

IIT Kharagpur alumnus V. Narayanan appointed ISRO chairman

V. Narayanan, an alumnus of IIT Kharagpur, has been appointed as the new Chairman of ISRO, replacing S. Somnath. In addition to his new role as Chairman, Narayanan will also serve as the Secretary of the Department of Space. His appointment marks a significant achievement for Bengal, especially in the field of science and technology. The central government announced Narayanan's appointment through a notification on Tuesday, stating that S. Somnath's tenure will end on January 14. Narayanan will take over both the roles on the same day for a term of two years. Known for his distinguished career... PG 3



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Morning India

INDIA bloc better be wind up, if it is only for parliamentary polls, feels Omar Abdullah

MI News Service, Jammu: Expressing his strong displeasure over the lack of clarity regarding the leadership issue and agenda of INDIA Bloc, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has asserted that the opposition alliance should be wound up if it is meant only for the parliamentary elections and not for any other major national issue.

Abdullah said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Congress, Trinamool Congress and other political parties on the ground should decide how to effectively compete with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on all fronts.

"After the Assembly elections in Delhi, top leaders of the INDIA Bloc should convene an urgent meeting of all the alliance partners", he said adding, "If this alliance was only for the parliamentary elections, it should be wound up, and we will work separately. But if it is also meant for other (issues) than the Assembly elections, we will have to sit together and work collectively." Speaking to reporters here on Thursday, the National Conference leader replying to a question about an RJD leader's statement that the INDIA bloc was meant only for Lok Sabha elections, said "As far as I remember, no time limit was set for this. The issue is that no meeting of the INDIA bloc is being convened".

Claiming that there is no clarity regarding the main leadership, the party, or the agenda for future strategy (in the INDIA bloc), he said, "Whether this alliance will continue is also unclear."

Abdullah also said that perhaps the members of the INDIA bloc will be called for a meeting after the Delhi elections, and a clarity would emerge.

Replying to another query on increasing support for AAP ahead of next month's Delhi elections, Abdullah said, "I cannot say anything about this at the moment because we have no involvement with Delhi polls. The Aam Aadmi Party, Congress, and other political parties on the ground will decide how to compete with the BJP strongly."

Stating that AAP succeeded twice in Delhi previously, Abdullah said, "This time, we will have to wait and see what the people of Delhi decide."

The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly is convening an orientation programme here on Thursday for the newly-elected legislators.

"Many of us have been members of this House before, but that was when Jammu and Kashmir was a state. The system is different today. We need to understand how we are going to work and what the powers of this Assembly are," Abdullah said. The chief minister also said that to familiarise everyone with the procedures of this system, the speaker has organised the orientation programme. "The deputy chairman of Rajya Sabha also participated in this exercise. I believe the experience of the senior members will prove beneficial. In the upcoming sessions, the MLAs will represent the people better and raise their issues effectively," he added. He however, did not provide any clear answer when asked about the possibility of early restoration of the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir and Article 370 by the Union government.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee addresses during the inauguration of Babughat transit camp in Kolkata on Thursday.

Mamata Banerjee to meet doctors to resolve issues after RG Kar protests

MI News Service, Kolkata: Amid the ongoing fallout from the RG Kar Hospital protests, where a large section of doctors, particularly junior doctors, voiced strong opposition to the state government, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is now seeking to address their concerns directly.

Following a series of protests and even calls for her resignation, many junior doctors at RG Kar Hospital had resorted to strikes, demanding better working conditions and compensation for the victim's family. Despite multiple rounds of talks with the state government and with the Chief Minister in particular, they did not relent until a Supreme Court order compelled them to resume their duties.

In an effort to ease tensions and restore normalcy, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has called for a face-to-face meeting with doctors. According to the West Bengal State Grievance Redressal Cell, the event, titled "Chikitsar Apar Naam Seba" (Medicine is Another Name for Service), will take place on February 24 at the Dhana Dhanya Auditorium in Alipore. The meeting aims to provide an open forum for doctors to voice their concerns directly to the Chief Minister.

Announcing the special initiative at a

press conference in the city on Thursday, Chairman of the State Grievance Redressal Cell, Dr. Sourav Dutta, and Dr. Yogiraj Roy emphasized that the Chief Minister was keen on addressing the dissatisfaction among a section of the medical community following the RG Kar incident. The event is expected to be a platform where not only senior doctors but also junior doctors and medical students can speak to highlight their grievances.

The meeting will be open to the Deans, Principals, and Superintendents of all medical colleges, as well as junior doctors, students, and health workers from district and block hospitals across the state. Dr. Dutta stressed that no one would be excluded from the event, and even doctors who had participated in the protests, including Junior Doctors Aniket Mahato and Debashish Halder, are invited to attend and share their views.

While the government has taken a step to address the concerns of the medical community, the protesting doctors have yet to issue a statement regarding the meeting. The outcome of this dialogue remains to be seen, but it marks an important effort by the state government to bridge the gap and resolve the ongoing tensions between the medical professionals and the administration.

BSF, BGB hold 'informal' meeting to improve border coordination

MI News Service, Kolkata: In the wake of repeated objections raised by the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) over the Border Security Force's (BSF) recent attempts to erect fences in certain areas along the India-Bangladesh border in Malda district, the two forces held an "informal" meeting at the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Petrapole in S North 24 Parganas district on Thursday.

The pre-scheduled meeting, aimed at fostering mutual cooperation and enhancing coordination along the border, was attended by BSF South Bengal Frontier inspector-general Maninder PS Pawar and BGB brigadier-general Mohammad Humayun Kabir.

The discussions between the two forces focused on effective border man-

agement, measures to prevent illegal crossings, combating cross-border crimes, and fostering a secure and peaceful environment in the region, a statement by the BSF South Bengal Frontier said.

The meeting assumes significance in the wake of recent instances of BGB raising objections to BSF's efforts to build border fences in certain areas along the Indo-Bangladesh border. Pawar emphasised the importance of mutual cooperation in ensuring the stability and prosperity of border regions, while Kabir expressed the BGB's readiness to work closely with their Indian counterparts to resolve issues amicably, the statement added. Both sides reaffirmed their

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PM Modi emphasizes on Indian heritage, says future not in war, but in Buddha

MI News Service, Bhubaneswar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasised that because of the country's long heritage, it is able to convince the international community that the future of the world does not lie in war ('yudh') but in the teachings of Lord Buddha, and asserted that every nation would listen to India.

Addressing a large gathering at the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention here on Thursday, the Prime Minister told the Indian diaspora present on the occasion that this country is not only the mother of democracy, but democracy is a part of people's lives here.

He said because of the country's strong position among the global powers, they listen to India with rapt attention as it does not only presents its own views strongly but also those of the Global South.

Noting that at the time when the world was witnessing the expansion of empires by the power of the sword, Emperor Ashoka chose the path of peace, he said this was the strength of India's heritage.

"Due to this heritage, India is able to tell the world — 'bhavishya yudh mein nahi hai, Budh mein hai' (the future does not lie in war but in Buddha)," he said.

Modi said he has always considered the diaspora as India's



ambassador to the countries they live in.

"We are not just the mother of democracy, but democracy is part of our lives, our lifestyle. We don't have to be taught diversity, rather, our life runs on diversity. That's why wherever Indians go, they become part of the society of that particular place. We respect the rules and traditions of that country and also honestly serve that country and its society, contributing to its growth and prosperity. At the same time, our hearts continue to beat for India," he said.

The PM said it was because of the diaspora, that he keeps his head high wherever he goes.

"I do not forget the love, affection and prestige I receive across the world. I would like to say thank

you. This is because of you, I keep my head high across the world. During the last 10 years, I have met several leaders across the world. The world leaders also praise the Indian diaspora. It's because of the social values you add to their society," he said.

"Your safety and welfare are our top priority. We consider it our responsibility to help our diaspora during crisis situations no matter where they are. This is one of the guiding principles of India's foreign policy today. Over the last decade, our embassies and offices have been sensitive and proactive," he said.

PM Modi said that earlier in many countries, people had to travel long distances to access consular facilities and wait for days for help.

"Now, these problems are being solved. In the last two years, 14 embassies and consulates have been opened. The scope of the OCI card is also being expanded," he said.

The PM said the diaspora played a major role in Independence in 1947, and sought their help to make India a developed country by 2047.

He said India is not only a young country but also a country of skilled youths. "The government is trying to ensure that whenever Indian youths go abroad, they go with skills," Modi said, noting that India has the potential to fulfil the world's demand for skilled talent. He said G20 meetings were organised in various

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One-on-one meeting between Trump and Modi will define next chapter of Indo-American relations, says US envoy

MI News Service, Mumbai: Reiterating that India and the United States are united in the fight against terrorism, US ambassador to India Eric Garcetti has expressed satisfaction over the "increased" intelligence sharing and cooperation between the two countries to bring perpetrators to justice.

Addressing a gathering on 'Peace and the role of the US - India defence and security partnership' here on Thursday, Ambassador Garcetti said many innocent lives were being snuffed out due to terrorism. The American Dream and the Indian Dream are flip sides of the same coin, he said, adding that the relationship between the two countries was "multiplicative" and that they have responsibility beyond their borders.

He said after taking oath as the 47th President of the United States, the first official one on one meeting between President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to take place in Washington DC before a subsequent meeting later in India when the country hosts the QUAD Summit.

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Rajeshwari's race continues to become an IAS officer from the Naga Sadhu's 'Dera'

SUMAN GANGULY

Gangasagar: Rajeshwari had no hope of surviving the accident. She is currently recovering after spending a number of days on ventilation, but she is still struggling to speak. She is now severely disabled after being injured in a road accident. But that doesn't stop her from dreaming! Rajeshwari is actually a resident of Mumbai in her twenties, but she completed her studies in Himachal Pradesh. However, a road accident 2 years ago changed her life. Rajeshwari Bharati became bedridden after suffering a spinal injury.

Rajeshwari's fight to become an IAS officer has now begun from the Naga sadhu's (monk) dera in Gangasagar. This 20-year-old girl wants to pass the exam to enter the highest level of administration coming from faraway Mumbai and holding the hand of Mahadev Bharati. This 80-year-old Naga sadhu is also leaving no stone unturned to fulfill his adopted daughter's cherished dream. For a long time, Mahadev Bharati has been living with her daughter Rajeshwari in a concrete akhara built by the West Bengal government next to Kapil Muni's ashram.

One of the attractions of the pilgrimage site Gangasagar is these Naga sad-



Rajeshwari with her 'father' mahadev Bharati at Gangasagar naga akhara.

hus. Therefore, in addition to worshipping Kapil Muni, the devotees also gather to seek the blessings of these Naga sadhus. The Naga sadhus apply ashes of yagna fire on the forehead of the devotees as a vaccine. These Naga sadhus live on the donations from the devotees and they are happy with it. Mahadev Bharati is no exception to this. Rajeshwari was found in his akhara. She is looking at her mobile phone attentively. Replying to questions, she said, "I want to work for the country. And I want to do that by becoming an IAS officer." However, she wants to improve not only the conditions of the common people, but also of the entire nation and the saintly society by becoming an IAS. In her words, "This society has adopted

me, my father (Mahadev Bharati) is fighting for me every day." And to fulfill his and her own dream Rajeshwari is preparing to become an IAS. The preparation is a lot of hard work. The IAS exam is the toughest among the administrative level exams in the entire country. I am unwilling to give up the fight. Mahadev Bharati also knows that the path is difficult. Yet this Naga sadhu is unwilling to lose faith in his adopted daughter cum disciple. Mahadev Bharati who has full confidence in Rajeshwari, said, "I know her well. Hardworking, talented and has a strong will. I hope Kapil Muni will fulfill her dream. She needs money for her studies and exams. I believe that Baba (Kapil Muni) will help her overcome all obstacles."

Germany hosts first Indian Film Festival from January 10-12

MI News Service, New Delhi: Over 40 feature films, including Cannes Grand Prix winner "All We Imagine As Light" and Boman Irani's "The Mehta Boys", will be screened at the inaugural Indian Film Festival Germany, to be held from January 10 to 12.

The festival, organised by the Indian Embassy along with the Berlin and the Tagore Cen-



tre, is described as a "landmark celebration of contemporary Indian cinema which has growing resonance in Germany", official sources said here on Thursday.

In addition to screening of movies, the Indian Film Festival Germany will also feature exclusive premieres, dynamic Question and Answer sessions.

The festival will have a star-studded opening gala in Berlin

and simultaneous screenings and panel discussions in Hamburg, Frankfurt, and Munich, making it one of the largest non-commercial film festivals to be held outside India.

The screenings will be held at state-of-the-art venues, including CinemaxX's Potsdamer Platz cinema which has one of the largest screens in Europe, the main venue for premieres

held at Berlin's international film festivals. Irani's directorial debut "The Mehta Boys", which features the veteran actor along with Avinash Tiwary, will serve as the opening film at the festival. The screening will be followed by a Q&A session with the actor-filmmaker. Gala receptions will also be

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Kolkata to host 9th WB Inter School Karate-Do Champ 2025

MI News Service, Kolkata: All India Seishinkai Shitoryu Karate Do Federation, in collaboration with the Karate Do Association of Bengal—a member of the Bengal Olympic Association, is going to organise the 9th West Bengal Inter School Karate-Do Championship 2025. This much-awaited championship is set to take place on January 12, 2025 in Kolkata.

Over the years, the championship has grown into a celebration of skill, discipline, and perseverance. With over 1,000 participants, including state, national, and internationally acclaimed players, this year's event promises to be an exceptional showcase of talent.

Sharing her excitement, Mallicka Sen, General Secretary, All India Seishinkai Shitoryu Karate Do Federation said, "Karate is not just a sport; it is a way of life that fosters discipline, respect, and resilience. Events like this championship empower the next generation to shine brighter."

Adding his thoughts, Premjit Sen, Chief Technical Director, All India Seishinkai Shitoryu Karate Do Federation remarked, "Each young athlete who steps into the ring embodies the spirit of perseverance and dedication. Such platforms are invaluable in shaping their future."

CU not to defer internal exam, to begin on Jan 15

MI News Service, Kolkata: Calcutta University (CU) has struck down the appeal that the first-semester internal examination be deferred and said it would start on January 15 as scheduled.

Asutosh College had recently appealed to the university to defer the exam because the students who enrolled late did not have enough time to prepare.

Many colleges said it would help if the university delayed the exam as some students were admitted as late as November and they are not prepared to write the exam from January 15.

CU registrar Debasish Das said if they delayed the start of the examination, it would disrupt the entire academic calendar of the four-year programme and come in the way of starting the next semester's classes in time.

"We cannot defer the (first-semester) internal examination," Das told.

"Postponement will disrupt the academic calendar, which we cannot allow.

The colleges should have held additional classes to prepare the students who were enrolled late. If the internal exam is deferred, the end-semester classes would have to be pushed back as well. That would come in the way of completing the syllabus of the semester."

Manas Kabi, the principal of Asutosh College, had written to the registrar in late December requesting him to postpone the exam to February-end.

The additional time, he said, would allow the college to complete the syllabus effectively and ensure that all students were adequately prepared for the examination.



Congress activists took part in a demonstration to protest against BJP leader Ramesh Biduri's comment on Priyanka Gandhi, in Kolkata on Thursday.

7-Year-Old Swallows Coin; Swift Action At SEBAASHRAY Camp Helps Child Overcome Life-Threatening Medical Emergency

MI News Service: A medical emergency was averted when a 7-year-old child, who had swallowed a coin while playing, received timely medical intervention through AITC National General Secretary & Hon'ble Diamond Harbour MP Abhishek Banerjee's SEBAASHRAY initiative. The camp, located in Basuldanga, pro-

vided crucial medical support, underscoring the importance of accessible healthcare facilities and the initiative's commitment to offering life-saving assistance to those in need. Expressing gratitude for the timely assistance, Hossain Khan, the father of the child, said, "My son swallowed a coin while playing. We brought him to

the Basuldanga Sebaashray camp, where the doctors referred him to the Diamond Harbour Super Speciality Hospital. There, we received full support and care. I am deeply grateful and extend my thanks to Honourable MP Abhishek Banerjee." "A heart-stopping moment was averted at the #Sebaashray camp when a

seven-year-old child from Diamond Harbour accidentally swallowed a coin. Thanks to the prompt intervention of the doctors, the child was swiftly referred to Diamond Harbour Medical College for treatment. We're relieved to share that he is fully recovered and healthy once again," read AITC's post on X.

Three people in custody while verifying and checking the application of passport holders

MI News Service, Hooghly: For re-verification of documents submitted by 83 different applicants for the purpose of issuance of passport, verification is being done from Chandannagar PC that the documents attached with the passport application are fake. On this issue a case was registered under Bhadreswar P.S. The number of passports involved is 83 No number of arrests so



far - 3 people have been arrested. 1.

Mohan Sao (47 years) S/O-Late Nandalao Sitarang Bagan PS-Serampore Dist-Hoghly 2. Biswajit Ghosh (44 years) S/O- Manohar Ghosh Mojpur PO- Dattapur PS- Tarkeswar Hooghly PIN- 712410 3. Muhammad Imran (36 years) S/O Muhammad Hafeezuddin 38 PBM By Lane Chapdani PS-Bhadreswar Higly. His detailed information was given by Chandan Nagar Police Commissionerate.

Administrative Camp for NEET in Nadia



MI News Service, Krishnagar: The Nadia district administration has taken a commendable step towards enhancing educational accessibility by launching a free coaching camp for students preparing for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), aiming to pursue medical degrees. The camp, targeted at students of classes 11 and 12 from government schools, is being held in Krishnagar District Magistrate

Mr. S. Arun Prasad, while inaugurating the initiative at Rabindra Bhawan, stated, "This is the first time we are organizing such a coaching camp for NEET aspirants. Students are being selected based on their academic results to ensure inclusiveness and accessibility for all. This initiative reflects our commitment to creating an equitable education system. The camp, set to take place at the Diploma in Office Management Application office within the

district collectorate premises, will be conducted every Saturday, Sunday, and on other holidays. Pathfinder, a renowned coaching organization, will provide training in both online and offline modes. Ms. Mahua Moitra, Member of Parliament from Krishnagar, applauded the effort during the inaugural event. She remarked, "Cracking the NEET exam is incredibly challenging, especially for students from government schools who may

lack the resources for private coaching. This initiative by the district magistrate, supported by Sub-Divisional Officer Ms. Sharadwati Chowdhury, is a significant step forward. If even one student succeeds, it will be a moment of pride, encouraging us to extend such camps to more remote areas in the district." Also present at the inauguration were Nadia Zilla Parishad's Sabhadhipati, Tarannum Sultana, and other dignitaries who expressed their support for the initiative. While speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Ms Tarannum Sultana said, "The coaching camp aims not only to equip students with the tools to succeed in the competitive examination but also to inspire confidence in government-led educational interventions. With plans to expand the initiative to rural areas as successful, the district administration is setting a new benchmark in fostering inclusive education."

16-Year-Old Rishika Banerjee Makes History, Wins National Full Contact Karate Championship 2025

MI News Service, Raniganj: West Bengal, 09th January 2025: In an extraordinary display of skill, determination, and resilience, Rishika Banerjee, a 16-year-old karateka

win is not just for me but for every young martial artist who dreams big. Competing against experienced adults in an open-weight category was daunting, but it taught me

come a shining star in Indian martial arts. In 12, she earned her black belt in Shotokan Karate, and she continues to hone her skills in Kyokushin Karate, currently holding a brown



from Kolkata, emerged as the youngest winner of the National Full Contact Karate Championship 2025. Competing in the open-weight adult category, Rishika's victory marked a historic milestone in the tournament's legacy.

The championship, held at Raniganj, West Bengal, saw Rishika face four formidable opponents in gruelling matches, each extending into multiple intense rounds. Despite the challenges, she showcased impeccable technique and mental fortitude to claim the coveted title.

Reflecting on her victory, Rishika said: "This

value of perseverance and belief in myself."

Her father and coach, Mayukh Banerjee, shared his pride: "Rishika's commitment to her craft is unparalleled. Winning such a prestigious title at just 16 is a testament to her hard work and passion for martial arts."

At 16 years of age, Rishika is the youngest contender to win this championship in its 28 years history.

Rishika's karate journey began at the tender age of 4.5, guided by her father and coach, Mayukh Banerjee, founder of Mike's Martial Arts in Kolkata. Over the years, she has be-

come a shining star in Indian martial arts. In 12, she earned her black belt in Shotokan Karate, and she continues to hone her skills in Kyokushin Karate, currently holding a brown stripe. This championship win adds to her growing list of accolades, including the Under-16 Women's Title at the European Open Karate Kyokushinkai Championship 2024, where she triumphed against international competitors from Denmark, Spain, and the Canary Islands. Rishika's achievement is a significant inspiration for young athletes, particularly girls, proving that age and gender are no barriers to success in competitive sports. Her journey underscores the importance of discipline, hard work, and the unwavering support of mentors and family.

Mamata Banerjee pushes for National Fair Status for Gangasagar Mela

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday reiterated her demand for granting national fair status to the annual Gangasagar Mela, claiming it is "bigger than the Kumbh Mela." Addressing the inauguration of the fair from Outram Ghat in Kolkata, she criticized the central government for failing to recognize the importance of the event, despite repeated pleas over the last decade.

Banerjee highlighted the extensive efforts undertaken by the state government to ensure the smooth conduct of the Gangasagar Mela, held at the Kapil Muni temple where the Ganga meets the Bay of Bengal during Makar Sankranti. "While the Centre allocates thousands of crores of rupees for the Kumbh Mela, we receive no assistance for Gangasagar. Yet, it is no less significant, and I believe it is even bigger," she stated.

Banerjee emphasized the logistical challenges faced by pilgrims traveling to Sagar Island, approximately 130 kilometers from Kolkata. Unlike Kumbh Mela, which is eas-

ily accessible by road, rail, and air, pilgrims visiting Gangasagar must cross the Muriganga River by ferry and then travel another 30 kilometers by road. "This makes Gangasagar Mela a far more difficult pilgrimage," she said.

The state government has arranged for 32 vessels and 100 motor launches to facilitate river crossings, operating 20 hours daily. Additionally, thousands of buses from across the country are expected to transport pilgrims, with volunteers provided to assist them and eliminate language barriers.

To ensure a safe and comfortable experience, Banerjee announced a host of measures for pilgrims. These include: Every pilgrim visiting between January 9 and 17 will be insured for 5 lakh. A 550-bed hospital, along with air and water ambulances, has been set up.

Tax Abolition: The state abolished the earlier pilgrimage tax to ease the financial burden on devotees. Various NGOs and administrative bodies are also working collaboratively to ensure the fair's success.

Banerjee expressed

frustration over the central government's inaction regarding the construction of a bridge over the Muriganga River, which would connect the fair site directly to Kolkata. "Despite our repeated requests for the last 10 years, nothing has been done," she said.

Taking matters into her own hands, the state government has allocated 1,500 crore for the project. The detailed project report is complete, and the tendering process has been finalized. "We aim to complete the construction of the five-kilometer, four-lane bridge within two to three years," Banerjee assured.

Banerjee reaffirmed the state's commitment to treating pilgrims as honored guests. "We want every visitor to feel at home during their stay. Gangasagar Mela reflects Bengal's rich culture and hospitality," she said, urging the central government to finally recognize the fair's national significance.

The Gangasagar Mela, scheduled from January 9 to 17, continues to attract millions of pilgrims annually, underscoring its cultural and spiritual importance.

Kolkata hosts ICC's 18th Environment Partnership Summit

MI News Service, Kolkata: Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) recently organised its 18th Environment Partnership Summit, focusing on the theme of Circular Economy for Sustainable Development. The summit featured insightful discussions on key topics such as the Policy & Implementation of Circular Economy, Financing the Future and Green Technologies for Sustainable Solution. The session witnessed valuable insights and was graced by notable speakers, including Dr. Shashi Panja, Hon'ble Minister-In-Charge, Department of Industry, Commerce & Enterprises & Department of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal; Abhinav Chandra, IAS, Secretary, Environment Department, Government of West Bengal & Director, IESWM; Roshni Sen, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment Department, Government of West Bengal; H.E. Barbara Voss, German Consul-General in Kolkata; Sanjay Budhia, Past President, Indian Chamber of Commerce & Managing Director, Patton; Dr Rajeev Singh, Director General, Indian Chamber of Commerce; and Alok Mookherjee, Chairman, Jury Board, ICC Environment Excellence Award.

Dr Shashi Panja, Minister-In-Charge, Department of Industry, Commerce & Enterprises & Department of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal, said, "West Bengal is at the forefront of environmen-

tal initiatives, guided by a vision for sustainable development. Our Honorable Chief Minister has championed policies to address climate challenges, including the Green Hydrogen Policy and the New & Renewable Energy Manufacturing Promotion Policy, launched during the Bengal Global Business Summit (GBGS) 2023. These policies aim to establish West Bengal as a hub for green energy, offering incentives such as waivers on land conversion fees, stamp duty, and electricity duties to promote decarbonization and clean energy projects. We are also making strides in the electric vehicle (EV) market, e-waste management, and the development of green buildings. A notable milestone is the inauguration of India's largest integrated bottle-to-bottle recycling plant by Magpet Polymers in Kharagpur, enhancing our local recycling capacity. Additionally, initiatives in the weaving industry aim to integrate circular economy practices, ensuring waste from textile activities is recycled and reused effectively. Our state's mangroves, particularly in the Sundarbans, serve as a natural defense against cyclones and climate challenges. Recognizing their critical role, the government has undertaken extensive plantation drives to restore these vital ecosystems. Despite our efforts, India's rank in the 2024 Environmental Performance Index is a reminder that we must collectively do more.

Sylhetis in Kolkata hold annual meet

MI News Service, Kolkata: About 450 people, gathered from across three continents, basked in the winter sun and nostalgia over rice and sheeta shutki recently in Kolkata. The South Kolkata Sylhet Association recently held annual meet at a Jodhpur Park in South Kolkata.

"Sheeta shutki (a dried fish) is a must on the menu when we Sylhetis meet," said Tapan Das, a founder member of the association, one of 16 affiliates of the All India Federation of Sreehatta Sammilanis. "It is a bid by uprooted people to remain united," he said.

Sylhet, or Sreehatta, was a division of undivided Bengal that spread over the current Sylhet region of Bangladesh as well as Karimganj, which became a part of Assam after Partition.

The programme started with a performance of Dhamaail dance, which is performed at Sylhet weddings. It was followed by Bihu and Manipuri recitals. The dance forms

are regarded as part of the Sylheti culture, being from the same neighbourhood.

Bimolendu Dash, who has a master's in music from Rabindra Bharati University, was the sole Bangladeshi who attended the gathering.

"We have over 450 folk poet-musicians in the region, from Hason Raja and Radharaman Dutta to Hemanga Biswas and Nirmalendu Chowdhury. Even Shah Abdul Karim (who received the Ekushe Padak, the highest civilian award of Bangladesh in 2001) and Kalikrapasad Bhat-tacharya (of the folk band Dohar) had roots in Sylhet. Sri Chaitanya's ancestral house was in this area.

A temple consecrated to him still stands in the locality. The region had its own script, too — Nagri," Dash said.

Though the script is extinct in daily discourse, the Sylhetis try to keep their dialect alive. "Kalke aibato (You are coming tomorrow, right?)?" they asked each other as

they dispersed on night. Krishna Das, the president of the association who is also the president of the national federation, recalled attending a language quiz during a Sylhet conference at the botanical garden in Shibpur in the early 1960s when she had come on a student visa for her master's at Jadavpur University. The first Sreehatta Sammelani had taken place in Kolkata, in 1876, at the instance of freedom fighters Bipin Chandra Pal, Sundari Mohan Das and Kamini Kumar Chanda, Krishna Das said. Attempts to stay connected with the language take place at such meets. "What is the meaning of khaujane? It is itching," said Tapan Das, who conducts quiz contests on Sylheti words. "If a Sylheti tells you yaktu ubai, what does it mean? Wait a bit," he smiled. Distinguished Sylhetis, like former director-general of police Surajit Kar Purkayastha, and Bithika Deb, a former Assam MLA and an ex-president of the federation, were felicitated.

PM Modi emphasizes on Indian heritage...

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parts of the country to give the world a first-hand experience of India's diversity and added that the speed at which India is progressing in the 21st century, the scale on which development work is being done in the country, is unprecedented.

"In just 10 years, 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty in India. In just 10 years, India has become the 5th largest economy in the world from the 10th. The day isn't far when India will be the third-largest economy. India's success is being witnessed by the world. We feel proud when Chandrayan reaches the Shiv Shakti Point. The world is amazed by the digital power of India," he said.

"Today, fighter jets and transport aircraft are being made in India. The day is not too far when you all will come on 'Made in India' planes to attend the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas," he added.

Modi urged the diaspora to propagate "the true history of India" in the places where they live and encourage people to visit the country.

He noted that the current generation in these countries may not be aware of India's prosperity, long period of subjugation, and struggles.

BSF, BGB hold 'informal' meeting to improve...

From PG 1
commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and pledged to enhance joint efforts to address border challenges, it added.

The fencing work in Sukdevpur area of Malda's Kaliachak III block was briefly paused on Monday after the BGB claimed it was being conducted on Bangladeshi territory. However, the issue was resolved through discussions, and construction resumed without further disruptions on Tuesday.

The BSF officials on Wednesday had said the construction of a barbed wire fence along the India-Bangladesh border in Malda district has resumed peacefully, after a temporary halt following objections from the BGB.

In response to reports in a section of the Bangladeshi press alleging that the BGB had taken control of a 5-km stretch of Indian land along the International Border, the BSF on Tuesday dismissed the claims as "baseless and irresponsible."

One-on-one meeting between Trump and ...

From PG 1
Replying to queries about the speculations on whether Prime Minister Modi will attend the highly anticipated swearing-in ceremony of Donald Trump in the US capital on January 20, Ambassador Eric Garcetti said, "I can't speak to that. I don't know anything about the invitations."

Highlighting the camaraderie between the two leaders since 2016, Ambassador Garcetti said, "I am quite aware that Prime Minister Modi and now President-elect Trump, are incredibly close. Like you all I also look forward to when the two leaders will meet together on one on one basis". Hinting at the possibility of the first such meetings between them (Trump and Modi) to take place at the White House, Ambassador Garcetti observed, "I would expect that to be there in Washington first and then later in the second half of the year most likely when India hosts the QUAD, I would expect President Trump to come here. So it's not about invitations to a crowded swearing-in. It's about the one on-one conversations that we'll have that time will define the next chapter of our relationship."



Actor and Film Director, Aparna Sen, Labour Rights Activist, Rimjhim Sinha, Former Rights Activist, Avik Saha with others eminent persons at a press Conference on "The Concerning Status of Women-Safety In The State of West Bengal and The City of Kolkata, at Kolkata Press Club in Kolkata.

Nagorik Manch sends letter to CM on women's safety, Aparna Sen attends meeting

MI News Service, Kolkata: NagorikManch sent a letter to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee demanding greater attention to women's safety, citing various incidents of women's harassment across the state. Actress and director Aparna Sen was present at a press conference at the Kolkata Press Club on Thursday, where she emphasized, "We have not come here to represent any political party. We

have come together today under NagorikManch solely for the issue of women's safety in the state." Aparna Sen emphasized that while West Bengal is often claimed to be a safe state for women, there is a significant gap between perception and reality. She said, "Whichever government comes into power, they must declare that this will not continue. We are seeking long-term infrastruc-

tural changes to ensure women's safety. We want to ensure that the safety of women is guaranteed."

It was reported that the letter has been sent to the Chief Minister, Navanna, and various departments of the state government. Aparna Sen mentioned that the letter was written by conscientious citizens, including actors, directors, artists, social workers, lawyers, and doctors. Sen further

clarified that they are not calling for anyone's resignation but are demanding that the administration address the citizens' legitimate concerns. According to Aparna Sen, these demands are beneficial for both the state and its women.

Aparna Sen concluded by saying, "We all believe that West Bengal is a safe place for women. Let's make sure that it truly becomes so in every sense."

West Bengal to brand rural housing scheme with unique logo

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal government has decided to include its own logo on houses constructed under the rural housing initiative, "Banglar Abas Yojana" or "Banglar Bari." Nabanna, the state secretary, will soon dispatch this logo to district administrations. A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) outlining the implementation guidelines has already been sent to District Magistrates by the Panchayat and Rural Development Department. The SOP, issued by the Special Secretary of the department, details several operational directives. It instructs district authorities to collaborate with local dealers to

ensure fair-priced access to essential construction materials such as cement, bricks, and steel for beneficiaries. Block Development Officers (BDOs) have been tasked with coordinating with local market vendors to maintain an uninterrupted supply of these materials. The scheme primarily targets economically weaker sections, with beneficiaries expected to complete the construction of houses measuring at least 25 square meters within one year of receiving the financial assistance. For landless beneficiaries, the district land reform officer has been directed to identify suitable government land and provide

ownership rights to facilitate construction. Each house will include a toilet funded under the Nirmal Bangla project, along with provisions for clean drinking water and electricity, to be arranged by the Public Health Engineering Department and West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (WBSEDCL), respectively. Furthermore, families benefiting from the scheme will be integrated into the Panchayat's "Anandadhara" livelihood project to improve their standard of living. Once the construction is completed, officials will conduct on-site inspections. Surveyors will verify the status, capture

photographs, and geotag the location to confirm completion. Only after these steps will block-level officers approve the construction.

The inclusion of a unique logo on these houses aims to emphasize the state's contribution to improving rural housing and infrastructure. This branding initiative reflects the government's commitment to transparency and accountability in implementing welfare projects. By ensuring timely access to resources and streamlining the construction process, the scheme seeks to uplift rural communities and provide them with safe and dignified living conditions.

IIT Kharagpur alumnus V. Narayanan appointed ISRO chairman



MI News Service, Kolkata: V. Narayanan, an alumnus of IIT Kharagpur, has been appointed as the new Chairman of ISRO, replacing S. Somnath. In addition to his new role as Chairman, Narayanan will also serve as the Secretary of the Department of Space. His appointment marks a

significant achievement for Bengal, especially in the field of science and technology.

The central government announced Narayanan's appointment through a notification on Tuesday, stating that S. Somnath's tenure will end on January 14. Narayanan

will take over both the roles on the same day for a term of two years. Known for his distinguished career, Narayanan has held multiple important positions within ISRO, including heading the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) and playing a key role in the development of cryogenic engines, which are vital for spacecraft launches.

Narayanan, born in a farmer's family in Tamil Nadu, overcame numerous challenges to reach the pinnacle of success. After completing his education in Tamil medium schools, Narayanan pursued engineering and began his professional journey in 1984 when he joined ISRO. In 1989, he moved to Kerala to work at the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre

at Valiamala, where he is now the head of the center.

Narayanan's association with ISRO as a scientist has taken him from the southernmost parts of the country to the eastern region of Bengal. In 1989, Narayanan completed his post-graduate degree in cryogenic engineering from IIT Kharagpur, securing the first position in his department. Dr. Anupam-Basu, former head of the Computer Science Department at IIT Kharagpur and now an honorary professor at Jadavpur University, expressed his pride, saying, "It's great news. Under his leadership, space research will undoubtedly reach new heights. I feel proud that V. Narayanan will be serving as ISRO Chairman and Secretary of the Department of Space."

Firhad Hakim responds to Centre's border land allegations

MI News Service, Kolkata: The ongoing issue regarding the BSF's request for land to install barbed wire fencing along the Bangladesh border has seen a new development. The central government has long alleged that the West Bengal government has not provided the necessary land for the project. However, state minister Firhad Hakim has rejected these claims, asserting that the accusation is baseless.

Addressing the media at the Kolkata Municipal Corporation on Thursday, Firhad Hakim responded to the central government's accusations, saying, "It is impossible that the central government asked for land along the border and the state government denied it. If such a claim is true, provide the list of locations where BSF has not requested land and not received it."

The issue of illegal immigration has resurfaced following the potential fall of Bangladesh's ruling government under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Subsequently, BJP leaders have once again raised concerns, accusing the

state of not cooperating in building the barbed-wire fencing along the border. However, Firhad Hakim dismissed these allegations, calling them unfounded.

In his statement, Firhad Hakim emphasized, "The central government may have requested land for the border fencing, but the state government did not deny it. If there is any such case, present the list of areas where BSF has asked for land and has not been provided." He clarified that the claims pertain only to the land for border fencing and not for any other projects.

Speaking to the media at the Kolkata Municipal Corporation on Thursday, he referred to a viral video where, during the border fencing work in Malda, the BSF encountered resistance from the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB). In the video, local villagers, standing side by side with the BSF, can be heard shouting slogans.

Responding to a journalist's query about the recent tensions in Malda, Hakim said, "This shouldn't have happened. I also heard some provoca-

tive slogans, which I saw on your TV. This is not desirable. What is needed is that we build our own border fences. If they want to do it on their side, that's their prerogative. I don't understand why there's opposition."

He further added that in areas where fencing is absent, the BSF should be more vigilant as Bangladeshis are crossing over and harvesting crops from Indian land. Hakim suggested that Home Minister Amit Shah should take a tougher stance. "If the BSF continues to let people in, we will face incidents like the Khagrahar attack or the rise of terrorism here. We cannot ignore the fact that Bangladesh is now a haven for criminals. We need to prevent that from affecting us."

Hakim emphasized that national security must come first, above politics, and stressed that communal or divisive politics should not be allowed to undermine the country's safety. He concluded by urging the BSF to remain focused on national security rather than engaging in politics.

BGBS: Nabanna seeks detailed investment reports by Jan 15

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS), scheduled to be held on February 5 and 6, 2025, is set to showcase West Bengal's economic potential to national and international investors. Preparations are in full swing, with a high-level meeting chaired by Amit Mitra held at Nabanna. The meeting, attended by Chief Secretary Manoj Pant, department secretaries, and prominent industrialists, focused on finalizing the groundwork for the event.

During the meeting, department secretaries were instructed to submit detailed reports by January 15, outlining the investment potential in their respective sectors and identifying areas where Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) could be signed. The reports will help the state government prioritize sectors and streamline investment facilitation during the summit.

The two-day event will feature a range of sessions, panel discussions, and networking opportunities. Departments were also asked to finalize the list of speakers and schedule the various events within the summit. Ensuring seamless coordination, committees formed earlier for sectors such as healthcare, education, large industries, manufacturing, power, transportation, infrastructure, tourism, and cinema were directed to provide updates on their respective progress.

A special focus is being placed on the tourism and cinema industries this year, highlighting their untapped potential and ability to drive economic growth. Unlike the previous edition, which emphasized the MSME (Micro, Small, and Medium Enter-

prises) sector, this year's summit aims to adopt a more comprehensive approach, targeting all major industries for investment opportunities.

The state government is also closely monitoring the status of investment proposals received in recent years. Secretaries have been asked to provide detailed reports on the implementation status of these proposals, ensuring that past commitments are being fulfilled effectively. This approach aims to instil confidence among investors about the state's ability to deliver on its promises.

In previous editions, the BGBS has successfully positioned West Bengal as an attractive investment destination, securing proposals across diverse sectors. This year, the government aims to build on its past achievements by showcasing its commitment to creating a business-friendly environment and robust infrastructure.

With the summit fast approaching, the state is keen on leveraging its strengths, including its strategic location, skilled workforce, and rich cultural heritage, to attract global and domestic investors. The focus on tourism and cinema reflects the state's vision to capitalize on its cultural assets and natural beauty, aiming to create jobs and boost the local economy.

The Bengal Global Business Summit has become a flagship event for the state, providing a platform for government and business leaders to engage in meaningful dialogues and forge long-term partnerships. With meticulous planning and an inclusive approach, the 2025 edition is expected to strengthen West Bengal's position on the global investment map.

Germany hosts first Indian Film Festival...

From PG 1
organised alongside the screenings of Manoj Bapayee's "Despatch" and "Gulmohar" in Munich and Hamburg, respectively.

"Gulmohar" director Rahul Chittella and "Despatch" director Kanu Behl will take part in interactive sessions post the screening of their movies. Veteran filmmaker Shekhar Kapur will take part in a Q&A session after the screening of his classic 1983 movie "Masoom". The team of recently-released spy thriller "Berlin" — director Atul Sabharwal and actor Aparshakti Khurana — will also attend a session after showcasing their movie at the film gala.

Other films to be screened include Payal Kapadia's "All We Imagine As Light", Vikrant Massey-starrer "The Sabarmati Report", and "Girls Will be Girls" by Shuchi Talati, as well as a curated selection of short films.

The festival is funded by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, with curatorial support from the Producers Guild of India (PGI) and National Film Development Council (NFDC).

"Indian cinema has evolved into a global phenomenon, captivating audiences far beyond its borders. Our rich cinematic tradition is a reflection of our vibrant culture and a universal medium for connecting hearts and minds."

"IFF Germany brings this spirit to one of the world's premier film hubs, fostering deeper cultural and economic ties between India and Germany." Ajit Gupta, Ambassador of India to Germany, said.

Trisha Sakhlecha, Director at The Tagore Centre, said the festival will present "the best of Indian cinema today" — bold, diverse, and deeply human.

Chain snatching incident on EM Bypass triggers panic

MI News Service, Kolkata: A shocking incident unfolded on the EM Bypass in the Thursday afternoon when a necklace was reportedly snatched from an Income Tax officer. Later that same day, another person's necklace was stolen in the evening. The residents of SaradaPalli area in Tagore Park are living in fear due to such incidents. A robbery complaint has been filed at

the Kasab police station. In connection with the incident, three youths on bikes have been identified through CCTV footage. A local resident expressed concern, saying, "We are very afraid here. There are frequent thefts and robberies. Boys ride bikes and snatch mobile phones from people's hands, and this has happened before. Houses have been robbed."

Verdict expected in RG Kar case on Jan 18

MI News Service, Kolkata: The legal proceedings have come to an end, and justice is finally within reach. The tragic incident on August 9 shook the entire state and country, leading to a complete overhaul of the healthcare system and raising concerns over safety. The untimely death of a young doctor has sparked questions about overall security. The lower court is now set to deliver its verdict in the case. In the murder and rape case of the victim, the defense lawyer for the accused civic

volunteer concluded their arguments on Wednesday. On Thursday, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) finished presenting its statements. The victim's parents also filed separate petitions seeking justice, and their statements were heard in court. The hearings were conducted in a closed-door session. The court has now scheduled the verdict for January 18 at 2:30 PM. The incident left the entire nation in shock and exposed multiple instances of corruption within RG Kar Medical College. The then principal, Sandeep Ghosh, was arrested.

Study shows stress affects brain, psyche via immune system

ZURICH [SWITZERLAND] : Chronic stress has a wide-ranging impact on our bodies. Many stress-related mental disorders, including depression, are associated with immune system abnormalities. However, the basic mechanisms dictating how these changes affect the brain are largely unknown.

Enzyme from immune cells in the blood affects nerves in the brain.

An international research team led by the University of Zurich (UZH), and the University Hospital of Psychiatry Zurich (PUK) and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, has now uncovered a novel mechanism. "We were able to show that stress increases the amount of the matrix metalloproteinase-8 (MMP-8), an enzyme in the blood of mice. The same changes were found in patients with depression," says first author Flurin Cathomas. MMP-8 travels from the blood to the brain, where it alters the functioning of certain neurons. In the affected mice, this leads to behavioural changes; they withdraw and avoid social contact.

Potential for new treatments for depression

According to Cathomas, the findings are novel in two respects: "Firstly, they indicate a new 'body-mind mechanism', which might be relevant not only for stress-related mental illness, but also for other diseases that affect both the immune and nervous systems." And secondly, says the psychiatrist, identification of the specific MMP-8 protein could be a potential starting point to develop new treatments for depression.

Changes to brain extracellular matrix

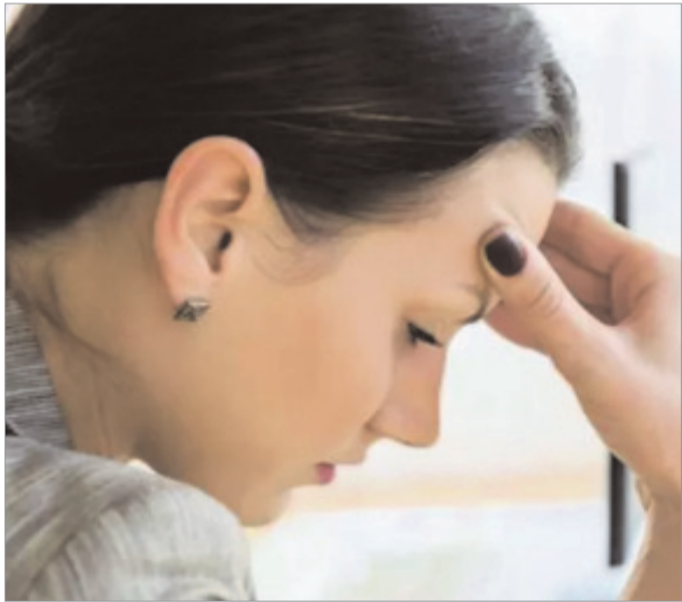
The researchers were able to use animal models to show that stress increases the migration of a specific type of white blood cells called monocytes into the vascular system of the brain, particularly into the reward center regions. These monocytes pro-

duce MMP-8. MMP-8 is involved in the restructuring and regulation of the net-like frame that surrounds neurons in the brain - called the extracellular matrix. "If MMP-8 penetrates the brain tissue from the blood, it changes the matrix structure and thus disrupts the functioning of the neurons. Mice who are affected by this process display changes in behavior that are similar to those seen in humans with depression," says Flurin Cathomas.

In order to prove that MMP-8 was really responsible for the behavioural changes, the researchers removed the MMP-8 gene from some of the mice. Compared to the control mice, these animals did not display stress-related negative behavioural changes. "Blood analyses of patients with depression indicate that the findings from the mouse models are also relevant for humans: both the monocytes and MMP-8 were increased in the blood of people with depression in comparison to healthy participants."

Clinical studies with patients planned

Many more studies are needed before the results can be implemented in clinical practice. Nevertheless, says Cathomas, "our work once again demonstrates the importance of the interaction between the immune system and the brain in the development of psychiatric disorders. These insights are already being incorporated into psychiatric treatment today." On the PUK's special ward for integrative care led by Cathomas, the clinicians take a holistic mind-body approach based on the latest scientific findings when treating their patients. The research team is now planning clinical studies to investigate the extent to which the immune system can be influenced by stimulating certain areas of the brain. They will also look at whether any changes in the immune system cells of depressive patients influence their behaviour.



Changes in gut microbiota during pregnancy alter immune system response: Study

LOS ANGELES [US] : During pregnancy, a woman's immune system undergoes considerable changes, but experts still don't fully understand the underlying mechanisms. A recent study illustrates how gut bacteria may play a role.

According to a publication published in mSystems, changes in cytokine levels-immune system proteins involved in inflammation--during pregnancy may be connected to particular changes in the mother's gut microbiome as well as plasma and faecal metabolites.

"To the best of our knowledge, these associations were first explored in our study," said first author Ting Huang, MD, from the First Affiliated Hospital of Jinan University in Guangzhou, China.

Pregnancy brings a raft of changes, including fluctuations in hormones, changes to a woman's body structure, and variations in the immune system. Previous studies have identified changes to the gut microbiome that can occur during pregnancy; they have also suggested that those changes may influence physiological processes in the mother through metabolites. Disturbances in the microbiota, for example, have been connected to the promotion of preeclampsia, a dangerous pregnancy complication characterized by high blood pressure. However, it remains unclear how alterations in the gut microbiota during pregnancy affect maternal immunity.

To investigate these connections, the researchers at the First Affiliated Hospital of Jinan University compared the gut microbiota, metabolite profiles and immune system status of 30 healthy pregnant women to



15 healthy women who weren't pregnant. All the women in the study were between 18 and 34 years old.

Faecal and blood samples were collected from the pregnant women during or after the 37th week of pregnancy, and samples from non-pregnant women were collected on the 14th day of the menstrual cycle.

Analyses of the faecal samples showed that Firmicutes was the most dominant phylum of bacteria in both groups of women. However, Bacteroidota bacteria accounted for a smaller relative share of the microbial population in pregnant women than in non-pregnant women. Pregnant women also showed a higher relative abundance of both

Seagram's Royal Stag Packaged Drinking Water Partners with Global Sensation Netflix's Squid Game Season 2 for an Iconic Collaboration



New Delhi : Seagram's Royal Stag has collaborated with Netflix's record-breaking series 'Squid Game' for its second season. The collaboration seamlessly integrates Royal Stag's 'Live It Large' philosophy, offering audience a larger-than-life experience to be part of the global cultural phenomenon that has captivated millions worldwide. K-dramas have high affinity with the younger generation. Hence, this association allows the brand to play up on culturally relevant youth passion point, dialing up relevance & aspiration.

Speaking on the collaboration, Joydeep Basuroy, General Manager - Marketing at Pernod Ricard India shared, "Royal Stag's association with Netflix's Squid Game allows the brand to tap into the young generation's craze for K-culture, driving up

emotional connect & the brand's youth culture quotient. Royal Stag brand has always stood for those who dream large and lead their life with passion & purpose, similar to the show's premise. This partnership with 'Squid Game' season 2 allows us to offer a live-it-large experience & tangible social currency to our audience, Generation Large."

The brand is leveraging the association on various digital platforms by highlighting distinctive 'Squid Game' elements, including the mysterious masked guards and the show's signature symbols. Audience can also get a chance to win exciting Royal Stag X Squid Game giveaways by visiting www.royalstagfan.com. The brand's campaign #PlayItLarge was trending on Twitter on 28th Dec '24 post the show's premier.

About Netflix: Netflix is one of the world's leading entertainment services, with 283 million paid memberships in over 190 countries enjoying TV series, films and games across a wide variety of genres and languages. Members can play, pause and resume watching as much as they want, anytime, anywhere, and can change their plans at any time.

OPPO Gujarat Launches Reno 13 Series with Biggest 'OPPO - Har Koi Jeetega!' Offer

Ahmedabad (Gujarat): OPPO Gujarat is thrilled to announce the launch of the all-new O-Phones - OPPO Reno 13 Series, smartphones that promises to set new industry benchmarks. The first sale of this powerful and feature-packed O-Phone is slated for 11th January 2025. As the most advanced smartphone in its segment, the OPPO Reno 13 Series stands out with its groundbreaking features and capabilities.

OPPO Reno 13 Series comes with Exclusive offers like 10% Cashback, FREE Laptop Bag & Complementary 6 Month Water Damage Protection Plan, OPPO Gujarat Customer will get Additional Benefit of upto Rs. 5Cr Value benefit & Chance to win BIG Prizes in Lucky Draw with 'OPPO - Har Koi Jeetega' Offer.

Cutting-Edge Features of the OPPO Reno 13 Series

- o IP68 + IP69 Rating: This industry-leading feature allows the Reno 13 Series to perform underwater up to 30 meters, enabling users to capture stunning underwater photos and videos effortlessly.
- o AI-Powered Intelligence: The Reno 13 Series comes equipped with the best AI technology of 2025, making it the smartest choice for photography, gaming, and multitasking.

Premium Build and Design: Crafted with precision, the Reno 13 Series boasts a sleek and ergonomic design that combines aesthetics with functionality.

Superior Camera Technology: With advanced imaging capabilities, the Reno 13 Series is perfect for photography enthusiasts, offering clarity and precision that surpasses other phones in its class.

"OPPO - Har Koi Jeetega!" Offer Details

To celebrate the launch of the Reno 13 Series, OPPO

Gujarat is introducing its biggest-ever promotional campaign, "OPPO - Har Koi Jeetega!" This exclusive offer brings unmatched value to customers with benefits worth Rs. 5 crores with Every OPPO Phones. Here's everything you need to know about this exciting campaign:

o Assured Instant Benefits: Every customer purchasing an OPPO smartphone will receive assured and instant upto Rs. 5Cr. value benefits.

o Grand Lucky Draws: Customers stand a chance to win EV Cars and Bikes through weekly lucky draws. This initiative ensures that OPPO customers not only enjoy their smartphones but also have the opportunity to win big.

o Double Faayda (Double Benefits): The "OPPO - Har Koi Jeetega!" campaign offers a double advantage to customers. Along with the assured benefits, they also get the thrill of participating in the weekly lucky draw for grand prizes.

o Special Exchange Bonuses: Customers can exchange their old smartphones for a brand-new OPPO Reno 13 Series device with attractive bonuses, making the

upgrade even more affordable.

o No-Cost EMI Options: To make the Reno 13 Series accessible to all, OPPO Gujarat offers easy, no-cost EMI options, ensuring that customers can enjoy premium technology without financial strain.

o 6 Month Water Damage Protection: Reno 13 Series Phone Comes with FREE Complementary plan of 6 Month Water Damage protection.

Speaking about the launch, Mr. Rahul Poojara, Managing Director of OPPO Gujarat (Harion Mobile Pvt. Ltd.), expressed his excitement, stating,



Does physical activity reduce pain intensity in cancer survivors?



Washington DC [US] : People who have had cancer frequently feel persistent pain, but a new study suggests that staying physically active may help reduce its intensity.

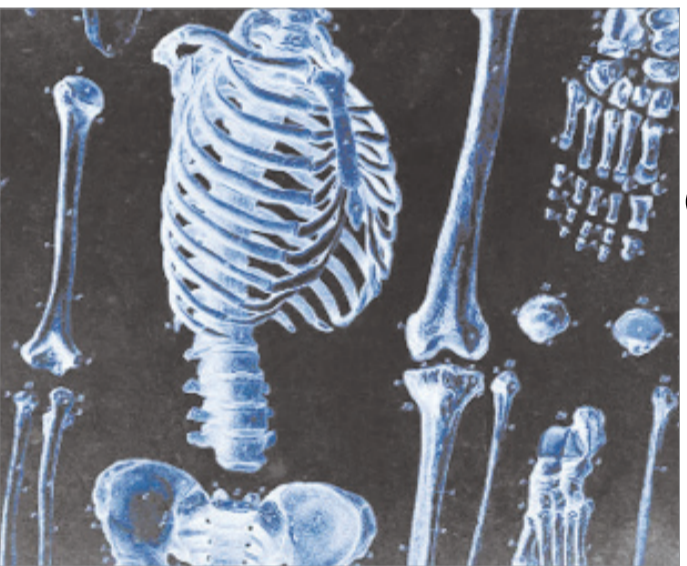
The study is published by Wiley online in CANCER, a peer-reviewed journal of the American Cancer Society.

Although physical activity has been shown to lessen various types of pain, its effects on cancer-related pain are unclear. To investigate, a team led by senior author Erika Rees-Punia, PhD, MPH, of the American Cancer Society, and first author Christopher T.V. Swain, PhD, of the University of Melbourne, in Australia, analyzed information pertaining to 51,439 adults without a history of cancer and 10,651 adults with a past cancer diagnosis. Participants were asked, "How would you rate your pain on average," with responses ranging from 0 (no pain) to 10 (worst pain imaginable). Participants were also asked about their usual physical activity. U.S. guidelines recommend

150 minutes (2 hours 30 minutes) to 300 minutes (5 hours) a week of moderate-intensity, or 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) to 150 minutes (2 hours 30 minutes) a week of vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity.

Based on participants' responses, the investigators found that, for individuals who had cancer in the past as well as for those without a history of cancer, more physical activity was linked with lower pain intensity. The extent of the association was similar for both groups of individuals, indicating that exercise may reduce cancer-related pain just as it does for other types of pain that have been studied in the past. Among participants with a past cancer diagnosis, those exceeding physical activity guidelines were 16% less likely to report moderate-to-severe pain compared to those who failed to meet physical activity guidelines. Also, compared with people who remained inactive, those who were consistently active or became active in older adulthood reported less pain.

Researchers provide new understanding on bone diseases



Tokyo, Japan : Diseases of the bones and joints are becoming more common among today's elderly.

For example, roughly 12 million people in Japan suffer from osteoporosis, a condition that causes substantial bone weakness and fragility.

Understanding the basic processes that maintain bone and joint tissue is a critical first step toward developing effective treatments for these diseases.

Osteoclasts are a type of cell that plays a crucial role in bone maintenance. These cells absorb and break down old or broken bones, letting the body reuse key elements such as calcium and creating space for new bones.

As one may assume, many bone diseases develop when osteoclasts do not perform their functions adequately. Scientists are exploring the processes that control the proliferation and differentiation of precursor cells into osteoclasts.

Interestingly, in a study published in 2020, researchers from Tokyo University of Science (TUS) led by Professor Tadayoshi Hayata revealed that the cytoplasmic polyadenylation element-binding protein 4 (Cpeb4) protein is essential in

osteoclast differentiation. They also discovered that this protein, which regulates the stability and translation of messenger RNA (mRNA) molecules, was transported into specific structures within the nucleus of the cell when osteoclast differentiation was induced. However, just how this relocation occurs and what Cpeb4 exactly does within these nuclear structures

remains a mystery.

Now, in a recent study published in the Journal of Cellular Physiology, Prof. Hayata and Yasuhiro Arasaki from TUS tackled these knowledge gaps.

Motivated by the intricate and complex process of osteoclast differentiation, they sought to more thoroughly understand how the "life cycle" of mRNA, i.e., mRNA metabolism, is involved.

First, the researchers introduced strategic modifications to Cpeb4 proteins and performed a series of experiments in cell cultures.

They found that the localization of Cpeb4 in the above-mentioned nuclear bodies occurred owing to its ability to bind to RNA molecules. Afterwards, seeking to understand the role of Cpeb4 in the nucleus, the researchers demonstrated that Cpeb4 co-localized with certain mRNA splicing factors. These proteins are involved in the process of mRNA splicing, which is a key step in mRNA metabolism. Put simply, it enables a cell to produce diverse mature mRNA molecules (and eventually proteins) from a single gene.

Through RNA sequencing and gene analysis in Cpeb4-depleted cells, they found that Cpeb4 alters the expression of multiple genes associated with splicing events in freshly differentiated osteoclasts. Finally, through further experiments, the researchers revealed that Cpeb4 only altered the splicing patterns of Id2 mRNA, an important protein known to regulate osteoclast differentiation and development.

