

Bokaro Administration brings tense situation under control

PNS : BOKARO



Upon receiving information about a dispute concerning a 2-decimal approach path at Khunta Mouja under Nawadih Police Station limits, Deputy Commissioner Vijaya Jadhav and Superintendent of Police Manoj Swargiary reached the spot late on Monday night. Their prompt arrival and proactive involvement played a key role in de-escalating tensions and restoring public confidence.

Earlier, officials including the SDO, SDPO, BDO, CO, and station in-charges from surrounding police stations had reached the site and engaged with both parties. With the assistance of local panchayat members and the village head, the officials managed to bring the situation under control through calm dialogue and mature handling.

In the course of the intervention, one person from one of the disputing parties was taken into police custody. His family members were moved to a secure location to ensure their safety. The administration acted swiftly to prevent the situation from aggravating.

At the scene, the DC and SP personally interacted with both groups involved, gathered detailed information, and reviewed the land-related documents. They issued necessary instructions to the concerned officials and ensured that legal processes were followed diligently.

Since the incident unfolded, SDO Bermo Mukesh Machhua, SDPO Bermo V.N. Singh, along with other administrative officials and a strong police presence, have remained deployed at the location. Their continuous monitoring has helped in maintaining calm across the area.

One Nation, One Election: Making Democracy Efficient and Accountable

BY DR. SANJEEV KUMAR & DR. NEHA SINHA

The idea of "One Nation, One Election" (ONOE) has once again captured the attention of India's political and civic discourse. At the heart of this idea lies a vision of electoral reform that seeks to synchronize elections for the Lok Sabha and all State Legislative Assemblies. Proponents of ONOE argue that holding simultaneous elections would streamline governance, reduce the cost of electoral processes, and minimize the disruptions caused by frequent polls.

While the concept is not new, its re-emergence in recent political discussions has reignited debates around its feasibility, impact on federalism, and implications for Indian democracy.

India did, in fact, begin its democratic journey with synchronized elections. From 1951-52 until 1967, elections to both the Parliament and state assemblies were conducted simultaneously. This alignment was disrupted due to the premature dissolution of some state governments and political instability, particularly during the late 1960s and 1970s. Since then, staggered elections have become the norm, creating a near-continuous cycle of electioneering somewhere in the country.

This constant state of electoral preparation and campaigning is often blamed for impeding consistent policy-making and governance.

The ONOE envisions that elections at both national and state level elections should be conducted at a defined time frame. The idea is to reduce the financial and administrative burden of conducting elections every few months and to allow elected leaders more uninterrupted time to focus on governance. Scholars and experts are of the view that fewer elections, the model code of conduct would be enforced less frequently, enabling smoother implementation of development programs and reducing populist decision-making tied to upcoming polls.

In recent months, the Union Government has made a renewed push to implement this idea. In September 2024, the Union Cabinet gave its nod to the ONOE proposal, citing benefits like reduced costs, more efficient governance, and better coordination between state and central governments. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav emphasized that a government-appointed committee had strongly backed the proposal, highlighting its alignment with the aspirations of India's youth and its potential to foster transparency and enforcing greater accountability.

While hard numbers are difficult to standardize, a report by a high-level committee chaired by former President Ram Nath Kovind projected that implementing ONOE could lead to a one-time boost in real GDP growth of 1.5 percentage points. In the fiscal year 2024, this figure translated to roughly 24.5 lakh crore—almost half of India's annual health budget and one-third of its spending on education. These figures underscore the enormous financial cost of frequent elections and the savings potential of a synchronized electoral schedule.

Globally, several democracies have adopted or experimented with similar models. In Sweden, for instance, elections for all levels of government are held on a single day every four years. Belgium aligns its federal and regional elections with European Union parliamentary elections. These examples provide comparative perspectives and suggest that such synchronization is both possible and functionally viable in diverse democratic systems.

Despite the strong economic and administrative arguments, the path to ONOE is far from straightforward. In December 2024, the bill proposing simultaneous elections failed to secure the required two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha. Although it received 269 votes in favor and 198 against, it fell short of the threshold necessary for a constitutional amendment. Critics from various political quarters raised concerns that ONOE could undermine the federal nature of India's Constitution, centralizing power in the hands of national parties and sidelining regional voices.

One of the key concerns voiced by opposition parties and constitutional experts is that synchronized elections could dilute the autonomy of state governments. There is apprehension that linking state elections to national ones could lead to national issues overshadowing regional concerns, thereby diminishing the influence of state-based parties and altering the dynamics of Indian federalism. This, critics argue, could subtly nudge India toward a quasi-presidential system, potentially compromising the pluralistic and decentralized structure enshrined in the Constitution.

DR. SANJEEV KUMAR IS ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, SPM COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI & DIRECTOR, SHD RESEARCH FOUNDATION AND DR. NEHA SINHA IS ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY, DELHI & FELLOW, CGPAS, SHD RESEARCH FOUNDATION. VIEWS ARE PERSONAL.

MLA PUSHES FOR EXPANDED FACILITIES AT RELIGIOUS SITES

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR



In a bid to enhance religious tourism and improve amenities for devotees, Potka MLA Sanjib Sardar has submitted a formal demand letter to Sudiya Kumar Sonu, Minister of Tourism, Art Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs. The proposal outlines several key development measures for Baba Mukteswar Dham, Harina's pond, and Rankini temple in Jadugoda—prominent religious and cultural hubs of the Potka Assembly constituency.

Among the highlighted demands is the installation of a fountain in the center of the pond at Baba Mukteswar Dham and the construction of an HDPE floating dock at the ghat, aimed at enhancing the scenic and functional aspects of the site. Additionally, MLA Sardar has called for the installation of street lights around the pond and within

the Rankini temple premises to ensure safety and convenience for visitors, especially during night-time religious festivities and events.

"Baba Mukteswar Dham is not only a historical spiritual site but also a cultural epicenter for thousands of devotees from Jharkhand, Bengal, and Odisha. However, the lack of modern infrastructure often leads to inconvenience," said MLA Sardar. He emphasized the urgent need for beautification and facility upgrades, especially considering the large footfall during Dishuwa Sarhul, Harina Mela, and the Sawan season.

Further stressing the significance of Rankini temple in Jadugoda, MLA Sardar highlighted how the site attracts numerous visitors during the December-January picnic season. Many programs continue late into the evening, but insufficient lighting poses serious challenges. In his letter, he has requested the Tourism Department to address these concerns through timely installation of lighting systems.

The local public has expressed strong support for the initiative. Residents and frequent visitors welcomed the move, noting that the proposed upgrades could not only improve the devotional experience but also boost local tourism and the economy. "If implemented, this would be a milestone in turning Potka into one of Jharkhand's leading spiritual tourism destinations," said a local devotee. MLA Sanjib Sardar reaffirmed his commitment to the region, stating, "I am determined to ensure Potka's development and bring it to the forefront of Jharkhand's tourist map."

WOMAN GETS 8-YR-RI FOR POSSESSING HEROIN IN GARHWA

NITYANAND DUBEY: GARHWA

Nalin Kumar, Principal District Judge (Special Judge under the NDPS Act) in Garhwa, today sentenced Rubi Devi, wife of Ashok Dixit (also known as Ashok Ram), to eight years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of ₹100,000 in connection with a case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS Act).

The accused was apprehended on 21 June 2022, in possession of 49 grams of heroin, leading to the registration of a case against her under the NDPS Act.

During the sentencing hearing, the Principal District Judge heard arguments from both the Public Prosecutor and the Defence Counsel. The Defence Counsel requested leniency, citing the convict's status as a woman with two minor children, and appealed for the minimum sentence to be considered. The Public Prosecutor, however, argued for the maximum sentence, given the severity of the offence.

After considering all aspects of the case, Judge Kumar sentenced Ruby Devi to eight years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹1,00,000 under Section 21(b) of the NDPS Act. Failure to pay the fine will result in an additional year of rigorous imprisonment.

The Principal District Judge stated that the convict would be entitled to the benefits of Section 428 of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr.P.C), with the period of detention already served to be offset against the sentence.

Tata Steel named 2025 Steel Sustainability Champion by worldsteel



PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

Tata Steel has once again been recognised as a Steel Sustainability Champion 2025 by the World Steel Association (worldsteel), marking its eighth consecutive win since the programme's launch in 2018. This prestigious recognition highlights Tata Steel's consistent leadership in adopting sustainability-led innovations and responsible steelmaking practices.

The announcement was made during worldsteel's Special General Meeting (SGM) of the Board of Members, held in Sydney, Australia, where Tata Steel featured among a select group of global steel pro-

ducers meeting the highest standards of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) excellence.

T. V. Narendran, CEO & MD of Tata Steel, said, "We are honoured to be recognised once again as a Steel Sustainability Champion. This achievement reflects our continuous commitment to sustainable steelmaking through innovation, resource efficiency, and responsible business practices."

To qualify as a Sustainability Champion, companies must endorse worldsteel's Sustainability Charter and meet stringent criteria, including environmental management, workplace safety, employee training, innovation in products and processes, and transparency in economic performance. Tata Steel has also consistently contributed Life Cycle Inventory (LCI) data and remains a recognised mem-

ber of worldsteel's Climate Action programme.

In FY25, Tata Steel introduced several pioneering initiatives: it became India's first steelmaker to demonstrate end-to-end capability in producing steel pipes for hydrogen transport, introduced biochar in its blast furnaces to reduce emissions, and executed the country's first full-laden biofuel-powered raw material shipment using B24 biofuel. The company also launched Carbon Bank, a first-of-its-kind virtual CO2 repository in India, aimed at helping customers adopt low-carbon products in line with worldsteel's Chain of Custody methodology. Tata Steel's continued recognition by worldsteel reaffirms its role as a global sustainability leader and underscores its mission to drive the steel industry toward a cleaner, greener, and more resilient future.

Medicant Hospital observes World Health Day

PNS : BOKARO

Medicant Hospital marked World Health Day with a special program centered around this year's WHO theme, "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures," focusing on the health and development of children.

Doctors Dr. Prerna Bardan, Dr. Namrata, and Dr. U.G. Rasool highlighted the hospital's pediatric care services, maternal health initiatives, and the importance of early interventions in ensuring long-term well-being.

The event saw participation from over 50 clinical professionals and hospital delegates, and included interactive sessions on child nutrition, immunization, and preventive care. The program reflected Medicant Hospital's ongoing commitment to raising health awareness and building healthier futures through community engagement.

ESL wraps up FY25 celebrating growth, inclusion, and impactful change

PNS : BOKARO

ESL concluded FY25 on a high note with a vibrant Townhall celebration, highlighting a year marked by innovation, inclusion, and transformative community impact. Themed activities like 'Know Your Leader', inspired by Studio Ghibli, and an inspiring AV presentation brought employees together, reinforcing the year's milestones.

ESL's CSR initiatives in FY25 positively impacted over 85,000 lives, with women's empowerment, youth skill development, and farmer training programs at the forefront. The company also supported 50 budding athletes, nurturing inclusive growth beyond business.

Recognized widely for its efforts, ESL bagged several prestigious awards including the Happiness & Well-Being Award 2025, Indian CSR Award 2024, and CII Excellence in Women in STEM Award, among others.

The year also witnessed high employee engagement through initiatives like the ESL Walk-A-Thon, T10 Cricket Tournament, and festive cultural events hosted by ERGs, promoting wellness and unity.

CEO Ashish Gupta emphasized the importance of agility, learning, and leadership in his closing note, while Deputy CEO Ravish Sharma called FY25 a reflection of purpose and perseverance. With a strong foundation of empathy, excellence, and empowerment, ESL looks ahead to an even more impactful FY26.



REVISED RATE OF WAGES OF MGNREGA NO SOLACE FOR CAMPAIGNERS IN JHARKHAND

PNS : DALTONGANJ

The revised rate of wages of the unskilled labour registered under the MGNREG Act for the financial year 2025-26 in Jharkhand does not perk up the MNREGA campaigners.

The ministry of rural development government of India has notified revised rate of wages of the unskilled labour for the year 2025-26 for its different states and union territories as well on March 27, 2025.

The revised rate of wages in Jharkhand is 255 rupees only per Manday for the financial year 2025-26. It's effective from April 1, 2025.

It was 245 rupees per Manday in the financial year 2024-25.

Jharkhand's revised rate of wages is just one rupee short of Assam where it's 256 rupees per Manday.

However Jharkhand's MGNREGA labourers are not any luckier like their counterparts in states like Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala

etc to name few states where the revised rate of wages is 400, 370, 369 rupees per Manday respectively.

Jharkhand state convener of the NREGA Watch James Herunji said "It's a poor revised rate of the ministry of rural development government of India for state like Jharkhand."

"The state share is 27 rupees. Thus the revised rate of wages comes to 282 (255+27= 282) rupees per Manday in Jharkhand. It's a

peanut here" added the convener.

"Do you think any unskilled labour will settle for 282 rupees per Manday in Jharkhand? Certainly not," reiterated the state convener.

There are 69 lakhs of households registered under the MGNREGA in Jharkhand. If one counts head of the labour under the MGNREG in Jharkhand then it comes to 1.36 crore labourers added James Herunji. On being asked as to why MGNREGA is a forgotten name for the unskilled labour to whichever he said "It's because of the apathy of the governments both the central and the state."

"The state share is just 27 rupees since 2021! It has not increased in all these years by even a paisa. What more proof of apathy one needs to know," said the convener.

Earning wages of the MGNREGA is now a digitally ticklish thing which an unskilled labour just hates like anything.

"Can any one believe wages to the tune of 5 crores of rupees for Mandays is pending in Jharkhand?" quipped the state convener.

No MGNREG labour has any clue of its payment he said.

This 5 crore is pending as wages. Similarly there is a similar huge amount pending in respect of the materials for the schemes in the MGNREGA informed the convener.

