

10 lakh jobs secured through Utkarsh Bangla: CM Mamata; Candidly shares her student-life memories

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee recently made during the state-organized Student Week celebration, from the DhonoDhanyo auditorium, spoke about the numerous developments in education and training across the state. "Kolkata now has many universities, which are among the top-tier institutions." She went on to explain how the government has established 500 Industrial Training Institutes (it is) and polytechnics, providing training opportunities to students. Mamata mentioned the 'Utkarsh Bangla' initiative, through which industries have been connected to the state's educational institutions. Mamata Banerjee mentioned that 10 lakh students have already secured... **PG 3**

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West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee hands over appointment letters for government jobs to the Bengal football team that clinched the Santosh Trophy, at the State-level Students' Week-2025 programme at Dhono Dhanyo auditorium in Kolkata on Wednesday. *Pic- Prabir Bhattacharya*

Mamata Banerjee hands over govt jobs to members of Santosh Trophy winning team of Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: In keeping with her promise, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee offered government jobs on Wednesday to the members of the Bengal football team that has clinched the prestigious Santosh Trophy. Accordingly, each player of the winning team received his appointment letter of Assistant Sub Inspector in the West Bengal police directly from the Chief Minister at a grand ceremony at the state government's Dhano Dhanyo Auditorium this afternoon. In addition each member of the winning football team was presented with

Rs 2 lakh for his unique performance as one of its members. Under the coaching of Sanjoy Sen, Bengal ended its long wait for the Santosh Trophy title to become the National champion, defeating Kerala in the final by a solitary goal (1-0). Following this historic victory, Mamata Banerjee first congratulated the team on social media, specifically lauding Robi Hansda, who scored the decisive goal in the final and won the Golden Boot with 13 goals in the tournament. Later, the Chief Minister met the team at Nabanna and announced a

cash prize of 50 lakh for the team. She also instructed Sports Minister Aroop Biswas to arrange government jobs for the players. The recruitment process for the players began promptly after the announcement. Despite skepticism about the feasibility of completing the formalities quickly, the promise was fulfilled without delay. On Saturday, the players signed the necessary government documents at the IFA office. By Wednesday, they were handed over their appointment letters, making their dreams come true.

The ceremony was attended by the entire team, including coach Sanjoy Sen and key players such as captain Chakku Mandi, Saurav Samanta, and Aditya Patra. Popular figures like actor Dev and actress Jue Malia also graced the event. The footballers have been appointed to positions in the police department as per their educational qualifications. Bengal's Santosh Trophy victory marked its 33rd national championship title, solidifying its position as a football powerhouse. The final saw Bengal triumph over Ker-

ala, with Ravi Hansda scoring the winning goal. The players were accorded a hero's welcome upon their return to Kolkata, with Sports Minister Aroop Biswas remaining present at the airport to greet them. This initiative not only recognizes the players' achievements but also reflects the state government's commitment to promoting sports and supporting athletes. The gesture has been widely appreciated, with hopes that it will inspire future generations to pursue excellence in football and other sports.

TMC backs AAP for February 5 Delhi elections, strengthening Opposition alliance

MI News Service, Kolkata / New Delhi: Ahead of the February 2025 Delhi Assembly elections, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) has announced its official support to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), marking a crucial development in the country's political landscape. This endorsement comes at a time when AAP is seeking to retain its hold on the 70-member Delhi Assembly, and the support from TMC is expected to strengthen AAP's position as it heads into the elections to retain its power in the National capital for the next five years. Arvind Kejriwal, AAP's national convenor and former Delhi Chief minister, expressed his gratitude toward TMC supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for offering her backing. On social media platform X, Kejriwal wrote, "I am personally grateful to Mamata Didi. Thank you, Didi. You have always supported and blessed us in our good and bad times," highlighting the importance of the TMC's endorsement in the context of the upcoming Delhi elections. This announcement follows a similar move by the Samajwadi Party (SP),

which also extended its support to AAP for the next month's elections. The TMC and SP are now aligned with AAP, forming a stronger opposition front within the INDIA Bloc as AAP gears up to face the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). This collaboration comes as the political dynamics of the Delhi Assembly are set to play a crucial role in shaping the future direction of national politics. The Delhi Assembly elections will be held on February 5 and the results are set to be declared on February 8. The support from TMC and SP is expected to bolster AAP's efforts in retaining its majority in the Delhi Assembly, which has been under AAP's control for the past ten years. These alliances reflect a growing trend among opposition parties to unite and challenge the dominance of the BJP in Delhi, a critical electoral battleground. For AAP, the backing of TMC and SP signals a strengthening of its alliances across political lines, potentially leading to a more competitive environment during the elections. This move could serve as a significant shift in the dynamics of the Delhi elections, with opposition

parties coming together to challenge the BJP's influence. The implications of these elections extend beyond the city-state of Delhi, as the outcome may influence the national political landscape, especially with the upcoming general elections. The support from TMC could also be viewed as part of the larger effort by Mamata Banerjee and other opposition leaders to challenge the BJP's political dominance across India. By extending support to AAP, TMC aims to strengthen the opposition unity, creating a more formidable challenge for the ruling party, especially in the context of the general elections that are expected to take place later. The results of the Delhi Assembly elections will be keenly watched, as they could have broader political ramifications, impacting not only Delhi's political future but also the national political scene in the run-up to the next general elections. The collaboration between AAP, TMC, and SP is seen as a significant step towards forming a united opposition against the BJP in the upcoming elections both at the state as well as the national level.

Cold conditions intensify in Kashmir valley after brief respite



MI News Service, Srinagar: After a brief respite for three days cold conditions in the entire Kashmir valley intensified further with night temperatures dipping far below the freezing point on Wednesday. Quoting reports from the local MET office, sources here said owing to clear skies, night temperatures dipped below the freezing point across the valley including in Srinagar where the minimum temperature was recorded at minus 10 degree celsius, down from the previous night's 1.9 degree. As a result the entire city and its neighbourhood was blanketed by thick snow causing severe inconveniences to the people to commute and do their day to day work. The intensity of the biting cold was felt much during the day time because of

the clear sky, says one of the resident of the capital city. Similarly, Gulmarg, a tourist resort town known for skiing activities in north Kashmir, also did not lag far behind and recorded a very low temperature of minus 9.8 degree celsius, compared to the previous night's minus 6.6 degree celsius. In Pahalgam, one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra in south Kashmir, the minimum temperature settled at minus 8.2 degree celsius against the previous night's minus 7.8 degree. Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley, logged a low of minus 2.4 degree celsius while Konibal in Pampore town registered a minimum temperature of minus 1 degree. Kupwara in north Kashmir recorded

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Congress promises Rs 25 lakh health cover before Delhi polls

MI News Service, New Delhi: In accordance with the party's slogan during the upcoming polls, the Congress has promised a "Jeevan Raksha Yojana" for free health insurance of up to Rs 25 lakh if it is voted to power in Delhi. Senior Congress leader and former Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot said on Wednesday that the proposed scheme would be a game-changer. "The chances of the

Congress forming the government in Delhi are increasing. I believe this is also necessary for the country," he said. Gehlot also highlighted that the proposed scheme reflected the party's commitment to addressing Delhi residents' healthcare needs. The party's campaign slogan "Hogi Har Zarurat Puri, Congress Hai Zaroori" was prominently displayed during the announcement, highlighting

the Congress' "promise" of ensuring essential services for all. Gehlot said the proposed scheme aimed to provide comprehensive health coverage to families, covering medical expenses for critical illnesses, hospitalisations, and treatments. Polling for the 70-member Delhi Assembly will be held on February 5 and the votes counted on February 8.

Death toll rises to 128 and 30,000 evacuated in Tibet-Nepal earthquake as rescue operations ramp up

MI News Service, Kathmandu: The bodies of altogether 128 people have so far been recovered from the rubble of the devastating 7.1 magnitude earthquake in the mountainous border regions of Tibet and Nepal on Tuesday morning which has also flatten a large areas in the both the countries. More than 400 people are still believed to remain trapped inside the rubble of many houses and other buildings which were hit by one of the most powerful earthquakes in the Himalayan foothills. According to Chinese officials, during the past 24 hours more than 30,000 residents in Tibet have been relocated as the search for survivors continued into its second day on Wednesday. At least 128 people were found dead and 188 injured in Tibet, alone though there was no report of any human casualty either in Nepal or in parts of neighbouring India, Bhutan and Bangladesh. Two of the strongest earthquakes in

recent years, of 7.1 and 6.8 magnitudes, struck on Tuesday with its epicenter in Tingri, located in China's Tibet region, about 80 km (50 miles) north of Mount Everest. The tremor also shook buildings in neighbouring Nepal, Bhutan, and India. Survivors trapped under rubble endured a night in sub-zero temperatures, facing risks of hypothermia and dehydration. In the high-altitude region, temperatures dropped to as low as minus 18°C (0°F) overnight, compounding the struggles of those left homeless. An initial survey revealed that 3,609 homes were destroyed in Tibet's Shigatse region, which has a population of 800,000. Chinese state media reported that more than 500 responders and 106 ambulances were deployed to assist the injured. Emergency supplies, including tents, food rations, and electrical generators, reached affected areas by Tuesday evening. Damaged roads were

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MI News Service, Bhubaneswar: Highlighting the pivotal role of India's younger generation in driving global developments, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has emphasized Prime Minister Narendra Modi's close connection with the country's youth on every issue related to India's all round development.



note, Jaishankar explained the decision to break tradition in choosing the guest of honor at the event. "Normally we pick somebody from the political world for that position (guest of honour). On this occasion we have made a departure - I think a very understandable and a very justifiable departure of picking someone from the world of media, from the world of business," he said. Jaishankar continued, saying, "Because young Indians today are succeeding in so many domains and it's important that we recognise that... This state (Odisha) offers a tremendous opportunity to experience personally much of what we would be discussing in the course of the PBD. Its cultural festivals and religious and archaeological sites are a reminder why we in India consider ourselves to be a civilisational society."

Speaking at the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) in the capital city of Odisha on Wednesday, Jaishankar shared a memory of Indian badminton star and Olympic medalist P V Sindhu and said "I still recall some time ago an observation by a famous Indian badminton player PV Sindhu on why PM Modi is a youth icon. She summed it up as his attitude which moved the nation from 'chalta hai' to 'badal sakta hai' to 'hoga kaise nahi.'" Jaishankar emphasised that the country's younger generations are currently shaping significant global changes, including innovations related to Artificial Intelligence (AI), electric vehicles (EVs), startups, and even sports like cricket and chess. The EAM said, "At a time when so many key developments in the world are being shaped by the younger generations - whether we talk of AI or EV, innovation or startups, cricket, chess or any sports - at home we have just

started our journey of Viksit Bharat in the Amrit Kaal... While development itself is a very complex task - but it becomes easier when we are confident that nothing is beyond us." Jaishankar also urged the members of the Indian diaspora to promote India as a tourist destination. He stated, "We also regularly welcome the visits of PIO journalists to India. Let me take the opportunity to urge you on behalf of Prime Minister Modi to promote India as a tourism destination. If young Indian PIOs bring their equally young friends from abroad to explore this uniquely rich and diverse heritage and culture, this will surely become a lifelong habit for them." On a more personal

The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention, being held from January 8 to 10, is a significant event celebrating the Indian diaspora. Over 50 countries are represented at the convention, which focuses on the theme "Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat." Prime Minister Modi will inaugurate the event on January 9, highlighting the growing importance of India's global engagement and the key role of its diaspora in shaping the nation's future.

'If hostages in Gaza are not freed, all hell will break loose', Donald Trump warns Hamas



MI News Service, Washington (DC): If Hamas does not release all its hostages by his inauguration day on January 20, all hell will break loose in the Middle East, warns US President-elect Donald Trump at least four times. Trump, however, did not elaborate on what actions he might take if the captives are not released by the time he takes office. According to informed

sources, about 120 odd hostages, including some Americans, are still in captive after they were abducted by Hamas militants in a sudden attack in Israeli territory on October 7, 2023. But many believe that since then many of these hostages might have been killed in captivity. Speaking with reporters at a news conference in Florida on Tuesday, Trump said "I don't want to hurt your nego-

tiation, but if the remaining hostages are not back by the time I get into office, (on January 20) all hell will break out in the Middle East." Trump who will be sworn in as the 47th President of the United States after about two weeks, was responding to a question on the status of negotiations with Hamas on the release of American and other hostages. Meanwhile, his Special

Envoy to the Middle East Steven Charles Witkoff, who has just returned from the region, also said earlier that negotiations about the release of all hostages were at the final stages and that "they are on the verge of it". "I believe we've been on the verge of it. I don't want to discuss sort of what's delayed it, no point in being negative in any way. But I think it's the president, his stature, what

he's said he expects, the red lines he's put out there, that's driving this negotiation", Witkoff said. Noting that they are making a lot of progress, he said: "I don't want to say too much because I think they're doing a really good job back in Doha." "I'm leaving tomorrow to go back to Doha. But I think that we've had some

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Anganwadi workers took part in a protest rally over their various demands, in Kolkata on Wednesday.

Temp drop expected ahead of Makar Sankranti

MI News Service, Kolkata: Strong winds began sweeping across the region from Tuesday night, bringing a damp, chilly feel to the air. With Makar Sankranti approaching, many are wondering if the rain will arrive before the festival and whether the temperature will drop sharply. According to the Alipur Weather Office, there could be a significant drop in temperature across South Bengal in the next 24 hours. The Ganga Sagar Mela begins on Wednesday, and Makar Sankranti falls on January 14. The weather department predicts that the mercury could dip by 2 to 3 degrees Celsius in the coming days, particularly in the western districts of Bengal. These areas could see temperatures fall to around 10 degrees Celsius. This raises the question: will the cold weather continue through mid-January? The weather department suggests that the cold spell is unlikely to last longer than 4-5 days. After that, the western disturbances will bring warmer conditions to Bengal. In Kolkata, fog has been gradually clearing, but the sun has been delayed in making an appearance in recent days. The temperature on Tuesday was recorded at 16.2°C, but the weather department predicts a further drop in the next 24 hours. The temperature in the city may decrease by 2-3 degrees over the next few days. The weather office has issued a fog warning for Kolkata and other districts in South Bengal today. Dense fog is also expected in North Bengal, but the fog cleared early enough for residents to see the Kanchenjunga mountain range. On the other hand, hailstorms were reported in Sandakphu, and the department forecasts snowfall in Darjeeling. The hilly areas will experience biting cold temperatures in the coming days.

East Bengal FC rope in Venezuelan forward Richard Celis

MI News Service, Kolkata: East Bengal FC secured the services of Venezuelan national team forward Richard Enrique Celis Sanchez for the remainder of the current season. Celis, who last played for Academia Puerto Cabello in Venezuela's top division in October 2024, brings a wealth of international experience to the Indian Super League (ISL) club. Head coach Oscar Brunzon said as quoted by the ISL press release, "We expect Richard's talent, skills, commitment and determination to embody East Bengal's values. We hope he'll make a significant impact as we strive together for immediate success." Celis is a versatile attacker who can play as both left winger and centre-forward, he has represented several top-tier clubs in Venezuela such as Atletico Venezuela CF, Deportivo JBL, Caracas FC and Academia Puerto Cabello, besides Colombia's Millonarios FC and Slovakia's FK Senica. Celis has also represented the Venezuelan national team in the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers and the Copa America in the past. The 28-year-old brings with him a wealth of experience, having scored crucial goals in over 250 top-tier club matches across domestic leagues and the Copa Libertadores. Celis played a pivotal role in helping Caracas win the Venezuelan Primera Division title in 2019 and Millonarios' triumphant 2022 Copa Colombia campaign. Celis shared his excitement about joining Emami East Bengal FC, saying, "I am thrilled to join East Bengal - a club with such a rich history and passionate fans. This is a new chapter in my career and I can't wait to embrace the challenges and opportunities ahead in Indian Football. Joy East Bengal!" The player registration is subject to the completion of regulatory processes.

Important case from Sebaashray camp today

MI News Service, Kolkata: Parents from JALPAIGURI brought their child, who is specially abled and cannot hear or speak by birth, visited a Sebaashray camp today. After necessary diagnosis by doctors, they advised the need for a 'cochlear implant.' The matter was brought to MP Shri Abhishek Banerjee's attention and he has ensured that the entire procedure shall be facilitated for free of cost so that the little one can hear and speak again. Sebaashray's impact is transcending boundaries, drawing people from beyond Diamond Harbour. The parents of a young patient from Jalpaiguri, who is deaf and mute by birth, brought him to a Sebaashray camp after learning about the initiative on social media. Doctors diagnosed the need for a cochlear implant - a procedure that shall be facilitated entirely free of cost under the guidance of Shri @abhishekaitc.



Ganga Sagar Kapil Muni Temple Committee to send letter to Centre: Mahant Sanjay Das

MI News Service, Gangasagar: Sundarban Development Minister and Chairman of the Ganga Sagar Bakkhali Development Authority, Bankim Chandra Hazra, stated that the temple committee has agreed to the Chief Minister's proposal. The irrigation department will now prepare a plan, after which the cost will be determined. The minister emphasized the importance of constructing embankments on five ghats along the sea shore in front of the Shri Kapil Muni Temple, which stretches approximately three to three and a half kilometers. He noted that the condition of ghats number one to five is very poor. While the committee will decide how much funding they can provide, Hazra assured that the state government is committed to beginning the embankment project as soon as possible, aiming for completion before the Ganga Sagar Mela next year. Regarding the Chief Minister's proposal to build a concrete embankment, Sanjay Das Maharaj, the successor of Mahant Gyan Das Maharaj, head of the Shri Kapil Muni Temple, said that the situation would not have arisen if the central government had provided funding for the Ganga Sagar Mela. However, he confirmed that the temple committee has accepted the proposal and will follow the Chief Minister's instructions to construct the embankment. Das further mentioned that the temple committee will send a letter to the central government requesting that the Ganga Sagar Mela be recognized as a national fair. He pointed out that the central government offers full support for fairs in other states, spending billions on the Kumbh Mela, but does not provide similar assistance for the Ganga Sagar Mela. All development on Sagar Island has been funded by the state government. Therefore, the temple committee will now seek cooperation from the central government for the Ganga Sagar Mela.

HRH Prince Dr. M. A. Ali Invited to Prestigious Cultural Event in Indonesia

MI News Service, Kolkata: HRH Prince Dr. M. A. Ali, an Indian citizen, the Director of the World Meet, and an esteemed member of the Padjadjaran royal family of Indonesia, has been officially invited to attend a landmark cultural event in Indonesia. The event marks the 55th anniversary of the Padjadjaran Central Pencak Silat School and the 95th birthday of its revered Master and General Chairman. The grand celebrations are scheduled to take place on January 30, 2025, at the Padjadjaran Central Pencak Silat School in Tasikmalaya, West Java, Indonesia. The event will host dignitaries, martial arts masters, and cultural leaders from across the globe. HRH Prince Dr. M. A. Ali, who serves as the Director of the World Meet, has been a key figure in promoting global cultural collaboration. The World Meet, a prestigious platform, unites leaders, visionaries, and cultural influencers from around the world to celebrate cultural diversity, unity, and shared heritage. The platform has played a significant role in fostering



exchanges across various fields, including martial arts, arts, and traditions, building a global network of understanding and cooperation. His Majesty King Sany Wijaya Nata Kusumah, the monarch of the Padjadjaran Kingdom, extended the invitation to HRH Prince Dr. M. A. Ali in recognition of his remarkable contributions to the kingdom and the global cultural community. As a distinguished member of the Padjadjaran royal family, HRH Prince Dr. M. A. Ali represents the enduring cultural ties between India and Indonesia. His presence at this historic event underscores the shared heritage and values that strengthen the bond between the two nations. The Padjadjaran royal family, alongside global martial arts and cultural communities, eagerly anticipates HRH Prince Dr. M. A. Ali's participation in this momentous occasion, which celebrates the unifying power of culture and tradition on an international stage.

BSF using both ultra-modern, conventional methods to guard border with Bangladesh: Official

MI News Service, Kolkata: Guarding the challenging international borders between India and Bangladesh, the Border Security Force (BSF) has adopted mechanisms that converge conventional methods and ultra-modern technologies to prevent smuggling and human trafficking. A senior official said that the BSF's South Bengal Frontier, which guards 913 km length of the international border between the two neighbours, extensively uses electronic surveillance in cohesion with conventional methods like sentry posts and foot patrolling. The cameras, equipped with night vision facilities, have sensors to detect and pinpoint any human movement along the borders. The information is passed on to the sentries from the control rooms, he told visiting reporters at Petrapole in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, around 110 from Kolkata. Out of the 32 km-long border in one battalion command area of the BSF near the Petrapole land customs station, only 11 km are fenced while the rest area is guarded in a seamless convergence of conventional and ultra-modern technologies, he said. "Manpower, technology and resources are used in a proper manner to prevent smuggling and human trafficking," he said. The official said that the land acquisition process is on for putting up smart fencing in the unfenced area and some land along the border has been handed over to the force for the purpose by the state administration according to BSF's requirement. Conditions become more challenging during the monsoons as the Betna river flowing along the border and other water bodies in this area overflow owing to heavy rain, he said. "The BSF jawans have themselves put up barbed wire along the border where smart fencing is yet to be put up," the official said.



The 36th Howrah Book Fair is being held from January 8 to January 14. The event was inaugurated by Minister Siddiquiah Chowdhury. On this occasion, Chief Guest Arup Roy, Pulak Roy, Manoj Tiwari, MLA Rana Chatterjee, and other distinguished guests graced the opening ceremony at Bally Municipality Ground. The event witnessed a large turnout of enthusiastic participants.

High school students welcome class 5th, 6th students at Basudevpur Vidyamandir High School

MI News Service, Hooghly: On Wednesday, the admissions of all classes were over and new class, new school, new books and study started in a new environment in the big school. So today the upper class students of Basudevpur Vidyamandir welcomed the new students of class V and VI like brothers and sisters by giving them a red rose, a pen and a park cadbury. The entire program was monitored by TI Falguni mandal ' teachers and many parents reached the school early to let the children enjoy the event and also take pictures with their smartphones. Swarup Mitra, president of the



school's management committee, said that most of the students belong to farmers or farm laborers in the village. The aim of this initiative is to increase their tendency to come to school. Today, many girls have passed primary school and entered secondary school. Along with academic activities, the school organizes various social events throughout the year such as prevention of child marriage, road safety, mobile phone, Disadvantages of mobile phones, water wastage prevention, use and damage of plastic, dengue and other social events. Details about various diseases and ways to stay safe are given along with ceremonies.



The Baranagar MLA Gold Cup Football Tournament was officially inaugurated by Baranagar MLA and eminent film artist Sayantika Banerjee. On Wednesday, a grand rally was held from Kalitala Ground to Baranagar Netaji Colony Ground. Sayantika Banerjee, along with Baranagar Municipality Mayor Aparna Moullick, Deputy Mayor Dilip Narayan Basu, other municipal representatives, and football enthusiasts, lit the ceremonial torch. The tournament, which will continue till January 12, will also feature an official inauguration by Sports Minister Aroop Biswas, MP Saugata Roy, and other notable football players and sports enthusiasts.

Cold conditions intensify...

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a minimum temperature of minus 2.1 degree celsius while Kokernag in south Kashmir saw the mercury settle at minus 1.9 degrees.
The Met office has forecast mainly dry weather over the next few days, with the possibility of light rain or snow at isolated places on Saturday.
It also said the minimum temperature was likely to drop further in the valley and forecast an isolated cold wave

over the few days ahead.
Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chillai-Kalan' — the harshest period of winter — that began on December 21. During the 40 days of 'Chillai-Kalan', the chances of snowfall are the highest and the temperature drops considerably.
'Chillai-Kalan' ends on January 30. It is followed by a 20-day 'Chillai-Khurd (small cold)' and a 10-day 'Chillai-Bachha (baby cold).

Death toll rises to 128 and...

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reopened, ensuring access for rescue and relief operations.
Southwestern China, Nepal, and northern India are prone to earthquakes due to the collision of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates. This movement is responsible for the formation of the Qinghai-Tibetan plateau, a seismically active zone. Since Tuesday's quake, more than 500 aftershocks, with magnitudes reaching 4.4, have been recorded, according

to the China Earthquake Networks Centre.
The region has a history of devastating earthquakes. In 2008, an 8.0 magnitude earthquake in Sichuan claimed at least 70,000 lives, making it the deadliest quake in China since the 1976 Tangshan disaster, which killed 242,000 people. Tuesday's quake was the most severe since a 6.2 magnitude tremor in 2023, which killed at least 149 people in a remote area of north-western China.

'If hostages in Gaza are not...

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really great progress and I'm really hopeful that by the inauguration we'll have some good things to announce on behalf of the President. I actually believe that we're working in tandem in a really good way, but it's the president, his reputation, the things that he has said that are driving this negotiation. So hopefully it'll all work out and we'll save some lives," Witkoff said. Negotiations between Hamas and Israel are ongoing in Qatar, with Hamas this week naming 34 hostages in Gaza including two dual US citizens it would be willing to release in a ceasefire deal.
But Trump, in response to a question, warned Hamas to release all the hostages by January 20. "It will not be good for Hamas and it will not be good frankly for anyone. All hell will break out," he said. I don't have to say anymore, but that's what it is. They should have given them back a long time ago they should have never taken them. There should have never been the attack of October 7th. People forget that, but there was and many people were killed, he said.
They're no longer hostages. I have people from Israel and others calling, begging me to get

them released, we also had people there from the United States just so you know. They're holding some so-called hostages from the US, but I've had mothers come to me and fathers crying, can I get the body of their son back? Can I get the body of their daughter back? he said. That beautiful girl where they threw her in the car, pulled her by her ponytail and threw her in the car like she was a sack of potatoes. I said, what happened to her? Sir, she's dead. Like a 19, 20-year-old, beautiful girl.
The way they treated her, he said as he applauded his special envoy for the progress being made so far.
"I tell this, I don't want to hurt the negotiation. If the deal isn't done before I take office, which is now going to be two weeks, all hell will break out in the Middle East", Trump reiterated. The Biden administration has unsuccessfully tried to help broker a ceasefire in Gaza for well over a year.
The first ceasefire weeks after the October 7 attack saw the release of dozens of hostages, but subsequent efforts to pause the fighting and secure the release of additional hostages have gone nowhere.

Two more arrested in connection with TMC councillor's murder

MI News Service, Kolkata: Police arrested two more individuals on January 8, 2025, in connection with the murder of TMC councillor Dulal Sarkar from Malda. With these arrests, a total of seven people have been apprehended so far, according to officials.
Dulal Sarkar, the Trinamool Congress councillor from English Bazar, Malda, was shot dead by assailants on January 2. The attack took place in the Jhaljhalia More area of English Bazar town, where Sarkar was gunned down at close range, with multiple shots to the head, as he attempted to flee from the

bike-borne attackers.
West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had described Sarkar as a close associate and a popular leader. On Wednesday, Malda police arrested Narendra Nath Tiwari, the president of the Malda Town unit of TMC, and another individual named Swapan Sharma. A police officer confirmed the arrests, stating that both would be produced in court later the same day. Rajesh Yadav, the Inspector General of North Bengal, told reporters that three more suspects are still at large, and efforts are underway to apprehend them.

First robotic knee replacement surgery performed free of cost at SSKM hosp

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a ground-breaking achievement, a team of doctors at Kolkata's SSKM Hospital successfully performed a robotic knee replacement surgery free of cost. The procedure, conducted in the hospital's annex building, was completed without any blood loss or the need for general anesthesia, marking a significant milestone in public healthcare. The patient, a 50-year-old woman from Medinipur (name changed), had been suffering

from severe knee issues. Due to co-morbid conditions, conventional surgery was deemed unsuitable. After consulting orthopedic specialists Dr.Mukul Bhattacharya, Dr. Arnab Kar-makar, Dr.Alokesh Sovan Dutta, Dr.AbhijitBasak, and Dr.Arijit Das, the team decided to proceed with robotic-assisted surgery. The procedure lasted four and a half hours and was declared successful, with the patient reported to be stable and recovering well.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee felicitates students during the State-level Students' Week-2025 programme at Dhono Dhanyo auditorium in Kolkata on Wednesday. Pic- Prabr Bhattacharya

10 lakh jobs secured through Utkarsh Bangla: CM Mamata; Candidly shares her student-life memories

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She went on to explain how the government has established 500 Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) and polytechnics, providing training opportunities to students.
Mamata mentioned the 'Utkarsh Bangla' initiative, through which industries have been connected to the state's educational institutions.
Mamata Banerjee mentioned that 10 lakh students have already secured jobs through the 'Utkarsh Bangla' initiative, which connects students with industry opportunities and offers training programs. The scheme has trained a significant number of students, contributing to job placements in various sectors.
"If any company is looking for workers, they can recruit from Utkarsh Bangla," she said, adding that 47 lakh students have received training, and 10 lakh have already secured jobs.
Mamata Banerjee has provided statistics highlighting the progress of various student welfare schemes in West Bengal. Under the SabujSathi project, 127 lakh school students have received bicycles. The Aikyashree scheme now has 4.15 crore beneficiaries, and the Sikshashree initiative has benefited 1.39 crore students. The Medhashree project has provided government grants to 6.68 lakh recipients, while 32.6 lakh stu-

dents have received the Swami Vivekananda Scholarship. Additionally, 81,000 students have received loans for higher education under the Students' Credit Card scheme.
According to the Chief Minister, nearly seven crore students have benefited from education-related schemes in the state, which she considers a significant achievement.
West Bengal observed Student's Week from January 1 to 7, with a variety of events taking place at schools, colleges, universities, and other educational institutions across the state.
The celebrations included awareness campaigns that focused on state government initiatives, such as scholarships and student credit card schemes. Seminars and symposiums were also organized, providing an opportunity for students and their families to interact with teachers and professors.
On Wednesday, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee honored beneficiaries of various student welfare schemes, including Kanyashree, Sikshashree, and Aikyashree. She also distributed bicycles to students eligible under the SabujSathi scheme. Outstanding students from Industrial Training Institutes (ITI), who excelled in the All India Trade Test (AITT), were awarded cheques of Rs 50,000 each. In her speech, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee encouraged students to remain hopeful, united, and positive. She urged them to draw strength from the works of iconic figures such as poets Rabindranath Tagore and KaziNazrul Islam, and social reformers Raja Ram Mohan Roy and IshwarchandraVidyasagar. She

called on students to rise above discrimination and oppression while staying united.
"Bengal is the birthplace of cultural renaissance, the cultural capital, and our talents are renowned across the globe," she concluded.
She also reflected on her political journey, acknowledging the difficulties she faced during her early days, particularly under the rule of the CPM. "My whole body feels like a living corpse, as there was no part of me that didn't suffer during the CPM regime," she remarked. Despite the challenges, Mamata persisted with her studies, even attending an MA class for a year without revealing her identity. She also shared how, during her LLB studies, no one knew about her political background.
Mamata emphasized that, despite the tough years, moments of joy, celebration, and enthusiasm are important to keep people's spirits high. She concluded by saying that while sometimes harsh words are necessary, there must also be room for a little cheer and excitement to uplift people's hearts.
During the event, she also shared memories from her student life and political journey. Mamata spoke candidly about her experiences, even mentioning how she had added five years to her age, which she humorously admitted.
She also recalled how she balanced her studies while actively engaging in politics. The Chief Minister highlighted the various initiatives her government has undertaken to support students and emphasized the implementation of new projects for their benefit.
Mamata Banerjee candidly

shared that she does not like her own name and that her age has been increased by five years. She mentioned this during her speech, saying, "I have written about these things in a book as much as I could. I don't even like my name, but it is what it is."
She also explained why this happened. "Actually, we were all home deliveries! Mamata remarked. "Everyone celebrates my birthday, but I believe I am yet to be born. My name, age, and even my surname were not chosen by me. Many wish me a happy birthday, but the day holds no significance for me. It was merely assigned by my parents on my certificate."
The Chief Minister recounted an incident involving her elder brother, who was present at the event. She shared, "When I was in college, my brother once told me about my age discrepancy. He said our father had asked the school headmaster, a friend of his, to adjust my age for enrollment. Back then, those born at home often had discrepancies between their real and recorded ages. My age was inflated by five years. I've written about this in one of my books."
According to government records, Mamata Banerjee was born on January 5, 1955, which makes her 70 years old. The Trinamool Congress recently celebrated her birthday on this date.
The Chief Minister's candid remarks shed light on an era when birth registrations were often inaccurate, particularly for those born at home. While her comments have created a buzz, they also highlight the broader issue of age discrepancies in official records from earlier times.

Mamata Banerjee announces Rs 350 cr relief for farmers under 'Bangla Shasya Bima' Scheme

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee took to social media to announce a significant move aimed at assisting farmers affected by adverse weather conditions. The Chief Minister shared that the state government is releasing Rs. 350 crore directly into the bank accounts of 9 lakh farmers under the 'Bangla ShasyaBima' scheme.
The relief is intended for farmers whose crops were damaged due to the ongoing Kharif season's challenging weather patterns. In her message, Banerjee emphasized that the state's farmers are not required to pay for any of the crop insurance premiums as the government fully covers the insurance costs for all crops, including potatoes and sugarcane. The 'Bangla ShasyaBima' scheme, which was launched in 2019, has been instrumental in providing financial relief to farmers in the state. Banerjee proudly highlighted that, since its inception, the state government has already disbursed a total of Rs. 3,562 crore to assist 1.12 crore farmers affected by crop damage.
Banerjee reiterated her administration's unwavering support for the farmers of Bengal, stating that her government will continue to stand by them and ensure their well-being. The timely assistance through this scheme is seen as a crucial step in supporting farmers who face the challenges of unpredictable weather and crop loss, ensuring their continued growth and prosperity. The state government's efforts to alleviate the financial burden of farmers have been widely praised, as they continue to be a lifeline for agricultural workers in Bengal.

The 54th VCCR to be held on Jan 19

MI News Service, Kolkata: The much-anticipated 54th edition of The Statesman Vintage & Classic Car Rally 2025 was officially announced during a programme held at Kolkata Press Club. This iconic event, celebrating the elegance and history of vintage and classic automobiles, will take place at the RCTC ground on January 19th, marking a new venue for this year.
Over 150 vintage cars will participate in the rally, divided into three categories: Vintage, Classic, and Post-War. Cars from various states, including Jharkhand and Bihar, will also join the historic event. The rally will run from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM, covering a total of 25 kilometers through key locations in Kolkata.
The event schedule includes pre-judging on January 17th, followed by judging on January 18th. The final rally on January 19th will see the cars making their way through South Kolkata, Desopriya Park, Hazra Crossing, and other notable spots before returning to the RCTC ground.
The winner of the rally will be awarded a prestigious Pure Silver Trophy. In addition to the rally, a music concert will also take place, adding to the excitement.

Bus safety meeting held amid rising Kolkata road accidents

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata's public transport system is under scrutiny, with complaints mounting about the insufficient number of government buses and reckless driving leading to accidents. The situation has prompted Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to convene a meeting at Nabanna, expressing her dissatisfaction with the roles of the Transport Department and the police.
Representatives of bus and minibus owners' associations met with Kolkata Traffic Police officials to discuss the pressing issues. The focal point of the meeting was the increasing number of accidents caused by reckless competition among buses. Deputy Commissioner (Traffic) raised concerns about such incidents, to which bus owners attributed the problem to the heavy penalties imposed on buses in Kolkata.
Ashok Gayen, a representative of the bus owners' association, highlighted a significant

issue, stating, "The fines imposed by Kolkata Police have turned into a revenue-generation model. A bus receiving fines worth thousands of rupees has no choice but to compete recklessly to earn more. This financial pressure often leads to accidents."
However, the Deputy Commissioner refuted the claims, asserting, "There is no target or quota for issuing fines. Penalties are only imposed for violations. While bus operations may be a business, public safety must remain a priority." The police stressed that 30-35% of accidents in the city are caused by reckless driving by buses. The meeting also addressed broader issues of ensuring road safety and providing proper training for bus drivers. Discussions revealed that the most accident-prone times are during peak hours—8 AM to 12 PM and 4 PM to 8 PM. To curb the frequency of accidents, the authorities proposed stricter monitoring and awareness campaigns. The Traffic Police

clarified that fines are not imposed to generate revenue but to enforce discipline and ensure safety. This statement aimed to counter the perception among bus owners that the system is profit-driven.
Despite these clarifications, the bus owners' associations emphasized the challenges they face, including financial burdens and competition due to the limited number of government buses. They argued that increasing the fleet of government buses could reduce the pressure on private operators and curb reckless behavior. The ongoing debate underscores the need for a balanced approach to address Kolkata's transportation woes. While the authorities must ensure stricter enforcement of traffic rules, the concerns of bus operators also need to be addressed. A collaborative effort between the government, police, and private operators is crucial to making Kolkata's roads safer for its citizens.

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Woman killed, two injured in gas balloon cylinder explosion at Howrah Fair

MI News Service, Kolkata: A tragic gas balloon cylinder explosion at a fair in HarishpurKancharitala, under Howrah's Panchla Police Station, claimed the life of

a woman and left two others, including the balloon seller, severely injured. The deceased, identified as 35-year-old BaishakhiBagh, was a local resident of the

Panchla area.
The explosion occurred during the Kali Puja celebrations, which annually include a fair in the Harishpur area. On

Tuesday late evening, as the fairgrounds filled with hundreds of visitors, a loud blast shook the venue when the gas balloon cylinder exploded.

Name Change
I, Sajan Ray, S/O Uma Shankar Roy, R/O 30, Prantik Pally, Po-Ps-Kasba, Kolkata-700042, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sajan Roy. Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 08/01/2025. That Sajan Ray And Sajan Roy All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Lila Ghosh Dastidar (old name) wife of Kuntal Prakash Ghosh Dastidar, residing at 586, Hari Sava Math, Usha Park, Sonarpur, Dist.- South 24 Pgs, Pin- 700084, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Lila Das (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 08/01/2025. Lila Das (new name) and Lila Ghosh Dastidar (old name) both are same and identical person.

Google identified AP as key partner: Chandrababu Naidu
MI News Service, New Delhi: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said global tech giant Google has identified Andhra Pradesh as a key partner as part of its "ambitious" plans and operations in India. The Chief Minister further said he discussed various potential areas for collaboration. He exuded confidence that collaborations with global technology leaders such as Google will empower the southern state. "I met a Google delegation led by VP (vice president), Bikash Koley in Amaravati. The delegation offered me an overview of their operations and shared their ambitious plans in India. I am proud that Andhra Pradesh has been identified as a key partner," said Naidu in a post on X. According to the CM, Andhra Pradesh's progressive industrial policies have created a business-friendly ecosystem, attracting investors and paving the way for employment opportunities. Recalling that the state recently signed an agreement with the US-headquartered company Google, Naidu said Andhra Pradesh is looking forward to working together with it to bring these initiatives to fruition.



Workers at a brick kiln on a winter morning, in Nadia, West Bengal.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) SADDAM HOSSAIN S/O- MD AKUL MOLLA, Residing at- Vill- Suluyamathpara, Post-Baruipara, Ps- Hariharpara, Dist-Murshidabad, Pin- 742165, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from SADDAM HOSSAIN To SADDAM HOSSAIN MOLLA (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) SADDAM HOSSAIN MOLLA in all purpose Vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 06 Jan 2025, SADDAM HOSSAIN MOLLA and SADDAM HOSSAIN both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Mohammad Ismiele Rahaman (old name) son of Saidul Rahaman, residing at Malihati, Brahmanasan, Paschim Medinipur, Pin- 721124, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Ismiele Rahaman (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 08/01/2025. Md Ismiele Rahaman (new name) and Mohammad Ismiele Rahaman (old name) both are same and identical person.

Sealdah Division is ready to ensure smooth arrangement for Pilgrims during forthcoming Gangasagar Mela - Drm/Sealdah addresses Press Meet
MI News Service, Kolkata: In order to face the upcoming Gangasagar Mela challenge, Sealdah Division has taken several steps for ensuring smooth train operations. In a bid to facilitate huge number of pilgrims during the ensuing Mela days, Sealdah Division is taking host of arrangements. Sealdah Division has organized a Press Conference today (08.01.2025) where Shri Deepak Nigam, DRM/Sealdah, has briefed print and electronic media regarding running of EMU special trains from Kolkata & Sealdah Station and augmentation of different amenities at Sealdah, Princep Ghat, Namkhana, Kakkdwp, Lakshmikantapur stations.
Date of Mela: The arrangements will commence on & from 09.01.2025 and will continue upto 17.01.2025. Designated Mela Officers will camp at Kakkdwp from 12.01.2025 to 17.01.2025 and ensure proper arrangements at nominated stations and co-ordinate with Civil Authorities.
Additional Trains: A total of 102 additional train services will ply in between Sealdah and Namkhana for the Mela days w.e.f. 09.01.25 to 17.02.2025 for enabling pilgrims smooth journey. In order to cope up with sudden unprecedented rush during high tide or low tide, 12 coach empty rakes will be stationed at Sealdah and Namkhana. They will evacuate extra rush in case of emergency. There will be earmarking of Ladies compartment at the Special Trains during the mela period.
Lighting arrangement: Electrical department has made arrangements for adequate and emergency lighting at the station premises, especially at Princep Ghat, Lakshikantapur, Kakkdwp & Namkhana Stations. Adequate lighting at the approach road to platform no.2 of Namkhana station, Namkhana Over-bridge and also at Kakkdwp Temporary Booking counter. Decorative lighting arrangement has been made at Kakkdwp & Namkhana stations.
Drinking Water: Electrical & Engineering Deptt. of Sealdah Division has made arrangement to operate electrical pumps at Princep Ghat, Lakshikantapur, Kakkdwp & Namkhana stations round the clock. Additional arrangement of drinking water has been made for the Mela days at Kakkdwp & Namkhana.
Additional Booking Counter: Commercial Deptt. has opened additional Booking Counters (05 nos. at Sealdah, 04 nos. at Kakkdwp and 03 nos. at Namkhana) round the clock in order to issue tickets to passengers during Mela Period. At Kakkdwp station, two temporary Booking counters (at main side adjacent to stairs) has been provided. At Namkhana, suitable arrangement for ticketing at Bakhali end of platform-1 with two numbers of booking counters has been provided. Mobile UTS provided during mela period will be as follows:
15 Nos. at Kakkdwp. 08 Nos. at Namkhana. 08 Nos. at Sealdah.
Sanitary arrangement: Chief Medical Superintendent, B.R.Singh Hospital and Divisional Environment & Housekeeping Management Deptt. have deputed inspectors and sufficient staff to look after sanitary system at Sealdah, Lakshmikantapur, Kakkdwp & Namkhana. Sanitary arrangements of major stations of Sealdah South will be monitored closely.
Security arrangement: Security Department has arranged to deploy 25 officers with sufficient RPF personnel at Princep Ghat, Lakshmikantapur, Namkhana & Kakkdwp stations and will keep close co-ordination with GRP & West Bengal Police. Night bound EMU locals are being escorted by RPF. Dog squads have been deployed for checking at station areas, passenger areas, EMU trains, PRS counter, waiting halls, dustbins and toilets. For Close Circuit Monitoring during the mela period, 16 nos. of CCTVs (14 bullet & 2 dome) each at Kakkdwp, Namkhana and Lakshmikantapur have been made operational at conspicuous places at station premises. The CCTVs have been placed in such a manner that it covers the entire station area.
May I Help You Booth: "May I Help You" Booth with telephone connection have been provided at Sealdah South, Princep Ghat, Kakkdwp & Namkhana. The Booths will be manned by RPF as well as GRP staff. Arrangement of Loud Hailers for emergency announcement has been made at Lakshmikantapur, Kakkdwp & Namkhana.
Volunteers Services: Volunteers of Civil Defence, Scouts & Guides and St. John Ambulance Brigade will assist Railway Officials at Sealdah, Kakkdwp & Namkhana during the Mela days.
Emergency Equipment Failure: Two Tower Wagons have been kept ready at Baruipur and Lakshmikantapur which will rush to the site with RPF in case of emergency overhead equipment failure. One more will remain as standby at Sealdah station.
Medical Unit: Fully equipped Medical unit has been deployed at Sealdah & Kakkdwp Station. They will render First Aid in case of emergency. Augmented First Aid Boxes will be available at the stations including additional boxes at Kakkdwp & Namkhana. Four Wheelchairs and four stretchers will be provided at Namkhana and Kakkdwp stations during the mela period. Two (02) Medical Booths will be provided at Sealdah, and 01 each at Kakkdwp and Namkhana Stations. Doctors, paramedical staff & ambulances will be deployed at Sealdah, Kakkdwp & Namkhana Stations for round the clock availability.
Pay & Use Toilets: Pay & Use Toilets in Sealdah - Kakkdwp - Namkhana Section & Princep Ghat will be in good condition and periodical cleaning will be done on regular basis. State Govt. has been approached to provide Pay & Use Toilet at the surrounding area of Mela.

MI News Service, New Delhi: Serving faster, safer & world class travel experience at nominal cost to billions of Indians is not an easy task. But Indian Railways is doing it in a mission mode by transforming itself to be a future ready organization catering to geographically, culturally, socially as well as economically diverse India. Keeping pace with the budgetary allocation, Railways has spent 76 percent of its budgetary outlay with in first nine months & 4 days of the current fiscal year. According to a latest expenditure report of Indian Railways till January 5, 2025, heavy investment is made in capacity augmentation, a reality aiming to make rail travel a world class experience in India. The fruits for consistent Capital Expenditure (Capex) for the last one decade are visible in the form of 136 Vande Bharat trains, about 97 percent electrification of broad gauge, laying of new lines, gauge conversion, doubling of track, traffic facilities work, investment in PSUs & metropolitan transport. This Capital expenditure has led to faster, safer & world class travel experience at nominal cost to billions of Indians. With Vande Bharat sleeper trains at speed testing &



MI News Service, Kolkata: In order to face the upcoming Gangasagar Mela challenge, Sealdah Division has taken several steps for ensuring smooth train operations.

Name Change
I, Mousumi Mukherjee hereby declare that by swearing Affidavit before the Judicial Magistrate, First Class, Chandernagore being No. 3454 dated 08/07/2024 declared that Mousumi Ghosh, Mausumi Ghosh, Mausumi Ghosh, Mousumi Mukherjee & Mousumi Mukherjee (Ghosh) is the same & identical person.

Name Change
I, Uma Shankar Ray & Uma Sankar Roy, S/O Late Binduswar Roy, R/O 30, Prantik Pally, Po-Ps-Kasba, Kolkata-700042, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Uma Shankar Roy. Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 08/01/2025. That Uma Shankar Ray & Uma Sankar Roy All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Niranjan Poddar, Son Of Nikunja Behari Poddar, Residing At 2/59a Netaji Nagar, Regent Estate, Kolkata - 700092, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Niranjan Kumar Poddar. Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 06/01/2025. That Niranjan Poddar And Niranjan Kumar Poddar Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, RUPAN CHANDRA MAZUMDER S/O JIBAN KRISHNA MAZUMDER resident of Vill Jamalpur, P.O. Mukshimpara, P.S. Purbasthali, Dist. Purba Bardhaman WEST BENGAL, India do hereby solemnly affirm & declaring my actual name RUPAN CHANDRA MAZUMDER instead of RUPAN CHANDRA MAZUMDEI S/O JIBAN KRISHNA MAZUMDER, vide an affidavit sworn before the Sub Divisional Executive Magistrate at Purba Bardhaman on 21/10/2024. RUPAN CHANDRA MAZUMDER and RUPAN CHANDRA MAZUMDEI both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Bharat Mansukhal Thoria (old name) son of Mansukhal Thoria, residing at 6/1A, Beltala Road, 3rd Floor, Bhowanipur, Pin- 700026, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Bharat Thoria (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 08/01/2025. Bharat Thoria (new name) and Bharat Mansukhal Thoria (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Shameem Ahmed, son of Nasir Ahmed do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I am the partner of Global Diagnostic & Polyclinic situated at 55A Ghulam Jilani Khan Road, Kolkata-700039 and due to old age and ill health, I have closed the said establishment w.e.f. 10/09/2024 and also permanently closed all operations of C.E. License No. 34236367, validity upto 29/09/2024.

Name Change
I, Rubbana Parveen (Old Name) W/o Md Zahid Parwaiz Residing at 4/1, Dr Nuri Lane -1, Champadani M, Baidyabati, Hooghly - 712222 West Bengal India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Rubana Parveen (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public, Kolkata vide affidavit no 009/2025 Dated 08-01-2025. Rubbana Parveen (Old Name) and Rubana Parveen (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Alok Sudhanshu Mazumdar (old name) son of Late Sudhanshu Mazumder, residing at 143/2, Ashokenagar, P.O. - Ashokenagar, P.S.- Ashokenagar, North 24 Parganas, Pin-743222, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Alok Majumder (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 08/01/2025. Alok Majumder (new name) and Alok Sudhanshu Mazumdar (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, S Ch Halder (As Per DI No Wb01 19950413087) ,Son Of Jagadish Chandra Halder, Residing At 147 Naskarhat Dakshin Para, Tiljala, Kolkata - 700039, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Suman Chandra Halder. Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Kolkata On 08/01/2024. That S Ch Halder And Suman Chandra Halder Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Arwa Tambawala alias Arwabon S/O Dawood Bhai Residing at Block F 201, Ammatullah Society, Jagatipota, Ahallyanagar, Bhaganpur, Ps - Narendrapur, District - 24 Pgs(S), Pin- 700152 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Arwa Zuzar Tambawala. I declare that Arwa Tambawala, Arwabon and Arwa Zuzar Tambawala is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 08-01-2025.

Name Change
I, Sudip Karmakar (old name) son of Surendra Karmakar, residing at 2 No. Desbandhu Nagar, P.O.- Sodepur, P.S.- Kharda, Dist.- Barakpore, Pin- 700110, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sadip Karmakar (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 08/01/2025. Sadip Karmakar (new name) and Sudip Karmakar (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Suresh Lahoti (old name) son of Sitaram Lahoti, residing at 92/B/11, N.K Banerjee Street, Rishra, Hooghly, Pin- 712248, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Suresh Kumar Lahoti (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 08/01/2025. Suresh Kumar Lahoti (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Zuzarbhai Yuzufbhai Tambawala alias Zuzar Tambawala S/O Yusuf Bhai Tambawala Residing at Block F 201, Ammatullah Society, Jagatipota, Ahallyanagar, Bhaganpur, P.S - Narendrapur, District - 24 Pgs(S), Pin- 700152 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Zuzar Yuzufbhai Tambawala. I declare that Zuzarbhai Yuzufbhai Tambawala, Zuzar Tambawala and Zuzar Yuzufbhai Tambawala is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 08-01-2025.

Name Change
I, Sk Sulthan (Old Name), Son Of Sk Fajel, Residing At Vill & Po - Sasati, P.S - Shyampur, Howrah - 711312, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Firoj Sk (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 08/01/2025. That Firoj Sk And Firoj Sk Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Shanti Lahoti (old name) wife of Suresh Kumar Lahoti, residing at 92/B/11, N.K Banerjee Street, Rishra, Hooghly, Pin- 712248, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shanti Devi Lahoti (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 08/01/2025. Shanti Devi Lahoti (new name) and Shanti Lahoti (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, No. 14587526Y Rank Ex. NK Name Presh Nath Ghosh resident of Vill Bahara, P.O- Masandi, Dist - Purba Bardhaman, WB, Pin - 713129 have changed my name from Presh Nath Ghosh to Pareshnath Ghosh vide affidavit dated 30 Dec 24 before in the court of L. Sub Div Executive Magistrate (1st Class) Katwa (Purba Bardhaman).

Name Change
I, Firoj Sekh (Old Name), Son Of Sk Sultan Mahammad, Residing At Vill & Po - Sasati, P.S - Shyampur, Howrah - 711312, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Firoj Sk (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 08/01/2025. That Firoj Sk And Firoj Sk Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Shantihari Begum (old name) wife of Abdul Hamid, residing at 7/1, Kasab Bustee 2nd Lane, Narkelbanga, Kolkata- 700011, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shajahan Begum (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 08/01/2025. Shajahan Begum (new name) and Shajahan Begum (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Achintya Kumar Pal (Old Name) S/O Lt. Gurupada Pal, residing at Bulchandrappur, P.O- Painta, P.S. Madhabdih, Dist - Purba Bardhaman, Pin - 713427 WB have changed my name and henceforth shall be known as Achintya Pal (New Name). Achintya Kumar Pal (Old Name) and Achintya Pal (New Name) both are same and one identical person i.e., myself vide affidavit dated 08.01.25 before Notary Public at Purba Bardhaman.

Name Change
I, Moslema Sekh (old name) W/o Hasmat Sekh, residing at Hasmat House, Dhasa Badamtala, Munshirhat Dhasa, Howrah- 711410, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Moslema Begum Sekh (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 06/01/2025. Moslema Begum Sekh (new name) and Moslema Sekh (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Mohammed Jamiruddin Khan (old name) son of Jahangir Ali Khan, residing at Nath Para, Maheshstala (M), Batanagar, Dist.- South 24 Pgs, Pin- 700140, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Jamir Uddin Khan (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 08/01/2025. Md Jamir Uddin Khan (new name) and Mohammed Jamiruddin Khan (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Mohammad Nomaan Farooque S/O Mohammad Farooque Hussain S/O Shahzadi Begum Residing At Premises No 50/2 Nando Ghosh Road Pilkhana, Ps-Golabari, Dist-Howrah, Pin-711101 Do Here By Solemly Affirm And Declare That By An Affidavit (No. 1319) Before The Ld Judicial Magistrate 1st Class At Calcutta On 06.12.2024. That Mohammad Nomaan Farooque And Md Nomaan Farooque And Shahzadi Begum And Shahzadi Begum Is The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Hasmat Ali Sekh (old name) S/o Late Yunus Sekh, residing at Hasmat House, Dhasa Badamtala, Munshirhat Dhasa, Howrah- 711410, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Hasmat Sekh (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 06/01/2025. Hasmat Sekh (new name) and Hasmat Ali Sekh (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Kshitish Majumder (old name) son of Late Kiran Majumder, residing at Kadardanga, Asharu, P.S.- Bagda, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin- 743251, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Kshitish Majumder (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 08/01/2025. Kshitish Majumder (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) MAKINA BIBI W/o MD KHURSHID ALAM, Residing at, Vill- Gosaidobe, Post- Khosurpur, Ps- Kandi, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742136, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from MAKINA BIBI To SAKINA BIBI (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New Name) SAKINA BIBI in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 06 Jan 2025. SAKINA BIBI and MAKINA BIBI both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Mohammed Jahangir Khan (old name) son of Late Rahamat Ali Khan, residing at Nath Para South, Ward - 19, Maheshtala, Dist.- South 24 Pgs, Pin- 700140, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Jahangir Ali Khan (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 08/01/2025. Jahangir Ali Khan (new name) and Mohammed Jahangir Khan (old name) both are same and identical person.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Soumyadip Dey S/O Sujit Kumar Dey, Residing at Kharida Raigram, P.O.- Kharagpur, P.S.- KGP(T), Dist.- Paschim Medinipur- 721301 have changed my father's name from Sujit Dey to Sujit Kumar Dey for all purpose vide affidavit no.- 6877/07 dated : 20/12/2024 In the Court of Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class), at Kharagpur. Sujit Dey and Sujit Kumar Dey both are same and one identical person i.e. my father.

Railways well on course to make itself future ready; Spends 76% of its Budgetary Outlay for the current fiscal in Capacity augmentation aiming to give safer, faster & world class travel to travelers

MI News Service, New Delhi: Serving faster, safer & world class travel experience at nominal cost to billions of Indians is not an easy task. But Indian Railways is doing it in a mission mode by transforming itself to be a future ready organization catering to geographically, culturally, socially as well as economically diverse India. Keeping pace with the budgetary allocation, Railways has spent 76 percent of its budgetary outlay with in first nine months & 4 days of the current fiscal year. According to a latest expenditure report of Indian Railways till January 5, 2025, heavy investment is made in capacity augmentation, a reality aiming to make rail travel a world class experience in India. The fruits for consistent Capital Expenditure (Capex) for the last one decade are visible in the form of 136 Vande Bharat trains, about 97 percent electrification of broad gauge, laying of new lines, gauge conversion, doubling of track, traffic facilities work, investment in PSUs & metropolitan transport. This Capital expenditure has led to faster, safer & world class travel experience at nominal cost to billions of Indians. With Vande Bharat sleeper trains at speed testing &

Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express to Run Soon between Katra and Srinagar; Final Inspection Commences on 111km Long Katra-Banihal Section Connecting Jammu to Kashmir Valley

MI News Service, Kolkata: Ensuring punctuality and maintaining order in train operations remain top priorities for Eastern Railway. However, these objectives are often hampered by certain avoidable activities. Issues such as Unauthorized Alarm Chain Pulling (ACP), boarding or alighting at undesignated stops, carrying oversized luggage that obstructs pathways, and disruptive behaviors like blocking train doors or squatting on train tracks lead to significant delays in operations. Though such disruptions are often caused by a small section of individuals, they result in inconvenience to passengers and disrupt the smooth functioning of train services. To address these challenges and ensure punctual operations, Eastern Railway has been implementing 'Operation Samay Palan' in mission mode, spearheaded by the Railway Protection Force (RPF). On 07.01.2025, a special drive was conducted under "Operation Samay Palan" by RPF officials from Howrah, Asansol, and Malda Divisions of Eastern Railway. During this operation, 05 (five) individuals were apprehended and prosecuted under the provisions of the Railway Act for unauthorized alarm chain pulling. This act of misuse delays train schedules and inconveniences passengers, necessitating strict enforcement against such violations. Eastern Railway urges all passengers to use the alarm chain facility strictly during genuine emergencies. Misuse of this facility not only disrupts train operations but also delays the timely transportation of goods and passengers.

Operation 'Samay Palan' adopted in Mission mode for uninterrupted train operations

MI News Service, Kolkata: The crackle of the train on the tracks, the rhythm of the whistle slicing through the air—these are not just sounds but a promise: a promise of safety, punctuality, and dignity for millions of passengers. On January 6, 2025, Eastern Railway's Railway Protection Force (RPF) reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to this promise through Operation Mahila Suraksha. These operations echo the core principles of discipline, safety, and respect for all who travel with us. Operation Mahila Suraksha: Ensuring the Dignity and Safety of Women Passengers The dignity and safety of women passengers are non-negotiable priorities for Indian Railways. In response to increasing instances of unauthorized

Eastern Railway RPF: Protecting the Pulse of the Nation's Railways

MI News Service, Kolkata: To clear anticipated rush of pilgrims during Gangasagar Mela-2025, Eastern Railway will run additional One (01) pair EMU Special trains in between Sealdah & Namkhana from 09.01.2025 to 11.01.2025. Down Sealdah - Namkhana EMU special will leave Sealdah at 14:40 hrs. to reach Namkhana at 7:33 hrs. on the same day from 09.01.2025 to 11.01.2025 and UP Namkhana - Sealdah EMU special will leave Namkhana at 18:35 hrs. to reach Sealdah at 21:25 hrs. on the same day from 09.01.2025 to 11.01.2025. The Sealdah - Namkhana - Sealdah EMU special will stop at Ballyguange, Sonarpur, Baruipur, Lakshmikantapur, Nishchindapur and Kakkdwp station enroute in both directions.

ER To run additional one (01) pair EMU special trains during Gangasagar Mela

MI News Service, Kolkata: To clear anticipated rush of pilgrims during Gangasagar Mela-2025, Eastern Railway will run additional One (01) pair EMU Special trains in between Sealdah & Namkhana from 09.01.2025 to 11.01.2025. Down Sealdah - Namkhana EMU special will leave Sealdah at 14:40 hrs. to reach Namkhana at 7:33 hrs. on the same day from 09.01.2025 to 11.01.2025 and UP Namkhana - Sealdah EMU special will leave Namkhana at 18:35 hrs. to reach Sealdah at 21:25 hrs. on the same day from 09.01.2025 to 11.01.2025. The Sealdah - Namkhana - Sealdah EMU special will stop at Ballyguange, Sonarpur, Baruipur, Lakshmikantapur, Nishchindapur and Kakkdwp station enroute in both directions.

Delhi Police hold interstate coordination meeting to ensure smooth Republic Day 2025, assembly elections

MI News Service, New Delhi: An Interstate Coordination meeting was held on Wednesday at the Delhi Police Headquarters to enhance cooperation among various Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) and address key issues related to ensuring incident-free Republic Day 2025 celebrations and conducting free, fair, and peaceful Legislative Assembly elections in the national capital.

DCSP/Districts, Security, Crime, IGI, Railways and Metro were also present. The officers exchanged intelligence and discussed various matters, focusing on strengthening anti-terror measures, border checks, and the verification of suspicious elements. Special attention was given to advance information regarding the movement of suspicious individuals or vehicles. Issues regarding interstate gangs operating in the National Capital Region (NCR), the supply of illegal firearms, illicit liquor, cash, and narcotics were also discussed.

Coordination for Traffic regulation during Republic Day Celebrations was formulated. According to Special Commissioner of Police (Crime) Devesh Chandra Srivastava, strict and effective implementation of the Election Commission of India's guidelines and zero tolerance for violation during the Delhi Legislative Election was emphasised. Increased policing effort at state borders was also planned. CP Delhi urged all officials to make extensive use of human and technical intelligence to monitor suspicious elements and anticipate in advance, any subversive activities to thwart any evil designs. All officers appreciated the coordination efforts of Delhi Police with various state/UT police forces and other LEAs. They committed to further enhancing cooperation and collaboration for better policing in the NCR, emphasizing real-time information sharing and close interaction at all levels, ensuring a peaceful and incident-free Republic Day 2025 and Assembly elections in Delhi.

EASTERN RAILWAY e-Tender Notice No.: ELS/SDAH/OT/24-013 dtd. 08.01.2025. E-tender is invited by the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (EMU/Seadha), Eastern Railway, 1st Floor, Control Building, Kolkata, 700014 for the following work: Tender No.: ELS/SDAH/OT/24-013. Name of the Work: Installation of OHE on-off indication board in PPO at SPR, BT and RHA EMU carshed. Tender Value: Rs. 21,36,968.20. Earnest Money: Rs. 42,700/-.

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER e-Tender Notice No.: e-57-DYCEE-KGWP-CD50-24-25. For and on behalf of the President of India, Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (WS), Kharagpur Workshop, S.E. Railway invites e-Tender for the following work before 16:00 hrs. on the date mentioned below & will be opened at 16:30 hrs. Name of the work: D-Check schedule of Cummins Make CPCB II Diesel Engine Model No. KTA19A1G10 for EOG Power Car.

EASTERN RAILWAY Open E-Tender is invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Howrah, 3rd Floor, New Complex Building, Howrah - 711101 for Provision of Catering Services through GMU for a period of 05 years having (a) Minimum of 03 (three) years of catering business experience, (b) Minimum Annual Turnover of 03 (three) times of Indicative License Fee in any one of the previous three financial years from catering business and (c) Profit or Loss + accumulated reserves + share capital of minimum Rs. 03 (three) Lakh in the previous three financial years.

Rs. 4,27,591/-, Rs. 8,600/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-SLG-PF1. (24) Tribeni, PF - 1 & 2, Rs. 95,621/-, Rs. 4,97,229/-, Rs. 10,000/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-TBAE-PF1-2. (25) Bainchigram, PF - 1, Rs. 82,229/-, Rs. 4,27,591/-, Rs. 8,600/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-BCGM-PF1. (26) Balagarh, PF - 1, 1,13,810, Rs. 5,91,812/-, Rs. 11,900/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-BGAE-PF1. (27) Belmuri, PF - 1 & 2, Rs. 66,887/-, Rs. 3,47,812/-, Rs. 7,000/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-BMAE-PF1-2. (28) Bhadreswar, PF - 3, Rs. 95,621/-, Rs. 4,97,229/-, Rs. 10,000/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-BHR-PF3. (29) Chandanpur, PF - 1 & 2, Rs. 66,887/-, Rs. 3,47,812/-, Rs. 7,000/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-CDAE-PF1-2. (30) Dearpur, PF - 1, Rs. 69,895/-, Rs. 3,63,454/-, Rs. 7,300/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-DEA-PF1. (31) Dhatrigur, PF - 1, Rs. 1,06,356/-, Rs. 5,53,051/-, Rs. 11,100/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-DTAE-PF1. (32) Dumurdaha, PF - 1, Rs. 1,06,356/-, Rs. 5,53,051/-, Rs. 11,100/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-DMLE-PF1. (33) Gariga, PF - 1, Rs. 88,799/-, Rs. 4,61,755/-, Rs. 9,300/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-GFAE-PF1. (34) Haripal, PF - 1, Rs. 64,525/-, Rs. 3,35,530/-, Rs. 6,800/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-HPL-PF1. (35) Hazighar, PF - 1 & 2, Rs. 66,887/-, Rs. 3,47,812/-, Rs. 7,000/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-HIH-PF1-2. (36) Hooghlyghat, PF - 1, Rs. 75,912/-, Rs. 3,92,491/-, Rs. 7,900/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-HYG-PF1. (37) Jaugram, PF - 1, Rs. 75,912/-, Rs. 3,94,742/-, Rs. 7,900/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-JRAE-PF1. (38) Jhapandanga, PF - 1, Rs. 75,912/-, Rs. 3,94,742/-, Rs. 7,900/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-JPC-PF1. (39) Jirat, PF - 1, Rs. 1,06,356/-, Rs. 5,53,051/-, Rs. 11,100/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-JIT-PF1. (40) Kalka, PF - 1, Rs. 69,895/-, Rs. 3,63,454/-, Rs. 7,300/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-KKAE-PF1. (41) Khamargachi, PF - 1 & 2, Rs. 95,621/-, Rs. 4,97,229/-, Rs. 10,000/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-KMAE-PF1-2. (42) Khanyan, PF - 1, Rs. 82,229/-, Rs. 4,27,591/-, Rs. 8,600/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-KHN-PF1. (43) Kuntighat, PF - 1, Rs. 1,13,810/-, Rs. 5,91,812/-, Rs. 11,900/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-KJU-PF1. (44) Madhusudanpur, PF - 1, Rs. 75,912/-, Rs. 3,94,742/-, Rs. 7,900/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-MDSE-PF1. (45) Mayapur, PF - 1, Rs. 64,013/-, Rs. 3,32,868/-, Rs. 6,700/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-MAYP-PF1. (46) Nabagarh, PF - 1, Rs. 75,912/-, Rs. 3,94,742/-, Rs. 7,900/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-NBAE-PF1. (47) Nasibpur, PF - 1, Rs. 88,799/-, Rs. 4,61,755/-, Rs. 9,300/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-NSF-PF1. (48) Porabazar, PF - 1 & 2, Rs. 66,887/-, Rs. 3,47,812/-, Rs. 7,000/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-PBZ-PF1-2. (49) Somrabazar, PF - 1, Rs. 1,13,810/-, Rs. 5,91,812/-, Rs. 11,900/-, RE12-GMU-CATG-SOAE-PF1. (50) Palla Road, PF - 1 & 2, Rs. 66,887/-, Rs. 3,47,812/-, Rs. 7,000/-, R9-GMU-CATG-PRAE-PF1-2. (51) Hooghly, PF - 1, Rs. 95,621/-, Rs. 4,97,229/-, Rs. 10,000/-, R4-GMU-CATG-HGY-PF1. Size of 10' x 6' = 30 sq.ft. (for SI Nos. 18, 30, 34, 36 & 40 of Catg. 'C') and 10' x 6' = 60 sq.ft. for others. Category of Licence: GMU (Ladies) (for SI. No. 1 of Catg. 'A') and 2, 4, 6, 8 & 11 to 24 of Catg. 'C') & GMU (General) for others. Cost of Tender document (incl. 12% GST) is Rs. 5,600/- (for SI. No. 1 of Catg. 'A'), Rs. 3,360/- (for SI. Nos. 1 & 2 of Catg. 'A' & 1 of Catg. 'B'), Rs. 2,240/- (for SI. Nos. 3 to 8, 12, 14, 26, 31, 32, 39, 43 & 49 of Catg. 'C') and Rs. 1,120/- for others. Closing Date: 28.01.2025 (for SI. No. 2 of Catg. 'A'), 27.01.2025 (for SI. Nos. 45-49 of Catg. 'C') and 24.01.2025 for others. 12% GST amount on Cost of Tender Document is collected through Forward Charge. Period of contract: 5 years. Validity of offer: 60 days. Availability of tender document: www.ireps.gov.in Bids are to be submitted online only. No manual offer will be accepted. (HWH-534/2024-25)

IAF chief motivates cadets to stand by NCC motto of 'Unity and Discipline'

MI News Service, New Delhi: Indian Air Force (IAF) chief Air Chief Marshal AP Singh on Wednesday threw light upon the values being ingrained in the cadets during their training such as discipline, selfless service, nation-building, code of conduct and also encouraged cadets to hold on to these values forever in their lives.



various social awareness themes. The CAS also visited the 'Hall of Fame' and was briefed about the history, training and achievements of NCC. Later, the Air Chief Marshal, accompanied by other distinguished guests, witnessed a 'Cultural Programme' performed by the cadets

from different Directorates who put up an enthralling show presenting the Indian culture through ballet, group dance and songs.

Addressing NCC cadets at Republic Day Parade Camp-2025, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh motivated the cadets to stand by the NCC motto of 'Unity and Discipline' and the pledge in all walks of life whether in uniform or not. "Every citizen of this country is a soldier who must look after the country's interests, safety and security. Whether we wear this uniform or not, just remember the motto of unity and discipline all your life. Be one, be united. Don't divide yourself in different groups. That is being from North and South, are all one. Just remember that we have to be one," AP Singh said. He further said that emphasised on the fact that NCC Republic Day Camp gives the cadets an opportunity to interact amongst all from different cultures, religions and regions and thus strengthens the 'Unity in Diversity' spirit of India.

"Discipline comes from within in every walk of life. Discipline is what you are in the dark. When nobody is watching you. It is not that policemen is standing so I stop at the traffic light. The rules says when we saw a red light we must stop. Just remember this whatever values that your parents have given and whatever teachings NCC is teaching you. It is our duty to correct somebody who is going on the wrong path even if it is a majority. Thousand lies don't make a truth. That is the way we should live," AP Singh said.

AP Singh said that the value that the cadets are learning in the NCC will always hold them in good state. "Whatever field you go to, whatever you will do in life remember these values," he said. According to Ministry of Defence, Air Chief Marshal inspected the 'Flag Area', which was prepared by cadets from all 17 NCC Directorates on

Legal Notice I. Shri Shukdeb Mahi, son of Shri Kalpalata Mahi, residing at 188, Rajalinga Main Road, Post- E.K.T.P., Police Station - Kaska, Kolkata - 700107, have acquired a total of 4 (four) Katha 3 (three) Chatak 15 (fifteen) square feet of land in the year 2018 through a gift deed (Deed No. 003/02/2018) from my father Shri Kalpalata Mahi in Mouza Kaska (J.L. No. 13) under Kolkata Block, within Dag No. 2718 and 2721. My father, Shri Kalpalata Mahi, had purchased the said land in the year 1983 through two sale deeds (Deed No. 9524/1983 and 9536/1983) and one sale deed in 1984 (Deed No. 229/1984) from the registered owners, namely, Shri Sumar Kumar Mitra, Shri. Eshwar Mitra, Shri. Ananda Majumdar, Shri. Manoj Kumar Bose, Shri. Nandita Sarkar, Shri. Purnima Chowdhury, and Shri. Soma Guhary through their appointed attorney Shri Santanu Kumar Mitra and Shri Santanu Kumar Mitra himself, along with three other individuals, Shri. Sudhanshu Bhushan Mitra, Shri. Shishir Kumar Mitra, and Shri. Amal Kumar Mitra.

Makardaha I Gram Panchayat E-Tender Memo No- HOW/DOM/MAK-I-GP ENT-2/24-25, 3/24-25, 4/24-25, 5/24-25 Dated- 08/01/2025 Bid Submission Last Date- 16/01/2025 Opening date- 18/01/2025 Details- https://wbenders.gov.in Sd/- Pradhan Makardaha I Gram Panchayat

ADARSH MERCANTILE LIMITED (CIN : L51109WB1992PLC055082) Regd. Office : 8A & 8B, Satyam Towers, 3 Alipore Road, Kolkata - 700 027 Phone No. : (033) 2479-1951, Fax : (033) 2479-1952 E-mail : adarshmercantile@gmail.com; Website : www.adarshmercantile.in

Table with 4 columns: Sl. No., Particulars, Quarter Year Ended 31.12.2024, Year to date as on 31.12.2024, Corresponding 3 months ended in the previous year 31.12.2023. Rows include Total Income from Operations, Net Profit/Loss, Total Comprehensive Income, etc.

Not Annualised The Company does not have Exceptional and Extra-ordinary items. Key Numbers of Standalone Financial Results (Rs. in Lakhs) Table with 4 columns: Sl. No., Particulars, Quarter Ended 31.12.2024, Year to date 31.12.2024, Corresponding 3 months ended in the previous year 31.12.2023.

By the Board of Directors For Adarsh Mercantile Limited Sd/- Suchita Chhawchharia Whole time Director DIN: 00044063

Digsui Hoerah Gram Panchayat VIII.+P.O.: Digsui, P.S.- Mogra, Dist.- Hooghly, Pin - 712148 Notice Inviting e-Tender e-Tender is invited from the experienced and resourceful bidders for execution of 14 nos. development works vide e-NIT No.: 001/DHGP/2024-25, 002/DHGP/2024-25, 003/DHGP/2024-25, 004/DHGP/2024-25 & 005/DHGP/2024-25, Date: 08.01.2025. Fund: 5th SFC (Tied), 15th CFC (Tied & Untied) & MPLADS. Bid Submission Start Date: On any working day from 09.01.2025 at 10:00 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 22.01.2025 up to 05:00 PM. Date of Opening of Tender: 24.01.2025 at 02:00 PM. For more details please visit https://wbenders.gov.in & undersigned GP Office. Sd/- Pradhan, Digsui Hoerah Gram Panchayat

PUBLIC NOTICE- AGENCY TERMINATION ICICI Bank | ICICI Bank Limited Registered office: "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007 Notice is hereby given that ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office as stated above, has terminated the services of Bengal Financial Services as its collection agency having its place of business at Asansol and is no longer associated with it in any way. All persons coming into contact with the said Collection agency or its representatives are hereby notified that neither Mr. Bidyut Kar, nor the partners/ directors and/or any of its employees/ representatives have any authority to represent ICICI Bank Limited in any manner whatsoever. ICICI Bank Limited is henceforth not responsible in any manner for any acts done or representations made by the said agency. Date : January 09, 2025 Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited Place : Asansol (West Bengal)

ক্রমিক সংখ্যা- ৬২ তারিখ- ০৮.০১.২০২৫ আশ্রম হোস্টেলে সুপারিনটেনডেন্ট, কুক ও হেল্লার নিয়োগের বিজ্ঞপ্তি পূর্ব মেদিনীপুর জেলার ময়না ব্লকের পরমানন্দপুর গঙ্গায়া ইনস্টিটিউশনের ছাত্রাবাস এ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে সুপারিনটেনডেন্ট, কুক ও হেল্লার পদের নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়ার বিষয়ে বিশেষ জানতে দেখুন "www.purbamedininipur.gov.in" Sd/- সাক্ষর চেয়ারম্যান কাম কন্ট্রোলর, আ্যভাইলিটির কমিটি এবং সমষ্টি উন্নয়ন আঞ্চলিক ময়না ব্লক

BANGANAGAR 1 GRAM PANCHAYAT Under Falta Panchayat Samiti, Vill- Ghanashyampur, P.O.-Banganagar, P.S.-Falta, Dist. South 24 Parganas, Pin No.- 743513 E-mail id: banganagar@gmail.com Memo No: 266/BGAN-1/24 Date: 08/01/2025 E-Tender invited by the Pradhan Banganagar 1 Gram Panchayat, Falta Panchayat Samiti, South 24 Parganas. e-Tender NIT No.: BANGA1GP/ETENDER/2024-25/26, BANGA1GP/ETENDER/2024-25/27, BANGA1GP/ETENDER/2024-25/28, BANGA1GP/ETENDER/2024-25/29, BANGA1GP/ETENDER/2024-25/30, BANGA1GP/ETENDER/2024-25/31, BANGA1GP/ETENDER/2024-25/32, BANGA1GP/ETENDER/2024-25/34, BANGA1GP/ETENDER/2024-25/36. Dated-09.01.2025 (11 nos) of work. Last date of bid submission 17.01.2025 up to 05:00 PM, Technical Bid open 20.01.2025 at 11.00 A.M. Sd/- Pradhan, Banganagar 1 Gram Panchayat Block-Falta, 24 Pgs. (S).

Howrah Municipal Corporation Borough Committee-IV 82, Narasingha Dutta Road, Howrah-711101 E-TENDER NIT No: E-T/006/A.E./Br-IV/24-25, Date : 08.01.2025 For details of N.I.T. please refer to Notice Board of Borough-IV & also H.M.C. website i.e. www.myhmc.in & www.wbtenders.gov.in Bid submission starting date 09.01.2025. Bid submission closing date 15.01.2025. Sd/- Assistant Engineer Borough-IV, H.M.C.

Kultali Development Block Jamtala, Jalabaria, South 24 PGS Tender Notice Tenders are here by invited by the undersigned for different works vide Tender Ref. No. 01/ KUL/S24PGS/2025, Dt.- 08/01/25. Last date of submission- 18.01.2025 up to 6.55 PM. More details please visit www.wbtenders.gov.in & Kultali Development Block Office. Sd/- Block Development Officer Kultali Development Block

KUMARARA GRAM PANCHAYAT Nandakumar, Purba Medinipur Dated: 08.01.2025 Kumarara Gram Panchayat under Nandakumar Panchayat Samiti invite E-Tender for various schemes under 15th F.C Tied fund. NIT No. 04/15thFC/KGP/2024-25. Memo No. 04/15thFC/KGP/2024-25 All information regarding said E-NIT will be available from the website- www.wbtenders.gov.in & office of the undersigned Sd/- Pradhan Kumarara Gram Panchayat

TENDER NOTICE E-Tender for Construction of Ino. Girl's Toilet, 7 nos. CC Roads & 1 no. sinking of Underground, have been invited by the undersigned, details of which are noted below: Bid Submission Start Date: 06.01.2025, 07.01.2025 & 08.01.2025 Bid Submission Closing Date: 13.01.2025, 14.01.2024 & 16.01.2025 Details can be collected from the website https://wbenders.gov.in & Office Notice Board. Sd/- Executive Officer Basanti Panchayat Samiti Basanti, Sonakhali, South 24 Parganas

Notice With regard to Mutation of a Land I SMT USHA DEVI PRASAD W/O Rameshwar Prasad resident of 72/1 Tapsia Road South, P.O.- Gobinda Khattick, P.S.-Tapsia, Kolkata-700046, Dist.-Kolkata, with in the state of West Bengal, do hereby confirm and state that I have purchased a plot of land measuring about 2 cottah 8 chhatak, under Mouza - 3, Chowbaga comprised in J.L.No. 117, R. Khatian No. 121, L.R.&R.S. Dag No 417 Plot No 32 by virtue of a registered sale Deed being No 11862/2023, which was duly registered in the office of the sub-Registry office No D.S.R.-IV, Alipore, south 24 Parganas on 27/09/2023 from one Raghunath Dewan, who was the lawful constituted Attorney, being duly appointed and nominated by virtue of a Registered Power of Attorney being No 263, with selling right to any intending purchaser. After purchasing this said land from said RAGHUNATH DEWAN, I am going to mutate the said Land in my favor and since purchasing this said land I am occupying and enjoying the same without any hindrances and encumbrances from any corner whatsoever. This is to hereby notify that, if any one has any objection, claim, demand regarding the mutation of the said land, he/she may take legal legitimate steps regarding the mutation of the said land with valid documentation within the one month from the date of publishing the notice, otherwise no objection, demand, claim will be granted in any manner whatsoever.

Dilip Das Advocate, Alipore Police Court, Kolkata - 700027 M- 9163180166 Date: 8/1/2025

e-Tender Notice Pradhan, Panthal Gram Panchayat under Jagatballypur Dev. Block, Howrah invites e-Tender vide NIT No. Pant/NIT/02/2025, Pant/NIT/03/2025, Pant/NIT/04/2025, Pant/NIT/05/2025, Pant/NIT/06/2025, Dated 08/01/2025. Last date of submission of this bid through online 16/01/2025 upto 11 am. For more information visit https://www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Pradhan Panthal Gram Panchayat Nizballa, Howrah

e-Tender Notice Memo No 58 (2/143)/PS Date: 08/01/2025 The Undersigned hereby invite e-tender for work under 15th CFC and others. For more details please visit www.wbtenders.gov.in Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_796337_1 Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_796450_1 Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_796473_1 Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_796593_1 Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_796597_1 Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_796605_1 Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_796617_1 Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_796625_1 Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_796629_1 Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_796635_1 Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_796641_1 Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_796652_1 Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_796730_1 Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_796739_1 Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_797072_1 Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_797036_1 Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_797003_1 Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_796970_1 Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_796929_1 Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_796834_1 Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_796796_1 Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_796760_1 Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_796713_1 Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_796695_1 Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_796653_1 Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_797318_1 Last date of submission 21/01/2025 Sd/- Executive Officer Patharpratima Panchayat Samiti Ramganga, South 24-Parganas

Healthy Foods To Keep You Warm This Winter

With wind chills in the single digits, who doesn't crave hot cocoa with whipped cream or a steaming plate of pasta and cheese? Your body needs more calories to support its work of staying warm. Still, you needn't go off the nutrition rails, especially if you follow a Mediterranean diet.

Rich in antioxidants and anti-inflammatory properties, a Mediterranean diet promotes longevity by lowering the risk for diseases, like cardiovascular disease and diabetes. It's a year-round option because its main ingredients — frozen or fresh leafy greens, root vegetables, citrus fruits, salmon, beans, whole grains, berries, Greek yogurt, nuts, and extra virgin olive oil — are always available. Here are some healthy ways to add these foods to your diet this winter.

LEAFY GREENS

Leafy greens in winter? You bet. Frozen spinach and kale are as good as fresh. They're super sources of vitamin C, an immune-system booster; vitamin K, which aids blood clotting; and, vitamin A, important for vision. Of course, you'll eat them warm!

Menu idea: Stir-fries are natural vehicles for spinach, kale, and arugula. You can also add your veggie to smoothies.

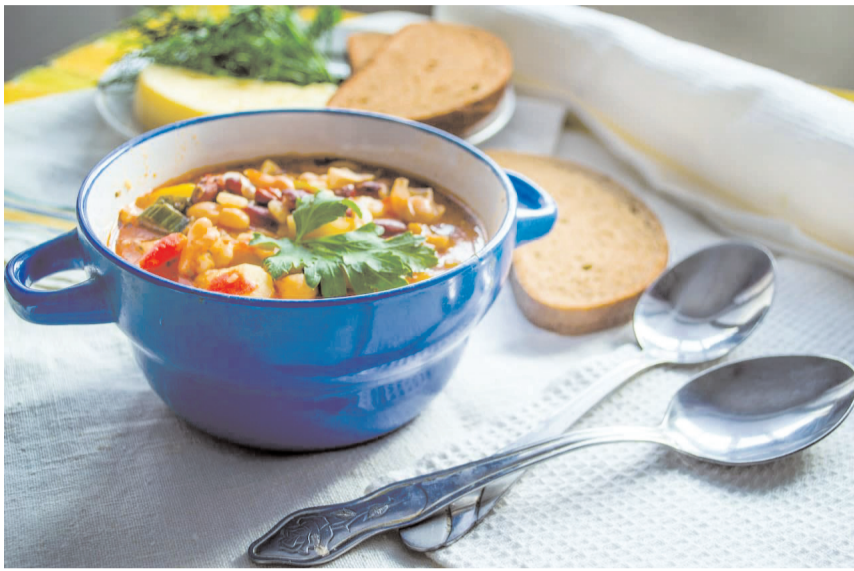
ROOT VEGETABLES

Root vegetables like beets, carrots, and turnips are plentiful during the winter months and packed with essential nutrients, including beta-carotene, and vitamins C and A, which give your immune system the boost it needs to protect you from colds and flu.

Menu idea: With olive oil, lightly coat sliced root vegetables and roast them slowly in a 350-degree oven until their natural sugars caramelize.

CITRUS FRUITS

Vitamin C boosts both your immune-system and your mood. Traditional sources include citrus fruits, like oranges,



grapefruit, and lemons. Strawberries, mangoes, and kivis are also high in vitamin C.

Menu idea: Add vitamin-C-rich broccoli, cauliflower, and bell peppers to any dish. If you can't find them fresh, then buy them frozen.

VITAMIN D-RICH FOODS

Vitamin D-rich foods are essential during the dark winter months. Salmon is a great source of vitamin D, as are egg yolks, fortified cereals, milk, red meat, and shiitake mushrooms.

Menu idea: Rub a little olive oil on a salmon fillet, and sprinkle finely minced ginger root on top before baking at 350 degrees.

BEANS

Beans like chickpeas (known as garbanzo beans) are full of protein and contain nearly all of the essential amino acids.

Menu idea: Add dried or canned beans

to soups or salads, or blend them with extra virgin olive oil, lemon juice, tahini, and salt to make your own hummus.

LOW-SODIUM SOUP

Soup is a perfect winter food, as long as it's homemade or low sodium. Low-sodium soups contain 140 milligrams or less of sodium per serving. "Reduced" sodium means that only 25% of a soup's sodium has been removed. Steer clear of recipes that call for cream, beef, and salt, and use those that use chicken broth, vegetable broth or water as the base and call for lots of vegetables.

Menu idea: Add canned or dried beans or lentils to your soup for extra fat-free protein and fiber. Beans curb your appetite by slowing down digestion and controlling blood sugars, which can help control hunger and bolster mood.

WHOLE GRAINS

Quinoa and other whole grains like oatmeal, farro, bulgur, and buckwheat

provide protein and fiber. Oatmeal makes a good winter breakfast or snack. It's high in zinc, which your immune system needs to function properly, and soluble fiber, which strengthens heart health.

Menu idea: Add cooked whole grains to your salad to keep you fuller longer, and buy whole-grain breads, crackers, and cereals. Add cinnamon, cardamom, or nutmeg to your oatmeal, which will enhance its flavor without adding calories, fat, sugar, or salt.

Paninis and melts are satisfying on cold days and healthy as long as you avoid breads with saturated fat and sodium. Go with whole-grain varieties, which list "whole grain" as the first ingredient on the package.

BERRIES

Strawberries, blueberries, blackberries, and raspberries are all high in fiber and antioxidants, rich in vitamin C, manganese, and vitamin K1. Menu idea: Enjoy berries as a snack or on top of yogurt and oatmeal for breakfast.

GREEK YOGURT

Greek yogurt, compared to other yogurts, has a higher protein content and is a great source of vitamin B-12, calcium, and probiotics, which keep your gut microbiome in balance. Avoid low-fat, "Greek-style" and flavored yogurts.

Menu idea: Sweeten your Greek yogurt with banana or berries, or add it your blender with a little milk, fresh fruit, and crushed ice for a smoothie.

NUTS

Nuts such as almonds, walnuts, cashews, and pistachios are high in antioxidants and trace minerals. Make sure to buy raw, unsalted, or low-salt options instead of nuts that are candied, salted, or included in trail mix. Menu idea: Lightly coat walnuts or other nuts, as well as sweet potatoes, beets, or chickpeas with olive oil and roast them in a 350-degree oven and enjoy them for snacking.

UK's quantum leap: How atomic clock is poised to define future of warfare



In what has been billed as a leap forward in improving intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance by decreasing the reliance on GPS technology, the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) of the UK developed an atomic clock that will make military operations more secure through experimental quantum technology.

According to UK ministry of defence (MoD), the precision of the clock is so refined that it will lose less than one second over billions of years, allowing scientists to measure time at an unprecedented scale.

Besides, it is also expected to support navigation systems, secure communication networks, and increase the accuracy of advanced weaponry. By decreasing the reliance on GPS technology—which can be disrupted and blocked by adversaries—the atomic clock will strengthen national security, making it less vulnerable to disruptions through various techniques.

Further improvement to GPS accuracy could transform global navigation systems, aiding in everything from satellite communication to aircraft navigation.

Some of the key benefits of the technology include enabling more precise and independent navigation systems, reducing reliance on GPS satellites, which are vulnerable to jamming or destruction in conflict scenarios; secure communications systems, such as encrypted military networks, which depend on highly synchronised time-keeping; enhancing the accuracy of advanced weapon systems, like guided missiles, which rely on accurate timing to calculate trajectories and coordinate attacks; and allow UK armed forces to gain an edge over adversaries in timing-critical operations, especially in areas like cyber warfare, where milliseconds can make a difference.

"Integrating cutting-edge technology into existing capabilities exemplifies the government's commitment to innovation in the defence sector, and to ensuring our armed forces have the best kit possible to keep us secure at home and strong abroad," said Maria Eagle, Minister for Defence Procurement and Industry.

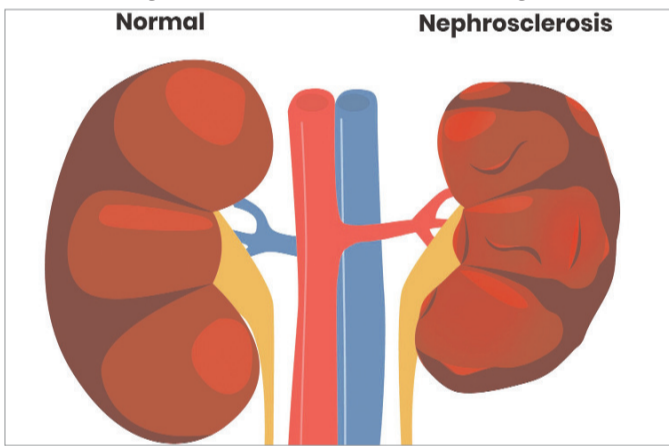
Himachal's second space lab becomes functional

Bilaspur (HP) Himachal Pradesh's second space lab was inaugurated here on Tuesday to provide school students with hands-on experience in space science, robotics, and aerospace technology. The first space lab is already functioning at Ghumarwin School in Bilaspur district. There are plans to set up five such labs in the district, an official statement said. "A space lab is a crucial step to inspire school children and kindle their interest in space science and technology," Technical Education Minister Rajesh Dharmani said after inaugurating the space lab at a government school.

The space labs are integral to Bilaspur's educational reform initiative, established to spark students' interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), he said.

The lab is equipped with drones, 3D printers, telescopes, and models of Indian Space Research Organisation missions. Students will be introduced to in-depth knowledge of subjects like satellite communication and aerospace engineering, which are becoming globally important, he said. The minister said children from nearby schools can visit the lab and it will serve as a regional centre for science education. Additionally, educational trips to ISRO's Space Application Centre in Ahmedabad are being organised, he said, adding so far, 10 students have been there, and preparations are underway to send 50 more. Dharmani also inaugurated the first Activity-Based Learning (ABL) classroom in Bilaspur district. The ABL approach deviates from traditional learning, focusing instead on interactive and real-life experiences.

Simple measurement may predict risk of worsening kidney disease: Study



WASHINGTON DC [US] : Aarhus University researchers discovered a simple way for predicting which people are most likely to develop chronic kidney disease rapidly. This could be a key step towards improved prevention and treatment.

About ten percent of the Danish population suffers from chronic kidney disease, and some individuals experience rapid deterioration after the diagnosis is made.

Now, a team of researchers from Aarhus University in a comprehensive study has investigated the precise risk of rapid progression, and the result could be a significant step towards more effective treatment of the disease.

The study, which is based on data from Danish health registers, provides healthcare professionals with new insights into how to better identify patients at high risk of rapid worsening of kidney disease.

"We chose to investigate chronic kidney disease because some of the patients experience rapid deterioration of their condition without us knowing exactly who. Our goal was to understand which patients are most at risk and whether we can intervene early to delay or even prevent this progression," says Professor at the Department of Clinical Medicine at Aarhus University, Christian Fynbo Christiansen, one of the authors of the study.

A simple measurement The study showed that patients with newly diagnosed mild to moderate chronic kidney disease within three years have a 15 percent risk of rapid progression, which could lead to severe cardiovascular disease or even death.

Surprisingly, the study also showed that the risk of rapid progression varied significantly among patients.

A simple measurement of protein in the urine proved to be a strong indicator of the course of kidney disease. For women without diabetes or elevated blood pressure/cardiovascular

disease and without the protein albumin in their urine, the risk of rapid progression was seven percent, while the risk peaked at 47 percent for men with both diabetes, elevated blood pressure/cardiovascular disease, and albumin in their urine.

"This is an important finding since albumin can be used as an indicator of kidney disease progression, thereby making it possible to identify patients at high risk of rapid deterioration of the disease, and it can improve the prevention of complications and hopefully increase patients' quality of life," explains Christian Fynbo Christiansen, adding:

"It underscores the need to use this simple test to a far greater extent."

Benefit for patients and society

The measurement can help healthcare professionals to target treatment and follow-up to patients at high risk. This could potentially be a significant gain for patients both in Denmark and the rest of the world.

"We hope that this result can contribute to increased awareness of the importance of using readily available markers - including albumin in the urine - to identify patients at high risk of rapid progression," says Christian Fynbo Christiansen.

And it's not only the patients who can benefit from the results. Faster and more effective prevention could also potentially help to reduce healthcare costs.

"I think we will focus much more in the future on patients with milder stages of the disease, like those we included in this study. If we get better at preventing and treating chronic kidney disease and its associated complications, it could potentially benefit both patients and society," explains Christian Fynbo Christiansen.

He emphasizes that further research and development of precise treatment methods are still needed. Although the study provides important insight into risk groups, a precise model for predicting individual patient outcomes is still lacking.

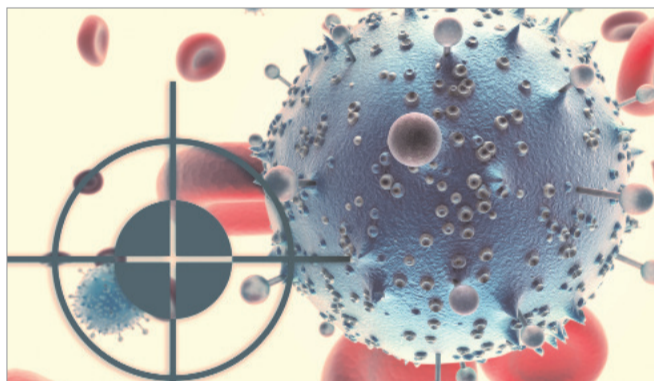
Researchers discover that unique immune cells stop metastatic cancer

NEW YORK [US] : The majority of cancer deaths are caused by metastatic disease, which occurs when cancer spreads from the primary tumour to other areas of the body, and researchers understand how cancer cells escape the primary location to seed new tumours, it is unclear why some cancer cells produce new tumours decades later and others do not.

A research team at the National Cancer Institute-designated Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive Cancer Centre (MECCC) has uncovered a natural immunological response in mice that prevents escaping cancer cells from growing into tumours elsewhere in the body. The study was published today in the journal Cell.

"Preventing or curing metastases is the most critical challenge in cancer," said study leader Julio Aguirre-Ghiso, Ph.D., director of MECCC's Cancer Dormancy Institute. "We think our findings have the potential to point to new therapies to prevent or treat metastatic disease." The study's co-first authors are Erica Dalla, Ph.D., a former student, and Michael Papanicolaou, Ph.D., a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Aguirre-Ghiso's lab.

Cells that migrate from primary tumors and seed metastatic tumors are called disseminated cancer cells (DCCs). Some DCCs behave aggressively, immediately starting tumors in new tissue, while others remain in a state of suspended animation referred to as dormancy. "It's long been a



mystery how some DCCs can remain in tissues for decades and never cause metastases, and we believe we've found the explanation," said Dr. Aguirre-Ghiso, who is also professor of cell biology, of oncology, and of medicine and the Rose C. Falkenstein Chair in Cancer Research at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Breast cancer and many other types of cancer metastasize to the lungs. In research involving three mouse models of metastatic breast cancer, Dr. Aguirre-Ghiso and colleagues determined that when breast cancer DCCs spread to the lung's air sacs (alveoli), they are kept in a dormant state by immune cells known as alveolar macrophages.

"Alveolar macrophages are the lung's first responders, defending the organ against bacteria and dangerous substances like environmental pollutants," said Dr. Aguirre-Ghiso. These specialized macrophages, he notes, appear early in embryonic

development and reside within lung tissue for life.

"Our findings demonstrate a new role for these macrophages, in which they recognize DCCs and actively interact with them, and by secreting a protein called TGF- β 2—produce signals in the cancer cells that keep them in a dormant state," Dr. Aguirre-Ghiso said. "Since every organ in the body has its own set of tissue-resident macrophages, they may function to keep DCCs in check in those organs as well. Our study has shown for the first time that these specialized macrophages function to actively induce dormancy in DCCs."

Confirming the importance of alveolar macrophages in keeping DCCs dormant, Dr. Aguirre-Ghiso and his team found that depleting them in the mice significantly increased the number of activated DCCs and subsequent metastases in their lungs compared to mice with normal levels of the immune cells.

Researchers find self-monitoring improves physical activity of elderly who require care

WASHINGTON DC : Self-monitoring of physical activity with an accelerometer and feedback is an effective method for improving physical activity in the elderly who need long-term care.

The Kobe University study is the first to show that this demographic's physical activity can be increased using simple and safe methods, potentially lowering long-term care costs and preventing serious illness.

Taking more steps and sitting less is well understood to have a significant impact on a variety of noncommunicable diseases, including heart disease, diabetes, orthopaedic diseases, and stroke.

This is particularly problematic in senior citizens who depend on long-term care such as in day-care centers, as it is known that they take fewer steps and spend more time sitting than healthy people of similar age. The resulting higher risk of falling ill not only decreases health-related quality of life in these people, it also stretches already scarce resources in healthcare systems. And while it is known that self-monitoring can improve the physical activity even among the elderly, the effectiveness of this approach has not been shown for this high-risk demographic. The Kobe University research team of health scientists IZAWA Kazuhiro and KITAMURA Masahiro filled this gap by conducting a comparative analysis with 52 long-term care patients at a day care center in Japan on the effectiveness of self-monitoring of physical activity.

They educated the participants on the importance of increasing physical activity and asked participants to wear



accelerometers that record steps, sitting time and activity of various intensity. The 26 participants in the intervention group were additionally asked to record their progress in a calendar daily and received weekly feedback and advice.

The results now published in the journal European Geriatric Medicine show that the intervention group took more steps, spent less time sitting and were more engaged in light physical activity. The authors write, "The results of this intervention promoting physical activity in this target population were novel to this study. Older people with long-term care needs have reduced mobility and activity compared to healthy older people, so increasing physical activity is not easy. However, goals such as increasing the number of steps can be easily understood and practiced, and

reducing the time spent in sedentary behavior, such as by standing or taking a short walk, are activities that can be performed indoors and do not require high mobility."

Since this was the first study to include not only on steps in the self-monitoring but also time spent sitting, it is possible that these two affected each other. The Kobe University researchers explain, "A previous study in healthy older people reported that moderate to vigorous physical activity increases when sedentary behavior decreases, which is somewhat similar to the findings in the present study." Izawa adds, "While traditional self-monitoring interventions have focused primarily on the number of steps taken, this study focused on both steps taken and sedentary behavior. As a result, we believe this may have facilitated their behavior change."

While this study clearly shows the effectiveness of such simple measures as wearing an accelerometer, self-monitoring and receiving feedback on one's progress on the physical activity, its five-week period was too short to capture actual benefits on health-related quality of life.

Izawa and Kitamura said, "The results of this study may serve as an important foundation for future research on promoting physical activity among older adults in need of assistance. In particular, self-monitoring interventions have been shown to contribute to improved physical activity and can be applied to care prevention strategies. Future studies should include larger samples, a broader range of activities and long-term follow-up to verify the sustained effectiveness of the intervention."

New York appeals court rejects Trump's request to postpone sentencing in hush money case

MI News Service, New York: A New York appeals court judge has rejected US President-elect Donald Trump's request to postpone his Friday sentencing in the hush money case. Associate Justice Ellen Gesmer declined Trump's request after a brief hearing on the matter on Tuesday afternoon, CNN reported. On Tuesday, Trump had requested to stay the proceedings in the hush money case – including his sentencing scheduled for Friday, while he appeals his conviction after Judge Juan Merchan rejected his demand to stop the sentencing. Trump's attorney Todd Blanche, who has been selected as deputy attorney general in the US President-elect's new administration told the New York Appellate Division, First Department, on Tuesday, that it should stop Trump's sentencing, acknowledging the situation was unprecedented, according to CNN report.



Blanche said the Supreme Court's decision on presidential immunity in July provides constitutional protection to Trump. Although Merchan denied two arguments to vacate Trump's conviction, Blanche said that either of those arguments should grant them a stay of proceedings while the appeal is litigated. Gesmer, who presided over the hearing, asked Trump's attorney whether there is any precedent for his request that presidential im-

munity could be extended to the US President-elect. In response, he said, "There has never been a case like this before, so no." Manhattan District Attorney's Office Chief of Appeals Steven Wu said Trump's lawyers have not presented any argument that a sentencing hearing would disrupt the responsibilities of Trump as US president-elect. Wu said, "Now is the best time for this to happen here." He admitted the DA's office has agreed with legal team of Trump that it will be much more difficult to have a sitting president in for sentencing on a state matter.

Wu said, "The sentencing has to happen at some point, right?" Blanche called sentencing an "extraordinary" imposition on Trump and added that criminal sentencing is "a big deal" in someone's life even if it takes one hour. The judge interrupted him and said Merchan would have been happy to sentence Trump in July. Donald Trump is appealing his conviction on 34 counts of falsifying business records, requesting to toss it due to the Supreme Court's presidential immunity ruling and since he is now president-elect. Merchan has rejected both these arguments and scheduled the sentencing for Friday, prompting Trump's attorneys to approach the appeals court to try to stop the sentencing. However, Merchan has indicated he would not sentence Trump to any punishment. When asked whether weight should be given to Merchan's statement that he wouldn't impose any prison sentence, Blanche said, "I don't know how anybody could

give any weight to that" since it's hypothetical.

When Gesmer questioned what presidential immunity arguments would give Trump a stay pending appeal, Blanche said he is basing the argument on sitting presidential immunity and Merchan's decision in December addressing whether there were evidentiary issues at trial that involved presidential immunity.

Blanche said that those arguments should allow Trump a stay on the proceedings while the appeals court takes a decision on whether Merchan was right. He also requested the court to consider the US Department of Justice's refusal to prosecute Trump in his two federal cases after he was elected president.

He said, "There is no case law and that is true, but that doesn't mean we can't look at what has happened." Gesmer disagreed with his argument, saying she does not find that analogy useful, CNN reported.

The judge also questioned the prosecution if there was any precedent that presidential immunity should be given to the president-elect. Later, Wu said, "There is none whatsoever for that claim" and added that the theory of immunity for a president-elect interferes with the idea that there is only one sitting president at a time.

Inauguration of Vande Bharat Train Services in the Kashmir Valley

A Landmark Moment for Connectivity and Progress

The inauguration of train services in the Kashmir Valley and the USBRL section is a momentous achievement for Indian Railways, marking a new era of connectivity, progress, and inclusivity. This historic milestone is further elevated by the introduction of the state-of-the-art Vande Bharat Express, specifically designed to operate seamlessly in the region's challenging winter conditions. Vande Bharat Express: A Testament to Engineering Excellence Manufactured under the "Make in India" initiative by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), the Vande Bharat Express is equipped with cutting-edge technology and advanced features to ensure reliability, safety, and passenger comfort. The train has been meticulously tailored for the extreme climatic conditions of the Kashmir Valley, reflecting Indian Railways' commitment to innovation and regional integration.



ries, enhancing passenger comfort. o Auto-Draining Mechanism: Plumbing lines are equipped with draining systems to prevent freezing during stalling.

2. **Enhanced Driver Comfort and Safety:** o Embedded Heating Elements in Windshield: The driver's front lookout glass includes heating elements for defrosting, ensuring clear visibility in harsh winter conditions. o Anti-Spall Layers: Added to protect the driver from impacts during extreme weather or unforeseen events.

3. **Additional Technological Upgrades:** o Air Dryer System Heating: Ensures the air brake system functions optimally in freezing conditions. o Branch HVAC Ducts: Warm air ducts extend to lavatories for passenger comfort. o 5 kVA Transformers: Installed in underframes for dedicated heating systems in critical components.

4. **Key Passenger Amenities:** o Fully air-conditioned coaches with semi-high-speed capabilities (up to 160 kmph). o Wide gangways, automatic plug doors, mobile charging sockets, infotainment systems, and CCTVs for

enhanced safety and convenience.

Impact on the Kashmir Valley: The introduction of Vande Bharat Express in the Kashmir Valley represents a paradigm shift in rail travel for the region. The service ensures: Seamless All-Weather Connectivity: Overcoming the challenges of snow, freezing temperatures, and extreme conditions, this train ensures uninterrupted rail services. Enhanced Passenger Comfort: Modern amenities coupled with climate-specific adaptations provide world-class travel experiences. Boost to Regional Integration: By connecting the Valley more effectively to the national railway network, the train symbolizes India's dedication to bridging geographical and economic gaps.

Conclusion: The Vande Bharat Express in Jammu & Kashmir is more than just a train—it is a symbol of India's engineering prowess, commitment to progress, and dedication to fostering connectivity across regions. This initiative is expected to transform rail travel for the people of the Valley, providing them with safe, reliable, and world-class transportation.

Thousands evacuate as fast-growing wildfires devastate Southern California amid harsh winds

MI News Service, Los Angeles: Tens of thousands of residents in Southern California have been forced to evacuate as a series of fast-moving wildfires ravage the region, CNN reported. The most destructive, the Palisades fire, is spreading rapidly across Los Angeles, with homes destroyed and major roads closed. Authorities are scrambling to manage the situation, with widespread evacuations and emergency declarations. The out-of-control Palisades fire, which has burned more than 2,900 acres, is blazing through nearly five football fields per minute. It has prompted an emergency declaration from Los Angeles officials, who warned that the worst is yet to come due to the "tornado-like" winds complicating the firefighting efforts.

As the fire approached key roads, including Sunset Boulevard, many drivers were told by fire officials to abandon their vehicles and flee. "The fire came right down to the road and the fire department came up and said get out of your cars now – because the fire was right up against the cars," said Marsha Horowitz, who was caught in the fire's path on Sunset Boulevard. "There were three lanes of cars, and the fire was right down and there was nothing to stop it." As the fire continued to spread, fire crews began bulldozing abandoned vehicles to clear the path for emergency response vehicles. Meanwhile, in the Malibu and Santa Monica areas, where evacuation orders were also issued, drivers abandoned cars in the face of the expanding inferno. The fire has already jumped the highway, forcing some to consider seeking refuge on the beach as flames continued to threaten the area.

Two additional fires erupted in Los Angeles County on Tuesday. The Hurst fire, located north of San Fernando, has scorched 100 acres, while the Eaton fire in Altadena, which grew to 1,000 acres in just six hours, poses a significant challenge. At a senior care facility in Pasadena, workers rushed to evacuate residents as the Eaton fire neared, reported CNN. "The smoke was unbearable even with windows closed," said Bobbie Oliver, a Pasadena evacuee.

Speed trails between Katra and Banihal Section on 08.01.2025

MI News Service, Kolkata: Statutory safety inspection of newly constructed electrified Railway line from Katra to Reasi (route length of 17 km) on Katra-Banihal section of USBRL project was conducted by Commissioner of Railway Safety Northern Circle, Sh. Dinesh Chand Deswal on 7th Jan.'2025. This final remaining section of USBRL Project is situated in Reasi District of J&K. Its commissioning will ensure the connectivity of Kashmir valley to rest of India through Railway network. Following the completion of CRS inspection of Katra-Reasi (17 Km) section, Speed trials were conducted for entire Katra- Banihal (111 Km) section of project. The other two portions of Katra-Banihal have already been completed with the following milestones:

- Banihal to Sangaldan (48 km) was dedicated to the nation by the Honorable Prime Minister on 20th February 2024.
- Sangaldan to Reasi (46 km) received CRS authorization on 1 July 2024 and ready for dedication to Nation.

These speed trails were successfully conducted in both directions between Katra and Banihal, reaching maximum speed of 110 kmph on 8th

Jan.'2025. The 111 Km of Katra-Banihal section is the most challenging part of 272 Km of USBRL Project and is perhaps the most difficult new railway line project undertaken in the country post-independence. The terrain passes through young Himalayas, which are full of geological surprises and numerous problems. This section predominantly involves tunneling i.e. 97.42 Km out of 111 Km (i.e. 87%) of length of Katra-Banihal section is in tunnels and maximum length of tunnel T-49 is 12.77 Km, which will be longest transportation railway tunnel in the country. The section involves 25 tunnels of 97.42 Km (87.8%), 49 bridges of total length 7.04 Km (6.34%), and only 6.54 Km (5.9%) is in open formation. Also to comply international safety norms, parallel 8 nos. Escape tunnel of length 66.4 Km with cross passages connecting main and escape tunnels at every 375 m have been provided in tunnels having a length more than 3 Km for safety and rescue. This segment of the project boasts of impressive engineering structures, including and iconic Chenab Bridge (Overall length 1315 m, Arch span of 467 m and height of 359 m above river bed) which is the highest Railway Arch

bridge in the world and the Cable Stay Bridge at Anji Khad, which is Indian Railway's First Cable stayed Bridge having a length of 473m and height of Main pylon is 193m. There are seven stations on the section namely Khari, Sumer, Sangaldan in Ramban District and Sawalkote, Dugga, Bakkal and Reasi in Reasi District of J&K and all these station yards are constructed partly inside tunnels and on bridges due to space constraints. The entire section is electrified, featuring Railway Electrification system with Rigid Overhead Conductor System (ROCS) at 25 KV in tunnels, for the first time on Indian Railways. To further enhance passenger safety and comfort, several advanced features have been provided such as ballastless track (including yards) and canted turnouts (a first for Indian Railways), standard IIR) interlocking MACLS and LED signals, Centralized Electronic Interlocking, block working with UFSBI (Universal Fast Safe Block Instrument) & HASSDAC (High Availability Single section Digital Axle Counter), CCTV monitoring, and state-of-the-art tunnel safety technology including ventilation, fire-fighting systems, and SCADA (Supervisory Control & Data Acquisition).

UAE Foreign Min Abdullah bin Zayed receives Foreign Minister of Israel



MI News Service, Abu Dhabi: Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, received Gideon Sa'ar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, in Abu Dhabi. Sheikh Abdullah welcomed Gideon Sa'ar and discussed the bilateral relations between the two countries.

The meeting also addressed the latest developments in the region, particularly the escalating humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip. The discussions covered regional and international efforts aimed at achieving a sustainable ceasefire. Sheikh Abdullah highlighted the urgent importance of advancing a serious political horizon to resume negotiations for achieving a comprehensive peace based on the two-state solution, adding that this would contribute to establishing stability, achieving sustainable security in the region, and ending the escalating violence. He emphasized the need for concerted efforts to reach a permanent ceasefire and prevent the expansion of conflict in the region, noting that the priority is to end tension and violence, protect civilian lives, and make every effort to facilitate the flow of urgent humanitarian aid. Sheikh Abdullah stressed that the Middle East is experiencing unprecedented tension and instability, requiring enhanced collective international efforts to end extremism, tension, and escalating violence while adopting a path of peace, prosperity, and development for the benefit of its people. He reiterated the UAE's support for the mediation efforts of Qatar, Egypt, and the United States to broker a prisoner exchange agreement that could lead to a permanent ceasefire, the release of hostages, and the safe and sustainable delivery of adequate humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza.

Indian Americans elected to Virginia Legislature in crucial special elections

MI News Service, New York: In a significant victory for the Democratic Party, two Indian Americans were elected in special elections to Virginia's legislatures, securing the party's slender majority despite the broader national influence of the Trump wave during the previous year's election. Kannan Srinivasan was elected to the State Senate, while J.J. Singh won a seat in the State House of Delegates on Wednesday.

The results were part of what seems to be a round of musical chairs within Virginia's political circles. Singh takes the seat in the House previously held by Srinivasan, who now succeeds Subhas-Subramanyam in the State Senate. Subramanyam resigned the seat after his elec-



tion to Congress in November. The races also featured another Indian American candidate, Republican Ram Venkatachala, who lost to Singh. Srinivasan's victory means he will join Ghazala Hashmi, a fellow Indian American, in the State Senate. Born and

raised in Tamil Nadu, India, Srinivasan was a chartered accountant before emigrating to the US, where he established a successful 30-year career in business and finance. He was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 2023.

J.J. Singh, who was born in Virginia, will likely make history as the first legislator in the US to wear a turban, though other Sikhs have been elected to office. Singh has an impressive background, having worked in the White House Office of Management and Budget under former President Barack Obama. Additionally, he served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Bolivia and as a senior advisor to the US Senate. These elections were



crucial for the Democrats, who held only a one-seat majority in both chambers of Virginia's legislature. The state's governor is a Republican, and there were concerns among the Democrats that the national influence of Donald Trump's victory could trickle down into local races.

Mpox deaths in Uganda reach 10 as infections continue to rise

MI News Service, Kampala: Uganda has reported a sharp increase in mpox-related deaths, with the number climbing to 10 following four fatalities in the past five days, according to the country's health authorities. The Ministry of Health of Uganda confirmed the deaths in a situation update released on Monday, highlighting the growing severity of the outbreak.

In the last five days, Uganda registered 156 new cases of mpox, bringing the total number of confirmed infections to 1,571 since the outbreak was first declared six months ago. The Ministry of Health reported that 19 new infections were recorded in the past 24 hours, with 17 cases emerging from the central district of Wakiso, one in the capital city of Kampala, and another in Lira, according to the Xinhua news agency.

To curb the spread of the disease, the Ugandan government, supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners, has intensified preventive measures. These include enhanced surveillance, better case management, health meetings, risk communication, community engagement, and public awareness campaigns aimed at reducing transmission. Mpox, a viral infection caused by the monkeypox virus, can spread through close contact between individuals. Symptoms typically include a rash, fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain, low energy, and swollen glands. Health experts emphasize the importance of awareness and preventive practices to limit the transmission of the disease.

In a broader context, the WHO expressed ongoing concern about the epidemiological situation of mpox in Africa, with particularly high case numbers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Burundi, and Uganda.

Railways well on course to make itself future ready; Spends 76% of its Budgetary Outlay for the current fiscal in Capacity augmentation aiming to give safer, faster & world class travel to travelers

MI News Service, Kolkata: Posted On: 08 JAN 2025 2:05PM by PIB Delhi Spending in State-of-the-art capacity addition projects in mission mode by Indian Railways reflects prompt execution of Visionary foresight of Viksit Bharat Serving faster, safer & world class travel experience at nominal cost to billions of Indians is not an easy task. But Indian Railways is doing it in a mission mode by transforming itself to be a future ready organization catering to geographically, culturally, socially as well as economically diverse India. Keeping pace with the budgetary allocation, Railways has spent 76 percent of its budgetary outlay with in first nine months & 4 days of the current fiscal year. According to a latest expenditure report of Indian Railways till January 5, 2025, heavy investment is made in capacity augmentation, a reality aiming to make rail travel a world class experience in India. The fruits for consistent Capital Expenditure (Capex) for the last one decade are visible in the form of 136 Vande Bharat trains, about 97 percent electrification of broad gauge, laying of new lines, gauge conversion, doubling of track, traffic facilities work, investment in PSUs & metropolitan transport. This Capital expenditure has led to faster, safer & world class travel experience at nominal cost to billions of

Indians. With Vande Bharat sleeper trains at a speed testing & safety certification stage, Rail commuters in India are all set to experience world class travel very soon for "long distance" travel. This will revolutionize the overall travel experience. This transformation of Indian Railways would not have been possible without the visionary foresight of Viksit Bharat & its prompt execution by spending in the modernization projects in a mission mode by Indian Railways.

Despite challenges like

India being the most populous nation with its vast geographical, cultural & linguistic diversity, Indian Railways is implementing a vision of transformative governance to build a new, modern & connected India. It has been spearheading efforts to build an all-inclusive India by investing in infrastructure, technology, and sustainable practices. This way, Indian Railways is ensuring that the seeds of progress sown today bear best fruits for our future generations. Given the complexity of India, this is not an easy task for an organization to cater to the present load as well as to invest heavily in building its future. But with 1198 crore of Capital Expenditure spending in the first four days of this calendar year, the overall capital expenditure of Indian Railways stands at 76 percent with nearly three months to go. The Total Capex for railways in Budget Estimate 2024-25 is ₹ 2,65,200 cr with Gross Budgetary Support of Rs. 2,52,200 crores. Out of it, Rs.192446 crores have already been spent. For rolling stock, the budgetary provision was for Rs. 50,903 crores. Out of it, Rs. 40, 367 crores were spent by 5th January, which is 79 c/o of the budget, allotted for rolling stock. In Safety related works, out of budgetary allocation of Rs.34,412 crore, the amount spent is Rs. 28,281, which is 82 percent of the allocated amount. The government has prioritized transforming Indian Railways into a world class entity, which ferries on an average "2.3 crore Indians" daily from one part of the country to the other part at an affordable cost. Charting out well on this path of development, India Railways is committing taxpayer's money in capital expenditure to create state of the art infrastructure for generations to come, thus contributing in the direction of "Future ready" Indian Railways as we all progress towards Viksit Bharat.

DIDIER DESCHAMPS TO STEP DOWN AS FRANCE MANAGER AFTER 2026 WORLD CUP

PARIS [FRANCE] : Didier Deschamps has decided to step down as the manager of the French national football team after the 2026 World Cup, ending a historic 14-year tenure.

The official X handle of France's national football team has announced on Wednesday.

"Aux commandes des Bleus depuis 2012, le plus grand sélectionneur de l'histoire de l'Équipe de France tirera sa révérence après la Coupe du Monde 2026"

[At the helm of Les Bleus since 2012, the greatest coach in the history of the French team will bow out after the 2026 World Cup.]

Deschamps has been in charge of France since 2012, leading the team to remarkable successes, including winning the 2018 FIFA World Cup and the 2021 UEFA Nations League. Under his leadership, France also reached the finals of the UEFA Euro 2016 and the 2022 FIFA World Cup, though they narrowly missed out on victory in both tournaments.

Reports suggest that Deschamps had been planning his departure for several months, wanting to give the team clarity about the future of the managerial role. With his contract set to end after the 2026 World Cup in North America, the focus has already shifted toward finding his successor.

One name stands out as the likely candidate--Zinedine Zidane. The French football legend and former Real Madrid coach has been seen as the natural choice to take over. Zidane, who has been without a managerial role since leaving Real Madrid in 2021, boasts an impressive coaching record, including three consecutive UEFA Champions League titles and two La Liga triumphs.

Deschamps' legacy in French football is extraordinary. He is one of the few individuals to win the World Cup as both a player and a coach. His achievements will be remembered as some of the greatest in the sport's history.

Before his departure, Deschamps remains focused on two major challenges, leading France in the UEFA Nations League quarter-final against Croatia in March 2025 and preparing for the 2026 World Cup, which will be hosted in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.



ICC Champions Trophy: Why Pakistan may lose hosting rights to UAE

With a little over a month to go, the drama around the ICC Champions Trophy, to be hosted by Pakistan, is yet to die down.

First, following the tug-of-war between the BCCI and the Pakistan Cricket Board, the ICC decided to adopt the hybrid model for India's matches in the tournament following the Indian board's refusal to send the Indian team to Pakistan due to security concerns. All the matches of the Men in Blue are set to be played in Dubai-a neutral venue.

And now, reports have revealed the possibility of the entire tournament being shifted out of Pakistan. The country last hosted a global tournament at home in 1996, when it co-hosted the ODI World Cup.

Why 2025 Champions Trophy could be moved out of Pakistan

Though security concerns have often dissuaded teams from travelling to the country, the reason for the fresh speculations is entirely different.

Karachi's National Bank Stadium, Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium and the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium are scheduled to host the matches of the Champions Trophy. The renovation work, which started in August last year, was supposed to have been completed by December



31. But, according to a Times of India report, the stadiums are far from ready. The source told TOI that there are parts in the stadiums which are still under construction, and so, finishing work would take much longer. From fencing work and placement of floodlights and seats to finishing the new multi-storied enclosures that will house dressing rooms and hospitality boxes, the work is nowhere near completion, the TOI report said.

Interestingly, the reports come amid PCB's decision to move the ODI tri-series, also involving South Africa and New Zealand, from Multan to Karachi and Lahore.

Dismissing reports of delay in construction and renovation works at the stadiums, the PCB said it has decided to relocate the upcoming tri-nation ODI series to the Gaddafi Stadium and the National Bank Stadium "given the advanced stage of preparations". The board expressed confidence that the work is set to be completed before or around the deadlines. The renovated Gaddafi Stadium is set to be inaugurated in the last week of January.

The TOI report said that the ICC will send a team to Pakistan to inspect the three stadiums. If the venues are not ready for handover on February 12, the ICC is likely to shift the entire tournament to the UAE.



BLACKCAPS WIN BY 113 RUNS

BLACKCAPS 255/9 (37) vs **SRI LANKA** 142 (30.2)

New Zealand outclass Sri Lanka with dominant all-round display in Hamilton

HAMILTON [NEW ZEALAND] : New Zealand secured the ODI series over Sri Lanka with a commanding 113-run win in Hamilton on Wednesday, with one game still to follow. The Black Caps dominated with both bat and ball, reducing Sri Lanka to 142 all out in 30.2 overs while defending a target of 256 in a rain-shortened 37-over match.

Chasing 256, Sri Lanka endured a dreadful start, slumping to 22/4 within the first five overs. Jacob Duffy struck early, dismissing Pathum Nissanka for 1 and Kusal Mendis for 2. Matt Henry joined the attack, removing Avishka Fernando for 10, leaving Sri Lanka reeling at 18/3 in 4.1 overs.

Skipper Charith Asalanka's unfortunate run-out at the score of 4 further deepened Sri Lanka's woes. Kamindu Mendis and Janith Liyanage offered brief resistance with a 57-run partnership before Liyanage fell to Nathan Smith for 22, leaving the score at 79/5.

Kamindu Mendis was the lone bright spot for Sri Lanka, scoring a valiant 64 off 66 balls, including five boundaries and three sixes. However, he lacked support as wickets fell around him. Chamindu Wickramasinghe was run out for 17, Wanindu Hasaranga was clean bowled by Mitchell Santner for 1, and tailenders Eshan Malinga (4) and Maheesh Theekshana (6) were dismissed by Will O'Rourke.

O'Rourke emerged as New Zealand's top bowler with figures of 3/31, while Duffy had 2/30, Henry, Smith, and Santner chipped in with one wicket each.

Earlier, Sri Lanka opted to bowl first, and New Zealand posted a competitive 255/9. Rachin Ravindra and Mark Chapman anchored the innings with a 112-run stand after the early dismissal of Will Young for 16 by Asitha Fernando.

Chapman contributed 62 off 52 balls, hitting five boundaries and two sixes before falling to Maheesh Theekshana. Ravindra played a match-winning knock of 79 off 63 deliveries, featuring nine boundaries and a six, before being dismissed.

Skipper Mitchell Santner scored 20 off 15 and Daryl Mitchell (38) added valuable runs, while Tom Latham (1) and Nathan Smith (0) failed to make an impact. Glenn Phillips chipped in with 22 before falling to Wanindu Hasaranga.

Theekshana was Sri Lanka's standout bowler, taking 4/44, including a hat-trick with the wickets of Santner, Smith, and Matt Henry. Hasaranga claimed 2/39, while Asitha Fernando and Eshan Malinga picked up a wicket each.

Rachin Ravindra was named "Player of the Match" for his brilliant knock of 79, which set the foundation for New Zealand's victory.

With this win, New Zealand secured the series, leaving one match still to be played. Sri Lanka will aim to salvage some pride in the final ODI.

Afghanistan appoints former Pakistan cricketer Younis Khan as Mentor for CT 2025

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) on Wednesday appointed former Pakistan cricketer Younis Khan as the mentor for the Afghan national team for the upcoming Champions Trophy 2025, starting on February 19.

According to a release from ACB, the former cricketer will accompany Afghanistan during their conditioning and preparation camp in Pakistan, offering his mentorship services until the conclusion of the ICC tournament.

Younis had scored 10,099 runs at over 52 in 118 Tests; 7,249 runs in 265 ODIs and 442 runs in 25 T20Is. He has scored the most Test centuries (34) for Pakistan while his career-best 313 against Sri Lanka in Karachi in 2009 lifted him to the number one position in the ICC rankings.

Afghanistan Cricket Board, CEO, Naseeb Khan said that ACB is pleased to sign a contract with Younis Khan as interim mentor of the national team for Champions Trophy 2025. He also wished him luck for the crucial assignment.



"Since the Champions Trophy is being held in Pakistan, it was required to assign a talented and experienced player as mentor for the hosting country. We already had efficient experience with hosting countries' mentors in ODI World Cup 2023 and T20I

World Cup 2024. Observing the conditions, therefore, we have appointed Younis Khan as mentor for our national team for the upcoming mega event and wish him best of the luck in his crucial assignment," Naseeb Khan was quoted in a release from ACB as

saying.

The Champions Trophy is returning after more than seven years. The eight-team event will comprise 15 matches in the 50-over format and will be held across Pakistan and Dubai. The previous edition finalists, India and Pakistan, are scheduled to face on February 23 in Dubai.

Rawalpindi, Lahore, and Karachi will serve as the three venues in Pakistan, hosting the tournament. Each venue will stage three group matches, with Lahore hosting the second semi-final.

Lahore is set to host the final on March 9 unless India qualifies, in which case the final will be played in Dubai. Both the semi-finals and the final will have reserve days.

Pakistan will face New Zealand in the Group A opener in Karachi on February 19. The Dubai leg will begin the next day, with India taking on Bangladesh. Meanwhile, Afghanistan will kick off its voyage at Champions Trophy 2025 on February 21 against South Africa.

Graeme Smith expresses excitement around SA20, welcomes Dinesh Karthik

CAPE TOWN [SOUTH AFRICA] : Former South Africa captain Graeme Smith is brimming with excitement for the upcoming SA20 season, emphasizing the league's focus on enhancing fan experiences and delivering high-quality cricket.

"I think a lot of it is about doing things well again," Smith told ANI. "Fan experience in the stadium, we have invested a lot of money for it, for the entertainment, stuff for kids, etc," he added.

Smith, considered one of the greatest captains of all times, also praised the depth and strength of the teams this season.

"We have got quality players coming this year, the best of South African players. I think all teams are looking very strong. There are so many great matchups coming our way," he noted.

The 43-year-old also expressed his anticipation for a rookie or youngster to step up and deliver a big performance

during the tournament.

One of the major highlights of this year's SA20 is the inclusion of Dinesh Karthik, who will represent the Paarl Royals. Smith lauded the Indian wicket-keeper-batter for his career achievements and recent IPL form.

"DK has had an incredible career. He has had two brilliant IPLs the last two seasons. I am looking forward to how he plays. He is a character, he has a unique style of play. With how the wicket plays in Paarl, he could be an asset for Paarl Royals. Also, he brings in a lot of experience. It is great to have our first Indian superstar in SA20," Smith said.

Smith also spoke about the strong relationship between SA20 and Indian cricket, and thanked BCCI and IPL for backing the South Africa-based league.

"We are fortunate to have a great relationship with the IPL and BCCI. They have backed us and supported us. We have worked closely. I am excited to



bring more Indian players to South Africa. They are loved here for their ability, skill, and character. We would work with them for bringing more Indian players whenever the time is right," he said.

Highlighting the historic bond between Indian fans and South African cricket, Smith reminisced about how the relationship blossomed after South Africa's readmission to international cricket.

"Indian fans have had a great relationship with South African cricket ever since the readmission. The first SA team coming here. They just fell in love with SA cricket. Hopefully, they will enjoy what they will see, and hopefully, we will keep them entertained," he added.

With strong teams, promising talents, and the inclusion of a marquee Indian player, Smith believes the upcoming SA20 season is set to create unforgettable moments for fans across the globe.

Malaysian Open: Prannoy makes triumphant return, Bansod secures win

KUALA LUMPUR [MALAYSIA] : Indian tennis star HS Prannoy made a triumphant return to the badminton court as he kickstarted the year with a win in his opening match at the Malaysian Open 2025 being held in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday.

On Wednesday, Prannoy defeated Brian Yang of Canada by 21-12, 17-21, 21-15. His comeback effort lasted one hour and 29 minutes.

Also, the mixed doubles pair of Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila kickstarted their campaign with a win over South Korea's Ko Sung-hyun and Eom Hye-won by 21-13, 21-14 in two successive games. The match lasted 30 minutes.

Also, coming to the women's singles competition, Malvika Bansod started her tournament with a bang, securing a win over Goh Jin Wei of Malaysia by 2-15, 21-16.

Ace Indian shuttler and Paris Olympics 2024 semi-finalist Lakshya Sen lost his Malaysia Open 2025 badminton tournament clash against Chinese Taipei's Chi Yu-Jen in straight games at the Stadium Axiata Arena in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Tuesday.

The Indian badminton player, 12th



in the BWF rankings, failed to put up a fight against the world No. 32 shuttler, going down 14-21, 7-21 in his men's singles round of 32 contest. This was the first meeting between the two badminton players.

Prannoy marked his return to court for the first time since the Paris

2024 Olympics in a start-stop match against Canada's Brian Yang.

Ranked 26th, Prannoy won the first game 21-12 before play was halted due to a leaky roof in the stadium in the second with the score reading 6-3 in the Indian's favour at the time.

The match resumed briefly after a 25-minute disruption and Brian Yang fought back to take an 11-9 lead in the second game before the encounter was halted once again due to persistent leakage through the roof. Commonwealth Games bronze medallists Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand won their women's doubles round of 32 match at the BWF Super 1000 tournament after beating Thailand's Ornicha Jongsathapornparn and Sukitta Suwachai.

Despite a bit of trouble at the break of the second game, sixth-seeded Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand registered a comfortable 21-10, 21-10 victory over their unseeded opponents.

The Indian duo will take on the world No. 4 pair of Zhang Shuxian and Jia Yifan of the People's Republic of China in their next match.

Yuva Kabaddi Series: Aravalli Arrows hand Palani Tuskers first defeat; Murthal Magnets secure maiden win in Division 1

COIMBATORE (TAMIL NADU) : The 11th Yuva Kabaddi Series - Division 1, held at the Karpagam Academy of Higher Education in Coimbatore, delivered a day of surprises, with the Palani Tuskers suffering their first defeat and the Murthal Magnets finally breaking their winless streak on Tuesday, as per a release from Yuva Kabaddi Series.

The day began with the Murthal Magnets claiming their maiden win by defeating the Karpagam Raiders 40-32. Vinay delivered a stellar all-round performance, contributing 15 raid points and three tackle points. Despite R. Gowtham's 14 raid points for the Raiders, a lack of support from his teammates resulted in their loss.

In the second match, the Sonipat Spartans handed the Jaipur Thunders their fifth consecutive defeat with a 45-33 victory. Ankit Saharwa led the Spartans' charge with 12 raid points, while Naveen Sharma and Pankaj contributed six tackle points each. For Jaipur, Praveen's High 5 and Mohit Gurjar's all-round effort weren't enough to turn the tide.

The third game saw the Aravalli Arrows stun the previously unbeaten Palani Tuskers with a 35-28 victory. Ankit Jat was the standout performer,



securing nine tackle points, while Chetan Choudhary earned a High 5. Despite M. Esakiraja's High 5 for the Tuskers, their raiding unit fell short, leading to their first defeat.

The final match of the day featured a close contest between the Kurukshetra Warriors and the Chennai Tamizhans, with the Warriors edging out a 32-30 win. Sachin Jagbir shone with 14 raid points, while Sachin added a High 5 to the Warriors' tally. For Chennai, Stanly Packiaraj recorded a Super 10 and

Sakthivel R earned a High 5, but their efforts fell just short.

Please find below the schedule for Yuva Kabaddi Series - Division 1 matches on Wednesday, January 8 :

Match 21, Jaipur Thunders vs Murthal Magnets

Match 22, Karpagam Raiders vs Sonipat Spartans

Match 23, Aravalli Arrows vs Chennai Tamizhans

Match 24, Palani Tuskers vs Kurukshetra Warriors.