

Nitish Kumar launches 20,658 projects worth ₹11,921 crore

PATNA, SEP 29

BIHAR Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for a staggering 20,658 projects worth Rs 11,921 crore during a mega event held at Sankalp, 1 Anne Marg, the CM's official residence.

The projects include 16,065 public amenities and development projects with an investment of Rs 7,805 crore for sectors such as roads, water, health, and rural infrastructure and 4,593 projects worth Rs 4,116 crore were inaugurated across various departments to strengthen social and administrative facilities.

Among these, 97 projects worth Rs 997 crore and 137 projects worth Rs 2,467 crore are specifically related to building construction for key departments, including Science and Technology, Technical Education, Animal and Fisheries Resources, Social Welfare, Transport, SC/ST Welfare, Backward and EBC Welfare, Minority Welfare, Sports, Labour Resources, Revenue and Land Reforms, Art and Culture, Youth, Disaster Management, Home, Agriculture, General Administration, and Commercial Tax.

These projects are being implemented by the Building Construction



Department and the Bihar State Building Construction Corporation Limited. The Chief Minister also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple schemes under the Public Health Engineering, Health, and Tourism Departments.

In a significant move to support farmers, he transferred Rs 81.29 crore via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to the accounts of 13,716 beneficiaries of the

The projects include 16,065 public amenities and development projects with an investment of Rs 7,805 cr for sectors such as roads, water, health, and rural infrastructure and 4,593 projects worth Rs 4,116 cr were opened

Chief Minister's Private Tubewell Scheme under the Minor Water Resources Department.

Congratulating all departments involved, Nitish Kumar said the launch of these schemes would provide new impetus and direction to Bihar's development and directly improve the quality of life for its people. "Our government is committed to the overall development of the state," he emphasised. The event was attended by

Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha, Water Resources Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary, Minor Water Resources Minister Santosh Suman, along with senior bureaucrats and political leaders.

The massive rollout of projects comes as the state gears up for the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections, underlining the government's focus on infrastructure expansion and welfare initiatives. — IANS

7 new trains from Bihar flagged off, including 3 Amrit Bharat Express

PATNA, SEP 29

UNION Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Monday inaugurated seven new train services from Bihar, including three Amrit Bharat Express trains aimed at providing affordable long-distance travel options for lower and middle-income passengers. Vaishnaw flagged off the new services virtually from New Delhi, while Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary symbolically inaugurated them at Patna Junction.

The newly launched Amrit Bharat Express trains will operate between Darbhanga-Madar (Ajmer), Muzaffarpur-Charlapalli (Hyderabad), and Chhapra-Anand Vihar (Delhi). In addition, four passenger trains were introduced on



shorter routes within Bihar. These passenger trains will run between Jhajha-Danapur, Patna-Buxar, Nawada-Patna, and Patna-Islampur. Highlighting the significance of the launch, Vaishnaw said these trains would provide hassle-free and affordable transportation for Bihar migrants and daily passengers.

"On the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and with the partnership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, we are launching seven new trains that will connect various cities and offer lower fares for the middle and lower-income groups," he said. The Railway Minister credited

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for his past contributions to the railway sector. "When Nitish Kumar was the Union Railway Minister, he took the department to new heights. A slowdown came between 2004 and 2014, but after PM Modi took charge, Indian Railways began transforming once again, achieving new milestones," Vaishnaw noted.

The introduction of the Amrit Bharat Express, a cost-effective alternative to the premium Vande Bharat trains, is part of the Centre's push to modernise railway services while keeping travel affordable for millions. Dy CM Samrat Choudhary, who was present at the Patna event, expressed gratitude for the Centre's focus on Bihar's infrastructure growth. — IANS

Credit war erupts over UNESCO Heritage tag for Bengal's Durga Puja, TMC rejects PM's claim

KOLKATA, SEP 29

THE Trinamool Congress leadership on Monday rejected Prime Minister Narendra Modi's claim that the UNESCO Heritage status for West Bengal's Durga Puja was a result of the Union government's initiatives. The Prime Minister made this claim during his "Mann Ki Baat" broadcast on Sunday. Sharply reacting to his, West Bengal's Minister of State in-charge of Finance (Independent Charge) Chandrima Bhattacharya said on Monday that although the state's Durga Puja was awarded the UNESCO Heritage tag in 2021, this is the first time the Prime Minister has claimed credit for the achievement.

"Is this part of the party's campaign for the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections? Such a strategy will not succeed. The people of West Bengal are well aware that the credit for promoting Durga Puja on the international stage belongs to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee," Bhattacharya stated. Trinamool Congress state general secretary Kunal Ghosh stated that neither the former Left Front government in West Bengal nor the present Bharatiya Janata Party-led Union government can claim credit for the UNESCO Heritage tag. The entire paperwork for this recognition was completed by the state govt, he said.

On Matangini Hazra's death anniversary, CM highlights WB's legacy in freedom struggle

KOLKATA, SEP 29

WEST Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday paid homage to freedom fighter Matangini Hazra on her death anniversary, while underlining Bengal's historic role in India's independence movement. Since the time the Chief Minister and her party, Trinamool Congress, had initiated a sustained movement against the alleged harassment of Bengali-speaking people from West Bengal in BJP-ruled states, she had been focusing on highlighting the contribution of Bengal and Bengalis in the Indian freedom movement. "On the martyrdom day of Shaheed Matangini Hazra, I offer my heartfelt respect and salutations to this freedom fighter, an embodiment of boundless courage. Her self-sacrifice stands as a shining example in our history of independence. The undivided Midnapore district was a pioneer in the country's freedom struggle. And Bengal was the cradle of the independence movement, where countless fiery daughters and sons like Matangini Hazra instilled tremors of fear in the mighty foreign empire through their fervor and valor," the Chief Minister said in a social media statement on Monday. Linking the tribute to her wider political messaging, Banerjee reiterated that Bengal and Bengalis made immense contributions to the freedom struggle, a point she has often stressed since launching her campaign against alleged harassment of Bengali-speaking people in BJP-ruled states. — IANS



JMM MLA accused of using fake identity in polling, CEO orders probe

RANCHI, SEP 29

JHARKHAND Chief Electoral Officer K Ravikumar has asked the Seraikela-Kharsawan deputy commissioner to probe into an allegation that JMM MLA Dhrath Gagrai used a fake identity during the elections. The CEO said that a formal complaint had been lodged by one Lalji Ram Tiu, questioning the identity of Gagrai, the three-term Kharsawan MLA.

The legislator dismissed the charge, claiming that the complainant has the habit of making such allegations against those in power. "I have forwarded the complaint, which is supported by an affidavit of the complainant, to the Seraikela-



Kharsawan Deputy Commissioner Nitish Kumar Singh to look into it," the CEO said. He also stated that controversies involving MLAs, after the elections are over and the results are declared, will have to be addressed by the state governor concerned, while those involving MPs will have to be dealt with by the President.

The complaint, a copy of which is with PTI, was initially filed on July 28, questioning the very identity of the sitting MLA. Lalji Ram Tiu, who claims to be an ex-serviceman, alleged that the "person currently serving as MLA in the name of Dhrath Gagrai is, in

fact, Ramkrishna Gagrai, the elder brother of real Dhrath Gagrai".

In a signed affidavit dated September 18, the complainant reaffirmed his claims, citing personal knowledge, documents, and official records, giving legal weight to the inquiry. When contacted, the MLA dismissed the allegations as baseless.

Dhrath Gagrai told PTI, "I have submitted affidavits and documents, which have undergone scrutiny for three terms in the assembly polls. The charges are baseless. In fact, the complainant, an accused of raping a minor, is now out on bail and has the habit of making such allegations against those in power." — PTI

Sanjay Jaiswal threatens Rs 132.24 cr defamation suit against Prashant Kishor

PATNA, SEP 29

BJP MP from Bihar's West Champaran, Dr Sanjay Jaiswal, on Monday strongly rebutted the allegations of diesel theft and changes in the alignment of the Cantonment Overbridge levelled by Jan Suraj Party founder Prashant Kishor, warning of a Rs 132.24 crore defamation suit if he does not issue a public apology. Addressing the media in Bettiah, Jaiswal presented Right to Information (RTI) reports obtained from the Indian Railways and NHAI to counter the charges.

"Both departments have clearly stated that the alignment of the Cantonment Overbridge has not been altered and no changes have been made to the design of the National Highway," he said. On the allegation of diesel theft, Jaiswal said Kishor based his claim on a letter written by Municipal Corporation Mayor Garima Devi Sikaria, despite admitting in his own response that the petrol pump in question does not belong to Jaiswal.

To probe the matter, the Urban Development Department had ordered an eight-point investigation in Patna. The inquiry examined the petrol pump's records and cited the absence of GST on diesel bills for 15 vehicles. Countering this, Jaiswal pointed out that petrol and diesel are not subject to GST anywhere in India, questioning the competence of the investigating officer. — IANS

GST reforms transformative moment for MSMEs in J'khand, say experts

JAMSHEDPUR, SEP 29

THE recent GST reforms was not merely a structural change, but a strategic step to give impetus to economic activities of 6.4 crore Micro, Small and Medium enterprises (MSMEs) of the country, experts said. Describing the reforms as the most significant tax reforms since the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax in 2017, professor of Finance at XLRI - School of Management, Prof Trilochan Tripathy, said the government

streamlined the earlier four tax slabs into two broad categories.

For MSMEs, the reforms offers clear advantages as many inputs used by smaller manufacturers and service providers are now taxed at lower rates, Tripathy told PTI on Monday. He said this reduction will help cut production costs and slightly improve margins in sectors that often operate with thin profit lines. "The correction of inverted duty structures, where inputs were taxed higher than finished goods,

will help exporters, especially in textiles and similar sectors, regain competitiveness," Tripathy said, adding that quicker refunds and smoother input tax credit claims will also offer much-needed liquidity.

"For many MSMEs, liquidity relief, even modest, can be the difference between stagnation and growth," he added. Tripathy noted that the simplification of tax slabs also reduces confusion and the likelihood of classification disputes.

Enforcement drive nets ₹1.32 Cr contraband on Day 28

BHUBANESWAR: THE State Excise Department's Special Enforcement Drive has continued to yield major results with contraband worth ₹1.32 crore seized on the 28th day of operations. Enforcement teams detected 249 cases and arrested 41 persons in a series of raids carried out across the state.

The crackdown led to the seizure of 15,661 bulk litres of illicitly distilled liquor and 698 bulk litres of duty-paid liquor, while 1,72,805 bulk litres of wash were destroyed. Officials also recovered 26 litres of duplicate foreign liquor, 400 kilograms of Mohua flower and 16 kilograms of Bhanga during the operation. In addition, 15 vehicles used in the illegal trade were seized.

Significantly, four cases under the NDPS Act were registered, leading to the recovery of 35 kilograms of Ganja, underlining the department's continued focus on curbing narcotics trafficking. Authorities said the sustained drive will intensify further in the coming days to dismantle organised networks engaged in the illegal liquor and drug trade. — PBD

Where Safety Leads, Excellence Follows - Vedanta Aluminium's Safety-First Culture

PBD BUREAU

JHARSUGUDA, SEP 29

IN mega industrial operations, which often feature powerful machinery and complex tools, a safety-first mindset is the most fundamental quality that an employee needs to have. Weaving this approach into one's daily activities, not just on the factory floor but as a way of life, ensures that this mindset is inculcated into the wider society. Recognizing this, Vedanta Aluminium reaffirms its commitment to nurturing a culture where every employee, partner and community member can respond to unsafe situations and emergencies effectively.

At Vedanta Jharsuguda, the world's largest aluminium plant, workplace preparedness for emergency situations is strengthened through regular large-scale emergency drills that simulate real-life scenarios. Undertaken with experts from organizations such as the National Disaster Response Force and the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority, these drills go beyond evacuation protocols to include first-response techniques such as trauma management and stabilization of injuries.

Similar exercises have been extended to schools in the vicinity of the plant, where hundreds of students and teachers have been trained in safe evacuation and immediate care in diverse emergencies. On key occasions such



and hands-on experience in essential life-saving techniques. From performing CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) to mastering wound care and recognizing early signs of medical emergencies, these sessions empower youths to act decisively in critical situations.

The company has taken unique steps to build first-responder capacities within its own teams. A landmark initiative in this direction is 'Agnivahini' - Vedanta Aluminium's all-women fire fighting squad with over 100 trained members. Complementing this is the Safety Park within Vedanta Jharsuguda's premises, a comprehensive facility where employees and business partners can interact with modern safety equipment and learn more about using them in controlled conditions. Further, all new joiners at the plant need to undergo mandatory safety training to ensure

ducting regular awareness sessions in schools, gram panchayats and neighborhoods around its operations. From fire-safety demonstrations to community-level workshops on safe practices during extreme weather such as lightning strikes, these engagements are equipping citizens with simple but vital techniques, such as how to treat burns or manage fractures until professional help arrives. Such initiatives ensure better preparedness among communities living in the vicinity of the Vedanta Jharsuguda plant.

With numerous trucks operating within and beyond its premises, road safety is another critical frontier. Through initiatives like Road Safety Awareness Month and 'Suraksha Sarathi,' Vedanta Aluminium has trained thousands of drivers and helpers in both preventive behaviors and first-aid response. These programs are helping make public roads and highways safer. The recently inaugurated Driver Welfare Complex at Vedanta Jharsuguda further enhances this ecosystem by providing drivers within the plant with a space for rest, safety training and structured training sessions.

What sets Vedanta Aluminium's approach apart is the view that safety is not the responsibility of safety professionals alone but of every member of its teams and communities. By weaving awareness into regular safety stand downs and monthly shopfloor engagements, the company is instilling confidence



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JAGRUTI VIHAR, BURLA-768020, DIST : SAMBALPUR (ODISHA)
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Notice

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in, respective Subsidiary Company (MCL, www.mahanadicoal.in), CIL e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in> in addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal <https://gem.gov.in>." R-5270

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
INVITATION OR BIDS (IFB)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
BOUDH IRRIGATION DIVISION, BODHU, PIN-762014
e-mail: Id_sesbidboudh@gmail.com

"e"-procurement Notice No. -07/2025-26
Bid Identification No. EE BOD-07/2025-26

The Executive Engineer, Boudh Irrigation Division, Boudh, on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites online Percentage rate tenders in Double cover system to be received in online mode only for the works as detailed below. Bid documents consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, Class of contractor, the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

1 Name of work	River Protection Embankment Work
2 No of Works	6 Nos
3 Class of Contractor	"B" Class (Odisha PWD or relevant class of other licensing Authority)
4 Bid Identification No.	EEBOD-07/2025-26
5 Estimated Cost	Varies Approximately from 77.49 lakhs to 81.94lakhs
6 Period of Completion	11 (Eleven) Calendar Months.
7 Date & time of availability of bid documents in the Portal, pate in online bidding only.	From 4.10.2025 (11.00 AM) to 18.10.2025 (05.30 P.M).
8 Last date/time for receipt of bids through online.	18.10.2025 upto 05.30 P.M.
9 Date of Opening of Bid through online	20.10.2025 (11.00 AM onwards in the Office of the undersigned).
10 Name of the Officer inviting Bid	Executive Engineer, Boudh Irrigation Division, Boudh (Dist.-Boudh)

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in said website.

Executive Engineer
Boudh Irrigation Division, Boudh

OIPR-321111/0014/2526

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
CUTTACK (R&B) DIVISION NO.1: CUTTACK
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
(e) PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No. S.E. CTC(R&B)-41 of 2025-26

TENDER CALL NOTICE

1 The Superintending Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Division No.1, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in Single cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractor for Building work as mentioned below.

2. No. of Work	01 No.
3. Nature of Work	Building works

as World First Aid Day, Vedanta Aluminium further expands its outreach to empower young citizens. Experts from the plant's Occupational Health team conduct regular first aid and CPR training sessions for students, who gain both theoretical knowledge

they are suitably prepared for any emergency. At Vedanta Aluminium, first aid awareness and prompt emergency response is not merely a peripheral skill, but a cornerstone of workplace and community safety. Recognizing this, the company has been con-

across all levels of its workforce. Coupling world-class industrial safety systems with grassroots outreach, the company is also creating a safety ecosystem that extends from its cutting-edge smelters and power plants to the classrooms, roads and villages surrounding it.

4. Class of Contract	:-	B Class
5. Tender Paper Cost	:-	Rs.6000/- (Online)
6. Available of bid documents in the website	:-	From 03/10/2025 to 5PM of 09/10/2025
7. Date of Opening of Bid	:-	11AM of 10/10/2025
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in . Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.		
(Er.Md. Shahbaz) Superintending Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Division No. I		
OIPR-34091/11/0104/2526		