JHARKHAND'S OWN ENGLISH DAILY

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T20I RANKINGS: ABHISHEK MAINTAINS TOP SPOT; ISHAN ENTERS TOP 10 IN BATTING CHART-PAGE-11

Guv bats for meaningful debate

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Feb 18 : Emphasising fiscal discipline, transparent governance and technological modernisation, Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar on Wednesday outlined the broad priorities of the state government while addressing the opening of the fifth (Budget) session of the state Assembly.

The Governor said the session, scheduled from February 18 to March 19, 2026, will have 17 working days devoted to detailed deliberations on state's policies, development agenda, financial priorities and issues of public interest. Describing the Budget as more than a statement of income and expenditure, he called it a guiding framework for the state's development journey.

He informed the House that the third supplementary budget for the financial year 2025–26 will be presented during the session to meet essential expenditures and ensure the



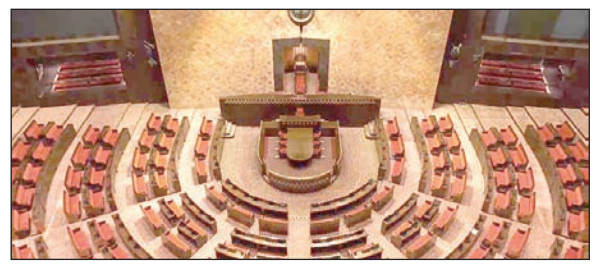
continuity of ongoing schemes. The Annual Budget for 2026–27 will be tabled on February 24, setting the direction for future growth, defining sectoral priorities and ensuring equitable allocation of resources.

Calling for meaningful and responsible participation from legislators, the Governor urged members to engage in fact-based, logical and people-centric debate while upholding the dignity and decorum of the House. He said democracy derives strength from dialogue and constructive criticism, and differences of opinion should strengthen, not weaken, democratic institutions.

A key highlight of his address was the move towards digitisation of legislative work through the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA). The NeVA service centre was inaugurated on February 11 by Chief Minister Hemant Soren. With partial implementation beginning this session, notices for Zero Hour will now be submitted online, reducing paperwork and improving efficiency. The Governor said further digitisation of questions, listed business, Bills and other documents will follow as part of the push towards a paperless and environmentally responsible Assembly.

He reminded members that they represent the aspirations of more than three crore citizens of Jharkhand and that every decision taken in the House must keep the state's interests paramount. The Governor concluded by calling upon all legislators to ensure that the Budget Session is conducted in a healthy, positive and result-oriented manner under the framework of Article 176(1) of the Constitution of India.

ECI announces RS biennial poll schedule



New Delhi, Feb 18 (IANS) The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday declared the schedule for the biennial elections to the Council of States, Rajya Sabha, to fill 37 seats falling vacant from 10 states. According to the Commission, polling will be conducted on March 16 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., and the counting of votes will take place the same day at 5:00 p.m.

The terms of 37 members of the Council of States, elected from 10 states, are set to conclude in April 2026. In view of the impending vacancies, the Commission has laid out a detailed timetable for the electoral process. The notification for the elections will be issued on February 26. The last date for filing nominations has been fixed as March 5, while scrutiny of nomination papers will be undertaken on March 6. Candidates will have the option to withdraw their nominations until March 9. The Commission has specified that only integrated violet sketch pens of pre-determined specifications, supplied by the Returning Officer, will be allowed for marking preferences on ballot papers.

It clarified that no other writing instrument will be permitted for the purpose.

To ensure that the elections are conducted in a transparent and impartial manner, observers will be deployed to oversee the entire process. The members whose terms are ending represent Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Telangana. Among the prominent retiring members are Upendra Kushwaha, Priyanka Chaturvedi, Tiruchi Siva, Saket Gokhale, Ramdas Athawale, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Sharadchandra Govindrao Pawar, Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad, Mamata Mohanta, Rameswar Teli, Indu Bala Goswami, Kavi Tejpal Singh Tulsi, N.R. Elango, Amarendra Dhari Singh and Kiran Choudhry.

Widow pension scam

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Feb 18: In a startling revelation from Jharkhand, authorities have uncovered a widow pension scam in which at least 14 women allegedly declared their living husbands as deceased to fraudulently claim government benefits. The irregularities, officials said, had been continuing for several years before coming to light during a recent verification drive. According to administrative sources, the women were receiving widow pension benefits under false claims by submitting fabricated documents or misleading information. The fraud surfaced after a detailed scrutiny of beneficiary records and ground-level verification by local officials. During the probe, it was found that the husbands of these beneficiaries were very much alive, raising serious concerns over the monitoring mechanisms of welfare schemes. Officials admitted that the scale and duration of the scam have left the administration stunned. "The discrepancies came to notice during a routine audit and subsequent field investigation. Strict action will be taken against those involved," a senior district official stated. The district administration has initiated proceedings to recover the misappropriated funds and has recommended legal action against the accused.

CM pays tribute to eminent personalities, accident victims in House

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Feb 18 : The Jharkhand Legislative Assembly opened its budget session in an emotional atmosphere as Chief Minister Hemant Soren paid tribute to prominent figures who passed away since the monsoon session and to those who lost their lives in recent accidents across the country. A condolence motion was read in the House, and members offered homage to the departed souls.

The Chief Minister remembered former Lok Sabha Speaker Shivraj Patil, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, former Union Minister Suresh Kalamadi, former MLAs Ramchandra Nayak and Gaur Srijan, martyr Harun Topno, litterateur Vinod Kumar Shukla, environmentalist Madhav Gadgil, artisan Ramswikar Ji, Prof. B.P. Sharan, Neelambar-Pitamber descendant Ramnandan Singh Kharwar, senior BBC journalist Mark Tully, Bandhu Sen, folk singer Sanjay Tiwari, and Jharkhand activist Durg Gadait.

In addition, the Chief Minister paid respects to victims of recent tragedies, including 25 people killed



in a major accident in Goa, 10 soldiers martyred in Doda, Jammu & Kashmir, 14 deaths in a road accident in Himachal Pradesh, 7 passengers killed in a bus accident in Almora, Uttarakhand, and 9 deaths in the Latehar bus accident.

CM Soren noted that the contributions of all the departed to society and the nation will remain unforgettable. The Assembly proceedings began with these tributes, and members of the House collectively expressed their condolences.

CM seeks centre's support for state development

Ranchi, Feb 18 : Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Wednesday said that Jharkhand, being a backward state, requires the central government to play the role of a "big brother" to support its overall development. Speaking to media at the Assembly complex, he emphasized the need for active central participation and special economic assistance during the budget session.

The CM highlighted efforts by the state government to strengthen the rural economy, improve education through tribal hostels, and enhance healthcare under the Digital Health Mission. Reaffirming his commitment to welfare of tribal and marginalized communities, he cited initiatives such as the Mukhyamantri Maiyaan Samman scheme for women and Abua Awas Yojana for the homeless, claiming these programs are making life easier for common citizens.

Moon sighted, Ramadan to begin today

Ranchi, Feb 18 : In joyful news for the Muslim community, the crescent moon marking the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan was sighted across Jharkhand and several other parts of the country on Wednesday evening. With the confirmation of the moon sighting, the sacred month of fasting will commence from tomorrow. Religious authorities and local mosque committees confirmed the sighting after sunset, following which announcements were made through mosques and community networks. The atmosphere in many cities, including Ranchi and Jamshedpur, turned festive as families began preparations for Sehri (pre-dawn meal) and Iftar (evening meal to break the fast). Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, is observed by Muslims worldwide as a period of fasting, prayer, reflection, and charity. From dawn to dusk, devotees abstain from food and drink, dedicating their time to spiritual growth and community service. Markets witnessed increased activity late in the evening as people purchased essentials, fruits, dates, and other items traditionally consumed during the holy month.

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Mother, minor son burnt alive in witchcraft row

Chaibasa, Feb 18 : In a gruesome incident that has sent shockwaves across Jharkhand, a woman and her minor son were burnt alive by a group of villagers on suspicion of practising witchcraft in West Singhbhum district, officials said on Wednesday.

The incident occurred late Tuesday night under the Kumardungi police station limits.

According to police, the accused allegedly barged into the family's house, poured petrol on the woman and her child, and set them ablaze. Both died on the spot.

The woman's husband also sustained severe burn injuries while attempting to save them and has been admitted to a nearby hospital, where his condition is stated



to be critical.

Preliminary investigations suggest that rumours had been circulating in the village for several days linking the family to certain illnesses and other incidents. The woman was allegedly branded a "witch" by some villagers, which ultimately led to the brutal attack.

Police said that around 12 villagers allegedly conspired to execute the crime. In a dramatic turn, all 12 accused appeared at the Kumardungi police station on Wednesday morning and surrendered. They have since been taken into custody and are being interrogated.

Senior police officials rushed to the spot to assess the situation, and additional forces have been deployed in the village to prevent any further unrest. A forensic team has also been pressed into service to collect evidence from the crime scene.

An FIR is being registered under relevant sections pertaining to murder, attempt to murder, criminal conspiracy, and other serious offences.

Authorities said a detailed investigation is underway to ascertain the exact sequence of events and identify any additional persons involved.

The incident has once again highlighted the persistent menace of witch-hunting in certain rural pockets, despite stringent legal provisions against such practices.

Two minors raped, one arrested

Gumla, Feb 18: Two girls have been allegedly raped in separate incidents in Gumla and Dumka districts, police said on Wednesday. One person has been arrested in connection with one of the cases. A 15-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a man while she was returning to her hostel from school in Raidih area of Gumla district on Monday, a police officer said.

Ajit Pawar's son demands thorough probe into plane crash

Mumbai, Feb 18 (IANS) Amid a raging row over the death of former Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and NCP president Ajit Pawar, his son Jay Pawar on Wednesday demanded a thorough and impartial investigation into the plane crash. Following the fatal crash on January 28 involving a Learjet 45XR operated by VSR Ventures, Jay Pawar on Wednesday voiced serious concerns regarding the safety protocols and the integrity of the ongoing probe. Jay Pawar shared his concerns through a social media post, emphasising the need for transparency and immediate regulatory action. As far as Black Box integrity is concerned, Jay Pawar stated that black boxes in aircraft accidents cannot be easily destroyed and that the public has a right to the "complete, transparent, and indisputable truth". He called for an immediate ban on all flight operations by VSR Ventures. He demanded an impartial and in-depth inquiry into potential "serious misconduct" regarding the maintenance of the company's aircraft.

India-Spain relations will continue to strengthen, assures President Pedro Sanchez

New Delhi, Feb 18 (IANS) Spanish President Pedro Sanchez on Wednesday noted the "excellent state" of relations between Spain and India, stating after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi that they will continue to strengthen in the coming times.

"Alongside Prime Minister Narendra Modi, I have noted the excellent state of relations between Spain and India, which we will continue to strengthen. I have congratulated him on the organisation of the Summit on the Impact of Artificial Intelligence. We share the need to continue taking steps towards an AI that puts people at the centre," he posted on X after meeting PM Modi.

This is Sanchez's second visit to India in 15 months, following his visit in October 2024, as both countries are marking 2026 as the India-Spain Year of culture, tourism and Artificial Intelligence (AI). The Spain-India Dual Year has Artificial Intelligence as one of its main themes.

During their meeting on Wednesday, both leaders discussed ways to boost the India-Spain friendship, especially in areas such as defence, security, technology and more.

"Had a productive meeting with President Pedro Sanchez in Delhi. Discussed ways to boost the India-Spain friendship, especially in areas such as defence, security, technology and more. Our nations are marking 2026 as the India-Spain Year of Culture, Tourism and AI. This will deepen people-to-people linkages. Glad to see a big delegation of Universities also come to India. This too will go a long way in connecting our people," PM Modi posted on X after the meeting.



"The historic FTA with the EU will have a very positive impact on the economic partnership with Spain and provide new opportunities to the people of our nations," he added.

President Sanchez arrived in the national capital earlier in the day to attend the AI Impact Summit 2026, a global platform focusing on the transformative role of artificial intelligence across industries and governance.

The ongoing international summit dedicated to the future of Artificial Intelligence has brought together technology leaders, policymakers, researchers, and entrepreneurs from around the world. Its aim is to demonstrate how AI can generate real benefits for society, drive innovation, and promote inclusive and sustainable development. The AI Impact Summit 2026 is the first global Artificial Intelligence summit hosted in the Global South and charts a course "towards a future where the transformative power of AI serves humanity, drives inclusive growth, fosters social development, and promotes people-centered innovations that protect our planet. It also seeks to amplify the voice of the Global South, ensuring that technological advancements and opportunities are shared widely, not concentrated in a few regions."

After meeting PM Modi, Sanchez also attended the dedication ceremony of a mural painted jointly by an Spanish and Indian artists under Street Art Project at the Lodhi Art District. Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat also accompanined the Spanish leader.

"India and Spain also meet in urban art. On the occasion of the Spain-India Dual Year, I visited with the Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. This mural in the Lodhi district is the result of a collaboration between artists from both countries," he posted on X.

Adityapur civic battle puts prestige of three former CM's at stake

Mail News Service



Arjun Munda



Champai Soren



Madhu Koda

Jamshedpur, Feb 18: The political atmosphere in the neighbouring district's industrial city of Adityapur has reached a feverish pitch as campaigning intensifies for the Adityapur Municipal Corporation elections. In this high-stakes battle to elect the city's government, three former Chief Ministers of Jharkhand - Arjun Munda, Madhu Koda, and Champai Soren - have thrown their full weight behind their respective strategies. Leaders who once shaped the destiny of the entire state are now seen campaigning in Adityapur's narrow lanes and addressing small roadside meetings to woo voters. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has held power in the municipal corporation for the past three terms, is aiming for a fourth consecutive victory.

The presence of Arjun Munda and Madhu Koda together at the BJP office in the RIT police station area has energized party workers. While Munda is highlighting development works and infrastructure expansion carried out over the past 15 years, Koda's active participation has further strengthened the party's local equations. Both leaders are engaging in small public meetings to gauge public sentiment.

Meanwhile, political circles are abuzz with discussions about Champai Soren's strategy. Maintaining a certain distance from major BJP meetings, Soren is reportedly charting his own course. Though he has avoided sharing large public platforms with any specific candidate so far, his low-profile meetings and intensive outreach campaign are enough to keep opponents on edge. His silent but steady activism is seen as capable of influencing the election outcome in any direction.

On the other hand, the opposition alliance has entered the fray with a call for change. It argues that after three consecutive terms of BJP dominance, it is time for a power shift. Local issues such as water scarcity, slow progress of the sewerage system, and the holding tax have been raised prominently in an attempt to challenge the BJP's stronghold.

With just a week left for polling, the electorate of Adityapur remains largely silent - a silence that has unsettled even seasoned political heavyweights. Whether the BJP will retain its seemingly invincible fortress or the opposition will succeed in turning the tide will be decided by voters on polling day. What is certain is that this contest is not just about candidates, but also about the political credibility of the three former Chief Ministers who have made this election a matter of prestige.

Voters to travel from Ranchi, Kolkata for Jugsalai polls

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 18: Residents originally from Jamshedpur but currently living in cities such as Ranchi, Bokaro, Dhanbad and Kolkata are expected to return to cast their votes in the upcoming Jugsalai Municipal elections. Voters from areas including Bistupur, Kadma, Mango, Adityapur and Gamharia are actively checking their names in the electoral rolls. Among them are Tata Steel employees, advocates and businesspersons.

Several voters who shifted to apartments or company quarters years ago continue to travel to Jugsalai during Assembly and Lok Sabha elections and many are likely to do the same for the civic polls. After a gap of 43 years, the municipal council elections have generated considerable enthusiasm among residents.

Candidates contesting for the posts of chairperson and ward councillor are reaching out to voters across different localities to ensure maximum participation. Efforts are also being made to contact families whose children work outside the city so they can return in time to vote.

Supporters are campaigning in Bagbera, Harharguttu, Bajrang Tekri, Nayabasti and Bado Ghat areas. Polling for 22 wards will be held at 41 booths on February 23. (w-nkm)

Candidates face hurdles over poll permissions in Jamshedpur

Jamshedpur, Feb 18: Candidates contesting the ongoing civic body elections in three urban local bodies of East Singhbhum district are facing significant difficulties in obtaining mandatory permissions for campaign activities. Many aspirants complain of spending long hours in queues and making repeated visits to different offices to secure approvals.

While mayoral and chairperson candidates, who are relatively well-resourced, are managing the process through agents or party workers, those from weaker financial backgrounds-especially ward member candidates-say they are struggling the most. They are required to seek permission from the Sub-Divisional Officer's office for putting up posters, banners and flags. Approval for campaign vehicles is also issued from the same office. In addition, candidates must submit audio, video and printed campaign materials to the Information and Public Relations office for scrutiny. Officials review the content to ensure there is nothing objectionable before granting clearance. In one instance, a woman ward candidate was seen waiting quietly while her husband repeatedly filled out forms for campaign approval. Officials, however, maintain that detailed guidelines have been provided and that applications are cleared promptly if procedures are followed correctly. Separately, candidates are also required to submit detailed election expenditure statements, adding to their workload during the campaign period. (w-nkm)

Observer reviews poll training, stresses free and fair elections



Jamshedpur, Feb 18: In preparation for upcoming civic polls, a training programme for polling personnel was held at the Women's University campus under the Mango Municipal Corporation, where General Observer Jitendra Kumar Dev reviewed the arrangements and guided election staff. During his visit, the observer inspected the quality of training, infrastructure arrangements and participation of personnel to ensure readiness for conducting free and fair elections. He emphasised strict adherence to guidelines issued by the Election Commission and directed officials to maintain transparency and neutrality throughout the polling process. Addressing the trainees, Dev described voting duty as a "highly sensitive and responsible task" and urged polling personnel to perform their roles with utmost seriousness and integrity. He advised them to clear all doubts during the training sessions and focus on gaining practical, hands-on experience to handle real-time situations on polling day. He further instructed officials to ensure 100 percent compliance with election norms and stressed that proper training is essential for smooth conduct of elections without any discrepancies.

Concerned officials and polling personnel were present during the programme. The training initiative aims to equip election staff with the necessary skills and knowledge to uphold the democratic process and ensure peaceful and transparent polling in the region.

Mayoral candidate Sandhya intensifies campaign in Mango



Jamshedpur, Feb 18: Under the ongoing Mango Municipal Corporation election campaign, NDA-supported mayoral candidate Sandhya Singh conducted an extensive public outreach drive in Daiguttu and several adjoining localities, engaging directly with residents and outlining a comprehensive roadmap for the area's development.

During the interaction, Singh emphasized the NDA's commitment to holistic urban transformation, highlighting key priorities aimed at improving civic infrastructure and quality of life across all wards.

She assured residents that ensuring a Clean Mango would remain a top priority, with regular garbage collection, systematic drain cleaning, fogging, and anti-larval spraying to curb vector-borne diseases.

Addressing persistent traffic congestion, she pledged measures to streamline traffic management alongside accelerated road and drainage construction projects.

Women voters raise civic concerns ahead of Municipal polls

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 18: With municipal elections approaching, working women in Mango and Jugsalai have brought civic shortcomings to the forefront, urging candidates to prioritise safety, sanitation and infrastructure in their agendas. In these densely populated localities, the number of women employed in private firms, banks, schools, hospitals, shops and small enterprises has steadily increased. However, they say civic amenities have not kept pace with this growth.

Safety remains their most pressing concern. Women who commute early in the morning or return home late in the evening report inadequate street lighting in several neighbourhoods and along main roads. Poor visibility, coupled with limited police patrolling, creates a sense of insecurity. During the monsoon, waterlogging in low-lying areas further compounds the problem, especially in dimly lit stretches.

Bad Roads and Waterlogging Add to Daily Struggles: Residents point out that even light rainfall leads to water accumulation in many parts of Mango and Jugsalai. Damaged and muddy roads make commuting difficult for women travelling by scooter, bicycle or on foot. Several working women say they are forced to leave home earlier during the rainy season to avoid delays and reduce risk. They expect the civic body to strengthen drainage systems and undertake urgent road repairs after the elections.

Sanitation and Traffic Issues: Sanitation facilities in busy markets have also come under scrutiny. Many public toilets are either non-functional or poorly maintained, lacking water supply and cleanliness. Women have demanded dedicated, hygienic toilets, regular cleaning drives and installation of sanitary napkin vending machines.

Traffic congestion and unregulated parking further add to daily inconvenience. Limited public transport and disorganised auto stands create frequent bottlenecks. Women voters are calling for better traffic management, multi-level parking facilities and stricter enforcement of rules.

As campaigning intensifies, women across these areas hope that candidates will translate promises into concrete action, making urban safety and infrastructure a top priority in the new municipal term.

Women entrepreneurs seek government support in Mango, Jugsalai : Several women in Mango and Jugsalai are turning to self-employment through self-help groups, running tailoring units, beauty parlours, tiffin services, handicraft ventures and small shops. While these initiatives have helped them become financially independent, many face persistent challenges in sustaining their businesses. Women entrepreneurs say they struggle with obtaining trade licenses, shop allotments and designated vending spaces in local markets. Issues related to hawking zones and periodic anti-encroachment drives often result in losses for small vendors.

They have urged the municipal authorities to introduce dedicated hawking zones for women entrepreneurs and launch skill development and training programmes to strengthen their ventures. According to them, structured support and secure vending spaces would not only protect their livelihoods but also encourage more women to step into entrepreneurship, contributing to the local economy. (w-nkm)

Sudha Gupta intensifies campaign for Mango Mayor polls

Jamshedpur, Feb 18: Mayoral candidate Sudha Gupta has intensified her election campaign for the Mango Municipal Corporation polls, reaching out to residents through padyatras and public meetings across several areas. She visited Khadiya Basti, Jawahar Nagar Road No. 14, Janata Path, Gudurubasa, Katkatdungri, Gajhadi, Baliguma, Moon City Basti, Rajiv Path, Unmat Nagar, Sarvodaya Path, Chanakyapuri, Devkunj (Dimna Road) and Chandravati Nagar, directly interacting with voters.

Gupta stated that Mango's development is not just a promise but her firm commitment, which can be achieved with public support. She appealed to voters to come out in large numbers on February 23 and cast their votes in favour of her symbol, "Carpet" (Serial No. 11). She emphasised that development remains her top priority and



sought the people's cooperation to ensure the area's overall progress.

BJP deploys top guns for Jharkhand civic poll push



Ranchi/Jamshedpur, Feb 18: The BJP has intensified its campaign for the upcoming civic body elections in Jharkhand, rolling out a high-profile line-up of central and state leaders to ensure the victory of party-backed candidates across key urban centres.

Former Union minister Smriti Irani is likely to address public meetings in Ranchi and Jamshedpur in support of BJP-supported nominees, adding significant national weight to the party's local campaign. Her proposed rallies are expected to energise cadre and consolidate urban voters ahead of polling. The party's national general secretary Arun Singh and national secretary Rituraj Sinha are already on the ground, spearheading an aggressive outreach programme and coordinating campaign strategy with district-level leaders. At the state level, BJP Jharkhand president Aditya Sahu and Leader of Opposition Babulal Marandi are closely monitoring booth-level preparations, focusing on micro-management to maximise voter mobilisation and organisational efficiency. Senior leaders including former Chief Minister Raghubar Das and Union minister Arjun Munda have stepped up campaigning in the politically significant Kolhan region, holding meetings and interacting with local workers to consolidate support. Party insiders say the leadership is also addressing challenges posed by rebel candidates in select constituencies, working to contain dissent and prevent vote fragmentation. With an all-tier mobilisation-from central heavyweights to grassroots functionaries-the BJP appears determined to convert its organisational strength into electoral gains in the Jharkhand municipal elections. (W-pm)

JD(U) holds strategy meet for Mango Municipal elections

Jamshedpur, Feb 18: A crucial meeting of office-bearers of Janata Dal (United) East Singhbhum was convened at the residence of MLA Saryu Roy to chalk out strategy for the upcoming Mango Municipal Corporation elections. The meeting focused on ensuring the victory of NDA-supported candidates in maximum wards. During the discussion, party leaders conducted a detailed ward-wise review of the political scenario and assessed the progress of ongoing public outreach campaigns. Office-bearers shared ground-level feedback and highlighted local issues influencing voter sentiment. Special emphasis was laid on strengthening booth-level management and improving coordination among party workers.

MLA Roy called upon party members to work with unity and dedication, stating that organizational cohesion is the NDA's greatest strength. He urged workers to intensify public engagement and effectively communicate the alliance's development agenda. Several district and regional leaders were present and reaffirmed their commitment to securing a strong performance in the civic polls. (w-nkm)

XLRI reinvents HR education with second-year specialisations

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 18: XLRI – Xavier School of Management has introduced a major curricular innovation in its flagship Human Resource Management (HRM) programme, unveiling structured second-year specialisations aimed at preparing future-ready HR professionals.

Widely regarded as one of the premier institutions for HR education in the Asia-Pacific region, XLRI has once again reaffirmed its leadership by aligning its curriculum with the evolving demands of organisations and the workplace. The move marks a significant shift from a uniform academic structure to a more flexible, student-centric model.

The newly introduced specialisations will allow students to build deeper expertise in key domains such as Organisation Development, Compensation and Rewards, Future of Work, Labour and Social Justice, and Employee Well-being. The initiative aims to equip students with both strategic insight and domain-specific knowledge required in modern HR roles.

The first year of the two-year HRM programme will continue to focus on building a strong general management foundation. Students will engage with core disciplines including Marketing, Operations, Finance, Strategy, and Information Systems, alongside essential HR subjects such as Performance Management, Talent Acquisition, Learning and Development, and Employee Relations.

In the second year, students will now have the flexibility to either specialise in a chosen area or opt for a broader academic approach through a diverse set of electives spanning HR and allied fields like Strategy, Economics, and Information Systems.

Speaking on the development, Director Dr. (Fr.) Sebastian George, SJ, emphasised the institution's commitment to academic relevance. He stated that the introduction of specialisations reflects XLRI's vision of nurturing HR professionals who combine strong ethical values with deep expertise in emerging and complex areas of people management.

Dean (Academics) Prof. Sanjay Patro noted that the redesigned curriculum offers meaningful academic choices, enabling students to pursue either depth or breadth without compromising the rigour and intellectual depth that the institute is known for.

Prof. R. K. Premarajan, Chairperson of the HRM Committee, highlighted that modern HR roles require both strategic thinking and specialised knowledge. He said the initiative allows students to align their learning with their career aspirations, whether in advanced organisation development, rewards strategy, future-of-work challenges, or socially responsible HR practices.

With this reform, XLRI continues to strengthen its reputation as a thought leader in HR education, reaffirming its commitment to shaping responsible, industry-ready leaders equipped to navigate the complexities of the contemporary workplace. (W-pb)

AFFIDAVIT

Through an affidavit vide Sl. No. 04 dated 17.01.2026 from Jamshedpur Court, I, Ramu Panda, S/o Late Baidhnath Panda, R/o Road N-3C, Subash Colony, Dimna Road, Mango, P.O. & P.S. Mango, Jamshedpur, Dist. East Singhbhum, Jharkhand 831012 do hereby declare that in all my documents my name is mentioned as "RAMU PANDA" but in my Aadhar Card No. 6769 9182 0035 my name has been mentioned incorrectly as "ANAND PANDA". That my correct name "RAMU PANDA" only shall be written henceforth for all official, legal & personal purposes.

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Tender Notice No. CKP-SOUTH-25-26-31. 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. **Name of work** : Balance work of Soft upgradation of BARBIL Railway station over Chakradharpur Division under Sr. DEN (South). **Tender Value** : ₹ 3,16,64,868.31. **EMD** : ₹ 3,08,300/-. **Cost of Tender form** : ₹ 0. **Date of opening** : 12.03.2026. 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-1207)**

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A meeting of memories and political legacy

Mail News Service



Ranchi, Feb 18: At the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly in Ranchi, a moment steeped in history and mutual respect unfolded on Wednesday as Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren received former Gujarat Chief Minister Shankersinh Vaghela for a cordial meeting.

During the interaction, Vaghela presented the Chief Minister with a treasured photograph from an earlier chapter of Indian parliamentary history - a rare image capturing "Dishom Guru" Shibu Soren and Vaghela serving together as Members of Parliament during the same tenure.

The photograph stood not merely as a keepsake, but as a symbol of shared political journeys and enduring democratic bonds.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren expressed his heartfelt gratitude for the thoughtful gesture, describing the photograph as a cherished reminder of legacy, leadership, and long-standing camaraderie. MLA Mathura Prasad Mahato was also present on the occasion, which resonated with warmth, reminiscence, and statesmanship. (W-pm)

State Bar Council polls on March 12

Mail News Service

Ranchi/Jamshedpur, Feb 18: The final list of candidates for the upcoming State Bar Council elections, scheduled for March 12, was officially published on Wednesday, setting the stage for a keenly contested electoral battle across Jharkhand.

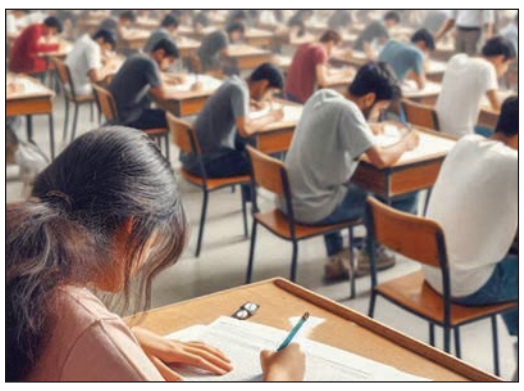
According to information shared by the Vice-Chairman of the Jharkhand State Bar Council, Rajesh Kumar Shukla, a total of 100 candidates from various districts of the state have filed their nominations. Of these, 25 are women candidates. Elections will be held for 23 posts, including 18 seats reserved for male candidates and five for women.

In addition, two women members will be nominated separately, ensuring broader representation within the Council. From the Jamshedpur District Bar Association, 12 members are in the fray, comprising nine male and three female candidates.

With nominations finalized, electioneering has gathered significant momentum across the state's legal fraternity. Addressing advocates and members of the Bar, Vice-Chairman Rajesh Kumar Shukla provided detailed information regarding the election process and interacted with members across generations. He met young practitioners, extended his blessings to them, and also sought support and guidance from senior advocates ahead of the polls.

Prominent advocates present on the occasion included Harendra Singh Chauhan, Triloki Nath Ojha, K.K. Sinha, Dinesh Narayan Singh, Ramashankar Pandey, Akshay Kumar Jha, Mithilesh Singh, Vijay Shankar Pathak, Nilesh Kumar, Janmejaya Singh, Sanjay Singh, and Debashish Patra, along with several other members of the legal fraternity. With the final list now public, the legal community across Jharkhand is gearing up for what is expected to be a closely watched and vibrant election. (W-pm)

Dist admn enforces strict noise pollution norms during CBSE, ICSE, JAC board exams



Mail News Service

Ranchi, Feb 18: Acting in compliance with the directions of the Jharkhand High Court, the district administration (Dist admn) in Ranchi has issued stringent instructions to ensure strict enforcement of prescribed noise pollution standards during the ongoing 2026 board examinations conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (ICSE), and the Jharkhand Academic Council (JAC).

Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Magistrate Manjunath Bhajantri has directed Sub-Divisional Officer (Sadar) Kumar Rajat to ensure full compliance with all notified noise pollution norms. The administration has made it clear that during this sensitive examination period, any sound exceeding the prescribed decibel limits will invite strict action against the concerned vehicles, election candidates, organizations, restaurant operators and event organizers. The action may include seizure of vehicles and sound equipment, imposition of fines and other legal proceedings under relevant provisions.

Currently, the Class 10 and 12 board examinations are being held in February 2026, while examinations for Classes 8, 9 and 11 are scheduled from the last week of February to the first week of March. The administration has observed that municipal election candidates, bars, restaurants and other organizers have been using loudspeakers, DJs and public address systems mounted on vehicles for campaigning and promotional activities, with several instances of sound levels exceeding permissible decibel limits.

The district administration has also taken serious note of excessive noise levels in different parts of the city, including restricted zones, bars, open restaurants and other public and private places, particularly beyond permitted hours. Such violations have been termed unacceptable and will attract stringent action under the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, and other applicable legal provisions.

Under the rules, permissible noise limits in residential areas are 55 dB(A) during the day and 45 dB(A) at night, while in commercial areas the limits are 65 dB(A) during the day and 55 dB(A) at night. The use of loudspeakers or public address systems is completely prohibited between 10 pm and 6 am without written permission. In public places, sound levels must not exceed the ambient standard by more than 10 dB(A) or 75 dB(A), whichever is lower, and in private premises the peripheral noise level must not increase by more than 5 dB(A).

Saryu Roy alleges large-scale illegal coal mining in Dhanbad

Mail News Service



Ranchi, Feb 18: MLA Saryu Roy has alleged rampant illegal coal mining in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district, claiming that coal mafias are extracting coal directly from the bed and banks of the Damodar River with the alleged knowledge of district authorities.

In a press statement issued in Ranchi on Tuesday, Roy said illegal mining operations have reached an alarming scale, with operators constructing temporary embankments (locally known as "mohana") along the riverbanks to facilitate extraction.

Heavy machinery, including poclain excavators, is reportedly being used to mine coal from the riverbed.

The extracted coal is packed into sacks, stockpiled, and later transported by trucks, he alleged.

Roy expressed surprise that such extensive activities could continue despite what he described as full awareness on the part of the Dhanbad district administration and police. "This illegal operation appears to be functioning under administrative and police protection," he stated.

According to Roy, the illegal mining poses a serious environmental threat, leading to encroachment and pollution of the Damodar River.

He warned that the ecological balance of the river is at risk due to unchecked excavation and transportation activities.

The MLA said the issue was brought to his attention by a local environmental activist, who risked personal safety to capture photographs of the alleged operations near Barni Ghat, located along the Dhanbad-Bokaro district border.

The activist has reportedly informed the Deputy Commissioner and the Senior Superintendent of Police of Dhanbad.

Some journalists have also raised the matter with district authorities, but no action has been taken so far, Roy claimed.

Terming the matter "extremely serious," Roy announced that he would raise the issue during the upcoming Budget Session of the Jharkhand Assembly and demanded immediate action against officials found complicit or negligent.

He urged the state government to initiate a thorough investigation and take strict action to curb illegal mining and protect the Damodar River from further degradation. (W-pm)

Daylight chain snatching in Kashidih

Jamshedpur, Feb 18: In a brazen daylight robbery, a woman was targeted by motorcycle-borne snatchers in Kashidih under the Sakchi police station area on Wednesday morning, triggering panic among local residents. The incident took place at Line No. 10 in Kashidih when Anita Chaudhary was on her way to offer prayers at a nearby Ganesh temple located behind her residence. According to the victim, two unidentified youths riding a high-speed motorcycle approached her from behind. Before she could comprehend what was happening, the pillion rider swiftly snatched the gold chain from around her neck. "The entire incident happened within seconds. I didn't even get a chance to raise an alarm," she recounted. The accused fled the scene immediately after committing the crime, leaving the victim shaken. On receiving information, police rushed to the spot and initiated an investigation. Officers have begun scanning CCTV footage from nearby areas to identify the culprits. Police officials assured that efforts are underway to trace and arrest the accused at the earliest.

Jharkhand launches 'MGNREGA Vishwas' campaign to boost rural employment



Ranchi, Feb 18: The Jharkhand government has launched a statewide campaign titled "MGNREGA ka Vishwas, Rozgar se Vikas" for the financial year 2025-26 to strengthen rural employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

The MGNREGA Commissioner has issued directions to all Deputy Commissioners and District Programme Coordinators to intensify implementation. Currently, the average employment generation stands at 43.69 days and the campaign aims to raise this to 100 days per family. The government has set a target of providing 100 days of employment to at least 10 lakh families over the next six months. Weekly employment days will be observed at the gram panchayat level, along with awareness drives and review meetings. Special focus will be placed on women's participation, preventing migration, Aadhaar linkage, e-KYC camps and transparent implementation through geo-tagged photographs and online reporting. The initiative is expected to significantly enhance rural livelihoods and economic empowerment. (w-nkm)

Crack down on banned single-use plastic in Jugsalai, Rs 3,000 fine imposed

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 18: In a decisive move to enforce the ban on single-use plastic, the Jugsalai Municipal Council on Wednesday conducted a special enforcement drive across key market areas, seizing banned plastic materials and penalising violators.

The drive was carried out by a joint team comprising officials of the Jugsalai Municipal Council, the Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board, and the local police administration. The campaign covered prominent stretches including Station Road Gurudwara to Bata Chowk, Chowk Bazaar, Dharamshala Road, Jugsalai Phatak Chowk and Marwari Pada Road.

During the inspection, street vendors, flower sellers and retail shopkeepers were found using and selling banned single-use plastic items and plastic carry bags below the permissible thickness. The team seized approximately 7 kilograms of such materials from several establishments, including Amar Store, Savera Bakery, Ramchandra Saw, Chaturbhuj Stall, Ram Chaat Shop, a wine shop and a vendor identified as Suraj Kumar.

A total fine of Rs 3,000 was imposed on the violators, and all offenders were issued strict warnings against the use and sale of banned plastic in the future.

Officials reiterated that under the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2021, the manufacture, import, storage, distribution, sale and use of plastic carry bags with a thickness of less than 120 microns have been strictly prohibited from January 1, 2023. Any violation of these rules is considered a punishable offence, whether during regular days or festivals and community events. The rules also prohibit several single-use plastic items, including plastic sticks for ear buds and balloons, plastic flags, thermocol decorative materials, and disposable cutlery such as plates, cups, glasses, spoons and straws.



Additionally, plastic wrapping films, PVC banners and strips below specified thickness limits are banned.

The Municipal Council has appealed to residents and traders to adopt eco-friendly alternatives such as jute, paper and cloth bags. Officials also advised against the use of thermocol plates and bowls, highlighting potential health risks, and encouraged the use of biodegradable options like sal leaf plates.

Authorities warned that strict legal action, including financial penalties, would be taken against anyone found manufacturing, storing, selling or using banned plastic items. Shopkeepers have also been urged to surrender such materials to the Municipal Council and cooperate in the "plastic-free Jugsalai" initiative.

The enforcement team included City Manager Rajendra Kumar, Aftab Alam of the Pollution Control Board, Junior Environmental Engineer, Junior Engineer Deepak Sinku, Revenue Inspector Rahul Kumar Das, Umesh Prajapati, Naseem Akhtar, Sanitary Supervisor Dinesh Kumar Mahato, Haseen Khan, Manjeet Kumar, Home Guard Santosh Kumar Yadav and other staff members. (W-pb)

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Dickenson Road, Bangalore - 560 042. CIN No. U85110KA1995PLC018175

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public that Auction of pledged Gold Ornaments will be conducted by WIZZMONI FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED (formerly Unimoni Financial Services Limited) on **23.02.2026** at 10:00 am at the respective centers given below. The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Loan Accounts of our various Customers who have failed to pay their dues. Our notices of auction have been duly issued to these borrowers. The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Overdue Loan Accounts of our various Customers mentioned below with branch name.

Auction Centre Address & Loan Nos: JHAMSHEDPUR (JHA - Ist Floor, Holding No 89/Aakash Building ,Water Works Rosakchi, Jamshedpur -831001,Contact:9334064424) 2198473, 2171005, 2215811. RANCHI (RAC - SHOP NO 13, KALI TOWERNEAR LALPUR CHOWK, RANCHI-834001,Contact No. 9308839010) 2151850.

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

BJP seeks transparent civic polls

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 18: Aditya Sahu, Jharkhand State President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Rajya Sabha MP, on Wednesday addressed a press conference in Sakchi, asserting that the party has consistently pushed for timely and transparent urban local body elections across the state.

He said BJP workers had actively campaigned across 48 urban bodies, urging authorities to conduct the polls without delay. Sahu reiterated the party's support for elections on a party basis and through Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), stating that such a system ensures efficiency and clarity in the democratic process.

Raising concerns over reported threats to candidates in certain areas, including Chakradharpur, he called for robust security arrangements such as deployment of central forces and installation of CCTV cameras at polling booths to ensure free and fair elections. He also referred to threats allegedly received by senior tribal leader and former Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker Karia Munda, urging adequate protection for all public representatives. Among those present at the press meet were Jamshedpur MP Bidyut Baran Mahato, former state BJP president Dr. Dineshanand Goswami, Nandji Prasad, Sanjeev Sinha, Subodh Srivastava, Prem Jha and Akash Shah. (W-pm)

युवा कार्यक्रम एवं खेल मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
खेल विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

कक्ष संख्या 718-ए, शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली-110001
Room No. 718-A, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

Filling up of the post of Secretary, Sports Authority of India (SAI) in the Pay Matrix (Level 14- Rs. 1,44,200-Rs. 2,18,200) on deputation basis.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports invites applications from eligible and willing officers for appointment to the post of **Secretary, Sports Authority of India (SAI)**, an autonomous organization under the Department of Sports, on **Deputation Basis** in Pay Level-14 of the Pay Matrix (Rs. 1,44,200 2,18,200). The eligibility criteria, experience, and other conditions are as prescribed in the detailed vacancy circular dated 28.01.2026 available on the Ministry's website.

Applications in the prescribed proforma, duly forwarded through proper channel, along with complete and up-to-date APAR dossiers for the last five years, vigilance clearance, integrity certificate, cadre clearance, and statement of penalties (if any), must reach in the O/o Shri Yogesh Kumar, Under Secretary to the Govt. of India, **Room No. 718-A, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-01** within the stipulated time. Advance copies may be submitted; however, they will be considered only after receipt of the application through proper channel. The last date for receipt of applications is on or before **27th February, 2026.** For detailed eligibility conditions, prescribed application format, and other terms & conditions, applicants are advised to visit the official websites: **https://yas.gov.in** or **https://yas.gov.in/sites/default/files/Circular%20dated%2028.01.2026.pdf**

(Under Secretary to the Government of India)
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
New Delhi

cbc 47103/12/0020/2526

NCSC member reviews welfare schemes in East Singhbhum

Calls for accountability and timely implementation

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 18: A high-level review meeting on the implementation of welfare schemes for the Scheduled Caste community was held in East Singhbhum district on Wednesday under the chairmanship of National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) Member Luv Kush Kumar. During the meeting, Kumar conducted a comprehensive review of various schemes related to education, scholarships, housing, self-employment, social security, and atrocity prevention. He directed departmental officials to ensure that the benefits of these schemes reach the intended beneficiaries in a timely, transparent, and effective manner. Emphasising inclusive governance, Kumar stated that priority must be given to the most deserving sections while selecting beneficiaries.

He also stressed the need for expeditious police action in pending atrocity cases, effective grievance redressal, and regular monitoring of schemes at the grassroots level.

"It is the moral responsibility of every government servant to safeguard the interests of villagers, farmers, labourers and the underprivileged, and to ensure that welfare schemes reach every eligible individual without obstruction," he said, adding that accountability in administration is key to



strengthening public trust. The NCSC member also focused on improving the quality of education, directing officials to ensure 100 percent enrolment of children, prevent dropouts, improve teacher-student ratios, repair dilapidated school buildings, and enhance parental participation in education.

He further instructed officials to verify beneficiary lists under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana to eliminate discrepancies and to take strict action against fake job cards under the MNREGA scheme.

Kumar also called for better coordination among agriculture, labour, and allied departments and urged the launch of awareness campaigns to maximize outreach of welfare schemes.

Deputy Development Commissioner Nagendra Paswan, SDM Dhalbhum Arnav Mishra, Director NEP Santosh Garg, Civil Surgeon Dr. Sahir Pal, District Transport Officer Dhananjay, ADM (SOR) Rahul G Anand, DSP Headquarters, and other departmental officers were present in the meeting.

Deputy Development Commissioner Nagendra Paswan assured that effective implementation of schemes for the upliftment of the Scheduled Caste community is being ensured and that necessary action will be taken in accordance with the directions issued during the meeting.

The review reflects the administration's continued focus on strengthening welfare delivery mechanisms and ensuring that government benefits reach the most vulnerable sections of society.

Kalash yatra marks start of Bhagwat Katha in Golmuri today

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 18: The eight-day Shrimad Bhagwat Katha Gyan Yagya Mahotsav will be held from February 19 to 26 at Maninder Tower, Penta House, near Axis Bank, Golmuri. The religious festivities will commence with a Kalash Yatra at 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 19.

The procession will start from the Golmuri Shri Shiv Shyam Temple and move along designated routes to the Katha venue at Maninder Tower, Golmuri Penta House. Acharya Pandit Suresh Chandra Shastri Ji Maharaj of Vrindavan Dham will deliver the daily Katha discourse from the Vyas Peetha between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The event is being organized by the Goyal family of Golmuri, led by Gheesa Lal Kailash Chandra Agarwal. Organizers Champa and Ratan Agarwal have requested all devotees to attend the Kalash Yatra and Bhagwat Gyan Yagya Katha on time.

Deepak Agarwal Ramuka intensifies campaign

Jamshedpur, Feb 18: With only a few days remaining for the Jugsalai Municipal Council elections, candidates have stepped up their campaigning efforts.

Ward No. 12 councilor candidate Deepak Agarwal Ramuka has intensified his public outreach campaign across the area. Appealing to voters to rise above caste and religious considerations, Ramuka urged them to choose a hard-working and dedicated candidate.

Actively involved in social and religious activities, he expressed confidence that the people of Jugsalai would elect a true well-wisher this time. Highlighting the importance of voting, he said that casting a vote is not only a constitutional right but also a social responsibility. "Every vote will shape your future in this Municipal Council election. Therefore, elect a candidate who is public-spirited, educated, hardworking, and selflessly committed to serving society," he stated. Ramuka further assured voters that besides addressing issues within Ward No. 12, he would work for the overall development of the entire Jugsalai Municipal Council area. He pledged to make dedicated efforts toward establishing a fire brigade station in Jugsalai and improving the increasingly complex traffic system in the locality.

Gita Theatre wins top honours at International Drama Competition in Munger

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 18: The youth cultural group Gita Theatre Jamshedpur brought laurels to Jamshedpur by winning multiple awards at the 26th Multilingual International Stage Play, Street Play and Dance Competition 2026, organised by Ang Natya Manch in Bariarpur, Munger, Bihar. At the three-day event, the troupe staged the short play Atithi Devo Bhava, written by Preeti Suman, highlighting social issues such as dowry and the controversial practice of forced marriage.



For their performances, Khushi Dubey won the First Best Comedian Actress Award for her role as Panditain, Prem Dixit received the Second Best Comedian Actor Award for playing Pandit and Karan Saw secured the Second Best Child Artist Award for his role as Chhota Pandit. The team also earned the Second Best National Street Play Award for Haan Main Dayan Hoon, a powerful production aimed at raising awareness against the witch-hunting practice. The play portrays the struggles of a woman falsely branded a witch and subjected to social injustice.

Additionally, Gita Theatre was honoured as the Best Disciplined Theatre Group of 2026.

The troupe's head, Geeta Kumari, was conferred the prestigious Ang Samman Award 2026 for her decade-long contribution to theatre and social awareness initiatives. (w-nkm)

Loyola students reach out to Palasbani village

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 18: In a meaningful initiative promoting compassion and social responsibility, Class 9 students of Loyola School Telco visited Palasbani village and interacted with nearly 60-70 children in a spirit of solidarity and service. Guided by Fr. Alex, the visit began with a walk around the village, giving students a glimpse of rural life. The painted huts adorned with traditional hand art, serene ponds and lush surroundings reflected the rich cultural heritage of the community. The programme soon turned into a celebration of creativity as village children participated in drawing and colouring activities conducted by the Loyola students. The school band added cheer to the occasion with lively performances, while the village children



presented a vibrant tribal dance, showcasing their traditions. Essential items were also distributed among the children as part of the outreach effort. The experience left the visiting students deeply moved.

The school expressed gratitude to Principal Charanjeet Ohson and Administrator Gerald D'Souza for their support in making the initiative a success. (w-nkm)

Growing support for Gaurav Goyal signals change

Jamshedpur, Feb 18: A noticeable wave of change is sweeping through Ward No. 12 of the Jugsalai Municipal Council, as increasing public support for candidate Gaurav Goyal reshapes the election atmosphere.

Active citizen participation in neighborhood meetings, door-to-door campaigns, and public interaction programs reflects a growing inclination toward positive, educated, and responsible leadership.

Youth, women, and senior citizens are coming forward in significant numbers to support Goyal, whose election symbol is the "bat."

Elephant calf rescued from well after four-hour operation

Mail News Service

Kharagpur, Feb 18: An emotional scene unfolded in Musna village under the Pidrakata Range of Salboni block in West Midnapore district after an elephant calf fell into an open well late Tuesday night. The incident occurred around 1 am when a herd of elephants was moving through ????? near the village. During the movement, a calf accidentally slipped into a ?.

Hearing the distressed trumpeting of the mother elephant, villagers rushed out of their homes. Eyewitnesses said the mother repeatedly tried to pull her calf out using



her trunk, crying out in panic and fear. Villagers immediately informed the Forest Department and local police. Officials from Pidrakata and Lalgarh ranges arrived promptly and began a challenging rescue operation. Moving the agitated mother elephant to a safe distance was the first hurdle. An earthmover (JCB) was used to dig a slope along one side of the well to create an escape path.

After nearly four hours of effort, the calf was successfully rescued around 5 am on Wednesday. Range Officer-in-Charge Subhashish Choudhury said the calf had fallen while feeding with its mother. The young elephant was found healthy and later returned safely to the forest with its herd. Forest officials are continuing to monitor the area as a precaution. (w-nkm)

Baby delivered inside ambulance before reaching hospital

Mail News Service

Kharagpur, Feb 18: In a remarkable display of courage and quick response, an ambulance turned into a makeshift labour room in Ghatal, West Midnapore, when a pregnant woman delivered a baby before reaching the hospital.



Priyanka Murdane, a resident of Arambagh in Hooghly district, had come to her maternal home in Kushman village for delivery. On Tuesday morning, she experienced severe labour pain. Her mother, Shefali Ghori, immediately informed local ASHA worker Pratima Pore, who promptly arrived with a government ambulance and rushed Priyanka toward Ghatal Sub-Divisional Hospital, about 16 kilometres away.

However, her condition worsened en route. With intense pain and no time to spare, the ambulance had to be stopped midway. Under the supervision and assistance of ASHA worker Pratima, Priyanka delivered a healthy baby boy inside the vehicle. Pratima later said it was her first such experience. "I was initially nervous, but saving the mother and child was the priority," she said. Both mother and newborn were later safely taken to the hospital and are reported to be stable. (w-nkm)

Akhand Harikirtan at Sakchi vegetable market from Feb 22 to 26

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 18: A five-day Shri Shri Akhand Harikirtan will be organised from February 22 to 26 at the Tank Area premises of the vegetable market in Sakchi. The annual religious programme is being conducted with devotion and enthusiasm.

The event is being organised by the Shri Shri Akhand Harikirtan Samiti, which has invited devotees to participate in large numbers and seek spiritual blessings.

The committee was founded by late Shivshankar Prasad. Chief patrons include Rameshwar Prasad, Ashok Mandal and Uday Narayan. President Dilip Mandal, Secretary Anil Kumar Mandal, Joint Secretary Rajkumar, Treasurer Rajkishore Sahu, Manager Shrikant Mandal and Sougat Mandal are playing key roles in organising the event. All preparations for the programme have been completed.

Volunteers assist youths in Yuva Sathi scheme form submission

Mail News Service

Jhargram, Feb 18: The application process for the state-wide Yuva Sathi scheme has officially begun across West Bengal, including at the BDO office in Beliabera under Gopiballavpur-II block, Jhargram district.



To support applicants, a group of local youths has voluntarily come forward to help young men and women with form filling and guidance on required documents.

Volunteers including Prolay Dandapat, Krishna Dandapat, Tamal De, and Pathik Singh have been assisting applicants at the BDO office itself.

Speaking on Wednesday, Prolay Dandapat said that they have been present at the BDO office since Sunday, helping individuals collect and submit Yuva Sathi forms and providing information on necessary documents. He added that no payment is being charged for this service. The volunteers expressed their willingness to continue supporting applicants in the same way in the future.

Local residents have appreciated the initiative, while applicants expressed satisfaction with the guidance and assistance provided by the volunteers.

Elephant herd damage crops, spreads panic in Sankrail block

Jhargram, Feb 18: Panic gripped several villages in Sankrail block of Jhargram district after a herd of 15-20 elephants entered local areas, causing extensive damage to agricultural fields. The incident occurred from early Wednesday morning through the day, affecting villages including Haripura, Ramanandapur, and Gokulpur. Local residents reported that the elephants suddenly entered paddy fields late at night, destroying large portions of standing crops within minutes. Farmers suffered significant losses due to the destruction. Villagers claimed that such elephant intrusions into human settlements have become frequent in the area. They alleged that despite informing the Forest Department, immediate and effective measures were not taken. Locals are demanding quick compensation for affected farmers and a long-term solution to prevent such incidents in the future. Forest Department officials reached the area and attempted to drive the herd back into the forest. However, the elephants continued roaming across different locations until morning, keeping villagers on edge.

SER celebrates 70th Railway Week, honours 81 employees

Mail News Service

Kolkata, Feb 17: South Eastern Railway celebrated the 70th Railway Week – "Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar, 2025" at its headquarters in Garden Reach on February 17, 2026. The event was graced by General Manager Anil Kumar Mishra as Chief Guest, in the presence of senior officials, including the Additional General Manager, Senior Deputy General Manager, Principal Heads of Departments, and Divisional Railway Managers from all four divisions.



A total of 81 railway officers and staff were felicitated for their outstanding service during 2024-25. Additionally, 35 employees received the Rail Seva Puraskar-2024 and 37 were honoured with Rail Seva Puraskar-2025. The Overall Efficiency Shield was awarded to Adra Division for best all-round performance, while 33 Efficiency Shields were presented across categories. Tatanagar Railway Station was adjudged the Best Kept Station.

Highlighting achievements, Mishra said SER loaded 171 million tonnes of freight, earning Rs 15,708 crore, and carried 18.6 crore passengers, generating Rs 2,474 crore in revenue up to January 2026. A cultural programme added vibrancy to the event. (w-nkm)

Suzuki E-Access Premium electric scooter launched in Jamshedpur

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 18: The new Suzuki E-Access, a premium electric scooter from Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt. Ltd., was launched at Jwala Suzuki showrooms in Sakchi and Bistupur.



The event was attended by Regional Sales Manager (Bihar and Jharkhand) Mohammad Tausif Ashraf, Area Sales Manager Pradyujit Rautray, company officials, customers and other dignitaries. Developed under Suzuki's e-technology platform, the E-Access promises long battery life, smooth acceleration and superior handling. It features an integrated aluminum battery case within the frame for enhanced durability, LED lighting, dual-tone alloy wheels, a maintenance-free drive belt and a 4.2-inch TFT display with smartphone connectivity and turn-by-turn navigation.

A USB charging port is also included. The scooter is powered by a 3.07 kWh Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) battery, claimed to last significantly longer than conventional NMC batteries. It comes with a 4.1 kW motor producing 15 Nm torque, along with Eco, Ride A, Ride B and Reverse modes, plus regenerative braking.

Priced at Rs 1,90,099 (ex-showroom), the E-Access is available in four dual-tone colour options and comes with attractive warranty and loyalty benefits. (w-nkm)

Review meet on pre-poll arrangements

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Feb 18: In preparation for the 2026 Municipal General Elections, a high-level review meeting on pre-poll arrangements was held at the District Collectorate auditorium. The meeting was chaired by District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner Nitish Kumar Singh and attended by Superintendent of Police Mukesh Lunayat along with senior officials of various departments.

During the meeting, officials examined the activities of multiple departments, assessed compliance with previously issued directives, and provided necessary guidelines to ensure smooth election preparations. Progress reports were reviewed, and senior officials were instructed to complete pending tasks within the stipulated timeframe. The District Election Officer emphasized effective coordination between sector magistrates and police officers for continuous area monitoring and law and order management. Detailed instructions were given regarding queue management, crowd control, streamlined entry and exit routes at polling stations, and vigilance against any disruptive elements. Preparations for polling party dispatch and reception were also reviewed, with directions to complete all arrangements in advance.

Special measures were outlined for female voters, including adequate deployment of female polling personnel at purdah-style polling stations and those with a high concentration of women voters. Parking arrangements for polling parties were finalized, with two-wheelers to be accommodated at the NRI School campus and four-wheelers at the Indoor Stadium, Saraikela. The District Transport Officer was directed to ensure readiness.

Officials were instructed to guarantee the timely availability of Assured Minimum Facilities (AMFs) such as drinking water, sanitation, toilets, and lighting at all polling stations. Ballot writing at every station is to be completed by February 20th. Preparations for the counting process were also reviewed to ensure compliance with State Election Commission guidelines.

Deputy Commissioner Singh stressed that fairness, transparency, and accountability must be maintained at every stage, and negligence would not be tolerated. The prompt and lawful resolution of complaints and strong law and order were given special emphasis. Key officials present included Deputy Development Commissioner Reena Hansda, DRDA Director Ajay Tirkey, Additional Deputy Commissioner Jaivardhan Kumar, Deputy Election Officer Surendra Oraon, District Transport Officer, District Mining Officer, and Deputy Superintendent of Police (Headquarters).

Fire damages puja shop in Seraikela

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Feb 18: A fire broke out in a shop selling puja items at the old bus stand in Seraikela town on Wednesday evening, causing panic in the area and destroying goods worth thousands of rupees. According to eyewitnesses, smoke was first noticed rising from a Kartik shop, which quickly caught fire. The flames spread rapidly, engulfing puja materials, decorative items and other goods stored inside.

Local youths acted swiftly and began dousing the flames using buckets of water, preventing the fire from spreading to nearby shops. The fire brigade reached the spot soon after being informed and, with the help of residents, brought the blaze under control.

Thanks to the prompt response, a major incident was averted and surrounding shops were saved from damage. Businessman donates blood on wedding anniversary. Seraikela, February 18: Setting an inspiring example, local businessman Sanjeev Gupta marked his 26th wedding anniversary by donating blood at the Seraikela Blood Bank.

The 55-year-old donor said the gesture was aimed at contributing to saving lives and promoting awareness about blood donation. Blood Bank in-charge Dr. Anupama Kumari congratulated Gupta for his noble initiative and informed that although awareness about blood donation is increasing, there is still a shortage of blood, with availability largely limited to emergency cases.

She highlighted that more people are now choosing to celebrate special occasions by donating blood, which reflects a positive change in society.

Lab technician Shiv Kumar Singh and other staff members also congratulated the donor for his thoughtful contribution.

AYUSH health camps benefit elderly

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Feb 18: Under the aegis of the District AYUSH Committee, a series of geriatric health camps were organised across Seraikela-Kharsawan district to provide healthcare services to the elderly through traditional systems of medicine. On Wednesday, camps were held in Nimdih, Kenduadih and Ganjiya under the leadership of District AYUSH Medical Officer Dr. Poonam Kumari. A total of 140 beneficiaries in Neemdih, 165 in Kenduadih and 127 in Ganjiya, including elderly residents and villagers, underwent health check-ups.

Patients were provided with free Ayurvedic and Homeopathic medicines. The camp at Neemdih was inaugurated by the local village head. A team of AYUSH doctors, including Dr. Pankaj, Dr. Asha, Dr. Yasmin, Dr. Shanti and Dr. Vivek, along with health workers and yoga instructors, participated in the initiative. The yoga instructors conducted simple yoga sessions and explained the importance of regular practice for maintaining good health.

Dr. Poonam Kumari said that public trust in the AYUSH system is steadily increasing. She added that such camps are not only spreading awareness about Ayurveda but also ensuring accessible treatment for rural populations.

Sumit Choudhary's campaign gains momentum

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Feb 18: BJP-backed candidate Sumit Kumar Choudhary is intensifying his outreach campaign ahead of the Saraikela Nagar Panchayat President election, drawing support from women, senior citizens, and the youth.

During his door-to-door campaign on Wednesday, a large number of young voters and BJP workers joined him, strengthening his slogan, "Choose a son, not a leader." Choudhary urged voters to elect him based on BJP ideology and the overall development agenda outlined in his manifesto. Addressing residents, he emphasized that he comes not as a traditional leader but as a son of the area committed to social service.

He assured voters that if elected President, he would dedicate himself to the holistic development of the Nagar Panchayat and continued service to the people. The campaign was supported by senior BJP leaders, including Raja Singh Deo, Sudip Patnaik, Badri Darogha, Meenakshi Patnaik, Parshuram Kavi, Chiranjeevi Mahapatra, Kush Kar, Rajiv Mahapatra, Rajkumar Singh, Biju Dutta, Sohan Singh, Rajesh Nanda, Dukhu Sahu, Raja Jyotishi, Sanjeev Satpathy, Rita Patnaik, Surya Devi, Jaya Patnaik, Sudip Mohanty, and Bindeshwari Mahato.

Mahashivratri Kalash Yatra concludes



Mail News Service

Gamharia, Feb 18: The Mahashivratri celebrations in Dumra Panchayat's Begnadih Tola concluded with the immersion of the Kalash at the grand Shiva temple.

On the third day of the festival, 108 women and unmarried girls participated in a Kalash Yatra, which proceeded along multiple routes before reaching Bhanga Talab for immersion. The event also featured a grand feast and was supported by social workers Ratilal Mandal, Roshan Prasad Saw, Dayashree Mandal, Vipin Mandal, Mansa Mandal, Mangal Lohar, and other villagers, contributing to its success.

ORSL and ERZL modern solutions to prevent dehydration

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 18: Diarrhea can lead to rapid loss of water and essential electrolytes, resulting in dehydration that poses serious health risks. Health experts note that dehydration remains a major yet often under-recognized health challenge in India.

To tackle this issue, Kenview India has introduced modern hydration solutions, including ORSL and ERZL.

ORSL is designed to treat dehydration caused by diarrhea and follows the World Health Organization (WHO) standard formula, helping restore the body's water and electrolyte balance.

It is available in both ready-to-drink and powder forms for convenient use.

ERZL, on the other hand, is aimed at everyday hydration needs. It is effective in relieving fatigue, weakness, heat discomfort, and mild to moderate dehydration.

ERZL now contains 1.4 times more electrolytes and eight times less sugar than before, providing faster hydration than water. Its composition includes sodium, potassium, chloride, vitamin C, and real fruit juice.

Manish Anandani of Kenview India stated that the company has been active in the hydration space for years and aims to address both illness-related and daily hydration needs through this two-product strategy.

Bhagwati Jagran held in Gamharia

Mail News Service

Gamharia, Feb 18: On the occasion of the Mahashivratri festival, Shri Shri Sarvajanik Mahashivratri Puja Committee organized a Bhagwati Jagran, inaugurated by industrialist and social worker Arun Tiwari.

Numerous Bhajan artists from Jamshedpur performed, creating a devotional atmosphere with continuous hymns. Beautiful tableaux depicting Baba Bholenath and Mata Bhavani enthralled the audience. Committee members, including Ashok Mallick, Rinku Nayak, MoinaGop, Rajesh Nayak, Dilip Nayak, Kamal Swarnkar, Premkant Das, Jitendra Nayak, Kush Nayak, Sona Nayak, Ramesh Nayak, and Jitendra Mallick, actively contributed to the event's success.

Five-day Geeta Yagna to begin from February 27 in Seraikela

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Feb 18: The 68th annual Panch Kundiya Samput Geeta Yagna will commence on February 27 at the Sri Sri Vishwa Kalyan Shrimad Bhagwad Geeta Yagya Mandir located at the ancient Gurukul Ashram in Bana-Tangrani.

The five-day spiritual event is organised annually for world welfare and promotion of spiritual values. It will begin with a grand Kalash Yatra followed by rituals including seed planting and residence ceremonies.

From February 28 to March 2, daily yagnas and Sankirtan Mahamantra chanting will be conducted, while the event will conclude on March 3 with Purnahuti and distribution of Prasad.

Ashram representatives, including Swami Karmanand Saraswati (Chandan Baba), Swami Paramananda Saraswati (Mota Baba) and Swami Mounananda Saraswati, informed that the programme will feature daily rituals such as Mangal Aarti, Surya Puja, Gau Puja, Rudrabhishek, and recitation of Durga Saptashati.

Evening sessions will include Bhagwad discourse from 8 pm to 9 pm, drawing devotees from across the region. The organisers have appealed to devotees to participate in large numbers and seek spiritual blessings.

Irvine Adventist School holds annual prize distribution ceremony

Mail News Service



Ghatshila, Feb 18: The annual prize distribution ceremony for the 2025–26 academic session was organised at the premises of Irvine Adventist School, Gopalpur, Ghatshila.

The event celebrated achievements in academics and sports, recognising students for their all-round performance. Inaugurating the programme, Principal George Ranjit Hembram emphasised that along with academic excellence, participation in sports and co-curricular competitions plays a vital role in shaping students' physical and mental development. During the academic year, students actively participated in sports such as kho-kho, football and volleyball, besides academic competitions including speech, debate and poetry recitation. School Director Samuel Jogendra Hembram, Secretary Dina Mary Hembram and Administrator Suresh Singh Chauhan congratulated the prize winners and motivated them to strive for greater achievements in the future. Teachers, students and staff members were present on the occasion. (w-nkm)

Private school association meets DSP over staff verification drive

Mail News Service



Ghatshila, Feb 18: The Private School Association Ghatshila submitted a memorandum to the Sub-Divisional Police Officer seeking cooperation in implementing mandatory police verification of teaching and non-teaching staff in private schools.

The association requested support from police stations across the Ghatshila subdivision to comply with a directive issued by the District Education Officer, which requires verification of teachers, non-teaching staff, Class IV employees and drivers. After reviewing the matter, Ghatshila DSP Ajit Kumar Kujur assured the delegation that necessary instructions would be issued to all police stations under the subdivision to extend full cooperation.

Association President Suresh Singh Chauhan stated that schools facing any difficulty in the verification process could contact him for assistance. Secretary Raja Karmakar, Treasurer Lakhan Lal Karmali and other committee members were present during the submission of the memorandum. (w-nkm)

Contract worker dies, compensation demanded

Mail News Service



Gamharia, Feb 18: Ajaram Mahato (27), a contract laborer, died while working at Pushkar Techno Private Limited in the Adityapur Industrial Area. Following his death, JLKM leaders staged a protest outside the company gate on Wednesday, demanding adequate compensation for the worker's family.

Company management held talks with the protesting leaders and agreed to provide compensation of approximately ?7 lakh (around $7,000).

However, the leaders argued that compensation should be calculated based on Mahato's salary until the age of 60, given his young age. The discussions ended without resolution. JLKM leader Prem Mardi announced that the protest would continue and the company gate would remain blocked until the demands are met. Several workers, including JLKM leader Vindeshwar Mahato, were present during the demonstration.

Swarnarekha defeat Kavach by 11 runs to win MPL-7 title

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 18: Team Swarnrekha clinched the seventh edition of the Mahadev Premier League (MPL), a tennis ball cricket tournament organised by Adhunik Power and Natural Resources Limited for its employees, defeating Team Kavach by 11 runs in a thrilling final. The eight-day tournament was held at the Mahadev Sports Ground and witnessed enthusiastic participation from officials and staff.

Batting first after winning the toss, Swarnrekha posted 77 for 4 in eight overs. Sushil Tudu starred with a blistering 58 runs, hitting three sixes and six fours, earning him both Man of the Final and Man of the Series honours. Rajesh Mahato added nine runs. For Kavach, Rakesh Mahato and Manik Sardar picked up a wicket each. In reply, Kavach managed 66 for 3, with Aditya Singh scoring 29 and Rakesh Mahato 17. Sushil Tudu claimed two wickets to seal the win. Rakesh Mahato was named Best Batsman and Manik Sardar Best Bowler of the tournament. Company Director Nirmal Agrawal and CEO Arun Kumar Mishra presented the trophies and medals. (w-nkm)

Winds of war

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi landed a C-130 aircraft on the emergency airstrip in Assam's Dibrugarh, he became the first world leader and first Indian Prime Minister to do so. More than a symbolic act, the landing signaled India's growing strategic preparedness. Fighter jets such as the Dassault Rafale, Sukhoi Su-30MKI and HAL Tejas have also successfully operated from such emergency strips, underlining operational flexibility in times of crisis.

In modern warfare, air power plays a decisive role. Conflicts today often begin with attempts to cripple an adversary's airbases and radar systems. During Operation Sindoor, Indian air strikes reportedly targeted key Pakistani air facilities, demonstrating how air dominance shapes battlefield outcomes. Such strategies reflect a global reality: the first blow in war is often aimed at blinding and grounding the opponent.

India's construction of a 4.2-kilometre emergency airstrip along the eastern corridor—capable of handling fighter and transport aircraft—highlights an evolving defense doctrine. These strips are designed to ensure swift military response even if conventional airbases are compromised. They symbolize not aggression, but readiness.

What strengthens this posture further is India's growing defense self-reliance. The defense budget for 2026–27 has crossed ?7.85 lakh crore, while indigenous production in 2024–25 surpassed ?1.54 lakh crore—an increase of 174 percent compared to 2014–15. India now exports missiles, aircraft components, helicopters and naval systems to over 100 countries, including advanced markets like the United States and France. Plans to manufacture a majority of the 114 Rafale jets domestically signal a decisive push toward technological sovereignty.

Yet preparedness must walk hand in hand with prudence. Expanding defense infrastructure, boosting exports and modernizing forces are necessary in a volatile geopolitical climate—particularly with complex regional dynamics involving China and Pakistan. However, military strength should ultimately serve deterrence and stability, not escalation.

India appears to be navigating this balance—enhancing capacity while emphasizing self-reliance. If managed wisely, this shift could transform the nation into a major defense manufacturing hub while reinforcing national security. In an era where the winds of war can shift rapidly, preparedness is not provocation; it is policy.

From the Editorial Desk

Technology with an impact: Prime Minister's vision for India's 'AI era' summed up by 'Modi Story'



As India hosts the five-day AI Impact Summit 2026, the biggest congregation of tech gurus from across the world, this brings the spotlight on the government's thrust on matching steps with the world in AI tech evolution and also reaffirms its resolve on taking rapid strides in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and deep tech. Modi Story, a popular social media handle on X, shared the country's journey from being an 'AI laggard' to emerging as a digital powerhouse, crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the notable transition and explaining how technology has empowered the common citizens in the past decade. Schemes like Direct Benefit Transfers, UPI payments and the Digital India initiative have been the key hallmarks of the Modi government in the past 10 years, showcasing how technology has been harnessed to the hilt to ensure that the public welfare schemes reach every citizen, irrespective of any class or strata. In the video shared by Modi Story, Pratyush Kumar, co-founder of Sarvam AI, who met PM Modi during the recent roundtable with the Indian start-ups, says that the Prime Minister's insights and tips to fledgling entrepreneurs will go a long way in shaping India's journey in the digital landscape and setting the new AI ecosystem. "Innovation must reach every hand was the broad message," he stated while recounting three aspects of the Prime Minister's suggestions, which included finding and ascertaining AI's connection with the civilizational roots, its impact on people's lives and strict adherence to ethics. PM Modi, chairing a roundtable of the AI start-ups at his residence, 7 Lok Kalyan Marg, last month, described India as a positive adopter of technology and emphasised that artificial intelligence should not remain limited to discussions about possibility. Pratyush Kumar, lauding the motto and spirit of the ongoing AI Impact Summit 2026, says that the event's theme itself shows that the focus is on outcomes and implementation. Further recounting conversations, he says that the Prime Minister clearly stated that the aim is "not simply to host an event in India, but to make it an event of India" and also ensure that it creates a measurable impact. "The Prime Minister highlighted the rapid evolution of AI and why India must accelerate its AI Mission. His vision is to position India at the centre of the global AI conversation," he added. The Prime Minister, during a meeting with the AI start-up founders, also stressed optimising the use of technology to serve the citizens, akin to the way the DBT served farmers via direct transfers. "The model could be such that a farmer seeking crop advice or a student looking for personalised learning support should benefit directly from AI platforms," says the founder of Sarvam AI, a leading firm in the segment, which claims to build and harness the AI potential for India and its people with a collective and nation-wide endeavour.

Rs 63,184 cr allocated to education in Gujarat Budget with focus on students, infra



Gujarat has earmarked Rs 63,184 crore for the education sector in the 2026-27 State Budget, with significant allocations directed towards strengthening school infrastructure, enhancing student welfare and expanding higher and technical education across the state.

Presenting his fifth consecutive Budget in the Gujarat Legislative Assembly, State Finance Minister Kanu Desai said the government aimed to make education globally competitive through policy reforms, digital infrastructure and student-centric schemes aligned with national education priorities and future workforce requirements.

"Our government has paved the way to make education globally competitive through policy reforms, digital infrastructure and student-centric schemes, in line with the principle of 'Sa Vidya Ya Vimuktaye'," he said.

nder Mission Schools of Excellence, Rs 3,055 crore has been allocated for infrastructural upgradation of primary and secondary schools, aimed at improving learning environments, strengthening facilities and ensuring quality education delivery across government institutions.

The Namo Lakshmi Yojana has been allotted Rs 1,250 crore to support girl students and promote continued education, while Rs 827 crore has been set aside for students admitted to private schools under the provisions of the Right to Education Act, ensuring access to education for children from economically weaker sections.

The Mukhyamantri Poshtik Alpahar Yojana will receive Rs 598 crore to provide nutritious supplementary meals to students, while construction of modern centralised kitchens in 74 talukas is under way under the PM Poshan Yojana, for which Rs 552 crore has been provided to strengthen school meal infrastructure and delivery systems.

A further Rs 342 crore has been allocated for construction, repair and renovation works in government secondary and higher secondary schools, including Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), Model Schools and Model Day Schools, aimed at improving physical infrastructure and learning facilities.

Among other provisions, Rs 250 crore has been earmarked under the Namo Saraswati Vigyan Sadhana Yojana to assist around 2.5 lakh students pursuing science education, while Rs 223 crore has been allocated for Gyan Shakti Residential Schools of Excellence to strengthen residential academic facilities.

An equal amount of Rs 223 crore has been set aside for bus pass fee concessions benefiting nearly 13 lakh students travelling on State Transport buses, aimed at improving accessibility to educational institutions and reducing financial burden on families.

Sanitation assistance to 31,790 schools has been doubled with an allocation of Rs 135 crore, aimed at improving hygiene standards and ensuring a safe and healthy environment for students.

The Budget also provides Rs 120 crore for integrated school campuses offering education from Balvatika to Class 10, Rs 119 crore for free textbooks to more than 52 lakh primary students and Rs 114 crore for strengthening 926 schools under the PM Shri Yojana, which focuses on developing model schools aligned with National Education Policy objectives.

Allocations include Rs 100 crore for the Mukhyamantri Gyan Sadhana Merit Scholarship Scheme to support meritorious students, Rs 91 crore for transport and sensory facilities for Divyang students to ensure inclusive education, and Rs 47 crore to supply sanitary napkins to 9.72 lakh girls in Classes 6 to 12 in government schools to promote menstrual hygiene and reduce dropout rates.

n higher and technical education, Rs 400 crore has been allocated under the Mukhyamantri Yuva Swavalamban Yojana to assist more than 90,000 students in pursuing higher education and professional courses.

The Budget provides Rs 126 crore to start 16 new government colleges, complete construction of 20 colleges and introduce new academic streams in eight institutions to expand access to higher education.

Additional allocations include Rs 96 crore for sports facilities in colleges and universities to promote student participation in sports, Rs 80 crore for i-Hub Ahmedabad and its regional centres to strengthen innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems, and Rs 67 crore for IT and academic infrastructure in technical institutions.

Funds have also been earmarked for hostels and a research park at L.D. College of Engineering, infrastructure upgrades in 136 government colleges, student start-up and innovation initiatives, internship programmes, and introduction of new academic courses in emerging and future-oriented fields.

A Youth Mental Health Programme has been planned for nearly 19.84 lakh students in higher and technical institutions, alongside measures to strengthen industry linkages, improve employability, and construct a boat house at the Gujarat Naval Unit in Bhavnagar to support student training and related activities.

Whatever Mohan Bhagwat said is correct: Maulana Razvi backs RSS chief over 'Muslim Arabia' remark



After RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat stated that Muslims living in India are also Hindus and "have not come from Arabia", All India Muslim Jamiat President Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi on Wednesday backed the remarks, saying Bhagwat was correct.

He further said it is true that the ancestors of Indian Muslims were Hindus.

Mohan Bhagwat had said, "Muslims living in India are also Hindus. They have not come from Arabia. They also need to be converted back to Hindu, but this work will happen gradually." He made these remarks during a social harmony meeting in Lucknow on Tuesday.

Expressing concern over the declining population growth rate among Hindus, Bhagwat also said there should be at least three children in every family. "Currently, the population rate is 2.1. It should be at least 3. Now, tell all those who are getting married to have at least three children," Mohan Bhagwat said.

Speaking to IANS, Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi said, "Mohan Bhagwat's point that Muslims did not come from Arabia is correct. Those who were Hindus, Buddhists, Dalits and tribals in India were subjected to injustice. When Muslim rulers came and made decisions based on justice, they gave humans the status of humanity."

He claimed that when people were told about the philosophy of equality and encouraged to raise their voice, they inclined towards Islam.

"Certainly, it is true that Hindus were the ancestors of Muslims in India who accepted Islam. How many people were from the Arab? Very few. But when people saw the specialities of Islam, they accepted Islam," he said.

Razvi, however, expressed concern over the idea of "homecoming" and said it would amount to conversion.

"If they are talking about homecoming, then I will consider it a conversion. There are conversion laws in the country. If anyone, whether Hindu, Muslim or any organisation, carries out conversion, then it will come under the jurisdiction of the law," he said.

He added that the Constitution clearly states that conversion cannot be done through pressure or greed.

"The Constitution also clearly mentions that there should be no conversion by pressuring someone or by offering greed," he told IANS.

India positions itself as global AI leader with 'people, planet, progress' focus



As Artificial Intelligence (AI) reshapes economies and societies worldwide, India is positioning itself at the centre of the global AI conversation with the India–AI Impact Summit 2026 -- highlighting its vision of inclusive and sustainable technological growth, a report has said.

AI is rapidly transforming India's economy and is projected to add more than $500 billion to the country's GDP by 2035, according to Geopolitico report.

Over the past few years, the government has shifted its role from being just a provider of physical infrastructure to becoming a facilitator of real-time digital and virtual infrastructure.

With AI playing a major role in this transformation, India has actively integrated artificial intelligence into its development and governance framework.

Recognising that AI is no longer limited to research labs or large corporations, but is reaching citizens in healthcare, agriculture, education and public services, the government has launched initiatives such as the IndiaAI Mission and Centres of Excellence for AI.

The India–AI Impact Summit 2026 further strengthens this push by bringing global attention to India's AI ambitions.

The summit, being held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, is described as the first-ever global AI summit to be hosted in the Global South.

It is built around three foundational pillars, called 'Sutras' -- People, Planet and Progress. These themes reflect India's approach of promoting inclusive growth, sustainability and equitable development through AI.

The event has attracted some of the biggest names in global technology and business. Top executives from companies such as Google, OpenAI, Adobe, Accenture, Qualcomm and Palo Alto Networks are participating.

Prominent global figures such as Bill Gates, along with Indian industry leaders including Mukesh Ambani, Sunil Bharti Mittal, Nandan Nilekani and Salil Parekh, are also expected to attend.

Their presence underlines India's growing role not just in AI research and development, but also in regulation, policy-making and ensuring equitable access to technology.

The summit aims to provide a platform for dialogue and cooperation among countries of the Global South, focusing on innovation, policy exchange and responsible AI deployment.

India's leadership is further reflected in the summit's working group, which is co-presided by India, Egypt and Kenya.

This collaboration highlights India's commitment to advancing a balanced and inclusive global AI ecosystem through shared access, collaboration and capacity building, as per the report.

Connecting 10 crore women with financial inclusion will help reach 6 crore Lakhpati Didis: Minister

New Delhi, Feb 18 (IANS) Achieving the ambitious goal of 6 crore 'Lakhpati Didis' would require connecting at least 10 crore women to the various financial inclusion initiatives of the Ministry of Rural Development, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Wednesday.

He instructed officials to work in close coordination with state governments and prepare a concrete, time-bound action plan to ensure the successful attainment of the target.

In the meeting, the minister sought a detailed briefing from senior officials of the Ministry on the latest progress of the scheme.

Chouhan directed officials to formulate a special, focused strategy and work on a war footing to achieve the revised target of creating 6 crore 'Lakhpati



Didis'.He emphasised that financial inclusion is the backbone of women's empowerment and sustainable livelihoods in rural India.

Bringing more women into the formal financial system through bank linkages, credit access, insurance coverage and financial literacy is essential to transform Self-Help Group (SHG) members into economically independent and self-reliant individuals, the minister highlighted.

Highlighting the importance of continuous engagement with states, Chouhan stressed that sustained dialogue and coordination with state governments would strengthen the implementation of DAY-NRLM. He said that such an approach would help extend the benefits of the scheme to a larger number of Self-Help Groups and 'Lakhpati Didis', enabling them to derive maximum advantage from various livelihood and empowerment initiatives.

It was highlighted during the meeting that the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission operates through four major components.

These include institutional building and capacity development, social inclusion and social development, financial inclusion, and livelihood promotion. Together, these components aim to create robust community institutions, enhance skills, promote inclusive growth, and strengthen income-generating opportunities for rural households.

In addition, around 5 crore individuals have been connected with financial literacy initiatives, equipping them with the knowledge and skills required to manage finances, savings, credit and investments more effectively.

The mission has also played a major role in expanding social security coverage, with nearly 7 crore people receiving insurance benefits under various social security schemes.

Nifty, Sensex post notable gains amid deeper AI discussions at Impact Summit

Mumbai, Feb 18 (IANS) The Indian equity benchmarks made considerable gains on Wednesday, even as selling of information technology stocks continued weighing on investor sentiments.

The strength in banking, metal, and FMCG stocks helped counterbalance sharp selling in the IT sector.

At the closing bell, Sensex gained 283 points, or 0.34 per cent to settle at 83,734. Nifty added 93 points, or 0.37 per cent, to close at 25,819.

The broader markets performed in line with benchmark indices, as Nifty Midcap 100 index added 0.50 per cent, while the NSE Smallcap 100 advanced 0.54 per cent. Nifty Next50 surged 0.67 per cent.

All sectoral indices traded in the green except Nifty IT down 1.23 per cent. Nifty FMCG, metal and PSU bank were the top gainers up 1.21 per cent, 1.33 per cent and 1.31 per cent.

Market breadth on the BSE was in the green, with 2,110 stocks advancing against 1,916 declining, while 166 remained unchanged. As many as 94 stocks hit fresh 52-week highs while 82 touched 52-week lows.

Analysts said that persistent DII



inflows continued to offer strong structural support, cushioning volatility amid mixed global cues. Overall sentiment remained cautiously constructive, backed by optimism around domestic growth prospects and improving earnings visibility, they added.

Rupee traded slightly weak by Rs 0.02 at 90.66 against the dollar.

Sensex touched the day's low at 83,206 at around 10.40 am and recovered over 585 points to 83,749. The Nifty 50 had regained 183 points to 25,828 in the afternoon session, recovering all morning losses and extending gains for the third consecutive session.

India-America cable connect initiative to bolster AI ties: Google CEO Sundar Pichai

New Delhi, Feb 18 (IANS) Alphabet and Google CEO Sundar Pichai on Wednesday announced the India-America Connect Initiative, a major step aimed at strengthening artificial intelligence (AI) connectivity between the two nations through new sub-sea cable routes.

Speaking at an event here on the sidelines of the 'India AI Impact Summit 2026,' Pichai said the initiative will create new undersea cable connections to boost digital and AI connectivity, not only between India and the US but also across several locations in the southern hemisphere.

He described the move as important for supporting the growing demand for AI infrastructure and faster data flows.

Highlighting the opportunities this initiative will create, Pichai stressed the need to invest in skilling people to use AI effectively.



He announced Google's most ambitious skilling push in India so far, including a new Google AI Professional Certificate programme.

The programme is designed to help students and professionals learn how to use AI tools in their everyday work and build future-ready skills.

In another key announcement, Pichai said the Central government and Google DeepMind will partner on frontier AI development, marking a significant collaboration between the government and one of the world's leading AI research organisations.

Pichai described the current phase as a "transformational moment".

Vijay Mallya tells Bombay HC he cannot say when he will return to India

Mumbai, Feb 18 (IANS) UK-based businessman Vijay Mallya on Wednesday informed the Bombay High Court that he is not in a position to specify when he would return to India. He cited restrictions imposed by courts in England that he said prevented him from leaving the country. The matter was heard by a Bench comprising Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and Justice Gautam Ankhad, in connection with two petitions filed by Mallya. One petition challenges his designation as a "Fugitive Economic Offender" under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FEOA), while the other contests a court order formally declaring him a fugitive.

Senior advocate Amit Desai, appearing for Mallya, referred to Supreme Court judgments where writ petitions were heard even in the absence of petitioners.

He submitted that extradition proceedings against Mallya are



ongoing in the UK and that his client is aware of them but is unable to leave English jurisdiction due to binding court orders.

The Chief Justice, however, questioned Mallya's intent to appear before the court, observing that he appeared to be relying on UK court orders without clarifying whether those orders had been challenged. The Bench indicated that such reliance could not be treated as a blanket justification.

The court directed Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to file a response to Mallya's affidavit. It also asked Desai to submit a detailed affidavit placing on record all statements made during the hearing so that the Union of India could respond accordingly.

Granting three weeks' time for further proceedings, the Bench noted that the petitions have been pending since 2019 and remarked that no sincere efforts appeared to have been made for their early disposal. The matter is now scheduled for a hearing on March 11.

According to the Finance Ministry, Mallya -- former promoter of Kingfisher Airlines -- is among 15 individuals declared Fugitive Economic Offenders as of October 31, 2025, allegedly causing losses of thousands of crores of rupees to Indian banks.

Nissan launches GRAVITE at introductory price of Rs 5.65 lakhs

Ranchi: Nissan Motor India Private Limited has announced the launch of its all-new 7-seater MPV, the GRAVITE, at an introductory price of INR 5.65 lakhs (ex-showroom), marking a significant milestone in the company's India resurgence strategy. The vehicle is being manufactured locally at Nissan's alliance facility in Chennai, reinforcing its long-term commitment to the Indian market.Launched as the first model under Nissan's renewed product offensive, the GRAVITE has been purpose-built for modern Indian families. It offers flexible seating configurations ranging from two to seven occupants and best-in-class luggage capacity of up to 625 litres in 5-seater mode. The MPV features Nissan's signature C-shaped design language, all-LED lighting, premium interiors, wireless connectivity, and advanced digital displays. Thierry Sabbagh, Divisional Vice President and President for the Middle East, KSA, CIS and India, said India is central to Nissan's global ambitions. He described the GRAVITE as the beginning of a sustained growth phase supported by local manufacturing and an expanded dealer network.

India's global weight is rising, says Estonia President after meeting PM Modi

New Delhi, Feb 18 (IANS) President of Estonia Alar Karis on Wednesday stated that India's global weight is rising, highlighting the country's growing influence in changing world order.

"India's global weight is rising-boosted by the EU-India free trade deal. I spoke with Narendra Modi about the changing world order and how new technology affects democracy. I welcomed India cutting Russian fossil fuel imports, increasing pressure to end aggression against Ukraine," Karis posted on X after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

During the bilateral meeting, both leaders reaffirmed India-



Estonia relations and explored new opportunities for cooperation in technology, trade, and global affairs. Karis arrived in New Delhi on Tuesday to join the India-AI Impact Summit. He was warmly welcomed at the airport by Raksha Khadse, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports.Extending a warm welcome to the Estonian President, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) took to X, stating, "The visit will further strengthen the longstanding India - Estonia ties."

Karis also spoke at two high-level events organised by Estonia in New Delhi together with UNICEF and the Netherlands, which focused on the use of AI in education and the economy. He mentioned that Estonia started with Artificial Intelligence in the field of education. "It is important to understand that Artificial Intelligence will change learning and education. It is not the technology itself, it is people, teachers and students who will do it," said the Estonian Head of State. The Estonian President is accompanied on the visit by a business delegation.

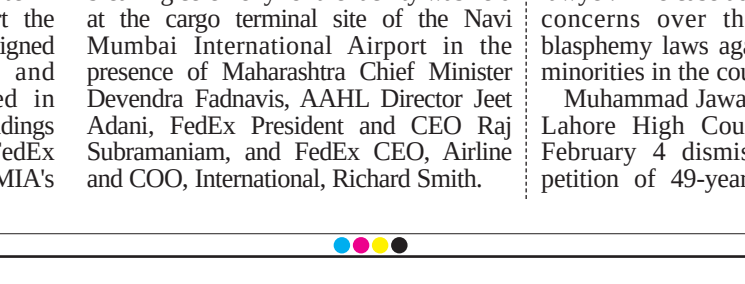
The AI Impact Summit is one of the most important international AI forums, with over 15,000 participants expected. The summit follows the AI Summit held in Paris the previous year and is the first time that such a large-scale AI summit has been organized by a country in the Global South, bringing more regional perspectives to the international debate. The focus of the summit is on inclusive, responsible and socially impactful AI, and strengthening international cooperation in a rapidly changing technological environment.

Liquor maker Radico Khaitan's Chief Operating Officer steps down

New Delhi, Feb 18 (IANS) Liquor maker Radico Khaitan's Chief Operating Officer Amar Sinha has stepped down from his post due to "personal reasons", joining Allied Blenders & Distillers as its new Managing Director. Sinha had previously served as Executive Director and CEO of BDA (now Allied Blenders & Distillers Ltd).

"I hereby tender my resignation from the position of Chief Operating Officer of Radico Khaitan Limited due to personal reasons. I would like to be relieved from my responsibilities by 31 March 2026," he said in his resignation letter.

Sinha had joined Radico



Khaitan in March 2017 as Chief Operating Officer.

"It has been a privilege to serve in this capacity and contribute to the Company's growth journey," he added."I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Board and my colleagues across the organisation for their support, collaboration, and trust during my tenure," Sinha said.

Last May, Radico Khaitan announced the withdrawal of its newly launched whisky brand 'Trikal' after facing severe backlash over the brand's name and imagery, which many claimed hurt religious sentiments.In an official statement shared with IANS, the company had said it respects the voices of Indian citizens and, as a responsible organisation, has chosen to discontinue the brand following an internal review.

"'Trikal' was never just a name -- it was intended as a tribute to India's timeless spirit," the company said, while explaining that the term comes from Sanskrit and refers to the past, present, and future. The brand's teal-coloured bottle label featured a minimalist line drawing of a face with closed eyes and a circular mark on the forehead, which critics said resembled Lord Shiva's third eye.

India, Nepal sign updated mutual legal assistance agreement

Kathmandu, Feb 18 (IANS) India and Nepal have signed an updated Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters in Kathmandu, enabling the competent authorities of the two countries to cooperate in criminal investigations and legal proceedings. \ After years of negotiations, the agreement -- which was initially agreed upon at a home secretary-level meeting in New Delhi in July last year -- was signed on Tuesday, formalising cooperation to tackle financial and non-financial crimes as well as terrorism. Binod Kumar Bhattarai, the Joint Secretary at Nepal's Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, and Indian Ambassador to Nepal Naveen Srivastava signed the document on behalf of their respective governments in the

presence of Law Minister Anil Kumar Sinha and other senior officials from several ministries, the law ministry said in a statement.

"This will provide a formal legal framework for cooperation between the competent authorities of both countries in areas such as the collection and exchange of evidence during the investigation, prosecution and judicial proceedings of criminal cases," the ministry said.

FedEx to invest Rs 2,500 crore for fully automated cargo hub at Navi Mumbai airport

Navi Mumbai, Feb 18 (IANS) Express transportation company FedEx announced on Wednesday that it will invest over Rs 2,500 crore in setting up a fully automated cargo hub at Navi Mumbai International Airport in partnership with the Adani Group.

"The Rs 2,500 crore long-term investment by FedEx will support the proposed 300,000 sq. ft. facility, designed as a regional consolidation and redistribution hub and developed in partnership with Adani Airport Holdings Ltd. (AAHL)," according to a FedEx statement. The hub leverages the NMIA's multimodal infrastructure to strengthen Western India's international trade corridor. Once operational, the hub is expected to create more than 6,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities across logistics, warehousing, transportation and allied services, the statement said. The ground-breaking ceremony for the facility was held at the cargo terminal site of the Navi Mumbai International Airport in the presence of Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, AAHL Director Jeet Adani, FedEx President and CEO Raj Subramaniam, and FedEx CEO, Airline and COO, International, Richard Smith.

Blind Christian accused of blasphemy denied bail by Pakistan court

Islamabad, Feb 18 (IANS) A Pakistan court has rejected bail for a blind Christian man charged with blasphemy, despite apparent discrepancies in the police report and prosecution testimonies, local media reported, quoting his lawyer. The case adds to ongoing concerns over the misuse of blasphemy laws against religious minorities in the country.

Muhammad Jawad Zafar of the Lahore High Court (LHC) on February 4 dismissed the bail petition of 49-year-old Nadeem

Masih, who has been in custody since August 21 under Section 295-C of the blasphemy statutes, which carries a mandatory death penalty for insulting the Prophet Muhammad, Christian Daily International-Morning Star News reported. Masih's attorney, Javed Sahotra, told Christian Daily, "We were hopeful that the high court would grant bail because the discrepancies in the First Information Report (FIR) and the questionable statements of the prosecution witnesses warranted further inquiry. However, the judge observed that he feared the accused could abscond or influence witnesses."

Sahotra cited previous rulings to support the bail plea, including a 2024 Lahore High Court judgment in which a murder suspect was granted bail after becoming blind in custody, and a 2022 Supreme Court decision allowing bail to Salamat Mansha Masih, a Christian accused in a separate blasphemy case. In that case, the primary witnesses had allegedly given false statements.

Nadeem Masih was arrested from Model Town Park in Lahore, where he operated a weighing scale to earn a modest living, and later charged after police claimed he had committed blasphemy.

From Lothal to Somnath, Gujarat sets out tourism roadmap in Budget 2026

Gandhinagar, Feb 18 (IANS) The Gujarat government has declared 2026 as "Gujarat Tourism Year" and announced a series of allocations aimed at strengthening heritage, pilgrimage and coastal tourism infrastructure across the state in the 2026-27 Budget.

Presenting the Budget, Finance Minister Kanu Desai set out provisions covering key destinations, transport facilities and new promotional initiatives, including the launch of a "Wed in Gujarat" campaign to position the state as a wedding and destination tourism hub.



An allocation of Rs 236 crore has been made for infrastructure development at the Statue of Unity.

The provision is intended to strengthen visitor amenities and related facilities at the site, which remains one of the state's principal tourism attractions.

The government has earmarked Rs 95 crore for the National Maritime Heritage Museum at Lothal and for the training and deployment of 1,000 tourist guides.

The allocation is aimed at improving interpretation services and enhancing the visitor experience at heritage locations. For pilgrimage infrastructure, Rs 300 crore has been allocated for the Ambaji Corridor Masterplan at Ambaji Temple.

In addition, Rs 55 crore has been set aside for facilities at Bahucharaji Temple, Girnar and along the Narmada Parikrama route, focusing on amenities for pilgrims and improved access.

Coastal and temple tourism projects include Rs 60 crore for development works at Somnath Temple and Shivrajpur Beach, as well as tourism development between Visavada and Porbandar.

The allocation is aimed at upgrading facilities and strengthening the coastal tourism circuit.

To support increased visitor footfall, the government has allocated Rs 447 crore for the development of bus ports at Somnath and Ambaji, intended to improve connectivity and passenger amenities at major pilgrimage centres.

The tourism push is complemented by wider infrastructure spending in the Budget, including substantial allocations for roads and public transport, which are expected to support access to major destinations during the Gujarat Tourism Year 2026.

BRS leader arrested for attack on Telangana minister's convoy

Hyderabad, Feb 18 (IANS) The Telangana police on Wednesday arrested former MLA and BRS leader Balka Suman on the allegation of involvement in Labor Minister Vivek Venkatswamy's convoy.



Tension prevailed in Kythanpally municipality of Mancherial district as workers of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) tried to stop police from arresting Suman.

A scuffle broke out between police and the BRS workers. The police used force to control the situation and shifted the BRS leader to Srirampur Police Station. He will be produced before a magistrate

A case was booked against Suman on Tuesday for allegedly behaving rudely with police and for trying to prevent them from discharging their duties. There were also allegations that he was involved in stone pelting on Minister Vivek's convoy on Tuesday.

The incidents had occurred amid a bitter tussle between ruling Congress and BRS to win the seats of chairperson and vice-chairperson of Kythanpally municipality.

For a second consecutive day, the election could not be held due to a tense situation.

When police reached Suman's house to arrest him, his supporters gathered there in large numbers and resisted the attempt by police. Amid tension, the police physically lifted Suman and whisked him away in a vehicle.

BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao has condemned Suman's arrest and demanded his immediate released.

Rama Rao slammed the police for arresting the former MLA without any prior notice.

KTR stated that the arrest of a Dalit leader, who is the voice of the weaker sections, like a criminal without prior notice is a cowardly act by the Revanth Reddy government.

The BRS leader alleged that Minister Vivek was acting in an unconstitutional manner to dictate the election process put pressure on the officials.

BCs won 61 per cent seats in Telangana municipal elections

Hyderabad, Feb 18 (IANS) Backward Classes have won more than 61 per cent seats in the recently held municipal elections in Telangana. Though the 28.22 per cent of wards in municipalities and 35.25 per cent divisions in municipal corporations were reserved for, BCs secured 61 per cent wards and divisions.BC Commission Chairman G. Niranjan and members Rapolu Jayaprakash, Tirumalagiri Surender, and Balalakshmi Rangu expressed happiness over the fact that BCs won a big number of seats. They said that it is a clear indication of the increased awareness among BC communities.Elections to 116 municipalities and seven municipal corporations were held on February 11 and the results were announced on February 13.In the recently held Panchayat elections, BC candidates won 52.75 per cent seats. These include even the general category seats.

They expressed hope that in the upcoming elections to Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituencies (ZPTCs), Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituencies (MPTCs), Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), and other corporations, BCs will win in large numbers.

In the comprehensive survey conducted in the state, it was found that BCs constitute 56.33 per cent of the population.Although the State Assembly passed a Bill for providing 42 per cent reservation for BCs, it is still pending approval with the Centre.BC Commission Chairman and members said some people approached the courts to prevent the implementation of 42 per cent reservation.

Mohan Bhagwat says western nations distorted India's education system

Lucknow, Feb 18 (IANS) RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Wednesday said that Western powers that ruled India "tampered" with the country's traditional education system and replaced it with their own framework to serve colonial interests. Addressing a research scholars' dialogue programme at the Malviya Auditorium of the University of Lucknow, Bhagwat said the British altered India's education structure to create a class of "black Englishmen" who would serve their administrative needs. He stressed that the damage inflicted during colonial rule must be corrected.

He said education and healthcare are fundamental necessities and should not be treated as commercial enterprises. "Education and health must be accessible to all," he said.

Stating that the RSS is committed to building a prosperous and united nation, Bhagwat said the organisation works for social cohesion rather than popularity or political power.

"If you want to understand the RSS, come and see it from within. It cannot be understood merely by reading about it," he said, adding that its core objective is to unite Hindu society and strengthen national character.

Highlighting the role of research in shaping India's future, he urged scholars to pursue their work with authenticity and a spirit of service to the nation.

"Truthful facts must be brought to light. Ignorance prevents us from understanding India," he said.

He also claimed that there has been "negative propaganda" against the Sangh and called upon researchers to present facts objectively.

On globalisation, Bhagwat remarked that the concept has increasingly become synonymous with commercialisation and materialism, which he termed dangerous.

Referring to the Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family), he said India advocates collective well-being rather than consumerism. He contrasted this with what he described as Western materialist approaches, asserting that India possesses solutions to global challenges.

"If we aspire to become a world leader, we must be strong in every sphere. The world respects truth only when it is backed by power," he said.

ED freezes assets worth Rs 39 lakh of actor Jayasurya in app fraud case

Kochi, Feb 18 (IANS) The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has frozen assets worth Rs 39 lakh belonging to Malayalam actor Jayasurya in connection with the alleged Save Box online auction app fraud case.

The actor had served as the brand ambassador of the firm, which is accused of cheating investors through a digital bidding platform.

The action comes amid broader directives from the Central government to investigative agencies to intensify proceedings against online platforms accused of defrauding the public.

The instructions also mandate action against celebrities who endorse such ventures for monetary consideration if the platforms are later found to be fraudulent.

The ED has questioned Jayasurya twice in the case.

Investigators found that nearly Rs 1 crore had been transferred from the account of the prime accused, Sadiq Rahim, a Thrissur native arrested in 2023 by Thrissur East police, to the bank accounts of Jayasurya and his wife, Saritha.

The agency has stated that the actor figures in the list of recipients of funds allegedly generated through the fraud.

In his preliminary statement, Jayasurya reportedly maintained that the amount received was remuneration for his role as brand ambassador.

Suspected B'deshi national arrested from Bengal

Kolkata, Feb 18 (IANS) Police have arrested a man suspected to be a Bangladeshi national for allegedly residing in India for several years using forged identity documents, officials said on Wednesday. The arrest was made from the Dinhata area in Cooch Behar district of north Bengal.

The arrested individual has been identified as Omar Farooq Byapari, who had reportedly been living in the Chowdhuryhat Gram Panchayat area under Dinhata-II block for several years.

He is accused of fraudulently obtaining various identity documents, including an Aadhaar card and voter identity card, allegedly by presenting an Indian citizen as his father in official records.

According to police sources, the accused had been living in India using forged documents and had managed to establish identity credentials by misrepresenting personal information in official forms.

The matter came to light after the accused filled out an enumeration form as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise and submitted it to the authorities. Subsequently, a complaint was lodged with the District Magistrate by the local gram panchayat, and a formal complaint was also filed at the local police station on December 4 last year.

Police sources further said that the accused was



previously associated with the Ansar Bahini, a paramilitary auxiliary force responsible for maintaining law and order in Bangladesh.

Following the complaint, police launched a search operation and had been looking for the accused for several months. He was eventually arrested on Tuesday night from the Putimari area under the Dinhata police station limits.

According to local sources, Omar allegedly entered India illegally around 10 to 12 years ago and had since been residing in the Chowdhuryhat area.

When produced before a court on Wednesday, the accused denied the allegations and claimed that he was an Indian citizen and had been falsely implicated.

"I am an Indian citizen. My family is here. I used to be a Trinamool member at one time. Now I am not. That is why there are attempts to frame me," he said.

Reacting to the arrest and the accused's claims, Cooch Behar district Trinamool Congress Vice President Abdul Jalil Ahmed said the individual was not associated with the party.

"Omar Farooq Byapari is not associated with Trinamool. The law will take its own course. If someone is hiding here as a Bangladeshi, then the police will arrest him," Ahmed said.Meanwhile, Cooch Behar district BJP Vice President Biraj Basu alleged that the accused had links with the Trinamool Congress and claimed that residents had previously raised complaints against him.

"We have been claiming for a long time that Omar is Bangladeshi and has links with Trinamool. The residents of the area have also complained against him. The police arrested him under pressure. Trinamool is also denying his association as they are under pressure," Basu said.

Dinhata Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Dhiman Mitra confirmed that an investigation was under way following the arrest."The police produced him in court today. There was a complaint against him that he was a Bangladeshi national.

Kolkata, Bihar STF bust firearms manufacturing unit in Bhagalpur

Kolkata, Feb 18 (IANS) A joint operation by the Special Task Force (STF) of Kolkata Police and the Bihar STF has unearthed an illegal improvised firearms manufacturing unit operating in Bhagalpur district of Bihar, leading to the arrest of five persons, police said on Wednesday.

According to the police, the illegal arms factory was operating on the first floor of a house owned by Md. Nasir Ansari, located under the jurisdiction of Madhusudanpur police station in Bhagalpur district. The illegal manufacturing unit was allegedly being run under the cover of a spinning mill functioning on the ground floor of the same premises, in an apparent attempt to conceal the firearms production activity.

A total of five persons, including one co-owner of the premises and four skilled arms makers allegedly involved in manufacturing illegal firearms, were arrested during the operation carried out on Tuesday night.

During the search operation, police recovered a significant quantity of illegal firearms and manufacturing equipment from the premises.

The seized items included 20 semi-finished country-made 7.65 mm pistols, eight pistol barrels, one lathe machine, two milling machines, one drill machine, one grinding and polishing machine, one hand grinder, and a large quantity of tools and raw materials used in the manufacturing of firearms.

The arrested persons have been identified as Md. Monazir (21), Md. Shadab Ali alias Saddam (32), Md. Aslam alias Tinku (41), Md. Samsher Alam alias Chotu (36), and Md. Shahanawaz (25). All five accused are currently being interrogated to ascertain the scale of the illegal arms manufacturing network and their possible links with organised criminal groups.

Police sources said that the bust is being seen as a significant success for the Kolkata Police STF, particularly in view of heightened security concerns ahead of the upcoming West Bengal Assembly elections. Investigators are probing whether there was any plan to smuggle the illegal firearms into West Bengal for use during the election period or for other criminal purposes.Officials are also examining whether the arrested persons were part of a larger organised arms manufacturing and supply network, and whether there were other associates or masterminds involved in the illegal operation.It may be noted that Kolkata Police has intensified surveillance and enforcement activities ahead of the Assembly elections to prevent illegal arms movement into the state. Recently, Kolkata Police arrested a man from the Gariahat area in south Kolkata who was found in possession of multiple firearms allegedly being smuggled from Gaya district in Bihar.

Two Bihar Congress leaders expelled for six years over 'anti-party activities'

Patna, Feb 18 (IANS) In a disciplinary action, the Bihar Congress on Wednesday expelled two senior leaders from the party for six years for their alleged anti-party activities. The decision was announced through an official statement issued by Rajesh Rathore, Chairman of the party's media cell.According to the statement, the State Congress Disciplinary Committee has taken strict action against former MLA Chhatrapati Yadav and former Research Department Chairman and spokesperson Anand Madhav.

Rathore said both leaders have been expelled from the primary membership of the Indian National Congress for a period of six years for repeatedly violating the party's core principles, discipline, and organisational decorum.

As per the order issued by Disciplinary Committee Chairman Kapildev Prasad Yadav, the two leaders were found to be increasingly involved in activities detrimental to the party.The decision was taken after consultations with Krishna Allavaru, Bihar, in charge of the All India Congress Committee, and State Congress President Rajesh Kumar Ram.The disciplinary action comes in the backdrop of the party's poor performance in the Bihar Assembly Election 2025, where the Congress managed to secure only six seats, a sharp decline from the 19 seats it won in the 2020 Assembly elections.

Ramadan: A month of spiritual reflection and self-discipline



Dr Ram Kumar

Jamshedpur, Feb 19: Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar and is observed by Muslims worldwide as a period of fasting, prayer, charity, and self-reflection. It commemorates the first revelation of the Holy Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). During this sacred month, Muslims fast from dawn (Suhoor) to sunset (Iftar), abstaining from food, drink, smoking, and negative behavior.

Fasting during Ramadan is one of the Five Pillars of Islam and is obligatory for all healthy adult Muslims. The fast is broken at sunset with Iftar, often beginning with dates and water, following the tradition of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The month concludes with the festival of Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of fasting and is celebrated with prayers, charity (Zakat al-Fitr), and family gatherings.

Beyond abstaining from food and drink, Ramadan emphasizes:

o Spiritual growth and increased prayer (Taraweeh)
o Charity and helping the needy
o Self-control and patience
o Strengthening family and community bonds

Fasting also has physical aspects, including metabolic adjustments in the body. However, for individuals with chronic illnesses like diabetes and heart disease, special precautions are necessary to ensure safety.

Precautions for Diabetic Patients During Ramadan

People with diabetes are exempt from fasting if it may harm their health. However, many still wish to fast. Medical consultation before Ramadan is essential.

1. Pre-Ramadan Medical Assessment
o Consult a physician 4-8 weeks before Ramadan.
o Assess blood sugar control (HbA1c).
o Adjust medications or insulin doses if required.

2. Risk Stratification
High-risk patients should avoid fasting:
o Type 1 diabetes with poor control
o Recurrent hypoglycemia
o Advanced kidney disease
o Pregnant women with diabetes

3. Dietary Recommendations
o Do not skip Suhoor (pre-dawn meal).
o Choose complex carbohydrates (whole grains, oats).
o Include protein (eggs, dal, milk) for sustained energy.
o Avoid excessive sweets at Iftar.
o Limit fried and sugary foods.

4. Blood Glucose Monitoring
o Check sugar levels regularly (this does NOT break the fast).
o Break the fast if:
o Blood glucose <70 mg/dL (hypoglycemia)
o Blood glucose >300 mg/dL (hyperglycemia)

5. Medication Adjustment
o Oral hypoglycemic drugs may need timing changes.
o Insulin doses may require reduction or shifting.
o Never change dosage without medical advice.

6. Warning Signs to Stop Fasting
o Dizziness
o Excessive sweating
o Confusion
o Severe weakness
o Palpitations

Precautions for Heart Patients During Ramadan

Heart patients can fast if their condition is stable, but evaluation by a cardiologist is advised.

1. Medical Consultation
Patients with the following conditions should seek strict medical advice:
o Recent heart attack (within 6 weeks)
o Unstable angina
o Severe heart failure
o Uncontrolled hypertension

2. Medication Timing
o Many cardiac medicines can be adjusted to twice-daily dosing.
o Diuretics may need modification to prevent dehydration.
o Continue all prescribed medications regularly.

3. Hydration
o Drink adequate fluids between Iftar and Suhoor.
o Avoid caffeinated drinks that increase urination.
o Prevent dehydration, especially in hot climates.

4. Diet Control
o Avoid heavy, oily, and salty foods at Iftar.
o Prefer grilled, boiled, or baked foods.
o Reduce salt intake to prevent fluid overload and high blood pressure.
o Include fruits, vegetables, and lean protein.

5. Avoid Overeating
Large meals can:
o Increase blood pressure
o Trigger angina
o Cause breathlessness

Eat smaller portions and avoid lying down immediately after meals.

6. Physical Activity
o Light walking after Iftar is beneficial.
o Avoid strenuous exercise while fasting.

General Advice for Both Diabetic and Heart Patients

- Do not fast if your doctor advises against it.
- Islam permits exemption from fasting for sick individuals.
- Break the fast immediately if symptoms occur.
- Maintain adequate sleep.
- Avoid smoking.

Conclusion

Ramadan is a spiritually uplifting month that promotes discipline, empathy, and self-purification. While fasting has potential health benefits, it must be approached cautiously in individuals with chronic illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease. Proper medical guidance, dietary control, hydration, and awareness of warning signs are crucial for safe fasting. Health always takes priority, and exemptions are allowed in Islam for those whose health may be compromised.

If you want, I can also convert this into notes format, PPT points, or PDF for academic use.

From defence to connectivity, India and Kazakhstan set to deepen strategic partnership

New Delhi, Feb 18 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Kazakhstan counterpart Olzhas Bektenov on Wednesday reviewed bilateral cooperation in a range of fields, including political, trade, defence and security, connectivity, energy, emerging technologies, and people-to-people ties.

In the meeting, which took place on the margins of the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi, Prime Minister Modi appreciated participation of Bektenov in the AI Impact Summit, which underscores the shared commitment of both nations to leverage technology for social good, and economic growth.

"Prime Minister Olzhas Bektenov and I met earlier today. His visit will further deepen India-Kazakhstan Strategic Partnership. There is immense scope for bilateral cooperation in trade, energy, critical minerals, rare earths, defence, connectivity and space. We will keep working together to take our friendship to new heights," PM Modi posted on X after the meeting.



The two leaders also reviewed bilateral cooperation in a range of fields, including political, trade, defence and security, connectivity, energy, emerging technologies, and people-to-people ties.

Last week, Kazakhstan Ambassador Azamat Yeskarayev held a meeting with senior MEA official Bina George where both sides discussed current issues of bilateral cooperation and prospects for further strengthening inter-ministerial dialogue.

"During the meeting, the Kazakh diplomat briefed the Indian side on the key political and institutional reforms being implemented in the country. Particular attention was given to constitutional changes aimed at strengthening the balance of powers, limiting presidential authority, enhancing the role of Parliament, expanding the mandate of local representative bodies, reinforcing judicial independence, and institutionalising mechanisms for the protection of human rights and freedoms. The introduction of the office of Vice-President was highlighted as an important step toward improving the stability and effectiveness of public governance," the Kazakh Embassy stated after the meeting.

"It was emphasised that these reforms are designed to enhance transparency and accountability, strengthen the rule of law, and improve the wellbeing and protection of citizens. Their consistent implementation also contributes to strengthening the country's international standing and expanding opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation with foreign partners, including India," it added.

Both sides also exchanged views on current consular matters, including the protection of the rights and legitimate interests of citizens. The Indian side expressed interest in further developing practical cooperation and readiness to consider holding consular consultations.

Pak court extends pre-arrest bail of Imran Khan in multiple cases

Islamabad, Feb 18 (IANS) A district and sessions court in Pakistan has directed the prosecution to ensure the appearance of former Prime Minister Imran Khan at the next hearing, either in person or through a video link, while extending his pre-arrest bail in five cases, including one related to the alleged attempted murder of former minister Mohsin Shahnawaz Ranjha, local media reported on Wednesday. District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Majoka barred the police from arresting the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder in the said cases and also granted an extension in the pre-arrest bail of Bushra Bibi in a related matter.

The court adjourned the hearing until Wednesday, according to a report published by a leading Pakistani daily, Dawn.

During the proceedings, both Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi were represented by their legal counsel. However, despite prior court directions, the former Prime Minister was not produced before the court through a video link.

Office of the
District Legal Services Authority, East Singhbhum Jamshedpur

NOTICE FOR ENGAGEMENT

As directed, it is hereby notified that one (01) Driver is required to be engaged for the Force Motor Vehicle of this Authority on a purely temporary and contractual basis,

Applications are invited from eligible candidates who:

- Possess a valid Driving Licence (LMV/Transport, as applicable).
- Have adequate driving experience.
- Are of good moral character and physically fit for duty.

Terms & Conditions of Engagement

1. The engagement shall be purely temporary and on contract basis.
2. The selected person will be paid daily wages @ 647 per day + 100/- per day towards fooding cost
3. This engagement shall not confer any right to regularization, confirmation, or continuation in service under any circumstances.
4. The services may be terminated at any time by giving one month's notice or one month's remuneration in lieu thereof, without assigning any reason.
5. The engaged Driver shall perform duties as assigned by this Authority, including maintenance and safe operation of the official vehicle.

Last Date for Submission

Interested candidates must submit their applications to this office on or before 26-02-2026. Applications received after the stipulated date shall not be entertained under any circumstances.

sd/-
Secretary
District Legal Services Authority
East Singhbhum; Jamshedpur

PR.NO.373253 Judicial Academy Jharkhand(25-26):D

India's global weight is rising, says Estonia President after meeting PM

New Delhi, Feb 18 (IANS) President of Estonia Alar Karis on Wednesday stated that India's global weight is rising, highlighting the country's growing influence in changing world order.

"India's global weight is rising-boosted by the EU–India free trade deal. I spoke with Narendra Modi about the changing world order and how new technology affects democracy. I welcomed India cutting Russian fossil fuel imports, increasing pressure to end aggression against Ukraine," Karis posted on X after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

During the bilateral meeting, both leaders reaffirmed India–Estonia relations and explored new opportunities for cooperation in technology, trade, and global affairs.

Karis arrived in New Delhi on Tuesday to join the India-AI Impact Summit. He was warmly welcomed at the airport by Raksha Khadse, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports.Extending a warm welcome to the Estonian President, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) took to X, stating, "The visit will further strengthen the long-standing India - Estonia ties."

Karis also spoke at two high-level events organised by Estonia in New Delhi together with UNICEF and the Netherlands, which focused on the use of AI in education and the economy.

He mentioned that Estonia started with Artificial Intelligence in the field of education. "It is important to understand that Artificial Intelligence will change learning and education. It is not the technology itself, it is people, teachers and students who will do it," said the Estonian Head of State.

The Estonian President is accompanied on the visit by a business delegation.

The AI Impact Summit is one of the most important international AI forums, with over 15,000 participants expected.

PM, Serbian Prez Aleksandar Vucic discuss expanding cooperation across sectors

New Delhi, Feb 18 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with Serbia's President Aleksandar Vucic on the sidelines of the India AI Impact Summit 2026 here on Wednesday. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X that the two leaders met to review and advance bilateral ties."Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with President of the Republic of Serbia, Aleksandar Vucic on the sidelines of the AI Impact Summit today," he said.According to the MEA, the leaders discussed avenues to strengthen cooperation in a wide range of areas, including trade and investment, artificial intelligence, fintech, education, agriculture, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges.

They also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, reaffirming the long-standing friendship between India and Serbia, which is underpinned by close people-to-people ties.

The latest high-level engagement is expected to further strengthen strategic and economic cooperation between the two nations.

झारखण्ड शिक्षा परियोजना (समग्र शिक्षा)
पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा
नया समाहरणालय भवन, तृतीय तल (3-R), पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा
पिन– 833202, Email– jepwsm@gmail.com

अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण हेतु आवश्यक सूचना

निदेशक, जे.सी.ई.आर.टी., राँची के पत्रांक–08–08/2023/280, दिनांक–20.01.2026 के आलोक में झारखण्ड शिक्षा परियोजना, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा जिला अन्तर्गत संचालित सरकारी एवं गैर सरकारी सहायता प्राप्त (अल्पसंख्यक सहित), क.जी.बी.भी./जे.बी.ए.भी./ने.सु.च.बो.आ.वि./ मॉडल विद्यालय/मुख्यमंत्री उत्कृष्ट विद्यालय के कक्षा 01 से 07 तक के विद्यार्थियों का वार्षिक मूल्यांकन (SA-II)-2025-26 हेतु प्रश्न–पत्र/ प्रश्न पत्र–सह–उत्तर पुस्तिका के मुद्रण एवं आपूर्ति हेतु सक्षम एवं इच्छुक मुद्रकों/ फर्मों/ प्रतिष्ठानों से अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रित किया जाता है।

प्रश्न–पत्र/ प्रश्न पत्र–सह–उत्तर पुस्तिका के मुद्रण एवं आपूर्ति हेतु सक्षम एवं इच्छुक मुद्रक/ फर्म/ प्रतिष्ठान निविदा दस्तावेज/ प्रपत्र/ शर्तों के अधीन दिनांक– 18.02.2026 से 26.02.2026 तक जिला स्तरीय कार्यालय झारखण्ड शिक्षा परियोजना (समग्र शिक्षा), तृतीय तल, नया समाहरणालय भवन, चाईबासा में हाथों हाथ सीलबन्द लिफाफे में अपराह्न 01:00 बजे तक जमा करेंगे। दिनांक– 28.02.2026 को पूर्वाह्न–11:30 बजे निविदा खोली जाएगी। निविदा दस्तावेज पश्चिमी सिंहभूम जिले के अधिकारिक वेबसाईट www.chaibasa.nic.in से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। निर्धारित तिथि/ समय के उपरांत कोई भी निविदा न हीं प्राप्त किया जाएगा और न ही उसपर विचार किया जाएगा। निविदा खुलने के समय निविदादाता स्वयं अथवा प्राधिकृत व्यक्ति अनिवार्य रूप से उपस्थित होंगे, अनुपस्थित रहने की स्थिति में निविदा पर कोई विचार नहीं किया जाएगा। निविदा संबंधी सूचना/ शर्तों एवं निविदा में संशोधन करने/ निरस्त करने/ स्थगित रखने का अधिकार अद्योहस्ताक्षरी को होगा। निविदा संबंधी किसी भी तरह के विवाद का निपटारा चाईबासा अन्तर्गत स्थानीय माननीय न्यायालय में किया जा सकेगा।

ह/–
जिला शिक्षा अधीक्षक–सह–
अपर जिला कार्यक्रम पदाधिकारी
समग्र शिक्षा, प0सिंहभूम।

PR 373192 West Singhbhum(25-26)D

PM Modi, Bhutanese counterpart discuss solidifying partnership in several key sectors

New Delhi, Feb 18 (IANS) Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday reviewed the progress in bilateral cooperation in several key sectors - including energy, connectivity, development partnership and people to people connect - on the sidelines of the India-AI Impact Summit in New Delhi.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the two leaders expressed support for harnessing Artificial Intelligence (AI) for inclusive and human-centric progress and agreed to further strengthen cooperation in AI and digital tech space.

They also reaffirmed their commitment to work closely to further strengthen the India-Bhutan partnership anchored in trust,



goodwill and mutual respect.India and Bhutan share a tradition of regular high-level exchanges and continue to explore new avenues of cooperation, while building on their deep-rooted ties in energy, infrastructure, and cultural exchange.Last November, PM Modi visited Thimphu on a two-day visit which aimed at deepening India-Bhutan partnership and reinforcing India's commitment to its Neighbourhood First Policy.PM Modi's visit coincided with the exposition of the Sacred Piprahwa Relics of Lord Buddha from India. He also offered prayers to the Holy Relics at Tashichhodzong in Thimphu and participated in the Global Peace Prayer Festival organised by the Royal Government of Bhutan.The visit also marked another major milestone in India-Bhutan energy partnership with the inauguration of the Punatsangchhu-II hydropower project."The basic framework of India-Bhutan relations is the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed in 1949 between the two countries, which was renewed in February 2007," the MEA has stated before.The India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit -- which was first signed in 1972 and revised most recently for the fifth time in 2016 -- establishes a free trade regime between the two countries. The Agreement also provides for duty free transit of Bhutanese exports to third countries. Bilateral trade is conducted in Indian Rupees, which is at par with the Bhutanese Ngultrum.

India is Bhutan's top trade partner, both as an import source and as an export destination. Since 2014, India's trade with Bhutan has increased more than three times -- from $484 million in 2014-15 to $1,777.44 million in 2024-25, accounting for over 80 per cent of Bhutan's overall trade. Throughout this period, the balance of trade has consistently remained in India's favour.India's major exports to Bhutan include petrol and diesel, rice, wood charcoal, coke and semi-coke, ferrous products obtained by direct reduction of iron ore, maize (excluding seed), soya-bean oil, smartphones, and iron or steel structures and parts, among others.

On the other hand, India's key imports from Bhutan consist of electricity, ferro-silicon, dolomite chips, ferro-silico-manganese, Portland pozzolana cement, pebbles and gravel, dolomite slabs, semi-finished iron or non-alloy steel products, beer made from malt, and ordinary Portland cement.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, चक्रधरपुर
E-mail-eedwsd.chakradharpur@gmail.com

आवश्यक सूचना

पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, चक्रधरपुर अंतर्गत विभिन्न प्रखण्डों में नलकूपों की साधारण मरम्मति हेतु शिकायत का निराकरण संबंधित सहायक अभियंता/कनीय अभियंता से सम्पर्क कर कराई जाए। सभी प्रखण्डों में नलकूप शिकायत पंजी रखी गई है, जिसमें नलकूप मरम्मति से संबंधित शिकायत दर्ज कराई जा सकती है। साथ ही प्रमण्डल स्तर पर कार्यरत कन्ट्रोल रूम से निम्नलिखित पदाधिकारी/कर्मचारी से सम्पर्क की जाए।

1.श्री संजय षाड़गी, प्रभारी प्रधान लिपिक, मो० – 9835551085
2.श्री विपिन किशोर टोपनो, निम्न वर्गीय लिपिक, मो० – 8809406768

क्र0सं0	प्रखण्ड	कनीय अभियंता का नाम एवं मोबाईल नम्बर	सहायक अभियंता का नाम एवं मोबाईल नम्बर
1	चक्रधरपुर	श्री सचिन कुमार मो०:– 8709150840	श्री सिद्धांत कन्डुलना मो०:– 7762803375
2	बंदगाँव	श्री मनोहर मंजीत भगत मो०:– 8789307845	
3	सोनुवा	श्री नवनीत कुमार मो०:– 9709514738	
4	गोईलकेरा	श्री कुन्दन कुमार रजक मो०:– 8409069820	
5	गुदड़ी	श्री नवनीत कुमार मो०:– 9709514738	
6	मनोहरपुर	श्री मनोहर मंजीत भगत मो०:– 8789307845 श्री पंकज पिंगुआ मो०:– 9771320657	
7	आनन्दपुर	श्री कामदेव उरांव मो०:– 9973865191	

विभागीय टॉल फ्री संख्या 1800-3456-502 पर भी सम्पर्क की जा सकती है।

विश्वासभाजन
कार्यपालक अभियंता,
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, चक्रधरपुर

PR 373204 (West Singhbhum)25-26*D

'Loss-making state enterprises bleeding Pakistan'

New Delhi, Feb 18 (IANS) Plagued by chronic losses and mounting debt, Pakistan's state-owned enterprises (SOEs) have for years drained public funds that could have been spent on sectors such as healthcare and education, with frequent equity injections, subsidies, loans and sovereign guarantees reducing the pressure on these entities to fix their inefficiencies and instead of reform, the outcome has been a growing pile of liabilities, a Pakistani media article said.

Poor political will, coupled with resistance from vested interests, continues to stall meaningful change, adding to the burden of taxpayers, according to an article in the Dawn.

According to the latest report of Pakistan's Central Monitoring Unit, out of Rs12.97 trillion collected in taxes in the last financial year, about Rs2.1 trillion — nearly one in every six rupees — was redirected towards SOEs to keep them afloat. In effect, public revenue is being recycled to sustain entities that together posted a net adjusted loss of Rs 122.9 bn for the year.

The report highlights that government support to these entities in the past fiscal year jumped 37 per cent to Rs 2.079 trillion, driven mainly by Rs 729 bn in fresh equity injections and an expansion in official lending.



Even though direct grants and subsidies have declined, the overall financial burden on the exchequer continues to grow.

Total SOE liabilities have climbed to Rs 9.571 trillion, roughly half the annual federal budget. Unfunded pension obligations alone stand at Rs2.03 trillion. Meanwhile, the circular debt remains stuck at around Rs1.9 trillion despite repeated capital injections.

The article pointed out that successive governments have failed to live up to the promise of restructuring, privatising or improving the governance of these enterprises. Under various IMF programmes — including the current one — Islamabad pledged greater transparency, regular performance audits and the appointment of professional independent boards. But follow-through has been weak.

The deep-rooted problems of the public sector are most visible in the crumbling power sector. It is the least liquid and most heavily indebted segment of the state system, reflecting a broader failure of governance.

The power sector has received the largest share of government equity injections and fiscal support. With mounting losses and negative equity, the sector leadership appears unable to run it as a viable commercial enterprise, the article lamented.

Govt. of Jharkhand
Department of Mines and Geology, District- Saraikela-Kharsawan
Notice Inviting E-Auction for Allocation of Sand ghats

(Through E-Procurement mode over https://www. jharkhandtenders.gov.in)

The Jharkhand Sand Mining Rules, 2025 में उल्लेखित प्रावधानों के तहत Category-2 के बालूघाट/बालूघाटों के समूह की ई–नीलामी निम्न कार्यक्रमानुसार करायी जाएगी :–

1. ई–नीलामी कार्यक्रमः–

NIT No-Mines/ Saraikela /Sand	बालूघाट या बालूघाटों के समूह जिसे एक इकाई बालू घाट मानते हुए नीलामी किया जाना है, की विवरणी।	निविदा दस्तावेज बिक्री शुल्क (5,000/–रू0+GST in RCM Mode) जमाकर निविदा दस्तावेज डाउनलोड प्रारंभ करने की तिथि	ई–नीलामी से पूर्व प्री– बीड बैठक एवं प्रशिक्षण का समय एवं स्थान	अग्रधन राशि जमा तथा निविदा दस्तावेज अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	तकनीकी निविदा की जिला स्तरीय समिति द्वारा जाँच/मूल्यांकन कर सफल निविदादाताओं की सूची सिस्टम में अपलोड करने तथा प्रारम्भिक वित्तीय प्रस्ताव के मूल्यांकन की तिथि	ई–नीलामी की तिथि एवं समय
2/2026 3/2026	Saraikela Sandghat (Group-B) 1.Sarjamdihi 2.Nuadih 3.Chamaru 4.Jadudihi 5.Balidih, Rajnagar 6.Laxmipur	16.02.2026	समाहरणालय सभा कक्ष तिथि–19.02.2026 समय–03:00 PM	16.02.2026 को 10:00 AM से 02.03.2026 2:00 PM तक	05.03.2026 2:00 PM	06.03.2026 को 10:00 AM से 5:00 PM तक

2. बालूघाट/बालूघाटों के समूह की विस्तृत विवरणी जिला के वेबसाईट पर उपलब्ध है।
3. बालूघाट/बालूघाटों के समूह की ई–नीलामी प्रक्रिया, ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in से करायी जाएगी।
4. ई–नीलामी में भाग लेने वाले व्यक्तियों/कम्पनी/फर्म/HUF को ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल https:// www. jharkhandtenders. gov.in पर निबंधन कराना अनिवार्य होगा।
5. एतद् संबंधी समस्त सूचना (यथा– नीलामी कार्यक्रम, सुरक्षित जमा राशि, अग्रधन राशि इत्यादि) विस्तृत रूप से जिला के वेबसाईट एवं ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध है।
6. एतद् संबंधी समस्त सूचना हेतु ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट हेल्पडेस्क एवं जिला खनन कार्यालय से सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।
7. बालू घाट का तात्पर्य है कि The Jharkhand Sand Mining Rules, 2025 के नियम–3 के तहत जिला सर्वेक्षण प्रतिवेदन (बालू) में चिन्हित Category-2 Sand ghat/Sand Bearing Land/River Stream होगा।
8. निविदादाता द्वारा ई–पोरक्योमेंट/ई–नीलामी पोर्टल से निविदा दस्तावेज के साथ BoQ Templet (For Intital Price Offer) प्राप्त किया जाएगा। BoQ (.xls) प्रारूप में अपलोड किया जाएगा।
9. एतद संबंधी समस्त सूचना https://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं जिले के website पर उपलब्ध है।

ह0/–
कार्यपालक अभियंता, लघु सिंचाई
सरायकेला–खरसावाँ।

ह0/–
जिला कोषागार पदाधिकारी
सरायकेला–खरसावाँ।

ह0/–
जिला खनन पदाधिकारी,
सरायकेला–खरसावाँ।

ह0/–
उप निदेशक, खान,
कोल्हान अंचल, चाईबासा।

ह0/–
अपर समाहर्त्ता, राजस्व,
सरायकेला–खरसावाँ।

ह0/–
उपायुक्त,
सरायकेला–खरसावाँ।

PR 373217 Mines and Geology(25-26)#D

Chrissy Teigen says her kids mock her food



Los Angeles, Feb 18 (IANS) Chrissy Teigen, the wife of the Grammy-winning Jazz musician John Legend, has been judging talent on our TV screens, only to be judged by her own kids. Chrissy Teigen, 40, shared how her four children have taken her role as celebrity judge on the show and flipped it on her at home, reports 'People' magazine. Revealing how her kids are now judging things around the house, including her cooking, since she landed a role on the show, she told 'People', "Este, my 3-year-old, her favorite thing in the world, is just running around saying five stars to nothing. My older ones are more judgmental with it. They'll make jokes about my meals or something". And her eldest children, daughter Luna, 9, and son Miles, 7, appear to be harsh critics, with the cookbook author admitting that she's "definitely (had) some four or fives. Mexican lasagna. I got a four. I haven't gotten any threes yet, which is good", she added. As per 'People', along with Esti, Luna and Miles, Chrissy Teigen is also mom to son Wren, 2, with her husband, musician John Legend, who joined her at the taping along with some of their kids.

Madhuri Dixit recalls her first memory of Jackie Shroff & Anil Kapoor on the set of 'Karma'

Mumbai, Feb 18 (IANS) Bringing in the 90s sparkle, Madhuri Dixit and Jackie Shroff graced the latest episode of the Netflix show "The Great Indian Kapil Show S4".

Turning the couch into a time machine, Madhuri recalled her very first memory of seeing Jaggu Dada on the sets of the 1986 drama "Karma". She shared that they were shooting a song at the time, with Anil Kapoor also around.



Madhuri couldn't help but laugh as she remembered how both Jackie and Anil were glancing her way in the middle of the shoot, making the moment impossible for her to forget. Jumping on the opportunity to take a dig at the 'Hero' actor, host Kapil Sharma asked him, "Dada aap apni Rehearsal chhod ke inka dance kyu dekhte the? (Dada, why would you watch her dance in the middle of your ownrehearsall?)"

Jaggu Dada, with his peak bhidu swag, dropped the mic line "Kabhi kabhi bhidu, apne aap ko bhulna padta hai."

Adding a message, along with the masti, Jaggu Dada stressed the importance of planting trees, saying that trees almost speak to us.

"Bhai, mereko sambhal toh main tereko sambhalu bhai." And when the audience burst into applause, he added with a grin, "Taali mat maar… jaake ek khud laga!".

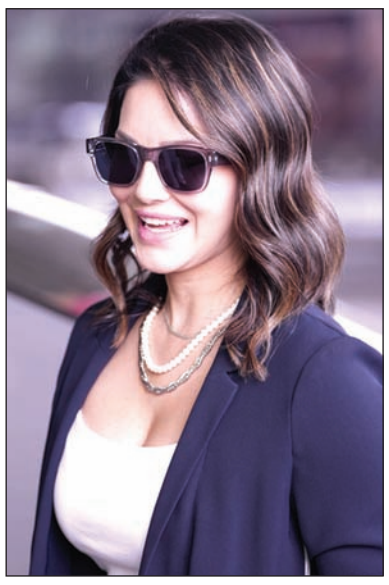
Madhuri further joked that after doing so many romantic films, she is now capable of romancing "even a pathar", proving she's forever Bollywood's romance queen. Sunil Grover as Diamond Raja also hinted at his next big musical dhamaka, teasing what looks like his upcoming hit in the making.

Additionally, Krushna Abhishek and Kiku Sharda as the exaggerated versions of Jaggu Dada and "Madhuri Fixit," effectively turned the iconic 90s romance into full parody madness.

Sunny Leone reveals why she was in disbelief about the Anurag Kashyap directorial 'Kennedy'

Mumbai, Feb 18 (IANS) Actress Sunny Leone, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming streaming film 'Kennedy', has shared that she was in disbelief about being part of the film until the day she walked into the set.

The actress shared that despite attending the trials and the workshops for the Anurag Kashyap directorial, she felt that she isn't going to be a part of the film.



The actress said, "My first reaction was disbelief that I had been offered the role. I didn't 1,000% believe I was part of the film until I actually got on set. Even though I did the trials and the workshops, and everything happened, we all know entertainment is very volatile and things can change at the drop of a dime. I was so happy when the first shot was taken and we moved on to the next. That's when I felt, 'Alright, now they won't replace me, I think I did a good job".

When asked about that scene that emotionally stayed with her long after pack-up, she said, "I think the scene that stayed with me is when Charlie is in a hotel room waiting for the officer. She's scared, upset, and doesn't want to be there, but she knows what's going to happen. That transition from her in the bathroom to putting that Charlie smile on her face is something I believe a lot of us can relate to. Sometimes we have to go through situations where we put on a smile just to move on with the day, night, or moment and that's not always easy".

Anupama Parameswaran to headline director Shaan's psychological thriller!



Chennai, Feb 18 (IANS) Actress Anupama Parameswaran, who has made a name for herself in the Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam film industries, will play the lead in director Shaan's upcoming psychological thriller. The film, which is yet to be titled, will be produced by Shivin Narang, Prerna Arora, and Kiran Ballapalli, in association with a leading studio.

An intense psychological thriller, the project will mark the big-screen reunion of Anupama Parmeshwaran and Shaan, following the phenomenal response to their superhit short film.

Shooting for the film, which is being tentatively referred to as Anupama × RJ Shaan, is likely to commence in May this year, sources claim and point out that the makers will reveal the title soon.

Speaking about Anupama Parmeshwaran, well known producer Prerna Arora said, "Anupama Parmeshwaran represents a rare blend of credibility, versatility, and genuine connect with audiences across languages.

Rasha Thadani wishes her 'sunshine boy' Aaman Devgan on birthday, says 'he always makes her smile'

Mumbai, Feb 18 (IANS) Actress Rasha Thadani took to her social media account on Wednesday to wish her 'sunshine boy' Aaman Devgan on his birthday, highlighting that he 'always makes her smile.'

Sharing an adorable picture of them that seems to have been clicked in a flight, Rasha wrote, "Happy birthday AD

Sunshine boy Can always make me smile:)

Have the best one @aamandevgan."

In the picture, Rasha and Aaman are seen resting on each other's shoulders.

For the uninitiated, Rasha Thadani and Aaman Devgan made their Bollywood debut together in the 2025 released movie Aazad. The movie also starred Ajay Devgn, Diana Penty.



Made under the direction of Abhishek Kapoor, the period drama also featured Rasha Thadani and Diana Penty, along with others.

Set against the backdrop of 1920s India, the movie shares the tale of a young stable boy who ends up forming a bond with a spirited horse. His quest to ride the majestic animal turns into a journey of courage, making him conscious of the country's fight for freedom.

Earlier today, Ajay Devgn had also taken to his social media account to wish his dearest nephew Aaman Devgan on his birthday.

Alongside the caption, Ajay also posted an adorable nostalgic throwback picture along with a latest click.

In the first picture, Ajay is seen warmly holding little Aaman close to him in a fun way. He is seen smiling as the kid clings to him.

The second picture features Ajay and Aaman Devgan posing together at a grand event. The Mama-Bhanja are seen dressed in coordinated black ensembles.

Sharing the pictures, Ajay wrote, "Happy birthday @aamandevgan Aaj ke din jitna cake khaana hai khaa le, kal se waapis diet pe!"

Health

MP High Court rejects pharmacist's bail in Chhindwara cough syrup case



Bhopal/Jabalpur, Feb 18 (IANS) The Madhya Pradesh High Court, on Tuesday, dismissed the regular bail application filed by a pharmacist accused in the toxic Coldrif cough syrup case, a paediatrician Praveen Soni, his wife Jyoti Soni and nephew.

The toxic Coldrif syrup, prescribed by Praveen Soni, led to the deaths of more than 26 innocent children aged below four to five years in Chhindwara district.

A bench of Justice Pramod Kumar Agrawal, held in its order dated February 17, 2026, that this is not a fit case for granting bail, considering the overall facts and circumstances. The applicant, a licensed pharmacist working at M/s Apna Medical Store owned by co-accused Jyoti Soni (wife of paediatrician Praveen Soni), had dispensed Coldrif Syrup instead of the prescribed Nextro-DS.No bill was maintained for the sale of the alleged cough syrup, and the applicant was involved in destroying evidence, including 66 bottles of the syrup.

The court noted the pharmacist's role as a technical custodian responsible for safe dispensing, record-keeping, and public safety under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

Instead, Praveen Soni allegedly substituted the prescribed drug with Coldrif Syrup without prescription, particularly for pediatric patients, which is illegal and medically impermissible.This substitution, combined with violations of licensing conditions under Rules 65(3) and 65(4), contributed to the tragedy.

The cough syrup, manufactured by Sresan Pharmaceuticals in Karnataka, was found contaminated with high levels of diethylene glycol (DEG), a toxic industrial solvent far exceeding permissible limits, causing acute kidney failure in children.

The incident occurred between August and October 2025, with children initially treated for routine cough and fever at the Community Health Centre in Parasiya of Chhindwara district.

Akshay Kumar confesses that he has 'never read a book in life though his wife Twinkle Khanna is an author'

Mumbai February 18 (IANS) Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar made a surprising yet humorous confession on the upcoming episode of his quiz reality show Wheel of Fortune, revealing that he has never read a single book in his life, even though his wife, Twinkle Khanna, is a bestselling author who makes sure to read atleast one book every day.

During an interaction with contestant Yash on the show, Akshay said, "Aapko pata hai maine zindagi mein aaj tak ek bhi kitab nahi padhi hai. Main chehre padhta hoon. Sach bataun, meri wife writer hain aur mujhe lagta hai woh din mein ek kitab zaroor padhti hain. By God, maine ek bhi kitab nahi padhi. Maine sirf chehre padhe hain. Sach kehta hoon, chehre se badiya kitab koi nahi hoti. (You know, I have not read a single book in my entire life. I read faces. Honestly, my wife is a writer and I think she reads at least one book every day. By God, I haven't read even one book. I have only read faces. I truly believe there is no book better than a face"You know, I have not read a single book in my entire life. I read faces. Honestly, my wife is a writer and I think she reads at least one book every day. By God, I haven't read even one book. I have only read faces. I truly believe there is no book better than a face.)



His candid admission left the live audience amused, especially owing to the fact that Twinkle Khanna, post her stunt in Bollywood has turned into a successful author.

The moment came after contestant Yash introduced himself. A Marine Engineer by profession, Yash revealed he has spent a decade writing cartoon scripts and anchoring for the Mumbai Indians. He has written projects for Rohit Shetty's Golmaal, Little Singham and Simmba, joking that he now hopes to write for Sooryavanshi too.

Impressed, Akshay quipped, "So basically, you are a writer," before making his 'no book reading' confession.

Sonam Bajwa on quitting sugar: 'I am trying to be disciplined'

Mumbai, Feb 18 (IANS) Actress Sonam Bajwa chose discipline over indulgence as she resisted the temptation of candies while waiting at the airport.

The actress took to Instagram stories, where she shared that she was sitting at the airport and looking at a candy shop, debating whether she should buy some sweets.

Sonam was heard saying, "So, I am sitting at the airport and looking at this candy shop, and I have been debating whether I should get some candies. I love candies, but I just decided yesterday that I am not going to have any sugar. I had dates today. I am trying to be disciplined… Nahi khaaungi."

The actress later shared another video on board a flight, where she gave a glimpse of the "diet meal" she had carried along.

"So I am so happy that I made this choice. I am going to skip having candy. Didn't buy it. I am going to have my diet food."

The third clip showed the actress sharing her struggle as she stuck to her diet meal, while her friend, seated next to her, was chomping on garlic bread.

In the video, Sonam was heard saying: "So main yeh kha rahi hoon. Apna dil itna pakka karke aur idhar yeh dekho… Not fair, this is criminal."



For all the videos, she captioned: "Reporting live guys."Sonam's latest release is "Border 2", an epic action war film directed by Anurag Singh. A standalone sequel to J. P. Dutta's 1997 film Border.

Set against the backdrop of the India–Pakistan war of 1971, the film serves as a multi-front war drama, expanding the scope of its predecessor by featuring the combined operations of the Indian Armed Forces – Army, Air Force, and Navy. She was also seen in Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat, a romantic drama film directed by Milap Zaveri. The film stars Harshvardhan Rane and Sonam Bajwa in the lead roles. It emerged as the 12th highest-grossing Hindi film of 2025.

T20 WC: SA go into Super 8s as unbeaten side with win over UAE

New Delhi, Feb 18 (IANS) Corbin Bosch and Anrich Nortje shared five wickets between themselves before Dewald Brevis and Ryan Rickelton hit brisk 30s respectively as South Africa maintained their unbeaten record by registering a six-wicket win over the UAE in their final Group D match of the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Wednesday.

The result ensured the Proteas go to the Super Eights as the lone unbeaten team from their group, finishing with four wins from as many games. They will next face defending champions India in their opening Super Eights game at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

Under overcast skies and with floodlights turned on, Bosch used the damp conditions well and short balls to great effect to pick 3-12, while Nortje took 2-28. Left-arm spinner George Linde kept things tight with 1-17 as UAE's innings lost momentum after a brisk start and eventually made 122/6.

South Africa's aggressive approach in the powerplay, where they hit 11 boundaries and a six to reach 58/2, effectively settled the contest. Though they lost Aiden Markram early after making 28 off just 11 balls, Rickelton steadied the innings with a fluent 30 off 16 balls. Brevis struck a four and three sixes in making 36 off 25 balls, as the Proteas reached the target in 15.4 overs to maintain their unbeaten slate in the league stage.

Pushed into batting first, Kagiso Rabada found pace and bounce, though Aryansh Sharma top edged him for a six in the opening over. A change in bowling plan for Rabada didn't work well as Muhammad Waseem smacked him for three consecutive boundaries. The pair added 36 runs for the first wicket before Linde's introduction in the fifth over provided the breakthrough for South



Africa as he trapped Waseem lbw for 22.

Bosch tightened the screws when he dismissed Aryansh with a short ball, top-edged to Quinton de Kock for 13. Bosch struck again in his next spell, removing the in-form Sohaib Khan for six, as he edged behind to de Kock moving to his right.Linde and Nortje kept the pressure on UAE, with Linde accounting for Syed Haider - a top-edge pulled to mid-wicket. Amidst all this, Alishan Sharafu gave 14,400 fans plenty to cheer by striking five fours and a six to make 45 off 38 balls. He had a charmed life with two reprieves, but Nortje took him out when he pulled to mid-wicket, who ran back to take the grab and avoided a collision with his team-mates.

Sharafu's dismissal ensured UAE didn't get the required finishing kick as Bosch returned to dismiss Muhammad Arfan for 11. UAE never recovered momentum after the powerplay, as they made 25 runs in the last five overs.

South Africa's innings began after a 45-minute rain delay. After Dhruv Parashar kept things tight by conceding only one run in the opening over, Aiden Markram broke free by flicking Junaid Siddique for two boundaries, before de Kock thumped him over mid-wicket for a third boundary of the over.

Markram followed it up by taking Haider Ali to the cleaners - flicking, cutting, pulling and slicing for three fours and a six. But Haider struck back by drawing Markram to pull and hit top of leg-stump for 28 off just 11 balls.

De Kock then took charge, pulling and cutting Siddique for boundaries to keep the scoreboard ticking. Rickelton joined in by punching Parashar off the back foot for four and cutting Muhammad Jawadullah twice. But Jawadullah turned the tide in the fifth over by dismissing de Kock, who sliced to deep backward point.

With Rickelton around, Brevis announced himself with a flurry of strokes - edging Jawadullah for four, and then launched him to the top tier at mid-wicket for a six that drew gasps of awe from the crowd. He followed it up with another maximum over extra cover off Haider Ali, while Rickelton pulled and slog-swept Muhammad Farooq for a brace of maximums.

Though Rickelton fell when he mistimed a pull to deep square leg off Farooq for 30 off 16 balls, Brevis entertained the crowd with a nonchalant smash over long-on fence off Muhammad Arfan, before mistiming a slog to long-off.

Tristan Stubbs and Jason Smith knocked off the remaining runs to ensure South Africa entered the Super Eights with another commanding win. Despite dropping four catches in the field, the Proteas had done enough to complete their group stage commitments with an unbeaten record.

Brief Scores: UAE 122/6 in 20 overs (Alishan Sharafu 45, Muhammad Waseem 22; Corbin Bosch 3-12, Anrich Nortje 2-28) lost to South Africa 123/4 in 13.2 overs (Dewald Brevis 36, Ryan Rickelton 30; Muhammad Arfan 1-16, Muhammad Farooq 1-19) by six wickets.

Dilshan Madushanka replaces injured Pathirana in Sri Lanka squad



Dubai, Feb 18 (IANS) The Event Technical Committee of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 on Wednesday approved Dilshan Madushanka as a replacement for Matheesha Pathirana in the Sri Lanka squad. Madushanka was named as a replacement when Pathirana was ruled out after sustaining a muscle strain in his left leg during the team's previous match against Australia on Monday (February 16). Pathirana sustained a muscle strain in his left leg during Sri Lanka's recent match against Australia in Kandy and left the field immediately after bowling just four balls during his first spell. Pathirana was in visible pain as he clutched his left leg after bowling the fourth delivery in Sri Lanka's fixture against Australia in Pallekele on February 16. He left his over midway through and did not return to bowl in the innings, with Dasun Shanaka completing the remainder of the over.

The replacement of a player requires the approval of the Event Technical Committee before the replacement player can be officially added to the squad.

Earlier, Vikram Rathour, Sri Lanka's batting consultant, gave an update on Pathirana's injury ahead of their final group match against Zimbabwe. "I think he's been declared unfit for the rest of the tournament.

AFI names 12-member Indian team for Asian Cross-Country Championships

New Delhi, Feb 18 (IANS) Army's Harmanjot Singh will be among the 12-member Indian team that will compete in the 18th Asian Cross-Country Championships scheduled for February 21 in Fukuoka, Japan.

The Indian team will leave Wednesday for Japan, said Bahadur Singh Sagoo, president of AFI (Athletics Federation of India).

The Indian athletes will compete in the senior men's, women's, and U20 groups. Harmanjot Singh will compete in the men's 10km. Aditya Gurjar, Abhinandan Suryavanshi and Karan Ramesh Saranade will represent India in the men's U20 category. The distance for the men's U20 event is 8km.The members of the women's 10km team are Nandani Gupta, Ujala, Soniya and Munni Devi. Versha, Mani Yadav, Sonam Kumari and Aarju will compete in the women's U20 group.

The AFI selected the national team based on the athletes' performance during the 60th National Cross-Country Championships held last month in Ranchi, Jharkhand, where 35 teams, including affiliated state units, participated.

Athletes from Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) had clinched senior men and women team titles at the National Cross Country Championships. Harmanjot Singh representing SSCB (Services Sports Control Board) was the winner of the men's individual 10km event with a time of 30:33. The winner in the women's individual 10km event was Nandani Gupta of RSPB, clocking 35:42.28.

The men's U20 team title went to Uttar Pradesh (22 points). While Maharashtra took home the women's U20 trophy (21 points).

Top four runners in each of the senior (men and women) and junior (men and women) groups are selected for the Indian team.

The national team also competed in the 2026 World Athletics Cross Country Championships held on January 10 in Tallahassee, Florida (USA). In a highly competitive individual 10km Gulveer Singh was the leading Indian runner and finished 40th with a time of 30:39.

The Indian mixed relay team (4x2km) finished overall 12th with a time of 24 minutes 13 seconds. The members of the Indian mixed relay team were Ajay Saroj, Pooja, Yoonus Shah and Ankita.

T20 WC: Tariq helps Pakistan spin their way into Super 8s with 102-run win over Namibia

Colombo, Feb 18 (IANS) Pakistan's formidable spin attack proved too much for Namibia as they sealed a dominant 102-run victory and confirmed their place in the Super 8s of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, dismissing Namibia for just 97 in 17.3 overs while defending a daunting 199 at the Sinhalese Sports Club.

Chasing a steep target, Namibia began positively with Louren Steenkamp showing early intent. He launched Faheem Ashraf for a six down the ground and followed it up with crisp boundaries, helping Namibia reach 40/2 at the end of the powerplay despite losing Jan Frylinck and Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton.

Steenkamp continued to anchor the innings, striking three fours and a six in his 23 off 22 balls, but Pakistan's spin trio soon tightened their grip on the



contest. Mohammad Nawaz provided the breakthrough immediately after the Power-play, inducing a mistimed slog from Steenkamp that was safely pouched by wicketkeeper Usman Khan.

From there, Pakistan's spinners took complete control, exploiting the turning surface brilliantly. The ball turned significantly more for Pakistan, averaging 3.6 degrees of turn compared to Namibia's spinners, making strokeplay increasingly difficult.

Shadab Khan was instrumental in dismantling the middle-order, finishing with excellent figures of 3 for 19. He removed Namibia captain Gerhard Erasmus, who edged behind attempting a late cut, and later deceived Alexander Volschenk with a sharp turn and bounce to have him stumped. Volschenk had briefly counterattacked with a six and a boundary but was unable to sustain momentum.

Usman Tariq then delivered the decisive blows with a superb spell of variations. His clever use of the googly and carrom ball left Namibia's lower-order clueless. He bowled Ruben Trumpelmann with a disguised googly, forced JJ Smit into a mistimed slog-sweep, and clean bowled Bernard Scholtz through the gate. Tariq finished with outstanding figures, picking up three wickets while maintaining relentless control.

Namibia's resistance faded rapidly as wickets fell in clusters. From a steady 72/4, they collapsed to 81/7 within the space of two overs, effectively ending any hopes of a comeback.

The end came swiftly when Tariq dismissed Willem Myburgh for 8, inducing an edge to the wicketkeeper to complete Pakistan's comprehensive victory and formally secure their progression into the Super 8s.

Earlier, Pakistan's imposing total of 199 had already placed Namibia under immense pressure, and their spin attack ensured there would be no upset. Pakistan's disciplined bowling, sharp fielding—including a superb low catch from Saim Ayub, and tactical use of spin underscored their dominance.

With this emphatic win, Pakistan confirmed their place in the final eight, thereby ending the USA's hopes.

Brief scores:

Pakistan 199/3 in 20 overs (Sahibzada Farhan 100, Saim Ayub 38; Jack Brasell 2-48, Gerhard Erasmus 1-25) beat Namibia 97/1 in 17.3 overs (Louren Steenkamp 23, Alexander Volschenk 20; Usman Tariq 4-16, Shadab Khan 3-19) by 102 runs.

Rs 1,278cr earmarked to transform Ahmedabad into Olympic-ready city

Gandhinagar, Feb 18 (IANS) Ahmedabad is set to be transformed into an "Olympic Ready City" after the Gujarat government earmarked Rs 1,278 crore in the 2026–27 State Budget, following the state's successful bid to host the Commonwealth Games in 2030.

Presenting the budget in the state Assembly, Finance Minister Kanu Desai outlined a series of investments aimed at strengthening sports infrastructure and urban facilities in preparation for the international event.

The allocation forms part of a broader effort to position Gujarat as a global sporting destination and to upgrade Ahmedabad's infrastructure to meet international standards required for hosting major multi-sport events.

The sports sector has received a total allocation of Rs 1,331 crore in the 2026–27 budget, reflecting the state government's focus on developing world-class facilities and supporting athletes across multiple disciplines.

A provision of Rs 500 crore has been made to develop Ahmedabad as an Olympic Ready City and to advance the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (SVP) Sports Enclave project, which is envisaged as a key hub for sporting excellence and training. Additionally, Rs 165 crore has been allocated for infrastructure development of sports complexes in various districts, and Rs 101 crore has been earmarked to create sports-related infrastructure in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar.



An amount of Rs 100 crore has been earmarked to establish Olympic-level infrastructure at Karai, aimed at strengthening the state's capacity to host high-performance training and competitive events. Another Rs 100 crore has been allocated for the construction of a Para High Performance Centre in Gandhinagar, which is expected to provide specialised training and support facilities for para-athletes.

The budget also provides Rs 90 crore for the construction of a world-class hockey stadium, further strengthening Gujarat's sporting ecosystem and creating additional infrastructure capable of hosting national and international competitions.

The Department of Sports, Youth and Cultural Activities has received an overall allocation of Rs 2,006 crore, reflecting the government's broader commitment to sports development, youth engagement and cultural promotion across the state.

The government stated that the measures are intended to encourage youth and athletes to achieve success at national and international levels and to showcase their talent on a global platform, while also strengthening Gujarat's standing as a competitive sporting destination.

In addition to sports facilities, the budget outlines civic infrastructure upgrades linked to preparations for the Games and long-term urban development. These include road renovations, improved lighting systems and the development of tourist destinations, along with the expansion of metro rail and bus transport services to support increased footfall during the event and improve overall urban mobility.

The government said that hosting the Commonwealth Games is expected to provide fresh momentum to the state's economy, generate employment opportunities and accelerate infrastructure development across multiple sectors.

It added that the event is likely to boost tourism, attract domestic and international investment, and enhance Gujarat's global profile as a major destination for sports, culture and business.

Beyond sports, Rs 226 crore has been allocated for archaeology and museums, including Rs five crore for the development and conservation of state-protected archaeological monuments aimed at preserving Gujarat's historical and cultural heritage.

T20I rankings: Abhishek maintains top spot; Ishan enters top 10 in batting chart

Dubai, Feb 18 (IANS) India opener Abhishek Sharma held on to his lead at the top of the batter rankings despite some recent form concerns, while wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan entered the Top 10 in the latest ICC Rankings update. Abhishek didn't have a good outing so far in the T20 World Cup as he began his campaign with a golden duck against the USA in India's first game. He was, however, admitted to hospital in New Delhi due to a stomach infection and was left out of the game against Namibia. On his return against Pakistan, he again fell for the duck.

But the young opener managed to continue to hold on tohis lead on batting summit. Meanwhile, Ishan, who scored his second consecutive half-century at the T20 World Cup, took a giant leap of 17 places to be placed



eighth overall following his 77 from just 40 deliveries to pick up the Player of the Match award.

Sri Lanka hard-hitter Pathum Nissanka gained three places to move to third on the list for T20I batters after his brilliant century against Australia in Kandy.

There are also big gains on the batter rankings for South Africa duo Ryan Rickelton (up 22 spots to 11th) and Aiden Markram (up six rungs to equal 15th), USA's Saiteja Mukkamalla (up 16 places to 21st) and England youngster Jacob Bethell (up 22 slots to 32nd) courtesy of some decent innings at the T20 World Cup.

The tight battle to be the No.1 ranked T20I all-rounder has continued as Pakistan's Saim Ayub rose to the top once again on the updated ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings.Ayub and Zimbabwe skipper Sikandar Raza have enjoyed a tight battle in recent times. Ayub claimed the premier spot, overtaking Raza at the top on the back of his three-wicket haul against India in Colombo at the T20 World Cup.Raza dropped to second as a result, while Nepal's Dipendra Singh Airee (up two places) and Afghanistan's Azmatullah Omarzai (up four spots) share fourth place on the same list following some good recent efforts.

T20 WC: Scotland opener George Munsey reprimanded for code of conduct breach

New Delhi, Feb 18 (IANS) Scotland's opener George Munsey has been reprimanded for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during their T20 World Cup 2026 Group C match against Nepal played at the iconic Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Tuesday.

"Munsey was found to have breached Article 2.2 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during an International Match," the ICC said in a statement.

In addition to this, one demerit point has been added to Munsey's disciplinary record, for whom it was the first offence in a 24-month period.The incident took place at the end of the 10th over of Scotland's innings, when Munsey flung his helmet onto the advertising boards while walking back to the dressing room after his dismissal."Munsey admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by David Gilbert of the Emirates ICC International Panel of Match Referees, so there was no need for a formal hearing."On-field umpires K.N. Ananthapadmanabhan and Alex Wharf, third umpire Adrian Holdstock, and fourth umpire Langton Rusere levelled the charge," it added.Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or two demerit points.

T20 WC: Teams, schedule, fixtures, all you need to know about Super 8s

New Delhi, Feb 18 (IANS) The stage is set for the Super 8 phase of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, with the tournament entering a decisive stretch as eight teams prepare to battle for semifinals spots. The next round will begin on February 21 and run until March 1, with matches split between venues in India and Sri Lanka.

From the original 20-team field, the top two sides from each group have progressed, setting up a high-stakes contest among the world's leading T20 nations. The qualified teams are India, the West Indies, Zimbabwe, South Africa, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, England, and Pakistan.

The eight teams have been divided into two groups of four. Group 1 features India, the West Indies, Zimbabwe, and South Africa, with all matches scheduled in India.

Group 2 comprises New Zealand, Sri Lanka, England, and Pakistan, with co-hosts Sri Lanka hosting their fixtures.

The Super 8 stage of the tournament begins on February 21 with New Zealand facing Pakistan in Colombo. On February 22, England meet Sri Lanka in Pallekele, followed by India taking on South Africa



in Ahmedabad. February 23 features Zimbabwe vs West Indies in Mumbai, while England face Pakistan on February 24.

New Zealand play Sri Lanka on February 25. On February 26, the West Indies meet South Africa, and India face Zimbabwe. England take on New Zealand on February 27, followed by Pakistan vs Sri Lanka on February 28. The Super 8s stage concludes on March 1 with Zimbabwe vs South Africa and India vs West Indies.

The Super 8s will determine the four semifinalists, with the top two teams from each group progressing to the knockout rounds.

India enter the Super 8s as defending champions, while West Indies, England, Pakistan and Sri Lanka all boast title-winning pedigree. South Africa and New Zealand remain consistent contenders, while Zimbabwe have emerged as one of the surprise packages of the tournament.

With high-profile clashes, historic rivalries, and semifinal spots on the line, the Super 8 phase promises to be one of the most thrilling stages of the T20 World Cup.

Super 8s schedule:

Feb 21- New Zealand vs Pakistan – Colombo

Feb 22 - England vs Sri Lanka – Pallekele; India vs South Africa – Ahmedabad

Feb 23 - Zimbabwe vs West Indies – Mumbai

Feb 24 - England vs Pakistan – Pallekele

Feb 25 - New Zealand vs Sri Lanka – Colombo

Feb 26 - West Indies vs South Africa – Ahmedabad; India vs Zimbabwe – Chennai

Feb 27 - England vs New Zealand – Colombo

Feb 28 - Pakistan vs Sri Lanka – Pallekele

March 1 - Zimbabwe vs South Africa – Delhi; India vs West Indies – Kolkata

CID arrests Jamshedpur agent for trafficking youth to Thailand

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 18 : The Cyber Crime Police Station under the Crime Investigation Department (CID), Jharkhand, has arrested Sartaj Alam, a resident of Zakir Nagar Road No. 3, Azad Nagar, Mango, Jamshedpur, in connection with a major international cybercrime and human trafficking case.

Alam is accused of luring unemployed youth with promises of data entry jobs in Bangkok, Thailand, and trafficking them abroad, where they were allegedly forced to engage in organized cyber fraud activities.

During the investigation, the Cyber Crime Police verified allegations that three rescued youths from Jamshedpur had been sent to Bangkok by the accused. With assistance from Jamshedpur Police, Sartaj Alam was arrested. Among the 15 rescued youths from Jharkhand, three are from Jamshedpur, while others belong to districts including Dhanbad, Bokaro, and Hazaribagh.

Based on the joint statements of the rescued victims, an FIR was registered on December 9, 2025, under provisions related to international cyber slavery and organized cybercrime.

Trafficked to Bangkok's KK Park Scam Compound : Investigations revealed that the accused agent sent three youths from Jamshedpur to Bangkok's notorious KK Park cyber scam



compound. There, they were allegedly forced to participate in organized online fraud schemes.

Police stated that Alam, in conspiracy with associates based abroad, recruited unemployed youths by offering lucrative overseas jobs. Once abroad, the victims were allegedly compelled to carry out various cyber fraud operations, including investment scams, "digital arrest" scams, and other online financial frauds.

Authorities are continuing investigations to identify additional victims, trace financial transactions, and apprehend other members of the interstate and international network involved in the racket.

Modus Operandi of the Racket : According to the investigation, India-based agents, in collusion with foreign cybercriminals, targeted unemployed youth by offering jobs in Bangkok, Cambodia, Laos, and other Southeast Asian countries. Victims were asked to deposit money for visas and air tickets.

Upon arrival, their passports were allegedly confiscated, and they were forced to work long hours under strict surveillance inside scam centers. They were trained to create fake profiles on WhatsApp, Instagram, and Facebook to approach foreign nationals.

Through chats and fraudulent investment schemes, victims abroad were lured into depositing money into various bank accounts linked to the syndicate.

Police Advisory : Jharkhand Police have urged citizens to remain cautious of unauthorized agents offering overseas employment. People are advised to verify job offers thoroughly and report any cyber fraud immediately to the national cyber helpline at 1930 or through the official portal www.cybercrime.gov.in.

Eviction drive on Tatanagar Station–Kitadih Road today

Jamshedpur, Feb 18: An anti-encroachment drive will be carried out on February 19 (Thursday) along the road from Tatanagar Railway Station to Kitadih. The Railways have already made announcements in the area through loudspeakers. Meanwhile, several shopkeepers have started removing their shops on their own. Shopkeepers say they are complying with the High Court's order, but allege that the Railways is not fully adhering to the directions issued by the Jharkhand High Court. Notably, on January 22, the High Court had ordered that shopkeepers settled for years along the roadside from Station Chowk towards Kitadih be given one month. The court had also directed the Railways to identify and announce alternative sites for the rehabilitation of the displaced shopkeepers within 42 days. However, no alternative site has been announced so far. Preparations to remove encroachments in the Kitadih and Golpahari areas were already underway as part of the railway station expansion plan. With the court's deadline now over, the action is expected to intensify. For now, all eyes are on the next steps of the shopkeepers and the railway administration. Shopkeepers have said that if proper rehabilitation arrangements are not made in time, they will have no option but to approach the Supreme Court.

Medicine shortage hits MGM Hospital in Jamshedpur

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 18: The MGM Hospital is grappling with a severe shortage of medicines. Taking a strict stance over incomplete diagnostic facilities, the hospital's Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Jujhar Majhi, reviewed six key departments on Tuesday and reprimanded officials found negligent.



The crisis of medicine shortage has become so severe that patients are being forced to purchase medicines worth thousands of rupees daily from private pharmacies. During the review, it emerged that tenders for over 800 medicines had been opened nearly two months ago, yet these medicines have not reached patients. Dr. Majhi conducted a surprise inspection of the store and pharmacy departments and sought explanations for the delay. Unsatisfied with the responses, he decided to order a special audit of the medicine stock on Wednesday.

He said efforts would be made to identify where the bottleneck lies. "Ensuring that patients receive 100 per cent of medicines from the hospital is both our duty and responsibility," he stated.

Central Pathology Unit Delayed by Four Months: Questions were also raised over the slow progress of the proposed Central Pathology Department. The unit was scheduled to be operational by the last week of November last year, but even halfway through February, the work remains incomplete. Due to the delay, poor patients are being compelled to get expensive tests done at private laboratories. Dr. Majhi said he would hold an urgent meeting with Principal Dr. Sanjay Kumar and Superintendent Dr. Balram Jha to expedite the process and make the department functional at the earliest.

Warning to Birth Certificate Department: Irregularities were also found in the Birth Certificate Department during the review. Local residents had complained that they were being made to visit the office repeatedly to obtain certificates. The Deputy Superintendent instructed the concerned staff to resolve public grievances promptly and eliminate unnecessary delays.

Accountability to Be Fixed Soon : Dr. Majhi said accountability would be fixed at every level to improve the hospital's image. He warned that if the availability of medicines is not ensured despite completion of the tender process, strict action will be taken against the responsible officials.

Six held with firearms in Golmuri

Major criminal plot foiled

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 18: In a swift and intelligence-led operation, Golmuri police arrested six suspected criminals and recovered illegal firearms, foiling what officials believe was a major criminal conspiracy in the area. Acting on a tip-off, the police received information that a group of men had assembled in a residential quarter near a mosque under the Golmuri police station limits and were allegedly planning a serious crime. Responding promptly, a special team was constituted and a raid was conducted at the identified location.

During the operation, the police apprehended Zeeshan alias Jishu, Numan, Faiz, Chand, and two other accused. A search of the premises led to the seizure of three pistols along with a substantial quantity of live ammunition. The recovery of weapons created a stir in the locality, with residents praising the police for their timely intervention and urging sustained vigilance in the area. According to police sources, Zeeshan is reportedly linked to exiled gangster Manish Singh of Jugsalai. It has also come to light that Zeeshan was recently released on bail in a murder case. Investigators suspect that the group was preparing to execute a major criminal act. All the accused are currently being interrogated. The police are probing the source of the firearms and attempting to ascertain the intended target of the alleged conspiracy. Officials have assured that the case will be thoroughly investigated and strict legal action will follow. (W-pm)

Fertilizer and seed licensing training launched

Jamshedpur, Feb 18 : A 15-day Fertilizer and Seed Licensing Training program was inaugurated at the KVK auditorium by Senior Scientist and Head of KVK, Pankaj Seth. The program aims to provide participants with the skills required to open fertilizer and seed sales centers in the district and obtain the necessary licenses. The training will cover the nature, treatment, and proper use of fertilizers and seeds. Participants, including unemployed youth and women, will gain knowledge to guide farmers in their areas, adopt self-employment, and contribute to the agricultural economy. Pankaj Seth highlighted that the program also offers insights into modern farming techniques, management practices, nature-based agriculture, and business model development. Over 100 trainees from nine blocks of the district are participating in the program.



Holi special trains on key routes from March 2 to April 4

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 18 : To manage the anticipated surge in passenger traffic during the festive season of Holi, the South Eastern Railway (SER) has announced the operation of several Holi Special trains connecting major destinations across Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

The services will run between March 2 and April 4, 2026, on specified days.

● **Tatanagar -Buxar-Tatanagar Holi Special (08183/08184):** Train No. 08183 Tatanagar-Buxar Holi Special will depart from Tatanagar every Tuesday from March 3 to March 31 at 5:10 PM, reaching Buxar at 8:15 AM the following day.



In the return direction, Train No. 08184 Buxar-Tatanagar Holi Special will leave Buxar every Wednesday from March 4 to April 1 at 12:00 noon and arrive at Tatanagar at 4:30 AM the next day.

Within SER jurisdiction, the train will halt at Chandil, Purulia, and Bokaro Steel City.

● **Ranchi- Jhanjharpur-Ranchi Holi Special (08105/08106) :** Train No. 08105 Ranchi-Jhanjharpur Holi Special will depart from Ranchi every Monday from March 2 to March 30 at 10:50 PM, reaching Jhanjharpur at 4:00 PM the next day.

On the return journey, Train No. 08106 Jhanjharpur-Ranchi Special will leave Jhanjharpur every Tuesday from March 3 to March 31 at 6:00 PM and arrive in Ranchi at 12:15 PM the following day.

The train will stop at Muri, Kotshila, and Bokaro Steel City under SER limits.

● **Santragachi- Darbhanga-Santragachi Holi Special (08109/08110) :** Train No. 08109 Santragachi-Darbhanga Holi Special will depart from Santragachi every Tuesday from March 3 to March 31 at 7:30 AM and reach Darbhanga at 7:05 PM the same day.

In the return direction, Train No. 08110 Darbhanga-Santragachi Special will leave Darbhanga every Tuesday from March 3 to March 31 at 9:00 PM and arrive at Santragachi at 9:45 AM the following day.

● **Ranchi- Gorakhpur-Ranchi Holi Special (08629/08630) :** Train No. 08629 Ranchi-Gorakhpur Holi Special will depart from Ranchi every Monday from March 2 to March 30 at 11:55 PM, reaching Gorakhpur at 9:30 PM the next day.

In the return direction, Train No. 08630 Gorakhpur-Ranchi Holi Special will leave Gorakhpur every Wednesday from March 4 to April 1 at 12:50 AM and arrive in Ranchi at 8:45 PM the same day. This service will have stoppages at Muri and Bokaro Steel City within SER jurisdiction. The introduction of these special trains is expected to significantly ease travel congestion and ensure smoother connectivity for passengers returning home to celebrate Holi with their families. (W-pm)

Thatched house razed in daylight arson

Jamshedpur, Feb 18 : Chaos erupted when miscreants set fire to a thatched house in broad daylight along the service road to Mangalam City near the Gamharia DVC crossing on Tata-Kandra road. The house of Monika Gop, a garbage collector, was completely destroyed.

Monika Gop stated that she had gone with her husband to fetch drinking water when unknown individuals set the hut on fire. By the time they returned, the fire had engulfed the house and destroyed all belongings. Local residents alerted the fire brigade, which arrived and brought the blaze under control, but the hut was completely burned.

Locals fear these arson incidents are deliberate acts by anti-social elements. The victim's family has demanded a thorough investigation, action against the culprits, and compensation for the losses



