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UNDER-19 WORLD CUP 2026 : ENGLAND BEATS DEFENDING CHAMPION AUSTRALIA TO ENTER FINAL-PAGE-11

Govt-Oppn tussle flares up in LS; 8 MPs suspended, Rahul writes to Speaker

New Delhi, Feb 3 (IANS) The government-opposition faceoff in the Lok Sabha intensified on Tuesday as eight protesting MPs were suspended for "unruly behaviour" after Rahul Gandhi was disallowed for the second day from quoting an article that cited an unpublished "memoir" of former Army chief M M Naravane on the 2020 India-China conflict. The seven MPs from the Congress and one from the CPI (M) were suspended for the remainder of the Budget session, which ends on April 2, for trying to climb on the table of the secretary general, tearing papers and hurling them at the Chair. Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, lodging his strong protest over being disallowed from speaking in the House on a matter of national security and terming it a "blot on our democracy". He also said that it was for the first time in history that LoP was not allowed to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address. In his letter to Birla, Gandhi noted that as convention, including repeated rulings of past Speakers, a member wishing to refer to a document in the House is required to authenticate it and affirm responsibility for its contents, which he did. Congress members, led by Gandhi, also held a protest outside the Parliament building against the suspension. The suspended members are Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Hibi Eden, C Kiran Kumar Reddy, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Manickam Tagore, Prashant Padole and Dean Kuriakose (all Congress) and S Ventakesan (CPI-M). On Monday, the House was adjourned amid uproar after Gandhi's attempts to cite the article based on excerpts from Naravane's unpublished book on India-China conflict of 2020 were opposed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and others, and were also disallowed by the Speaker. As soon as Gandhi was asked to speak on the Motion of Thanks on Tuesday, he cited the Speaker's ruling of Monday





and authenticated the copy of the article. "I have authenticated it," he said. To authenticate a document, a member has to submit a signed copy of it, affirming that it is correct to the best of his knowledge. Krishna Prasad Tenneti, who was in the Chair, asked him to table it and said, "We will examine it and get back". Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the Speaker passed a ruling on the matter and after that Gandhi should not raise the issue repeatedly. However, with Gandhi insisting on raising the matter, Tenneti moved on to other Speakers and asked Harish Balayogi of the TDP, an NDA constituent, to give his speech on the President's address after three opposition MPs refused to speak, showing solidarity with Gandhi. As Balayogi spoke, opposition MPs raised slogans and the ruckus continued in the House, prompting the chair to adjourn it till 3 PM. When the House met at 3 pm following multiple adjournments, Dilip Saikia, who was in the Chair, named the eight Congress members. Subsequently, Rijiju read out a resolution seeking suspension of the eight members for the remaining period of the Budget session.

Moving the resolution, Rijiju said the members acted in utter disregard of the House and the authority of the Chair. They also tore papers and threw them at the Chair and were named by the Chair for their behaviour, the minister added. The House passed the resolution by a voice vote, following which the proceedings were adjourned for the day amid uproar.

Yumnam Khemchand Singh to be next Manipur CM



New Delhi/Imphal, Feb 3 (IANS) Manipur Assembly's former Speaker Yumnam Khemchand Singh will be the state's next Chief Minister, it was announced on Tuesday.

The BJP legislature party, after a meeting in New Delhi, announced that Khemchand Singh has been elected as the party's Legislature Party Leader and will take over as Chief Minister of Manipur, where President's Rule has been in force since February 13 last year following the resignation of then-Chief Minister N. Biren Singh amid prolonged ethnic violence.

A member of the majority Meitei community, Singh is a former Rural Development Minister and was elected to the Manipur Assembly from the Singjamei constituency as a BJP candidate in both the 2017 and 2022 Assembly elections.In a significant gesture since ethnic violence erupted in Manipur in May 2023, the 61-year-old BJP leader recently visited the tribal-majority hill districts of Ukhrul and Kamjong on Monday, marking the first outreach by any Meitei leader to these areas since the conflict began.

After hectic parleys, the BJP on Monday initiated the process to elect a new Chief Minister in Manipur, and the party's Parliamentary Board appointed national General Secretary Tarun Chugh as the Central Observer for the election of the Legislative Party Leader in the state.

Jharkhand declares holiday on Shab-e-Barat



Mail News Service

Ranchi, Feb 3: The Jharkhand government has announced a statewide holiday on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat, directing the closure of all government offices on February 4.

The decision was formalised through an official notification issued by the Department of Personnel, Administrative Reforms and Rajbhasha. Following the release of the notification, people across the state expressed happiness, welcoming the government's move to recognise the religious significance of the day.

CM launches green steel era with Rs 1.27 lakh crore investment proposals

Ranchi, Feb 3 : Chief Minister Hemant Soren has initiated a new era of industrial investment and green steel in Jharkhand following his visits to the World Economic Forum and the United Kingdom. Leading industrial groups, including Tata Steel and Naveen Jindal Group, have submitted letters of intent for over Rs 1.27 lakh crore in investments across steel, power, integrated manufacturing, advanced coating, finished steel, automobile components, and cement sectors. Naveen Jindal Group plans Rs 70,000 crore while Tata Steel's proposal stands at Rs 11,000 crore.

Other investors showing interest include Odisha Alloy Steel, Rungta Mines, Amalgam Steel and Power, BMW Industries Limited, Jai Suspension Limited, and Ambuja Cement Limited. These commitments aim to establish Jharkhand as a steel hub and a global center for green energy and advanced manufacturing.

Odisha Alloy Steel will invest Rs 25,000 crore in Lathahaar to set up blast furnaces and direct reduced iron units. Rungta Group's Rs 10,000 crore project in Saraikela-Kharsawan will focus on steel, power, and cement production, supplemented by Rungta Mines' Rs 300 crore proposal. BMW Industries will invest Rs 1,070 crore in Bokaro to manufacture cold-rolled and Galvalume/ZAM-coated coils. In East Singhbhum, Jai Suspension will invest Rs 255 crore in automotive leaf and parabolic springs, while Amalgam Steel plans a Rs 4,980 crore finished steel project in Kandra.



These initiatives are expected to generate more than 46,555 direct jobs, benefiting local communities and skilled youth. Advanced technologies such as EASyMelt and Hisarna processes will reduce carbon emissions by up to 80 percent, supported by solar and nuclear energy solutions.

The state will also produce Galvanized, Galvalume, ZAM, and color-coated steel for durable, rust-resistant applications in automotive, domestic, and construction sectors.

CM engages with citizens in Dumka, reiterates people-first governance

Dumka, Feb 3: Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Tuesday held an extensive public interaction at his Khijuria residence in Dumka, where citizens from various districts and social backgrounds met him to place their grievances and demands before the government.

The interaction reflected the state government's continued emphasis on direct dialogue with people as a key instrument of governance.

Listening patiently to each representation, the Chief Minister issued on-the-spot instructions to senior officials and concerned departments to ensure time-bound and effective redressal of the issues raised.

He stressed that administrative sensitivity and accountability are essential to maintaining public trust, and directed officials to follow up on complaints until they reach logical resolution.Reaffirming the government's development vision, Soren said his administration remains firmly committed to addressing the everyday problems of citizens, particularly those living in rural and marginalised areas. "This is a government of the villages. Our focus is on inclusive growth and last-mile delivery," he said, adding that several welfare schemes being implemented by the state are designed to provide direct and tangible benefits to the people.

India-US trade deal safeguards agriculture, dairy, other sensitive sectors: Goyal

New Delhi, Feb 3 (IANS) Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said that India's key economic sectors, especially agriculture and dairy, have been safeguarded under the recently concluded India-US trade agreement.

Addressing a press conference, Goyal said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has consistently stood firm in protecting the interests of farmers and those linked to the dairy sector, while ensuring long-term growth and opportunities for them. He said the outcome of the negotiations reflects this commitment.

"The sensitive segments of our economy, particularly agriculture and dairy, remain fully protected. There is a clear sense of confidence and positivity across the country, and people are responding enthusiastically," the minister said.

Goyal noted that the agreement has generated excitement among exporters, technology firms, investors, and those seeking to integrate India into global supply and value chains. He added that labour-intensive industries, which provide employment to millions, stand to gain significantly from the deal.

The minister's comments come in the backdrop of remarks by US Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins, who said the agreement would allow the United States to expand agricultural exports to India. In a post on X, Rollins said the deal



would help boost farm incomes in rural America and reduce the US agricultural trade deficit with India.

Goyal said the trade agreement opens up vast opportunities for India and described it as the most advantageous deal the country has secured compared to its competitors and neighbouring nations. He attributed this to Prime Minister Modi's engagement with US President Donald Trump.

He also criticised opposition parties for disruptions in Parliament, saying the government was unable to make a formal statement in the House due to their conduct. As a result, he said, details of the agreement were being shared with the media instead.

The minister added that the pact would enable India to access advanced technologies from the US and accelerate progress towards the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047. He said the agreement would support initiatives such as Make in India, Design in India and Innovate in India for global markets.

Rahul claims PM 'under pressure' over India-US trade deal

New Delhi, Feb 3 (IANS) Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, on Tuesday, accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being "compromised" and "under pressure", claiming that this is the reason behind the signing of the India-US trade agreement.



Speaking to reporters within the Parliament premises, Rahul Gandhi claimed that the Prime Minister signed the agreement under pressure.

"Modiji is scared. Everyone saw that the trade deal was on hold for four months; nothing has changed. For some reason, what we don't know, Narendra Modi knows that Narendra Modi signed the trade deal yesterday evening. There is pressure on Narendra Modi ji, and the balloon of image that he has created with thousands of crores can burst soon," he said.

HC refuses bail to liquor scam accused Naveen Kedia

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Feb 3: In a significant development in the high-profile Jharkhand liquor scam, the Jharkhand High Court on Tuesday rejected the regular bail plea of Chhattisgarh-based liquor businessman Naveen Kedia, holding that a bail application is not maintainable unless the accused is in judicial custody or has physically surrendered before the court or the investigating agency.

The order was pronounced by a single bench of Justice Sanjay Kumar Dwivedi, which observed that Kedia had neither surrendered nor placed himself at the disposal of the investigating agency. In such circumstances, the court held, the bail plea could not be considered on merits. The bench also noted that seeking regular bail without complying with court directions amounted to an abuse of the legal process.

The case pertains to the alleged liquor scam in Jharkhand, which is being probed by the Anti-Corruption Bureau under provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act along with relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. During the investigation, Kedia allegedly went absconding, prompting the ACB to issue a look-out notice against him. Alerts were circulated at airports across the country through the Central Bureau of Investigation to prevent any attempt to flee abroad.

Gandhi statue cut, stolen in Australia: India demands immediate action

Melbourne, Feb 3 (IANS) : A bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the Australian Indian Community Centre in Rowville, Melbourne, has been stolen, triggering a police investigation and deep concern within the Indian-Australian community.The incident has also drawn a strong response from New Delhi, with India formally taking up the matter with Australian authorities and urging immediate steps to recover the statue and identify those responsible.

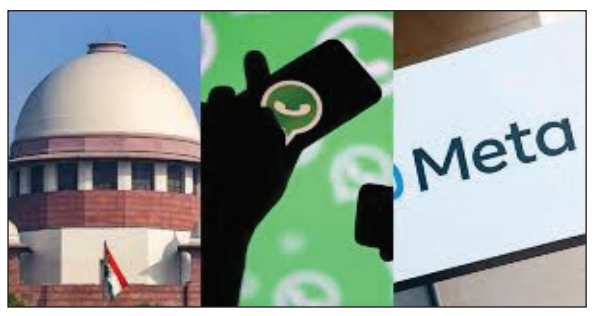
Responding to media queries on February 3, 2026, Ministry of External Affairs Official Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India "strongly condemns the vandalization and removal" of the Mahatma Gandhi statue by unidentified persons."We have strongly raised the matter with Australian authorities and urged them to take immediate action to recover the missing statue and hold the culprits accountable," Jaiswal said.

Opt out of India, you are creating monopoly: SC tells Meta, WhatsApp

New Delhi, Feb 3 (IANS) The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed serious concern over WhatsApp's 2021 privacy policy and the sharing of user data by its parent company Meta Platforms, observing that the platform cannot be allowed to "play with the right to privacy" of Indian users.

The court's remark came as a bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul Pancholi was hearing appeals filed by Meta Platforms and WhatsApp LLC against a National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) order, which had upheld a Rs 213.14 crore penalty imposed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

The CCI has also filed a cross-appeal challenging the NCLAT decision insofar as it allowed WhatsApp to share user data for advertising purposes.Agreeing to admit the appeals, the CJI Kant-led Bench made sharp observations on the nature of WhatsApp's privacy policy, describing it as a "take it or leave it" arrangement that leaves consumers with no real choice."What is the choice? You have complete monopoly in the market, and you are saying you are giving a choice. It is either you walk out of WhatsApp, or we will share your data," the apex court remarked.During the hearing, the CJI-led Bench repeatedly flagged concerns about the fairness of the privacy policy, particularly for ordinary users."A poor woman selling fruits on the street - will she understand the terms of your policy? The language is so cleverly drafted that even some of us may not understand it," the top court said.



Describing the alleged data practices as deeply problematic, the Supreme Court observed: "This is a decent way of committing theft of private information. You cannot play with the right to privacy of this country. You are making a mockery of constitutionalism."

School van drivers' strike enters second day

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 3 : The strike by school van drivers in Jamshedpur continued for the second consecutive day on Tuesday, throwing the city's school transportation system into complete disarray and causing widespread inconvenience to parents and students alike. The indefinite agitation, being led by the Jamshedpur School Vehicle Service Operators' Committee, has left thousands of schoolchildren struggling to commute to and from their schools.

As on Monday, school vans remained off the roads on Tuesday as well, directly affecting students and working parents.

In major school hubs such as Sakchi, Bistupur, Telco and Golmuri, scenes of chaos were witnessed during both morning and afternoon hours. With no vans available, parents were forced to personally drop and pick up their children from school.

Many were seen walking long distances with their children, while others had no option but to carry two or even three children on two-wheelers, raising serious safety concerns. Parents without private vehicles faced even greater difficulties.

Several had to wait for long periods to find auto-rickshaws, while others were compelled to pay inflated fares just to ensure their children reached school on time. The disruption has also begun to impact academic activities, with many students unable to attend classes due to the lack of transport.

The van drivers' strike is reportedly in protest against the arrest of van driver Mannu Pandey in connection with the alleged sexual assault of a five-year-old girl from a reputed school under the Birsa Nagar police station area.

The issue has sparked strong reactions, but parents have expressed anger over the timing of the protest, stating that children's education and safety are being jeopardised in the middle of the academic session.

With no concrete agreement reached so far between the administration and the van operators' committee, there appears to be little hope of the situation returning to normal on Wednesday as well, prolonging the ordeal for families across the city. (W- pm)

Two-day AI workshop for students

Mail News Service



Central Public School, Adityapur

Jamshedpur, Feb 3: Central Public School, Adityapur successfully organised a two-day workshop on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for students of Classes IX and XI on February 2 and 3 during regular school hours. The initiative was aimed at familiarising students with the basics of artificial intelligence, its practical applications in everyday life and its immense future scope.

The workshop was conducted by Prof. Mayukh Sarkar of NIT Jamshedpur, whose expert guidance, interactive teaching style and use of real-life examples made the sessions highly engaging and informative. Through discussions and practical insights, students gained a better understanding of how AI is shaping various sectors and influencing technological advancements. The programme also helped enhance students' analytical thinking, problem-solving skills and curiosity towards emerging technologies.

Expressing his appreciation, Principal Rama Shankar Singh, on behalf of the school management and the entire CPS fraternity, conveyed sincere gratitude to Prof. Sarkar for dedicating his valuable time and sharing his expertise with the students. He also lauded the efforts of the organising teachers for the smooth and successful execution of the workshop. (w-nkm)

Nagadih lynching case: Absconding accused seeks bail after surrender

Jamshedpur, Feb 3 : In the much- talked about Nagadih mass lynching case of Bagbera, the prime accused Doctor Mardi has moved the court seeking bail after surrendering nearly eight years after the incident.

Doctor Mardi filed his bail application before the court of the Additional District and Sessions Judge-I (ADJ-I).

The case relates to the brutal killing of four people in Bagbera's Nagadih area on the evening of May 18, 2017, following rumours of child lifting. A mob allegedly attacked three youths from Jugsalai Naya Bazar-Vikas Verma, Gautam Verma and Gangesh-beating them to death with sticks and stones. During attempts to save them, their grandmother Ramsakhi Devi was critically injured and later succumbed to her injuries during treatment at TMH. In October 2025, the ADJ-I court awarded life imprisonment to five convicts-Rajarama Hansda, Rengo Purti, Gopal Hansda, Sunil Sardar and Tara Mandal-after holding them guilty in the case. Doctor Mardi, however, had remained absconding since the beginning of the trial. He is currently lodged in jail and has now approached the court seeking release on bail. (W-pm)

Road safety awareness campaign at Barajamda



Noamundi, Feb 3 : RCPP Computer Education, on Tuesday visited all the schools of Barajamda and presented a road safety play as per the directions of the District Transport Officer, Gautam Kumar.

The play was performed by the Srishti Chaibasa team. Through a road safety pledge, everyone took an oath that they would never violate road safety rules, knowingly or unknowingly. The school principals, teachers, and all students were made aware of road safety. They were informed that minors should not be allowed to ride motorcycles, which can help reduce accidents. They were also advised to avoid driving under the influence of alcohol or in a drowsy state, and to strictly follow all road safety rules. These messages were conveyed to students, teachers, and parents through the play. Present on the occasion were RCPP teachers and staff members: Pramod Thakur, Ranjan Sahu, Krishna Mohan Thakur, Shibu Nayak, Raj Gupta, Sweta Singh, Sakshi Singh, Sonam Kumari, Nandini Kumari, Sneha Singh, Kundan Rai, Sagar Gond, and others. The play was staged at Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, Noamundi; K.P. Sharda English Medium School, Barajamda; Weldone Future Academy; 10+2 High School; Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir and Middle School, Barajamda. (W-pm)

KG Night celebrated at Kerala Samajam Model School



'Cherished Childhood Carnival' delights parents with Retro to Metro theme

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 3: Kerala Samajam Model School (KSMS) organised its Pre-Primary KG Night titled "Cherished Childhood Carnival 2026" on February 3, celebrating childhood with a colourful and heart-warming programme based on the theme "Retro to Metro".

The event showcased the journey of changing times through lively performances by young students, highlighting how lifestyles have evolved over the years. Along with fun and entertainment, the programme carried a meaningful message on the importance of family bonding. It encouraged parents and children to spend quality time together despite the fast-paced modern life.

The celebration concluded with a strong note of love, unity, and togetherness, stressing that values should remain unchanged even as times progress.

School Principal NandiniShukla praised the efforts of teachers and staff and appreciated the confidence and joyful performances of the children. Parents and guests warmly welcomed the event, making it a memorable occasion. (W-mb)

Sharp weapon found in student's bag

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 3: Panic gripped the prestigious Ramakrishna Mission School at Sidhgora on Tuesday after a sharp-edged weapon was found in the bag of a Class VII student during school hours. The incident, involving a dispute between two minor students, led to chaos on campus and prompted immediate police intervention. According to sources, the two students had been at odds over an issue for the past few days.

The situation escalated during class when a verbal altercation turned serious and one of the students allegedly pulled out a machete-like weapon from his school bag. The sight of the weapon triggered fear among classmates, who scrambled in panic.

Teachers acted swiftly to control the situation and ensured that no student sustained any serious injury. The school management immediately informed the Sidhgora police station. Police personnel reached the spot promptly and took both minor students into custody for questioning.

The police are investigating how such a weapon came into the possession of a student of such a young age and what circumstances led to the incident. Counseling of the children is also underway as part of the inquiry. Taking the matter seriously, the school administration has initiated disciplinary proceedings against the students involved and has called their parents for discussions.

Govt's Budget disappointing, just a shower of empty promises: Sudhir

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 3:. Socialist thinker and senior advocate Sudhir Kumar Pappu has strongly criticised the Central Government's budget, terming it highly disappointing and completely detached from the realities faced by farmers, labourers, youth, and the middle class. Reacting to the budget, Sudhir Kumar Pappu said that it has failed to provide any meaningful relief to farmers, address rising unemployment, or offer concrete measures for labour welfare. He stated that the disappointment was so severe that it created panic in the stock market, forcing investors to withdraw their money soon after the budget announcements. He further alleged that Bihar and Jharkhand have been totally ignored in the budget. "There is not a single significant provision for the development of Bihar and Jharkhand. Even in the railway budget, these states have received nothing, which clearly reflects the Centre's discriminatory approach," he said.

XLRI Jamshedpur to host first Labour Codes Conclave '26 with National HRD Network on Feb 7



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 3: XLRI Jamshedpur, in collaboration with the National HRD Network (NHRD), will host the 1st Labour Codes Conclave '26 on February 7, 2026, at its campus. The one-day, high-impact conclave is being positioned as a national-level, workshop-led forum focused on the practical implementation and compliance of India's four new Labour Codes.

Titled "From Policy to Practice", the conclave is designed as an immersive learning workshop that will bridge the gap between legislative intent and real-world organisational execution. The programme will feature in-depth sessions conducted by senior policymakers, industry leaders, eminent HR professionals, and leading labour law practitioners, offering authoritative insights into the evolving labour law regime.

The agenda includes focused core sessions on the four Labour Codes, covering policy rationale, legal structures, employer and HR implications, compliance frameworks, and organisational readiness. This will be followed by a practitioner-led implementation workshop featuring real-life scenarios, compliance simulations, and applied learning assessments. A closed-door faculty-industry roundtable will further deliberate on implementation challenges and future academic-industry collaboration.

A key outcome of the conclave will be the development of a comprehensive Labour Law Compendium, which will consolidate the deliberations and practitioner insights from the event. The compendium will be formally published under the NHRD × XLRI banner and disseminated across the National HRD Network nationwide, positioning it as a single source of truth for understanding and implementing the new Labour Codes. " Participants who successfully complete the policy sessions and implementation workshop will also be awarded a joint professional certification by NHRD and XLRI, recognising their applied competence in labour code interpretation, statutory compliance, and HR governance," informed an official of XLRI.

The conclave is open to a limited number of industry professionals, senior HR leaders, legal practitioners, and compliance experts. XLRI and NHRD have also invited organisations interested in partnering with or supporting the initiative as knowledge partners or sponsors, offering long-term visibility through association with the nationally published compendium and professional certification framework.(w-pb)

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Ramdeo Munduiya**,S/0 Late Bara Munduiya, resident of Village and p.o. Asura P.S. Jhinkpani Dist W singhbhum Jharkhand do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:-

1. That I am Indian Citizen by birth.
2. That I am the holder of pensioner and my **PPO No is 237198800077, e-PPO Number 187198800458.**
3. That Spouse dataials, my wife's name has been written as **SANA MAI HANSADA** issued by office of the Principal Controller of Defense Accounts (Pensions) Prayagraj.
4. That in her Aadhaar Card,vide no.**7724 4893 5060** her name has been written as SONA MAI MUNDUIYA.
5. That **SONA MAI HANSADA** and **SONA MAI MUNDUIYA** both names are same and one person i.e.my wife.
6. That I am swearing this Affidavit to rectify the above said facts and to produce the same before the authority concerned.

Sl. No. : 622
Date : 08-12-2025 **Advocate**

DECLARATION

Through an affidavit of 26.6.08 from Jamshedpur Court, I, **INDRA SAMAD**, daughter of **TURI SAMAD**, by faith Hindu, by Nationality Indian, by Occupation Household affairs, at present residing at MA 8 T. Khan Complex, Post Office Road, Chunashah Colony, Mango, within P.O. & P.S. Mango, Town Jamshedpur District Singhbhum East, in the State of Jharkhand, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have married with **MD. FAIYAZ AHMAD ANSARI**, and we both are living as wife and husband leasing our conjugal life amicably. That my husband is a Muslim, having his belief and faith in Islam i.e. Muslim religion. That I would like to adopt the "Islam" as I have faith and belief in Muslim religion as such from today I solemnly adopt my husband's religion i.e. Islam instead of my Hindusim. That also I shall be known as **NAAZ PERWEEN** from today in my all intents and purposes.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **ANURADHA MAHATO**, D/o. Bidhan Chandra Mahato, Resident of village-Haldibani, P.O.- Narayanpur, P.S.- Seraikella, Dist.- Seraikella-Kharswan (JHARKHAND); do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows :-

1. That, I am permanent resident of aforementioned address.
2. That, in my Aadhaar Card bearing no. 9890 3389 8257, where my name has been wrongly mentioned as **KUMARI ANURADHA MAHATO.**
3. That, In my Bank Account with BANK OF INDIA, Gourangdih Branch bearing Account Number 597610110004720, where my name has been mentioned as **ANURADHA MAHATO.**
4. That, in my Matriculation Certificate/Documents my name has been written as **ANURADHA MAHATO.**
5. That, my actual and correct name is **ANURADHA MAHATO**, which is mentioned in my Bank Passbook and Matriculation Certificate/Documents.
6. That, both the names viz. **ANURADHA MAHATO** and KUMARI **ANURADHA MAHATO** is same and one person i.e. myself only.
7. That, I want to rectify my name as **ANURADHA MAHATO** in my said Aadhaar Card (9890 3389 8257) in place of Kumari Anuradha Mahato.
8. That, I swear this affidavit to the above mentioned facts and submit the same before the authority concern for avoiding future complicacy regarding my aforesaid names and hence this affidavit.

Date : 30-01-2026 **Advocate**

COURT NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI
Civil Writ Jurisdiction W.P.(C) No. 4511 of 2014
Shakti Pada Basak ..... Petitioner
Versus
State of Jharkhand and others ..... Respondents

To Respondent No. 6(a)
Manoj Bahal Son of Late Raj Kumar Singh Mother's name Late Nirmala Devi, resident of Mouza Sonari, 138/B, P.O. and P.S. Sonari, Town Jamshedpur, District East Singhbhum, PIN-831011.
Whereas the aforesaid Writ application being W.P.(C) No. 4511 of 2014 has been filed against You with a allegation that You have made encroachment over the land of Mouza Sakchi, Ward No. 1, Khata No. 77, Old Plot No. 455, New Plot No. 2846 area 0.07 acre.
Whereas, it has not found possible to secure service of notice upon you, you are hereby given notice through publication in the daily published local News Paper for Your appearance in the above mentioned case in view or order of the Hon'ble Court.
You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or through Counsel on 27.02.2026 to answer the same, failing which the Writ application will be heard and proceed ex-parte notwithstanding you absence before this Court and if no appearance is made in Your behalf on or before the date fixed, the aforesaid Writ Application will be heard and decided Ex-parte, Your absence not withstanding.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court, this 27th day of January, 2026.
By order of the Court
Assistant Registrar
High Court of Jharkhand

AFFIDAVIT

Through an affidavit of date 28.11.2025 from Jamshedpur Court, I, **SMRITY KUMARI @ BEAUTY**, D/o Brajesh Kumar Singh, Aadhaar No. 7068 1558 6104, R/o Adityapur-2, Road No. 19, Block No. 90/1-4, P.S. R.I.T., P.O. Adityapur, District Saraikela-Kharsawan, Jharkhand declare that **'SMRITY KUMARI'** is my actual and official name and **'BEAUTY'** is my nickname. That my name has been recorded as **'SMRITY KUMARI'** in all my Educational Certificates, Aadhaar Card, Birth Certificate, etc. That my name has been recorded as **'BEAUTY'** in the UTI Children Career Balanced Plan Certificate bearing Folio No. 500456/20, Investment Value Rs. 34,736.05. That I hereby declare that my name is **'SMRITY KUMARI'** and my actual date of birth is **27.02.2000**. That my date of birth, as recorded in the Birth Certificate issued by the Registrar of Births, East Singhbhum, is 27.02.2000. But due to a mistake, my date of birth has been recorded in UTI records as 30.06.1998 instead of 27.02.2000. Hence this affidavit to record my name as SMRITY KUMAR, Date of Birth as 27.02.2000 for all intents and purposes.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Soma Ghosal** W/o Shibabrata Ghosal, by faith Hindu resident of Flat No.2845, Phase 6A, Vijaya Garden, Baridih Colony, P.O. Baridih P.S Sidhgora, Town Jamshedpur, Dist East Singhbhum UID NO.9841 4483 4306 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows;-

1. That I have a passport holder vide Passport No.68888135 in which my address is written as F-4/18 Nand Niketan, ESSAR Township, Hazira, Surat-394270.
2. That now I am going to renew my said passport.
3. That at the time of renew of my passport, my present address which is mentioned in my UID Card may kinaly written as Flat No. 2845 Phase.6A, Vijaya Garden, Baridih Colony, P.O. Baridih, P.S. Sidhgora, Jamshedpur, Dist East Singhbhum, Jharkhand, and the name Soma Ghosal by deleting the previous name Ghosal Soma Shibabrata.

Sl. No. : 17
Date : 02-02-2026 **Advocate**

AFFIDAVIT CUM DECLARATION

I, Rani Pandey W/o Awadhesh Kumar Pandey R/o H. No. 77, Gurudwara Road, Mango, Near Atma Singh Building, PO + PS Mango, Town Jamshedpur, Dist. East Singhbhum, Jharkhand, UID No. XXXX XXXX 2966, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that Mr. Himanshu Ranjan is my son and Priya Sahay, W/o Himanshu Ranjan is my daughter-in-law. Both R/o H. No. 77, Gurudwara Road, Mango, Near Atma Singh Building, PO + PS Mango, Town Jamshedpur, Dist. East Singhbhum, Jharkhand.
That due to my personal reasons and circumstances, I have decided to disinherit my said son and daughter-in-law from my properties and all other rights related thereto. This decision has been taken by me independently and consciously.That I have no concern, connection or involvement whatsoever with any illegal act or omission carried out by my son and daughter-in-law and I shall not be held responsible or liable in any manner for any actions, representations or transactions undertaken by them.

Date : 13/10/2025 Advocate : Pushpa Kumari

AFFIDAVIT CUM DECLARATION

I, Awadhesh Kumar Pandey S/o Mukti Nath Pandey R/o H. No. 77, Gurudwara Road, Mango, Near Atma Singh Building, PO + PS - Mango, Town Jamshedpur, Dist. East Singhbhum, Jharkhand, UID No. XXXX XXXX 0353, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that Mr. Himanshu Ranjan is my son and Priya Sahay, W/o Himanshu Ranjan is my daughter-in-law. Both R/o H. No. 77, Gurudwara Road, Mango, Near Atma Singh Building, PO + PS Mango, Town Jamshedpur, Dist. East Singhbhum, Jharkhand. That due to my personal reasons and circumstances, I have decided to disinherit my said son and daughter-in-law from my properties and all other rights related thereto. This decision has been taken by me independently and consciously. That I have no concern, connection or involvement whatsoever with any illegal act or omission carried out by my son and daughter-in-law and I shall not be held responsible or liable in any manner for any actions, representations or transactions undertaken by them.

Date : 13/10/2025 Advocate : Pushpa Kumari

E-AUCTION NOTICE FOR VARIOUS ASSETS OVER CHAKRADHARPUR DIVISION

No. Com.18/NFR/E-Auction Catalogue/Feb/26 **Date-03.02.2026**

For and on behalf of the President, Union of India, the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Chakradharpur Division, South Eastern Railway invites e-auction for following assets categories over Chakradharpur Division. The draft of e-auction notices in this regard are enclosed. Which is notified in the **https:/www.ireps.gov.in/website.** The details of the e-auction are as follows : **Sl. No.; Category; Catalogue No.; Date of Auction; Auction Start Time; Auction Closing time** respectively : **(1);** Miscellaneous; **MSS-EMR-2-26**; 09.02.2026; 12:00 hrs.; 13:00 hrs. **(2);** Pay & Use; **PnU-PAIDLOUNGE2**; 12.02.2026; 12:00 hrs.; 12:30 hrs. **(3);** Pay & Use; **MSS-DigiL-JSG26**; 12.02.2026; 12:00 hrs.; 12:30 hrs. **(4);** Hybrid NFR; **Hybrid-TSV-CKP**; 14.02.2026; 11:30 hrs.; 12:00 hrs. **(5);** Parking; **PARKING-ADTP-26**; 14.02.2026; 10:00 hrs.; 10:30 hrs. **(6);** Advertisement; **ADVT-ROU-OOH**; 14.02.2026; 10:00 hrs.; 10:40 hrs. **(7);** Parking; **PARKING-TATA-RT**; 16.02.2026; 12:15 hrs.; 12:55 hrs. **(8);** Advertisement; **ADVT-CKPDIV-FEB**; 17.02.2026; 11:00 hrs.; 12:50 hrs. **(9);** Advertisement; **ADVT-GP-VW-26**; 18.02.2026; 12:00 hrs.; 12:30 hrs. Interested parties to take note of this and go through the website as mentioned above for details of the site and related information about the E-Auction notice. For enquiries/clarifications if any, please contact the office of the undersigned.

(PR-1140) Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Chakradharpur

South Eastern Railway
We serve with a smile

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MGM : 23 junior doctors resign as management tightens discipline

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 3: The Mahatma Gandhi Memorial (MGM) Medical College and Hospital is facing a major administrative and healthcare crisis following the mass resignation of 23 junior doctors within a single month. This sudden wave of exits has not only threatened to cripple the hospital's daily operations but has also sparked a debate over the facility's internal monitoring systems.



The resignations reportedly followed a recent crackdown by MGM management on workplace discipline. Sources indicate that after the hospital implemented a stricter monitoring mechanism for attendance, punctuality, and shift responsibilities, several junior doctors who were frequently absent found themselves under intense scrutiny. As the management began seeking formal explanations and fixing accountability, a majority of these doctors chose to submit their resignations.

While management attributes the exits to the pressure of strict monitoring, some doctors have cited higher studies and career advancement as their reasons for leaving. Regardless of the motivation, the sheer number of resignations across multiple critical departments is expected to severely impact patient care.

Management's Stance on Discipline

For a long time, MGM had been receiving complaints regarding lapses in duty discipline. Amidst a growing patient load and limited resources, the frequent absence of doctors was hampering treatment. In response, the administration recently tightened oversight of attendance registers and shift schedules. When several junior doctors were found consistently absent, the process of issuing notices and seeking show-cause explanations began, eventually leading to this series of resignations.

The hospital administration is now scrambling to find alternative arrangements to ensure that services remain uninterrupted. Senior doctors and existing staff are being reassigned to cover the vacant shifts as a temporary measure.

Department-wise breakdown of resignations

- **Anesthesia:** Dr. Sandeep Kumar, Dr. Suryakant Chaudhary, Dr. Yuvraj, Dr. Jitendra Kumar, and Dr. Nagrish Maryam.
- **Obstetrics &Gynecology:** Dr. Pragati Mishra and Dr. Sunima Minj.
- **Surgery:** Dr. Sourav Kumar, Dr. Harishankar Singh, Dr. Sweety, Dr. Simona Kumar, and Dr. Anurag Singh.
- **Ophthalmology:** Dr. Jeetu, Dr. Neetu Kumari, Dr. Shekhar Suman, and Ashish Kumar.
- **Medicine:** Dr. Sahgupta Sahin, Dr. Afshana, Dr. Rupam Sharangi, Dr. Javeri Akhtar, and Dr. Muskan.
- **Pediatrics:** Dr. P. Udav.
- **Psychiatry:** Dr. Soumya Bharti.

139 patients screened at epilepsy camp at Chakulia

Jamshedpur, Feb 3:A one-day free special screening camp for epilepsy patients was organised on Tuesday at the Community Health Center (CHC), Chakulia under Project Ullas, following the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, East Singhbhum. A total of 139 patients were screened during the camp and provided with free medicines.

Civil Surgeon Dr. Sahir Pal visited the camp, inspected the arrangements, and reviewed the medical facilities being extended to patients. The camp was organised jointly by the District Administration and the Health Department to identify epilepsy patients and ensure timely treatment, counselling, and management.

Officials informed that similar camps under Project Ullas have earlier been organised at Sub-Divisional Hospital, Ghatshila, Community Health Center, Patamda, and at an urban camp held at Jail Chowk, Sakchi. The Chakulia camp was organised under the leadership of Civil Surgeon Dr. Sahir Pal and Project Ullas Nodal Officer and District Mental Health Programme Nodal Officer Dr. Ranjit Kumar Panda.

During the camp, patients received free screening, counselling, and a one-month supply of medicines. Free transportation and food arrangements were also provided by the Health Department.

Key contributors to the successful organisation of the camp included Dr. Ranjit Kumar Panda, Medical Officer In-Charge CHC Chakulia Dr. Ranjit Kumar Murmu, psychiatrists from the District Mental Health Department, block-level officials, health workers, Sahiyas, Sahiyya associates, and staff of the Community Health Center, Chakulia.(w-pb)

Courtesy meeting held to congratulate Viswajeet Kumar on promotion

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 3: A courtesy meeting was organised to felicitate Viswajeet Kumar, an official of the Postal Department, on his promotion after successfully clearing the PSS Group-B examination. Kumar was posted as Deputy Superintendent of Post Offices, Singhbhum Division, with effect from January 15, 2026. On the occasion, members of the All India Postal Inspectors and Assistant Superintendents of Post Offices Association, Jharkhand Circle, led by its President R. K. Das, paid a cordial courtesy visit to Kumar. The Association honoured him with a bouquet, a shawl and a memento as a mark of appreciation and respect. Other Association members present during the meeting included Postal Inspectors Vikas Kumar Verma, Vishal Kumar Dubey and Rakesh Kumar. All extended their best wishes to Kumar for his new responsibility and wished him a successful and impactful tenure.



Addressing the gathering, R. K. Das said that the promotion of a dedicated and capable officer like Viswajeet Kumar is a matter of pride for the department and will further strengthen the functioning of the Postal Department. (w-nkm)

Govt to modify Guruji Credit Card scheme to ease student loans

Mail News Service

Ranchi, Feb 3: The state government has decided to make changes to the Guruji Credit Card scheme after a review revealed delays in loan disbursement to students. The proposed modifications aim to make it easier for students to access education loans and provide for the refund of the first instalment already paid by students from their own resources. During the review, the state government found that 2,471 applications had been approved under the scheme.



Of these, loans were sanctioned for 2,148 applicants, but only 1,466 students actually received the loan amount. As many as 941 applications are still pending, meaning only about 59 percent of approved applicants have so far benefited from the scheme. The Higher Education Department observed that delays in signing the tripartite agreement between the student, bank and educational institution were a major reason for the slow release of loans. Due to these delays, students were forced to pay the first instalment of their institutional fees from personal sources.

At present, the Guruji Credit Card scheme does not provide for reimbursement of the first instalment paid by students. Following the review, the department has decided to amend the scheme to allow a refund of the first instalment already paid by beneficiaries.

To address delays in executing tripartite agreements, the government also plans to introduce an online tripartite process using e-KYC. The Higher Education Department has completed the necessary departmental formalities for amending the scheme. The proposed changes will be implemented after receiving cabinet approval.

Under the Guruji Credit Card scheme, the state government provides education loans at an interest rate of four percent for higher education. Beneficiaries are also given a repayment period of up to 15 years after completion of their studies.

Red Cross conducts SDP donation drive to aid the needy in Jamshedpur

Jamshedpur, Feb 3: The Indian Red Cross Society, East Singhbhum, successfully conducted an SDP (Single Donor Platelet) donation drive today as part of its ongoing blood donation awareness campaign. Responding to a sudden surge in demand, the team facilitated nine successful SDP donations, ensuring much-needed support for patients. The drive was coordinated by Prabhunath Singh, SDP donation incharge, who actively mobilized volunteers and screened potential donors from the Red Cross SDP group. Among the donors, Amandeep from Tata Steel made his 22nd SDP donation, completing 41 total donations with 19 regular blood donations. Dilip Kumar Acharya completed his 65th donation (24th SDP), Raju Kumar completed his 61st donation (43rd SDP), P. Anand completed 47 donations and Ankush Kumar completed 45 donations. Other notable contributors included MV Prasad (135th donation), Anil Kumar (13th donation), Bhavesh Kumar (23rd donation) and Jorawar Singh Gabri (12th donation). Prabhunath Singh personally supervised the donors at the Jamshedpur Blood Centre, motivating and encouraging them during the donation process. To honour their commitment, the blood centre presented mementos to all SDP donors through senior physician Dr. L.B. Singh. (w-nkm)

Farewell function at Golmuri Utkal Samaj High School



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 3: Golmuri Utkal Samaj High School organised a farewell ceremony for its Class X students on February 3, 2026, at the school premises. The programme was arranged to extend best wishes to the outgoing students as they prepare for their board examinations and future endeavours.

The event was attended by the school's office bearers, including President Anant Narayan Pathi, Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena, Vice President Ashok Kumar Samant and Executive Committee Member Santosh Jana. Also present were the Headmistress of the school, senior and middle school teachers and other teaching staff. During the programme, the achievements and academic progress of the students were highlighted. A total of 162 students of Class X were honoured for their dedication and consistent efforts in academics. Teachers motivated the students with inspiring words, encouraging them to remain disciplined, confident and focused in their future pursuits.

The ceremony concluded in a warm and cordial atmosphere, with students expressing gratitude towards their teachers and the school management for their guidance and support. The event served as a memorable send-off, strengthening the bond between students and the institution as they move ahead to the next phase of their educational journey. (w-nkm)

AAES hosts annual exhibition

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 3: As part of its Centenary Celebrations (1926–2026) Andhra Association English School (AAES), Kadma, successfully organised its Annual Exhibition on Tuesday at the school auditorium. The event drew an enthusiastic response from students, parents and visitors, marking a significant highlight of the school's 100-year milestone. The exhibition was inaugurated in the presence of members of the school management, the Principal, Vice Principal, teachers and invited guests. Students from various classes displayed an impressive range of exhibits across subjects such as Science, Mathematics, Social Science, Environmental Studies, Languages, Art and Craft and Technology. The displays reflected creativity, innovation and the practical application of concepts learnt in classrooms.



The projects showcased students' analytical thinking, problem-solving skills and awareness of contemporary social and environmental issues. Visitors particularly appreciated the interactive models and the confidence with which students explained their ideas, adding to the educational value of the exhibition.

Addressing the gathering, the Principal said the annual exhibition was a meaningful part of the centenary year, celebrating a century of academic excellence, strong values and holistic education. The school management congratulated both students and teachers for their teamwork and dedication in making the event a grand success.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks, leaving lasting impressions and reaffirming the institution's commitment to fostering creativity and excellence among its students. (w-nkm)

Trade unions hold protest at Tata Power gate

Jamshedpur, Feb 3: Acting on a call given by the Joint Platform of Trade Unions, Jharkhand, a protest demonstration was held on Tuesday in front of the Tata Power gate. Office-bearers of various trade unions along with a large number of workers participated in the sit-in to highlight labour-related issues and draw the attention of the government and management.

Addressing the gathering, trade union leader and AITUC Jharkhand State President Ambuj Kumar Thakur alleged that workers are facing severe exploitation in the current scenario. He claimed that in several establishments, workers are neither paid proper wages on time nor provided with payment slips. Thakur further alleged that in many cases, workers are removed from service merely for demanding their payment slips, calling the practice illegal and unjust.

He stated that to protect workers' rights and press for the fulfilment of these demands, all trade unions across Jharkhand will jointly observe a statewide strike on February 12. Through this strike, workers aim to send a clear message to the government regarding their legitimate demands. Speakers at the protest warned that if workers' issues are not resolved promptly, the agitation would be intensified in the coming days. Although the demonstration remained peaceful, there was visible anger and resentment among workers over continued violations of their rights. (w-nkm)



Cheaper cancer medicines to benefit thousands of patients

Jamshedpur, Feb 3: Thousands of cancer patients undergoing treatment in Jamshedpur are set to benefit from the reduction in prices of several essential medicines announced in the Union Budget. Nearly 2,500 patients annually receiving treatment at MTMH, TMH and other private hospitals in the city are expected to get significant financial relief.

Cancer treatment often continues for a long duration, placing a heavy economic burden on patients and their families. Many patients are required to take costly medicines for extended periods, which weakens their financial condition despite assistance through various schemes. The recent budget has announced a reduction in import duty on several medicines, making them more affordable.

Dr. Tamojeet Chowdhury, cancer specialist at MTMH, said that import duty on 17 medicines has been reduced. Most of these drugs are used in immunotherapy and targeted therapy, which are not only expensive but also required over long treatment periods. As a result of the duty cut, these medicines are expected to be available at 10–12 percent lower prices on the MRP, offering substantial relief to patients. He added that around 30 to 50 percent of cancer patients visiting MTMH are likely to benefit from this decision.

In addition, the budget has also reduced the prices of diabetes medicines, benefiting not only affluent patients but also economically weaker sections. The removal of customs duty on 36 life-saving drugs will further enable poor patients to access timely and affordable treatment. (w-nkm)

Community outreach drives preventive oncology push in Eastern India

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 3: Marking World Cancer Day, Meherbai Tata Memorial Hospital (MTMH), Jamshedpur, in partnership with the Tata Steel Foundation (TSF), has reinforced its focus on preventive oncology through sustained community outreach across urban, semi-urban, and rural regions of Jharkhand and Odisha.



The initiative underscores a growing shift from treatment-centric cancer care to prevention, early detection, and equitable access to screening services.

With cancer incidence rising nationwide, MTMH has prioritised awareness and early diagnosis as critical public health interventions. Limited access to screening facilities and low awareness, particularly in underserved areas, often result in cancers being detected at advanced stages.

To bridge this gap, MTMH operates a fully equipped Mobile Cancer Screening Unit that delivers doorstep screening for oral, cervical, and breast cancers. Implemented in close coordination with TSF, which leads community mobilisation and engagement, the mobile unit conducts oral examinations and scans, Pap smears for cervical cancer, and mammography for breast cancer. Clinical operations, staffing, technical oversight, and follow-up care are managed by MTMH, with women healthcare professionals deployed to encourage participation and reduce hesitation among women beneficiaries. Individuals with suspected early-stage changes are promptly referred to MTMH for confirmatory diagnosis and timely treatment. In recent weeks, screening camps have been conducted across several locations in East Singhbhum district, as well as in Kalinganagar and Meramandali in Odisha, reaching hundreds of beneficiaries.

The programme is scheduled to continue on a monthly basis over the next two years, strengthening long-term cancer surveillance in the region.

The initiative has also received facilitative support from the Rotary Club of Jamshedpur West and the RSB Foundation, contributing to infrastructure and outreach efforts, while programme execution and medical care delivery remain anchored by MTMH and TSF. Alongside screening efforts, MTMH has intensified its HPV Awareness and Vaccination Campaign to combat cervical cancer, one of the most prevalent cancers among Indian women. Addressing low immunisation rates driven by lack of awareness and misconceptions, MTMH has conducted extensive awareness sessions in schools and colleges across Jamshedpur, coupled with on-site vaccination drives. Since the launch of the campaign, over a thousand HPV vaccine doses have been administered, strengthening long-term prevention among adolescent girls.

Through these integrated and sustained initiatives, MTMH and the Tata Steel Foundation reaffirm their shared commitment to strengthening public health systems and ensuring that cancer prevention and early care reach the most vulnerable sections of society.

West Singhbhum launches district-level Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0

Mail News Service





Chaibasa, Feb 3: The Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0 was launched today at the Pillai Auditorium in Chaibasa under the aspirational district and block programs directed by the NITI Aayog, New Delhi. The inauguration ceremony was presided over by Deputy Development Commissioner, Utkarsh Kumar and attended by district officials including District Social Welfare Officer Shweta Bharti, District Planning Officer Francis Kujur, Sadar Hospital Deputy Superintendent Dr. Shivcharan Hansda, aspirational fellows and representatives from TRIF, Tata Steel Foundation, UNICEF and Ekjut. The campaign, initiated by NITI Aayog, is a nationwide three-month program aimed at achieving full coverage of key development indicators at both district and block levels. In West Singhbhum, the campaign will continue across the district and in Tonto and Gudri blocks until April 14, 2026. It focuses on five major indicators at the district level and six at the block level, covering health, nutrition, sanitation, education, agriculture and livestock sectors. Addressing the gathering, Deputy Development Commissioner Utkarsh Kumar emphasized that the campaign's core objective is to ensure 100% access to essential government services for eligible citizens. He highlighted that full coverage of health systems, disease surveillance, sanitation awareness, school attendance, child health, rural livelihoods and agricultural and livestock initiatives will be achieved through coordinated efforts across departments. During the ceremony, officials and participants took a pledge to work toward creating a healthy, capable, prosperous and inspiring district and blocks, ensuring regular monitoring and review, institutionalizing best practices, strengthening inter-departmental convergence, promoting citizen participation and driving innovation and tangible change. Various stalls showcasing ongoing initiatives were also inspected at the venue. (w-nkm)

BJP announces candidates for Municipal elections



Mail News Service

Seraikela, Feb 3: After a long wait, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced its list of supported candidates for the upcoming municipal elections in Seraikela-Kharsawan district. The announcement was made by Subodh Singh Guddu, the district in-charge, at the district office in the presence of senior party leaders.

For the Seraikela Municipal Council, Sumit Kumar Chaudhary has received the party's backing for the post of president. In Adityapur Municipal Corporation, Prabhasini Kalundia has been endorsed for the mayoral position, while for Kapali Municipal Council, Tajdar Alam has been named as the supported candidate.

BJP district president Hari Krishna Pradhan congratulated all the nominees and extended best wishes for their campaigns. Prominent leaders present included former district president Uday Pratap Singhdev, Vijay Mahto, Raja Singhdev, municipal president Biju Dutta and Rajkumar Singh.

Party workers and officials in attendance pledged their full support and committed to working diligently for the victory of the BJP-backed candidates in all three municipal bodies. The announcement sets the stage for a competitive electoral battle in the district's urban areas. (w-nkm)

Sanand to file nomination for Seraikela Municipal president

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Feb 3: Sanand Kumar Acharya, popularly known as Tulu, will file his nomination for the post of president in the Seraikela Municipal Council elections on Wednesday. Announcing his candidacy, Acharya emphasized his commitment to providing a fear-free administration and putting an end to exploitation in the municipal area. He stated that his decision to contest comes with the support of the people of Seraikela, blessings of his revered mother Niyati Devi, his late father Sudhanshu Shekhar Acharya and guidance from his political mentor Champai Soren.

Acharya will commence his nomination journey from his ancestral residence at Baba Bamdev Niwas, seeking blessings at the Maa Durga Temple, Indrantandi and Shri Shri 108 Baba Bamdev Temple before proceeding toward the nomination venue. Hundreds of supporters are expected to accompany him to the public gathering and nomination submission, highlighting strong local backing for his campaign. (w-nkm)

Pratap Aditya files nomination for Seraikela Municipal president



Seraikela, Feb 3: Raja Pratap Aditya Singhdeo filed his nomination for the post of president of Seraikela Municipal Council on Tuesday, accompanied by former municipal president Rani Arunima Singhdeo, dozens of supporters and prominent local citizens.

Speaking at the event, Singhdeo said that he was contesting for the president's post at the strong request of the public, despite facing personal health challenges. He emphasized that the people of Seraikela are like his own family and his vision is to develop Seraikela into a model town, elevating its status at the state level.

The nomination event highlighted strong local support, with citizens and community leaders present to endorse his candidacy. Singhdeo's entry adds another prominent name to the ongoing Seraikela municipal elections, signaling a competitive race for the top leadership position in the town. (w-nkm)

Four-day Shri Shri Harinam Sankirtan concludes with Dahi Dhulaut



Mail News Service

Seraikela, Feb 3: The four-day Shri Shri Harinam Sankirtan organized by the Shri Shri Hari Sankirtan Committee at Hari Mandir in Pandra village concluded on Tuesday with the traditional Dahi Dhulaut ceremony. The event was marked by the distribution of prasad and a ceremonial farewell to the presiding priest, Mahant Vidai.

During the celebrations, the host committee and devotees carried out the Harinam Sankirtan procession throughout the village, visiting every household. Villagers welcomed the procession with colours and participated in playful Holi festivities, showering the team with gulal and coloured powder.

The event concluded at the outskirts of the village, following local tradition. It is believed that such rituals help prevent negative forces from entering the village, ensuring spiritual protection and community harmony. The Sankirtan was celebrated with devotion, enthusiasm and active participation from the entire village, leaving a lasting impression of faith and festivity. (w-nkm)

Nitin, Ramesh, Sunil file nominations in Chaibasa



Mail News Service

Chaibasa, Feb 3: In the ongoing Chaibasa municipal elections, three candidates have filed their nominations for the post of council president today.

Nitin Prakash, Ramesh Khirwal and Sunil Saw submitted their nomination papers, officially entering the race.

The move marks the beginning of what is expected to be a competitive contest for the top municipal post. Election officials confirmed the receipt of the nomination forms and the candidates expressed their commitment to serving the city's residents and addressing local development issues. Voter attention is likely to focus on these key contenders in the coming weeks. (w-nkm)

JMM-backed candidate files nomination at Seraikela

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Feb 3: Supported by the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), former vice-president of the Seraikela Municipal Council Manoj Kumar Chaudhary filed his nomination for the post of council president on Tuesday amid a grand procession with music and drums.

Chaudhary began the march from his residence after seeking blessings from his mother. The procession, attended by party workers, officials, local citizens and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, moved from Bajrang Chowk on Jail Road through Old Bus Stand Chowk, Kaluram Chowk and Sanjay Chowk before reaching Garage Chowk. From there, Chaudhary proceeded to submit his nomination at the Election Officer's office.

Prominent attendees included JMM district president Dr. Subhendu Mahto, district vice-president Bhola Mahty, municipal president Shambhu Acharya, Chamber of Commerce president Prem Agrawal and members of the Seraikela Chhau Artists Association.

Speaking after filing his nomination, Chaudhary pledged to prioritize basic infrastructure, cleanliness, roads, water supply and public grievances if elected. He expressed gratitude to the JMM leadership and his supporters. Dr. Subhendu Mahto praised Chaudhary as a popular local leader and assured full party support for his candidacy. (w-nkm)

Ambuj Kumar files nomination for Ward 17 Councillor



Mail News Service

Seraikela, Feb 3: Former ward councillor Ambuj Kumar filed his nomination on Tuesday for the post of Ward 17 councillor at the Gamharia Sub-Divisional Office in the presence of local residents.

Speaking at the event, Kumar emphasized that holistic development of Ward 17 would be his top priority. He noted that while his first term had set a strong foundation of development and public service, progress over the past seven years had slowed. With a renewed commitment to placing the ward back on the path of growth, he declared his candidacy for the upcoming elections.

Local supporters expressed confidence in Kumar, stating that the ward needs a capable and dedicated leader to drive progress. Prominent attendees at the nomination program included Brajendra Kumar Singh, Amitesh Singh, Subhash Chandra Bose, Prabhunath Prasad Yadav, Sumit Yadav, Harendra Tiwari, Ramvichar Rai, Manoj Tiwari, SD Mishra, Pankaj Swarnkar, among many others, who reiterated their support for his campaign.

The nomination signals the beginning of an active campaign focused on restoring momentum in development and public welfare in Ward 17. (w-nkm)

Ramesh Khirwal files nomination at Chaibasa



Chaibasa, Feb 3: BJP's dedicated worker Ramesh Khirwal Laddoo filed his nomination for the post of president in the Chaibasa municipal elections amid a grand procession with his supporters on Tuesday. The event began with prayers and rituals at the local Baba Temple. Accompanied by drummers and traditional music, Khirwal led a ceremonial march through Rungta Chowk, Sadar Thana, Post Office Chowk and Court Road, greeting citizens and seeking their blessings before reaching the Sub-Divisional Office to submit his nomination.

Prominent political figures joined the procession, including former Chief Minister Madhu Koda, former minister Badkunwar Gagrai, former MP Geeta Koda, ex-IAS officer J.B. Tubid, former Chairperson Geeta Balmuchu and other local leaders such as Bhushan Pat Pingua, Sanju Pandey, Satish Puri, Hemant Kumar Keshri, Pratap Katiyar, Vikas Mishra, Anil Khirwal and many more.

Hundreds of Chaibasa residents, both men and women, participated in the nomination march, highlighting strong public support and enthusiasm for Khirwal's candidacy. The event demonstrated the BJP's organized grassroots presence and the candidate's connection with the local community. (w-nkm)

Archana files nomination for Ward 29 Councillor

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Feb 3: Archana Kumari Singh filed her nomination on Tuesday for the post of Ward 29 councillor at the Adityapur Sub-Divisional Office. Speaking to the media after submitting her papers, she expressed confidence in her victory and emphasized her commitment to continuing the unfinished work of her late mother-in-law, Rajmani Devi.

Archana Singh stated that her priority will be to carry forward the development roadmap envisioned by Rajmani Devi, who had previously been elected three times from Ward 29 and held the record for the highest votes in Jharkhand. Rajmani Devi, also a former president of the BJP District Mahila Morcha, had passed away due to cancer during her last term, leaving the seat vacant.

This year's contest in Ward 29 is expected to be closely fought, with Rita Srivastava, wife of Vinod Kumar Srivastava and former Adityapur Municipal Council president, emerging as a key rival. Archana Singh said that irrespective of the opposition, she will focus on public welfare, actively engage with residents, address their issues and ensure that Ward 29's development continues without disruption.

Her campaign emphasizes commitment, continuity and community engagement, aiming to fulfill her late mother-in-law's vision while introducing new initiatives for the ward's growth. (w-nkm)

Govt grants 'Special Railway Project' status to Rs 5,089 cr KGP-Tatanagar-Bagdehi 4th line

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 3: The Government of India has officially designated the fourth railway line project connecting Kharagpur to Bagdehi via Tatanagar as a "Special Railway Project." Budgeted at 180°C5,089 crore, this strategic move is designed to revolutionize the rail network on the heavily congested Howrah-Mumbai main route.

The special status effectively removes critical bottlenecks in land acquisition and construction for the 366.9 km long line, providing much-needed relief to millions of passengers and regional entrepreneurs.

This vital infrastructure project spans across the three states of West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Odisha, linking their primary industrial corridors. Out of the total length, the largest portion of 305.9 km falls within Jharkhand, while 60.9 km is situated in West Bengal.

The terminal point of the project is located at Bagdehi in the Sundargarh district of Odisha. Currently, the stretch from Kharagpur to Tatanagar covers 133.8 km, while the section from Tatanagar to Bagdehi extends over 243.5 km.

The fourth line is expected to act as a lifeline for the region by strategically separating freight and passenger traffic. Railway officials estimate that annual cargo capacity will jump from 20.37 million tonnes to 28.12 million tonnes once the line is fully operational. By shifting the transport of coal, cement, steel, and food grains to a dedicated track, the project will drastically reduce passenger train delays and increase overall operational speed.

According to the Ministry of Railways, over 4,311 crore has already been spent on the project thus far. Beyond logistical improvements, the corridor is expected to accelerate the socio-economic development of the Bihar-Jharkhand-Odisha industrial hub and generate significant employment opportunities throughout its final construction and operational phases.

DC reviews preparations for Municipal Elections 2026

Seraikela

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Feb 3: To ensure the smooth, fair and efficient conduct of the Municipal (General) Election–2026, District Election Officer- cum-Deputy Commissioner Nitish Kumar Singh carried out a surprise inspection of various election cells constituted for the poll process.

The inspection aimed at reviewing preparedness and ensuring compliance with the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the functioning of several election-related cells operating from the Collectorate building, including the Election Cell, Information and Technology Cell, Expenditure Cell, Personnel Cell, Transport Cell and Public Grievance Cell. He also inspected the Material Cell, Ballot Paper Cell and Ballot Box Cell set up at the Kashi Sahu College campus. The review focused on record maintenance, coordination mechanisms and the discharge of assigned responsibilities. Officials were directed to complete all preparations in a timely manner and strictly as per prescribed standards and Election Commission guidelines.

Subsequently, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the designated nomination centres for various posts, including Ward Councillors, Chairpersons and Mayors across different urban local bodies. Arrangements related to room allocation, security, candidate convenience and documentation were reviewed, with instructions to ensure a well-organised and transparent nomination process.

He also conducted a field inspection of the dispatch centre at Kashi Sahu College, reviewing arrangements for strong rooms, election materials, transport vehicles, barricading and security.

Preparations at the proposed counting centre were also inspected, with directions to complete all arrangements safely and systematically as per Election Commission norms.

During the inspection, Deputy Development Commissioner Reena Hansda, Deputy Election Officer Surendra Oraon, District Public Relations Officer Avinash Kumar and other officials were present. (w-nkm)

Grand Tusu Mela draws huge crowd in Kolabira



Gamharia, Feb 3: A grand Tusu Mela was organized at the football ground in Kolabira, Gamharia block, under the joint aegis of the Public Durga Puja Committee and ATFA Singhbhum. The fair showcased beautifully crafted Tusu idols brought from various nearby villages, attracting large crowds eager to witness the vibrant displays. During the event, the organizing committee selected the three best Tusu idols and awarded cash prizes of Rs 51,000, Rs 31,000 and Rs 21,000 respectively. Consolation prizes were also given for other notable Tusu idols. The fair was inaugurated by social worker Ravindra Mandal, who praised the organizers for promoting local culture and community participation.

Key contributors to the success of the mela included Akhtar Hussain of Kohinoor Steel, patrons of the Durga Puja Committee Sadhan Mahto and Santosh Mahto, along with other committee members. Their efforts ensured smooth arrangements, vibrant celebrations and enthusiastic participation from villagers. The Kolabira Tusu Mela not only highlighted local artistry but also served as a platform for cultural exchange, fostering a sense of community and tradition among participants and visitors alike. (w-nkm)

Eco Club leads tree plantation drive at SNS Vidya Mandir, Ghatshila



Mail News Service

Ghatshila, Feb 3: Sant Nandalal Smriti Vidya Mandir witnessed an enthusiastic tree plantation drive organized by the school's Eco Club, reflecting its commitment to environmental conservation and green practices. The campaign saw active participation from 30 students of Classes VI to IX and Class XI, along with teachers, who collectively planted 50 saplings suitable for the summer season. During the programme, Eco Club mentor teacher B. C. Gorai provided students with valuable practical knowledge related to plant growth and care. He explained the importance of proper soil preparation, essential nutrients, adequate sunlight and correct watering techniques. Students were also guided on how to care for young plants, protect them from damage and safely transplant saplings from smaller pots to larger containers. In addition, Gorai briefed students on methods to protect plants planted during winter from harsh weather conditions. The success of the programme was ensured through the dedicated efforts of teacher-in-charge Anoop Kumar Patnaik, along with teachers Sharmishtha Sinha and Sutapa Majumdar, who played key roles in coordinating the activity. School Administrator Dr. Prasenjit Karmakar and Principal Dr. Srinibas Mishra appreciated the initiative, praising the Eco Club for promoting environmental awareness among students and encouraging them to take responsibility for protecting nature and enhancing greenery in their surroundings. (w-nkm)

DC conducts surprise inspection of offices at district collectorate

Mail News Service





Seraikela, Feb 3: District Magistrate-cum-Deputy Commissioner Nitish Kumar Singh conducted a surprise inspection of various offices located in the district collectorate building to review administrative arrangements and ensure efficiency. During the inspection, he also assessed the functioning of different cells constituted for the Municipal (General) Election–2026, along with routine office work.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the overall cleanliness of offices, maintenance of registers and records, availability of proper lighting and fans, condition of curtains and general office infrastructure. He issued clear instructions to ensure regular cleanliness, proper disposal of unnecessary waste, installation of dustbins in offices, repair of broken windows, improvement of curtain arrangements, adequate lighting and systematic maintenance of official records.

With an aim to enhance the aesthetic and cultural appeal of the collectorate building, he also directed that paintings based on local Chhau art be displayed. The inspection included the collectorate hall, toilets within the premises and the rooftop of the building. Officials were instructed to maintain cleanliness at all locations, complete necessary repair work at the earliest and continuously monitor the structural condition of the building.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed the installation of CCTV cameras in all offices from a security perspective, along with ensuring proper lighting, functional fans and essential basic facilities for the convenience of staff and visitors.<A wide range of offices were inspected, including General, Legal, Election, Establishment, Land Acquisition, District Welfare, Social Welfare, Record Room, Treasury, Social Security, District Planning, Education, Statistics, Transport, Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, Registration, Special Division, Nazarat, Supply, Water Conservation and other related branches. He emphasized office discipline, cleanliness, timely discharge of election-related responsibilities and accountability in routine administrative work. Deputy Development Commissioner Reena Hansda, Deputy Election Officer-cum-District Panchayati Raj Officer Surendra Uraon and District Public Relations Officer Avinash Kumar were present during the inspection. (w-nkm)

24-hour Hari Sankirtan concludes with Dhulot at Lakshmiposi



Seraikela, Feb 3: The 24-hour Shri Shri Radha Govind Akhand Jugal Naam Yagya, organised by the Shri Shri Radha Govind Harinam Sankirtan Committee, Lakshmiposi, Rugdisai, concluded on Tuesday in a devotional and festive atmosphere on the auspicious occasion of Maghi Purnima. The concluding rituals included the ceremonial farewell of the Mahants, distribution of Shri Shri Gauranga Mahaprabhu Harinam Prem Prasad and the traditional Dhulot with colours and gulal.

On the occasion of the Sankirtan's conclusion, hundreds of men and women participated in a Harinam Sankirtan procession, moving through the entire village while chanting devotional hymns. The organising committee arranged the distribution of prasad and kheer-khichdi among devotees. Speaking on the occasion, Prabhat Mahato said that Harinam is the guiding boatman of the boat of devotion in the present age. He added that chanting the Lord's name promotes love, peace and harmony among people of different castes, religions and communities and brings true happiness in life. Several kirtan mandalis, including those led by Arun Mahato, Manik Layak, Virendra Das Goswami, Shankar Mahato, Baidyanath Pramanik and Nageshwar Mahato, contributed to the programme. The event was successfully conducted with the collective efforts of the committee members and villagers. (w-nkm)

Tata–Badampahar MEMU trains to remain cancelled from Feb 5 to 26

Jamshedpur, Feb 3: The Tata Nagar–Badampahar MEMU train services will remain cancelled on multiple days between February 5 and 26 due to line maintenance and other operational works. The Chakradharpur Railway Division has imposed a line block to facilitate repair and improvement activities, leading to the cancellation of train services to ensure uninterrupted execution of the work. According to railway sources, both pairs of MEMU trains operating on the Tata–Badampahar route will be affected during this period, with cancellations occurring on different days in the up and down directions. The suspension of these services is expected to cause inconvenience to passengers, particularly those from rural areas who depend heavily on these trains for daily travel.

Crack down on illegal liquor ahead of Municipal polls

Six arrested, over 119 litres seized

Mail News Service



Seraikela, Feb 3: In view of the Municipal (General) Election–2026, a special drive was launched against the manufacture, sale and transportation of illegal liquor in the district on the directions of District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner Nitish Kumar Singh. The intensive raid and night patrol operations were carried out under the leadership of Excise Superintendent Kshitij Vijay Minz across various areas of the district.

During night patrolling on the Seraikela–Kandra road, an Ape mini truck (registration number JH05DD 5720) was intercepted near Mudiya village on suspicion. Upon search, two large bags containing various types of fake foreign liquor, amounting to 54.705 litres, were recovered from the vehicle. The driver, Kriti Kumar Sahu and his associate Sanjay Kumar Behra were arrested on the spot and the vehicle was seized as per legal procedure.

Further raids were conducted in the Nimdih, Udaipur, Baskonagar and Bhatia Basti areas under Gamharia and Adityapur police station limits. During these operations, four more accused were arrested. From their possession, 20 litres of illegal country liquor and 45 litres of illegal foreign liquor were seized. Notably, 60 bottles (45 litres) of unregistered foreign liquor brand "Kings Gold," not approved in Jharkhand, were recovered from one accused. Among the arrested, Rajratan Mishra of Bhatia Basti, Adityapur, has been sent to judicial custody. The driver Kriti Kumar Sahu and his associate are also being forwarded to judicial custody, while legal action under relevant sections of the Jharkhand Excise Act is being taken against the remaining accused. (w-nkm)

Kolhan University appoints three new Heads of Departments

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, Feb 3: Kolhan University has appointed new In-Charge Heads of Departments for three postgraduate departments following the orders of the Vice-Chancellor. An official notification regarding the appointments was issued by the university on Tuesday.

According to the notification, Dr. Vishal Deep, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Tata College, Chaibasa, has been appointed as the In-Charge Head of the Department of Psychology. The responsibility of the Department of Economics has been assigned to Dr. Anju Bala Khakha, Assistant Professor at Women's College, Chaibasa. Similarly, Dr. Archana Kumari Gupta, Assistant Professor at Jamshedpur Workers' College, has been appointed as the In-Charge Head of the Department of Philosophy. The order, signed by Registrar Dr. Ranjit Kumar Karn, states that these appointments will remain effective for a period of two years or until the retirement of the concerned faculty member, whichever occurs earlier. The new arrangement has come into effect with immediate effect. Copies of the notification have been forwarded to the Principals of the respective colleges and all concerned university officials for information and necessary action. (w-nkm)

Confluence of three Chhau dance styles at Jharkhand Tribal Mahakumbh on Maghe Purnima





Mail News Service

Seraikela, Feb 3: A grand confluence of all three classical styles of Chhau dance was witnessed at the Jharkhand Tribal Mahakumbh organised by the Sahibganj district administration at Rajmahal on the occasion of the state-level Maghi Purnima festival. Renowned Chhau artistes from Seraikela-Kharsawan district presented a spectacular cultural performance, drawing wide appreciation from the audience.

Under the leadership of Sangeet Natak Akademi awardee Guru Tapan Kumar Patnaik, dancers from the Seraikela style performed themes such as Sansar ke Palanhaar Har Parvati, the symbolic Boatman depicting life's struggles, Radha-Krishna representing eternal love and the Pataka dance symbolising patriotism. From the Kharsawan style, Maya Bandhan and Shikari were presented, while the Manbhum style featured powerful performances of Mahishasur Mardini and Tadaka Vadh. Impressed by the enthralling performances, Sub-Divisional Officer Sadanand Mahato felicitated Guru Tapan Kumar Patnaik and his team with a shawl and a memento.

Speaking on the occasion, Guru Patnaik said that Seraikela-Kharsawan district is the birthplace of all three Chhau styles and its art forms have gained global recognition. He praised the initiative of bringing all three styles together on one stage, calling it a proud moment for Jharkhand's cultural heritage. The event saw the participation of 45 senior and young artistes, including Mohammad Dildar, Basant Kumar Ganatayat, Guru Lakshman Mahato, Gopal Kumar Patnaik, Rajatendu Rath, Nivaran Mahato, Vaisagu Sardar, Vijendra Sardar, Kusumi Patnaik, Suraj Hembrom, Sudip Ghodai, Kamal Mahato, Angel Keshari and Chandni Hembrom. (w-nkm)

'Militarised commerce'

Pakistan is facing an exodus of global companies across sectors due to the unfriendly business climate exacerbated by military dominance in commerce, a media report said.

This development is leading to a decline in foreign direct investment and job creation in a country that is already struggling with an economic crisis, according to an article in the Asian News Post.

The major multinational corporations that have exited Pakistan in recent years include fast-moving consumer goods major Procter & Gamble, energy giant Shell, which sold its operations to Saudi Arabia's Wafi Energy and TotalEnergies, which divested a 50 per cent stake.

Microsoft, Pfizer, Yamaha, Uber, Careem, Siemens, Bayer, and Eli Lilly also withdrew from the country, citing unsustainable operations.

Pharmaceutical and tech firms faced particular hurdles, with over 21 companies leaving in under three years.

Energy and automotive sectors saw similar retreats, as firms like Yamaha stopped production amid import restrictions.

Foreign direct investment plummeted to a 10-year low of $1.2 billion in FY2023, reflecting lost capital, jobs, and technology transfer, the article stated.

Currency devaluation - which erodes profit margins, high inflation, and power shortages that disrupt operations, and weak consumer demand that shrinks markets are economic factors behind the flight of foreign capital.

Political volatility and rising militancy in the country add layers of risk, creating unpredictability that global firms avoid. Regulatory delays, bureaucratic red tape, and inconsistent policies hinder planning, with high taxes and bribes compounding costs. These factors have turned Pakistan from an emerging market into a high-risk zone, the article observes.

"Pakistan's military runs a vast parallel economy known as 'Milbus', spanning real estate, cement, fertilisers and banking, valued at tens of billions annually. Entities like Fauji Foundation dominate sectors with tax exemptions, regulatory immunity, and preferential state contracts, crowding out civilian competitors. This empire thrives amid national ruin, diverting resources and distorting markets. Military firms block merit-based competition, undermining entrepreneurship and scaring foreign investors wary of unfair playing fields. The Strategic Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), military-led, prioritises army-linked ventures, deepening perceptions of opacity and control," the article pointed out.

It highlighted that military dominance extends to projects like CPEC, benefiting elites over locals and increasing debt reliance. Civilian budgets suffer cuts to fund defence, fueling inflation and poverty that further deter investment.

Foreign firms operate under the shadow of uncertainty, unsure of policy enforcement amid military influence over governance. This overcontrol fosters a non-transparent environment, where bribes and favouritism prevail over the rule of law. Investors prefer stable hubs like the UAE or Singapore, avoiding Pakistan's militarised commerce.

Cumbersome regulations and policy U-turns create a hostile landscape for business. Frequent tax changes, import curbs, and approval delays make long-term planning impossible. Security concerns, including terrorism and lawlessness, heighten operational risks, the article added.

From the Editorial Desk

Al Qaeda scales up tech enabled operations as it eyes pan-India footprint



Al Qaeda has been using high-end technology to carry out operations in India, which has made investigations more challenging. Probe agencies have found that servers are being hosted in multiple countries to carry out propaganda and radicalise the people.

An Intelligence Bureau official stated that the outfit is targeting the entire country and seeks to disseminate content to every corner of India. Unlike the Islamic State, which has decided to target people down South only, Al-Qaeda has bigger plans. The official added that the idea behind the outfit is to proceed slowly and steadily, without engaging in any major operation. The operations are very low, so the detection is very hard.

Investigations clearly suggest the scale at which the outfit is operating, and the trends are extremely dangerous. Recent investigations show that Al Qaeda has set up its servers in Afghanistan, Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, and Pakistan. Each one of these servers is being used to deliver content to the Indian audience, another official said.

While tracking down these servers has been a major challenge for the security agencies, the scale at which the outfit is using Artificial Intelligence (AI) for its India operations is more worrying. Officials pointed out that the outfit has been exploiting AI to spread its ideology, recruit, and also carry out disinformation campaigns against India.

It has been using the available open source AI tools. The use of deepfakes has gone up considerably. AI is used to digitally create the faces of former leaders such as Osama Bin Laden and Anwar Al-Awlaki to deliver the latest messages. Following the death of these persons, Al Qaeda has struggled to find a leader for their cadre. For long, this had slowed down their operations, and the worst department to be hit was radicalisation and recruitment.

Those who were being targeted by the outfit did not show much interest, as the group did not have an inspirational leader. Experts say that the use of deepfakes largely solves this problem for the outfit, as it appears to be working for them when it comes to radicalisation and recruitment.

The expert also added that this is something that the Indian agencies must watch out for, as the technology is being used in a very dangerous manner. Worse, it is working well for the outfit, the experts also warn.

Al Qaeda in the Sub-Continent (AQIS) was created with the specific task of expanding operations in India. However, that plan never took off as was intended. Since the last couple of months, the activity of this group has gone multi-fold online. It appears to be targeting a much wider audience than the Islamic State has been doing in India.

Intelligence assessments suggest that Al Qaeda has a much wider audience in India compared to all other terror groups. This is largely due to the founder of the terror group, Osama Bin Laden. He still is a hero figure for many, and this is what is being exploited majorly by the outfit for its operations in India, an Intelligence Bureau official said.

When it comes to India, it has been taking a calculated approach. The intention is to penetrate as deeply as possible into society. The next step would be to plan the attacks and then execute them, another official added. For the Indian agencies, the biggest challenge would be to deal with this outfit and handle the scale at which it is using technology.

The Irony of Trump's Board of Peace that overlooks terror sponsors



Deepika Bhan

It is hard to overlook the irony of the United States establishing a 'Board of Peace' that includes Pakistan as a key member.

The visuals from Davos -- featuring US President Donald Trump engaged in a close dialogue with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif -- were not merely symbolic; they reflected a troubling disregard for important realities.

Pakistan's record is neither ambiguous nor disputed. It is a country long accused of sponsoring cross-border terrorism against India that has claimed thousands of lives and displaced lakhs.

The perpetrators of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks emerged from its soil. Osama bin Laden, mastermind of the 9/11 attacks, was found hiding in Abbottabad, a stone's throw from a major Pakistani military installation.

More recently, the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack once again underscored the persistence of this threat. India has directly faced Pakistan-sponsored terrorism for decades, and the US knows it.

Beyond terrorism, Pakistan's internal record offers little reassurance. From the brutal suppression of dissent in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to allegations of rigged elections, compromised courts, military dominance over civilian authority, and systemic persecution of minorities, the country has struggled to uphold even basic democratic norms.

Despite this, it finds a place of prominence on Trump's Board of Peace.

Trump, while announcing the board, spoke of ending decades of suffering, stopping cycles of hatred, and forging a "beautiful, everlasting and glorious peace". The sentiment may sound lofty, but it raises a fundamental question: can peace be built without first dismantling terror networks and holding state sponsors (Pakistan) accountable?

The Board of Peace itself appears less like a multilateral initiative and more like a personalised political instrument -- one driven by a desire to bypass post-war international institutions and replace them with a US-dominated authority. History suggests that when peace becomes political, caution is not just advisable, but necessary.

India's scepticism is not born of cynicism but experience. In recent years, New Delhi has watched instability unfold across its neighbourhood -- Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and Nepal -- often amid external influences and selective global interventions.

Peace forums that claim neutrality frequently carry hidden agendas, shaping narratives through soft power, moral pressure, and media amplification rather than democratic legitimacy or accountability.

The danger lies not in the pursuit of peace, but in how it is defined and enforced. Many such boards operate outside established multilateral frameworks, presenting simplified versions of complex conflicts, where historical context becomes inconvenient. Accountability, more often than not, is demanded primarily of those willing to engage in dialogue -- not those who actively undermine it.

For India, this asymmetry is particularly troubling. Decades of cross-border terrorism, proxy wars, and efforts to internationalise internal security challenges have repeatedly tested its restraint.

The late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's historic bus journey to Lahore in 1999 was a genuine gesture of peace. The Kargil conflict that followed was a brutal reminder of the risks of misplaced trust.

It is, therefore, legitimate to ask how a 'Board of Peace' can include a state that has consistently compromised peace. Has the US forgotten the lessons of Abbottabad, or has strategic convenience overtaken memory? The visible warmth between Trump and Pakistan's military leadership only deepens these concerns.

India, which gave the world the philosophies of Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi, does not need lectures on peace. It understands peace not as a spectacle but as a responsibility. That is why New Delhi must approach Trump's invitation to join the Board of Peace with measured caution.

The board's stated mandate, overseeing the Gaza ceasefire and reconstruction, has already expanded in ambition, with Trump suggesting it could replace the United Nations in resolving global conflicts. Such aspirations, without institutional checks or inclusivity, should concern any serious democracy.

With Pakistan attempting to position itself as a key interlocutor, the risk of it leveraging such platforms to revive its Kashmir narrative is real. India has consistently countered these attempts in the United Nations and other forums, and its diplomacy is capable of doing so again. Yet vigilance remains essential.

Peace that ignores history, excuses terror, and rewards duplicity is not peace -- it is merely an illusion. Pakistan is a terror monster, and it is unfortunate that the US has chosen to overlook this reality.

(Deepika Bhan can be contacted at deepika.b@ians.in)

How can enhanced research and development facilities in biotechnology support the 'Make in India' initiative ?



Dr Asha Kumari



Research and development (R&D) serves as a fundamental pillar of the biotechnology sector. Characterised by innovation, this industry utilises R&D to create new products, enhance existing processes, and tackle complex challenges across domains such as agriculture, healthcare, industrial manufacturing, and environmental sustainability. Robust R&D fosters scientific innovation, technological independence, and economic growth, while facilitating the production of high-value goods such as diagnostic tools, vaccines, enzymes, biosimilars, biofertilizers, and bio-based materials.

In alignment with the Make in India initiative and associated policy frameworks, India's biotechnology landscape is undergoing rapid transformation. The country is making significant strides in precision medicine, advanced therapeutics, sustainable biosolutions, and global biotech leadership, while simultaneously augmenting its biomanufacturing and innovation capabilities. Targeted public investments from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), and national bioeconomy initiatives have significantly contributed to the growth of India's biotechnology ecosystem over the past decade. These investments have enhanced research infrastructure, incubation facilities, and translational laboratories, facilitating the effective transfer of scientific discoveries from laboratories to manufacturing settings. Consequently, biotechnology is increasingly leveraged for high-value manufacturing rather than mere assembly or contract production.

India is swiftly emerging as a global hub for biotechnology, propelled by substantial national investments and supportive legislation. The BioE3 Policy seeks to establish a $300 billion bioeconomy by 2030, advocating for the integration of biotechnology within health, agriculture, industry, and environmental sectors. The Biopharma Shakti Initiative reinforces domestic vaccine and biologic production, while the BioRIDE program promotes R&D, entrepreneurship, and biomanufacturing. Examples of cutting-edge research include genome-based precision medicine and gene and cell therapies. This innovation is further bolstered by infrastructure development through biotech parks, biofoundries, and B-Hubs, alongside the emergence of numerous start-ups. Applications of biotechnology in diagnostics, bioenergy, climate-smart agriculture, and related fields are positively impacting economic growth, public health, and global sustainability.

The biotech industry in India is transitioning from low-cost manufacturing to high-value innovation, driven by significant advancements in biotechnology R&D. This R&D enhances domestic intellectual property and boosts exports through innovative biologics, advanced treatments, precision diagnostics, and next-generation vaccines. By integrating artificial intelligence, bioinformatics, and automation, the sector promotes effective, scalable, and globally competitive production, positioning India as a technology centre that provides access to regulated international markets and attracts international partnerships and investments. In addition to addressing societal challenges, this focus on R&D nurtures a burgeoning startup ecosystem, attracts qualified talent, and fosters entrepreneurship. Funding incentives, government support, and stringent regulations further enhance research capacity, competence, and commercialisation. Thus, R&D in biotechnology has become a crucial driver of economic diversification, elevating global competitiveness while generating high-skill employment and ancillary industries, thereby creating a comprehensive ecosystem.Recent advances in biotechnology research and development are directly improving the quality of life for individuals, rather than merely benefiting various industries. The emergence of precision medicine facilitates early detection of health conditions and improves disease management, while domestically produced vaccines, biologics, and diagnostics enhance the accessibility and affordability of treatments. Furthermore, innovative biotechnological solutions in agriculture, such as climate-resilient crops, biofertilizers, and biopesticides, help increase crop yields, minimise losses, and promote food safety and sustainability. Environmental innovations, including biofuels, waste-to-energy technologies, and bioremediation practices, yield significant benefits for communities by improving air, soil, and water quality. In addition to fostering the creation of high-skilled jobs and stimulating regional economies, the proliferation of biotechnology companies and research and development centres creates opportunities for growth beyond urban areas. The swift development of indigenous vaccines and diagnostic tools has notably enhanced public health and pandemic preparedness, exemplified by the response to COVID-19. Overall, biotechnology nurtures accessible solutions, sustainable growth, and a higher standard of living for the populace. Under the "Make in India" initiative, the biotechnology sector in India has made remarkable progress; however, significant deficiencies in research and development continue to hinder its full potential. For example, inadequate collaboration between industry and academia often keeps innovations confined to laboratories, despite funding and policy support. Startups and small- to medium-sized enterprises frequently face challenges accessing state-of-the-art research needed for commercialisation. The infrastructure for high-end laboratories, pilot-scale facilities, and shared biomanufacturing resources remains unevenly distributed. Furthermore, regulatory bottlenecks and inconsistencies in policy implementation impede the progress of clinical trials, gene therapy, and the approval of innovative biotech products. A shortage of qualified researchers, ongoing brain drain, and insufficient private-sector funding exacerbates the situation. Additionally, inadequate frameworks for technology transfer and intellectual property commercialisation often prevent patents from developing into commercially viable products. Addressing these disparities requires a comprehensive strategy. Strengthening collaborations between academic institutions and businesses, fostering the development of regional biotech clusters and shared facilities, and expediting regulatory approvals can accelerate innovation. Improving intellectual property management and commercialisation, promoting private-sector research and development, and investing in skilled personnel are essential steps to ensure that discoveries transition from the laboratory to the marketplace. By bridging these gaps, India can transform its biotechnology research and development landscape from a low-cost manufacturing paradigm into a global innovation hub that generates high-value products, stimulates economic growth, and contributes positively to society.

In conclusion, biotechnology research and development transform innovative concepts into practical solutions that improve health, promote sustainability, and enhance livelihoods for all stakeholders.

(The author serves as an independent commentator, and the article's perspectives reflect a personal viewpoint.)

Sensex surges 2,073 points, rupee posts best single-day gain since Dec 2018



Mumbai, Feb 3 (IANS) Indian stock markets witnessed a strong rally on Tuesday as investors cheered the finalisation of the long-awaited India–US trade deal. Both benchmark indices, the Sensex and the Nifty, posted sharp gains -- reflecting positive sentiment across Dalal Street.

By the end of the trading session, the Sensex jumped 2,072.67 points, or 2.54 per cent, to close at 83,739.13.

Meanwhile, the Nifty climbed 639.15 points, or 2.55 per cent, to settle at 25,727.55.

“The key support zone remains at 25,500–25,600 (gap support), while 25,900–26,000 acts as a major psychological and supply resistance area,” an analyst stated.

The surge came after US President Donald Trump announced that the agreement would lower reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods to 18 per cent.

The move boosted confidence among market participants, who expect improved trade ties to benefit Indian companies and the broader economy.

Several heavyweight stocks led the rally on the Sensex. Shares of Adani Ports, Bajaj Finance, IndiGo, and PowerGrid recorded strong gains during the day. On the other hand, Tech Mahindra and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) were the only stocks to end in negative territory.

Market optimism was visible across all sectors, as every sectoral index closed higher. The Nifty Realty index was the top performer, rising by more than 4 per cent.

Other sectors such as chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and consumer durables also saw solid buying interest, with their indices jumping over 3 per cent each.

The broader market also participated in the rally. The Nifty MidCap 100 index advanced 2.84 per cent, while the Nifty SmallCap 100 index gained 2.82 per cent.

Analysts said that the strong performance highlighted investor confidence driven by positive developments on the trade front and expectations of improved economic prospects.

"Indian equities experienced a significant rally today, driven by the long-anticipated India–US trade deal and a strengthening rupee, which boosted expectations of renewed FII inflows,” an expert said.

Meanwhile, Rupee traded sharply stronger, appreciating by Rs 1.28 or nearly 1.40 per cent following the US–India trade deal announcement to record its best single-day gain since December 2018.

Trade deal with US protects interests of farmers, fishermen: Piyush Goyal



New Delhi, Feb 3 (IANS) Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday that the trade deal finalised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the US is the best among the neighbouring countries and will protect the interests of the country's farmers, the dairy sector, and fishermen.

Addressing a press conference, he said that the Prime Minister had used his friendship with US President Donald Trump to clinch a very good deal for India, giving priority to national interest.

The trade deal will benefit the labour-intensive sectors of the economy, such as textiles, leather, seafood, and gems and jewellery, as it opens up significant opportunities for exports to the US. The engineering goods sector, which includes auto components and other goods, will also benefit from the deal, he added.

The minister further stated that the MSME sector, which creates the highest number of jobs in the economy, would also benefit from the trade deal as the reduced tariff would make exports from the sector more competitive.Goyal said that PM Modi had clinched the deal, which was stuck in lengthy negotiations at the official and ministers’ level that were not producing results.

He contended that it was essential to finalise the trade deal as Indian exports of labour-intensive products such as seafood and textiles to the US were hit due to the higher punitive tariff of 50 per cent imposed by the Trump administration.

"On behalf of 140 crore Indians, I want to thank PM Modi because this deal will bring a lot of opportunities for India's economic growth, for farmers, poor, fishermen, women, and youth," he said.

Goyal launched a scathing attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of misleading the country and lacking concern for India’s development.

"Leaders with negative thinking, like Rahul Gandhi, are misleading the country. They have no concern for the nation’s progress. The Congress government reduced India to the fragile 5 economies, and if Rahul Gandhi has his way, he will take the country back to the same stage," he alleged.

Kotak Services Fund launched, NFO opens on February 4

Mumbai/ Jamshedpur : Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Ltd. has announced the launch of the 'Kotak Services Fund', an open-ended equity scheme focused on India's services-led growth. The New Fund Offer (NFO) will open on February 4, 2026, and close on February 18, 2026.

The fund seeks to tap opportunities across consumer services, financial services, IT, healthcare, telecom, logistics, power, and oil and gas. India's services sector contributes around 55 percent to the country's Gross Value Added and employs nearly 31.5 percent of the workforce.Nilesh Shah, Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Ltd., said India's services economy is undergoing a structural shift driven by rising incomes, digital adoption, and urbanisation, creating long-term opportunities for investors. Fund Manager Rohit Tandon said the sector offers a balance of stability and growth across consumption- and export-driven businesses. The minimum investment during the NFO is Rs.1,000.

India-US trade deal game-changer for MedTech, pharma sectors: Industry



New Delhi, Feb 3 (IANS) The trade deal between India and the US is a game-changer for the Indian MedTech and pharma sectors, said industry experts on Tuesday.

In a historic move, the US has announced a reduction in tariffs on Indian exports to 18 per cent from 50 per cent, which is a constructive development for the India-US trade relations.\ The US is India’s largest export destination, accounting for about 20 per cent of total exports.

The Association of Indian Medical Devices (AiMeD), hailed the deal and noted that it can prove to be a “vital boost for our manufacturers, enhancing global competitiveness, spurring investments, and creating jobs”.

“The US tariff slash from 50 per cent to 18 per cent is a game-changer for Indian medical devices, slashing export costs and unlocking billions in US market potential amid China+1 shifts. We urge sustained India-US regulatory harmonisation to capitalise fully on this opportunity for ‘Make in India’ MedTech success,” said Rajiv Nath, Forum Coordinator, AiMeD.

Further, Nath noted that the US tariff cut to 18 per cent on Indian goods also provides Indian medical devices a competitive edge over Chinese counterparts, which face higher Section 301 tariffs typically at 25 per cent plus additional hikes (up to 50-60 per cent on some items like respirators).

“Previously, India endured up to 50 per cent duties while China had around 30 per cent, but the new deal aligns India’s rate below China’s base, favouring India amid China+1 diversification,” he added. The Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) also highlighted the positive implications of the India-US trade deal for the Indian pharma sector.

Haven't heard anything from Delhi: Putin's top aide on India halting purchase of Russian oil



Moscow, Feb 3 (IANS) Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov on Tuesday said that Moscow has not yet received any messages from New Delhi about refusing Russian oil supplies.

"We haven't heard any statements from Delhi on this matter yet," Russia's state-run news agency Tass quoted the Presidential Spokesman as saying during a regular media briefing in Moscow while responding to a question about whether India had refused Russian oil. The diplomat, however, stated that the Kremlin is closely monitoring US President Donald Trump's statements, including on India and oil.

"We are, of course, closely monitoring all news on this matter," Peskov noted. "We are paying close attention to President Trump's statements; we are carefully recording and analysing them.""We respect bilateral American-Indian relations," Peskov added. "We attach no less importance to developing our advanced strategic partnership with India. This is of the utmost importance to us, and we intend to further develop our bilateral relations in every possible way, which is precisely what we are doing," Peskov, a seasoned diplomat who serves as the Press Secretary to Russian President Vladimir Putin, was quoted as saying by Tass.

16th Finance Commission to rebalance state finances, improve fiscal transparency: Report



New Delhi, Feb 3 (IANS) The 16th Finance Commission’s (FC) recommendations represent a decisive shift towards incentivising economic efficiency, strengthening local governance, improving fiscal transparency and reinforcing debt sustainability, while continuing to support higher capital spending by states, a report showed on Tuesday.

The 16th FC retained the vertical devolution of Union taxes to states at 41 per cent of the divisible pool for FY2027–FY2031, in line with the 15th Finance Commission period, ensuring continuity in Centre–state fiscal transfers, according to ICRA.

“However, meaningful changes in the horizontal devolution framework are expected to alter the intense distribution of resources among states. The 16th FC introduced a new criterion, Contribution to GDP, with a 10 per cent weight, replacing the tax and fiscal effort criterion,” the report mentioned. Alongside a reduction in the weight assigned to the area criterion to 10 per cent, these changes are expected to benefit states with healthier economic management.

Consequently, the share of 14 out of 28 states in the divisible pool is set to increase during FY2027–FY2031, with Karnataka emerging as the largest gainer, followed by Kerala, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Maharashtra.

On the grants front, the 16th FC recommended a sharp increase in local body and disaster management grants to Rs. 9.5 trillion for its award period, a 72 per cent rise over the 15th FC period.

Local body grants alone have been more than doubled to Rs. 7.9 trillion, with 60 per cent of these being conditional but untied, providing greater flexibility to states, while the remaining 40 per cent are tied to sanitation, solid waste and water management.

Encouragingly, a high release ratio of grants during the previous FC period lends confidence to states’ ability to meet the stipulated conditions.

“At the same time, the 16th FC has discontinued revenue deficit grants, citing their ineffectiveness in addressing structural fiscal gaps. As a result, 13 states that received such grants during the 15th FC period are expected to see a decline in their total grants, notwithstanding higher inter-se shares for some of them,” said ICRA report.On fiscal discipline, the Commission recommended that states strictly adhere to a fiscal deficit ceiling of 3.0 per cent of GSDP during FY2027–FY2031, without any additional reform-linked borrowing or carry-forward of unutilised borrowing limits.

“This marks a departure from the flexibility allowed by the previous two Finance Commissions and could necessitate a recalibration of state spending priorities.

US tariffs on Indian goods among lowest after trade deal



New Delhi, Feb 3 (IANS) With the new trade deal with the US in place, India is now among the nations with one of the lowest tariff rates being imposed by the Donald Trump administration compared with other Asian economies such as China, Pakistan, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Vietnam.

The US tariff on Indian goods comes close to those being levied on America’s closest allies, which include the United Kingdom (10 per cent), the European Union (15 per cent), Switzerland (15 per cent), Japan (15 per cent), and South Korea (15 per cent).

Some of the countries facing the highest tariffs from the US include Brazil (50 per cent), Myanmar (40 per cent), Laos (40 per cent), China (37 per cent), and South Africa (30 per cent).

India and the United States have agreed to a trade deal under which Washington will slash its tariff on Indian goods to 18 per cent from the current 50 per cent in exchange for New Delhi halting Russian oil purchases and lowering trade barriers, US President Trump said. The American leader announced the deal on social media following a call with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, noting that India would now buy oil from the US and potentially Venezuela. Prime Minister Modi said he was delighted that "Made in India products will now have a reduced tariff of 18 per cent".

"Wonderful to speak with my dear friend President Trump today. Delighted that Made in India products will now have a reduced tariff of 18 per cent. Big thanks to President Trump on behalf of the 1.4 billion people of India for this wonderful announcement," PM Modi said.

The Prime Minister said that when two large economies and the world's largest democracies work together, it benefits the people and "unlocks immense opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation". The US has decided to scrap the punitive 25 per cent duty on all imports from India over its purchases of Russian oil.

PM Modi also committed India to "BUY AMERICAN at a much higher level," in addition to buying more than $500 billion worth of US energy, including coal, along with technology, agricultural and other products, Trump said on social media.

"They will likewise move forward to reduce their tariffs and non-tariff barriers against the United States to ZERO," Trump said of India.

India-US deal to further deepen trade, create more opportunities: Revenue secretary



New Delhi, Feb 3 (IANS) The India-US trade deal will further expand and deepen trade between two of the largest economies of the world, Union Revenue Secretary Arvind Shrivastava said on Tuesday. In a statement, Shrivastava said the deal will create more opportunities for our labour-intensive and manufacturing sectors in the US market and give impetus to mutually-beneficial collaboration in high and advanced technology sectors. In a historic move, the US has announced a reduction in tariffs on Indian exports to 18 per cent from 50 per cent, which is a constructive development for the India–US trade relations.

The US is India’s largest export destination, accounting for about 20 per cent of total exports, and the lower tariff should improve bilateral trade flows and help revive India’s trade surplus with the US, according to experts. Earlier, speaking at FICCI’s conference on Union Budget 2026–27, Secretary, Economic Affairs, Anuradha Thakur, said that a "great deal of uncertainty’ was removed after the trade agreement was announced between India and the US".

"Despite growing geopolitical challenges across the world, the Indian economy has remained strong and stable," she told the gathering.Thakur noted that India is deeply connected with the global economy but continues to stand out as a country with strong macroeconomic fundamentals.

SAIL records highest-ever sales with 16 pc growth in FY26 so far



New Delhi, Feb 3 (IANS) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), one of the country’s largest steel-making companies and a Maharatna public sector enterprise, on Tuesday announced it has achieved its highest-ever cumulative sales during the April to January period of the current financial year.

The company recorded total sales of 16.6 million tonnes during this period in FY 2025–26, showing a strong growth of 16 per cent compared to 14.3 million tonnes in the same period last financial year, according to the official statement.

This marks the best sales performance in SAIL’s history for these months. SAIL also delivered its best-ever sales figures for the month of January.

“The company achieved record dispatches from plants, expanded door delivery volumes and enhanced warehouse sales, underscoring its strong focus on customer-centricity and logistics efficiency while deepening market penetration,” it added.

In January 2026, the company sold 1.84 million tonnes of steel, which is more than 10 per cent higher than the 1.68 million tonnes sold in January last financial year.

The strong sales performance helped the company reduce its inventory by around 0.25 million tonnes.

It also led to a significant reduction in borrowings, improving the company’s financial position.

SpaceX acquires xAI to launch space-based AI data centres: Elon Musk



Mumbai, Feb 3 (IANS) US-based entrepreneur Elon Musk said that his aerospace firm SpaceX has acquired his AI start-up, xAI, and shared plans to scale AI compute in space by launching large constellations of satellites that act as orbital data centres.

"Launching a million tonnes per year of satellites generating kilowatts (kW) of compute power per tonne would add 100 gigawatts of AI compute capacity annually, with no ongoing operational or maintenance needs. Ultimately, there is a path to launching 1 TW/year from Earth," said Elon Musk in a statement.

The SpaceX founder said that space-based AI is the only viable long-term path to meet the vast power needs of advanced AI, arguing that near-constant solar power in orbit can deliver compute at far lower cost than terrestrial data centres. The cost-efficiency alone will enable companies to advance training their AI models and processing data at unprecedented speeds and scales, the tech leader said.

Bihar presents record Rs 3.47 lakh crore budget; focus on growth, jobs and social justice

Patna, Feb 3 (IANS) The Bihar government on Tuesday presented a record budget of Rs 3,47,589.76 crore for the financial year 2026-27, the largest in the state's history.

Finance Minister Bijendra Yadav presented the budget in the Bihar Legislative Assembly.

The budget marks an increase of approximately Rs 30,695 crore over the previous financial year.

The state government described it as a major step towards rapid economic growth, employment generation and strengthening social justice.

The biggest highlight of the budget is the sharp rise in capital expenditure, with an allocation of Rs 63,455.84 crore, accounting for 18.26 per cent of the total budget.

This spending will be directed towards creating permanent infrastructure such as roads, bridges, irrigation facilities, power plants, water supply systems, schools, colleges and hospitals.

Education and higher education have received the highest allocation in the budget, with a provision of Rs 68,216.95 crore.

While a significant portion will be spent on salaries and allowances of teaching and non-teaching staff, the government has also emphasised the establishment of new degree colleges and model schools, teacher recruitment, promotion of digital education, expansion of higher education institutions, health, and law and order.

The budget allocates Rs 21,270.40 crore for the health sector, aimed at upgrading district hospitals, setting up new medical colleges and expanding health services.

The Home Department (police and security) has been allotted Rs 20,270.40 crore, with a focus on strengthening law and order through technological upgradation and improved policing infrastructure.



For agriculture-dependent Bihar, the government announced the extension of Agriculture Roadmap-4, with a focus on increasing the production of maize, pulses, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables.

Under the Chief Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, farmers will receive additional assistance of Rs 3,000 per year.

The budget also proposes promotion of cold storage facilities, food processing units and agricultural startups, aimed at increasing farmers' income and creating rural employment.

Women's empowerment has been given special emphasis. The government will continue financial assistance to women associated with self-help groups, provide easy loans for self-employment, and promote activities such as dairy, food processing, tailoring and local industries.

The government said these measures will further strengthen women's participation in Bihar's development.

The state government has set a target of creating one crore (10 million) job opportunities in the coming years.

Skill development centres will be expanded, and industrial clusters will be developed to promote industrial growth.

Under the new industrial policy, the government has expressed hope for large-scale investment and has set an ambitious target of Rs 50 lakh crore in capital investment in the next financial year.

Special emphasis will be placed on MSMEs and start-ups.

The budget outlines the expansion of rural and urban road networks and further improvements in power generation and distribution.

The government noted that per capita electricity consumption has risen to 374 units, and increased emphasis will be placed on solar and renewable energy.

Affordable housing schemes for the urban poor will continue, while flagship programmes like 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' will be further strengthened.

Flood control and irrigation projects will also remain a priority.

Despite the large outlay, the government has kept the fiscal deficit at 2.99 per cent of GSDP, within prescribed limits.

The state's total debt is also reported to be within safe limits.

The budget includes targeted provisions for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other underprivileged sections.

The Scheduled Castes Department has been allocated Rs 19,603 crore, while the Scheduled Tribes Department will receive Rs 1,648 crore.

Anandapur warehouses: NHRC team, former Congress MP Chowdhury visit fire site

Kolkata, Feb 3 (IANS) A three-member delegation from the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) visited the Anandapur warehouse fire incident site on Tuesday, to take stock of the situation. The area was also visited by former MP Adhir Chowdhury.

According to the police, the delegation arrived in West Bengal on Monday afternoon. In the evening, they held a meeting with the District Magistrate of South 24 Parganas. On Tuesday, they went to the incident site in Anandapur. There, they examined all aspects of the situation and gathered evidence.

It is reported that they may subsequently hold a meeting with the Superintendent of Police of the Baruipur Police District.Meanwhile, senior Congress leader and former MP Adhir Chowdhury also visited the site on Tuesday. He directly blamed the state government for its patronage for the horrific incident that resulted in the deaths of 27 people. However, the police did not allow him to visit the actual fire site. Speaking to media persons outside the Anandapur warehouse, Chowdhury said, "Such a major incident happened in the heart of Kolkata. It is impossible for a factory to be built illegally on a wetland without the full support of the ruling party."

India condemns vandalisation and removal of Mahatma Gandhi statue in Australia's Melbourne

New Delhi, Feb 3 (IANS) India on Tuesday condemned the vandalisation and removal of the Mahatma Gandhi statue from Australian Indian Community Centre in Melbourne by unidentified people, saying that it has raised the matter with the relevant Australian authorities.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated that India has urged Australia to take "immediate action" to find the missing statue and take action against the culprits.

In response to media queries regarding the statue in Australia, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated, "We strongly condemn the vandalization and removal of the Mahatma Gandhi statue located at the Australian Indian Community Centre in Rowville, Melbourne by unidentified people. We have strongly raised the matter with Australian authorities and urged them to take immediate action to recover the missing statue and hold the culprits accountable."

MEA's statement came after local media reports claimed that a bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the Australian Indian Community Centre in Rowville was stolen, sparking concern among the Indian Australian community in Melbourne.

Bengal SIR: ECI deleting voters selectively from Assembly seats with TMC legislators, alleges Mamata

Kolkata, Feb 3 (IANS) West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday accused the Election Commission of India (ECI) of selectively deleting voters from the Assembly constituencies with Trinamool Congress legislators in the state through the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR).

"In Assembly constituencies with Bharatiya Janata Party legislators, names of a maximum of 3,000 to 4,000 voters are deleted. Whereas, in the Assembly constituencies with Trinamool Congress legislators, the number of voters deleted ranges between 40,000 and 1,00,000. In my own constituency of Bhabanipur in South Kolkata names of 40,000 voters have already been deleted in the draft voters' list. Their final target is to delete 1,00,000 names from Bhabanipur," the Chief Minister told media persons in New Delhi on Thursday afternoon.



Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister again targeted ECI's Director General (Information Technology), Seema Khanna, and accused her of playing the lead role in deleting the names of genuine voters in West Bengal.

"Who is Seema Khanna? She is an agent of the BJP attached to the ECI," the Chief Minister said.

She also claimed that the ECI had unilaterally deleted 58 lakh names in the draft voters' list without consulting the electoral registration officers (EROs). "Now the ECI is indiscriminately issuing notice for hearing in the name of 'logical discrepancy'. Even Nobel laureate economist Amartya Sen was summoned for a hearing," the Chief Minister said.

NCP's future rests solely with its current leadership: Patel scotches debates on merger with Sharad Pawar faction

New Delhi, Feb 3 (IANS) The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) Working President, Praful Patel, on Tuesday downplayed the ongoing debate over the merger of the two NCP factions, saying that he will not speak on hypothetical questions.

Patel, after offering tributes to late Deputy Chief Minister and NCP National President Ajit Pawar at the party office said, "I will only speak about my party as it exists today. I will not comment on any hypothetical scenarios."



He emphasised that the decision-making process regarding the party's future rests solely with its current leadership and will remain internal to their organisation.

Patel's statement comes when leaders from the Sharad Pawar camp claimed that Ajit Pawar himself had expressed a desire for a merger before his death in a plane crash recently.

NCP(SP) chief Sharad Pawar last week had said that series of meeting took place with Ajit Pawar for a reunion between the two factions and Ajit Pawar was to announce the decision on February 12.

Mumbai HC denies Abu Salem emergency parole to visit native place

Mumbai, Feb 3 (IANS) The Bombay High Court on Tuesday refused to grant emergency parole to gangster Abu Salem to visit his native place in Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh, after he declined to bear the cost of security and travel arrangements, estimated at around Rs 17 lakh.

The court had earlier made it clear that if Salem wished to avail parole, he would have to pay the entire expenditure, including police escort and security logistics, given the sensitivity surrounding his movement.

During Tuesday's hearing, Salem's counsel submitted that the estimated cost exceeded Rs 17 lakh and described the amount as "exorbitant". He argued that Salem, who has been incarcerated for nearly 25 years, was not in a financial position to pay such a large sum.

SC grants interim bail to former Chhattisgarh excise minister Lakhma in liquor scam cases

New Delhi, Feb 3 (IANS) The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted interim bail to former Chhattisgarh Excise Minister and sitting Congress MLA Kawasi Lakhma in corruption and money laundering cases linked to the State's multi-crore liquor scam.

Noting his prolonged incarceration and the unlikelihood of an early conclusion of the trial, a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant granted the relief to Lakhma in cases registered under the Prevention of Corruption Act being probed by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) and under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The Bench, also comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul Pancholi, noted that Lakhma has been in custody since January 2025 and that the prosecution proposes to examine as many as 865 witnesses in the EOW case and 117 witnesses in the ED case.

The apex court also took into account that, out of 52 accused named in the cases, 22 were arrested, and 19 have already been granted bail.

"Having regard to the multitude of allegations, the nature of the scam which engulfed the State, and the large number of accused and witnesses, investigation and trial are likely to take a reasonably long time. A hurried trial may also have an adverse impact on the prosecution's case," the Supreme Court observed, adding that indefinite incarceration could infringe rights flowing from Article 21 of the Constitution.

PM Modi invites everyone to watch Feb 6 special episode of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha'

New Delhi, Feb 3 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday invited citizens to watch the special 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' (PPC) episode on February 6, to witness engaging conversations and the collective spirit of India's youth.

As examination season approaches, the Prime Minister once again engaged with young students through PPC. This year, the interactive sessions were held with Exam Warriors in Devmogra, Coimbatore, Raipur, Guwahati, and at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg in Delhi.

The Prime Minister described the experience as refreshing and inspiring, noting the enthusiasm and openness of the students.He emphasised the importance of stress-free exams and shared practical insights on overcoming challenges, maintaining balance, and nurturing confidence. In a post on social media, PM Modi stated: "As the Parikshas are approaching, #ParikshaPeCharcha is back too! This time, the Charcha happened with #ExamWarriors in Devmogra, Coimbatore, Raipur, Guwahati and at 7, LKM in Delhi. As always, it is refreshing to interact with my young friends and discuss stress free exams and several other things. Do watch the PPC Episode on 6th February!"



Sunetra Pawar appointed as Guardian Minister for Pune and Beed



Mumbai, Feb 3 (IANS) Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar was on Tuesday appointed as Guardian Minister for Pune and Beed districts.

The General Administration Department has officially issued a government resolution regarding this appointment. Late Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar was the Guardian Minister of Pune and Beed districts.Following the passing of Ajit Pawar in an air crash recently, his widow, Sunetra Pawar, accepted the responsibility by taking oath as Deputy Chief Minister. She was allocated the departments of excise, sports and youth welfare and minority welfare held by her late husband except for the finance and planning departments held by Ajit Pawar.

Jailed Anant Singh takes oath as Mokama MLA in Bihar Assembly

Patna, Feb 3 (IANS) Newly-elected Mokama MLA Anant Singh, who was lodged in Beur jail in connection with a murder case, took the oath of office in the Bihar Legislative Assembly on Tuesday.

He was brought from the Beur Central Jail under tight security arrangements.

Anant Singh's oath-taking was made possible following permission granted by the Patna Civil Court.

According to the court's directive, he was transported to the Assembly in an ambulance under heavy security cover, and the entire process was conducted under strict surveillance.

After arriving at the Assembly, Anant Singh took the oath of office and later met Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Following the oath ceremony, he greeted people present in the Assembly premises.



Oppn leaders question India-US trade deal, seek clarity

New Delhi, Feb 3 (IANS) Opposition leaders on Tuesday mounted a sharp attack on the India-US trade agreement, raising concerns over the country's 'sovereignty', transparency in decision-making, and the possible long-term impact on farmers, energy security and foreign policy. Leaders from the Congress party and Samajwadi Party questioned why key announcements were being made by US President Donald Trump instead of the Indian government and warned that the deal may disproportionately benefit the US. Congress MP Sukhdeo Bhagat said there was little reason for celebration and criticised the sharp increase in tariff levels. "I don't think there is much to be happy about. Earlier, our tariff was around 3-4 per cent, and if we are now happy with it being 18 per cent, it is shocking to me. Why is President Trump informing us about trade agreements? Are we no longer a sovereign nation? Why is a leader of another country informing us? Now the US will decide from whom we should buy oil or trade, and receiving such crucial information from President Trump instead of the Prime Minister is not a good message for the country," he told IANS.



ED probe: Bank staff exit Bengal home with sacks in coal-sand case

Kolkata, Feb 3 (IANS) The Enforcement Directorate (ED) continued its raids across West Bengal's West Burdwan district on Tuesday in connection with a coal and sand smuggling case, with dramatic scenes unfolding at the residence of businessman Rajesh Bansal in Jamuria.According to ED sources, officials of the State Bank of India (SBI) arrived at Bansal's house carrying sacks and were later seen exiting with three of them.

Sources said that so far Rs 65 lakh has been recovered from the premises, and the amount could cross Rs 1 crore. Bansal reportedly failed to provide satisfactory details about the source of the cash.The raids began around 6:30 am when three ED vehicles arrived in Jamuria from Kolkata. Searches were conducted at the residence of businessman Ramesh in the Punjabi More area near Jamuria market, as well as at the homes of his sons, Sumit Bansal and Amit Bansal. It is yet to be confirmed what documents or materials were seized.

US cabinet officials hail India trade deal gains



Washington, Feb 3 (IANS) US Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins and Energy Secretary Doug Burgum welcomed the US-India trade deal, citing benefits for farmers, energy producers and the broader US economy.

Rollins said the agreement would expand US farm exports to India's large and growing market. "New US-India deal will export more American farm products to India's massive market, lifting prices, and pumping cash into rural America," she said.

She noted that in 2024 the US agricultural trade deficit with India stood at $1.3 billion. Rollins said India's growing population makes it an important market for American farm goods and said the deal would go a long way toward reducing the deficit. She called the outcome an "America First victory."

Burgum focused on energy ties and investment. "Dealmaker in Chief!" he said, praising President Donald Trump for securing increased US energy purchases. Burgum said the deal showed energy diplomacy at work and would strengthen international relationships while bolstering the US economy.

Earlier, Trump said a phone call with Prime Minister Narendra Modi led to the deal, cutting US tariffs on Indian goods to 18 per cent and easing Indian trade barriers on US products.

Trump said India would also stop buying Russian oil and increase purchases of US energy, technology and agricultural products. He said the agreement would strengthen ties between the two countries and support efforts to end the war in Ukraine.

Former US diplomat Evan Feigenbaum urged a measured response to the announcement. He said the previous situation in US-India trade ties was unsustainable and that reaching a deal was necessary.

US media hails India trade deal as step forward



Washington, Feb 3 (IANS) Major US media outlets said the India-US trade deal marks progress after months of tension, but warned that many details remain unclear.

Fox News reported that President Donald Trump announced the agreement after a phone call with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The network said the deal would cut US tariffs on Indian goods from 25 per cent to 18 per cent. It also cited Trump's claim that India would reduce trade barriers and stop buying Russian oil, shifting purchases to the United States.

Fox News linked the announcement to broader geopolitical issues, including the war in Ukraine, and said the move followed months of pressure over India's energy ties with Russia.

The Wall Street Journal said the deal was aimed at easing trade tensions after a long standoff. The paper reported that India agreed to halt Russian oil purchases and boost US imports, while Washington agreed to lower tariffs.

The Journal noted that the White House had not yet released formal documents to implement the tariff changes. It also said some major Indian exports, including pharmaceuticals and electronics, had already been largely exempt from earlier tariffs.

The New York Times described the agreement as short on details but potentially significant. The paper said the deal appeared to roll back some of the steep tariffs imposed last year and could help reduce tensions between the two countries.

The Times reported skepticism, saying analysts questioned whether India would fully stop buying Russian oil and whether the remaining 18 per cent tariff would still weigh on businesses.

The Washington Post said the agreement helps stabilise ties after months of diplomatic strain. The paper called the tariff cut a "much-needed boost" for both Washington and New Delhi, while noting that key terms remain unresolved.

Most outlets said the deal is a step forward, but stressed that its impact will depend on how quickly promises turn into action.

Trade deal heralds exciting new phase in our partnership: Indian envoy to US

Washington, Feb 3 (IANS) Indian Ambassador to the US, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, on Tuesday hailed the trade deal between the two nations and said that the new announcements "herald an exciting new phase in our partnership". This came as India and the US reached a trade deal on Monday.Taking to X, the Indian Ambassador said, "A big WIN for a consequential partnership under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump. India and USA announce a trade deal creating vast new opportunities for the two economies and the people of our two great nations. Today's announcements herald an exciting new phase in our partnership."Earlier on Monday, the US President said that India and the United States had reached a trade deal, outlining key elements after a phone conversation with PM Modi, whom he described as "one of my greatest friends."

In a detailed post on Truth Social, Trump said the agreement would immediately reduce the US reciprocal tariff on Indian goods from 25 per cent to 18 per cent, calling it a major shift in bilateral trade ties linked to energy cooperation and broader geopolitical goals.

Paris prosecutors search French offices of social media platform X

Paris, Feb 3 (IANS) The Paris prosecutor's office said on Tuesday that the French offices of social media platform X were being searched as part of an investigation. The prosecutor's cybercrime unit is conducting the searches with the support of Europol and the cyber unit of the National Gendarmerie, it said in a post on X, adding that the action is related to an investigation opened in January 2025.The investigation was launched after a French lawmaker contacted prosecutors over concerns about allegedly biased algorithms on the X platform, Xinhua news agency cited France Info as reporting.Citing a statement from the Paris prosecutor's office, France Info said the scope of the investigation was later expanded following additional complaints alleging that the operation of Grok on X had led to the dissemination of Holocaust-denying content and sexually explicit deepfake videos.

Pakistani court again issues non-bailable warrants for Imran Khan's sister

Islamabad, Feb 3 (IANS) An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Rawalpindi once again on Tuesday issued non-bailable arrest warrants for former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's sister Aleema Khan and her two guarantors for the November 2024 protest, local media reported. The court also issued a show-cause notice to the Superintendent of Police (SP) Rawal for not executing the non-bailable arrest warrants against Aleema Khan. The court issued non-bailable warrants for two guarantors - Nadeem Bilal and Wahid Mehmood, ordering SP Rawal to arrest and present them before it, Pakistan's leading daily The Express Tribune reported.

The court ordered SP Rawal to be present on Wednesday and give an explanation for not arresting and presenting Aleema Khan despite the clear orders. In addition,



the court directed arrest of Aleema Khan and presenting her before it on February 4 without fail, as her application requesting exemption from appearing in the court was rejected.

The case has been filed at Sadiqabad Police Station and is linked to a protest held at D-Chowk in Islamabad on November 24, 2024. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan on November 13, 2024 issued a "final call" for protests on November 24, demanding the restoration of party's electoral mandate, the release of detained PTI members and the reversal of the 26th Amendment.

Following Imran Khan's call, PTI supporters from various districts held protest at D-Chowk in Islamabad. In response to the protests, the state launched an operation against the demonstrators, prompting the PTI leadership to flee the site and the protest ending on November 26.

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, आदित्यपुर

निविदा रद्दीकरण सूचना

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस प्रमण्डल के अति अल्पकालीन ई0 निविदा सूचना संख्या–ADP/DWSD/11/2025-26 (2nd Call) के सभी ग्रुप, जो समाचार पत्रों में PR No. 371727 Drinking Water & Sanitation(25-26)_D के द्वारा प्रकाशित किया गया था, को अपरिहार्य कारणों से रद्द किया जाता है।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल,
आदित्यपुर

PR 372236 Drinking Water and Sanitation (25-26)_D

CDS Anil Chauhan holds high-level talks with Armenian leadership, discusses enhancing defence cooperation



Yerevan, Feb 3 (IANS) Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan-led delegation and Armenia's Minister of Defence Suren Papkyan on Tuesday held discussions focusing on strengthening defence cooperation across various security issues related to the two nations.

Following the meeting, Headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff (IDS HQ) in a statement shared on X wrote, "General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff CDS lead the Indian Delegation for an office call on with Suren Papkyan, Minister of Defence, The Republic of Armenia. Discussions focused on strengthening Defence Cooperation across a range of security issues concerning both the Nations."

General Chauhan also addressed faculty and students at the National Defence Research University (NDRU) and spoke about the global security environment, structural transformation and emergence of technology.

"General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff CDS, visited the National Defence Research University NDRU, Armenia, where he addressed faculty and students on the evolving global security environment, structural transformation and emergence of technology as a key determinant of power," Headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff posted on X.

He also talked about the changing nature of war with emphasis on revolution in military affairs. He highlighted that technology is changing the character of war, especially as the world graduates towards multi-domain operations. He also covered the nuances of the new domains of warfare, viz Cyber, EW, Space and Cognitive, the IDS HQ added.

General Chauhan also met Chief of the General Staff of the Armenian Armed Forces Lt Gen Edward Asryan, discussing ways to enhance defence cooperation between the two nations.

Following this, the IDS HQ took to X and wrote, "The interaction reflected the shared commitment to deepen strategic partnership and promote mutual capability development."

The CDS also inaugurated the IT Lab and Distance Learning Centre at Vazgen Sargsyan Military Academy of the Armed Forces of Armenia in Yerevan.

The Indian defence delegation led by General Chauhan arrived in Armenia on Sunday for a four-day official visit. The visit of the 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.

"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.

On Monday, the Armenian Armed Forces accorded a ceremonial welcome to General Anil Chauhan.

कार्यालय–जिला परिवहन पदाधिकारी,
पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर

प्रेस विज्ञप्ति

अधोहस्ताक्षरी को सूचना प्राप्त हुई है कि जमशेदपुर शहर में कतिपय संस्थान द्वारा वाहनों की कटिंग अवैध रूप से किया जा रहा है। विदित हो कि किसी भी वाहन को बिना सक्षम पदाधिकारी के अनुमति कटिंग नहीं किया जाना है।

अतः सभी वाहन स्वामी एवं वाहनों को कटिंग करने वाले संस्थान को निर्देशित किया जाता है कि संबंधित जिला परिवहन कार्यालय द्वारा निबंधन रद्दीकरण प्रमाण पत्र प्राप्त करने के उपरान्त ही वाहनों को कटिंग करने की कार्रवाई करेंगे, अन्यथा वाहनों के कटिंग करने वाले संस्थानों के साथ–साथ संबंधित वाहन स्वामी के विरूद्ध भी विधिवत् कानूनी कार्रवाई की जायगी।

जिला परिवहन पदाधिकारी,
पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर

PR 372262 Transport(25-26)#D

अनुमंडल पदाधिकारी सह-उप नियंत्रक का कार्यालय,
नागरिक सुरक्षा जमशेदपुर
(नागरिक सुरक्षा)

अति अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना

मुख्य सचिव, झारखण्ड राँची के पत्रांक–318/दिनांक–11–5–2025 एवं सरकार के संयुक्त सचिव, गृह, कारा एवं आपदा प्रबंधन विभाग, झारखण्ड, राँची के पत्रांक–664/दिनांक–1–9–2025 एवं उपायुक्त, पूर्वी सिंहभूम जमशेदपुर के पत्रांक–1842/रा. दिनांक 1.9.25 के आलोक में एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि नागरिक सुरक्षा कार्यालय, बी. रोड, बिष्टुपुर, नार्दन टाउन (नियर यूनाईटेड क्लब) जमशेदपुर की ओर से हवाई हमला एवं आपात्कालीन् आपदा की स्थिति में आम जनता को जागरुक (AIR RED) की चेतावनी का संकेत देने हेतु शहर के निम्ननांकित बारह स्थानों पर सायरन एक साथ बजाने के लिए विद्युत तार से कन्ट्रोलरुम साकची में स्थापित करना है। जिसके लिए नागरिक सुरक्षा कार्यालय, बी. रोड बिष्टुपुर में दिनांक 10.02.2026 के पूर्वाहन। अपराहन 11:00 बजे तक मोहर बंद निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। उक्त निविदा 10.02.2026 के पूर्वाहन/अपराहन 01:00 बजे अनुमण्डल पदाधिकारी धालभूम के कक्ष में खोली जायेगी।

क्रमांक	निविदा सामग्री सूची	संख्या
1.	GSM Base Data Logger Device	12
2.	Customized Cloud Monitoring Software Licenses for 1 Year Charges	12
3.	Installation Charges (Canopy for Siren)	12
4.	Power Cable + Laying Charges with PVC Conduit ¾' over ground (as per actual)	Per Metre
5.	Out Door JB Box	12
6.	Mobile Application Software (one time charges)	
7.	Transporting and Mise Expenses	

निविदा की शर्तो का विवरण कार्यालय को सूचना पट पर देखा जा सकता है।

अनुमंडल पदाधिकारी
सह उप नियंत्रक नागरिक सुरक्षा,जमशेदपुर

PR 372232 Civil Aviation(25-26).D

Pakistan remains lowest-ranked country in South Asia for literacy: Report



Islamabad, Feb 3 (IANS) Pakistan has been ranked lowest in South Asia for literacy, with 63 per cent of people aged 10 years and above being able to read and write, according to a new review by the Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN), local media reported.

The review is based on official survey data from the Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement-Household Integrated Economic Survey (PSLM-HEIS) 2024-2025 and compares Pakistan's performance with World Bank literacy data for the region, a report in the Pakistani daily The Express Tribune said. It has revealed that literacy has increased from 60 per cent in 2018-2019 to 63 per cent in 2024-2025, a rise of three percentage points in around six years.

Analysts stated that the speed of improvement is "alarmingly slow" for a country which has a population of more than 240 million people. The FAFEN review also highlighted gender and provincial disparities. The data has revealed that male literacy stands at 73 per cent in comparison to 54 per cent for women. According to the data, the literacy rate for Punjab stands at 68 per cent, while Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa both have a literacy rate of 58 per cent. Balochistan has the lowest literacy rate at 49 per cent.

Literacy rate for youth aged between 15-24 years stands at 77 per cent, but adult literacy for those aged 15 years and above is at 60 per cent, showcasing persistent gaps in education and skills among older age groups, The Express Tribune reported. According to FAFEN, the survey has considered an individual aged 10 years or above who can read and understand a simple statement and write a simple sentence as a "literate" person. In January, a poll released by Gallup Pakistan revealed that Pakistan is struggling to afford food and education. A 20-year comparison of household consumption in Pakistan showcases a structural reallocation of funds towards fixing living costs instead of spending it on food, local media reported.

Data from the Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) revealed that the share of money spent by households on food reduced from 43 per cent to 37 per cent between 2005 and 2025. During the same period, housing and utilities have increased from 15 per cent to a quarter of household budgets, according to an editorial in Pakistani daily The News International.

"Gallup analysis finds that, when viewed alongside weaker real incomes and evidence of declining food quantities, this trend likely reflects households cutting back on food consumption to cope with rising fixed expenses, like housing and utilities, rather than food becoming more affordable. This is also not the only analysis to find that Pakistanis are cutting back on food," it said.

The HIES 2024-25 survey revealed that people facing moderate-to-severe food insecurity had increased from one in six to one in four between 2018-19 and 2024-25, making it harder for residents of Pakistan to survive in the present, and the prospects for future also do not look bright.

Afghanistan ranked third globally for casualties caused by landmines: UN

Kabul, Feb 3 (IANS) Afghanistan has been ranked third globally for casualties caused by landmines and unexploded war remnants, according to the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), local media reported on Tuesday.

On Tuesday, UNAMA stated that nearly 80 per cent of the victims are children, who get often injured or killed while playing or unknowingly touching an unexploded ordnance. The UNAMA demanded increased financial support for demining organisations working to clear mines and aware people about explosive risks, Afghanistan's leading news agency Khaama Press reported.According to UNAMA, clearance teams function every day to remove explosive remnants while awareness campaigns are launched to reduce exposure of people to deadly materials.

जिला दण्डाधिकारी एवं उपायुक्त का कार्यालय,
पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर।
(नगरपालिका निर्वाचन)

प्रिन्टिंग प्रेस मालिकों एवं चुनाव लड़ने वाले अभ्यर्थियों के लिए आम सूचना

पूर्वी सिंहभूम जिले के सभी छोटे–बड़े प्रिन्टिंग प्रेस मालिकों को सूचित किया जाता है कि, राज्य निर्वाचन आयोग का प्रेस नोट संख्या 187 दिनांक 27.01.2026 के द्वारा नगरपालिका आम निर्वाचन, 2026 की घोषणा की गई है, घोषणा के साथ ही आदर्श आचार संहिता लागू हो गई हैं।

लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम– 1951 की धारा 127क सहपठित झारखण्ड नगरपालिका अधिनियम, 2011 की धारा 561 में पुस्तिका, पोस्टर इत्यादि के मुद्रण पर प्रतिबन्ध

(1) कोई व्यक्ति, कोई निर्वाचन पुस्तिका या पोस्टर को, जिसके मुख्य भाग पर मुद्रक और उसके प्रकाशक के नाम और पते नहीं हों, मुद्रित या प्रकाशित नहीं करेगा या मुद्रित या प्रकाशित नहीं करायेगा ।

(2) कोई व्यक्ति, किसी निर्वाचन पुस्तिका (पाम्पलेट) या पोस्टर को तब तक मुद्रित नहीं करेगा या मुद्रित नहीं करायेगा–
(क) जब तक कि उसके प्रकाशक की पहचान के लिए घोषणा, उसके द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित और दो ऐसे व्यक्तियों द्वारा अभिप्रमाणित, जो उसे व्यक्तिगत रूप से जानते हैं, दो प्रतियों में उसके द्वारा मुद्रक को परिदत्त नहीं की जाय, और
(ख) जब तक कि अभिलेख के मुद्रण के पश्चात युक्तियुक्त समय के भीतर, घोषणा की एक प्रति, दस्तावेज की एक प्रति के साथ मुद्रक द्वारा नहीं भेजी जाए,–
(i) जब यह राज्य की राजधानी में मुद्रित हो, तो राज्य निर्वाचन आयोग को, और
(ii) किसी अन्य मामले में, उस जिले के उपायुक्त को, जिसमें यह मुद्रित किया गया हो।

(3) इस धारा के प्रयोजनों के लिए,–
(क) हाथ द्वारा प्रतियाँ करने के अलावा अभिलेख की अनेकानेक प्रतियाँ बनाने की किसी भी प्रक्रिया को मुद्रण माना जायेगा, और तदनुसार, अभिव्यक्ति "मुद्रक" की व्याख्या की जायेगी, और
(ख) "निर्वाचन पुस्तिका या पोस्टर" से अभ्यर्थी या अभ्यर्थियों के समूह के निर्वाचन को सम्प्रवर्तित या प्रभावित करने के प्रयोजन के लिए वितरित कोई मुद्रित पुस्तिका, पर्चा या अन्य दस्तावेज या निर्वाचन से सम्बन्ध रखने वाला कोई प्लेकार्ड या पोस्टर अभिप्रेत है, लेकिन इसमें निर्वाचन अभिकर्ताओं या कार्यकर्ताओं के दैनिक निर्देशों या निर्वाचन सभी की तिथि, समय, स्थान और अन्य विकरणों को घोशित करने वाला कोई पर्चा, प्लेकार्ड या पोस्टर शामिल नहीं होगा।

(4) कोई व्यक्ति, जो उपधारा (1) या उपधारा (2) के अधीन किन्ही उपबंधों का उल्लंघन करे, छः माह तक के कारावास या दो हजार रूपये तक के जुर्माना, यो दोनों से, दण्डनीय होगा।

सभी प्रिन्ट मीडिया, पूर्वी सिंहभूम उपरोक्त निर्देशों का अक्षरशः अनुपालन करना सुनिश्चित करेंगे। निर्देशों अनुपालन नहीं करने पर नियमानुसार लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम– 1951 की धारा 127क सहपठित झारखण्ड नगरपालिका अधिनियम, 2011 की धारा 561 के तहत कार्रवाई की जायेगी।

जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी (नगरपालिका)
–सह–उपायुक्त,
पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर।

PR 372234 (Election) 25-26 (D)

'Dhurandhar 2' teaser dampens anticipation, makers rehash end credit sequence, pass off as teaser



Mumbai, Feb 3 (IANS) The highly anticipated teaser of the 2nd part of the 'Dhurandhar' was unveiled on Tuesday. However, the teaser comes across as a downer as the makers have simply used the end credits sequence of the first part, and mixed it with music.

The teaser dampens the build-up for the 2nd part of the film which witnessed a historic turnout at the box-office. It features sequences carrying extreme violence, gore, explosions and gunshots. Ranveer's titular character of an Indian spy infiltrating the criminal nexus of ISI and Pakistan underworld is in his full glory.

'Dhurandhar 2' will be released in 4 Indian languages, and will take off from where the first part ended. The music of 'Dhurandhar' was unanimously lauded across the sections of the society, considering the audio sequence used in the teaser, the audience may very well want to brace themselves for another chartbuster of an album loaded with sonic scape of immeasurable depth.

The story follows an Indian undercover agent undertaking deep-cover operations within criminal and political structures in Karachi, Pakistan, touching upon historical incidents in South Asian geopolitics. At 214 minutes, it is one of the longest Indian films ever released. It received an A certificate from the CBFC for strong violence and language.

From a cultural standpoint, the film's significance lies less in narrative impact and more in its industrial context. The film represents Ranveer Singh's return to a raw, physically demanding action space after a series of stylised or ensemble-driven projects. It also reinforces Bollywood's ongoing shift toward director-led action cinema, where tone, research, and execution take precedence over formulaic spectacle.

The second part of the franchise is set to debut in cinemas on March 19, 2026 where it will clash the swords with the Yash-starrer 'Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups'.

G V Prakash, Anaswara Rajan-starrer 'Lucky' to release on OTT on February 20



Chennai, Feb 3 (IANS) Director Uday Mahesh's upcoming family entertainer 'Lucky', featuring actors G V Prakash and Anaswara Rajan, will release directly on OTT on February 20, its makers have now announced.

Well known OTT platform JioHotstar announced that its upcoming Tamil original film 'Lucky' would begin streaming from February 20 this year. The OTT platform confirmed the streaming date of the film with a poster which it shared across its digital and social media platforms.

Taking to its X timeline, the OTT platform said, "Meet the smallest superstar with the biggest impact | A direct OTT release after a long time. HotstarSpecials LuckyTheSuperstar streaming from Feb 20 only on JioHotstar."

Lucky's teaser glimpse, which gave people an early look into its unique world, hinted at the chaos that unfolds when a small, innocent puppy becomes the centre of attention for powerful political forces.The story revolves around a little girl and her love for a puppy which gets separated from her. The newly released poster builds on this premise, setting the stage for a funny, chaotic, and emotionally driven family entertainer.

The film stars GV Prakash Kumar and Anaswara Rajan, with Devadarshini playing a pivotal role, and is directed by Uday Mahesh. The film also features a host of actors including Motta Rajendran, Kovai Sarala, Daniel Anne Pope, Subbu Panchu, Muthu Kumar and Udhay Mahesh.

Music for the film has been scored by well known Malayalam music director Hesham Abdul Wahab. Editing for the film is by Lawrence Kishore. Dances in the film have been choreographed by dance choreographer Kalyan Master.

Blending humour, political satire, action, and warmth, 'Lucky' explores how innocence collides with authority, triggering events that spiral far beyond control.

Sources claim that with its fresh premise, engaging performances, and strong emotional core, Lucky will come across as a wholesome entertainer for families, young audiences, and pet lovers alike.

Sonam Kapoor says sorry to husband Anand Ahuja for 'always being right'



Mumbai, Feb 3 (IANS) Bollywood fashionista Sonam Kapoor took to social media to apologise to her husband Anand Ahuja, playfully admitting that she isn't always trying to be right. The actress took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a video reel in which an old man is heard saying: "There are three women who are always right. Women, first born daughters and first born grandaduaghters… If you find who is all three brace yourself." Sonam, who is the eldest daughter of Bollywood star Anil Kapoor, wrote as the caption: "Sorry Anand Ahuja I'm not trying to be right all the time." Sonam tied the knot with businessman Anand Ahuja in a grand wedding ceremony in May 2018, after dating for several years. The couple welcomed their first child, a baby boy, whom they named Vayu, in August 2022. On the professional front, Kapoor was last seen in the film Blind in 2023. Sonam Kapoor, the daughter of Bollywood star Anil Kapoor, began her career as an assistant director on filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 2005 film Black.

Prateik Smita Patil: Love like Heer-Ranjha's is rare today

Mumbai, Feb 3 (IANS) Star couple Prateik Smita Patil and Priya Banerjee Patil come together for the first time in a song, "Ishq Fakir". The actor said that they already had a reference for Heer-Ranjha for the music video.

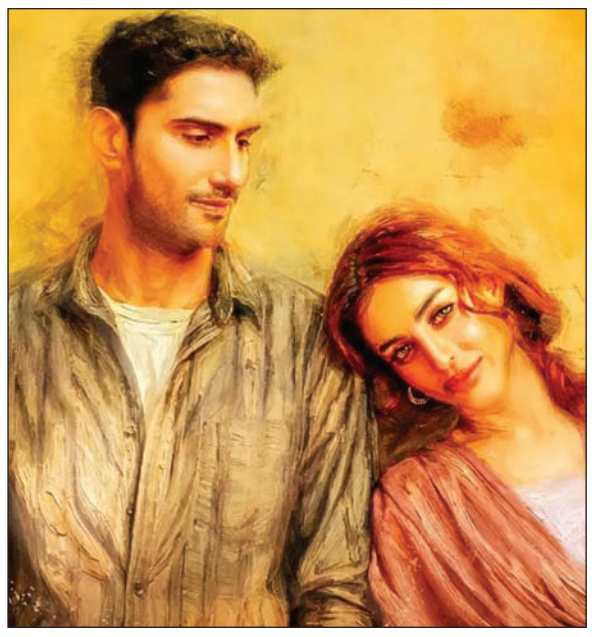
Inspired by the timeless legend of Heer-Ranjha, this music video is a modern tribute to eternal love. The story follows a woman'sreturn, rekindling unresolved emotions and a love once separated by fate.

The narrative explores longing, devotion, and the emotional weight of a bond that refuses to fade.

Prateik added: "We already had a reference of Heer-Ranjha given to us by the makers, which was not too difficult to approach as it's also a passionate love story just like ours, except the sad ending ofcourse, but yes, we were very much involved in the story, screenplay, and creation of the vision."

He added, "Love like that is rare in today's time, and we tried our best to capture the essence of the eternal love of Heer Ranjha, and I hope we have been able to gracefully do that."

Prateik's wife Priya said, "When producer Jatin Dharna approached us with the song, we instantly liked the idea and loved the feel. We've never done this kind of song together before. The vibe of the song is beautiful."



She shared: "We shot in Punjab, explored local food, and filmed at real locations. It was a pressure-filled but exciting experience working with JMP Music, and we're very happy and excited about the song Ishq Fakir."

Priya revealed that it was an extremely easy and fun shoot.

"We shot in a beautiful, cute little pind near Chandigarh, and it was the first time shooting in a pind for both of us, and we enjoyed every bit of it. Also, the best part about working with your spouse is that it doesn't feel like work at all."

She agrees that working with a spouse comes with its own set of perks,

"Also, you're not performing or acting the scene, you are feeling them for real and being in the moment," she added.

Sung, penned, and composed by Alam Gir Khan, "Ishq Fakir" is presented by Jatin Dharna, released under JMP Music, and directed by Amitesh Sanghani.

Sai Dhanshika: I did all the stunts in 'Yogi Da' myself

Chennai, Feb 3 (IANS) Actress Sai Dhanshika, who plays the lead in director Goutham Krishna's upcoming action entertainer 'Yogi Da', has disclosed that she performed all the stunts in the film herself, without opting for a body double.

At a pre release event organised by the makers of the film, the actress said,"I first performed action in 'Peraanmai', and that experience continues to help me. All the stunt scenes in 'Yogi Da' were performed by me without a body double. If women decide, they can perform stunts just as well as men. Today, crimes against women are increasing. Society often believes that once a woman is physically hurt, she cannot rise again. 'Yogi Da' shows that she can overcome it. We have made this film for women, to the best of our ability."

The actress also took the opportunity to thank her entire team. She said, "My heartfelt thanks goes to my entire team — this would not have been possible without them. Instead of speaking too much, I believe a film should speak through our work."



Dhanshika also pointed out that the title of this film 'Yogi Da' was inspired by the name of the character she played in Rajinikanth's 'Kabali'.

"I played Rajinikanth sir's daughter in 'Kabali', where my character's name was 'Yogi'. That is how 'Yogi Da' began. While deciding the title, we noticed similarities with my Kabali look and action style, so we chose 'Yogi Da'. For Kabali, I actually cut my hair. For this film, I used a wig. After 'Kabali', many women cut their hair inspired by my role and that's when I realized how deeply a film can impact people," Sai Dhanshika said.

Produced by Senthilkumar under the banner of Sri Monica Cini Films, 'Yogi Da' has been written and directed by Goutham Krishna. Actor Sai Dhanshika plays the lead role in this action-packed film, which is slated for release on February 6 this year.

Health

Global aid cuts could lead to 22.6 million additional deaths by 2030 in 93 countries: The Lancet



New Delhi, Feb 3 (IANS) Slashing global aid, particularly by the US and European countries, will reverse decades of progress in fighting diseases, and lead to 22.6 million additional deaths in people of all age groups, including children under five years of age, by 2030, warned a new study published in The Lancet Global Health on Tuesday.

The peer-reviewed study led by the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), in Spain, showed that the additional deaths will be across 93 low- and middle-income countries, including India. The figures also include 5.4 million children under the age of five.

Severe cuts to official development assistance (ODA) will affect Sub-Saharan Africa, accounting for 38 of the 93 countries analysed, the most.

In Asia, 21 countries, including India, are at risk, followed by 12 countries each in Latin America, the Middle East, and North Africa. Ten countries in Europe, including Ukraine, will also be affected.

"Withdrawing this support now would not only reverse hard-won progress but would translate directly into millions of preventable adult and child deaths in the coming years. Budget decisions made today in donor countries will have irreversible consequences for millions of people for years to come," said Davide Rasella, Coordinator of the study, ICREA Research Professor at ISGlobal, and at the Brazilian Institute of Collective Health.

The research also reveals that between 2002 and 2021, the ODA helped reduce global child mortality by 39 per cent; prevented HIV/AIDS deaths by 70 per cent, with a 56 per cent reduction in deaths from both malaria and nutritional deficiencies. It also increased additional global health outcomes in these 93 countries, which are home to 75 per cent of the world's population.

The international aid fell for the first time in six years in 2024. The US, UK, France, and Germany significantly reduced their ODA contributions for the first time in nearly 30 years.

Lisa Ray on 'Kasoor' turning 25: Strong female stories don't fade

Mumbai, Feb 3 (IANS) Actress Lisa Ray is celebrating 25 years of her 2001 film Kasoor, a project she says marked a defining moment in her career and quietly challenged the conventions of Hindi cinema at the time.

Lisa took to Instagram, where she shared the music video of "Mohabbat Ho Na Jaye" from the film "Kasoor". She shared a reflective note on what Kasoor meant to her, revealing that saying yes to the film felt like "stepping into my power."

"25 years of Kasoor. Let that sink in. When I said yes to this film, it felt like stepping into my power—quietly but decisively. A strong female character. A real arc. Emotional complexity. No big dance numbers. No formula."

She described the role as emotionally complex and driven by feeling rather than spectacle, with no song-and-dance formula that typically defined Bollywood in the 1990s.



"It was dark, internal, and led by feeling rather than spectacle. In many ways, Kasoor represented everything Bollywood wasn't at that moment."

The actress recalled being discouraged from taking up the project, with many insisting that audiences were not ready for a strong female character or a dark, internal narrative.

She added: "In the 90s, after refusing many mainstream offers, I was told—very confidently—this film won't work. No one wants to watch a strong female character. It's too dark. Well… here we are."

Lisa also expressed gratitude towards co-actor Aftab Shivdasani, calling him a sincere and committed collaborator, and thanked director Vikram Bhatt for trusting the stillness and emotional truth of the story when it was far from an obvious choice.

"Working with @aftabshivdasani was a joy—present, sincere, and deeply committed. Thank you for being such a wonderful co-actor and collaborator. And to the Bhatts and Vikram Bhatt—thank you for trusting the stillness, the silences, and the emotional truth of this story when it wasn't the obvious choice."

Highlighting the film's music, she described it as "eternal and melodious," adding that the songs remain deeply embedded in memories of love, heartbreak and youth.

"And then, of course, the music. Eternal. Melodious. Those songs have woven themselves into people's memories—first loves, heartbreaks, long drives, stolen moments of youth. That kind of resonance is a gift no one can manufacture."

ICC, PCB open 'back-channel talks' after Pakistan boycott India match in T20 WC: Report

New Delhi, Feb 3 (IANS) Pakistan's decision to boycott their T20 World Cup group match against India has reportedly prompted "back-channel talks" between the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the Pakistan Cricket Board amid concerns over potential financial fallout.

On Sunday, Pakistan government announced that its national cricket team would not play the T20 World Cup group-stage match against India at Colombo's R.Premadasa Stadium on February 15. The decision could reportedly cost world cricket more than 250 million dollars.

As per The Dawn report, a few other cricket boards have also extended support to the ICC in its attempt to reach an understanding with PCB.

It is currently unclear whether Pakistan will be sanctioned for the move, with the ICC urging the PCB to consider the significant and long-term implications if the boycott were to go ahead.

In response to Pakistan's announcement, the ICC issued a strong statement on Sunday, urging the PCB to seek a mutually acceptable resolution and warning that selective participation undermines the principles of global competition.

"While the ICC awaits official communication from



the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), this position of selective participation is difficult to reconcile with the fundamental premise of a global sporting event where all qualified teams are expected to compete on equal terms per the event schedule," the ICC said.

"The ICC hopes that the PCB will consider the significant and long-term implications for cricket in its own country, as this is likely to impact the global cricket ecosystem, which it is itself a member and beneficiary of," it added.

Pakistan is in Group A alongside India, Namibia, the Netherlands and the United States of America (USA). All of Pakistan's matches are scheduled for Sri Lanka, which is co-hosting the tournament with India.

T20 World Cup: JioStar threatens to sue Pakistan for India match boycott

Mumbai, Feb 3 (IANS) The International Cricket Council ()ICC has warned the Pakistan Cricket Board that it faces the prospect of legal action from T20 World Cup's official broadcasters JioStar for boycotting its February 15 game against India, a PCB source said on Tuesday.

Pakistan decided to boycott the match in Colombo on February 15 on instructions of their government but haven't yet officially specified the reasons to ICC.

As reported earlier, there is a possibility that the ICC will withhold the entire annual revenue share of Pakistan, which is around $35 million and pay the broadcasters from that purse.Under-19 World Cup 2026

England beats defending champion Australia to enter final

Bulawayo, Feb 3 (IANS) : England beat Australia by 27 runs in the semifinal of the ICC Under-19 World Cup 2026 at Queens Sports in Bulawayo on Tuesday to knock the defending champion out of the tournament.England captain Thomas Rew's 107-ball 110 trumped his counterpart Oliver Peake's 88-ball century as Australia was bowled out for 250 in the 278-run chase.The contest was headed for a thrilling finish after Peake and Charles Lachmund added 39 runs in 24 balls for the ninth wicket to put Australia back on track. However, the pace duo of Sebastian Morgan and James Minto, England's best bowlers on the day, removed Lachmund and Peake, respectively, to confirm their team's third Under-19 World Cup final appearance.

Third stage of T20 World Cup ticket sales begins

Mumbai: The BCCI announced the commencement of the third stage of ticket sales for the upcoming T20 World Cup following the two successful ticketing windows, with Phase 1 launched on December 11, 2025, and Phase 2 on January 14, 2026.This latest phase provides fans with a further opportunity to secure seats for matches across the tournament, which will bring together the world's leading teams, the BCCI said in a release.BCCI President Mithun Manhas said, "The ICC Men's T20 World Cup is an event of global significance, and the BCCI is committed to working in close partnership with the ICC to ensure that it is delivered to the highest standards."As the third phase of ticket sales opens, we look forward to welcoming fans to our stadiums for matches that reflect the depth and competitiveness of international cricket across all participating teams."

MCC announces new edition of Laws of Cricket for 2026, effective from Oct 1

London, Feb 3 (IANS): The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) is set to amend the Laws of Cricket by allowing a wider range of bats, a move aimed at easing the financial burden on amateur players as the cost of traditional English willow continues to rise.

As part of a new edition of the Laws, due to take effect on October 1 2026, the MCC has introduced an amendment to Law 5.8, titled Categories of bat. The change is one of 73 revisions announced by the game's lawmakers and will permit the use of laminated bats, known as Type D bats, in open-age recreational cricket for the first time.

Until now, Type D bats, which are constructed from up to three pieces of wood, have been restricted to junior cricket. Under the revised Laws, they will be permitted more broadly to address the rising global cost of bats.

Laminated bats typically feature an English willow face supported by cheaper, lower-grade willow, such as Kashmir willow. By contrast, Types A, B and C bats are made from a single, solid piece of willow. The MCC expects elite-level cricket to continue using these traditional one-piece designs.

The law change also opens the door for manufacturers to use non-willow materials behind the bat's face.

MCC Laws manager Fraser Stewart said extensive testing had been carried out alongside bat makers and suggested that any competitive edge from laminated bats would be negligible."It is important that we announce these changes now as part of the Club's global commitment to the game, giving officials from all over the world the chance to learn under the new Laws ahead of them coming into force in October. Cricket is a fast-evolving sport and this edition is drafted with the modern game in mind, as we are constantly looking to ensure that the Laws, which the Club has administered since being founded in 1787, are fit for all levels of cricket across the globe," Stewart said in a statement by MCC.

"The Laws sub-committee meets several times each year to shape the Laws and debate what changes are required to every area of the edition. The changes announced today represent the way the game continues to evolve," he added.

The decision follows a conference hosted by the MCC at Lord's last year, where stakeholders from across the game examined the future of bat production. A key concern was cricket's heavy dependence on English willow, a resource



that has become increasingly scarce.

Demand from South Asia has driven prices sharply upwards, with bat costs reportedly tripling in recent years and some premium models now approaching £1,000.

The MCC is also understood to be investigating alternative bat materials, though officials remain cautious about maintaining the balance of the game and avoiding heightened injury risks. Researchers at the University of Cambridge have previously proposed bamboo as a potential substitute for willow, while graphite-backed bats, outlawed in 2006 and later abandoned by manufacturers, have resurfaced in discussions.

Other changes to the Laws

In addition to equipment reforms, the MCC confirmed that the latest version of the Laws will eliminate gendered language and include clearer wording to assist non-native English speakers.

A significant on-field change impacts multi-day matches. Law 12.5.2 will be revised so that if a wicket falls in the final over of the day, play will not end immediately. Instead, the over must be finished.

"This doesn't save time, which is the case at lunch and tea, as the remaining balls need to be made up the next day, and it takes the drama out of the game," the MCC said.

Ball regulations are also changing. Under Law 4.1, junior and women's cricket balls will now fall within stricter, standardised size and weight limits. The game will operate with three defined ball sizes, 1, 2 and 3, to ensure greater consistency.

Additional amendments include:

Law 19.5.2 now bans so-called "bunny hop" boundary catches by limiting fielders to a single airborne touch after returning from beyond the boundary. Any further contact must be made entirely within the field of play.

Law 27.3.1 permits wicketkeepers to have their gloves in front of the stumps during the bowler's run-up, provided they are fully behind the stumps at the moment of release.

Revised wording in Laws 15.1 and 15.2 prevents captains from declaring the final innings of a match.

Clarifications to Laws 18.5.1 and 18.5.2 mean batters may abandon a run without penalty unless the act is deemed deliberately deceptive. In such cases, the fielding side is awarded a penalty and chooses which batter faces the next delivery.

Law 19.8 now distinguishes intentional throws at the stumps, classed as overthrows, from ordinary misfields, which no longer count as such.

Law 20.1.1.1 gives umpires greater discretion in calling the ball dead, allowing it to be deemed settled when stationary or held by any fielder, not just the bowler or wicketkeeper.

Reigning world champion Gukesh to play in Norway Chess 2026

Stavanger, Feb 3 (IANS) Reigning World Champion Gukesh Dommaraju will compete at Norway Chess 2026, taking his place in the field at one of the world's strongest chess tournaments. The Indian star comes to Oslo as the youngest undisputed world champion in the history of the game. In 2024, Gukesh won the Candidates Tournament before going on to defeat then-World Champion Ding Liren, securing the world title at just 18 years old.

"I am really happy to take part in Norway Chess again, fighting against a very strong field as always, and looking forward to all the exciting games," said Gukesh.

His rapid rise includes several historic milestones, among them becoming the youngest player ever to cross the 2750 rating mark and earning the Grandmaster title at the age of 12, the third-youngest in chess history.

Jamshedpur FC U14 set for first away test

Jamshedpur, February 3: Fresh from a winning start to their AIFF Sub-Junior League 2025-26 campaign, Jamshedpur FC Under-14 will face their first away challenge when they take on SPOF Football Academy in Kolkata.The fixture will be an important early test for the young Boys of Steel, who opened their campaign with a disciplined 2-0 victory at home. Moving away from familiar conditions, the match against SPOF will test the squad's adaptability, temperament and game management against a side known for its competitive youth structure.Jamshedpur FC's Under-14 side continues to draw attention for its largely homegrown composition, with 19 of the 20 players hailing from Jharkhand. The squad has been shaped through merit-based scouting from Tata Steel Foundation grassroots centres and the Jharkhand State team, and has been training together for the past two months at the Tata Football Academy.

Mandaviya lays foundation stones for six sports infrastructure projects



New Delhi, Feb 3 (IANS) Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday virtually laid the foundation stones for six major sports infrastructure projects and inaugurated two athlete support facilities, with a combined investment of Rs 120 crore. The initiatives aim to strengthen India's sports ecosystem and underscore the Union Government's focus on building modern, athlete-centric infrastructure nationwide.

The six projects, with a total outlay of Rs 82 crore, are being developed under the Khelo India Scheme with additional support from the Sports Authority of India (SAI). Spread across multiple regions, including eastern and north-eastern India, the projects are designed to ensure equitable and inclusive development of sports infrastructure.

The works include the upgrade of a synthetic hockey turf in Bengaluru, the construction of a multipurpose hall in Patiala, the installation of synthetic athletic tracks in Bhopal, Guwahati, and Jalpaiguri, and the construction of a multipurpose judo hall in Bhopal.

Yuki Bhambri attains career-high world No. 20 ATP men's doubles rankings

Chandigarh, Feb 3 (IANS) Indian tennis player Yuki Bhambri has climbed to a career-high ranking of world No. 20 in the latest ATP Rankings, making him the first Indian men's doubles player to break into the Top 20 after Rohan Bopanna.

With a significant jump from his previous rank of 22, Bhambri has officially broken into the elite Top 20 of the ATP doubles standings for the first time in his career.

This ranking leap comes on the back of an impressive run of form for the 33-year-old, who has featured in multiple ATP Tour finals and made deep runs at Grand Slam tournaments.

Partnering with Sweden's Andre Goransson, Bhambri produced an excellent showing at the first Grand Slam of the year, the Australian Open in Melbourne, reaching the third round to collect the ranking points necessary to push him past the threshold.



'My effort to win matches for my country will always continue': Rohit on being honoured with Padma Shri



New Delhi, Feb 3 (IANS) Former Indian captain Rohit Sharma has expressed his gratitude after being conferred with the Padma Shri, one of the country's highest civilian honours, calling it a special moment for him and his family and stating that he will continue to win matches for India.

Calling the award a very special moment, Rohit thanked the government of India and everyone who supported him throughout his journey in cricket."Receiving the Padma Shri is a very special moment for me and my family. I thank the Government of India for this honour. I am also grateful to all those people who have played an important role in my career. My effort to win matches and trophies for my country will always continue. Thank you. Jai Hind." Rohit said in a video shared by Doordarshan Sports on X. Rohit, who made his international debut in 2007, has been one of India's most consistent performers across formats over the last 19 years. He has left a significant mark on Indian cricket, both as a batter and as a captain.

JFC to face Sporting Club Delhi in pre-season friendly on Feb 7

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, February 3: Fans will get a rare early glimpse of Jamshedpur FC's preparations for the new Indian Super League season when the Men of Steel host Sporting Club Delhi in a friendly encounter on February 7 at the JRD Tata Sports Complex.

Scheduled to kick off at 7:00 pm, the match will be JFC's second pre-season friendly and will be played as an open fixture as they face Sreenidhi Deccan FC in a closed friendly at flatelet on February 5th.

Spectators will be allowed entry through Gate 7 from 6:15 pm onwards, with the East Upper and Lower stands set to be fully occupied, adding to the buzz around the stadium.

As preparations gather pace, the friendly will provide the coaching staff a key platform to assess combinations, fitness levels and tactical ideas, while fans see how the squad is shaping up



under the ongoing training programme.

Speaking ahead of the match, head coach Owen Coyle highlighted the importance of these games in the build-up to the season. "These games are vital for us to assess where the players are physically and tactically. Playing in front of our supporters brings an extra edge, and it gives the players a chance to build that connection early and grow in confidence," he said.

Grassroots push for school hockey in East Singhbhum

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 3: Strengthening its focus on grassroots sports development, the Naval Tata Hockey Academy (NTHA), Jamshedpur, under the aegis of Hockey Jharkhand, organised an "Introduction to Hockey" session for Physical Education teachers from government schools across East Singhbhum district. As an initial step towards expanding hockey at the school level, a basic training programme was conducted for nearly 20 P.E. teachers. The session covered fundamental skills, basic techniques and the rules of the game, enabling teachers to acquire the confidence and practical understanding needed to introduce hockey in their respective schools.The initiative is aimed at empowering Physical Education teachers to launch structured hockey programmes, form school teams and systematically prepare students for participation in forthcoming SGFI and CBSE school-level tournaments. Held over two days on February 1 and 2, the programme concluded successfully and marked the beginning of a focused effort to widen hockey's footprint through the school education system. The Naval Tata Hockey Academy is also planning to organise school-level and grassroots tournaments to provide young players with competitive exposure and avenues for growth.



Banna's wife Sudha Gupta files nomination for Mayor's post in Mango

Mail News Service





Jamshedpur, Feb 3: Sudha Gupta filed her nomination on Tuesday for the post of Mayor of Mango Municipal Corporation. Before leaving for the nomination process, she offered prayers at her residence and later visited the Rankini Temple in Kadma and the Bada Hanuman Temple in Mango, seeking blessings for the welfare and development of the people of Mango.

An emotional moment was witnessed at her residence when her husband and former Jharkhand government minister Banna Gupta personally opened the car door for her and saw her off. After filing her nomination, Sudha Gupta said that the election is not about a position but about working for the dreams and aspirations of every family in Mango. She added that the love and trust of the people are her biggest strength.

Leaders and representatives from different communities were present on the occasion, including Dr. Mohammad Zakaria from the Muslim community, Bhagwan Singh, president of Central Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee representing the Sikh community, Bipin Jha from the Brahmin community, Bhagwan Prasad and Leela Gupta from the Vaishya community, David Purti from the Christian community, and Rajesh Sharma from the Vishwakarma community.

The nomination was filed in a simple manner without any rallies or crowds. Sudha Gupta said that due to ongoing flyover construction work in Mango and narrow roads, she avoided a large gathering to prevent inconvenience to the public.(w-pb)

BJP leader Pappu Singh's wife enters Jugsalai Municipal Council polls



Jamshedpur, Feb 3: The Jugsalai Municipal Council elections have taken a new turn with BJP leader Bijay Kumar Singh, popularly known as Pappu Singh, seeing his wife, Nutan Singh, filing her nomination for the post of council president. Nutan Singh sought blessings from the local community before submitting her nomination at the Election Officer's office.

Speaking to the media, Nutan Singh stated that she filed her nomination keeping in mind the sentiments of local citizens and the overall development of the area, aiming to avoid any confusion among voters and supporters. She emphasized that her decision aligns with party discipline, ideology and the broader interests of society.

Nutan Singh further said she fully respects the guidance and decisions of senior party leadership. She clarified that she has not yet received any formal instructions from the party and will proceed according to the directions once they are issued. (w-nkm)

Jugsalai Municipal Polls: Rinku Singh emerges as strong chairperson contender

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 3: Rinku Singh has emerged as a strong and credible contender for the post of Chairperson in the forthcoming Jugsalai Municipal Council elections, receiving moral support from the Bharatiya Janata Party. Her growing acceptance among party workers and local residents has infused fresh energy into the local political landscape.

Rinku Singh, wife of Shivji Singh, popularly known as Guddu Singh, is being widely acknowledged for her consistent struggle, dedication, and unwavering commitment to public service. Over the years, she has remained actively engaged with civic and social issues, earning the confidence of the people through her approachable and solution-oriented leadership.

In her election manifesto, Rinku Singh has made several significant promises aimed at long-term and inclusive development. A key highlight is her assurance to establish a Women's College in Jugsalai, a move expected to open new avenues of higher education and empowerment for young women in the region. In addition, she has pledged to ensure reliable water supply and improved power services in the Jugsalai area through Tata Steel UISL, addressing two of the most pressing civic concerns faced by residents.

Local citizens and political observers believe that her clear focus on education, basic amenities, and public welfare will prove decisive in resolving long-standing issues related to infrastructure, sanitation, and essential services. Her vision for transparent governance and grassroots development has found strong resonance among voters.

The moral backing of the BJP has further strengthened her candidature, reflecting the party's confidence in her leadership and developmental agenda. Party workers have expressed optimism that her leadership will provide a new direction and renewed momentum to the overall development of Jugsalai.(w-pb)

BJP Backs Sandhya Singh for Mango Mayor



Jamshedpur, Feb 3: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has finalized its list of candidates for the upcoming Mango Municipal Corporation and Jugsalai Municipal Council elections. Sandhya Singh, wife of BJP Business Cell State Convener Neeraj Singh, has been named the party-backed candidate for the post of Mayor in Mango. Meanwhile, Rinku Singh, the wife of prominent businessman and BJP leader Guddu Singh, will be the party's candidate for the Chairperson's post in Jugsalai.

BJP District President Sanjeev Sinha confirmed the decision, clarifying that while the elections are technically not being fought on party symbols, the BJP will throw its full organizational weight behind these candidates.

Sandhya Singh Seeks Saryu Roy's Blessing

Sandhya Singh, the mayoral contender for Mango, emphasized her goal for the "all-around development" of the region, focusing on essential utilities and the future of the youth. Following the announcement of the party's support, she, accompanied by her husband Neeraj Singh, met with Jamshedpur West MLA Saryu Roy to seek his blessings for the campaign.

Jyoti Singh opt out of Mango Municipal Mayor race

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, Feb 3: In a significant political development ahead of the upcoming urban local body elections in Jamshedpur, BJP leader Avinash Singh Raja and his wife Jyoti Singh have announced that they will not contest the Mango Municipal Corporation mayoral election. The decision was made following a meeting with senior BJP leaders.

Avinash Singh Raja shared the announcement through a message on his social media account, stating that BJP Jamshedpur Mahanagar President Sanjeev Sinha, along with other district office-bearers, visited his office on Tuesday. The leaders were welcomed with traditional honours. He also held telephonic discussions with former Chief Minister Arjun Munda, BJP state president Aditya Sahu and organisation general secretary Karmveer Singh. During these interactions, detailed discussions were held regarding the mayoral nomination for Mango, after which a consensus was reached to refrain from filing nominations and extend full support to the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Expressing his faith and commitment to the BJP, Avinash Singh Raja formally announced his decision to stay out of the race and support the party's official candidate. The BJP has fielded Sandhya Singh, wife of Neeraj Singh, the state convener of the party's trade cell, as its supported candidate for the Mango mayoral election.

The move is being seen as a major success for the BJP, as Jyoti Singh—daughter of the Singh Mansion family of Dhanbad—was earlier considered a strong contender, with her relatives, including former MLA Sanjeev Singh and MLA Ragini Singh, actively preparing for campaigning. With this development, the party appears to have strengthened its prospects in the Mango Municipal Corporation election. (w-nkm)

Birendra Singh Yadav files nomination for Ward 17



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 3: In the midst of the municipal corporation election fervour, Birendra Singh Yadav, candidate from Ward 17, filed his nomination on Tuesday after performing traditional prayers at the local Shiv Kali Temple to seek blessings for victory. The event was attended by temple committee members, senior residents, prominent citizens and a large number of women from the ward.

Speaking to the media, Yadav outlined his vision for addressing the pressing issues of Ward 17, the largest ward in the Adityapur Municipal Corporation, home to nearly six thousand voters. Highlighting the acute water shortage that affects residents for almost six months each year, he pledged that establishing an alternative water supply system would be his top priority if elected.

Yadav also announced plans to form a committee of ward intellectuals to identify and resolve public issues through collective discussion and permanent solutions. His election manifesto focuses on regular cleanliness across the ward, renovation of dilapidated roads and drains and the creation of open parks to compensate for the loss of recreational spaces after the commercialization of Prabhat Park.

During the nomination, Yadav honoured senior residents and temple committee members by presenting them traditional gifts, emphasizing that combining the wisdom of elders with the energy of youth could transform Ward 17 into a model ward. His campaign signals a focus on practical solutions, citizen participation and inclusive development for the ward's residents. (w-nkm)

NDA unites to back Sandhya Singh for Mayor in Mango



Jamshedpur, Feb 3: The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has shown complete unity in backing Sandhya Singh for the post of mayor in the upcoming Mango Municipal Corporation elections. On Tuesday, a joint press conference of all NDA constituent parties was held at a hotel in Sakchi to announce their support for Singh.Key leaders present included BJP Jamshedpur Mahanagar President Sanjeev Sinha, JD(U) East Singhbhum District President Subodh Srivastava, Mahanagar President Ajay Kumar, AJSU District President Kanhaiya Singh, LJP (Ram Vilas) District President Satish Kumar and BJP Business Cell State Coordinator Neeraj Singh. All leaders declared their full support for Singh, pledging to work at every level to ensure her decisive victory. They praised her service-oriented approach, resilient personality and commitment to addressing Mango's pressing civic issues.Singh's nomination program is scheduled for Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the Netaji Subhash (Aam Bagan) ground in Sakchi, where she will address supporters before filing her nomination.Speaking at the press conference, NDA-backed mayoral candidate Sandhya Singh said she is both a daughter and daughter-in-law of Mango, deeply familiar with the region's problems. She emphasized that her top priority will be addressing fundamental civic issues and promoting holistic development in education, sanitation and prosperity. Singh expressed confidence that the support and blessings of Mango's enlightened citizens would help her lead the city toward rapid progress and comprehensive growth. (w-nkm)

18 candidates file nominations for ward councillor in Adityapur

Mail News Service



Gamharia, Feb 3: On the fifth day of the Adityapur Municipal Corporation elections, a total of 18 candidates filed their nominations for the post of ward councillor on Tuesday.

From Ward 10, Madan Manjhi and Shankar Sardar submitted their nominations; Ward 11 saw Manju Devi, Vijay Kumar Singh and Vikas Kumar file; Ward 13 had Neel Padma Vishwas, Shantanu Ghosh and Rajendra Gop; Ward 14 had Vidyut Lata Das; Ward 15 included Debu Chatterjee, Krishna Murari Srivastava and Umesh Pramanik; Ward 16 saw Rajrani Mahto file; Ward 17 had Ramchandra Paswan, Ambuj Kumar and Birendra Kumar Singh; and Ward 18 had Vishnudev Singh and Raju Lohar.

Until Monday, only four nominations had been filed-one from Ward 15, two from Ward 17 and one from Ward 18. With Tuesday's filings, a total of 22 candidates across nine wards have submitted nominations so far.Meanwhile, five nomination forms were sold for Wards 10 to 18 on Tuesday, adding to the 56 forms sold previously, bringing the total number of forms sold so far to 61. (w-nkm)

Kumkum Srivastava files mayoral nomination from Mango

Nausheen Khan, Aarti Chaudhary file nominations from Jugsalai







Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Feb 3: The fifth day of nominations for the municipal elections witnessed significant activity at the Collectorate premises. From the Mango Municipal Corporation, Kumkum Srivastava, wife of former BJP district president Rajkumar Srivastava, filed her nomination for the mayoral post, adding a notable face to the contest.

In Jugsalai Municipal Council, two key contenders entered the race for the president's position. Nausheen Khan, wife of senior JMM leader and State Minority Commission chairman Hidayatullah Khan and Aarti Chaudhary, wife of former Congress Jugsalai block president Jyoti Mishra, officially submitted their nominations.

The nominations highlight active participation by family members of prominent political leaders, reflecting the competitive nature of the elections. Several other candidates have also filed nominations, making the upcoming polls in both Mango and Jugsalai highly contested. Voter attention is expected to be closely focused on these high-profile entries. (w-nkm)