JHARKHAND'S OWN ENGLISH DAILY

THE AVENUE MAIL

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In Brief

DGCA mandates 60 pc free seats

New Delhi, March 29 (IANS): The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has directed airlines to offer at least 60 per cent seats free from April 20, up from the current 20 per cent. The move aims to reduce high seat selection charges and improve transparency. Airlines must display free seats clearly and try to seat passengers on the same booking together. The rule is expected to benefit families, though airlines have raised concerns over revenue impact.

6k PNG users give up LPG connections

New Delhi, March 29 (IANS): Around 6,000 PNG consumers have surrendered LPG connections to support those without piped gas amid supply disruptions linked to the Iran conflict. Neeraj Mittal thanked citizens for the initiative. The government said LPG supply remains stable, with over 54 lakh refills delivered and no shortages reported. Authorities have intensified checks against black marketing and ensured adequate fuel stocks across the country.

Former Raymond MD laid to rest

Mumbai, March 29 (IANS): Vijaypat Singhania, former Raymond Group chairman and Padma Bhushan awardee, passed away at 87 in Mumbai. His death has been widely mourned for his contributions to industry and aviation. His mortal remains were kept at his Malabar Hill residence for public homage. Leaders including EknathShinde paid respects.

Minor raped in Gumla, accused absconding

Gumla, March 29 (IANS): A 14-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a man in Jharkhand's Gumla district, police said on Sunday. The incident occurred on Friday within the Ghaghara police station limits when the victim was returning home from a Ram Navami fair along with a male friend, police said. "We have lodged an FIR based on the statement of the victim's father on Saturday. The medical examination of the victim has been conducted.

Maoist killed in Sukma encounter

Raipur/Sukma, March 29: A Maoist carrying a Rs 5 lakh reward was killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district. The operation was conducted by the District Reserve Guard under Polampalli Police Station area following intelligence inputs. The deceased, identified as Moochaki Kailash, was a section commander of CPI (Maoist).

Iran says US plotting ground attack despite diplomatic efforts

Tehran claims US's $700 million AWACS aircraft hit in strike on Saudi air base



Tehran, March 29 (IANS): Iran claimed it had carried out a missile and drone strike on a US-operated air base in Saudi Arabia, alleging damage to key military assets, including a high-value airborne warning and control system aircraft.

According to Iran's Press TV, the attack targeted Prince Sultan Air Base, where US forces are stationed. The report said a Boeing E-3 Sentry - an airborne early-warning platform used to track aircraft and missiles and coordinate battlefield operations - was among those hit, along with multiple refuelling planes. Images released by Press TV purportedly showed visible damage to the aircraft, with reports claiming only parts of the fuselage remained intact. The E-3 Sentry is part of a limited US fleet with no easy replacement and is estimated to cost over USD 700 million, the Wall Street Journal reported. According to officials, Iran fired six ballistic missiles and 29 drones at the base. At least 15 US personnel were injured in the strike, including five seriously, with two in critical condition.

Meanwhile, Iran's parliament speaker, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, said Sunday that the United States was plotting a ground attack despite publicly engaging in diplomatic efforts aimed at ending the war. "The enemy publicly sends messages of negotiation and dialogue while secretly planning a ground attack," Ghalibaf said in a statement carried by the official IRNA news agency. "Our men are waiting for the arrival of the American soldiers on the ground to set them on fire and punish their regional allies once and for all," he added. "We are certain that we can punish the United States, make it regret attacking Iran, and firmly secure our legitimate rights," he said.

US deploys 3,500 marine troops to Middle East

New York, March 29 (IANS) The US Central Command (CENTCOM) announced that a task force of 3,500 marines and sailors arrived in the Middle East.

"US Sailors and Marines aboard USS Tripoli (LHA 7) arrived in the US Central Command area of responsibility, March 27," CENTCOM said in a brief post on social media platform X on Saturday, Xinhua news agency reported.

Iran targets southern Israel chemical facility, hazardous leak feared

Tel Aviv, March 29 (IANS): An industrial facility in southern Israel linked to Adama came under attack on Sunday, with the company confirming that its Makhteshim site was hit, according to reports. The firm said there were no casualties, though the scale of the damage is still being assessed. It added the impact may have resulted from either unmanned aerial vehicles or falling debris during interception attempts.

According to Al Jazeera, authorities are investigating "suspicions of a leak of hazardous material" following the strike in the Beersheba area. Residents near the industrial zone have been instructed to remain indoors, shut windows, and follow official safety guidance.

Emergency measures are underway, including shutting down a key highway linking central parts of the country to Beersheba. Efforts are focused on "containing any contamination if it's there, on cooling the area to avoid any more chemical leaks if there are any, and on putting out the fire," the report noted.

Massive 'no kings' protests erupt in US against Iran war

New York, March 29 (IANS): Large crowds across the United States participated in the 'No Kings' protests on Saturday, staging nationwide demonstrations against the policies of US President Donald Trump, the rising cost of living, and the ongoing war with Iran, CNN reported. According to CNN, protests were held from coast to coast, with massive marches in major cities and smaller gatherings in suburban and rural areas across both traditionally Republican and Democratic states.

Jharkhand govt to spend Rs 30 cr on modern weapons for police

Mail News Service

Ranchi, March 29: Jharkhand government plans to spend nearly Rs 30 crore to procure new weapons and advanced equipment for the state police amid shortages. The purchase is part of the joint Centre-State Police Modernization Scheme.

Police will be equipped with drones, night vision cameras, high-range rifles, and modern communication devices. These resources are expected to significantly aid operations in Naxal-affected and remote areas, while improving monitoring of suspicious activities.

A recent Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report revealed that state police face nearly 49% shortage of advanced weapons like AK-47s, forcing reliance on older SLR rifles in several areas.

The government has also allocated around Rs 60 crore in the next fiscal year to make districts like West Singhbhum, Chaibasa, Bokaro, Chatra, and Latehar completely Naxal-free. To boost police mobility, over 1,400 new vehicles have recently been provided to police stations, along with the establishment of several high-tech stations. Officials say that modern weapons and technology will enhance operational efficiency, reduce response time, and strengthen law and order across the state. (W-rg)

Two Indian ships with LPG cargo sail out of Gulf region



New Delhi, March 29 (IANS) Two Indian LPG carriers, BW TYR and BW ELM, carrying a combined LPG cargo of about 94,000 metric tonnes, have safely transited the Gulf region and are moving towards Indian shores.

BW TYR is proceeding towards Mumbai with an expected time of arrival on 31st March, while BW ELM is en route to New Mangalore with an expected arrival date of 1st April, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways on Sunday.

All necessary measures have been instituted to ensure the safety and security of Indian vessels and seafarers operating in the Gulf region.

55 lakh LPG refills delivered, supply normal: Government

New Delhi, March 29 (IANS) The supply of domestic LPG cylinders is normal in the country, with more than 55 lakh refills delivered on Saturday, while another 64,000 free trade 5 kg cylinders have also been sold, and no dry-outs have been reported at LPG distributorships, the Ministry of Petroleum said on Sunday.

Online LPG cylinder bookings have increased to 94 per cent on an industry basis, and to prevent diversion at the distributor level, Delivery Authentication Code (DAC) based deliveries have been increased from 53 per cent in February to 84 per cent, the statement said. All refineries are operating at high capacity, with adequate crude inventories in place. The country is also maintaining sufficient stocks of petrol and diesel.

Woman trampled to death by elephant in Koderma

Koderma, March 29 (IANS): A 55-year-old woman was trampled to death by a wild elephant in Jharkhand's Koderma district on Sunday, police said.

The incident occurred around 5 am when the woman, identified as Sita Devi, had gone to a forest near her residence at JamuHarladih village under the Markacho Police Station limits to collect mahua flowers, a senior officer said.

"She was trampled to death by a wild elephant in the forest. Her body has been recovered and sent to the KodermaSadar Hospital for post-mortem examination," Markacho Police Station officer in-charge Nand Kishore Tiwari said. Range Officer at the DFO office in Koderma, Ravindra Kumar, said the deceased's family has already been provided with ex gratia of Rs 25,000, while the rest of the compensation will be given after completion of formalities. The Jharkhand government provides Rs 4 lakh as compensation in case of death due to an elephant attack. Two persons, including a woman, were trampled to death by a wild elephant on Wednesday in Mariampur under the Koderma Police Station limits.

DGP constitutes SIT to probe girl's death in Hazaribagh

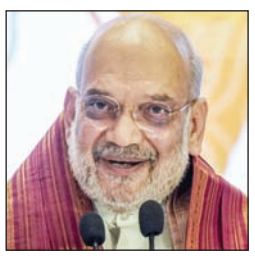
Hazaribagh, March 29 (IANS): Jharkhand DGP Tadasha Mishra on Sunday said a three-member SIT has been constituted for a swift probe into the alleged rape and murder of a 12-year-old girl at Bishnugarh in Hazaribagh.

The special investigation team (SIT) is headed by IPS probationer Shubham Bhausaheb and includes Bishnugarh Sub-Divisional Police Officer Baijnath Prasad and Bishnugarh police station officer-in-charge Sapan Mahatha, who is also the investigation officer in the case.

In view of the gravity of the case, the SIT has been formed and directed to submit its report to me within a week. The SIT will look into all angles during its investigation. We are awaiting the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) Ranchi report and also the autopsy report of the case," the DGP said.

The SIT is mandated to submit a progress report, along with details regarding the actions taken thus far, to the DGP within a week.

Will bring UCC to Assam: Amit Shah



Guwahati, March 29 (IANS): uring the ongoing Assam Assembly election campaign, Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressed a public rally in Nalbari on March 29, announcing that the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) will be introduced in the state in the coming days, including a provision to ban polygamy. Addressing the gathering, Shah said the proposed move aims to bring uniformity in civil laws and strengthen social reform in Assam. He also highlighted key welfare initiatives of the BJP-led government, stating that around 13 lakh elderly citizens are receiving regular pensions. Additionally, he said nearly 2 lakh widows have been provided a one-time financial assistance of Rs 25,000.

VP calls for inclusive tech justice

New Delhi, March 29 (IANS) Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan, on Sunday, stressed on affordable, inclusive and timely justice for citizens, stressing on the need for strengthening access to justice through technology-enabled legal services. Speaking at a National Consultation organised by the Department of Justice under the Ministry of Law and Justice, the Vice-President said, "Legal empowerment depends on three priorities -- inclusivity, quality and accountability and innovation or use of technology in a user-centric manner." He added that the success of our legal system will depend on its inclusivity and its ability to reach the last mile to empower the marginalised sections of society. Vice-President cautioned that the use of technology should not compromise on the quality and accountability in dispensation of justice. "India stands today at a defining moment, with PM Narendra Modi sharing the vision for 'Viksit Bharat@2047'.

We must face West Asia fallout together: Modi in Mann Ki Baat

New Delhi, March 29 (IANS): Prime Minister NarendraModi on Sunday urged all citizens to join hands to overcome the "challenging" situation emerging due to the ongoing "fierce war" in West Asia. Addressing his monthly radio broadcast 'Mann Ki Baat', Modi also cautioned those politicising the present crisis and said there is no place for self-serving politics in the prevailing situation.

He said those who are spreading rumours are causing major harm to the country.

"Presently, a fierce war has been going on in our neighbourhood for a month. These certainly are challenging times. Today, through 'Mann Ki Baat', I would once again urge all my countrymen that we must unitedly overcome this challenge," the prime minister said.

"Those who are politicising this issue should refrain from doing so, as this is a matter concerning the interests of 140 crore citizens. There is no place for self-serving politics," he said.

"I would also appeal to all citizens to remain vigilant and not be misled by rumours. Trust only the continuous information provided by the government and take action based only on that," he added.



As always, Modi said, he was confident that just as the people of the country have overcome past crises with their collective strength, this time too, "we will together emerge victorious from this difficult situation".

He said millions of Indian family members live in these Gulf countries and are working there.

"I am deeply grateful to the Gulf countries, which are providing all kinds of assistance to more than 1 crore such Indians living there," he said.

The PM said West Asia is a major centre of India's energy needs and on account of that, a crisis is emerging around the world regarding petrol and diesel.

"Our global relations, the support we receive from various countries and the strengths the country has built over the past decade have enabled India to bravely confront these circumstances," he said.

At the outset of this address, Modi said the month of March has been full of turbulence globally.

He said all citizens of the country remember that the entire world faced myriad problems for a long time on account of Covid. "Indeed, all of us had expected that after emerging from the Corona crisis, the world would move forward on the path of renewed progress," Modi said.

Govt eases kerosene supply norms

New Delhi, March 29 (IANS) The govt on Sunday eased the petroleum safety and licensing rules to allow faster distribution of kerosene to households, amid the disruption in cooking fuel supplies due to the Iran war. The Ministry said in a notification that the measures would enable the ad-hoc distribution of kerosene to households for cooking and lighting in 21 states and UTs Select petrol pumps operated by public sector oil marketing companies such as Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum, and Hindustan Petroleum are permitted to store and dispense kerosene to households.

Palm Sunday highlights need for unwavering faith in difficult times

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 29: On the occasion of Palm Sunday, a deeply reflective and spiritually enriching homily was delivered by Fr. Gerry D'Souza at Mercy Chapel, Near Mercy Hospital, Baridih urging the faithful to move beyond symbolic expressions of devotion and embrace true commitment in their spiritual journey.

Addressing the congregation, Fr. D'Souza emphasized that Palm Sunday is not merely about proclaiming "Hosanna," but about remaining steadfast in faith even during trials and hardships. He described the day as a powerful spiritual journey that begins with joyous praise and culminates in rejection, reflecting the shifting responses to Jesus Christ-who remained calm, silent, and faithful throughout.



Calling the occasion a "mirror for self-reflection," he encouraged believers to introspect on their own lives. He pointed out that while people welcomed Jesus during moments of miracles, they turned away when confronted with truth and sacrifice. This, he noted, remains relevant even today. Highlighting the issue of hypocrisy, Fr. D'Souza questioned the tendency to lead a double life-devout in prayer but unjust in actions. He illustrated this with the example of individuals who attend church regularly yet fail to practice compassion and fairness in their daily lives.

"Is this not 'Hosanna on Sunday' and 'Crucify during the week'?" he asked, urging the faithful to align their actions with their beliefs.

Speaking on the essence of true faith, he stressed that faithfulness is tested not only in moments of joy but also in suffering. Referring to the life of Jesus, he said that humility, obedience, and sacrifice define genuine discipleship.

Fr. D'Souza also reflected on the boundless love demonstrated by Jesus-even in the face of betrayal by Judas, denial by His disciples, and rejection by the crowd. He described this as the highest form of love-selfless and unwavering.

Addressing contemporary attitudes, he remarked that many today are eager to associate with faith symbolically but hesitate to make personal sacrifices. "We want to take selfies with Jesus, but are we ready to walk with Him?" he questioned, calling upon believers to become committed followers rather than mere admirers.

The homily concluded with a prayer seeking strength to remain faithful in all circumstances: "O Lord, make me not a follower of convenience, but a disciple of commitment." Among those present on the occasion were Fr. Edward Saldanha, Fr. Arvind, and Fr. Oscar Horo, along with a large number of devotees. (W-pb)

JMM Potka leader meets Central Secretary



Jamshedpur, March 29: Sitaram Hasda, JMM Block President for Potka and a prominent tribal leader, met JMM Central General Secretary Supriyo Bhattacharya in Ranchi today to seek his blessings. The leaders discussed strategies to strengthen the party's presence in Potka. During the meeting, Hasda also raised certain grievances, and Bhattacharya assured him of full support and guidance for organizational development.

Bharat Lal Kisku re-elected general secretary of Uranium Kamgar Union



Jamshedpur, March 29: Bharat Lal Kisku has been unanimously re-elected as General Secretary of the Uranium Kamgar Union at UCIL Colony Community Centre. Immediately after assuming office, he criticized UCIL management for delays in providing uniforms, medical reimbursements, canteen services, night allowance milk packets, and incomplete pension and medical benefits for retirees. Kisku also stated that the union will actively participate in nationwide protests against the four new Labour Codes set to be implemented from April 1. The annual meeting was inaugurated by Comrade Vyas Tiwari of IFTU, and attended by union officials and representatives from IFTU, including Ramsai Soren, Rajaram Singh, Q.A. Hashmi, Parimal Bhakta, and Dr. V.K. Patole.

Sonari Peace Committee plays key role in peaceful conduct of Ram Navami procession



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 29: The Ram Navami procession in Sonari was conducted peacefully and with great enthusiasm, thanks to the active involvement and coordinated efforts of the Sonari Police Station Peace Committee. The committee played a crucial role in maintaining harmony, ensuring smooth movement of the procession, and fostering a spirit of unity among participants.

Members of the Peace Committee, along with local residents and devotees, participated wholeheartedly in the celebrations. Advocate Sudhir Kumar Pappu was also present during the procession, extending his support and engaging with participants to promote communal harmony and discipline throughout the event.

The procession witnessed vibrant participation, with devotees carrying saffron flags, chanting devotional slogans, and showcasing cultural unity. The presence of the Peace Committee members alongside the police administration helped in effectively managing the crowd and preventing any untoward incidents.

Local authorities and residents appreciated the efforts of the Sonari Peace Committee, highlighting their commitment to ensuring that festivals are celebrated in a peaceful and respectful manner. The successful conduct of the Ram Navami procession stands as an example of strong community cooperation and proactive civic engagement. (W-pb)

33rd Apur Pathshala inaugurated to promote Bengali language

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, March 29: In a significant step toward preserving and promoting the Bengali language, the 33rd 'Apur Pathshala' was inaugurated in Putlupung village of Potka by the Mataji Ashram. The initiative aimed to ensure that children from Bengali-speaking communities remained connected to their linguistic roots.

The school was formally inaugurated by Sunil Kumar Dey, Ashutosh Mandal, and Lakhan Chandra Mandal. The ceremony began on a devotional note with the recitation of Saraswati Vandana, followed by cultural songs.

Haremohan Mandal, who will serve as the Bengali teacher, welcomed the guests and students. He praised the efforts of the Mataji Ashram and highlighted that the organization, under the leadership of litterateur and social worker Sunil Kumar Dey, had already established 33 such schools in different villagessetting a remarkable example in language preservation.

He shared that he was inspired by the Ashram's mission to start a similar initiative in his own village. Educationist Ashutosh Mandal emphasized the importance of one's mother tongue, stating that Bengali-speaking children should learn and take pride in their language.

Other dignitaries, including Dev Ranjan Mandal, Mrinal Pal, and Jagat Mandal, encouraged children to respect and embrace their linguistic heritage. During the event, children were provided free notebooks, pens, and Bengali alphabet primers.

Haremohan Mandal conducted the first class, and free Bengali lessons would now be held every Sunday with assistance from Dev Ranjan Mandal. The program, anchored by Sunil Kumar Dey, witnessed the enrollment of 20 children and active participation from several community members. (w/gsd)

Free medical camp on March 31



Jamshedpur, March 29: A free medical camp will be organised on March 31 at Advance Skin Hospital in Manifit to mark the 9th death anniversary of late Dr. R.P. Thakur. The camp, held annually in his memory, will offer free check-ups for various ailments and distribute essential medicines at no cost. Dr. Rajiv Thakur said the initiative aims to provide healthcare support to people in need. The hospital is located at DVC Morh, next to the TOP. Residents interested in availing the services or seeking more information can contact 9470370885 or 9798702620. (W-mb)

Jamshedpur pays emotional tribute to KPG Nair

Condolence meet honours visionary educationist at Kerala Samajam





Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 29: Kerala Samajam, in association with Kerala Samajam Model School (KSMS), organised a condolence meeting to pay tribute to late KPG Nair, a respected leader and guiding force for the institution and community.

The programme saw a large turnout of friends, family members, and well-wishers. Attendees included representatives from various schools, members of Rotary, Kerala Samajam members, and teachers from Kerala Samajam Model School (KSMS) and Kerala Samajam Hindi School (KSHS), along with members of organisations associated with him. The event began with devotional bhajans, creating a calm and reflective atmosphere. A documentary showcasing the life, achievements, and contributions of KPG Nair was presented, leaving the audience emotional. Several speakers shared their memories and experiences, highlighting his leadership, humility, and dedication to education and social service. Speakers described him as a visionary who played a key role in shaping institutions and inspiring many through his work and values. His contributions to education and society were widely appreciated during the meeting.

The gathering reflected the deep respect and admiration people had for him. Participants said his passing is a great loss to the community, but his legacy will continue to inspire future generations. The programme concluded with floral tributes offered in his memory. (W-mb)

Blood donation camp in memory of Deepak Kumar Srivastava



Mail News Service

Gamharia, March 29: A blood donation camp was organized at Nav Jyoti Vidya Mandir School, Jagannathpur, in memory of social worker Deepak Kumar Srivastava. Conducted under the Indian Non-Government Teachers' Association (IPTA), the camp collected 23 units of blood. The programme was inaugurated by the school's Secretary, Sanjeev Kumar Srivastava, who garlanded the portrait of the late social worker and lit a ceremonial lamp. Donors were felicitated, and the event was supported by IPTA officials including Dr. Parmanand Modi, Jatashankar Tiwari, Ranjit Srivastava, Dr. Nathuni Singh, S.D. Prasad, Dr. Manav Kumar Plaza, J.K. Sharma, Dr. Sohan Pratap Sharma, and Arun Kumar Singh.

IWC hosts Cyber Crime awareness at Gulmohar High School



Jamshedpur, March 29: The Inner Wheel Club of Jamshedpur East organized a Cyber Crime Awareness Programme at Gulmohar High School in March 2026 to educate students about online safety and responsible internet use. The session was conducted by Sumeet Sen, who explained various types of cybercrimes, precautions to take when using social media, and the importance of protecting personal information online. Students actively participated and gained valuable knowledge about cybersecurity. The programme was attended by Priti Sinha along with Inner Wheel members Ira, Anju, Manjari, and Madhumita. (W-sm)

Mahakal Seva Committee organizes medical camp



Jamshedpur, March 29: On the occasion of Dashami, the Mahakal Seva Committee organized a charitable initiative by distributing prasad and sherbet among devotees. A free medical camp was also set up to provide healthcare services to the public. The event saw the presence of prominent individuals, including the Committee's patrons Munna Singh and Shankar Reddy, as well as District Council member Bari Murmu. President and Founder Mantu Singh, along with his team members, played a key role in organizing the event. The Committee members extended their full support to ensure the success of the program, continuing their tradition of social service and community welfare every year. (w/gsd)

Tata Workers' Union honors late Professor Abdul Bari on 79th death anniversary

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, March 29: The Tata Workers' Union (TWU) organized a prayer meeting on Saturday evening to mark the 79th death anniversary of its former president, the late Professor Abdul Bari. Union members gathered at the TWU premises at 6:00 PM to pay their respects to the iconic labor leader.

Between 1937 and 1947, Professor Bari served as the president of the union, navigating the complex intersection of industrial rights and the Indian independence movement. His tenure represented a transformative era for the working class in the Steel City, as he advocated for fair treatment and dignity during a period of global and domestic upheaval.

During the memorial service, key officials, including General Secretary Satish Kumar Singh and Co-President Shailesh Kumar Singh, reflected on the profound impact of Bari's biography. They emphasized that his leadership was not merely administrative but deeply visionary. By focusing on his energetic approach to problem-solving and his unwavering commitment to the welfare of the workers, the speakers encouraged modern union members to internalize these values. Faculty-cum-Office Associate Dr. M.S. Singh provided a comprehensive historical perspective, detailing how Bari's intellectual background as a professor complemented his fierce advocacy on the shop floor. This unique combination of academic insight and grassroots activism allowed him to bridge the gap between complex policy and the daily realities of the labourers he represented.

The solemnity of the occasion was underscored by the tragic nature of his passing. On March 28, 1947, just months before India attained independence, Professor Bari was shot and killed near the Fatuha railway station near Patna. This sudden end to a brilliant career left a void in the labour movement that resonated far beyond the borders of Bihar and Jharkhand. Many at the gathering noted that his assassination silenced a voice that would have played a pivotal role in the developmental years of the new republic. His death anniversary serves as a stark reminder of the sacrifices made by early pioneers who fought for the rights that modern workers often take for granted.

The gathering saw a wide representation from the union's current leadership, including Vice Presidents Shahnawaz Alam, Sanjay Kumar Singh, and Sanjeev Tiwari. Their presence, alongside Assistant Secretary Ajay Kumar Chaudhary and Treasurer Amod Kumar Dubey, demonstrated the continuity of the mission Bari started nearly ninety years ago. Office In-charge Dharmbeer Kumar Singh and various members of the Executive Committee stood alongside the general staff to offer their respects. The diversity of the attendees, spanning different generations of union employees, highlighted the enduring relevance of Bari's philosophy in an ever-evolving industrial landscape. (W-sm)

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Weather fluctuates in Jamshedpur, yellow alert issued

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 29 : The weather in Jamshedpur changed sharply on Sunday after two days of heavy rain across the Kolhan region. As the clouds cleared, bright sunshine returned, leading to a sudden rise of about 4 degrees Celsius in the minimum temperature, which reached 24.4°C. The maximum temperature also climbed to around 37°C, making the afternoon hot and uncomfortable. Humidity stood at 34 percent, adding to the muggy conditions.

According to the India Meteorological Department, the changing weather is part of pre-monsoon activity. While such conditions may bring temporary relief through rain, they also increase the risk of lightning, strong winds, and hailstorms. Wind speeds are expected to range between 30 and 40 kmph in several parts of Jharkhand, prompting authorities to urge residents and farmers to remain cautious.

The IMD has issued a 'Yellow Alert' for March 31 and April 1, warning of possible rain accompanied by strong winds in Jamshedpur and nearby areas. People have been advised to stay alert, especially during evening hours when sudden storms are more likely. The administration has cautioned against taking shelter under trees or near electric poles



during lightning and has urged people to remain indoors in safe locations.

The sudden fluctuations in weather are also affecting public health. Hospitals and clinics in the city are reporting an increase in cases of allergies, colds, coughs, and respiratory problems. Doctors say frequent temperature changes can worsen conditions for people with chronic illnesses and advise taking preventive measures.

Residents are being encouraged to protect themselves from dust and cold winds, seek medical advice if they experience allergy symptoms, and avoid unnecessary outdoor exposure during adverse weather. Experts believe that such unstable weather will continue for a few more days before conditions gradually return to normal after the transitional phase. (W-mb)

Man, accomplice held for shooting over love affair

Mail News Service

Garhwa, March 29: Police in Jharkhand's Garhwa district have cracked a shooting case linked to a love affair, arresting main accused Sandeep Kumar Singh and later detaining his alleged accomplice Rajni Mehta.

Investigation revealed that Sandeep had been in a relationship with a woman since 2021. Meanwhile, her marriage was fixed with son of Umesh Mehta. Angered by this, Sandeep and the woman allegedly conspired to harm groom's family to stop the wedding. Incident took place on March 28, 2026, in Narkhoria Kala village under Nagar Untari police station limits, when Sandeep allegedly shot Umesh Mehta, leaving him seriously injured. He was rushed to a hospital and is currently undergoing treatment. Police registered a case soon after incident and launched a probe. Acting on instructions of Sub-Divisional Police Officer, a special team was formed. Based on a tip-off, police arrested Sandeep near Bengasi village. A country-made pistol, one live cartridge and a spent shell were recovered from his possession. Police are continuing interrogation of both accused. Weapon used in crime has been seized, and authorities said case has been successfully solved. (W-rg)

Police identify woman found dead at Dimna Lake

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 29: The Bodam police successfully identified the woman whose body they recovered from Dimna Lake on Sunday evening. Authorities identified the deceased as 43-year-old Sanju Sahu, the wife of Devanand Sahu and a resident of Sonari Kumharpara.

The body was recovered around 4:30 PM near a popular picnic spot at Dimna Lake. A purse found near the body contained an Aadhaar card, three SIM cards, cash, and other personal belongings, which allowed officers to confirm her identity quickly. Because the discovery took place at a crowded recreational area, a large crowd of onlookers gathered, leading to a period of brief chaos and commotion at the site.

Police have taken custody of the body and transported it to the morgue for a post-mortem examination. Officials stated that they can



only disclose the exact cause of death once they receive the formal medical report. At this stage, investigators have not yet determined whether the death resulted from an accident, suicide, or foul play.

The Bodam police continue to investigate all possible angles and remain in the process of contacting the woman's family members to gather more information about her final hours.

Jamshedpur's lifeline rivers choked by pollution, water hyacinth

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 29: The Subarnarekha and Kharkai rivers, vital to Steel City, are facing severe pollution, producing a foul stench and rendering the water unfit for even basic use. The unchecked growth of water hyacinth has worsened the situation, obstructing the river flow from Bagbera to Mango bridge and creating an odor akin to drainage systems.



drains, originating from areas including the Jamshedpur Notified Area Committee (JNAC), Tata Lease Area, and Railway precincts, continue to discharge untreated waste directly into the rivers. Despite prior assurances to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) regarding treatment of drain water before release, no substantial action has been taken.

The accumulation of garbage beneath multiple bridges further aggravates the environmental crisis. Renowned environmentalists stress that planning alone is insufficient; effective measures require active public participation alongside government initiatives. They call for an urgent, coordinated campaign to clean the rivers, restore ecological balance, and protect public health.

Burglars loot Rs 55,000 from Hero Service Center in Karandih

Jamshedpur, March 29: Thieves broke into a Hero two-wheeler service centre at Karandih Chowk in the Parsudih police station area on Saturday night, escaping with over 55,000 in cash. This burglary marks the first security breach at the facility in over six years.

The incident came to light on Sunday morning when employees arrived for work. Centre manager Tapan Pal stated that staff had locked and secured the premises as usual at 7:00 PM on March 28. Upon his arrival the next morning, Pal discovered the snapped lock on the primary gate. A further inspection of the interior revealed that the perpetrators had pried open the cash counter window and broken the drawer locks. A subsequent audit confirmed that the intruders stole between Rs 50,000 and Rs 55,000 from the counter. Internal surveillance cameras captured the entire crime. The CCTV footage shows three masked individuals expertly breaking the entrance locks under the cover of darkness. The recording depicts the trio infiltrating the counter area and systematically emptying the cash drawers before fleeing the scene. Following the discovery, the management filed a formal written complaint at the Parsudih Police Station. Local authorities have since visited the crime scene to gather forensic evidence and are currently reviewing the footage to identify the suspects. (W-sm)

Andhra Association Kadma releases centenary souvenir

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 29: The Andhra Association, Kadma, celebrated a milestone on Sunday by hosting a grand ceremony to release its Centenary Souvenir (1926–2026). The event, held at the Association premises in Kadma, commemorated a century of the organization's dedicated service to education, culture, and social welfare in the Steel City.

Honoring a Century of Service : The Honorable MLA of Jamshedpur (West), Mr. Saryu Roy, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The proceedings commenced with a traditional welcome address, followed by a solemn tribute to the institution's founding pioneers and the ceremonial lighting of the lamp.



The highlight of the evening was the official unveiling of the Centenary Souvenir by Mr. Roy. The publication meticulously documents the Association's achievements and transformative contributions over the last 100 years. In his keynote address, Mr. Roy lauded the Andhra Association for its pivotal role in enriching the educational and cultural landscape of Jamshedpur.

Leadership and Governance : The event was organized under the guidance of the Andhra Association's Management Committee, led by President Major K. Satyanarayanan. Key executive members in attendance included:

Vice Presidents: Mr. B. Bapuji (AAMS), Mr. N. Rama Krishna Rao (AA), and Mr. V. Srinivas (AAES).

General Secretary: Mr. Y. K. Sharma.

Joint Secretaries: Mr. B. Srinivas Rao (AAES), Mr. G. Sanyasi Rao (AAMS), and Mr. T. Anji Kumar Rao (AA).

Treasurer: Mr. C. Ganesh Rao.

Assistant Treasurer: Mr. R. Ravi.

The executive body, including members such as Mr. Kailash Ramu, Mrs. P. Surya Prabha, and Mr. I. Srinivas, among others, supported the successful execution of the day's events. Trustees Mr. M. Bhaskar Rao, Mr. K. Venu Gopal Rao, and Mr. B. Srinivas Sanjay were also present, alongside internal auditors Mrs. G. Vijay Lakshmi and Mr. B. Krishna Murthy.

Cultural Highlights and Recognition : The Association took the opportunity to honor its contributors, sponsors, senior citizens, and former officials for their long-standing support. Adding a vibrant touch to the ceremony, students performed a series of cultural programs that captivated the audience. The landmark celebration concluded with a formal vote of thanks, the National Anthem, and a community dinner. (W-sm)

Sameeksha Taunk wins 'VG Mrs India Global Icon Season 7'



Jamshedpur, March 29: Steel City's Garba artiste, SameekshaTaunk emerged victorious in the prestigious "VG Mrs India Global Icon Season 7," securing the titles of "VG Mrs India Global Icon Gujarat Queen" and "VG Mrs India Global Icon West Zone Queen." The pageant, held in Delhi from March 17-20, saw participation from 47 women representing different states across India.

Sameeksha, wife of Pancham Taunk, Manufacturing Head at Tata Steel Growth Shop, impressed judges with her stellar performances in every round. Originally from Gujarat, the 44-year-old has transformed her passion into her profession and a purpose-driven journey. Residing in Ashiana Aditya, she is also affectionately known as the "Ashiana Supermom." Reflecting on her win, Sameeksha stated that the title had given her a new identity, marking a significant milestone in her life. She continued to blend cultural roots with modern ambitions, living by the mantra, "Dream, Dare, Be the Queen." She expressed her gratitude to Binita Srivastava, founder of "VG Miss and Mrs India," for her guidance and support throughout the competition. (w/gsd)

Daytime mobile snatching in Kapali caught on CCTV

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 29: A brazen daylight robbery at Kapali, near Mango, has raised serious concerns over local security. At approximately 8:00 AM on Sunday, a criminal snatched a mobile phone from a youth named Shamim near Party Palace before speeding away.

The victim was standing by the roadside using his phone when the perpetrator, arriving on a motorcycle from behind, grabbed the device and fled the scene. A nearby CCTV camera captured the entire incident, showing the victim's desperate but unsuccessful attempt to chase and apprehend the snatcher.

The audacity of the crime has sparked significant anger among local residents.



Community members argue that the incident exposes major gaps in police patrolling and suggests that criminals no longer fear the law. Kapali police have officially launched an investigation and are currently analyzing the CCTV footage to identify the suspect and the vehicle used in the crime.

Cong, BJP spar over CM residence facelift

Mail News Service

Ranchi, March 29: Reconstruction of the Chief Minister's residence has ignited a sharp political clash in Jharkhand, with BJP state president Aditya Sahu targeting the project. He claimed its cost is three times higher than Delhi's former CM Arvind Kejriwal's residence.

Congress state general secretary and media in-charge Rakesh Sinha hit back, accusing BJP of double standards. He said the party praises big projects as development symbols while in power but calls the same wasteful when in opposition. Congress stressed that the CM residence is not a matter of luxury but a necessity for administrative efficiency and security, ensuring smooth governance.

Sinha also accused BJP of diverting public attention from pressing issues like inflation, unemployment, education, health, and gas shortages by raising unnecessary controversies. He urged the party to play a constructive opposition role instead of obstructing development. Congress further pointed out that several projects during BJP's tenure had raised cost and transparency concerns, yet the party never raised objections then. Congress reiterated that the state government is prioritizing public interest, maintaining transparency and accountability in all development work, and urged BJP to shift from negative politics to constructive engagement. (W-rg)

Governor Gangwar inspects under-construction modern library in Ranchi

Mail News Service

Ranchi, March 29: Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar on Sunday visited Morabadi in Ranchi to inspect an under-construction state-of-the-art library and reviewed progress with engineers and officials at site. He said project is not just a building but a strong foundation for knowledge, learning and a brighter future.

He appreciated contribution of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) and Coal India Limited under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), congratulating both organisations for supporting initiative. Expressing



confidence, Governor said capital city will soon have a world-class modern library equipped with advanced facilities.

Six-storey structure is being designed to accommodate a large number of students at once, providing a conducive environment for study.

He noted that facility will serve not only Ranchi but entire Jharkhand, emerging as a key centre for knowledge, discipline and self-development among youth. It is expected to help students prepare for competitive examinations and higher education.

Governor also recalled that a model library with modern amenities had been established in Bareilly during his tenure. He praised efforts of all those associated with project and expressed hope that construction would be completed within stipulated timeline while maintaining high quality standards, making library a gateway of opportunity and achievement for young people.

Union Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth, who was present on occasion, said initiative would be particularly beneficial for talented students from rural areas who often lack access to adequate resources. He added that first floor of library will feature portraits and biographies of India's brave soldiers to inspire children.

He further said facility is expected to rank among select modern libraries in country and will also include dedicated seating and study arrangements for senior citizens. (W-rg)

JMM Honors Nitin Prakash, Sunny Oraon for Municipal poll wins

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur, March 29: The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) West Singhbhum district unit organized a felicitation ceremony on Sunday to honour the newly elected council chairpersons and members supported by the party in the Chaibasa and Chakradharpur municipal elections.

This victory marks a significant shift in urban politics for the party, which has traditionally seen stronger support in rural belts.

Urban Voters Voice Confidence in Hemant Soren

During the event, newly elected Chakradharpur Municipal Council Chairman Sunny Oraon highlighted the historical significance of this win. He noted that while JMM-supported candidates previously struggled to secure high vote shares in urban municipal polls, the voters have now placed their unequivocal trust in the leadership and policies of Chief Minister Hemant Soren. Oraon expressed confidence that this momentum would carry forward into the upcoming Asan Panchayat elections, which the party plans to contest with full organizational strength.

Nitin Prakash, the newly elected Chairman of the Chaibasa Municipal Council, assured the public that urban development remains his top priority.

Following recent discussions with Chief Minister Hemant Soren in Ranchi, Prakash confirmed that the state government has pledged full support for infrastructure projects in both towns. He identified sanitation, electricity, water supply, and healthcare as the core pillars of his developmental agenda for Chaibasa, stating that the JMM district committee will provide comprehensive cooperation to resolve these fundamental issues.

A Unified Push for Rapid Development

Laxmi Suren, the West Singhbhum Zila Parishad Chairperson and JMM Mahila Morcha President, congratulated the workers and the public for the victories of Nitin Prakash and Sunny Oraon.

She remarked that development in these two towns would now accelerate, backed by the combined strength of the JMM organization and the Chief Minister.

District President Sonaram Devgam extended his gratitude to key leaders, including Minister Deepak Birua, MP Joba Majhi, and MLAs Niral Purti, Sukhram Oraon, and Jagat Majhi, for their roles in the campaign. Devgam emphasized that under Hemant Soren's leadership, the JMM has successfully carved a place in the hearts of urban voters. He viewed the election results as a public endorsement of the state government's welfare schemes and resident-centric policies.

Organizational Review and Tributes

The felicitation ceremony also served as a platform for the party to review the recent municipal election performance and discuss the BL-2 (Booth Level) organizational structure. The event saw a massive turnout of district and block-level leaders, including District Secretary Rahul Aditya, Spokesperson Budhram Laguri, and several executive members from various party wings.

The ceremony concluded on a solemn note as the members observed a one-minute silence to pay tribute to JMM workers who recently passed away, expressing deep condolences to their grieving families.

PNB RSETI concludes 14-day jewellery training programme

Mail News Service

Seraikela, March 29: The 14-day custom jewellery-making training programme organised under PNB Rural Self Employment Training Institute concluded on Sunday with a certificate distribution ceremony.

Institute Director Uma Shankar Tanti distributed certificates to successful trainees and encouraged them to pursue self-employment opportunities through bank support. He urged participants to utilise their newly acquired skills and avail loans to start their own ventures.

Faculty members Shailendra Gop, Dilip Acharya, Indrajit Kaivart, and Draupadi Mahato were present on the occasion.

Court sentences man to 25 years imprisonment under POCSO Act

Mail News Service

Seraikela, March 29: In a significant judgment, the Special Court under POCSO Act sentenced 27-year-old Royal Mandal to 25 years of rigorous imprisonment.

The court, presided over by Ramashankar Singh, found the accused guilty under Section 6 of the POCSO Act and imposed a fine of Rs. 20,000.

Additional sentences were awarded under Sections 363 and 366 of the Indian Penal Code.

The case was registered at Gamharia Police Station in 2024. The court stated that failure to pay fines would result in additional imprisonment.

Ajay Prakash Tirkey new Sub-Collector of Bamanghati

Mail News Service

Rairangpur, March 29: In a significant administrative reshuffle, the Odisha Government has appointed Ajay Prakash Tirkey as the new Sub-Collector of Bamanghati (Rairangpur) Sub-division. An OAS Gr. A (SB) officer, Tirkey was previously serving as the Additional Sub-Collector in Dharmagarh, Kalahandi.

He replaces Soumyaranjan Pradhan (IAS, 2022 batch), who has been transferred and posted as Chief Development Officer (CDO)-cum-Executive Officer (EO) of the Zila Parishad in Kalahandi district.

As part of the reshuffle, Arugula Sneha has been appointed as the new CDO-cum-EO of the Zilla Parishad in Mayurbhanj. The state government stated that the reshuffle aimed to enhance administrative efficiency and strengthen governance across districts.

The appointment of Tirkey is expected to boost developmental initiatives and improve administrative functioning in the Bamanghati Sub-division. (w/gsd)

Marwari Mahila Sammelan to hold oath-taking ceremony on March 31

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 29: The Jamshedpur Branch of the Marwari Mahila Manch will host an oath-taking ceremony for Prabha Padia, the newly appointed Provincial President of the Jharkhand Regional Marwari Mahila Sammelan, and Seema Agarwal, President of the Jamshedpur Branch, for the 2026–2028 tenure.

The event is scheduled for Tuesday, March 31, at 5:00 PM at Shri Agrasen Bhawan in Sakchi.

The ceremony is being organized to formally install the new office-bearers and celebrate their leadership roles.According to a press release issued jointly by Rani Agarwal, Meena Agarwal, and Sushila Khirwal of the Mahila Manch, it is a matter of pride for the Jamshedpur Branch to honor two leaders simultaneously.

The ceremony will be attended by prominent dignitaries from the community as well as office-bearers from other districts across Jha bbrkhand.

This event marks an important occasion in the Marwari community, highlighting women's leadership and active participation in regional social and cultural initiatives.

Abhyudaya 2026 brings together MYM members



Mail News Service

Seraikela, March 29: The two-day provincial programme "Abhyudaya 2026" of Jharkhand Provincial Marwari Yuva Manch (MYM) concluded at Agrasen Bhawan in Jamshedpur on Sunday, witnessing participation from more than 70 branches across the state.

The programme featured a provincial assembly, mini-session, and a prize distribution ceremony for the 2025–26 session. Dignitaries present included National President Suresh Jain, National Vice President Vikas Khandelia, and Zone-2 Assistant Secretary Harsh Sultania.

A special felicitation ceremony was held to honour newly elected mayors, deputy mayors, chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, and ward councillors of municipal bodies across Jharkhand. On this occasion, Seraikela Nagar Panchayat President Manoj Kumar Chaudhary was presented with a memento and a certificate of appreciation.

In his address, Manoj Chaudhary said the honour belonged to society as a whole and pledged to uphold its dignity. He credited the Marwari Yuva Manch for supporting his journey to leadership.

Provincial President Vishal Pandiya expressed gratitude and reiterated his commitment to meeting societal expectations. Several members including Anand Agarwal, Akash Agarwal, Ashutosh Chaudhary, and Abhishek Chaudhary were present.

Chaitra festival begins with traditional worship and Chhau performance



Mail News Service

Seraikela, March 29: Marking the beginning of the Chaitra festival, the traditional Rajendra Akhara performed rituals and offered prayers to Goddess Jhumkeshwari at the sacred site in Seraikela. Following the Akhara tradition associated with the origin of Saraikela Chhau dance, artists and members led by Akhara chief Neeraj Kumar Patnaik performed ceremonial worship and presented Chhau dance as an offering to the Goddess. The rituals were conducted by priestess Sudha Devi. Devotees prayed for prosperity and a successful New Year. Offerings and traditional sacrifices were made, followed by distribution of prasad at the Maa Jhumkeshwari Shaktipeeth.

Historians note that Saraikela Chhau originated from eight Akharas led by Ustads, a tradition that continues despite institutional evolution. The Rajendra Akhara, historically linked to Rajendra Patnaik and later Ban Bihari Patnaik, continues to preserve this legacy.

Ticket checking drive: 238 violations, Rs 1.52 lakh fine collected

Mail News Service



Kharagpur, March 29: To curb ticketless travel and maintain discipline among passengers, the Kharagpur Division of South Eastern Railway conducted a special ticket checking drive across several trains and stations.

The drive covered major trains including 12703, 12704, 22504, 22832, 12828, 12841, 12860, and 22877, along with stations such as Haldia, Mecheda, and Baleshwar. During the operation, 238 cases of ticketless or irregular travel were detected. Authorities collected a total penalty of Rs 1,52,690 from violators.

Railway officials stated that such drives were regularly conducted to ensure fair travel conditions for genuine passengers and to discourage malpractice. Passengers have been advised to travel with valid tickets to avoid penalties and inconvenience. (w/gsd)

Officials felicitated for maintaining law and order during Ram Navami



Seraikela, March 29: In recognition of their efforts in maintaining peace and order during Ram Navami, officials were felicitated by the Seraikela branch of Marwari Yuva Manch. Police Station in-charge Vinay Kumar Singh was honoured for ensuring effective law enforcement during the festival. The entire police team was also appreciated. Additionally, BDO Yasmita Singh and CO Kabhi were felicitated for their dedication and cooperation. The programme was attended by Manch President Anand Agarwal and other members.

Akshay Mohanty re-elected Bar president, Manoj Das secretary

Mail News Service



Rairangpur, March 29: The election of the Rairangpur Bar Association in Mayurbhanj district concluded peacefully, with senior advocate SubratPrasanna Das serving as the Election Officer.

Senior advocate Akshay Kumar Mohanty was re-elected president for the ninth consecutive term, reaffirming his strong leadership within the legal community. Manoj Kumar Das was elected as the secretary.

Other elected office-bearers include Harekrushna Mahakud as vice-president, Sushant Kumar Mohanta as joint secretary, Shishupada Mohanta as treasurer, and Gaurishankar Dutta as library secretary.

The smooth conduct of the election was made possible through the support of several members and officials. The newly elected team expressed its commitment to strengthening the Bar Association's functioning and working toward its overall development. (w/gsd)

Kharagpur: RPF rescues minors,ensures safe custody

Mail News Service



Kharagpur, March 29: Demonstrating vigilance and commitment to child safety, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Kharagpur Division rescued and assisted several minor children during recent operations across railway stations. On March 27, an RPF team along with the Meri Saheli unit rescued four minors --- three boys and one girl---wandering unattended at Kharagpur Railway Station. The children were provided food and later handed over to the Child Help Desk after informing the Child Helpline. In another case, a minor boy found travelling alone on the Steel Express was rescued at Jhargram station. He had reportedly run away from home and was later produced before the Child Welfare Committee and handed over to Childline authorities.

Additionally, acting on a Rail Madad alert, RPF personnel traced a missing minor from Bengaluru at Andul station. After proper verification and care, the child was handed over to the Child Help Desk at Howrah. These operations highlighted RPF's proactive role in protecting vulnerable children and ensuring their safety through coordinated efforts with child welfare authorities. (w/gsd)

Chhutni Mahato visits Delhi hospital, seeks improved blood donation access

Mail News Service



Seraikela/New Delhi, March 29: Chhutni Mahato visited Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital to inquire about the health of Gayatri Devi, wife of journalist Bhairav Maharaj, who is undergoing treatment there.

During her visit, she interacted with Medical Superintendent Vivek Dewan and appreciated the hospital's cleanliness and patient care services.

In a letter addressed to Dr. D.S. Chauhan, she highlighted the need for 24-hour blood donation facilities, noting that current timings of 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. may inconvenience donors, especially those with disabilities or work commitments. Social workers and entrepreneurs including Dinesh Jain, Indrajit Sehrawat, Santosh Kumar Saras, and Murali Prasad were present during the visit.

OlChiki evaluation camp boost to Santali language promotion

Mail News Service



Rairangpur, March 29: A three-day evaluation camp for OlChiki examination papers concluded at Dandabosh under Rairangpur block in Mayurbhanj district, marking a significant step toward promoting the Santali language and script.

The initiative was organized by the Parsy Singh Chando Guru Gomke Pandit Raghunath Murmu MahalMadwa organization, with strong support from the Tata Steel Foundation. The program witnessed participation from experienced teachers representing various OlChiki education centers across the district.

During the camp, evaluators assessed answer sheets of students from three categories primary, basic, and advanced ensuring fairness and discipline throughout the process. The entire evaluation was supervised by Chief Coordinator Bhimwar Murmu.

Key coordinators, including Shankha Hembram, Sugada Murmu, Sitaram Tudu, and others, played an active role in the smooth execution of the camp. Organizers stated that such initiatives, supported by Tata Steel Foundation, were significantly increasing interest among youth in learning OlChiki and preserving Santali culture through structured education. (w/gsd)

JDU to launch anti-corruption campaign 'From Streets to Assembly'

Mail News Service



Jamshedpur / Chakuliya, March 29: The Janata Dal (United) Jamshedpur unit finalized a strategic roadmap to address public grievances and combat local corruption during a high-profile meeting at Lakhimpura in Chakulia. Presided over by State Council Member and veteran Baharagora leader Manoranjan Mahto, the gathering drew a large number of block-level officials and grassroots workers who committed to a renewed push for regional development.

The party placed a primary emphasis on the rapid formation and expansion of block committees to solidify its foundation at the ground level. Leaders decided to organize comprehensive meetings across all blocks to ensure a unified presence. By recruiting a significant number of new members during this session, the JDU aims to build a formidable organizational structure capable of effectively raising regional issues and challenging administrative apathy. During the deliberations, JDU leaders outlined a specific strategy to launch a mass movement against the prevailing corruption in the Chakulia region. The leadership issued a stern warning that the party will spearhead a relentless struggle from the streets to the Assembly to amplify the voice of the common citizen and ensure the resolution of their most pressing problems. Addressing the gathering, District President Subodh Srivastava assigned specific organizational responsibilities to ensure systematic expansion across the district. He tasked Manoranjan Mahto with expanding the party's footprint in the Baharagora, Dhalbhumgarh, and Chakulia blocks. State Council Member Bir Singh Deogam took charge of leading organizational drives across the Potka and Dumaria blocks, as well as twenty-two panchayats within the Jamshedpur block. Additionally, State Council Member Ganesh Nayar received the responsibility to strengthen the party across the Ghatshila, Gudabanda, and Musabani blocks.

The meeting saw active participation from a wide range of prominent leaders and workers, including Subodh Srivastava, Bir Singh Deogam, and Ganesh Nayar. Other notable attendees included Holder Murmu, Dinesh Kumar Singh, Dinesh Kalindi, Jitendranath Gwala, Vipul Vikas Mahto, Sanjay Kalindi, Anil Kumar Patar, Anita Murmu, Balhi Soren, Meenu Murmu, Kanhai Mandi, Tapas Kumar Dey, Sunil Rana, Chintu Singh, Amal Gope, Uttam Patar, Subhash Chandra Mahto, and Pinku Singh. Their collective presence reinforced the party's intent to become a dominant force in the upcoming political cycle. (W-sm)

Chamber distributes Rs 7 lakh in small currency



Chaibasa, March 29: In response to the shortage of loose currency in the district, the West Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a distribution drive for small denomination notes among traders and members. The program was held at the premises of Chamber President Niranjan Agarwal. Around Rs 7 lakh in small currency was distributed to facilitate smooth buying and selling transactions in the market. Members and office-bearers actively participated in the initiative, which received strong support from various banks across the district. The Chamber expressed gratitude to the banking institutions for their cooperation. Officials stated that such collaborative efforts would continue in the future to ensure uninterrupted trade and support the business community. (w/gsd)

Free health camp in Simla village, benefits 143 residents



Seraikela, March 29: In a significant effort to bring healthcare to rural communities, Shree Foundation Trust, a unit of Shri Jharkhand Cement Plant, organized a free medical health check-up camp at Simla Village. Emphasizing that good health is a right, not a privilege, the initiative aimed to provide essential medical services to underserved populations. The camp was inaugurated by Prabir Pratap Singhdeo, Gram Pradhan, who lauded the initiative and encouraged community participation. The HR team, including Vijay Nishant (HR Head), Shreedhar Kumar Dubey, Santosh Upadhyay, Nitesh Pati, Sachin Mahato, Smt. Basumati Pati, and Ramu Mahto, ensured smooth coordination throughout the event. A dedicated medical team, comprising Dr. Sunil Singh and Sanub T.S. (OHC), conducted comprehensive health screenings, consultations, and provided free medicines. A total of 143 villagers-including women, senior citizens, and children-benefited from these services. Local PRI members and government representatives appreciated the management's sustained efforts to improve community health standards. The initiative reinforces Shree Foundation Trust's commitment to impactful CSR programs that promote health, dignity, and social empowerment in surrounding rural areas.

Advisory committee for Gender Resource Center



Gamharia, March 29: A Block-level Advisory committee was formed at Gamharia Block Auditorium to guide the Gender Resource Center under the JSLPS Social Development Program. The meeting was presided by Block Cooperative Extension Officer Sunil Kumar Chaudhary. The Block Development Officer will serve as Chairperson and the JSLPS Block Program Manager as Coordinator. The committee included the Block Pramukh, CDPO, Health Center In-charge, Gamharia Police In-charge, a Para-Legal Volunteer Advocate, and representatives from Block-level and Cluster-level Federations. (w/gsd)

Senior Congress leader Sukdev Hansda passes away

Gamharia, March 29: Senior Congress leader and respected 'Majhi Baba' Sukdev Hansda (86) of Hathiyadih, Gamharia, passed away after a prolonged illness. Following the news, numerous Congress leaders and fellow 'Majhi Babas' visited his residence to pay their respects. His final rites were performed in Hathiyadih on Sunday. He is survived by two sons and two daughters. (w/gsd)

JMM should accept truth: BJP

BJP and JMM clash in Seraikela over youth party affiliations

Mail News Service

Seraikela, March 29: A political controversy has erupted in Seraikela after youths joined the BJP on Saturday, with accusations flying over their previous affiliations with the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM). Following the JMM's clarification that the new BJP entrants were not former party members, BJP City President Biju Datta issued a sharp rebuttal.

Datta accused the JMM of "ruthless politics" and "deception," claiming that the majority of the youths were indeed active JMM workers inspired by social initiatives led by Pawan Kavi. He criticized the



JMM for disowning dedicated workers who had contributed significantly to the party, describing this as political opportunism comparable to the denial tactics of neighboring nations.

Emphasizing the principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, aur Sabka Vishwas" (Support of all, Development for all, Trust of all), Datta asserted that the BJP remains committed to public welfare and holistic development of Jharkhand. He urged voters to recognize this betrayal and reaffirm their support in the upcoming elections.

Datta concluded by reaffirming BJP's mission to prioritize Antyodaya-serving the last person-and emphasized that the party aims to return to power with a renewed focus on citizen-centric governance. (W-sm)

JMM rebuts BJP claims of worker defections in Seraikela

Mail News Service



Seraikela, March 29: Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) District Vice President Bhola Mahanti strongly refuted claims made by BJP District President Hare Krishna Pradhan, dismissing them as "laughable and absurd" during a press conference held at the Parishadan in Seraikela.

Mahanti stated that the BJP's assertion that hundreds of JMM workers have joined its ranks is baseless and merely a political stunt. Issuing an open challenge, he asked the BJP leader to publicly identify those individuals, along with their roles and responsibilities within the JMM, if the claim holds any truth. He criticized the BJP District President for making what he termed irresponsible and misleading statements, adding that such conduct does not befit someone holding a significant political position. Mahanti further advised the BJP to introspect on its recent electoral setbacks in the district and municipality instead of spreading misinformation. He emphasized that dragging the JMM's name into such claims for political gain is unacceptable and urged the BJP to focus on grassroots work and public service. Several party leaders, including Shambhu Acharya, Manoj Kumar Chaudhary, Umesh Bhol, Anup Sahu, Saurav Sahu, and Gautam Nayak, were present at the press conference.

Stolen motorcycle recovered, accused arrested

Chaibasa, March 29: Police solved a motorcycle theft case reported under Hatgamharia Police Station in West Singhbhum district.



The case was registered on March 28, 2026, following a written complaint by Shanivari Sinku regarding the theft of her motorcycle. Acting swiftly on instructions from senior officials, police launched an investigation. Based on a confidential tip-off, a suspect was detained and interrogated. During questioning, he confessed to identifying the motorcycle during the day and later stealing it at night by entering the premises and pushing the unlocked vehicle away. Following his confession, the stolen motorcycle was recovered. The accused has been arrested and remanded to judicial custody on March 29. (w/gsd)

Massive Ram Navami celebrations conclude at Rutdih



Seraikela, March 29: The Shri Shri Bajrangbali Samiti of Rutdih successfully concluded a grand Ram Navami celebration under the Rajnagar block, featuring Ramlila, Dev Sabha, and a 24-hour continuous Hari Sankirtan. The festivities culminated in Yajna (sacrificial rituals), the ceremonial farewell of the Mahants, distribution of sacred Prasad, and playful exchanges of colored powders (Ranga Gulal). President Pawan Mahto stated that lakhs of devotees from nearby regions and states such as Odisha, Bihar, and Bengal participated in the event. The Ramlila showcased 321 idols, and Jagabandhu Mahto emphasized that chanting Hari Naam fosters love, peace, and spiritual harmony across diverse communities. He added that in this Kali Yuga, devotion through Hari Naam is the true path to happiness and eternal glory.

Power crisis in Seraikela, civic chief flags gross negligence

Mail News Service



Seraikela, March 29: The newly elected Chairperson of the Seraikela Nagar Panchayat, Manoj Kumar Choudhary, has lodged a formal complaint with the General Manager of JBVNL, Jamshedpur, alleging widespread mismanagement in the power distribution system across Seraikela town and the entire Seraikela-Kharsawan district.In his letter, Choudhary stated that the electricity supply system has become severely disorganized due to the negligence of responsible officials. He remarked that the concerned officers have failed to effectively manage even a small urban body and district, highlighting that the Junior Engineer remains largely inaccessible, neither responding to public calls nor addressing citizens' concerns.Despite adequate government support, including initiatives like urban power infrastructure beautification and the installation of insulated wiring, minor faults have reportedly led to a prolonged outage. The town has been without electricity from Friday night through Saturday, causing widespread disruption.The outage has significantly impacted domestic life, businesses, and educational activities, while also bringing water supply to a complete halt. Choudhary noted that such unwarranted disruptions have not only inconvenienced residents but also triggered public anger, affecting both the administration and public representatives.He further revealed that nearly a month ago, he had submitted a 10-point proposal to the Executive Engineer, Assistant Engineer, and Junior Engineers, outlining key issues and seeking corrective measures. However, the concerns were allegedly ignored.Urging immediate intervention, Choudhary has called on the GM to take strict and effective action against the erring engineers and staff, stating that their negligence is tarnishing the government's image and eroding public trust. (W-pm)

15-year RI for NDPS convict in Seraikela case

Seraikela, March 29: The court of the Principal District and Sessions Judge, Ramashankar Singh, has sentenced an accused in an NDPS case to 15 years of rigorous imprisonment. The convict, 37-year-old Ram Kumar, a resident of Biridiri in Purulia district of West Bengal, was also fined Rs 1,25,000. The court found him guilty under Section 15(c) of the NDPS Act. In case of failure to pay the fine, he will have to undergo an additional two years of simple imprisonment.According to the case details (Ichagarh P.S. Case No. 52/2024), the incident dates back to July 15, 2024, when police received a tip-off about illegal trafficking of doda (poppy straw) being transported towards West Bengal via Bamundih. Acting on the information, Ichagarh Police, in coordination with Chandil Police, intercepted a motorcycle near the Tiruldih Subarnarekha bridge and recovered the contraband.Following investigation and trial, the court pronounced the sentence, holding the accused guilty of illegal narcotics trafficking. (W-pm)

Teacher-Parent seminar focuses on attendance, quality education

Mail News Service



Seraikela, March 29: A teacher-parent seminar was organized at Nruparaj Government Plus Two Chief Minister Excellent High School under the chairmanship of Principal Ambika Pradhan. Nagar Panchayat Chairman Manoj Kumar Chaudhary attended as chief guest, while ward councillor Sushma Tiu and School Management Committee Chairman Mangal Singh Hembram were present as special guests. Discussions focused on improving the quality of education, strengthening student attendance, and enhancing coordination between parents and teachers. Addressing the gathering, Manoj Kumar Chaudhary urged parents to actively engage in their children's education and monitor their behaviour and academic progress. He also advised teachers to maintain regular communication with parents to address absenteeism and ensure that students attend school consistently. Students presented a welcome song and a dance drama, adding a cultural dimension to the programme. Parents appreciated the initiative and expressed hope for improved educational standards.

MACT workshop and Lok Adalat strengthen legal awareness

Mail News Service



Seraikela, March 29: In line with the directives of the Jharkhand State Legal Services Authority, a district-level workshop on Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) procedures and Monthly Lok Adalat was held at the DLSA Hall on Saturday. The programme was conducted under the guidance of Principal District and Sessions Judge-cum-Chairman, DLSA, Ramashankar Singh. Key officials including District Transport Officer Girija Prasad Mahato, SDPO Sameer Kumar Sawaiya, Medical Officer Dr. Pankaj, and Chief LADC Dilip Kumar Shaw were present, along with police personnel, ANMs, para-legal volunteers, and representatives from various departments.

In his address, the District Judge emphasized timely filing of MACT applications within six months and proper submission of Form 54, highlighting the crucial role of police in ensuring compensation to victims. DLSA Secretary Tausif Meraj elaborated on the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act and discussed landmark Supreme Court judgments, including the Sharla Verma and Pranay Sethi cases.

Officials also highlighted Good Samaritan laws, encouraging citizens to assist accident victims without fear. During the Monthly Lok Adalat, five electricity-related cases were resolved, generating revenue of Rs 24,000. Litigants expressed satisfaction with the quick and accessible justice delivery system.

Trump's shifting strategy signals uncertain path in escalating Iran conflict

The evolving stance of U.S. President Donald Trump in the ongoing confrontation with Iran reflects a complex mix of aggression and restraint, underscoring the uncertainty surrounding one of the most volatile geopolitical crises in recent times. After initially threatening to destroy Iran's power and energy infrastructure, Trump opted to delay military action first by five days and then by granting an additional reprieve indicating a possible shift toward de-escalation.

This apparent softening, however, is far from definitive. While Trump continues to issue intermittent warnings, his decision to extend deadlines for reopening the Strait of Hormuz suggests he may be seeking a diplomatic off-ramp. Yet, conflicting signals from Washington have only deepened global uncertainty. Analysts note that such oscillation between threats and negotiation has left allies and adversaries alike unsure of the United States' long-term strategy.

At the heart of the crisis lies a fundamental deadlock. Iran remains unwilling to scale back its military posture without firm guarantees against future attacks. Conversely, the United States and its ally Israel are unlikely to concede to Tehran's demands, particularly given their strategic objectives in the region. This mutual distrust has effectively stalled any meaningful progress toward a ceasefire.

Meanwhile, the conflict continues to widen. Israel remains focused on targeting Iranian assets, while Iran has escalated its response by launching missiles not only toward Israel but also toward neighboring Gulf nations. These regional actors, increasingly caught in the crossfire, are growing impatient as their own security and infrastructure come under threat. Reports indicate that Iran has already expanded its attacks to include ports and energy facilities in nearby countries, raising fears of a broader regional war.

A further escalation particularly if Gulf nations retaliate militarily could dramatically alter the trajectory of the conflict. Such a development would not only intensify hostilities but also deepen the ongoing global energy crisis. The closure and disruption of the Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly a fifth of the world's oil supply passes, has already sent shockwaves through international markets, driving up fuel prices and straining economies worldwide.

While Iran's blockade of the strait has played a direct role in triggering the energy crisis, the United States bears indirect responsibility for initiating the conflict through its joint military actions with Israel. Tehran's retaliatory strategy has proven effective in destabilizing not just its primary adversaries but also the broader region, thereby amplifying global economic distress.

For Trump, the stakes are increasingly political as well as strategic. Mounting domestic criticism, falling approval ratings, and rising fuel prices have eroded his standing at home. Should Iran sustain its resistance, the U.S. President may be compelled to further moderate his approach risking a perceived loss of credibility both domestically and internationally.

Ultimately, the conflict remains locked in a precarious balance. With neither side willing to compromise and regional tensions intensifying, the prospect of a swift resolution appears remote. The world watches anxiously as shifting strategies and hardening positions continue to shape the course of this high-stakes geopolitical standoff.

From the Editorial Desk

How Naxalism was brought to its knees



Union Home Minister Amit Shah had said that the NarendraModi government is committed to eradicating Naxalism from the country. He said that the Naxal menace will end by March 31 2026. With just days to go, the promise of ending the menace is set to be fulfilled.

The year 2025 was a brutal one for the Naxal movement and the operations that were carried out set the stage for the eradication of the problem that has plagued the country for long.

An official said that the Home Minister had made it clear that he wants the movement to end at any cost.

While, Home Minister Shah gave the security forces a free hand to deal with the problem, he also ensured that there was proper coordination between the state and central forces, the official also added.

Another very key area of focus by the Union and State Governments was development.

The Centre invested a lot to ensure that the Naxal affected states and zones were amply developed. This resulted in the mindset of the people changing.

The Naxalites who had thrived on local support citing that the governments were being unfair to them, lost this base owing to extensive development, another official pointed out.

In the operations that took place in 2025 as many as 256 Naxalites were killed and 884 were arrested.

However, the important part of this operation is that many Naxalites laid down their arms and chose to get rehabilitated and join the mainstream.

As many as 1,562 Naxalites surrendered and the security agencies recovered 645 weapons and 875 Improvised Explosive Devices (IED).

Another official said that the surrenders are the key. This sent out a huge signal that the Naxalites themselves realised that joining the mainstream is a better option rather than battling a lost cause.

This also sends out a message to future generations that such movements are not worth it.

Data would show that 23 jawans laid down their lives to achieve such a feat. Further 46 innocent civilians were killed in 2025 by Naxalites in retaliation.

Speaking about the surrenders, an official said that the ones to lay down their arms were not just foot soldiers. They were top leaders who laid down their arms and this sent a huge message to the cadres who were still on the ground.

Some of the top leaders who surrendered include Madvi Hidma, Baswaraju, Jayaram Vivek, Narsimha Chalam, Gajarala Ravi, Modhem Balkrishna, Sahdev Soren, Raju Kadri Satyanarayana Reddy and Ganesh.

These surrenders made a huge difference as all of them were members of the central committee. Many of them even said and wrote about the futility of carrying on with the movement and this sent a strong message to the existing cadres and those who were planning on joining the movement.

An Intelligence Bureau official said that, while the movement is dead on the ground, one must keep a close watch on attempts of a revival. Although hard, attempts would be made, the official added. Security officials are confident that the Naxalite movement would never be revived again.

However, it is the ideology in urban centres that is causing some amount of concern. Attempts will be made to romanticise the movement and spread the ideology.

The battle may not be fought on the ground, but those sympathetic to the movement may infiltrate protests and try and spread their agenda.

Recently a group of people sympathetic to the movement had joined a protest on pollution and tried to speak about the Naxalites who had been killed.

Such incidents are likely to take place and Intelligence agencies warn that they must be stopped immediately or else it could spiral out of control.

India-Israel partnership holds key to value-based IMEC alternative to China's BRI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent state visit to Israel marked a strengthening of bilateral relations between the two countries as part of a "sophisticated geo-economic gambit," according to an article in The Jerusalem Strategic Tribune.

The article highlights that PM Modi's address to the Knesset outlined both his government's broader strategic outlook and Israel's place within it. In his remarks, PM Modi signalled a commitment to building a regional architecture designed to embed India more deeply into trade and connectivity to its west with an anchor role for Israel.

That effort is driven in large part by New Delhi's search for strategic autonomy as it seeks to escape China's growing shadow in the Indo-Pacific. No longer defined by its Cold War-era doctrine of non-alignment, India is now prioritising issue-based coalitions and partnerships with countries whose strategic trajectory is durable and predictable. This logic, in turn, favours states whose survival and prosperity are tied to the stability of the rules-based international order, the article states.

At the heart of India's vision for the Eastern Mediterranean is the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). IMEC is much more than simply a commercial route. It is designed to offer India's international partners a "values-based" alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), thereby reducing Beijing's leverage over Eurasian trade and energy flows, the article points out.

Over the past decade, Beijing has leveraged large-scale investments in transportation, energy, and telecommunications to establish a strong presence across the Middle East, South Asia, and Europe. This has created a structural interdependence in which economic relationships are inextricably linked to Chinese strategic interests. From a strategic perspective, IMEC represents an effort to break up this monopoly. It serves as a normative counterweight to China's model of state-centric control and top-down financing. Instead, it envisions a smaller and more flexible framework in which the economic and political interests of partners, while not identical, overlap in their desire to mitigate Chinese unilateralism.

For India, a reliable corridor requires anchor states such as Israel and Greece which offer institutional stability and technological maturity. While other prospective routes may offer more convenient geography, they lack the normative reliability and security predictability that India requires for long-term strategic investment.

Nevertheless, China's structural advantage remains formidable. The BRI rests on a foundation of already-commissioned projects and established logistical networks, such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the strategic Port of Gwadar. Furthermore, China's influence is further reinforced by its deep diplomatic engagement with Iran and the Gulf states, as well as its control over critical infrastructure components such as subsea communication cables.

For this reason, the challenge for IMEC is not simply to propose a technical alternative, but to establish institutional credibility and long-term resilience.

For New Delhi and its partners, the corridor's viability depends on its ability to create a de-risked ecosystem that prioritizes transparency and distributed governance over dependency and top-down control, the article states.

The significance of Bangladesh PM's choice of day for first use of national flag on car



Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman chose the country's National Day for his official car to mark the first time to bear the national flag since he assumed office as head of the government, according to reports from Dhaka.

The image, while on way to pay homage to the Liberation War martyrs at the National Memorial in Savar on Thursday morning, should serve as a lesson for those who had declared a subtle intent to rewrite the country's history and legacy.

Rahman also went to the National Parade Ground in Dhaka "in his flag-bearing official car to join the Independence and National Day Parade 2026", marking the 56th Independence and National Day, The Daily Star reported, quoting the Prime Minister's Office.

Incidentally, Bangladesh National Day marks the moment when the country's founder Sheikh MujiburRahman declared the independence of East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, on the morning of March 26, 1971.

The declaration followed the Pakistan Army launching 'Operation Searchlight' the day before, a violent campaign that targeted the region's Bengali-speaking civilians, students, and military personnel, resulting in widespread atrocities.

The operation was presented by West Pakistani authorities as a security measure to restore order after the 1970 election and rising Bengali nationalist activity. The mandate saw Awami League, led by MujiburRahman, emerge as the primary political force representing the-then East Pakistan. Thus, the day symbolises struggle for sovereignty and the sacrifices made during the Bangladesh Liberation War. It marked the opening phase of a campaign that precipitated the nine month Liberation War and is widely remembered in Bangladesh as the start of the 1971 genocide. The crackdown occurred amid Cold War geopolitics that complicated international responses; major powers were divided in their reactions, and early global action to stop the violence was limited.

The operation triggered armed resistance in East Pakistan and ultimately led to full scale war and Pakistan's surrender in December 1971.

Operation Searchlight involved coordinated strikes across Dhaka and other urban centres, where Pakistan Army used tanks, mortars, and small arms to assault dormitories, police and paramilitary barracks, the Dhaka University, and Hindu majority areas. The detention of Awami League leader Mujibur Rahman was part of the same campaign. Meanwhile, in June last year, the interim government in Bangladesh led by Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus, declared August 5 as "Uprising Day" and August 8 as "New Bangladesh Day".

Additionally, July 16 was declared as Martyr Abu Sayeed Day, in remembrance of the student, who was killed in police firing in Rangpur during the mass movement.

August 8 marks the day when the previous Yunus-led interim government was formed following the overthrow of the ShiekhHasina-led government amid a mass uprising by students and the public.

Incidentally, the Cabinet decision came a year after the fall of the Hasina government.

Thereafter, a political row erupted over the government's declaration of August 8 as "New Bangladesh Day", with some political parties and civic organisations demanding the date be changed to August 5.

These included the Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, National Citizen Party (NCP), among others. Meanwhile, the Inqilab Manch, a platform of July uprising participants, threatening wider, more aggressive demonstrations across Bangladesh.

The move was perceived as attempts to shift the symbolic weight of March 26, 1971, declaration of independence from Pakistan toward newer dates tied to recent political upheavals.

The visuals of defacing and destruction of statues, photographs, buildings, and anything connected to MujiburRahman or his legacy was still fresh in memory.

It was also the time when Dhaka, under the Yunus-led interim government, initiated closer ties with Islamabad, beginning direct flights, hosting Army Generals, even as reports warned of renewed terror threats from such elements gaining easy access to Bangladesh.

However, Thursday's reports suggest that realpolitik and pragmatism scored over emotive outburst and revengeful intents that would have ultimately hurt the nation itself.

CII lauds Centre's response to West Asia crisis, sets 12-point industry agenda



New Delhi, March 29 (IANS) Apex business chamber CII on Sunday lauded the swift action taken by the Government of India for a coordinated and well-calibrated response to the disruptions arising from the West Asia crisis, and called on industry to complement these efforts through responsible and constructive action.

CII observed that the present situation represents a supply-side disruption, with pressures transmitted through energy costs, logistics and working capital cycles.

While the policy response has mitigated immediate risks, the evolving situation requires continued coordination between the government and industry.

CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee said, "The government's response has been timely, measured and reassuring. It reflects a whole-of-government approach that has focused on keeping supply chains functional, supporting exporters, protecting households from the rise in global oil prices and maintaining macroeconomic stability. Industry deeply appreciates both the intent and the execution."

"These measures have helped contain inflationary pressures, sustain industrial activity and preserve confidence at a time of global uncertainty, while also supporting jobs and livelihoods across sectors," he added.

CII has outlined a 12-point action plan that the industry may consider in the current context. One, the industry may work with the government in building strategic reserves and buffer mechanisms for critical raw materials, fuels and intermediate goods. Collaborative approaches to stockholding, shared infrastructure and improved data visibility can significantly strengthen national preparedness against future disruptions.

Two, companies may endeavour to maintain price stability by ensuring that the benefits of stable fuel prices and moderated logistics costs are transmitted to end consumers and downstream partners. This will support inflation management and reinforce industry credibility.

Three, companies may strengthen supply chain resilience by identifying alternative sourcing corridors, diversifying vendor bases and building calibrated inventory buffers for critical inputs. This will reduce exposure to disruptions arising from concentrated maritime routes.

Fourth, firms may accelerate investments in energy transition, including renewables, green hydrogen and industrial energy efficiency. The current situation reinforces the need to reduce dependence on conventional fuels and build long-term energy resilience.

Five, wherever technically and commercially feasible, companies may explore switching from LPG to natural gas and other efficient energy options. This will support cost optimisation while contributing to a cleaner energy mix. Six, businesses operating institutional kitchens and large food services may adopt innovative approaches to reduce fuel intensity, including the use of electric or bio-based cooking solutions and optimised consumption practices.

Seven, companies may prioritise protection of employment and livelihoods by using internal efficiencies and cost management to absorb temporary shocks, thereby supporting workforce stability.

Eight, larger firms may support MSME partners through faster payments, better credit terms and improved order visibility. This will ease liquidity pressures across supply chains.

Nine, companies may enhance energy efficiency and operational optimisation across processes to reduce exposure to fuel cost volatility.

Ten, exporters and manufacturers may strengthen risk management practices, including logistics planning, insurance coverage and receivables management, to improve resilience in uncertain conditions.

Eleven, firms may invest in technology and data systems that improve supply chain visibility and operational flexibility, enabling quicker response to disruptions.

Big change in UPI, card payments from April 1: RBI makes 2FA compulsory



New Delhi, March 29 (IANS) From April 1, 2026, making digital payments in India is set to become more secure, but slightly more time-consuming, as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rolls out new rules for online transactions. The central bank has made two-factor authentication (2FA) mandatory for all digital payments, including those made through UPI, debit and credit cards, and mobile wallets.

This means that OTP alone will no longer be sufficient to complete a transaction. Users will now have to go through at least two layers of verification, such as a PIN, password, biometric authentication or token, along with OTP. The move comes amid rising cases of online fraud, including phishing and SIM swap scams, where OTP-based systems have proven vulnerable. By adding an extra layer of security, the RBI aims to reduce the chances of unauthorised transactions and improve trust in digital payment systems.

For users, the change means that payments may take slightly longer to complete, especially on new devices or for high-value transactions.

However, regular transactions on trusted devices are expected to remain relatively smooth.

The system will also adopt a risk-based approach, where the level of security checks will depend on the nature and behaviour of the transaction.

Another key aspect of the new rules is increased accountability for banks and payment platforms.

If a fraud occurs due to a failure in their systems, financial institutions may be required to compensate customers. This is expected to ensure quicker resolution of complaints and push banks to strengthen their security infrastructure.

Rising crude oil prices, Middle East tensions likely to drive Dalal Street next week



Mumbai, March 29 (IANS) The Indian stock market ended the week on a weak note, extending its losing streak for the fifth straight week, as rising crude oil prices, a falling rupee and escalating tensions in the Middle East dampened investor sentiment. These global factors are now expected to remain the key triggers for market movement in the coming week. On Friday, (March 27), both benchmark indices -- Sensex and Nifty -- saw sharp declines of over 2 per cent each. The Sensex plunged 1,690 points, or 2.25 per cent, to close at 73,583, while the Nifty dropped 487 points, or 2.09 per cent, to settle at 22,819.60. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that a decisive breakdown below the 22,700-22,500 range can accelerate selling pressure, potentially dragging the index towards the 22,000-21,744 zone, which aligns with the 52-week low region. "On the upside, 23,000-23,100 now acts as immediate resistance, followed by a stronger supply zone in the 23,300-23,500 range," an analyst mentioned. The broader markets also remained under pressure, with midcap and smallcap indices ending lower. The ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East have emerged as a major concern for global markets.

Uncertainty around possible negotiations between the United States and Iran continues to keep investors on edge. Rising crude oil prices are further weighing on sentiment. Brent crude has surged above $112 per barrel, marking a sharp rally since the conflict began. Higher oil prices are a concern for India, which depends heavily on imports, as they can fuel inflation and widen the trade deficit. The Indian rupee has also been under pressure, slipping past the 94 mark against the US dollar. At the same time, safe-haven demand has pushed gold and silver prices higher. Both metals saw strong buying interest on Friday, rising over 3 per cent, as investors looked for protection amid global uncertainty. The movement in precious metals indicates continued risk aversion in global markets.

NCLAT upholds NCLT Powers



New Delhi, March 29 (IANS) The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has dismissed appeals filed by the BSE, ruling that insolvency courts have the authority to order the defreezing of Demat accounts of companies undergoing insolvency proceedings.

In its order, a two-member bench of the appellate tribunal said the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has clear jurisdiction under Section 60(5) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) to hear such matters and pass necessary directions.

It added that the earlier orders passed by the NCLT were valid and within its legal powers. The case relates to two companies, Future Corporate Resources and Liz Traders and Agents, whose Demat accounts were frozen by BSE due to non-payment of listing fees and other regulatory dues. The accounts were also frozen for non-compliance with rules, including those under listing regulations. Resolution professionals and liquidators handling these companies had approached the NCLT, seeking defreezing of the accounts so that shares held in them could be sold to recover money during the insolvency process. The Mumbai bench of the NCLT had earlier directed BSE to lift the freeze in separate orders passed in 2024 and 2025.

Top 7 firms lose Rs 1.75 lakh crore in market cap last week



Mumbai, March 29 (IANS) The combined market valuation of seven of India's top-10 most valued companies fell sharply by Rs 1.75 lakh crore last week amid global uncertainties and geopolitical tensions.

The decline came in a holiday-shortened week when benchmark indices ended lower. The Sensex dropped 949.74 points, or 1.27 per cent, while the Nifty fell 294.9 points, also down 1.27 per cent.

Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that a decisive breakdown below the 22,700-22,500 range can accelerate selling pressure, potentially dragging the index towards the 22,000-21,744 zone, which aligns with the 52-week low region. "On the upside, 23,000-23,100 now acts as immediate resistance, followed by a stronger supply zone in the 23,300-23,500 range," an analyst mentioned.

Market experts said the week was marked by high volatility due to fluctuating global cues and rising tensions in West Asia. According to Ajit Mishra of Religare Broking, early losses were driven by concerns over energy supply disruptions, a weakening rupee that touched a record low, and rising market volatility. "Although there was a brief recovery in the middle of the week on hopes of easing tensions between the US and Iran, fresh selling pressure on Friday wiped out gains and pulled the indices lower," he stated.

Among the biggest losers, Reliance Industries saw its market valuation drop the most, declining by Rs 89,720.3 crore to Rs 18.24 lakh crore.

PM Modi to launch Rs 3,300 crore chip facility in Gujarat on March 31



Sanand (Gujarat), March 29 (IANS) Sanand's rapid transformation from an automobile manufacturing centre into a key node in India's semiconductor ambitions is set to advance further with Prime Minister NarendraModi scheduled to inaugurate an outsourced semiconductor assembly and test (OSAT) facility by KaynesSemicon on March 31.

The facility, being established at a cost of Rs 3,300 crore, was approved by the Union Cabinet on September 23, 2024, under the National Semiconductor Mission.

Located in Gujarat's Sanand industrial area, the unit will undertake testing and packaging of semiconductor chips before their release into the market, completing a critical stage in the chip manufacturing value chain.

The plant is expected to have a production capacity of around 60 lakh chips per day.

The project follows the inauguration of a semiconductor facility by Micron on February 28 and forms part of a broader cluster of semiconductor investments taking shape in the region.

In addition to KaynesSemicon and Micron, another unit is being developed by CG Semi, indicating a growing concentration of semiconductor activity in Sanand. The Gujarat government, led by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, has advanced efforts to position the state as a hub for semiconductor manufacturing and related industries. Officials said the addition of the OSAT facility would further strengthen the local ecosystem and support economic activity linked to advanced manufacturing. Referring to the pace of development in the sector, PM Modi had said, "The MoU for Micron facility was signed in June 2023, the foundation stone was laid in September, and today, in February 2026, commercial production has already begun. Even in developed countries, such approvals and processes take years, but India has completed this seemingly impossible task in just 900 days. When intent is clear, and commitment is towards the nation's development, policies become clear, and decisions gain momentum automatically." He has also emphasised the broader objective of building a comprehensive semiconductor ecosystem in the country. "Our goal is not limited to setting up a single factory, but to build an entire ecosystem. India is now focusing on the entire semiconductor value chain, from design engineers to machine manufacturers and logistics. The announcement of 'India Semiconductor Mission 2.0' is a major step in this direction. As production increases, the demand for materials and components within India will also rise, creating the biggest opportunity for local industries," he said.

Highlighting the sector's long-term significance, the Prime Minister has stated that the development of semiconductor capabilities would make the current decade a decisive turning point for India's technological future, while noting that the "country is becoming an increasingly important part of the global semiconductor value chain".

According to official details, 10 major projects have so far been approved under the Semicon India programme, of which four are being developed in Gujarat.

The clustering of such projects in Sanand has drawn comparisons with established semiconductor hubs such as Hsinchu in Taiwan and Gyeonggi in South Korea.

Coal India bags Rs 1,057 crore battery storage project



New Delhi, March 29 (IANS) Coal India Limited (CIL) on Sunday announced that it has received a Letter of Award (LoA) for setting up a large battery energy storage project in Telangana, marking a further step in its clean energy expansion.

The order has been awarded by Telangana Power Generation Corporation Limited for developing a 750 MWh battery energy storage system (BESS) at Choutuppal. The project, which will have a capacity of 187.5 MW for four hours, is estimated to cost Rs 1,057.09 crore. "Coal India Limited has received a Letter of Award (LOA) from Telangana Power Generation Corporation Limited for Setting up of 750 MWh (187.5 MW for 4 hours) BESS Plant at Choutuppal," it said in its regulatory filing.

The company said the project will be completed within 18 months from the signing of the Battery Energy Storage Purchase Agreement (BESPA).

As part of the deal, Coal India will supply power at a tariff of Rs 3.14 lakh per MW per month.

CIL will also need to submit performance bank guarantees and other required documents within 15 days, after which the formal agreement will be signed.

The company clarified that the contract has been awarded by a domestic entity and does not involve any related party transactions.

IndiGo introduces over 30 new routes from Navi Mumbai International Airport



New Delhi, March 29 (IANS) Low-cost airline IndiGo on Sunday said it is introducing over 30 new routes from the Navi Mumbai International Airport between March 29 and April 23. The carrier will connect the airport to cities like Agra, Ayodhya, Bagdogra, Belgaum, Chandigarh, Diu, Kannur, Kolkata, Patna, Rajkot, Srinagar, Varanasi, Visakhapatnam, and many more. With this, IndiGo will operate over 400 weekly departures from Navi Mumbai, offering convenient travel options to customers and enhanced regional connectivity to and from different parts of the country. The airport is developed and operated by Adani Airports Holdings Limited (AAHL), a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Limited. It is one of India's largest greenfield airport projects and has been completed in record time.

Starting from Sunday, the airline has also commenced twice daily, direct flights between Bhavnagar and Navi Mumbai, further strengthening connectivity in Gujarat. The flights on this route are operated using IndiGo's ATR aircraft, offering customers a convenient and reliable travel option between the two cities. Earlier this month, IndiGo also launched direct flights to Jamnagar starting from April 23, 2026.

With these additions, IndiGo will operate to six cities in Gujarat, including Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, and Jamnagar, with over 1,400 weekly flights to and from this vibrant and leading industrialised state. Earlier this month, IndiGo and Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL), the country's largest private airport operator, announced a strategic partnership, enabling IndiGoBluChip members to earn on duty-free shopping across AAHL-managed airports. Under the partnership, members can earn five IndiGoBluChips for every Rs 100 spent on duty-free products pre-booked through the Adani platform. "Travellers can browse, reserve and pay for products online before departure and collect their purchases conveniently at the airport," according to a statement.

Political sentiment in Kerala in favour of BJP-led NDA, says PM Modi

Palakkad, March 29 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Sunday, asserted that Kerala is poised to deliver a strong message of political change, addressing a large Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) election rally at Kotta Maidanam in Palakkad ahead of the upcoming Assembly polls.

Beginning his speech with prayers at the revered Kalpathy temple, Prime Minister Modi said the growing support among Kerala's youth and women reflects a shift in political sentiment in favour of the BJP-led NDA.

"This change is driven by the blessings of the people of Kerala," he added, while paying homage to BJP workers, who lost their lives in political violence.

The Prime Minister praised Palakkad as the "gateway to Kerala's natural beauty" and described it as a land of talent and cultural richness.



He also paid tribute to iconic social reformers and spiritual leaders, including Sree Narayana Guru, Chattampi Swamikal, Mannath Padmanabhan, Ayyankali and Kuriakose Elias Chavara, acknowledging their lasting contributions to Kerala's social fabric.

Sharpening his political attack, Prime Minister Modi alleged that Kerala is facing a crisis of unemployment and economic mismanagement.

He claimed that in the past decade, the state government had failed to establish industries capable of generating employment for the youth.

He also criticised both the Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the United Democratic Front (UDF), accusing them of decades of misrule and "vote-bank politics".

"Kerala today is burdened with a debt exceeding Rs 5 lakh crore. The question is -- where has this money gone?" the Prime Minister asked, alleging corruption and financial mismanagement by successive state governments.

Highlighting Palakkad's political history, Prime Minister Modi noted that the Assembly constituency had been represented by the Left and Congress MLAs for decades but had seen little development.

He claimed that visible progress in the region began only after the BJP came to power at the Centre.

Projecting confidence, Prime Minister Modi declared that the NDA is firmly in the race to form the next government in Kerala.

"We (BJP) are committed to building a developed Kerala. This is Modi's guarantee," he said.

In a sharp remark on political rivalries, Prime Minister Modi said both the LDF and UDF accuse each other of being the BJP's "B team", but their common focus on attacking the BJP shows who they truly fear.

He added that an NDA government would investigate alleged corruption involving both the LDF and UDF.

Reiterating his core message, the Prime Minister said, "What has not changed so far will now change -- Kerala will grow."

Amit Shah blasts Cong at Assam rally

Guwahati, March 29 (IANS) Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday launched a sharp attack on the Congress party during an election rally in Dhekiajuli. He emphasised that the BJP-led governments at both the Centre and in Assam have significantly transformed the state through substantial financial investment, development of infrastructure, and the restoration of peace.



HM Shah claimed that during 10 years of Congress-led rule at the Centre, Assam received around Rs 1.28 lakh crore, whereas under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the state got nearly Rs nine lakh crore between 2014 and 2024. "This reflects the Centre's commitment to Assam's development," he said.

Highlighting industrial and educational expansion, HM Shah said the Modi government is setting up a semiconductor plant in Assam, while Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is working to establish medical and engineering colleges in every district.

77 Maoists surrender in Odisha, DGP urges remaining cadres to lay down arms



Bhubaneswar, March 29 (IANS) Odisha Director General of Police (DGP) Y.B. Khurania on Sunday said that coordinated operations by security forces over the past one year have led to the surrender of 77 Maoists and the neutralisation of 27 ultras in the state, while urging the remaining cadres to lay down their arms to avoid action by the forces.

Khurania, who was in Phulbani to attend a special programme to honour security personnel involved in anti-Maoist operations, said that around a year ago, security forces received a call to eliminate the influence of Maoists in the country by March 31, 2026.

The Odisha DGP stated that significant successes have been achieved against the Maoist menace in 2025 and so far in 2026, owing to coordinated efforts by security forces, including Central Armed Police Forces such as the BSF and CRPF, as well as various units of the Odisha Police, including the Special Operations Group (SOG), Special Intelligence Wing (SIW), and District Voluntary Force (DVF).

"As many as 77 Maoists have surrendered to the Odisha Police, while 23 active Maoist cadres from Odisha have laid down their arms in Chhattisgarh.

Release charge sheet against yourselves, CM Mamata Banerjee counters BJP

Kolkata, March 29 (IANS) Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday criticised the BJP's 'charge sheet' against her government and asked it to first publish a "charge sheet against the Central government".

Addressing an election rally at Manbazar in Purulia district, CM Banerjee, without taking HM Shah's name, said, "Yesterday, a very prominent leader of the BJP released a charge sheet against the Trinamool party. I say: first, release a charge sheet against yourselves, provide an account of how many people you have killed through riots. Where were you when Gujaratis were brought to Delhi from America in handcuffs and transported by plane? It seems you have nothing better to do than engage in idle mischief. They do not listen to the people; their sole agenda is to strike people's names off the electoral rolls. Rioters, autocrats, destroyers of democracy... let no one cast a vote for them."



On Saturday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during a press conference in Kolkata, submitted a 35-page charge sheet against the Trinamool Congress government, criticising it over the issue of law and order, infiltration and corruption. He said the election was a battle not merely for the state, but for the country's security.

Responding to HM Shah's 'bandage' remark against her, the Chief Minister said, "Apparently, before elections, I go around wearing a bandage. I have returned from the jaws of death time and again. Go to the hospital and check the medical records. During the last election, it was your people who deliberately injured my leg. Are you planning to attack me again? A plan is usually hatched before attempting to assassinate someone's character. Is that what is happening here?" Amit Shah, on Saturday, accused the Chief Minister of playing imaginary victim cards before any election. "As soon as the elections come, Mamata Banerjee either breaks her leg or falls ill. She seeks people's sympathy by showing some illness or another. But that ploy will not work out this time," he said.

LoP Adhikari receives BJP symbol to contest from Bhabanipur, slams Trinamool for suppressing democracy

Kolkata, March 29 (IANS) West Bengal Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President and Rajya Sabha MP, Samik Bhattacharya, on Sunday, alleged that democratic rights are being systematically suppressed in West Bengal under the Trinamool Congress-led state government.

Addressing a press conference at the state BJP headquarters at 6 Muralidhar Sen Lane in Kolkata, Bhattacharya said that the right to dissent is the cornerstone of any democracy, yet the Opposition is being denied this constitutional right in the state.

He added that West Bengal Leader of Opposition (LoP) Suvendu Adhikari has been forced to approach the court more than 104 times to seek permission for organising political rallies and public meetings.

LoP Adhikari was also suspended from the West Bengal Assembly for 11 months, which according to State BJP President Bhattacharya, reflects the grim condition of political party workers and common citizens in the state.



The BJP leaders also recalled the serious attack on Suvendu Adhikari after his victory in Nandigram in 2021 state polls, when miscreants allegedly tried to set his vehicle on fire by pouring petrol on it.

Bhattacharya claimed that the Trinamool Congress is finding it extremely difficult to field a strong candidate against Suvendu Adhikari in Nandigram.

During the press conference, Suvendu Adhikari received the official election symbol of the Bharatiya Janata Party for contesting from the Bhabanipur Assembly constituency.

He has expressed his desire to contest directly against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee from her native Assembly seat.

After receiving the BJP poll symbol, LoP Adhikari will pay floral tributes to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee before proceeding to Bhabanipur.

Suvendu Adhikari announced that he will file his nomination papers for the Nandigram Assembly seat on March 30 at 12 noon in Haldia.

Bengal polls: Judicial adjudication for 67 pc of voters completed

Kolkata, Mar 29 (IANS) The judicial adjudication process for 40 lakh voters, which is around 67 per cent of a total of more than 60 lakh voters, referred for adjudication after being categorised under the "logical discrepancy category" had been completed till Sunday evening, an insider from the office of the West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) told.

Of the 40 lakh cases, whose judicial adjudication process had been completed till Sunday evening, a total of around 18 lakh cases have been classified as eligible for exclusion.

This means that nearly 45 per cent of total cases for which the judicial adjudication process had been completed have been found to be eligible for exclusion.

However, those who had been found eligible for exclusion in the course of the judicial adjudication process will have the option to approach any of the 19 Appellate Tribunals constituted for the purpose.

The final voters' list in West Bengal -- excluding the 60 lakh cases referred for judicial adjudication -- was published on February 28.



It was decided that supplementary lists would be released in line with the progress of the adjudication process.

Before the notification of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) was issued for West Bengal in November last year, the total number of voters in the state stood at 7,66,37,529.

In the draft voters' list published in December last year, a total of 58,20,899 names were deleted.



Christians hold palm branches as they offer prayers on the occasion of Palm Sunday at Emmanuel Baptist Church, in Sitaramdera on March 29.

Dharmendra Pradhan visits Nandigram, predicts BJP lotus bloom again in Suvendu Adhikari's stronghold

New Delhi, March 29 (IANS) Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan visited Nandigram in West Bengal on Sunday and interacted with dedicated Bharatiya Janata Party workers in the constituency represented by senior BJP leader and Leader of Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari.

During his interaction, Pradhan described Nandigram not just as an Assembly constituency but as a powerful symbol of the spirit of change in the state. He expressed strong confidence that the local people continue to repose unwavering faith in the Bharatiya Janata Party and the leadership of Suvendu Adhikari.



The Union Minister praised the zeal, discipline and dedication shown by the party workers and said their energy clearly signals that the lotus will bloom once again in Nandigram in the upcoming elections.

"Today, in West Bengal, I had the opportunity to interact with dedicated party workers in Nandigram-the constituency of the BJP's senior leader and Leader of the Opposition in the House, Suvendu Adhikari. Nandigram is not merely a constituency; it stands as a symbol of the spirit of change. The unwavering faith of the local populace stands firmly behind the Bharatiya Janata Party and the leadership of Shri Suvendu Adhikari. The zeal, discipline, and dedication of the party workers send a clear signal: this time, too, the 'Lotus' is destined to bloom in Nandigram," he wrote in a post on X.

Nandigram gained prominence during the land acquisition protests more than a decade ago and later became the centre of attention in the 2021 Assembly polls when Suvendu Adhikari, who had switched from Trinamool Congress to BJP, defeated then Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee by a narrow margin. The constituency has since remained a key battleground in West Bengal politics.

Kharge pitches five guarantees, slams BJP in Assam rally

Guwahati, March 29 (IANS) Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday led a high-voltage campaign in Assam's Naoboicha Assembly constituency, unveiling a five-point "guarantee" plank while mounting a sharp attack on the BJP-led government in the state and at the Centre.

Kharge was joined by former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, senior Jharkhand leader Bandhu Tirkey, APCC president Gaurav Gogoi, and other leaders to campaign for Congress candidate Dr Joy Prakash Das.

Unveiling the key promises if Congress comes to power in the state, Kharge announced that women would receive Rs 9,000 per month along with Rs 50,000 as financial assistance to start businesses. He further promised an insurance cover of Rs 25 lakh per family, land pattas to 10 lakh indigenous "bhumiputras", and a monthly assistance of Rs 1,250 per family.



The Congress chief also said that "justice" would be delivered in the Zubeen Garg case within 100 days if voted to power.

Targeting the BJP, Kharge alleged that the ruling party has "failed to protect the rights of indigenous people" and accused it of prioritising corporate interests over public welfare.

Echoing similar sentiments, Baghel, Tirkey, and Gogoi accused the BJP of neglecting Assam's rural economy, rising unemployment, and land issues.

Bandhu Tirkey, a prominent tribal leader from Jharkhand and former state minister, is known for his grassroots mobilisation among Adivasi communities. His presence in Assam is seen as part of the Congress's attempt to consolidate tribal and marginalised voter bases across regions.

Naoboicha Assembly constituency, located in Assam's Lakhimpur district, is a politically significant seat under the Lakhimpur Lok Sabha constituency. Known for its dynamic electoral patterns, the constituency has emerged as a closely watched battleground in Upper Assam.

Milestone for first India-born cheetah 'Mukhi'

Bhopal, March 29 (IANS) Mukhi, India's first cheetah born in the wild under the ambitious 'Project Cheetah', has turned three-years-old on Sunday, officials said.

This milestone has been celebrated as a significant achievement for wildlife conservation in Madhya Pradesh and for the national effort to bring back the extinct species.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav shared the joyful news on social media by posting beautiful photos of 'Mukhi', describing the moment as one of immense pride for the state and the country.

Chief Minister Yadav highlighted that Mukhi's third birthday on his official X account and said the right direction of the conservation programme and brings international recognition to Madhya Pradesh's efforts.

Forest officials continue to monitor the cheetahs closely while ensuring habitat protection and community support.

This milestone strengthens hopes that cheetahs will once again roam freely across suitable landscapes in India, restoring a vital part of the country's natural heritage.

Mukhi was born on March 29, 2023, to a Namibian cheetah named Jwala at the Kuno National Park.

She is the first cheetah cub to be born on Indian soil after the species disappeared from the country more than seven decades ago. From a vulnerable cub that was initially abandoned by her mother to a healthy adult, who has herself given birth to five cubs in November 2025, Mukhi's journey symbolises the growing success of Project Cheetah.

Her successful rearing and reproduction have infused new confidence into the reintroduction programme.

The Kuno National Park, spread across Sheopur and Morena districts in Madhya Pradesh, lies along the banks of the Kunoriver.

The Kuno National Park was notified as a national park in 2018 and covers a total area of nearly 748 square km, including the original core zone of about 344 square km.

Pentagon prepares for weeks of ground operations in Iran: US media

New York, March 29 (IANS) The Pentagon is preparing for weeks of ground operations in Iran, as thousands of US soldiers and Marines arrive in the Middle East for what could become a dangerous new phase of the war should US President Donald Trump choose to escalate, The Washington Post reported.

Any potential ground operation would fall short of a full-scale invasion and could instead involve raids by a mixture of Special Operations forces and conventional infantry troops, the newspaper quoted officials as saying on the condition of anonymity.



Such a mission could expose US personnel to an array of threats, including Iranian drones and missiles, ground fire and improvised explosives, the report noted, adding the Trump administration in recent days has vacillated between declaring that the war is winding down and threatening to amplify it. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio insisted on Friday the United States "can achieve all of our objectives without ground troops," but the Post said planning is advanced, with one official saying: "This is not last-minute planning."

Meanwhile, The US Central Command (CENTCOM) announced that a task force of 3,500 marines and sailors arrived in the Middle East.

"US Sailors and Marines aboard USS Tripoli (LHA 7) arrived in the US Central Command area of responsibility, March 27," CENTCOM said in a brief post on social media platform X on Saturday, Xinhua news agency reported.

The America-class amphibious assault ship serves as the flagship for the Tripoli Amphibious Ready Group / 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit composed of about 3,500 sailors and marines in addition to transport and strike fighter aircraft, as well as amphibious assault and tactical assets, CENTCOM said in the post.

Iran's IRGC claims downing of US F-16, MQ-9 drone in southern airspace

Tehran, March 29 (IANS) Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) claimed its air defence has struck a US F-16 Fighting Falcon and an MQ-9 Reaper drone in the country's southern airspace.

Making the announcement in a statement on its official news outlet Sepah News, the IRGC said the US fighter jet and drone were hit during joint retaliatory missile and drone operations by its Navy and Aerospace Division against heavy industries belonging to the United States and Israel, Xinhua news agency reported.

It added that the US Central Command (CENTCOM) has also confessed that its F-16 Fighting Falcon was targeted.

In a post on social media platform X, CENTCOM said, "A US Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon lands at a base in the Middle East after a combat flight in support of Operation Epic Fury."

Additionally, IRGC said on Saturday that it destroyed a Ukrainian anti-drone equipment depot in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, used to assist US forces.



Ebrahim Zolfaghari, spokesman for Iran's main military command Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, said that a warehouse in Dubai containing Ukrainian anti-drone systems and housing 21 Ukrainians had been targeted and destroyed in a joint operation by the IRGC's Air Force and Navy.

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry spokesman HeorhiyTykhyi denied the information as "a lie," the Interfax-Ukraine news agency reported on Saturday.

Iran accuses US, Israel of targeting universities, warns of retaliation

Tehran, March 29 (IANS) Iran on Sunday accused the United States and Israel of deliberately targeting its academic institutions, alleging that strikes on universities such as Isfahan University of Technology and Tehran University of Science and Technology were part of a broader attempt to weaken the country's scientific and cultural foundations.

Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson EsmaeilBaqaei rejected claims that the attacks were linked to nuclear concerns, describing them instead as a cover for wider aggression.

In a post on X, Baqaei said, "Isfahan University of Technology and the University of Science and Technology in Tehran are just two among many universities and research centres deliberately attacked by the aggressors during the past 30 days of their illegal war on the Iranian nation."

He further alleged a systematic campaign against Iran's intellectual and cultural infrastructure.

"In fact, the American-Israeli aggression against Iran continues to reveal its true objective: to cripple our country's scientific foundation and cultural heritage by systematically targeting universities, research centres, historical monuments, and prominent scientists. Countering Iran's 'nuclear program' and 'imminent threat' were nothing but vicious pretexts -- mere fabrications designed to conceal their real intention," he added.

Following these allegations, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) issued a strong warning, stating that universities linked to the United States and Israel in the West Asian region could be considered legitimate targets in retaliation for the alleged strikes on Iranian institutions.

In a statement broadcast by the state-run Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) on Telegram, the IRGC condemned recent incidents, including what it described as a bombardment of the University of Science and Technology in Tehran.

Israeli military says strikes on vital components of Iran's military industry to be completed within days

Jerusalem, March 29 (IANS) Israel Defense Forces Spokesperson Effie Defrin said in a live broadcast update that within a few days, the Israeli military will complete the strikes on all vital components of Iran's military industry.

"This means that we will destroy most of Iran's military production capabilities, and it will take the Iranian regime a long time to restore them," Defrin added.

"We continue to act according to a plan, with a systematic and extensive attack that is prepared in advance and constantly adapted to the situation," he noted. "We have an opportunity to fundamentally change the situation."

Regarding the missile launched from Yemen at Israel on Saturday morning, the first since the start of the US-Israel attack on Iran, Defrin



said that Israel was prepared for a multi-front war, including the Houthis and warned that "anyone who tries to harm Israeli citizens will pay a price for it," Xinhua news agency reported.

Regarding the Lebanese front, Defrin noted that the Israeli army has so far killed more than 850 Hezbollah militants and that it is deepening control in southern Lebanon to prevent direct fire on northern Israeli settlements.

Meanwhile, earlier on Friday, a man around 60 years old was killed in the central Israeli city of Tel Aviv by a missile launched from Iran, Israel's national emergency service Magen David Adom (MDA) and the Israel Police said.

According to the police, the incident involved a dispersing cluster munition missile that struck several locations in the Tel Aviv metropolitan area on Friday night (local time).

It added that the fatality, a construction worker, was hit by shrapnel from a cluster munition released by the missile and exploded near him.

Sri Lankan President Dissanayake expresses gratitude to India for swift fuel support



Colombo, March 29 (IANS) Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Sunday expressed gratitude to India for swift support after 38,000 metric tons of fuel shipped by New Delhi reached Colombo.

President Dissanayake noted that India's swift response came after he had spoken about Sri Lanka facing fuel disruption with Prime Minister NarendraModi during a phone call a few days back.

"Spoke with PM NarendraModi a few days ago about the fuel supply disruptions Sri Lanka is facing due to the Middle East conflict. Grateful for India's swift support. 38,000 MT of fuel arrived in Colombo yesterday. My thanks also to EAM S Jaishankar for his close coordination," Dissanayake posted on X.

On March 24, President Dissanayake and PM Modi held a telephonic conversation and discussed the evolving situation in West Asia, with particular focus on disruptions impacting global energy security. The two leaders reviewed progress on key initiatives aimed at strengthening energy cooperation between the two nations and enhancing regional security.

India, Malta agree to deepen cooperation in ICT, healthcare and renewable energy

Valetta, March 29 (IANS) India and Malta held fourth round of Foreign Office Consultations in Valletta and reviewed bilateral ties. The two nations agreed to take forward cooperation in sectors like Information and Communications Technology, healthcare, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals and education.

During the meeting, India and Malta discussed ways to deepen economic and commercial relations, particularly in the light of the recently concluded India-European Union (EU) Free Trade Agreement (FTA), according to the statement released by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Sunday. The officials of two nations spoke about regional and global issues of mutual interest and agreed to continue their cooperation in the multilateral domain.

In a statement, MEA stated, "In the consultations, both sides reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction at the steady progress in India-Malta ties, marked by the milestone of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2025."

"They welcomed the recent upswing in the bilateral engagements marked by high-level visits. The discussions focused on areas of cooperation such as trade and investments, tourism, technology and innovation, maritime sector and cooperation in educational and cultural fields," it added. Secretary (West), MEA, Sibi George and Christopher Cutajar, Permanent Secretary, Malta's Ministry of Foreign Affairs co-chaired the meeting held on Friday.

During the visit, Sibi George called on Malta's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ian Borg and discussed ways to strengthen the ongoing cooperation between two nations while also broadening the scope of bilateral engagement.

George and Brigadier Clinton J O' Neill, Commander of the Armed Forces of Malta also held a meeting and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral defence and security cooperation.

'No kings' protests sweep US against Trump policies

Washington, March 29 (IANS) Mass protests swept across the United States, as hundreds of thousands gathered in cities nationwide under the banner of "No Kings," targeting President Donald Trump's immigration and foreign policy.

Organisers said the demonstrations were part of a coordinated national mobilisation, with more than 3,000 events planned across the country. The flagship rally at the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul drew one of the largest crowds, with estimates of over 200,000 participants.

Protesters marched, chanted slogans and held signs criticising the Trump administration, particularly its immigration enforcement actions and involvement in the Iran conflict. In several cities, demonstrators lined major streets, while others gathered in public squares, waving placards and chanting in unison.



In St. Paul, Minnesota, the rally served as the central event of the day. It featured political leaders and prominent cultural figures. Gov. Tim Walz addressed the crowd and introduced musician Bruce Springsteen, who performed "Streets of Minneapolis."

Other well-known personalities, including Sen. Bernie Sanders, Joan Baez, Maggie Rogers, and Jane Fonda, also appeared at the event, reflecting the intersection of political activism and cultural expression at the protests.

Thousands of protestors participated in cities including New York, Washington, Los Angeles, Chicago, and San Francisco. Protesters gathered in large numbers, marched through downtown areas, and organised rallies outside government buildings.

Participants expressed a wide range of grievances, including opposition to immigration enforcement, economic concerns, and broader criticism of the administration's policies.

In Los Angeles, hundreds marched through city streets following a gathering outside City Hall, where protesters.

In Houston, demonstrators carried a giant replica of the US Constitution through downtown, symbolising what organisers described as a defence of democratic values.

Some demonstrations included performances, speeches and symbolic acts such as carrying replicas of the US Constitution.

In a separate statement, Representative John Larson said, "Today, we are here to say THERE ARE NO KINGS IN AMERICA," warning of what he described as a "dangerous misuse of power" and adding, "If we the people remain united and continue to speak up, we will not be defeated."

"In America, we do not bow to kings," said Senator Kristin Gillibrand.

"Our president should be focused on bringing down grocery prices, making health care affordable, and ensuring every family can get ahead, not using their position to boost their own personal brand. It is time that we institute this ban and make sure that our government serves the people, not one person's ego," she said.

"Today, in 2026, our message is.....No more kings. We will not allow this country to descend into authoritarianism or oligarchy. In America, We the People will rule," Senator Bernie Sanders said.

"But let's be clear: This moment is not just about one man's greed, one man's corruption or one man's contempt for our Constitution.

Pakistan-Afghanistan peace jirga to meet in Peshawar next week

Islamabad, March 29 (IANS) Former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief secretary Arbab Shehzad Khan said that Pakistan-Afghanistan peace jirga will be held in Peshawar on March 31 to urge leadership of two nations to ease tensions and work towards peace, local media reported on Sunday.

While addressing a press conference at Peshawar Press Club, Khan, who is head of Aspire Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which, along with QaumiIslahiTehreek, is organising the jirga, said the national and political leaders, tribal elders, religious scholars, members of civil society, traders and media representatives from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Afghans residing in Pakistan will participate in the meeting, Pakistan's leading daily Dawn reported.

Arbab Shehzad Khan emphasised that war was not a solution to any problem and issues must be resolved through talks. He further said that forum would focus on promoting sustainable peace through mutual respect, confidence-building measures and negotiations. He said that forum will urge leadership of Afghanistan and Pakistan to de-escalate tensions.

He said that jirga was aimed to set up a joint course of action to foster peace, stability, life, and talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan. After the conclusion of jirga, a joint declaration in favour of peace will beissued and sent to governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Nepal's ex-Energy Minister Deepak Khadka arrested over money laundering charges

Kathmandu, March 29 (IANS) Police on Sunday arrested Nepali Congress leader and former Minister for Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation Deepak Khadka, in a money laundering case, a senior police officer said.

A day after former Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and former Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak were arrested in homicide-related cases linked to the suppression of the Gen Z movement in September last year, Khadka is the third person from the Oli-led government's cabinet to be arrested.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shiva Kumar Shrestha, spokesperson for the Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) of Nepal Police, told IANS that Khadka was arrested early Sunday morning from his apartment in the Maharajgunj area of Kathmandu.

"He was taken into custody for investigation after a large amount of cash was discovered when his house was set on fire during the Gen Z movement in September last year," said SSP Shrestha. Protesters were seen throwing bundles of cash into the air in widely circulated videos and images of the uprising.

Images and videos had also surfaced showing burnt fragments of banknotes at the residences of former Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba.

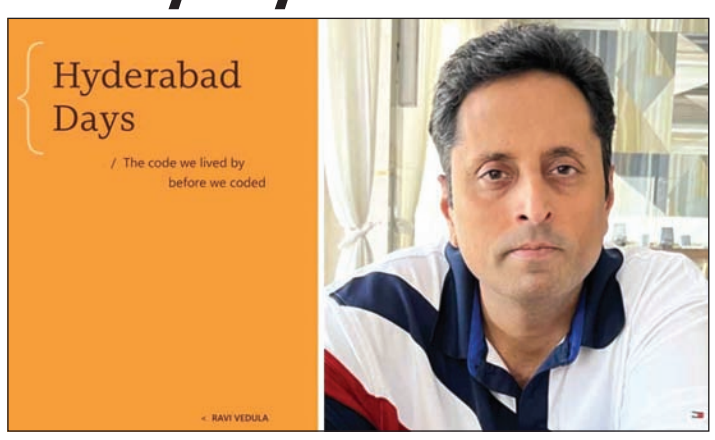
Book 'Hyderabad Days' by Microsoft executive traces roots of leadership

Washington, March 29 (IANS) An Indian American senior executive at Microsoft has turned to memory and meaning in a new memoir that argues leadership is shaped long before one writes a line of code.

Ravi Vedula, Corporate Vice President at Microsoft, said his book 'Hyderabad Days' draws from "recollections and vignettes of life in the 80s and 90s", adding that those years remain "very formative" and continue to guide his thinking in engineering and leadership.

"Those childhood memories are things I use till today," Vedula said in an interview with IANS, describing them as "the value system and the operating principles of how I think about leadership now and in engineering."

The book, releasing March 31, centres on growing up in a Hyderabad colony and frames



those experiences as a "proxy for all neighbourhoods where anyone grew up," he said, stressing that "this is not just my story, it's yours too."

Vedula said each chapter ends with a reflective "postscript" linking childhood incidents to present-day lessons. Simple episodes -- pooling money to buy a cricket ball or resolving disputes in gully cricket -- become "a story of teamwork… doing more with less… finding community with each other."

He said the structure allowed him to move beyond "slice of life vignettes" and connect them to a broader leadership frame rooted in storytelling rather than formal frameworks.

A recurring theme is community. "I felt like I was raised by everybody in the neighbourhood," he said, recalling a chapter titled "everybody's child."

He also points to "resourcefulness" -- often described in India as jugaad -- and teamwork as defining traits. Family influences, especially his mother's quiet sacrifices, form another strand. "It was service. It was leadership," he said.

Vedula, who moved to the United States in 1993 for higher studies and joined Microsoft in 2000, said the book deliberately focuses on what he calls the "pre-immigrant story".

"No one ever tells the pre-immigrant story," he said, adding that his life has been shaped by "India, America, and India, where America gave me wings, India gave me grounding and roots."

Reflecting on the rise of Indian professionals in the US technology sector, he said those early influences may play a role. "We tend to be resourceful… we tend to work within constraints… I have to believe that all of that is part of it," he said.

On artificial intelligence, Vedula argued that technological shifts only reinforce the importance of human values. "Our humanity, our ethics, our values… are going to be core ingredients for us to be able to shape AI for the future," he said.

He added that while AI may take over routine work, "there is a part of your job that has been shaped by your judgment, your values," which will remain central.

Vedula said the memoir is not about nostalgia alone but about "what we cannot afford to lose as we shape the future."

The book's proceeds, he said, will go towards funding heart surgeries for children in India.

This 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge' actor has caught Internet's fancy over his long innings



Mumbai, March 29 (IANS) The 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge' craze is refusing to die down. Social media users are now digging into the finer details of the film.

Internet users took to X, formerly Twitter, and went behind the identity of the character of Shirani, the leader of the Balochistan United Force. One user shared his identity saying that the actor has been active in the industry for over 30 years.

The user wrote, "#TIL The Balooch chief Shirani is this guy. Hojayegi balleballe, Daler Mehendi #Dhurandhar Bima lOberoi".

Other users pointed to the details, as one said, "Espionage is being done on the espionage movie, what a scene it is. I mean how old is that song from Daler Mahendi ?Definitely late 90s if not early 2000s".

'Dhurandhar: The Revenge', directed by Aditya Dhar and headlined by Ranveer Singh, has emerged as one of the biggest box-office juggernauts in recent Indian cinema. The response has been overwhelmingly strong across markets. The film registered high occupancy rates, multiple sold-out shows, and strong traction in dubbed versions, indicating pan-India appeal.

Industry figures like Ayushmann Khurrana and Anupam Kher praised its scale and performances, while critics highlighted its spectacle-driven storytelling. Ram GopalVarma called its success a disruption to traditional filmmaking norms.

Culturally, the 'Dhurandhar' franchise has evolved into a mass phenomenon. Its blend of hyper-stylized action, nationalism, and star power has resonated strongly with audiences, reflecting current cinematic trends. Viral moments, music, and even off-screen incidents have amplified its reach, turning it into more than just a film, a conversation driver.

The sequel solidifies the franchise as a defining force in modern Bollywood spectacle cinema. However, the film has also riled up one section of the audience with many claiming it to be pro-establishment propaganda.

'Saiyaara' star Aneet Padda's sister deletes Instagram after receiving backlash for calling 'Dhurandhar 2', a propaganda



Mumbai, March 29 (IANS) Actress Aneet Padda'ssister Reet Padda is currently receiving an intense backlash for calling the recently released film 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge', a propaganda.

In her social media posts, Reet said the Ranveer Singh-starrer film and the Anupam Kher starrer 'The Kashmir Files' are 'propaganda' films. She wrote, "For 'Dhurandhar', it literally serves as a government-friendly narrative, using political speeches to justify, say, the minor hiccup of demonetisation. Call it propaganda? Yep. Deny it? Not a chance. But maybe your definition of propaganda is...different, who knows".

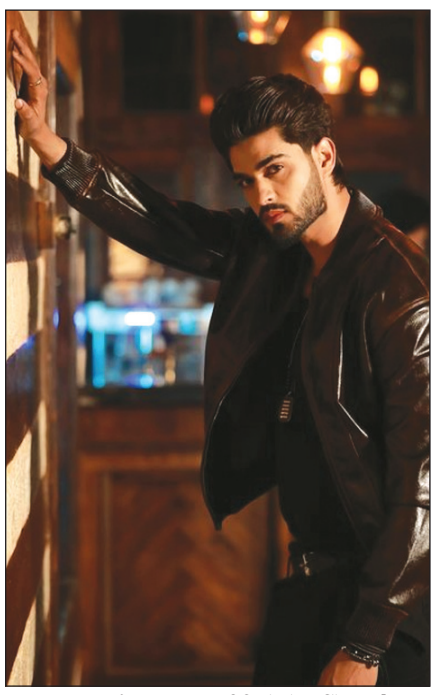
Amid growing criticism, Reet has deleted her Instagram handle. In addition, Reet has also deleted her LinkedIn.

She had also said that films like these push a certain narrative in the public discourse. She further mentioned, "The films apparently enjoy a bit of creative math, '32,000 women converted to Islam!' when real cases barely scrape a few hundred. But hey, that's how propaganda works, right? Take a sliver of truth, sprinkle in some absurdly inflated numbers, and suddenly you've got a full blown narrative against a community. I never said the problems didn't exist, but these films clearly push a certain narrative and deviation is apparently optional. I'd love to hear about the 'real' ground reality from someone in the know...if only you weren't hiding behind a faceless, anonymous account".

'Dhurandhar: The Revenge', directed by Aditya Dhar and headlined by Ranveer Singh, has emerged as one of the biggest box-office juggernauts in recent Indian cinema. The response has been overwhelmingly strong across markets. The film registered high occupancy rates, multiple sold-out shows, and strong traction in dubbed versions, indicating pan-India appeal. Industry figures like AyushmannKhurrana and Anupam Kher praised its scale and performances, while critics highlighted its spectacle-driven storytelling. Ram GopalVarma called its success a disruption to traditional filmmaking norms.

Culturally, the 'Dhurandhar' franchise has evolved into a mass phenomenon. Its blend of hyper-stylized action, nationalism, and star power has resonated strongly with audiences, reflecting current cinematic trends. Viral moments, music, and even off-screen incidents have amplified its reach, turning it into more than just a film, a conversation driver. The sequel solidifies the franchise as a defining force in modern Bollywood spectacle cinema. However, the film has also riled up one section of the audience with many claiming it to be pro-establishment propaganda.

Arbaaz Patel reveals if his game would have been different had he entered 'The 50' solo



Mumbai, March 29 (IANS) Arbaaz Patel, who was seen with Nikki Tamboli in the reality show "The 50", talked about whether his game would have been different if he had entered the show solo.

During an exclusive interaction with IANS, Arbaaz explained that when one is playing solo, he does not have any fear. However, when one is with a partner, they have to look out for each other.

He was questioned, "You entered the show with Nikki Tamboli, which created instant buzz. Was this planned or an organic bond?"

Arbaaz replied to this saying, "We were called as a couple. We attended meetings together, and our entry was planned that way. People liked seeing us together, so we entered together".

When asked, "Many contestants saw you as an alliance from the beginning. Did that perception affect your game?" Arbaaz pointed out that the game itself was based on alliances.

"Once we entered, we realized that. But both of us have strong personalities. She puts forward her points, and I put forward mine. There are differences at times, but that's natural in any game", he explained.

Arbaaz also shared whether he believes having a partner was ever a disadvantage.

He said, "I will never call it a disadvantage. For me, it is always an advantage."

"We make each other stronger. If I get stuck somewhere, she helps me, and if she gets stuck, I help her. That's why people call us a strong couple," added Arbaaz.

He was also asked, "If you had entered solo, do you think your game would have been different?"

To this, Arbaaz replied, "Yes, it would have been different. When you enter solo, you play without any fear. But when you have a partner, you also have to look out for each other. She saves me, and I try to save her. So the approach changes, but the core of the game remains the same."

Kareena Kapoor's March is all about snow & snacks



Mumbai, March 29 (IANS) Actress Kareena Kapoor took to social media to share a glimpse of her March diaries with the netizens.

Her vacation jump featuring husband Saif Ali Khan, and sons Taimur and Jeh is all about snow, snacks, love, and selfies. As the first photo in the post, Bebo uploaded a stylish selfie with pouted lips, followed by a picture of the 'Omkara' actress posing amidst the snow with Ski Poles in her hands.

We could also see Saif relaxing on the family getaway in the middle of a beautiful landscape with snow-clad mountains in the backdrop.

In another snap, Kareena was seen enjoying the snow with her little munchkin.

The 'Jab We Met' actress also published a mirror selfie during what seemed to be a shopping spree.

From another stylish click of Saif, to more selfies of Bebo, to a glimpse of what all they relished during their holiday, Kareena's latest Insta post has it all.

Dropping the photographs on her IG, she wrote, "Started with snow, ended with snacks (rainbow emoji) that's been March (Women tipping hand emoji) (sic)."

Coming to Kareena's professional commitments, she is gearing up for the release of her next with Meghna Gulzar's "Daayra".

Bebo has been paired opposite Southern heartthrob PrithvirajSukumaran in her next. The project marks the primary on-screen pairing of the two. The investigative crime thriller reflects on how a single diabolical act can trigger equal and opposite reactions. The shoot for "Daayra" has already been completed.

Announcing the conclusion of the shoot on social media, Kareena shared a post that read, "#Daayra! It's a wrap! Months of hard work, creativity, and collaboration have come together to bring this story to life. Immense gratitude to the cast, crew, and everyone who made this journey possible. Onward to the next chapter! In Cinemas 2026."

Aparshakti Khurana recalls the most memorable time from the 'Tere Piche' shoot

Mumbai, March 29 (IANS) Continuing his musical journey, Aparshakti Khurana released his latest single "TerePiche", which also features Mahima Makwana.

Talking about the track, Aparshakti said, "Tere Piche is a soulful love track that makes you feel the homely comfort of love, and the vulnerability of it. It is one of my dearest creations so far with Sakshi Ratti and Mir Desai! Tere Piche is a sweet mix of poetry and soothing music, a track with which you'd like you wind down the day with your loved one!." Recalling the most memorable time from the journey of "TerePiche", he shared, "The most memorable time during the two-day shoot in Goa was finishing the shoot and having dinner at Chef Kunal Kapur's restaurant, Pincode Bungalow. We had the best meal there. I think after a day full of hard work, when you go to have a good meal, it really makes you very satisfied as an artist or an individual."

When asked about his inspiration behind donning so many hats, Aparshakti named the legend Kishore Kumar. "The kind of space that I'm in, including singing, hosting, acting, and trying to multitask as much as possible, I think it's apt to take Kishore Kumar sahab's



name. He's been a true legend, and I also try to do all of it together in one day and make the best out of my creative abilities," he revealed. Sharing the thought behind the song, Aparshakti added, "Each and ever song that I do, the thought is always to have good lyrics, a good story, a good writing piece which also carries a sense of innocence, simplicity, and organic writing attached to it. That's something that I love to do with my music, and Tere Piche is no different."

The lyrics of "TerePiche" have been penned by Sakshi Ratti and Aparshakti Khurana. The EP also includes the songs "Gulaabi Asmaan" and "Aakhri Vaar".

Shah Rukh Khan and Ranveer Singh come together for an 'epic night'



Mumbai, March 29 (IANS) Bollywood heartthrob Shah Rukh Khan was seen attending BJP leader Mohit Kamboj's daughter Mishka Kamboj's birthday party alongside some other prominent names from the film industry, such as Ranveer Singh, Sanjay Dutt, PreityZinta and Shilpa Shetty, among others.

Sanjay's better half, Maanayata Dutt, took to the Stories section of her official Instagram handle and uploaded a photo from the star-studded birthday bash.

Posting the still on social media, Maanayata wrote, "Could the night be any more epic? (sic)"

In one of the glimpses from the fun night, which has gone viral on social media, Ranveer was seen singing the title track from his film "Dhurandhar". His co-star, Sanjay Dutt, also later joined him on the stage.

Shifting our focus to Shah Rukh Khan, after "Jawan", he is presently busy with Siddharth Anand's highly awaited "King".

The drama will also see SRK sharing screen space with his daughter Suhana Khan for the first time. The project will reportedly further feature Abhishek Bachchan, Anil Kapoor, Jackie Shroff, Arshad Warsi, Rani Mukerji, Jaideep Ahlawat, Raghav Juyal and Abhay Verma in crucial roles, along with others.

In January, the makers shared the release date for "King" with a social media post that read, "#KING is Ready to ROAR on 24.12.2026 in Cinemas. #ItsKingTime #KingDate Announcement."

The announcement clip opened with the bold title 'ROAR' set against a dramatic backdrop. Next came the line, "This Christmas, fear wears the crown," hinting that the project enjoys a massive scale.

Before that, commemorating Shah Rukh's 60th birthday in November last year, the makers unveiled the gripping title video from "King".

The clip had Shah Rukh Khan getting ready to rule the screen yet again as a ruthless mercenary who has a hard time even remembering how many people he has killed so

"100 desho'nmeinbadnaam, duniya ne diyasirfek hi naam", 'KING'," SRK is heard saying.

Priyanka Chopra spends quality time with daughter amidst demanding schedule in her March photo dump

Mumbai, March 29 (IANS) Actress Priyanka Chopra, who was recently seen in the 'Heads of State', has shared her photo dump from March.

On Sunday, the actress took to her Instagram, and shared an array of pictures in which she could be seen spending some quality time with her daughter Malti Marie Chopra Jonas.

One picture also shows her ID card as a presenter for the recently concluded 9th edition of the Academy Awards.

She wrote in the caption, "Random march".

The actress has had quite an eventful March as she travelled extensively across the globe for work while also balancing her personal life with professional.

Earlier, the actress went on "another adventure" in Amritsar, Punjab, as she took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a picture of a digital map while she was on board a flight. The map showed the aircraft, which took off from New Delhi, landing in Amritsar.

"Chalo! Another adventure", she wrote as the caption, without divulging any details of what the "adventure" is about.

Meanwhile, on the professional front, the actress



is gearing up for her much-awaited return to Indian cinema with the upcoming film, Varanasi, directed by S.S. Rajamouli and starring Mahesh Babu and Prithviraj Sukumaran. The big-budget project, which is expected to be released in 2027.

Prior to this, Priyanka had shared a glimpse of her romance-filled time with husband Nick Jonas as the couple enjoyed some time together away from their busy schedules. In a video shared by Priyanka, the actress was seen chilling and travelling with Nick as he drove their car on a sunny day. In the video clip, Priyanka appeared relaxed and stylish in a white zip-up outfit paired with smart sunglasses and a straw hat. Nick could be seen driving a vintage-style car, wearing a navy-blue T-shirt.

Priyanka, who was recently seen in the movie The Bluff, and her husband first met at the 2017 at an afterparty of an event and soon struck up a close friendship that blossomed into romance.

After dating for a few months, the couple married in December 2018 in a grand ceremony at UmaidBhawan Palace in Udaipur. Their wedding blended Christian and Hindu traditions, celebrating both cultures.

HEALTH

Abdominal fat bigger risk than overall obesity in India: Dr Jitendra Singh



New Delhi, March 29 (IANS) Abdominal or central obesity poses a greater health risk than overall obesity, especially in the Indian context, where even lean-looking individuals may carry harmful visceral fat, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said on Sunday.

Speaking at the release of a cardiology textbook titled "Advances in Obesity and Lipid Management in CVD", the minister highlighted that fat accumulation around the abdomen can significantly increase the risk of serious health conditions, even among those who do not appear overweight.

"Central obesity is an independent risk factor and can lead to a wide range of metabolic disorders, including diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, fatty liver and lipid imbalances," he explained.

"The problem is particularly relevant for Indians due to a distinct body type, where fat tends to accumulate around the abdomen despite a relatively lean appearance," he noted. Dr. Singh said that while overall obesity levels are rising among both men and women, abdominal obesity remains disproportionately high and is a key driver of cardiometabolic risk.

He stressed the need for early detection and targeted interventions to address this hidden health threat.

Referring to changing lifestyles, he pointed out that poor dietary habits, reduced physical activity and imbalance in daily routines are contributing to a rise in metabolic disorders, including type-2 diabetes and early heart-related complications among younger people.

The minister also cautioned against extreme or unscientific fitness practices, noting that excessive physical exertion without proper preparation or rest can also harm health.

He underlined the importance of balanced living, adequate sleep and scientifically guided preventive care.

The book, edited by noted cardiologist H.K. Chopra, brings together contributions from over 300 experts from India and abroad.

It focuses on advanced approaches to managing obesity and lipid disorders, including new therapies and the use of digital tools and artificial intelligence in healthcare.Dr. Singh said the publication is timely as India faces a growing burden of obesity and related diseases.

He also referred to calls by Narendra Modi for greater public awareness and healthier lifestyle choices, including reducing unhealthy food consumption.

Deep down, he knows what the right answers are: Hussey on Dhoni's unmatched cricketing instinct

New Delhi, March 29 (IANS) Chennai Super Kings batting coach Michael Hussey, who once shared the dressing room with MS Dhoni and now works alongside him, believes that the veteran wicketkeeper-batter's greatest strength lies not in experience alone, but in his refusal to stand still.

At 44 and deep into a legendary T20 career, Dhoni continues to defy the passage of time not just with his presence, but with an unrelenting desire to evolve, a trait that still shapes the culture of CSK. Even after years of success and a return from a competitive break, Dhoni remains deeply invested in fine-tuning his game, engaging in detailed conversations, exploring subtle technical adjustments, and constantly searching for marginal gains. It is this rare blend of instinct and curiosity, Hussey revealed, that continues to set Dhoni apart in a league increasingly dominated by youth and power-hitting.

"He knows his game so well. So we don't have to have a lot of conversations. But one thing I've really admired about MS over the years, and probably talks to his longevity, is that he's always looking to improve or just sort of improve his game a little bit all the time. And the conversations we've been having are just around little adjustments. "Whether it's a little bit of a foot movement here or a little bit of a swing change here. But he has a great feel for the game. So it's more just him bouncing different ideas off. But I think deep down he knows what the right answers are most of the time anyway. So he's awesome to work with, and what a legendary player he's been for such a long time," Hussey said in a video shared by the franchise.



Hussey, who has seamlessly transitioned from a decorated player to a key member of CSK's coaching setup, spoke enthusiastically about his current role, particularly the opportunity to shape emerging talent.

"I absolutely love it. It's a fantastic experience to be able to work with different players from all around the world, whether they're West Indians, Kiwis, South Africans, and of course, lots of Indians as well. I'm particularly enjoying this year, because we've got a few younger players, new to the team, not that experienced yet, so to be able to sit with them, talk to them about how they see the game, work with their game, not just for this season, but hopefully for the rest of their careers, is really exciting," Hussey said.

This season marks a subtle shift in CSK's traditional template, from a core of seasoned campaigners to a more dynamic mix featuring youth and explosiveness.

Hussey highlighted the refreshing attitude of younger players like Karthik Sharma and AyushMathre, noting their ability to embrace the IPL stage without intimidation.

"I'm just loving their fearless attitude towards the game. You know, they're not daunted by the bright lights of the IPL, the big crowds, you know, who they're playing against, you know, some of these world-class bowlers from around the world. You know, they're excited for the opportunity to get out there," Hussey stated.

At the same time, he acknowledged the practical challenges of integrating a diverse group. "Sometimes the language barrier is challenging, and so we need to speak very slowly, or sometimes need to get someone to come in and interpret our conversations to make sure they're fully understanding each other," he added. What excites Hussey most, however, is the balance within the squad, pairing youth with experience across the batting order. "I'm really looking forward. What I'm excited about with this batting order that we've got is we have got a nice blend of experience and youth. So, yeah, it's going to be exciting for the future. But also, I feel as though having, you know, experienced players like Rutu and Sanju Samson, Dubey, MSD, of course, some overseas players like Abrevis in there as well, will offer a lot of help as well to these younger players. We can have some experience with a youngster, experience with a youngster all the way down, and I think that'll help their development as players as well," he mentioned.

Sunil Narine surpasses Kieron Pollard to become foreign player with most IPL appearances



Kolkata, March 29 (IANS) KKR star Sunil Narine has added a new record to his name in the IPL as he became the foreigner with the most appearances in the history of the competition. Narine was named in the lineup for the match against Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede stadium on Sunday, March 29, which is his 190th appearance in the IPL and all of them have been for Kolkata.

The West Indian all-rounder went past compatriot Kieron Pollard, who played 189 matches for Mumbai during his IPL career.

Most IPL Matches for a Foreign Player:

190 - Sunil Narine (Kolkata Knight Riders)*

189 - Kieron Pollard (Mumbai Indians)

184 - AB de Villiers (Delhi Capitals, Royal Challengers Bengaluru)

184 - David Warner (Delhi Capitals, Sunrisers Hyderabad)

161 - Dwayne Bravo (Chennai Super Kings, Gujarat Lions, Mumbai Indians)

Kimi Antonelli wins Japanese GP, extends title charge



Tokyo, March 29 (IANS) KimiAntonelli continued his remarkable rise in Formula One, winning the Japanese Grand Prix to secure his second straight victory and move to the top of the 2026 drivers' standings. At just 19, the Mercedes driver became the youngest championship leader in F1 history, taking his tally to 72 points after three races.

Starting from pole position, Antonelli endured a difficult opening lap, dropping down to sixth after being overtaken into Turn 1.

However, the Italian steadily rebuilt his race, climbing back through the field with consistent lap pace and smart tyre management. He eventually took control of the race after a perfectly timed pit stop under the safety car and crossed the finish line 13.7 seconds ahead of Oscar Piastri. Charles Leclerc finished third for Ferrari, while Antonelli's teammate George Russell came home fourth to maintain Mercedes' strong start to the season.

Lando Norris finished fifth, followed by Lewis Hamilton in sixth as Ferrari showed improved competitiveness compared to last season.

The turning point came on lap 22 when Oliver Bearman crashed heavily after running onto the grass while chasing Franco Colapinto, triggering a safety car. With several frontrunners, including Russell, having already pitted, Antonelli was able to stop under the safety car and retain track position, effectively sealing control of the race.

"I was lucky with the safety car but the pace was unbelievable in the end," Antonelli said over team radio after the race, highlighting both the strategic break and his strong closing stint.

Nikhat, Lovlina get byes, Jadumani handed tough bout in first round

New Delhi, March 29 (IANS) India's boxing contingent is set to begin its campaign as the Asian Boxing Elite Boxing Championships 2026 get underway in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on Monday, with the draw confirming key opening bouts and byes across categories. In the women's draw, PreetiPawar will face Elina Bazarova (KAZ) in the 54 kg category, while Priya takes on RimmaVolossenko (KAZ) in the 60 kg. Minakshi will face Japan's Yuka Sadamatsu, while Pooja Rani goes up against Kazakhstan's Nadezhda Ryabets. Meanwhile, Nikhat Zareen, Jaismine Lamboria, Ankushita Boro, Arundhati Choudhary, LovlinaBorgohain, and AlfiyaPatahan advance with byes, according to information received from the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) on Sunday. On the men's side, Vishvanath Suresh opens against BekzatErgeshov (KGZ), while Jadumani Singh faces top seed Rui Yamaguchi (JPN) in a tough 55 kg bout. Sachin will take on BuyandalaiBayarkhuu (MGL), AdityaPratap Singh faces MoudaAlhawsaw (KSA), and Deepak meets KhavasbekAsadullaev (UZB). Ankush and Narender progress with byes, while Akash, Lokesh, and Harsh Choudhary are also set for key bouts in their respective categories. With the matchups confirmed, India will look to make a strong start as the competition begins on Monday.

Key Bouts & Byes:

Women: 48 kg: Minakshivs Yuka Sadamatasu (JPN)
51 kg: Nikhat Zareen - BYE
54 kg: Preeti Pawarvs Elina Bazarova (KAZ)
57 kg: Jaismine - BYE
60 kg: Priyavs Rimma Volossenko (KAZ)
65 kg: Ankushita Boro - BYE
70 kg: Arundhati Choudhary - BYE
75 kg: Lovlina Borgohain - BYE
80 kg: Pooja Rani vs Nadezhda Ryabets (KAZ)
80+ kg: Alfiya Patahan - BYE

Men: 50 kg: Vishvanath Suresh vs Bekzat Ergeshov (KGZ)
55 kg: Jadumani Singh vs Rui Yamaguchi (JPN) (top seed)
60 kg: Sachin vs Buyandalai Bayarkhuu (MGL)
65 kg: Aditya Pratap Singh vs Mouda Alhawsaw (KSA)
70 kg: Deepak vs Khavasbek Asadullaev (UZB)
75 kg: Akashvs Yhlas Bagtyyarov (TKM)
80 kg: Ankush - BYE
85 kg: Lokeshvs Kim Gichae (KOR)
90 kg: Harsh Choudhary vs Tynystan Alybaev (KGZ)
90+ kg: Narender - BYE



J&K's Ranji Trophy win increased the enthusiasm for sports among youth: PM Modi



New Delhi, March 29 (IANS) Prime Minister NarendraModi on Sunday highlighted Jammu and Kashmir's tremendous passion for sports and lauded the historic strides made by J&K in the Ranji Trophy, stating that such success has ignited a powerful wave of sporting energy across the youth in the region. Jammu & Kashmir had scripted history last month by winning the Ranji Trophy 2025-26 final on the basis of a massive first-innings lead against eight-time champions Karnataka, marking their first title after 67 years of participation in India's premier domestic tournament. Addressing the 132nd episode of his monthly radio programme Mann Ki Baat, the Prime Minister said, "This month has been full of excitement and enthusiasm for cricket fans across the country. When India achieved a historic victory in the T20 World Cup, a wave of joy swept across the country. We are all very proud of our team's thumping success. "Late last month, a thrilling match was witnessed in Hubli, Karnataka. By winning this match, the Jammu and Kashmir cricket team secured for themselves the Ranji Trophy. It is most heartening to note that after a long wait of nearly seven decades, the team achieved its first Ranji Trophy title."

He continued, "This unprecedented success is the result of years of continuous efforts by the players. Team captain ParasDogra displayed extraordinary skills. Through his leadership he played a significant role in this victory. The performance of young Kashmiri bowler AaqibNabi, who took 60 wickets in the Ranji Trophy, is being talked about nationwide.

Dewald Brevis to miss CSK's opening game in IPL 2026



Chennai, March 29 (IANS) Dewald Brevis will miss Chennai Super Kings' opening game of IPL 2026 against Rajasthan Royals in Guwahati on March 30 due to a side strain. CSK coach Stephen Fleming confirmed the development on the eve of the match.

"He is rehabbing and hopefully won't be for too long," Fleming said.

Brevis' absence will deplete CSK further. They are already without fast bowler Nathan Ellis, who has been ruled out of the entire season with injury, and MS Dhoni is likely to miss the first two weeks because of a calf strain. They are also waiting for the arrival of fast bowler Spencer Johnson, who is Ellis' replacement. Johnson, who is working his way back from injury himself, is set to link up with CSK around April 21-23.

With just four wins, CSK finished bottom of the table in 2025 and will be looking for a change in fortunes this year.

Brevis had joined CSK as a replacement player in the previous season after an injury to left-arm quick Gurjapneet Singh and emerged as a six-hitter in their middle order. He hit 17 sixes in 125 balls and finished his short stint with 225 runs in six innings at a strike rate of 180. CSK then retained him for IPL 2026, and now in his absence Australia allrounder Matt Short, who joined the side on March 22, could be an option to slot into the middle order.

In the absence of both Dhoni and Brevis, Kartik Sharma and Prashant Veer, who CSK bought for INR 14.2 crore each at the auction in December, could be in line for their IPL debuts. With captainRuturajGaikwad confirming that he will open along with Sanju Samson, Sarfaraz Khan and Urvil Patel are the other options for CSK at No.3 or lower.

Jharkhand duo clears National Arbiter Exam

Mail News Service



Sachin Anand



Deepak Kumar jha

Ranchi, March 29: The results of the Senior National Arbiter Seminar and Examination, held at Sarala Birla University on February 21 and 22, were declared on March 27, bringing good news for Jharkhand's chess community. Sachin Anand and Deepak Kumar Jha from the state successfully cleared the prestigious examination. Sachin Anand secured the top position with an impressive Grade 'A', while Deepak Kumar Jha, a resident of Adityapur, also passed the exam.

With this achievement, both will be awarded the title of "Senior National Arbiter (SNA)" by the Chess Federation of India.

Sachin Anand, a Ranchi resident and final-year law student, has been actively involved in chess as a player, coach, and organiser. He is a former District Chess Championship winner and has contributed to organising national-level tournaments, including Under-19 and Under-09 championships.

Deepak Kumar Jha has also been active in the chess circuit, delivering notable performances in the Seraikela District Chess Championship and various inter-school events. District Chess Association Secretary Ajay Kumar, along with International Arbiter Vishal Minj and FIDE Arbiter Vikram Kumar, congratulated both achievers and wished them success in the future.

BCCI hosts fielding coaches' workshop at CoE



New Delhi, March 29 (IANS) The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said on Sunday that it conducted a comprehensive fielding coaches workshop at its Centre of Excellence (CoE) facility in Bengaluru.

The programme combined in-class sessions and on-field modules, offering participation coaches a holistic view of modern fielding techniques from both technical and tactical aspects.

"Here is a round up from the Fielding Coaches' Workshop conducted at the BCCI CoE. The sessions included in-class and on-field modules. The participants had the opportunity to upskill themselves by hearing from some of the top fielding professionals who delivered the modules," wrote the BCCI on its 'X' account. The BCCI also posted pictures of head of cricket VVS Laxman, current India men's team fielding coach T Dilip, women's side fielding coach Munish Bali and U19 Men's World Cup winning team fielding coach Shubhadeep Ghosh addressing the participants in the workshop.

Earlier this month, former India left-arm pacer Zaheer Khan and off-spinner Harbhajan Singh had conducted specialist camps at the CoE.

The three-day Zaheer-led high-performance camp, held at the start of March, was for fast bowlers who featured at India A and U19 levels and was centeredaround readiness to play red-ball cricket.

Jamshedpur FC U14, U16 crush RKM Academy in style

Mail News Service



Narainpur/Jamshedpur, March 29: Jamshedpur FC's U14 and U16 teams registered convincing wins against RKM Football Academy, cementing their positions at the top of their respective Group G tables.

The U14 team got off to a flying start, with Karan scoring in the 45th minute to lead the Boys of Steel at halftime. The team continued to dominate in the second half, with Karan adding two more goals in the 73rd and 90th minutes to seal a 3-0 victory. In the afternoon fixture, Jamshedpur FC U16 started strong, dominating possession and creating chances but failing to convert in the first half. The breakthrough came in the 60th minute when Prince scored, giving the Boys of Steel the lead. Charan's goal in the 76th minute sealed a 2-0 win for the U16 team.

Both teams are now in strong positions, with the U14 side winning all their matches and establishing themselves as one of the most consistent teams in the competition. Jamshedpur FC U14 is on the brink of securing qualification to the final round, thanks to their strong attacking record and defensive solidity. The U16 team, meanwhile, has already confirmed their place in the final round after an impressive run in the zonal stage. Sitting comfortably at the top of the table, they'll look to carry their perfect record into their final group fixture. Jamshedpur FC's youth setup is enjoying a strong campaign, with both teams showcasing their consistency and progress in the AIFF Youth League. The U14s are looking to build on this momentum to secure qualification, while the U16s aim to finish the zonal round strongly ahead of the next phase.

Prolonged war cripples local food business: Gas crisis triggers panic among traders

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 29: The ripple effects of the international conflict are now hitting the local markets of Jamshedpur with full force. A severe shortage of commercial gas cylinders has pushed the city's hospitality and food industry to the brink, with many traders fearing a total shutdown similar to the lockdown era. As the international conflict drags into its second month, the global energy crisis has finally come home to the Steel City, leaving its vibrant food and hospitality industry fighting for survival.

The shortage of commercial LPG cylinders has become so acute that the city's culinary landscape is regressing. Large hotels and mid-tier restaurants, unable to secure their weekly gas quota, are reverting to traditional-and far less efficient-cooking methods.

"It feels like we've travelled forty years back in time," says Sunit, a hotelier in the bustling Sakchi market. "We are now using wood and coal to keep the stoves hot. It's not just more expensive; it's slower. You can't control the flame of a coal chulha like you can a gas burner. Our prep time has doubled, and our staff is exhausted."

To save fuel, Sunit's kitchen now operates on a "batch-cooking" philosophy. Staff meals, which were once cooked fresh, are now prepared in a single morning session to avoid lighting the fires twice.

In Bistupur, the city's commercial nerve centre, the crisis is forcing a radical redesign of the dining experience. Prabhakar Singh, a veteran hotel operator, has



made the difficult decision to slash his menu.

"Slow-cooked gravies, deep-fried appetizers, and anything that requires constant, high-intensity heat is off the list," Singh explains. "We are pushing rice-based items and utilizing electric ovens wherever possible. But electricity comes with its own costs, and it doesn't provide the 'wok hei' (breath of the wok) our customers expect."

The result is a sanitized version of Jamshedpur's famous food culture-functional, but lacking the fiery variety that once defined it.

While big hotels struggle with logistics, the city's famous "Food Streets" face an existential threat. These small-scale vendors, who operate on razor-thin margins, lack the storage space for coal or the capital to pivot to electric induction.

Walking through the popular evening haunts, the silence is deafening. Usually teeming with crowds and the aroma of street food, many stalls now remain shuttered. "If I don't get a cylinder by tomorrow, I have to stop coming," says a small-time food vendor. "I can't afford wood, and I can't hike my prices any further, or the customers will simply walk away."

For the traders of Jamshedpur, the current atmosphere carries a haunting familiarity. Many compare the empty stalls and dwindling supplies to the dark days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The timing is particularly cruel. With the festive season approaching-a period where Jamshedpur's markets usually see a 40% spike in revenue-the gas crisis has effectively capped any hope of recovery. Profits are being devoured by the soaring costs of alternative fuels, and footfall is dropping as households tighten their belts amid the broader economic uncertainty of the war. As the international war shows no sign of abating, the traders' union is growing restless. There is a simmering fear that if the administration does not intervene to prioritize commercial gas supplies for the food sector, the "shuttered doors" currently seen on the streets might become a permanent fixture of the city's landscape. (W-sm)

Police detain woman in chopper attack case, main accused absconding

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 29 : Police have intensified their probe into a chopper attack incident under the Telco police station, in which ayoung man was seriously injured. The statement of the victim, Adarsh Singh currently undergoing treatment at Tata Main Hospital (TMH),has been recorded.

Based on his statement, police have detained a young woman and begun questioning her. Earlier, two accused in the case had already been arrested and sent to jail, while the mainaccused, Ayan, remains on the run.

According to Adarsh, on the day of the incident, Ayan and his female friend called him via conference call to a spot near the Theme Park, assuring him that they wanted to resolve an ongoing dispute. Trusting them, he reached the location with two of his friends. However, he found the situation suspicious as several otheryoung men were present along with Ayan and the woman. Sensing danger, Adarsh kept his distance. Shortly after, Ayan returned with an accomplice and, before any discussion could begin, attacked him from behind with a chopper, repeatedly striking his neck. Adarsh collapsed on the spot, and the attackers fled. He further stated that the detained woman was once his close friend but had recently come into contact with Ayan. After he informed her father about their relationship, he began receiving death threats. Police are currently conducting raids to arrest the absconding accused. (w/gsd)

Ward Councilors to meet on SIR program

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 29: All Ward Councilors of Adityapur Municipal Corporation have been called for a meeting on March 30 at Gamharia Block Auditorium to discuss the upcoming SIR program in April. Praveen Kumar, Assistant Electoral Registration Officer and Circle Officer, stated that the meeting will focus on voter mapping and preparation of the ASDD list. Notices have been issued to all councilors. (w/gsd)

Gas 'Loot' in Jamshedpur: Domestic cylinders hit Rs 3,000 as black market thrives

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 29: In Steel City, the blue flame of the kitchen stove has become a luxury that many can no longer afford. As the international energy crisis tightens its grip, a predatory shadow economy has emerged in Jamshedpur, turning a basic necessity into a black-market commodity sold at a 300% markup.

The numbers tell a grim story. A domestic LPG cylinder, which should cost a consumer Rs 953, has vanished from the official registers of gas agencies. Yet, it is readily available for Rs 3,000 if you know the right person and have the cash in hand.

"They tell us there is no stock when we call the agency," says a resident of Sakchi. "But ten minutes later, you see a private auto unloading four cylinders at a wealthy neighbor's house. It's not a shortage; it's a diversion."

The black-marketing syndicate has become remarkably tech-savvy by going low-tech. To avoid the prying eyes of the Dhalbhum SDO and ADM (Law and Order), the racketeers have abandoned digital payments. No UPI, no bank transfers. By insisting on cash-only transactions, they ensure that there is no financial footprint for auditors to follow.

And, the "delivery" has moved to the shadows. Transactions now take place in the quiet outskirts of the city or under the cover of darkness in deserted industrial pockets. The use of private hatchbacks and cargo autos instead of marked



agency trucks makes the movement of illegal stock nearly impossible for patrolling police to distinguish from regular traffic.

For Jamshedpur's famous street food culture, the crisis is terminal. A "Thelawala" selling chowmein or rolls cannot sustain a business when a commercial cylinder costs Rs 4,500.

"My profit per plate was Rs 10," says a food vendor near the Jubilee Park area. "With these gas prices, I am losing Rs 20 on every customer. I've started using a coal stove, but the customers complain about the smoke, and the wood is getting expensive too."

In middle-class high-rises, the clatter of induction cooktops is the new soundtrack of the morning rush.

But for those in the 'bustees' (slums) who cannot afford high electricity bills, the return of the coal 'chulha' has brought back the choking smoke and the health risks that the government's Ujjwala scheme once promised to eliminate.

While recent raids led by the district administration have resulted in some shops being sealed, the "big fish"-the distributors who are allegedly leaking thousands of cylinders into the black market-remain largely untouched. (W-sm)

Clash at Hanuman temple leaves several injured

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 29: A minor dispute turned violent at a Hanuman temple under the Golmuri police station area on Saturday.

The conflict erupted between the license-holder group and the temple custodians over the removal of a picture installed within the temple premises.

What began as a heated argument soon escalated into a physical clash, leaving several people from both sides injured and triggering chaos inside the temple complex. Local residents present at the spot intervened and managed to bring the situation under control.

Women from the aggrieved side later approached the Golmuri police station and lodged a written complaint, alleging that they were pushed and assaulted during the incident. Police have registered a case and initiated an investigation, with members of both groups being questioned. Security has been tightened in the area in view of prevailing tensions. (w/gsd)

Footballer's body found in Beldih Lake

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 29 : The body of 37-year-old footballer Zeeshan Riaz was recovered from Beldih Lake on Sunday morning under suspicious circumstances.

A resident of Dhatkidih under Bistupur police station, Zeeshan had been missing since Friday evening around 4 PM. His family had been searching for him but found no clues.

On Sunday morning, locals spotted a body floating in the lake and informed the family, who identified it as Zeeshan. Police reached the scene, retrieved the body, and sent it to Tata Main Hospital (TMH), where he was declared dead.

Zeeshan, the elder of two brothers, left behind a grieving family. Eyewitnesses claimed that he had a history of substance addiction, though the exact cause of death remained unclear. The body was sent for post-mortem, and police launched a detailed investigation into the case. (w/gsd)

Birthday celebration turns fatal

Two youths killed in road accident near Chandil

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 29: A tragic road accident near Chandil claimed the lives of two young men and left another injured on Sunday, casting a shadow of grief over the Baridih area of the city.





The deceased have been identified as Aman Kumar (23), a resident of Baridih Bajrang Chowk who was associated with the transport business, and Vikas Rajak (22), who worked with Bajaj Finance. Notably, the unfortunate incident occurred on Aman's birthday, turning a day of celebration into a heartbreaking tragedy.

According to reports, the three friends-Aman, Vikas, and Captain Sharma-were riding on a single motorcycle and heading towards the revered Deori Temple to celebrate the occasion.

As they reached the Chandil area, an unidentified high-speed vehicle rammed into their bike with great force.

The impact threw all three riders onto the road, causing severe injuries. Local residents immediately alerted the police and helped rush the victims to MGM Hospital. However, doctors declared Aman Kumar and Vikas Rajak dead upon arrival. Captain Sharma, who was riding the motorcycle, sustained minor injuries and is undergoing treatment.

Police have completed the post-mortem procedures and handed over the bodies to the bereaved families. An investigation has been launched to trace the unidentified vehicle involved in the hit-and-run incident.

The shocking accident has triggered widespread mourning in Baridih, with residents expressing deep sorrow over the untimely loss of two young lives. (W-pb)

Tata Steel's mines in Joda cluster honoured with 14 awards

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 29: Tata Steel's Iron and Manganese mines under Joda cluster in Odisha have been honoured with 14 awards at the 27th Mines Environment and Mineral Conservation (MEMC) Week 2025-26 award ceremony, organized on Saturday in Bhubaneswar under the aegis of the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM).

On this occasion, Tata Steel's Joda East Iron Mine received two separate second prizes under Category-A for Mineral Beneficiation and Reclamation & Rehabilitation.

Additionally, the mine was also awarded the second prize for overall performance under the same category. In this category, Khondbond Iron and Manganese Mine also received third prizes for Mineral Beneficiation and Reclamation & Rehabilitation



separately. Similarly, Katamati Iron Mine was awarded the first prize for Systematic Scientific Development and the third prize for Mineral Conservation. Under Category-B, the Neelachal Mine of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited received the second prize for Reclamation and Rehabilitation. Officials from various mines received the awards from the Chief Guest, Pankaj Kulshreshtha, Controller General of Mines, IBM. Similarly, Joda West Iron & Manganese Mine won two first prizes in Afforestation and Systematic & Scientific Development. The mine was also awarded first prize for Overall Performance. Bamebari Iron & Manganese Mine won first prize in Reclamation& Rehabilitation and third prize in Sustainable Development. Similarly, Tiringpahar Iron & Manganese Mine has been awarded first prize in Afforestation. (W-mb)

Multiple thefts on Nagaon Express, passenger loses valuables

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 29: Ankita Agarwal, traveling on the Nagaon Express (Train No. 15630) from Silghat Town to Tatanagar on March 27, 2026, reported the theft of 4 gold bangles, 1 gold bracelet, an iPhone 13 Pro, and Rs 13,000 in cash from her purse during the journey. The items were stolen after she accepted an unsealed bedsheet handed by the coach attendant.

She discovered the theft around 6:00 AM, after the train had passed Pakur Station. Using her iWatch, she tracked her phone to Birbhum, West Bengal. Furthermore, she informed that several similar thefts had occurred simultaneously in other coaches of the same train on that day.

An FIR has been lodged at the Tatanagar GRP, and the bedsheet has been submitted as evidence. Ankita suspected involvement by someone familiar with passengers' belongings, possibly the coach or pantry staff. The RPF reportedly took minimal action when contacted initially. (w/gsd)

Tatanagar station to get high-tech 'Sleeping Pods', tender issued for Capsule Hotel

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, March 29: Tatanagar Station is set to transform the passenger experience with a modern gift from the Indian Railways. The Chakradharpur Division has officially ordered the conversion of a railway canteen, closed for the last two years, into a high-tech "Sleeping Pod" facility. Modelled after Japan's famous capsule hotels, these pods will offer travellers a safe, comfortable, and highly affordable stay within the station premises.

This new facility will provide a budget-friendly alternative to Jamshedpur's expensive hotels and lodges, offering significant relief to budget travellers and



passengers arriving on late-night trains.

The proposed sleeping pods will feature full air-conditioning and a suite of modern amenities. Passengers will have access to high-speed Wi-Fi, private lockers, and individual mobile charging points.

Crucially, the railway will charge passengers on an hourly basis, sparing them from paying full-day hotel rates. Following a detailed survey by the Commercial Department in January 2026 under the direction of the Divisional Railway Manager, the authorities have now officially opened the tendering process.

Currently, the retiring rooms and dormitories at Tatanagar Station stay consistently full, often leaving passengers stranded.

The introduction of sleeping pods will ease the burden on existing infrastructure and provide a global-standard alternative within the station walls. Tatanagar joins the ranks of major stations like Visakhapatnam, Hyderabad, and Bhopal in adopting this international trend. Officials view the repurposing of the vacant canteen space as a major step forward in passenger convenience.

The issuance of the tender has triggered a rush among potential operators at Tatanagar Station and the Chakradharpur Divisional Office. Experts believe the project will not only benefit passengers but also significantly boost railway revenue.

Construction will begin on a war footing as soon as the railway awards the contract. Within a few months, Tatanagar Station expects to offer these international-grade facilities, giving the terminal a modern, high-tech facelift. (W-sm)