staff, played an important role in organizing the event successfully.

Kandra, Gamharia celebrates R-Day across offices and Schools



Mail News Service

Gamharia, Jan 27: Republic Day was celebrated with zeal across Kandra, Gamharia, and surrounding areas.

National Flags were hoisted at block and circle headquarters, health centers, police stations, educational institutions, and party offices by officials including CO Praveen Kumar, CDPO Durgesh Nandini, In-charge Medical Officer Dr. Lakshmi Kumari, and school principals. Morning processions and cultural programs were conducted by local schools, creating a festive and patriotic atmosphere.

Kudarsai Shiva temple adorns Tricolor for Republic Day celebrations

Mail News Servic



Seraikela, Jan 27: On Republic Day, Baba Buddheshwar Mahadev Shiva Temple in Kudarsai, Seraikela, was decorated with patriotic fervour.

The Kudarsai Shiva Devotee Group adorned the deity in the colors of the national flag, while the temple premises were beautifully decorated.

The celebrations included a grand devotional music program alongside the regular evening aarti, creating a festive and patriotic atmosphere for devotees.

DAV, Bistupur celebrates Republic Day with prabhat pheri

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 27: DAV Public School, Bistupur, celebrated the 77th Republic Day with grandeur, reflecting national pride and cultural values. The celebrations began with a Prabhat Feri, where students, carrying patriotic banners, paraded through the campus and surrounding areas, with parents also participating. The National Flag was unfurled by Mrs. Pragya Singh, ARO Jharkhand Zone-E and Principal of the school. The program included a March Past by students, scouts, guides, and the school band, a patriotic speech by Shaili Kauntia,



a choir performance, a Hindi poem recitation, a skit on "Rights and Duties," and a pantomime on road safety. The events highlighted discipline, unity, and civic awareness among students.

Gamharia police arrest accused in woman harassment case



Gamharia, Jan 27: Karma alias Karmu Mahto, resident of Jaykan, Gamharia, accused of sexually assaulting a woman after promising to marry her, has been arrested and sent to judicial custody.

The arrest follows an FIR filed by the victim at Gamharia police station, with police forming a team to locate and apprehend the accused.

District Council president hoists tricolour



Mail News Service

Seraikela, Jan 27: On the occasion of Republic Day, District Council President Sonaram Bodra hoisted the national flag at the District Council office premises in the presence of Vice President Madhushree Mahato and other council members. Extending Republic Day greetings, he appealed to citizens to maintain unity and integrity in the interest of the nation.



Republic Day was celebrated by Brahma Kumaris, Jamshedpur, at the Universal Peace Palace, Sonari.



Team PSF's SDP blood donation campaign was dedicated to the country's 77th Republic Day. 12 units of blood were donated, along with five SDP donations, completing the 1739th SDP donation.

Institute for Education College marks 77th Republic Day

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Jan 27: The 77th Republic Day was celebrated at the Institute for Education College with flag hoisting by Director R.N. Mahanty. Teachers, staff, and students sang the National Anthem collectively.

The program included patriotic songs, speeches, poems, dances, and a short play honoring freedom fighters, and concluded with sweets distribution, fostering patriotism and civic responsibility among students.



Road Safety awareness cricket tournament held on Republic Day at Birsa Munda Stadium

Mail News Servic

Seraikela, Jan 27: As part of the Road Safety Awareness Campaign, a two-match friendly cricket tournament was organized at Birsa Munda Stadium, Saraikela, on Republic Day. Teams from Administration-11 and Media-11 competed enthusiastically, with Administration-11 emerging victorious in both matches. Deputy Commissioner Nitish Kumar Singh and Superintendent of Police Mukesh Lunayat led their team with exemplary sportsmanship. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized that such sporting events promote public awareness on road safety, including helmet use for two-wheelers and seat belt use in cars. The Superintendent of Police highlighted alcohol-related offenses as a major cause of accidents and called for strict adherence to traffic rules. Sub-Divisional Officer Abhinav Prakash stressed that road safety is a shared responsibility requiring citizen participation. Media representatives attending the event committed to spreading awareness about traffic rules and safety practices. The program concluded with a road safety pledge administered by the Deputy Commissioner to all participants, affirming their commitment to safe driving and responsible citizenship.



UGC's anti-discrimination rules: Safeguards needed to prevent misuse and preserve equality

The new rules introduced by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to prevent discrimination in higher education institutions have triggered widespread controversy, ironically because they themselves are being seen as potential instruments of retaliation rather than protection.

The core of the criticism lies in the absence of a clear and precise definition of "discrimination," coupled with the lack of any mechanism to act against false or malicious complaints. As opposition to these rules grows-now even drawing criticism from leaders within the ruling BJP-the Union Ministry of Education has initiated a fresh round of consultations to review and reassess them.

The issue has also taken a political turn, with attempts being made to project the UGC's regulations as a conflict between general category groups and reserved categories. In this process, several misconceptions are being spread.

Under the new rules, all higher education institutions are required to establish Equal Opportunity Centres, where students, teachers, and staff from SC, ST, and OBC communities can lodge complaints related to caste-based discrimination. Earlier regulations were limited only to students from the SC and ST categories.

In addition, the revised UGC framework allows complaints related to discrimination based on race, religion, region, gender, disability, and other grounds. Critics argue that discrimination on these bases can be faced by individuals from any social category, including the general category. This concern is not unfounded. Therefore, it becomes essential to clearly state in the rules that any student, teacher, or employee-irrespective of category-should have the right to file a complaint of discrimination.

The absence of such an explicit provision creates the misleading impression that discrimination is committed only by people from the general category, an assumption that cannot be justified. Similarly, the misconception that Equal Opportunity Centres will consist only of members from reserved categories also needs to be addressed and corrected.

Most importantly, the rules must incorporate safeguards to discourage, and where necessary, penalize false or malicious complaints. Without such provisions, the system risks being misused, undermining its credibility and purpose.

India already faces challenges with the misuse of several well-intentioned laws, including those related to atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, dowry, and sexual violence. While these laws are crucial for protecting the vulnerable, their misuse weakens public trust and the justice system itself. In this context, it is unacceptable that regulations meant to promote equality appear to ignore the principle of equality itself. True justice lies not only in protection from discrimination, but also in fairness, balance, and accountability for all.

From the Editorial Desk

Nagaland varsity researchers discover new plant species, highlighting role of community-protected forests



Nagaland University researchers have discovered a new plant species located in the high-altitude forests of the state, underscoring the region's significance as a biodiversity hotspot in the northeast and the importance of community-led forest conservation, varsity officials said on Tuesday.

A University official said that the newly identified species is called 'Hoya nagaensis' and was discovered during systematic botanical explorations of under-explored forest areas in the state, which has over 52 per cent of its total geographical area of 16,579 sq km under forest cover.

Large parts of Nagaland's forests remain scientifically undocumented, limiting accurate biodiversity assessment and effective conservation planning.

The research team undertook detailed field surveys and taxonomic studies to address this gap and improve scientific understanding of the region's plant diversity. Funded by Nagaland University under the Start-Up Project for Young Faculty (SUPYF), the study was led by Principal Investigator Dr Gyati Yam, Assistant Professor, Department of Forestry, along with researchers Vieneite-o Koza and Joynath Pegu.

The findings were published in an international journal publishing authoritative research on plant and fungal taxonomy, systematics, nomenclature and global biodiversity.

Praising the researchers, Vice Chancellor Prof Jagadish Kumar Patnaik said: "The discovery of a new plant species by Nagaland University researchers highlights the extraordinary biodiversity of Northeast India."

"It provides strong evidence that community-protected forests in Nagaland are vital refuges for rare and endemic plants. This work not only strengthens India's botanical records but also contributes valuable data to global plant science and conservation efforts," he said.

Elaborating on the study, Dr Yam said that they focused on exploring high-altitude forests, identifying and describing previously unknown plant species, documenting regional biodiversity, and assessing the conservation status of rare and endemic plants.

"A key emphasis was also placed on understanding the role of community-reserved forests in protecting fragile ecosystems," she said.

Future work will focus on monitoring the species in the wild, studying its ecology, pollination biology and ornamental potential, assessing long-term conservation threats, and exploring nearby forest areas for additional undocumented plant species.

Researcher Koza said that the unique aspect of research includes the discovery and formal scientific description of 'Hoya nagaensis', a species previously unknown to science. She said that the plant displays distinctive leaf shapes and floral characteristics that clearly differentiate it from other known species in the Hoya genus.

"The findings provide strong evidence that community-protected forests in Nagaland are critical refuges for rare and endemic plant species, contributing valuable data to global plant science and strengthening India's botanical records," Koza stated.

Researcher Pegu added that the species is currently known only from a single location in the Kavünhou Community Reserved Forest in Phek district.

Voluntary contribution of Asha-Anganwadi workers



Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

Women's empowerment, nutrition, and health in India's rural society depend heavily on ASHA and Anganwadi workers. These are the women who go door-to-door to administer vaccinations, detect malnutrition in children, assist pregnant women in safe delivery, and play a crucial role in reducing maternal and infant mortality. In pandemics like COVID-19, they were used as frontline soldiers, but these days, these women are on the streets, their destinations being Sealdah Railway Station in West Bengal or Fountain Chowk in Karnataka. Their situation is no better: will these women, who care for the nation's health, not be given the status of workers?

The needs of ASHA and Anganwadi workers are not extraordinary; they receive minimum wages, pensions, gratuities, Class III employee status, and social security. Yet, governments deny them formal labor rights and label them as volunteers or project workers. The nationwide strikes from December 2025 to January 2026 are a public expression of this long-term neglect.

The Anganwadi Scheme and Asha Scheme were launched in 1975 under the ICDS and in 2005 under the National Health Mission. Their aim was to strengthen rural health and nutrition systems through the participation of local women. Initially, a voluntary system was adopted to limit government expenditure, but the reality on the ground is that these women are employed as full-time workers. An Asha worker has to care for 1,000 people, while Anganwadi workers care for 40 children, including pregnant women, distributing nutrition, and maintaining records.

In 2006, the Supreme Court ruled that they were government employees



because they did not hold statutory positions, but this decision was ignored. However, a 2022 decision granted Anganwadi workers the right to gratuity under the 2013 ICDS Act. Later, in 2024, the Gujarat High Court recognized them as state employees based on the principle of equality, while the Calcutta High Court directed consideration of the issue of promotion. Despite this, central and state policies remain inconsistent and erratic.

The practice of honorarium is shameful. ASHA workers receive a minimum honorarium of ?3,500 to ?6,000, and that too is based on incentives. In Karnataka, the honorarium is fixed at ?6,000, but it is paid eight to nine months late. Anganwadi supervisors receive an average of ?15,000. There are no holidays, no transportation allowance, and no proper personal protective equipment. Maternity leave is also limited, and the workload is constantly increasing.

Because the term applies to volunteers, they are outside the scope of the Minimum Wages Act 1948, the Equal Remuneration Act 1976, and four new labor laws. The 45th Indian Labor Conference's recommendation of ?26,000 for a minimum wage has not yet been implemented. There are no social security schemes like EPF and ESI. The demand for an increase of ?1,200 in retirement pension has persisted for years, but no action has been taken on it. The e-Shram card does not provide any eligibility, but only collects data.

Ironically, women, who play a crucial role in reducing malnutrition and infant mortality in the country, are themselves vulnerable. According to the NFHS-5 report, 35 percent of children in India suffer from stunting, and the infant mortality rate is 28 per thousand. ASHA workers and Anganwadi workers have played a crucial role in increasing these figures. More than 500 workers lost their lives during COVID-19, and compensation was announced, but payments were severely delayed. The situation is further exacerbated by mental stress, workload, and 20 percent vacant posts in states like Haryana.

This is a politically recognized problem. Sonia Gandhi raised the issue in the Rajya Sabha on December 16, 2025. Some hints were given in Budget 2026, but no definitive and binding decisions were taken. The unions have made it clear that if their demands are not met, they will launch more agitations.

Solutions must be structural, not half-measures. Workers under the scheme must be granted employee status through labor laws. This requires a minimum wage of ?26,000, a pension of ?10,000, and mandatory EPF. The central government should pay at least 50 percent of the honorarium, and states should immediately fill all vacant positions. Overtime, maternity leave, permanent workplaces, online training, and recognition of trade unions should be provided. Accountability should be ensured at the local level through Panchayati Raj.

ASHA and Anganwadi workers are not mere figureheads in programs; they are the real hope of millions of families. This distinction between volunteering and working is a blatant injustice. In the 77th year of the Republic, when India claims to be a global leader, the issue of respecting these women is not a question of policy, but a constitutional question of morality.

These protests are a message; justice delayed is revolution.

ASHA and Anganwadi workers are not supplements to any scheme, but rather the backbone of India's public health system. Denying them labor rights by labeling them as volunteers is an affront to social justice and constitutional equality. Women, who are on the front lines of saving the country from epidemics, malnutrition, and maternal mortality, are themselves vulnerable in the current situation. These protests indicate that time is running out. If the republic is to be strengthened, these women must be afforded respect, security, and rights. Justice may be delayed, but it cannot be avoided.

ASHA and Anganwadi workers are not contributing to any programs, but they are the backbone of India's public health sector. Denying them labor rights by calling them volunteers is an affront to social justice and constitutional equality. The women who worked to save the country from epidemics, malnutrition, and maternal mortality are themselves vulnerable today. These protests are a sign that time is running out. If the republic is to be strengthened, these women must receive rights, security, and respect. Justice may be delayed, but it cannot be avoided.

(Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

Budget 2026: Experts call for tax-funded Universal Health Care, enhancing public hospitals



Health experts on Tuesday urged the government to introduce tax-funded Universal Health Care, and boost resources at government hospitals in the upcoming Union Budget 2026.

The experts also highlighted the lack of funds to in public health care institutions to deliver adequate services to a large number of patients and stressed the need to expand PMJAY to include outpatient care.

"We advocate tax-funded Universal Health Care with a basic health package for all citizens and to increase public health allocation to 2.5-5 per cent of GDP, strengthening government hospitals and human resources," said Dr Vinay Aggarwal, past National President, Indian Medical Association.

"The government should reform PMJAY to include outpatient care, realistic package rates, DBT, copayments, and timely reimbursements," he added.

The expert also urged the government "to provide GST exemption on lifesaving equipment, consumables, and all vaccines".

A recent report by The Lancet Commission stressed that the public sector healthcare system is the backbone for achieving the universal health coverage goal. An accompanying Comment paper examined India's progress towards universal health coverage and highlights structural weaknesses in the health system.

It particularly highlighted fragmented governance, poor coordination across levels of care, health services organised around institutions rather than citizens, and persistent gaps in quality, equity, and continuity of care as major barriers to UHC.

The paper suggested that India's path to universal health care requires multiple programmes and noted that operating in silos can weaken accountability and service continuity.

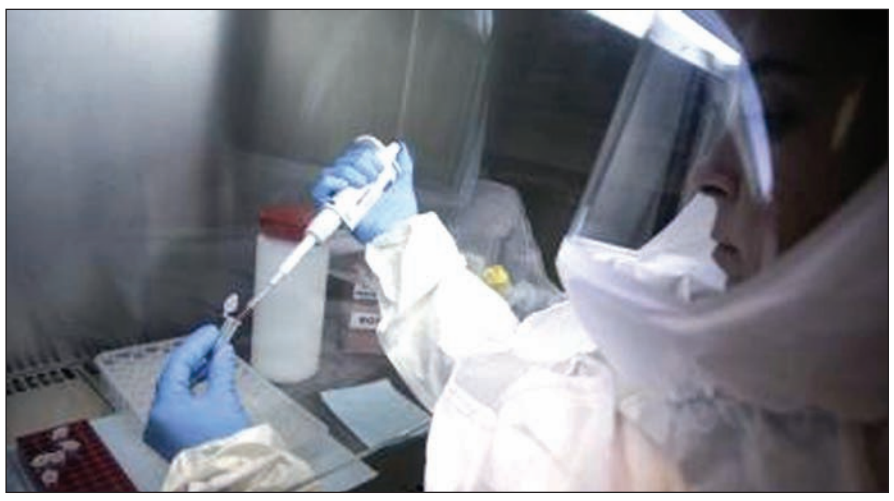
Healthcare delivery must remain facility-centred rather than focused on patient journeys and long-term care needs. It also mentioned that weak referral systems and poor integration between primary, secondary, and tertiary services limit efficiency and outcomes.

The study stressed that policy intent alone is insufficient without institutional capacity to execute reforms.

"While over the last few years, the government has increased the allocation for healthcare in its budget, the continued prioritisation on capacity building has often left public healthcare facilities with insufficient funds to deliver adequate services to the large number of patients that they serve," said Aditya Banerjee, Member at Medical Technology Association of India (MTaI).

"A deliberate shift in the public procurement criteria, from the lowest upfront price to the best long term value for the overall healthcare system, is essential for delivering better patient outcomes for every Rupee spent," he added. Banerjee said that it will help avoid the spiralling healthcare budgets, that today is becoming unsustainable in many developed economies of the world.

Chinese scientists identify key Ebola virus mutation



Chinese researchers have unveiled a crucial mutation in the Ebola virus that significantly enhanced its infectivity during a major outbreak, providing new insights for epidemic surveillance and drug development.

The study, published in the journal Cell, focused on the Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) from 2018 to 2020, the second-largest in history, which caused over 3,000 infections and more than 2,000 deaths, Xinhua news agency reported.

"The research tells us that during major emerging infectious disease outbreaks, real-time genomic surveillance and evolutionary analysis of the pathogen are crucial," said Professor Qian Jun from Sun Yat-sen University.

"This is not only able to warn of changes in transmission risk but also to prospectively assess the effectiveness of existing drugs and vaccines, guiding us to preemptively adjust control strategies," Jun added.

A key question drove the research, namely, beyond the impact of local healthcare challenges, did viral evolution itself contribute to the Ebola outbreak's prolonged duration?

"We have long been aware that key viral mutations often act as invisible drivers accelerating transmission during major outbreaks. Having worked on Ebola for over a decade, we had to investigate whether similar patterns of mutation existed for this virus," said Jun, explaining the team's motivation.

In 2022, the team analysed 480 complete Ebola virus genomes and discovered that a variant carrying a specific mutation in the viral glycoprotein, named GP-V75A, had emerged early in the DRC epidemic.

This variant rapidly replaced the original strain, and its rising prevalence closely mirrored the surge in case numbers, suggesting it might confer a transmission advantage, according to the research team.

Subsequent experiments using various models confirmed the mutation's biological impact. It showed that GP-V75A had significantly enhanced the virus's ability to infect multiple types of host cells and mice.

Furthermore, this study revealed a potential clinical concern, notably that the GP-V75A mutation had diminished the antiviral effectiveness of some existing therapeutic antibodies and small-molecule entry inhibitors, indicating a possible risk of drug resistance.

These findings underscore the importance of continuous viral genome monitoring during outbreaks to anticipate evolutionary threats and inform the development of broad-spectrum countermeasures, the research team said.

India-EU FTA to unlock up to $4.5 billion export potential for India's RMG sector



New Delhi, Jan 27 (IANS) India is expected to gradually increase its market share from 5 per cent to 8-9 per cent in the EU's ready-made garment (RMG) imports, unlocking an incremental annual export opportunity of nearly $4-4.5 billion over the medium term, a report showed on Tuesday.

The European Union (EU) is the world's largest RMG market, with imports of nearly $84 billion (excluding trade among EU countries) in 2024, according to the report by CareEdge Ratings.

India currently exports $4.5-5 billion of RMG to the EU, holding 5 per cent share of the EU's RMG market. Unlike India, key competitors such as Bangladesh, Turkey, Vietnam, Pakistan, and Cambodia enjoy duty-free access.

"The India-EU FTA is, therefore, critical to improve competitiveness of Indian RMG exporters. The agreement is called the 'Mother of All Trade Deals' because it creates a level playing field for accessing the EU's RMG market, which is likely to reach $105 billion shortly (already at $94 billion in 11 months of CY25)," the report noted.

Once fully implemented by 2027, India will gain a 12 per cent duty advantage over China, which currently holds the largest market share of nearly 30 per cent in the EU's RMG imports, said the report.

China is expected to lose its share in the EU's RMG market due to the 'China Plus One' sourcing strategy adopted by global apparel brands and retailers.

"Additionally, socio-political uncertainties in Bangladesh may also lead apparel brands and retailers with a significant presence in the country to diversify their sourcing, thereby benefiting India, among others," the report mentioned.

To fully capitalise on this potential, Indian manufacturers must expand their capacities to meet the expected surge in demand.

India's increased competitiveness post-duty removal and continued favourable policy regimes in India, such as removal of Quality Control Order (QCO) on polyester yarn, the PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) park and the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, is expected to aid the sector in becoming more cost competitive and thereby grab these additional export opportunities, said the report.

Gold, silver continue to touch new highs as US dollar weakens

Mumbai, Jan 27 (IANS) Gold and silver prices surged to record highs on Tuesday, amid persistent weakness in the US dollar and expectations of rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve.

MCX gold February futures rose 1.48 per cent to Rs 1,58,343 per 10 grams. Meanwhile, MCX silver March futures rose 6.56 per cent to Rs 3,56,670 per kg.

Earlier in the day, gold had peaked to Rs 1,59,820 per 10 grams, up 2.4 per cent, before profit-booking eased the price level.International markets also saw gold and silver touching record highs, as geopolitical risks drove investors to safe-haven assets. Renewed fears of a government shutdown in the US and President Donald Trump's new threats of 25 per cent tariffs on South Korean automobiles, lumber, and pharmaceutical imports added fuel to trade tensions. Trump also warned Canada of a 100 per cent tariff if it makes a deal with China.

US gold futures April contracts rose around 1 per cent to $5,113.70 per troy ounce as the dollar index eased by 0.1 per cent, making bullion cheaper in overseas currencies.Persistent safe-haven demand, steady central-bank accumulation, and expectations of accommodative global monetary conditions continue to underpin prices.

Budget 2026: Business leaders seek lower tax for manufacturing units, sector-specific incentives



New Delhi, Jan 27 (IANS) Business leaders in India voiced strong demand for targeted tax incentives and manufacturing linked lower tax rate regime in anticipation of the Union Budget 2026 and the implementation of the New Income Tax Act, a report said on Tuesday.

The report from KPMG India said 34 per cent of respondents called for the return of the manufacturing-linked lower tax rate regime, as many income-tax incentives already expired or approached sunset.

Earlier a lower tax rate of 15 per cent was available u/s 115BAB to manufacturing units.

Meanwhile, 50 per cent respondents wanted the government to focus on targeted sector-specific incentives, the report said.

"The launch of the New Income Tax Act has certainly been a big step towards a simplified income-tax law," most respondents said, however, when asked where rationalisation is needed most, respondents ranked TDS and TCS compliances followed by the assessment and litigation process, and the capital gains tax regime among top priorities.

The business consultancy firm said that the survey of over 100 industry respondents showed that 51 per cent of them wanted "some form of safe harbour provisions" for International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) structures. Roughly 73 per cent respondents wanted a significant hike in the standard deduction for salaried individuals.

Nearly 50 per cent of respondents shared their view of the Dispute Resolution Panel route not effectively reducing unwarranted litigation, the report said.

"The increase in slab rates for individuals in the last Budget coupled with GST rate cuts have enhanced disposable incomes and raised consumption. However, stakeholders continue to look forward to furthering reforms and tax incentives," Sunil Badala, Partner and National Head of Tax, KPMG in India.

A major expectation is the overhaul of the dispute resolution mechanism under direct tax laws, including the introduction of mandatory timelines for the disposal of appeals, Badala noted.

Around 71 per cent of respondents said they believed transfer pricing safe harbour rules need a revamp, particularly in terms of margins and thresholds across different business categories.

Almost 82 per cent of respondents supported a review of the GST Invoice Management System and provide enhanced reconciliation capabilities to reduce the mismatches and increase in GST tax liabilities.

The survey took responses from 100 respondents including C-Suite leaders and senior management of diverse sectors including financial services, technology, life sciences, pharmaceuticals and healthcare, and consumer markets, the report noted.

India's oil & gas sector offers investment opportunities worth 500 billion dollars: PM Modi



New Delhi, Jan 27 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that India's energy sector offers investment opportunities worth 500 billion dollars as he urged global oil and gas majors to "Make in India, Innovate in India, Scale with India, Invest in India."

Addressing the India Energy Week 2026, via video conferencing, being attended by representatives from nearly 125 countries in Goa, PM Modi said that the country's energy sector has vast investment opportunities across different areas of the energy value chain.

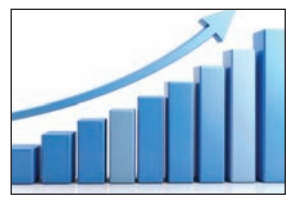
He highlighted that India has significantly opened up its exploration sector and referred to the deep-sea exploration initiative known as the Samudra Manthan Mission. By the end of this decade, India aims to raise investments in the oil and gas sector to 100 billion dollars, with a target of expanding the scope of exploration to one million square km. More than 170 exploration blocks have already been awarded, and the Andaman and Nicobar basin "is emerging as the next hydrocarbon hope," PM Modi said.

Underlining that several reforms have been undertaken in the exploration sector, including reducing the no-go areas, the Prime Minister added that suggestions received during previous editions of India Energy Week have been incorporated into changes in Acts and Rules. He affirmed that companies investing in the exploration sector are certain to see increased profitability.

PM Modi further stated that India possesses a very large refining capacity and currently ranks second in the world, and is poised to become the number one country globally in refining capacity. The country's present refining capacity stands at around 260 million metric tonnes (MMT) per annum, and continuous efforts are underway to raise it beyond 300 MMT per annum, he added.

Highlighting that LNG demand in India is continuously rising, and the country has set a target to meet 15 per cent of its total energy demand through LNG, the Prime Minister emphasised the need to work across the entire LNG value chain and noted that India is undertaking large-scale efforts in transportation. India is working to build the vessels required for LNG transportation domestically, supported by a recently launched ship-building program worth Rs 70,000 crore. Numerous investment opportunities have also been created in constructing LNG terminals at Indian ports, as well as in regasification projects, he added.

India's plastics exports projected to double to $20 billion by 2030



New Delhi, Jan 27 (IANS) India's plastics industry is projected to reach $44.5 billion by 2030 at a CAGR of 11 per cent, with exports surging from about $10 billion in 2025 to $20 billion by 2027, a report said on Tuesday.

Apex body of plastic industry, PlastIndia Foundation, said the growth of industry valued at $26.5 billion in 2025 will be driven by large-scale infrastructure programmes and accelerating consumer demand across packaging, automotive, construction, electronics and healthcare.

Packaging accounts for nearly 42 per cent of the market, supported by rapid e-commerce expansion, underlining the plastics industry's critical role in modern commerce, said Ravish Kamath, President, PlastIndia Foundation.

'PLASTINDIA 2026' billed as the "world's largest international plastics exhibition" and "India's first 100 per cent zero-waste" expo will be held at Bharat Mandapam here from February 5–10.

The event will feature over 2,000 exhibitors and an expected footfall of over 6 lakh, where the scale, strength and global competitiveness of the Indian plastics industry will be showcased, Kamath said.

The event will showcase plastic films, industrial parts and specialty polymers and aims to "further boost exports and position India as a global plastics leader" by connecting Indian manufacturers with global buyers, investors and technology partners.

Asian Paints' Q3 profit falls nearly 5 pc, shares slide 4 pc



Mumbai, Jan 27 (IANS) Asian Paints on Tuesday reported a 4.8 per cent drop in its consolidated net profit for the quarter ended December 31, 2025 (Q3 FY26). The company's net profit fell to about Rs 1,074 crore, compared to around Rs 1,128 crore in the same quarter last financial year (Q3 FY25), according to its stock exchange filing. Revenue from operations for the quarter rose nearly 4 per cent year-on-year to Rs 8,867.02 crore, up from Rs 8,549.44 crore in the corresponding period of the previous financial year. This indicates that while sales improved, profitability was impacted due to certain exceptional costs. The company said its net profit numbers include exceptional items worth Rs 157.61 crore.These were mainly related to labour code provisions and an impairment loss following the acquisition of Obgenix Software Private Limited, also known as White Teak. On the operational front, Asian Paints delivered a strong performance. Profit before depreciation, interest, tax, other income and exceptional items (PBDIT) rose by 8.8 per cent to Rs 1,781 crore from Rs 1,636.7 crore a year ago.

Sensex, Nifty end higher as India-EU trade deal boosts sentiment



Mumbai, Jan 27 (IANS) India's benchmark stock market indices ended higher on Tuesday after a highly volatile trading session, supported by improved investor sentiment following the announcement of a bilateral trade deal between India and the European Union. At the close of trade, the Nifty rose 0.51 per cent, or 126.75 points, to settle at 25,175.40. The Sensex also ended higher, gaining 319.78 points, or 0.39 per cent, to close at 81,857.48.

"A sustained breakout above 25,400 would be required to revive a stronger bullish trend, while a decisive breakdown below 25,000 could invite accelerated selling toward the 24,900–24,600 zone," an expert stated.

"Until a directional trigger emerges, the index is likely to remain confined within the 24,900–25,200 consolidation band," as per the expert. Under the deal, EU goods exports to India are expected to double by 2032, as tariffs on nearly 96.6 per cent of EU goods exported to India will be eliminated or reduced.

At the same time, the European Union will remove or lower tariffs on about 99.5 per cent of goods imported from India, boosting trade prospects for both sides.

Despite the overall positive finish, several heavyweight stocks weighed on the market.

Shares of Mahindra & Mahindra, Asian Paints, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Eternal, ITC and Maruti Suzuki India ended lower, with some stocks declining by as much as 4 per cent.On the other hand, buying interest was seen in stocks such as Axis Bank, Adani Ports, NTPC, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel and State Bank of India, which rose by up to 5 per cent and supported the indices.

Broader markets also reflected positive sentiment. The Nifty Midcap 100 index ended 0.59 per cent higher, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 gained 0.41 per cent by the end of the session.

EMEDIX Smart Pharmacy opens outlet in Sakchi

Jamshedpur: EMEDIX Smart Pharmacy inaugurated its new outlet in the prime Sakchi area of Jamshedpur, strengthening access to organised and affordable healthcare services. The outlet was formally opened by chief guests Mrs Saraswati Singh and Mrs Ramrati Kumari, who jointly cut the ribbon and described the initiative as beneficial for the public.Franchise owner Anand Singh said the pharmacy will provide quality branded medicines, fair pricing and dependable service to people of Sakchi and nearby localities, with a focus on transparency and trust.Among those present were Akshay Kumar, Sandhya Chaudhary, Shivani Singh, Chaudhary Arshad Raza, Khurram Bilal Aslam and Waseem Tariq.The outlet offers up to 20 per cent discount, free home delivery, smart billing and quick service. GM Waqar Siddiqui said EMEDIX aims to make medicines safe and easily accessible for all.

PM Modi thanks all European leaders in making 'mother of all deals' possible



New Delhi, Jan 27 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that the conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) marks a significant milestone in their relations, and also thanked all the leaders of Europe over the years for their constructive spirit and commitment in making this possible.

"This agreement will deepen economic ties, create opportunities for our people and strengthen the India-Europe partnership for a prosperous future," PM Modi said in a post on X after the "mother of all deals" was reached.

India and Europe have taken an important step forward today. The free trade agreement between India and the EU opens new pathways for growth, investment, and strategic cooperation, PM Modi added.

During a joint press conference at Hyderabad House here, PM Modi announced the signing of the FTA between India and the European Union, stressing that the landmark partnership between two major economies will create new opportunities for businesses, consumers, and the skilled workforce.

Bangladesh must urgently reform tariff regime or risk falling behind peers: Report



New Delhi, Jan 27 (IANS) Bangladesh could fall behind peer nations and competing economies without radical reforms in tariffs and trade facilitation within five years, an economist warned, according to a new report.

Bangladesh-based media house 'The Daily Star' cited chairman of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh Zaidi Sattar calling for urgent reforms as the country has not undertaken significant trade policy reforms for around 16 years.

Zattar warned at an event marking International Customs Day 2026 at the National Board of Revenue headquarters in Agargaon that the backlog of reform work has now piled up which is weakening the country's competitiveness in the global value chain, the report said.

"Compared to international standards, Bangladesh's tariff regime is very high and extremely complex which weakens the country's competitiveness in global value," said Sattar, adding that cumbersome customs procedures raise compliance costs calling for radical liberalisation of the trade policy.

"If radical changes are not implemented within the next five years—particularly in tariff rationalisation, tariff modernisation, and trade facilitation—the country's economy will fall behind many other competitive economies," Sattar said according to the report.

Zattar was hopeful that Bangladesh would move towards a modern customs administration prioritising trade facilitation over revenue collection, as trade taxes currently account for around 2.5 per cent of GDP.

The economist urged that the trade taxes should drop to a maximum of1 per cent by 2030.

Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman also noted non-tariff barriers continuing to impede trade and he called on the National Board of Revenue (NBR) to prioritise simplification of the trade regime.

According to him, European Commission officials who recently visited the country raised a long list of concerns, many of which were linked to customs procedures.

"People are not really asking us to remove high tariffs. They are raising concerns over legitimate technical barriers to trade," Mahbubur Rahman said.

Bangladesh's upcoming graduation out of UN's Least Developed Country (LDC) category has made trade facilitation more urgent, as the country seeks to retain preferential market access through agreements with key partners, Rahman added.

President Murmu meets tribals, tableaux artists and NCC cadets who took part in R-Day Parade

New Delhi, Jan 27 (IANS) A day after taking the salute at the Republic Day Parade on Kartavya Path, President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday interacted with special visitors, including students, tribals, tableaux artists and NSS volunteers and NCC cadets who took part in the Republic Day Parade, an official said.

Separate groups of students from Leh, Jharkhand and Jammu and Kashmir called on the President, said a statement by the President's Secretariat on social media.

"During the day, she also met guests from tribal communities, tableaux artists and tractor drivers, NSS volunteers and NCC cadets, officials and other participants of the Republic Day Parade 2026 at Rashtrapati Bhavan," said the official.

On Monday, Murmu hosted the traditional 'At Home' reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan on the occasion of the 77th Republic Day, bringing together prominent dignitaries to mark the conclusion of the day's celebrations.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan, European Council President Antonio Costa, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, and several other distinguished guests attended the reception.

The 'At Home' event is a long-standing tradition held every year on Republic Day to commemorate the adoption of India's Constitution on January 26, 1950.

This year's reception carried added significance with the presence of the two European leaders, who had earlier served as joint Chief Guests at the Republic Day parade on Kartavya Path.

Their participation highlighted the strengthening ties between India and the European Union.

Discussions on trade, security, and multilateral cooperation are expected to continue during the 16th EU-India Summit scheduled for January 27.

The invitation for the reception featured artistic elements inspired by the cultural heritage and diversity of India's North-Eastern states.

Guests gathered in the historic setting of Rashtrapati Bhavan, exchanging greetings and reflecting on the day's events.

This year's special invitation for the 'At Home' was handcrafted by artisans from the North Eastern states.

The invitation kit included a box made from a woven bamboo mat from Tripura for a wall-hanging-type, panelled invite that showcased traditional art from all eight states of the North East.

The decorative motifs on the cover and the box of the invitation drew inspiration from the Assamese manuscript painting style.

The motifs on the fabric panel represented the flora and fauna of the North-Eastern region. Other highlights included woven nettle fabric and embroidery from Sikkim, green bamboo weave from Meghalaya, Mon Shugu Paper from Arunachal Pradesh, Gogona -- a bamboo jaw harp from Assam, and bamboo jewellery from Tripura, orange wild rhea and stinging nettle fabric from Nagaland, handwoven Puan Chei from Mizoram, Longpi Black Pottery from Manipur and an Eri Silk stole.

History-sheeter Azhaguraja shot dead in police encounter in TN

Chennai, Jan 27 (IANS) Notorious criminal Azhaguraja was shot dead in a police encounter in Tamil Nadu's Perambalur, marking yet another addition to the list of high-profile encounter killings in the state.

The encounter, late on Monday night, took place near a forested stretch close to Thirumanthurai village in Perambalur, when the accused allegedly attacked police personnel while attempting to flee.

According to police sources, Azhaguraja sustained a bullet injury to the head during the encounter and died on the spot. He was a long-time offender with more than 30 criminal cases registered against him, including murder, attempt to murder, extortion, and contract killings.

Police said he was considered extremely dangerous and had evaded arrest for



several years by frequently changing hideouts across districts.

On Sunday night, a special police team led by Mangalamet Inspector Nandakumar arrested Azhaguraja along with six other accused from a hideout in Ooty, where they had been living under assumed identities.

Following their arrest, the suspects were taken to the forest area near Thirumanthurai to recover hidden weapons, explosives, and other incriminating materials.

Police claim that during the recovery operation, Azhaguraja suddenly attacked the escorting officers with a sickle in an attempt to escape. Despite repeated warnings to surrender, he allegedly continued the assault, forcing the police to open fire in self-defence.

One police personnel sustained injuries in the attack and was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital. His condition is said to be stable.

The arrest of Azhaguraja was linked to a recent incident in which another hardened criminal, Kalimuthu, was attacked by a gang while being transported to prison under police escort. Investigators believe Azhaguraja played a key role in planning and executing that attack.

Based on intelligence inputs suggesting that he was hiding in the Tirunelveli region, intensified surveillance and search operations were launched, eventually leading to his arrest.

Kerala HC slams SIT over delay in Sabarimala gold heist case, warns of credibility loss

Kochi, Jan 27 (IANS) The Kerala High Court on Tuesday came down heavily on the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Sabarimala gold theft cases, expressing serious concern over the delays in filing charge sheets that have enabled key accused to walk free on statutory bail.

So far, 13 people have so far been arrested in the two charge sheets filed by the SIT, and one person has now secured statutory bail.

A bench of Justice A. Badaruddin warned that such lapses erode public confidence in the investigation and raise doubts about the seriousness of the probe.

Observing that accused persons gaining release due to the failure to file charge sheets within the statutory time frame creates widespread suspicion, the court questioned why the SIT had failed to take timely and effective steps to prevent the situation.

"When accused are released by default, it inevitably casts a shadow over the credibility of the investigation," the judge noted.



The court pointed out that Murari Babu, former administrative officer of the Devaswom Board and an accused in both the Dwarapalaka and Kattilappala cases, had already secured statutory bail earlier.

It also flagged that Unnikrishnan Potti, the prime accused in both cases, had obtained bail in the Dwarapalaka case and would become eligible for statutory bail in the Kattilappala case as the 90-day period was set to expire on February 2.

The observations were made while considering a plea filed by accused and Smart Creations CEO Pankaj Bhandari seeking his release.

Bhandari contended that he had given statements six times even before being arrayed as an accused and had fully cooperated with the investigation, arguing that his arrest was unnecessary.

However, the court made it clear that the arrest in the case was unavoidable.

At the same time, it stressed that arrested persons must be granted all legal protections, including statutory bail, in accordance with Supreme Court rulings.

Responding to the court's concerns, the SIT submitted that several procedural and evidentiary hurdles had delayed the preparation of the charge sheet.It said documents had been seized from Devaswom Board offices and other locations, while key scientific evidence required to conclusively establish the offences was still awaited.

The SIT maintained that even if the accused were released on bail, the investigation remained focused on securing convictions and ensuring that those responsible were ultimately brought to justice.

Security forces recover, neutralise Maoist-planted IEDs in Bastar

Raipur/Dantewada, Jan 27 (IANS) In a major success for anti-Naxal operations in Chhattisgarh's South Bastar region, security forces recovered and neutralised two improvised explosive devices (IEDs) planted by Maoists in the forest hills near Gufa village under Barsur Police Station limits in Dantewada district.

The joint operation took place on January 27, following precise intelligence inputs. Acting on specific information received on January 22 from the Central Reserve Police Force, a coordinated search and demining mission was launched early in the morning. The operation began on Tuesday morning and involved personnel from CRPF, the Bomb Disposal Squad, and officers from Barsur Police Station.



During the detailed search in the dense forest terrain around Gufa village, the teams located a hidden Maoist explosive dump. The recovered items included one directional pipe bomb fitted with a detonator, weighing around 5 kilograms, and one pressure cooker improvised explosive device weighing approximately 5 kilograms, attached to 15 meters of wire.

Both devices were immediately taken to a safe location and destroyed by the Bomb Disposal Squad in accordance with standard operating procedures, eliminating any risk they posed to security personnel and local civilians.

Anil Kumar Singh, Commandant of the 195 Battalion, with the Young Platoon and Bomb Disposal team led by Assistant Commandant Himansu, conducted the operation. Superintendent of Police Gaurav Rai and Additional Superintendent of Police R.K. Barman have been overseeing intensified anti-Naxal patrolling and area domination efforts across Dantewada district.

The latest recovery highlights the effectiveness of continuous ground operations backed by reliable intelligence sharing among agencies.

Officials described the operation as a significant blow to Maoist activities in the region, preventing potential ambushes or attacks on patrolling parties and villagers.

The swift neutralisation of the explosives underscores the high level of coordination between the Central Reserve Police Force, local police, and intelligence units.

Such recoveries are seen as crucial in weakening the logistical network of Naxal groups operating in the Bastar division.

New industrial revolution has begun in Odisha: CM Majhi

Bhubaneswar, Jan 27 (IANS) Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Tuesday said that a new industrial revolution has begun in Odisha, asserting that the state is steadily moving ahead with industrial proposals amounting to nearly Rs 20 lakh crore for the establishment of new industries across Odisha.

While inaugurating India's first Flat Rolled Products (FRP) aluminium unit at Hindalco Industries Limited's Aditya Aluminium plant at Lapanga in Sambalpur district, CM Majhi stated that once these industrial proposals become operational, around 15 lakh new jobs will be created in Odisha.

The project, set up with an investment of Rs 26,996 crore, is expected to generate employment for 5012 people, further strengthening downstream manufacturing and creating new livelihood opportunities in the region.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said, "Western Odisha today stands as a symbol of confidence, discipline and enterprise transforming from forests and farmlands into a hub of world-class manufacturing."

He also described the workers as the real architects of Odisha's industrial success and said that their dedication ensures that production never stops and progress never slows.

SC suggests attachment of properties of acid attackers

New Delhi, Jan 27 (IANS) The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed serious concern over the pendency of acid attack cases across the country and called for more stringent measures, including the attachment of properties of convicts to ensure meaningful compensation to victims.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant, while hearing a PIL seeking enforcement of guidelines earlier laid down by the top court, noted the submission that 15 High Courts have so far furnished details of pending acid attack cases.

As per the status report placed before the apex court, Uttar Pradesh alone has 198 pending cases, followed by Gujarat with 114, West Bengal with 60, Bihar with 68 and Maharashtra with 58 cases.

In its order, the CJI Kant-led Bench noted that reports from the remaining High Courts are still awaited.

"We request the High Courts to consider the desirability of taking a decision for expediting and concluding matters concerning acid attacks in a time-bound manner on an out-of-turn basis," the Supreme Court said.

During the hearing, the CJI Kant-led Bench made strong oral observations on the need for tougher punitive measures to act as a deterrent.

"Why should the assets of the accused not be attached? If a person is found guilty of an acid attack, why should all his immovable assets not be acquired and used to compensate the victim? You have to take some extraordinary punitive measures. Unless the action is so painful, the deterrent theory must be followed here," the top court observed.It also directed all states and Union Territories to place comprehensive data before it within four weeks, including year-wise incidents of acid attacks, filing of chargesheets, number of cases decided, pendency at the trial stage, and appeals arising out of concluded trials.

Mamata Banerjee cautions against attempts to instigate violence in Bengal before Assembly polls this year

Kolkata, Jan 27 (IANS) West Bengal Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, on Tuesday issued a note of caution about attempts to create tension and violence before the crucial Assembly elections in the state, scheduled later this year.



While issuing the note of caution on Tuesday, the Chief Minister gave some subtle hints about certain sections of people whose actions might trigger possible tension in the state.

Chief Minister Banerjee asked everyone to be careful about possible attempts to create a riot-like situation in West Bengal before the Assembly polls. However, she refrained from directly pointing out those sources of tension and violence.

"We have people from a community whose percentage representation is over 30. In case of grievances, they will block roads. Around 26 per cent of the population is Scheduled Castes. Around six per cent of the population is tribal. Whenever something happens, the people from the tribal community block train services. I do not want this. I want everyone to live together. There might be an attempt to create a situation of unrest before the elections," the Chief Minister warned.

According to Chief Minister Banerjee, the most important thing is that people should stay together peacefully. "If there is peace in life, there will be progress. If the situation is peaceful, then the work becomes easier," she said.

At the same time, Chief Minister Banerjee once again became vocal on the issue of migrant workers from West Bengal being subjected to attacks and humiliation in other states, especially the ones ruled by the BJP.

"Around 1,5 crore of migrant workers are in West Bengal. They do not face any kind of problem here. But when migrant workers from West Bengal go to other states to earn their livelihoods, they are being attacked. I am asking the migrant workers from the state who are currently in other states to return to West Bengal. The state government will take full responsibility for their livelihoods,"

Telangana Cyber Security Bureau arrest 6 cyber fraudsters

Hyderabad, Jan 27 (IANS) The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) has apprehended six accused in three cases of cyber fraud involving over Rs 16 crore, during an operation conducted in Kerala and Bengaluru.

TGCSB director Shikha Goel said on Tuesday that TGCSB organised a coordinated operation as part of its ongoing investigation into cybercrimes and to apprehend the accused individuals involved.

Two teams were dispatched to Kerala, and one team to Bengaluru. They successfully apprehended six accused, three each in Kerala and Bengaluru.

The accused, including five account holders and one agent, were arrested in three cases, in which victims had together lost over Rs 16.18 crore.On December 9, 2024, a complaint was received from a senior citizen woman that she was cheated by a group of impersonating officials of TRAI, CBI, RBI and other national agencies. The victim received a call falsely claiming that her Aadhaar-linked phone number was involved in



criminal activities.

The call was transferred to persons identifying themselves as CBI officers, who instructed her and her daughters to connect on Skype, remain under 24-hour surveillance and follow strict directions, stating they were "digitally arrested."The fraudsters sent fake documents with CBI and RBI logos and claimed her bank accounts required verification. Under continuous pressure, she transferred large sums through RTGS between November 14 and December 3, 2024. She suffered a loss of Rs. 5,66,51,100.In this case, the TGCSB arrested Renju Pathakku Reji, 30, a resident of Kerala. He had provided his company's current bank account and credentials to his friend for use as a mule account to receive proceeds of cyber fraud. Subsequently, his friend provided the details to the main fraudsters who are alleged to be operating from other countries.

On January 2, 2026, a complaint was received from a senior citizen who became a victim of digital arrest. He mentioned that on October 27, 2025, he received a WhatsApp call from someone claiming to be from Blue Dart Customer Care, alleging that a parcel linked to him contained illegal items. He reported that another caller, posing as a Bombay Police officer, accused him of involvement in serious offences and instructed him to keep the matter confidential while forcing him to share financial details.He was pressured to transfer money. He suffered a total loss of Rs. 7,12,80,000. A letter demanding more money made him suspicious, prompting him to file a complaint with the NCRP.In this case, Arun Sreenivas, 41, and Sanal V Menon, 48, both from Kerala, were arrested. They had provided their bank account details to cyber fraudsters for a commission.

Fence along Bangladesh border: HC directs Bengal govt to hand over land to BSF by March 31

Kolkata, Jan 27 (IANS) The Calcutta High Court has issued a major directive regarding the construction of a barbed-wire fence along the India-Bangladesh international border in West Bengal.

On Tuesday, a division bench comprising Chief Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Partha Sarathi Sen ordered the state government to hand over land to the Border Security Force (BSF) for the construction of the fence in nine districts bordering Bangladesh by March 31, said high court sources.

It may be noted that the central government has already provided the funds for this land acquisition, and the acquisition process has been completed. However, the land has not yet been handed over.

The High Court on Tuesday directed the state government to transfer the land as quickly as possible. The court also made it clear that the state cannot use the excuse of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process in this matter.

Furthermore, regarding the land acquisition that has not yet received the state cabinet's approval, the court will hear arguments from



both the central and state governments.

Considering the national security of the country, all parties have been directed to submit affidavits on whether land along the border can be acquired on an emergency basis according to the law. The next hearing in this case is scheduled for April 2.

A public interest litigation (PIL) was filed by former army officer Dr Subrata Saha regarding the state's negligence in constructing the barbed-wire fence along the India-Bangladesh border.

He alleged that illegal smuggling and infiltration are rampant through the portion of the India-Bangladesh border located in this state, and held the state government responsible for this.

In the last hearing of this case, the division bench of the Calcutta High Court, comprising Chief Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Partha Sarathi Sen, had directed the Principal Secretary of the state's Land Acquisition Department to submit an affidavit.

On Tuesday, the state government informed the court that the 181 kilometres of land for which the central government has provided funds for the construction of the barbed-wire fence along the India-Bangladesh border would be handed over to the BSF by March.

After hearing the arguments of all parties, the Chief Justice's division bench set March 31 as the deadline.

Intelligence alert: Pak-backed D-company gears up to push in fake notes worth crores before polls in India

New Delhi, Jan 27 (IANS) With back to back elections set to be held in India this year, Intelligence agencies have warned that the fake currency racket is bound to increase. The Dawood Syndicate which controls this racket from Pakistan, has increased printing of fake notes and the same is being moved to Bangladesh and Nepal.

An Intelligence Bureau official said that they have noticed heightened activity in Malda, West Bengal which is the main landing point for fake currency from the neighbouring country. Those running the racket in Malda have been preparing to receive a massive consignment from Bangladesh, the official added.

Another official said that the Dawood Syndicate will also look to move fake currency through the Nepal border and hence there is a heightened alert. These elements are trying to take advantage of the fact that the security mechanism will be more focussed on the elections and hence they would be able to get away with their nefarious activities.

Officials say that it is important that this menace is controlled at the border itself. Once the fake currency enters the country it is next to impossible to detect, the official added.The Intelligence agencies who work closely with the forensics department have learnt that the notes are of very high quality and forensic experts believe that the notes are printed on highly sophisticated machines. The Pakistan establishment has invested huge capital to ensure that these notes cannot be detected by the Indian agencies.Officials say that the fake currency has the perfect watermark formulation. This indicates that the notes are printed on regular currency making machines, which can be owned only by a state.Intelligence agencies have learnt that fake currency notes to the tune of crores of Rupees were moved into Bangladesh. Most of the fake notes were dropped off using the sea route, the agencies have learnt. The D Syndicate finds this route easier today as there are no checks for Pakistan, thanks to Dhaka's new soft policy towards Islamabad. Under Muhammad Yunus the sea route was opened up to Pakistan for the first time. Indian agencies suspect that huge consignments of arms and ammunition have reached Bangladesh using the sea route. The same route is also being used to push the fake currency into Bangladesh.The challenge would however be to bring it into India. The D Company will try to use both the Nepal and Bangladesh border to smuggle in the fake currency, officials say. While the consignment that comes in from Nepal would be taken to Bihar, the fake notes at the Bangladesh border will be moved into Malda.

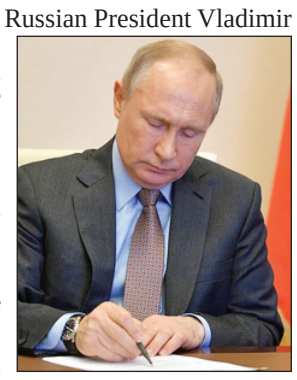


From here the notes would be distributed to other parts of the country. Another official added that once the notes land in India, the target states would be the ones where elections are scheduled to be held.Elections are due in Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry. The polls are scheduled to be held between March and May 2026. Officials say that the D gang would try and move most of the fake notes into these states since the security agencies would be too busy with the elections.

The agencies are keeping a close watch on the border areas. The alert is high in Malda and the neighbouring areas, as the Intelligence agencies say that the biggest consignment would land in these places.

India rightfully occupies place among leading world powers: Putin's R-Day greetings

Moscow, Jan 27 (IANS) Russian President Vladimir Putin sent heartfelt greetings to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on India's 77th Republic Day, underscoring India's esteemed position among the leading world powers and its considerable standing in the international arena.



"The achievements of your country in the social, economic, scientific and technical fields are universally recognised. India rightfully occupies its place among the leading world powers and has earned high respect in the international arena," read the message from President Putin

Recalling the constructive talks during his visit to India in December last year, Putin said the discussions reaffirmed the successful development of the special and privileged strategic partnership between Moscow and New Delhi."I am convinced that through joint efforts we will continue to successfully strengthen bilateral cooperation in all areas, as well as our interaction on the regional and international agenda. This fully corresponds to the interests of the peoples of Russia and India and goes in line with building a just multipolar world order," the Russian President stated.

Pakistan: Employees hold protest in Balochistan, demand disparity reduction allowance

Quetta, Jan 27 (IANS) Workers of the Balochistan Employees Grand Alliance (BEGA) held protest rallies in Pakistan's Quetta and Khuzdar for raising their demands, including the grant of the disparity reduction allowance, local media reported on Tuesday. The BEGA employees held a rally from Bacha Khan Chowk to the City Police Station in Quetta. After reaching the police station, the demonstrators held a sit-in and shouted slogans against the government, as the authorities had refused to agree to their demands, Pakistan's leading daily Dawn reported. According to police officials, 11 employees, who participated in the protest voluntarily, presented themselves for arrest. Government employees held a protest in Khuzdar to raise their demands. The protest was led by the alliance's district president, Aslam Notani, APCA Kalat Division president Manzoor Naushad,



General Secretary Aslam Zahri, Paramedical Staff Association president Rashid Ahmed Ghulamani and Rashida Zahri.A large number of employees from various government departments were part of the protest, shouting slogans against the government and voicing concern over the delay in agreeing to their demands. Earlier on January 22, the Unemployed Pharmacists' Action Committee in Balochistan criticised the government's decision to announce a limited number of vacancies for more than 2,000 unemployed pharmacists, terming it "equivalent to offering a pinch of cumin to a camel."While addressing a press briefing at the Quetta Press Club, UPAC General Secretary Qasim Aziz Mengal termed the decision unacceptable and called for the creation of more positions and transparent as well as merit-based recruitment, Dawn reported.He termed the appointment of pharmacists to BPS-17 posts through walk-in interviews a non-transparent move aimed at including favoured and recommended people. He alleged that the health department did not have merit and there was no transparency in the recruitment process.He voiced concerns over the absence and non-appointment of pharmacy departments in private hospitals.

India and EU to expand trilateral projects from Indo-Pacific to Caribbean: PM Modi

New Delhi, Jan 27 (IANS) Hailing the cooperation between India and the European Union, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that the partnership between two sides is for global good. He announced that India and European Union will expand trilateral projects from the Indo-Pacific to the Caribbean.

While addressing a joint press meet with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Antonio Costa following their talks in New Delhi on Tuesday, PM Modi said, "India and the European Union's cooperation is a partnership for global good. We will expand trilateral projects from the Indo-Pacific to the Caribbean. This will support sustainable agriculture, clean energy, and women's empowerment. We will work together to make IMEC corridor a key link of global trade, connectivity."

He noted that ties between India and EU have seen a remarkable progress in the past few years. Lauding the contribution of Indian community living in European nations, he stated that over 800,000 Indians living in several parts of Europe are actively contributing there.

PM Modi said, "Yesterday was a historic moment when, for the first time, leaders of the European Union attended India's Republic Day celebrations as chief guests. Today marks another historic occasion as the world's two largest democratic powers mark a decisive chapter in their relationship."

"In the past few years, the relations between India and the European Union has seen a remarkable progress. Driven by shared democratic values, economic synergy, and strong people-to-people connections, our relationship is reaching new heights. Currently, bilateral trade between India and the EU stands at 180 billion euros, and more than 800,000 Indians now reside in various European countries and are giving active contribution," he added.



He announced that India and EU will deepen collaboration in counter-terrorism, maritime, and cyber security. He said, "Security and defence partnership is the foundation of any strategic partnership. Today, we are reinforcing it through a security and defence partnership.

This will deepen our collaboration in counter-terrorism, maritime, and cyber security. It will strengthen our partnership for a rules-based international order. Our scope will further increase in the Indo-Pacific."

He announced that India and EU are making a new framework for mobility. He further said, "This will create new opportunities for Indian students, workers and professionals in the European Union."

PM Modi stated that India has concluded a Free Trade Agreement with EU and stressed that it will create new opportunities in manufacturing and further strengthen cooperation between services sectors of two nations.

"Today, India has concluded the largest Free Trade Agreement in its history. Today is the 27th, and it is a happy coincidence that on this day, India is signing this FTA with 27 countries of the European Union. This historic agreement will facilitate access to the European market for our farmers and our small industries, create new opportunities in manufacturing, and further strengthen cooperation between our services sectors," he said.

Bangladesh elections: Minority Hindus in crosshairs as radical plot unfolds

New Delhi, Jan 27 (IANS) A plot has been engineered in Bangladesh to incite violence against the minority Hindus ahead of the February elections. Many leaders who are contesting the elections are planning on using the anti-Hindu rhetoric as an election plank.

An Intelligence Bureau official said that a plot was hatched last week by several leaders to incite violence against the Hindus in Bangladesh. During this meeting, several radical elements were roped in to help further this plan. An official said that the situation is very worrisome for the minority communities in the country. While violence has been a concern, the worry is that it is set to escalate further ahead of the elections.

Bangladesh watchers say that the polls will not be fought on the development plank. There would be no talk about security, economics, and other important topics. The poll would be all about an anti-Hindu, anti-India rhetoric, the experts say.

Many leaders are trying to incite the radicals against the Hindus, stating that India has been giving shelter to the ousted leader, Sheikh Hasina. Further, they are



telling the people that the Hindus support India, and hence they have no place in Bangladesh.

Another official said that this plot also includes running a fake narrative against the minority community. They would create stories about the Hindus trying to incite tensions. Allegations of theft and other crimes would be made against them, so that the locals can commit atrocities against the minority community.

Another campaign issue would be Sheikh Hasina. They are branding her as anti-Bangladesh and pro-India. Most parties are accusing India of sheltering Hasina, despite Bangladesh seeking her extradition. Experts say that it is hard to analyse whether this strategy would work entirely. A large majority in Bangladesh seeks good ties with India instead of Pakistan. Many leaders have realised this, and hence they feel that this strategy to polarise voters based on religion may work for them.

An official said that this anti-India, anti-Hindu rhetoric is working for many leaders. The Jamaat-e-Islami, especially, is reaping the benefits of this strategy. The worry, according to the official, is that the situation is only going to worsen in the coming days. Many Hindus continue living in fear in the country. If the violence escalates, they would look to leave the country, and there could be a major exodus. This would put a lot of stress on the borders, which already remain fragile since the Jamaat-backed Muhammad Yunus took over power.

The persecution of the minorities is nothing new in Bangladesh. It has always taken place, and the population of the minority community has dropped significantly over the years. Officials say that this time it is different. This is not only about persecution, but it has also become vote bank politics. Such plots to target the minorities systematically come at a time when many leaders are calling for the establishment of an Islamic state.

However, many do not want the country to be governed by the Constitution. They have been demanding that Sharia law be implemented. When the atmosphere is so charged up, there is a lot of worry ahead for the minorities who live in Bangladesh.

Officials say that the persecution of minorities will not stop even if there is a democratic government in place. The big worry is that it would be multi-fold until the elections are over, an official added.

Death toll rises to 28 amid severe winter storm across US

New York, Jan 27 (IANS) At least 28 weather-related deaths were reported as a massive winter storm dumped snow across dozens of US states over the weekend, causing widespread power outages, flight cancellations and school closures.

The death toll included two people run over by snowplows in Massachusetts and Ohio, and fatal sledding accidents in Arkansas and Texas. In New York City, officials said eight people were found dead outdoors as temperatures plunged at night, Xinhua news agency reported.

From Massachusetts in the northeast to Texas in the south, roads were frozen slick with ice and buried under often more than 30 cm of snow. In some southern states, residents faced winter conditions unseen for decades.

जिला परिषद कार्यालय, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर

शुद्धि पत्र

PR.No 370839 (Panchayat Raj)25–26)*D के द्वारा समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित अति अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं0 ESZP /JSR/Epro- **11/2025-26 (2nd call)** में आंशिक संशोधन किया जाता है :–

1	वेवसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय	–	24.01.2026 को पूर्वाहन् 11:00 बजे
2	निविदा प्राप्त करने की अतिम तिथि एवं समय	–	29.01.2026 को अपराहन् 5:00 बजे तक
3	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	–	30.01.2026 को अपराहन् 05:00 बजे

अन्य सभी नियम एवं शर्तें यथावत् रहेंगे।

जिला अभियंता
जिला परिषद, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर

PR 371626 (Panchayati Raj)25-26*D

जिला परिषद कार्यालय, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर

शुद्धि पत्र

PR.No 370836 (Panchayat Raj) 25–26) (D) के द्वारा समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित अति अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं0 ESZP/JSR/Epro- 09/**2025-26 (3rd call)** में आंशिक संशोधन किया जाता है :–

1	वेवसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय	–	24.01.2026 को पूर्वाहन् 11:00 बजे
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अन्य सभी नियम एवं शर्तें यथावत् रहेंगे।

जिला अभियंता
जिला परिषद, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर

PR 371625 Panchayati Raj (25-26)_D

Pakistan losing Rs 1 trillion revenue due to rampant tax evasion

New Delhi, Jan 27 (IANS) Tax evasion in the real estate sector is bleeding Pakistan's national exchequer roughly Rs 500 billion annually, illicit tobacco is costing another Rs 310 billion, and multiple consumer goods industries are operating outside the documented economy, leading to an annual revenue loss for the government of a staggering Rs 1 trillion, an article in the Pakistani media said.

An article in the Karachi-based Business Recorder highlights that tax evasion and smuggling on this magnitude are taking place because of official protection and complicity of the regulatory authorities. Without these, the shadow economy would shrink rapidly under even modest enforcement pressure, it noted.

The article pointed out that the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR's) Rs545 billion shortfall in the first half of the ongoing fiscal year reflects this grim reality. It is not just the result of weak economic activity or an exhausted tax base. It is also the outcome of an economy where a large share of value creation is deliberately kept outside the tax net. Yet, instead of dismantling the structures that enable evasion, the state turns to the same narrow group of compliant taxpayers to fill the gap, it said.

"That approach has become routine and deeply damaging. Salaried individuals, registered businesses and formally documented firms have long shouldered a disproportionate burden. Higher effective tax rates on this group discourage investment, distort incentives and push marginal actors back toward informality. And the system ends up penalising honesty while rewarding avoidance, creating a cycle that sustains the very problem policymakers claim to be addressing," the article lamented.

The sectors, identified in a study carried out by research agency Ipsos, illustrate how en-



trenched the dysfunction has become. Real estate continues to operate with chronic under-valuation, weak enforcement and selective scrutiny. The illicit tobacco trade persists despite well-mapped distribution networks and identifiable enforcement points. Similar patterns exist in tyres, lubricants, pharmaceuticals, and tea.

Targeted enforcement, proper documentation, credible valuation mechanisms and full implementation of track-and-trace systems, to check the menace of tax evasion, have been discussed repeatedly. Yet what is still missing is political will. Taking on the undocumented economy means the government will be confronting actors with influence, resources and access. It also demands insulating enforcement agencies from political interference, something successive governments have failed to do, the article stated.

"Instead, enforcement remains selective. Crackdowns are announced; then softened. Technology is introduced; then undermined. Regulatory agencies are asked to perform without protection or consistency. Over time, the signal becomes unmistakable: compliance is optional for the powerful and mandatory for everyone else," it lamented.

The macroeconomic cost of this failure is severe. Revenue shortfalls constrain development spending, increase reliance on borrowing and weaken fiscal credibility. They also feed inflationary pressures as governments resort to indirect taxation. Most damaging of all, they corrode trust. When citizens see that rules apply unevenly, voluntary compliance collapses. Taxation becomes coercive rather than contractual. That has been Pakistan's tax story for far too long, the article underlined.

Health

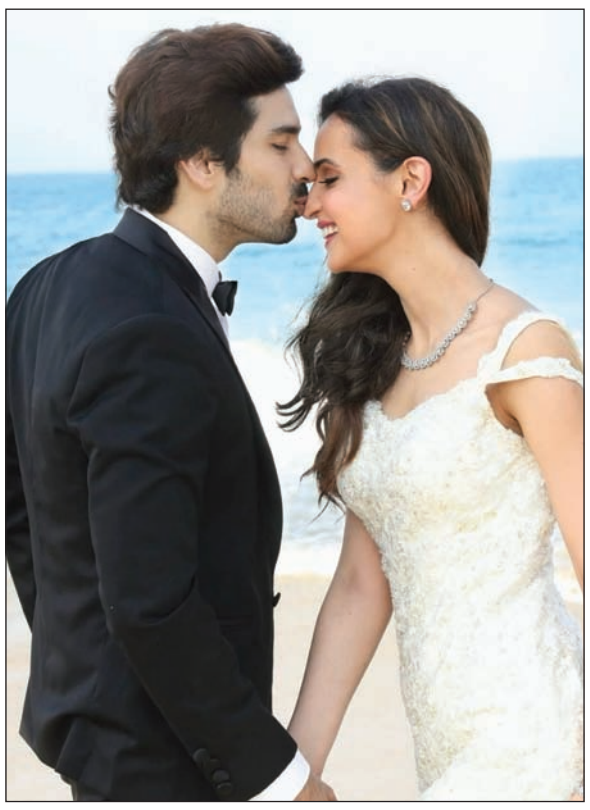
Plastics emissions to double health risks worldwide by 2040: Study



New Delhi, Jan 27 (IANS) Emissions from the global plastics system --greenhouse gases, air-polluting particles, and toxic chemicals released particularly from plastics production processes -- could double health risks by 2040, if no meaningful action is taken to change current practices, according to a study on Tuesday. The research, published in The Lancet Planetary Health journal, identified health harms at every stage of the life-cycle of the plastics: from the extraction of fossil fuels, the feedstocks for more than 90 per cent of plastics, and material production to their eventual disposal or release to the environment. The modelling-based study compared the global human health impacts of several different future scenarios for plastics consumption and waste management between 2016 and 2040. Under a 'business as usual' scenario, by 2040, the negative health impacts from plastics could double, with greenhouse gas emissions and associated rising global temperatures accounting for 40 per cent of the health harms. Air pollution -- predominantly from plastics production processes -- would account for 32 per cent, and the impact of toxic chemicals released to the environment across plastics' life cycles would account for 27 per cent. The remaining health harms (less than 1 per cent) relate to reduced availability of water, impacts on the ozone layer, and increased ionising radiation, the researchers said.

"We found that emissions throughout plastics lifecycles contributed to human health burdens of global warming, air pollution, toxicity-related cancers, and non-communicable diseases, with the greatest harms from primary plastics production and open burning," Megan Deeney, from the London School. The model found that if the plastics system continues with no change to policy, economics, infrastructure, materials, or consumer behaviours, annual health impacts could more than double from 2.1 million healthy years of life lost in 2016 to 4.5 million healthy years of life lost in 2040. Overall, the study estimates that the global plastics system could be responsible for cutting 83 million years of healthy population life between 2016 and 2040. The study also predicted little impact from improving plastic waste collection and recycling alone. But, together with improvements to waste collection and recycling, substituting or reusing materials, health impacts linked to plastic emissions showed a reduction.

Mohit Sehgal, Sanaya Irani mark 10 years of togetherness: 'Kuch to hai tujhse Raabta'



Mumbai, Jan 27 (IANS) Actors Mohit Sehgal and Sanaya Irani are celebrating a decade of marriage, marking 10 years of love, companionship, and shared growth.

Taking to Instagram, Mohit reflected on their journey as the couple completed a milestone anniversary on January 25. He also shared a string of images from the day they said "I do" to each other to now.

"25/01/2016 we said I do 25/01/2026 still choosing each other, every day …" he wrote, as he talked about how their bond continues to grow stronger.

Mohit also described the past 10 years as a journey of growth and togetherness, adding that their connection remains as special as ever.

"10 years of love, growth, laughter and a whole lot of life in between," mentioned Mohit.

He signed off the note with the line: "Kuch to hai tujhse Raabta."

Mohit and Sanaya met on the sets of Miley Jab Hum Tum, and they eventually began dating. They announced their relationship on 19 November 2010, the last day of the series shoot. In 2015, the couple got engaged. They tied the knot in 2016.

Mohit is known for his work in Miley Jab Hum Tum, Saath Nibhaana Saathiya, and Parichay — Nayee Zindagi Kay Sapno Ka, Mujhse Kuchh Kehti...Yeh Khamoshiyaan, Qubool Hai, Tumhari Paakhi, Sarojini, Love Ka Hai Intezaar, and Naagin, to name a few.

Meanwhile, Sanaya made her acting debut with the Hindi film Fanaa in 2006 and her television debut with Left Right Left in 2007. She is best known for her portrayal of Gunjan Bhushan Shergill in Miley Jab Hum Tum, Khushi Gupta Raizada in Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Doon?, and

Chitrangda Singh reflects on strength and fear while preparing for 'Battle Of Galwan'



Mumbai, Jan 27 (IANS) Actor Chitrangda Singh, who will be seen portraying an army wife in Battle Of Galwan, says the role gave her a deeper understanding of the quiet strength carried by women from military families.

Growing up as the daughter of an Indian Army officer, she was familiar with uniforms, postings, and regimented discipline, but prepping for the Battle of Galwan gave her a deeper emotional gaze into that world.

Chitrangda said: "My father was in the Indian Army, and growing up, listening to his stories was normal for me, but playing the role of an army wife is different. When I met army wives, I understood my mother's silences, her pride mixed with worry."

"These women carry that same blend of strength and fear every day. I tried to bring that complexity to the role, not just the smile or the courage, but the part where you learn to hold it together even when your heart is breaking," she added.

Unveiled through the patriotic track 'Maatrubhumi', the visuals introduce her as a soldier's wife. Dressed in modest traditional attire and minimal makeup, Chitrangda embodies the countless Indian women who stand as silent pillars behind the men in uniform.

Playing the emotional anchor to Salman Khan's soldier, Chitrangda brings tenderness, dignity, and stability to the narrative.

Genelia D'Souza gets teary eyed seeing her 'baby boys' feature with Salman Khan in "Maatrubhumi' from Battle of Galwan

Mumbai Jan 27 (IANS) Actress Genelia D'Souza has taken to her social media account to express her pride in her 'baby boys' Azai and Ivaar for starring alongside Bollywood superstar Salman Khan in the song Maatrubhumi from his upcoming movie Battle of Galwan.

Genelia, sharing the video of the song on her social media account, expressed her happiness as Azai and Ivaar, sons of her best friends and television power couple Shabbir Ahluwalia and Kanchi Kaul, make their Bollywood debut alongside



Salman Khan.

Genelia, who considers both the boys as her own kids, wrote, "My Darling Azai and Ivarr – Nothing makes me happier than seeing my baby boys and Ofcourse was fully teary-eyed – @kanchikaul @shabirahluwalia you did well guys – #proudbeyondwords."

On Monday, Azai and Ivaar's mother Kanchi had taken to her social media account to share the video that featured her darling sons along with Salman Khan and Chitrangada Singh from their song Maatrubhumi from Battle of Galwan.

Sunny Deol wishes little brother 'LORD BOBBY' a happy birthday

Mumbai, Jan 27 (IANS) As actor Bobby Deol turned a year older on Tuesday, his elder brother, Sunny Deol, used social media to pen a heartfelt wish for the 'Animal' actor.

Sunny uploaded two photos with 'Lord Bobby' on his Insta handle and wrote, "Happy Birthday My Little Brother LORD BOBBY (sic)", followed by red hearts and a hug emoji.

First in the post was a black and white picture of Sunny and Bobby, making for a handsome sibling duo as they posed together.

This was followed by another photo of the two facing the camera for another captivating click as they relaxed together on the balcony.

Several others from the film fraternity also used social media to wish the 'Humraaz' actor on his special day.



Bobby's 'Gupt' co-star Kajol penned on the photo-sharing app, "Looking sharper every year! Happy Birthday #BobbyDeol."

Shilpa Shetty, who shared the screen space with both Sunny and Bobby in "Apne", shared on her Instagram Stories, "Happppyyyyjiieessstt Birthdayyyy darling @iambobbydoel stay blessed with happiness, health, love and all in abundance (red heart, evil eye and hugs emojis)."

Actress Rakul Preet Singh added, "Happy Birthday @iambobbydoel sir! Wishing you good health, happiness, and a year full of positive moments."

Meanwhile, Sunny and Bobby recently hosted a special screening of their late father Dharmendra's last movie, "Ikkis".

Not just that, the Deol brothers also penned a heartfelt note on social media, expressing their emotions after watching their father on the big screen.

They shared in a joint post, "Our Papa, the man of the soil, Ikkis is his salute – his gift to the earth he loved and to the fans who always stood by him. For our family, it is a treasure filled with his spirit, courage, and heart. Today, with love and immense pride, we share it with the world, hoping it lives on the way he does – forever."

Bollywood legend Dharmendra passed away on November 24 last year at the age of 89.

Yuvika Chaudhary says women are unstoppable when they truly play the game



Mumbai, Jan 27 (IANS) Actress Yuvika Chaudhary, who will be seen in the upcoming reality show "The 50", has spoken out against the double standards women often face in reality shows, where their emotions are frequently misunderstood or labelled as weakness.

Reacting to the perception that women are judged more harshly than men for displaying vulnerability or emotion, Yuvika said that when women step into the game with full conviction, they become an unstoppable force.

"Oh, come on. When a woman truly plays, there's no room for anyone else. If women step into the game fully, nobody can stand in front of them," she told IANS.

The actress added that she sees her journey as more than just personal participation.

"That's how I feel. I'm here to represent all women and show the world that we have it all. Just take a stand for yourself," said Yuvika.

Yuvika has appeared in films such as Om Shanti Om, Summer 2007, and Toh Baat Pakki!. In 2009, she also acted in the Kannada film Maleyali Jotheyali in a lead role opposite Ganesh. In 2015, she was a contestant in the reality show Bigg Boss 9. In 2019, she participated in the dance reality show Nach Baliye 9 with her husband, Prince Narul,and emerged as the winner.

She was last seen in Cyber Vaar – Har Screen Crime Scene, directed by Ankush Bhatt. It features Mohit Malik and Sanaya Irani.

Yuvika met Prince on the sets of Bigg Boss 9. Prince proposed to her in 2018, and they got engaged. They got married in 2018 in Mumbai. The couple welcomed their first child, a girl, in 2024 via IVF.

Produced by Banijay Asia, The 50 is India's upcoming large-scale reality show. Streaming soon on JioHotstar and Colors, The 50 promises a bold new format set to disrupt the Indian reality TV playbook.

Alia Bhatt says friend Varun Dhawan has 'hit it out of the park' with 'Border 2'

Mumbai, Jan 27 (IANS) Actress Alia Bhatt gave a special shout-out to her 'dear friend' Varun Dhawan after witnessing his powerful performance in "Border 2".

Alia took to the Stories section of her official Instagram handle and published the trailer of the war drama.

Calling "Border 2" a beautiful film, she lauded director Anurag Singh.

Alia further showered praise on the core cast of the sequel, including Sunny Deol, Ahan Shetty, Diljit Dosanjh, Mona Singh, Sonam Bajwa, and Medha Rana.

She went out to give a special mention to her 'Student of the Year' co-star Varun Dhawan for pouring his heart and soul into every single frame of the drama.

The 'Jigra' actress added, "& my dear friend has hit it out of the park!!! Doing what he does best pouring his heart & soul into every single frame..so happy for you @varundvn what a smashing start to the



year!"

Alia concluded the post by congratulating the entire team of "Border 2".

Before this, filmmaker Karan Johar celebrated the success of "Border 2" and "Dhurandhar", saying that the tremendous box office performance of both the movies indicates that "Bollywood is here to stay."

Taking to his Insta Stories, the director penned, "The mega success of the two recent back-to-back mega Hindi film successes proves one thing...Bollywood (yes, incorrect terminology, but here to stay) is back. Naysayers can fly a kite. All Dhurandhars will cross borders of excellence when the films strike emotional chords with a paying audience."

Sanjay Mishra & Neena Gupta anchor a nerve-wracking tale of justice in 'Vadh 2'

Mumbai, Jan 27 (IANS) Power-packed performers Sanjay Mishra and Neena Gupta have joined forces yet again for another instalment in the thriller franchise, "Vadh 2". Before the drama reaches the audience on February 6, the makers have unveiled the captivating trailer of the forthcoming thriller-mystery.

Written and directed by Jaspal Singh Sandhu, the preview introduces us to another story of raw justice. While Sanjay Mishra is seen as a police officer, Neena Gupta plays an inmate. Fate once again brings them face to face with a heartless beast, who needs to be eliminated on an urgent basis.

Whether Sanjay is able to get out of this unscathed makes for an entertaining watch. The trailer underscores performances marked by gravitas and authenticity, anchoring the film's emotional intensity.

Along with Sanjay Mishra and Neena Gupta as the lead, "Vadh 2" enjoys an ensemble cast



with Kumud Mishra, Shilpa Shukla, and new actors Amitt K Singh, Akshay Dogra, and Yogita Bihani in crucial roles.

A Luv Films presentation, "Vadh 2", has been written and directed by Jaspal Singh Sandhu and backed by Luv Ranjan and Ankur Garg. Speaking about the film, writer & director Jaspal Singh Sandhu said, "Vadh 2 is conceived to deliver an experience of a rich narrative driven by well defined characters. We've pushed the envelope, taking the storytelling a notch higher to give the audience a layered thriller–mystery.

Ind vs Zim highlights, U19 World Cup 2026: India crush Zimbabwe by 204 runs

Wawa, Jan 27: India vs Zimbabwe Live Score, U19 World Cup 2026: Simbarashe Mudzengerere, skipper of the Zimbabwe U19s, won the toss and elected to field first in their clash with India at Queens Sports Club, Bulawayo.

India begin their Super Six campaign against hosts Zimbabwe at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo today, carrying strong momentum after an unbeaten run in the group stage. Victories over the USA, Bangladesh and New Zealand sealed India's place in the Super Six, with a high-profile clash against Pakistan lined up next on Sunday. Vihaan Malhotra's superb century steered India to a commanding 352 for 8 against Zimbabwe, a total that already



appears daunting for the hosts.

After opting to field, Zimbabwe were immediately put under pressure as India's top order came out firing. Vaibhav Suryavanshi provided early momentum with a rapid 52 off just 30 balls and looked set for something bigger before the hosts clawed their way back with three quick wickets. India brought up 100 inside 11 overs, but the brief collapse left them wobbling at 130 for 4, offering Zimbabwe a glimpse of hope.

That opening was firmly shut by Malhotra, who made full use of his time at the crease. Batting with composure and purpose, he anchored the innings while ensuring the run rate never dipped. His 113-run partnership for the fifth wicket with Abhigyan Kundu, who contributed a fluent 61, proved pivotal in shifting the momentum decisively in India's favour.

Malhotra then built further stands with the lower order, allowing India to maintain acceleration through the final overs. With batters spending valuable time in the middle and cashing in on scoring opportunities, India piled on the runs to post an imposing total.

Having been allowed to settle and build, India now turn their attention to the chase, hoping their bowlers can strike early and put Zimbabwe under pressure straight away. With 352 on the board, the visitors will fancy their chances of wrapping things up quickly.

Playing XIs : Zimbabwe XI: Nathaniel Hlabangana (wk), Dhruv Patel, Kian Blignaut, Brendon Senzere (capt), Leeroy Chiwaula, Michael Blignaut, Simbarashe Mudzengerere, Takudzwa Makoni, Tatenda Chimugoro, Panashe Mazai, Webster Madhidhi.

India XI: Aaron George, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Ayush Mhatre (capt), Vihaan Malhotra, Abhigyan Kundu (wk), Vedant Trivedi, R.S. Ambrish, Kanishk Chouhan, Khilan A. Patel, Henil Patel, Udhav Mohan

Bangladeshi journalists denied accreditation for T20 WC



New Delhi, Jan 27 (IANS) The International Cricket Council (ICC) has reportedly rejected accreditation applications from Bangladeshi journalists to cover the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup, set to be held in India and Sri Lanka from February 7.

The development came after Bangladesh refused to participate under the tournament's published schedule, which would have required them to play their league-stage games in India, and was subsequently replaced by Scotland in the tournament.

Bangladesh had sought to move their group-stage fixtures from India to Sri Lanka, citing security concerns in the wake of fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman being released from the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026. But the ICC's decision to replace Bangladesh ended weeks of uncertainty after the BCB repeatedly pressed for a venue change and even suggested swapping groups with Ireland. According to a Daily Star report, several journalists claimed that a number of Bangladeshi photojournalists initially received approval emails on January 20 and 21, only to have their accreditations revoked later. The report quoted BCB media committee chairman Amzad Hossain claiming 130 to 150 journalists from Bangladesh had applied for accreditation. "As far as I know, all Bangladeshi journalists were rejected. Around 130 to 150 journalists applied this year, but none received accreditation," Amzad said. A senior journalist, Arifur Rahman Babu, was among four Bangladeshi reporters who covered the 1996 ICC World Cup, co-hosted by India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, said, "Even if a team is not playing, journalists from an ICC Associate Member nation can still receive accreditation. I find no reason why everyone was rejected. I am surprised, and I strongly condemn and protest this decision." Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) said it would consult with the Bangladesh Sports Press Association (BSPA) and the Bangladesh Sports Journalists Community (BSJC) to determine their next steps.

PGTI Tour: Ram Pal posts 68 for the first-round lead in final qualifying stage



Ahmedabad, Jan 27 (IANS) India's Ram Pal posted a four-under 68 to take the first-round lead at the final qualifying stage of the PGTI Qualifying School 2026 being played at the Kensville Golf & Country Club in Ahmedabad. Six golfers were bunched in tied second place with scores of 70. This group included American Jhared Hack, along with Indians Dhruv Suri, Jujhar Singh, Joysurjo Dey, Manav Bais, and amateur Pritish Singh Karayat. Teenager Kartik Singh was tied eighth at 71 while Shubham Jaglan was a further shot back in tied 12th. Forty-six-year-old Ram Pal, who belongs to Chandigarh, put together an eagle, four birdies, and two bogeys in his opening round effort. Ram Pal holed out from 90 yards for his eagle on the sixth hole.

He sank a couple of birdie putts from a range of 15 to 25 feet and also left himself two short birdie putts as a result of his immaculate approach shots. Ram Pal said, "I couldn't play events last year due to an injury. However, I've fully recovered now, and my performance at the Pre-Qualifying event here at Kensville has given me a lot of confidence. I made a poor start at the Pre-Q but came back strong in round two with a solid 72 to make the cut for the Final Stage. Today, I felt that I planned my round really well. My driving and putting were also top-class. It's a great start to the Final Stage, and I'll look to capitalize on it." The top 80 players (+ ties) will make the cut after round two of the Final Qualifying Stage. At the end of round four, the top 47 players will earn their full cards for the 2026 PGTI season. The Qualifying School, which marks the beginning of each PGTI season, is one of the most important events on the PGTI calendar as it is the only route for players to qualify to play on the PGTI in a particular season. The tournament determines the criteria for players for the whole season.

Aus Open: Zverev halts Tien's momentum to storm into third consecutive SF

Melbourne, Jan 27 (IANS) Alexander Zverev moved into his third straight Australian Open semifinal on Tuesday, halting the breakthrough run of American youngster Learner Tien with a victory under the closed roof of Rod Laver Arena.

The German reached his 10th Grand Slam semifinal at the 25th seed's expense 6-3, 6-7(5), 6-1, 7-6(3) to set a high-profile clash against either world No.1 Carlos Alcaraz or Australia's Alex de Minaur.

The world No. 3 leaned heavily on his serve to secure a win, firing 24 aces and saving all three break points he faced, each with unreturned deliveries. One of those clutch serves came at 5-6 in the fourth set, denying Tien a chance to force a decider.

Zverev also controlled the short exchanges, winning 106 of the 0-4 shot rallies compared to Tien's 68. "The learner from the baseline was playing unbelievably.

I don't think I've played anyone who plays that well



from the baseline for a very long time. Without my [24] aces, I probably would not have won today.

I'm obviously very happy with my serve, just generally happy to be back in the semis," Zverev said of the 20-year-old after his game, drawing a warm response from the crowd.

Tien, seeded 25th, arrived full of confidence after stunning Daniil Medvedev in the fourth round and showed his resilience by overturning a 3-5 deficit in the second-set tie-break. That surge briefly shifted momentum, but Zverev responded with another dominant serving display to race through the third set and reassert control.

Feels wonderful that my daughter has been named for Padma Shri: Harmanpreet's father

Moga, Jan 27 (IANS) Harmanpreet Kaur, captain of the Indian women's cricket team, was announced as a Padma Shri awardee on Sunday, joining eight other current and former sportspersons on the 2026 Padma Awards list and her father, Harminder Singh Bhullar, said that the people of the country should motivate their children to pursue sports, which might lead them to bring glory to their family and country.

This prestigious list of awardees includes five Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri recipients. Harman had earlier received the Arjuna Award in 2017 and has been honoured again, this time with the Padma Shri, after bringing glory to the nation by winning the Women's World Cup.

"It feels very good that the government has announced my daughter's name for the Padma Shri. Our request to the people of the country is that they should give their children opportunities to move ahead-opportunities to play and to study. In this way, your children, too, will bring glory to your name. It feels wonderful that my daughter's name has been included among the 131 names," Harminder told IANS. Asked if Harmanpreet had received any promotion, he said, "If there is a function organised by the Punjab



government, only after that will it be known whether my daughter will get a promotion or not. So far, no date has been announced. Her matches will continue until March."

As captain across formats, Harmanpreet led India through a period of transition and development, focusing on aggression, fitness, and confidence.

In the 2023/24 season, India scripted history in the toughest format of the game as Harmanpreet led her side to emphatic Test victories against England and Australia at home, cementing the team's dominance in red-ball cricket.

Under her leadership, India reached multiple ICC finals before finally clinching their maiden ICC title by winning the ODI World Cup at home, defeating South Africa by 52 runs at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai. It was a historic achievement that cemented her legacy, ending a prolonged wait for the trophy.

Sri Lanka to play six-match white-ball series in West Indies from Feb 20

Colombo, Jan 27 (IANS) Sri Lanka's women's team is set to travel to the West Indies for a six-match white-ball tour spanning late February to early March. The itinerary features three One-Day Internationals and three T20 Internationals, scheduled between February 20 and March 3.

All fixtures will take place at the Grenada National Stadium in Grenada. The ODI leg begins on February 20, with the remaining matches on February 22 and 25. Attention then shifts to the T20Is, starting on February 28, followed by games on March 1 and 3.

The T20I contests carry added significance, as both sides step up their preparations for the 2026 Women's T20 World Cup, to be held in the UK later this year. The



West Indies and Sri Lanka are grouped together in Group 2, alongside England, New Zealand, and two teams yet to qualify.

"The Sri Lanka National Women's Team will tour the West Indies during February-March 2026 to play a three-match ODI series and a three-match T20I series. The tour will begin with the ODI series, followed by the T20I series, which will be played in Grenada," the SLC said in their official statement.

Sri Lanka will be eager to end a T20I series drought that stretches back to their Asia Cup success in 2024. Meanwhile, the West Indies enter the series with strong home form, having secured T20I series victories against Bangladesh and South Africa in their most recent outings.

The two teams last met in the Caribbean in 2024, when Sri Lanka dominated the ODI series with a 3-0 sweep, while West Indies responded by winning the T20I series 2-1.

Sri Lanka are currently the sixth-ranked ODI team in the Women's Rankings, with the West Indies in ninth. In the T20I Rankings, the Windies occupy sixth place, while the Lankans are placed seventh.

Svitolina stuns Gauff for maiden Australian Open SF

Melbourne, Jan 27 (IANS) Elina Svitolina staged the major upset of Australian Open on Tuesday night as she stunned the third seed Coco Gauff in just 59 minutes and advanced to her fourth career Grand Slam semifinal, and first at the Australian Open, here on Tuesday.

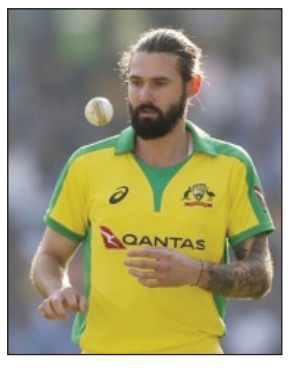


While Gauff struggled with her serve, unforced error count and, early on, even her string tension, Svitolina did everything right to close out a 6-1, 6-2 victory that puts her first Grand Slam semifinal since the summer of 2023 and her first in Australia at the age of 31.

Gauff's serving struggles reached a breaking point in this crucial seventh game, as she committed two devastating double faults that handed Svitolina easy points. Svitolina's penetrating baseline play proved decisive as she claimed the opening set 6-1 in dominant fashion.

Gauff fought desperately to stay alive, opening with a strong wide serve, but couldn't sustain her level under pressure. Svitolina's clinical performance throughout the match, breaking serve five times total, secured her place in the final four. With a win over Gauff, Svitolina extended her winning streak to 10 straight matches, the third-longest tour-level streak of her career. In 2017, she won 15 matches in a row, and in 2025 she won 11 straight.

Aussie pacer Kane Richardson retires from professional cricket



New Delhi, Jan 27 (IANS) Australian fast bowler Kane Richardson has called time on his professional cricket career, drawing the curtain on a 17-year journey that spanned international success, domestic titles and franchise leagues around the world.

A member of Australia's victorious 2021 T20 World Cup squad, Richardson departs the game as one of the most accomplished bowlers in Big Bash League history. Across 15 BBL seasons, he claimed 142 wickets, placing him fifth on the competition's all-time men's wicket-taking list. He represented three clubs during that time, Adelaide Strikers, Melbourne Renegades and Sydney Sixers, leaving a lasting imprint at each stop.

Richardson earned 25 one-day international and 36 T20 international caps for Australia, while domestically he played a key role in the Renegades' championship triumph in BBL|08. His impact in Melbourne was particularly significant: with 104 wickets in 80 matches, he remains the Renegades' leading men's wicket-taker in the competition's history. The Victorian product's T20 journey began in 2009 with South Australia during the original state-based Big Bash competition. When the BBL was launched, Richardson featured in the Strikers' inaugural match in BBL 1 and went on to play 36 games for the club across six seasons.

4th T20I: NZ in search of first win while India look to extend lead with series in pocket

Visakhapatnam, Jan 27 (IANS) India and New Zealand head to this port city in Andhra Pradesh for the fourth T20I of a series already decided, but with plenty still at stake as the hosts aim for a clean sweep at the Dr. Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium and the visitors look to salvage some pride. Holding an unassailable 3-0 lead, India have dominated the contest so far and will see this match as another opportunity to fine-tune combinations ahead of the T20 World Cup. New Zealand, meanwhile, will be desperate to produce a more complete performance after being outplayed in all departments in the previous encounter.

In the third T20I, the BlackCaps struggled to gain momentum after being put in to bat. Early wickets put them on the back foot, forcing the middle order to rebuild rather than accelerate. Glenn Phillips stood firm with a determined knock, while Mark Chapman and captain Mitchell Santner added valuable runs, but a lack of sustained partnerships meant New Zealand could only post a modest total.

India's bowlers were relentless, led by pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, whose pace and precision dismantled the batting line-up. The talismanic pacer returned to peak form in his second outing of the series, dismantling New Zealand with figures of 3-17.

With his pace, swing variations, and the presence of dew in Vizag, Bumrah could be primed to add further wickets to his tally. He also received strong support from Ravi Bishnoi, Hardik Pandya, and Harshit Rana, ensuring the visitors were kept well below par.

The chase was emphatic despite an early setback. Abhishek Sharma's explosive approach immediately seized control of the match, and with Suryakumar Yadav continuing his rich vein of form, India wrapped up the target with



remarkable ease and time to spare. The dynamic Indian opener set the stadium ablaze yet again with his fearless hitting in the previous match. His blistering unbeaten 68 off just 20 deliveries, laced with seven boundaries and five towering sixes at a jaw-dropping strike rate of 340, left fans spellbound. Reaching his half-century in just 14 balls, he registered the second-fastest T20I fifty for India. Wednesday's clash will be the fifth men's T20I hosted at the ACA-VDCA Stadium, a venue last used for a men's T20I in November 2023, when India pulled off a thrilling two-wicket win against Australia.

With history, momentum, and confidence firmly on their side, India will be eyeing another dominant display, while New Zealand will be hoping Visakhapatnam offers them a chance to change the narrative before the series concludes in the fifth and final match ofthe series in Thiruvananthapuram on January 31. Victory will be a good morale-booster ahead of the T20 World Cup.

When: Wednesday, Jan 28, 7:00 PM IST

Where: ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium, Visakhapatnam

Where to watch: Star Sports Network for live TV broadcast and JioHotstar for live streaming

Squads:

India: Suryakumar Yadav (capt), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Shreyas Iyer, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel (VC), Rinku Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakaravarthy, Ishan Kishan (wicket-keeper), Ravi Bishnoi

New Zealand: Mitchell Santner (capt), Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway (wk), Jacob Duffy, Zak Foulkes, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Bevon Jacobs, Daryl Mitchell, James Neesham, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Tim Robinson, Ish Sodhi.

Municipal polls nomination to begin on Jan 29

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Jan 27 : District Election Officer (Municipality) Karn Satyarthi shared key details regarding the 2026 municipal elections during a press conference held at the Collectorate auditorium. He informed that the State Election Commission officially announced the municipal elections on January 27.

According to the schedule, the election notification in Form-5 will be published by the District Election Officer (Municipality) at 11:00 am on January 28, 2026. The nomination process will begin on January 29 and continue until February 4, 2026, between 11:00 am and 3:00 pm. Scrutiny of nomination papers will take place on February 5, followed by the withdrawal of candidature on February 6, within the same time frame. Election symbols will be allotted on February 7.

Polling will be conducted on February 23 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, while the counting of votes is scheduled for February 27, starting at 8:00 am.

Satyarthi also announced the appointment of Returning Officers. Santosh Kumar Garg, Director (NEP), will serve as the Returning Officer for Mango Municipal Corporation. Mr. Rahul G. Anand, Special Sub-Divisional Officer, has been appointed for Jugsalai Municipal Council, while Mr. Sunil Chandra, Sub-Divisional Officer, Ghatshila, will be the Returning Officer for Chakulia Nagar Panchayat.

Designated locations for filing nominations have been fixed at the Office Chamber of the Additional Deputy Commissioner for Mango Municipal Corporation, the Office Chamber of the Special Sub-Divisional Officer for Jugsalai Municipal Council, and the Office Chamber of the Circle Officer, Chakulia, for Chakulia Nagar Panchayat.

For the smooth conduct of elections, 13 functional cells have been constituted, including Election, Personnel, Law and Order, Media, Training, IT, and Control Room. Mango Municipal Corporation has 36 wards, 190 polling stations, and 1,96,791 voters. Jugsalai Municipal Council has 22 wards, 41 polling stations, and 44,239 voters, while Chakulia Nagar Panchayat has 12 wards, 18 polling stations, and 12,587 voters.

The reservation status has been declared as Unreserved (Women) for Mango Municipal Corporation and Jugsalai Municipal Council, and Scheduled Tribe (Women) for Chakulia Nagar Panchayat.

OBC Vichar Manch celebrates support for UGC bill



Jamshedpur, Jan 27: The Indian OBC Vichar Manch organized a significant public program at the Sakchi roundabout on Tuesday to express its strong support for the UGC Bill. The event included a discussion meeting followed by the distribution of sweets, symbolizing unity and celebration.

The program was presided over by the Manch's President, Ram Ballabh Sahu, while the proceedings were conducted by spokesperson Rajkumar Yadav. Addressing the gathering, Executive President Vijay Yadav described the UGC Bill as a historic step and shared detailed information about its provisions and long-term impact. General Secretary Sujit Sharma stated that the bill seeks to implement recommendations made nearly 15 years ago and expressed gratitude to the judiciary and the government for supporting its implementation. Active member Rakesh Sahu, speaking on behalf of the ST, SC, and OBC communities, demanded that the government ensure the bill is implemented in full. He warned that any attempt to withdraw or delay the bill would lead to a massive protest, with nearly 90 percent of the community taking to the streets. Several speakers, including Manoj Gupta, Rajendra Prasad, Ganesh Ram, Ram Palakh Chaudhary, Shambhu Singh Gandhi, women's leader Kanta Devi, and Vipin Verma, extended strong support for the bill on behalf of their respective communities. In his concluding remarks, President Ram Ballabh Sahu welcomed the decision, thanked the government, and highlighted the importance of the UGC Bill for social justice and inclusive development. The program concluded with a vote of thanks and the distribution of laddoos, reinforcing the message of unity and collective resolve.

Op complete only after abduction mastermind is arrested : Saryu

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 27 : Jamshedpur West MLA Saryu Roy on Tuesday termed the safe return of young entrepreneur Kairav Gandhi from the clutches of kidnappers as a major success for the Jamshedpur Police, while stressing that the operation would be truly complete only after the entire kidnapping gang, including its mastermind, is arrested.

In a statement issued here, Roy appreciated the police for ensuring the victim's safe recovery but underlined that lasting and meaningful praise would come only when all those involved in the crime are identified, exposed, and brought to justice.

After receiving information about Kairav Gandhi's safe return on Tuesday morning, the MLA visited his residence and met the family members. Roy said the atmosphere at the house was filled with immense relief and happiness, with the family members openly acknowledging and praising the efforts of the police in the rescue operation. Roy also spoke to the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), East Singhbhum, and congratulated him on the successful recovery of the kidnapped youth. However, he reiterated that the police would earn full accolades only after the kidnappers, their conspirators, and the key mastermind behind the crime are arrested and the entire network is dismantled. (W-pm)

Jharkhand's heroic role in freedom struggle remembered at Republic Day

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 27: The district-level main Republic Day ceremony was held with great pride and patriotic fervour at Gopal Maidan in Bistupur on Monday. Deputy Commissioner Karn Satyarthi hoisted the national flag and took the salute of the parade, extending Republic Day greetings to the people of the district. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner said that the contribution of the heroic land of Jharkhand to India's freedom struggle is etched in golden letters. He recalled the unparalleled sacrifices of legendary tribal leaders and freedom fighters such as Bhagwan Birsa Munda, Sido-Kanhu, Telanga Khariya, and Tilka Manjhi, who fought relentlessly to protect water, forests, land, self-respect, and freedom, taking the national movement to every corner of the country. He further said that carrying forward this glorious tradition, Dishom Guru Shibu Soren devoted his entire life to the struggle for tribal identity, social justice, and democratic rights, giving a new direction to Jharkhand's political consciousness. Referring to the post-independence era, the Deputy Commissioner said that the sacred land of Singhbhum, guided by the industrial vision of Jamshedji Tata, its strong labour tradition, and values of social responsibility, emerged as a major centre of India's industrial development. He also paid tribute to the brave soldiers from East Singhbhum who laid down their lives at the borders while safeguarding the sovereignty, unity, and honour of the nation.

The ceremony was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Piyush Pandey, DDCNagendra Paswan, SP Rural Rishabh Garg, SP City Kumar Shivashish, SDM



Dhalbhum Arnav Mishra, Additional District Magistrate (Law and Order) Rahul G. Anand, Additional Deputy Commissioner Santosh Garg, and other senior district officials.

District Women Police Tops Parade, Transport Department Wins Best Tableau: The parade and tableaux emerged as the main highlights of the Republic Day celebrations at Gopal Maidan. A total of nine contingents participated in the march past, in which the District Women Police secured first position, followed by Jharkhand Armed Police (Male)-06 in second place and District Armed Police (DAP) in third place. In the tableau competition, the Transport Department won first prize, while the Education Department and the Social Welfare Department secured second and third positions respectively. The winning teams were honoured with trophies during the ceremony. On the occasion, soldiers were decorated with gallantry awards, including Junior Warrant Officer Mohd. Javed (Shaurya Chakra) and Havildar Raghunath Hansda (Sena Medal), were felicitated. Jharkhand movement activists Tanveer Ahmed, Mohd. Ejazul Haque, Mohd. Mustaq, Mohd. Maqsood Alam, and Mohd. Ilyas were also honoured for their contributions. On the occasion of Republic Day, DC Karn Satyarthi hoisted the national flag at his residential (confidential) office, the Collectorate premises, and the Red Cross building. Senior Superintendent of Police Piyush Pandey hoisted the tricolour at his residential office, the SSP office, and the Police Lines. ITDA Nagendra Paswan hoisted the flag at the ITDA office, while SDM Dhalbhum Arnav Mishra and SDO Sunil Chandra hoisted the national flag at the Dhalbhum and Ghatshila sub-divisional offices respectively.

Tata Steel reaffirms commitment to nation-building on 77th R-Day



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Jan 27: Tata Steel celebrated the 77th Republic Day of India with pride and patriotic fervour at the Works Main Gate, where the national flag was unfurled by D B Sundara Ramam, Vice President - Corporate Services, Tata Steel.

The ceremony witnessed the presence of senior Tata Steel officials, representatives of the Tata Workers' Union (TWU), retired executives, members of the city's Senior Advisory Council, and members of the media fraternity.

Addressing the gathering, Sundara Ramam underscored the significance of the Constitution of India as the foundation of the nation's democratic ethos, symbolising freedom, unity, justice and equality. Reflecting on India's journey as a sovereign republic, he emphasised that Republic Day serves as a reminder of the collective responsibility of citizens and institutions in nation-building. He reaffirmed Tata Steel's commitment to being a trusted partner in India's journey towards a Viksit Bharat, aligned with the national vision of achieving developed-nation status by 2047. Highlighting the Company's continued investments in India, he spoke about Tata Steel's focus on responsible growth and sustainable steelmaking. Sundara Ramam further stated that Tata Steel is progressing steadily towards achieving Net Zero emissions by 2045, driven by initiatives in renewable energy, circular economy practices and the adoption of innovative green technologies.

He also highlighted the strength of the 'One Tata Steel' philosophy, reflecting a collaborative and integrated approach across the Company's global operations.

Emphasising Tata Steel's deep-rooted connection with communities, he shared that the Company's century-long journey extends beyond infrastructure development to sustained contributions in education, healthcare, skill development, sports, sanitation and livelihood creation. He added that diversity, inclusion and employee well-being continue to remain central to Tata Steel's organisational values. Following the flag unfurling, Sundara Ramam interacted with members of the media, sharing Tata Steel's perspectives on nation-building, sustainability and its continued role in India's growth story. The celebrations concluded with a renewed sense of national pride and commitment among all those present. (W-pm)

Tata Motors marks R-Day with defence tech, dog shows

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Jan 27: Tata Motors turned the 77th Republic Day into a showcase of strategic strength and community spirit, led by a high-precision parade and a rare look at the plant's advanced defence technology. Flagged off by Plant Head Sunil Tiwari, the celebration went beyond traditional ceremonies to feature elite security drills, a 23-platoon march past, and the honouring of a local "humanitarian hero" who has saved lives through nearly 100 blood donations.

Key Highlights of the Event: 23 Platoons Participation: A total of 23 platoons, including 17 schools, 4 security platoons, 1 NCC unit, and 1 Yuvati Dal contingent, showcased precision and discipline during the March Past.

TML Band Musical Show: The TML Band delivered a spectacular musical performance, energizing the crowd with patriotic tunes and a fusion of traditional and contemporary melodies.

Cultural Extravaganza: A grand cultural program by 12 schools highlighted the region's artistic talents, with dance, drama, and creative skits celebrating India's diversity.

Exclusive Drill Performances: Standout acts included a high-energy drill performance by Hill top School and Shiksha Niketan School, impressing audiences with synchronized movements and creativity.

Karchina Display: Chinmaya School amazed attendees with its innovative display

Vehicle Display: A display of 6 vehicles, including two advanced defence vehicles, showcased technological prowess and national pride.

Tata Motors Kennel Dog Show: The event featured a splendid dog show by Tata Motors Kennel, with five well-trained dogs stealing the spotlight.

Awards and Recognition:

March Past Winners:

First Place: Hilltop School

First Runner-Up: LFS School

Second Runner-Up: Gulmohur School

Telco Veer Medal for Highest Blood Donation: Kamal Ghosh of the Foundry Division was honored for donating blood an astonishing 97 times, underscoring his commitment to humanitarian service.



PR- 371787 (Jharkhand Education Project Council) 25-26