

CHOICE TIMES



Knowledge

"See nothing, look at nothing but your goal, ever shining before you. The things that happen to us do not matter; what we become through them does. Each day, accept everything as coming to you from God. At night, give everything back into His hands."

Paramahansa Yogananda

BiG News

Three smugglers arrested with a large quantity of brown sugar in Thoubal, Manipur

IMPHAL: Three smugglers were arrested during a police operation against drug traffickers in Manipur. Meanwhile, checkpoints and search operations are being continuously conducted in sensitive areas to ensure smooth vehicular movement. According to information released by the Manipur Police Headquarters on Wednesday, security forces arrested three residents of Moijing village near the Thoubal District Police Headquarters under the Thoubal Police Station with contraband brown sugar. The arrested accused have been identified as Md. Amar Shah (30) alias Amar, Md. Inni (36) alias Jalal, and Md. Yakin Ahmed (26). Police recovered two four-wheelers, approximately 5.7 kg of brown sugar, four mobile phones, a PAN card, a driving license, an RC card, and an Aadhaar card from the accused. Meanwhile, security forces are continuously conducting search operations and maintaining control over the border and sensitive areas of the districts. A total of 115 checkpoints and checkpoints were set up in various districts of Manipur, both in the mountains and valleys, on Tuesday, although no one was detained. The movement of 137 vehicles carrying essential goods has been ensured on National Highway 37. Strict security arrangements have been made at all sensitive locations, and security convoys have been provided on sensitive routes to ensure smooth and safe movement of vehicles.

Hydroponic marijuana worth Rs 1.57 crore seized at Bengaluru Airport



BENGALURU: The Customs Department has uncovered a case of international drug trafficking at Terminal 2 of Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport. 4.5 kilograms of hydroponic marijuana worth Rs 1.57 crore was recovered from the check-in baggage of a passenger arriving from Bangkok. According to the Customs Department, the passenger had concealed the banned drug in a special way inside his suitcase. Upon suspicion, the drug was discovered during a search of his baggage. Officials stated that the accused has been arrested under the NDPS Act and is being interrogated. Customs officials said on Wednesday that surveillance and enforcement at airports have been further tightened to prevent international drug trafficking.

Our goal is to build a developed Tamil Nadu to build a developed India: Prime Minister

AGENCY

TRICHY: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at an event in Trichy that we are working tirelessly for the development of Tamil Nadu. We will continue to do so. He said that our goal is to build a developed Tamil Nadu to build a developed India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited here today to launch various welfare schemes in the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The Prime Minister first traveled to Kerala and from there arrived in Tiruchirappalli (Trichy) at around 4 pm today. Wearing the traditional Tamil attire of veshti and shirt, Prime Minister Modi was given a grand welcome at the airport. He then traveled by helicopter to Panchapuram.

At a government event held there, he inaugurated various development projects worth Rs 5,650 crore and laid the foundation stone for new projects. Union Ministers Piyush Goyal, L. Several leaders, including L. Murugan, Tamil Nadu Minister Thangam Tenarasu, AIADMK General Secretary EPS, and Tamil Nadu BJP President Nayinar Nagendran, attended the event. At the event, L. Murugan presented a memento to Prime Minister Modi, and Minister Thangam Tenarasu honored him with a shawl. A memento of the Porunai Museum was also presented. Prime Minister Modi's Address At the event, Prime Minister Modi said, "I am delighted to be in Trichy. Today's event is



crucial for the future of Tamil Nadu. Projects worth Rs 5,650 crore have been inaugurated today." He stated that these projects will improve connectivity and create employment opportunities for the youth of Tamil Nadu. He stated that Bharat Petroleum Corporation's pipeline project will provide pipeline natural gas connections to approximately 900,000 families and hundreds of commercial establishments in the Nilgiris and

Erode districts. He stated that pipeline gas supply to homes will improve people's quality of life and create thousands of jobs, both directly and indirectly. Natural gas is environmentally friendly and reduces air pollution. This project will provide environmental benefits equivalent to planting approximately 40 million trees. He said that Indian Oil Corporation's lubricant blending plant in Chennai was also

dedicated to the nation. It is one of the largest plants in the world. This will reduce lubricant oil imports and save the country's foreign exchange. In addition, 370 kilometers of rural roads, built under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana, were also inaugurated. This will facilitate students' access to schools and colleges, and farmers' ease of transporting their produce to markets. Every road strengthens the rural economy. Prime Minister Modi said that last year, during the Aadi Thiruvadhira festival, he visited Gangaikonda Cholapuram, where the 1000th anniversary of the construction of the temple built by King Rajendra Chola was celebrated. This temple is UNESCO-recognized and attracts thousands of tourists. He also stated that the founda-

tion stone for a national highway project was laid there. The road passing near the temple had caused security concerns, so a new bypass road will be constructed to ensure the safety of pilgrims and tourists. The Prime Minister noted that eight renovated railway stations were recently inaugurated in Madurai under the Amrit Bharat Yojana. New rail services were also launched today, connecting Nagercoil, Coimbatore, Rameswaram, Tirunelveli, Mayiladuthurai, and Karaikudi to other regions. These new rail services will boost tourism, strengthen the local economy, and increase employment opportunities. The Prime Minister said, "Our goal is to build a developed Tamil Nadu to build a developed India."

There is sufficient supply of domestic gas in Ranchi, and there is no need for people to panic: DC

Staff Reporter(CT)

RANCHI: Deputy Commissioner Manjunath Bhanjri met with representatives of gas companies and agencies on Wednesday to review the gas supply situation in the capital, Ranchi. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner stated that there is sufficient supply of domestic gas in the district, so there is no need for people to worry. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner spoke with representatives of IOCL, BPCL, and HPCL. He stated that gas companies have advised people not to panic and book gas. The large number of booking requests has impacted the gas companies' software. Agencies are currently working on upgrades to address this, and bookings will be normal within a few days. It was stated that people do not need to visit the agency offices. It was stated in the meeting that bookings can be made again after 25 days. Gas company representatives stated that a second booking will be possible



only after 25 days. In case of emergency, consumers can obtain 2- and 5-liter cylinders. Representatives stated that HPCL and BPCL 5-liter cylinders are available in sufficient quantities in the market, and consumers can obtain gas by submitting their Aadhaar card. IVR, App, and Web-Based Booking Representatives of gas companies advised consumers to make bookings

through IVR, missed call facility, app, and web-based bookings. This eliminates the need to visit the agency. Representatives stated that delays in gas bookings are due to software upgrades, which will be resolved soon. Strict Action to Be Taken Against Black Marketing The Deputy Commissioner directed all gas companies and agencies to work with proper planning and communication amid the increasing demand for gas. He stated that the Essential Commodities Act is in effect in the country. Therefore, companies should ensure the normal supply of domestic gas to all consumers;

strict action will be taken against any type of black marketing. In the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner directed to ensure gas supply to hospitals, Anganwadi centers, old age homes, orphanages, hostels run by the Welfare Department, mid-day meals, communication homes, jails and CAPFs. The Deputy Commissioner directed to form a district level monitoring committee for this. The committee includes Sub-Divisional Officers of Sadar and Bundu, Marketing Officer, Nodal Officers of OMC and Gas Agency, Nodal Officer of Hospital and other related officers.

Administration successfully rescues 24 workers from Madhya Pradesh held hostage in Tamil Nadu

AGENCY

BHOPAL: Twenty workers from Betul district and four from Harda, Madhya Pradesh, who were held captive in Erode district, Tamil Nadu, were successfully rescued through prompt and coordinated efforts by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, the district administration, and the Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram. All workers returned safely late Wednesday evening. Upon their arrival at Betul railway station, they were warmly welcomed by local Collector Narendra Kumar Suryavanshi and Superintendent of Police Virendra Jain. District President of Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram



Maheshwar Bhalavi, District Labor Officer Dhammadeep Bhagat, and other officials were present on the occasion. The identification of all workers was confirmed at the station. Betul Collector Suryavanshi, speaking with the workers, assured them that the administration had made adequate arrangements for their safe return home. He stated that the revenue, police, and labor departments would remain in constant contact with them to ensure they do not face any future problems.

LPG crisis threatens unemployment for over 10 million people: Kejriwal

AGENCY

NEW DELHI: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday claimed that over 10 million people are at risk of unemployment due to the shortage of cooking gas cylinders in the country. At a press conference at the AAP headquarters, Kejriwal stated that the daily availability of LPG in the country has decreased by nearly 50 percent, directly impacting hotels, restaurants, and industries. Approximately 60 percent of India's total LPG consumption is met through imports, and approximately 90 percent of this import comes through the Strait of Hormuz. Due to the current international situation, supplies to India through this route have virtually ceased, threatening the unemployment of over 10 million people.



Kejriwal stated that LPG gas supplies have been stopped to all commercial establishments across the country, except educational institutions and hospitals. Gas will be provided only for domestic use. This has led to a shortage of LPG gas in all parts of the country. Kejriwal asked, "Why did Prime Minister Narendra Modi need to visit Israel a day before the war started? By doing so, he has put the entire country in danger."

CEO holds meeting with District Election Officers of all districts, issues instructions

Staff Reporter(CT)

RANCHI: Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Ravi Kumar has stated that during the ongoing rationalization of polling stations in the state, officials should ensure that voters living in the same house have a polling station at the same location. He stated that during the upcoming thorough revision of the voter list, stickers bearing the name and mobile number of the BLO of all polling stations will be affixed to voters' homes. This will assist voters in contacting their polling station BLO. He stated that it is mandatory



to include the house number of the house on the sticker affixed to voters' homes. Houses that do not have house numbers should be marked with a notional number to assist in the thorough revision of the voter list. The Chief Electoral Officer was speaking at a review meeting with District Election Officers, EROs, AEROs, and Deputy Election Officers

of all districts from the Election House on Wednesday. During this, he also gave several instructions to the officials. Kumar said that preparations for the thorough revision of the voter list should be taken seriously. The list prepared after the thorough revision is kept as a permanent document, leaving no room for errors. He said that in view of the thorough revision of the

voter list in the state, not a single election-related post should remain vacant. He said that the training of the BLOs appointed for the special thorough revision of the voter list should be completed on time. He said that during the training of BLOs, they should also be trained to take voters' photographs through their BLO app. On this occasion, Training Nodal Dev Das Dutta, Deputy Electoral Officer Dheeraj Thakur, Sub-Electoral Officer Sunil Kumar, along with District Electoral Officers, EROs, AEROs, and Deputy Electoral Officers from all districts were present online.

Opposition's motion to remove Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla rejected

AGENCY

NEW DELHI: The Lok Sabha witnessed a lengthy discussion on the opposition's no-confidence motion against Speaker Om Birla. Home Minister Amit Shah today called the motion unfortunate and attacked the opposition and Rahul Gandhi, saying it was a regrettable move against a Speaker after four decades. Home Minister Amit Shah, targeting the opposition for bringing a resolution against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, said on

Wednesday that the opposition parties had questioned Birla's integrity, which was very regrettable. Responding to the discussion on the opposition's resolution in the House, he also said that no one has the right to speak against the rules. Shah said that Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi claims that he is not allowed to speak in the House, while "he himself does not want to speak." Referring to the bills introduced by the government in the past few years, he said that the Leader of the



Opposition did not participate in the discussions on the bills. He claimed that he (Rahul) was on a visit to Germany during the winter session last year. Shah said, "Whenever there's an important session, he goes on a foreign tour. How can you speak when you're

regrettable incident in our tradition, in the discharge of high traditions." Shah said, "There may be disagreement with the Speaker's decision, but his decision is final." He said that the opposition has questioned the Speaker's integrity. The Home Minister said, "When the House's head's integrity is questioned, the credibility of India's democratic process in the world is questioned." Shah said that during the last phase of the Budget Session, such an atmosphere was created in the Speaker's chamber that

concerns arose for the Speaker's safety. He said that if anyone speaks against the rules of the House, the Speaker has the right to stop and expel them. He said, "For 75 years, these two houses have deepened the foundation of our democracy, but today the opposition has questioned this credibility. The House runs on mutual trust. The Speaker is the guardian of both the ruling party and the opposition. That is why rules have been made. This House is not a fair. Here, one has to follow the rules." The

Home Minister stressed that no one, no matter who they are, has the right to speak in a manner that is not permitted by the rules of the House. Shah said, "We have also been in the opposition. A no-confidence motion was brought against the Speaker of the Lok Sabha three times. However, the Bharatiya Janata Party and the NDA have never brought a no-confidence motion against the Speaker of the Lok Sabha while in the opposition. We have worked to preserve the dignity of the Speaker's post."

Disaster Relief Training Provided to Operating Staff at Sini Railway Training Institute

Jamshedpur: A disaster management training program was organized on Wednesday at the Zonal Railway Training Institute in Sini by Tatanagar Rail Civil Defence for employees of the operating department. During the session, staff were given important information related to fire services, emergency rescue, and basic life support. The training was conducted through PowerPoint presentations and mock drills so that employees can carry out relief work effectively during emergencies. During the training, Civil Defence Inspector and President's Medal awardee Santosh Kumar stated that India ranks third globally among disaster-prone countries. He explained that whether disasters are natural or man-made, both cause heavy loss of life and property. Proper training and efficiency can significantly



reduce the damage in such situations. He further explained that accident sites often face shortages of resources, and many victims are found unconscious or suffering from fractures or severe bleeding. In such situations, under the triage system, identifying critically injured victims, providing first aid, and sending them to hospitals by ambulance within the golden hour is most important. He also shared various techniques



for safely shifting injured persons. In the second phase of the training, demonstrator Shankar Kumar Prasad presented mock drills on CPR procedures, inspection timelines of firefighting equipment, and their proper usage. Participants were also taught how to prepare temporary stretchers using blankets, ropes, and sacks. Around 200 railway personnel

took part in the program, including refresher Station Managers, Train Managers, Tower Wagon Drivers, and Assistant Loco Pilots from East Coast Railway, South Eastern Railway, and South Central Railway, and received disaster relief training. During the program, Chief Instructor Santosh Kumar appreciated the training being provided by Civil Defence and thanked all participants.

BJP Will Form Government in Bengal This Time, Mamata Banerjee's Arrogance Will Be Broken: Dulal Bhuiyan

Jamshedpur: Former Jharkhand minister and BJP leader Dulal Bhuiyan launched a sharp attack on the ruling government of West Bengal on Wednesday, stating that the people of the state have made up their minds for change in the upcoming Assembly elections. He claimed that the Bharatiya Janata Party is certain to form the government in West Bengal this time and that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's arrogance will be shattered. Bhuiyan said that the current West Bengal government is ignoring the problems of the common people. Issues such as law and order, unemployment, and corruption are continuously rising in the state, causing distress among citizens. He alleged that the state



government has failed to meet public expectations, leading to widespread dissatisfaction. Referring to the recent visit of the President of India Droupadi Murmu to West Bengal, Bhuiyan said that neither the Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee nor any minister from the state government arrived to receive her as per protocol. He termed this an insult to democratic traditions and constitutional offices. He added that the incident has caused resentment among tribal communities across West Bengal and the country, as Droupadi

Murmu is the nation's first tribal woman President. Bhuiyan stated that the BJP has been consistently working for the social and economic upliftment of tribal communities, Dalits, and backward classes. He claimed that various schemes of the central government are benefiting these sections, whereas the West Bengal government is not serious about their development. He further said that the people of West Bengal now want change and that the BJP will receive massive support in the upcoming Assembly elections. Dulal Bhuiyan expressed confidence that once the BJP forms the government in the state, a new direction of development will be established and equal opportunities will be ensured for all sections of society.

Theft Attempt Foiled in Kirtan Vihar Colony, Youth Caught and Handed Over to Police

Jamshedpur: A theft attempt was foiled on Wednesday due to the alertness of local residents in Kirtan Vihar Colony under the jurisdiction of Mango Police Station. Residents caught a suspicious youth while he was trying to enter a house and later handed him over to the police. Police are currently questioning him. According to information received, residents of the colony had been upset over recent theft incidents in the area. Just two days ago, a house theft was reported in the same locality. During that incident, CCTV cameras installed nearby captured the image of a suspicious youth. Since then, residents had become vigilant and were closely monitoring unfamiliar movements in the neighborhood. On Wednesday, the same youth was again seen moving suspiciously in the colony. Locals grew suspicious and kept watch on him. During this time, he attempted to enter a house, after which



nearby residents immediately caught him. Angry locals also beat him up and informed the police about the incident. Upon receiving the information, police reached the spot, took the youth into custody, and brought him to the police station. Police said that preliminary inquiry suggests the youth appears to be addicted to intoxicants. He is currently being questioned, and his criminal background is also being verified. Police are also investigating whether he was involved in other recent theft incidents.

Anganwadi Workers Stage Protest at Deputy Commissioner's Office, Submit Memorandum Over Demands

Jamshedpur: Anganwadi workers of East Singhbhum district staged a one-day protest outside the Deputy Commissioner's office on Wednesday regarding their various demands. Under the banner of the Jharkhand Anganwadi Workers Association (AKA) and the Joint Front (JAKA), affiliated with AIUTUC, a large number of Anganwadi workers marched from Sakchi Ambagan to the Deputy Commissioner's office. They carried banners and posters and raised slogans against the government while urging fulfillment of their demands. After the protest, a delegation submitted a



memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister through the Deputy Commissioner. The memorandum stated that Anganwadi workers across the state have been struggling for years for their legitimate demands, but the government has not taken any concrete steps so far. The organization said that Anganwadi workers play an important role

benefit of at least 5 lakh, pension equal to 50% of their honorarium, financial assistance of 2 lakh in case of accidental death, and an increase in the retirement age limit to 65 years. The workers further said that the current nutrition allowance does not match local market rates, making it difficult to provide proper nutrition to children and beneficiaries. Therefore, they demanded that nutrition funds be provided according to local market rates. They also demanded a monthly mobile recharge allowance of 400 for official work at Anganwadi centers. The organization stated

that due to frequent network issues, beneficiary verification through the FRS (Face Recognition System) often fails, causing difficulties in nutrition distribution. They demanded improved network facilities at all Anganwadi centers. The protest was led by East Singhbhum district secretary Lakshmi Beni Pali. She said that if the government does not take a positive decision soon, Anganwadi workers will be forced to launch a phased agitation. A large number of Anganwadi sevikas and sahayikas from across the district were present and raised their voices in unity.

Young Man Dies by Suicide Amid Debt Burden, Family in Shock

Jamshedpur: A young man died by suicide in Birsanagar under the Sidgora Police Station area. The incident reportedly occurred late Tuesday night. The death has cast a pall of grief in the locality, and family members are devastated. The deceased has been identified as 28-year-old Rinkesh Agrawal. He ran a shop selling worship materials in Baridih Bazar. He had reportedly been under mental stress for some time due to financial difficulties and mounting debt. According to his father, Ganesh Agrawal, all family members went to sleep in their respective rooms after dinner on Tuesday night. Later, when they checked his room, he was found unresponsive. The family was shaken by the scene. He was immediately taken



for treatment to Tata Main Hospital, where doctors declared him dead after examination. After receiving information about the incident, police reached the spot, took custody of the body, and sent it for postmortem on Wednesday morning. The body was later handed over to the family after completion of formalities. Family members said that Rinkesh had been deeply distressed due to debt pressure and worries about repayment. Police are currently investigating the matter.

Tuition Teacher's Brutality Over Low Marks, Two Children Beaten Severely, Girl's Finger Fractured

Jamshedpur: A case of alleged cruelty by a private tuition teacher has surfaced in the Jugsalai police station area. The teacher reportedly beat two young children severely after they scored low marks in an examination. One girl suffered a fractured finger, and multiple injury marks were found on both children. According to reports, children of Jugsalai resident Taiba — Ghulam Ghaus and Myra Firdaus — used to attend tuition classes conducted by a local teacher named Prabhat. Both children are students of Beldih Church School. The school examination results were declared on Monday, and on Tuesday the children went to their tuition teacher with their report cards. It is alleged that as soon as Prabhat saw their low marks, he became furious and started beating both children mercilessly with a stick and his hands. The assault left deep injury marks on their bodies, and Myra Firdaus sustained a fracture in one of her fingers. The children's mother Taiba said that when she went in the evening to pick them up from tuition, her son appeared terrified and ran toward her after pushing the teacher away. When the family checked the children



at home, they were shocked to see the extent of injuries. Both children had visible injury marks, and the daughter's finger was found fractured. The family panicked after seeing their condition during iftar. Angered by the incident, the family reached Jugsalai police station on Tuesday night and filed a written complaint against the accused teacher. Police have provided primary medical care to the children and started an investigation. Raids are also being conducted to arrest the accused teacher.

9-Year-Old Girl Foils Kidnapping Attempt by Jumping Off Moving Bike

Chaibasa: A possible kidnapping attempt was averted in West Singhbhum district after a schoolgirl showed presence of mind and courage. The minor girl saved herself by jumping off a moving motorcycle while being taken away by an unidentified man. According to available information, 9-year-old Lakshmi Dhanwar, a resident of Panitanki under the Manoharpur police station area, had gone to the local market on Tuesday evening to buy household items. During this time, an unidentified man lured her by offering to drop her home and made her sit on his motorcycle. The girl initially believed he would take her home, but after going some distance, he passed her house and continued further. When the girl asked him to stop the bike, he did not slow down. Sensing danger, Lakshmi bravely jumped off the moving motorcycle. She was injured after falling on the road but did not lose courage. She sought help from passersby coming from the opposite direction and somehow managed to reach her home. After learning about the incident, the girl's mother took her to the hospital for treatment, where doctors provided



first aid. The family later filed a written complaint at Manoharpur Police Station. On Wednesday, the officer-in-charge M. Log Ekka said that a case has been registered against the unidentified accused. Police are examining CCTV footage from nearby areas and questioning local residents to identify and arrest the accused at the earliest. Police stated that the matter is being investigated seriously.

Deputy Commissioner Chandan Kumar Reviews Industry Department Schemes, Directs Speedy Disposal of Pending Loan Applications

Chaibasa: A review meeting of various schemes and programs being run by the District Industries Centre Chaibasa was held at the auditorium of the West Singhbhum District Collectorate under the chairmanship of District Magistrate-cum-Deputy Commissioner Chandan Kumar. The progress of schemes including the Prime Minister Vishwakarma Yojana, Prime Minister Micro Food Processing Scheme, and Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme was reviewed in detail. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner examined updated reports related to the schemes. Officials informed that under the Prime Minister Vishwakarma Yojana, a total of 10,162 applications have been received in the district across 18 different trades. These applications are being verified in three stages. After verification, eligible beneficiaries are being provided training in their respective trades. Along with this, trained beneficiaries are also being provided toolkits related to their work. While reviewing the Prime Minister Micro



Food Processing Scheme, it was informed that a target of 135 has been set for the district for the financial year 2025-26. Against this, a total of 215 applications have been received so far. Out of these, loans have been sanctioned for 30 applications, while 82 applications are pending with various banks in the district. The Deputy Commissioner directed the General Manager of the District Industries Centre to coordinate with managers of all concerned banks to ensure early disposal of pending applications so that more people can benefit from the scheme. During the review of the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme, officials informed that a total of 151 applications have been



recommended in the district. Out of these, loans have been sanctioned for 21 applications, while 66 applications are still pending with various banks. The meeting was also informed that work is in progress at Sonua for setting up a chironji processing unit in the district. In addition, under the Special Component Scheme and Skill Upgradation Scheme of the Chief Minister Small and Cottage Industries Development Board, trainees are being provided training to create self-employment opportunities for local people. The Deputy Commissioner directed concerned officials to expedite the implementation of all schemes and ensure that benefits reach eligible beneficiaries on time.

Iran-US-Israel Tensions Impact Jamshedpur; Cooking Gas Shortage Concerns and Black Marketing Complaints Rise

Jamshedpur: The rising tensions in the Middle East involving Iran, United States, and Israel are now being felt in the city, with residents facing growing difficulties related to cooking gas supply. Amid the international situation, many consumers say they are struggling to book LPG cylinders, and complaints of black marketing have also begun to surface. The situation is directly affecting household kitchens and causing distress among residents. A large number of consumers gathered on Wednesday at Kabra Gas Agency located in the Jugsalai area to inquire about gas bookings and cylinder availability. Crowds were seen outside the agency. Customers including Asha Pandey and Sant Behra



said they had been trying to book gas online for the past three to four days, but repeated attempts failed. Left with no option, they had to visit the agency in person. Consumers reported that failed bookings are delaying cylinder deliveries. Some residents also alleged that black marketing of LPG cylinders has started in parts of the city. Domestic cylinders priced around

1,000 are reportedly being sold for 1,800 to 2,000 in certain places. This has added to public distress, and residents are demanding administrative action. However, the operators of Kabra Gas Agency denied any gas shortage. The agency management stated that supply remains normal and cylinders are being provided to all consumers. They explained that many people

have recently been trying to book more cylinders than needed, which has slightly delayed deliveries. According to the agency, the online booking system had faced a temporary technical glitch, causing inconvenience to consumers. The issue has now been resolved and bookings are functioning normally again. Despite this, concerns about gas availability continue in several parts of the city. Residents say international developments and rumors have prompted people to stock extra cylinders, further complicating the situation. Consumers have urged authorities to strictly monitor black marketing and ensure timely cylinder supply to those in genuine need so that household kitchens are not affected.

PREGNANT WOMEN WILL NOW HAVE FREE ULTRASOUNDS: IRFAN

Staff Reporter(CT) ■

RANCHI: During the budget session of the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday, after a discussion on the budget cut proposal for the Health, Food Supply, and Disaster Management departments, Minister Dr. Irfan Ansari responded that the government is continuously making significant progress in the health sector.

Ultrasounds will now be provided free of charge to all pregnant women in the state. The goal is to make Jharkhand thalassaemia-free by 2029. To achieve this, testing facilities will be provided in all districts. Cathlabs will be established at MGM Medical College, Jamshedpur, Shaheed Nirmal Mahto Medical College, Dhanbad, and Sadar Hospital,



Ranchi, to provide services to heart patients. To strengthen health services, 7,500 posts of ANM and GNM will be filled, while 10,500 people will be appointed to manage health facilities. In addition, sub-health centers will be established in every Panchayat. Bone marrow transplant facilities will be established at Sadar Hospital, Ranchi, and a nursing direc-

torate will also be established. Expressing concern over the lack of medical colleges in the state, Ansari said that the government has opened eight medical colleges in just one year. A medical university will be established in Brambe this year, and RIMS-II will also be launched this year. RIMS-II will have 1,400 beds in the first phase and 2,600 beds in the second phase. In addition, MRI and CT scan facilities will be provided in all medical colleges and Sadar hospitals.

The minister announced that 25 high-tech trauma centers will be established in the state, and a medico-city will be constructed at a cost of Rs 3,871 crore. He also stated that 750 ABU stores will be opened in the first phase. Ten-bed ICUs are currently being established in five dis-

tricts: Khunti, Gumla, Latehar, Chatra, and Ranchi. The minister announced that Cathlabs will be established at MGM Medical College, Jamshedpur, Shaheed Nirmal Mahato Medical College, Dhanbad, and Sadar Hospital, Ranchi. To strengthen health services, 7,500 ANM and GNM posts will be filled, while 10,500 people will be appointed to manage the facilities. In addition, a sub-health center will be established in every Panchayat. 42,000 ASHAs will be provided with tablets. 237 high-tech ambulances with location tracking systems will be purchased. Speaker Rabindra Nath Mahato rejected the opposition's cut motion in the House and approved the departmental budget demands. The Speaker adjourned the House until 11 a.m. on March 12th.

Prayers for Jharkhand's prosperity were offered at the Congress Iftar party

Staff Reporter(CT) ■

RANCHI: On the occasion of Ramadan, an Iftar party was held at the State Congress Bhawan on Wednesday, offering prayers for the state's prosperity. The event was organized under the leadership of Jharkhand State Congress Minority Department Chairman Manzoor Ansari. Jharkhand State Congress in-charge K. Raju, State Congress President Keshav Mahato Kamlesh, Congress Legislature Party leader Pradeep Yadav, Minister Deepika Pandey Singh, Minister Dr. Irfan Ansari, Minister Shilpi Neha Tirkey, former Union Minister Subodhkant Sahay, JMM Minister Hafizul Hasan, and several other prominent leaders of the alliance attended the Iftar party. At the Iftar party, Ranchi Metropolitan Congress Minority Department President Hussain Khan welcomed all guests and fasting people with caps and towels. Before the Iftar, a cleric recited a prayer. Speaking on the occasion, Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Minority Department Chairman Manzoor Ansari said that the Iftar party showcased the Ganga-



Jamuni culture. All sections of society enjoy celebrating festivals together. Ramadan is a month of blessings. He added that such events strengthen the spirit of mutual love, brotherhood, and unity in society. State Congress President Keshav Mahato Kamlesh said that Ramadan teaches us the message of restraint, patience, and humanity. Fasting brings spiritual purification and benefits health. Minority Commission Vice President Shamsher Alam, Cow Service Commission Chairman Rajiv Ranjan Prasad, Marketing Board Chairman Ravindra Singh, Office Incharge Abhilash Sahu, Rajan Verma, Media Incharge Rakesh Sinha, Media Chairman Satish Paul Munjani, Sonal Shanti, Rakesh Kiran Mahato, Suryakant Shukla, Satish Kedia, Umesh Gupta, Akhtar Ali, and hundreds of fasting people attended the event.

BRIEF NEWS

Assembly Speaker expresses displeasure over departments' failure to provide timely responses



RANCHI: During the proceedings of the Jharkhand Assembly, the issue of departments' failure to provide timely responses was raised in the House. Speaker Dr. Ravindra Nath Mahato expressed his displeasure and described it as a serious matter. The Speaker stated that departments often fail to send replies to members' questions to the Assembly Secretariat on time, resulting in the House not receiving answers. He directed Parliamentary Affairs Minister Radha Krishna Kishore to rectify this issue as soon as possible so that members can receive timely answers to their questions. Indeed, as soon as the House began, several MLAs, including MLA Pradeep Yadav, raised this issue. They stated that answers to many questions were not being provided on time. This was impacting the House's proceedings. Taking the matter seriously, the Speaker directed the government to improve this system and ensure departments send timely responses.

All hospitals in the state are sparkling clean, but the opposition only complains: Suresh



RANCHI: During the budget session of the Assembly, RJD MLA Suresh Paswan said that Babul Marandi became the first Chief Minister of Jharkhand, but he never made any plans for the poor. Now he only complains. But today, all hospitals across the state are sparkling clean, and patients are getting many basic facilities. While a tribal Chief Minister and a Minority Minister are working to improve health facilities, the opposition is raising questions. Paswan was speaking in the House on Wednesday in opposition to a cut motion during the discussion on the budget for the Health, Food Supply, and Disaster Management departments. He said that earlier, hospitals did not even have X-ray machines. Today, hospitals across the state are in clean condition, but blaming and complaining will not achieve anything. Paswan said that the opposition always speaks in opposition. He alleged that the previous government only made plans for the capitalists and their work was merely nominal. During the BJP regime, a pond was constructed, in which 112 people fell and died. He also questioned the Ayushman Bharat scheme, saying that treatment is not available anywhere under it. He demanded the opening of a medical college in the name of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar in Deoghar. He also talked about establishing a medical college in the name of Dishom Guru Shibu Soren. Paswan said that 10-bedded ICUs are being established in five districts of the state - Khunti, Gumla, Latehar, Chatra and Ranchi - to provide facilities to patients. The government's plan to open more medical college hospitals in the state in the next phases shows that the government is doing better work in the field of medicine.

Two accused arrested with brown sugar, sent to jail

RANCHI: Police have arrested two accused for allegedly buying and selling brown sugar in the Argora police station area of Ranchi. The arrested individuals, Vishal Kumar and Sandeep Tigga, are residents of Argora. Police sent both to jail on Wednesday. DSP Prakash Soy said on Wednesday that SSP Rakesh Ranjan received intelligence that brown sugar was being bought and sold at the Shanti Nagar ground in the Argora police station area. Following this, a raid team was formed and the two were arrested. Police recovered 38 packets of brown sugar, 20 packets of brown stone, two smartphones, Rs 5,338 in cash, and an Ignis car from them.

RPF arrests man with liquor

RANCHI: The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has arrested a man with liquor at Hatia Railway Yard. The arrested man is identified as Manish Kumar (25), a resident of Mohiuddinnagar in Bihar's Samastipur district. Ten bottles of liquor were recovered from him, valued at approximately Rs12,000. RPF Post Commander Hatia Rupesh Kumar stated on Wednesday that, under the instructions of Ranchi Railway Divisional Security Commissioner Pawan Kumar, the RPF is conducting continuous operations with utmost vigilance.

The committee submitted a memorandum to the DC regarding preparations for Sarhul



Staff Reporter(CT) ■

RANCHI: The Central Sarna Committee submitted a memorandum regarding preparations for the Sarhul festival to the Deputy Commissioner and the Ranchi Municipal Corporation Administrator on Wednesday. The delegation, led by the committee's president, Bablu Munda, demanded that the administration improve the arrangements at the city's major Sarna sites in view of the Sarhul festival. In this regard, the committee's president, Bablu Munda, stated that the memorandum requested the repair, painting, cleaning, and electrical arrangements of the central Sarna site, Hatma, the Siram Toli Sarna site, and

the Sarna sites located in all wards of the Ranchi Municipal Corporation area, so that devotees do not face any problems during the Sarhul festival. He stated that Sarhul is an important festival for the tribal community of Jharkhand, and a large number of devotees visit the Sarna sites to offer prayers. Therefore, ensuring proper arrangements at the sites is essential. On this occasion, Chief Pahan of Central Sarna Committee Jaglal Pahan, General Secretary Mahadev Toppo, Vice President Kiran Tirkey, Secretary Amar Munda, former mayor candidate Surendra Linda and Jharkhand agitator Kumud Kumar Verma along with others were present.

ED VS. RANCHI POLICE: HIGH COURT ORDERS CBI INVESTIGATION

Staff Reporter(CT) ■

RANCHI: The Jharkhand High Court on Wednesday delivered its verdict on a petition filed by two Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials. Justice S.K. Dwivedi ordered a CBI investigation into the matter. The court also directed the CBI to register an FIR and investigate the matter. The court had reserved its decision after the hearing concluded on February 24. SGI S.V. Raju, Advocate A.K. Das, and Advocate Saurabh Kumar appeared for the ED. Senior Supreme Court Advocate S. Nagamuthu, Advocate General Rajiv Ranjan, and Advocate Dipankar appeared for the state government.



Advocate Sumit Gadodia appeared for the informant. This case relates to Airport Police Station Case No. 05/2026, in which an FIR was filed by Santosh Kumar against ED officials. The ED filed a petition in the court requesting the quashing of the FIR and a CBI investigation into the matter. It also sought a direction to regis-

ter an FIR against the complainant, Santosh Kumar. It is noteworthy that Santosh Kumar is accused of embezzling approximately Rs 23 crore of government funds related to the alleged drinking water scam. The ED has filed an FIR against him in this case. According to the ED, Santosh Kumar personally visited the ED office on January 12, 2026. During interrogation, he suddenly became agitated and hit himself on the head with a jug, resulting in a minor injury. Subsequently, Santosh Kumar filed a case at the Airport Police Station, accusing ED officials of assault. Ranchi police also went to the ED office to investigate the matter and questioned ED officials.

The Central Government is misleading the people on the petroleum and LPG situation: Supriyo

Staff Reporter(CT) ■

RANCHI: Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) General Secretary Supriyo Bhattacharya has attacked the central government over the petroleum and LPG situation in the country. He said that an energy crisis is developing in the country and the government is misleading the people by concealing the real situation. Supriyo made these remarks at a press conference held at the party's camp office in Harmu on Wednesday. He said that the Petroleum Minister and other Union Ministers are misinforming the country through Parliament. He said that while the government claims that there is no LPG crisis, the prices of domestic and commercial gas cylinders are being increased. He said that a 25-day gap has now been established between booking



domestic cylinders. He expressed concern that this situation has arisen at a time when the month of Ramadan is underway and in many places, it is also the wedding and festival season. Energy supply situation may become more difficult. Supriyo Bhattacharya also blamed the central government's foreign policy for this crisis. He said that India has weakened its relations with its traditional friendly countries.

According to him, relations with countries from which India once obtained cheap oil are no longer the same. He warned that the energy supply situation may become even more difficult due to international circumstances. Supriyo said that the impact of this crisis is also visible on the lives of ordinary people. Hotels and restaurants in many cities are being affected by gas shortages. In Ranchi, many mess and tiffin services operating for students coming from abroad are also facing problems. He said that the LPG, CNG, and petroleum related systems are completely under the control of the central government and its enterprises, therefore the state government cannot be held responsible for this crisis. He demanded that the central government find a quick solution to this situation so that common people can get relief.

Police sent animal smuggler to jail

RANCHI: Police from the Lower Bazaar police station arrested Taufiq Qureshi, alias Pappu Qureshi, involved in animal smuggling, and sent him to jail on Wednesday. He is a resident of Azad Basti. It is noteworthy that earlier, police from the BIT police station had seized a container loaded with animals. The driver had fled after abandoning the vehicle. At the same time, police from the Sikidari police station seized four pickup trucks loaded with animals. Cases of animal smuggling are being reported continuously in various areas of Ranchi.

A moving bus caught fire, all passengers safe

Staff Reporter(CT) ■

RANCHI: A Shivnath bus traveling from Ranchi to Chhattisgarh suddenly caught fire. The fire caused panic among the passengers. However, the driver, acting wisely, stopped the bus on the roadside and disembarked all passengers, narrowly escaping. The incident occurred on the Kochbong Ring Road in the Kharsidag OP area. The bus departed from Khadgarha, Ranchi, for Raipur, Chhattisgarh, at 4:30 p.m. Approximately 40 passengers were on board. According to passengers, smoke began to rise as the bus approached Kochbong, prompting the driver to stop the bus and disembark everyone. The fire quickly spread throughout the bus. Passengers hurriedly removed their belongings from the trunk. Police, informed by locals, called a fire brigade team to the



scene, but the fire had already spread throughout the bus before the team arrived. The fire brigade brought the fire under control after considerable effort. Vegetables and books stored on the roof of the bus were reduced to ashes. It is suspected that the fire was caused by a short circuit in the bus. Some people say that the diesel tank of the bus was leaking, which caused the fire. OP in-charge Manish Kumar said that as soon as the information was received, the fire department was called to the spot, after which the fire was brought under control. There are no reports of any casualties. No written complaint has been received yet.

"I'm ready to become an anti-social element to protect tribal land,": Babulal

Staff Reporter(CT) ■

RANCHI: During the Assembly budget session on Wednesday, Leader of the Opposition Babulal Marandi launched a scathing attack on the government on several issues. He spoke during the debate in support of the ruling party's cut motions on the Health, Food, Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs, and Home Departments. Babulal Marandi stated that the land proposed to be built by the government in Nagdi is cultivable tribal land. He is willing to become an anti-social element to protect it. Earlier, Hemlal Murmu stated in the House that the government is continuously taking positive steps in the state's interest. In this regard, RIMS-2

is being built in Nagdi. However, work there is slow due to opposition from some anti-social elements. Babulal Marandi stated that he has always been in favor of restoring better healthcare facilities in the state. But the government should build RIMS-2 in Nagdi, on vacant, barren land away from tribal lands. He said that RIMS-2 could be built 10 kilometers from Nagdi. Regarding the budget, Babulal alleged that there is a lack of coordination between the Finance Minister and the Finance Department, and that this year's budget is a copy-paste of the previous budget. Raising questions about the health system, he said that due to the lack of an ambulance, a father had to carry his child's body in a box, which is extremely



shameful. The image of this incident has made headlines in newspapers. Minister Irfan Ansari responded that it is the opposition's job to publish it in newspapers. Babulal said that the same situation happened with children suffering from thalassaemia in Chaibasa when they were given HIV-infected blood. Babulal said that any blood is tested before transfusion, but the negligence observed here raises many questions. He said that there are more than 11,000 thalassaemia patients in the state, which is a matter of concern and should be addressed. Questioning the

air ambulance service launched on April 28, 2023, he demanded that the government disclose how many people have benefited from it so far. There is a severe shortage of healthcare services in the state. He said that according to the Economic Survey, 67.5 percent of children and 65.3 percent of women in Jharkhand suffer from anemia, while 45 percent of doctor and 38.9 percent of A-grade nurse positions are vacant. He alleged irregularities in the Ayushman Bharat scheme, medicine procurement, and medical entrance exams. He said that in many private hospitals, people can be seen wandering from door to door due to lack of treatment. Discussing the Food Supply Department, Marandi said that due to the central government, people

in the state are receiving at least five kilograms of grain. He expressed concern over the lack of pulses and salt in the state for eight months.

EASTERN RAILWAY

Open Tender Notice No. 41-SDSTE-ASN-2025-26, dtd. 10.03.26. E-tenders are invited by the Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Eastern Railway, Asansol, Station Road, Asansol, Pin-713301 for the following work : **Name of Work/Location :** Asansol Division - Provision of Telecom Infrastructure for new OFC Room in Asansol Division. **Advertised Tender Value:** Rs. 2,13,66,790.79. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 2,56,800/-. **Completion period of the work :** 18 months from the date of issue of LOA. **Date & time of closing of tender:** 02.04.2026 at 14.00 hrs. **Website particulars :** <http://www.ireps.gov.in/> (ASN-386/2025-26) Tender Notices are also available at Website www.indianrailways.gov.in/ / www.ireps.gov.in/ Follow us at : [@EasternRailway](https://www.facebook.com/easternrailwayheadquarter) [@easternrailwayheadquarter](https://www.facebook.com/easternrailwayheadquarter)

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER

Tender Notice No. : DRMEGGRNC-10, 12 & 13-2026, Dated 10.03.2026. Tenders are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), S.E. Railway, Ranchi-834003 for and on behalf of The President of India for the following works : **Sl. No. & Notice No.:** **Name of work; Tender value; EMD Value:** (1) DRMEGGRNC-10-2026; Execution of P-way works related with deep screening by BCM, ancillary works of TSR by PQRS Machine (Except TSR), cess repair, trolley refuges, shed, store & other P-way related miscellaneous work in Hatia-Orga section under the jurisdiction of Sr. Divisional Engineer (South) Ranchi; ₹ 2,20,77,131.26; ₹ 2,60,400/-; (3) DRMEGGRNC-13-2026; Execution of P-way works related with deep screening by BCM, ancillary works of TSR by PQRS Machine (Except TSR), cess repair, trolley refuges, shed, store & other P-way related miscellaneous work in Ranchi-Tori section under the jurisdiction of Sr. Divisional Engineer (South) Ranchi; ₹ 5,58,44,418.18; ₹ 4,29,200/-; **Tender Closing date & time:** 31.03.2026 at 15.00 hrs. for sl. no. 1 and 02.04.2026 at 15.00 hrs. for sl. no. 2 & 3. Tenderers can visit the website www.ireps.gov.in/ for online tendering. (PR-1287)

Use of Foreign Servers and VPNs Behind Bomb Threats in West Bengal

Kolkata. Investigations into recent incidents involving bomb threats sent to courts, post offices, and passport offices in West Bengal have revealed that the accused utilized foreign servers and Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) to conceal their identities. State police investigators stated on Wednesday that digital trails linked to the threatening emails have been traced back to servers located outside India. The prime conspirator behind the case remains at large, and a manhunt for him is currently underway. Panic had spread across various parts of the state—particularly in Kolkata—last week following the receipt of multiple emails



containing bomb threats. Such messages were sent to courts, post offices, and passport offices on different days. The most recent incident involves the Regent Park Post Office in South Kolkata's Golf Green area, where a threatening email was received last Tuesday. Upon receiving the threat, the police and the Bomb

Disposal Squad rushed to the scene. The entire premises were evacuated and subjected to a thorough search lasting several hours; however, no suspicious objects were found. Nevertheless, investigative agencies have not ruled out the possibility of similar attempts occurring in the future. Prior to this, judges

presiding over various courts in Kolkata and other districts of the state had also received similar threatening emails. The investigation into this matter is being conducted jointly by the West Bengal Police and the Special Task Force (STF) of the Kolkata Police. According to the police, instances of such hoax bomb threats have surfaced in various parts of the country in recent months. Investigative agencies across different states are sharing information with one another in an effort to apprehend the accused. Acting on a specific lead, the Gujarat Police recently arrested a young man and brought him to West Bengal. Officials stated that

while the arrested youth did not personally send the threatening emails, his email identity was utilized as part of the conspiracy. The investigation has also revealed that email identities frequently used in cybercrimes are often bought and sold on the internet; in many instances, the original user remains completely unaware of this misuse. This raises suspicions regarding the involvement of an organized gang. According to investigative agencies, the arrested youth is also suspected of being involved in such activities. The investigation has also confirmed that the senders of the emails utilized VPN services to conceal their actual location.

LPG crisis now impacts public transport, with auto fare hikes causing distress to commuters

Kolkata. The impact of the LPG shortage is no longer limited to households; it is also affecting public transport. Reports of auto-rickshaw fare hikes have emerged from several areas of the state. It is alleged that fares have been increased arbitrarily on several routes without government permission. According to passengers, fares have been increased by five to ten rupees or more on several routes, including Gadiya-Baruipur, Sonarpur-Gadiya, Baruipur-Julpiya, and Baruipur-South Barasat. This sudden fare hike is placing an additional financial burden on daily commuters. Passengers say that while they used to pay 15 to 17 rupees, they are now being charged up to 25 rupees. When confronted, drivers say they are forced to increase fares due to rising fuel prices. On the



other hand, many auto drivers have also admitted to charging extra fares. They say that gas prices have increased recently and petrol pumps are not supplying sufficient quantities of fuel. Consequently, they are forced to pay higher prices for fuel, forcing them to increase fares to compensate. Auto drivers claim that while gas used to cost 70 to 75 rupees per liter, it now costs 120 to 150 rupees per liter. This has led to a

decrease in the number of autos on many routes. Auto union leaders say they do not support arbitrary fare increases, but the situation has become complicated due to rising costs. Meanwhile, the decrease in the number of autos has resulted in passengers waiting in long queues. Many drivers have also temporarily stopped operating their autos due to the gas shortage, putting additional pressure on the transportation system.

Brief news

BJP Stages Protest Over Chief Minister's 'Community' Remark

Siliguri: On Wednesday, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) staged a vigorous protest in Siliguri against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's alleged 'community' remark. A protest program was organized by the BJP at the city's Hashmi Chowk. During the event, party workers and supporters were seen demonstrating against the Chief Minister's statement, holding party flags and placards in their hands while wearing black bands around their necks. The protesters chanted various slogans and expressed their resentment against the state government. Several BJP leaders, workers, and supporters—including Siliguri MLA Shankar Ghosh—were present at the protest rally. Siliguri MLA Shankar Ghosh demanded that the Chief Minister immediately apologize for her statement; failing which, he asserted, she should resign from her post.



Major Trinamool Meeting Ahead of Elections: Confident of Winning Matigara-Naxalbari Seat

Siliguri. Even before the official announcement of the Assembly elections, the Trinamool Congress has intensified its poll preparations. In line with this effort, a crucial meeting involving the party's elected representatives and leaders regarding the Matigara-Naxalbari Assembly constituency was held in Bagdogra on Wednesday. Although the party has not yet officially announced its candidate, a resolution was adopted during the meeting stating that—regardless of who receives the ticket for the Matigara-Naxalbari Assembly seat—all party leaders and workers will stand united to campaign in support of that candidate. The meeting was attended by the District Chairman of the Darjeeling District Trinamool Congress, members of the Core Committee, and elected representatives from various levels of the party hierarchy. During the meeting, leaders noted that in the 2021 Assembly elections, the Trinamool Congress candidate for this seat had trailed behind by approximately 70,000 votes. The District Chairman asserted that the circumstances are different this time around. According to him, the *Mahakuma Parishad* (Sub-divisional Council) is working in complete unity. Furthermore, the party's organizational structure at the booth level has been significantly strengthened over the past nine months.



Indian Railways Renews 54,600 km of Tracks During 2014-26 to Ensure Safe Train Operations

Over 80% of Rail Network Now Capable of 110 kmph & Above Sectional Speed, Up from 40% in 2014; Tracks Clocking 130 kmph & Above See 3.5-Fold Jump from 6.3% to 22.4% During Same Period

Kavach 4.0 Successfully Commissioned on 1,452 Route Km Covering High-Density Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah Routes

8,570 Km Optical Fiber Cable Laid, 1,100 Towers & 6,776 Rm Trackside Equipment Installed, and 767 Station Data Centers Set Up to Strengthen Railway Infrastructure: Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw Trackside Kavach Implementation Taken Up on 24,427 Rm Covering All Golden Quadrilateral, Golden Diagonal, High Density Network and Identified Sections of Indian Railways Expenditure on Safety Related Activities on Indian Railways Increased Over 3 Times, From Rs. 39,200 Crore In 2013-14 to Rs. 1,20,389 Crore in 2026-27

Railways Does not Consider Fares as a Trade Secret; Any Changes in Passenger Fare Rationalisation, Revisions etc Undertaken From Time to Time are Widely Published:

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw Fare of Vande Bharat Sleeper Ranges Between 2.40 to 3.80 Per PKM, Much Lower Than Similar Services In China, Japan And France Where It Ranges From 7.00 To 20.00 Per PKM Indian Railways Gave Subsidy of Rs. 60,239 Crore on Passenger Tickets in 2024-25, Amounting to Concession Of 43% on an Average to Every Person Travelling on Railways Railways Provides Priority Lower Berths And Dedicated Quotas For Senior Citizens, Persons With Disabilities, Female Passengers Above 45 Years, And Pregnant Women Across Sleeper, 3AC/2AC, And Reserved Seating Classes

Youth Dies in Truck-Bike Collision in Chandrakona

Paschim Medinipur. A young man died on Wednesday following a head-on collision between a lorry and a motorcycle in the Bankera area, under the jurisdiction of the Chandrakona Police Station in the district. The incident has cast a pall of gloom over the entire locality. The deceased has been identified as Shankha Hazra (30), a resident of Bhirirakhpur village. According to local sources, the accident occurred around 11:30 AM on Wednesday near the Satyamul petrol pump in Bankera. It is reported that a ten-wheeled truck, speeding from the direction of Kalkapur, collided violently with Shankha Hazra's motorcycle, which was approaching from the opposite direction.



The impact of the collision was so severe that the youth was thrown onto the road and died on the spot. Following the accident, the lorry driver attempted to flee with the vehicle, but locals managed to intercept and stop the lorry in front of the Shakhar Cold Storage. Upon receiving the information, the police arrived at the scene, recovered the body, and sent it for a post-mortem examination. The police have initiated an investigation into the matter. The sudden death of the youth has created an atmosphere of grief and tension throughout the area.

EC's Police Observers to Take Final Call on Deployment of Central Forces in Bengal Elections

Kolkata. In view of the upcoming Assembly elections in West Bengal, the final decision regarding the deployment and movement of Central Armed Police Forces will now be taken by the Police Observers appointed by the Election Commission of India. This decision has been taken with the objective of making security arrangements even more effective. According to officials, joint teams will be constituted in every district to assess security requirements at the grassroots level. These teams will identify sensitive areas and recommend the necessary number of central forces required for those locations. The final decision will be taken by the designated Police Observers. According to sources, this change was



implemented following suggestions received during the Commission's meetings with various political parties. Representatives from several parties had alleged that, during previous elections, central forces were often not utilized properly and were kept away from areas where they were most needed. In light of this, the Commission has decided to further tighten

the monitoring mechanism and ensure that security forces are deployed strictly according to requirements. Meanwhile, the Commission has directed the state administration to ensure that the first phase of 'Route Marches' and 'Area Domination Exercises'—conducted by the central forces currently available in all districts—is completed by

8:00 PM on March 14. The objective of these exercises is to instill confidence among voters and convey a message of robust security preparedness ahead of the elections. According to reports, 480 companies of Central Armed Police Forces have so far arrived in West Bengal in two phases, and the Commission has already finalized their district-wise deployment. During a review visit, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar stated that the Commission would adopt a strict and uncompromising stance regarding incidents of electoral violence. He reiterated that a 'zero-tolerance' policy would be enforced against any violence occurring before, during, or after the elections.

Ahead of Departure, Governor C.V. Ananda Bose Pens Open Letter to the People of Bengal: "West Bengal Will Remain My Second Home"

Kolkata. West Bengal's outgoing Governor, C.V. Ananda Bose, issued an emotional open letter addressed to the people of the state on Wednesday, ahead of the conclusion of his tenure. In the letter, he expressed his gratitude for the affection and cooperation extended by the people of Bengal, affirming that his bond with West Bengal would endure in the future. In his letter, he wrote that while his tenure at the *Lok Bhavan* (the Governor's official residence) in Kolkata is drawing to a close, his journey with West Bengal has not yet ended. Describing the state as his "second home," he stated that he would continue to remain connected with Bengal in one form or another in the years to come. The Governor remarked that during his tenure, he had the opportunity to visit various parts of the state and interact with the common people. He



engaged in dialogues with residents across villages, towns, and cities, spent time in their company, and witnessed firsthand the diversity and cultural richness of the society. Citing Mahatma Gandhi in his letter, he noted that just as Gandhiji had spoken of his deep connection with Bengal, he, too, finds himself unable to detach himself from the allure

of this state. Referencing a thought expressed by Rabindranath Tagore, he observed that true service—and the realization of the Divine—is found amidst the common people, among the hardworking masses, and within the ordinary fabric of society. Sharing his personal experiences, the Governor stated that he has witnessed the true strength of Bengal reflected in the enthusiastic eyes of its children, the affection of its elders, and the warmth and hospitality of its common people. In conclusion, wishing for a bright future for the state, he expressed his hope that West Bengal would scale new heights in the times ahead, and that prosperity and good health would prevail in the lives of all its inhabitants. He also offered a prayer to Goddess Durga, seeking her protection for the people of the state. He concluded his message with the salutation, "Vande Mataram."

College Student Dies in Road Accident

West Medinipur. Shubhendu Saw, a third-year Computer Science student at Chandrakona College, died in a road accident in the Chandrakona area of the district. The deceased, Shubhendu Saw, was a resident of Yadavpur village in the Chandrakona-I block. He had been living in a rented room near Tetultala Market in Chandrakona town to pursue his studies. According to reports, late Tuesday evening, Shubhendu Saw went out for a ride on a scooter with two of his friends. While taking a turn in front of the Forest Office located in the Dhamkura forest area, the rider lost control of the scooter, and the vehicle plunged into a ditch along the roadside. Shubhendu sustained severe head injuries. With the



assistance of local residents, he was initially rushed to Chandrakona Hospital in critical condition. As his condition deteriorated, he was referred to the Medinipur Medical College Hospital late that night. When his health worsened further, he was admitted to the Nil Ratan Sircar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, where doctors pronounced him dead around 10:00 AM on Wednesday. His untimely demise has left his family and the local community in deep shock. The incident has cast a pall of gloom over the entire area.

PIL Filed in High Court Demanding Violence-Free Elections in West Bengal

Kolkata: A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was filed on Wednesday before a division bench of the Calcutta High Court, seeking to ensure that the upcoming Assembly elections in West Bengal are free, fair, and violence-free. The division bench, comprising Chief Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Partha Sarathi Sen, has accepted the petition. This PIL was filed a day after a statement made by the Chief Election Commissioner in Kolkata on Tuesday, in which he declared that the Election Commission of India would adopt a "zero tolerance" policy regarding instances of electoral violence this time around. He clarified that strict action would be taken against anyone involved in any form of violence—whether



occurring before, during, or after the elections. The petition cites incidents of electoral violence that occurred during previous elections. It also references instances involving the intimidation and harassment of voters and election representatives of opposition parties, as well as cases of misconduct against women. Furthermore, the PIL demands the immediate deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) in the state's highly sensitive areas, the installation of surveillance cameras at all polling stations, and the arrangement of

extensive video recording facilities. The petitioner has also drawn attention to the violence that marred the three-tier Panchayat elections held in 2018 and 2023, which resulted in the loss of several lives. Additionally, the post-poll violence that occurred following the 2021 Assembly elections has also been mentioned. The Election Commission of India is placing a special focus this time on preventing violence both before and after the elections in West Bengal. Recently, allegations surfaced regarding attacks on the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) 'Parivartan Yatra' (Journey of Change) at several locations across the state, for which Trinamool Congress workers were held responsible.

ED Summons Former Education Secretary Manish Jain and Kuntal Ghosh in School Service Commission Recruitment Case

Kolkata. In connection with the ongoing investigation into the School Service Commission (SSC) recruitment scam, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Manish Jain, the former Secretary of the Education Department, and Kuntal Ghosh, a former Trinamool youth leader. According to sources, both individuals have been asked to appear for questioning at the ED office located within the CGO Complex in Kolkata between March 16 and March 19. The investigative agency stated that, in addition to these two, more than 100 job aspirants involved in this case are also being summoned for questioning in a phased manner. Prior to this, in connection with the primary teacher recruitment scam, both the ED and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had arrested Kuntal Ghosh—the expelled Trinamool youth leader from Hooghly. He is currently out on bail. Meanwhile, the CBI had previously summoned Manish Jain in connection with the recruitment scam case,



and he had indeed appeared at the CBI office for questioning. Now, in the context of the SSC recruitment scam investigation, the ED has once again summoned both Manish Jain and Kuntal Ghosh.

49th Pilgrim Group Departs from Barhi Under MP Pilgrimage Initiative; 65 Devotees to Visit Ayodhya for Lord Ram Darshan

Correspondent-ct

Hazaribagh: Under the Sansad Teerth Darshan Maha Abhiyan launched to facilitate pilgrimages for senior citizens, the 49th group of devotees departed from Barhi for Ayodhya on Wednesday. The initiative is being run by Hazaribagh MP Manish Jaiswal. The group, sent off from the Eastern Panchayat under Barhi Western Mandal, includes 65 devotees who will visit Ayodhya for the darshan of Lord Shri Ram. On this occasion, MP representative Dwarika Singh alias Khokha Singh, Barhi Assembly MP representative Mukund Sao, MLA representative



Ramesh Thakur, Zila Parishad representative Gurudev Gupta, MP co-representative Ranjit Chandravanshi, Manilal Yadav, MP representative Motilal Chaudhary, Bhagwan Keshari, and BJP Mandal President Nageshwar Rajak performed the traditional ritual of washing the devotees' feet and presented them with bags provided courtesy of the MP. The bus was flagged off from the premises of Bhamashah Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir. Pilgrims were



also ceremonially honored at Manokamneshwar Temple grounds. Speaking on the occasion, MP representative Dwarika Singh alias Khokha Singh described the initiative of MP Manish Jaiswal as commendable. He said enabling senior citizens to undertake pilgrimages is a virtuous act, and the campaign has become a strong medium of service and faith. Other public representatives collectively praised the MP, stating that he is serving the elderly of the region like a son by helping them undertake sacred journeys. **Devotional Atmosphere:** The surroundings turned devotional as chants of "Jai Shri Ram" filled the air during the farewell. Public representatives wished all pilgrims a safe and auspicious journey. It

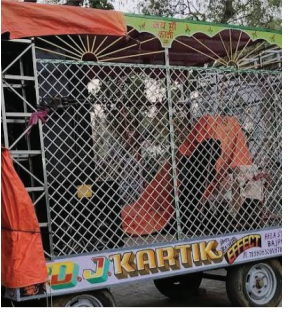
was informed that dozens of groups have already visited various holy places through this campaign.

Public Welcomes the Initiative: Local residents welcomed the initiative, saying the MP has fulfilled a long-cherished dream of undertaking a pilgrimage. Devotees expressed happiness that their wish to visit Ayodhya for Lord Ram's darshan will now be fulfilled. People said Manish Jaiswal has proven that he considers the residents of Hazaribagh as his family by taking responsibility for senior citizens' pilgrimages. Several social workers and local residents were present on the occasion.

DJ Seized During Mangla Procession; Administration Takes Action

Correspondent-ct

Barhi/Hazaribagh: Acting against the use of DJs during festivals despite the Hon'ble High Court's directives, the district administration seized a DJ set. According to a press release issued by the District Public Relations Office, upon receiving information about DJ usage during the Mangla procession, teams from the district administration and police administration took swift action and confiscated a DJ set from the spot. The administration clarified that, as per High Court guidelines, the use of DJs during festivals is strictly prohibited and continuous monitoring is being carried out to ensure compliance. The district administration stated that such actions will continue to maintain peace and law & order during



festivals and to ensure adherence to court directives. The administration appealed to all organizers and the general public not to use DJs during festivals and to cooperate with authorities by following court guidelines so that celebrations can be conducted peacefully and harmoniously. In this regard, the Barhi Administration also appealed to all devotees of Rama and office bearers of Akhara committees to celebrate Ram Navami with joy while strictly following the issued guidelines.

"Pick up the call or we'll reach your home" – Open threat to Hazaribagh transporters in Rahul Dubey's name

Correspondent-ct

Hazaribagh: A case of threats to transport business operators has surfaced once again in Hazaribagh district. This time, the name of notorious gangster Rahul Dubey, associated with the Aman Sahu Gang, has come up. Transporters have reportedly been intimidated through phone calls and messages sent in his name. After the matter surfaced, fear has spread among transport operators in the area. The threatening messages are now going viral on social media. According to the viral messages, certain transporters engaged in coal transportation work from Barkagaon to Banadag and from Chatti Bariatu to Bachra siding have received threats. The sender identified himself as Prakash Shukla from the Rahul Dubey gang. However, there has been no official



confirmation regarding the authenticity of the viral messages.

Warning to establish links with the gang: The threatening messages asked transporters to maintain links with the gang while continuing their business operations. The message stated that the gang also wants their transport work to continue smoothly, but if connections are not established, they "know how to make people understand." It further claimed that they already possess details of the transporters' work and

homes in Hazaribagh and Simaria. Open threat for not answering calls In another message, a person named Chhotu Singh was directly threatened. The message questioned what he was trying to prove by not answering phone calls. It warned that if the call was not answered by 12 noon the next day, they would reach his house in Simaria. The message also stated that the person he was relying on "knows what a bullet means." The names of Munna Singh and Chhotu Singh, who are involved in transport work, were mentioned in the message.

Concern rises among transporters: Following these messages, fear and anxiety have increased among people associated with the transport business. Transporters say that such threats disrupt their work and raise serious concerns about safety and security.

Water Purifier Installed in Jamunia Tari Birhor Tola; Birhor Community to Get Safe Drinking Water

Correspondent-ct

Chauparan (Hazaribagh): In a significant step to address the drinking water crisis in Jamunia Tari Birhor Tola, a Birhor community-dominated area of Chauparan block, the district administration has installed a water purifier to ensure access to clean and safe drinking water for local residents. It is reported that during a previous field visit, Deputy Commissioner Shashi Prakash Singh took note of the basic issues faced by villagers in the Birhor Tola. Residents had especially raised concerns about the lack of safe drinking water. Taking the matter seriously, the Deputy Commissioner directed concerned officials to ensure proper drinking water facilities at the earliest, keeping in mind the health of the PVTG (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group) community.



Acting promptly on these instructions, a water purifier was installed in Jamunia Tari Birhor Tola through CSR funds. Additionally, water purifiers have also been set up at the local school and Anganwadi center to safeguard children's health. This initiative will benefit both children and villagers by providing clean and safe drinking water, reducing the risk of waterborne diseases. Villagers have expressed great happiness over the installation. They said that earlier they had to travel long



distances for clean drinking water or use unsafe sources, which exposed them to illnesses. The new facility has resolved a major problem for the community. Residents thanked the district administration for the initiative, saying it will improve the health and living standards of the Birhor community. The administration stated that continuous efforts are being made to ensure basic facilities in remote and deprived areas of the district so that development benefits reach everyone.

War Between Israel, America, and Iran a Threat to Humanity

Correspondent-ct

Barkagaon: All India Congress Committee National Secretary and former MLA Amba Prasad has expressed concern over the ongoing conflict involving Israel, United States, and Iran, calling it a serious threat to humanity. Addressing the public through Facebook Live, she said that around 40% of India's crude oil imports come from Iran, and due to the war situation, crude oil imports have significantly declined. This could lead to price hikes in many essential commodities, including cooking gas, CNG, and daily necessities. Expressing deep concern over Iran's reported warning regarding oil supply, Amba Prasad said that the country's Prime Minister, who considers himself a global leader, has remained silent on the issue. Questioning the Prime Minister's foreign policy, she stated that although the Prime Minister has visited many countries to strengthen global relations, the



Centre Must Take Necessary Steps Amid Rising Inflation and War Concerns – Amba Prasad

effectiveness of that policy is now under question. She added that today countries are openly warning India about stopping oil supplies, while the country reportedly has oil reserves for less than 40 days.

Not Discussing the Issue in Parliament is a Betrayal – Amba: Amba Prasad said that the Lok Sabha session is currently underway, and Congress had earlier brought a no-confidence motion before Speaker Om Birla prior to the outbreak of

war. However, considering rising inflation and fears of conflict escalation, Congress demanded a discussion on the current situation, which the BJP rejected, allegedly avoiding its responsibilities. She said Congress is deeply worried that inflation is rising day by day due to the war, citing the recent increase in cooking gas cylinder prices as an example. Meanwhile, the BJP and the central government are avoiding the issue. She added that the Defence Minister is busy delivering speeches while the entire country is being affected by the

conflict. Wars between nations are drawing multiple countries into their impact, with continuous attacks being reported, yet the Government of India is allegedly focused more on rhetoric than preparedness. Amba Prasad warned that an emergency-like situation could arise in the country. Stock markets are crashing and gold and silver prices are soaring, yet the Prime Minister's Office and the Finance Ministry appear inactive. She urged the central government not to take the matter lightly and to make necessary preparations so that citizens do not face difficulties. As a leader of an opposition party, she demanded open discussion during the ongoing parliamentary session, an all-party meeting, and clear policy decisions to prevent aggressive conflict situations, ensure global peace, and provide relief to citizens from the economic, social, and political crises arising due to the war.

Maa Basanti Durga Puja Committee Reconstituted; Arvind Verma Elected President, Saroj Soni Becomes Secretary

Correspondent-ct

Barkagaon: A public meeting was held in Barkagaon to discuss the celebration of Chaitra Navratri and Ram Navami. The meeting was chaired by former MLA Loknath Mahto and conducted by Ramsevak Soni. During the meeting, a new executive committee was unanimously formed. Arvind Verma was elected President, Saroj Soni was appointed Secretary, and Mahesh Soni was chosen as Treasurer. Addressing the gathering, President Arvind Verma said that, like every year, the Ram Navami festival will be celebrated in a drug-free manner this



year as well. Mukhia Sangh President and MP representative Ranjit Kumar delivered the vote of thanks and concluded the meeting. Among those present were former MLA Loknath Mahto, Mukhia Sangh President and MP representative Ranjit Kumar, Ramsevak Prasad Soni, Shambhu Sao, Mahesh Soni, Saroj Soni, Hira Sao, Avdhesh Soni, Deepu Soni, Amit Kumar Soni, Rupesh Kumar Verma, Raju Kumar Soni, Veeru Kumar Soni, Avdhesh Mishra, Ramdhani Vishwakarma, Baijnath Mahto, Roshan Soni, Anil Soni, Ranjit Kumar, Akash Kumar Verma, Koleshwar Sao, Munna Pandey, Arvind Verma, and hundreds of local residents.

Sarhul Festival Celebrated in Banchas Village, Araldiha Panchayat

Correspondent-ct

By Representative: Jainamog: In Banchas village of Araldiha Panchayat, Jaridih Block, the Sarhul Puja was inaugurated on Wednesday by Binod Mahto, personal secretary to Bermo MLA, along with special guest Heeralal Mahto from the Prajapati Kumhar Mahasangh, Mukhiya Sita Devi, and committee president Anand Murmu, who jointly cut the ribbon to mark the beginning of the festival. Speaking on the occasion, Binod Mahto said that the Sarhul Puja is celebrated by tribal communities at the start of the new year to pray for a good harvest, and it is closely connected with nature. Special guest Heeralal Mahto highlighted that Sarhul Puja is a traditional festival of Jharkhand's tribal people, through which they worship their local deities. He added that this festival is an integral part of Jharkhand's cultural heritage. During the program, villagers collectively performed the rituals according to tribal



Tribal women performing cultural dance and songs

traditions, offering prayers to their village deity. The event also featured cultural dances and songs by local youth, which captivated the audience. Prominent attendees included Jitendra Narayan Marandi, Rajesh Singh, Rohitlal Vaske (Vice President, Jaher Seva Samiti), Santosh Hansda, Veeniram Tudu (Treasurer), Subhashchandra Hansda (General Secretary), Rajendra Murmu, Beniram Tudu, Sukhdev Hansda, Ajay Murmu, Devilal Soren,

Rajesh Murmu, Jitendra Tudu, Sumit Kisku, Manoj Hansda, Jitendra Narayan Murmu, Narayan Manjhi, Arjun Manjhi, Babuchand Manjhi, Kameshwar Manjhi, Jagdish Murmu, Sanuram Manjhi, Suku Manjhi, Kalidas Tudu, Rameshwar Manjhi, and Chandrashekhar Hansda. The festival successfully combined nature worship with vibrant tribal cultural celebrations, reflecting the rich traditions of Jharkhand's indigenous communities.

Seven-Day Ram Katha Begins with Kalash Yatra; City Immersed in Devotion

Correspondent-ct

Koderma: A seven-day Ram Katha organized under the aegis of the Jai Siyaram Satsang Samiti began on Wednesday with a grand Kalash Yatra. The program commenced at the Hanuman Temple, Station Road, where Pandit Vikas Pandey performed the ceremonial worship of the Kalash and the Ramayan scripture. Following this, a large procession of devotees set out on the Kalash Yatra across the city. The procession started from Hanuman Temple, passed through Jhanda Chowk, reached Addi Bangla, and concluded at the Vyas Peeth venue. Devotees filled the city with chants in praise of Lord Ram and Lord Hanuman, creating a deeply spiritual atmosphere. After



installing the Kalash near the Vyas Peeth, a collective aarti was performed and prasad was distributed among the devotees. The entire event was conducted under the guidance of Ram Katha narrator Pandit Ramkaran Sahal. From a security and management perspective, Tilaiya Police Station in-charge Vinay Kumar continuously monitored the procession and the event venue along with police personnel. NCC students

also made a commendable contribution in maintaining proper arrangements. Arun Modi and Asha Barnwal participated as the chief patrons of the event. A major attraction of the procession was a tableau depicting Ram, Lakshman, and Sita presented by students of Mohan Aadharshila School. The portrayal of Lord Hanuman by Bholaram also drew special attention. A total of 108 women participated in the Kalash

Yatra carrying sacred pots on their heads, while other men and women joined carrying flags of Lord Ram and Lord Hanuman. During the procession, devotees took turns carrying the Ramayan scripture on their foreheads along the entire route, immersing the atmosphere in devotion. The successful organization of the event saw notable contributions from Anup Joshi, Pradeep Kumar, Om Prakash Khetan, Manoj Kedia, Rajendra Singh, Manoj Joshi, former District Judge Arjun Modi, Sanjay Barnwal, Bhunandan Modi, Rajendra Barnwal, Virendra Modi, Umesh Modi, Amit Yadav, all members of Jai Siyaram Satsang Samiti, and many women participants. A large number of city devotees attended the grand event.

Choice Times

Editorial:

Where Synthetic Drugs Originate: Combating Them

Synthetic drugs don't originate on the streets. They begin much earlier, in factories, warehouses, and the shipping containers that transport chemicals across borders every day. Many of these chemicals are legal and widely used in pharmaceutical and other industries. But when traffickers divert them, these substances become the foundation for the creation of synthetic drugs that harm communities and public health. Katie Dorais, Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), explains why controlling precursor chemicals is a U.S. government priority. The DEA is a federal law enforcement agency that works to prevent traffickers from converting these chemicals into harmful drugs. What are precursors? "Precursor chemicals are essential ingredients used to illegally manufacture controlled substances like methamphetamine and fentanyl," says Dorais. She adds that many of these chemicals also have legitimate uses. The scale of the problem is immense. She says, "In 2024, the DEA seized more than 60 million counterfeit fentanyl-laced pills and nearly 8,000 pounds of fentanyl powder. These seizures equate to more than 380 million lethal doses of fentanyl." These statistics demonstrate why the US government considers precursor control not just a regulatory issue but a public safety issue. In late 2025, the DEA launched a campaign called Fentanyl Free America, aimed at reducing both the supply and demand of fentanyl. Dorais says, "The DEA is committed to protecting American lives and communities from the devastating effects of fentanyl. Fentanyl Free America means prevention, education, and partnership." These chemicals also have legitimate uses, but traffickers often hide in plain sight. Dorais points to a common method called transshipment. She says, "There are loopholes in the import/export system that are difficult to address." Criminal groups transfer chemicals through poorly monitored ports and then ship them onward. She adds, "This process creates a clean record for the initial exporting country." Preventing abuse at this stage is crucial for the DEA. "The DEA prioritizes the control of precursor chemicals, which makes it difficult for drug traffickers to obtain raw materials for making drugs," says Dorais. Another common method, misdeclaration, involves concealing the true nature or destination of a shipment. "Precursor chemicals are purchased online and misdeclared during import/export," she explains. To address this risk, the DEA works with companies on Know Your Customer (KYC) practices. "The principle of KYC is that a chemical or pharmaceutical company implements policies that limit the sale of known precursors to only those customers who are considered genuine," explains Dorais. Scientific analysis also plays a crucial role in identifying emerging risks. "In the US, the DEA's laboratory system is a leader in the fight against synthetic drugs," explains Dorais. "It analyzes seized chemicals—such as powders, liquids, and tablets. Over the years, the DEA has built a vast database of precursor signatures, synthesis routes, impurity profiles, and emerging analogues."

The Indian Economy Amidst Global Conflict: This Is Not a Crisis, but a Time for Caution and Opportunity

DR. MAYANK CHATURVEDI

The growing military tension in the Gulf region of West Asia has become the most pressing topic in world politics and the global economy. The war-like situation surrounding military bases belonging to Israel, Iran, and the United States has destabilized global financial markets, energy supplies, and trade activities. It has been observed that whenever conflict escalates in the Gulf region, it directly impacts the global oil market, inflation, and economic growth. Naturally, many concerns are being expressed about a major importing country like India. However, amidst these concerns, a powerful and reassuring truth is emerging: India's economy is much stronger, balanced, and prepared than before. Even if the conflict in the Gulf region continues for a long time, its impact on India will be limited. The main reason for this is that India's economic policies, institutional framework, and market strength are now capable of withstanding global crises. Caution, Preparation, and Policymakers' Proactiveness: In light of the escalating tensions in the Gulf region, Indian policymakers have already become proactive. The SBI Research report clearly states that the Reserve Bank of India has taken several important steps to maintain stability in the financial markets. The RBI has intervened in the market to balance government bond yields, or G-Secs, to prevent panic in the financial system. Additionally, by intervening in the foreign exchange market, the rupee's volatility has been controlled and successfully maintained below the 92 level. This step demonstrates India's central banking system's ability to respond promptly to global crises. Today, India has foreign exchange reserves of over \$600 billion, providing the ability to withstand any external economic shock. Furthermore, gold reserves are being steadily increased, and their share in the foreign exchange reserves has reached approximately 17.6 percent. This also serves as a kind of economic safety net. The challenge of the oil crisis and India's strategy: The Gulf region's greatest importance lies in global energy supplies. Approximately 20 percent of the world's crude oil trade passes through the Strait of Hormuz. If any disruption occurs, oil prices are bound to rise. Currently, Brent crude has reached approximately \$91 per barrel



and WTI approximately \$89 per barrel. According to SBI Research, a \$10 increase in oil prices per barrel could certainly put some pressure on India's current account deficit. However, it is important to understand that India has significantly diversified its energy strategy over the past few years. Arrangements such as purchasing crude oil from Russia, long-term supply contracts, and strategic oil reserves significantly protect India from sudden crises. India is becoming the new center of global growth. A recent report by the International Monetary Fund testifies that the future of the global economy lies in the hands of Asia, especially India and China. According to the IMF, India's contribution to global real GDP growth is expected to be around 17 percent in 2026. This figure is indicative of the economic transformation that India has undergone over the past decade. Today, India remains the world's fastest-growing large economy. The IMF has raised its economic growth forecast for India to 7.3 percent for 2025, while a strong growth rate of 6.4 percent has also been projected for the next fiscal year. In comparison, the US is expected to contribute around 9.9 percent, while many European economies are struggling with slower growth. This is a clear indication that

India's importance in the global economic system is steadily increasing. Population, not pressure, but an opportunity for growth. When discussing India's economy, population is often presented as a challenge. It's true that India's population is very large, but it's equally true that this population is India's greatest economic strength. Today, India has the world's largest youth workforce. This youthful population provides new energy to all three sectors: production, consumption, and innovation. Millions of new job opportunities are being created in India every year. Start-up culture, the digital economy, investment in manufacturing, and rapidly growing service sector activity are opening up new avenues for job creation. Global companies are also looking to India as their new production hub after China. Under the "China Plus One" strategy, many multinational companies are increasing their investments in India. India's Stable Image in the Global Market: During times of global crisis, investors always look for countries with economic and political stability. India currently appears to be in that category. Many rating agencies and economic institutions around the world are consistently confirming India's strong economic foundation. Rapid

investment in infrastructure, the expansion of the digital economy, reforms in the banking sector, and transparency in the tax system have made India a reliable investment destination. This is why foreign investment is being attracted to India despite global uncertainties. However, it would be wrong to say that the conflict in the Gulf region will not affect India at all. Challenges such as rising oil prices, inflationary pressures, and instability in the financial markets may arise, but India's economic institutions are anticipating these challenges and are preparing in advance. The RBI's cautious policy, the government's energy strategy, and strong foreign exchange reserves keep India balanced in these circumstances. It is this maturity that keeps an economy stable even amid global crises. While the ongoing conflict in the Gulf region is certainly a matter of concern for the global economy, oil market instability and geopolitical tensions are creating economic crises for many countries around the world. However, the situation in India is different. Strong policies, an active central bank, diverse energy sources, a large domestic market and a young workforce all give India the strength to move forward amid global crises. Therefore, this is not the time to panic but to move forward with caution and confidence.

The Meaning of the Storm in Delhi Politics

MANOJ KUMAR MISHRA

The relief granted by the lower court to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), scorched by the liquor scam, appears to be irreversible. The High Court has issued notices to all involved, including former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, to respond to a CBI petition. The AAP, which was in power in Delhi for more than ten years, was defeated by the BJP in last year's assembly elections. First, the AAP was defeated in the elections, and second, the liquor scam became the election's biggest issue. The AAP, which claimed to be staunchly honest, and its leader, Arvind Kejriwal, were defeated on corruption charges. This led to the AAP being marginalized despite being the main opposition party in Delhi. Despite being in power in Punjab, AAP leaders seemed to lack the same spirit as before. However, on February 27, Judge Jitendra Singh of Delhi's Rouse Avenue Special Court clearly stated that no concrete evidence had been presented to substantiate the allegations of the liquor scam. The court not only acquitted all the accused but also ordered an investigation against the CBI investigating officer. Using this as a basis, Kejriwal and the AAP created a ruckus in Delhi, attempting to turn the tables. Years later, they returned to Jantar Mantar, where their political career began. They began building a new palace on the same foundation on which the AAP won Delhi and became a pan-India party by participating in politics across the country. The USP of the AAP's politics was to prove itself staunchly honest and distribute freebies from government funds. Although the tactics, character, and true nature of AAP leaders began to be exposed after the formation of a massive majority government in 2015 following the fall of the first 49-day minority government, corruption became blatantly visible in the second government with a massive majority. The liquor scam exposed this. Any state government has the right to formulate an excise policy, but by formulating it itself and hastily withdrawing it, this government provided evidence of corruption. A new liquor policy was implemented on November 17, 2021. Under this, 32 zones were created. A maximum of 27 shops were to be opened in each zone. Previously, 60% of the shops were government-owned and 40% private. This time, all the shops were given to private businesses in the name of a profit of 3500 crore rupees. Following allegations of losses to both the public and the government, the new excise policy was hastily withdrawn and the old one reinstated on July 30, 2022. It is alleged that this policy benefited private businesses by crores

of rupees, and according to the CAG, the government suffered a revenue loss of approximately 2002.68 crore rupees. Bribes worth 100 crore rupees are alleged in this policy. On July 8, 2022, following complaints of corruption in the liquor policy, the Chief Secretary submitted his report to Lieutenant Governor Vinay Kumar Saxena. On July 22, 2022, a CBI investigation was recommended for violations. On August 19, the CBI raided the homes of three people, including Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia. On August 22, 2022, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) filed a money laundering case related to the liquor policy. In September 2022, the CBI arrested AAP's communications chief Vijay Nair. In March 2023, Manish Sisodia was arrested by the ED, and in October, MP Sanjay Singh. That's when the ED issued Kejriwal his first summons. On March 16, 2023, Bharat Rashtia Samiti leader Kavita was arrested. After failing to appear for the ninth time, the ED arrested Kejriwal on March 21. On May 10, 2024, the Supreme Court granted Kejriwal interim bail to campaign in the Lok Sabha elections. On June 2, 2024, he surrendered in Tihar Jail and was granted bail on September 13, 2024. He served 156 days in jail, while Sisodia served 530 days. On February 27, the lower court acquitted all, including Kejriwal, of the charges. The High Court has begun hearing the CBI's appeal against this. The weakness of the Congress party, the BJP's inadequate preparations, and the promise of free electricity and water helped the AAP win 67 seats in the Delhi Assembly elections in 2015 with a record 54% of the vote. Arvind Kejriwal's political stature within the party further increased after that election. Upon becoming Chief Minister again, he announced that he would not take the party outside Delhi. He proved that the party gets votes in his name. In the 2020 Delhi Assembly elections, he again won 62 seats with a record 54% of the vote. While the AAP failed to achieve much success in the 2017 Goa Assembly elections, it achieved better results in Punjab. In the 117-seat assembly, the Congress won 77 seats and the AAP 20. This time, the AAP won a landslide victory. It not only won 92 seats but also formed a government outside Delhi. By contesting elections in Gujarat and Goa, the AAP became a pan-India party. Power transformed him from a common man to a special person. Leader Arvind Kejriwal not only forgot his old promises, but also surpassed ordinary politicians by transforming his government bungalow into a grand mansion (opposition parties call it Sheeshmahal). He also spent crores of rupees on substantial renovations to his modern office in the Delhi Secretariat, making it even

more luxurious. He completely abandoned visits to Jantar Mantar and Ramlila Maidan, let alone public gatherings. The heavy security arrangements increased his distance from the public, and he became a symbol of the VIP culture he had opposed when he entered politics. After Kejriwal, who claimed to be a staunchly honest politician, and his party became embroiled in corruption scandals like the liquor scam, he recalled Jantar Mantar, the very place from where he had led the anti-corruption movement with his political mentor, Anna Hazare. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and the 2025 Assembly elections, Kejriwal unsuccessfully attempted to make his own harassment an issue. In the 70-member Assembly elections, the BJP returned to power after 27 years with 48 seats. AAP won 22 seats, a vote margin of just two percent. For the first time, AAP won the Delhi Municipal Corporation elections in 2022, securing 134 out of 250 seats. The BJP won 104 seats. The BJP continued to benefit from the BJP's central government. Despite the majority, an AAP candidate became the mayor after months of negotiations. Over the years, AAP councillors kept joining the BJP. Furthermore, 16 councillors who had joined AAP have since split from AAP to form a separate party. The anti-defection law is not applicable in the corporation. Now, the BJP holds a majority in the corporation. To preserve his image of integrity, Kejriwal removed Asim Ahmed Khan and Sandeep Kumar, former ministers in the Delhi government, on charges of corruption and a sex racket. The liquor scandal engulfed the entire party, exposing it. AAP is entirely Arvind Kejriwal's party. It is neither ideologically aligned nor caste-based or cadre-based. After the loss of the government in Delhi, only a handful of people remain with the party. The party is running on the strength of Atishi and Saurabh Bhardwaj. Meanwhile, Kejriwal reappeared after being acquitted by the lower court, but the High Court dampened his enthusiasm. It's possible that higher courts may overturn the lower court's verdicts, and leaders out on bail may return to jail. If this happens, and Kejriwal, along with other leaders, ends up in jail, the AAP's plight will worsen. The BJP, which formed the government with a margin of two percent of the vote, is busy enhancing its political standing in Delhi. Congress has been marginalized. AAP faces the risk of anti-BJP votes, which helped it rule Delhi for more than ten years, returning to Congress. Now, without power, it's difficult to say how long it will remain influential.

Today's horoscope

Aries: You will overcome obstacles at work. Convenience and coordination will lead to progress. This will help you accomplish financially beneficial tasks. Travel will be auspicious. You will receive special benefits from your mother's side. You will achieve satisfactory success at work. You will be relieved of a worrying environment. Lucky Numbers: 2-4-5

Taurus: Opponents will try to harm you. Health recovery will require spending time and money. Ambiguity in transactions is not good. The pre-noon period will be favorable. Time will remain favorable. Business work will continue to progress. Efforts will be made to remove obstacles in transactions. Lucky Numbers: 2-3-7

Gemini: Pre-planned events will be completed easily. You will receive help in recovering money that has been held up somewhere. You will pave the way for good work. Complete your beneficial tasks early in the morning. The situation in business and trade will be good. This will help you accomplish financially beneficial tasks. Lucky Numbers: 2-3-5

Cancer: Prioritize your work. Hope and enthusiasm will increase your activity. Opportunities for advancement will prove beneficial. Some financial constraints may arise. You may acquire a cherished item or new clothing. You will meet an old friend. Act with discretion. Your self-confidence will increase. Lucky Numbers: 3-4-6

Leo: Religious beliefs will be fulfilled. Unfounded doubts may cause mental distress. Busy workloads will impact your comfort and relaxation. Interest in religious activities will awaken. Mental and physical fatigue will arise. You will receive sympathy from superiors. Focus on your work. Lucky Numbers: 1-3-4

Virgo: Family support and coordination will make things easier. This time is turning out to be negative. New coordination and coordination will develop in business. Partnerships with your spouse or friends will yield benefits. Desired tasks will be successful. Lucky Numbers: 2-5-7

Libra: Pre-planned events will be completed easily. It would be wise to avoid risks. Attempting to do things through bargaining is not a good idea. Unfounded arguments will arise in your mind. It will be good if you complete important tasks on time. Hope and enthusiasm will increase your activity. You will meet old friends. Lucky Numbers: 3-6-8

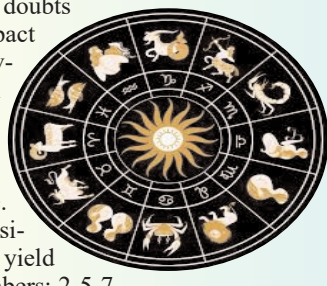
Scorpio: Fear of enemies, worry, problems for children, and wasteful expenditure will arise. There is a possibility of opposition from your siblings. Social respect will increase. Income and expenditure will remain stable. Health will be good. Attention to business and trade will bring success. Efforts to achieve success through mutual cooperation will be successful. Lucky Numbers: 3-6-7

Sagittarius: New coordination and cooperation will be established in business. Health will be good. Remember the saying "Do good and good will come to you." Avoid trying to harm anyone, as losses are possible. Time and money will be spent on religious activities. Relief from debt and illness is also possible. Desired tasks will be successful. Lucky Numbers: 2-4-6

Capricorn: Travel will be auspicious. Keep a close eye on your work. Opponents will try to harm you. Those considered your well-wishers will try to harm you behind your back. Prioritize your work. This will help you accomplish things that benefit you financially. Focus on your work. Lucky Numbers: 4-5-6

Aquarius: Gradually, the situation will begin to turn in your favor. Efforts to achieve things through reconciliation will yield benefits. Travel will yield long-term results. Hope and enthusiasm will increase your activity. Feelings of a happy time will be strong. Efforts to pursue profitable tasks will be strong. Desired tasks will be successful. Lucky Numbers: 3-6-7

Pisces: Hopes will grow stronger from midday onwards. Complete important tasks today; after that, it will prove time-consuming. There is a possibility of opposition from your siblings. Focusing on business and trade will bring success. Desired tasks will succeed. You will get help in accomplishing things that benefit you financially. Lucky Numbers: 1-3-5



Impact of Women's Day Pledge: Complete Liquor Prohibition Campaign to Begin in Lanka Panchayat

Correspondent-ct

Bokaro: A decision taken during the International Women's Day program held in Lanka Panchayat is now set to be implemented. Women of the panchayat have announced a campaign for complete liquor prohibition in the village. Coming together in unity, they have pledged to make the village free from addiction. During the International Women's Day event, local MLA Umakant Rajak addressed the women and emphasized liquor prohibition and women's empowerment in the village. He said that women play a vital role in society's development



and that if they unite with determination, social evils like alcohol abuse can be eliminated from the village. Taking this pledge forward, hundreds of women of the panchayat decided to launch the campaign under the leadership of Mahila Morcha chief coordinator Purnima Mahato and Sakhi Mandal

president Poonam Mahato. Poonam Mahato said that alcohol leads to family conflicts, financial crises, and social problems, making it essential to eliminate it. The women decided to run public awareness drives, morning rallies, and community discussions to spread awareness



against alcohol. They will also seek administrative support if needed to make the entire panchayat area addiction-free. On the occasion, several party and local representatives were present, including district office-bearers Vishwanath Mahato and Maharaj Mahato, Mukhiya representative Dilip Mahato, Deputy Mukhiya Ashwini Rajwar, ward members Shyampad Mahato, Nagendra Mahato,

Prakash Kalindi, Rajkishore Mahato, ward member Sakhai Mahato, Mahila Morcha chief coordinator Purnima Mahato, Sakhi Mandal president Poonam Mahato, Laxmi Devi, Revati Mahato, Kalyani Devi, Sapna Sahis, along with hundreds of women from the panchayat. Villagers believe that this initiative by women could prove to be an important step toward social reform and peace in the village.

Mahuri Vaishya Community Worships Kuldevi Mathurasini on Sheetla Ashtami

Correspondent-ct

Bokaro: On Wednesday, the Mahuri Vaishya community performed a grand worship of their Kuldevi, Maa Mathurasini, at Agrasen Bhavan in Sector-1 on the occasion of Sheetla Ashtami. The event was conducted with full rituals and traditions, and a large number of community members participated with devotion and enthusiasm. The committee's President Vijay Kumar, Secretary Rajnikant Prabhakar, and Treasurer Dilip Kumar explained that Maa Mathurasini is worshipped as the Kuldevi (family deity) of the Mahuri Vaishya community. This festival is celebrated with devotion across several regions of Bihar and Jharkhand. They noted that worshipping the



goddess is believed to bring peace, prosperity, and happiness into homes. After the rituals, a collective aarti was performed, and Mahaprasad was distributed among the devotees. In the evening, the community organized a vibrant cultural program featuring dance and music performances by children and women, which captivated the audience.

Participants with outstanding performances were honored by the committee. The event saw the participation of hundreds of community members, including Sudhir Tarwe, Ajit Lohani, Sanjay Kumar, Manish Kumar, Priyanka Kumari, Rinki Gupta, Recna Gupta, Jyoti Bhadani, and Manorama Lohani, among others.

Clash Between Two Groups Over Old Dispute in Bokaro, Car Set on Fire

Correspondent-ct

Bokaro: A violent clash broke out late Tuesday night between two groups in Bokaro over an old dispute. The area around the BSL DAV School campus in Sector-8B under Sector-4 Police Station briefly turned into a battleground. The confrontation began with an argument between youths from both sides and quickly escalated into physical assault and stone-pelting. More than half a dozen youths were injured in the incident. Miscreants also set a parked Swift Dzire car on fire, completely damaging the vehicle. Panic spread across the locality following the incident. As soon as information was received, City DSP Alok Ranjan reached the spot with a police force. On his instructions, a fire brigade was called and the blaze was brought under control. Eyewitnesses said that youths from both sides attacked each other with sticks and carried out heavy stone-pelting. The sudden violence left nearby residents frightened. Some of the



injured are undergoing treatment at different hospitals, including a private nursing home in the Co-operative area. After the incident, the attackers fled the scene. Police have increased patrolling in the locality and started an investigation. According to information, about a month ago, Chirag Kumar, a resident of Joshi Colony, was assaulted at Patharkatta Chowk under BS City Police Station area over a car overtaking dispute. Youths from Sector-8 Khatl and Sector-6 under Harla Police Station allegedly attacked him with sharp weapons and seriously injured him. He survived after prolonged treatment. On Tuesday evening, eyewitness Kunal Singh had reached the BSL DAV School



campus with police to help identify the accused in that case. During this time, a group of accused suddenly began stone-pelting and set a car on fire amid the chaos. During the stampede that followed the violence and arson, eyewitness Kunal Singh went mysteriously missing. No trace of him had been found until Wednesday morning. Family members and police are searching for him. His relatives have expressed fear of a possible untoward incident and demanded an intensified search at Sector-4 Police Station. Tension continues in the area after the incident. City DSP Alok Ranjan said the clash appears to be linked to old rivalry and revenge. Police are verifying the facts and conducting continuous raids to identify and arrest the accused.

Jharkhand Andolankari Sangharsh Morcha Suspends Indefinite Protest After Government Assurances

Correspondent-ct

Bokaro: The Jharkhand Andolankari Sangharsh Morcha suspended its indefinite sit-in, protest, and hunger strike in front of the state assembly today after 28 hours, following positive assurances from the government regarding their demands. Under the directions of Chief Minister Hemant Soren, a delegation of the Morcha met with Minister of Parliamentary Affairs & Finance Radha Krishna Kishore, Minister Sudip Sonu, and Prohibition Minister Yogendra Mahto to discuss their demands. During the talks, Minister Sudip Sonu expressed a positive response to the demands. He stated that the previous 5% horizontal



reservation provided by the government will now be considered to increase to 10%, and all movement participants will receive an honorarium pension. A preliminary package of 100 crore has been prepared under the Chief Minister's

guidance and will be implemented soon. The government also emphasized that Disho Guru Shibu Soren will be awarded the highest honor for Jharkhand movement activists. A special session will be held in the ongoing assembly to resolve any technical issues related to the implementation. The Morcha delegation included Founder Principal Secretary Pushkar Mahto, Central Secretary Pr Ratanlal Mahto, Divakar Sahu, Bhardool Bhuiyan, Central Treasurer Sarojini Kachchap, Southern Chhota Nagpur Prajamandal President Roslin Tirki, Dumka Prajamandal President Jectan Kol, Rishitosh Jha, Vinod Rajwar, Bhimsen Sanga, and Chandradhan Singh. The program was attended by Central President Shri

Videshi Mahto, Central Vice President Izhar Rahi, Central Joint Secretary Habulal Gorai, Yogendra Mahto, Bokaro District President Rajdev Mahtha, Khirdhar Mahato, Antham Lakda, Prakash Khalkho, Sujat Toppo, Somari Devi, Rajesh Lakda, Vijay Singh, Sujit Kumar Ram, Dinesh Mahto, Savita Singh, Kailash Singh, Praveen Mehta, Pramod Soni, Shashikant Bhagat, Puneet Uraon, Neelu Devi, Ram Nandan Sahu, and thousands of Jharkhand movement activists. Activists from all blocks of Bokaro district also participated in large numbers. The suspension of the protest marks a temporary pause, pending the government's fulfillment of the promised measures to support the Morcha and its members.

Initiative for Transport Nagar Construction in Chas: MLA Shweta Singh Raises Issue in Assembly

Correspondent-ct

Bokaro: Bokaro MLA Shweta Singh raised a starred question in the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly regarding problems caused by the lack of proper parking facilities for heavy commercial vehicles (trucks and lorries) in the Chas Municipal Corporation area. She drew the House's attention to the fact that unorganized parking of heavy vehicles along National Highway-32 and city roads has been causing frequent traffic jams, disorder, and safety concerns for the general public, local traders, and commuters. In its reply, the government partially acknowledged the issue and informed that the Chas Municipal Corporation has initiated steps toward constructing a Transport Nagar to provide parking facilities for heavy commercial vehicles. In this regard, a



letter was sent to the Circle Officer, Chas, on 28 February 2022 to identify suitable government or private land. As government land was not available, an advertisement was published on 21 January 2026 to purchase privately owned land. Speaking on the matter, MLA Shweta Singh said that traffic congestion and irregular parking of heavy vehicles have been persistent problems in the Chas region for a long time. Construction of a Transport Nagar will improve the city's traffic system and provide major relief to citizens, traders, and drivers. She added that she will continue making efforts to ensure concrete and swift action in this direction.

Hygiene Awareness Campaign

Correspondent-ct

Bokaro: On 10th March 2026, the women members of the Rotary Club undertook a commendable initiative in Cooperative Colony to spread awareness about health and hygiene. The program focused on providing sanitary napkins and educating women from economically weaker sections who work in households about menstrual hygiene and overall health awareness. During the program, the Rotary members explained the importance of maintaining hygiene during menstruation. They emphasized that the regular use of sanitary pads can help prevent several health issues and ensure the safety of women's health. Guidance was also provided on personal hygiene and maintaining cleanliness in daily life.



The event saw the participation of Rotarians Bobby, Sandhya Raj, Sapna, Lalita, Annie Anisha Lal, Annie Urmil Jain, Annie Sheila Jaiswal, and Neelam Das. Together, they distributed sanitary napkins and educated the women on the significance of health and hygiene. All participants expressed

happiness and excitement at this initiative. The Rotary women emphasized that it is crucial to reach every woman in society with proper health and hygiene information so they can lead a safe and healthy life. Special recognition was given to Rotarian Sandhya Raj for her key contribution in making this program successful.

Bokaro: Tribute Paid on 52nd Martyrdom Day of Sadanand Jha

Correspondent-ct

Bokaro: On Wednesday, the Sadanand Jha Memorial Committee paid tribute to Sadanand Jha on his 52nd martyrdom day at his portrait in Sadanand Jha Chowk, Chandanakiari. The ceremony was presided over by Sudhir Sharma and conducted by the committee secretary Rajdev Ranjan Jha. Speaking at the event, farmer leader and committee patron Jagannath Rajwar highlighted that Sadanand Jha was associated with labor organizations while serving as a railway clerk at Gomo, and in a short span of time, he emerged as a prominent leader of the workers. He was known in Gomo for his bold movements; it is said that once when he was arrested, women even blocked the railway tracks demanding



his release. The protest ended only after the DC released him unconditionally. Sadanand Jha was the first martyr in the movement for a separate Jharkhand state. He gained fame for his fight against usurers and the social injustices prevalent at the time. On 11th March 1974, he was called from his home and shot near the railway grounds, resulting in his death. His murder sparked unrest in Gomo, which the administration managed to

control. To this day, whenever a local leader is mentioned in Gomo, people immediately recall Sadanand Jha's contributions and sacrifices. Prominent attendees included Durga Charan Mahto (founding member of JMM), Nepal Das, Manik Chandra Mahto, Parmeshwar Mahto, Sudhir Rajwar, and Male Leader Dulal Pramanik. The event celebrated Jha's legacy as a fearless leader and a symbol of resistance against oppression.

Chairperson and Ward Councillors Take Oath in Jhumri Tilaiya

Correspondent-ct

Koderma: Under the Municipal General Elections 2026, the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected Chairperson and Ward Councillors of Jhumri Tilaiya Municipal Council was held on Wednesday at the Koderma Block Auditorium. Newly elected Chairperson Ramesh Harshdhar was administered the oath of office and secrecy. All newly elected ward members were also briefed about their responsibilities and duties. On behalf of the district administration, Deputy Commissioner Rituraj extended his congratulations to all public representatives and advised them to work with commitment toward the smooth functioning of civic administration, overall urban development, and strengthening of basic infrastructure.



The newly elected representatives were also given detailed information about their roles and responsibilities. Additional Collector Poonam Kujur, Deputy Election Officer Prince Godwin Kujur, Block Development Officer Manoj Kumar Ravi, the Circle Officer, and other officials were present on the occasion.

Manohar Ram Elected Vice-Chairperson of Municipal Council Manohar Ram has been elected as the Vice-Chairperson of Jhumri Tilaiya Municipal Council. He was elected unopposed on Wednesday. Chairperson Ramesh Harshdhar and all ward councillors congratulated him on his unanimous election.

Grand Celebration of Maa Sheetala Puja, Devotees Observed Cold Food Day

Correspondent-ct

Koderma: Thousands of devotees thronged Sheetala Mandir located on Addi Bangla Road and Devi Mandap Road on Wednesday to offer prayers and offerings to Maa Sheetala, the goddess of disease eradication. Devotees offered "Sheetal Prasad" and performed rituals while making their wishes. Unlike regular worship, special offerings included cold sweet rice, millet rotis, lentil puris, yogurt-based desserts, and other cold preparations, which



were presented to the idol of Maa Sheetala. After the rituals, devotees consumed only cold food, and no cooking was done at homes throughout the day. The puja is believed to have both spiritual and medicinal significance. During the month of Chaitra, when seasonal changes occur, many infectious diseases

tend to spread. By observing cold meals during the puja, devotees aim to cool the body and maintain health. Ravi Dahima, the temple priest, said that hundreds of devotees participated in the morning rituals. Many devotees will also perform Sheetala Ashtami puja on 13th March, with food being prepared on Thursday

to be consumed from Friday morning to evening. Additionally, celebrations for Ishar-Gaura, Kana, Malan, and the grand Gangaur festival began on Wednesday. Idols of these revered deities from the Marwari community will be offered water from 11 wells for eight consecutive days. Preparations for "Gaur Vindora" are underway in several households, in which every family member, along with newly married women, participates in Gangaur worship, praying for the prosperity and well-being of the entire family.

Plumbers responsible for the Rural Jal Jeevan Mission received increased recognition at the Jal Mahotsav

AFSANA KHATOON

Lohardaga: To strengthen public awareness about safe drinking water and water conservation, a district-level program was organized in Lohardaga on the occasion of World Plumbers' Day as part of the Jal Mahotsav fortnight. On this occasion, plumbers who play a vital role in the successful operation and maintenance of Jal Jeevan Mission projects were honored and recognized for their contributions. Following the instructions of the Deputy Commissioner, Lohardaga, plumbers from various blocks of the district participated in the program held at the Drinking Water and Sanitation Division



Mohammed Mubarak Ansari, along with 10 fellow plumbers, received honors, certificates, and plumbing kits.

auditorium in Lohardaga. The program began with the Assistant Engineer of the Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Lohardaga, welcoming the plumbers. He highlighted the objectives of the Jal Mahotsav fortnight and emphasized the crucial role plumbers play in the maintenance and repair of Jal Jeevan Mission projects. Without their cooperation,

it is impossible to ensure the smooth delivery of safe drinking water to rural areas. During the event, the District Coordinator and Junior Engineer also elaborated on the objectives of the Jal Jeevan Mission and its importance in rural areas. They stated that continuous efforts are being made to ensure safe drinking water is available to every household through the Jal

Jeevan Mission, and the responsibility of plumbers is crucial in this effort. During the event, 10 plumbers from the district who performed outstandingly in the maintenance of projects constructed under the Jal Jeevan Mission were honored with certificates. Those honored included Mohammad Mubarak Ansari (Lohardaga), Sagir Khan (Kharki), Rajkumar Oraon (Dedariya), Sunil

Mahato (Bhandara), Manoj Yadav (Peshrar), Jaiprakash Yadav (Senha), Zahid Ansari (Hurhad), Balkishun Saw (Hati), Pintu (Tati), and Tajuddin (Senha). All plumbers were also provided with plumbing kits, which will facilitate the maintenance and repair of Jal Jeevan Mission projects. Plumbers from various blocks, assistant engineers, junior engineers, WASH coordinators from all blocks, and other department officials and staff were present at the program. A pledge was also made to further strengthen public awareness about water conservation, sanitation, and safe drinking water in the district through the Water Festival fortnight.

Awareness campaign conducted by ophthalmologist under World Glaucoma Week

Correspondent

Senha-Lohardaga: A one-day workshop was organized under World Glaucoma Week at PM Shri Kasturba Balika Residential School in Senha block headquarters of Lohardaga district. Under the National Programme for Control of Blindness, teachers and students were made aware of glaucoma and informed in detail about the disease. Ophthalmologist Dr. Shashikant Kumar from the Community Health Centre, Senha, explained what glaucoma is, who can be affected by it, and which groups are at higher risk. Glaucoma is also known as "black cataract" or the "silent thief of sight." The disease is more common in people above 40 years



of age and in those with a family history of glaucoma. He said glaucoma is a very serious eye disease that gradually leads to loss of vision. It causes difficulty in seeing, studying, reading, and carrying out daily activities. Increased pressure in the eyes and blurred vision while seeing near or distant objects are common warning signs. Dr. Kumar also conducted eye examinations of the students and teachers of the schools. Teachers and all students were present on the occasion.

Preparations intensify in Lohardaga for Sarhul Khaddi eve celebration, grand event on March 15 at New Town Hall



Correspondent

Lohardaga: Preparations have intensified in Lohardaga for the Sarhul (Khaddi) eve celebration, organized ahead of the great festival symbolizing nature and tribal culture. Under the aegis of the Tribal Employees Committee, a grand Sarhul Khaddi Eve Ceremony 2026 will be held on 15 March 2026 (Sunday) at New Town Hall, Lohardaga. The program will run from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, with participation from administrative officials,

community representatives, and a large number of citizens. Committee members met senior district officials and formally handed over invitation letters. Dr. Tarachand, Deputy Commissioner, has been invited as the Chief Guest. The Special Guests include Superintendent of Police Sadiq Anwar Rizvi, Deputy Development Commissioner Dilip Pratap Singh Shekhawat, and Additional Collector Jitendra Munda. Committee Media In-charge Sudhir Oraon said that the



Deputy Commissioner Dr. Tarachand and several senior officials invited; glimpse of nature and tribal culture to be showcased

Sarhul (Khaddi) festival represents the cultural identity of the tribal community and symbolizes the deep bond between nature and human life. He explained that when trees bloom with new flowers and leaves, greenery and natural beauty flourish all around. The festival conveys a message of respecting nature, protecting it, and living a balanced life. He added that cultural performances will be organized during the ceremony, and the traditions and significance of the Sarhul festival will

be presented so that the younger generation can better understand their connection with culture and nature. Among those present were Kishor Oraon, Bifai Oraon, Satyadev Oraon, Surendra Oraon, Sukhdev Oraon, Abhishek Ekka, Preeti Pallavi Tigga, Rekha Oraon, Sunil Minj, Pankaj Oraon, and other committee members.

Congress is the strongest voice of democratic values, will contest Bengal elections with full strength: Dhiraj Prasad Sahu

Correspondent

Kolkata/Lohardaga: Political activities have intensified ahead of the upcoming West Bengal Assembly elections, with all parties sharpening their strategies. In this context, the Congress party organized an important meeting of newly appointed observers at the West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee office in Kolkata to strengthen the organization and accelerate election preparations. Detailed discussions were held on election strategy, organizational strength, and the party's grassroots position. Senior Congress leader and former Rajya Sabha MP Dhiraj Prasad Sahu also attended the meeting. He said that the West Bengal Assembly elections are



Congress gears up strongly for Bengal polls, call to strengthen organization down to booth level

extremely important for the party and that Congress will enter the electoral field with full strength. He made it clear that the party's main objective is to strongly raise public issues and strengthen the organization down to the booth level. Sahu said Congress workers have always struggled for public interest issues and the party will once again contest with full dedication to win people's trust. He appealed to the newly

appointed observers to build better coordination with party workers in their respective areas, strengthen the organization, and take party policies door to door. He also stated that Congress is the country's oldest party and has deep faith in democratic values. Prioritizing public welfare, development, and social justice has always been the party's identity, and it will reach out to the people of West Bengal

with these core issues. Leaders and observers present at the meeting also shared their suggestions regarding the elections. Detailed discussions were held on organizational strategy keeping the upcoming Assembly polls in mind. Congress leaders expressed confidence that with the hard work of party workers and public support, the party will perform strongly in West Bengal.

Fresh dispute erupts again over unnamed station; Kamle villagers protest as soon as 'Badhki Chapi' is written

Correspondent

Kudu-Lohardaga: A railway station built near Kamle village on the Lohardaga-Tori railway line is still awaiting an official name. Even years after its construction, the dispute between two villages over its naming continues unresolved. The naming of the station has become a matter of conflict between Kamle and Badhki Chapi villages. Residents of Kamle village say the station has been built on their land, so it should be named Kamle Station. On the other hand, people from Badhki Chapi argue that since the panchayat is Badhki Chapi, the station should be named Badhki Chapi Station. Due to this ongoing tug-of-war, the station remains unnamed to this day. On several occasions, railway authorities sent painters to write the station's name and



even placed ladders for the work, but every time the work had to be stopped due to protests before the name could be written. A similar scene was witnessed on the morning of Wednesday, March 10. Contractor workers reached the station and began writing "Badhki Chapi Station" on the board. As soon as the information spread, residents of Kamle village rushed to the spot and strongly opposed the naming. Angry villagers blackened the words "Badhki Chapi Station" written on the board. Overall, the continuing dispute between the two villages over the station's name has left it waiting for an official identity.

Quarterly Inspection of EVM Warehouse in Lohardaga, Dr. Tarachand Seeks Cooperation from Political Parties



Correspondent

Lohardaga: On Wednesday, Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Election Officer Dr. Tarachand conducted the quarterly inspection of the EVM warehouse in Lohardaga to review the security and arrangements of the facility. During the inspection, he checked the safe storage of EVM machines and evaluated other election-related arrangements. Following the inspection, in a meeting with representatives of various political parties in the district, Dr. Tarachand requested active cooperation in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) program. He emphasized that the participation of all parties is essential to ensure a transparent and smooth electoral process. The Deputy Commissioner urged political parties to submit their booth-level agent



(BLA) lists promptly, so that timely training can be provided and voter-related tasks can be completed effectively. He also instructed that the mapping of voters who have not yet been mapped should be completed as soon as possible. Additionally, a door-to-door sticker campaign will be launched shortly, and cooperation from political parties will be required for its success. Dr. Tarachand highlighted that coordination between the administration and political parties is crucial to make all election-related activities in the district successful and transparent. He appealed to all parties to extend positive cooperation in the electoral process. The meeting was attended by Additional Collector Jitendra Munda, Deputy Election Officer Pramod Das, Sub-Divisional Officer Amit Kumar, and representatives from various political parties.

MP Sukhdev Bhagat Speaks on Shortage of Commercial Gas "The Modi government's promise to reduce imports has proven hollow"

Correspondent

New Delhi/Lohardaga: Amid widespread concern over the shortage of commercial LPG cylinders in several parts of the country, Congress MP Sukhdev Bhagat launched a sharp attack on the central government. Questioning government policies, he said that a government which once claimed "self-reliance" is now shirking its responsibilities and leaving citizens to face the crisis. Bhagat referred to past statements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, noting that in 2022 the Prime Minister had assured the nation that India would reduce its dependence on energy imports. He remarked sarcastically that the current situation is exactly the opposite. Instead



of reducing imports, the country has become even more dependent on other nations. He said the gap between the government's words and actions is now visible to the public. Expressing concern over the country's current energy situation, he demanded that the serious crisis be discussed in detail in Parliament. He said the nation wants to know what concrete steps the government has planned

for the future. Referring to global conditions, Bhagat added that the effects of ongoing international conflicts are now becoming visible, and the government completely failed to anticipate this crisis. He alleged that the government is limited to claims and steps back when it is time to take responsibility. The shortage of commercial gas is directly affecting small traders, sweet makers, and hotel businesses. The MP clarified that the gas shortage is not only disrupting businesses but also contributing to rising prices in the market. In summary, he said that due to the government's lack of foresight, common people and the business community are being forced to face this shortage.

MP Sukhdev Bhagat's Major Statement on UCC

Correspondent

New Delhi/Lohardaga: "India's diversity and tribal traditions cannot be ignored" With over 10,000 dialects and hundreds of communities, imposing one law is not easy. Amid the ongoing national debate on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), Lohardaga Lok Sabha Congress MP Sukhdev Bhagat gave a clear and strong reaction on the issue. After the Supreme Court of India remarked that the time may have come to implement the UCC in the country, Bhagat said that no decision should be taken by ignoring India's social and cultural diversity.



He stated that India is an extremely diverse nation, where more than 10,000 dialects and linguistic forms are spoken, and numerous ethnic groups and communities live according to their own traditional customs and practices. In such a situation, any move to implement a uniform law requires wide and serious discussion.

Referring especially to tribal communities, he said that indigenous societies living in different parts of the country still follow their traditional systems, customs, and languages. Their social structures, marriage systems, property practices, and family traditions differ widely. Implementing a single law without fully understanding these differences could create multiple complications. Bhagat emphasized that India's identity lies in its cultural plurality and diversity. Therefore, before implementing any law, it must be ensured that it does not adversely affect the traditions and rights of various

communities, particularly tribal societies. He added that in a democracy, law-making should be based on dialogue, consensus, and participation from all stakeholders. He said that if a decision is to be made on an important issue like the UCC, the government must hold extensive consultations with all communities, social organizations, and experts. The MP also noted that the Constitution of India provides protection for the traditions and rights of different communities, and thus the spirit of the Constitution and the country's diversity must be given top priority while introducing any new law.

Illegal opium cultivation busted; 1.53 kg opium and two country-made guns recovered from house

Correspondent

Kudu-Lohardaga: In a major action against illegal opium cultivation, Lohardaga Police conducted a raid in Namudag village under Kudu police station limits and destroyed illegal opium (poppy) crops spread across about 35 decimals of land. Police also recovered approximately 1.53 kilograms of opium, two country-made guns, and 35,000 in cash from the accused's house. According to information, Lohardaga Superintendent of Police Sadiq Anwar Rizvi received a tip-off that a local resident, Mangal Ganju



(son of Mithuwa Ganju), was illegally cultivating opium and storing processed opium at his residence in Namudag village. Acting on the information, Officer-in-Charge of Kudu Police Station Ajit Kumar was directed to take action. Following the instructions, a police team conducted

a raid in the presence of Circle Officer Kudu Santosh Oraon along with personnel of SAT-75 and SAT-78. Seeing the police, some people fled, taking advantage of the nearby forest and hilly terrain. During the raid, the door of Mangal Ganju's house was found open, but no family members were present inside. In the presence of a gazetted officer, a search of the house led to the recovery of about 950 grams of dried opium kept in three steel glasses and about 580 grams of wet opium stored in four steel glasses. Police also seized two country-made

guns and 35,000 in cash. Subsequently, a search of the surrounding area revealed illegal opium (poppy) cultivation over approximately 35 decimals of land, which was destroyed on the spot. Police said the recovered opium indicates that it had been extracted and stored from the illegal crop. In this connection, a case has been registered at Kudu Police Station (Case No. 27/26 dated March 10, 2026) under Sections 18/18(B)/22/25 of the NDPS Act and Sections 25(1-B)/A/35 of the Arms Act. Further investigation is underway.

Strategy to Achieve Revenue Collection Targets: Deputy Collector's Directives

Correspondent-ct

Bermo/Chas: A review meeting of revenue collection and welfare-related departments was held on Wednesday at the Collectorate, chaired by Deputy Collector (AC) Md. Mumtaz Ansari. The meeting was attended by SDO Bermo Mukesh Machha, Assistant Public Relations Officer Avinash Kumar Singh, all Sub-Divisional Officers, Circle Inspectors, and Block Welfare Officers. The Deputy Collector instructed all officers that all departments must work in a planned and systematic manner to ensure the achievement of the remaining revenue collection targets



for the current fiscal year. Review of Annual Revenue Targets and Achievements During the meeting, the Deputy Collector conducted a detailed review of the annual revenue collection targets and current achievements of various departments, including: Commercial Tax Departments (Bokaro & Bermo) Registration Departments (Bokaro & Bermo) District Mining Department Production Department District Transport Department & Motor Vehicle Inspector Office: Market Committees (Chas & Bermo) Weights & Measures Departments (Chas & Bermo) Chas Municipal Corporation District Fisheries Department Fuso Municipal Council

Dissatisfaction Over Performance of Some Departments: The Deputy Collector expressed dissatisfaction with the revenue collection progress of: Registration Department, Bermo Chas Municipal Corporation District Fisheries Department. He instructed the concerned officers to improve performance immediately and ensure timely corrective actions.

Expediting Pending Cases: The review also covered pending registration and rejection cases of 30-90 days or more. The Deputy Collector directed all Sub-Divisional Officers to expedite pending cases and ensure their

timely resolution. **Guidance to Newly Appointed Circle Inspectors:** Newly appointed Circle Inspectors (CIs) were instructed to learn the procedures carefully and improve their performance in line with departmental expectations. Review of Other Revenue Matters **Other critical revenue matters reviewed included:** Succession Partition Public Applications Land Demarcation Court Reports DCLR Mutation Appeals Necessary guidelines and directions were provided to the concerned officers to

streamline these processes. **Survey of Traditional Leaders in Tribal Villages:** The Deputy Collector, also Senior Officer of the Welfare Branch, instructed that traditional leaders in tribal villages—including Manki Munda, Manjhi Baba, Jog Manjhi, Bhagalon, Gudait, etc.—be identified and their survey and verification reports prepared. All Sub-Divisional Officers and Block Welfare Officers were directed to ensure that these reports are approved by the Gram Sabha and submitted in the prescribed format within 15 days. The meeting was attended by all concerned department officials and staff.

Vehicle Carrying Wedding Guests Crashes, Four Injured



Correspondent-ct

Koderma: A Bolero vehicle carrying youths from Domchanch to Khori Mahua in Giridih district for a wedding procession met with an accident. Four people traveling in the vehicle were injured: Nitesh Singh (22), son of Santosh Singh; Keshav Lal (18);

Shivam Kumar (20); and Rahul Kumar (24), all residents of Domchanch. All the injured were taken to Sadar Hospital, Koderma, where doctors provided primary treatment. Nitesh Singh and Rahul Kumar, who sustained more serious injuries, were referred to a higher medical facility for further treatment.

New Committee Formed for Ram Navami at Young Star Club, Gwala Patti, Chaibasa; Abhishek Yadav Named President, Sikandar Yadav Chief Patron

Correspondent-ct

Chaibasa: Preparations for the Ram Navami festival have begun with the formation of a new committee of Young Star Club, located at Gwala Patti in Chaibasa and established in 1948. Prior to the committee formation, a meeting was held in the temple premises at Gwala Patti. The meeting was chaired by senior member Pankaj Yadav. The works carried out in previous years were reviewed, after which the new committee for the year 2026 was unanimously expanded. In the new committee, Sikandar Yadav has been appointed as Chief Patron, while Abhishek Yadav alias Vivek has been given the responsibility of President. Rajkumar Yadav has been



selected as General Secretary. Kunal Yadav, Ayush Thakur, Manish Thakur, and Kundan have been assigned responsibilities as Vice Presidents. Kundan Yadav, Gaurav Yadav, and Abhishek Yadav have been chosen as Ministers. Deepak Yadav has been given the responsibility of Treasurer, while Shubham Yadav has been appointed as Joint Treasurer. Vinay has been assigned responsibility



as Temple Worship Head, and Raunak Yadav has been appointed as Media In-charge. Members included in the Executive Committee are Bittu Yadav, Pankaj Yadav, Ajay Yadav, Ankit Yadav, Neeraj Yadav, Rajesh Khandelwal, Pratik Singh, Roshan Thakur, and Piyush Thakur. The Patron Board includes Raju Yadav, Basant Yadav, Mantu Yadav, Vijay Raj Yadav, and Bansu Yadav. Newly elected President

to receive guidance from senior members of the patron board from time to time. Chairing the meeting, Pankaj Yadav said that during this year's Ram Navami tableau procession, there are plans to honor select social workers for their outstanding contributions to society. The new committee will identify individuals who are doing commendable and exceptional work in the community. Hundreds of committee members were present at the meeting and collectively pledged to make this year's celebration successful.

Meeting Held on Urban River Management Plan

Correspondent-ct

Dhanbad. On Wednesday, a meeting was organized at the Dhanbad Collectorate under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Aditya Ranjan, bringing together all stakeholders to discuss the Central Government's 'Urban River Management' plan. A team from the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), under the Ministry of Urban Development, was also present at the meeting. Notably, the Urban River Management Plan is a visionary scheme implemented under the 'Namami Gange' initiative, aimed at cleaning, beautifying, and revitalizing rivers flowing through urban areas. This scheme focuses on river-based development, the establishment of sewage treatment plants, waste management, and the development of riverbanks into parks. This initiative is not merely limited to curbing pollution; rather, it is a comprehensive endeavor to integrate the river's economy and the city's identity with the river itself. In this regard, the Deputy Commissioner stated that a comprehensive water management plan for the entire district is being formulated under this scheme. There are plans to include companies such as BCCL, HURL, DVC,



and MPL as stakeholders in the coming days. Since these companies are involved in both polluting and protecting the rivers—and also possess their own water treatment plants—it is essential to integrate them into the process. This integration aims to fulfill the overarching objectives of making the river pollution-free, improving water flow, and elevating the standard of living within the city. He further informed that the NIUA team would also conduct an inspection of Dhanbad's rivers. During this visit, the team will assess the condition of the Damodar River and its tributaries. Following the inspection, the team will submit a report to the Central Government.

Surge in Demand for Gas Cylinders in Dhanbad; Long Queues Form at Agencies

Correspondent-ct

Dhanbad. Amid reports of escalating military tensions between Iran and Israel in the Middle East, anxiety regarding LPG gas is mounting among the residents of Dhanbad. Driven by rumors of a potential gas shortage, many people were seen queuing up outside gas agencies on Wednesday to procure cylinders. However, officials from the gas agencies maintain that there is no shortage of gas in the district and have urged the public not to pay heed to rumors. According to available information, there are approximately 640,000 LPG consumers in the Dhanbad district. These consumers are supplied with gas cylinders through a network of 31 agencies. Of these, 17 agencies belong



to Indian Oil, while Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum each operate seven agencies. On normal days, the district records a daily delivery volume of around 16,000 cylinders; however, following the spread of these rumors, this figure has surged to approximately 20,000. Chandra Bhushan Prasad, who had arrived to collect his gas cylinder, noted that—given the prevailing international situation—people are rushing to procure their gas supplies in advance.

Bajrang Dal Chaibasa Ram Navami Committee 2026 Expanded; Ramesh Khirwal Chief Patron, Ankit Sah President and Avinash Das General Secretary, 25 New Workers Join

Correspondent-ct

Chaibasa: A significant meeting was organized by Bajrang Dal in Chaibasa regarding preparations for the upcoming Ram Navami procession. The meeting was held at the Baba Temple premises. The meeting was chaired by Rajesh Khandelwal. Along with senior members, a large number of new young volunteers also participated. During the meeting, the Bajrang Dal Chaibasa Ram Navami Committee 2026 was formed unanimously. Responsibilities were assigned to members for various posts to ensure that this year's Ram Navami procession is conducted in a grand and peaceful manner. The outline of the procession was also discussed and several suggestions were given to make it more attractive and well-organized. Ramesh Khirwal (Laddu) has been given the responsibility of Chief Patron. Ankit Sah has been appointed as President, while Avinash Das has been assigned the responsibility of General Secretary. After becoming



President, Ankit Sah informed that around 25 new young volunteers have been added to the organization. The Patron Board includes Rajesh Khandelwal, Vikas Anand, Ravi Sharma, Sameer Paul, Anand Priyadarshi, Deepesh Rathore, Vivek Sinha, Brijmohan Pandey, Manish Goyal, Ambar Madhur, Rohit Srivastava, Ravi Poddar, Ayush Doddrajka, and Govind Mohta. Himanshu Paswan, Shubham Sinha, Ajay Fatkar, Alok Thakur, Nitesh



Thakur, and Mayur Sharma have been appointed as Vice Presidents. Abhishek Thakur, Hariom Thakur, Sudhanshu Kumar, Abhishek Singh, Anand Gop, and Mahadev Lohar have been given responsibilities as Ministers. Dev Kumar Das has been appointed Treasurer and Prateek Chatterjee as Joint Treasurer. Sahil Nishad and Ayush Prakash have been appointed as Press Spokespersons. Abhishek Das and Sumit Rajak have been given responsibilities as Joint Ministers. All members present in the meeting

pledged to make Ram Navami Procession 2026 successful with chants of Shri Ram. Members said that efforts will be made to organize this year's procession in a more grand, attractive, and disciplined manner than before. They also appealed to people from all sections of society for cooperation and participation. At the end of the meeting, all Bajrang Dal members unitedly pledged to contribute their body, mind, and resources to ensure the success of the Ram Navami procession.

Plumbers Honored for Their Role in Rural Jal Jeevan Mission at Water Festival

Correspondent-ct

Lohardaga: On the occasion of World Plumber's Day, a district-level program was organized in Lohardaga under the Jal Mahotsav fortnight to strengthen public awareness about safe drinking water and water conservation. Plumbers responsible for the successful implementation and maintenance of Jal Jeevan Mission projects in rural areas were honored for their significant contributions. Following the directions of the Deputy Commissioner of Lohardaga, the program was held at the Drinking Water & Sanitation Division Auditorium. Plumbers from various blocks



of the district participated in the event. The program began with a welcome by the Assistant Engineer of the Drinking Water



& Sanitation Division, who highlighted the objectives of the Jal Mahotsav fortnight and emphasized the critical role of plumbers in maintaining and repairing Jal Jeevan Mission schemes. He noted that without their support, ensuring a

smooth supply of safe drinking water to rural households would not be possible. During the event, the District Coordinator and Junior Engineer elaborated on the objectives of the Jal Jeevan Mission and its importance in rural areas. They emphasized that the mission aims to provide safe drinking water to every household, and plumbers play an indispensable role in achieving this goal. Honors and Recognition: Ten plumbers who excelled in the maintenance of Jal Jeevan Mission schemes were awarded certificates of appreciation. The honored plumbers included: Md. Mobarak Ansari (Lohardaga), Sagir Khan (Kharki), Rajkumar Uraon (Dedaria), Sunil Mahto (Bhandra), Manoj Yadav (Pesharar)

Jaiprakash Yadav (Senha), Zahid Ansari (Hurhad), Balkishun Saw (Hati), Pintu (Tati), Tajuddin (Senha). Along with certificates, all the plumbers were provided with plumber kits to facilitate their work in maintenance and repairs under the Jal Jeevan Mission. The program was attended by plumbers from different blocks, assistant and junior engineers, WASH coordinators of all blocks, and other departmental officials and staff. The Jal Mahotsav fortnight reinforced the commitment to water conservation, sanitation, and ensuring safe drinking water awareness across the district.

A review meeting was held regarding divisional-level internal financial resources Complete revenue collection targets on time: Commissioner

Staff Reporter(CT) ■

RANCHI: In the divisional auditorium, under the chairmanship of Commissioner Manoj Kumar, the current status of revenue collection was reviewed and instructions were given to immediately improve it and achieve the target at all costs. The meeting reviewed the Commercial Tax, Transport, Auction Letters, Mining, Excise, Weights and Measures, Market Committee, and Fisheries departments. The revenue collection status of various departments was reviewed in turn and instructions were given to the officers. The Commissioner urged officials at the divisional and district levels to ensure that they work responsibly and in accordance with departmental guidelines to boost revenue collection. He urged all dis-

tricts to expedite the work of increasing revenue collection and improving revenue collection by the end of this month. He urged all officials to prepare action plans. The Commissioner stated that revenue collection will be monitored at the divisional level. All officials should perform their duties with utmost honesty during the target achievement process. In the meeting, the Commissioner expressed displeasure and dissatisfaction over the State Tax and Revenue, Registration and Land Reforms, RTA, and Weights and Measures departments falling short of their target. He stated that to improve the situation, there is a need to set smart targets, closely monitor work, and make strategic efforts to remove obstacles. District transport officials were instructed to inspect



vehicles in their respective districts and make recoveries. He also directed them to conduct campaigns and conduct intensive inspections of overloaded vehicles and permits for small vehicles. Reviewing the Mining Department, he said that wherever illegal mining is taking place, it should be stopped immediately.

Conduct periodic raids and ensure necessary action. Section measurements should be conducted at all mines. The Commissioner stated that illegal sand mining is being carried out at several ghats. Necessary steps should be taken to completely stop illegal sand mining. Legal action will be taken against those caught secretly transporting

illegal sand. During the meeting, during the review of the Excise Department, the Commissioner discussed in detail the steps taken to prevent illegal liquor trade, including raids and the sale of liquor above the MRP, and provided necessary guidelines. Reviewing the auction papers, the Commissioner

urged auction officers to expedite their work and ensure that pending cases are resolved as quickly as possible. Auction officers should take necessary action on pending cases filed in the auction papers and provide a report so that necessary action can be taken. The Commissioner directed officials who were absent from the meeting to provide an explanation. Commissioner's Secretary Alok Kumar, Secretary Regional Transport Authority Harivansh Pandit, Deputy Director Mines, District Mining Officers, Ranchi/Gumla/Lohardaga/Khunti/Simdega, District Transport Officers, Gumla/Lohardaga/Khunti/Simdega, District Mining Officers, Ranchi/Gumla/Lohardaga, Auction Officers, and others were present at the meeting.

Woman jumps from Koel Bridge, condition critical

PALAMU: On Wednesday morning, a woman jumped off the Koel Bridge in the Medininagar City police station area, leaving her two young children behind. The woman has been admitted to Medinirai Medical College Hospital for treatment in an unconscious state. The woman is said to be unconscious. The reason for her suicide will become clear once she regains consciousness. Following the incident, chaos prevailed at the scene for some time, with a large crowd gathering and a traffic jam on the bridge. The woman has been identified as Aarti Devi, 28, wife of Shashi Chandravanshi, a resident of Navadih Getha in the Lesliaganj police station area. Her maternal home is in Garda Neura in the Chainpur police station area.

BRIEF NEWS

Union Bank of India, Regional Office, Ranchi, Organized a Social Assistance Program at the Missionaries of Charity



RANCHI: Union Bank of India, Regional Office, Ranchi, reaffirming its commitment to social responsibility, organized a special program under the "Empower Her" initiative. As part of this program, water purifiers and chairs were provided to the local Missionaries of Charity for the convenience of destitute and disabled women. The Bank's Regional Head, Alok Kumar, Deputy Regional Head, Neeraj Kumar Kandhawe, and senior officials attended the event. Addressing the event, the Regional Head said that Union Bank is not limited to banking services alone, but is always committed to empowering the underprivileged sections of society, especially children and women. The primary objective of the "Empower Her" initiative is to bring about positive change in society and provide basic amenities to the needy. The charity's management commended Union Bank for its humanitarian efforts, stating that the availability of water purifiers for clean drinking water and chairs will significantly improve the daily lives of the disabled women. Other bank employees were also present during the event, spending time with the charity's beneficiaries and wishing them a bright future.

"Bharat Taxi" based on the cooperative model will usher in a new revolution in the transportation sector: Dr. Pradeep Verma



NEW DELHI: Rajya Sabha MP Dr. Pradeep Kumar Verma raised an important question in the Rajya Sabha today regarding the cooperative-based transportation service "Bharat Taxi." He sought to know from the Honorable Union Minister of Cooperation what specific benefits this new service will provide to consumers and how this initiative will create new employment opportunities for the country's youth, farmers, drivers, and small entrepreneurs. Dr. Verma stated that the establishment of the Ministry of Cooperation by the Government of India in 2021 was a visionary and historic step that gave a new direction to the cooperative system. Under the leadership of Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Union Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, the pledge of "Prosperity through Cooperation" is becoming a powerful means of economic empowerment for millions of farmers, villagers, and small entrepreneurs in the country. He stated that the launch of the "Bharat Taxi" service based on the cooperative model is an important initiative in this direction. This will not only provide transparent, accessible, and better transportation services to passengers, but will also create new income and employment opportunities for drivers, youth, and small entrepreneurs. Dr. Verma expressed confidence that this cooperative-based model will play a vital role in bringing positive changes to the transportation sector and economically empowering thousands of people. He said that this initiative will also prove helpful in strengthening the rural economy and advancing the goal of a self-reliant India.

The bride's uncle shot the groom's brother at a wedding ceremony and fled

PALAMU: A shooting occurred during a wedding ceremony in Naugarh village, under the Lesliaganj police station area of the district, on Tuesday night. The bride's uncle shot the groom's brother. The injured youth has been admitted to Medini Rai Medical College Hospital for treatment. He was shot in the leg. The injured youth has been identified as Kamal Chaudhary, a resident of Potma village in Garhwa district. Following the incident, the wedding procession was briefly in a state of panic. Upon receiving information, police began investigating. An application was filed with the police station on Wednesday to register a case. According to reports, the wedding procession had arrived at Sunil Chaudhary's house in Naugarh village from Laghma village in Garhwa district.

Temperatures drop in Jharkhand, rain expected until the 17th

Staff Reporter(CT) ■

RANCHI: Rainfall on Tuesday in various districts of the state, including the state capital, Ranchi, has caused a drop in maximum temperatures by 2 to 4 degrees. Rain accompanied by thunder and lightning is expected in various districts across the state until March 17th. The weather department has issued a yellow alert regarding this. The Meteorological Department released this information on Wednesday. According to the department, light rain accompanied by thunder and lightning is likely in some parts of the northeastern parts of the state on March 12th. The weather will remain clear on March 13th and 14th, while on March 15th, light rain accompanied by thunder and lightning is likely in the remaining districts except the northwestern part of the state. On March 16th, strong winds with speeds of 30 to 40 kilometers per hour

are expected in some parts of the state, accompanied by thunder. Furthermore, light rain and thundershowers are expected in the rest of the state on March 17th, except for the northwestern districts. During the last 24 hours, the highest temperature in the state was recorded at 34.4 degrees Celsius in Daltonganj, and the lowest at 17.6 degrees Celsius in Gumla. On Wednesday, the weather in Ranchi and surrounding areas remained clear in the morning, with partly cloudy skies in the afternoon. Moderate winds also blew. On Wednesday, Ranchi recorded a maximum temperature of 30.1 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 19.5 degrees Celsius. Similarly, Jamshepur recorded a maximum temperature of 32 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 23.4 degrees Celsius. Daltonganj recorded a maximum temperature of 34.4 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 22 degrees Celsius.

Quarterly meeting of the Official Language Implementation Committee held at CCL, offices performing outstanding work honored

Staff Reporter(CT) ■

RANCHI: The quarterly review meeting of the Official Language Implementation Committee was held today at the Ranchi headquarters of Central Coalfields Limited. The meeting was chaired by Director (Human Resources) Harsh Nath Mishra. General Manager (Official Language) Ashok Kumar, heads of various departments, General Managers, Official Language Nodal Officers, and representatives from CCL's regional offices were present at the meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, General Manager (Official Language) Ashok Kumar welcomed all present, and Deputy Manager (Official Language) Divik Divesh presented detailed infor-



mation on ongoing schemes, programs, and achievements. The status of the use and spread of the official language was reviewed through the quarterly progress report. In his presidential address, Director (Human Resources) Harsh Nath Mishra said, "Effective implementation of the official language, Hindi, plays a vital role in strengthening the organization's functioning and establishing better com-

munication with stakeholders." He emphasized the need for all department heads to ensure compliance with the Official Language Policy and maximize the use of Hindi in correspondence, notes, and e-office work. He also explained that by effectively utilizing the translation facility available in e-office, notes can be easily made in Hindi. During the meeting, the IED Department, Human Resources and Industrial

Relations, Barka-Sayal Region, Welfare Department, General Administration, Municipal Administration, and Manpower Department were honored and rewarded for their excellent implementation of the Official Language, innovation, and exemplary efforts in the past quarter. The meeting concluded with a resolution to further strengthen the effective implementation of the Official Language.

Education alone will change the fate of tribal communities: Prafulla

Staff Reporter(CT) ■

KHUNTI: The 249th new educational building, Saraswati Dham, constructed by the Matushree Kashiba Haribhai Goti Charitable Trust in Dodma village of the district, was inaugurated with great pomp on Wednesday. Area MLA Koche Munda and Vanvasi Kalyan Kendra's Organization Minister Prafulla Akant were prominent attendees on the occasion. Prafulla Akant, who was present at the ceremony, praised the Trust's work and said that such efforts to promote education in

remote and tribal areas are highly commendable. He said that the school buildings being constructed through the Trust hold immense potential for building a bright future for tribal and tribal children. Akant stated that education alone can change the fate of tribal communities. He explained that under the leadership of Keshubhai Goti, the Trust's president and an industrialist from Surat, Gujarat, new buildings have been constructed in various rural areas of the country to replace dilapidated schools and hostels for the past 12 years.

KSHATRIYA GAURAV EKTA RALLY ON MARCH 15

Staff Reporter(CT) ■

RANCHI: To ensure the success of the Kshatriya Gaurav Ekta Rally on March 15, a meeting was held at the residence of former councilor Surendra Singh, chaired by Suraj Singh. Former MSC Praveen Singh, former MP Sunil Singh, Ramesh Singh, Abhishek Singh, and Surendra Singh were among the key participants. Addressing the meeting, Praveen Singh said that this rally will



prove to be a milestone for the community. All parties in Jharkhand have fooled the Kshatriya community. We must demonstrate our strength. Mr. Singh appealed to the people of Kokar to come in at least 1,000 numbers to demonstrate their unity.

Former MP Sunil Singh said that prominent leaders of the Kshatriya community have been invited to this rally, who will guide us. We must demonstrate our strength only then can we fight our battles. Ramesh Singh said that more than 40,000 people

from the community will attend this rally. This rally will be held in all districts of Jharkhand. There is great enthusiasm among the people of the society regarding this. A series of meetings is going on in all the districts. Mainly Pawan Singh, Shubham Singh, Akhilesh Singh, Rakesh Singh, Rahul Singh, Dumpy Singh, Sanjay Singh, Mahesh Singh, Rajesh Singh, Karan Singh and many people of the society were present in the meeting.

A massive uproar erupted in the House over the DJ ban on Ram Navami, with BJP MLAs storming the well with placards

Jharkhand Assembly Budget Session: Minister provides information on the Abua Housing Scheme

Staff Reporter(CT) ■

RANCHI: On Wednesday, the 11th day of the Jharkhand Assembly Budget Session, BJP MLA Naveen Jaiswal raised the issue of the ban on DJ music on Ram Navami in Hazaribagh. He questioned the government. Several BJP MLAs rose from their seats in support of Jaiswal and began protesting. Meanwhile, Congress MLA Rajesh Kachhap entered the well of the House amid the commotion. The BJP MLA held a placard that read, "The plunder of coal, sand, and land will not be tolerated." Amid the uproar, marshals took the placards from the MLAs' hands. Meanwhile, MLA Pradeep Yadav expressed his displeasure at not being able to complete his speech. Following this, BJP MLAs once again entered the well and continued to raise slogans for a long



time. Later, after the Parliamentary Affairs Minister intervened, the MLAs returned to their seats from the well. After the situation in the House returned to normal, Assembly Speaker Dr. Rabindra Nath Mahato stated that for the first time, the House had proceeded without any disruption and appealed to all members not to disrupt the proceedings. Regarding the issue of DJ music, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Radha Krishna Kishore stated that the DJ music has nothing to do with any religion. He stated that DJ music should not be played

after 10 p.m. under any circumstances. He also stated that it is not Hindus but Hindustanis who are in danger in the country. MLA Hemlal Murmu raises questions about the Abhu Housing Scheme. In the House, Lippara MLA Hemlal Murmu raised questions about the state's ambitious Abhu Housing Scheme. He sought information about the process and the government's preparations for providing housing to beneficiaries under the scheme. Responding to this, Minister Deepika Pandey Singh stated that providing housing to the poor is

among the state government's priorities. He stated that approximately Rs 4,400 crore has been allocated for housing in the budget. This amount will be used to complete 600,000 existing houses, while new housing will also be approved. The Minister stated that numerous discussions and correspondence have been held with the Central Government regarding increasing the amount of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Prime Minister Housing Scheme), but no positive response has been received from the Central Government. Despite this, the Jharkhand Government is continuously striving to provide homes to the homeless through the Abhu Housing Scheme. The Minister stated that during its five-year tenure, the State Government is working with the goal of providing housing to those in need. He stated that a survey is being conducted to identify the rightful beneficiaries. So far, approximately 150,000 people have been screened, ensuring that only those truly in need receive the benefits of the scheme.

Seven people arrested red-handed while stealing power lines

KHUNTI: Acting on a tip-off received by the Superintendent of Police, a major operation was launched against a gang involved in stealing high-tension power lines in the Torpa police station area. On Tuesday, police arrested seven people red-handed for stealing power lines. A large quantity of power lines, a pickup truck, and other equipment were also recovered. Torpa Sub-Divisional Police Officer Christopher Kerketta announced this at a press conference held in his office on Wednesday. He stated that the Superintendent of Police (SP) had received information that high-tension wires were being cut from power poles behind the Krishi Vigyan Kendra on the Torpa-Khunti Road and loaded into a pickup truck.

Sahibganj's Daughter, Ms. Niharika Sinha, Brings Honor to the District by Securing Rank 365 in the UPSC Exams

Sahibganj: Niharika Sinha, a daughter of Sahibganj, has brought glory to both the district and the state by securing the 365th rank in the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Civil Services Examination 2025. Her remarkable achievement has created an atmosphere of joy and pride throughout Sahibganj. Following her success, Niharika Sinha paid a courtesy visit to the office chamber of the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Hemant Sati (IAS), located at the District Collectorate. On this occasion, the Deputy Commissioner honored her by presenting a floral bouquet and a shawl, and extended his best wishes for her bright future. Also present at the occasion were Deputy Development



Deputy Commissioner Honors Her with a Bouquet and a Shawl

Commissioner Mr. Satish Chandra, Additional Collector Mr. Gautam Bhagat, ITDA Project Director Mr. Sanjay Kumar Das, District Supply Officer Mr. Jhunu Kumar Mishra, and District Education Superintendent Mr. Kumar Harsh. They, too, honored Niharika by presenting her with bouquets and congratulated her on this significant achievement. A resident of Kulipara,

Ms. Niharika has been academically brilliant right from the start. She completed her Matriculation (Class 10) in 2018 from St. Xavier's School (English Medium), Sahibganj; her Intermediate (Class 12) studies in 2020 from Jawahar Vidya Mandir, Shyamali, Ranchi; and her Bachelor's degree in Political Science in 2023 from St. Xavier's College, Kolkata. Subsequently, she moved to Delhi to begin her preparations for the Civil Services Examination. Although she did not achieve success in her first attempt in 2024, she refused to give up; in her second attempt in 2025, she achieved this milestone by securing the 365th rank. Niharika has attributed her success to her parents and mentors. On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Mr. Hemant Sati (IAS) stated that the district administration has established the 'Phulo-Jhano

Digital Library' in Sahibganj to provide better guidance to students. He requested Niharika Sinha to visit the digital library periodically to share her experiences and offer career guidance to the students studying there, so that a greater number of students in the district may draw inspiration from her and achieve their own goals. Niharika's achievement has served as a fresh source of inspiration for the youth of the district, demonstrating that any goal can be attained through the power of determination, hard work, and a positive mindset.

With the objective of preventing any disruptions in gas supply and curbing black marketing, and acting under the directives of the District Magistrate



Banka: a special drive was conducted to inspect the gas agencies of Sunita HP Gas (Rural Distributor) and Akoria Indane (Rural Distributor). The Sub-Divisional Officer, Mr. Rajkumar, issued clear instructions stating that no form of black marketing or negligence would be tolerated, and that strict adherence to all safety standards must be mandatorily ensured.

A meeting was organized at the office of the District Transport Officer, Mr. Mrityunjay Kumar, in Dumka



Dumka: attended by members of the Dumka Bus Association. During the meeting, various issues concerning buses operating within the district were discussed. During the proceedings, District Transport Officer Mr. Mrityunjay Kumar directed the operators of vehicles with outstanding tax dues (tax defaulters) to clear their pending taxes as soon as possible. He clarified that strict action would be initiated against any vehicle

found to have pending tax liabilities, in accordance with the relevant sections of the Motor Vehicles Act. Additionally, special directives were issued to ensure the safety and security of female passengers traveling by bus. Bus operators were instructed to maintain discipline within their buses and to prevent the occurrence of any situation that might cause inconvenience or compromise safety. During the meeting, members of

the Bus Association also presented their grievances and suggestions to the officials; the following points were highlighted as particularly significant: * CCTV cameras should be installed both inside the bus stand premises and in the surrounding areas outside. * A ban should be imposed on the sale of intoxicants and narcotic substances on the road adjacent to the bus stand. District Transport Officer Mr. Mrityunjay Kumar

assured the attendees that he would consult with senior officials regarding the aforementioned points and take appropriate action. All bus operators were strictly instructed to refrain from parking their vehicles haphazardly on the roads and to cooperate in efforts to improve the overall transport system. The meeting was attended by the Motor Vehicles Inspector (Dumka), the President and Secretary of the Bus Association, and various other bus owners.

SIA Public Hearing Organized for Adani Power Plant's Rail Corridor and Road Project

Senior Journalist Kaushal Kumar

Bhagalpur: A public hearing regarding the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) for the proposed rail corridor and road project of the power plant was organized at the Pirpainti Block premises. During the event, administrative officials and the SIA team interacted with the landowners (Rayats) and apprised them of the procedures related to land acquisition.



Present at the program were Additional District Land Acquisition Officer Mr. Vikram Bhaskar Jha, BDO Mr. Abhimanyu Kumar, BSPGCL officials Mr. Shashikant Kumar and Mr. Deepak Kumar, and the Project Coordinator for the SIA research institute, Mr. Maskhoor Hussain. The officials provided the landowners with detailed information regarding the rules governing land acquisition, the compensation process, and the project itself. During the public hearing, several

landowners also presented their questions and suggestions before the committee. The committee members addressed their queries to the best of their ability and provided the necessary information. It was stated that approximately 146 acres of land are to be acquired for the construction of the proposed road and rail corridor for the power plant, a process that will impact the land of a total of 169 landowners. This land is situated within the areas of Harinkol, Bandhu Jayaram, Basantpur, and the Pirpainti Nagar Panchayat. Among the landowners present at the public hearing were Virendra Singh and Munna Singh from Harinkol; Ajay Singh

from Basantpur; Jayant Singh, Balwant Singh, Pankaj Singh, Sony Singh, Bambam Singh, and Ratnes Singh from Kunjvanna; Kantesh Kunwar, Brijkishore Kunwar, Shivnarayan Kunwar, and Indu Devi from Hiranand; Prabhu Yadav, Shivshankar Yadav, Ankur Kumar, Brijkishore, and Phulkumari Devi from Bandhu Jayaram Panchayat; and Nirmal Shah, Vijay Kumar Sah, Md. Sharif Ansari, Md. Mahtab Alam, and Md. Shamim from the Nagar Panchayat, among others. Also present on this occasion were public representatives—including the Sarpanch of Harinkol, Varun Goswami—as well as local residents.

At the Chandrashekhar Singh Nagar Bhawan in Banka, a two-day Agriculture Mechanization-cum-Input Fair was inaugurated by Mr. Navdeep Shukla (IAS)

Banka: the District Magistrate of Banka, by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Present on this occasion were all officials and staff members of the Agriculture Department, as well as farmers hailing from every block of the district. In his address, the District Magistrate highlighted the significance of agricultural mechanization and discussed the importance of climate-resilient farming. He further issued directives to ensure that farmers are encouraged to take delivery of 100% of the allotted machinery against permits with an extended validity period (up to March 14, 2026). Welcoming the chief guests from the dais, the District Agriculture Officer of Banka provided an overview of the achievements recorded in the district during the 2025-26 agricultural mechanization year under the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) scheme, specifically regarding individual farm implements,



Agricultural Machinery Banks, and Custom Hiring Centers. The Deputy Director (Agricultural Engineering), Banka, presented detailed information regarding the targets set and achievements

realized in the field of agricultural mechanization for the year 2025-26. Additionally, instructions were issued to the block and panchayat-level officials present to expedite the collection of machinery and

promptly submit the relevant documentation to the procurement office, thereby ensuring the timely disbursement of subsidy amounts to the farmers. The District Animal Husbandry Officer, District Dairy Development Officer, District Horticulture Officer, and Assistant Director (Chemistry)—all of whom were present at the event—provided information regarding the various schemes currently being implemented within their respective departments. Furthermore, an agricultural scientist from the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Banka, shared valuable insights regarding common crop diseases and pest infestations. The District Magistrate toured the premises of the Chandrashekhar Singh Nagar Bhawan, Banka, to inspect the stalls displaying various agricultural implements, and sought detailed information regarding specific machines such as straw reapers, self-propelled reapers, power weeders, and other farm equipment.

Sahibganj Urban Water Supply Scheme Reviewed; Directives Issued for Speedy Completion of Works



Sahibganj: The progress of the Sahibganj Urban Water Supply Scheme was reviewed via video conferencing by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Jharkhand (Ranchi), at the Office of the Deputy Development Commissioner. During this review meeting, the current status of various works related to the scheme was discussed in detail, and necessary directives were issued to ensure the speedy completion of all pending tasks. Various officials from the department, including the Deputy Development Commissioner, Mr. Satish

Chandra, were present at the meeting. On this occasion, the Executive Engineer, Regional Chief Engineer, Superintending Engineer, Assistant Engineer, and Junior Engineers also participated in the proceedings. All officials presented updates regarding the progress of the works currently underway at their respective levels. During the review, departmental officials assessed the work accomplished under the scheme thus far; furthermore, directives were issued to prioritize and expedite the completion of any tasks currently facing delays. It was also emphasized that the scheme must be completed within a stipulated timeframe—while strictly maintaining the quality of work—to ensure a clean and regular supply of drinking water for the city's residents. At the conclusion of the meeting, the concerned officials were directed to work in close coordination to complete all pending tasks associated with the Sahibganj Urban Water Supply Scheme as expeditiously as possible.

A significant review meeting was held in the Collectorate Auditorium, presided over by Deputy Commissioner Mr. Abhijit Sinha (IAS), with representatives from all major banks in the district

Dumka: The primary objective of the meeting was to review the progress of credit disbursement, credit linkages, and banking services under various government welfare schemes. During the meeting, while specifically reviewing applications related to the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme, the Deputy Commissioner issued strict directives to all banks to expedite the processing of KCC applications in strict accordance with established rules. He explicitly stated that any form of unnecessary delay at the bank level would not be tolerated. Banks whose performance under



the KCC scheme was deemed unsatisfactory were issued a warning and directed to ensure the timely and priority-based disposal of all pending applications. The Deputy Commissioner also conducted a detailed review of the progress of the Prime Minister's Employment

Programme (PMEGP) and the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme. He directed the banks to simplify and accelerate the loan sanctioning process under these schemes—which aim to promote self-employment and

micro-enterprises—to ensure that eligible beneficiaries receive financial assistance in a timely manner. While reviewing credit linkages, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized that connecting beneficiaries associated with various government schemes to

the formal banking system must be treated as a top priority. He directed the banks to play an active role in ensuring that eligible beneficiaries are able to access and avail the benefits of these schemes. The functioning of 'Bank Sakhis' was also reviewed during the meeting. The Deputy Commissioner directed that necessary action be taken against any Bank Sakhis who are failing to properly discharge their duties, and that they be relieved of their responsibilities, in order to maintain the quality of banking services. While reviewing social security insurance schemes, the Deputy

Commissioner emphasized the need for the widespread publicity and promotion of the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, and Atal Pension Yojana. He directed that efforts be made to enroll the maximum number of eligible individuals under these schemes. Specifically, he instructed that special camps be organized in villages situated along the National Highways within the Dumka district to ensure the registration of local residents. The Deputy Commissioner also directed banks not to unnecessarily keep loan applications related to

government-sponsored schemes pending. If any application lacks documentation, they should immediately contact the concerned beneficiary to procure the necessary documents and expedite the loan approval process. He emphasized that it is the responsibility of all banks to ensure that the benefits of these schemes are made available to eligible beneficiaries in a timely manner. The meeting was attended by the Deputy Development Commissioner, the District Transport Officer, Mr. Mrityunjay Kumar (LDM), and representatives from various banks.

The Indian team will be busy with international cricket again from June

AGENCY

Series to play against several countries until the 2027 ODI World Cup

Mumbai: Celebrating their victory in the T20 World Cup, the Indian cricket team will now take a break and play in the IPL, which begins later this month. The players' morale has been boosted since their World Cup win. Consequently, their performance is expected to be top-notch in the IPL, which begins on March 28th. Following the IPL final on May 31st, the team will once again be busy with international cricket. The Indian team will prepare for the 2027 ODI World Cup. During this time, the coaching staff and selectors will strive to improve their team combination for the

World Cup. In addition to limited-overs cricket, Team India will also aim to perform well in the 2025-27 World Test Championship cycle. India's goal will be to once again reach the World Test Championship final, thereby winning the ICC trophy in Test cricket.

Home series against Afghanistan in June- The Indian team will now play Afghanistan in June. The team will play one Test and three ODIs against Afghanistan. These matches will be played in India between June 6 and 20.

England Tour- The Indian team will travel to England in July for five



T20Is and three ODIs. These matches will be played from July 1 to 19.

Sri Lanka Tour- The Indian team will then tour Sri Lanka in August to play two Tests and two T20Is.

Bangladesh Tour- The Indian team will travel to Bangladesh in September to play three ODIs and three T20Is between September 1 and 13.

Asian Games- The

Indian team will then travel to Japan to participate in the Asian Games. These matches will be played between September 19 and October 4.

India's West Indies Tour- The Indian team will play three ODIs and three T20Is against the West Indies in October.

India's New Zealand Tour- The Indian team will play two Tests, three ODIs, and five T20Is during this tour. These matches will be played between October and November.

Sri Lanka's tour of India- The Indian team will play three ODIs and as many T20Is against Sri Lanka at the end of the year.

Border-Gavaskar Trophy- The Indian team will face Australia on home soil in 5 Tests in 2027.

If they qualify, they will travel to England to play the World Test Championship final in June.

- Match: 1 Test
- Date: June 2027
- Host country: England
- Asian Cup 2027

The Indian team will travel to Bangladesh in July for the Asia Cup.

One Day Cricket World Cup 2027- These matches will be played in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia. The Indian team will enter as a title contender.

Gambhir now has his sights set on the 2027 ODI World Cup

Preparations to begin after the IPL

AGENCY

New Delhi: Indian cricket team head coach Gautam Gambhir is known for his unique style. After winning the T20 World Cup, Gambhir is now focused on next year's ODI World Cup. Gambhir has already begun planning for this victory. Gambhir is known as a coach who plans with an eye on the future. He says that by the end of IPL 2026, the action plan for the 2027 ODI World Cup will be ready. Gambhir said that after a few days of rest, the team management will resume implementing plans for the next ICC tournament. It is worth noting that the ODI World Cup will be played in South Africa, Namibia, and Zimbabwe. Gambhir knows that playing on the fast and bouncy pitches there is difficult. Keeping this in mind, Gambhir said that the team will begin preparing for this tournament immediately after IPL 2026. The players will be selected by the end of May. The Indian team has



to play 25 to 30 ODIs before that, which will provide them ample opportunity for practice. Gambhir said, planning for the 2027 World Cup will begin after the IPL. There will be approximately 25 to 30 ODI matches between the 2026 IPL and the World Cup. Nowadays, the ODI format is not played very often. The sooner we start planning for it, the better it will be for us.

The coach further said, "We know that South Africa is not an easy place to play cricket. We will have to find the right combination for the conditions there and identify the players who can perform well in those conditions. This work will be done by the selectors and coaching staff."

Samson Sets a Unique Record

AGENCY

Mumbai: Indian wicketkeeper-batsman Sanju Samson dominated the ICC T20 World Cup this year with his outstanding performance. Samson set several records, including three consecutive half-centuries. He also set a unique record. Samson became the first player to receive the Player of the Tournament award despite missing four matches for his team in any ICC men's or women's tournament. Prior to Samson, only four players had won the Player of the Tournament award despite missing all their team's matches, but all of these players had missed only one match. Samson, meanwhile, missed the first



four matches. He struggled to score runs at the start of the tournament and was therefore not included in the starting eleven. Due to opener Abhishek Sharma's unfitness, he was given the opportunity to play in one match, where he performed well and established himself in the team. Due to the presence of more left-handed batsmen in the top order of the Super 8, Samson, being a right-handed batsman, was given

a place to improve the team combination, which he took full advantage of. Samson scored an unbeaten 97 in the final Super 8 match against the West Indies. He then played a crucial role in the team's victory by scoring 89 in the semi-final against England and again in the final against New Zealand. For this, he was awarded the Player of the Tournament award. India played a total of nine matches in this tournament, of which Samson was able to play only five. Whereas, any player who has previously been awarded 'Player of the Tournament' in any ICC men's or women's tournament had either played all their team's matches or missed only one match.

India's Mandhana remains at number one in the ICC rankings

Harmanpreet moves up to eighth, Jemimah slips to 12th

AGENCY

Dubai: Indian women's cricket team star Smriti Mandhana remains at the top of the latest International Cricket Council (ICC) ODI batting rankings. Mandhana retained her number one spot following her impressive performance in the recent Australia tour. Indian team captain Harmanpreet Kaur remains at eighth, while Jemimah Rodrigues has slipped one spot to 12th. Following her impressive performance in the recent series against Zimbabwe, New Zealand all-rounder Amelia Kerr has gained five places to 11th in the bowling rankings, while she has also gained one spot to fifth in the all-rounder



rankings. New Zealand batsman Brooke Halliday has gained eight places to 11th, and Maddie Green has gained four places to 22nd. Halliday scored a century in the first match of the series, while Green scored a half-century. Following her good performance against the West Indies, Sri Lankan left-handed batsman Hasini Perera has jumped 15 places to 28th in the latest batting rankings. Imesha Dulani has gained 17 places to 72nd in the batting rankings, while Kavisha Dilhari has gained three places to reach 21st in the bowling rankings.

Aryna Sabalenka defeats Naomi Osaka in Indian Wells, advances to the quarterfinals

AGENCY

Indian Wells: World number one Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus delivered a stellar performance in a clash of Grand Slam champions, defeating seventh-seeded Jasmine Paolini 7-5, 2-6, 6-1 to advance to the quarterfinals of the Indian Wells Open. Sabalenka will now face the winner of the match between Amanda Anisimova and Victoria Mboko in the quarterfinals. Sabalenka played aggressively throughout the match, hitting 31 winners and eight aces. She broke Osaka's serve twice in the first set to easily win the set. Osaka tried to regain her momentum in the second set, but failed to break Sabalenka's strong serve.



Sabalenka saved both break points in the second set and hit a brilliant forehand winner to take a 4-3 lead. This was only the second match between the two players. Osaka had previously won the match in 2018, winning her first Grand Slam title that same year. Sabalenka said after the match that she maintained constant pressure by adding variety to the court, leaving Osaka confused at crucial moments.

Talia Gibson's impressive performance- Meanwhile, Australian qualifier Talia Gibson also performed brilliantly, defeating seventh-seeded Jasmine Paolini 7-5, 2-6, 6-1 to advance to the quarterfinals. The 21-year-old Gibson hit 42 winners in the match and defeated a top-10 player for the first time in her career. She took the lead in the first set with a break in the final moments. Paolini fought back to take a 3-0 lead in the second set, but Gibson played aggressively in the deciding set to win the match. Gibson, ranked 112th in the world, said after the match that she was extremely emotional with the victory and surprised by her own performance.

BRIEF

IPL 2026 season schedule to be announced soon: BCCI

Mumbai: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has stated that the schedule for the Indian Premier League (IPL), scheduled to begin later this month, will be announced soon. Fans have been eagerly awaiting the start of the 19th season of the IPL since the conclusion of the T20 World Cup. The season is scheduled to begin on March 28th, but the schedule has not yet been announced, leaving fans unsure about which teams will play which matches. The BCCI also cited the delay in announcing the schedule as a reason for awaiting election dates in some states. Therefore, the board will announce the schedule in two phases, rather than announcing all matches at once. BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia stated that the schedule for the first 20 days of the IPL will be released in the next 2-3 days. He stated that this decision was made in light of the elections in West Bengal, Kerala, Assam, and Tamil Nadu, where the legislative assemblies expire in May. Elections are required to be held before their terms end, and the Election Commission is expected to announce election dates for these states in the coming days. IPL matches in these states will be scheduled accordingly. The IPL 2026 season officially begins on March 28. As defending champions, Royal Challengers Bangalore will face Punjab Kings in their season opener. Last season, they defeated Punjab Kings by 6 runs in the IPL final.

Jacob Bethell to captain Birmingham Phoenix in The Hundred League

AGENCY

London: Young England all-rounder Jacob Bethell, who scored a century against the Indian team in the T20 World Cup, has been appointed captain of Birmingham Phoenix in The Hundred League. Bethell replaced Liam Livingstone in the auction for the upcoming season. Livingstone will play for London Spirit this season. Excited by the captaincy, Bethell said it was an honor for him. He said, "It's a great honor to be captaining Birmingham Phoenix. Having captained England last year, he understands the magnitude of this responsibility. It requires the best performance from us and the team." Hal Bethell has



impressed everyone with his performances in international cricket. He is among the players to score centuries in all three formats: List A, First Class, and T20. He proved his mettle with a brilliant century against the visitors in the semi-final of the T20 World Cup 2026. Birmingham Phoenix head coach Shane Bond praised Bethell's captaincy skills. He said that Bethell is a very talented player and her leadership

has emerged at a young age. According to Bond, "We saw her leadership skills when she captained England last year." Bethell made her debut in The Hundred for Welsh Fire in 2022. She was then signed by Birmingham Phoenix in 2023, but played only one match that season. In the 2024 season, she scored 166 runs in nine matches, averaging 33.20 and having a strike rate of 132.80. Last season, she scored 122 runs in eight innings. She also took three wickets, though her economy rate was over 10. Meanwhile, Phoenix has appointed Australian star all-rounder Ellyse Perry as captain of the Birmingham Phoenix women's team for the second consecutive season.

Iraqi players begin receiving visas ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026 playoffs

AGENCY

Mexico City: The process of issuing visas to Iraqi national football team players has begun ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026 intercontinental playoffs. The Mexican Foreign Ministry stated that visas are being issued to Iraqi players ahead of the qualifiers in Monterrey on March 31. According to the ministry, visa processing for some players was completed at the Mexican Embassy in Saudi Arabia on March 8, while the processing for other players and officials is scheduled to be completed at the Mexican Embassy in Qatar on Tuesday.



However, the government did not disclose how many players have been granted visas so far. The ongoing war in the region has caused the Iraqi team to face travel difficulties. Due to airspace closures, many players have not yet been able to gather in one location, impacting their preparations. In the intercontinental playoff, the Iraq national football team will face the winner of the

match between the Suriname national football team and the Bolivia national football team. The winner of this match will advance to the World Cup group stage, where they will be grouped with the France national football team, Norway national football team, and Senegal national football team. Iraq head coach Graham Arnold has also requested FIFA to postpone

the intercontinental qualifiers due to the current circumstances. He says that due to the closure of Iraqi airspace, most of the team's players, who play in the domestic league, have not yet been able to gather together. Meanwhile, the Mexican Foreign Ministry stated that it is in contact with the Iraqi Embassy in Mexico and will provide all possible assistance in preparing the documents for all members of the Iraqi national team. It is worth noting that the FIFA World Cup 2026 is being jointly hosted by Mexico, the United States, and Canada. The tournament will begin on June 11, 2026.

Asian footballers will also be in focus at the FIFA World Cup

AGENCY

New Delhi: Expectations are high from Asian players at this year's FIFA World Cup in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. In addition to South Korean star Song Hyung-min, all eyes will be on Japan's young midfielder, Takafusa Kubo. Song is the captain of the South Korean team and plays for Tottenham Hotspur at club level. His fast-paced and aggressive playing style makes him one of the most dangerous forwards in modern football. His leadership and hard work on the field serve as an inspiration for the team. Meanwhile, young Japanese player Kubo could



also make a significant impact at the 2026 World Cup. In addition to the Japanese team, he plays for Spanish club Real Sociedad. Kubo is known for his creativity, excellent control, and quick decisions,

allowing him to control the pace of the game. Japanese winger Kaoru Mitoma is also known for his speed and superb dribbling. He plays for Brighton & Hove and the Japanese national team. His ability to elude

defenders makes him a very dangerous player. Football experts believe that these players can further strengthen Asian football's reputation and add to the excitement of the tournament through their performances at the 2026 World Cup. Iranian striker Mehdi Tarami is also a highly regarded player. He has played club football for FC Porto and Inter Milan and has proven his offensive prowess. His goal-scoring ability and experience could prove crucial for the Iranian team. The FIFA World Cup in June will be held in a total of 16 cities, including 11 in the United States, three in Mexico, and two in Canada.

Harbhajan Singh gave a befitting reply to Kirti Azad, saying, "Don't drag sports into politics"

AGENCY

New Delhi: Veteran spinner Harbhajan Singh has strongly criticized TMC MP Kirti Azad for dragging the World Cup trophy into a religious controversy. After the Indian team's World Cup victory, former cricketer Kirti Azad questioned captain Suryakumar Yadav, coach Gautam Gambhir, and ICC Chairman Jay Shah's visit to the Hanuman temple near the stadium. Azad, a former cricketer, had stated that the trophy should not be associated with any religion or community, and asked why it wasn't taken



to other religious sites. Regarding this, Harbhajan Singh stated that he did not expect such controversial remarks from a former cricketer like Azad. He also urged him not to try to drag sports into politics. He said, "It's strange that Azad is engaging in this kind of politics, which is beyond comprehension. The Indian team can take the trophy

to temples, mosques, churches, or wherever they choose." If he asked his god for something and after his wish was fulfilled, he reconsidered his faith, what's the problem with that? Harbhajan said that he should be happy that India won the World Cup. He said, "It's disturbing to hear these things from fellow cricketers. It seems that Azad perhaps enjoys politics more than sports. It's even worse that he, being a player, is making such statements. The country has won the World Cup. Be happy, celebrate, but you're busy playing politics."