JHARKHAND'S OWN ENGLISH DAILY

THE AVENUE MAIL

JAMSHEDPUR •TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026 • VOL : 33 NO : 221 • RS.3/- • PAGES - 12 • www.avenuemail.in



SHILPA SHETTY WISHES HER 'A1 FROM DAY 1' SHAMITA ON 47TH BIRTHDAY-10

Demolition halted after SC intervention

Action taken against building plan violators across Sakchi, Bistupur and Baradwari

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 2: Acting on strict directions from the Jharkhand High Court, the Jamshedpur Notified Area Committee (JNAC) on Monday launched a demolition drive against illegal constructions and building plan deviations across the city. The operation, which began around 11:00 AM amid heavy police deployment, targeted unauthorized portions of buildings identified for violating sanctioned plans.

Two JNAC teams were deployed-one in the Bistupur area and another at a five-storey building near the Ramada Hotel in the Sakchi-Bistupur locality.

Officials said the building was approved only up to G+3, but two additional floors were constructed illegally. Demolition of the extra floors had commenced under the supervision of JNAC special officer Krishna Kumar. According to officials, the drive covered 24 buildings across Sakchi, Baradwari and adjoining areas.



Deviations included unauthorized additional floors, construction not aligned with approved layouts, and basements meant for parking being illegally converted into commercial shops, raising safety and traffic concerns. Rectification work had already begun at one Baradwari building prior to Monday's action.

JNAC clarified that the action followed due process, with three notices issued to each building owner. As per rules, regularization requires a formal application, site inspection, and approval-conditions most of the buildings failed to meet. Deposits made without JNAC's demand or approval were termed legally invalid.

However, the demolition drive was halted later in the day. While work initially continued amid rumors of a Supreme Court stay, a written order was received around 4:00 PM, following which all demolition activities were stopped. Officials confirmed that further action will remain suspended until a final order is received from the Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, advocate Akhilesh Srivastava, who is handling the case, claimed that all submissions made before the Supreme Court were false.

"We are filing an application to recall this erroneous order," he said.

Jharkhand migrant workers stranded in Dubai, seek govt help

Ranchi, Feb 2: The crisis of Jharkhand's migrant workers stranded abroad continues, with the latest case involving 14 workers from Giridih and Bokaro stuck in Dubai for several months. The workers allege that the company they are employed with is making them work beyond agreed hours and has not paid their wages. They say the lack of salary has made it extremely difficult to meet daily needs, including food and accommodation, and some are reportedly facing severe hunger.

The stranded workers shared their plight through a video message, appealing to the Indian and Jharkhand governments for assistance. The video was sent to social worker Sikandar Ali, who works for migrant labor welfare, and he has shared it with the media. Sikandar Ali urged the central and state governments to take immediate and effective diplomatic steps to ensure the safe return of these workers. He emphasized that this is not the first time Jharkhand migrants have been stranded abroad for better earnings, and previous cases required extensive efforts for their repatriation.



Ali also highlighted the death of migrant worker Vijay Kumar Mahato from Dhumri Panchayat in Giridih district, who died in Saudi Arabia on October 25, 2025. Even three months after his death, his body has not been brought back to India, and his family has not received any compensation.

The workers had gone to Dubai in October 2025 through EMC Company to work on transmission line projects. Despite months of work, none of them have received regular wages. Among those stranded are Roshan Kumar and Ajay Kumar from Sariya and Bagodar areas in Giridih, Daleshwar Mahato from Narayanpur in Bokaro, and Jagdish Mahato, Falendra Mahato, Baijnath Mahato, Dilip Mahato, Triloki Mahato, Deepak Kumar, Rohit Mahato, and Sev Mahato from Hazaribagh and surrounding areas. The workers have appealed to the government for urgent intervention to ensure their safe return.

Crude bomb attack at Jharia MLA's residence



Mail News Service

Dhanbad, Feb 2: Unidentified bike-borne assailants hurled crude bombs at the residence of Jharia MLA Ragni Singh, known as Singh Mansion, in the Steelgate area under Saraidhela police jurisdiction late Sunday night.

Police said the incident occurred around 11.45 pm. Two crude bombs were thrown-one landed inside the campus and the other struck the main gate.

No injuries or major damage were reported, though blast marks were visible at the site.

The assailants fled at high speed on a bike after the attack.

Singh Mansion, located along NH-32, is a high-profile area, making the incident a serious concern.

City SP Ritvik Srivastava and Rural SP Kuldeep Choudhary reached the spot to investigate, reviewing nearby CCTV footage to trace the attackers.

MLA Ragni Singh's husband, Sanjeev Singh, a three-time former Jharia MLA, was at home during the incident.

Both SPs later recorded detailed statements from him.

Supporters allege the attack was intended to create fear ahead of the upcoming Dhanbad mayoral election, in which Sanjeev Singh is expected to contest.

Additional police forces have been deployed to prevent further incidents. (W- pm)

Centre alleges unrest push in Ladakh protests

New Delhi, Feb 2 (IANS) Defending the detention of Sonam Wangchuk under the National Security Act (NSA), the Centre on Monday told the Supreme Court that the popular climate activist has attempted to provoke the younger generation into pushing Ladakh towards a situation similar to Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka."The climate activist Sonam Wangchuk wanted the Union Territory to face an agitation and violence similar to what transpired in Nepal and Bangladesh," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, senior law officer appearing for the Centre, submitted before a Bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and PB Varale.Opposing the plea of Gitanjali J Angmo, wife of the jailed activist, Mehta added that Wangchuk wanted Ladakh to "become Nepal or Bangladesh". He said, "We all know what happened in Bangladesh. He is targeting the impressionable youth. The moment you say 'ours' and 'theirs' in this country, you are doing something against the country."Elaborating further, Mehta contended that Wangchuk had made alleged inflammatory speeches, using Mahatma Gandhi's name only as a facade at the beginning and end of his talks.

Air India grounds 787-8 over fuel alert

New Delhi, Feb 2 (IANS) Tata Group-owned Air India on Monday said it has grounded one of its Boeing 787-8 aircraft after a pilot reported a possible defect in the fuel control switch. The airline confirmed the development in an official response. Air India said that soon after receiving the information from the pilot, the aircraft was taken out of service as a precautionary step.

The airline has also involved aircraft manufacturer Boeing to examine the issue on a priority basis and address the pilot's concerns.In its statement, an Air India spokesperson said the matter has been communicated to the aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

The airline added that it is following all required safety procedures while the issue is being reviewed.

CM urges tribals to educate children, claims illiteracy behind backwardness

Chaibasa, Feb 2: Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Monday urged the tribal community to ensure education of their children, saying the government was making all possible efforts to reduce their financial burden.

Addressing a public meeting at Chaibasa after paying tributes to tribal martyrs led by Poto Ho, who sacrificed their lives fighting the British in 1837 to protect the tribal jal, jungle, jameen (water, forest and land) in Serengsia Ghati of West Singhbhum, Soren said tribals have been exploited for decades due to social, economic and political weakness.

"The reason behind our backwardness and weakness was illiteracy," he said, while emphasising the need for education among the children of the community.

Referring to various schemes of the state government, including Savitri Bai Phule Kishori Samridhi Yojna and Guruji Credit card, the CM said the schemes were aimed to reduce the financial burden of poor parents, so that their childen can pursue their studies uninterrupted.



"The government has even started a free residential coaching centre for poor students to prepare themselves for competitive examinations," he said.

"Why don't we have a single judge from our community even though we may have few lawyers? As our lands are being grabbed, we need tribal judges to understand Chotanagpur and Santhal Paragana Tenancy Acts and protect our lands," he said.

The CM said tribal martyrs such as Birsa Munda, Sido-Kanho, Chand Bhairav and Poto Ho sacrificed their lives fighting the British to protect tribal interests, and it is the community's responsibility to build Jharkhand as they had envisioned.

Referring to his Assam visit on Sunday, Soren said he was surprised to see the same tribals being treated differently in different parts of the country.He claimed that the Assam government had categorised hundreds of adivasis from Jharkhand, Bengal, Odisha and Chhattisgarh, who were taken by the British decades ago at gunpoint to work in tea gardens, as 'Other Backward Class', while in other parts of the country they are classified as Scheduled Tribe.

Alleging that tribals in Assam were subjected to frequent torture by the state government, Soren said he visited the Northeast state on the invitation of the poor tribals and was disappointed to know their plight.

The CM said the visit made him understand why his father and JMM supremo Shibu Soren used to visit the Northeast and extend support to the community.

He assured that tribals of Jharkhand stand with them in their struggle and would try to assist them in every possible way.

Attacking the opposition BJP, Soren said Jharkhand has completed 25 years, but most of this period was ruled by those who opposed the creation of the state.

"The BJP, which ruled the state for a major period since Jharkhand was formed, has worsened the situation," he alleged.

He claimed the BJP had made tall promises during the 2014 polls but forgot them after coming to power.

Earlier, Soren laid the foundation and inaugurated 197 development projects worth over Rs 398 crore and distributed assets worth over Rs 637 crore to beneficiaries. He also handed over appointment letters to 1,489 youths of the district.

SC issues notice on anti-conversion plea

New Delhi, Feb 2 (IANS) The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice on a petition challenging the constitutional validity of anti-conversion laws enacted by multiple states.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi sought responses within four weeks from the Union government and the states concerned, and said the petitions would be heard along with similar pleas already pending before the top court.

The petition, filed by the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI), has assailed the Freedom of Religion Acts enacted by Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Arunachal Pradesh, and Odisha. The CJI Surya Kant-led Bench



observed that the matter involves questions of constitutional importance and would be heard by a three-judge Bench. The petition, filed through advocate Niharika Ahluwalia, has contended that the impugned laws violate fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 14, 15, 19, 21, 25, 26 and 30 of the Constitution, and sought a declaration that the statutes are unconstitutional. As an interim relief, the plea urged the apex court to restrain state police authorities from taking coercive action under the challenged laws. It submitted that the impugned Acts proceed on an "unconstitutional presumption" that religious conversions involving adults are inherently coerced or fraudulent, thereby subjecting deeply personal decisions of conscience to prior government approval. The plea argued that provisions mandating prior intimation, inquiry and permission from district authorities invert the citizen-state relationship, subordinate individual autonomy to bureaucratic oversight, and violate decisional privacy, dignity, and freedom of religion.

It further contended that statutory definitions of terms such as "conversion", "allurement", "inducement:, and "undue influence" are vague and overbroad, granting uncanalised discretion to authorities and resulting in discriminatory and arbitrary enforcement.

Customs duty relief in Budget not linked to US tariffs: FM Sitharaman

New Delhi, Feb 2 (IANS) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday that the customs duty changes announced in the Budget for 2026-27 are part of the Indian government's ongoing economic reforms to rationalise tariffs and are not linked in any way to the policy decisions of the US. "We have changed customs duties, and we have been making customs duty changes in every Budget for a while now, and we have continued the same in this Budget as well," she pointed out.The Finance Minister maintained that these measures are part of a broader policy framework aimed at supporting Indian citizens and businesses.She further stated that the government did not go in for any assessment of the potential impact of the US tariff hikes while drawing up the proposals for the Budget."We did not make any assessment of the impact of US tariffs to factor them into Budget decisions," she remarked.Customs duty on goods imported for personal use halved from 20 per cent to 10 per centThe Finance Minister announced in her Budget speech that the proposals for Customs and Central Excise aim to further simplify the tariff structure, support domestic manufacturing, promote export competitiveness, and correct inversion in duty.

Lok Sabha erupts as Rahul cites former Army chief on China clash

New Delhi, Feb 2 (IANS) A row erupted in the Lok Sabha on Monday when Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi sought to quote from the 'memoir' of former Army chief M M Naravane on the 2020 India-China conflict, but faced strong opposition from Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and other Bharatiya Janata Party members who accused the Congress leader of misleading the House.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla disallowed Gandhi from raising the issue, but he did not relent and several opposition leaders also rallied behind him.

The House was adjourned



twice and later for the day amid uproar as heated exchanges took place between the treasury and opposition benches.

Earlier, as Gandhi rose to speak on the Motion of Thanks to the president's address, he said he would first like to respond to the charges made by the previous speaker, BJP MP Tejasvi Surya, against the Congress on nationalism and began quoting from what he said was the 'memoir' of Gen Naravane (retd) talking about the India-China conflict of 2020.

However, Defence Minister Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah strongly protested and asked Gandhi to clarify whether the book had been published or not.

The uproar went on for about 50 minutes with Speaker Om Birla repeatedly saying that no book or newspaper clipping can be quoted on a matter not related to the proceedings of the House, and Gandhi insisting that the document was authenticated and he could quote from it.

Well-planned conspiracy to defame India: Kiren Rijiju

New Delhi, Feb 2 (IANS) Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday criticised Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi over his remarks in Parliament, calling them a "well-planned conspiracy to defame India" and urging political leaders to speak responsibly on issues of national security.



Rijiju said the Congress party should apologise for the loss of territory to China during its rule in 1959 and 1962, and asserted that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, there was no question of even "an inch of India's border" being compromised."This is a well-planned conspiracy to defame India. Leaders should speak responsibly on matters of national security.

Split in Jamshedpur school van strike: Telco stays shut while Sakchi and Bistupur resume services





Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 2: The indefinite strike called by the 'Jamshedpur School Vehicle Operators Steering Committee' saw a mixed response across the Steel City on Monday. While the strike remained effective in the Telco area, it largely fizzled out in the commercial hubs of Sakchi and Bistupur by the afternoon, revealing a clear rift among the drivers.

The Catalyst for the Strike The protest was triggered by the arrest of van driver Mannu Pandey under the POCSO Act, following allegations of rape involving a five-year-old student from a prestigious school in Telco.

The incident, which reportedly occurred on January 27, led to the driver being sent to jail. The operators' committee claims the arrest was made without an impartial investigation or a conclusive medical report, terming it as "harassment" of the driver community.

Mixed Impact Across the City: Telco Region: The strike remained intensified here. Very few vans were seen on the roads, and most drivers stayed off duty, maintaining their demand for a judicial probe.

Sakchi & Bistupur: Although parents faced difficulties during the morning drop-off, the situation changed by the afternoon dismissal. Long queues of school vans were seen waiting for students outside major schools, providing significant relief to parents.

Demands for Justice Striking drivers and auto operators allege that Mannu Pandey has been framed as part of a conspiracy. They are demanding a judicial inquiry via a Fast Track Court to ensure the truth surfaces quickly. While parents expressed frustration over the sudden transport disruption, many agreed that justice must prevail for all parties involved. As drivers in most parts of the city returned to work, the momentum of the indefinite strike appears to be weakening.

AI workshop at St John's High School



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 2: In an inspiring initiative aimed at empowering youth with emerging technologies, Yashwardhan Sharma, a 17-year-old student of St John's High School, conducted an Artificial Intelligence (AI) awareness and training workshop in Jamshedpur.

The workshop witnessed participation from over 70 students, who were introduced to the fundamentals of AI, its real-world applications, future career opportunities, and the importance of responsible usage of technology.

The session focused on simplifying AI concepts and helping students understand how AI is already impacting education, business, governance, and everyday life.

Despite his young age, Yashwardhan Sharma has already developed AI-based applications and is actively working to make advanced technology accessible to students from diverse backgrounds. During the workshop, he emphasized that AI is a tool to enhance human potential, not replace it, and encouraged students to use it creatively and ethically.

Speaking on the occasion, Yashwardhan said that the coming years will be defined by technology, and early exposure will help youth stay prepared for future challenges. He also highlighted the risks associated with misuse of AI and stressed the need for awareness and digital responsibility.

Participants expressed keen interest and appreciation for the initiative, stating that the session helped them gain clarity about AI and its relevance in their academic and professional journeys. (W-pb)

Rotary Club donates tricycles to two divyaang beneficiaries in Azadnagar



Jamshedpur, Feb 2: Under its Divyaang Project, the Rotary Club of Jamshedpur Steel City donated tricycles to two underprivileged persons in Azad Nagar, Mango, bringing much-needed relief and mobility support to the beneficiaries. The tricycles were handed over to Md Abrar Alam and Md Imteyaaz, both polio-affected and facing severe mobility challenges. Until now, they had been moving around with great difficulty. Expressing gratitude, the beneficiaries said the tricycles would significantly improve their independence and ease of movement in daily life. The beneficiaries were identified by Human Welfare Trust, a highly active social organization working in Azad Nagar. The distribution ceremony was organized by the Trust under the leadership of Mukhtar Khan. The Rotary Club of Jamshedpur Steel City was represented by its President Krishna Kumar Kharia and Secretary Jitesh Kumar, while Udit Agarwal played a key role in the successful implementation of the project.

Union Budget will give new direction to the economy: Goldy



Jamshedpur, Feb 2: Reacting to the Union Budget 2026–27, Abhishek Agarwal Goldy, Vice-President of the Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that the budget is growth-oriented and will give a new direction to the Indian economy. He stated that the provision of Rs 1.4 lakh crore as Finance Commission grants for states will strengthen local bodies and provide fresh momentum to development projects.

Goldy said that this allocation will help state governments undertake large-scale development works, which will directly benefit infrastructure growth in Jamshedpur and surrounding areas. He added that the government's emphasis on fiscal discipline and efforts to control the fiscal deficit will bring economic stability and create a more favourable environment for investment and business expansion.

Highlighting the focus on infrastructure, he said increased investment in this sector will support industries, boost business activities and generate new opportunities. He also welcomed the steps taken to promote investment, stating that these measures will help attract new industries and businesses to Jamshedpur.

Abhishek Agarwal Goldy said that the Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industry appreciates the government's initiatives and hopes these steps will play a key role in regional development. He urged the government to further support local industries and businesses so they can expand their capabilities and create more employment opportunities. (w-nkm)

6th Golden Age Junction celebrated at Bistupur



Jamshedpur, Feb 2: The Helping Hands Foundation successfully organized the 6th Golden Age Junction at the Michael John Auditorium in Bistupur, reaffirming its commitment to the respect, empowerment, and social inclusion of senior citizens. The vibrant event provided an inspiring platform for elderly participants to showcase their talents, energy, and zest for life.

The program featured a variety of engaging activities, including a ramp walk, group dance performances, a felicitation ceremony, melodious singing, a quiz, and interactive games. The performances drew warm applause from the audience and highlighted the confidence and enthusiasm of the senior participants.

Speaking on the occasion, representatives of the Helping Hands Foundation reiterated that the organization has been working tirelessly for many years towards the upliftment and well-being of senior citizens. Its initiatives span essential services such as food, clothing, shelter, healthcare support, awareness camps, protection against online fraud, and wellness programs. The foundation also runs a shelter home and an elder care home in the East Singhbhum district.

Adding an informative dimension to the event, Srinivas, In-Charge of the Cyber Crime Police Station, conducted a special session on cyber fraud awareness, educating senior citizens about digital safety. Dr. Shadab Shafi addressed the gathering on elder care, emphasizing physical, emotional, and social well-being in later years.

The event witnessed the presence and support of several members and volunteers, including Praveen Srivastava, Arvind Kumar, Ujjwal Dutta, Rajak Mahanta, Vineeta Srivastava, Swati Dutta, Asha Singh, Ashok Agarwal, Smita Agarwal, Dipankar Sengupta, Vivek Srivastava, Nirmal Das, and Manish Kundalia.

Road safety tips by Helmet Man of India



Jamshedpur, Feb 2: On the occasion of Road Safety Month, a talk show with Mr Raghavendra Kumar, popularly called the Helmet Man of India, was organised for senior school students and college youths.

Kumar addressed 300 college students, teachers, and youth about his personal experiences and how the loss of a friend motivated him for this mission. He is known for distributing 75000+ helmets amongst citizens of India and has featured in KBC. Kumar also drives various programmes under the Ministry of Road Transport. A fire chat was also organised along with a Q&A session. Neeraj Sinha, Chief of Safety, Tata Steel, Agam Kumar, Chief of Safety, Tata Steel Gamharia, and the CII Young Indians team welcomed the eminent speaker.

Nilofer Hussain files nomination for Jugsalai Municipal Council

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 2: Nilofer Hussain filed her nomination on Monday for the post of Chairperson of the Jugsalai Municipal Council, marking a strong entry into the civic election race. A large number of supporters accompanied her during the nomination process, reflecting visible enthusiasm and public backing.

Speaking to the media after filing her papers, Nilofer Hussain said that she has always stood by the people and worked for public welfare even without holding any official position. She expressed confidence that the love, support and blessings she is receiving during her public outreach would ensure her victory in the elections.

She stated, "I have always helped people without any post. The affection and trust I am getting from the public assure me of success." Nilofer Hussain further added that if the people give her an opportunity to serve as the Chairperson of the Municipal Council, she would make every effort to resolve public grievances at the government level.

Emphasising her commitment to development and public service, she said her priority would be to ensure that the problems of citizens are addressed effectively and transparently. (w-nkm)



KPS Kadma celebrates Janani Diwas with emotional tribute to parents

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 2: KPS Kadma celebrated JananiDiwas (Honour Your Parents) on Monday with great devotion and warmth at the school's main assembly ground.

The event was organised to promote Indian cultural values among students from Classes 1 to 12.

The programme began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by a welcome address by Principal Sharmila Mukherjee. Students created a spiritual atmosphere with stotra chanting, a Hindi speech, and a soulful bhajan. Chairperson Manorema Nair addressed the gathering, appreciating the efforts of the school in nurturing respect and gratitude among children. Headmistress Alamelu Ravishankar was also present on the occasion.

The most touching moment of the event was when students honoured their parents by applying tilak, offering flowers and garlands, performing aarti, and seeking their blessings. The emotional gestures moved many parents to tears.

Parents later shared their feedback, expressing happiness and pride. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by the Headmistress, followed by the national anthem. The celebration left lasting memories and strengthened the bond between parents and children. (W-mb)

Geeta discourse held at DBMS Career Academy to mark Geeta Jayanti

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 2: DBMS Career Academy recently organized a spiritual program featuring the recitation and explanation of the Bhagavad Gita's Chapter 12 (Bhakti Yoga) and Chapter 15 (Purushottam Yoga). The event aimed to foster the holistic development of both students and teachers.

The spiritual session was conducted by dedicated volunteers from Chinmaya School, South Park. The Gita recitation was led by faculty members Baby Prasad, Mani Pandey, Pankaj Sahay, and Neelkanth Modi.

During the program, students were not only guided in the rhythmic chanting of the verses but were also provided with a concise and simple summary of the teachings. This was intended to help them internalize the timeless messages of the Gita, including devotion, duty, self-knowledge, and maintaining balance in life. The atmosphere remained serene and disciplined as students and teachers participated with full devotion.

The event was held under the overall guidance and patronage of Ms. Geeta Mohandas, Chairperson of DBMS Career Academy, and Mr. B. Surendra Nath, Chairperson of Chinmayanand School, South Park. Notably, this year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Chinmaya Mission, which was founded by Swami Chinmayanandji to bring Indian Vedanta and spiritual values to society and the younger generation.

Expressing heartfelt gratitude to the volunteers, the school management noted that such value-based spiritual programs play a vital role in character building and mental balance for students. Principal Mrs. Soma Banerjee added that the school will continue to encourage the moral and spiritual development of its students through such initiatives in the future.

AFFIDAVIT

Through an affidavit of Regn. No. 2642 (J), Sl. No.04, Date 31.01.2026, I, **FAIZ AHMAD,** (Aadhaar No. 3742 8853 8616), Son of Md Rafique, resident of H. No. 55, Cross Road No. 15, Zakir Nagar (East), P.O. & P.S. Azad Nagar, Mango, Jamshedpur, Dist.-East Singhbhum, Jharkhand - 832110, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:-

That, I am passport holder, bearing Passport No. **G5475608**, which is issued from Ranchi, on 17.01.2008 and valid upto 16.01.2018 (Since Expired). That, my name written as **FAIZ AHMED ANSARI** in my said passport and I want to change my name as **FAIZ AHMAD.** That, I swear this affidavit to confirm that the above noted facts are true and genuine, and to submit the same before the concerned authorities for changing my name as **FAIZ AHMAD.**

Sd/- Deponent

AFFIDAVIT

I, **KULDIP KUMAR PATEL** S/O Chhotan Patel, by occupation Service in UICIL, Emp.No. 16102, presently residing at Qtr.No. C-2/11, UCIL Colony, Narwapahar, P.O-Narwamines, P.S- Jaduguda, Dist.East Singhbhum, Jharkhand-832111, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:

1.That I am an Indian citizen by birth and presently residing at above mentioned address.

2. That my father's actual name is Chhotan Patel" which is mentioned in my Aadhaar Card vide No. 3626 4795 6234, my Educational Certificates of High School Exam.2009

3.That in my father's Voter Id. Card vide No. UP/38/193/0168559 my father's name is mentioned as Chhotan Das".

4.That in my father's Aadhaar Card vide No.5810 1710 6271, my father's name is mentioned as Chhotan".

5.That Chhotan Patel, Chhotan Das and Chhotan is one and the same person who represents my father himself only.

6.That I swear this affidavit to confirm the above facts and produce the same before the concerning authority Identified by

Sl. No. : 18
Date : 22-01-2026 Advocate

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For & on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRS)/TATA, S.E. Railway invites E-Tender for the under mentioned work: **Open E-Tender Notice No. RS-TATA-14-2025-26**; **Description of Work :** Loco body washing, inside cleaning, Loco body filter cleaning, grating/cover opening, Loco blowing, grating/cover fitment of electric locomotives of Electric Loco Shed, Tatanagar for two years. **Tender value :** ₹1,08,29,910.00; **E.M.D. :** ₹ 2,04,200.00; **Cost of Tender Form :** ₹ 5,000.00; **Date and time of closing of tender:** 15:00 hrs. of 23.02.2026; **Date of opening of tender:** 23.02.2026 at TRS/Tatanagar. Manual offers are not allowed against the E-Tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Tenderer can be viewed at website: **http://www.ireps.gov.in**; Complete detail particulars of the E-Tender are available on the website. If the date of opening happens to be a BANDH or HOLIDAY, the tender will be opened at same time on the next working day. **(PR-1131)**

Printed and published by Uma Shankar Singh on behalf of Pioneer Publications and printed at DB Corp Limited, Hata Road, Karandih, Imli Chowk, Jamshedpur Jharkhand. and Published from Road No. 2, Contractors Area, Bistupur, Jamshedpur-831001. **City Office:** Matri Bhawan, New Kalimati Road, Sakchi, Jamshedpur. Managing Editor : Gyaan Chandra Jaiswal. Editor : Vimal Agarwal. RNI No: 58974/93 Vol.-33, No.- 221. Postal Registration No: G-50, Ph. : 0657-2439238, 2436905 email: avenuemail@gmail.com, avenuemailnews@gmail.com www.avenuemail.in

Health dept warns action against districts showing zero progress under 15th Finance Commission

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Feb 2: Additional Chief Secretary for Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare Ajay Kumar Singh on Monday reviewed progress of key health schemes and issued a stern warning to districts showing no expenditure under the 15th Finance Commission. The review meeting was held at IPH auditorium in Namkum with civil surgeons from all districts in attendance.

During the meeting, Singh assessed status of National Health Mission, Mukhyamantri Hospital Maintenance Scheme, 15th Finance Commission and PM-ABHIM. He directed officials to immediately prepare bills and ensure timely payments under NHM, stressing that delays would not be tolerated. He asked concerned officers and stakeholders to hold necessary coordination meetings to streamline payments.



Reviewing Mukhyamantri Hospital Maintenance Scheme, Singh examined progress of repair and painting work in hospitals and instructed officials to quickly rectify minor shortcomings wherever found.

While reviewing funds under the 15th Finance Commission, Singh said all hospitals must be equipped with essential medical machinery and assured that additional funds would be provided wherever required. Expressing dissatisfaction over low spending, he ordered issuance of show-cause notices to districts where progress was found to be zero. He warned that if performance does not improve, salaries of concerned civil surgeons would be withheld and strict action initiated. Districts performing well were appreciated, while lagging districts were asked to follow their example.

It was also noted that deputy development commissioners and municipal councils have received funds under the 15th Finance Commission, but spending remains slow in several areas. Singh directed all civil surgeons to work in coordination with these authorities and ensure submission of utilisation certificates for expenditure incurred by municipal councils and DDCs by February 13. He made it clear that at least 60 percent utilisation of funds is mandatory under any circumstances.

Singh informed the meeting that work is underway to link attendance systems with salary payments to ensure hospital staff salaries are based on attendance. Efforts are also being made to shift incentives paid to sahiyas to an online system, for which a proposal may be placed before the state cabinet if required.

During discussions, some civil surgeons raised concerns regarding operational issues in ambulance services within their districts. Singh suggested bringing 108 ambulance services under an integrated operational framework to ensure safer and smoother functioning.

Senior officials including NHM Mission Director Shashi Prakash Jha, Additional Secretary Vidyanand Sharma Pankaj, Joint Secretary Lalit Mohan Shukla, Director-in-Chief of Health Services Dr Siddharth Sanyal, along with civil surgeons from all districts, were present at the meeting.

Celsius to rise by 4 degrees until Feb 8



Jamshedpur, Feb 2: Residents of the capital city, Ranchi, and its surrounding districts are expected to get relief from the biting cold as temperatures are set to rise. According to the forecast released by the Ranchi Meteorological Centre, the minimum temperature across the state is likely to increase by 3 to 4 degrees Celsius by February 8, leading to a noticeable decrease in the chill.

While the weather is expected to remain largely dry, some areas may experience fog or partially cloudy skies. Meteorologist Abhishek Anand stated that this fluctuation in temperature will continue for the time being and advised citizens to remain cautious due to these frequent weather changes.

Recent Weather Snapshot : Over the past 24 hours, the weather remained dry across Jharkhand, with light to moderate fog observed in isolated pockets. Chaibasa recorded the state's highest maximum temperature at 29.8°C, while Gumla remained the coldest with a minimum temperature of 8.1°C. In Ranchi, the maximum temperature was recorded at 25.8°C and the minimum at 11.6°C.

Upcoming Forecast : The Meteorological Department predicts a steady rise in the minimum temperature on February 2, 3, 4, and 5. Following this, from February 6 to 8, no major changes are expected, maintaining the warmer trend.

Ranchi Temperature Forecast (Next 3 Days):
Feb 3: Max 27°C, Min 14°C, Feb 4: Max 27°C, Min 12°C, Feb 5: Max 26°C, Min 11°C.

Blood health mega camp held in Jamshedpur

Jamshedpur, Feb 2: "Strong diagnosis today, complete healing tomorrow" - a motto brought to life as Dost Trust Jamshedpur organized a Blood Health Mega Check-up Camp at IBN-e-Sina Pathology Centre under Redcliffe Labs. The pathology centre was inaugurated on 26 January 2026 by Dr. Hassan Imam Mallick at Road No-18 (West), Old Purulia Road, Zakir Nagar, Jamshedpur. Following the launch, the trust arranged the health camp on 1 February 2026, offering patients special discounts of 60%–70%, along with complimentary calcium tests, blood pressure and oxygen level checks. The camp successfully fostered a spirit of social responsibility in the community. A total of 32 blood vials and 3 urine samples were analyzed for 16 patients. Senior citizens and women were provided with additional benefits, earning appreciation from the beneficiaries for the initiative. The event saw active participation from Dost Trust convenor Sayed Perwaz Khalid, President Shakil Ahmad, Abbas Ali, Dr. Misbah, Arshad, Ehtesham, phlebotomist Shahila Nigar and several others who contributed to the smooth conduct of the mega camp. (w-nkm)

Lawyers hold annual picnic at Dimna to strengthen professional ties



Jamshedpur, Feb 2: The Lawyers Defence Organization successfully hosted its grand annual picnic at Dimna, upholding its long-standing tradition of bringing the legal community together. Organized under the leadership of the Lawyers Defence President, Advocate Paramjeet Kumar Srivastava, and the General Secretary, Naveen Prakash, the event served as a vital platform for relaxation and professional bonding in the heart of Jamshedpur. The gathering saw an impressive turnout of over 100 members from the District Bar Association. Adding significant prestige to the occasion, senior advocates from the Ranchi High Court, including Sachin Kumar and Manoj Singh, attended as special guests. During the session, these senior legal experts engaged in a meaningful dialogue with the attendees, focusing on the essential nature of maintaining unity, mutual respect, and a spirit of cooperation within the legal fraternity. They emphasized that professional harmony is the backbone of a strong judicial system. Following the interactive discussions, the members enjoyed a communal lunch in a serene environment. Among those who participated in the event were advocates Amit Kumar, Vinod Mishra, Ravindra Thakur, Jagannath Kumar, Jaspal Singh, Sikandar Singh, Vijay Prasad, Keshav Singh, Sanjay Singh, Sankat Singh, Rajesh Chaudhary, Virendra Kumar, Satyaprakash Sahu, Vinod Singh, Manish Gupta, Sanjeev Jha, Ravindra Dubey, Uttam Prakash, Nand Kishore, Sagar Kumar, and Jitesh Singh.

Students take first flight under 'Flight of Fantasy 2026'

Jamshedpur, Feb 2: Round Table India - Area 16 is organising its flagship social initiative "Area Flight of Fantasy (FOF) 2026" on February 2 and 3, offering 70 underprivileged students and teachers from Jharkhand and Odisha the opportunity to experience air travel for the first time. The selected participants come from Dhanbad, Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Jharsuguda, Rourkela, Sambalpur, Cuttack and Bhubaneswar. As part of the two-day programme, the students will visit key national institutions in the capital, including Parliament House and Rashtrapati Bhavan, along with other important educational and cultural landmarks. The initiative is designed to promote holistic development by building confidence, national awareness and a positive outlook towards the future. Organisers believe the exposure will help students broaden their aspirations and unlock new possibilities. The programme is being held in collaboration with Round Table India - Area 5, led by Area Chairman Tr. Pulkit Jindal, with support from Delhi Midtown Round Table 49, Delhi Millennium Round Table 149 and Noida Round Table 285.The project is spearheaded by Area Chairman Tr. Abhijit Mohanty, while LMF Tr. Harsh Vardhan Kandoi and Tr. Vineet Lohariwal serve as Area Flight of Fantasy Conveners. From Jamshedpur, leadership is being provided by Table Chairman (JGSRT 224) Tr. Vivek Kumar Naredi, who, along with Treasurer Tr. Mohit Agarwal, will guide and mentor the participating students.

Father CR Prabhu celebrates Diamond Jubilee of Priesthood





Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 2: The Diamond Jubilee marking 60 years of Father CR Prabhu's priesthood was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the St. Joseph's Hospital Chapel in Bhilai Pahari. The occasion was marked by a solemn Holy Mass led by Bishop Telesphore Bilung of the Jamshedpur Diocese, alongside Retired Archbishop Felix Toppo of Ranchi, Retired Archbishop William D'Souza of Patna, Provincial Jerry Coutinho, American priest Father Cyril Fernandes, and Vicar General Father Alwyn. The celebration included a ceremonial candle-lighting to mark six decades of service, followed by cultural programmes and a cake-cutting ceremony.

Tributes from Religious Leaders: Archbishop Felix Toppo: Recalling years of shared experiences, he remarked that Father Prabhu possesses a heart as pure and holy as a child's, yet his work reflects immense maturity. He credited the blessings of the Gospel for Father Prabhu's tireless dedication to the spiritual and economic upliftment of the people. Archbishop William D'Souza: He noted that Father Prabhu arrived in Jharkhand from Mangalore 52 years ago, following a divine calling. Since then, he has dedicated his life to the educational and economic advancement of tribal and underprivileged communities.

Bishop Telesphore Bilung: He expressed deep appreciation for Father Prabhu's continuous contributions to the diocese since 1964. Father Cyril Fernandes: He described Father Prabhu as a true follower of Jesus Christ, stating that he has lived like a candle, burning himself to illuminate the lives of others. A Legacy of Firsts: Father CR Prabhu holds the distinction of being the first Indian priest of the Jamshedpur Diocese. Over his illustrious career, he has served as Rector, Vicar General, Spiritual Guide, and Principal. Currently residing at St. Joseph's Hospital for the past 1.5 years due to health reasons, he remains active by writing books. He credits his spiritual and social achievements to his parents and God. He is also recognized for inspiring and guiding the rural youth of Jharkhand to form NGOs for social and skill development. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Father Vinod Fernandes, Principal of Loyola School, with a large number of priests, nuns, and well-wishers in attendance to pray for his health.

Union Budget boost for Jharkhand

Mail News Service



Ranchi, Feb 2: Jharkhand will receive a total allocation of Rs 79,860 crore from the Union Budget, BJP National General Secretary and MP Arun Singh said on Monday.

Addressing a press conference in Ranchi, he stated that the allocation marks a 16-fold increase over the past 11 years, underscoring the Centre's sustained focus on the state's development. According to Arun Singh, the allocation includes Rs 51,236 crore as tax devolution, Rs 17,057 crore as grants-in-aid, and Rs 11,567 crore as special assistance grants. He said the enhanced allocation will significantly strengthen Jharkhand's economy, agriculture, infrastructure, and social welfare sectors, aligning with the broader vision of a developed Jharkhand within a developed India.

Highlighting the reach of central welfare schemes, Arun Singh said 18.8 lakh farmers are benefiting from the PM Kisan Samman Yojana, while 1.35 crore residents have received Ayushman Bharat health cards. Under the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, 2.64 crore people receive free food grains every month. Additionally, 34.4 lakh households have been provided piped water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

He added that 25.6 lakh beneficiaries are enrolled under the Atal Pension Yojana and 1.6 crore people are covered under the PM Suraksha Bima Yojana, contributing to improved living standards across rural and urban areas.

Arun Singh said the Union Budget also places strong emphasis on agriculture, fisheries, and the rural economy. Initiatives include technology-driven farming through the Bharat Expansion AI tool, promotion of the silk industry under the National Fibre Scheme, capital subsidies for fish farming in Amrit Sarovars and reservoirs, and steps to increase the number of veterinarians to support farmers and livestock owners. (W-pm)

Tata Motors celebrates World Wetlands Day with community engagement

Jamshedpur, Feb 2: Tata Motors Ltd. celebrated World Wetlands Day by engaging employees, school children and local residents to raise awareness about the vital role of wetlands in our ecosystem. Wetlands are essential for water storage, flood control, pollution purification, wildlife protection and supporting livelihoods. "Our wetlands are home to numerous birds, plants and animals and they are crucial for our survival as well," said GM Engineering Services Mandal, while Head of Sustainability Mukesh Kumar and Allen Joshef emphasized the importance of wetland conservation during interactions with local communities and students.

The event encouraged participants to take responsibility for protecting these natural treasures through small but impactful actions, such as saving water, reducing waste, avoiding plastic and spreading awareness.

"Let us learn from nature, respect it and work together to protect wetlands for future generations," the organizers urged. They also reinforced the theme of the day: "Protect Wetlands Today, Secure Our Tomorrow."

The celebration successfully highlighted the importance of wetlands while fostering a sense of environmental stewardship among employees, students and local citizens, ensuring that the next generation understands the need to conserve these critical ecosystems. (w-nkm)

Jharkhand's tribal heritage takes centre stage at Mumbai's 26th Kala Ghoda Arts Festival

Mail News Service



Mumbai/Jamshedpur, Feb 2: The 26th Kala Ghoda Arts Festival (KGAF) has officially transformed South Mumbai's heritage precinct into a vibrant canvas, prominently featuring a heavy Jharkhand influence through its third annual collaboration with Samvaad.

Running from January 31 to February 8, 2026, the partnership brings the indigenous soul of Jharkhand and Eastern India to the urban heart of Mumbai, showcasing the state's master artisans, tribal music, and climate-resilient wisdom to a global audience.

A key highlight of this year's collaboration is a striking installation of 50 handcrafted lampshades inspired by traditional art forms such as Saura, Sohrai, Jadupatiya, and Paitkar. These illuminated artworks are displayed at Rampart Row and Horniman Circle Gardens, transforming the festival skyline over nine days. The installation is being created by three eminent tribal artists-Dinabandhu Soren of the Ho tribe, Lakhimoni Sardar of the Bhumij tribe, and Sunita Hembram of the Santhal tribe-bringing together stories, symbols, and ancestral aesthetics through light and form.

Throughout the festival, tribal artisans and changemakers from across eastern India will engage with urban audiences, fostering dialogue around indigenous art forms, crafts, music, and culture. From January 31 to February 4, five artisan groups from West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Odisha showcase Saura, Sohrai, and Paitkar art, alongside traditional crafts such as tussar silk weaving and jewellery made from natural seeds and dates.

The event features another set of artisan groups from West Bengal, Odisha, and Jharkhand, presenting dokra metal craft, beaded jewellery, and contemporary merchandise such as t-shirts and tote bags that creatively incorporate indigenous symbols, words, and narratives.

Adding a musical dimension to the collaboration, Rhythms of the Earth, Samvaad's musical cohort, will perform on February 5 & 6. After a powerful reception at the Hornbill Festival in December 2025, the cohort, featuring artists from Samvaad's first and second albums, will reconnect with urban audiences through music rooted in traditional instruments, rhythms, and lived experiences.

Another significant highlight was a panel discussion titled "Conversations with Those Who Understand the Earth Best", held on February 1, 2026, at the David Sassoon Library, opposite Kala Ghoda. The discussion brought together leading tribal voices, including Malti Majhi, a prominent advocate for climate-resilient solutions and a participant in India Today's climate change forum; Manoj Kujur, known for his work in urban governance, child welfare, and cultural documentation; and Kingchum Lepcha, who is actively engaged in the restoration and conservation of traditional Lepcha folk music.

804th eye camp concludes at RML Eye Hospital

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 2: The 804th eye camp, organised by the Indian Red Cross Society, East Singhbhum, Ram Manohar Lohia Eye Hospital, concluded with the farewell of patients.

The camp was organised in the sacred memory of late Shashi Bhai Adesara.

Prior to the farewell, ophthalmologist Dr B.P. Singh and his medical team examined patients by removing eye bandages after successful surgeries on 40 eye patients.

On the occasion, Rotary Club of Jamshedpur Femina's incoming President Rotarian Kanchan Prasad, along with her husband Rajesh Prasad, Secretary Rotarian Vasanti and Joint Secretary Janhavi Goswami, distributed spectacles, medicines, towels and fruits to the patients. Under the guidance of Honorary Secretary of Red Cross Society, East Singhbhum, Vijay Kumar Singh, Red Cross volunteers Ashok Kumar Singh, Ashok Kumar Ghoshal, Ashish Kumar and Heeralal played an important role in the successful conduct of the camp. Vijay Kumar Singh informed that the 805th eye camp will be organised from February 7 to 9 in memory of late Shanti Devi Sawa, in collaboration with the Sawa family, at Ram Manohar Lohia Eye Hospital, Bagbera Thana Chowk. (w-nkm)

Shahid Tilka Manjhi football tourney concludes



Gamharia, Feb 2: The two-day Shahid Tilka Manjhi Trophy-2026 football tournament, organized by the Adivasi Tilka Football Association, concluded at Kolabira football ground late Sunday night with great enthusiasm and fanfare. The event brought together teams from across the region, showcasing competitive spirit and athletic skill.

Chief guest former Union Minister Arjun Munda, along with Padma Shri Chhutni Mahto and ex-Deputy Mayor Amit Singh, presided over the prize distribution ceremony. Karim Nagar emerged as champions, receiving Rs 7 lakh in cash along with a commemorative shield, while Netaji Sporting secured the runner-up position with Rs 5 lakh and a trophy. Two semi-finalist teams were awarded Rs 2.5 lakh each for their remarkable performance. Social activists Jyoti Senapati, Shaktipado Senapati and other association officials played a pivotal role in organizing the tournament successfully. The event not only promoted sports but also fostered community engagement, teamwork and recognition of young talent in the region. (w-nkm)

Adityapur Municipal Elections: Nomination process gains momentum

Mail News Service



Gamharia, Feb 2: The nomination process for the Adityapur Municipal Corporation elections saw significant activity on the fourth day, with three candidates filing their papers for the ward councillor posts.

Nathuni Singh filed from Ward 15, Amit Ranjan from Ward 17 and Ankur Singh from Ward 18. Earlier, Neetu Sharma had submitted her nomination from Ward 17.

Till Monday, a total of four candidates have filed nominations across Wards 10 to 18, indicating an increasing interest in civic participation. The process is being closely monitored by election authorities to ensure transparency and adherence to regulations.

Meanwhile, nomination form sales also showed steady progress, with six forms sold on the fourth day alone. Ward-wise sales from Wards 10 to 18 now total 56 forms, reflecting growing public interest in municipal governance and local leadership. The authorities have urged eligible citizens to participate actively in the election process. (w-nkm)

Disney magic lights up Tarapore School's KG Parents' Night 2026

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 2: Tiny stars with big dreams took centre stage at Tarapore School as the kindergarten learners captivated parents and guests during a vibrant KG Parents' Night held on February 2, 2026. The colourful event beautifully showcased the creativity, confidence and expressive abilities of young students, reflecting the school's strong emphasis on holistic education.

The programme, themed "World of Disney – Where Little Dreams Sparkle and Magic Come Alive," was organised under the guidance of Principal Ishita Dey and held in the gracious presence of Chairman Mr Bailey Bodhanwala and Chief Guest Nargis Madon. The evening began with a presentation highlighting kindergarten classroom activities, school events and various awards, offering parents an insight into the children's learning journey and the school's achievements.

Students from LKG and HKG brought popular Disney stories to life through energetic dance performances and a delightful fashion show. Through their acts, the children conveyed values such as friendship, courage, honesty and joy. Each performance was thoughtfully aligned with early childhood learning goals, focusing on coordination, teamwork, emotional expression and self-confidence. The vibrant costumes, expressive choreography and enthusiastic performances reflected the dedication of both students and teachers.

The KG Parents' Night stood as a testimony to Tarapore School's vision of nurturing confident, creative and well-rounded individuals, while instilling joy, curiosity and a lifelong love for learning. (w-nkm)

Yadav Samanvay Samiti postpones family picnic due to elections



Gamharia, Feb 2: The Yadav Samanway Samiti, Kolhan, held an important meeting at Shri Gayatri Shiksha Niketan auditorium under the chairmanship of Rajkishore Yadav to discuss the proposed Family Gathering and Picnic scheduled for 8 February. Considering the ongoing municipal election code of conduct and administrative constraints, the committee unanimously decided to postpone the event.

During the meeting, committee members discussed logistics, safety measures and potential conflicts with election regulations. Founding and senior members, including S.N. Yadav, Janardan Kumar and Vimalendu Rai, contributed suggestions for a rescheduled date after the elections conclude.

The committee emphasized adherence to rules while maintaining community engagement. All attendees, including Secretary Ram Yadav and other members, agreed that rescheduling was prudent to ensure smooth conduct and maximum participation. (w-nkm)

Illicit foreign liquor seized in raid, one arrested

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 2: The Excise Department carried out a major crackdown against illegal foreign liquor trade in Babudih Gwala Basti under the Sidhgora police station area. Acting on the directions of the Assistant Excise Commissioner, a special raid was conducted by the Excise Department, East Singhbhum, leading to the seizure of 15.750 litres of illegal foreign liquor.

The department had received specific inputs about the illegal storage and sale of foreign liquor in the area.

Following the tip-off, a team was formed and a planned raid was executed, during which a large quantity of liquor was recovered from a single location.

The seized stock included foreign liquor of King's Gold and R.S. brands, allegedly stored for illegal distribution.

During the operation, one person involved in the illegal liquor trade was arrested from the spot.

The seized liquor has been taken into official custody, and legal proceedings have been initiated against the accused under relevant sections of the Excise Act. Further interrogation is underway to identify others linked to the racket.

The Excise Department, East Singhbhum, stated that its drive against the manufacture, storage, and sale of illegal liquor will continue unabated.

Officials warned that strict action will be taken against anyone involved in such activities. Following the raid, panic has reportedly spread among illegal liquor traders in the area. (W- pm)

Grand Maha Shivratri festival to be held at Ghorabandha

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 2: Under the aegis of Sai Parivar Vishva Seva Sansthan, Jamshedpur, a grand Maha Shivratri festival will be organised on February 15 at Shri Sainath Devasthanam, Ghorabandha, Telco, located at the "Shri Shivalaya" temple. The sacred occasion will feature a day-long special religious programme for devotees. On the day of Maha Shivratri, special worship and Rudrabhishek will be performed from 5:00 am to 5:00 pm. Devotees will have the opportunity to participate in both individual and collective Rudrabhishek. Interested participants can register for the ritual by contacting the temple office. Following the Rudrabhishek, a four-phase special worship ritual will be conducted from 7:00 pm till 6:00 am the next morning. The first phase will include worship and a devotional bhajan evening, followed by worship and a grand Shiva-Parvati marriage ceremony in the second phase. The third phase will feature Rudrabhishek and Rudrashtadhyayi Havan, while the final phase will conclude with special decoration of Lord Shiva and a grand Maha Aarti. Different offerings will be made to Lord Shiva during each phase. The organisers have appealed to all Shiva devotees to attend the festival with their families and partake in the spiritual benefits of this auspicious event. (w-nkm)

Women kirtan groups enthral devotees on third day of Sankirtan

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Feb 2: On the occasion of Magh Purnima, the ongoing Shri Shri Hari Naam Sankirtan at Pandra village in Seraikela witnessed a grand spiritual atmosphere on its third day, as women kirtan groups presented captivating devotional performances.

The programme drew a large gathering of devotees who immersed themselves in the devotional chants and spiritual fervour.

Renowned women kirtan groups from West Bengal participated in the event, including the Maa Manasa Mahila Sankirtan Dal from Medinipur, the Radha Rani Mahila Kirtan Sampradaya, and the Panchpalli Mahila Sampradaya from Bankura.

Their soulful renditions and melodious chanting created a deeply spiritual ambience and left the audience spellbound.

Organised under the banner of Shri Shri Hari Sankirtan Committee, Pandra, the event has been held annually since 1934.

Continuing the tradition, the Sankirtan is being organised this year as well and will conclude on Tuesday with the ritual of Dadhi Dhulaut.

According to local belief, the successful annual organisation of Shri Shri Hari Naam Sankirtan protects the village from epidemics and ensures good agricultural activities and a bountiful harvest throughout the year. The event remains an important spiritual and cultural tradition for the villagers. (w-nkm)

Rinki Devi files nomination for ward councillor from Ward No. 34

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Feb 2: With the Adityapur Municipal Corporation elections gaining momentum, Rinki Devi filed her nomination on Monday as a candidate for ward councillor from Ward No. 34. She arrived in Seraikela along with a large number of supporters, reflecting strong enthusiasm among local residents. Adding a spiritual touch to the event, Rinki Devi reached the nomination venue accompanied by a group of saints. Pandit Sanjay Kumar, who arrived from Prayagraj, performed rituals and offered prayers chanting Vedic mantras for her victory.

Prior to filing her nomination, Rinki Devi offered prayers at the Manokamna Nath Shiv Temple located at Baba Ashram. Seeking divine blessings, she formally launched her election campaign with a pledge for public service and the prosperity of the area. Before the nomination procession began, her husband and noted social worker Sanjay Kumar expressed gratitude to the gathered supporters.

He also honoured senior citizens and supporters present at the programme by presenting them with ceremonial shawls.

Speaking on the occasion, Rinki Devi said, "My objective is not merely to contest elections or hold a position, but to address the long-neglected problems of the people of Ward No. 34. I seek the blessings of the public to provide an organised platform for social service and inclusive development." (w-nkm)

Power supply disruption scheduled in Hathiyadiha

Mail News Service

Gamharia, Feb 2: Residents and industrial units in Hathiyadiha are advised of a temporary electricity supply disruption on Tuesday, 3 February, due to maintenance work at the local substation.

Feeders 1 and 2 of Hathiyadiha substation will be non-operational from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM.

The affected areas include the Kalpanapuri and Saldiha substation regions, as well as the Shridungri industrial area, which may experience temporary power interruptions during the scheduled maintenance. Residents and businesses have been asked to plan accordingly and ensure essential appliances and machinery are safeguarded.

Assistant Electrical Engineer Subhash Kumar confirmed that the maintenance is part of routine efforts to ensure uninterrupted and stable electricity supply in the region. Officials have assured that the work will be completed within the scheduled time frame and power will be restored promptly to all affected areas. (w-nkm)

Two-day educational seminar held at DAV Public School, Adityapur

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 2: DAV Public School, NIT Campus, Adityapur-2, organised a two-day educational seminar on February 1 and 2, 2026, aimed at strengthening teaching–learning practices and introducing teachers to modern pedagogical ideas.

The seminar was conducted on the school premises with active participation from teachers.

The main objective of the seminar was to simplify the teaching–learning process and familiarize educators with innovative educational concepts and methods. The programme commenced with a devotional prayer and a welcome song, setting a positive and reflective tone for the sessions. The seminar was formally inaugurated by the school's Principal, Rekha Kumari, who is also a Jharkhand Job Trainer. In her inaugural address, she delivered a motivating message highlighting the changing nature of education, the need for innovation and the evolving role of teachers in shaping students' futures. She also shed light on effective classroom management techniques and emphasized the importance of adapting teaching strategies to meet contemporary educational demands.

During the seminar, subject experts and master trainers delivered engaging and impactful presentations on various topics. Through interactive discussions, idea-sharing and demonstrations, teachers were encouraged to make teaching more creative, learner-centric and effective. Participants actively took part in group activities, discussions and practical exercises related to lesson planning and pedagogy.

The sessions concluded with feedback and reflections from participants, who appreciated the informative and inspiring nature of the seminar. Overall, the two-day programme proved to be a meaningful step toward enhancing the academic environment of the school and empowering teachers with modern educational skills and perspectives. (w-nkm)

AFFIDAVIT

I, **SONAL ANTHONY**, D/o **Dinesh Prasad Singh**, by nationality Indian, Resident of H-6/19, Chenab Road, Vivekananda school, Sakchi, Jamshedpur, East Singhbhum, Jharkhand, PIN-831001 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:-

1) That my previous name is **SONAL SINGH,** now I have changed my name as **SONAL ANTHONY** which is mentioned in my all documents papers.

2) That I swear this affidavit to confirm the above facts to be true and genuine.

Date:31/01/2026 **Advocate**

XITE College student wins medal at National Kwan Ki Do Championship

Mail News Service





Gamharia, Feb 2: Rounak Karan of XITE College, Gamharia, brought pride to the institution by winning a medal at the 7th National Kwan Ki Do Championship held recently. In recognition of his achievement, the college organised a small felicitation ceremony in which Principal Father Francis presented the medal to Rounak Karan and honoured him for his outstanding performance. The medal was won at the 7th National Kwan Ki Do Championship held on January 18 at the JKSC Stadium in Jammu and Kashmir. Athletes from across the country participated in the prestigious event, making the competition highly competitive. Representing Jharkhand, XITE College's Rounak Karan delivered an impressive performance to secure the medal.

While congratulating the student, Principal Father Francis praised his hard work, dedication and discipline. He encouraged Rounak to aim for higher levels in the sport and continue striving for excellence. The achievement has brought joy and pride to the entire college community. Students, teachers and staff members were present during the felicitation ceremony and expressed their happiness over Rounak Karan's success. (w-nkm)

Blood donation camp in memory of Late Shashi Bhai Adesara on Feb 8

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 2: A blood donation camp will be organised on February 8 at the Red Cross Building, Sakchi, in memory of noted social worker and industrialist late Shashi Bhai Adesara, who was also a patron of the Red Cross. The camp is held every year in his memory. Honorary Secretary of the Indian Red Cross Society, East Singhbhum, Vijay Kumar Singh appealed to blood donors to actively participate in blood donation camps organised during February and March. He said that regular blood donation during these months helps ensure sufficient blood availability during the peak summer months of April and May, benefiting both donors and patients.

He urged maximum participation in the February 8 blood donation camp. As in previous years, members of Rotary Club of Jamshedpur Steel City and Rotary Club of Jamshedpur Femina will extend their support. The camp will be coordinated by Chhaganlal Dayaljee Jewellers. (w-nkm)

Jalesh Kabi buys nomination form at Seraikela



Seraikela, Feb 2: The election for the post of President of Seraikela Nagar Panchayat is expected to be highly competitive, as the seat has become a general category post for the first time in the transition from municipality to Nagar Panchayat. Several prominent political figures have already indicated their intent to contest, while the stance of the Bharatiya Janata Party is yet to be made clear. Amidst the growing political activity, former Vice-Chairperson of Seraikela Nagar Panchayat, Jalesh Kabi, on Monday purchased the nomination form for the post of President.

Speaking to local residents and representatives of various social, political and non-political organisations, Kabi appealed for cooperation in the interest of development. He said that he is contesting the election with the objective of ensuring overall development of the region and addressing public grievances.

"I am entering the race for the post of President to work for the development of Seraikela Nagar Panchayat, solve people's problems and fulfil their essential needs," he said. (w-nkm)

Seraikela Chhau Artist Association pays tribute to Late Gopabandhu Acharya

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Feb 2: The Seraikela Chhau Artist Association organised a condolence meeting at its office on Jail Road to pay homage to the late Gopabandhu Acharya, a respected intellectual and resident of Gopabandhu Chowk, Seraikela. The programme began with artists offering floral tributes before the portrait of the departed soul. Addressing the gathering, Association President Bhola Mahanti elaborated on Acharya's significant contributions to the field of literature. He recalled that several plays written by Gopabandhu Acharya were staged nearly four decades ago, leaving a lasting impact on local theatre and cultural life.

Association patron Manoj Kumar Chaudhary said that it was a matter of pride for the town to have produced such an eminent intellectual. "The birth of such a learned personality in our small town is a source of immense pride for all of us," he said. Artist Sushil Acharya highlighted the late scholar's exceptional command over the English language.

Several other artists also shared their memories and thoughts, recalling his knowledge, simplicity and dedication to literature and culture. The meeting concluded with a two-minute silence in memory of the departed soul.

Prominent Chhau gurus and artists, including Guru Brajendra Patnaik, Guru Vijay Sahu, Guru Tarun Bhol, Guru Manoranjan Sahu, Ashish Kar, Gajendra Mahanti, Santosh Kar, Asit Patnaik, Sudip Kabi, Neeraj Patnaik, Paras Nath Pathal, Abinash Kabi, Amit Sahu and Rakesh Kabi, among others, were present on the occasion. (w-nkm)

Pinki Modak files nomination from ward 9 with pledge to develop an ideal ward

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Feb 2: Pinki Modak, a candidate for the post of ward councillor from Ward No. 9 of the Seraikela Nagar Panchayat, filed her nomination on Monday, outlining her development-oriented vision for the area. She stated that her sole aim in contesting the election is to transform Ward No. 9 into an ideal ward through comprehensive and inclusive development. Addressing supporters, Modak emphasised that education would be one of her top priorities, especially for underprivileged and economically weaker children. She said connecting children to education would help them become part of the mainstream and build a better future. Highlighting women empowerment as her key responsibility, she pledged to strengthen self-help groups and women's organisations to make women more self-reliant and financially independent. She also assured that basic amenities in the ward, which have remained underdeveloped so far, would be improved in a planned manner. Additionally, she promised to ensure effective implementation of all government welfare schemes so that eligible beneficiaries receive their rightful benefits. Several local residents and supporters, including Sudip Patnaik, Prashant Kumar Singh, Deepak Sahu, Shravan Raut, Anil Mahanti, Saroj Patnaik, Sunil Jyotishi, Kishore Shastri and Azad Mishra, were present during the nomination process. (w-nkm)

Safety first aid, disaster management training from February 5

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 2: Continuing its monthly initiative, the Indian Red Cross Society will organise a six-day Safety First Aid and Disaster Management Training session from February 5 to February 10.

The 215th training session will commence on February 5 at the Red Cross Building, Sakchi.

Interested participants can register for the training till February 4 at the Red Cross Office located at 20M Road, Bistupur.

The training will cover road safety, gas safety, confined space safety, working at height safety and first aid techniques.

Participants will receive expert guidance on bandaging methods, emergency rescue, stretcher drills, ambulance loading, body systems and first aid for wounds, burns, scalds and fractures.

On-the-spot registration will also be available at the Red Cross Building on February 5. (w-nkm)

No trace of missing woman even after a month

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Feb 2: A 20-year-old woman identified as Janki Pradhan has been missing for over a month from Asangi Neeche Tola under the RIT police station area, leaving her family in deep distress.

Her brother, Mithun Pradhan, is desperately running from office to office seeking help to trace his sister.

According to Mithun, Janki went outside their house around 4:00 am on December 21 to sweep the area, as part of her daily routine. When family members later called out to her, she was nowhere to be found. The family immediately searched nearby houses and surrounding areas, but no information about her whereabouts could be gathered.

The family lodged a First Information Report (FIR) at the RIT police station soon after the incident. However, Mithun alleged that no concrete action has been taken by the police so far to locate his sister. "It has been more than a month, but we have not received any information. We are completely helpless," he said. The family has also appealed to the Superintendent of Police of the district, Mukesh Kumar Lunaiyat, urging him to intensify the search operation.

Janki's mother is in shock and grief, stating that her daughter was innocent and spoke very little to anyone. Since the incident, the entire family has been living under constant fear and anxiety. (w-nkm)

SS Plus Two High School, Gamharia bids farewell to retiring employees



Gamharia, Feb 2: SS Plus Two High School, Gamharia, organised a farewell ceremony to honour retiring employee Deeni Savani for his long and dedicated service to the institution. The programme was presided over by In-charge Headmaster Mithai Lal Yadav, who praised Savani's commitment, sincerity and discipline throughout his service career. He said that the school family would always remember his valuable contributions and dedication to duty. Addressing the gathering, teacher Anil Kumar Singh wished Deeni Savani a bright future and a healthy, peaceful and happy retired life. He highlighted the importance of such occasions in recognising the efforts of employees who serve institutions with honesty and devotion.

Several members of the school staff were present on the occasion, including Vice-Headmaster Sanjay Kumar Singh, teachers Bhudev Mahto, Mithilesh Kumar, Pushkar Suman, Ashish Kumar, Ravi, Kumari Anima, Taiba Khanam and Rajnandini, along with other teaching and non-teaching staff.

The ceremony concluded on an emotional note with a farewell song presented by Dhirendra Kumar Tiwari on behalf of the school family, marking a respectful and memorable send-off. (w-nkm)

Raja Pratap Aditya Singh Deo to file nomination for Seraikela Nagar Panchayat

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Feb 2: Political activities have intensified in Seraikela ahead of the Nagar Panchayat elections, with Raja Pratap Aditya Singh Deo entering the fray for the post of Nagar Panchayat President. He is scheduled to file his nomination on Tuesday.

Speaking to mediapersons at his residence on Monday, Raja Pratap Aditya Singh Deo explained the reasons behind his decision to contest the election and outlined his priorities.

He said that initially he had no intention of entering the electoral race due to health concerns.

"I did not want to contest the election because of health reasons, but the overwhelming love and insistence of the people compelled me to change my decision," he said. He further mentioned that in his absence, family members had already purchased the nomination papers, reflecting the expectations and trust of the people. Responding to questions about contesting as an independent candidate instead of representing a political party, he clarified that he does not belong to any single party.

"The people of Seraikela are my family. There is a long and deep relationship between the royal family and the citizens. Our existence is connected with the people, which is why contesting the election has now become necessary," he added. With his entry, the municipal election in Seraikela is expected to become more competitive and closely watched. (w-nkm)

Manoj Chaudhary to file nomination for president post



Seraikela, Feb 2: Former Vice-Chairperson of Seraikela Nagar Panchayat and leader of several social organisations, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)-supported candidate Manoj Kumar Chaudhary will file his nomination on Tuesday for the post of Nagar Panchayat President. The nomination will be submitted at the election office located at the Deputy Commissioner's office.

Ahead of the nomination, a rally will be taken out from Bajrang Chowk on Jail Road at 9:30 am. The procession will pass through Old Bus Stand, Kaluram Chowk, Sanjay Chowk and Garage Chowk before reaching the office of the Returning Officer. Speaking on the occasion, Chaudhary said that he has entered the electoral fray with a strong foundation of social service. "We have always worked among the people and the public will bless us with a massive mandate," he said. He further stated, "Our opponents make only false promises, but we have always delivered through our work. We have consistently worked to promote Seraikela's culture and traditions and have contributed in the fields of education, health and employment." (w-nkm)

Sampurnata Abhiyan 2.0 launched at Pandra Panchayat Bhawan

Mail News Service

Seraikela, Feb 2: The launch programme of Sampurnata Abhiyan 2.0 was successfully organised at Pandra Panchayat Bhawan in the Seraikela block under the chairpersonship of Block Pramukh Laxmi Gagrai. Sampurnata Abhiyan 2.0 is a national-level campaign initiated by NITI Aayog under the Aspirational Blocks Programme and will be conducted for a period of three months, from January 28 to April 14, 2026. The primary objective of the campaign is to strengthen basic services in aspirational districts and blocks across the country. Special focus will be given to achieving 100 percent targets within the stipulated time frame in key sectors such as health, nutrition, education and animal vaccination.

During the programme, Block Pramukh Laxmi Gagrai directed all departments and public representatives to work in coordination and extend full cooperation to ensure the success of the campaign.

The event was attended by several elected representatives and officials, including Panchayat heads Soma Purti, Jayshree Bodra, Geeta Kerai, Khushbu Rani Honhaga, Navkishore Sardar and Dashrath Mahali, along with Surymani Hembrom, Jaymati Murmu, Sughi Murmu, Tapan Mahato, Aspirational Block Fellow Preeti Sinha, Woman Supervisor Savita Sinha, In-charge Block Panchayati Raj Officer Ashok Mahato, Block Animal Husbandry Officer Sanjeev Kumar and representatives from all panchayats, health workers and community functionaries. (w-nkm)

Xavier School, Gamharia hosts Graduation Night, Tamanna crowned Miss Xaverian

Mail News Service



Gamharia, Feb 2: Xavier School, Gamharia, organised a grand Graduation Night for the students of Class XII (Academic Session 2025–2026) on the school campus.

The event was marked by enthusiasm, celebration and emotional moments as students bid farewell to their school life. Principal of XITE College, Father Francis S.J., along with Father Edward and Father Joseph, graced the occasion as special guests.

Addressing the students, School Principal Father Sebastian S.J. encouraged them to make a place in people's hearts wherever they go so that they are remembered for a lifetime. He urged the students to uphold good values, work honestly and bring pride to their school as well as their parents through their actions.

Students presented colourful cultural programmes that captivated the audience. During the ceremony, Tamanna Mandal was selected as the Best Student in the Arts stream, Ashmi Hansda in Commerce and Amit Mahto in Science. Rounak Karmakar was honoured for his contribution to social service, while Shagun Mishra received the Cheerful Student award. Divyanshi Mishra was presented with the Achievement Award and the title of Miss Xaverian for the year was awarded to Tamanna Mandal.

Vice-Principal Sister Nivedita, Sister Savita, Brother Amalraj and several teachers and staff members were present to make the occasion memorable. (w-nkm)

Sunetra Pawar's political leap

Sunetra Pawar has progressed from a prominent conservationist to Maharashtra's first woman deputy chief minister. As the wife of former deputy chief minister and NCP chief Ajit Pawar, she currently serves as a Rajya Sabha member and will retain this position until she joins another house.

Sunetra Pawar steps into a leadership role during a significant transition for the NCP and the state after the sudden passing of Ajit Pawar. Though not directly involved in decision-making, her presence influenced Ajit Pawar's political life.

Sunetra Pawar now faces the challenge of assuming administrative control and guiding the party through the current crisis until a new president is appointed. She must also maintain party unity amid merger talks with NCP SP, especially since no major elections are scheduled in the next three and a half months, and the state assembly elections are set for November 2029.

Sunetra Pawar, affectionately known as Vahini, must quickly begin administrative duties as the state legislature's budget session starts on February 23. She has been involved in sustainable development, environmental conservation, and rural empowerment, leading several initiatives that promote inclusive and sustainable progress in India.

In 2010, Sunetra Pawar founded the Environmental Forum of India (EFOI), a non-governmental organization dedicated to raising environmental awareness and fostering eco-conscious communities. Under her leadership, EFOI pioneered the eco-village model in India,t integrating ecological practices into rural development. This initiative hashelped transformg rural landscapes and promote self-reliant, environmentally responsible villages.

A dedicated environmentalist, she has led grassroots campaigns on biodiversity conservation, endangered species protection, water resource management, and drought mitigation. In recognition of her work, she received the "Green Warrior Award."

Beyond her environmental work, Sunetra Pawar serves as a trustee of Vidya Pratishthan, an institution dedicated to quality education and rural academic excellence.

Her global engagement is also significant. Since 2011, she has served as a member of the World Entrepreneurship Forum's Think Tank (France), representing India in international discussions on sustainability and social innovation. Born into an agricultural family, Sunetra Pawar has established herself as a social and business entrepreneur, committed to empowering communities and promoting sustainable living.

From the Editorial Desk

Nearing 81, can Pinarayi Vijayan still defy Kerala's political gravity



As he approaches 81, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan stands at a pivotal juncture in his political career. Having already scripted history by becoming Kerala's first Chief Minister to secure two consecutive terms, Vijayan now faces a far more complex terrain -- one where authority, longevity, and voter fatigue intersect.

His rise to the top was itself unconventional.

In 2016, Vijayan did not lead the Left Democratic Front's campaign; that role belonged to his arch-rival and senior leader V.S. Achuthanandan. Yet, once the results were declared, Vijayan swiftly emerged from the shadows, edged out the veteran leader, and assumed the chief minister's office.

With Achuthanandan sidelined, Vijayan -- drawing on his long tenure as CPI(M) state secretary -- consolidated unprecedented control over both the party and the government. The long-held perception in Kerala politics that the party secretary wielded greater authority than the chief minister was decisively overturned.

The Covid-19 pandemic proved a crucial turning point. Vijayan leveraged crisis governance, welfare outreach, and an effective public communication strategy to establish a "new normal" of strong, centralised leadership. The distribution of food kits and a carefully curated administrative image helped neutralise the political fallout from the gold smuggling case, which saw his own principal secretary, M. Sivasankar, jailed.

In 2021, voters rewarded the Left Democratic Front with a resounding mandate, granting Vijayan a historic second term.

That second term, however, has been far less forgiving.

Vijayan, his son, and his daughter have all come under scrutiny from national investigative agencies, while the Sabarimala-linked gold case has sent four senior Left leaders to jail and continues to simmer politically. Concerns over Vijayan's health, coupled with the first visible signs of dissent from his political stronghold of Kannur, have further dented his aura of invincibility.

Electoral setbacks have compounded the pressure. The Left's poor performance in the December local body elections, the defection of three-time MLA Ayisha Potti to the Congress, and reports of grassroots-level desertions have unsettled the party organisation.

With Assembly elections approaching and a Congress-led UDF buoyed by recent gains, Vijayan -- despite talk within party circles of a "Vijayan 3" -- is, for the first time in years, visibly under strain.

The coming weeks will reveal whether Kerala's most dominant chief minister can once again bend political gravity -- or finally be constrained by it.

Women's bodies, women's rights: The Supreme Court' on menstruation



Lalit Gargg

In the journey of India's social development, the status of women has always served as a decisive benchmark. The progress of any nation is not measured merely by economic statistics or physical infrastructure, but by the respect, security, and equal opportunities it offers to half of its population-women. Seen in this context, the Supreme Court of India delivered a historic judgment on January 30, 2026, declaring menstrual health a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Court directed that free and safe biodegradable sanitary pads must be provided to girl students in all government and private schools across the country. Menstrual hygiene has been recognized as an integral part of the fundamental right to live with dignity and good health. The judgment also mandates the availability of clean toilets and adequate water facilities in schools. The objective is clear: to prevent disruptions in girls' education caused by menstruation and to protect them from shame, discomfort, and discrimination.

This landmark ruling, especially addressing menstrual challenges faced by school-going girls, is a powerful and far-sighted step. Complementing this progressive outlook, the Karnataka government has approved a policy granting 12 days of paid menstrual leave to women employees in both government and private sectors. Together, these initiatives mark a significant move toward addressing gaps in menstrual management in educational institutions and safeguarding girls' right to dignified education. The Supreme Court's directive to make sanitary pads mandatory in schools is not merely an administrative order; it is a clarion call shaking the social conscience. It sends a strong message that menstruation can no longer be confined to silence, stigma, and ignorance.

Ironically, menstruation-designed by nature as an essential and healthy part of the life cycle-has for centuries been associated in society with impurity, taboo, and restriction. As a result, millions of



women and adolescent girls suffer not only physical discomfort but also mental anguish, inferiority, and social exclusion. Even today, in many parts of India, girls are barred from kitchens, places of worship, schools, and social activities during menstruation. Such practices are not mere traditions; they represent a direct violation of women's dignity and fundamental rights. The Supreme Court's observation that "lack of menstrual hygiene violates women's dignity" introduces a new constitutional lens to this discourse. If the right to life and dignity guaranteed by the Constitution is to be meaningfully upheld, women's health issues must be treated as a priority. The compulsory provision of sanitary pads in schools is particularly crucial because numerous studies reveal that, due to inadequate hygiene facilities, a large number of girls are forced to drop out of school during adolescence. This is not only a loss to education but a depletion of society's intellectual and moral capital.

The Court aptly described education as a "multiplier right"-a key that enables the exercise of other human rights. Importantly, the judgment goes beyond lofty ideals and lays down clear, practical directives for implementation. All girl students from Classes 6 to 12 are to be provided free, high-quality oxo-biodegradable sanitary pads that meet international standards such as ASTM D-6954, ensuring both health safety and environmental sustainability. To ensure discreet, safe, and easy access, schools are required to install vending machines or designate responsible officials, thereby eliminating embarrassment and hesitation among students. The Court also ordered the establishment of "Menstrual Health Management Corners" in schools, equipped with extra uniforms, spare innerwear, disposable bags, and essential hygiene supplies. Special provisions, including wheelchair-accessible toilets and assistive facilities, have been mandated for girls with disabilities. To enforce accountability, the judgment empowers authorities to withdraw recognition from private schools that fail to comply, ensuring that this decision translates into real change rather than remaining confined to paperwork.

Menstrual hygiene is not limited to the distribution of sanitary pads alone. It is intrinsically linked to clean toilets, safe water, proper waste disposal, and-most importantly-accurate information. Even today, many girls experience fear, confusion, and guilt at the onset of their first menstruation due to a lack of scientific and sensitive guidance. If health education is implemented sincerely in schools and menstruation is taught as a normal biological process, much of this fear and stigma can be naturally eliminated. The silence surrounding menstruation also raises critical questions about the role of men in society. As long as fathers, teachers, administrators, and policy-makers dismiss menstruation as "a women's issue," genuine transformation will remain elusive. In this sense, the Supreme Court's directions are equally significant for offering society-and particularly men-an opportunity to become more empathetic and responsible. Awareness is not merely about empowering women; it is also about cultivating sensitivity and accountability among men.

Challenges related to menstruation are even more severe in rural and tribal areas, where the use of cloth, ash, or other unhygienic materials remains common, leading to infections and long-term health complications. Although government schemes and non-governmental efforts exist, their reach and effectiveness remain limited. If implemented with sincerity, the Supreme Court's judgment can help bridge the gap between policy intent and ground reality. It is essential to view menstrual hygiene not merely as a welfare measure but within the broader framework of women's rights. The right to health, the right to education, and the right to equality are all directly connected to this issue. A system in which a girl is unable to attend school simply because she lacks access to sanitary pads stands in direct contradiction to the spirit of the Constitution. This ruling, therefore, significantly strengthens the concept of social justice.

Today, India speaks of a "new leap forward"-of Digital India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, and aspirations of becoming a global leader. Yet, if this narrative of development excludes women's basic needs and dignity, such progress will remain hollow. True development is that which understands the pain of the most vulnerable and possesses the courage to address it. Open dialogue on menstruation is a reflection of that courage. Public awareness is the most critical pillar of this entire process. Laws and judicial orders can provide direction, but transforming mindsets is a collective social responsibility. Media, educational institutions, religious bodies, and social organizations must come together to dismantle myths and misconceptions surrounding menstruation. It must be reclaimed as a matter of health and self-respect, not shame.

Ultimately, the Supreme Court's decision is a beginning, not the destination. Its success will depend on how sincerely it is implemented and how sensitively it is embraced by society. If India truly seeks to build an inclusive, just, and humane nation-one that embodies Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas-then women's health and rights must be placed at the very center of development. Freedom from menstrual stigma is not merely about physical convenience; it represents mental, social, and constitutional liberty. And it is this liberty that defines the true character of any civilized and progressive society.

(Author is a columnist. Views are personal.)

India's inclusiveness: A civilizational legacy, not a constitutional accident



MR Lalu

What should it mean to be an Indian? The term 'Indian' can carry diverse attributes across multiple perspectives. Yet the definition that has gained the most traction in our social system is one that associates Indianness with undiluted pride in India's democratic ethos and in the glory and framework of its Constitution. Undoubtedly, such pride should be seen as the defining marker of a true Indian.

With India's deep-rooted cultural munificence being evoked and brought to the surface once again, and viewed through a conservative lens, one may also argue that a person with a comprehensive civilizational understanding of inclusion, both in principle and in practice, is a true Indian. Between the two, the latter, in my view, holds deeper meaning.

Being harmonious while remaining diverse is the finest epithet with which we can define the civilizational entity called India. This vast landscape, shaped by centuries of relentless struggle to recapitulate and reclaim its lost essence, has now reached a stumbling point, one where the weight of its democratic policy is heavily questioning its attempts at cultural retrieval.

There is little reason to fundamentally contradict India's constitutional institutions and democratic principles, which ultimately shape its egalitarian character. However, the process of carving a civilizational state into one deeply embedded in constitutional principles came at a great cost. Independent India clearly witnessed a popular struggle in which hundreds of fragments of a cultural nation were diplomatically at times even forcefully gathered and brought together under the identity of political unanimity.

The history of India is the history of inclusion. And to mend and amend its historical distortions should be seen as a course correction. Swami Vivekananda made this clear while speaking in the West. The unique element that separates India from the rest of the world, he proclaimed, is its cultural affirmation. This, he argued, is the result of India's vast civilizational memory, which would not only strengthen the nation spiritually but also enrich the world at large. India, he said, is defined by its historical continuity, its relentless flow that nurtures diverse forms of social organization and polytheistic ethnicities.

Vivekananda warned India to be cautious with this element of cultural stewardship, insisting that it must be preserved in all possible forms. But he firmly reminded this spiritual landscape not to alienate those diverse thoughts and philosophies that had sought asylum on its soil.

Obviously, India's civilization has never been monolithic. It accommodated all those persecuted religions and sects on its shores that came seeking asylum. It rejected exclusivist religious fanaticism while proclaiming that all paths lead to the same truth.

Today, there is a profoundly well-crafted sentimental outrage at the academic and political level that distinctively demands the nullification of India being treated as a civilization, an assertion, they argue, is deeply threatening its democratic ambience. Everything, including this anger, agitation, and disquiet within intellectual circles and liberal academia, became loud and pronounced after the political shift India witnessed in 2014, which was largely accused of being an outcome of the politicization of India's civilizational credentials. Majoritarian- they called it.

The shift maintained its consistency, crossing a decade and entering its third term of governance and the disquiet, however, continues within the liberal intelligentsia, who describe it as alarmingly dangerous.

The same seasoned intellectuals sought to have their liberal narratives framed against our cultural self-discovery, heard louder and clearer when India, under its robust judiciary, settled a centuries-old dispute and reclaimed one of its holiest centers of worship in Ayodhya. The jubilance and celebration in the aftermath were termed a crude civilizational self-assertion, purposefully designed for political gain. Outcries for the revival and reclamation of more cultural symbols by a section of society often referred to as the majority, were seen as attempts to distort India's secular alignment. This, once again, has been described as an effort to evade reality, relying on emotionally gratifying narratives rather than hard facts.

Those who propagate this narrative rarely acknowledge the reality of India's glorious past. It was not merely the post-colonial democratic framework that made India an aspirational candidate for its Vishwaguru stature once again; rather, it was its ancestry, deeply rooted in a cultural paradigm that this great land had preserved for eons but was later forced to discard or deliberately bury under the ruthless impact of colonial impulses.

As a democracy, India's comprehensive growth will gain sustainable strength only if it does not forget its civilizational past. That said, an increasingly prominent attempt is being made to portray our reclamation of its distorted past as a form of cultural predation against minorities especially Muslims by a majoritarian establishment.

Shashi Tharoor has recently observed (Indian Express, January 29) that while majoritarian, the political shift that India has been passing through for a decade has evidently been on an outright civilizational self-assertion. He suspects that, in effect, attempts at such reclamation have never been inclusive enough. A divide, he calls it, has emerged so intensely damaging that its social structure is visibly divided into a Hindu-Muslim binary. Even though he hesitates to register his complete disregard for this self-assertion, his complaint is about its failure to use it as a tool for building a more inclusive and acceptable society wherein diversity flourishes. But this is mere speculation.

Tharoor observes that the vast tapestry of diverse faiths in India has been confined to a complex Hindu-Muslim binary, which he further claims to be the impact of a deliberate betrayal of the essence of India's civilization. All his hints and criticisms are indirectly targeting the government at the Centre.

The present question concerns the revival of India's cultural legitimacy, its preservation and projection. In Shashi Tharoor's view, governance should not expend its power and resources on evoking historical wrongs. This admonition is directed primarily at the majority which, as noted earlier, enabled a decade long political shift in governance.

Why, then, is India still inclusive? In my view, it is due to the immense presence of its majority, which for millennia endured and survived the brutalities of prophetic monotheism that repeatedly sought to erase its cultural symbols over centuries. Obviously, the vast array of its practices continues to evolve with the demands of time, willing to make accommodative adjustments while ensuring that India's national consciousness stays robust and inclusive.

The same reasoning explains why India endures as a democracy of diversity. Historical experiences across regions suggest that societies structured around rigid theological authority often struggle with plural civilizational accommodation. We have bitter examples of Pakistan and Bangladesh around us.

Shashi Tharoor does not subscribe to this view. Despite India's diversity being a celebrated and defining theme, there remain pockets where monotheistic theocracy continues to control social institutions. Religious dogmas and rules, as emphasized in holy texts, are treated as sacrosanct. No authority, in any form, is permitted to question the imperious influence of the theocracy. An attempt for restorative justice, even though not fully, helps India to regain its cultural memory, strengthening its aspirations to grow globally with its benefits going to all Indians.

(Author is freelance journalist and social worker based in Kerala. The views expressed are personal opinion of the author.)

Sensex, Nifty rebound sharply after Budget-Day rout



Mumbai, Feb 2 (IANS) Indian equity markets bounced back strongly in the final hour of trade on Monday, helped by late buying in heavyweight stocks such as Adani Ports, Bharat Electronics, L&T, Mahindra & Mahindra, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank.

The Sensex recovered sharply from its intra-day low of 80,387.25. It jumped as much as 1,345 points to touch a high of 81,732 before closing at 81,666. The index ended the day up 944 points, or 1.17 per cent.

Similarly, the Nifty moved in a wide range during the day. After hitting a low of 24,679, the index climbed to 25,108 and finally settled at 25,088, gaining 263 points or 1.06 per cent.

The rebound came a day after markets suffered their sharpest Budget-day fall since February 2020. The recovery was broad-based, with midcap and smallcap stocks also ending higher.

The improvement in sentiment was reflected in the India VIX, the market's fear gauge, which slipped 8 per cent during the session.

Power Grid emerged as the top gainer on the Sensex, rising 7.6 per cent. The stock rallied after the company's management said its capital expenditure and capitalisation plans for FY26 were on track and that it was confident of exceeding its annual guidance.

Other major gainers included Adani Ports, Bharat Electronics, M&M, L&T, IndiGo, UltraTech Cement, Asian Paints, ITC, Bajaj Finserv, Tata Steel, ICICI Bank, NTPC, Maruti Suzuki and SBI. These stocks gained up to 4.6 per cent.

On the losing side, only six Sensex stocks closed in the red. Axis Bank, Infosys, TCS, Trent, Titan and Kotak Mahindra Bank ended lower.

The broader markets also supported the rally. The Nifty Midcap index rose 0.9 per cent, while the Nifty Smallcap index gained 0.6 per cent.

Sector-wise, most indices ended in positive territory. The Nifty Auto index climbed 2.14 per cent, followed by the Nifty Metal index, which gained 1.8 per cent, and the Nifty Realty index, up 1.6 per cent. The Nifty IT index was the only sectoral loser, slipping 0.5 per cent.

In the commodity market, precious metals continued to remain under pressure. MCX Silver futures fell sharply by 6.4 per cent to close at Rs 2,48,600 per kilogram.

Gold prices, however, recovered from the day's lows, with MCX Gold futures ending nearly flat, down 0.1 per cent at Rs 1,47,600 per 10 grams.

IBC Amendment Bill in 2nd half of Budget session, a lot more divestment coming: FM



New Delhi, Feb 2 (IANS) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said that the government is set to introduce the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) Amendment Bill in the second half of the Budget session, beginning March 9. Addressing a press briefing, a day after presenting the historic reform-oriented Budget 2026-27, she said that the pace and direction of disinvestment should set the tone for revenue generation in the coming years.

"Going forward, there will be a lot more divestment. Specifically, divestment of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) will be seriously considered now onwards," FM Sitharaman noted.

She further added that she will have to work on broadening the tax base so that direct tax revenues grow.

"However, divestment is a priority," the Finance Minister noted, adding that the IDBI Bank strategic disinvestment is on track and is likely to be concluded soon.

"Pace of disinvestment and asset monetisation will continue, encouraging more public floating of CPSEs. I am confident higher private consumption will sustain in the coming months, and FY27 deficit target shows the government's priority is growth," she told reporters.

The Budget has proposed a revenue estimate from miscellaneous capital receipts at Rs 80,000 crore - sharply higher from the revised estimate of Rs 33,837 crore for FY26. Miscellaneous capital receipts include revenue generation through both the sale and monetisation of government assets.

The Finance Minister announced capital expenditure of Rs 12.2 lakh crore in the Budget for 2026-27, to boost big-ticket infrastructure projects for boosting growth and jobs in the economy.

EMEDIX opens smart pharmacy outlet in Deoghar

Deoghar: EMEDIX Smart Pharmacy inaugurated its new outlet at Bhurbhura Mor in Deoghar, strengthening access to organised medicine services in the area. The outlet was inaugurated by chief guest Dr D Tiwari (MBBS, General Physician), who cut the ribbon and highlighted the importance of structured pharmacy chains in ensuring quality and safe medicines for the public.Franchise owner Manoj Kumar Singh said the smart pharmacy will cater to residents of Deoghar and nearby areas by offering branded medicines at affordable prices with transparent billing under one roof.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Dr Alok Mishra, Dr Nidhi Kumari, Gopal Prasad Singh, Sanjay Singh, Karan Nikhanj and Vishal Chauhan.

The outlet will provide facilities such as up to 20 per cent discount, free home delivery, smart billing and quick service. EMEDIX General Manager Waqar Siddiqui said the company aims to make medicine services accessible and transparent.

'India AI Impact Summit' attracts 35,000 registrations to date; set to be largest

New Delhi, Feb 2 (IANS) The 'India AI Impact Summit 2026', scheduled from February 16-20 here, has attracted significant global interest with over 35,000 registrations so far, the government said on Monday.

The event will feature participation from over 100 countries, including 15-20 heads of government, over 50 ministers, and 40 CEOs of leading global and Indian companies, according to an official statement.

India AI Impact Summit is anticipated to be the largest of the four global AI summits hosted to date, reflecting the growing international momentum around responsible, inclusive and impact-driven Artificial Intelligence, it said.

The Ministry of Electronics and IT said in the statement that the summit will host over 500 AI startups and around 500 sessions.

The Summit framework also includes seven flagship events, collectively engaging over 3 lakh participants, reflecting the wide national and international interest in the AI Impact Summit process.



"The scale of engagement leading up to the Summit has been equally significant. Over 1,300 proposals have been received for pre-Summit events, with more than 500 pre-Summit events conducted so far across sectors and regions in India as well as globally," the statement said.

The global AI summit process has evolved from focus on AI risks to discussions on ethics and inclusion and subsequently moving towards the operationalisation of shared principles.

The ministry urged interested stakeholders to visit the official website and register to be part of this global dialogue aimed at advancing the responsible and impactful use of Artificial Intelligence.

The summit will showcase 12 qualified Indian startups in areas like healthcare and multilingual tech. This exposure could attract foreign investment and talent inflows, accelerating India's goal of a $1 trillion digital economy by 2030.

The India AI Mission, launched in 2024 with a $1.2 billion funding, democratised access to computing resources, datasets, and talent development. Further the National AI Portal provided open-source datasets, while partnerships with tech giants ensured high-performance computing infrastructure.

Middle class to gain through affordable healthcare, Budget aims long-term relief: Dr Singh

New Delhi, Feb 2 (IANS) Affordable drugs, vaccines and diagnostics, supported by domestic biomanufacturing, would be a major social and economic support, especially for the middle class and vulnerable sections, said Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, said on Monday.

Addressing the media in a post-Budget interaction, the minister said it may take time to be fully appreciated, but the Budget reflects a clear, sequential vision where structural reforms are powered by cutting-edge technologies, and cutting-edge technologies are increasingly driven by AI.

Dr Singh addressed concerns regarding benefits for the middle class, stating that the Budget's true impact lies in long-term relief from rising healthcare and living



costs, rather than short-term income calculations.

Large-scale investment in biopharma, diagnostics, vaccines, and gene-based therapies would significantly reduce the financial burden on families dealing with chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and metabolic disorders, he mentioned.

The Minister noted that the country has over 11-12 crore diabetics, nearly 14 crore pre-diabetics, and a rapidly increasing incidence of cancer, with projections touching two million cases annually by 2030.

On the Rs 10,000 crore Biopharma Shakti initiative, Dr Singh said India has already emerged as a global bio-manufacturing hub, ranking among the top bio-economies globally and within the Indo-Pacific region.

He said the new outlay will further strengthen this position by expanding capabilities in biologics, biosimilars, vaccines, medical devices, and gene-based technologies.

The Minister described biotechnology as the next major industrial driver, comparable to the role played by IT in previous decades, and said the upcoming industrial revolution will be a bio-revolution, encompassing recycling, regeneration, circular economy, and advanced life-science innovations.

Dr Singh said the Budget also addresses non-communicable diseases and mental health, areas that were neglected in earlier decades. He announced that new super-speciality academic and clinical institutes for mental health will be established in North India, ensuring wider and more equitable access to care.

The Minister also highlighted the decision to establish new institutes of Ayurveda and pharmaceutical education, saying these initiatives will strengthen traditional medicine systems while integrating them with modern research and healthcare delivery.

India's GDP growth to place it above sovereign peers in next 2 fiscals: S&P Global Ratings



New Delhi, Feb 2 (IANS) Robust consumer spending and public investments will maintain India's real GDP growth at 6.7 per cent in fiscal 2027 and 7 per cent in fiscal 2028, S&P Global Ratings said on Monday, adding that the Union Budget reinforces its expectation of gradual fiscal consolidation.

The global ratings anticipates that these growth rates continue to place India above sovereign peers at similar income levels and should continue to support fiscal revenue increase. The central government is set to meet its fiscal deficit estimate for fiscal 2026 (year ending March 31, 2026) of 4.4 per cent of GDP. It also budgeted for a 4.3 per cent deficit for fiscal 2027.

"These targets are broadly consistent with our projections. We believe India (BBB/Stable/A-2) will hit its fiscal 2027 deficit target despite the government budgeting for lower Goods and Services Tax (GST) receipts, following the streamlining of GST rates in September 2025," said the report.

"There is upside to GST revenues coming from stronger consumption and higher collection efficiency, in our view. In addition, support for meeting the deficit target will stem from continued large dividends from the central bank and potential capital underspending," it added. The lowered GST rates will support middle-class consumption and complement income tax cuts. These changes are likely to make consumption a greater driver of growth compared with investment, both in this fiscal year and the next.

The spike in the effective U.S. tariff is weighing on the expansion of export-oriented manufacturing in India. In response, the fiscal 2027 budget has announced policies to support a manufacturing push and exports.

"If India can secure a trade agreement with the US, it should reduce uncertainty and enhance confidence, which would boost labour-intensive sectors," the report mentioned.

Budget sustains reform momentum through people-centric approach: KPMG in India CEO



New Delhi, Feb 2 (IANS) The Union Budget 2026-27 sustains reform momentum through a people-centric approach focused on stability, inclusivity, and long-term value creation, Yezdi Nagporewalla, CEO, KPMG in India, said on Monday. The Budget presents a clear and confident vision of the Government's commitment to building a developed India, one that effectively balances fiscal responsibility with ongoing investment in growth, resilience, and inclusion.

"Adhering to the fiscal deficit glide path, even amidst global trade and supply-chain challenges, underscores the robustness of India's macroeconomic fundamentals and policy credibility," he said in a statement.

Moreover, the emphasis on advancing strategic and emerging sectors, such as ISM 2.0 for semiconductors, a long-term strategy for rare earth ecosystems and tax break for hyperscalers investment in India, reflects a deliberate effort to transform potential into tangible outcomes through resilient, high-value domestic capabilities, Nagporewalla mentioned. These steps are essential for decreasing import dependence and bolstering India's role in global value chains, he noted. Furthermore, the focus on developing 'Champion MSMEs' through equity infusions, liquidity support, and professional assistance is highly promising.

The SME growth fund, along with targeted compliance and skill development measures, is poised to help enterprises key to employment generation and regional economic progress-realise their aspirations, he mentioned. Incentives like the tax holiday for global cloud and data centre services further strengthen India's position as a reliable digital and technology hub.

Sunil Badala, National Head of Tax, KPMG in India, said the Budget delivers a strong, forward looking push for the BFSI sector, indicating the government's commitment to financial stability, deeper capital markets, and simplified tax administration.

Hyundai Motor India's Q3 profit rises 6.3 pc to Rs 1,234 crore

Mumbai, Feb 2 (IANS) Hyundai Motor India Limited on Monday reported a solid performance in the third quarter (Q3) of FY26, with its consolidated net profit rising 6.3 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,234.4 crore.

The growth was supported by steady demand in the domestic market, strong export numbers and higher sales during the festive season, the company said in its stock exchange filing. Revenue from operations during the quarter increased 8 percent compared to last year to Rs 17,973.5 crore.

Operating performance also improved, with EBITDA rising 7.6 percent year-on-year to Rs 2,018.3 crore. The EBITDA margin stood at 11.2 percent, remaining broadly stable compared to the same period last financial year.



The company said domestic demand during the quarter benefited from GST 2.0-related advantages and festive-season momentum.

Wholesale volumes rose 5 per cent sequentially, supported by strong retail sales across key models.

Exports played an important role in overall growth, with export volumes jumping 21 per cent year-on-year in the December quarter.

Exports contributed around 25 per cent to Hyundai Motor India's total sales during the period.

On the product front, the Creta once again emerged as a key growth driver. The SUV reclaimed its position as India's best-selling SUV and achieved its highest-ever annual sales of more than 2 lakh units in calendar year 2025.

The newly launched Venue also saw healthy demand, with nearly 80,000 bookings so far. The company said first-time buyers accounted for 48 per cent of the total bookings for the model.

For the nine months ended December 31, 2025, Hyundai Motor India reported EBITDA of Rs 6,632.5 crore, marking a year-on-year growth of 3.3 per cent.

EBITDA margins expanded to 12.8 per cent despite higher costs related to capacity stabilisation and commodity prices.

Budget a blueprint to strengthen India's presence in global value chains: Piyush Goyal

Mumbai, Feb 2 (IANS) India is in a sweet spot today, and the Union Budget for a 'Future Ready Bharat' covers a multitude of sectors, both traditional and modern, giving impetus to services with a major focus on tech, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday.

In a meeting on the holistic benefits of the Budget at the NSE here, along with investors and captains from the mutual funds and asset management industry, the minister said the Budget addresses specific areas which will help the economy grow faster and achieve our goal of a Viksit Bharat by 2047.



"Delighted by their optimism following the budget, their excitement for the growth opportunities that it supports, as well as the new ideas and suggestions that they shared," Goyal posted on X.

In his interaction, the minister highlighted how in the last 12 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has focused on a fiscally prudent and future-oriented long-term India growth story.

"I emphasised how the budget is a blueprint to strengthen India's presence in global value chains and become more contemporary with modern-day technologies while benefiting our consumers," said the minister.

He also reiterated that continuing with PM Modi's vision of rapid reforms, the direction in the budget is to eliminate barriers to business and make it easier for them to flourish, encourage honest businesses, make industries more competitive, compliance easier, and make India an attractive investment and manufacturing destination.

The Union Budget 2026-27 has kept a "long term vision at the forefront" by increasing capital expenditure and improving the expenditure mix. The focus is shifting to the long term - with reforms, improving ease of doing business, and inclusive growth getting centre stage. The government has sought to build resilience by focusing on developing the manufacturing and services sectors further, thus setting the stage for the next leg of growth.

After Mamata Banerjee-poll body meet, both complain of "Misbehaviour"

New Delhi, Feb 2 (IANS) West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has brought the SIR battle to the national capital. After meeting the top three Election Commission officials today, she gave an open threat: "I can get lakhs of people to Delhi to parade before the Election Commission."



Sources said the Bengal chief minister kept making false allegations and even "beat her hand on the table" despite the top three Election Commission officials showing restraint and being polite to her.

Bengal BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari called the chief minister's Delhi visit "dramabazi (an act)".

With all major parties including the ruling BJP at the Centre campaigning hard for the Bengal assembly election, Banerjee has been raising allegations against the Election Commission of misusing the voter roll clean-up exercise special intensive revision (SIR) to exclude genuine voters.

To make her case, she asked the EC why it did not conduct the SIR exercise in BJP-ruled Assam, which has historically seen tension and conflict over the issue of illegal immigration and demographic change. She alleged Bengal and Kerala have been unfairly targeted by the poll body, which she described as "BJP's agent".

"I have never seen an Election Commission like this, one that is so arrogant. They are great liars. We told them that we respect the chair because no chair is permanent for anybody. You, too, will have to go someday. But don't create such a precedent. And why is Bengal being targeted again and again?" Banerjee told reporters after meeting the Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, and the two Election Commissioners, Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi.

AIIB probing all probable causes for Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad: Minister

New Delhi, Feb 2 (IANS) The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is investigating the Air India flight AI-171 crash at Ahmedabad in June last year from all angles and aims to complete the investigation in a time-bound manner, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol informed the Parliament on Monday.



"All probable causes leading to the accident are being investigated, and all efforts are being made to complete the investigation in a time-bound manner", in accordance with the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) rules, the Minister said in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha.

"A preliminary report on the accident has been published by AAIB on 12.07.2025 and is available on their website www.aaib.gov.in. The report contains factual information based on the evidence available at that point in time and does not include any interim safety recommendations," he added.

The Air India flight AI 171 crashed just seconds after taking off from the Ahmedabad airport into a medical college hostel building, killing 241 passengers and crew on board the plane and another 19 people on the ground on June 12, 2025. A preliminary report released by the AAIB on July 12 stated that both engines of the Air India Boeing 787 Dreamliner lost thrust after the two fuel cut-off switches moved from the 'RUN' to the 'CUTOFF' position. However, the cockpit voice recorder has revealed that one of the pilots told the other that he did not turn off the fuel control switches. The fuel switches were then returned to the RUN position just before the plane crashed.

The final report has to be submitted within 12 months of the crash, in accordance with the norms fixed by the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu also earlier said that the AAIB's report on the Air India crash was based on preliminary findings, and urged against reaching any conclusions until the final report is released.

Pilot changed at last moment : Cong, Shiv Sena UBT cast doubts on Ajit Pawar's death

Mumbai, Feb 2 (IANS) Giving a new twist to the unfortunate and tragic demise of Ajit Pawar, the dada of Maharashtra politics, a couple of leaders from Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT) cast fresh doubts over the plane crash that killed all five people onboard, including Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister.

Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar said that more than 80 per cent people of Maharashtra felt that there was something suspicious in the plane accident.

Further, smelling a rat in the plane crash, he questioned the reason behind the last-minute replacement of the ill-fated plane's pilot, while Shiv Sena UBT's Sanjay Raut raised suspicion, claiming that Pawar junior was under pressure within the MahaYuti alliance over his plans to merge both NCP factions - one led by him and the other led by his uncle Sharad Pawar.

Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar, speaking to the media, said, "Around 80 per cent of people in Maharashtra feel that something is suspicious in this incident. Orders to change the pilot came at the last moment. Now, another issue has come up: there were six passengers on board, but only five bodies were recovered. When such questions arise, I believe an impartial probe is necessary. A CID inquiry alone will not achieve anything."

Earlier, Shiv Sena UBT leader Sanjay Raut claimed that Ajit Dada wanted to reunite both factions, and it was the BJP which was threatening him with irrigation scam files if the latter treaded that path.

"He died mysteriously, within days of charting a return to his roots," he added, demanding a full-scale probe into his demise.

The BJP was quick to reject "baseless and unsubstantiated" allegations of the Congress-led alliance and decried the move to exploit someone's death for furthering one's own political interests.

At 93, E Sreedharan pushes ahead with Kerala High-Speed Rail vision

Malappuram, Feb 2 (IANS) Undeterred by age, Metro Man E. Sreedharan on Monday reaffirmed his determination to see the proposed high-speed rail project for Kerala become a reality, inaugurating the project's official office at 9 a.m. at Ponnani in Malappuram, close to the residence where he currently lives.

The inauguration was marked by a simple yet symbolic ceremony, with his wife taking the lead in lighting the traditional lamp, underscoring the personal commitment behind the ambitious initiative.

At 93, Sreedharan remains resolute that he will continue to work as a professional master builder, staying true to the vocation that has defined his life and produced some of the country's most iconic infrastructure projects.



Speaking on the occasion, Sreedharan said the absence of any mention of the project in the Union Budget would not dampen his resolve.

He expressed firm confidence that approval from the Railway Ministry would eventually come, stressing that the infrastructure of this scale requires perseverance and clarity of purpose.

In the initial phase, the newly opened office will function as a public interface to address doubts and concerns surrounding the project.

From February 15, a series of meetings will be held to explain the technical, financial and social aspects of the high-speed rail corridor to the public.

The first round of meetings will begin in Malappuram, after which similar outreach programmes will be organised in other districts through which the proposed alignment will pass.

Sreedharan also said that his discussions with the Union Railway Minister on January 16 were productive.

According to him, the Minister has instructed that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) be prepared, and an official order authorising the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) to undertake this task is expected within three to four days.

NEET aspirant's death at girls' hostel triggers political storm outside Bihar Assembly

Patna, Feb 2 (IANS) Politics heated up outside the Bihar Legislative Assembly on Monday as Opposition parties launched a sharp offensive against the ruling dispensation over the suspicious death of a NEET aspirant at Shambhu Girls' Hostel in Patna. MLAs from the Congress, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), and CPI(ML) accused the state government of cover-up, suppression of facts, and shielding the accused.The Opposition announced that the issue would be raised forcefully both inside and outside the Assembly throughout the Budget Session.Before the House proceedings began, Opposition legislators staged a protest within the Assembly premises.Congress MLA Mohammad Qamrul Hoda was seen holding placards and raising slogans against the Nitish Kumar government.Speaking to the media, Hoda alleged, "The rapists are still roaming freely. Handing over the case to the CBI means the powerful are being protected. This is not justice; it is a conspiracy. "CPI(ML) MLA Sandeep Saurabh also arrived with posters in support of the victim and accused the government of pressurising the victim's family."We do not trust the CBI investigation. The probe should be conducted under the supervision of a Supreme Court judge," Saurabh said.Responding to the Opposition's charges, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha dismissed the allegations as baseless."The case has been handed over to the CBI, and the accused will not escape. There were doubts over the police investigation, which is why the government itself ordered a CBI probe," he said.

Sacred Devnimori relics of Lord Buddha travel to Sri Lanka

Colombo, Feb 2 (IANS) Underlining India's commitment to fostering Buddhist diplomacy, spiritual outreach, and shared cultural heritage, the sacred Devnimori relics of Lord Buddha will be travelling to Sri Lanka for their first-ever international exposition, the High Commission of India in Colombo announced on Monday.

The sacred initiative comes pursuant to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement and in continuation of India's efforts to strengthen cultural and spiritual ties across borders.

The holy relics will be enshrined at Gangaramaya Temple in Colombo from February 4 to 11 with the public veneration beginning February 5 onwards. They are expected to attract a large number of devotees, Buddhist monks, and international pilgrims in the island nation, all of whom will have the rare opportunity to pay homage to the revered relics."From Vietnam to Mongolia and Thailand to Russia, India continues to share its Buddhist heritage. As the Holy Devnimori Relics arrive in Sri Lanka, witness how India connects the world through the message of Lord Buddha," the High Commission stated while sharing a video of PM Modi's recent speech where he noted that waves of faith and devotion arose wherever the sacred relics of Lord Buddha travelled to in the recent months.

Mahishini Colonne, the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India, on Sunday termed the development as a "rare blessing" for the island country."A rare blessing for Sri Lanka. The sacred Devinmori Relics of Lord Buddha on exposition at Gangaramaya Temple in Sri Lanka - the first ever international exposition of the relics. Grateful to the Government of India and all those who made this possible," the Lankan High Commissioner posted on X.Earlier this month, while inaugurating the Grand International Exposition of Sacred Piprahwa Relics associated with Bhagwan Buddha at the Rai Pithora Cultural Complex in Delhi, Prime Minister Modi highlighted the initiatives undertaken by his government to develop sites associated with the heritage of Lord Buddha in India and across the world, while also emphasising efforts to connect the present generation with Buddhist traditions and values.

Appoint Sunetra Pawar as NCP national president to fill void left by Ajit dada: Chiefs of 30 party cells tell Patel, Tatkare

Mumbai, Feb 2 (IANS) Days after Sunetra Pawar was sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, over 30 different cells of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) have written to the party's Working President Praful Patel and state President Sunil Tatkare demanding that she be made National President of the party, the post held by her late husband Ajit Pawar.

"The passing of Hon. Ajit dada Pawar, the pillar and visionary leader of the Nationalist Congress Party, has cast a deep shadow of grief over the party. In these difficult times, the party urgently requires leadership that is strong, composed, and capable of keeping everyone united.

"Hon. Sunetra Ajit Pawar Vahini has proven her commitment to the party and Maharashtra by accepting the responsibility of the state's Deputy Chief Minister under extremely adverse circumstances.

"Given her experience, loyalty to the party, and affection for the party workers, we - the State Presidents of all NCP cells - firmly believe that she is perfectly suited for the post of National President of the Nationalist Congress Party," said the letter signed by presidents of 30 party cells.



It added, "Therefore, we, the Presidents and office-bearers of various cells of the Nationalist Congress Party, unanimously and humbly, yet firmly, demand that Hon. Sunetra Ajit Pawar Vahini be appointed as the National President. We hope you will consider this request positively."

"I held talks with all the chiefs of different cells of the party and decided to draft a letter demanding Sunetra tai be made our party's National President," said the party's cultural cell chief Babasaheb Patil.

The letter has signatures of presidents of all party cells, such as youth, students, cultural etc, except for Rupali Chakankar who is the women's wing president of the party. Chakankar is also the president of the State women's commission.

When asked why her name is not included, Patil said, "The letter is signed by all those whom I managed to contact. I am sure that she will have no different opinion."

Pune Porsche crash: SC grants bail to 3 accused in blood sample tampering case

New Delhi, Feb 2 (IANS) The Supreme Court on Monday granted bail to three persons alleged to have conspired in swapping blood samples to shield minors involved in the high-profile Pune Porsche hit-and-run case.

Observing that they had been incarcerated for nearly 20 months, a Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan ordered the release of Ashish Satish Mittal, Aditya Avinash Sood, and Amar Santhosh Gaikwad, subject to conditions set by the trial court.

The three are accused of having played a role in swapping blood samples of two minor occupants of the Porsche car -- other than the alleged minor driver -- who were allegedly under the influence of alcohol at the time of the fatal accident.



They are booked under various provisions of the IPC and the Prevention of Corruption Act for offences, including forgery, evidence tampering and bribery.

Odisha: Man held in Rs 6 crore fake investment fraud case

Bhubaneswar, Feb 2 (IANS) The Crime Branch of the Odisha Police has arrested a man from Bhubaneswar in connection with a Rs 6 crore investment fraud case, a senior police official said on Monday.

The accused cyber criminal, identified as Vedgiri Srinivasrao, 39, is a resident of the Guntur area in Andhra Pradesh.Police sources revealed that a businessman from Berhampur in Ganjam district came into contact with an unidentified cyber fraudster on the popular social media platform Facebook on May 7, 2024. The fraudster identified herself as a Software developer with IBM, Hong Kong. She then persuaded the victim businessman to communicate via WhatsApp on his phone.The lady cybercriminal (Sanjana Srinivasan) informed the victim that her IBM team was establishing a data centre at ZAIF for digital currency exchange. She convinced him (businessman) to open a trading account with ZAIF and do trading. It was further revealed during the investigation that on May 30, 2024, the complainant's trading account showed a negative balance of $11,292. When he informed Sanjana, she advised him to invest more money to recover the losses. Subsequently, the victim continued trading and his account showed significant profit. During his trading, he faced profit and loss frequently, which were only shown in his trading account."When he wanted to withdraw money, the customer care of ZAIF asked him to pay 20 per cent of the balance amount.

Baseless, no foul play: Ramdas Athawale slams Sanjay Raut for raising doubts over Ajit Pawar's death

New Delhi, Feb 2 (IANS) Union Minister Ramdas Athawale on Monday criticised Shiv Sena-UBT MP Sanjay Raut for hinting at foul play in the death of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar in a plane crash, calling the allegations baseless.

Athawale asserted that there was no foul play involved and urged political leaders not to politicise a tragic incident.

His remarks came in response to statements made by Raut, who expressed "suspicion" over Ajit Pawar's death and demanded a detailed investigation into the plane crash. Raut alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had threatened the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader with irrigation scam files after he expressed a desire for a merger with the NCP-SP, claiming that Ajit Pawar "died mysteriously within 10 days" of those developments.

Raising doubts over the circumstances surrounding the incident, Raut said questions needed to be asked about the death of a senior leader like Ajit Pawar.



"Questions will indeed be raised on the accident of Ajit Dada; questions should indeed be raised. The manner in which a tall leader of Maharashtra, like Ajit Pawa,r died in a plane crash, and the facts which are coming to light, should be investigated. I think there is something dubious here. These questions are being raised by Ajit Dada's own party. His death is suspicious," Raut said, while demanding a probe into the incident.

Reacting to it, Athawale told IANS that there was no truth in the allegations.

"I feel that the government did not threaten Ajit Pawar in any way. Ajit Pawar was part of our leadership and a prominent member of our coalition. Whatever happened, or whatever should not have happened, is already under investigation, whether it was due to an aircraft malfunction or some other reason. The inquiry is ongoing," he said.

Athawale further stated that Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had ordered an inquiry into the matter and that the Civil Aviation Ministry was also conducting its own investigation.

Two female Baloch 'fidayeen' fighters among 11 who attacked Pakistani forces

Quetta, Feb 2 (IANS) The Baloch rebel group Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) has claimed that its ongoing offensive, titled Operation Herof Phase II, has been underway for more than 40 hours across multiple districts of Balochistan, alleging heavy casualties among Pakistani security forces and asserting control over several urban and rural areas.

In a series of statements and media releases issued through its official channel, Hakkal, the BLA stated the operation had expanded across a wide geographical stretch of the province.



As part of its claims, the group released a video recorded during clashes in Gwadar, identifying a female 'fidayeen' fighter who it said was killed during attacks against Pakistani forces, according to a report by The Balochistan Post.

The group identified the woman as Hawa Baloch, also known by the alias Droshum, and described the footage as her "final message, sent twelve hours before her martyrdom."

Sources quoted by The Balochistan Post said Hawa Baloch was a writer and that her father had previously been associated with the Baloch armed movement and was killed in fighting several years ago.

In the video message, Hawa Baloch is seen urging Baloch women to join what she referred to as the armed resistance.

She alleged that the Pakistani state had "oppressed Baloch women as well as men" and argued that women in Baloch society were "neither intellectually nor practically weak." She said the time had come for women to "rise and seek justice." The BLA also identified another female fidayeen as 23-year-old Asifa Mengal. According to the group, she carried out a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) operation on January 31 targeting the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) headquarters in Noshki. In addition, the group released a separate video featuring fidayeen Nako Fazal Baloch, whom it described as the "eldest Baloch fidayee of the Baloch Liberation Army," highlighting his role in the ongoing campaign.

In two detailed statements issued by BLA spokesperson Jeeyand Baloch, the group claimed its fighters had completed operations in areas including Kharan, Mastung, Tump and Pasni, while asserting that fighting was continuing in other locations. The statements further claimed that BLA fighters were present in parts of Quetta and Noshki, where the group alleged that Islamabad's military presence had been "repelled."

According to the BLA's claims, more than 200 personnel belonging to the Pakistan Army, police and Frontier Corps were killed during the offensive, while at least 17 individuals were captured.

Bangladesh: Yunus govt approves 71 luxury flats for ministers amid increasing public hardships

Dhaka, Feb 2 (IANS) As Bangladesh grapples with rising inflation, acute housing shortages, water stress and steadily deteriorating public services, the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government has approved a plan to construct three new buildings comprising 71 luxury flats for ministers on Minto Road in Dhaka, a report said on Monday. It added that the project is estimated to cost Bangladeshi Taka (Tk) 786 crore, with an additional Tk 20 crore allocated for furniture and fittings, and each flat --- measuring between 8,500 and 9,300 square feet--will include rooftop swimming pools- and will be furnished using public funds. "This is not merely a questionable budgetary choice. It is a political and moral indictment of an interim administration that speaks the language of reform while reproducing the very model of elite entitlement it claimed to dismantle. The decision fails on four counts: it violates principles of distributive and procedural justice, breaches public trust and symbolic legitimacy, betrays the spirit of July 2024 amid official silence and entrenches authoritarian elite privilege through a hurried pre-election decision," a report in Bangladesh's leading newspaper, New Age, detailed. "Bangladesh is not a wealthy country. It is a lower-middle-income state burdened by deep inequality, climate vulnerability, urban overcrowding and chronically underfunded social services. Millions live in unsafe housing. Schools lack basic resources. Hospitals remain overstretched. Against this backdrop, allocating hundreds of crores of taka to luxury flats for ministers violates the most elementary principle of distributive justice.

प्राचार्य का कार्यालय, महात्मा गाँधी स्मारक चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, जमशेदपुर

—: अति अल्प कालिन ई—निविदा सूचनाः— 3rd Call (NIT)

पत्रांक संख्या/एम.सी/465/26 दिनांक— 27/01/26

क्र.सं.	क	ख
1	कार्य का नाम	Supply of Machine & Equipments in M.G.M. Medical College Hospital , Jamshedpur , Jharkhand
2	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन	दिनांक — 04.02.2026
3	निविदा Online upload करने कि तिथि	दिनांक — 05.02.2026
4	निविदा Online upload करने कि अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक — 14.02.2026 संध्या 06.00 बजे तक
5	EMD	1,00,000.00 (One lakh , Refundable)
6	Last date of Receiving Hard copy (original) of EMD, & Tender Documents (Technical) in the office of Principal, M.G.M Medical College, Dimna Road, Mango, Jamshedpur , E.Singhbhum-831020 (by Speed Post/ Registered Post only.)	दिनांकः 14.02.2026 समयः अपराहन 04.00 बजे तक
7	निविदा खोलने की तिथि	दिनांक—16.02.2026 अपराह्न 3.00बजे
8	निविदा जारी करने वाले का नाम एवं पता	प्राचार्य, एम0 जी0 एम0 मेडिकल कॉलेज, जमशेदपुर, डिमना रोड, मानगो, जमशेदपुर, झारखण्ड, 831020

निविदा से संबंधित अतिरिक्त जानकारी वेबसाईट—http://jharkhand tenders.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

नोट :— निविदा केवल ई—टेन्डर के माध्यम से स्वीकार किया जायेगा। निविदा से संबंधित किसी भी प्रकार की जानकारी/शुद्धि पत्र आदि केवल वेबसाईट— http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in के माध्यम से हीं दि जायगी।

ह/— प्राचार्य,
एम0 जी0 एम0 मेडिकल कॉलेज, जमशेदपुर।

PR.NO.372147 Health Med Edu and Family Welfare(25-26):D

India and Norway discuss initiatives to strengthen economic ties

Oslo, Feb 2 (IANS) Secretary (West) at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Sibi George, held a meeting with State Secretary, Norwegian Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ragnhild Sjoner Syrstad in Oslo on Monday, discussing strengthening of economic ties and boosting investments in green and blue tech sectors.

Following their talks, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal wrote in a post on X: "During the visit to Oslo, Secretary (West) Sibi George held a productive meeting with State Secretary, Norwegian Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ms. Ragnhild Sjoner Syrstad. They discussed deepening India-Norway economic ties after the implementation of India-EFTA-TEPA. They also discussed boosting investments in green and blue tech sectors."

On January 27, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen jointly announced the conclusion of the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (India-EU FTA) at the 16th India-EU Summit in New Delhi.

Under the agreement, tariffs on over 90 per cent of EU goods exports to India will be eliminated or reduced, including steep duties of up to 44 per cent on machinery, 22 per cent on chemicals, and 11 per cent on pharmaceuticals, which will be mostly phased out. Tariffs on EU beer will be cut to 50 per cent, while duties on chemicals, aircraft, and spacecraft will be eliminated for almost all products.

Earlier in the day, George interacted with the Indian diaspora in Norway and highlighted India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and EU-FTA agreements, India's leadership of Global South, and its expanding global role. He lauded the role of Indian diaspora as a vital bridge between India and Norway.

"H.E. Amb Sibi George, Secretary (West) Ministry of External Affairs, India interacted with the vibrant and diverse Indian diaspora in Norway. During the interaction, he emphasised the importance of the Indian diaspora in India's growth and global engagement, while also highlighting India-EFTA and EU-FTA agreements, India's leadership of Global South, and its expanding global role," the Indian Embassy in Norway posted on X.

"He appreciated the role of the Indian diaspora as a vital bridge between India and Norway. The programme also featured a classical dance performance by the Mudra team. Singing of the National Anthem added a patriotic fervour to the gathering," it added.

CDS Gen Anil Chauhan lays wreath at Armenian Genocide Memorial in Yerevan

Yerevan, Feb 2 (IANS) Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan, who is on a four-day official visit to Armenia, on Monday laid a wreath at the Armenian Genocide Memorial and Museum in Yerevan, honouring the memory of 1.5 million Armenians who were massacred.

"General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff CDS, laid a wreath at the Armenian Genocide Memorial & Museum in Yerevan, honouring the memory of 1.5 million Armenians who lost their lives in the genocide. The Memorial's symbolic structures and the adjoining museum stand as a poignant testament to human suffering, resilience and the universal importance of remembrance, justice and peace," Headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff stated in a post on X.

The Indian defence delegation led by General Chauhan arrived in Armenia on Sunday for a four-day official visit. The visit of Indian defence delegation marks an important step in taking forward shared strategic interests and enhancing long-term defence and security collaboration between the two nations.

"An Indian defence delegation led by General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff CDS, reached Republic of Armenia on a four days official visit on 01 Feb. The visit marks an important step in taking forward shared strategic interests and enhancing long-term defence and security collaboration between the two Nations," Headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff posted on X.

"The delegation was warmly received in Yerevan by Ms Nilakshi Saha Sinha, Ambassador of India to Armenia and Major General Temur Shahnazaryan, Deputy Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia," it added.

Just two weeks ago, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off the first tranche of guided Pinaka rockets destined for Armenia. The systems were manufactured by Pune-based Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL).

e-Procurement Cell

ENERGY DEPARTMENT, GOVT.OF JHARKHAND

Electrical Executive Engineer

Electric Works Division, Jamshedpur

Very Short Notice e- Procurement Notice

Very Short e-Tender Reference No.- Energy/EWD/Jamshedpur/12/2025-26 Dated-02-02-2026

Sl. NO.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Tender Fee (Bid Document Fee)	Bid Security (EMD Fee 2%)	Completion Date
I	Repair work of 4 nos Elevators installed at Civil Court, Jamshedpur.	17,75,782=00	5,000=00	36,000=00	28 days
2-	Date of Publication of tender on website	09.02.2026			
3-	Online bid submission period	From 10.02.2026 at 10:30 am to 16.02.2026 at 2:00 pm			
4-	Technical Bid Opening Date	17.02.2026 at 3:00 PM			
5-	Name and address of the office to inviting tender	Electrical Executive Engineer, Electric Works Division, Jamshedpur.			
6-	Name and address of the office to Open the tender	Electrical Executive Engineer, Electric Works Division, Jamshedpur.			
6-	Contact no. of Procurement officer	0657-2915094			
7-	Helpline number of e- Procurement cell	0657-2915094			

Note :- Tender Fee and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) are to be paid through online mode only as per instruction of IT Dept. Govt. of Jharkhand Letter no.-120 Dated- 03-10-2023.

Further details can be seen on website-http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Electrical Executive Engineer
Electric Works Division
Jamshedpur

PR 372152 Energy (25-26)_D

कार्यालय — अधीक्षक, एम0 जी0 एम0 मेडिकल कॉलेज अस्पताल, जमशेदपुर

Email ID: superintendentmgmmch@gmail.com

पत्रांक — 426/2026 —: अति अल्पकालीन निविदा :— दिनांक — 31.01.2026

एम0जी0एम0 मेडिकल कॉलेज अस्पताल, जमशेदपुर, डिमना में संचालित आयुश्मान भारत मुख्यमंत्री जन आरोग्य योजना (केवल भर्ती मरीजो के लिए)/जननी शिशु सुरक्षा कार्यक्रम/सबर मरीजो के लिए Diagnostic Test जो इस अस्पताल में उपलब्ध नहीं है, के लिए एजेंसियों को सूचीबद्ध करने हेतु अति अल्पकालीन निविदा/कोटेशन, स्पीड पोस्ट/निबंधिक डाक के माध्यम से दिनांक 10/02/2026 के संध्या 05:00 बजे तक निम्नलिखित शर्तों पर आमंत्रित किया जाता है —

(1)निविदा/कोटेशन दिनांक 10/02/2026 के संध्या 05:00 बजे तक ही अधीक्षक, एम0जी0एम0 मेडिकल कॉलेज अस्पताल, जमशेदपुर के कार्यालय में प्राप्त किया जाएगा है।

(2)निविदा दिनांक 11/02/2026 के 12:00 बजे अधीक्षक, एम0जी0एम0 मेडिकल कॉलेज अस्पताल, जमशेदपुर की अध्यक्षता में उनके कक्ष मे खोली जाएगी।

(3)निविदादाता/एजेंसी Diagnostic Test C.G.H.S Rate से न्यूनतम दर पर करना सुनिश्चित करेंगे।

(4)कोटेशन/लिफाफा में कोटेशन सं0/दिनांक अंकित कर के देना होगा।

(5)कोटेशनदाता/आपूर्तिकर्ता को निम्नलिखित Notry Affidavit देना अनिवार्य होगा कि —

a)निविदा में अंकित Diagnostic Test C.G.H.S Rate से अधिक नही है। अधिकाय दर के लिए एजेंन्सी जिम्मेवार होंगे।

b)हमारा फर्म/कम्पनी किसी सरकारी अथवा अर्द्ध सरकारी उपक्रम की काली सूची में नही है तथा पूर्व में भी दोशी नहीं पाया गया है।

c)एम0जी0एम0 मेडिकल कॉलेज अस्पताल, जमशेदपुर में मेरे परिवार का कोई भी सदस्य एवं रिश्तेदार कार्यरत नहीं है।

(6)अद्यतन BIO MEDICAL WASTE CERTIFICATE, ESTABLISHMENT ACT certificate.

(7)निविदा/कोटेशन को पूर्ण रूप से तथा आंशिक रूप से रद्द करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी का सुरक्षित रहेगा तथा किसी तरह का विवाद होने पर न्याय क्षेत्र जमशेदपुर होगा।

(8)निविदा से संबंधित क्रय समिति द्वारा लिए गए निर्णय ही सर्वमान्य होगी।

(9)निविदादाता/आपूर्तिकर्त्ता का Diagnostic Test Center अस्पताल के 5 कि0मी0 के दायरे में होनी चाहिए।

(10)निविदादाता/आपूर्तिकर्त्ता को अस्पताल से संबंधित मॉग पत्र (Indent Copy) प्राप्त होती ही L1 निविदादाता /आपूर्तिकर्त्ता को 30 मिनट के भीतर मॉग पत्र में उल्लेखित Diagnostic Test करेंगें साथ ही same day diagnostic test report भी उपलब्ध कराना सुनिश्चित करेंगें। यदि L1 निविदादाता/आपूर्तिकर्त्ता समय सीमा के भीतर Diagnostic Test करने में विफल रहता है तो अनुमोदित L1 दर पर ही L2 निविदादाता/आपूर्तिकर्त्ता से Diagnostic Test की जायगी।

(11)यदि दो या दो से अधिक निविदादाता/आपूर्तिकर्त्ता ने समान दर उद्धृत की है तो ऑर्डर आवश्यकता अनुसार/फीफो (First In First Out) के आधार पर दी जाएगी।

(12)लाभुको/मरीजों को जिनका कोई attender नही हो अथवा जो चलने फीरने में लाचार हो वैसे लाभुको/मरीजों को उनके मॉग पत्र (Indent Copy) में उल्लेखित Diagnostic Test निर्धारित समय सीमा के भीतर स्वंय उनके के पास जाकर उपलब्ध कराना सुनिश्चित करेंगें।

(13)Diagnostic Test 24x7 की व्यवस्था अपने स्तर से करना सुनिश्चित करेंगें।

ANNEXURE – 1 ENCLOSED (वैसे Diagnostic Test की सूची जो इस अस्पताल में उपलब्ध है, को छोड़कर)। जिला के वेबसाइट : www.Jamshedpur.nic.in में देखा जा सकता है।

उपाधीक्षक
एम0 जी0 एम0 मेडिकल कॉलेज अस्पताल
जमशेदपुर।

अधीक्षक
एम0 जी0 एम0 मेडिकल कॉलेज अस्पताल
जमशेदपुर।

PR 372141 (Health Med Edu and Family Welfare)25-26*D

Trump claims to fix UN financial crisis 'very easily' amid US withholding $4 billion in dues

United Nations, Feb 2 (IANS) While the US withholding nearly $ 4 billion in dues to the UN is sending it to the edge of a financial precipice, President Donald Trump has claimed that he could solve the problem "very easily".

In his interview with Politico on Sunday (local time), he did not, however, say that he would release the funds that the US owes, which, according to the UN, is at the centre of its financial crisis.

In a letter to heads of UN missions, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that the world body is in "imminent financial collapse", but without mentioning the US arrears.

According to a UN official, Washington owes $2.196 billion to the UN's regular budget and $1.8 billion to its separate peacekeeping budget.

Excluding the 2026 regular budget assessment of $768 million, for which it has time till the end of the year to pay up, the past dues of the US are $1.429 billion.

The US is the single biggest contributor to the UN, accounting for 22 per cent of the regular budget based on an assessment set by the General Assembly through an intricate formula, and its arrears have an outsized impact.

Trump, who has hurled vitriol against the UN and pulled out from several of its units and related agencies, took a more conciliatory tone in the Politico interview, framing it as a possible legacy.

"When I'm no longer around to settle wars, the UN can. It has tremendous potential. Tremendous", he said.

Trump has claimed to have ended eight wars singlehandedly and has pitched the Board of Peace, which was set up with a UN Security Council OK to oversee the end of the Gaza conflict and rebuilding it, as an alternative to the UN.

He repeated the assertion about the UN's possibilities when the chatter about the UN leaving New York came up.

"The UN is not leaving New York, and it's not leaving the United States, because the UN has tremendous potential," he said.

As a cost-saving measure, the UN has moved some of its functions to less costly venues abroad and is considering shifting others.

Trump told Politico that he would make countries pay up their dues to the UN in minutes.

None of the other countries that are major contributors, including China, which accounts for 18 per cent of the budget, are in arrears for 2025 or the previous years, and they have till the end of the year to pay their 2026 assessments.

Trump, however, told Politico that "If they (UN) came to Trump and told him [about the problem], I'd get everybody to pay up, just like I got NATO to pay up," he said.

Office of the Executive Engineer

Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Chaibasa

Short E-Procurement Notice

Short E-Tender reference no- Chaibasa DWSD/09/Spare Parts/2025-26 Date- 31.01.2026

1	Name of the Work	Supply of Spare parts of deep well hand pump India Mark-II Conforming to I.S: 9301-1990 with latest amendment (may be read along with Ist amendment IS: 15500(Part 1-7) 2004 with latest amendment for spares of India Mark- II respectively) under D.W.& S. Division, Chaibasa for the year 2025-26
2	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	Rs. 18,07,318.00
3	B.O.Q Cost (In Rs.)	Rs 36,200.00 (Through Online)
4	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Rs. 5,000.00 (Through Online)
5	Time of Completion	One Month
6	Date of publication of Tender on Web site	02.02.2026, 12.00 PM
7	Last date /Time for receipt of Bid	09.02.2026, 04.00 PM
8	Last date submission cost of BOQ and EMD online	09.02.2026, 04.00 PM
9	Date of opening of Tender	10.02.2026, 04.00 PM
10	Name & address of office inviting tender	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Chaibasa
11	Contact no of e-Procurement officer	9470309779

नोट — 1. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट—बढ़ सकती है।

2. निविदा की शर्तें एवं परिमाण विपत्र विभागीय वेबसाईट www.Jharkhandtenders.gov.in से Download की जा सकती है।

3. सरकार के सचिव, सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी एवं ई— गवर्नेस, झारखण्ड मंत्रालय, के ज्ञापांक 120 दिनांक 03.10.2023 के आलोक में विपत्र का मूल्य एवं अग्रधन की राशि Online जमा की जाएगी।

Executive Engineer
Drinking water & Sanitation Division, Chaibasa

PR 372188 West Singhbhum(25-26).D

प्राचार्य का कार्यालय, महात्मा गाँधी स्मारक चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, जमशेदपुर

—: अति अल्प कालिन ई—निविदा सूचना :— (NIT)

पत्रांक संख्या/एम.सी/ 467/26 दिनांक— 27.01.26

क्र.सं.	क	ख
1	कार्य का नाम	Supply of Kit / Regent etc. (For Central Lab) in M.G.M. Medical College Hospital Jamshedpur
2	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन	दिनांक — 04.02.2026
3	Pre- Bid meeting	दिनांक — 05.02.2026, पूर्वाह्न 11.30 बजे
4	निविदा Online upload करने कि तिथि	दिनांक — 06.02.2026
5	निविदा Online upload करने कि अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक — 14.02.2026 समयः संध्या 06.00 बजे तक
6	EMD	1,00,000.00 (One lakh , Refundable)
7	Last date of Receiving Hard copy (original) of EMD, & Tender Paper (Technical) in the office of Principal, M.G.M Medical College, Dimna Road, Mango, Jamshedpur , E.Singhbhum-831020 (by Speed Post/ Registered Post only.)	दिनांकः 14.02.2026 समयः अपराह्न 03.00 बजे तक
8	निविदा खोलने की तिथि	दिनांक— 16.02.2026 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे
9	निविदा जारी करने वाले का नाम एवं पता	प्राचार्य, एम0 जी0 एम0 मेडिकल कॉलेज, जमशेदपुर, डिमना रोड, मानगो, जमशेदपुर, झारखण्ड, 831020

निविदा से संबंधित अतिरिक्त जानकारी वेबसाईट—http://jharkhand tenders.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

नोट :— निविदा केवल ई—टेन्डर के माध्यम से स्वीकार किया जायेगा। निविदा से संबंधित किसी भी प्रकार की जानकारी/शुद्धि पत्र आदि केवल वेबसाईट—http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in के माध्यम से हीं दि जायगी।

ह/— प्राचार्य,
एम0 जी0 एम0 मेडिकल कॉलेज, जमशेदपुर

PR 372148 Health Med Edu and Family Welfare(25-26).D

Bangladesh: Ex-PM Sheikh Hasina gets 10 years jail term

Dhaka, Feb 2 (IANS) A Bangladesh court on Monday sentenced former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to 10 years' imprisonment in connection with a corruption case linked to the Purbachal plot scam, while her niece and British Member of Parliament, Tulip Siddiq was given a four-year jail term, according to local media reports. According to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), public prosecutor Mir Ahmed Ali Salam, Dhaka Special Judge Court-4 judge Md. Rabiul Alam delivered the judgment on Monday afternoon.

Govt. of Jharkhand

Department of Mines and Geology, District- Saraikela-Kharsawan

Notice Inviting Tender for Auction of Seized Sand

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

JMMC Rule 2004 (as amended) में उल्लेखित प्रावधानों के तहत जब्त बालू भंडारण की ई—नीलामी निम्न कार्यक्रमानुसार करायी जाएगी :—

1. ई—नीलामी कार्यक्रमः—

NIT No- Mines/ Saraikela /Sand	निलामी किये जाने वाले बालू भंडारण 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
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
01/2026	Saraikela Seized Sand	02/02/2026	जिला खनन कार्यालय, सरायकला— खरसावॉ। दिनांक 05/02/2026 समय 3.00 PM	02/02/2026 को 10:00 AM से 09/02/2026 को 2.00 PM तक	10/02/2026 02.00 PM	11/02/2026 को 10.00 AM से 5.00 PM तक

जब्त बालू का विवरणी :—

कम संख्या	मौजा	Latitude/Longitude	कुल बालू की मात्रा
1	सपादा	23°124806° N, 85°942167° E	100000 Cft
2	सिरकाडीह	23°132617° N, 85°933491° E	10000 Cft
3	सोडो	1. 23.126043°N: 85.907371°E 2. 23.125518°N: 85.907232°E 3. 23.125767°N: 85.907183°E	45000 Cft
	कुल		155000 Cft

2. जब्त बालू भंडारण के समूह की विस्तृत विवरणी जिला के वेबसाईट पर उपलब्ध है।
3. जब्त बालू भंडारण 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. जब्त बालू भंडारण का तात्पर्य है कि विभिन्न समय में जिला खनन कार्यालय, सरायकेला—खरसावॉ अंतर्गत अलग—अलग जगह पर किये गये बालू भंडाराण (सूची अनुसार)।
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—खरसावॉ।

ह0/— जिला कोषागार पदाधिकारी सरायकेला—खरसावॉ।

ह0/— जिला खनन पदाधिकारी, सरायकेला—खरसावॉ।

ह0/— अपर समाहर्ता, राजस्व, सरायकेला—खरसावॉ।

ह0/— उप निदेशक, खान, कोल्हान अँचल चाईबासा।

ह0/— उपायुक्त, सरायकेला—खरसावॉ।

PR 372160 Mines and Geology(25-26)#D

Nikhil Siddhartha relishes ice cream after staying on a two-year diet for historical film 'Swayambhu'!



Hyderabad, Feb 2 (IANS) Telugu actor Nikhil Siddhartha has now shared a video clip of him enjoying an ice cream, after staying on a diet for almost two years for director Bharat Krishnamachari's eagerly awaited historical action epic 'Swayambhu'.

Taking to his Instagram, actor Nikhil Siddhartha posted the video clip that showed him enjoying ice cream with his close team including his make up man and assistant and wrote, "Finally an Ice Cream after 2 years of warrior diet. Two years of Training. A sweet treat after all the toil. You all will witness it on the big screen very soon.Teaser announcement loading this week."

Along with Nikhil Siddhartha, the film will also feature actresses Samyuktha and Nabha Natesh in the lead. It is slated to hit screens worldwide on April 10 this year.

Positioned as an epic celebrating India's rich history and timeless glory, 'Swayambhu' was originally set to hit screens worldwide on February 13 this year on the occasion of Maha Shivaratri.

However, the makers have now pushed the release of the film to April 10. Sources say that the film's VFX work requires additional time and therefore, the makers had decided to push the release of the film to April 10 this year.

Aari Arjunan-starrer '4th Floor' to hit screens on Feb 27



Chennai, Feb 2 (IANS) The makers of director L.R. Sundarapandi's eagerly awaited psychological thriller film, '4th Floor', featuring actor Aari Arjunan in the lead, have now announced that the film has been cleared by the censor board for release with a U/A certificate and that the film will now hit screens worldwide on February 27 this year.

Aari Arjunan took to his X timeline to make the announcement. He wrote, "#FourthFloor Censored - U/A Certificate. February 27 Release in Cinemas. A @lrsundarapandi1 directorial. A @dharankumar_c Musical. Lyrics - @kukarthik1. #ManoCreations @DirectorS_shiva @deepshikhaoffi @adithya_Kathir @suriyasree1 @asulthanrajapro."

Produced by A Raja under Mano Creations and directed by L.R. Sundarapandi, the film, a unique thriller, is set in an extraordinary milieu. The story unfolds amidst a series of thrilling events in a residential building in central Chennai.

Sources from the unit say that director L.R. Sundarapandi has crafted a screenplay that is full of astonishing twists and that is guaranteed to provide an unprecedented thriller experience to audiences.

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

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

Aari Arjunan plays the protagonist, with Deepshika playing the female lead in this film. Actors Pavithra, director Subramania Siva, Thalaivasal Vijay, and Adithya Kathir too will be seen playing pivotal roles in this film.

On the technical front, the film owes its visuals to gifted cinematographer J. Lakshman, who is best known for his work in popular movies like 'Poda Podi' and 'Vennila Kabadi Kuzhu'.

Music for the film has been scored by Dharan of Poda Podi fame while art direction has been handled by Suresh Kalleri, known for his work in gripping social dramas 'Aneedhi', 'Jail', and the popular web series 'Mathagam'.

Shanaya Kapoor spends her Saturday night listening to 'Jee Liya' on loop



Mumbai, Feb 2 (IANS) Actress Shanaya Kapoor reveals she spent her Saturday night in a mellow, musical mood, soaking in the emotions of the song 'Jee Liya', which she had on loop as she unwound over the weekend.

Shanaya took to Instagram, where she shared a video of herself vibing to the "Tu Yaa Main" song "Jee Liya" sung by Adarsh Gourav and Lothika Jha.

"Saturday night lights… with jee liya on loop," Shanaya wrote as the caption.

Directed by Bejoy Nambiar, Tu Yaa Main is produced by Aanand L Rai and Himanshu Sharma under the banner of Colour Yellow, along with Vinod Bhanushali and Kamlesh Bhanushali of Bhanushali Studios Limited. Rooted in today's creator-driven culture, the film offers a fresh, youthful take on love and survival, and is set for release on 13 February 2026.

Shilpa Shetty wishes her 'A1 from day 1' Shamita on 47th birthday



Mumbai, Feb 2 (IANS) Actress Shilpa Shetty shared a fun birthday message for her sister, actress Shamita Shetty, whom she lovingly called her 'A1 from day 1' along with a throwback moment. Shilpa took to Instagram to share a video featuring pictures from Shamita's childhood. She also posted a series of photographs capturing precious moments she has shared with Shamita and their mother over the years. For the caption, Shilpa wrote: "A little throwback because… how could I not it's your birthdayyyy."

"Happyyy birthdayyy, my Tunkiii My A1 from day 1. May your life always be filled with endless happiness, good health, laughter, and love. Remember, you always have me - today, tomorrow, forever… no matter what Love you to the moon and b a c k @shamitashetty_official."

Shamita is the younger sister of actress Shilpa. She made her acting debut with the romantic drama Mohabbatein in 2000. She went on to do films including Bewafaa, Zeher, and Cash.

Following a career hiatus and a downturn, Shamita participated in several reality television shows, including Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa, Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi, and Bigg Boss.

Health

Kashmir startup builds plasma testbed crucial for fusion systems



New Delhi, Feb 2 (IANS) Ignition Dynamics, a deep-tech startup incubated at NIT Srinagar's Greenovator Foundation, has developed its first prototype, Magnetized Plasma Testbed, that studies plasma under controlled electric and magnetic fields, a report has said.

The report from Kashmir Observer said the testbed lets researchers and students perform experiments by "switching on" plasma, heating it in different ways, and observing its response within a small laboratory setup.

These experiments have implications for the future of fusion energy, and have practical applications in electronics, medical devices, surface coatings, and space propulsion, the report said.

"This is important because fusion depends on understanding how plasma can be heated, confined, and kept stable. Our testbed demonstrates fundamental techniques used in fusion systems: electrical heating, radio-frequency heating, and magnetic configurations that guide plasma," said Ali Mohammad, CEO, Ignition Dynamics.

"By studying these effects at a smaller scale, we can validate ideas, train people, and improve designs before applying them to larger, more expensive fusion machines," Mohammad said in an interview with Kashmir Observer.

Such test bed facilities are usually available only in large international labs, but Mohammad says large laboratories focus on the final, most powerful stage. Ignition Dynamics focuses on the earlier stage, creating small, controllable systems that help scientists understand how hot gases and plasmas behave under electricity and magnetic fields.

Greenovator Incubation Foundation at NIT Srinagar provided a structured environment where an ambitious deep-tech idea could be shaped into a working startup, giving us guidance, institutional credibility, he added.

The startup focuses on maturing as a deep-tech organization, developing advanced plasma and accelerator systems for research, industry, and strategic applications. Plasma technologies have application in surface coatings, sterilization of medical equipment, and industrial diagnostics.

Preity Mukhundhan appreciates her 'Idhayam Murali' unit for taking care of her when she was unwell



Chennai, Feb 2 (IANS) Actress Preity Mukhundan, who plays the lead along with actors Atharvaa Murali and Kayadu Lohar in director Aakash Baskaran's eagerly-awaited romantic drama, 'Idhayam Murali', has now penned a post of appreciation for the members of the film's unit, saying they had taken good care of her when she was unwell.

Taking to her Instagram page to share a BTS video and several pictures shot on the sets of the film, the actress wrote, "Appreciation post for all the cuties who took care of your girl on set when i was hella sick and in vegetative state. Saved the best for the last (though we weren't talking to each other coz we were fighting)."

The film has triggered huge expectations and is among the most eagerly awaited entertainers of the year.

It may be recalled that actor Atharvaa had, at the time of the film's title launch, dedicated this film to all those in one-side love.

Participating in the title launch event that was held at the premises of the St Joseph's Institute of Technology in Chennai, Atharvaa, who plays the role of Idhayam Murali in the film, had asked the gathering of students, "How many of you are in one-side love?"

He then went on to say, "To be honest, the joy, the sadness, the disappointment that one experiences in one-side love is much more significant than what one experiences in a double-side love relationship and is unforgettable in life. We wanted to showcase all this and dedicate a film to one-side love."

Ram Charan says 'the women in our life have been our greatest strength' as he welcomes twins



Mumbai, Feb 2 (IANS) Tollywood sensation Ram Charan is on cloud nine right now after becoming a father for the second time. The 'RRR' actor and his better half, Upasana Konidela, welcomed twins - a baby girl and a baby boy.

Sharing the joy with his InstaFam, Ram Charan penned a heartfelt note on the photo-sharing app, saying that he sees the women in his life as his greatest strength.

"Happy to share that we have been blessed with a baby boy & girl. Having two daughters and a son fills us with immense gratitude. The women in our life have been our greatest strength. (sic)," he penned.

The 'Acharya' actor further expressed his gratitude to his family and admirers for always being by their side.

"I'm very thankful to all our fans, family and well-wishers who have stood by us and supported us through every moment," the post concluded.

Ram Charan got married to Upasana Konidela, the vice-chairman of Apollo Charity, in a traditional ceremony back in June 2012.

Before getting engaged in December 2011, the couple had known one another for a long time.

In June 2023, Ram Charan and Upasana welcomed their firstborn, daughter, Klin Kaara.

The power couple announced the news of their second pregnancy during Diwali 2025.

Posting a clip from her Seemantham (baby shower) on social media, Upasana wrote, "This Diwali was all about double the celebration, double the love and double the blessings."

Dalai Lama wins first Grammy, says recognition of shared universal responsibility



Dharamsala, Feb 2 (IANS) Globally acclaimed spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, 90, has won his first Grammy Award for Best Audio Book, Narration, and Storytelling Recording. The Nobel Peace Laureate competed against Milli Vanilli's Fab Morvan, US Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, show host Trevor Noah, and actress Kathy Garver.

Rufus Wainwright accepted the award on the Dalai Lama's behalf during the ceremony streamed on YouTube.

"Meditations: The Reflections Of His Holiness The Dalai Lama" is the entry from the world's foremost Tibetan Buddhist, an album of innovative collaborations with Hindustani classical influences.

Atop the music are collages of his remarks on themes like mindfulness, harmony, and health, captured over the last few years. Responding to the award, His Holiness said, "I receive this recognition with gratitude and humility. I don't see it as something personal, but as a recognition of our shared universal responsibility. I truly believe that peace, compassion, care for our environment, and an understanding of the oneness of humanity are essential for the collective well-being of all eight billion human beings."

"I'm grateful that this Grammy recognition can help spread these messages more widely," he said.

Sixty-six years ago, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, disguised as a soldier, left Norbulingka Palace in Tibet, a Third Pole, and escaped into exile in India after his challenging 14-day journey. Since then, the longest, most respectable staying guest of the Indian government, who often says he's enjoying every possible liberty, has been toeing a path of promoting human values, religious harmony, besides preserving Tibetan language and culture, the heritage received from the masters of India's Nalanda University.

Shabana Azmi treats with a throwback couple pic with Javed Akhtar



Mumbai, Feb 2 (IANS) Veteran actress Shabana Azmi has been married to celebrated screenwriter, lyricist, and poet Javed Akhtar for decades now.

Shabana stays on top of her social media game and keeps updating netizens with glimpses of her life, which often includes her dear husband. In her latest post as well, she treated her InstaFam with a throwback picture.

Both Shabana and Javed Akhtar were seen facing the camera with a smile on their faces.

While Shabana looked graceful in a red saree, paired with a traditional Himachali cap, the writer accompanied her in a classic black kurta look.

The veteran actress also added the "Home In My Heart" track by Oliver Max as the background score. For those who do not know, Shabana and Javed Akhtar first met at Shabana's father's, the legendary poet Kaifi Azmi's residence. When they met, Javed Akhtar was already married to his first wife, Honey Irani, and was also a father to two kids —Farhan Akhtar and Zoya Akhtar.

Shabana's family was reportedly initially against their daughter marrying the writer; however, the couple tied the knot in 1984.

In December last year, Shabana and Javed Akhtar celebrated 41 years of marital bliss. Commemorating the special occasion, she took to her official Instagram handle and posted a sweet couple pic where she is seen lovingly looking into her husband's eyes as she talked to him.

ICC confirms Men's T20 WC warm-up schedule

16 matches to be played at four venues



New Delhi, Feb 2 (IANS) The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday announced that 16 warm-up matches will be played between February 2 and 6 ahead of the start of the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup on February 7.

The warm-up games will be staged across four cities in co-host nations India and Sri Lanka. In India, the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) Ground 1 in Bengaluru, DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai and M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai will host matches.

In Sri Lanka, SSC Cricket Ground, R. Premadasa Stadium and Colombo Cricket Club Ground will host the warm-up games. Defending champions India will play a warm-up game against South Africa on February 4 in Navi Mumbai, while India A will feature in their warm-up games against USA and Namibia on Monday evening and February 6, respectively.

ICC also said fans wishing to attend USA v India 'A' and India v South Africa warm-up games at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai can purchase tickets online at the BookMyShow website or in person at the venue's box office.

The warm-up games schedule opens with Afghanistan v Scotland in Bengaluru on February 2 and concludes with India A v Namibia game at the BCCI CoE on February 6. India and India 'A' games will be broadcast live on Star Sports and JioHotstar in the country.

Full warm-up schedule (all times local)

February 2 : Afghanistan v Scotland, BBCI Centre of Excellence Ground 1, Bengaluru - 3pm; USA v India 'A', DY Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai - 5pm; Canada v Italy, M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai - 7pm

February 3 : Oman v Sri Lanka 'A', Colombo Cricket Club Ground, Colombo - 1pm; Netherlands v Zimbabwe, R. Premadasa Stadium, Colombo - 3pm; Nepal v UAE, M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai - 5pm

February 4 : Scotland v Namibia, BCCI Centre of Excellence Ground 2, Bengaluru - 1pm; Afghanistan v West Indies, BCCI Centre of Excellence Ground 1, Bengaluru - 3pm;

Pakistan v Ireland, SSC Cricket Ground, Colombo - 5pm; India v South Africa, DY Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai - 7pm

February 5 : Zimbabwe v Oman, Colombo Cricket Club Ground, Colombo - 11am; Nepal v Canada, M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai - 1pm; Australia v Netherlands, R. Premadasa Stadium, Colombo - 5pm; New Zealand v USA, DY Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai - 7pm

February 6 : Italy v UAE, M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai - 3pm; India 'A' v Namibia, BCCI Centre of Excellence Ground 1, Bengaluru - 5pm

Begani Shadi Mein Abdulla Diwana: Harbhajan's dig at Pakistan's boycott of India match in T20 WC



New Delhi, Feb 2 (IANS) Former India spinner Harbhajan Singh took a dig at Pakistan's decision to selectively participate in the upcoming Men's T20 World Cup 2026 and boycott its Group A clash against India, calling it an unnecessary drama to mislead people.

The Pakistan government has ordered the Pakistan Cricket Board to not play India in the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup and granted the team conditional approval to take part in the tournament. This decision comes in protest against the ICC's refusal to move Bangladesh's World Cup matches out of India, a demand Pakistan strongly backed. "BeganiShadimeiabdullahdeewana… Pakistan government has said that their team will participate in the T20 World Cup but will not play against India.

There is absolutely no logic to this. This is the same Pakistan government and the same PCB that, after some time, will say that the dispute was actually Bangladesh's, the ICC imposed the ban, and we were ready to play and resolve the issue. This is nothing but a complete drama being created to mislead people. They are trying to project that we stand with Bangladesh," Harbhajan said on his Youtube channel.

Rasik Chandra leads Jharkhand's medal rush

Mail News Service

National Masters Athletics Championship



Jamshedpur, Feb 2: Athletes from Jharkhand delivered an impressive performance at the 46th National Masters Athletics Championship held from January 28 to February 1 in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, winning a total of seven medals and bringing pride to the state.

Rasik Chandra Hessa emerged as the star performer by securing three gold medals in the 30+ age group. He topped the podium in the 800 metres, 1,500 metres, and 3,000 metres steeplechase, completing a remarkable hat-trick of victories.

Adding to Jharkhand's gold tally, Munna Buruli won the gold medal in the 3,000 metres steeplechase in the 35+ age group with a strong performance. In field events, PappuBharti claimed a silver medal in the javelin throw in the 30+ age category. Earlier in the championship, Avtar Singh contributed two more medals by winning silver in the javelin throw and bronze in the shot put.

With four gold, two silver, and one bronze medal, the Jharkhand team showcased excellent overall performance at the national level.

Officials and sports lovers praised the athletes for their dedication and discipline. The success reflects the growing strength of Masters Athletics in Jharkhand and the continuous efforts of the players to excel in sports.

The medal winners were congratulated for their achievements

Pak boycott of T20 WC match

India shouldn't have played after 'Op Sindoor', says Oppn; cowardice, hits back BJP



New Delhi, Feb 2 (IANS) Following Pakistan's decision to boycott its high-profile T20 World Cup match against India, the Opposition on Monday termed the move the 'biggest slap on the face' of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Several Opposition leaders also questioned India's participation in matches against Pakistan after 'Operation Sindoor'.

Meanwhile, the BJP said Pakistan's decision was inconsequential and it was another example of its cowardice. Speaking to IANS, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi said Pakistan's boycott exposed the failure of cricketing diplomacy.

"This is the biggest slap on the face of the BCCI.

The BCCI is the most powerful and richest cricket body in the world and an influential member of the ICC. After the terror attack and 'Operation Sindoor', we repeatedly raised Pakistan's role in promoting terrorism on global platforms. Families of the 26 people who lost their lives kept appealing that matches should not be played with Pakistan," she said.

Congress MP Ujjwal Raman Singh echoed similar concerns, stating that Pakistan should have been stopped from playing India immediately after 'Operation Sindoor'.

"At that time, we raised the question of why India was still playing Pakistan.

Terror attacks were carried out, innocent people were killed, and it was a serious issue. Yet matches continued. Now Pakistan is pretending to be the victim, while our people suffered losses. The ICC should take strict action.

In a way, Pakistan is slapping us in the face, and India should take a firm stand," he said, adding that the ICC's representatives appeared to be failing in enforcing discipline.

Congress leader Pratap Singh Khachariyawas said, "Pakistan is meaningless and acting irrationally. Pakistan is not loyal even to Imran Khan or to its own people, so how can it be loyal to India? What Pakistan says about India makes no difference, because India has defeated Pakistan every time."

Samajwadi Party MP Rajeev Kumar Rai said India missed an opportunity to take a decisive stand earlier.

"It is our mistake. We should not have given Pakistan the opportunity to refuse playing against us. A better decision should have been taken immediately after 'Operation Sindoor'," he told IANS.

Congress MP Tariq Anwar said, "It is unfortunate that Pakistan refused at the very last moment, just when the time had come to play the match. It's against the norms.

There are few days left, then they are taking this decision. This is wrong."

Pakistan has not targeted BCCI, it has taken the issue to ICC: Rashid

New Delhi, Feb 2 (IANS) Former captain RashifLatif, while reflecting on Pakistan decison to boycott the T20 World Cup match against India, said that they could face sanctions, and they must be aware of that, adding that this boycott could also impact their participation in future ICC events, including the Women's T20 World Cup in England, the Asia Cup, and other major tournaments.

"This decision has been taken keeping the political context in mind. Earlier, India had adopted such measures, introducing the neutral venue and the hybrid model. Considering the current political dynamics in South Asia, involving Pakistan and Bangladesh, this move is closely linked to the broader regional situation.

Bangladesh is heading into elections, and elections are also due in West Bengal, which adds another layer to the context," Latif told IANS.

"If we look at developments from last year, including incidents along the borders and gestures such as the refusal to shake hands during the Asia Cup, all these factors seem to have influenced Pakistan's decision. The Pakistan government appears to have acted with the concern that sanctions could be imposed on the country.

"This boycott will not be limited to just this World Cup. There is also the Women's T20 World Cup in England and then the Asia Cup. In the World Cup, a single India-Pakistan match is valued at around 40-50 million dollars, so its absence will have a significant financial impact," he added.

HUDCO XI wins opening match as Media Cup cricket kicks off

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 2: The Media Cup Cricket Tournament began on Monday at Keenan Stadium with an exciting opening match in which HUDCO XI defeated Dimna XI by eight wickets. Batting first, Dimna XI scored 108 runs for eight wickets in the allotted 15 overs. Amjad was the top scorer with 32 runs off 21 balls, while Shekhar contributed 22 runs from 29 balls. For HUDCO XI, Jitendra and Randhir picked up one wicket each. In reply, HUDCO XI comfortably chased the target, scoring 113 runs for the loss of two wickets in 13.2 overs. Raghavendra played a steady innings of 42 runs off 38 balls, while Jitendra added 22 runs from 22 balls. Raj Prasad and Surendra took one wicket each for Dimna XI. Raghavendra was named Player of the Match for his match-winning performance.

Earlier, the tournament was formally inaugurated with an opening ceremony. Tata Steel Vice President (Corporate Services) DB SundaraRamam attended as the chief guest.

MLA Saryu Roy, ShekharDey, and Tata Steel UISL Managing Director AtulBhatnagar were present as special guests.

Addressing the gathering, SundarRamam highlighted the importance of sportsmanship in the growth of sports. MLA Saryu Roy appreciated the initiative taken by journalists to organise the tournament, saying it would promote unity and healthy competition. ShekharDey and Atul Bhatnagar also praised the efforts behind the event.

Press Club President Manoj Kumar Singh, General Secretary VinayPurty, and Treasurer Ajay Mahato honoured the guests with saplings and mementos. Several prominent journalists and dignitaries were present.

The ceremony was conducted by Brijbhushan Singh, after which the guests met the players and officially declared the tournament open.

Chhattisgarh Open Golf Championship to tee-off 2026 PGTI season



Raipur, Feb 2 (IANS) The Chhattisgarh Open Golf Championship 2026 jointly launched last month by the Professional Golf Tour of India (DP World PGTI) and the Deputy Chief Minister and Sports Minister of Chhattisgarh Arun Sao Ji, is scheduled to be played from February 3 to 6 at the pristine Fairway Golf & Lake Resort in Naya Raipur.

The event is the 2026 season-opener of the PGTI. The prize purse for the event, which stood at INR 1 crore in the inaugural edition last year, has been raised to INR 1.5 crore for the second edition this year.

The tournament week began with the Pro-Am event on February 1. The tournament will have a field of 126 professionals. The event will be played in the stroke-play format consisting of four rounds of 18 holes each. The top 50 players and ties will make the cut after two rounds.

The top Indian professionals playing the tournament are Veer Ahlawat, Om PrakashChouhan, Manu Gandas, AngadCheema and Arjun Prasad, to name a few. There are 16 foreign professionals in the field from nine different countries.

Glasgow CWG athletics team final selection trials in May: AFI

New Delhi, Feb 2 (IANS) National Senior Athletics Federation Competition, scheduled to be held between May 22 and 25 in Ranchi, Jharkhand, will act as final selection trials for the Glasgow Commonwealth Games starting July 23 in Scotland. While announcing the 2026 Commonwealth Games qualification standards for track and field on Monday, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) said a limited number of athletes will compete in Glasgow. "As per the protocol of the Commonwealth Games Organising Committee, the number of athletics team can't exceed 32, including 16 female athletes," AFI senior vice-president Anju Bobby George said. "Since limited number of track and field events will feature at the Glasgow edition of the Commonwealth Games, accordingly AFI will select the team from amongst those who achieve the qualification mark in their respective events in May."

At the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games Indian team won eight medals, including gold in men's triple jump through Eldhose Paul. India's star steeplechase runner Avinash Sable clinched silver. The qualifying standard for the men's 110m hurdles has been set at 13.39 seconds, while it is 12.67 seconds for the women's 100m hurdles. The men's and women's 100m qualifying time has been set at 10.16 seconds and 11.17 seconds, respectively. The 4x400m mixed relay qualifying standard is 3:16.00 seconds. The National Senior Athletics Federation Competition in Ranchi will also act as a qualification window for the 2026 Asian U23 Athletics Championships.

Jharkhand Sub-Junior Basketball team honoured at KPS Kadma

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 2: A cash prize distribution ceremony was held at Kerala Public School, Kadma, to honour the Sub-Junior Jharkhand Boys' Basketball Team for their impressive performance at the national level.

The team secured second place at the Sub-Junior National Basketball Championship held in Dehradun.

Sharat Chandran attended the programme as the chief guest, while social worker Mukhtar Alam Khan, Academic Director Lakshmi R, and KPS Kadma Principal Sharmila Mukherjee were present as special guests.

The players were awarded a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh given by the Basketball Federation of India (BFI).

The event was organised by the Jharkhand Basketball Association. Association Secretary J.P. Singh, President Harbhajan Singh, Treasurer Pradeep Mukherjee, along with other office bearers and staff, were also present.

The Jharkhand team included Dhruv Mukherjee, Pradhyumn Bairwa, Rishav Raj, captain Ranjan Murmu, Sahil Kumar Bodra, Ganesh Karmakar, Ritesh Murmu, Pinnu Kumar, Aman Kumar, Harsh Kumar, Pritam Kumar, and Saurjay Ghosh.

The team was coached by Mohammad ArifAftab, with Adarsh Kumar as assistant coach and Vishal Das as manager.

Speaking on the occasion, the guests congratulated the players and coaches and said the achievement reflects a bright future for basketball in Jharkhand.

They stressed the importance of continued support and improved sports facilities in the state.

Police nab three after car attack on on-duty constable

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 2: In a major breakthrough, Jamshedpur Police have arrested three persons for allegedly attempting to mow down an on-duty police constable with a car, while one more accused remains at large.

The shocking incident took place around midnight on January 3 near the Toll Bridge roundabout under Kadma police station limits.

According to police, constable Hiralal Mahato was deployed on routine duty when the accused, allegedly acting with criminal intent, tried to run him over using a speeding car. The constable sustained serious injuries in the attack and was immediately rushed to hospital, where his condition is currently stated to be stable. The incident triggered alarm within the police department.

Considering the gravity of the case, a special investigation team was constituted under the leadership of the City Superintendent of Police on the directions of senior officers. The team conducted an intensive probe using CCTV footage, technical evidence and human intelligence. Following sustained investigation and precise inputs, three accused were successfully apprehended.

The arrested persons have been identified as Amandeep Singh, Ankit Mukhi and Aditya Mukhi, all residents of Jamshedpur in East Singhbhum district.

On their disclosure, police also seized the white Maruti Suzuki Dzire car used in the crime.

During interrogation, the accused reportedly confessed to their involvement, stating that they were aggrieved with the police and, driven by this resentment, conspired to kill the constable. Police officials confirmed that another accused is still absconding, and raids are being conducted at multiple locations to nab him. Authorities expressed confidence that the remaining accused will be arrested soon. (W-pm)

6 year-old boy dies after falling into open well during vacation

Jamshedpur, Feb 2: A wave of mourning has swept through the Parsudih police station area following the death of six-year-old Shivam Kewat, who drowned after falling into an open well. The young boy had come to his maternal grandfather's house to spend his school holidays, a visit that ended in an unimaginable tragedy.

A Vacation Turned into Mourning : According to reports, Shivam was a resident of Johadih village in the Seraikela district. He had traveled to Chota Govindpur to stay with his grandfather for the break. On Sunday afternoon, he went out to play with other neighborhood children. When he failed to return home by late evening, his worried family began a frantic search.

Rescue Efforts Fail to Save Life : During the search, locals discovered that a child had accidentally slipped into a nearby open well. The Parsudih police were immediately notified, and Station House Officer (SHO) Avinash Kumar arrived at the scene with a team to initiate rescue operations. Despite the combined efforts of the police and villagers to pull him out, the child was found unresponsive. Shivam was declared dead shortly after being recovered from the well. This heart-wrenching incident once again brings the spotlight onto the safety of open wells and borewells. Despite strict Supreme Court guidelines mandating that all such structures be securely capped or fenced, these "death traps" continue to claim young lives due to administrative and civic negligence.

50 lts of illicit liquor seized, 600 Kg Mahua destroyed in raid



Jamshedpur, Feb 2: Under the directions of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Seraikela, a raid was conducted on Monday, at an illicit liquor den along the canal in Patakocha village, Rajnagar police jurisdiction. Led by Superintendent of Excise, Kshitij Vijay Minz, the team seized 50 liters of illegal Mahua liquor and destroyed 600 kilograms of Mahua on the spot. A case has been registered against the den operator under relevant sections of the Excise Act. This operation is part of a wider crackdown on illegal liquor trade, reinforcing prohibition measures in the region. (W- pm)

Kairav kidnapping case: Mastermind Guddu Singh confesses to three-tier gang network

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 2: Following the successful rescue of entrepreneur Kairav Gandhi and the arrest of six individuals, significant revelations have surfaced during the interrogation of the gang's mastermind, Guddu Singh, and his associates, Imran and Upen2dra Singh.

The suspects confessed that the abduction was meticulously planned based on a tip-off from a local Jamshedpur criminal. The gang conducted a detailed recce for nearly three months before executing the crime. The arrested kidnappers hail from Bihar's Nalanda, Patna, and Gaya districts.

The Three-Tier Operation Interrogations revealed that the kidnapping syndicate operated through a sophisticated three-level system:

Tier 1: Responsible for executing the actual abduction on the ground.

Tier 2: Tasked with keeping the victim at safe houses and managing logistics at those locations.

Tier 3: Handled the ransom negotiations by contacting the family, relatives, or friends from secured communication channels.



Police have confirmed that members from two of these levels have already been apprehended. Confession by Guddu Singh Guddu Singh admitted that on January 13, he, along with Upendra Singh, Mohd. Imran, Rameez Raza, and two others abducted Kairav Gandhi from the Kadma-Sonari Link Road. After the kidnapping, the responsibility to guard him was given to Arjun Singh and Mohan Kumar Prasad, while other associates managed the ransom calls.

Currently, Guddu Singh, Imran, and Rameez are undergoing treatment at MGM Hospital after being injured in a police encounter. Another suspect, Upendra Singh, is also hospitalized with a broken leg sustained while attempting to escape a police raid. Upendra Singh, a resident of Gaya, has a long criminal history with multiple cases of murder and kidnapping registered against him in Bihar, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh since 2009. SSP Piyush Pandey had previously stated that six more suspects are yet to be arrested. Sources suggest that two more individuals have been detained, although official confirmation is awaited.

Kairav Gandhi was eventually abandoned by the kidnappers on the Chauparan-Barhi road at midnight on January 26 due to mounting police pressure, after which he was safely escorted back to his residence in the CH Area.

Saryu inspects NH-33 elevated road work after public complaints



Jamshedpur, Feb 2 : Jamshedpur West MLA Saryu Roy on Monday carried out a site inspection of the ongoing construction of the elevated road on NH-33 from Pardih Kali Temple to Dental College following complaints from local residents. Officials and engineers of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) accompanied him during the inspection.

Roy and the team reviewed the construction work from Pardih to Baliguma and discussed various public grievances. He directed NHAI officials to take immediate steps to address the issues faced by commuters and local residents. Highlighting the complaints, Roy said excessive dust generated during construction was causing inconvenience to people. He instructed officials to ensure heavy sprinkling of water at places where soil had turned into dust and to remove thick layers of dust using JCB machines.

NHAI officials agreed to implement the measures. Another major concern raised was the lack of adequate cross roads for people to move from one side of the road to the other. Roy directed that cross roads be constructed wherever required to ease local movement.

Roy also pointed out congestion at three locations where ramps descend-near Pardih Chowk, one before Dimna Chowk and another after Dimna Chowk. He noted that the presence of drains alongside the ramps was narrowing the road, making it difficult for heavy vehicles to pass. He suggested that instead of drain covers, strong PCC (plain cement concrete) casting should be done over the drains along the ramp stretches so that heavy vehicles can move smoothly.

Officials assured that PCC casting would be done wherever necessary. Additionally, Roy instructed that in areas where internal construction work is underway, temporary tin-sheet barricades should be erected on both sides to prevent dust from spreading outside. NHAI officials agreed and stated that they would prepare a new design as per the suggestions and present it to him soon. (W- pm)

Missing minor traced safely from Maharashtra

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 2: In a commendable operation, Jamshedpur Police successfully traced and rescued a 14-year-old missing boy from Maharashtra and reunited him with his parents.

According to police sources, the minor had gone missing on January 9, from the Sakchi area. Following a written complaint lodged by the boy's father at Sakchi Police Station on January 12, a case was registered under Section 137(2) of the BNSS, and an intensive search operation was launched. Despite initial efforts yielding no clues, a special investigation team was constituted under the supervision of senior police officials.

The team conducted extensive checks, including CCTV footage analysis at markets, bus stands, railway stations, and other possible locations. Technical inputs and interstate coordination played a crucial role in the investigation.

Based on technical leads, the boy's location was traced to Buldhana district in Maharashtra. Acting swiftly, the police team, with the help of local authorities, recovered the minor safely and brought him back to Jamshedpur, where he was handed over to his parents in good health.

Police officials stated that the operation reflects the department's commitment to child safety and effective use of technology and coordination in missing person cases. (W-pm)

Budget spurs major railway expansion in Jharkhand with Rs 7,536 cr allocation

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 2: Jharkhand is set to witness a major transformation in its railway infrastructure following a substantial allocation of Rs 7,536 crore in the Union Budget 2026-27, aimed at strengthening connectivity, safety and passenger amenities across the state.

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, while addressing a press conference via video conferencing from New Delhi, said the current budget marks a significant rise in railway spending, with focused investments in safety enhancement, freight movement and high-speed rail corridors. The allocation represents a dramatic increase over the average annual outlay of Rs 457 crore between 2009 and 2014, underscoring the Centre's renewed focus on rail modernization in Jharkhand.

Key components of the investment include new line construction, doubling of tracks, station redevelopment and safety upgrades. As part of the Amrit Station Scheme, 57 railway stations in Jharkhand have been selected for comprehensive redevelopment to improve passenger facilities and travel experience.

Officials said the enhanced railway spending is expected to support industrial growth, improve mobility in mining and tribal regions, and generate employment in the state.

Anil Kumar Mishra, General Manager, South Eastern Railway, attended the virtual press briefing from the SER Headquarters at Garden Reach, Kolkata, and later interacted with media representatives, highlighting the long-term impact of the increased budgetary support for Jharkhand's rail network. (W-pm)

JWU education department receives NCTE recognition

Jamshedpur, Feb 2: Jamshedpur Women's University (JWU), Jamshedpur, has received official recognition from the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) for its Education Department, effective from the 2021-22 session. The ERC NCTE, which had previously accredited Jamshedpur Women's College for B.Ed., M.Ed. and B.P.Ed. courses, extended this recognition to the university's Education Department during its 387th meeting held on January 16, 2026.

Although the department had been granted approval for these programs in ERC NCTE's 352nd meeting on October 15-16, 2024, the effective session for recognition had remained unclear, causing uncertainty for students who had graduated since 2021-22.

"This recognition relieves the students of earlier concerns regarding their career prospects, as prior documentation was under the name of Jamshedpur Women's College," said Professor Dr. Anjila Gupta, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the university.

Dr. Gupta praised the dedicated efforts of Controller Dr. Rama Subramanyam, Coordinator Dr. Kamini Kumari and Head of the Education Department Dr. Sanjay Bhuiya for ensuring the process was completed successfully. She congratulated the entire team and students, wishing them a bright future.

This achievement marks the culmination of a sustained effort to secure formal approval, ensuring that graduates from 2021-22 onward can pursue teaching careers without administrative hurdles. (w-nkm)

Saryu Roy dissolves public grievance committees in Mango

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 2: Jamshedpur West MLA Saryu Roy has announced the immediate dissolution of all Public Grievance Committees and other related committees constituted at the Mango Municipal Corporation level as well as at the police station level in Mango.

The decision has been taken in view of the commencement of the election process for the Mango Municipal Corporation and the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct across the civic body area.

In a press statement, Roy said that after the completion of the Mango Municipal Corporation elections and in the changed post-election scenario, Public Grievance Representatives and committees would be reconstituted afresh. He stated that these committees were earlier formed at the Jamshedpur West Assembly constituency level, Mango Municipal Corporation level, and Mango police station level with the objective of facilitating civic services for residents, exerting necessary pressure on urban local bodies for effective delivery of public amenities, and monitoring their functioning in public interest. (W-pm)

DC assures support to Dokra artisans in Musabani, focus on market linkage and skill upgradation

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 2: Deputy Commissioner of East Singhbhum, Karn Satyarthi, on Monday interacted with artisans engaged in traditional Dokra art during his field visit to Kuilisuta village under Kuilisuta Panchayat in the Musabani block. The interaction focused on understanding the artisans' production processes, availability of raw materials, marketing challenges, and income-related issues. Highlighting the cultural and economic significance of Dokra art, the Deputy Commissioner said the ancient tribal metal craft of Jharkhand is not only a valuable heritage but also aligns with the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat and the Vocal for Local initiative.

Satyarthi assured the artisans that the district administration would take concrete steps to connect Dokra products with local, state, and national markets. He announced that technical support and training would be provided in areas such as design innovation, finishing, and packaging to meet market demand. An exposure visit to Chhattisgarh, a state renowned for Dokra craftsmanship, will also be organized to help artisans learn modern techniques and marketing practices.

Emphasizing the need for sustainable livelihoods, the Deputy Commissioner directed officials to allocate a permanent space for Dokra artisans at 'Vishwakarma Point' in Sakchi, enabling direct sale of products and greater public awareness of the craft.

He further stated that efforts would be made to link Dokra artisans with government schemes, self-help groups, GI tagging, and e-marketplaces, ensuring a steady rise in income while preserving the traditional art form and generating local employment. Present on the occasion were Circle Officer Musabani Pawan Kumar, District Project Manager (JSLPS) Sujit Bari, the District Entrepreneurship Coordinator, and several Dokra artisans. (W-pb)