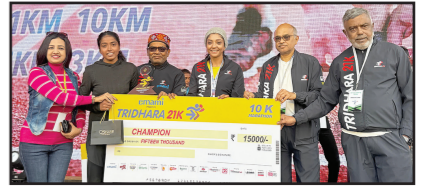


Emami presents inaugural Tridhara 21K Marathon in Kolkata

Tridhara Sammilani Hosted its first-ever Tridhara 21K Marathon, presented by the Emami Group, to promote health, fitness, and community engagement, with over 3,000 participants, the Tridhara 21K Marathon set a new standard for sporting events in Kolkata. The inaugural event was graced by a star-studded lineup, including actors Jisshu Sengupta, Abir Chatterjee, Devlina Kumar, Gourab Chatterjee, Anindya Chatterjee, Vikram Chatterjee, and celebrated film director Tathagata Mukherjee. **PG 3**



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Morning India

EAM Jaishankar praises NSA Sullivan's "personal contribution" in strengthening India-US ties

MI News Service, New Delhi : External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar discussed the ways to enhance bilateral, regional and global cooperation between India and the US, with the outgoing US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan in New Delhi on Monday.

Highlighting the significance of their discussions, Jaishankar acknowledged Sullivan's "personal contribution" in strengthening the India-US partnership over the past four years.

Sharing a post on X, Jaishankar wrote, "Delighted to meet US NSA @JakeSullivan46 in New Delhi today morning."

"Continued our ongoing discussions on deepening bilateral, regional and global cooperation. Valued the openness of our conversations in the last four years. Appreciated his personal contribution to forging a closer and stronger India-US partnership," the post added.

Notably, Sullivan is on a two day visit to India from January 5. During his meeting with NSA Ajit Doval, Sullivan also discussed issues ranging from space, defence, strategic technology cooperation as well as shared security priorities in the Indo-Pacific region, US National Security Council Spokesperson Sean Savett had said in a statement.

"National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan travelled to New Delhi for a capstone meeting with Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. The discussions at the meeting spanned a range of issues across the breadth of the US-India partnership - from space, defence, and strategic technology cooperation to shared security priorities in the Indo-Pacific and beyond," the statement from White House noted. The US NSA also made a visit to IIT Delhi, where he met Indian entrepreneurs and discussed the

▶▶ Continued on page 3

Prez, PM pay tributes to Guru Gobind Singh on birth anniversary

MI News Service, New Delhi : President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid rich tributes to Guru Gobind Singh on his birth anniversary. On Monday

The birth anniversary of the 10th Sikh guru is observed as 'Prakash Utsav'.

Guru Gobind Singh, who established the Khalsa Panth, was born in Patna Sahib in 1666.

President Murmu hoped that Guru Gobind Singh's timeless teachings guide all towards a path of righteousness, peace and harmony.

"Greetings to all on the sacred occasion of Prakash Parv of Guru Gobind Singh Ji! His selfless devotion to well-being of humanity continues to inspire us. Guru Gobind Singh Ji

▶▶ Continued on page 3



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee addressing an administrative meeting during her visit to oversee the preparedness for the annual Gangasagar Mela, at Sagar Island, South 24 Parganas on Monday.

Several Indian fishermen were assaulted in Bangladesh, says Mamata Banerjee while providing financial assistance to all returned Indian fishermen

SUMAN GANGULY

Gangasagar: Several Indian fishermen were assaulted in Bangladesh! said West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during a programme at Gangasagar to welcome the Indian fishermen on Monday.

A total of 95 Indian fishermen who were detained in Bangladesh have returned to the country. On Monday, the Chief Minister provided financial assistance to them, handing over Rs10,000 to each. From the same programme, Mamata said, "A few of them were limping. I found out that they were beaten. Their hands were tied with ropes, and they were beaten with thick sticks."

The Chief Minister mentioned that upon seeing some fishermen limping, she inquired about their condition. The fishermen were initially reluctant to speak about the incident. However, Mamata later learned about the assaults. She revealed that some fishermen had injuries from the waist down, which were not visible due to their clothing. She instructed the District Magistrate of South 24 Parganas and the MLA of Kakdwip, Montu Pakhira, to ensure proper medical treatment for the injured fishermen, including orthopedic care if needed. The fishermen returned to Bengal after being detained in Bangladesh for almost two and a half months. The Chief Minister also highlighted the anxiety and uncertainty faced by their families during this time. She advised fishermen not to cross mar-



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee felicitates fishermen from the state who were recently released from a prison in neighbouring Bangladesh, during her visit at Sagar Island, South 24 Parganas on Monday.

itime boundaries in future. Mamata said, "Never cross our borders. If you catch fish, fine; if not, that's okay. Your lives are more important. If you are alive, you can catch more fish later. Don't your families suffer during these two months in jail? Didn't you suffer? Didn't those who were beaten suffer?"

The Chief Minister acknowledged that fishermen often face difficulties determining boundaries in the middle of the sea and may lose their way during storms. However, she urged them to remain vigilant about crossing borders. She also mentioned that a Bangladeshi fishing trawler had accidentally crossed into Indian waters. The Bangladeshi fishermen were sent back safely after

being treated well. Many of them were ill, and they received proper medical care in India before being repatriated. Mamata emphasized, "I want both countries to maintain friendly relations. When their trawler was detained, we provided complete assistance. We took care of the sick and ensured their safe return so that neither India nor Bengal's reputation was tarnished."

On Monday, Mamata Banerjee distributed Rs10,000 each to the 95 fishermen who returned from Bangladesh. She personally handed over the financial aid. Additionally, she provided Rs 2 lakh to the family of a fisherman who died after jumping into the sea out of fear of being caught. Mamata said, "It's heartbreaking. We are

two neighboring countries and share love for each other, but our fishermen have suffered due to circumstances."

The Chief Minister revealed that considerable effort was made to bring back the 95 fishermen. The state government had been consistently monitoring the situation of detained fishermen in Bangladesh.

Mamata also discussed the welfare schemes available for fishermen in Bengal and announced new initiatives. During the stormy season when fishermen cannot go fishing, a scheme called 'Samudrasathi' has been launched to provide financial assistance. Under this scheme, fishermen will receive Rs 5,000 per month, totaling Rs10,000 during the two-month fishing ban. She announced that nearly 2 lakh fishermen would benefit from this programme.

She also mentioned the 'Matsyajibi Bandhu' scheme, which provides Rs 2 lakh financial assistance to the families of deceased fishermen. So far, 200 families have received this benefit. Additionally, fishermen above 60 years of age receive a monthly pension of Rs 1,000 from the state government. To support fishermen with credit facilities, the government has introduced credit cards. Mamata also highlighted the 'Jal Dharo, Jal Bharo' project, under which over 5 lakh ponds have been dug for fish farming, increasing fish production and improving fishermen's incomes, the CM said at Gangasagar.

Khaleda Zia to leave for London for better treatment

MI News Service, Dhaka : After waiting for more than three years, former Prime Minister of Bangladesh Begum Khaleda Zia will finally leave for London for treatment of her various old age related ailments, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leaders confirmed on Monday.

"Begum Zia will leave for London on Tuesday by an air ambulance," informed Enamul Haq Chowdhury, an adviser to the BNP, who will accompany the BNP Chairperson.

He said a 15-member entourage including Begum Zia's family members, her personal doctors, and some top party leaders would be traveling with the former Prime minister to London.

Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, expressing concern at the ill health of

Khaleda Zia, has provided a special aircraft, an air ambulance with all modern facilities for treatment, from his royal fleet for her travel to London. Chowdhury informed.

A number of other senior BNP leaders called on Begum Zia on Monday at her residence in Dhaka before her departure, wishing her speedy recovery.

The 79-year-old former prime minister, who has been battling multiple health complications, including liver cirrhosis, heart disease, and kidney issues, will stay at her son Tarek Rahman's residence in London upon arrival. After spending a few weeks in London for her initial treatment, Khaleda Zia will travel to the United States for advanced liver treatment. He added,

"By the grace of the almighty,

the uncompromising leader of our country's democracy, and the most loved leader of the people will leave for London on January 7 for her treatment," said Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, BNP Secretary General, after meeting with Khaleda Zia in Dhaka.

Asked about the possible timeline of Khaleda Zia's return to Bangladesh after treatment, Alamgir remarked, "The doctors can tell. We cannot say. We hope she will return home soon."

Khaleda Zia, the widow of former President Ziaur Rahman, was imprisoned in February 2018 after being convicted in corruption charges. The BNP has consistently maintained that the charges were politically motivated, accusing the Awami League government of orchestrating the case to remove her from politics.

Mamata Banerjee asks people not to panic after news of HMPV virus infection in Kolkata

SUMAN GANGULY

Gangasagar: Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has advised people not to panic after news of HMPV virus infection found in a child's body in Kolkata has caused concern among many.

Addressing the media after offering prayers at Kapil Muni Ashram at the Gangasagar Mela ground on Monday, Mamata Banerjee stated that no official alert regarding the virus has been received yet. She mentioned that two cases have been reported in Bangalore and assured that the state government is prepared to protect the public in any situation. After Karnataka and Gujarat, the HMPV virus has now reportedly reached Kolkata. A 6-month-old child has tested positive for Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) and is undergoing treatment at a private hospital near city's Eastern Metropolitan Bypass. Samples have been collected from the child and sent for testing. A panel test or PCR test will determine the exact strain of the virus. The child is currently under constant medical supervision. With this case, the total number of HMPV cases in the country has risen to four. However, it is still unclear whether this strain is related to the variant found in China. The state health department has repeatedly urged people not to

panic, emphasizing that both government and private hospitals are preparing to combat the virus. This is not the first case in Kolkata. About two months ago, a 5-month-old child who had traveled from Mumbai to Kolkata was infected with HMPV. After treatment at a private hospital in the city, the child made a full recovery. Based on this experience, doctors have reassured the public that there is no need to panic. Early detection through panel testing and timely treatment can effectively manage the infection. Following the recent outbreak in China, India is also on alert due to the risk of infection. Concerns have increased after three cases were reported in Karnataka and Gujarat.

In response, the state health department has instructed five government hospitals and several private hospitals to open fever clinics immediately. People showing symptoms like fever, cold, cough, or breathing difficulties for two to three days should consult doctors immediately. Isolation and treatment may be necessary in some cases. With reports of HMPV infection in West Bengal, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has intensified its vigilance. The public has been advised to seek medical attention if symptoms persist, and authorities are closely monitoring the situation.

Mamata successful in forming popular political entity which even Netaji couldn't, says TMC leader Kunal Ghosh

MI News Service, Kolkata : Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Kunal Ghosh said party supremo Mamata Banerjee succeeded in forming a popular political party, something even Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose could not achieve in parliamentary politics.

Bose had formed the All India Forward Bloc in 1939 after resigning from the Congress. "He is a historically significant freedom fighter but was unsuccessful in parliamentary politics after forming a party," Ghosh said on Sunday, claiming it is rare for someone to successfully form a popular political party after leaving the Congress. However, reacting to this comment Chandra Kumar Bose, nephew of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose has said that it is unfair to draw a comparison between Netaji and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and one should not compare the two leaders. Referring to Trinamool Congress (TMC) spokesperson Kunal Ghosh reportedly drew a comparison between Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Mamata Banerjee.

Chandra Kumar Bose said, "Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was the liberator of India. He fought the final battle for India's freedom. He gave leadership to the Congress Party.

He was the president of the Indian National Congress in 1938 and then again in 1939. But Netaji, Subhash Chandra Bose's goal was not politics. His goal was freedom for India. He gave up his life on 18 August 1945 fighting for India's independence."

"Mamata Banerjee is a mass leader. She is a very tall leader in today's India. She is also the Chief Minister of West Bengal for three terms. So to compare Subhash Chandra Bose and Mamata Banerjee, I think it is an unfair comparison. One should not compare the two leaders. Both were leaders in their own right. I'm not sure why suddenly this comparison arose because both are very respectable figures. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose stood out among the leaders in India because he was the only leader who could unite all communities as Bhartiya. We must understand Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose before we start any comparison with other leaders of today's India..." he added.

Huge amount of contraband drugs seized in Churachandpur district in Manipur

MI News Service Imphal: Contraband drugs including nearly 800 grams of Brown Sugar and over 500 Yaba tablets, worth more than Rs

two crores in international market, were recovered and seized by the security forces from two persons at a place in Churachandpur district in

Manipur on Monday. Informing this official sources said acting on a tip off about the arrival of a huge quantity of contraband drugs

in Churachandpur district in the state, security forces launched an intensive naka checking on every road. They soon stopped a private vehicle

at Khuga area near one Matta village in the district on suspicion. Following an intensive search operation in that car, the security forces found 776

gm of brown sugar and 537 Yaba tablets from the possession of two persons in the

▶▶ Continued on page 3



The media football tournament organized by the Kolkata Sports Journalists Club was attended by Sports Minister Aroop Biswas, the coach of the Bengal Santosh Trophy-winning team Sanjay Sen, and the Secretary of IFA Anirban Dutta. For the first time in the 70-year history of the Kolkata Sports Journalists Club, a football match was also held for women journalists. Before the game started, the Sports Minister exchanged greetings with the women sports journalists.

Central govt does not pay attention to facilities of pilgrims visiting Kapil Muni temple: Mahant Sanjay Das

MI News Service, Ganga Sagar: NDA government at the centre is providing all kinds of support for the development of religious places in other parts of the country. New roads and bridges are being built across the country, but as soon as the matter of development of Gangasagar fair comes up, the central government becomes silent. Central government treats Gangasagar fair step-motherly. If the central government wants, it can help in building a bridge on the Muri Ganga river. Sanjay Das Maharaj, successor of chief Mahant Gyan Das Maharaj of Kapil Muni Ashram, has made a similar allegation against the central government. Mahant Sanjay Das Maharaj said that the central government helps for the convenience of pilgrims in religious fairs organised at other places in the country, but the central government does not pay any attention to the facilities of pilgrims visiting Kapil Muni temple situated on the sea coast. If the central government wants, it can help in connecting Sagardwip by rail or at least by road. Mahant Sanjay Das further



said that no help is given by the central government for organizing Gangasagar Mela. With the help of the state government, it has become easy to come to Gangasagar Mela. Mahant Sanjay Das Maharaj further said that during the tenure of Mamata Banerjee-led government in West Bengal, all-round development work has been done in Gangasagar. He said that the transport system for coming here has been improved a lot. Pilgrims now do not have to face difficulties like before to reach the sea coast. Welcoming the initiative of the Chief Minister to build a bridge on the Muddy Ganga river, Das said that after the construction of this bridge, the way to reach Kapil Muni temple will become easier. Due to this, there will be a continuous flow of tourists

and visitors here throughout the year, this will also lead to economic development of this area. Das further said that the preparations made by the West Bengal government in organizing Gangasagar Mela are really commendable.

Maha Kumbh will not affect Gangasagar Mela. At the same time, this time Maha Kumbh is also going to be held in Prayagraj, due to which it is feared that this time the number of pilgrims may be less here. However, when asked in this regard, Mahant Sanjay Das said that Maha Kumbh will not have any effect on Gangasagar Mela. Rather, this time more number of pilgrims will reach here as compared to last year. Das said that even though Maha Kumbh is being organized in Prayagraj, Gangasagar Mela has a different significance. Even during Ardh Kumbh, lakhs of pilgrims had reached here. He told that thousands of pilgrims reach here in Gangasagar Mela from Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat, Bihar, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and other states.

Kolkata Derby likely to be held in Guwahati on Jan 11

MI News Service, Kolkata: The highly anticipated Kolkata derby between Mohun Bagan Super Giant and East Bengal in the Indian Super League (ISL) is expected to be held at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati on January 11, instead of the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata. The Bidhannagar Police Commission had previously stated that hosting the match in Kolkata would be challenging due to security concerns, as the Gangasagar Mela, a major religious gathering, will be taking place in West Bengal from January 10 to 18. Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), which organizes the ISL, was keen to maintain the original match date and began exploring alternate venues outside Kolkata. After considering options such as Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, the IG Stadium in Guwahati emerged as the preferred choice during a meeting on January 6. East Bengal club official Debabrata Sarkar confirmed that they had not received formal communication about the change yet, adding, "Since it is Mohun Bagan's home game, they will likely be informed first." This marks the second time the Kolkata derby's schedule has been disrupted due to security issues. The first disruption occurred during the Durand Cup group-stage match on August 18, which was abandoned due to security concerns, and both teams were awarded a point. The two clubs have only met once this season, with Mohun Bagan securing a 2-0 victory. East Bengal, under new head coach Oscar Bruzon, has been impressive since, while Mohun Bagan has dominated the ISL standings with 32 points from 14 games.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during her visit at the Kapil Muni Temple in Gangasagar, South 24 Parganas on Monday.

Gangasagar Mela should be given the status of a National Fair: CM Mamata

Awadhesh Kumar Choudhary

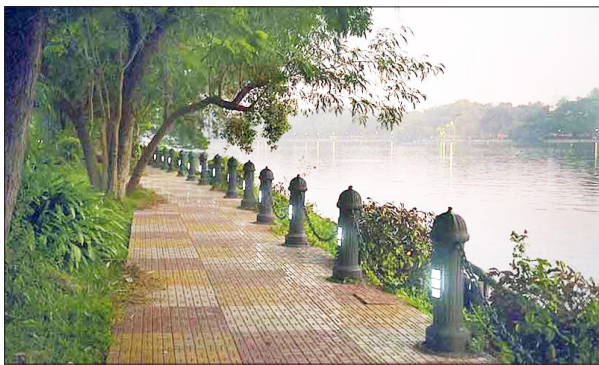
Gangasagar: Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has once again demanded that Gangasagar Mela be granted the status of a national fair, similar to Prayag. The event attracts devotees from across India and abroad, who come to take a holy dip during the Makar Sankranti festival. Despite its significance, the central government has remained silent on the matter. Speaking at the Ganga Sagar Mela on Monday, she highlighted the disparity in the funding provided for the Kumbh Mela, where the government allocates billions of rupees, while the Ganga Sagar Mela, which attracts over a crore of people, has not been declared a 'national festival.' After offering prayers at the Kapil Muni temple on Monday, Mamata Banerjee stated, "It is the rightful claim of Gangasagar Mela to be recognized as a national fair; we are not begging for this recognition." She expressed disappointment that the central government has yet to acknowledge this right.

spends thousands of crores on Kumbh Mela but does not provide a single rupee for Gangasagar Mela. The entire cost of organizing Gangasagar Mela is borne by the state government," she said. The Chief Minister raised the issue of the Muriganga Bridge, which she claimed was not considered before but became a priority under her government. Mamata Banerjee announced the construction of a bridge over the Muri Ganga River to ease access to the Ganga Sagar pilgrimage site. Speaking at the Ganga Sagar Mela, Mamata emphasized that currently, pilgrims have to cross water to reach the location, which causes significant difficulty. She stated, "To address this issue, we have decided to build a bridge over the Muri Ganga. However, it will take four years to complete this project, and the total cost will be ₹1,500 crore. The state government has already allocated the funds for this bridge."

Mamata further added that once completed, the bridge would greatly benefit the pilgrims traveling to Ganga Sagar. Despite not receiving any assistance from the central government, Mamata made it clear that the state government would ensure the construction of the Ganga Sagar bridge, which would be a significant improvement for those making the journey. She shared that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the bridge has been completed, and the total cost is estimated at ₹1,500 crore, with construction expected to take four years. The bridge will be five kilometers long and have four lanes, benefiting both pilgrims and locals year-round. This bridge will be named the 'Ganga Sagar Setu,' she added. She revealed that after discussions with a central minister several years ago, her government took the initiative to build the bridge. Mamata said that despite financial constraints, constructing the Ganga Sagar Bridge is essential, and the work is already progressing. The Chief Minister further addressed the issue of donations at the Kapil Muni Ashram during the fair. She stated that while donations made by pilgrims are sent to Uttar Pradesh's main temple, she had requested the Ashram authorities to use 25% of the collected funds for the construction of a concrete temple, which would be more beneficial to the pilgrims. The Ashram agreed, and the Chief Minister announced this decision to the media. Mamata concluded her remarks by sending a strong message to the central government, asserting that the Ganga Sagar Mela would be declared a national fair in the future, regardless of the central government's stance. She expressed her frustration at the disparity in funding for events like the Kumbh Mela, questioning why the Ganga Sagar Mela continues to be overlooked despite its significance. Gangasagar Mela, held on the seashore for centuries, requires pilgrims to travel by waterways to reach the venue. Last year, over one crore pilgrims attended the fair. Given its scale and importance, Mamata Banerjee reiterated that Gangasagar Mela deserves national fair status.

KMDA bans feeding animals in Rabindra Sarobar, designates specific areas

MI News Service, Kolkata: Rabindra Sarobar, often referred to as the lungs of South Kolkata, has faced growing concerns regarding pollution and disturbances caused by various activities, including littering in the lake, plastic disposal, and pets relieving themselves in the area. The frequent feeding of animals, especially stray dogs and cats, has become a significant issue, affecting the overall cleanliness and causing inconvenience to visitors who come for morning or evening walks. In response to these concerns, the Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA) has issued a new directive prohibiting the feeding of animals in the lake area. This move has been welcomed by the general public, who have often complained about the mess left behind by feeding animals. However, the decision has



sparked protests from animal lovers, who argue that they are being unfairly restricted in their efforts to care for the animals. To address the issue, KMDA has put up banners at various gates around Rabindra Sarobar to inform the public of the new ban. Additionally, the authority has designated four specific locations within the area where people are now al-

lowed to feed animals: near the Buddha Temple (Gate 1), Kolkata Rowing Club (Gate 8), Nazrul Mancha (Gate 11), and Golpark (Gate 12). While the general public has expressed approval of the decision, animal lovers are not pleased with the restrictions. They have raised concerns over the lack of clear signage and information regarding the designated feeding zones. Some have

questioned why only four areas have been chosen and are concerned that stray animals might become agitated if they do not receive food at these specific locations. One animal lover said, "We haven't received any notification about the designated feeding areas. We don't know where we are allowed to feed them. There should be clear signs. If dogs become agitated and don't get food, they might bite someone. Who will take responsibility?" In response, KMDA has assured that they are closely monitoring the situation and taking necessary precautions to prevent any incidents. Despite the designated feeding areas, many visitors to Rabindra Sarobar continue to voice their concerns about the litter caused by animal feeding, calling for a complete ban on feeding animals within the park.

Teen commits suicide after argument with parents over drinking

MI News Service, Kolkata: A tragic incident occurred in Kolkata's Manicktala area, where a teenager took his own life after a dispute with his parents over drinking alcohol at home. The 17-year-old boy, who had been regularly consuming alcohol despite family objections, was found hanging by his parents early on Sunday. According to family sources, the teenager had a habit of drinking at home, which had often led to conflicts with his parents. Despite their repeated warnings, the boy continued drinking. On Saturday, his parents scolded him harshly for his behavior, especially his continued drinking. The following morning, at around 5 AM, the parents discovered the lifeless body hanging from a ceiling fan in his room. The police were immediately notified and arrived at the scene, where they recovered the body and rushed it to RG Kar Hospital, where he was declared dead by doctors. An unnatural death case has been filed, and an investigation has been initiated. The body has been sent for post-mortem. However, no suicide note was found at the scene. Initial police investigations suggest that the teenager may have committed suicide out of frustration and emotional distress. Further questioning of the parents revealed that the boy had recently been associating with a group known as the 'Brihannala' community and was regularly drinking with them. The family members have accused the group of influencing their son's addiction to alcohol. On the night of the incident, after drinking heavily, the boy returned home, continued drinking, and was scolded by his parents. Despite the reprimands, he went to bed without eating. The next morning, his mother found him hanging in his room, with a cloth tied around his neck. The police are investigating the full circumstances surrounding the incident and are looking into the boy's recent associations and behavior.

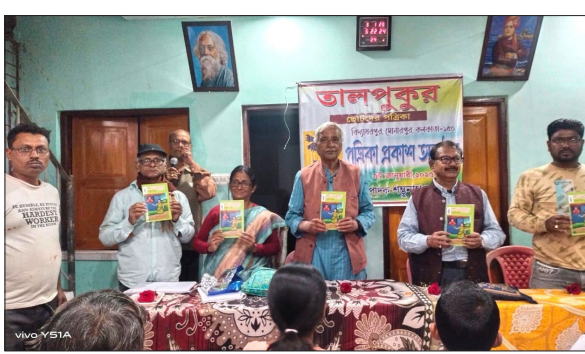
Police arrest miscreant, recovers goods on very day of burglary



MI News Service, Nadia: Haringhata police arrested the thief and recovered the stolen goods of a personal Kali temple on the very day of receiving the complaint. Haringhata Police under Ranaghat Police District in Nadia recovered some stolen items of a Kali Temple and arrested the burglar. The miscreant confessed his crime. The burglary happened at Haripukur Dakshin Duttapara under Haringhata Police station early on Friday, said DSP, DNT Ranaghat, Adul Kyum. One Tagar Mani Roy of Dakshin Duttapara submitted a complaint with Haringhata police on Friday stating that when she went to the temple at her house that morning, found the gate of the temple was broken and the brass made utensils used in worship were stolen.

Soon police lodged a case and started the probe. On basis of a sources intimation, police caught one suspected known as Gopal Das of Napit Satteria under Haringhata police station on that very day. During interrogation, the accused confessed his crime. So, police arrested him and produced in Kalyani Court. As police prayed for remand, court sanctioned 3 days' PC. Then police recovered the stolen goods through interrogation to the miscreant. The goods were recovered from a banana garden near a petrol pump at Dakshin Duttapara Petrol pump. Later in a press meet, DSP, DNT Adul Kyum, Ranaghat PD said, "We have recovered 18 items made of brass, copper, iron utensils used in worship and cash of Rs. around 300." He more stated that the cops are investigating the case to look into it there are other miscreants involved in the burglary.

Talpokur's special issue launched



Nurul Islam Khan Mondal, poet Shambhu Mondal, and a group of small school students were present. The presence of a group of small school children gave a different dimension to the publication ceremony of the magazine. Editor of Talpokur Patrika Shambhunath Mondal said that the presence of small children at the publication ceremony of the children's magazine Talpokur was really inspiring. The magazine was launched by Bula Roy.

A special issue of the popular children's magazine Talpokur was published on January 5, through an intensive literary event in Sonarpur, Bidyadharpur. In addition to the veteran poet Sukhendu Majumdar, the popular poet Swapan Roy of the time, renowned recitation artist Tandra Naskar, Rabindra Sangeet singer Alok Samphui, editor of Abad Patrika Apresh

Fire breaks out in Kolkata, elderly woman dies in tragic incident

MI News Service, Kolkata: A devastating fire broke out in Kolkata's Garia area on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, resulting in the death of an elderly woman. The deceased has been identified as 65-year-old Baby Mondal. According to police and fire department sources, the fire started around 1:30 AM at a house on Kalitala Road in Garia. On a cold winter night, most of the neighborhood was asleep when the fire broke out, spreading panic among the residents. Upon receiving the alert, four fire engines rushed to the scene to control the blaze. Baby Mondal lived alone in the house, and despite the fire, there was no response from inside. This heightened the concern among locals. Police from Garia station also arrived at the scene. By 2 AM, the fire



was brought under control, and firefighters entered the house. Inside, they discovered Mondal's lifeless body in a room on the ground floor. She was immediately taken to Bangur Hospital, where doctors declared her dead. It is believed that Mondal died due to suffocation from smoke inhalation. The exact cause of the fire is still under investigation, with suspicions of a possible short circuit or other factors being considered. This tragic incident has left the community in shock and mourning as they come to terms with the loss of the elderly woman at the start of the year.



West Bengal Transport minister Snehasish Chakraborty visited Esplanade bus stands to meet passengers to learn their complain about bus service in Kolkata on Monday

EAM Jaishankar praises...

From PG 1 India-US alliance on innovation and ICET initiative. "He also visited the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, where he met with young Indian entrepreneurs and give a speech outlining the significant steps the United States and India have taken together to strengthen our innovation alliance under the US-India initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (ICET)." the statement added. Earlier on Sunday, White House National Security Communications

Advisor John Kirby had also shared the details of Sullivan's visit to India, which is his final trip to the Indo-Pacific region as NSA. "He's very excited and looking forward to these conversations at this critical time," Kirby added. In October last year, US NSA Jake Sullivan held a phone conversation with NSA Ajit Doval, discussing critical regional security developments and emphasising the necessity for ongoing efforts to bolster stability in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

Prez, PM pay tributes to....

From PG 1 always advocated for equality and justice. "May his timeless teachings guide us towards a path of righteousness, peace, and harmony," Murmu said in a post on X. Vice President Dhankhar said on X that on this blessed occasion, "we honour the great

Guru's unparalleled courage, wisdom, and sacrifice. His teachings inspire us to uphold justice, equality, and selfless service". PM Modi said Guru Gobind Singh's thoughts inspire people to build a society that is progressive, prosperous and compassionate.

Huge amount of contraband...

From PG 1 has also arrested one vehicle. After seizing the contraband both the persons were arrested. Yaba is a combination of metham-phetamine, which is a powerful and addictive stimulant and caffeine. Meanwhile the state police

has also arrested one vehicle. After seizing the contraband both the persons were arrested. Yaba is a combination of metham-phetamine, which is a powerful and addictive stimulant and caffeine. Meanwhile the state police

KMC builds permanent homes for fire victims on Prince Anwar Shah Road

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a remarkable effort to rehabilitate victims of last year's devastating fire on Prince Anwar Shah Road, the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) is constructing permanent homes for 13 families. The fire, which broke out on October 28, 2023, reduced multiple shanties to ashes, leaving the residents homeless. The initiative, spearheaded by local Trinamool Congress councillor Mausumi Das, is transforming the lives of those affected. The victims, who were temporarily housed in a nearby school after the incident, have expressed gratitude to both Councillor Das and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for their unwavering support.

forts were swift. The fire destroyed dozens of shanties, forcing residents onto the streets. Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim visited the site, assuring victims of long-term rehabilitation. During the initial days, affected families were provided shelter, food, and medical care at a nearby school. The relief camp, managed by Councillor Das, operated for over a month. Additionally, each family received 35,000 in financial aid from the state government and 6,000 from the KMC for temporary repairs. Now, the victims are seeing long-term promises fulfilled. The permanent houses, a significant upgrade from the shanties, offer the residents a sense of security and stability. Residents also contributed by pooling resources to complete the roofing of their new homes. Beyond housing, the KMC has improved essential infrastructure in the area. In Garden Reach, new tap water connections have been installed, with four taps ensuring residents have access to clean drinking water.

The councillor has taken personal responsibility for ensuring the homes are built. Residents now have the opportunity to move into safe, sturdy houses, thanks to the coordinated efforts of the state government and the KMC. Following the fire, which reportedly started due to an electric scooter battery explosion, relief ef-



Langar of Sikh Community at Shahid Minar Maidan on the occasion of Guru Govind Singhji's birth anniversary in Kolkata on Monday.

Titagarh delivers driverless Made-in-India trainset to Bengaluru

MI News Service, Kolkata: Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd. Delivered its first driverless, Made-in-India trainset to Bengaluru Metro's Yellow Line. The stainless steel, automated trainset is the first completely indigenously manufactured passenger rolling stock for the 18-km stretch, which connects Electronics City to the rest of Bengaluru. This marks a significant achievement for Titagarh Rail Systems and India's growing role in the global railway manufacturing sector.



The event, celebrated in the presence of Manohar Lal, Honourable Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, who joined virtually, highlights India's strides in rail manufacturing. The trainset operates in driverless (GOA4) mode, featuring advanced automation that enhances efficiency, sustainability, and safety. It incorporates modern interiors, reduced power consumption, and superior safety features, aiming to deliver a world-class commuter experience for Bengaluru's residents. UmeshChoudhary, Managing Director of Titagarh Rail Systems, emphasised that this milestone reflects the company's commitment to innovation and global expertise. The trainsets are part of a broader vision to improve urban mobility solutions and contribute to India's ambitions of becoming a global leader in metro rail systems. Titagarh will deliver two more trainsets by April 2025.

Security tightened in Bengal to prevent infiltration during Gangasagar Mela

AWADHESH KUMAR CHOUDHARY

Kolkata: South 24 Parganas: Security has been heightened in the area to prevent infiltration of Bangladeshis during the Gangasagar Mela. Central intelligence agencies have alerted the West Bengal government about the possibility of illegal infiltration attempts from Bangladesh during the Mela. According to intelligence reports, infiltrators may try to cross the coastal borders, taking advantage of the large crowd on Sagar Island in South 24 Parganas district. In response to the alert, the po-



lice of Sundarban district, which oversees Sagar Island, have decided to ensure tight security at the coastal entry points to the

A senior district police official mentioned that the two major coastal entry points of Sagar Island are Lot No. 8 in Kakkdip and Chemaguri in Namkhana. A total of 13,000 policemen will be deployed for the Gangasagar Mela, with special security measures in place at these points after the intelligence warning. Police patrolling will continue in the coastal areas around Sagar Island, and the Indian Coast Guard will also be deployed during the Mela. The Gangasagar Mela will start on January 8 and continue until January 17. The time for the holy bath on Makar Sankranti has

been fixed from 6:58 am on January 14 to 6:58 am on January 15. In addition to security, efforts are being made to ensure the fair is peaceful and successful. More than 1,150 CCTV cameras have been installed on Sagar Island. A police officer stated that security arrangements are strengthened every year during the Gangasagar Mela, but this time extra vigilance is being exercised due to intelligence information suggesting that Bangladeshi infiltrators, especially amid the ongoing political crisis in the neighboring country, may attempt to cause disruptions during the fair.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee felicitates fishermen from the state who were recently released from a prison in neighbouring Bangladesh, during her visit at Sagar Island, South 24 Parganas on Monday

Mamata calls for urgent action from Odisha Govt on tiger incursions in Bengal

Suman Ganguly

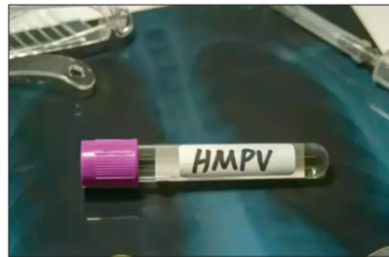
Kolkata: Zeenat was trapped after nine days of efforts by forest workers. She was rescued in completely healthy condition and handed over to the Odisha administration. Once the panic subsided, another Royal Bengal Tiger was found near the Bengal border. This time, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee made a special request to the Odisha administration for its rescue. She urged that skilled forest workers be sent immediately to rescue the tiger.

On Monday, the Chief Minister expressed her concern about the presence of tigers near the Bengal border while speaking at the Gangasagar event. She said, "The people here are surviving by fighting with tigers on one side and crocodiles on the other. Look, one tiger crossed five forests, five districts. They were in panic for five days. The children's schools were closed. Whoever we rescued, our administration and the forest department all came together, and they are getting calls day and night. 'Give it back. Give it back. Give it back.'" Then, venting her

frustration against the Odisha forest department, Mamata added, "Another one has come. You should take care of your forest so that your tigers do not enter our area and cause panic in our villages. The number of elephants has already increased. There are various plans in different countries for elephants. The birth rate of elephants is very high. It is difficult to provide food. It loves to eat paddy and is leaving the forest, coming onto the road. Forest workers have to handle it. I will tell the Odisha government to rescue it and take it back. We cannot endure that terror again. The way the forest workers caught the tiger is a model." Mamata also said, "If you send the tiger, send it forever. We are leaving it. You have no place to keep it. If you take it and release it in the water, what is happening? I will request the Odisha government instead of blaming us. Please send forest workers and take the tiger back. Don't just blame us. Our residents will not tolerate the suffering." Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also directed the forest workers to be more vigilant to save human lives.

State Health Dept begins surveillance after HMPV case in India

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal Health Department has ramped up surveillance efforts following the detection of the Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) case in India. Although no formal advisory has been issued yet. The virus, identified in an eight-month-old infant in Bengaluru, has raised health concerns, though no specific strain has been confirmed yet.



HMPV, which has already caused significant outbreaks in China, is a highly contagious respiratory virus. While China is grappling with a surge in cases, the virus's detection in India has raised apprehensions about the possibility of another public health crisis reminiscent of the COVID-19 pandemic. West Bengal's health authorities are collecting samples from suspected cases to study the strain. Although there is no conclusive evidence of a direct link to the outbreak in China, officials are ensuring vigilance to prevent a potential escalation.

"Early detection and containment are crucial. We are carefully tracking hospital admissions and consulting with experts to understand the situation better," a senior health official stated.

The Union Health Ministry has stated that there is no immediate cause for alarm in India. Other states

have not received any advisory from the central government. Similarly, the West Bengal Health Department has refrained from issuing a formal written guideline, opting instead to intensify monitoring efforts. Hospitals have been directed to remain alert for two primary indicators: firstly, a sudden spike in the number of HMPV cases. Secondly, any unusual symptoms or trends in the severity of illnesses compared to previous years.

An official from the Health Department commented, "The current HMPV outbreak in China has not been linked to any specific strain. Even if samples are tested for strain identification, determining whether it originated in China will be challenging. For now, our focus remains on monitoring and preventive measures."

As per report, a five-month-old baby in Kolkata has been found to be infected with Human Metapneu-

movirus (HMPV). However, the baby has recovered and returned home. Initially, it was learned that the baby had come to Kolkata with their parents from Mumbai at the end of December. After falling ill upon arrival, the baby was admitted to a hospital near the Bypass. After a few days of observation, the baby was discharged.

According to hospital sources, the baby had common symptoms like fever and cough. After testing, it was discovered that the baby was infected with HMPV. The sources further reported that there was no alarming physical condition in the child, and all precautions were taken during the treatment.

Human Metapneumovirus is a respiratory virus that can cause symptoms ranging from mild cold-like issues to severe respiratory distress. It is particularly dangerous for infants, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems. Symptoms include fever, cough, nasal congestion, and in severe cases, pneumonia or bronchitis.

Health experts advise wearing masks in crowded places, practicing hand hygiene, and avoiding close contact with symptomatic individuals. The Health Department remains on alert to mitigate risks and ensure the virus does not escalate into a broader public health issue.

State Govt boosts public transport after CM's concern

MI News Service, Kolkata: Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's recent dissatisfaction over the inadequate number of buses in Kolkata has sparked swift action from the Transport Department. Starting Monday, the department launched measures to improve bus services across the city and its suburbs. Transport Minister of State Dilip Mandal personally inspected multiple depots, including Amtala, Joka, Thakurpukur 3A, and Shilpara, and interacted with passengers. Along with addressing grievances, he announced major enhancements to the public transport network. The Chief Minister's reprimand seems to have awakened the department into action. To reduce commuter inconvenience, additional government buses have been deployed. Officials stated that the city, which previously operated 550 buses making 3,300 trips daily, will now increase its trips to 4,198 by adding more buses to the

fleet. This phased expansion began on Monday, with certain areas already seeing an immediate impact. In New Town, for example, the number of bus trips has been increased from 108 to 156. Special attention has been directed toward high-demand zones such as Rashbehari, Gariahat, Kalighat, Alipore, and Exide, where 24 new special trips are being introduced. Overview of some key routes receiving additional buses: Hatiasala to Howrah (EB 13): Increased from 3 to 5 buses. Sapoorji to Howrah (AC 12): Increased from 8 to 12 buses. Ultadanga to Ecospace (AC 30S): Increased from 1 to 3 buses. New Town to Howrah (S12): Increased from 15 to 18 buses. Highland Willows to Howrah (S12E): Increased from 6 to 8 buses. Ultadanga to Ecospace (S30): Increased from 12 to 15 buses and Dum Dum Station to Karunamoyee (AC 38): Increased from 6 to 8 buses.

Emami presents inaugural Tridhara 21K Marathon in Kolkata



Debasish Kumar, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Vivek Kathotia & Actor, Devlina Kumar handing over the winners award for Tridhara 21k Marathon to Puja Mondal.

MI News Service, Kolkata: Tridhara Sammilani Hosted its first-ever Tridhara 21K Marathon, presented by the Emami Group, to promote health, fitness, and community engagement, with over 3,000 participants, the Tridhara 21K Marathon set a new standard for sporting events in Kolkata.

The inaugural event was graced by a star-studded lineup, including actors JishuSengupta, Abir Chatterjee, Devlina Kumar, Gourab Chatterjee, Anindya Chatterjee, Vikram Chatterjee, and celebrated film director Tathagata Mukherjee.

"This event celebrates Kolkata's vitality, unity, and commitment to a healthier lifestyle. We are thrilled by the overwhelming support in this inaugural edition and are excited to make it an annual tradition," said Mr. Debasish Kumar, Hon'ble M.L.A., Rashbehari Constituency. Marathon offered four race categories—21K, 10K, 5K, and 3K—catering to a wide range of fitness levels, from professional athletes to beginners. The 21K and 10K races commenced at Deshpriya Park, passing through iconic Kolkata landmarks such as Lake Kali Bari, Gol Park, Gariahat Flyover, Park Circus, and Ballygunge Circular Road. The 5K race route offered a shorter but equally scenic experience, while the 3K loop welcomed beginners with a route covering Lake Kali Bari, Gol Park, and Rashbehari Avenue. Each route showcased Kolkata's vibrant spirit, making the marathon a memorable experience. Participants enjoyed Zumba warm-up sessions before the race, and all received finisher's medals and T-shirts, marking an unforgettable event.

Total 1.55 cr voters registered in Delhi; unprecedented 5 lakh Form-6 applications received in last 20 days: CEO

MI News Service, New Delhi: The final electoral roll for the upcoming Delhi Assembly polls, published on Monday, January 6, 2025, recorded a total of 1,55,24,858 registered voters in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, marking a net increase of 1.09 per cent.



According to the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Delhi, during the claims and objections period between October 29 to November 28, 2024, a total of 1,35,089 new registrations were done. A total of 69,177 deletions in the voter list and a total of 83,825 corrections were made.

All pending claims and objections as of October 29, 2024, along with those received up to December 15, 2024, were resolved by December 24, 2024. This process resulted in the addition of 3,08,942 voters and the deletion of 1,41,613, yielding a net increase of 1,67,329 voters," the Delhi CEO said.

However, the CEO highlighted an unprecedented surge in new voter registrations since December 16, 2024, with over 5.1 lakh Form-6 applications received after the Special Summary Revision (SSR) 2025 deadline.

This significant spike, occurring more than 20 days

after the closure of the claims and objections period, is under scrutiny. Directions have been issued to all Election Registration Officers (EROs) to strictly verify each application as per Election Commission of India (ECI) guidelines. Measures being implemented include 100 per cent field verification by EROs and Assistant EROs (AEROs) and Personal hearings in doubtful cases," the Delhi CEO said.

According to CEO Delhi, eight FIRs have been lodged against 24 individuals till now for submitting fraudulent documents for obtaining voter ID.

The sudden spike in voter registration can be attributed to the recently announced 'Mahila Samman' Scheme by the ruling party, which ties scheme benefits to voter ID possession. Past instances of similar practices include the Lok Sabha elections in 2024, where women were promised financial benefits under 'guarantee cards' by political parties.

As per the CEO, draft rolls were displayed at designated locations and published on the CEO Delhi website on October 29, 2024. Copies of the draft rolls were shared with all six recognized political parties.

Special camps were organized on November 9-10 and November 23-24, 2024, at polling stations to facilitate public access to the draft rolls and submission of claims and objections.

Steps such as BLO field verification, cross-verification at AERO/ERO levels, and notice issuance to objectors were undertaken to ensure accuracy. The final electoral roll, published on January 6, 2025, is available online at designated polling stations. Recognized political parties have been provided copies of the final roll. Continuous updation of electoral rolls will proceed as per ECI guidelines, allowing further claims and objections to be filed," the Delhi CEO said.

IR utilises 76% of CAPEX in first nine months

MI News Service, New Delhi: Indian Railway has utilised 76 percent of total budgetary grant for 2024-25. Total Capex for railways in Budget Estimate 2024-25 is ₹ 2,65,200 cr with Gross Budgetary Support of Rs. 2,52,200 crore.

Total Budgetary grant for financial year 2023-24 was Rs. 26,020 crore with GBS being Rs. 2,40,200 Cr.

Indian Railways has made good progress in Capex. To the end of December, 2024 Railways have utilised about 2,00,805 (76%) of the capital allocation which is Rs. 487.5 crore more in comparison to financial year 23-24. Capex under GBS upto Dec'24 is Rs. 1,91,248 Cr. which was 1,85,451 cr upto Dec'23. GBS utilisation is 3.12% higher in comparison to last FY.

Indian Railways has spent Rs. 817.13 crores on capacity augmentation like new lines, gauge conversion, doubling, traffic facilities work, railway electrification, Investment in PSUs and metropolitan projects. 82% of safety related capex was spent in the first 9 months of the financial year.

Total BG for financial year 24-25 is 34414 crores. Railways has already spent 28063 crores.

For customer amenities, capex for current financial year is 15315 crores. For rolling stock, provision was for 59093 crores. Out of that 40354 crores was spent by december '24 which is 79% of the budget allotted for rolling stock.

Platelet-Rich Therapy now free at NRS

MI News Service, Kolkata: For those struggling with hair loss, a groundbreaking initiative at NRS Medical College in Kolkata offers a ray of hope. The hospital has launched free Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP) Therapy, the first of its kind in any government hospital in West Bengal. This treatment stimulates hair regrowth from within, eliminating the need for wigs or hair extensions. Unlike private clinics, where each session costs a hefty ₹8,000 or more, NRS provides this therapy at no cost, thanks to advanced equipment funded by the West Bengal government. The process begins with the extraction of 20 ml of the patient's blood. The blood is processed to isolate platelets, which are then injected into the scalp at areas of hair loss. These platelets contain growth factors that stimulate dormant hair follicles, promoting natural hair regrowth. Patients attend one session per month, with results monitored after each injection. While three sessions are generally sufficient, some individuals may require additional treatments depending on the severity of hair loss. Importantly, the new hair can be shampooed and styled like natural hair.

monitor and control respiratory illnesses across the country. In Karnataka, two children were detected with HMPV, including a 3-month-old female infant and an 8-month-old male infant. The Health Ministry is continuing to monitor the situation through all available surveillance channels. Additionally, the ICMR will keep track of HMPV circulation trends throughout the year. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has been providing regular updates on the situation in China to inform public health measures. As per officials, HMPV is a respiratory virus that is already circulating globally, including in India. It has been associated with respiratory illnesses in various countries, although there has been no unusual surge in cases in India.

Enhanced safety and connectivity through construction of LHS and launching & dismantling of FOBs

MI News Service, Asansol: Asansol Division Engineering Department successfully undertook extensive safety and maintenance works in the Asansol-Jhajha section during a mega traffic block on 5th January 2025. This initiative focused on improving passenger safety, operational efficiency, and infrastructure durability.



A significant milestone was the dismantling of an old Foot Over Bridge (FoB) at Jasidid Station, spanning 30.8 meters in length and 2.44 meters in width, to make way for new, modern infrastructure.

Additionally, a Limited Height Subway (LHS) was launched between Kaseetar Halt and Vidysagar stations, replacing a level crossing to ensure safer and uninterrupted road connectivity. To further enhance passenger convenience, four girders for a new Foot Over Bridge (FoB) were launched at Sitapuram Junction station, improving connectivity between platforms.

Moreover, 22 gullied joints were renewed, and 37 rail joints were welded to improve track durability. To accelerate ongoing projects, rail piling of 30.4 meters

was completed at various LHS sites, and 49 rails were loaded and unloaded for future installations. These safety upgrades and infrastructure developments will provide significant benefits to passengers and the local community. Travelers will experience smoother train operations, reduced risks of delays, and improved station facilities. The elimination of level crossings with the construction of LHS ensures safer road travel, while modernized tracks and crossings enhance train speed and reliability.

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"Sacrifice won't go in vain": Chhattisgarh Dy CM condemns Naxal IED blast that killed 9 in Bijapur

MI News Service, Raipur: Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao on Monday condemned the Naxal attack in Bijapur district, where nine people, including eight District Reserve Guard (DRG) jawans and one driver, lost their lives in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast.

Sao described the attack as a "cowardly action" driven by Naxals' "desperation and disappointment," and assured that the sacrifice of the jawans would not go in vain.

"Information about a cowardly attack by Naxalites has come from Bijapur. I express condolences to the jawans' families. This is a cowardly action...As jawans are working towards eliminating Naxals, they have done this out of desperation and disappointment. The sacrifice of the jawans won't go in vain," Sao said while speaking to reporters.

turning from a joint operation of Dantewada, Narayanpur and Bijapur police when the blast occurred.

"For the last three days, anti-Naxalite operations have been ongoing in the Narayanpur, Dantewada, and Bijapur regions. During this operation, we had recovered the bodies of five Naxals, and one jawan had lost his life. When the team was returning, in Bijapur's Ambeli area, an IED blast was carried out by Naxals. Eight Dantewada DRG jawans and one driver lost their lives in the attack," IG Sundarraj

Following the incident, Chhattisgarh Assembly Speaker and former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh also expressed his condolences to the families of the deceased jawans. "Whenever big operations take place against them, these Naxalites come down to cowardly attack... I express my condolences to the families of the jawans who lost their lives in this attack... The big step that the Chhattisgarh government and central government are taking will take this step forward further," Singh said.

ED charges 'Kalighat's Kaku' in recruitment scam

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a significant development in the recruitment corruption case, charges were officially framed against Sujay Krishna Bhadra, popularly known as 'Kalighat's Kaku,' on Monday. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) presented the case before the Bankshah Court, where Bhadra was admitted to the HDU of a private hospital in Kolkata, maintained his innocence during the hearing. He reiterated that he had not accepted any bribes. However, the judge informed him that the evidence gathered by investigators was sufficient to frame charges under Section 4 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

tor his conviction. Doctors are conducting tests, including an angiography, to determine whether his pacemaker needs replacement. Despite his health issues, he was presented virtually before the court, where the judge inquired about his medical status.

Last Monday, Bhadra was admitted to the hospital after feeling unwell while being taken to court by the ED. A medical board has since been formed to monitor his condition. Doctors are conducting tests, including an angiography, to determine whether his pacemaker needs replacement. Despite his health issues, he was presented virtually before the court, where the judge inquired about his medical status.

TENDER Sealed tender is invited from the experienced & resourceful bidder for execution of four works through NITB/Dgp/2024-25 and Communicated under memo no 5/dgp dated 03.01.2025 in offline mode. Last date for application of tender 13.01.2025 upto 12pm. please see the office notice board. Sd/- Pradhan Dharampur GP

NOTICE My Clients Sankar Mahindor & Subhanor Mahindor, both son of Dwijendra Lal Mahindor... My Clients Sankar Mahindor & Subhanor Mahindor, both son of Dwijendra Lal Mahindor, both son of 11/1B, Mahendra Sarkar Street, P.S. Bowbazar, Kolkata, PIN-700012, being the owners of ALL THAT the property situated at Mouza Chakrapur, J.L. No. 84, P.S. Khanakul, Dist. Hooghly comprising 15.80 Decimal of Shaili/Khal/Suna/Bandh property and ALL THAT the property situated at Mouza Udaypur, J.L. No. 85, P.S. Khanakul, Dist. Hooghly comprising 15.80 Decimal of Shaili/Khal/Suna/Bandh property and ALL THAT the property situated at Mouza Dantewada, J.L. No. 84, P.S. Khanakul, Dist. Hooghly comprising 15.80 Decimal of Shaili/Khal/Suna/Bandh property and ALL THAT the property situated at Mouza Chakrapur, J.L. No. 84, P.S. Khanakul, Dist. Hooghly comprising 15.80 Decimal of Shaili/Khal/Suna/Bandh property and ALL THAT the property situated at Mouza Udaypur, J.L. No. 85, P.S. Khanakul, Dist. 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Diet, lifestyle influences chances of age-related brain disorders: Study

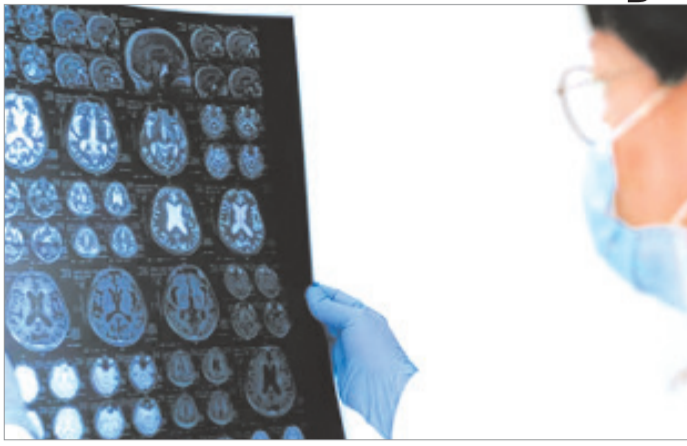
Washington [USA] : The scientists at the Allen Institute for Brain Science have identified the molecular changes that occur in the brains of ageing mice and located a hot spot where most damage is centralized. The cells in the area are also connected with metabolism, thus suggesting a connection between diet and brain health.

Scientists at the Allen Institute have identified specific cell types in the brains of mice that undergo major changes as they age, along with a specific hot spot where many of those changes occur. The discoveries are published in the journal Nature.

The study found that in ageing brains, genes associated with inflammation increased in activity while those related to neuronal structure and function decreased.

"Our hypothesis is that those cell types are getting less efficient at integrating signals from our environment or from things that we're consuming," said Kelly Jin, Ph.D., a scientist at the Allen Institute for Brain Science and lead author of the study.

"And that loss of efficiency somehow contributes to what we know as ageing in the rest of our body. I think that's pretty amazing, and I think it's remarkable that we're able to find those very specific changes with the methods



that we're using." Through this study, scientists discovered a possible connection between diet, lifestyle factors, brain ageing, and changes that can influence our susceptibility to age-related brain disorders. They found a specific hot spot combining both the decrease in neuronal function and the increase in inflammation in the hypothalamus. The most significant gene expression changes were found in cell types near the third ventricle of the hypothalamus, including tanyocytes, ependymal cells, and neurons known for their role in food intake, energy homeostasis, metabolism, and how our bodies use nutrients. To conduct the study, funded by the National

Institutes of Health (NIH), researchers used cutting-edge single-cell RNA sequencing and advanced brain-mapping tools developed through NIH's THE BRAIN Initiative to map over 1.2 million brain cells from young (two months old) and aged (18 months old) mice across 16 broad brain regions. The aged mice are what scientists consider to be the equivalent of a late middle-aged human. Mouse brains share many similarities with human brains in terms of structure, function, genes, and cell types. The scientists believe that the result of this study could pave the way for future therapies to slow or manage the ageing process in the brain.

Study gives insight into process of heart failure with preserved ejection fraction

Chicago [US] : Recent research showed that increasing the ketone supply to the heart in mice with heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF) allowed their hearts to utilize more ketones and produce more energy.

Preliminary research presented at the American Heart Association's Basic Cardiovascular Sciences Scientific Sessions 2024.

A prevalent kind of heart failure known as heart failure with intact ejection fraction happens when there are heart failure symptoms and signs associated with a high left ventricular filling pressure, even in the presence of a normal or nearly normal left ventricle ejection fraction of 50 per cent or more. When the heart's pumping power is 40% or less, it is said to have cardiac failure with diminished ejection fraction. Healthy hearts require a high rate of adenosine triphosphate (ATP) production (provides the energy to drive and support the heart) to maintain their continuous pumping action. This energy comes from a balanced use of glucose and fats to support the heart's contractile function.

"Ketones are a special energy resource," said study author Qiyu (Violet) Sun, B.Sc., a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Alberta in Canada. "Humans normally rely on carbohydrates and fat for energy. However, when blood glucose levels fall, such as after prolonged fasting or strenuous exercise, it poses a risk to our brain, which depends on glucose and cannot utilize fats for energy. To address this, our body has a built-in mechanism to produce this special energy substrate called ketones." "This process is

known as ketogenesis and involves breaking down fats from fat storage. The liver then converts these fats into ketone bodies, which enter the bloodstream to fuel the brain," Sun explained. "Ketones can convert the chemical energy in the form of ATP to improve the heart's pumping ability in a continuous fashion."

According to the researchers, relying on fatty acids to produce ATP could be problematic. Fatty acids are a less efficient fuel source compared to glucose because fats require more oxygen to produce the same amount of ATP as glucose.

In this study, researchers assessed mice hearts' metabolism and found that hearts with HFpEF reconstructed their metabolic profiles. Specifically, the researchers found in HFpEF hearts, ketone use was impaired, as well as an impaired glucose oxidation rate coupled with an increase in fatty acid oxidation. These two changes balance each other, leading to overall preserved energy production. When HFpEF hearts were given more ketones, this resulted in an increase in overall ATP production coming from ketones and glucose oxidation to ATP from 15% to 28% with preserved pumping ability. So, increasing ketone supply to the heart in HFpEF mice led to higher ATP production.

"This is crucial because this increase in ketone use by the heart did not cause any interference with glucose or fat use. In other words, ketones were not competing with glucose or fats as the energy source. As such, elevated ketone oxidation does not further aggravate the disrupted metabolic profile of the heart in HFpEF," Sun said. According to

the American Heart Association's 2024 Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics, an estimated 56.2 million people were living with heart failure across 204 countries globally in 2019. However, this estimate likely underrepresents the true rate of heart failure because of data and diagnostic gaps in low-resource regions and countries.

"The prevalence of heart failure with preserved ejection fraction is rising, driven by an aging population and increasing obesity rates. Unfortunately, there is still a lack of clinically effective treatment for this condition," Sun said. "We hope our study can help us better understand this condition. Identifying key proteins involved in cardiac energy metabolism could potentially lead to identification of druggable targets for future development of medications to treat HFpEF." Sun said the next steps are to investigate the precise role of ketone use by the heart in HFpEF and to assess whether increasing the ketone supply to the heart could potentially optimize heart energy production and lead to improved cardiac function. Study limitations were that it focused on the metabolic phenotype of HFpEF. However, there are different subgroups of HFpEF that possess varied clinical presentation, such as the fibrotic type or the diastolic dysfunction phenotypes of HFpEF. Both subgroups of HFpEF are of equal importance and should be investigated further. Additionally, because mice have different physiology and metabolic profiles than humans, future research should better characterize cardiac energy metabolism in HFpEF using experimental models that more closely align.

Study tracks air pollution, reveals demographic disparities in exposure levels

Massachusetts [US] : There are considerable variances in how much people are exposed to air pollution, according to a new study co-authored by MIT researchers that considers everyday mobility.

The study does not simply estimate air pollution exposure based on where people live or work, but also uses mobile data to investigate where individuals go during a normal day, allowing for a more comprehensive assessment of the environment's influence.

The research finds exposure to particulate matter 2.5 microns or bigger rises by about 2.4 percent when daily travel patterns are taken into account.

"One of the main strengths of the study is that we try to improve the information we use, on the air quality side and also from the fine-grained estimation of people's mobility," says Paolo Santi, a principal research scientist at Senseable City Lab, part of MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP), and a co-author of a new paper detailing the study's results. "That allows us to build trajectories of people's movement. So, it was the first time we were able to combine these data to come up with a new measure of exposure."

After all, people's daily pollution exposure may be a complex combination of either living near, working near, or traveling by sources of particulate matter.

"People move around the city for jobs and education and more, and studying that is where we get this better information about exposure," says An Wang of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, another co-author of the study.

The paper, "Big mobility data reveals hyperlocal air pollution exposure disparities," will be published in Nature Cities.

The authors are Iacopo Testi of the Senseable City Lab; An Wang of Hong Kong Polytechnic University; Sanjana Paul, a graduate student in DUSP; Simone Mora, of the Senseable City Lab; Erica Walker, an associate professor at the Brown University School of Public Health; Marguerite Nyhan, a senior lecturer/associate professor at the National University of Ireland, University College Cork; Fabio Duarte of the Senseable City Lab; Santi; and Carlo Ratti, director of the Senseable City Lab.

To conduct the study, the researchers collected air pollution by mounting solar-power environmental sensors, including optical particle counters, temper-

ature and humidity sensors, and GPS, on New York City's civic services vehicles in operation in the Bronx.

"This strategy shows that cities can use their existing fleet as environmental sensors," says Mora.

To measure how people moving through the Bronx are exposed to pollution in different times, the researchers used anonymized phone records of 500,000 different individuals and 500 million daily location records in New York.

The ground-level pollution data showed that the southeastern portion of the Bronx, where expressways and industries meet most intensively, has the most particulate matter.

The mobility data also revealed disparities in exposure when evaluated in terms of demographics, with income disparities present but disparities by ethnicity larger. For instance, some largely Hispanic communities have among the highest exposure levels. But the data also showed large differences in exposure levels within Hispanic communities.

Pollution exposure has significant implications for a health perspective, as Duarte notes. For instances, the Bronx has the

worst air quality of any New York City borough, and, in turn, cases of asthma in the Bronx are 2.5 times higher in than any other borough.

"You see the consequences of exposure to pollution in the hospitalization of adults in the Bronx," Duarte says.

As the researchers acknowledge, because the study was conducted in the fall of 2021, when the global Covid-19 pandemic was still affecting business and commuting, there may be slightly different mobility patterns in the Bronx today. Still, they believe their methods can give rise to additional future studies of the pollution exposure.

Ratti notes that mobile data, including pollution sensors on vehicles, can be used as "a huge monitoring system. It's not expensive, we have the infrastructure in terms of cars and buses, and just putting sensors on them, you can have better air quality monitoring."

And Wang notes that granular studies such as this one can extend into studies that add in additional kinds of air-quality hazards, in addition to PM 2.5 particles. "This actually opens the door for new analysis for many kinds of toxicity studies combined with exposure," he says.

Cancer drug may ease cognitive function for some with autism, says new research

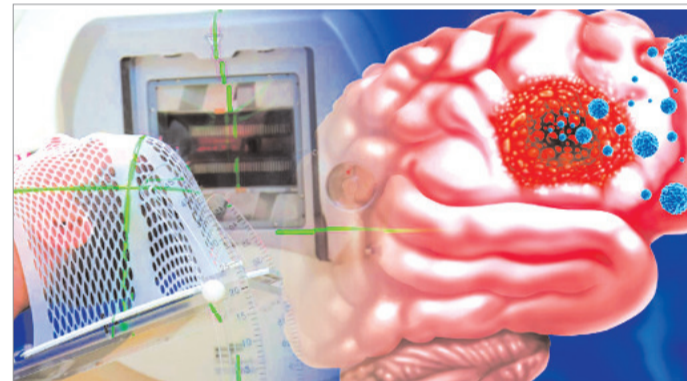
California [US] : According to recent research from the University of California San Diego, people with Rett syndrome, a rare disorder linked to autism, may find it easier to think when taking an experimental cancer treatment. This finding could lead to medicines for patients with other neurological conditions.

The research highlights the part played by microglia, a kind of white blood cell present in the central nervous system, in the development of the human brain. It was published in Stem Cell Reports.

While such cells have been better studied in neurodegenerative disorders like Alzheimer's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and multiple sclerosis, "very little information has existed on their role in early stages of neural development" because access to fetal tissue is limited, said Pinar Mesci, PhD, the study's lead researcher. Now employed elsewhere, she completed work on the project while at the university.

In a bid to better understand their function, Mesci instead used brain organoids -- "mini brains," essentially, that mimic the developing brain of an embryo -- grown from skin-derived stem cells of consenting patients. Such organoids were created from individuals with Rett syndrome -- a disorder primarily found in females that features loss of speech, purposeful use of hands, mobility and muscle tone, among other symptoms -- as well as from neurotypical individuals.

Mesci then added healthy microglia to the Rett syndrome



brain organoids and found that the functioning of synapses -- where neurons connect and communicate -- was "rescued." This occurred due to the restoration of phagocytosis, a process by which microglia -- sometimes referred to as the "janitors" of the central nervous system -- ingest and destroy foreign substances like bacteria and dead cells, keeping the brain and spinal cord tidy. The process also involves "pruning" of synapses, which optimizes brain function. Researchers also found that the synapses of typical neurons experienced impaired functioning when Rett syndrome microglia were introduced, further confirming the role of the immune cell in brain function and development.

"If the brain's 'janitors' are not working, problems start to arise," said UC San Diego School of Medicine professor Alysso Muotri, Ph.D., senior author and director of the university's Sanford Stem Cell Institute's Integrated Space Stem Cell Orbital Research Center.

Faulty microglia make cognition even harder for Rett syndrome patients, who already communicate with fewer and impaired synapses and dysfunctional astrocytes due to a loss of function in the MECP2 gene, implicated in other types of neurodevelopmental conditions as well. Microglia with loss of MECP2 function "are not as good at pruning synapses and shaping the neural network -- they don't do a good job," Muotri said. The team then tested a battery of existing drugs on the microglia, to see if any might restore phagocytosis. They found one: ADH-503, also known as GB1275 -- an experimental oral pancreatic cancer medication that also reduces the number of immune-suppressing cells that enter a tumor. The drug serves as a regulator of CD11b, a protein involved in phagocytosis, among other processes.

Other studies on Rett syndrome have highlighted potential therapeutic targets. But none so far have identified a potential treatment involving human

microglial cells.

By the time Rett syndrome patients are diagnosed, it's too late to repair and not currently possible to replace faulty neurons, the primary issue in the disease. "But by focusing on other cell types -- and potentially finding drugs that improve how they work -- we might improve the environment for those neurons and ease functioning for patients," Mesci said. "That's what I'm excited about."

Jonathan Kipnis, Ph.D., professor of pathology, immunology, neurology, neuroscience and neurosurgery at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and director of its Brain Immunology and Glia Center, said the new research "nicely demonstrates" microglia as a potential therapeutic target in Rett syndrome.

"I hope this work will 'move the needle' and bring the Rett community back to neuroimmunology," Kipnis said. "Understanding neuro-immune interactions in this complex disease may not only provide new insights into the disease biology, but also develop novel approaches to attenuate its progression."

The research represents the first successful integration of human microglia into Rett syndrome brain tissues in vitro -- a model that may prove superior to mouse models. The researchers hope the study "opens doors for therapies," not only for those with Rett syndrome, but for those with other neurodevelopmental and neurodegenerative disorders in which microglia play a role.

Study finds how genetic diagnostics of ultra-rare diseases

Bonn [Germany] : Most rare diseases are caused by genetics. A molecular genetic diagnosis can be made more quickly and readily by identifying the underlying genetic change, for instance by exome sequencing (ES). The analysis of every region of our DNA that codes for a protein is known as ES.

A systematic evaluation of 1,577 patients' ES data was conducted as part of a multicenter research conducted in Germany. 499 people could now be diagnosed as a result, 34 of whom had previously undiagnosed genetic disorders.

Thus, the work significantly adds to the first descriptions of novel diseases. Furthermore, the first widespread application of artificial intelligence (AI)-based software to assist clinical diagnosis was made. The artificial intelligence system "GestaltMatcher" can help with the evaluation of face features in relation to the categorization of congenital genetic disorders. The prestigious journal Nature Genetics has recently published the study's findings, which were conducted across 16 university locations.

Ultra-rare diseases require both multidisciplinary clinical expertise and comprehensive

genetic diagnostics for optimal care. The three-year TRANSLATE NAMSE innovation fund project began at the end of 2017 with the aim of improving the care of those affected by means of modern diagnostic concepts. Researchers from 16 university hospitals analyzed the ES data of 1,577 patients, including 1,309 children, who presented to rare disease centers as part of TRANSLATE NAMSE. The aim of the project was to find the cause of the disease in as many patients as possible using innovative examination methods. A genetic cause of the rare disease was identified in 499 patients, 425 of whom were children.

In total, the researchers found changes in 370 different genes. "We are particularly proud of the discovery of 34 new molecular diseases, which is a great example of knowledge-generating patient care at university hospitals," says Dr. Theresa Brunet, one of the lead authors from the Institute of Human Genetics at the Klinikum rechts der Isar of the Technical University of Munich.

"We will examine the affected patients for whom we have not yet been able to find a diagnosis as part of the model project Genome Sequencing, or MVGenomSeq for



short," says Dr. Tobias Haack, Deputy Director of the Institute of Medical Genetics and Applied Genomics at the University Hospital of Tübingen. The MVGenomSeq builds on the success of the TRANSLATE NAMSE project and enables the analysis of clinical genomes at university hospitals throughout Germany. Unsolved cases can also be investigated in follow-up studies using

new examination methods, such as long-read sequencing, which allows much longer DNA fragments to be analyzed. "Long-read sequencing enables us to find genetic changes that are difficult to detect and we assume that we will be able to make further diagnoses using this method," says Dr. Nadja Ehmke, Head of Genome Diagnostics at Charité's Institute of Medical Genetics and Human

Genetics and one of the last authors. As part of the TRANSLATE NAMSE project, standardized procedures for extended genetic diagnostics for suspected rare diseases were also established at the participating rare disease centers, based on interdisciplinary case conferences. These were incorporated into standard care after the project was completed. "The interdisciplinary case

conferences play an important role for those affected. This enables a comprehensive clinical characterization, which is relevant for the phenotype-based evaluation of the genetic data. In addition, the detected variants can be discussed in an interdisciplinary context," says Dr. Magdalena Danyel, one of the first authors, who works as a specialist at the Institute of Medical Genetics and Human Genetics and a fellow of the Clinician Scientist Program of the Berlin Institute of Health (BIH) at Charité - Universitätsmedizin.

The researchers also investigated whether the supplementary use of machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI) tools improves diagnostic effectiveness and efficiency. To this end, the "GestaltMatcher" software developed by researchers in Bonn, which uses computer-assisted facial analysis to support the person using it in the diagnosis of rare diseases, was tested on a broad scale for the first time. The study used the sequence and image data of 224 people who had also consented to the computer-assisted analysis of their facial images, and it was shown that the AI-supported technology provides a clinical benefit. The GestaltMatcher AI

can recognize abnormalities in the face and assign them to specific diseases. An important question when assessing genetic data is: Does the phenotype match the genotype? The AI can provide support here. "GestaltMatcher is like an expert opinion that we can provide to any medical professional in a matter of seconds. Early diagnosis is essential for those affected by rare diseases and their families. Supportive use of the software by pediatricians could already be useful in the case of abnormalities during the U7 screening at 21 to 24 months or U7a at 34 to 36 months," said corresponding author Prof. Peter Krawitz, Director of the Institute for Genetic Statistics and Bioinformatics (IGSB) at the University Hospital Bonn (UKB), where the GestaltMatcher AI is being developed. Prof. Krawitz is also a member of the Cluster of Excellence ImmunoSensation2 and in the Transdisciplinary Research Areas (TRA) "Modeling" and "Life & Health" at the University of Bonn. The software and app can be made available to all doctors through the non-profit organization Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Gen-Diagnostik e.V. (AGD).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates and lays foundation stone of various railway projects

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various railway projects today, via video conferencing. The Prime Minister inaugurated the new Jammu Railway Division. He also laid the foundation stone of Rayagada Railway Division Building of East Coast Railway and inaugurated the Charlapalli New Terminal Station in Telangana. Extending his greetings on the occasion of Shri Guru Gobind Singhji Jayanti, the Prime Minister emphasized that his teachings and life inspires the vision of a strong and prosperous nation. Lauding Bharat's fast-paced progress in connectivity, Shri Modi stated that since the start of 2025, India has been accelerating its initiatives with its metro rail network expanding to over 1000 kilometers. He mentioned the recent inauguration of Namu Bharat train in Delhi-NCR along with the launch of Delhi Metro projects yesterday. Shri Modi added that today's event is a further testimony to the fact that the entire nation is moving forward together, step by step, as

projects launched in Jammu and Kashmir, Odisha and Telangana mark a major leap in modern connectivity for these the north, east and south regions of the country. He reiterated that the mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' is helping turn the vision of a developed India into reality. He congratulated the people of these states and all citizens of India on these developments.

The Prime Minister underscored that the work on modern rail networks like the Dedicated Freight Corridor is progressing rapidly in the country. He said these special corridors will reduce pressure on the regular tracks and will also create more opportunities for high-speed trains. Shri Modi emphasized that the railways are undergoing a transformation with the promotion of Made in India. He said Modern coaches are being developed for metros and railways. Stations are also being redeveloped. Solar panels are being installed at stations and 'One Station, One Product' stalls are being set up at railway stations. All these initiatives are generating millions of new employment opportunities

in the railway sector. "Over the last decade, millions of young people have secured permanent government jobs in the railways. The demand for raw materials in factories producing new train coaches leads to more job opportunities in other sectors as well", Shri Modi added. The Prime Minister remarked that keeping in mind the special skills related to the railways, the country's first Gati-Shakti University has also been established. As the railway network expands, new divisions and headquarters are being set up, benefiting regions like Jammu, Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Leh-Ladakh. He stated that Jammu and Kashmir is achieving new milestones in railway infrastructure, with the Udhampur - Srinagar - Baramulla rail line, which is being discussed all over the country today. Shri Modi said the completion of the Chenab Bridge, the world's highest railway arch bridge, will play a key role in connecting the region with the rest of India providing convenience to the people of Leh-Ladakh.

Shri Modi remarked that the Anji Khad Bridge, which is the

country's first cable-based railway bridge, is also part of this project. He said Chenab Bridge and the Anji Khad Bridge are unparalleled examples of engineering leading to economic progress in the region and promoting prosperity.

The Prime Minister highlighted that Odisha is blessed with abundant natural resources and a large coastline, and holds significant potential for international trade. He said that several railway projects worth over ₹70,000 crore are ongoing in the state, along with the establishment of seven Gati Shakti cargo terminals, which are boosting trade and industry. Shri Modi stated that today, the foundation stone has been laid for the Rayagada Railway Division in Odisha, which will strengthen the state's railway infrastructure promoting tourism, business, and employment in Odisha specially South Odisha, where the number of tribal families is higher. Inaugurating the Charlapalli New Terminal Station in Telangana today, the Prime Minister highlighted its potential to accelerate regional development by connecting to the Outer Ring Road.

3 Israelis killed, 8 wounded in West Bank terror shooting; IDF hunting for gunmen

MI News Service, Jerusalem: Three Israeli civilians were killed and at least eight others were wounded when terrorists opened fire on vehicles in the northern West Bank on Monday morning, the military and medics said. The shooting attack, which targeted a bus and two cars, occurred inside the Palestinian village of al-Funduq, which straddles a major artery used by thousands of Israelis and Palestinian drivers daily. The army said it launched a manhunt for the gunmen.

At least two Palestinian terrorists opened fire on two Israeli cars and a bus traveling along the highway as they passed through the village, a military source said. Two women in their 60s who had been in one of the cars were declared dead at the scene, along with a man in his 40s who had been in the second car,



some 150 meters (490 feet) away, the Magen David Adom ambulance service said. At least eight people on the bus were wounded in the attack, including the driver, 63, who was rushed to a hospital in serious condition, MDA said. Two women on the bus were in moderate condition, and at least five others were lightly hurt. The Israel Defense Forces said that it had dis-

patched a large number of troops, as well as an Israeli Air Force helicopter, to search for the terrorists.

The attack occurred along Route 55, an east-west highway traversing the West Bank and linking areas northwest of Tel Aviv to the outskirts of Nablus, passing near or through a number of Israeli settlements and Palestinian towns.

RPF Of ER seizes narcotics worth 2.3 crores under "Operation Narcos"

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Eastern Railway has achieved another significant milestone in its relentless fight against drug trafficking. As part of its ongoing initiative, "Operation Narcos," the RPF team of Malda Division successfully intercepted a major drug consignment on 5th January 2025. Acting on intelligence inputs, vigilant RPF team including IPF/In-charge, Malda, GRPS, Malda and other officers & staff conducted a special operation on Train No. 22504 DN (Vivek Express) at Malda Railway Station. During the operation, a suspect was apprehended and 461 grams of Brown Sugar (Heroin), valued of ₹2,30,50,000 was recovered. The contraband was seized, and the accused was taken into custody of GRP for further investigation and legal action. In this connection, GRP, Malda has registered a case against the accused under NDPS (Narcotic) Act. Eastern Railway remains steadfast in its efforts to combat illegal activities across its network. The RPF continues to conduct proactive operations under "Operation Narcos" to curb drug trafficking and uphold the integrity of the railway system. Such achievements reflect the RPF's pivotal role in contributing to national security and safeguarding the interests of railway passengers.

Passenger aircraft with 76 on board makes emergency landing in Nepal

MI News Service, Kathmandu: Buddha Air, a domestic passenger aircraft operating in Nepal on Monday morning made an emergency landing at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu after reporting "flame out" in the left engine. Issuing a press release, the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) announced that Buddha Air's (BHA953) made a landing after reporting "flame out" in the left engine after take-off at 10:37 am (NST). "The aircraft, Buddha Air flight no BHA953, took off from Kathmandu at 10:37 am (0453 UTC) carrying 72 passengers and four crew members, to Chandragadhi (Bhadrapur) and at 43 nautical miles east reported flame out. After flying on single engine and following a full emergency declaration, it returned back to Kathmandu. From the Gu-rans point using VOR approach landed at the Tribhuvan International Airport at 11:15 am (UTC 0530) safely," the release from Tribhuvan International Airport read.



Muslim devotees during a ceremony as part of commemoration of Urs of Sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, at the Ajmer Sharif Dargah, Rajasthan.

BLA claims 47 security personnel killed, over 30 others injured in attack on Pakistani army convoy in Turbat

MI News Service, Balochistan: As many as 47 security personnel were killed and more than 30 others were injured in the Baloch Liberation Army's (BLA) "Fidayee unit" Majeed Brigade's suicide attack on a Pakistani army convoy near Balochistan's Turbat on Saturday, The Balochistan Post reported. In a statement, BLA spokesperson Jeeyand Baloch said that the attack took place in the Behman area, which is located some eight kilometres from Turbat city, at around 5:45 pm (local time). He said the target was a convoy of 13 vehicles, including five buses and seven military vehicles, heading from Karachi to the Frontier Corps (FC) headquarters in Turbat. The group said that the Pakistan army convoy included personnel from MI 309, FC SIU, FC 117 Wing, FC 326 Wing, FC 81 Wing, and retired army Captain Zohaib Mohsin, who now serves as a police official, The Balochistan Post reported. The BLA claimed that one bus was "completely destroyed," others were partially disabled and one military vehicle was demolished in the blast, which it said was coordinated with help from its intelligence wing, "ZIRAB." "The statement said, "ZIRAB



had provided authentic information that an enemy convoy was leaving Karachi for Turbat and included important troops of the occupying army." The BLA said that the attack's success showcases the "excellent performance" of its intelligence and the "unparalleled sacrifice of the Fidayee Sangat." "The statement said, "The success of this mission reflects the excellent performance of our intelligence and the unparalleled sacrifice of the Fidayee Sangat. This

attack is a clear message that the land of Balochistan will never be safe for the occupying state." "The attacker has been identified as "Fidayee Sangat Bahar Ali" from Qohda Murad Muhammad Bazar in Turbat's Dasht Hochat area. According to BLA, he joined the Baloch national movement in 2017 and served on both urban and mountain fronts. He also volunteered for the Majeed Brigade's "Fidayee" mission in 2022, The Balochistan Post reported.

Israel denies reports that Hamas forwarded list of hostages to be released in potential ceasefire agreement

MI News Service, Tel Aviv: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office has refuted reports that claimed Hamas had given a list of hostages to be released in a potential ceasefire agreement on Sunday, Fox News reported.

The statement of Israel's PM office came after it was reported by a UK-based news agency that Hamas had approved a list of 34 hostages that it would release in exchange for a ceasefire agreement. According to them, Hamas said the deal was contingent on Israel's agreement to withdraw from Gaza and implement a permanent ceasefire, Fox News re-



ported. In a statement, Netanyahu's office said, "Contrary to

what was claimed, Hamas has not forwarded a list of names of hostages until this moment." Currently, Netanyahu is leading the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) on multiple fronts across the Middle East. The statement comes days after Netanyahu was discharged from hospital on Thursday following his prostate surgery. According to his office, Netanyahu was in good condition and fully conscious following the surgery, Fox News reported. Meanwhile, IDF has announced that it has conducted a drone strike against a group of Hamas operatives at a command center in the Israeli-designated humanitarian zone in southern

Gaza, The Times of Israel reported.

According to the Israeli military, the compound in the Khan Younis area of the humanitarian zone was used by the Hamas operatives to plan and conduct attacks against troops in Gaza and against Israel.

The IDF said that a separate strike was carried out in the Deir el-Balah area of the humanitarian zone targeting a Palestinian Islamic Jihad operative who had conducted previous attacks from the area. The IDF said that it took measures to mitigate civilian harm in both strikes, according to The Times of Israel report.

Priority for Punctual Commuter-Sensitive trains

MI News Service, Kolkata: Ensuring the punctual operation of commuter-sensitive trains remains a critical focus, as these trains are indispensable to thousands of passengers, including office-goers, students, artisans, small business owners, and agricultural producers. Operating primarily during peak morning and evening hours, these trains sustain livelihoods and drive productivity across the region.

Key Commuter Routes: Sealdah Division: Sealdah-Lalgola, Hasnabad, Gede, Bangaon, Ranaghat, Dankuni, Kalyani Simanta, Lakshmikantapur, Diamond Harbour, Canning, and Budge Budge sections.

Howrah Division: Howrah-Bardhaman, Katwa, Tarakeswar, and Goghat sections.

Asansol Division: Asansol-Jasidih-Baidyanath Dham, Khana-Asansol sections.

Malda Division: Sahibganj-Bhagalpur-Jamalpur and Malda-Azinganj sections.

A total of 200 commuter-sensitive trains have been identified: 111 trains in the Sealdah Division, 66 trains in the Howrah Division, 12 trains in the Malda Division, and 11 trains in the Asansol Division. As of 5th January, 2025, these services achieved a 77.63% punctuality rate, with Asansol Division topping the chart with 100% and Sealdah Division with 92% despite occasional delays of 1 to 15 minutes or more caused by factors such as fog, road traffic congestion at level crossings or temporary unavailability of clear paths. To enhance punctuality and reduce delays, Eastern Railway has implemented the following initiatives: Enhanced Monitoring: Real-time tracking of train movements to promptly address delays. Improved Coordination: Streamlined operations at level crossings and other critical points. Focus on Maintenance: Ensuring infrastructure and rolling stock are maintained to minimize disruptions.

Special Magistrate Checking conducted at Howrah Station



MI News Service, Kolkata: Eastern Railway's Howrah Division conducted a Special Magistrate Checking drive at Howrah station on January 6, 2025, from 15:30 hrs to 17:00 hrs. The initiative was led by the Railway Judicial Magistrate, supported by CTI (General) along with 35 TTEs, CTI (Indoor) with 31 TTEs, and an RPF Inspector with 7 RPF staff.

The drive aimed to reinforce discipline, reduce ticketless travel, and ensure compliance with railway regulations. During the one-and-a-half-hour operation, a total of 631 cases were booked for irregularities, such as ticket-

less travel and other violations. The coordinated efforts of the checking teams and RPF staff ensured the smooth execution of the operation, reflecting the commitment of Howrah Division to maintaining lawful travel practices. Such initiatives are instrumental in fostering accountability among passengers while also augmenting the financial resources of Indian Railways. Howrah Division remains steadfast in its efforts to conduct regular drives of this nature, contributing to the safety, security, and overall efficiency of the railway system.

Colorful gathering in Rajasthan in memory of Pir Dada Huzur



Nurul Islam Khan

A grand Islamic gathering was held in memory of Mujaddid-e-Zaman Pir Ala Hazrat Dada Huzur and Panch Huzur Pir Qibla Rah and Akabire Furfura Sharif. This gathering was organized in Kota, Rajasthan by the Mujaddidiya Jalsha Committee or Khademe Furfura Sharif. The presence of the common people in this gathering in the the Mazar Sharif of Hazrat Idu Shah Rahmatullah was noticeable. The chief guest was Pirzada Hazrat Maulana Sufi Hozafa Siddiqui, the grandson of the younger

Huzur of Furfura Sharif. He delivered a speech in the light of the Quran and Hadith. Hafiz Mohsin Saheb also delivered speech. Adequate arrangements were made for the guests who had come from other states and cities. President-Saiful Mallick, Secretary Sheikh Naeem, Cashier Muktar Ali, Asadul, Saidul and Wahid along with many others from the committee were present. In memory of Dada Huzur and Pir Sahib of Furfura Sharif, this meeting is being held in many states including Delhi, Rajasthan, Punjab, which has certainly brightened the face of Bengal.

Harmanpreet, Renuka rested, Smriti set to lead, as India announce 15-player squad for three ODIs against Ireland

MUMBAI (MAHARASHTRA) : The women's selection committee announced the 15-player squad for India's upcoming three-match ODI series against Ireland on Monday, the BCCI informed.

The three ODIs will all take place at the Niranjan Shah Stadium in Rajkot. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur and star pacer Renuka Singh Thakur have been rested for the series. In Harmanpreet's absence, Smriti Mandhana will lead the side, and Deepti Sharma will act as the southpaw's deputy in the series.

"The Women's Selection Committee has picked India's 15-member squad for the upcoming three-match IDFC FIRST Bank ODI home series against Ireland women. The Three ODIs will take place at the Niranjan Shah Stadium in Rajkot," BCCI said in a statement.

Mandhana will look to continue to build on her stunning form after enjoying a remarkable run



against the West Indies in both T20Is and the ODIs last month.

She ended the T20Is as the leading run-scorer, amassing 193

runs to her name at an average of 64.33 while striking at 159.50. In the ODIs, she was the second-highest run-scorer after her com-

patriot Harleen Deol. He garnered 148 runs at an average of 49.33 with a strike rate of 88.10.

Harleen, who returned to the

India squad after almost a year, will look to continue her fiery form. She marked her return on a high note and slammed her maiden ODI hundred against the West Indies.

India's recent form in the 50-over format has been sensational. In their previous outing in the format, the Indian women's team emerged victorious against the West Indies, sweeping the series with a 3-0 win in late December.

The ODI series will kick off on January 10, the second match will be played on January 12, and the series will conclude on January 15. India's squad for the three-match ODI series against Ireland: Smriti Mandhana (C), Deepti Sharma (VC), Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Jemimah Rodrigues, Uma Chetry (wk), Richa Ghosh (wk), Tejal Hasabnis, Raghuvi Bist, Minnu Mani, Priya Mishra, Tanuja Kanwer, Titas Sadhu, Saima Thakor, Sayali Satghare.



Rashid Khan's 7-wicket spell helps Afghanistan to clinch Test series against Zimbabwe

BULAWAYO [ZIMBABWE] : Leg-spinner Rashid Khan's magical spell guided Afghanistan to victory over Zimbabwe in the second and final Test match of the series by 72 runs at the Queens Sports Club on Monday.

With this victory, the visitors seal the two-match series 1-0. Rashid was awarded the Player of the Match for his brilliance with the ball and Rahmat Shah was awarded the Player of the Series award for his exceptional batting performance which included a double hundred in the first Test.

Chasing a total of 277 runs, the hosts were bowled out for 205. The highest scorer in the side was their skipper Craig Ervine who slammed 53 runs which was laced with four boundaries and a maximum. Sikandar Raza (38 runs off 83 balls, 2 fours), Ben Curran (38 runs from 53 balls, 5 fours), Takudzwanhe Kaitano (21 runs in 56 balls, 2 fours and 1 six), Sean Williams (16 runs off 25 balls, 2 fours) and Joylord Gumbie (15 runs from 45 balls, 2 fours) played notable for their side but it

went in vain as their team end up on a losing side.

For the Afghanistan side, the pick of the bowler was Rashid Khan who grabbed seven wickets in his spell of 27.3 overs where he conceded 66 runs. Two wickets were snatched by left-arm spinner Zia-Ur-Rehman in his 15 overs where he gave away 44 runs.

Earlier in the third innings, Afghanistan scored 363 with the help of knocks from Rahmat Shah (139 runs in 275 balls, 14 fours) and Ismat Alam (101 runs off 181 balls, 9 fours).

For Zimbabwe, six wickets were bagged by right-arm seamer Blessing Muzarabani in his spell of 29 overs where he conceded 95 runs. Three wickets were taken by Richard Ngarava and one wicket was taken by Sikandar Raza.

Brief Score: Afghanistan 157 & 363 all out (Rahmat Shah 139, Ismat Alam 101, Blessing Muzarabani 6/95) vs Zimbabwe 243 & 205 all out (Craig Ervine 53, Sikandar Raza 38, Rashid Khan 7/66).

BBL: AFTER BEING DROPPED FROM FINAL BGT TEST, MITCHELL MARSH NAMED IN PERTH SCORCHERS SQUAD

PERTH [AUSTRALIA] : Australia T20I captain Mitchell Marsh is set to play his first Big Bash League (BBL) match in almost three years after being named in the Perth Scorchers squad to face Melbourne Renegades on Tuesday, according to Cricket Australia.

The experienced all-rounder made his last appearance for the Scorchers in their BBL 11 final victory over Sydney Sixers. Marsh was a part of Australia's recent Border-Gavaskar Trophy-winning squad. He played four Tests but got dropped from the final match in Sydney.

Marsh is the second-highest all-time run-scorer for Perth Scorchers with a whopping tally of 1,904 runs. His figures are only bettered by skipper Ashton Turner's tally of 2,178 runs. With Marsh back into the mix, he will provide additional firepower to the franchise's top order alongside Finn Allen and young Cooper Connolly.

Along with Marsh, experienced quick Jhye Richardson is also returning to the Scorchers squad. He missed three of their last four matches after being involved in Australia's squad for the fourth and the fifth Test.

Richardson has been exceptional with the ball in the three games that he has played for the franchise this season. He bagged six wickets to his name at an average of 13.5 while operating at a sublime economy rate of 6.75.

"If anything, hopefully (playing for the Scorchers) would free Mitch up. International cricket is such high pressure and Test cricket and an Indian series just adds to that. We'd love to have him back in orange and see if he can smack a few balls around here," Perth coach Adam Voges said recently, as quoted from cricket.com.au.

Spinner Ashton Agar has also been included in the Scorchers squad as he continues his recovery from back spasms. The injury forced him out of their last BBL match against Sydney Thunder.

Perth Scorchers squad for Melbourne Renegades: Ashton Turner (c), Ashton Agar, Finn Allen (New Zealand), Jason Behrendorff, Cooper Connolly, Sam Fanning, Aaron Hardie, Nick Hobson, Matt Kelly, Mitch Marsh, Lance Morris, Jhye Richardson, Matthew Spors, Andrew Tye

Ins: Mitch Marsh, Jhye Richardson. Outs: Matthew Hurst (omitted), Bryce Jackson.



East Bengal FC brace for pivotal January as ISL enters decisive phase

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : The Indian Super League (ISL) has reached its crucial second phase, placing East Bengal FC at a defining point in their campaign. After an inconsistent start to the season, the Red and Gold Brigade (EBFC) now face a pivotal moment. With a challenging set of fixtures looming in January, the month could determine the trajectory of their season and potentially make or break their aspirations, as per ISL.

The campaign began with immense promise. A revamped squad featuring key foreign stars like Dimitrios Diamantakos and Madih Talal, alongside Indian talents such as Anwar Ali and Jeakson Singh, raised expectations. However, with a six-game losing streak, the Red and Gold Brigade's (EBFC) season began on the wrong foot. The tough start also led to a change in the head coach role, with Carles Cuadrat parting ways after three consecutive defeats in the league. Oscar Bruzon's appointment brought an immediate turnaround.

Under Bruzon's leadership, the team found their rhythm in the AFC Challenge Cup, topping their group and securing a spot in the knockout stage with a mix of solid defence and inventive attack. This positive momentum carried over

to their domestic campaign, where the Kolkata giants rediscovered their form in the ISL. With four wins from their last six league matches, East Bengal FC demonstrated renewed fighting spirit, overcoming injuries and lifting morale within the squad. Under Bruzon's guidance, they have also kept four clean sheets in the league, three of which came on home turf.

Despite their resurgence, the Red and Gold Brigade still sit 11th in the table, with 14 points from 13 games and a six-point gap to the playoff spots.

Their January fixtures will likely determine whether their resurgence is enough to keep their season alive. The challenges ahead are relentless, and the statistics aren't in their favour.

The month begins with a home fixture against Mumbai City FC (MCFC), a side East Bengal FC have beaten only once in eight attempts. Their struggles are further underscored by a record of just one goal scored in those encounters.

Next comes the much-anticipated Kolkata Derby on January 11, where East Bengal FC will look for their first-ever ISL win over Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG). The Mariners (MBSG),



currently sitting atop the table, represent the toughest hurdle yet.

The fixtures only get tougher. East Bengal FC will face an in-form FC Goa, a team that has handed them five straight defeats in the ISL. Matches against Kerala Blasters FC (KBFC) and a return clash with Mumbai City FC add to their woes. While East Bengal FC's record against the Blasters is marginally better, this game carries extra weight as both teams are battling for playoff contention, making it a crucial six-pointer.

January presents a true test of

character for the Red and Gold Brigade. Bruzon has brought belief and stability, but if East Bengal are to bridge the gap to the playoffs, every department—from defensive discipline to attacking sharpness—must rise to the occasion.

For East Bengal FC, January isn't just another month; it's a turning point. Success over the next few weeks could reignite their playoff aspirations, while failure to seize this opportunity may see another season of promise fade into disappointment.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WRESTLING CAMP TO BE HELD IN IIS



BELLARY (KARNATAKA) : Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS), on Sunday, announced a first-of-its-kind International Wrestling Camp for

Women, in collaboration with United World Wrestling (UWW). The IIS UWW International Women's Wrestling Camp will take

place at the IIS' Vijayanagar facilities, between January 15 and January 30 2025.

The camp, which will bring together elite athletes and coaches from over eight countries including Estonia, Mauritius, Kazakhstan, South Africa, Mongolia, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan and Namibia, is a landmark moment for IIS, whose collaboration with UWW is intended to give Indian wrestling a much-needed boost.

"This is the first instance that a UWW camp is being held at IIS, which makes it a moment of great pride for everyone in the wrestling community. We hope this initiative proves beneficial to our young wrestlers, helping them gain better exposure and learn from the best in the world," said Manisha

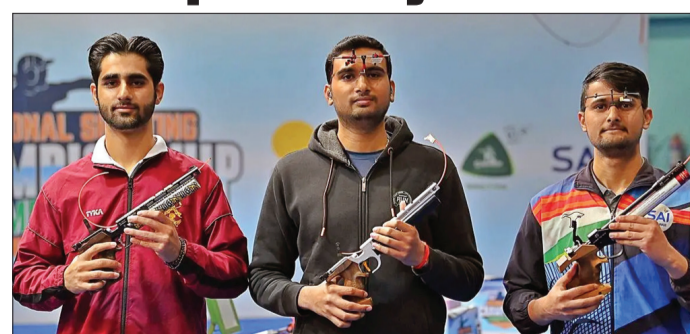
Malhotra, President of the Inspire Institute of Sport. A total of 30 wrestlers and eight coaches are expected to attend, with more expected to confirm their participation. Renowned wrestlers like Medina Kuanyshbek (Mongolia), Aruuke Kadyrbek Kyzy (Kyrgyzstan) and Lisette Boetker (Estonia), among others will feature in the camp. Set in the state-of-the-art facilities of IIS in Vijayanagar, the IIS UWW camp is crafted to provide high-class training to professional wrestlers. During the course of the camp, the wrestlers will engage in a dynamic and comprehensive schedule including warm-ups, psychological assessments, intense bout matches, recovery sessions, friendly competitions and more.

67th Shooting Nationals: Varun Tomar's double highlights air pistol day

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : Reigning Asian champion and multiple ISSF medallist Varun Tomar nailed a double winning both the senior and junior men's 10m air pistol titles at the 67th National Shooting Championships (NSCC) for Pistol events, being played here at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting range in the national capital.

The 21-year-old Army marksman who narrowly missed out on last year's Paris Olympics squad, overcame a sluggish start in the senior final to snatch a maiden national crown at the expense of teammate Pradhyumn Singh, who fell short by 0.8 points. Rajasthan's Aakash Bhardwaj won bronze.

He then had a similar slow off-the-block start in the junior final, but quickly made ground, staying in touch with silver winner Nikhil Saroha of Uttar Pradesh (U.P) who was on a start-to-finish mis-



sion. His patience finally paid off after the 21st shot as Nikhil blinked with an 8.5, handing the senior pro an easy double in the end.

Varun's score in the senior final was 238, while he was clearly more confident in the junior final resulting in greater accuracy and a final tally of 246.2.

Pradhyumn also rounded off a fruitful day with a second medal, a bronze in the junior men's air pistol.

The youth final saw a UP 1-2 when Chirag Sharma overcame the 14-year-old cynosure of all eyes Dey Pratap by a margin of 1.3 after 24 shots. Chirag finished with 241.8. Rajasthan's Mayank Choudhary won bronze.

Haryana, Rajasthan and Maharashtra are 1-2-3 on the medal tally at the pistol nationals with 23, 22 and 13 golds won respectively.

"Learnt a lot": Yashasvi Jaiswal reflects on Australia Test tour

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : Young Indian batter Yashasvi Jaiswal on Monday reflected on his maiden tour of Australia during the recently concluded Border-Gavaskar Trophy and said that he has learnt a lot.

India began the series with a win in Perth but failed to sustain the momentum. This marked Australia's first Border-Gavaskar Trophy triumph in a decade, their last win came in 2014-15.

Kohli, one of India's senior players, was among the biggest disappointments, managing just 190 runs at an average of 23.75 in eight innings, with Scott Boland dismissing him four times.

Yashasvi played all five matches of the series and scored 391 runs at a strike rate of 53.42 and an average of 43.44. He slammed 44 fours and 4 sixes in the series.

Taking to Instagram, Yashasvi



said that "unfortunately" the result was not what Team India hoped but they will come back stronger.

"Learnt a lot in Australia... Unfortunately the result wasn't what we had hoped for but we'll be back stronger. Your support means everything," Yashasvi Jaiswal wrote on Instagram.

India had their chances in the fifth Test at Sydney but frittered them away. Jasprit Bumrah's injury also aggravated matters for the visitors in the final few sessions of the match.

Australia won by six wickets with India also not making it to the World Test Championship finals. (A)