

One TMC worker shot dead and two other injured in Malda

In less than a fortnight after a senior Trinamool Congress councillor was shot dead in Malda district, a TMC worker was killed and two other party members were injured in a shootout incident in broad daylight in the same region on Tuesday, police said. The deceased was identified as Hasan Sheikh and the two injured are Bakul Sheikh, a TMC local committee president, and Esaruddin Sheikh, a senior officer said. Police said Hasan Sheikh died on the spot while TMC's local unit chief Bakul Sheikh and his brother Esaruddin Sheikh were admitted to local hospital with bullet and stab injuries.

Rs. 3

KOLKATA

WEDNESDAY, 15 JANUARY, 2025

PG-8, YEAR—11, ISSUE—226

(RNI NO.: WBENG / 2014 / 56803)

WEBSITE: WWW.LIVE7TV.COM

Morning India

Record 20 million devotees took Holy Dip on Makar Sankranti day at Maha Kumbh

MI News Service, Prayagraj (U P): A record number of around twenty million devotees took a holy dip at the Sangam of three major rivers, to participate in the first 'Amrit Snan' of Maha Kumbh 2025 on Makar Sankranti on Tuesday.

In addition over 4 million devotees also took a holy dip at the Sangam of the river Ganges, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati to mark the Pous Purnima at the Maha Kumbh on Monday.

Announcing this Amrit Abhijat today, Uttar Pradesh principal secretary, urban development informed that "during the past one week about 2 crore people took a holy dip at the Sangam" and hoped that during the next

24 hours the total number of devotees to take holy dip will go up to about 2.50 crore .

Referring to the massive police arrangements to ensure fool proof security at the Maha Kumbh Mela area, Uttar Pradesh DGP Prashant Kumar said different forces were continuously monitoring the situation to prevent any untoward incident..

"Since Sadhus from several Akharas took a holy dip called Amrit Snan on Tuesday morning, senior police and para military officials and thousands of volunteers were on duty 24x7 to ensure everything was under control, he said. Adding that thermal images were also being used to monitor the crowd movement at the Mela



ground at night. Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday greeted all devotees and pilgrims for participating in the first 'Amrit Snan' in an orderly manner. In a post on X, the chief minister de-

scribed this sacred event as a living testament to India's eternal culture and faith.

"This is the living form of our eternal culture and faith. Today, on the auspicious occasion of the great festival of 'Makar

Sankranti', congratulations to all the devotees who earned virtue by participating in the first 'Amrit Snan' at the Triveni Sangam in Mahakumbh-2025, Prayagraj!" he said.

Earlier the CM also sent his good wished to the entire population of the state on Makar Sankranti day.

"Heartiest congratulations to the people of the state, all revered saints, devotees and followers on Makar Sankranti! This is a festival to express gratitude to the Sun God, the father of the universe," he said.

Attending her third Kumbh Mela, a foreign devotee from the US Merlyn Smith says, "I can't explain my feelings in words.

This is my third Kumbh. I went to Haridwar in 2010, Prayagraj in 2013 and now here again. All the craziness are here but beneath that is just something which doesn't change". She was also in full praise of the excellent crowd control by the state police and said "here you just learn to walk with the flow of a huge crowd".

Another devotee from abroad attending the Kumbh said at the mela ground, "Maha Kumbh is an occasion for the entire world to experience, not just India." Echoing similar sentiment, Swami Chidambaranand, Mahamandaleshwar of Mahanirvan Akhara termed the Kumbh Mela as the ulti-

mate experience of the grandeur of Indian civilisation.

"We experience the grandeur of Indian civilisation. Crores of people are seeing the pride of our culture. There is joy and excitement everywhere. People have forgotten about the cold and have been waiting since 2 am for the shahi snan(special bath) and meet the revered saints," Swami Chidambaranand said..

"There are unbelievable scenes here. Those who create a caste divide and blame our religion should come here and see that in the crowd of crores, there are no Brahmins or Shudras, only Hindus and Hindu culture," he added.

J-K is incomplete without PoK, says Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

MI News Service, Akhnoor (J-K): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has once again claimed that Jammu and Kashmir is incomplete without Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) and warned the neighbouring country for allegedly allowing setting up of a number of terrorist training camps there.

"Jammu and Kashmir is incomplete without PoK. PoK is nothing more than a foreign territory for Pakistan... PoK's land is being used to run the business of terrorism. A number of terrorist training camps are being run in PoK. Pakistan will have to destroy them otherwise," Rajnath Singh said while speaking at an event of the 9th Armed Forces Veterans' Day here on Tuesday.

He said the Union government led by former Prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, could have ended cross-border terrorism by converting the tactical advantage gained in the war into a strategic advantage.

"The war between India and Pakistan was fought in Akhnoor in 1965. India succeeded in thwarting the efforts of the Pakistani army. Pakistan has been promoting illegal infiltration and terrorism since 1965. Cross-border terrorism would have ended in 1965 itself, but the then central government was unable to convert the tactical advantage gained in the war into a strategic advantage," he said.

The Defence Minister added that "Our Muslim brothers have sacrificed their lives fighting against terrorism." He pointed out that more than 80 per cent of terrorists entering India are from Pakistan.

He said "The top priority of our government is to bridge whatever gap exists between Kashmir and the rest of the country. Steps are being taken in this direction by the present J-K government led by CM Omar Abdullah..The Veterans Day celebrations in Akhnoor prove that Akhnoor has the same place in our hearts as Delhi," he said. Addressing the event, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said "the army veterans are the

►► Continued on page 3



Sadhus taking a bath at Gangasagar island on the occasion of 'Makar Sankranti' at the Gangasagar island, at South 24 parganas. Pic: prabir Bhattacharya

Mamata Banerjee wishes Bengal a joyous Makar Sankranti

MI News Service, Kolkata: On the occasion of Makar Sankranti, the harvest festival that marks the transition of the sun into Capricorn, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee extended her warm wishes to the people of West Bengal.

The festival, which also coincides with Poush Parban and Nabanna, holds immense significance in Bengali culture. It is a time for people to celebrate the end of winter and the arrival of the harvest season with joy, unity, and festive foods.

Makar Sankranti is a day when homes are filled with the sweet aroma of traditional Bengali dishes like Patishapta, Puli, and Payesh. These delicacies, often made with jaggery, rice flour, and coconut, are a reflection of the culture and traditions of Bengal.

On this sacred day, the Chief Minister shared an image of these treats, symbolizing the spirit of the festival. The picture included Patishapta and Payesh, placed beautifully on a clay plate, capturing the essence of Bengali hospitality and festive joy. In her message, Mamata Banerjee wrote: "Wishing everyone a joyous Makar Sankranti! May the golden rays of the sun bring warmth and prosperity, and may the fragrance of pitha, patishapta, and nolen gur fill your homes with sweetness." She further conveyed her hopes that the festival would bring people together, creating an atmos-



phere of harmony and goodwill. "Let us celebrate this sacred day with gratitude, unity, and the blessings of a new harvest season," she added.

Makar Sankranti is one of the most beloved festivals in Bengal, deeply embedded in the cultural fabric of the region. It signifies not only the change of seasons but also the celebration of the hard work of farmers and the abundance of crops. In her post, Mamata Banerjee also acknowledged the importance of Nabanna, the festival of new rice, which coincides with the harvest season. It is a time for people to express grati-

tude for the year's bountiful harvest and to share the joy with loved ones.

Her social media post highlighted the unity that the festival fosters among Bengalis. As families come together to celebrate with food, song, and dance, Makar Sankranti brings a sense of community and belonging. It is a time when people, regardless of their backgrounds, come together to share in the warmth of the sun and the sweetness of the festive treats.

Abhishek Banerjee, in his post, also shared a similar sentiment, wishing everyone a joyful and vibrant Makar Sankranti. He wrote, "May the golden rays of the sun bring warmth and prosperity, while the aroma of pitha, patishapta, and nolen gur fills your home with sweetness." His message also highlighted the significance of Nabanna, which marks the time when the new harvest is brought in, symbolizing unity, joy, and the blessings of prosperity.

In conclusion, Mamata Banerjee's Makar Sankranti greetings were a reflection of her commitment to the people of Bengal, offering them not just a festival of food and tradition, but a reminder of the warmth and prosperity that come with the changing seasons. Through her words, she wished all the people of Bengal a prosperous new year, filled with sweetness, togetherness, and blessings from the harvest season.

Number of beneficiaries of Kanyashree scheme set to reach one crore target by 2025 end

MI News Service, Kolkata : Soon after Chief minister Mamata Banerjee has instructed the state administration to take necessary steps, so that the number of beneficiaries of the Kanyashree scheme could reach the 1 crore target before the end of 2025, all necessary steps have been initiated by Nabanna to fulfill her dream in right earnest. According to informed sources, Mamata Banerjee has set this 'target' for the top officials of the state administration while addressing the closing ceremony of the 'Student Week' recently.

After her instructions, Nabanna immediately initiated necessary steps to reach the 1 crore target on time, the sources said adding that so far 89 lakh students have received Kanyashree scholarships and the state government had spent Rs 15,000

crore for this. "Now the preparations are on in full swing so that the benefits of this unique scheme can be extended to 11 lakh more students and fulfill the dreams of TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee well before the next state Assembly elections in 2026", the sources said. Meanwhile, according to some political observers, since Mamata Banerjee has enjoyed tremendous 'success' after launching a number of unique public welfare schemes in one vote after another, she hopes to get similar dividends in the coming elections too after increasing the number of beneficiaries of the Kanyashree scheme to one crore before this year end. The success of her various schemes is so much that scheme like 'Lakshmi Bhandar' has also been launched in different states under different names on her 'model'.

PM Modi emphasizes need to develop earthquake early warning systems

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged the Indian scientists to work towards further developing the earthquake early warning systems while hailing the advances in weather sciences to help minimize the losses due to natural disasters in any country.

Addressing a function to celebrate 150 years of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday, Modi also launched 'Mission Mausam' for developing cutting-edge weather surveillance technologies and systems, implementing high-resolution atmospheric observations, next-generation radars and satellites, and high-performance computers.

"We have launched 'Mission Mausam' to make India weather ready and climate smart," Modi said. Mission Mausam will also focus on improving the understanding of



weather and climate processes, provide air quality data that will help strategise weather management and intervention in the long run.

"Meteorology offers the most important support for the disaster management capability of any country. To minimise the impact of natural disasters, we need to maximise the efficiency of meteorology," the prime minister said. He said ad-

vancements in science and the ability to harness its full potential serve as the cornerstone for shaping a country's global reputation.

"There is need to develop a useful early warning systems for earthquakes and scientists and researchers should work in this direction on top priority basis," the PM said.

Prime minister Modi further stated that India's disaster management capabilities have significantly improved due to advancements in meteorological technology which has proved to be beneficial not only for the country but also for the global community. "Today, our Flash Flood Guidance system provides critical information to neighbouring countries, including Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka," Modi said. The prime minister said

►► Continued on page 3

RAJASHREE IN A AS

কুমুদ

A STORY OF A TRIBAL GIRL

DIRECTED BY BARUN DAS

RAJASHREE JHON RAJESH SHARMA KHARAJ MUKHERJEE LABONI SARKAR SAHEB CHATTERJEE MOUSUMI SAHA

PRODUCER SATYARANJAN (SONA) SIL & RAJASHREE RAJBANSHI STORY RAJASHREE MUSIC ASHOK BHADRA LYRICS PRIYO CHATTOPADHAYA

CHIEF EDITOR ANIRBAN MAITY EDITOR KAUSHIK RAY SOUND DESIGN G DEV COLLOURIST KAUSHIK RAY

POST PRODUCTION RAZOREDGE STUDIO PUBLICITY DESIGN CINEWACKY

RELEASES ON JANUARY 17th, 2025

KOLKATA MIRROR RAZOREDGE



Pilgrims gather in front of Kapilmuni Temple to offer puja at Gangasagar island on the occasion of 'Makar Sankranti' at the Gangasagar island, at South 24 parganas



Pilgrims perform rituals after a bath at Gangasagar island on the occasion of 'Makar Sankranti' at the Gangasagar island, at South 24 parganas

Ganga Sagar: Ancient heritage at risk, call for Central govt efforts by Mahanirbani Akhada

SUMAN GANGULY, Gangasagar: Swami Paramatmananda, the Mahamandaleswar of the Panchayati Mahanirvani Akhara, one of the most revered sects of Dashnami tradition in Benaras, has called for urgent action by Central government to preserve the sacred site of Ganga Sagar. During his visit on Tuesday to the holy location, which is believed to be the meditation ground of Sage Kapil Muni, he stressed the need for collaboration between the central and state governments to combat the threats posed by natural disasters. Swami Paramatmananda

expressed grave concern about the rising sea levels and coastal erosion affecting Ganga Sagar. "Cyclone Dana has accelerated the sea's encroachment towards Kapil Muni's Ashram. The fairgrounds are shrinking, and the number of casuarina and other trees is steadily decreasing. This is not just an environmental crisis but a threat to our centuries-old heritage," he stated. Local authorities acknowledged the severity of the situation. "Last year, we used tetrapods to curb erosion, but the solution was only partially effective. We later constructed protective embankments, but nature's fury remains beyond control. We are doing everything possible to ensure the safety of devotees," said a district official. While appreciating the steps taken by the West Bengal government, Swami Paramatmananda emphasized the need for central support. "Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has made commendable efforts to protect



this pilgrimage site. However, without a joint initiative between the state and the central government, it will be impossible to prevent the sea from claiming this historic land," he added. The Panchayati Mahanirvani Akhara plans to hold a meeting in Benaras post-Kumbh Mela to discuss strategies for Ganga Sagar's preservation. Swami Paramatmananda revealed, "We will consider sending a delegation to meet the Prime Minister and involve Shankaracharyas in our mission. This is not just about religion; it's about protecting a cultural and historical legacy that spans thousands of years." With rising sea levels threat-

ening to submerge parts of the holy site, the call for immediate and unified action is louder than ever. "Permanent solutions must involve scientific and environmental approaches. The site's significance is not limited to its religious value but also as a cultural heritage that binds generations together," said Swami Paramatmananda. As millions of pilgrims prepare to visit Ganga Sagar for the annual Makar Sankranti celebrations, the challenges of preserving this sacred site remain a pressing concern. However, with collective efforts from all stakeholders, there is hope for a sustainable future for this cherished landmark.

Shahi Snan on Maha Tithi after 144 years, no sight of winter...

MI News Service, Gangasagar: Tuesday was Makar Sankranti. First royal bath. From Prayagraj to the Gangasagar, devotees flock everywhere to attain merit on the last day of Poush. This Mahathithi of Shahi Snan started at 6:58 am on Tuesday dawn. It will continue until 6:58 am on Wednesday morning. After 144 years, this special Mahendra time of Shahi Snan has met. Not only in Prayagraj's Kumbh or the sea, but in all the rivers of the state including the Ganges, the crowd of pilgrims has been overflowing since dawn. Around one and a half crore devotees gathered on Monday for Shahi Snan at Mahakumbh in Prayagraj. On Tuesday, the pilgrims thronged to get salvation at the auspicious moment in Shahi Snan on Makar Sank-

sagar. The crowd of devotees has increased in Gangasagar. Pilgrims thronged the banks of the estuary before dawn. People from different parts of the country have come to Gangasagar Mela premises. However, due to Aquarius, this time the number is somewhat less. Many took a dip on Monday to avoid Sankranti crowd. Puja is also going on in Kapilmuni temple. Kirtan is going on in all directions. All in all a festive oceanfront. But winter disappeared. Compared to the last two days, the cold has reduced a lot, but the pilgrims are feeling a bit cold in the cold wind of North. According to the Alipore Meteorological Office, Tuesday was the third hottest Sankranti in the state in the last 12 years. On the last day of Poush, instead of



ranti. However, the familiar image of winter disappeared from Bengal on Makar Sankranti.

Mahakumbha sits in 12 years. Pilgrims from different parts of the country and abroad have come together to take a royal bath at the Triveni Sangam of the Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati rivers in Prayagraj. The 12 km wide ghat is crowded with devotees and saints. On the last day of Poush, religious people get into the mood of the festival from dawn. This day again there is an opportunity to take Shahi bath from morning to evening according to Tithi.

The same is going on in the case with the Ganges. bone-chilling cold, Bengal is accompanied only by the cold wind. At the end of Sankranti, the weather office is in a state of flux whether winter will return to its glory at the beginning of Magha. Meteorological office forecast, there will be no change in the mercury fluctuation for the next few days. As a result, there is not much chance of temperature change. The minimum temperature in Bengal is also unlikely to drop before January 18. In Kolkata, there is a chance of fog in the morning, but the sky will be clear in the afternoon. The maximum and minimum temperature will be between 25 degrees and 16 degrees.

Kolkata Police Commissioner distributed saffron milk to pilgrims of Gangasagar



MI News Service, Kolkata: The police administration is alert regarding the safety of Gangasagar passengers. From Kolkata to Gangasagar, the police is keeping a close watch on every nook and corner. Here on Monday evening, Kolkata Police Commissioner Manoj Kumar Verma also reached Outram Ghat in Kolkata to inspect the security of the passengers going to Gangasagar. At the same time, Kunjbihari Agarwal, MD of Rupa Foundation, was distributing saffron milk to the passengers going to Gangasagar from the provincial Jaiswal Samaj (milkman camp). Also, blankets and precious stones

were being distributed to the passengers on behalf of Paton Amit Jaiswal of Aao Sai Kolkata organization. Seeing that CP present in the fair, JITO convener Dinesh Jain Gangwal reached CP and requested him to bring him to the camp. Camp President Anil Jaiswal Sai honored him by wearing a sal. On the request of all the members of the society, CP distributed saffron milk to the passengers. Sadhana Jaiswal said with Jito Chairman Mahendra Jain and President Ram Naresh Jaiswal on the occasion. Nand kishor Jaiswal, Taarak Jaiswal, Harish Chandra Jaiswal and other members were also present!



House collapses in Vidyasagar Colony, Netajinagar. Possibility of being trapped.

Bicycles distributed among students

MI News Service, Kalyani: To increase the use of two-wheeled bicycles to keep the environment free from pollution and to help students reach school quickly, 1163 two-wheeled bicycles were distributed in Kalyani, Nadia on Tuesday, said SDO Kalyani, Abhijit Samanta.



This was the tenth phase of the Sabuj Sathi (Bicycle) distribution project of the Backward Classes Welfare Department. The bicycle distribution program was held at the Kalyani SDO office. DSP, HQ, SK Shamsuddin of Ranaghat PD, Kalyani IC, Debashish Pandey and others were present here.

Abhijit Samanta said that a total of 9914 bicycles were distributed in Kalyani Sub-Division and 1163 bicycles were distributed from the SDO office on Tuesday.

The areas where from the students were benefited from this are Kalyani, Gayeshpur, Chakdaha and Haringhata municipalities and Kalyani, Chakdaha and Haringhata blocks.

Bicycles were mainly handed over to the students of Ghoshpara Saraswati Trust Estate High School

Malda again: Trinamool worker killed, others injured as goons open fire

MI News Service, Malda: A Trinamool worker was killed, and several others injured on Tuesday morning in Malda's Kaliachak after miscreants opened fire during an event.

Among the injured is Trinamul's local unit head Bakul Sheikh. The incident comes just two weeks after Bengal's ruling party's district vice-president and Englishbazar municipality councillor Dulal Sarkar was chased and gunned down. Another Trinamul leader, Narendranath Tiwari, had been arrested for the murder of Sarkar who was believed to be close to Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee. No arrests have been made yet in Tuesday's incident.

12 days ago, Maldah District Trinamool Congress Vice President and English Bazar Municipal Councilor Dulal Sarkar was shot dead in broad daylight. As soon as he finished shooting the Trin-

namool leader of that district, many questions were raised about the internal conflict of the party. This time the venue is Kaliachak. Regional President of Trinamool Bakul Sheikh was shot dead.

Two more Trinamool activists Esaruddin Sheikh and Hasan Sheikh were infected. Hasa Sheikh died on the way to take three bloodied Trinamool workers to the hospital.

Trinamool Regional President Bakul Sheikh of Naoda Jadupur area of Kaliachak block number one went to attend the drainage and road inauguration ceremony in Naya Basti area of Kaliachak on Tuesday morning.

Allegedly, at that time some miscreants suddenly attacked Bakul. He was shot and fell on the road. His two companions were injured in the shooting. The police went to the spot after receiving the news.

What caused this shooting? It is still unclear. It is not known who or who at-

tacked the Bakuls. Among the accused in this incident, the name of a person named Zakir Sheikh has come up. The grandfather of Bakul Sheikh, who was shot, claims that it is clear who carried out the attack.

According to a section of the locality, the firing incident at Kaliachak happened due to Trinamool factional conflict. The grandfather of Bakul, who was shot, complained that a local grassroots leader was creating obstacles in the event. A few others were with him. In the middle of the argument, the miscreants suddenly came on a bike and opened fire. They are accusing a Trinamool leader named Zakir.

Bakul and two other Trinamool activists Esaruddin Sheikh and Hasan Sheikh were admitted to Maldah Medical College with serious injuries from the spot. Hasan Sheikh died on the way.

The remaining two are undergoing treatment. According to hospital source-

and Kalyani Shikshayatan High School in Kalyani.

In another event on Tuesday, a walking procession was organized from Kalyani S, D, O office to Kalyani ITI crossing to make the general public aware of 'Save Drive, Safe Life'. SDO, Kalyani, Abhijit Samanta, ARTO Jibandeep Karmakar participated in this walk. Besides, some students of Springdale School and two other schools were also present. Two people with 'Ran-pa' were seen during the walk. Along with this, the concerned authorities handed over new helmets to 7 people who received new motorcycle driving licenses.

"Climate change and its impact on Disaster Frequency" event

Nurul Islam Khan
A comprehensive Six days Online high end Faculty Development Program funded by AICTE-ATAL on "Climate change and its impact on Disaster Frequency" 2025 comes to an end in the Civil Engineering Department, Adamas University, Kolkata.

Patron for this FDP is Prof. (Dr.) Samit Roy, Chancellor, Adamas University and Prof. (Dr.) Suranjan Das, Vice Chancellor. The inaugural ceremony was held in the Civil Engineering Department SOET.

The function was graced by Honourable Chief Guest, Dr. Gupinath Bhandari, Associate Professor & Coordinator, Centre for Disaster Preparedness & Management, Jadavpur University; Honourable Prof. (Dr.) Radha Tamal Goswami, Pro VC, Adamas University, Prof. (Dr.) Susanta Chakraborty, Dean Academics & Director of SOET, Prof. (Dr.) Moumita Mukherjee, Dean Research & Development, Prof. (Dr.) Sushanta Kumar Mandal, Director of IQAC, Adamas University, Dr. Hasim Ali Khan, Coordinator, Assistant Professor & HOD, Department of Civil Engineering and Dr. Nabarun Dey, Co-coordinator Assistant Professors, Department of Civil Engineering, SOET.

In this Faculty Development Program, thirteen technical sessions along with one questionnaire and feedback session has been conducted, in which, we have

had deep insight into the various aspects and applications of enhancing knowledge and skills in managing disasters and building infrastructure that can withstand natural calamities has been discussed in different technical sessions by different resource persons all over the globe. The main objective of this FDP is to give a new dimension of research work in the fast-growing and cutting-edge technologies disaster preparedness, mitigation strategies, risk assessment, and designing resilient infrastructure to reduce vulnerability and improve response and recovery efforts.

The valedictory ceremony was held in the Electrical Engineering Department NIT Jamshedpur on Jan 11th.

The function was graced by Honourable Chief Guest Sri Nalapatla Ashok babu , Director of National River Conservation Directorate (NRCD), Ministry of Jalshakti; Prof. (Dr.) Sushanta Kumar Mandal, Director of IQAC, Adamas University, Dr. Sajal Saha, Professor & HOD, Computer Science & Engineering, Dr. Tirtha Majumder, Associate Professor & HOD, Electrical & Electronics Engineering Department, Dr. Hasim Ali Khan, Coordinator, Assistant Professor & HOD, Department of Civil Engineering and Dr. Nabarun Dey, Co-coordinator Assistant Professors, Department of Civil Engineering, SOET and the registered participants

Raiganj govt hosp under MLA scanner

MI News Service, Raiganj: A woman in her mid-40s carried her ailing husband on her back on Monday as no wheelchair was available at the outpatient department of the Raiganj Government Medical College & Hospital (RGMCH).

Photos and videos showing Salita Barman, a homemaker from Raipur village under the Raiganj block of North Dinajpur district carrying her 51-year-old husband Paritosh on her back have gone viral on social media, sparking outrage.

This has prompted Krishna Kalyani, the Raiganj MLA, to question the kind of infrastructure available at the RGMCH, which happens to be the largest state-run referral hospital in North Dinajpur district. Sources said that recently Paritosh suffered an injury to his leg while supervising construction work in his house. On Monday, the couple reached the RGMCH in an e-rickshaw. However, there they found no wheelchair to take Paritosh to the outpatient department. "I was perplexed," said Salita. "On one hand, no wheelchair was available to carry my husband who couldn't walk because of his injury. On the other hand, the private security personnel posted at the entrance to the hospital insisted the e-rickshaw driver leave the place quickly." She said she had to carry her husband as there was no alternative. "Finding no other alternative, I asked my husband if I could carry him on my back to the outpatient department. Somehow, I carried him to the OPD."

JU tightens rules against ragging, implements stricter measures

MI News Service, Kolkata: Ragging remains a contentious issue at Jadavpur University (JU), resurfacing prominently after the death of a first-year Bengali department student in August 2023, reportedly due to ragging in the main hostel. This tragic incident sparked widespread outrage across the state. Adding to the controversy, reports have emerged that some students allegedly involved in ragging managed to secure jobs through campus interviews. This revelation has prompted JU authorities to adopt stricter measures to address the menace of ragging. During a recent anti-ragging committee meeting, university officials decided to implement firm actions against those found guilty.

The committee resolved to withhold the academic mark sheets of students involved in ragging. Without these documents, securing new employment will be difficult for the accused. This measure aims to deter such behavior and hold offenders accountable. The decision comes amid ongoing legal battles involving students accused of ragging. While several students are currently in jail for their involvement in the 2023 case, others have only received show-cause notices or temporary suspensions from semesters. However, actions against 15 students were stayed by the Calcutta High Court, allowing them to continue attending classes and exams. One fourth-year civil engineering student, allegedly involved in ragging, reportedly



ly secured a job through campus placement. This incident was discussed during the anti-ragging committee meeting, leading to the decision to withhold mark sheets unless authorized by court orders. Faculty members believe this move will

discourage reckless and inappropriate behavior among students, creating a significant deterrent against ragging. Since the August 2023 tragedy, no major incidents of ragging have been reported in JU hostels. Minor issues that arose were promptly addressed following complaints. Today, a special POCSE court in Alipore is set to hear the case related to the August 2023 ragging death. The incident had drawn national attention and prompted JU to re-evaluate its anti-ragging policies. The university's new measures aim to reinforce discipline while ensuring that such tragedies are not repeated. By targeting the academic and professional prospects of offenders, JU hopes to instill a culture of accountability and respect on campus.

1 pc increase in literacy...

From PG 1

The report also examines interstate differences in voter turnout. With an interclass correlation coefficient (Rho) of 0.629, the findings reveal that 62 per cent of the variation in female voter turnout is due to differences between states.

This indicated that factors such as literacy, employment, and sanitation positively impact women across all sections of the population within states.

The report highlighted the need for continued focus on education, employment, and basic amenities to empower women and strengthen their participation in the democratic process. These factors not only enhance the quality of life but also play an important role in shaping India's socio-political landscape.

PM Modi emphasizes need...

From PG 1

India has emerged as the first nation to offer help to countries in its neighbourhood hit by any disaster.

Modi also released the IMD's Vision-2047 document for weather resilience and climate change adaptation and a commemorative coin to mark 150 years of the

IMD.

The celebrations were attended by Celeste Saulo, the Secretary General of the World Meteorological Department, Earth Sciences Minister Jitendra Singh, Earth Sciences Secretary M Ravichandran, IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra and a host of dignitaries.

J-K is incomplete without...

From PG 1

people who gave everything for the sake of the country, who didn't worry about their future or lives and were ready to sacrifice and did for the protection of the country. It is now our duty to serve you. It is our duty to pay back by ensuring you live comfortably," he said.

"We will try our best that the reservation is fully used in recruitment, you get all the financial support needed under the schemes without any obstruction... I have no hesitation in saying that the

son of a retired soldier, Satish Sharma is in my Cabinet helping me and both of us are trying our best to serve you," he added. Armed Forces Veterans' Day is celebrated on 14th January every year to recognise the service rendered by the First Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Field Marshal KM Cariappa, who retired on this day in 1953. The day was first celebrated in 2016 and it is commemorated every year since then by hosting such interactive events in honour of the Ex-Servicemen.

State stops use of ringer lactate: CMS issues new guidelines

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a significant move, the Central Medical Store (CMS) has issued a directive to remove Ringer Lactate (RL) solution manufactured by West Bengal Pharmaceuticals from all hospitals and healthcare centers across the state. The circular mandates immediate withdrawal of the stock from hospital wards and storage in sealed areas. CMS has also instructed authorities to submit detailed reports confirming compliance with this directive.

The controversy surrounding this specific Ringer Lactate solution has prompted the State Health Department to take a firm stand. Although initial instructions to cease its use were issued earlier, reports suggest that Chief Medical Officers of Health (CMOHs) in several districts were yet to receive the directive. Concerns were also raised about the lack of clarity on suitable alternatives to replace the solution, leading to widespread apprehension among healthcare providers. In response, the CMS has now clarified that no Ringer Lactate solutions from West Bengal Pharmaceuticals are to be used, even if they remain in stock. The directive emphasizes the need to ensure patient safety and eliminate any potential risks associated with the use of the controversial

product.

Ringer Lactate is a commonly used intravenous fluid for rehydration and electrolyte balance. However, the specific batch produced by West Bengal Pharmaceuticals has been at the center of quality concerns. Although the exact nature of the controversy has not been disclosed, the Health Department's decision to recall the product underscores the importance of maintaining stringent quality standards in medical supplies.

Healthcare authorities have been tasked with ensuring the immediate removal of the affected product. CMS has directed all hospitals to seal the withdrawn stock securely and maintain records of compliance. Regular monitoring and reporting mechanisms have been put in place to track the progress of this directive.

This proactive measure by the State Health Department reflects its commitment to prioritizing patient safety. However, the sudden shift has also raised questions about the existing quality control mechanisms for medical supplies in the state. Experts have emphasized the need for regular inspections and stringent quality checks to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Medinipur Med College implements junior doc ban in OT amid saline incident

MI News Service, Kolkata: Following the saline controversy at Medinipur Medical College, junior doctors have been barred from entering operation theatres (OT). The college principal, Mausumi Nandi, issued a directive prohibiting postgraduate trainees (PGTs) from participating in surgeries or administering anesthesia.

Heads of the gynaecology, general surgery, orthopaedics, ophthalmology, and ENT departments were instructed to

ensure only senior doctors and senior residents (SRs) conduct surgeries. The decision has sparked debates about whether senior doctors alone can manage the volume of surgeries and deliveries conducted daily across the state. Many question the feasibility of excluding juniors, given their critical role in maintaining hospital efficiency.

Chief Secretary Manoj Pant alleged that OT protocols were not followed dur-

ing the incident at Medinipur. He claimed the treatment of patients, including pregnant women, was handled by trainee doctors. "Surgeries must always occur under the supervision of senior doctors. In this case, trainees were solely responsible, violating the established protocols," he stated.

Pant emphasized that junior doctors must operate under senior supervision and adhere to duty rosters. A preliminary

investigation pointed to negligence, prompting the college administration to enforce the directive. Non-compliance will now be treated as a punishable offense.

The Junior Doctors' Front released a statement criticizing the health department's handling of the situation. They accused Health Secretary Narayan Swaroop Nigam of attempting to scapegoat junior doctors while ignoring systemic issues.



Pilgrims gather to take a holy dip at Gangasagar Island on a winter morning during the occasion of 'Makar Sankranti', at South 24 Parganas on Tuesday.



Pilgrims perform rituals after a bath at Gangasagar island on the occasion of 'Makar Sankranti' at the Gangasagar island, at South 24 parganas
Pic: Prabir Bhattacharya

Panchayat officials to monitor progress of Banglar Bari Scheme

MI News Service, Kolkata: The progress of house construction under the Banglar Bari scheme will now be monitored directly by panchayat officials. These representatives will conduct regular inspections in their respective areas to ensure that beneficiaries are advancing with the construction of their homes. Reports on the status of these constructions will be submitted to the Block Development Officer (BDO) periodically.

The state government has already issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to all district magistrates, outlining the framework for implementing the scheme. The SOP is being exe-

cuted by the BDOs, who hold significant authority, including finalizing beneficiary lists and overseeing the construction process. However, to enhance efficiency and accountability, the involvement of local representatives from the three-tier panchayat system has been mandated. The Banglar Bari scheme aims to provide financial assistance for housing to 12 lakh beneficiaries, with 60,000 already credited to their bank accounts. Each beneficiary is entitled to a total of 1.2 lakh, funded entirely by the state government. Monitoring whether these funds are used appropriately and ensuring the timely

construction of houses is a considerable task. Given the limited manpower at the block level, members of gram panchayats, panchayat samitis, and zilla-parishads have been tasked with supervising the progress.

Panchayat officials will address any issues beneficiaries face during construction and ensure that no misuse of funds occurs. According to sources at Nabanna (state secretariat), funds allocated for administrative monitoring of such projects have previously been used to employ local youth for on-ground checks. However, due to the state's limited resources and exclusion from the central govern-

ment's housing schemes, the responsibility has been shifted entirely to elected representatives. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has emphasized the state's commitment to providing housing for 12 lakh families under the Banglar Bari scheme. The project is fully funded by the state treasury, highlighting the government's focus on social welfare.

Political observers suggest that involving panchayat officials in monitoring the scheme serves dual purposes. Firstly, it ensures progress in house construction. Secondly, it allows representatives to communicate directly with beneficiaries about the state government's role in funding and

implementing the project. While BDOs remain the primary administrative authority, panchayat members are better positioned to publicize the government's efforts and connect with the local population.

State Panchayat Minister PradipMazumdar remarked, "The first installment has already been disbursed to beneficiaries. Panchayat officials will now oversee the proper utilization of these funds and address any challenges faced during construction." The scheme not only aims to provide shelter but also strengthens grassroots governance by involving local representatives in its execution.

Lakhs of pilgrims take holy dip at Gangasagar on Makar Sankranti

MI News Service, Kolkata: On the auspicious occasion of Makar Sankranti, lakhs of devotees braved the cold to take a holy dip at Gangasagar, the confluence of the Hooghly River and the Bay of Bengal, on Tuesday, January 14, 2025. West Bengal Minister Sujit Bose also participated in the ritual, taking a dip at Gangasagar. Sharing the moment on social media, TMC MP KakoliDastidar posted a photo of Bose, writing, "AtHomeBengal ministers taking holy dip in GangasagarMela on auspicious @HMakarsankranti."

The auspicious timings for the 'ShahiSnan' began at 6:58 a.m. and will continue for 24 hours. Pilgrims also offered prayers at the Kapil Muni Ashram, a key religious site on Sagar Island, located around 100 kilometers from Kolkata.

The West Bengal government made comprehensive logistical and security arrangements for the annual event. Guides, called "Sagar-

Bandhus," were assigned to every bus to assist pilgrims. To ensure access to safe drinking water, the administration distributed water pouches and deployed 14 mobile treatment units. This year, technology played a significant role at GangasagarMela 2025. Pilgrims were given QR-coded wristbands, particularly elderly and children, to help locate them in case they went missing. A digital system allowed pilgrims to access fair-related information such as water, toilets, ATMs, healthcare centers, transportation schedules, and parking directions through QR codes. ISRO-developed NavIC technology was utilized for precise location tracking of buses, launches, and vessels. Lost passenger vessels were guided back to the mega control room using this system. Additionally, all vehicles were monitored through GPS trackingand the pilgrim transport management system (PTMS) ensured smooth transportation. The

district administration reported reuniting 853 pilgrims, who had gone missing at the fair, with their families through coordinated efforts with volunteers and technology. Personalized certificates featuring pilgrims' photos were also provided at "Bandhan" photo booths as a keepsake of their holy dip at the SagarSangam.

The traditional JoydevKenduli Fair was also inaugurated recently by SRDA Chairman Anubrata Mandal. Lakhs of devotees gathered at the Char of Ajay River to take a holy dip in Makar and offer puja at the Radhabinod temple. Thousands of Bauls and Fakirs also attended the fair on Makar Sankranti. The crowd grew significantly by the afternoon. To ensure safety, the district police and administration have installed 200 CCTV cameras, 16 watch towers, and conducted drone surveillance. 1,634 civic volunteers and 736 police personnel will patrol the fair.

Trade licenses only after paying waste management fee: New KMC rule

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has made it mandatory for commercial establishments to pay a waste management service charge to obtain or renew their trade licenses. This directive has been communicated online to all businesses within KMC's jurisdiction. The Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Department is expected to release a gazette notification soon to clarify and formalize the rule. According to KMC, the waste management service charge applies to commercial establishments with an area of 500 square feet or more. Payment of this charge is a prerequisite for obtaining a trade license, and a software system has been implemented to enforce compliance.

During a recent Mayor-in-Council meeting, it was decided to further

strengthen this rule through a gazette notification. However, the proposal will first be presented in the municipal assembly for approval, ensuring compliance with legal procedures.

A senior KMC official revealed that the waste management department has already generated 64 crore in revenue, of which approximately 42 crore came from service charges. However, many commercial establishments remain outside the purview of this charge. To address this, KMC has integrated the waste management fee with the trade license fee structure, ensuring that all eligible businesses contribute.

The official also noted a challenge: several businesses opt to pay trade license fees for five or ten years in advance, leading to questions about corresponding waste manage-

ment fees. To resolve this, KMC has issued notices stating that waste management charges for the entire trade license period must also be paid upfront.

The Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Department will soon publish these decisions in a gazette notification, making them legally binding. Notably, this rule applies solely to commercial establishments and excludes residential properties.

This initiative highlights KMC's commitment to sustainable urban management and financial efficiency. By linking trade licenses to waste management fees, the corporation aims to ensure that all commercial establishments contribute to maintaining the city's cleanliness and infrastructure.

The move is expected to significantly boost KMC's revenue, enabling

Four-storey building collapses in Baghajatin area, sparks safety concerns

MI News Service, Kolkata: A four-storey residential building in Baghajatin area tilted precariously on Tuesday, raising alarm among residents. Located in Vidyasagar Colony under Ward 99, the building had been constructed a few years ago on what locals claim to be marshy land. The incident caused widespread panic among residents, who had already vacated their flats temporarily.

Residents reported that the structure had shown signs of subsidence for some time, with visible cracks appearing recently. On Tuesday, the building partially collapsed onto an adjacent single-storey house, leaving the entire structure dangerously tilted. Local residents also revealed that the multi-storey building, constructed approximately a decade ago, was built on marshy land with soft soil. Over time, the unstable foundation caused the structure to lean. A few days ago, the residents noticed the building tilting and alerted the promoter.

In response, the promoter devised a plan to straighten the structure by using iron jacks to lift it from its foundation. Residents were relocated to rented accommodations during this process.

While the repair work

was underway, the building unexpectedly tilted further and partially collapsed. The promoter had assured residents of the building's safety during the lifting process, but the sudden collapse has raised concerns about the safety of similar structures built on unstable land.

According to the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC), the building's promoter had been informed about the cracks and assured repairs. However, the repair work, which involved the use of hydraulic jacks to stabilize the structure, reportedly lacked the necessary permissions. Local councillor MitaliBandyopadhyay stated, "I had instructed the workers to stop repairs until formal approval was obtained. Despite my orders, the work continued, leading to this incident."

The KMC has evacuated the remaining residents from the building to ensure their safety. Meanwhile, the administration is preparing to take strict action against the building's owner and promoter for negligence.

This incident highlights the risks of unplanned construction and repair activities on unstable land. Local authorities are now investigating the incident to prevent similar occurrences in the future.

Howrah residents can now check legality of buildings online

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a move to promote transparency, Howrah Municipality is launching a new online system to help residents check if nearby high-rise buildings are legally constructed. By visiting the municipality's website and entering the building's holding number, residents can instantly verify whether the construction or additional floors have been approved by the civic body.

If the search reveals that a building permitted for three stories has been extended to six stories without approval, residents can report it directly to the municipality. The civic body will then investigate and, if necessary, demolish the unauthorized sections.

The new system is set to go live by March, according to Howrah Mu-

nicipality's Chief Administrator, Sujoy Chakraborty. He explained that this initiative would not only curb unauthorized construction but also empower citizens to act against illegalities. "The municipality will now have better control over monitoring and preventing unauthorized structures in the city," Chakraborty said.

The online system will also benefit potential homebuyers by allowing them to verify whether the building they plan to purchase a flat in is fully approved. Chakraborty noted, "Many buyers unknowingly purchase flats in illegal sections of buildings. Later, when the municipality identifies the unauthorized part and demolishes it, the buyer faces significant trouble. This system will prevent such issues."

Name Change
I, Asma Ibrahim Khan (Old Name) wife of Ashraf Hussein Alfat Hussein Ansari , residing at Shamim Palace 3rd Floor, Flat-302, 18/1, Hossain Shah Road , P.O.- Khidderpore, KOLKATA - 700023 , West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Asma Ashraf Hussein Ansari (New Name) as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Kolkata, dated 13/01/2025. Asma Ashraf Hussein Ansari (New Name) and Asma Ibrahim Khan (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Priya Roy W/o. Satyajit Roy & Priya Ghosh D/o. Rabindranath Ghosh R/o. Berela Goylapukur, Berela, Pandua, Hooghly-712134, W.B. both are the self-same and one identical person vide an affidavit no. 459 sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 14/01/2025.

Name Change
I, Ansar Mohammad S/o Late Sk Maksud Residing at Vill+P.o - Serkhanchack, Ps - Khejuri ,District - East Medinipur, Pin- 721432 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Sk Ansar Mohammad. I declare that Sk Ansar Mohammad and Ansar Moham-mad is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 14-01-2025.

Name Change
I, Dipatish Majumder alias Dip-tasish Majumdar (Old Name) S/o Surajit Majumder Residing at C/W-26, Rabindra Nagar, Vtc - Maheshtala(M), P.o - Bartala, District - 24 Pgs(S), Pin - 700018 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Dipatish Mazumder (New Name) as de-clared before the Notary Public, Kolkata vide affidavit no. 007/2025 Dated 14-01-2025. Dip-tasish Majumder, Dipatish Ma-jumdar (Old Name) and Dipatish Mazumder (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Dulal Mondal (DOB-11/04/1973) father of Raju Mandal resident of Vill-Dwarpara, PO-Math Bish-nupur, Teh-Kharagpur, Dist-West Medinipur, Pin-721136 (WB) have change my Name from Dulal Mandal (DOB-01/07/1972) to Dulal Mondal (DOB-11/04/1973) vide Affidavit dated 13 Dec 2024 before Midnapore Sadar Sub-Div, Distt-Paschim Medinipur (WB).

Name Change
I, Minati Mondal (DOB-04/12/1976) mother of Raju Mandal resident of Vill-Dwarpara, PO-Math Bish-nupur, Teh-Kharagpur, Dist-West Medinipur, Pin-721136 (WB) have change my Name from Minati Mandal (DOB-04/12/1976) to Mi-nati Mondal (DOB-04/12/1976) vide Affidvit dated 13 Dec 2024 before Midnapore Sadar Sub-Div, Distt-Paschim Medinipur (WB).

Name Change
I, KHOKAN BARUI S/O Jibananda Barui, D.O.B: 24/05/1976. Vide an Affidavit from Metropolitan Mag-istrate at Kolkata on 21/11/19 KHOKAN BARUI & KHOKON BARUI is the same and one iden-tical person.

Name Change
I, Tapasi Rani Spouse of No 6468369H Rank Ex NK(TS) name late Barun Bandhu resident of J-5,Shankari Pukur, Parbihatira, Housing Estate,P.O-Sripally,Distt-Purba Bardhaman,(W.B),Pin-713103, have change my name & Date of birth from Tapasi Rani & 1965 (as per P.P.O)to Tapasi Rani Bandhu & 06 sept 1966 vide Af-fidavit dated 14.01.25 before the executive magistrate at Purba Bardhaman.

Name Change
I, Darpanarayan Das, S/O of Late Nitya Gopal Das residing at 39A Prince Rahimuddin Lane, Kolkata 700033 have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Darpanarayan Das as declared be-fore First Class Judicial Magistrate , Alipore Court, South 24 Pgs, West Bengal vide affidavit no: 693 dated:22-9-04. Darpanarayan Das and Darpanarayan Das both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Munmun Marik W/O Ranjit Marik, Residing At Vill-Muralibar Po,+P.S- Bagnan Dt- Howrah, That My Actual Name Is Reflected In My Marriage Certificate & My Husband Service Documents, That In My Pan Card & Aadhaar Card & Voter Id Card My Name Written As Munmun Palui Marik, Vide An Affidavit Date - 09.01.2025 In The Court Of Ld Ju-dicial Magistrate 1st Class At Uu-beria I Munmun Marik W/O Ranjit Marik & Munmun Palui Marik Is The Same One Identical Ldy.

NAME CHANGE
I, SAHEDA BEGUM W/o Md Matin, residing at 31/4, Topsia 2nd Lane Kolkata - 700039 have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as SAHEDA KHATOON as declared before the Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Sealdah Court, vide affidavit no.486 Dated 13-01-2025. SAHEDA BEGUM and SAHEDA KHATOON both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Arnab Kumar De, S/o Shyam Sundar De, R/o 23/A, Satabdi Park, Mukundpur, Kolkata- 700099, shall henceforth be known as Arnab De as Notarized, C.M.M's Court, Calcutta vide affidavit no.: 23729 Dated 11.05.2012. Arnab Kumar De & Arnab De is same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Sekh Masum Ali,Son Of Sk Muzaffar Ali, Residing At Dakshin Bhatora Mukherjee Para,Po - Bhatora,Ps - Joypur,Howrah Rural - 711303,West Bengal,Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sk Masum Ali Vide An Affidavit Non12 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/01/20 25. That Sekh Masum Ali And Sk Masum Ali Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Pradip Kumar Chowdhury,S/O Late Durga Mohan Chowdhury, Re-siding At 48 Bidhanpalli Main Road, Nonachandrapur, North 24 parganas - 700122,West Ben-gal,Shall Henceforth Be Known As Pradip Chowdhury Vide An Affi-davit Sworn Before The Notary Public Kolkata On 13/01/2025. That Pradip Kumar Chowdhury And Pradip Chowdhury Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Goutam Debnath S/O Dilip Debnath,Vill & P.O-Krishnadaspur, P.S-Gobardhanpur Coastal, Dist-South 24 Parganas,my Birth Cer-tificate & Passport(No- M294 6154) Father name is Dilip Kr Debnath.my father actual name is Dilip Debnath instead of Dilip Kr Debnath,sworn before the Ld,1st class Judicial Magistrate at Kakd-wip South 24 Parganas, Dated 09.01.2025.Dilip Debnath & Dilip Kr Debnath,Father- Late Benu Debnath one identical person.

Name Change
I, Md Akbar & Md Akbar Ansari (old name) son of Mohammed Alauddin Ansari, residing at 84A/1, Topsia Road, P.S.- Tiljala, Kolkata- 700039, West Bengal, India, shall henceforth be known as Mohammed Akbar Ansari (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 14/01/2025. Mo-hammed Akbar Ansari (new name) and Md Akbar & Md Akbar Ansari (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Vedant Thakur, Son Of Lalit Kumar Thakur, Residing At 3rd Floor, Flat - D.46 Golagatha Road, Satyam Apartment, Sreebhum, North 24 Parganas - 700 048,West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Vedant Kumar Tha kur Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/ 01/ 2025. That Vedant Thakur And Vedant Kumar Thakur Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Amitkumar Paul and Amit Pal(old name) son of Harendra Nath Paul (father), residing at J T P Road, Baikunthapur, Banshe-riana, P.S., Mogra, Hooghly, Pin- 712503, West Bengal, India, shall henceforth be known as Amit Paul (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 14/01/2025. Amit Paul (new name) and Amitkumar Paul and Amit Pal (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Khokan Mondal (old name) son of Chitta Mondal, residing at Hir-gore Rabindra Nagar, Banshra, Canning, Dist.- South 24 Pgs, Pin-743363, West Bengal, India, shall henceforth be known as Gouranga Mondal (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 14/01/ 2025. Gouranga Mondal (new name) and Khokan Mondal (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Soroj Kumar Maity (old name) son of Sudhansu Sekhar Maity, residing at Mahamayatala Mandir Road, Rajpur, Sonarpur (M), Dist - South 24 Pgs, Pin- 700084, West Bengal, India, shall henceforth be known as Soroj Kumar Maity (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 14/01/2025. Soroj Kumar Maity (new name) and Soroj Kumar Maity (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Rakesh Modi (old name) son of Atma Ram Modi, residing at BF-239, Salt Lake City, Sector-1, Baishakhi Island Bidhannagar CC Block, North 24 Parganas, Pin-700064, West Bengal, India, shall henceforth be known as Rakesh Kumar Modi (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 14/01/2025. Rakesh Kumar Modi (new name) and Rakesh Modi (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Johar Ali Mondal (old name) son of Fajer Ali, residing at Bora Choto Jagulia, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin-743294, West Bengal, India, shall henceforth be known as Johar Ali (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 14/01/2025. Johar Ali (new name) and Johar Ali Mondal (old name) both are the same and one iden-tical person.

Name Change
I, Giriraj Mundhra, Son Of Gokul Das Mundhra,Residing At 20/1k Motilal Basak Lane ,Kankur-gachi,Kolkata-700054,West Ben-gal,Shall Henceforth Be Known As Giriraj Kumar Mundhra Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public Kolkata On 13/01/2025. That Giriraj Mundhra And Giriraj Kumar Mundhra Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Sekh Muzaffar Ali,Son Of Sk Mo-thabar Ali, Residing At Dakshin Bhatora Mukherjee Para,Po - Bha-tora,Ps - Joypur,Howrah Rural - 711303,West Bengal,Shall Hence-forth Be Known As Sk Muzaffar Ali Vide An Affidavit Non13 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/01/2025. That Sekh Muzaffar Ali And Sk Muzaffar Ali Both Are The Same And One Iden-tical Person.



A volunteer of NGO 'Save Birds' treats a pigeon injured by 'manjha', a string used for flying kites, on the Makar Sankranti festival, in Mumbai.

Kolkata hosts Gopal Bhattacharjee Bigyan Mela

MI News Service, Kolkata:

The city of Kolkata known for its erudite approach and scientific minds recently hosted Gopal Chan-dra Bhattacharjee Bigyan Mela at Jadavpur High School ground. The science fair or the Bigyan Mela was organized by Paschim Banga Bigyan Mancha.

This iconic institution has been organizing this much known fair with full zest and with fullest of participation for years. The principal idea behind organizing this fair has been to inspire young stu-dents to imbibe scientific and logical thinking. This year too was no exception.

Name Change

I, Johora Bibi,Wife Of Kasem Ali, Residing At Vill & Po - Sarapul, North 24 parganas - 743286,West Bengal,Shall Henceforth Be Known As Johura Bibi Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The No-tary Public Kolkata On 09/01/20 25. That Johora Bibi And Johura Bibi Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Dipak Arora (Old Name),S/O Bhagamal Arora Resident Of Acha-labala Lane, Chatterjee Mansion, Asansol-723301 Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Deepak Arora (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 14/01/2025. Dipak Arora(Old Name) And Deepak Arora(New Name) Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Ananda Mondal (old name) son of Amulya Mandal, residing at Vill. & P.O.- Mamjoan, P.S.- Han-skhal, Ranaghat, Pin- 741121, West Bengal, India, shall hence-forth be known as Ananda Mandal (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 13/01/2025. Ananda Mandal (new name) and Ananda Mondal (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Santu Mondal (old name) son of Ananda Mandal, residing at Vill. & P.O.- Mamjoan, P.S.- Hanskhal, Ranaghat, Pin- 741121, West Bengal, India, shall henceforth be known as Santu Mandal (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 13/01/2025. Santu Mandal (new name) and Santu Mondal (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, MADHUMITA SUBRATA MUKHERJEE (Old Name) wife of SUBRATA MUKHERJEE, residing at P 67/1 C I T ROAD SCHEME 4 M , P.O.- BELEGHATA, Kolkata - 700010 , West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as MADHU-MITA MUKHERJEE (New Name) as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Kolkata, dated 13/01/2025. MADHUMITA MUKHERJEE (New Name) and MADHUMITA SUBRATA MUKHE-RJEE(Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change

I, SEEMA KUMARI (old name) wife of PRAMOD GUPTA, residing at RAJ BADI 67, DEBENDRA CHANDRA DEY ROAD, P.O.- TAN-GRA, Kolkata -700015 , West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as SEEMA GUPTA (new name) as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Kolkata, dated 07/01/2025. NAMRATA SHARMA (new name) and VINITA SINHA (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change

I, VINITA SINHA (old name) wife of SATINDER PAL SHARMA, re-siding at Shyam Kunj, Flat-24, floor-4th, 12B Lord Sinha Road, Middleton Row Kolkata- 700071 , West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as NAM-RATA SHARMA (new name) as declared before the 1st Class Ju-dicial Magistrate at Kolkata, dated 07/01/2025. NAMRATA SHARMA (new name) and VINITA SINHA (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change

I, VINITA SINHA (old name) wife of SATINDER PAL SHARMA, re-siding at Shyam Kunj, Flat-24, floor-4th, 12B Lord Sinha Road, Middleton Row Kolkata- 700071 , West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as NAM-RATA SHARMA (new name) as declared before the 1st Class Ju-dicial Magistrate at Kolkata, dated 07/01/2025. NAMRATA SHARMA (new name) and VINITA SINHA (old name) both are same and identical person.

Children’s Literature Festival in Kolkata

MI News Service, Kolkata:

The city of Kolkata recently hosted the 2nd edition of the Kolkata Children’s Lit-erature Festival (KCLF). The opening ceremony was graced by Dr. Shashi Panja, Minister of Women and Child Development and So-cial Welfare of West Ben-gal, and Tanusree Shankar, renowned Indian dancer and choreographer. The inauguration of the festival at SPK Jain Futuristic Academy (SPKJFA), New-town, Kolkata set the tone for a vibrant and enriching

festival, celebrating the love of stories and creativ-ity. Both dignitaries ex-pressed their delight at being part of an initiative that encourages young minds to explore literature, art, and imagination.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Jayeeta Ganguly, Prin-cipal of SPKJFA remarked, “Through KCLF, we aim to ignite a lifelong love for storytelling, fostering a community where children can connect with narra-tives that inspire, educate, and empower.”

Kolkata venue for Eastern India Micro-finance summit

MI News Service, Kolkata:

The Association of Micro-finance Institutions – West Bengal (AMFI-WB) re-cently organized the 9th Edition of Eastern India Microfinance Summit 2025 in association with M2i, Equifax, MFIN & Sa-Dhan. This year the theme of the Summit was ‘Microfinance - On the path to \$5 Trillion Economy through Women Entrepreneurship & Fi-nancial Empowerment.’

India’s ambitious goal to achieve a USD 5 trillion economy by 2027 places key emphasis on the con-tribution of its three broad sectors: services, manufac-turing, and agriculture. Microfinance and other

regulated financial entities are poised to play a crucial role in achieving this tar-get by supporting the fi-nancial needs of these sectors, particularly man-ufacturing and agricul-ture with special focus on women as entrepreneurs.

The 9th Eastern India Microfinance Summit in 2025, themed ‘Microfi-nance - On the path to \$5 Trillion Economy through Women Entrepreneurship & Financial Empowerment,’ presented a critical platform for practitioners across various sectors- Banking, Microfinance, In-vestors, Insurance, Fintech, and Health ser-vices-to come together.

Centre considering manda-tory hallmarking for silver



MI News Service, New Delhi:

Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi on Monday asked the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to consider imple-menting mandatory hall-marking for silver and silver artifacts following con-sumer demands. “There is a demand from consumers for mandatory hallmarking of silver. You (BIS) can deli-berate and take a call,” Joshi said at the 78th BIS Foun-dation Day event. The work in this direction has already begun and the government will take a decision after completion of stakeholder consultations and feasibility assessment by BIS, the min-ister told reporters on the sidelines of the event.

“I have asked BIS to work out feasibility and take reactions from consumers and ornament dealers. We will consult all stakeholders and start the process,” he added. Silver hallmarked, which certifies the purity of the white metal, is currently voluntary. BIS Director General Pramod Kumar Tiwari told that the Bureau could be ready to implement mandatory silver hallmark-

ing within 3-6 months, adding that the stakeholder discussions were underway.

“Several rounds of dis-cussions were held with stakeholders and they are in favour of it. The discus-sion on printing a unique six-digit alphanumeric code is going on,” Tiwari said. The move follows successful implementation of manda-tory gold hallmarking intro-duced in June 2021, which now covers 361 districts. The existing system in-cludes a unique six-digit al-phanumeric code (HUID) certifying gold purity. Ac-cording to the minister, about 90 per cent of jew-ellery being purchased is now hallmarked. More than 44.28 crore gold jewellery items have been hall-marked with unique IDs since the launch. Stakehold-ers from Gujarat, Kar-nataka and other states have requested the exten-sion of mandatory hall-marking to silver, the minister added. BIS, estab-lished under the BIS Act in 1986, is an autonomous na-tional body responsible for setting quality standards for products and services.

Khurda Road-Balangir Rail Line Project Achieves Major Milestone with Breakthrough of Tunnel between Buguda & Banigochha:

MI News Service, Kolkata:

The Khurda Road - Balan-gir New Rail Line Project has achieved a major mile-stone with the successful breakthrough of Tunnel No T3, located between Buguda and Banigochha in Nayagarh District. This tunnel, with a length of 2.620 meters and a 2-de-gree curve, has now com-pleted the New Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM) excavation. The break-through, or “daylighting,” was successfully achieved on 13th January 2025, marking an important achievement in the con-struction of this crucial public centric Rail Line Project.

Tunnel No T3 is the longest tunnel in Nayagarh district and the second longest in the entire Khurda Road-Balangir on-going rail line project. The tunnel’s excavation em-ployed state-of-the-art technologies and ma-chines, designed to navi-gate the challenging and rugged terrain of the East-ern Ghats. This landmark achievement will play a pivotal role in connecting the eastern and western parts of Odisha, boosting the region’s transportation and economic potential.

Tackling Major Chal-lenges in Tunnel Construc-tion

The Khurda Road - Balangir Rail Line Project, which spans 301 kilome-ters, presents numerous engineering and logistical challenges, particularly in the construction of tun-nels. The project includes seven tunnels within a 75-kilometer stretch, all lo-cated between Daspalla and Purunakatak. The construction of these tun-nels—particularly through the difficult terrain of the Eastern Ghats—has been one of the most complex aspects of the project. Among these tunnels, Tun-nel No 7, part of the



longest at 4.885 kilome-ters, has already been suc-cessfully completed, with other breakthroughs in Tunnel No 1, Tunnel No 3, and more. The tunnels are being constructed using the latest techniques to manage complex geologi-cal conditions, including varying soil densities and rock formations.

Key Tunnel Facts:

Seven tunnels under con-struction, with a total length of 12.76 km. Tunnel No T3, located between Buguda and Banigochha, is 2,620 meters long with a 2-degree curve. The longest tunnel spans 4.885 kilometers, located near Adhenigarh, including a 700-meter escape tunnel for safety. Breakthroughs have been completed suc-cessfully in four of the seven tunnels to date.

Overcoming Engineer-ing, Geological and Envi-ronmental Challenges

The construction of tun-nels through the rugged ter-rain of Odisha has been fraught with challenges, such as:

Geological Complexity: Varying soil densities and rock formations have demanded the use of advanced tunneling techniques to ensure tunnel stability and safety. Environ-mental Sensitivity: Some tun-nels pass through wildlife sanctuaries, requiring mea-sures to minimize ecological impacts. Curved Tunnels: Five of the seven tunnels are

curved, requiring high engi-neering precision. Simultane-ous Excavation: Tunneling operations are being carried out from both ends to ex-pe-dite completion. Despite these obstacles, the project contin-ues to make rapid progress, with tunnel breakthroughs serving as key milestones. This marks a significant step toward meeting the project’s completion targets.

Strategic Approach for Timely Completion:

The Khurda Road - Bolangir Rail Line Project, crucial for improving regional connectivity, has already seen sig-nificant portions completed. A total of 215 kilometers of the rail line have been completed, includ-ing 105.8 kilometers from Khurda Road to Daspalla and 109 kilometers from Balangir to Purunakatak. The remaining sections, including the stretch from Purunakatak to Adheni-garh, are progressing and are ex-pected to be completed in the coming months. Once completed, this rail line will drastically reduce travel time between Bhubanes-war and Balangir, contributing to the socio-economic development of the region by improving access to education, healthcare and markets.

The Khurda Road - Bolangir Rail Line Project is a critical infrastructure initia-tive by Indian Railways aimed at improving connectivity in Odisha. Once completed, the rail line will boost economic development, enhance trade, and significantly reduce travel time, benefiting both passen-gers and freight movement.

Temporary stoppage of Vibhuti Express at Jhusi Station gor Maha Kumbh Mela

MI News Service, Kolkata:

Railway has decided to provide five (05) minutes temporary stoppage of 12333 Howrah – Prayagraj Rambag Vibhuti Express and 12334 Prayagraj Ram-bag – Howrah Vibhuti Ex-press at Jhusi station with immediate effect to 28.02.2025. 12333 Howrah – Prayagraj Ram-bag Vibhuti Express and 12334 Prayagraj Ram-bag – Howrah Vibhuti Express will arrive at Jhusi station at 11:25 hrs and 15:54 hrs respectively.

Lost bag returned to a Metro Commuter

MI News Service, Kolkata:

On 13.01.2025, at 11.26 hrs an on-duty RPF staff posted at Gitanjali Metro station while conducting a routine patrolling recovered an unclaimed bag at the DN platform and de-positied it to the Station Master’s Office of the sta-tion. After opening the bag, some valuable items were found therein. There-after, Station Master made repeated announcements requesting the owner of the bag to collect it from the Station Master’s Office and a control message was also communicated to all the stations.

After sometime, a male commuter came to the Sta-tion Master’s Office of Gi-tanjali Metro station and claimed the ownership of the recovered bag and the items containing therein. After proper verification and fulfilling all official formalities, the bag along with all other items were handed over to him. He ex-pressed his heartfelt grate-itude to Metro Railway authorities for helping him to get back the lost bag along with all other items.

Assam CM asks companies not to hire Bangladeshis

MI News Service, Guwa-hati:

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma ex-horted industrialists not to hire illegal Bangladeshi migrants in their units for “cheap labour”.

Addressing a press conference here after meeting slew of industrial leaders from corporate houses including the Tatas, Adani Group and Mahin-dras, Sarma said there is a need to “strike at the roots” of the illegal migra-tion from Bangladesh problem by not hiring such migrants. He explained that there are middlemen hired by the industry to get cheap labour from Bangladesh, and the in-dustry has to decide not to employ such labour. When asked if the issue featured during his discussions with industry captains over the weekend, Sarma said there is no need to “rem-phasise” an issue on which Assam has been fighting since 1979.

The state is looking at investment commitments of Rs 1 lakh crore from the central government and entities allied with it at the upcoming “Advantage

Assam 2.0” investment summit to be held in Guwahati in February. At-tracting investments in sectors such as tourism, semiconductors and de-fence is the other focus area of the summit to be held on February 25-26. He said the Tata group’s mega Rs 27,000-crore in-vestment for a semicon-ductor assembly plant is on schedule, and the first phase will be inaugurated in either November or De-cember this year. Apart from that, the Tatas have also evinced interest to set up a 500-MW solar capac-ity in the state, he said, adding that an industrial policy is in the works where fallow land being held by tea estates can be converted to put solar power capacity. Sarma said given the state’s prox-imity to the northeastern theatre which sees maxi-mum deployment of Army, the state is also looking to attract investments into defence production and re-pair. This aspect has fea-tured during his interactions with the Adani group and Mahindras, Sarma added.

Textiles players seek duty re-liefs, tax incentives from govt

MI News Service, New Delhi: The textile and apparel indus-try expects the budget to reduce import duties on raw ma-terials as it aims to become a \$350-billion market by 2030, including \$100 billion in exports. Industry groups are also lobbying for a direct benefit transfer (DBT) system for cot-ton farmers and tax incentives to exporters.

The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) has urged the government to cut basic customs duties on key raw materials such as man-made fibres (MMF), filaments and chemicals such as purified terephthalic acid (PTA) and monoethylene glycol (MEG). High tariffs inflate production costs, putting Indian manufacturers at a disadvantage com-pared with competitors such as Bangladesh and Vietnam, which enjoy duty-free imports. “Expensive raw materials weaken the cost competitiveness of Indian textile products,” said a CITI official.

Man of the month for December 2024 awarded in CLW



MI News Service, Chittaranjan: (1) Shri Santosh Kumar Sah, SSE/ TM-21 (Electrical), (2) Shri Sourav Mondal, JE/ ISO Cell(Electrical) (3) Shri Bishnu Dubey, Sr.Tech/CPH (Electrical), (4) Shri Subrata Halder, Sr. Tech/ELS-19 (Electrical), (5) Shri Satish Singh, Sr.Tech/WS-09 (Mechanical), (6) Shri Magaram Bhandari, Tech.III/MTS-56 (Mechanical), (7) Shri Avik Kundu, SE(IT)/IT Centre (Accounts), (8) Shri Kundan Hazra, CDMS/Stores/GSD (Stores), have been awarded with the "Man of the Month" for the month of December, 2024. The award is in their recognition of their exceptional performance, dedication, and contributions. Shri Vijay Kumar, General Manager gave away the award, today on 14.01.2025 & Congratulated. Shri Santosh Kumar Sah has successfully done first time De-shafting and Re-shifting

work of failed Rotor returned from Electric Loco Sheds. Shri Sourav Mondal has significantly contributed in external audits for ISO Management Systems including IRIS and achieved the certificates. Shri Bishnu Dubey has successfully carried out the works - Connection of In-chamber line at Library in TTC where Ballot Box kept (Trade Union Election). 40kW DG set fitted at Annexeure-I & II. Shri Subrata Halder is working in cable Laying-2 Section. He has done excellent work in conversion loco, 12K Twin loco, 9K loco and other modification work regarding cable laying work. Shri Satish Singh has contributed significantly for achieving the production of wheel disc in Wheel Shop. He is also competent for modification of all CNC VTL Machine. Shri Magaram Bhandari contributed significantly

for manufacturing of scale down models of WAP-5 for Amrit Bharat and WAG-9 Twin (EF-12K) which is installed in Administrative Building in November 2024. Shri Avik Kundu has prepared detailed reports to support the recovery of outstanding rent and electricity charges. Additionally, he played a pivotal role in creating a link on the CLW website, allowing vendors to track the live status of their registrations. His significant contributions to the development of the costing manual, particularly in formatting and design, have been highly commendable. Shri Kundan Hazra, under his leadership, garbage in TM Shop and Wheel Shop has been cleared within the stipulated time period. He has also given special efforts to collect the unaccounted materials which were kept at various places of main shop areas.

Eastern Railway soars to new heights under General Manager Milind Deouskar's visionary leadership: A year of unmatched achievements in 2024-2025



MI News Service, Kolkata: In a press conference today held at New Conference Room, Fairly Place, Eastern Railway Headquarters, Eastern Railway's General Manager Shri Milind Deouskar highlighted the outstanding performance of the railway zone throughout the year 2024-2025. Addressing media personnel, Shri Deouskar emphasized the significant strides made in enhancing safety, improving passenger services, boosting punctuality, and accelerating infrastructure development. He expressed his pride in the achievements and the continuous efforts being made to improve operations across the network, ensuring a safer and more comfortable travel experience for passengers.

Sumit Sarkar, Additional General Manager and other Principal Heads of the Departments were also present in the press conference.

The year has been marked by major safety upgrades, including the installation of automatic signaling and the commissioning of new road over bridges. Significant improvements were made in passenger services with the extension of platforms, introduction of new Vande Bharat Express services, and the augmentation of trains to address growing passenger demand. Notably, the punctuality of trains has improved across the board, with commuter-sensitive trains seeing a marked increase in their on-time performance. Furthermore, several infrastructure projects, including new lines, terminal developments, and speed enhancements, have been successfully completed, contributing to the overall operational efficiency of Eastern Railway.

In respect of both freight and passenger traffic, Eastern railway is experiencing continued growth in volume. The passenger traffic of Eastern Railway in this fiscal upto December recorded as 918 Million compared to 855 million during the corresponding period of previous year. The freight loading also increased to 71 million tons during April to December in this financial year. The total revenue of Eastern Railway has also increased to ₹ 10163 crores in the current fiscal up to December compared to ₹ 8420 crores in the previous year, experiencing a 21% growth. The

passenger revenue of Eastern Railway during the period April to December 2024 in the current FY recorded as ₹2840 crores which is 6% higher than the corresponding period of previous year. The goods revenue also recorded as ₹6727 crores (28% increase), other coaching revenue ₹302 Crores (15% increase), sundry revenue ₹293 crores (29% increase), parcel & luggage revenue ₹99 crores (33% increase).

Safety Measures and Enhancements

Eastern Railway always gives first priority on safety with "zero tolerance" on safety issues. It is mention-worthy that no subsequent accident reported this year so far. Various works improving the safety have been completed in this year as for example, Automatic Signalling completed between Masagram & Saktigharh (11.2 km), elimination of Manned Level Crossings with Limited Height Subways & Road Over Bridges (ROBs), interlocking of 8 Level Crossing Gates, provision of sliding booms at 130 Level Crossing Gates, provision of Voice Logger Telephones at 167 Non-Interlocked Gates.

Moreover, 3400 Cameras were installed across 140 stations under Video Surveillance System (VSS) for passenger safety.

Work is going on in full swing to introduce Kavach system in Howrah - Chhota Ambona section. Passenger trial on Howrah - Bardhaman portion of this section was conducted on 05.01.2025. Passenger trial on Bardhaman - Chhota Ambona section is expected to be conducted on March 2025.

Two Road Overbridges (ROBs) have also been completed - one between Bandel and Adisaptagram (January 2024) in lieu of Level Crossing gate no. 12 S/PLT and one between Barachak and Hirapur yard line (March 2024) in lieu of Level Crossing gate no. 1-AE-3 to augment safety of both railway and road traffic.

Passenger Services and Amenities

Various initiatives have been taken by Eastern Railway to improve the services and amenities for the passengers as follows :

- Platform Extensions at Sealdah Station: Five platforms at Sealdah station extended to accommodate 12-coach EMU rakes. This enabled the conversion of all 1273 EMU services from 9-car to 12-car rakes.
- New Vande Bharat Express: Three new Vande Bharat Express services were introduced viz Howrah - Gaya, Howrah - Bhagalpur and Deoghar - Varanasi.
- Thrust on punctuality of commuter-sensitive trains : 200 commuter-sensitive trains monitored for punctuality, with a significant increase from 65.1% in September 2024 to 85.7% in December 2024.

- Train Upgradation: 8 trains converted from ICF to LHB, bringing the total to 114 LHB trains in operation. 2135 Train on Demand (TOD) services were run, 175% more than last year.
- Coach Augmentation:64 coaches permanently augmented in 34 popular trains. 3485 coaches temporarily augmented in different trains, including 668 general coaches to manage extra rush.

- New Train Connectivity: Direct connectivity between Eastern Railway (ER) and South Eastern Railway (SER) established at Masagram Station, facilitating direct train services between Howrah and Bankura.
- Introduction of Mail/Exp: 8 Mail/Express trains have been introduced over Eastern Railway.
- Introduction of Passenger trains: 8 new passenger trains (MEMU and conventional trains) have been introduced.

Introduction of EMU: One new EMU train, 31728 Krishnanagar - Ranaghat EMU Local has been introduced for the convenience of suburban passengers.

- Station Upgrades: 11 new foot overbridges and 34 platform sheds constructed.

22 stations equipped with Train Indication Boards (TIB), and 15 stations with Coach Indication Boards.

Platform surfaces improved at 69 stations. 12 lifts and 6 escalators installed for the convenience of elderly passengers.

Punctuality and Operational Improvements The punctuality of M/Exp is 84.5% against 77.6% which is 7% higher than last year, the punctuality of passenger is 78.1% against 65.7 which is 13% higher than last year & the punctuality of Suburban (EMU) is 87.9% against 86.4% which is 3% higher than last year. This railway is constantly trying to improve punctuality by removing operational bottleneck and by raising sectional speed.

Sectional speed has been enhanced from 110 Km/h to 130 Km/h for 139 Km, from 60/100Km/h to 110 Km/h for 107 Km and from 40/30 Km/h to 65 Km/h for 46 Km.

Projects Commissioned

- New Line Projects: Azimganj - Murshidabad (6.9 km) and Mayanapur - Bara Gopinathpur (7.7 km) completed.
- Doubling Projects: Krishnanagar - Amghata (8.3 km) and Sujinipara - Ahiran (6.6 km) commissioned.

- 2 Gati Shakti Terminals at Janai Road (Dec 2024) and Kurva (Nov 2024). Capacity Augmentation • Moynapur - Boro-

Power of Attorney
This is to notify that sri/mt Savita Devi S/W/D of Raj Kumar Bhagat Address R.K Dargal Railpar ps Asansol(n) Dist Paschim Bardhaman has/purchased the below mentioned land schedule by virtue of deed/deeds no.10480 dated 12.12.2023 A.D.S.R/DSR With the help of Power of Attorney/deedno.7060dated2023A.D.S.R Executive by sri/mt/miss Dhireen ghosh and 3 others of Lt Shibu Ghosh address south dhadka gram ps asansol dist paschim bardhaman and the said applicant has/have applied with the same land schedule for mutation vide mutation case no.216/2025 at the office of the S.D.L & L.R.O(EP-1) Dist- Paschim Bardhaman.if there is any objection for mutation in this respect, any concerned Principal are requested to submit objection along with relevant documents to the concerned revenue officer at the office of the S.D.L & L.R.O(EP-1) within one month from the date of publication of this notice,otherwise law take it own course
Land schedule
Block:Sub-Divisional land and land reforms office(EP-1)
Mouza : Uttar Dhadka J.L.No: 26
L.R Plot no : 1/2722
Name of the recorded owner:Shibu Ghosh L.R Khatian : 345

gopinathpur new line (7.7 km) commissioned. •4 Freight Terminals commissioned, including Kurva and Janai Road for better cargo handling. •Automatic Signaling extended between Masagram and Shakigharh (17.11.2024) for punctuality improvement. •Sainthia, Sitarampur, Jasidih, and Nalhati bypasses will save significant train detentions.

Project Planning and Future Outlook

- 77 Projects sanctioned, including new lines, double lines, and multi-tracking.
- Sainthia bypass will save 130 train detentions daily; Sitarampur bypass will save 500 train detentions.

Under Milind Deouskar's leadership, Eastern Railway has made remarkable strides in all key operational areas. From enhancing safety measures to improving passenger services, punctuality, and infrastructure, the year 2024-2025 has seen extraordinary progress. Eastern Railway continues to set benchmarks in railway service excellence, with even more improvements on the horizon.

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. 02/KUL/S24PGS/2025, Dt.- 14/01/25**. Last date of submission- **21.01.2025 up to 6.55 PM**. More details please visit **www.wbtenders.gov.in** & **Kultali Development Block Office**.
Sd/-
Block Development Officer
Kultali Development Block

OFFICE OF THE JAGATBALLAVPUR-I GRAM PANCHAYAT
Naikuli, Munshirhat, Jagatballavpur, Howrah
Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref Memo No-JBpur-I/009/NIT-18/15th CFC/U/2024-25 Dt14.01.2025
E Tenders are invited in the web site <http://wbtenders.gov.in> for above reference no. Last Date of submission of bid-28/01/2025 12:00PM.
Bid opening date: 30/01/2025,12:00 Pm.
Sd/-
Pradhan
Jagatballavpur-I Gram Panchayet

TENDER NOTICE
E-Tender for "Construction of Dining Hall & Decoration of Kanthalberia Gram Panchayati Office under 15th FC Fund" under Jurisdiction of Basanti Dev. Block has been invited by the undersigned, details of which as noted below:-
Bid Submission Start Date: 14.01.2025
Bid Submission Closing Date: -21.01.2025
Details can be collected from the website <https://wbtenders.gov.in> & office Notice Board.
Executive Officer
Basanti Panchayati Samity
South 24-Parganas

Ex-IAS officer Puja Khedkar moves SC against Delhi HC's order dismissing anticipatory bail

MI News Service, New Delhi: Former IAS officer Puja Khedkar has approached the Supreme Court, challenging the Delhi High Court's order that dismissed her anticipatory bail plea.

The High Court had refused to grant her bail, stating that a strong prima facie case was made out against her and that an investigation was required to unearth the "larger conspiracy" to manipulate the system.

The matter is expected to be listed before the Supreme Court tomorrow.

The High Court while passing Judgement had made strong observations against Khedkar, stating, "It's a classic example of fraud, not only with a constitutional body but also with society and the nation as a whole."

The High Court bench stated that the UPSC is regarded as a prestigious examination and the incident in question represents a fraud not only against an organization but also against society at large. The court emphasized that interrogation is necessary to uncover the conspiracy in-

volved. As a result, the court ruled that the plea was dismissed, and the interim protection granted to Khedkar was vacated.

The court observed that, prima facie, the conduct in this case appears to be aimed at deceiving the organization. It noted that the individual was not a legitimate candidate for the benefits but had been obtaining them through forged documents.

The court also highlighted that the father and mother held high-ranking positions, suggesting the possibility of collusion with influential individuals.

Khedkar is facing criminal charges filed by the Delhi Police, accusing her of cheating and unlawfully claiming OBC and disability quota benefits in the civil services examination.

Khedkar through Advocate Bina Madhavan stated that she is willing to cooperate with the investigation and submitted that custodial interrogation is not necessary. However, Delhi Police through Special Public Prosecutor Advocate Sanjeev

Bhandari informed the court that the investigation is ongoing, and custodial interrogation may be required to uncover the larger conspiracy, adding that certain aspects of the conspiracy still need to be examined. This name change was done to fraudulently avail more attempts, he added.

Earlier, Delhi Police opposed the anticipatory bail plea and informed the Delhi High Court that as the investigation progresses, a larger conspiracy is emerging in the matter. Meanwhile, the UPSC withdrew its perjury applications, stating that it would file a separate independent application.

The UPSCs alleged that Khedkar attempted to manipulate the judicial system and stated that, Puja Khedkar had committed perjury by filing a false affidavit and the intent behind making such a blatantly false statement naturally appeared to be an attempt to obtain favourable orders, based on the false statement.

UPSC stated that the claim that the Commission collected her biometrics is false made with the sole aim and purpose of deceiving this Court for obtaining favourable orders. The said claim is denied since the Commission did not collect any biometrics (eyes and fingerprints) during her Personality Test or carry out any attempts to verify based on the same.

The Commission has not collected any biometric information from any candidate during the Personality Test of the Civil Services Examinations held so far. Puja Khedkarrecently filed an anticipatory bail application about an FIR registered against her for allegedly "faking her identity to fraudulently avail attempts beyond permissible limit" in a civil services examination.

Recently, Delhi Police registered an FIR on the basis of a complaint filed by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) against Puja Manorama Dilip Khedkar.

Recently, the Delhi High Court has also issued notice to suspend IAS trainee Puja Khedkar on an application moved by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) claiming that she made an incorrect assertion in the petition that she was not served the order of cancellation of candidature.

UPSC stated that communication regarding cancelling her candidature was communicated to her on her registered mail ID. So she falsely submitted before the Delhi High Court earlier that the press release dated 31.07.2024 was not officially communicated to her.

Complaint filed against CM Atishi for MCC violation ahead of assembly elections, Delhi police registers FIR

MI News Service, New Delhi: A complaint was filed against AAP leader and Delhi chief minister Atishi for allegedly violating the Model Code of Conduct by using a government vehicle for political purposes.

Police said that a complaint was received regarding a violation of MCC. The FIR was registered at the Govindpuri police station in southeast Delhi following a complaint submitted by the returning officer of the Kalkaji assembly constituency, officials said on Tuesday.

According to the FIR, the District Election Officer, South-East Delhi, received a complaint on January 8, 2025, alleging that Delhi Chief Minister Atishi used a government vehicle in her political campaign, which is prohibited under the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) during election periods.

The complaint specifically mentioned the vehicle, which belongs to the Public Works Department (PWD) under the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD), being used for political purposes.

According to the letter from the General Administration Department (GAD), GNCTD, dated January 7, 2025, the use of government vehicles for campaigning or election-related activities is strictly prohibited during elections. The letter also stated that such actions would invite legal consequences under section 223 of the BNS.

Following the complaint, an order was issued by the Returning Officer, instructing the local police station, PS Govin-

dpuri, to register a case against Sanjay Kumar, the Executive Engineer responsible for the misuse of the vehicle.

The FIR was registered under section 223(a) of the BNS, and the investigation was assigned to SI Sumit of PS Govindpuri.

In a response to the complaint filed against her for allegedly violating the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) by using a government vehicle for political purposes, Delhi Chief Minister and AAP leader Atishi raised questions about the Election Commission's impartiality.

Atishi pointed out that BJP leader Parvesh Verma was seen distributing Rs 1100 during a recent event, which he later claimed was part of a health camp and distribution of spectacles. She further accused Verma of distributing bedsheets with his name on them, suggesting that these actions violated the MCC.

Despite these actions, Atishi claimed, the Election Commission had failed to take action against Verma, sparking doubts about the fairness of the commission's decisions.

Delhi CM and AAP leader Atishi told the media, "The whole country saw how Parvesh Verma was distributing Rs 1100. Later, Parvesh Verma himself tweeted that he was holding a health camp and distribution specs. After that, he distributed bedsheets with his name on them. But the Election Commission doesn't see any MCC violation in this. The question arises - who is the Police with? Is there pressure on EC officials? We hope the commitment of a free and fair election

given by EC will be implemented on the ground."

Earlier in the day, Delhi Chief Minister and AAP candidate from Kalkaji Assembly seat Atishi filed her nomination for the upcoming Delhi Assembly Polls, scheduled on February 5.

The AAP filed her nomination at the District Election Office.

Atishi is in the electoral fray against the BJP candidate Ramesh Bidhuri and Congress' Alka Lamba for the Kalkaji seat.

In the 2020 Assembly polls, Atishi contested from the Kalkaji seat and defeated the BJP candidate Dharambir Singh by a vote margin of more than 10 per cent.

At 43, Atishi became the third woman Chief Minister of Delhi, following in the footsteps of Sushma Swaraj and Sheila Dikshit.

On September 17, 2024, Kejriwal tendered his resignation as Chief Minister to Delhi LG VK Saxena, following which Atishi staked claimed to form the new government days after the AAP chief was released on bail from Tihar jail in the excise policy case.

Kejriwal said that he would return to the post only if he gets a renewed mandate and a "certificate of honesty" from the people of Delhi in the assembly polls likely to be held in February 2025.

Atishi took oath as the Chief Minister of Delhi on September 22 after she was named successor to the post by AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal.

The Delhi assembly polls will be held in a single phase on February 5 and the counting of votes will take place on February 8.

EASTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: SG-Tender/DS/TE/SDAH/529, Dated: 13.01.2025.
E-Tender is invited by the Sr. D.S.T.E., Eastern Railway, Sealdah, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata-700014 for the following work: **e-Tender No.: SDSTE/Sig/T/42-24/25/RRSK. Name of work with its location:** Replacement of existing Panel Interlocking System with new Electronic Interlocking System at Nischindapur station. **Tender Value:** ₹ 3,75,61,970.15. **Cost of Tender document:** Nil. **Earnest Money/Bid Security to be deposited:** ₹ 3,37,800. **Completion period of the work:** 9 months. **Tender submission start date:** 24.01.2025. **Tender submission end date:** 07.02.2025 upto 14.00 hrs. **Tender Bid opening date:** 07.02.2025 at 14.30 hrs. **Details may be available:** www.irops.gov.in. **Technical Eligibility Criteria:** The tenderer must have successfully completed or substantially completed any one of the following categories of work(s) during last 07 (seven) years, ending last day of month previous to the one in which tender is invited: (i) Three similar works each costing not less than the amount equal to 30% of advertised value of the tender, or (ii) Two similar works each costing not less than the amount equal to 40% of advertised value of the tender, or (iii) One similar work costing not less than the amount equal to 60% of advertised value of the tender. **Financial Eligibility Criteria:** The tenderer must have minimum average annual contractual turnover of V/N or 'V' whichever is less; where V= Advertised value of the tender in crores of Rupees, N= Number of years prescribed for completion of work for which bids have been invited. The average annual contractual turnover shall be calculated as an average of "total contractual payments" in the previous three financial years, as per the audited balance sheet. However, in case balance sheet of the previous year is yet to be prepared/audited, the audited balance sheet of the fourth previous year shall be considered for calculating average annual contractual turnover. The tenderers shall submit requisite information as per Annexure-VIB of GCC 2022 (Form-6 of the instant tender document), along with copies of Audited Balance Sheets duly certified by the Chartered Accountant/Certificate from Chartered Accountant duly supported by Audited Balance Sheet. **Other document to be submitted:** As mentioned in the tender document. **Similar nature of Work:** Any work of Electronic Interlocking work (Indoor or (Indoor+Outdoor)) and/or Panel Interlocking work (Indoor or (Indoor+Outdoor)) and/or Route Relay Interlocking work (Indoor or (Indoor+Outdoor)) to be considered as similar nature of work for the instant tender work. **Note:** The tenderer shall submit along with the tender offer, documents in support of his/her claim to fulfill the eligibility criteria as mentioned in the tender document. Each page of the copy of documents/certificates in support of credentials, submitted by the tenderer, shall be self attested/digitally signed by the tenderer or authorized representative of the tendering firm. Self attestation shall include signature, stamp and date (on each page). (SDAH-321/2024-25)
Tender Notices are also available at website: www.e.indianrailways.gov.in / www.irops.gov.in
Follow us at: [@EasternRailway](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailway) [easternrailwayheadquarter](https://www.facebook.com/easternrailwayheadquarter)

India Energy Week 2025 to Redefine Global Energy Dialogue

New Delhi : Building the remarkable success of its previous two editions, India Energy Week 2025 (IEW'25), the flagship energy event of Government of India, is being held under the patronage of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, organised by Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPPI), from 11th to 14th February 2025 at the Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, New Delhi.

The first major global event of the energy calendar, IEW 2025, is poised to be the most comprehensive and inclusive global energy gathering of the year.

Since its inception in 2023, the India Energy Week has grown from strength to strength. IEW 2025 has surpassed other international energy events. This year's edition marks a significant leap over its predecessor, showcasing elevated leadership participation and more dynamic discussions.

A noticeable improvement is in the seniority of speakers year on year with around 70 CEOs of prominent International and domestic Energy majors underlying the growing global appeal of the event. IEW will be bigger than ever with unparalleled global participation, including 20+ Foreign Energy Ministers and Deputy Ministers representing advanced economies, largest energy producers, and key nations of global south. The event will also feature Heads of leading International Organizations and 90 CEOs from some of the world's largest Fortune 500 energy companies including bp, TotalEnergies, QatarEnergy, ADNOC, Baker Hughes and Vitol.

IEW 2025 Incorporates seven key strategic themes (Collaboration, Resilience, Transition, Capacity, Digital Frontiers, Innovation, Leadership) with greater emphasis on pragmatic solutions for decarbonization, energy equity, and low-carbon economies. The inclusion of 20 thematic



categories this year, compared to 18 in 2024, highlights a broader focus on cutting-edge issues such as AI, digitalization, and maritime decarbonization. The conference's structured stages-Resilience and Transition-align perfectly with India's dual goals of energy independence and decarbonization, ensuring relevance to global and national agendas alike. The event is expected to have participation from over 70,000 delegates from 120 countries,

700+ exhibitors, and 10 country pavilions United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia etc. and 8 thematic zones, this flagship event will provide a premier platform to drive the global energy dialogue, showcase breakthrough technologies, and foster international collaboration for a sustainable energy future.

In IEW2025 we have seen a 29% increase in abstract received and a 24% increase in speaker participation, emphasizing IEW's stature as a platform for industry innovation. Sessions now cover vital topics like future clean power pathways, grid-scale energy storage, and methane mitigation technologies, reflecting the industry's forward-looking priorities.

The event will witness robust participation from key Indian energy ministries, including the Ministry of Power, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), NITI Aayog, and the Ministry of Mines and Minerals. This reflects a whole-of-government approach, ensuring seamless collaboration and comprehensive engagement across the entire energy sector, underscoring India's commitment to integrated and inclusive energy solutions.

The event will place a special emphasis on showcasing India's transformative efforts across the entire energy landscape including strengthening energy security and promoting energy justice, amplifying the voice of the Global South, and unveiling the immense investment opportunities within India's hydrocarbon sector. It will also spotlight India's advancements in renewable energy and cutting-edge technologies such as battery storage, 2G and 3G biofuels, green ammonia, and hydrogen production, positioning the nation as a global leader in sustainable and innovative energy solutions.

Air pollution linked to higher hospitalisations for heart, lung diseases



Washington DC [US] : Short and long-term exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5) air pollution is associated with an increased risk of hospitalisation for severe heart and lung disorders, according to two large US studies published in The BMJ.

Together, the results suggest that no safe threshold exists for heart and lung health.

According to the Global Burden of Disease study, exposure to PM2.5 accounts for an estimated 7.6 per cent of total global mortality and 4.2 per cent of global disability-adjusted life years (a measure of years lived in good health).

In light of this extensive evidence, the World Health Organization (WHO) updated the air quality guidelines in 2021, recommending that annual average PM2.5 levels should not exceed 5 mg/m3 and 24-hour average PM2.5 levels should not exceed 15 mg/m3 on more than 3-4 days each year.

In the first study, researchers linked average daily PM2.5 levels to residential zip codes for nearly 60 million US adults (84 per cent white, 55 per cent women) aged 65 and over from 2000 to 2016. They then used Medicare insurance data to track hospital admissions over an average of eight years.

After accounting for a range of economic, health and social factors, average PM2.5 exposure over three years was associated with increased risks of first hospital admissions for seven major types of cardiovascular disease - ischemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, heart failure, cardiomyopathy, arrhythmia, valvular heart disease, and thoracic and abdominal aortic aneurysms.

Compared with exposures of 5 mg/m3 or less (the WHO air quality guideline for annual PM2.5), exposures between 9 and 10 mg/m3, which encompassed the US national average of 9.7 mg/m3 during the study period, were associated with a 29 per cent increased risk of hospital admission for cardiovascular disease.

On an absolute scale, the risk of hospital admission for cardiovascular disease increased from 2.59 per cent with exposures of 5 mg/m3 or less to 3.35% at exposures between 9 and 10 mg/m3. "This means that if we were able to manage to reduce annual PM2.5 below 5 ug/m3, we could avoid 23 per cent in hospital admissions for cardiovascular disease," say the researchers.*

These cardiovascular effects persisted for at least three years after exposure to PM2.5, and susceptibility varied by age, education, access to healthcare services, and area deprivation level.

The researchers say their findings suggest that no safe threshold exists for the chronic effect of PM2.5 on overall cardiovascular health and that substantial benefits could be attained through adherence to the WHO air quality guideline.

"On February 7, 2024, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) updated the national air quality standard for annual PM2.5 level, setting a stricter limit at no more than 9 ug/m3. This is the first update since 2012. However, it is still considerably higher than the 5 ug/m3 set by WHO. The newly published national standard was not sufficient for the protection of public health," they add.*

In the second study, researchers used county-level daily PM2.5 concentrations and medical claims data to track hospital admissions and emergency department visits for natural causes, cardiovascular disease, and respiratory disease for 50 million US adults aged 18 and over from 2010 to 2016.

During the study period, more than 10 million hospital admissions and 24 million emergency department visits were recorded. They found that short-term exposure to PM2.5, even at concentrations below the new WHO air quality guideline limit, was statistically significantly associated with higher rates of hospital admissions for natural causes, cardiovascular disease and respiratory disease, as well as emergency department visits for respiratory disease. For example, on days when daily PM2.5 levels were below the new WHO air quality guideline limit of 15 mg/m3, an increase of 10 mg/m3 in PM2.5 was associated with 1.87 extra hospital admissions per million adults aged 18 and over per day.

The researchers say their findings constitute an important contribution to the debate about the revision of air quality limits, guidelines, and standards.

Both research teams acknowledge several limitations such as possible misclassification of exposure and point out that other unmeasured factors may have affected their results. What's more, the findings may not apply to individuals without medical insurance, children and adolescents, and those living outside the US.

However, taken together, these new results provide a valuable reference for future national air pollution standards.

Common headaches are linked to neck inflammation: Study

Illinois [US] : A study presented at the annual conference of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) has shown empirical evidence of the role played by the neck muscles in primary headaches. Improved therapies might result from the results.

The distinct underlying causes of primary headaches are still not fully understood. The most common primary headaches are tension-type headaches and migraines.

"Our imaging approach provides first objective evidence for the very frequent involvement of the neck muscles in primary headaches, such as neck pain in migraine or tension-type headache, using the ability to quantify subtle inflammation within muscles," said Nico Sollmann, M.D., Ph.D., resident in the Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology at University Hospital Ulm, and the Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Neuroradiology at University Hospital Rechts der Isar in Munich, Germany.

Tension-type headaches affect two out of every three adults in the U.S. People with tension-type headaches often feel a tightening in the head and mild to moderate dull pain on both sides of the head.

While these headaches are typically associated with stress and muscle tension, their exact origin is not fully understood.

Migraines are characterized

by severe throbbing pain. Migraines generally occur on one side of the head, or the pain is worse on one side. It may also cause nausea, weakness and light sensitivity.

According to the American Migraine Foundation, over 37 million people in the U.S. are affected by migraine, and up to 148 million people worldwide suffer from chronic migraine. Neck pain is commonly associated with primary headaches. However, no objective biomarkers exist for myofascial involvement.

Myofascial pain is associated with inflammation or irritation of muscle or of the connective tissue, known as fascia, that surrounds the muscle.

For the study, Dr Sollmann and colleagues aimed to investigate the involvement of the trapezius muscles in primary headache disorders by quantitative magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and to explore associations between muscle T2 values and headache and neck pain frequency. The prospective study included 50 participants, mostly women, ranging in age from 20 to 31 years old. Of the study group, 16 had tension-type headaches, and 12 had tension-type headaches plus migraine episodes. The groups were matched with 22 healthy controls. All participants underwent a 3D turbo spin-echo MRI. The bilateral trapezius muscles were manually segmented, followed by muscle T2 extraction.



Hearing relaxing words in sleep slows your heart down: Research



Washington DC : Researchers from the GIGA - Centre of Research Cyclotron at the University of Liege discovered that the body reacts to the external world when sleeping, which explains how sensory input might alter sleep quality.

Researchers at ULiege have collaborated with the University of Fribourg in Switzerland to investigate whether the body is truly disconnected from the external world during sleep. To do so, they focused on how heartbeat changes when we hear different words during sleep. They found that relaxing words slowed down cardiac activity as a reflection of deeper sleep and in comparison to neutral words that did not have such a slowing effect. This discovery is presented in Journal of Sleep Research and sheds new light on brain-heart interactions during sleep. Matthieu Koroma (Fund for Scientific Research - FNRS postdoctoral researcher), Christina Schmidt and Athena Demertzi (both Fund for Scientific Research - FNRS Research Associate) from the GIGA Cyclotron Research Center at ULiege teamed up with colleagues from University of Fribourg to

lead a previous study analysing brain data (electroencephalogram) showing that relaxing words increased deep sleep duration and sleep quality, showing that we can positively influence sleep using meaningful words. By that time, the authors hypothesized that the brain also remains able to interpret sensory information in a way that makes our body more relaxed after hearing relaxing words during sleep. In this new study, the authors had the opportunity to analyze cardiac activity (electrocardiogram) to test this hypothesis and found that the heart slows down its activity only after the presentation of relaxing, but not control words.

Markers of both cardiac and brain activity were then compared to disentangle how much they contributed to the modulation of sleep by auditory information. Cardiac activity has been indeed proposed to directly contribute to the way we perceive the world, but such evidence was so far obtained in wakefulness. With these results, the ULiege researchers showed that it was also true in sleep, offering a new perspective on the essential role of bodily reactions beyond brain

data for our understanding of sleep.

"Most of sleep research focuses on the brain and rarely investigates bodily activity", says Dr. Schmidt.

"We nevertheless hypothesize that the brain and the body are connected even when we cannot fully communicate, including sleep. Both brain and body information need then to be taken into account for a full understanding of how we think and react to our environment", explains Dr. Demertzi.

"We shared freely our methodology following the principles of Open Science hoping that the tools that helped to make this discovery will inspire other researchers to study the role played by the heart in other sleep functions", Dr.Koroma advocates.

This work offers a more comprehensive approach about the modulation of sleep functions by sensory information. By looking into the cardiac responses to sounds, we may, for example, study in the future the role of the body in the way sounds influence emotional processing of memories during sleep.

People who follow plant-based diet are less prone to OSA

Los Angeles [US] : People who consume a plant-based diet rich in vegetables, fruits, whole grains, and nuts are less likely to suffer from obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), according to a study published in ERJ Open Research.

People who consume an unhealthy plant-based diet rich in refined carbohydrates, sugary drinks, and high-sugar, high-salt foods are more likely to develop OSA.

People with OSA frequently snore loudly, their breathing begins and ends throughout the night, and they may wake up multiple times. This not only causes fatigue, but may also increase the risk of high blood pressure, stroke, heart disease, and type 2 diabetes.

The new study is one of the first large-scale analyses to investigate the correlation between plant-based diets and OSA risk.

Researchers said its findings suggest that eating a healthy, plant-based diet may help prevent or treat OSA.

The research was led by Dr

Yohannes Melaku from Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia.

He said, "Risk factors for obstructive sleep apnoea may stem from genetics or behaviour, including diet. Previous research has primarily focused on the impact of calorie restriction, specific dietary elements and weight loss. There's a gap in our knowledge of how overall dietary patterns affect OSA risk. With this study, we wanted to address that gap and explore the association between different types of plant-based diets and the risk of OSA."

The research included data on 14,210 people who were taking part in the US National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

Participants were asked to explain everything they had eaten over the last 24 hours. Researchers categorised this information according to whether people were eating a healthy plant-based diet (including whole grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts, legumes, tea and coffee) or a diet high in animal foods (including animal fat, dairy, eggs, fish or



seafood and meat). They also looked at whether people were eating an unhealthy, plant-based diet (including refined grains, potatoes, sugar-sweetened drinks, sweets, desserts and salty foods).

Participants also answered a questionnaire designed to gauge

whether they are likely to be suffering from OSA. People with diets highest in plant-based food were 19% less likely to be suffering from OSA, compared with those eating diets lowest in plant-based food. Those eating a largely vegetarian diet were also at a lower

risk. However, people eating a diet high in unhealthy plant-based foods were at a 22 per cent higher risk, compared to those eating low amounts of these foods.

The researchers also found differences in the risks for women and men, with a plant-based diet

having a stronger correlation with OSA risk for men and an unhealthy plant-based diet having a bigger increase in women's risk.

Dr Melaku said, "These results highlight the importance of the quality of our diet in managing the risk of OSA. It's important to note these sex differences because they underscore the need for personalised dietary interventions for people with OSA."

"This research doesn't tell us why diet is important, but it could be that a healthy plant-based diet reduces inflammation and obesity. These are key factors in OSA risk. Diets rich in anti-inflammatory components and antioxidants, and low in harmful dietary elements, can influence fat mass, inflammation, and even muscle tone, all of which are relevant to OSA risk."

The researchers now plan to investigate the links between eating ultra-processed food and OSA risk in the same group of people. They also intend to study the interaction between diet and OSA risk over the longer term.

Professor Sophia Schiza is

Head of the European Respiratory Society's assembly on sleep-disordered breathing, based at the University of Crete, Greece, and was not involved in the research.

She said, "Obstructive sleep apnoea is a frequently occurring condition, and a significant number of individuals remain unaware of their own diagnosis despite the associated risks. There are treatments available for OSA, and patients can also take certain steps to improve their condition. This involves refraining from smoking, maintaining a healthy weight, and staying physically active."

"The findings of this study propose that modifying our diet might be beneficial in managing or avoiding OSA. Being aware that incorporating a wide variety of vegetables, fruits, and whole grains into our diet while minimizing the consumption of unhealthy foods and sugary drinks can greatly improve our overall health. We need to make it as easy as possible for everyone to adopt a healthy diet."

Elon Musk is an evil person, say President-elect Donald Trump aide Stephen K. Bannon



MI News Service, New York: Stephen K. Bannon has launched a stinging attack on Elon Musk, calling him a “truly evil person”, in comments that deepen hostilities between two men who have been influential advisers to President-elect Donald J. Trump. “I will get Elon Musk kicked out by the time he’s inaugurated,” Bannon said of Trump’s inauguration on January 20, in an interview with the Italian newspaper Corriere Della Sera. “He won’t have a blue pass with full access to the White House. He’ll be like everyone else.” Bannon was an architect of Trump’s presidential election victory in 2016 and served for a time as chief strategist during his first term in the White House. Since his release in October from a four-month stint in federal prison for a contempt conviction, Bannon has renewed his war of words with Musk, who poured more than a quarter of a billion dollars into Trump’s election win in November and has since become a constant presence at his side.

In the interview, published last week, Bannon said of Musk: “He’s a truly evil person. Stopping him has become a personal issue for me.” The insults reflect broader tension on the Right in the US about the direction of the movement that Trump has championed and fears that Musk could use his influence to sideline powerful figures within that movement to promote his own agenda. Musk does significant business with the federal government as the chief executive of SpaceX, and also runs the automaker Tesla.

Some Right-wing personalities who initially welcomed Musk’s entry into Republican politics now say they feel deceived, raising questions about the durability of their alliance.

Trump tapped Musk to co-lead an effort aimed at slashing the federal bureaucracy, but it is not clear what if any role Bannon will have in the administration. Before he left office in 2021, Trump pardoned Bannon before he faced a trial on charges that he misused money he had helped raise for a group backing Trump’s border wall. Musk has not publicly responded to the statements by Bannon.

One focus of their dispute has been the use of H-1B visas to bring skilled foreign workers to US companies, a practice decry by some conservatives who oppose immigration. Musk supports the visas, like many tech leaders who say they help to bring critical workers to their companies.



Historic 'Ghanta Ghar' or the clock tower displaying two different times stands tall at the Lal Chowk, in Srinagar.

One Indian national killed, another wounded while serving in Russian army: Ministry

MI News Service, Moscow: One Indian national apparently recruited by the Russian army has been killed while another was receiving treatment for injuries at a hospital in Moscow, the Indian foreign ministry said on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government has “strongly taken up” the matter with Russian authorities in Moscow and with the Russian Embassy in New Delhi while reiterating its demand for the early discharge of remaining Indian nationals serving

in the Russian army, the ministry said in a statement.

“We are working with the Russian authorities for early transportation of the mortal remains to India,” the ministry said. “We have also sought the early discharge and repatriation to India of the injured person.” Both came from the southern state of Kerala, it said. Indian police in May arrested four people linked to a network of human traffickers on suspicion of luring young men to Russia with the promise of lucrative

jobs or university places only to force them to fight in the war with Ukraine. After the deaths of Indian nationals last year in the war, New Delhi demanded that there be a verified halt to recruitment of Indian nationals by the Russian army and urged Indians to exercise caution while seeking employment in Russia. About 45 Indian nationals were discharged from the Russian army and efforts were underway to get a further 50 released, India’s foreign ministry said in September.

Steve Jobs's wife Laurene Powell takes unwell at Maha Kumbh, recovering after 'Ganga snan'



MI News Service, Prayagraj: Overwhelmed by the huge crowds at the Maha Kumbh, Laurene Powell Jobs, the widow of Apple co-founder Steve Jobs, was briefly indisposed but is recovering after ‘Ganga snan’ and rest.

Her enthusiasm to learn about Sanatan Dharma remains strong, according to a statement issued by the Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday. The billionaire businesswoman-philanthropist has been given a new name, ‘Kamla’, by her guru Mahamandaleshwar Swami Kailashanand Giri of the Niranjani Akhara. “Laurene was briefly unwell on Monday but is feeling better after ‘Ganga Snan’ and rest. Her enthusiasm to delve deeper into Sanatan Dharma remains strong,” the government statement quoted Swami Kailashanand as saying. Overwhelmed by the huge crowds at the Maha Kumbh, Laurene Powell Jobs, the widow of Apple

co-founder Steve Jobs, was briefly indisposed but is recovering after ‘Ganga snan’ and rest. Her enthusiasm to learn about Sanatan Dharma remains strong, according to a statement issued by the Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday.

The billionaire businesswoman-philanthropist has been given a new name, ‘Kamla’, by her guru Mahamandaleshwar Swami Kailashanand Giri of the Niranjani Akhara.

Melting pot of faith: 1.38 crore devotees take dip at Triveni Sangam on Makar Sankranti “Laurene was briefly unwell on Monday but is feeling better after ‘Ganga Snan’ and rest. Her enthusiasm to delve deeper into Sanatan Dharma remains strong,” the government statement quoted Swami Kailashanand as saying.

Swami Kailashanand told PTI Videos that she faced some health issues due to the crowds. He described his newest disciple as a “sim-

ple, virtuous, and humble” woman with a keen interest in Sanatan Dharma. “She is free from ego and fully devoted to her guru,” he said. “All her questions revolve around Sanatan Dharma and she finds great joy and satisfaction in the answers,” he added.

Mahant Ravindra Puri, chief of Panchayati Akhara Shri Niranjani, told PTI that Laurene’s quest for spirituality brought her to the Maha Kumbh. “She has a new name here, Kamla. She is very simple, soft and bereft of ego and is here as she was inspired by the timeless sanatani culture,” said Puri, who is also the president of the Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad (ABAP), the apex body of 13 monastic Hindu orders.

“Her quest for spirituality brought her here. The way she has conducted herself in the akhara makes it clear that despite being among the world’s richest and most famous, she is sans all ego and does not show-off. Here she dresses simply and conducts herself gracefully,” he added. Barring a few short video clips of her that were shared by news outlets last week, Laurene has largely avoided the media at the world’s largest religious gathering so far.

In the video clips that were shared online on Saturday, she is seen dressed in a peach-yellow salwar suit with a saffron stole and a Rudraksha necklace around her neck.

Joe Biden names two nuclear-powered aircraft carriers after former presidents Clinton and George W Bush

MI News Service, New York: US President Joe Biden on Monday announced naming two nuclear-powered aircraft carriers after former presidents Bill Clinton and George W Bush.

Clinton, a Democrat, was the 42nd US president, holding office between 1993 and 2001. He was succeeded by Bush, a Republican, who held office from 2001 to 2009. Biden said in a statement, “I am proud to announce that the next two Gerald R Ford-class nuclear-powered aircraft carriers will be named for two former presidents -- Bill Clinton and George W Bush.” “When I personally delivered the news to Bill and George, they were deeply humbled. Each knows firsthand the weight of the responsibilities that come with being commander-in-chief. And both know well our duty to support the families and loved ones who wait and worry for the safe return of their service member,” he said. The future USS William J Clinton (CVN 82) and the future USS George W Bush (CVN 83) will begin construction in the years ahead.

Role of Muslim Personal Law Board important in Islamic movement: Abu Taleb Rahmani



Nurul Islam Khan

On Monday, an important meeting was held at a luxurious hotel in Park Circus on the initiative of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board. The purpose of this meeting was to felicitate two new members of the board. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Maulana Abu Taleb Rahmani. He has been made the executive member of this board. On the other hand, Maulana Muhammad Kamruzzaman and Haji Mahmud Alam have been nominated from Bengal to the board of the organization. This meeting is mainly to officially welcome them. The meeting began with Naat Sharif. Maulana Abu Taleb Rahmani, one of the important working members of the board, was present, along with the Chairman of the State Minorities Commission, Ahmed Hasan Imran said, I have been associated with this organization for a long time. I have worked with the renowned leaders of the Muslim Personal Law Board in various provinces. After the demolition of the Babri Masjid, the decision to file a case in the Supreme Court regarding the Babri Masjid in the meeting of the Muslim Personal Law Board was historic. This organization has made an outstand-

ing contribution to protecting Islamic Sharia. The new VC of Alia University, Dr. Rafiqul Islam, who was present in the meeting, was introduced. The VC said that the educational program of Alia University will now get the right direction. I came to Alia after leaving a high position at the International Islamic University of Malaysia due to financial losses. I will try to fulfill the purpose and goal of this educational institution. We have to establish the principle of Islamic brotherhood. Maulana Kamruzzaman said that the board is a very important organization of Indian Muslims.

I thank you for nominating me. He also said that I will speak for those whom no one speaks for and work for Islam and society. Haji Mahmud Alam also expressed his views in this meeting. Other important members and supporters of the board were also present that day. Notable among them were Sahud Alam, Maulana Anwar Hossain, Kazi Mohsin Azim (Sumon) and others. Alamgir Sardar of Ahle Hadith drew attention to some of the weaknesses of the board in the meeting.

China's Tibet region hit by several earthquakes days after major tremors, casualties among clergy unknown

MI News Service, Tibet: At least two Tibetan Buddhism monastic centres were severely damaged in Tibet with an unknown number of monks and nuns hurt, according to the few state media reports on the damage to religious sites since last week’s powerful earthquake. The magnitude 6.8 quake reduced to rubble roofs and walls at a monastery and a nunnery about 15 km (nine miles) east of the epicentre in Tingri county, China Tibet Online reported on Sunday.

Buddhist monasteries and nunneries are key to Tibet’s cultural identity. Families send at least one male child to a monastery for studies, while monks are a source of blessings and council in communities. Authorities have yet to reveal how many monasteries and nunneries were damaged though they were quick to tally more than 3,600 collapsed houses. It was also unclear if the clergy were among the 126 people who died in a headcount that has not changed since the day of the Jan. 7 quake. The violent shaking trapped several of Dzongbu Temple’s nuns, who were later pulled out from underneath the collapsed structure, China Tibet Online said. Rescuers later moved them to makeshift facilities outside a less-damaged monastery. The nearby Sengar Chode Monastery, founded in 1541, is home to a number of relics, which have since been moved into the custody of county officials, Global Times reported. As of Tuesday morning, 3,614 aftershocks have been logged, including two tremors of magnitude 4.9 and 5.0 near the Jan. 7 epicentre. Local officials found “no obvious damage” to the region’s most significant structures including Tashilhunpo Monastery - the traditional seat of Tibetan Buddhism’s second-ranking Panchen Lama - Shalu Monastery and Pelkor Chode, Tibet Daily reported. Sakya Monastery, the seat of the Sakya school of Tibetan Buddhism, suffered “only minor damage.” The State Council Information Office (SCIO), which handles media queries on behalf of the central government, did not immediately respond to a request for information. China’s information censorship poses challenges in verifying casualty reports, Penpa Tsering, leader of the Central Tibetan Administration in India, said on Sunday. He also said the needs and rights of Tibetans should be taken into account.

Army chief's 'strategic neighbour' over-ture on Bangladesh, then fence snub

MI News Service, New Delhi: General Upendra Dwivedi, the army chief, on Monday described Bangladesh as a “strategic neighbour” and said any animosity would benefit neither country, but the unease in bilateral ties tumbled out within hours with India snubbing Dhaka’s concerns about a border-fencing drive.

“We are neighbours, we have to live together and understand each other. Any kind of animosity is not in each other’s interest,” Dwivedi said in the morning, having been asked about India-Bangladesh relations. “I’ll take you back to the comment made by the Bangladesh army chief (General Waker-Uz-Zaman) recently that India is strategically important to us and the same is vice versa. Bangladesh is strategically important to us.” Within hours, however, the strain in the relationship since Sheikh Hasina’s ouster was underlined when the external affairs ministry summoned acting Bangladesh high commissioner Nurul Islam and conveyed India’s position on border fencing, the latest thorn in bilateral ties.

Economic woes not a deal breaker as China's Lunar New Year travel rush kicks off

MI News Service, Beijing: The annual travel rush for China’s Lunar New Year celebrations officially began on Tuesday, with many taking a mental break from their worries about the future to reunite with family or take a holiday.

The peak travel season in the world’s second-largest economy kicked off with a train departing from Beijing minutes after midnight, taking early bird travelers from the capital to Hefei in eastern Anhui province. Most people aim to be with family for the traditional reunion dinner on the eve of the New Year, which falls on Jan. 29 this year. The 40-day travel season will continue until Feb. 22, during which authorities estimate a record 9 billion

domestic trips will be made. The forecast matches 2024’s estimate, although only 8.4 billion trips were actually made during last year’s festivities. Railway passenger volume is expected to exceed 510 million passengers, while more than 90 million passengers are expected to fly. However, the number of journeys by private vehicle is expected to reach 7.2 billion trips, or about 80% of the total domestic passenger flow, national television broadcaster CCTV said. Most of China’s 1.4 billion population will be celebrating this year’s Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, at a time when the economy is struggling to sustain a durable recovery hamstrung by weak domestic



demand and a prolonged property market crisis.

Some travelers said they would not allow the state of the

economy to take the shine off the upcoming celebrations. “Although the economy has slowed down, I think the coun-

try as a whole is taking into consideration (the economic situation) and us, as ordinary people, are living well (day to day),” said Wang Zhixu, a 55-year-old who works in property management services, and was at the station in Beijing. “Peace within our country brings us the most happiness.” Air passengers who purchased multiple destination tickets for the festive period rose 50% compared to last year, and hotel bookings in some counties have increased, CCTV said.

Beijing, Guangzhou, Harbin, Dali and Fuzhou were popular destinations for holidaymakers making the most of the eight-day public holiday. But for young people looking for work, the outlook is differ-

ent. Shi Zhenyue, 22, en route to Harbin for a holiday with friends before travelling on to Wuxi in eastern Jiangsu province to celebrate the New Year with family, hoped for an improvement in the economy so she could join the workforce. “If the economy does get better (in the new year), I will have a better chance of finding a job, and I won’t have to go back to study for a master’s or doctoral degree. And if the economy improves, my father’s bonus (from work) won’t be halved. Everything else is fine,” Shi said. Youth unemployment hit 18.8% last August, the highest since the authorities changed the way they calculated the figures in December 2023. Although joblessness data has shown

some improvement in recent months, millions of college graduates have been pushed into accepting low-paying work or even subsisting on their parents’ pensions. Many have also abandoned the stresses of big cities for a simpler life away from the hustle. For 33-year-old He who lives in northeastern Liaoning province with her fiancé, the slower pace of life is a comfort. “Because we are not in a very big city like everyone else, we may not have too much pressure,” said the small business owner who only gave her surname. “We had also stayed in the big city for a period of time after graduation, and then we chose to go back to our home town where we feel is friendlier, and also happier,” she said.

Bengal Tigers returns to points tally, Delhi disappoints



PC JHA

RANCHI : Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers on Tuesday earned 3 points after defeating Delhi SG Pipers by solitary goal at the Jaipal Singh Munda Astro turf stadium,

Morhabadi before 5000 spectators. It was a memorable day for Bengal Tigers' captain Uditia as her teammates celebrated birth-day on the ground after winning the match. Team happiness was doubled when Jharkhand's

Beauty Dungdung was adjudged the player of the match. Ireland's Kathryn Mullan broke the deadlock in the 23rd minute of the second quarter when her powerful grounder took 1-0 lead which proved vital for

The cheer leaders who have been entertaining the audience by dancing to western music during matches, today the Nagpuri beats forced the cheerleaders to dance with the audience at Ranchi's Morabadi Stadium.

Delhi.

However, Delhi team earned five penalty corners during the match but poor push and aimless hit let them down. Bengla Tigers team also earned one penalty corner as the result was the same.

Bengal Tigers' and Jharkhand led Beauty Dungdung was declared player of the match.

Learning from yesterday defeat against Bengal Tigers girls played attacking game throughout the match while Delhi SG Pipers team failed to crack Tigers' defence.

Delhi SG Pipers took the initiative in the second quarter, earning a penalty corner within minutes, but Stephanie De Groof's shot was shut down by Grace O'Hanlon again. The Pipers' onslaught continued in the minutes that followed but Grace and the Tigers' defensive unit remained alert in goal to deny Deepika and Preeti Dubey's shots. However, on the 23

minute mark, the Tigers' embarked on a counter attack and found Kathryn Mullan who lifted the ball over on rushing keeper Elodie Picard to score against the run of play. The Pipers surged ahead in search for an equaliser towards the end of the second quarter but the Tigers scrambled to defend their slender 1-0 lead.

Today's defeat disappointed Delhi SG Pipers fans present at the stadium as it was Delhi's second consecutive defeat in the tournament. Delhi Pipers lost its inaugural match against Odisha Warriors by 0-4 on January 12.

However, both the teams started the game on attacking mode but first quarter remained goal-less

Delhi SG Pipers and Shrachi Bengal Tigers disappointed Ranchiites as both the teams lost their first match against Odisha Warriors and JSW Soorma Hockey club respectively.

68th National School U-14 Athletics Championship

State athletes shine on the last day, TN emerges overall champions



PC JHA

RANCHI : Jharkhand's athletes brought laurels for the state on the last day as they won three medals in the 68th National School U-14 Athletics championship at the Birsa Munda Football Stadium, Morhabadi concluded on Tuesday.

Tamil Nadu emerged overall champion with 64 points, Uttar Pradesh team was declared runner-up with 54 points.

On the last day of the Under 14 Boys/Girls category athletics under the 68th National School Games Competition, Jharkhand bagged three medals. Jharkhand players performed strongly in the competitions. Jharkhand's Santosh Murmu won bronze medal in Under 14 Boys category in long jump, Emmanuel Kisku, Ashvin Nagudwar, Ankit Kumar and Upendra Kumar won bronze medal in Boys category 4x100 meter relay and Jharkhand's Soni Kumari won bronze medal in girls' category long jump.

The strong performance of Tamil Nadu players continued on the last day of this competition. Tamil Nadu won five medals on the last day. Tamil Nadu team became the overall winner in both the categories with 64 points, followed by Uttar Pradesh team with 54 points and became the runner-up.

In the Under 14 Boys/Girls Athletics Boys category competitions, Uttar Pradesh became the

winner with 46 points. Tamil Nadu team became the runner-up with 32 points in this competition. Maharashtra team became the winner in the Girls category competition with 36 points and Tamil Nadu team became the runner-up with 32 points.

Kulli Parveen of Telangana got the gold medal in the 100 meter race in the Boys category. Kuda Raghvendra of Andhra Pradesh got the silver medal and Rathod Karthik of Telangana got the bronze medal. In the Boys category 200 meter race, Inba Tamilan of Tamil Nadu got the gold medal, Gudal of Telangana got the silver medal and Arnav Singh of Uttar Pradesh got the bronze medal.

In girls' long jump, Dhanya from Tamil Nadu won gold medal, Mokshitha of CFTI got silver medal and Soni Kumari of Jharkhand got bronze medal. In girls' high jump, Dhanya from Tamil Nadu got the gold medal, Nivetha of Tamil Nadu got the silver medal and Naisa of Kerala got the bronze medal. In girls' 3 kg shot put, Tejaswini of Karnataka got gold medal, Hanpreet of Haryana got silver medal and Divya of Rajasthan got bronze medal. In girls' 1 kg discus throw, Monika Bishnoi of Rajasthan got gold medal, Jewel Singh of Punjab got silver medal and Bhumiika Jalal of Uttarakhand got bronze medal. In girls' 4x100 meter relay, CFTI got the gold medal, Maharashtra got silver medal and Kerala got bronze medal.

MUMBAI CITY FC ANNOUNCES AIFF BLUE CUBS LEAGUE 2024-2025

MUMBAI (MAHARASHTRA) : Mumbai City FC is committed to nurturing and developing football talent across the city, ensuring the next generation of football stars receives the right platform to grow and showcase their skills.

Building on its mission to invest in grassroots football, Mumbai City FC on Tuesday announced the commencement of Season 2 of the AIFF Blue Cubs League 2024-2025, which will take place from January 15, 2025, to March 9, 2025, a release from Mumbai City FC stated.

<https://x.com/MumbaiCityFC/status/1879129629405110360>

The league will feature teams from various academies competing in three age groups: U9, U10, and U11. These young players will compete for the championship title, showcasing their skills and potential for a future in the sport. The U10 and U11 age groups will include teams from E7 Football Academy, Tipu Sultan FA, Bravo Football, Bravehearts FA, Mumbai City FC, Somaiya Sports Academy, BFC Soccer Schools, and Anstrengung United (7 teams in total). The U9 category will have an additional team, Homegrown Grasshoppers, bringing the total number of teams to 8 in this age group.

The Mumbai City FC Blue Cubs League 2024-2025 will be hosted at the Wings Sports Centre, Bandra West, Mumbai. The league, held in affiliation with the Mumbai Football Association (MFA), Western India Football Association (WIFA) and All India Football Federation (AIFF), will run from January 15, 2025, to March 9, 2025.

Mumbai City, CEO Kandarp Chandra said that the Mumbai-based club's main priority is to promote grassroots football. He added that they are excited to see young players compete.

"Grassroots football development remains a priority for us at Mumbai City FC, and the Blue Cubs League is a key part of our efforts. We're excited to see young players compete, grow, and showcase their talents this year. Their enthusiasm and commitment inspire us, and we're proud to support the next generation of footballers. This league will be key in shaping their future in the sport. We thank MFA, WIFA, AIFF for their continued support in making this initiative a success," Kandarp Chandra was quoted in a release from Mumbai City FC as saying.



India Open 2025: PV Sindhu, Kiran George, Dhruv-Tanisha advance to second round

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : Former champion PV Sindhu brushed off the rustiness of a long competition break to register a straight games win over Sung Shuo Yun of Chinese Taipei while late entrant Kiran George came through a topsy-turvy encounter against Japan's Yushi Tanaka in the opening round of the India Open 2025 badminton tournament at the KD Jadhav Hall in New Delhi on Tuesday, according to a release from Badminton Association of India (BAI).

Sindhu, playing her first tournament after getting married in December last year, struggled with her rhythm during the 51-minute clash against an opponent who plays both singles and doubles but upped the tempo when required to win 21-14, 22-20, while Kiran missed three match points and saved three himself before beating Tanaka 21-19, 14-21, 27-25 in an hour and 11 minutes in the opening round of the BWF World Tour Super 750 event.

Among the other Indians in the fray, the mixed doubles combination of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto fought back from a game down to beat Chen Cheng Kuan of Hsu Yin-Hui Chinese Taipei 8-21, 21-19, 21-17 while fifth-seeded women's doubles combination of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand went down 21-23, 19-21 against Japan's Arisa Igarashi Ayako Sakuramoto in the opening round.

In the only other upset of the day in the morning session, Leong Jun Hao of Malaysia packed off Chinese fifth seed Li Shi Feng 18-21, 21-17, 21-17. In women's singles, seventh seed 7-Yeo Jia Min of Singapore saved two match points in the second game to beat Vietnam's Thuy Linh Nguyen 19-21, 22-20, 21-5.

But the star attraction of the



day was Sindhu, who has been making a comeback of sorts on the BWF circuit after a long break since the Paris Olympics. She raced through the opening game and looked in control before she dropped four-game points from 20-10.

The momentum stayed with Sung in the second game as the Taipei shuttler raced to a 4-11 lead. Sindhu then raised the tempo to close in at 13-13. Sung managed to keep pace and even earned a game point before the Indian turned things around to win.

"After a long break, it's always difficult to find the rhythm but I am happy to have won the match in straight games. My shuttle was going midcourt in the second game but I was always confident that I could pull things off," said the world no. 16, who will now face Japan's Manami Suizu in the second round.

Earlier, Kiran survived a close encounter against Tanaka. The Indian started strong in the opening game only to be pulled back by his errors. He managed to pocket the opening game despite the struggle but his Japanese opponent raced through the second to force the decider.

Kiran, who got an entry in the competition at the last minute, then opened up a big lead at the break in the third before another series of errors allowed Tanaka to fight his way into the match. However, despite missing three match points from 20-18, the Indian kept his nerves to save three match points himself before finding the winning point.

"I was hoping for the last-minute entry as I was first reserved and had come here on Saturday itself to ensure that I am well prepared," said Kiran, who will next face the winner of the match between fourth seed

Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand and Alex Lanier of France.

"Even last year, I lost 4-5 matches from a winning position and hence I have been working on such situations in practice. Even today, things go difficult but I managed to keep my composure and pull through," he added.

In the morning session, the Indian mixed doubles combination of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto fought back from a disastrous opening game and explained what had gone wrong for them.

"I think the first game we couldn't really understand the conditions. Especially in the morning, we were freezing out. But I think, in the second and third game we were moving very quick and not giving easy attacks to them and that pretty much changed the game," said Kapila, who is now focusing completely on mixed doubles.

Australia's Annabel Sutherland crowned as ICC Women's Player of the Month for Dec 2024

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : Star Australia all-rounder Annabel Sutherland was crowned as the ICC Women's Player of the Month for December 2024, announced by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday.

According to a release from ICC, Sutherland shone brightly for Australia in December 2024, playing a pivotal role as her team remained unbeaten across five ODIs - three against India and two against New Zealand. Her exceptional performances earned her three Player of the Match awards and the Player of the Series title for both series.

Sutherland's all-round brilliance cemented her status as a key player for Australia and earned her the ICC Women's Player of the Month award for December 2024, ahead of Smriti Mandhana and Nonkululeko Mlaba.

Sutherland amassed 269 runs during the month, highlighted by two brilliant centuries: a commanding 110 against India in Perth and an unbeaten 105 against New Zealand in Wellington. She finished with an impressive batting average of 67.25 and a strike rate of 113.98.

The 23-year-old also made a significant impact with the ball, claiming nine wickets at an exceptional economy rate of 3.85 and an average of 16.22. Her standout bowling performance came in the second ODI against India in Brisbane, where she delivered match-winning figures of 4/39.

