

SMPK remember Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 128th birth anniversary

Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMPK) observed the 128th birth anniversary of the iconic freedom fighter, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, with great enthusiasm. The celebration took place at the Netaji Subhas Dock, formerly known as King George's Dock, which was renamed on July 6, 1973, in honor of Netaji, symbolizing courage, determination, and a relentless quest for freedom. The ceremony was graced by senior officials of Kolkata Dock System, including Chairman Rathendra Raman, Deputy Chairman SamratRahi,... **PG 3**



Rs. 3
KOLKATA
FRIDAY, 24 JANUARY, 2025
PG-8, YEAR-11, ISSUE-235
(RNI NO.: WBENG / 2014 / 56803)
WEBSITE: WWW.LIVE7TV.COM

Morning India



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee meets and interacts with the public during an event in Alipurduar on Thursday.

Mamata Banerjee questions Centre on Netaji's mysterious disappearance and file secrecy

MI News Service, Alipurduar: On the occasion of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 128th birth anniversary on Thursday, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee raised significant concern about the mystery surrounding disappearance of this great freedom fighter. In August 1945.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee addressing a public meeting on the occasion of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 128th birth anniversary in Alipurduar, on Thursday.

could we never find him?" Banerjee lamented. She added, "We know his birthdate, but we don't know the date of his actual death. It pains me that we still don't know what actually happened to him after the Taihoku air tragedy in which his plane crash landed at the airport."

She also said that Netaji was the true political mentor of the entire nation. "He was a true leader and pathfinder. He had set up the Indian National Army. The erstwhile Planning Commission was his brainchild. He believed in the unity of all religions. He used to think for everyone. But it is unfortunate that we do not have any idea on where he actually vanished," the Chief Minister said.

Before coming to power, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had repeatedly promised to release all files related to Netaji, but after assuming office, most of these files

have remained classified, with the government citing national security and foreign policy concerns.

Mamata Banerjee also reminded the gathering that while the central government has withheld much of the information, the West Bengal government has taken proactive steps to honour Netaji's legacy.

The state has already released 64 files on Netaji, showcasing its commitment to transparency and preserving his memory. Banerjee also pointed out that the state has made various moves to honour Netaji, including the formation of the Jai Hind Brigade, and asked why the central government has not followed suit in revealing more information about the leader's life and disappearance.

Furthermore, Mamata Banerjee expressed her sorrow over this unresolved issue, stating, "Netaji was a victim of a great

conspiracy. It pains me that despite his immense sacrifices for the country, we still don't know how he died. He stands as a symbol of patriotism, courage, leadership, unity, and brotherhood. Netaji will remain an inspiration for generations to come."

The Chief Minister also emphasized the importance of declaring Netaji's birthday as a national holiday. "It is unfortunate that the central government has not declared Netaji's birthday as a national holiday, so that the entire country can pay homage to him and celebrate it as 'Deshnayak Divas.' While they haven't done so, we have declared a public holiday in the state to honour his legacy," she said as she clearly looked upset with the central government's decision.

The Chief Minister's words reflect the ongoing frustration in West Bengal regarding the mysterious circumstances of Netaji's disappearance, a subject that has long been a point of contention between the state and the central government. Despite the central government's promises, many crucial documents about Netaji's life remain under wraps, keeping the public in the dark about his fate.

This continued secrecy has fueled debate and raised several questions on whether the full story of Netaji's disappearance will ever come to light, further intensifying calls for truth and accountability.

John Barla likely to shift to TMC, shares stage with Mamata Banerjee

MI News Service, Alipurduar: After a lot of speculations in the political arena in the state, the formal joining of former BJP MP John Barla to the Trinamool Congress (TMC) now looks only a matter of time. On Thursday, Barla was seen attending a government meeting with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Alipurduar, following which political observers believe that Barla is likely to formally join TMC as early as next week.

However, the state president of BJP Sukanta Majumdar has refused to pay any credence to the possibility of Barla's shifting allegiance to the ruling party in the state and said, "Anyone can join any polit-

ical party they wish to. No one can stop them. I have nothing to say at this moment. We shall comment based on his final decision," Majumdar said.

The event took place in Kalchini, Alipurduar, where Mamata Banerjee held a public meeting. Barla, the former BJP MP from the region, was invited to attend the government event, which he confirmed and said it was a special request from the state government. Although Barla was in Delhi till Wednesday for his wife's treatment, but he returned to North Bengal on Thursday morning specifically to attend the Chief Minister's programme.

After landing at Bagdogra Airport, Barla re-

marked, "The Chief Minister has invited me, and I'm here. If I receive her blessings, I will certainly work with her." This statement set off speculation in the North Bengal tea belt about Barla's political future in TMC.

"Barla's comments raised further questions about his political future and his possible integration into TMC. It sparked rumors about whether he could find the same political acceptance within TMC as he used to get in the BJP," said one political observer in anonymity. However, these speculations were put to rest on Thursday, with reports confirming that Barla's formal entry into the ruling party is just a matter of time.

"Tea workers have blessed the BJP with lakhs of votes here. But still there is no development. I wanted to work but I couldn't. I also did not get enough respect," Barla said. "Development is the issue. Thus, when the state's chief minister has invited me, it's important that we sit together for this region's development."

Barla had won the Alipurduar seat for BJP in 2019, but in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, he was denied a party ticket. This decision deepened the rift between him and the party. Barla was also once an advocate of the demand for a separate state of Gorkhaland, a stance that was strongly opposed by Mamata Banerjee.

PM Modi urged people to stand united for 'viksit Bharat', on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary

MI News Service, New Delhi: Urging people to stand united in pursuit of 'viksit Bharat', Prime minister Narendra Modi has also asked them to remain vigilant against the forces seeking to weaken the country and break its unity.

Virtually addressing a special 'Parakram Diwas' event in Cuttack from New Delhi on Thursday to commemorate Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 128th birth anniversary in the city of his birth, PM Modi said the iconic freedom fighter's life is still a source of continuous inspiration for millions of people across the country.

In his remarks the Prime minister said Netaji, as Bose was fondly called, chose to shun comfort zone and preferred to struggle for the country's independence.

Modi said, "He (Netaji) never got trapped in a comfort zone. Similarly, we all have to step out of our comfort zone to build a viksit Bharat. We have to make ourselves best globally. We have to choose excellence and focus on efficiency."

Bose was single-mindedly focused on the country's 'swaraj' (self rule) and people from diverse background united for the cause, he said. "Now we have to stand united for a developed India".

He said people should



seek inspiration from Subhas Chandra Bose's life for India's unity. "We have to stay alert to those who wanted to weaken the country and break its unity," he said.

The prime minister cited a host of decisions, including the naming of islands in the Andamans after Bose, installation of his statue at India Gate and celebration of his birth anniversary as 'Parakram Diwas', taken by his government to emphasise on its work to promote his legacy. Bose took pride in India's heritage, he said.

Fast pace of development, he added, goes hand in hand with people's progress, strengthening of the armed forces and overall development.

While over 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty, modern infrastructure in also being built and the strength of armed forces has risen in an unprecedented manner in the last one decade, he said adding India has

emerged as a strong voice globally.

Earlier in the day Prime Minister Modi and several of his cabinet colleagues, paid rich tributes to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 128th birth anniversary in Samvidhan Sadan. After paying tributes PM Modi interacted with several school students who were present there on the occasion. Rajya Sabha LOP and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla also paid tributes to Netaji on his birth anniversary. .

Later in a post on his X handle the Prime minister said "Today, on Parakram Diwas, I pay homage to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. His contribution to India's freedom movement is unparalleled".

"He epitomised courage and grit. His vision continues to motivate us as we work towards building the India he envisioned," he added. In

2021, the central government officially designated January 23 as Parakram Diwas to mark the birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose.

On the occasion of Parakram Diwas 2025, a grand celebration is scheduled to unfold from 23rd January to 25th January 2025 at Barabati Fort in the historic city of Cuttack, the birthplace of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

The multifaceted celebration will honour the legacy of Netaji on his 128th birth anniversary. The three-day event, scheduled for 23rd-25th January 2025, was inaugurated by Mohan Charan Majhi, the Chief Minister of Odisha this morning. .

The year 2022 saw the unveiling of a hologram statue of Netaji at India Gate, New Delhi, and in 2023, 21 unnamed islands in the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago were named after the 21 Param Vir Chakra Awardees. In 2024, the Prime Minister inaugurated the event at the historic Red Fort in Delhi, the site of the INA trials. Continuing the tradition, this year the Parakram Diwas celebration is being organised by the Ministry of Culture at Cuttack, Netaji's birthplace and the city that shaped his early sensibilities. The three-day-long

►► Continued on page 3

Kejriwal promises to end unemployment in Delhi within five years



MI News Service, New Delhi: With voting in Delhi assembly elections is less than two weeks away, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday vowed to eliminate unemployment in the national capital within the next five years, if returned to power.

In a video message, the former Delhi chief minister emphasised his focus on generating more employment saying "My top priority will be to provide employment to our youths. Our team is drafting a detailed plan to address the issue of unemployment". Highlighting his government's track record, Kejriwal claimed the AAP government in Punjab provided 48,000 government jobs in less than two years and facilitated over three lakh private-sector jobs for youths. We know how to

create employment and our intentions are honest. With people's support, we will eliminate unemployment from Delhi in the next five years," he asserted.

The polling in Delhi assembly elections are scheduled for February 5, with results to be declared on February 8. The AAP is in pursuit of a third consecutive term in the city, but it faces a tight contest from the BJP.

A couple of days ago Kejriwal launched a scathing attack on the BJP and termed the party manifesto as "dangerous" for the future of the national capital as well as the whole country.

Severely criticizing BJP's election manifesto, the former Delhi Chief minister alleged that the party plans to shut free education in government schools and dismantle free health services, including the Mohalla Clinics in the National capital, if voted to power. Speaking to reporters during an election campaign in his constituency, Kejriwal alleged that BJP's "true intentions" had now been revealed in the manifesto and warned voters against supporting the party. "If the BJP comes to power, they will stop free education, end free health facilities and make it difficult for the poor to survive in Delhi. This is a direct attack on the welfare

►► Continued on page 3

CEC Rajiv Kumar sounds caution against fake narratives in shaping future of elections

MI News Service, New Delhi: Sounding a note of caution against fake narratives which erode trust in electoral processes, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar has said that such narratives are typically timed at crucial junctures of the election process to target its very vitals.

The CEC was speaking at a two-day international conference 'Global Election Year 2024: Reiteration

of Democratic Spaces: Takeaway for EMBS' in New Delhi on Thursday.

Being held ahead of the National Voters Day, the conference brings together representatives from Election Management Bodies (EMBs) of nearly 13 countries and international organizations.

In his keynote address, Rajiv Kumar reflected that 2024 was a defining year as a test for EMBs for reaffirmation of democratic

values amidst challenges and complexities. He emphasized the critical role of technology and digital innovations in enhancing efficiency, transparency and voter confidence. He added that while Technology offers significant opportunities, it also brings challenges like cybersecurity threats and misinformation.

According to Election Commission sources, the CEC urged EMBs to

streamline strategies for addressing these technological challenges to effectively mitigate the risks.

Nearly 30 representatives from the Election Management Bodies (EMBs) of 13 countries including Bhutan, Georgia, Namibia, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Ireland, Mauritius, Philippines, Russian Federation, Tunisia, and Nepal are attending the two-day international conference.

►► Continued on page 3

Tea cup and saucer offered to Netaji Subhas Bose by a British officer, kept in a police station in Bengal for over 93 years

MI News Service, Noapara (WB): In order to mark a brief but very significant "stay" of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at the non-descriptive Noapara police station in one corner of the North 24 Parganas district way back in 1931, the policemen at the station not only celebrate his birth anniversary every year with pomp and revelry, but also remember the great freedom fighter for his struggle for independence as well as sacrifices in life. Situated barely 55 km away

from Kolkata this unassuming Noapara police station, holds a unique historical connection to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, as he was briefly detained there by the British in 1931. Since then on 23-January every year, policemen at the station respectfully celebrate Netaji's birth anniversary and commemorate the freedom fighter's life

►► Continued on page 3

Halisahar Municipality demolishes illegal bar on HC order

MI News Service, Halishahar: On the order of the Calcutta High Court, a Municipality has demolished a bar illegally built on government land. The incident took place at Bagh More area of Halishahar Municipality in North 24 Parganas on Thursday, police said. After the Lok Sabha election, State Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee addressed a press conference from Nabanna and said that government land cannot be occupied by force. Since then, municipalities and panchayats in different parts of the State have been active in freeing up Government land. Authority of Halishahar Municipality was no exception. It can be said that they committed an unprecedented incident, a local people said. Allegedly multiple parts of a bar lo-

dozer. The police administration also kept an eye on this process so that no disruption of law and order takes place there. Police personnel too were deployed on behalf of the Halishahar Police and administration. Incidentally, after demolishing this illegal construction, the municipality practically made one thing clear that the law is equal for everyone. A few months ago, when the Halishahar municipality had demolished the shops on the roadside, the common people started asking questions that the law is for the poor only and no law is applied for the rich. But after Thursday's incident, a message was conveyed to all those people from the municipality that the law is equal for everyone. However, while demolishing the illegal construction, the offi-



cated at the 'Bagh More' area of Halishahar Municipality were built by occupying the Government land. Such complaints started coming to the municipality repeatedly. So, the municipality investigated and found the allegations were true. After that, the owner of the bar was served notice several times, but they allegedly did not pay any attention to the matter. As a result, the municipality approached the administration. Subsequently, an investigation process was started under the supervision of a Judge of the Calcutta High Court. Then the judge of the Calcutta High Court ordered that the municipality can demolish the construction of the bar which were developed by occupying the government land. So, the municipality got active. Similarly, the PW officers of the municipality were seen being active since Thursday morning. Several parts of the illegal construction of the pub were demolished with the municipality's bul-

dozer. The police administration also kept an eye on this process so that no disruption of law and order takes place there. Police personnel too were deployed on behalf of the Halishahar Police and administration. Incidentally, after demolishing this illegal construction, the municipality practically made one thing clear that the law is equal for everyone. A few months ago, when the Halishahar municipality had demolished the shops on the roadside, the common people started asking questions that the law is for the poor only and no law is applied for the rich. But after Thursday's incident, a message was conveyed to all those people from the municipality that the law is equal for everyone. However, while demolishing the illegal construction, the offi-



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee pays tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 128th birth anniversary during an event in Alipurduar, on Thursday.

128th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

MI NewsService, Kolkata: Kolkata celebrated the 128th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose with tributes and events honoring his role in India's independence. Ceremonies at Netaji Bhawan and Victoria Memorial highlighted his leadership in forming the Indian National Army (INA) and his fight against British rule. The Chief Minister and other dignitaries paid homage, while schools and colleges held debates, processions, and cultural programs emphasizing Bose's ideals. The Indian Railways launched a "Netaji Ex-



press" connecting Kolkata and Cuttack, symbolizing his journey from his birthplace. A light-and-sound show on Bose's life and a grand cultural event at

Rabindra Sadan capped the day, with chants of "Jai Hind" resonating across the city. Netaji's enduring legacy continues to inspire the nation.

People happy with MP Rachana's performance

MI News Service hooghly: The Didi number one of the small screen and Hooghly Lok Sabha MP Rachna Banerjee has been setting an example of continuous development work in her entire constituency ever since she became a member of Parliament. The work that former BJP MP Locket Chatterjee could not do for the last five years, Rachna Banerjee is doing all the work. Recently, there was a problem of erosion of the Ganga river in Balagarh assembly constituency of Hooghly district, to solve which, last week, on the request of Rachna Banerjee, a central government delegation reached the area to review the problems of the people of this area. Rachna Banerjee herself was seen convincing them about the problems of the people of this area. On this occasion, the delegation from the central government thoroughly reviewed the issue and said that we will submit this report there and the issue will be resolved soon. On this occasion, Rachna Banerjee said that I had promised the people during my election campaign that I would raise this issue in Parliament as soon as I got the victory and resolve it. Rachna Banerjee suddenly reached the hospitals and was seen reviewing the treatment there and sometimes entered a school where she also tasted the mid-day meal of the children and instructed the administration to take care of the chili masala oil so that the children do not face any kind of problem. Today, during a special



meeting with MP Rachna Banerjee in Chisurah, during which there was talk about more local trains stopping at the "Islampara" halt, she wanted to know the entire matter and problems. The Awami News representative counted the talks and their performance from Dr. Ratna De Nag, the first that Trinamool Congress MP from Hooghly Lok Sabha constituency, to the former BJP MP Locket Chatterjee. As soon as Dr. Ratna De Nag became MP, seeing the problems of the people of Bansberia, he had demanded a new station between Bansberia and Tribeni station for years, which Ratna De Nag got fulfilled. But only one pair of local trains used to stop here. But she lost the 2019 Lok Sabha elections and Locket Chatterjee succeeded on a BJP ticket. But during his entire five-year term, development work was not up to par, while verbal spending was

good during his time, and religious hatred markets became very hot. As a result, as soon as his five-year term was completed, the people ousted him from the MP seat. Locket did not even mention the name of this halt station, let alone stopping more local trains at this "Islampara" halt station. After that, as soon as Rachna Banerjee was seen standing on the Trinamool ticket in the last election campaign, people voted for her with both hands and made her successful with the hope that Rachna Banerjee would definitely solve the problem of Islampara Halt Station. Just as Rachna Banerjee is now moving towards solving the problem of the people of her constituency, she will soon fulfill the demands of the people regarding the halting of more local trains at Islampara Halt Station, as she told Awami News in a special meeting today.

Journalists to Now Receive ₹20,000 Honorarium 'Voice of Media' Succeeds in Its Efforts

MI News Service, Mumbai : The government had previously announced an increase in the honorarium for retired journalists from 11,000 to 20,000, but the implementation was pending. After consistent follow-ups by the 'Voice of Media,' Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar has finally approved the proposal, ensuring that journalists will start receiving 20,000 as honorarium from April. Earlier, the government had declared the increase in honorarium for retired journalists but failed to allocate the required budget. Responding to the persistent demands of the 'Voice of Media,' then-Minister Shambhuraje Desai had prepared and submitted the necessary documents to the Finance and Planning Department. Even after a year, no concrete decision had been made. However, today, Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Ajit Pawar announced a budgetary provision of 50 crore for journalists' honorarium. Starting next month, 200 eligible journalists will benefit from the revised hono-

rium. While the government often makes promises without fulfilling them, this time, Ajit Pawar has kept his word. The 'Voice of Media' expressed gratitude to Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis for this achievement. Leaders of 'Voice of Media' Express Gratitude Anil Mhaskey (President), Digambar Mahale (General Secretary), Yogendra Dorkar (Executive President), Mangesh Khatik, Vijay Choradiya, Ajitdada Kunkulol (Vice President), Sachin Mohite (Regional President, Western Maharashtra), Satish Renge Patil (Marathwada), Kishor Karanjekar (Vidarbha), Milind Toke (North Maharashtra), and Arun Thombre (Konkan) have congratulated the government and thanked all office bearers of 'Voice of Media' for their efforts. General Secretary Digambar Mahale expressed confidence that the fight for journalists' rights will continue, and the success of 'Voice of Media' has been widely appreciated by journalists everywhere.

The birth anniversary cum book release ceremony of Subhash Chandra Bose was organized by Veer Savarkar Foundation at Cuttack Club



MI News Cuttack: Subhash, Savarkar liberated the country - not Gandhi' Author Engineer Shyam Sundar Poddar, the book was released by the chief guest Shri Satyaki Ashok Savarkar (grandson of Veer Savarkar). Chief guest Shri Satyaki Ashok Savarkar said that along with scriptures, it is necessary to impart education in weapons also. Savarkar campaign is being run in every house. All you have to do is expand. General Secretary Shyam Sundar Poddar said that Subhash Babu was

inspired by Veer Savarkar. Due to this, these people played an important role in liberating their country. Inspired by Veer Savarkar, Subhash Chandra Bose formed Azad Hind Fauj. The entire countrymen should know this. Special guest Shri Govind Jaithaliya (Kolkata) said that we all should try to establish good values in children. The function was presided over and conducted by the National President of the Foundation, Prahlad Khandelwal. Executive President Dharam Chandra



West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose at Netaji Bhawan in Kolkata on Thursday.

Kolkata hosts Bengal's top talent hunt event



MI News Service, Kolkata: In the state of West Bengal there have been no dearth of talent, and the case is still as much relevant as it was in the past. Recently Kolkata hosted the much-awaited launch of the Dabur Gulabari FFACE Calendar Edition 11. The event brought together glamour, creativity, and unparalleled talent under one roof, with the esteemed presence of cover

face Priyanka Sarkar, Bengali Film Actress, along with all the judges, Mr. Neil Roy Founder Director of FFACE, Indroneel Mukherjee Fashion Designer, Paromita Ghosh Founder Director of Candid Communication, Kaustav Saikia Fashion Photographer, and Falaque Rashid Roy Bengali Film Actress, honouring the spirit of fashion and entertainment.

Infiltration under the cover of the forest ! BSF meets villagers to conduct border clearance operations

MI News Service, Gede : As the visibility along Indo - Bangladesh border areas at Gede in Nadia got decreased due to woods along border fences, the BSF called the villagers and requested to clean the woods on their cultivating lands at Indian territory at the other side of the border. The concerned forest officials were present there. The meeting was held on Wednesday. Allegedly the fencing at many places along Indo - Bangladesh borders are placed at much inside the Indian territory and farmers fear to go to the lands as the areas are closer to Bangladesh and miscreants of that

country often attack the farmers. So they don't go to the fields and that's why the woods have grown. BSF told in the meeting that the big trees, woods at the Indian territory but outside the border fence have been obstructing the visibility. The militants and the infiltrators from the side of Bangladesh are taking the advantage of the forest and entering India. " So co-operate us by cutting down the forest which developed on your lands, so that we can see the illegal infiltrators." Command Sanjay Kumar said to the villagers at Gede. The villagers have assured to co-operate for the security of the country. Sanjay Kumar said that



the infiltration is happening under the cover of the forest on the border ! BSF jawans are facing difficulties in surveillance due to dense fog in winter. That's why BSF officials from the Nadia border held the meeting. A BSF source said that Bangladesh has been in a state of turmoil for the past few months. There have been several infiltrations in West Bengal. There is a fear that not only citizens of Bangladesh or smugglers, but also militants will try to cross the barbed wire. In this situation, the forest and the extra large branches of the trees are creating problems. After the meeting, Ranaghat Forest Range Officer Govinda Pramanik said,

"The BSF requested me to appear at the meeting. I requested the residents to cut the woods down. They promised to cut and remove the trees." A local resident, Dinbandhu Mahalder, said, "I personally think that BSF should be helped in the interest of the country's security." But Mahalder himself thinks that it is hard enough by the individual farmers to clean the woods as it will incur a cost. However, the time will say whether the woods on the other side of the border fence would be cleared for the security of the country, a local senior citizen said.

PM Modi urged people to...

From PG 1
life, showcasing rare photographs, letters and documents as well as an AR/VR display chronicling his remarkable journey. A sculpture workshop and a painting competition-cum-workshop are also being held on the occasion. The event also featured cultural performances honouring Netaji's legacy and highlighting the rich cultural tradition of Odisha. Films on Netaji's life and work were also screened during the day long event on Thursday.

Subsequently, the Parakram Diwas celebration at Barabati Fort began with a video message from the Prime Minister besides publishing a book, photographs and archival exhibition focused on Netaji's

Kejriwal promises to end...

From PG 1
tion, medical treatment and electricity if they come to power," the AAP convenor said.
The BJP on Tuesday launched the second set of promises for the February 5 Delhi assembly polls with the launching of 'Sankalp Patra' Part 2. BJP Lok Sabha MP Anurag Thakur launched the Sankalp Patra in presence of other senior BJP leaders from Delhi.
The second manifesto emphasises free education for students in government institutions, and the establishment of a welfare board for auto rickshaw drivers and domestic workers, ensuring life insurance for them. Additionally, the BJP has promised to form a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate alleged corruption during the AAP's tenure.
A total of 699 candidates are in the fray for the 70 assembly seats in Delhi in the elections to be held on February 5.
The Congress, which was in power for 15 consecutive years in Delhi, has suffered setbacks in the last two assembly elections and has failed to open their account. In contrast, the AAP dominated the 2015 and 2020 assembly elections by winning 67 and 62 seats respectively out of a total of 70 seats while the BJP got only three and eight seats in the last two polls.

"I want to warn the people of Delhi that this is a very dangerous party. If you vote for them, your home budget would be so disturbed that you won't be able to live in Delhi," he added.
Kejriwal further said that his party's government has made education free in Delhi with 18 lakh poor children enrolled in schools.
"We have made education free in Delhi. 18 lakh poor children are getting excellent education. They (BJP) will stop free educa-

CEC Rajiv Kumar sounds...

From PG 1
accessible. He underscored the role of EMBs in not only safeguarding electoral processes globally but also expanding their reach and impact, the sources said.
Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, in the first session on major learnings, presented the case of Lok Sabha Elections 2024 underlining the scale, complexity and quality of the polls.
Speaking in the session on the role of technology in elections management - opportunities and challenges, Dasho Sonam Topgay, CEC of Bhutan, thanked India for providing EVMs and lauded the process efficiencies brought in by EVMs since their use in the election in Bhutan. He added that EVMs have won the trust of people in Bhutan. Speaking on Digital IDs, Topgay said that Bhutan has a biometric Unified National ID which is used for voter authentication. He added that Bhutan is exploring the possibility of online voting in future elections. Election Management Bodies from

Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Indonesia, Kazakhstan which made presentations on their electoral experience in 2024, placed their concerns regarding disinformation, misinformation and fake narratives on social media affecting electoral integrity in live elections. CEC of Mauritius, Abdool Rahman, also stressed on the menace of fake news to undermine the electorate's trust in the EMBs. Highlighting a particular case of fake online applications for the recruitment of election staff, Rahman expressed concern on use of technology and social media in intensifying the menace of disinformation and disinformation during elections. A representative of the Electoral Commission of Namibia, while expressing concern about the rising trend of fake news, sought suggestions on tackling fake news on social media. Commissioner, General Election Commission of Indonesia, Idhan Holik spoke about their experience of using a dedicated What's App channel to tackle misinformation in real time.

Tea cup and saucer offered...

From PG 1
long fight to achieve the country freedom. Nearly 93 years ago, around 5pm on October 11, 1931, Netaji was arrested by the British police while on his way to address a meeting of the Bengal jute mill workers' organisation at Golghar in nearby Jagaddal. He was taken to Noapara police station, where he was detained for a few hours. During his detention, Bose was offered tea, which he declined because it was given by a British officer. The ceramic cup and saucer used on that occasion have been carefully preserved by the police station as a tribute

to the legendary freedom fighter. As a mark of respect, the police station installed a small memorial inside its premises. It includes a photograph of Netaji placed beside the preserved cup and saucer. A room has also been converted into a library featuring books on Netaji's life and legacy. "We consider ourselves lucky to work at this police station where our beloved Netaji had stepped in. He has been an inspiration for us. His visit here is not widely known, and we believe everyone should learn about this chapter of history," a senior police officer said.



City Mayor Firhad Hakim along with State Minister Indranil Sen paid tribute to freedom fighter Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 128th birth anniversary in Kolkata on Thursday.



TMC set for organizational reshuffle in early Feb

MI News Service, Kolkata: The much-anticipated organizational reshuffle within the Trinamool Congress (TMC) in West Bengal is expected to take place in the first or second week of February, with party supremo and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee having the final say on the changes.
Sources within the party revealed that the reshuffle will likely follow the popular Saraswati Puja festival, which occurs in the first week of February. After the festival, the Chief Minister will give her final approval on the proposed changes to the party structure.
A senior TMC leader and state cabinet member, speaking anonymously, confirmed that Mamata Banerjee has made it clear in internal meetings that she will have the final decision on all organizational matters and internal party affairs for the next ten years. This includes the upcoming reshuffle. The leader added that the Chief Minister's decision on the reshuffle would be definitive.
Political analysts believe that Mamata

Banerjee's firm stance is aimed at putting an end to the ongoing internal debates within TMC, which have centered around the party's "old guards" and the younger leadership. This internal conflict has been particularly visible between senior leaders who have been with the party for a long time and the newer, more youthful faces pushing for change.
TMC General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee, who is also a Member of Parliament, has already submitted his recommendations for the reshuffle to Mamata Banerjee. The reshuffle is expected to reveal how much of his suggestions are accepted or rejected.
According to party sources, Abhishek Banerjee's proposals include changes to leadership at the municipality level, particularly in urban civic bodies where the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) outperformed TMC in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Insiders say that this could lead to changes in leadership in at least 69 municipalities, where BJP secured more votes than TMC in the general elections.

West Bengal to host state health scheme data on its own servers

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal government has decided to store the data of its state health scheme portal on its own servers rather than relying on the National Data Center in Delhi, as was the practice until now. This move marks a significant shift in data management for state-run projects.
Previously, all information related to the health scheme for West Bengal state government employees was housed at the National Data Center. However, the state government has now opted to manage and safeguard this data within its own infrastructure, the "West Bengal State Data Center." According to officials, this change aligns with the state's vision of retaining control over data for schemes it funds entirely.
Several welfare programs, including Krishak-Bandhu, BanglarAwas Yojana, and Kanyashree, are fully funded by the West Bengal government. Similarly, the expenses for the health scheme for state government employees are also borne by the state.

Sources indicate that in the future, data related to all state-funded projects will be stored and managed locally by the government.
Although the state's data will be transferred to its servers, existing information will remain backed up at the National Data Center as per guidelines. The government has already released preliminary instructions to ensure a smooth transition of data storage.
To facilitate this data transfer, the health scheme portal will be temporarily unavailable on February 7 from 10 AM to 12 PM. During this time, state government employees will not be able to access services like downloading enrollment certificates. However, to avoid any inconvenience to beneficiaries or healthcare providers during the migration, the government has implemented a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). The SOP ensures that beneficiaries continue to receive medical services without disruptions. Even during the specified downtime, users will still be able to view enrollment certificates and hospitals will face no issues in processing patient admissions or discharges.
The finance department has issued a notification outlining the interim arrangements for the health scheme. It reassures beneficiaries and healthcare providers that all necessary steps have been taken to prevent operational issues during the transition.
This decision is seen as a step toward greater self-reliance and efficiency in managing state-funded programs. By hosting data locally, the government aims to enhance data security, streamline operations, and maintain better control over sensitive information. The move also reflects a broader trend of decentralizing data management to align with the specific needs of individual states. As the state takes control of its data, it hopes to ensure smoother implementation and monitoring of its welfare programs.

Youth found dead at Rabindra Sarobar Stadium

MI News Service, Kolkata: A chilling discovery at Rabindra Sarobar Stadium sent shockwaves through the local community on Thursday morning. The lifeless body of a young man, wrapped in a blanket, was found by morning visitors. The incident has sparked widespread concern and raised questions about the circumstances surrounding the death. According to reports, regular visitors to the stadium, known for their morning walks and practice sessions, noticed something unusual lying on the ground. Upon closer inspection, they realized it was a young man wrapped in a blanket, lying motionless. The scene prompted them to alert the police immediately. Officers from the local police station arrived at the scene promptly and recovered the body. The young man was rushed to M.R. Bangur Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Following standard procedure, the

body has been sent for post-mortem examination to determine the cause of death. While the post-mortem report is awaited, speculation about the circumstances leading to the death remains rife. The exact cause of death, whether due to foul play, natural causes, or an accident, is yet to be established. The identity of the deceased has also added to the mystery. Locals claim the young man was a familiar face in the area, often seen wandering around. However, none of them could provide any information about his name or background. This has further complicated the investigation, leaving the police to rely on other means to identify him.
"We have recovered the body and sent it for autopsy. An investigation is underway, and we are speaking to local residents to gather more information about the deceased and his possible activities," a police official stated.

SMPK remember Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 128th birth anniv

MI News Service, Kolkata: Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMPK) observed the 128th birth anniversary of the iconic freedom fighter, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, with great enthusiasm. The celebration took place at the Netaji Subhash Dock, formerly known as King George's Dock, which was renamed on July 6, 1973, in honor of Netaji, symbolizing courage, determination, and a relentless quest for freedom.
The ceremony was graced by senior officials of Kolkata Dock System, including Chairman Rathendra Raman, Deputy Chairman SamratRahi, and Senior Commandant, CISF, SMPK Unit. The trio led the tribute by offering flowers at the statue of Netaji, a moment that resonated deeply with the spirit of Netaji's leadership and commitment to India's independence.
Chairman of SMPK, Rathendra Raman, in his address, stated, "We are honored to pay tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, a true icon of Indian history. His legacy continues to inspire us, and we remain committed to upholding the values of patriotism, courage, and selflessness that he embodied." Deputy Chairperson SamratRahi remarked, "It gives me immense pleasure to be a citizen of this country where leaders and patriots like Subhas Chandra Bose were born. Today, as we celebrate his 128th birth anniversary, we reaffirm our pledge to em-



Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata, Chairperson, Rathendra Raman pays floral tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 128th birth anniversary in Kolkata on Thursday.

ulate Netaji's exemplary qualities of patriotism, bravery, and self-sacrifice."
The celebrations at SMPK reflect the port's ongoing commitment to preserving India's rich cultural heritage while honoring its national heroes and leaders.

Buildings tilt in Baguihati and South Narayanpur spark concerns

MI News Service, Kolkata: After incidents in Baghatin, Panihati, and Tangra, Baguihati's Jagatpur and South Narayanpur have now become the latest areas to face alarming building tilt issues. In the Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation's Ward 23, two buildings have dangerously tilted, while a similar incident has been reported in Ward 3's South Narayanpur. These developments have left residents in both areas gripped by fear. The alarming state of affairs came to light on Thursday afternoon when locals in Netaji Pally, Jagatpur, noticed two adjacent buildings leaning precariously. The situation is so severe that one building appears to be leaning against the other for support. The shocking discovery prompted Ward 23 Councillor Jhunku Mandal to visit the site and lodge a formal complaint with the Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation, highlighting the imminent danger. According to local sources, the two buildings in Netaji Pally were constructed on

reclaimed land where a pond once existed. Over the years, the unstable foundation is believed to have caused the structures to tilt. When questioned, the owner of one of the buildings, MithunKar, refused to comment on the matter. Councillor Mandal expressed grave concerns about the potential for a major disaster, including loss of life, if immediate action is not taken. Meanwhile, in Ward 3's South Narayanpur, another building has tilted, raising further alarm. Allegations suggest that this building, too, was constructed illegally. Ward 3 Councillor Aratrika Bhattacharya stated, "We became aware of this building's condition a few days ago and informed the municipal corporation immediately. The building houses many young women undergoing nursing training, putting them at significant risk. Authorities have informed us that relocating the residents will take some time, but we hope the process will be completed within a day or two. We have also requested that the munic-

Santanu Sen removed from govt post

MI News Service, Kolkata: Dr.Santanu Sen, a former Rajya Sabha MP for the Trinamool Congress and a prominent doctor, continues to face the fallout of his remarks regarding the RG Kar Hospital incident. Following his comments about the tragic case involving a young female doc-

tor at RG Kar, Sen has been suspended from the party and stripped of his party position. On Thursday, he was also removed from his government position as a representative on the West Bengal Medical Council, with Asim Ghosh now replacing him.

Name Change

I. Sneha Mittal have change my name from Sneha Mittal to Sneha Sangita Agarwal...

Name Change

I. No 13938309W Rank Ex Sep Name Shambhu Nath Bhattacharyya Resident Of At Shibrampur...

NAME CHANGE

I. Saikat Bhattacharyya/Saikat Bhattacharjee, S/o Sanjay Bhattacharya, R/o-30/19, Attappara Lane, PS-Baranagar...

Name Change

I. ADIBA ALI ANSARI, D/o Md Haider Ali residing at 118 Elliot Road, 6F, 6TH Floor, Park Street, Kolkata-700016...

NAME CHANGE

I. Sujit Kumar Singh, s/o Late Bindhyachal Singh, r/o 20, Round Tank Lane, Howrah-711101 have change my name in my daughter birth certificate...

Name Change

I. Md Aftab Alam Father of Mohammad Sufyan R/O 3/11, N.C.M Road, Champdani, PO-Baidyabati, Dist-Hooghly...

Name Change

I. Sujata Mehta, Wife Of Sumit Raman Mehta, Residing At 38,2nd Floor, Jain Das Road, Near-Sai Temple, Deshapriya Park, Kolkata-700029...

Name Change

I. Shah Pooja Suresh Kalpana, Wife Of Shekhar Mehta, Residing At 38, Jain Das Road, Shivoham Appartme, 2nd Floor, Near-Sai Baba Temple, Kolkata-700029...

Name Change

I. Suwama Kothari, Wife Of Piyush Kothari, Residing At 27, Shikhspeare Sarani, P.O.-Circus Avenue, Kolkata-700017...

Name Change

I. Ashoke Kumar Deyson of Ajit Kumar Dey, residing at C-8, Bikramaditya Sarani, Adda Co-operative Colony, Sector-2B, Bidhanagar Durgapur, District:Paschim Bardhaman...

Name Change

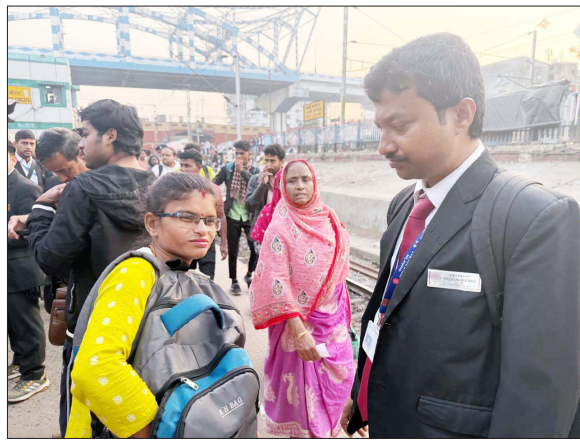
I. Ahad Baks Molla, Son Of Abdul Latif Singh, residing at Paschim Para Ansha, Rajarhat, North 24 Parganas-700135...

Name Change

I. Kanika Das (Old Name) wife of Santu Majumder, residing at Vill.-Anandapur, Uttarpura, P.O.-Barajagati, P.S.-Haringhata, Dist.-Nadia, Pin-741221...

Special Ticket Checking Drive Conducted on Sealdah-Budge Budge Section: Aiming for a Better Travel Experience

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway has once again undertaken a significant step towards ensuring a smooth, organized, and hassle-free travel experience for passengers.



This initiative aimed to promote the importance of ticket purchasing and adherence to railway rules among passengers while simultaneously discouraging ticketless travel.

During the intensive drive, 661 ticketless passengers were apprehended, resulting in the imposition of fines amounting to Rs. 176675.

Divisional Railway Hospital, Howrah, conducts tuberculosis awareness campaign

MI News Service, Kolkata: As part of the 100-day TB Elimination Program, the Divisional Railway Hospital, Howrah, organized a Tuberculosis (TB) awareness campaign and rally on 23rd January 2025 at Gulmohar Railway Colony, Howrah.



The campaign was led by the Senior Divisional Medical Officer, Assistant Health Officer and the dedicated staff of the Divisional Railway Hospital.

An interactive session was held where medical experts addressed the audience's queries, providing essential information to

enhance their understanding of TB and its prevention. To further raise awareness, a rally was conducted within the Railway Colony, with enthusiastic participation from residents.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has been an enduring lodestar: Abhishek

MI News Service, Kolkata: "One individual may die for an idea, but that idea will, after his death, incarnate itself in a thousand lives."

Abhishek Banerjee in his x handle on Thursday wrote: In my life, especially throughout my political journey as a representative of the people, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has been

an enduring lodestar. His unmatched devotion to the cause of the motherland has been a constant source of inspiration and strength for me. In moments of uncertainty, I have sought clarity in his vision. In times of adversity, I have drawn courage from his unyielding spirit.

Name Change I. Lima Bose, Wife Of Kunal Kumar Bose, Residing At B. C. Sen Road, Uttar Tarapur, Po-Agarpara, Ps-Khardah, North 24 Parganas-700109, West Bengal, DO Herby Notified That In My Driving Licence No (Wb-23 20130175428) My Sex Wrongly Recorded As Male Which Is Actually Female Also My Husband Name Recorded As Kishal Kr Bose Which Is Actually Kunal Kumar Bose. So I Am Female Also Kishal Kr Bose And Kunal Kumar Bose Both Are The Same And One Identical Person. Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Ld Metropolitan Magistrate At Kolkata On 18/06/2024.

Name Change I. Manoj Kumar Purkait (Old Name) son of Shyamundar Purkait, residing at Sajagnagar, P.O.-Ganeshpur, Sajagnagar, Howrah-711312, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Manoj Purkait (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 22/01/2025. Manoj Purkait (New Name) and Manoj Kumar Purkait (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change I. Lata Parakh (Old Name) wife of Vikash Singh, residing at Srijan Haritage Enclave, Block-10, Flat-4A, 345, Rajarhat Main Road, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin- 700136, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Lata Singh (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 22/01/2025. Lata Singh (New Name) and Lata Parakh (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change I. Ananda Paul (Old Name) Son of Late Sakhi Charan Paul, residing at Nandanakanan VTC.-Madhyamgram(M), P.O.-Ganganagar, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin-700132, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ananda Kumar Paul (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 22/01/2025. Ananda Kumar Paul (New Name) and Ananda Paul (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Change of Name I. AFROZA JASMIN (Old Name) W/O SYED SHAH HAMIDUL ISLAM Residing at Vill & P.O.-Basubati, P.S.-Singur, District - Hooghly, Pin-712409, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as AFROJA JESMIN (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public of West Bengal at Alipore vide affidavit no SA11 Dated 08-08-2014. SUCHISMITA PAL (Old Name) and SUCHISMITA PAUL (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I. Roushan Ara (Old Name) wife of Abdul Khalik, residing at 16/2, Moulana Md Ali Road, Kolkata-700023, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Roushan Khatun (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 22/01/2025. Roushan Khatun (New Name) and Roushan Ara (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change I. Umesh Kumar Jaiswal (Old Name) son of Lakshmi Narayan Jaiswal, residing at Lakshmi Niwas, Atghara Jhawtalla, P.O.-Hatiara, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin- 700157, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Umesh Jaiswal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 22/01/2025. Umesh Jaiswal (New Name) and Umesh Kumar Jaiswal (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change I. Ashraf (old name) son of Mohammad Salauddin, residing at G-366/B, ALIF NAGAR, GARDEN REACH PO, GARDEN REACH KOLKATA PIN- 700024, West Bengal, India, shall henceforth be known as Mohammad Asraf (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 17/01/2025. Mohammad Asraf (new name) and Ashraf (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

Combating Wildlife Smuggling: RPF's Role in Protecting India's Biodiversity

MI News Service, New Delhi: India is home to an incredibly diverse range of flora and fauna. According to International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), India accounts for 7-8% of all recorded species on planet Earth, with just 2.4% of world's land area.

Since the early 1970s, the Government has undertaken systemic measures to preserve wildlife and combat its smuggling. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, marks a watershed moment in India's conservation efforts.

Eastern Railway is steadfast in its mission to deliver a reliable and organized service to its passengers. Regular initiatives like these underline the importance of abiding by railway rules and regulations, which contribute significantly to a better travel experience for all.

65,000 route kilometers. Several of these networks traverse through and in areas adjacent to forests and wildlife sanctuaries. Consequently, the railway network has become means to transport illicit wildlife capture.

In fact, in recent years, wildlife smuggling through railways has seen a disturbing trend. Between 2021-2024, RPF has managed to detect a total of 139 cases of wildlife smuggling operating through railways. In each of the case, hundreds of live wildlife belonging to different species has been seized.

How and why have trains become a preferred mode for wildlife smuggling? The reasons have to be found in the nature of smuggling itself. Given its all-India presence, the Indian Railways transcends conventional administrative jurisdictions, especially those of Forest Departments that function under State Governments.

smugglers by concealing illicit wildlife as legitimate animal cargo.

Operation WILEP Recognizing the threat intensity of wildlife smuggling in trains, in 2021, RPF launched "Operation WILEP (Wildlife and Environment Protection). Under Operation WILEP, series of measures were initiated, and continuously upgraded, to make surveillance and detection of wildlife smuggling in trains an integral part of RPF working.

At the apex level, RPF has established liaison with the National Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (NWCCB) - the nodal agency for wildlife crime - for strengthening agency-to-agency cooperation. The Zonal Railways have been encouraged to build coordination with State WCCBs for day-to-day operational matters.

RPF has identified train routes notorious for wildlife trafficking, and strengthened surveillance mechanisms. Smugglers often use sleeper coaches and freight/parcel wagons for transporting illegal wildlife goods covertly.

Thermal baggage scanners, of industrial grade, have been experimented by RPF to monitor what goes in and out of rail cargo traffic.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in CCTV camera surveillance has been a boon to law enforcement agencies in apprehending criminals. Advanced Facial Recognition Systems (FRS) can now help agencies in sifting through very high-volume of surveillance imagery to identify suspects in real-time.

Illegal wildlife trafficking has been estimated to be valued around USD 20 billion worldwide annually. The estimates for India are sketchy, but given that India's biodiversity, and it not only depletes populations of endangered species, but also fuels organized crime. The vast expanse of railway network has unfortunately come in handy for wildlife smugglers. RPF has been at the forefront to tackle this growing menace. Through a mix of advanced technological adoption, surveillance mechanisms, joint cooperation with WCCBs and raising awareness amongst rail passengers, RPF remains committed to eliminate wildlife smuggling in Indian Railways.

Regulation of trains for Maha Kumbh Mela

MI News Service, Kolkata: Railway has decided to regulate the movement of following trains for Maha Kumbh Mela - DIVERSION :

- 12330 Anand Vihar Terminal-Sealdah Sampark Kranti Express (JCO 29.01.2025) and 12380 Amritsar-Sealdah Jallianwala Bagh Express (JCO 02.02.2025) will be diverted via Kanpur Central-Lucknow-Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn. instead of its existing route Prayagraj Jn.-Mirzapur-Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn.

- 12307 Howrah-Jodhpur Superfast Express (JCO 26.01.2025). 12308 Jodhpur-Howrah Superfast Express (JCO 28.01.2025). 22307 Howrah-Bikaner Superfast Express (JCO 31.01.2025). 22308 Bikaner-Howrah Superfast Express (JCO 02.02.2025). 12311 Howrah-Kalka Netaji Express (JCO 26.01 & 31.01.2025).

- 12312 Kalka-Howrah Netaji Express (JCO 28.01.2025 & 02.02.2025). 22466 Anand Vihar Terminal-Madhupur Baba Baidyanathdham Deoghar Express (JCO 29.01.2025). 22465 Madhupur-Anand Vihar Terminal Baba Baidyanathdham Deoghar Express (JCO 30.01.2025). 12941 Bhavnagar-Asansol Parasnath Express (JCO 28.01.2025). 12942 Asansol-Bhavnagar Parasnath Express (JCO 30.01.2025). 15658 Kamakhya-Delhi Brahmaputra Mail (JCO 28.01.2025 & 02.02.2025). 15657 Delhi -Kamakhya Brahmaputra Mail (JCO 30.01.2025 & 04.02.2025).

RESCHEDULING : 22308 Bikaner-Howrah Superfast Express (JCO 29.01.2025) will be rescheduled for 6 hours i.e. will leave Bikaner at 05.55 hrs. instead of 23.55 hrs. 12495 Bikaner-Kolkata Pratap Express (JCO 30.01.2025) will be rescheduled for 4 hours i.e. will leave Bikaner at 10.00 hrs. instead of 06.00 hrs. 12308 Jodhpur-Howrah Superfast Express (JCO 03.02.2025) will be rescheduled for 6 hours i.e. will leave Jodhpur at 05.55 hrs. instead of 23.55 hrs. Inconvenience is regretted.

Sebaashray: Bringing Healthcare to Doorsteps Across Diamond Harbour - One Village at a Time

MI News Service, Kolkata: As AITC National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee has repeatedly stressed, SEBAASHRAY is not about numbers, but the people behind them. In the three weeks since its launch, the initiative has already reached over 4.3 lakh individuals and transformed their lives - bringing essential medical services to their doorsteps.

For Kabira and many other villages in Diamond Harbour, Sebaashray represents a vital initiative—a step towards comprehensive and sustainable healthcare delivery in the coastal area.

Sharing her experience in one of the Sebaashray health camps held near her home, a woman said: "Since we don't have any hospitals nearby, we were glad to find a Sebaashray camp set up near our home. The doctors here are providing proper treatment, and we've even received expensive medicines for free. We're extremely grateful for this, and I thank Abhishek Banerjee for this service."



Sebaashray seeks to enhance healthcare accessibility by conducting around 300 health camps across the constituency within 75 days. These camps offer free consultations, diagnostic tests, and medicines to residents of the seven Assembly constituencies within Diamond Harbour.

Furthermore, critical cases are identified and referred to advanced healthcare facilities for specialised treatment. For instance, recently, Abhishek Banerjee facilitated a critical

heart surgery for a nine-year-old after he was diagnosed with a congenital heart condition at one of the Sebaashray health camps.

The camps are held in convenient locations, ensuring that villagers like those in Kabira can access quality medical care without the need to travel far. By focusing on doorstep healthcare delivery, Sebaashray is ensuring that communities receive timely and effective medical attention without compromising on people's convenience. The programme also demonstrates a commitment to transparency, with detailed data on beneficiaries and services shared publicly. This structured and inclusive approach reflects the government's dedication to providing equitable healthcare.

An effluent treatment plant inaugurated in Noapara

MI News Service, Kolkata: An Effluent Treatment Plant was inaugurated at Noapara Carshed today i.e. 23.01.2025. This plant having capacity to treat and clean 5 Cubic Meter per hour industrial polluted water was inaugurated by Shri Kuntal Mitra, Sr. Tech in the presence of Shri P Uday Kumar Reddy, General Manager, Metro Railway and other senior officers. Apart from this, a 33 KV DC Traction Sub-Station having 15 MW DC Traction Capacity was also inaugurated in presence of Shri Reddy by Shri Gopal Majumdar Sr. Tech. The capacity of this Traction Sub-Station is highest in India which would provide power to trains and other electrical systems.

Launched on January 2, members of MRWWO. It is to be noted that Indian Railways has taken up the mission to become Net Zero Carbon Emitter by 2030. This Power Plant at Noapara once commissioned would help to contribute to achieve this target. General Manager also participated in a Tree Plantation Drive along with senior officers of Metro Railway and President and other Members of MRWWO. In this Tree Plantation, Coconut, Shisham, Supari, Tamarrind and other saplings were planted.



Khurda Road-Balangir Rail Line Project: Stage II Forest Clearance Obtained and Progress Continues

MI News Service, Bhubaneswar: The Khurda Road-Balangir Rail Line project in Odisha has made significant strides, including securing the crucial Stage II Forest Clearance for the section between Daspalla and Adhenigarh. This approval allows the project to move forward with minimal environmental impact.



The project required the acquisition of 3,274.336 hectares of land, including 746.42 hectares of forest land. The most significant environmental challenge was the forest clearance between Daspalla and Purunakatak (Km.112-180), which involved 594.618 hectares of dense forest.

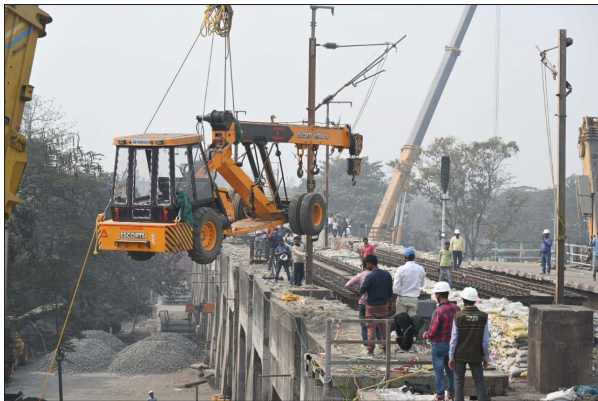
EASTERN RAILWAY

No. O-AC-T-193 to 196-24-25 (Open) Dated: 21.01.2025. E-Tenders (Open) are invited by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Asansol Division, Station Road, Asansol, Pin-713301 for the following works: SI. No. : 1; Case No. O-AC-T-193-24-25; Name of the Work: Open tender for provision of intake well, a pump house and other ancillary work at river side of Andul under SSM/III/UDL in the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/II/Asansol; Tender Value : ₹ 1,89,52,436.23; Earnest Money : ₹ 2,44,800.00; Completion Period for the Work : 09 Months; SI. No. : 2; Case No. O-AC-T-194-24-25; Name of the Work: Open tender for Transportation of P-Way and other Railway materials in connection with track renewal & maintenance activities over Asansol Division; Tender Value : ₹ 3,50,38,630.00; Earnest Money : ₹ 3,25,200.00; SI. No. : 3; Case No. O-AC-T-195-24-25; Name of the Work: Open tender for Rehabilitation of Bank by Cess Repair/Sub-Bank in Asansol Division; Tender Value : ₹ 17,91,31,250.38; Earnest Money : ₹ 10,45,700.00; SI. No. : 4; Case No. O-AC-T-196-24-25; Name of the Work: Open tender for minimum essential amenities for Divyanggan at Madhupur, Basukinath, Baidyanathdham, Deoghar, Bhalua Halt, Dhanpadih, Giridih, Ghormara, Jagdishpur, Jamtara, Joramow, Kumrabad Rohini, K.B. Sahay Halt, Kakkara, Maheshmunda, Madankatta, Mathurapur, Narganj, RJ & Panagarh Stations in Asansol Division; Tender Value : ₹ 6,01,46,942.06; Earnest Money : ₹ 4,50,700.00; Completion Period for the Work : 12 Months for SI. No. 2, 3 & 4 each; Date & Time of Closing : 17.02.2025 at 12:00 hrs. Complete details can be seen in the Railways website www.ireps.gov.in

MI News Service, Bhubaneswar: The project required the acquisition of 3,274.336 hectares of land, including 746.42 hectares of forest land. The most significant environmental challenge was the forest clearance between Daspalla and Purunakatak (Km.112-180), which involved 594.618 hectares of dense forest.

Mega traffic & power block starts in Sealdah - Dankuni section for replacement of old steel girder

MI News Service, Kolkata: In yet another giant infrastructure development endeavour, Sealdah division will replace steel girders in rail over bridge at 7 points in between Dum Dum Jn. & Bally Halt. This all important infrastructure exercise will entail enhancement of security & speed of the entire section. It is pertinent to mention here that the age old bridges, girders of which are to be replaced, built way back in 1930s and hence they more than 95 years old.



After removal of old steel girder, the entire track will be ballasted in the section. In the shadow of this mammoth infrastructure development exercise, number of long pending engineering and S&T works will be accomplished.

MI News Service, Kolkata: In yet another giant infrastructure development endeavour, Sealdah division will replace steel girders in rail over bridge at 7 points in between Dum Dum Jn. & Bally Halt. This all important infrastructure exercise will entail enhancement of security & speed of the entire section. It is pertinent to mention here that the age old bridges, girders of which are to be replaced, built way back in 1930s and hence they more than 95 years old.

Under the shadow of this mammoth infrastructure development exercise, number of long pending engineering and S&T works will be accomplished.

Divisional Railway Manager/Sealdah along with all Branch Officers are also working on war footing so that the entire work completes well within schedule.

Regulation of trains for construction of limited height subway in Krishnanagar - Lalgola section

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a significant stride towards enhancing safety and convenience for local commuters, Eastern Railway is constructing Limited Height Subway (LHS) in lieu of Level Crossing Gate No. 87/E (non-interlocking gate) in Krishnanagar City - Lalgola Section. Local residents and commuters using these gates will experience increased convenience and reduced travel time, contributing to an improved quality of life.

seamlessly, following arrangement in train running have been made as under: *CANCELLATION OF TRAINS ON 25.01.2025 (SATURDAY): *Krishnanagar - Lalgola : Up 31861/ Down 31864 *Lalgola - Sealdah : Down 53178/ Up 53175 *SHORT TERMINATION/ SHORT ORIGINATION AND RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS ON SATURDAY (25.01.2025)*: *31773 Ranaghat - Lalgola Passenger will be short terminated at Muragacha and 31768 Lalgola - Ranaghat Passenger will be short originated from Muragacha instead of Lalgola. *31769 Ranaghat - Lalgola EMU Passenger will be short terminated at Muragacha and 31770 Lalgola - Ranaghat EMU passenger will be short originated from Muragacha instead of Lalgola. *63107 Sealdah - Lalgola MEMU will be short terminated at Muragacha and 63104 Lalgola - Sealdah MEMU short originated from Muragacha instead of Lalgola. *31819 Sealdah - Krishnanagar local will be short terminated at Ranaghat and 31840 Krishnanagar - Sealdah local will be short originated from Ranaghat instead of Krishnanagar. *63101 Kolkata - Lalgola MEMU will be short terminated at Ranaghat on 24.01.2025 (Friday) and 63102 Lalgola - Kolkata MEMU will be short originated from Ranaghat on 25.01.2025. *31774 Lalgola - Ranaghat will leave Lalgola at 14:45 hrs instead of 14:00 hrs and controlled enroute upto Plassey.

seamlessly, following arrangement in train running have been made as under: *CANCELLATION OF TRAINS ON 25.01.2025 (SATURDAY): *Krishnanagar - Lalgola : Up 31861/ Down 31864 *Lalgola - Sealdah : Down 53178/ Up 53175 *SHORT TERMINATION/ SHORT ORIGINATION AND RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS ON SATURDAY (25.01.2025)*: *31773 Ranaghat - Lalgola Passenger will be short terminated at Muragacha and 31768 Lalgola - Ranaghat Passenger will be short originated from Muragacha instead of Lalgola. *31769 Ranaghat - Lalgola EMU Passenger will be short terminated at Muragacha and 31770 Lalgola - Ranaghat EMU passenger will be short originated from Muragacha instead of Lalgola. *63107 Sealdah - Lalgola MEMU will be short terminated at Muragacha and 63104 Lalgola - Sealdah MEMU short originated from Muragacha instead of Lalgola. *31819 Sealdah - Krishnanagar local will be short terminated at Ranaghat and 31840 Krishnanagar - Sealdah local will be short originated from Ranaghat instead of Krishnanagar. *63101 Kolkata - Lalgola MEMU will be short terminated at Ranaghat on 24.01.2025 (Friday) and 63102 Lalgola - Kolkata MEMU will be short originated from Ranaghat on 25.01.2025. *31774 Lalgola - Ranaghat will leave Lalgola at 14:45 hrs instead of 14:00 hrs and controlled enroute upto Plassey.



Sports Minister Aroop Biswas and Municipal Representative Prasenjit Das along with the winners from different states in the 9.5K Marathon at Naktala Udayan Sangh in Tollygunj on Thursday morning.

Over 10 cr pilgrims expected at Sangam on Mauni Amavasya, with 10-20% arriving by train

MI News Service, New Delhi: Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti, Shri V. Somanna, during his two-day visit to Prayagraj, inspected the Mela Camps located at the Sangam area on the occasion of Maha Kumbh 2025. Divisional Railway Manager of Prayagraj, Shri Himanshu Badoni, and other officials were also present during the inspection.

The Union Minister reviewed the Mela Camp set up in the Sangam area to facilitate the pilgrims visiting for Maha Kumbh 2025. During the inspection, the Minister interacted with the passengers and inquired about their well-being. He also took feedback from the staff working at the ticket counters and inquiry centers about the available facilities. The Minister appreciated the staff for their excellent work in providing service and assistance during the Maha Kumbh. During the visit, he also spoke to the passengers waiting in line for tickets at the Mela Camp and gathered their feedback on the railway services and arrangements. The passengers highly appreciated the railway's arrangements. In a conversation with the media at the Mela Camp, the Union Minister said that the railway had been preparing for the convenience and service of the pilgrims for the past three years. During Maha Kumbh 2025, the railways will operate over 13,000 trains, including over 3,100 special trains and 10,000 regular trains. He emphasized that Maha Kumbh is a historic event for both the country and the railways. Railway officials and staff are working day and night with full capacity and dedication. He also mentioned that the successful organization of Maha Kumbh 2025 was made possible under the capable leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

REGULATION OF TRAINS DUE TO TRAFFIC & POWER BLOCK OVER SEALDAH DIVISION

In connection with placement of R.C.C. boxes & base slabs across the Railway tracks for Limited Height Subway at Level Crossing Gate No. 87/E, Traffic & Power Block for 6 hours 30 minutes (from 09.45 hrs. to 16.15 hrs.) will be required on both UP & DN Lines at said Level Crossing Gate at Km. 134/ 5-7 in Krishnanagar City Jn.- Lalgola Section over Sealdah Division on 25.01.2025 (Saturday). Consequently, the following arrangements in train running have been made: • Cancellation (on 25.01.2025): (1) 31861 UP Krishnanagar City Jn.- Lalgola EMU Passenger/ 31864 DN Lalgola-Krishnanagar City Jn. EMU Passenger, (2) 53175 UP Sealdah-Lalgola Passenger/53178 DN Lalgola-Sealdah Passenger. • Short Termination/Short Origination (on 25.01.2025): (1) 31773 UP Ranaghat - Lalgola EMU Passenger will be short terminated at Muragacha & 31768 DN Lalgola - Ranaghat EMU Passenger will be short originated from Muragacha instead of Lalgola. (2) 31769 UP Ranaghat - Lalgola EMU Passenger will be short terminated at Muragacha & 31770 DN Lalgola - Ranaghat EMU Passenger will be short originated from Muragacha instead of Lalgola. (3) 63107 UP Sealdah - Lalgola MEMU Passenger will be short terminated at Muragacha and 63104 DN Lalgola-Sealdah MEMU Passenger will be short originated from Muragacha instead of Lalgola. (4) 31819 UP Sealdah - Krishnanagar City Jn. EMU will be short terminated at Ranaghat & 31840 DN Krishnanagar City Jn. - Sealdah EMU will be short originated from Ranaghat instead of Krishnanagar City Jn. (5) 63101 UP Kolkata - Lalgola MEMU Passenger will be short terminated at Ranaghat on 24.01.2025 (Friday) and 63102 DN Lalgola - Kolkata MEMU Passenger will be short originated from Ranaghat on 25.01.2025 (Saturday) • Rescheduling (on 25.01.2025): 31774 DN Lalgola - Ranaghat EMU Passenger will be rescheduled for 45 minutes i.e. will leave from Lalgola at 14:45 hrs. instead of 14:00 hrs. and will be controlled enroute upto Plassey. There may be delay in train running during block period. Passengers are requested to follow the public address system at stations. Inconvenience is regretted. Divisional Railway Manager, Sealdah

Polba Gram Panchayat Notice Inviting e-Tender e-Tenders are invited from bonafied & resourceful contractors for execution of various development work under GP area vide e-NIT No.: POLBA/14/15™ FC (Tied)/2024-25, Tender ID: 2025_ZPHD_805393.1. Date: 22.01.2025. Bid Submission Start Date: 22.01.2025 at 04.00 PM. Bid Submission End Date: 28.01.2025 upto 04.00 PM. Date of Opening of Tender : 30.01.2025 at 04.00 PM. For details visit www.wbtenders.gov.in & undersigned GP office.

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (A Statutory Body of the Government of India) 3rd Floor, Udaan Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi - 110003, Ph : 24695044-47, Fax : 24695048, Website: http://aera.gov.in

NOTICE Empanelment of Advocate/Law Firm

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) invites applications from eligible Advocates/Law firms for defending court cases on behalf of AERA before Hon'ble Supreme Court, High Court, Tribunal and other courts of law in India.

The details of eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and schedule of fee for empanelment of Advocates/Law Firms are available on the AERA's website i.e. http://aera.gov.in

The Notice issued on the website vide F. No. AERA/Legal/Empanelment of Advocates/Law Firm 2020/2023-24 dated 08.03.2024 stands withdrawn and the process of empanelment initiated thereof stands scrapped due to administrative reasons. Therefore, the Advocates/Law Firms who have applied in response to above-mentioned Notice dated 08.03.2024 also need to apply afresh and their earlier application received will not be considered for empanelment under this Notice.

Eligible and interested Advocate/Law Firm may submit their application form using link provided on AERA's website in the News and Announcement Section.

Only online application submitted through this portal will be accepted and no other mode or channel of submitting the application will be considered.

Last date for submission of Online Application Form is 11/02/2025.

Sd/- (Deputy Chief, AERA)

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER CORRIGENDUM-1

Corrigendum-1 against e-Tender Notice No. S.E.P.R.O.-J-KGP-HWH-SEL Date: 19.12.2024. Published earlier by Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Project/ South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 for the following change in the above mentioned e-tender notice no. is furnished below : Existing Date & time for closing of e-tender on 20.01.2025 at 13.00 hrs. which is now modified to date and time for closing of e-tender on 03.02.2025 at 15.00 hrs. All other terms and conditions remains unchanged. Details of e-tender notice along with Corrigendum-1 is available on www.ireps.gov.in. (PR-1049/C)

E-Auction Notice

No. Com.18/ParcelSLR/ Advt./Miss/Catg/E-Auction Catalogue Date : 22.01.2025 For and on behalf of the President of India, the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, CHAKRADHARPUR Division, South Eastern Railway invites e-auction for leasing of Parcel SLRs Advertisement, Catering and Miscellaneous over Chakradharpur Division. The draft of e-auction notices in this regard are enclosed which are notified in the https://www.ireps.gov.in/website. The details of the e-auction are as follows : SI. No., Category, Catalogue No., Date of Auction, Auction Start Time, Auction Close Date, Auction Closing time: (1) Parcel SLR, Parcel-SLR-1-25, 05.02.2025, 11:30 Hrs., 06.02.2025, 11:50 Hrs. (2) Advertisement, ADVT-CKP-1-25, 07.02.2025, 11:30 Hrs., 07.02.2025, 13:40 Hrs. (3) Miss., MISS-TATA-1-25, 06.02.2025, 12:00 Hrs., 06.02.2025, 13:10 Hrs. (4) Catering, CATG-CKP-1-25, 05.02.2025, 12:00 Hrs., 05.02.2025, 15:30 Hrs. (5) Catering, CATG-CKP-2-25, 07.02.2025, 11:45 Hrs., 07.02.2025, 13:15 Hrs. Interested parties to take note of this and go through the website as mentioned above for details of the site and related information about the E-Auction notice. For enquiries/ clarifications if any, please contact the office of the undersigned. (PR-1050) Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Chakradharpur

Notice My client Simali Manju Bhattacharya's husband is the late Bijo Kumar Bhattacharya. Vijay Bhattacharya and the late Anup Kumar Bhattacharya jointly purchased 1 Katha 4 Chatak of land on 02/03/1987 from the ADSR office in Kashipur, Dandam. The deed number is 888 of 1987. Book No. 1, Volume No. 17, Pages 373-380. The property is located at Holding No. 1126 (new), 1061 (old), R.N. Thakur Road, Kolkata-700077, Dag No. 316, R.S. No. 7, J.L. No. 17, Touzi No. 1298/2833, Khaitan No. 442 (new), Mouza Bedia Para, Thana Dandam, under South Dum Dum Municipality. On 03/01/2016, Anup Kumar Bhattacharya passed away unannounced. On 09/09/2020, Bijo Kumar Bhattacharya passed away. After the death of the two brothers, my client Simali Manju Bhattacharya became the sole heir as per the order of the First Class Metropolitan Magistrate, Affidavit dated 28/05/2023. If anyone has any objection regarding this matter, please contact me within 15 (fifteen) days of the publication of this notice. Otherwise, no claims will be entertained.

Ruma Halder (Advocate) Phone: 9830785161 Email: advruma@gmail.com

GARAIMARI GRAM PANCHAYAT VII-P.O.- GARAIMARI, P.S.- Domkal, Dist.-Murshidabad, (W.B.) UNDER DOMKAL BLOCK NIT No: 15/2024-25 & 16/2024-25 Publishing & Bid Submission Start Date: 22/01/2025 from 3.00 PM. Bid Submission Closing Date: 31/01/2025 upto 12.00 PM. Bid Opening Date: 3/2/2025 after 12.00 PM. Details See In: www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- PRODHAN GARAIMARI GRAM PANCHAYAT

TENDER NOTICE Percentage rate E-Tender invited: NIT No. 6/15th FC (Tied) / J-1 GP/ 2024-2025 Dt. 16/01/2025 & Memo No.- 10 (05)/ 15th FC (Tied)/J-1 GP/ 2024-2025 Dt. 16/01/2025. Last Date & Time of submission Bids. 29.01.2025, 15:00. Interested contractor / Agency may visit NOTICE BOARD of Jagati-1 Gram Panchayat. Sd/- Prodhan Jagtai-1 Gram Panchayat

Starship Super Heavy Booster returns to launch mount: Elon Musk

Washington [US] : Space mogul Elon Musk announced the return of Starship Super Heavy Booster to the launch mount on Friday morning.

Taking to X, Musk wrote: "Super Heavy Booster is already back in its launch mount."

His prominent followers were quick to express appreciation. One commented: "That's amazing Elon! You're a big inspiration behind @convodotwf."

"It was absolutely a beautiful launch. Thank you for chasing the dreams of your inner 5-year-old and bringing them to life for all of us to enjoy," said another; while yet another exclaimed: "Round two ready."

In November 2024, SpaceX's Starship, owned by Musk was launched amid much anticipation and fanfare as the rocket embarked on its sixth test flight from SpaceX's expansive rocket development site in Boca Chica, Texas. In attendance on the occa-



sion was US President-elect Donald Trump. The goal of this test flight was to ensure the booster's return to the launch site for

recovery, reignite a ship Raptor engine while in space, and test various heatshield experiments and manoeuvring adjustments for

the spacecraft's reentry and descent over the Indian Ocean.

Known for his ambition for inter-planetary travel and to reach Mars, Musk had previously announced that SpaceX will launch its first uncrewed Starships to Mars when the next Earth-Mars transfer window opens.

He had posted on X in September: "The first Starships to Mars will launch in 2 years when the next Earth-Mars transfer window opens. These will be uncrewed to test the reliability of landing intact on Mars."

"If those landings go well, then the first crewed flights to Mars will be in 4 years. Flight rate will grow exponentially from there, with the goal of building a self-sustaining city in about 20 years. Being multiplanetary will vastly increase the probable lifespan of consciousness, as we will no longer have all our eggs, literally and metabolically, on one planet,"

Researchers find coffee boost to make stronger concrete

Canberra [Australia] : Engineers in Australia have discovered a way to make stronger concrete using roasted leftover coffee grounds, giving the drink additive a "second chance" and reducing waste going to landfills.

Lead author Dr Rajeev Roychand from RMIT University said the team developed a technique to make concrete 30% stronger by turning waste coffee grounds into biochar, using a low-energy process without oxygen at 350 degrees Celsius.

"The disposal of organic waste poses an environmental challenge as it emits large amounts of greenhouse gases including methane and carbon dioxide, which contribute to climate change," said Roychand, from the School of Engineering.

Australia generates 75 million kilograms of ground coffee waste every year - most of it goes to landfills. Globally, 10 billion kilograms of spent coffee is generated annually.

Published in the Journal of Cleaner Production, the study by RMIT engineers is the first to prove that waste coffee grounds can be used to improve concrete.

"The inspiration for our work was to find an innovative way of using the large amounts of coffee waste in construction projects rather than going to landfills - to give coffee a 'double shot' at life," said Roychand, a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at RMIT.

"Several councils that are battling with the disposal of organic waste have shown interest in our work."

"They have already engaged us for their upcoming infrastructure projects incorporating pyrolysed forms of different organic wastes."

Pyrolysis involves heating organic waste in the absence of oxygen.

The construction industry can



support the recycling of waste

Joint lead author, Dr Shannon Kilmartin-Lynch, a Vice-Chancellor's Indigenous Postdoctoral Research Fellow at RMIT, said construction industries around the world could play a role in transforming this waste into a valuable resource.

"Inspiration for my research, from an Indigenous perspective, involves Caring for Country, ensuring there's a sustainable life cycle for all materials and avoiding things going into landfill to minimise the impact on the environment," said Kilmartin-Lynch from RMIT's School of Engineering.

"The concrete industry has the potential to contribute significantly to increasing the recycling of organic waste such as used coffee."

"Our research is in the early stages, but these exciting findings offer an innovative way to greatly reduce the amount of organic waste that goes to landfill."

Preserving a precious natural resource

Corresponding author and research team leader Professor Jie Li said the coffee biochar can replace a portion of the sand that was used to make concrete.

"The ongoing extraction of natural sand around the world - typically taken from river beds and banks - to meet the rapidly growing demands of the construction industry has a big impact on the environment," Li said.

50 billion tonnes of natural sand are used in construction projects globally every year.

"There are critical and long-lasting challenges in maintaining a sustainable supply of sand due to the finite nature of resources and the environmental impacts of sand mining," Li said.

"With a circular-economy approach, we could keep organic waste out of landfill and also better preserve our natural resources like sand."

Co-researcher Dr Mohammad Saberian said the construction industry needed to explore alternative raw materials to ensure its sustainability.

"Our research team has gained extensive experience in developing highly optimised biochars from different organic wastes, including wood biochar, food-waste biochar, agricultural waste biochar, and municipal solid-waste biochar, for concrete applications," Saberian said.

Axis Bank partners with Marg ERP to streamline Banking and Accounting Solutions

January 23, 2025: Axis Bank, one of the largest private sector banks in India, partners with Marg ERP, a prominent player in integrated business applications, to provide simplified business banking solutions to small and medium enterprise (SME) customers. The aim is to seamlessly bring accounting and banking solutions at one place, and ensure that customers don't need to toggle between accounting and banking applications. This collaboration empowers Axis Bank current account holders to connect their Business accounts directly with Marg ERP software, creating a unified platform for managing all banking transactions such as NEFT, RTGS, IMPS, and more. Axis Bank current account holders can simply log in to Marg ERP, select the necessary bills, and process payments through their connected Axis Bank account.

With this connected banking solution, businesses can automate their banking processes, enhance fund-flow control with real time account balances, manage payments and reconciliation, and enjoy a wide range of features directly from their ERP system. This integration eliminates the need for manual data entry and reduces accounting errors, as transactions are automatically fetched from the ERP. Real-time visibility of bank balances and transaction statuses on the accounting software enables swift decision-making.

With the key features of the Axis Bank-Marg ERP Integration, customers can:

"Simplify the work of reconciling payments into bank accounts with Auto-Bank

Reconciliation

"Initiate real-time direct payments through Marg ERP software via different payment options like NEFT, RTGS, IMPS and Intra bank fund transfers"

"Schedule recurring payments as per the business requirements"

"Stay updated on the status of payments with integrated banking options"

"View the bank statement; download and organize reports to make informed business decisions"

"Automate Ledger Entry On the partnership, Vivek Gupta, President & Head - Wholesale Banking Products, Axis Bank commented, "This Partnership with Marg ERP is a testament to Axis Bank's unwavering commitment to serve our SME clients better by harnessing cutting-edge technology and delivering integrated, customer-centric solutions. With secure and seamless integration of banking functions with Marg ERP, we are mak-

ing it simpler for our customers to manage their financial operations with high efficiency and agility, while making quick well-informed decisions on growth. This initiative is a continuation of our ongoing efforts to significantly improve the digital experience of our clients." Commenting on integration, CMD & Founder Thakur Anup Singh from Marg ERP said, "This tie-up with Axis Bank is a milestone for B2B businesses across the region as it provides them with advanced digital banking solutions that will streamline their business operations. The partnership is well aligned with the government's ongoing efforts to promote digitalization and drive economic growth. This collaborative effort, focusing on a simple, integrated business and banking offering, is expected to bring positive outcomes for regionally headquartered MSMEs, from major centres to the more remote districts."

ing it simpler for our customers to manage their financial operations with high efficiency and agility, while making quick well-informed decisions on growth. This initiative is a continuation of our ongoing efforts to significantly improve the digital experience of our clients." Commenting on integration, CMD & Founder Thakur Anup Singh from Marg ERP said, "This tie-up with Axis Bank is a milestone for B2B businesses across the region as it provides

them with advanced digital banking solutions that will streamline their business operations. The partnership is well aligned with the government's ongoing efforts to promote digitalization and drive economic growth. This collaborative effort, focusing on a simple, integrated business and banking offering, is expected to bring positive outcomes for regionally headquartered MSMEs, from major centres to the more remote districts."

Samsung enhances AI Sketch to image feature for Galaxy S25 with new drawing assist integration

Washington [US] : Ahead of the official unveiling of the Galaxy S25 series on January 22, Samsung has begun teasing new features that will elevate the device's capabilities.

As per GSM Arena, the new features will roll out with a focus on the AI-powered Sketch to Image tool.

Originally launched last year, this innovative feature is getting a major upgrade for the Galaxy S25 family. This will also be a potential update for older flagship models with the One UI 7 update, according to GSM Arena.

The Sketch to Image feature, which uses artificial intelligence to turn simple sketches into detailed images, will now integrate with Drawing Assist. As per GSM Arena, this enhancement



will allow users to input more than just sketches. In addition to drawing with either the S Pen or their finger, users can now provide descriptions of what they want the AI to create, either through text or voice commands. Samsung promises that if an

image can be imagined, "Galaxy AI can create it," as per GSM Arena. For instance, users can sketch a house and describe various locations for it to appear in. This upgrade adds a new layer of creativity and functionality to the AI-driven tool.

People with obesity may have changed connection patterns with particular brain regions: Study

Washington [US] : For the first time, researchers have found that people with obesity had changed connection patterns with particular brain regions in the ventral tegmental area (VTA), a crucial brain structure involved in motivation and reward appreciation. According to a recent study, people who are obese exhibit hypo-connectivity with the left inferior frontal gyrus (related with cognitive control) and hyper-connectivity with a portion of the ventral occipitotemporal cortex.

The findings of the study were published in the journal Obesity.

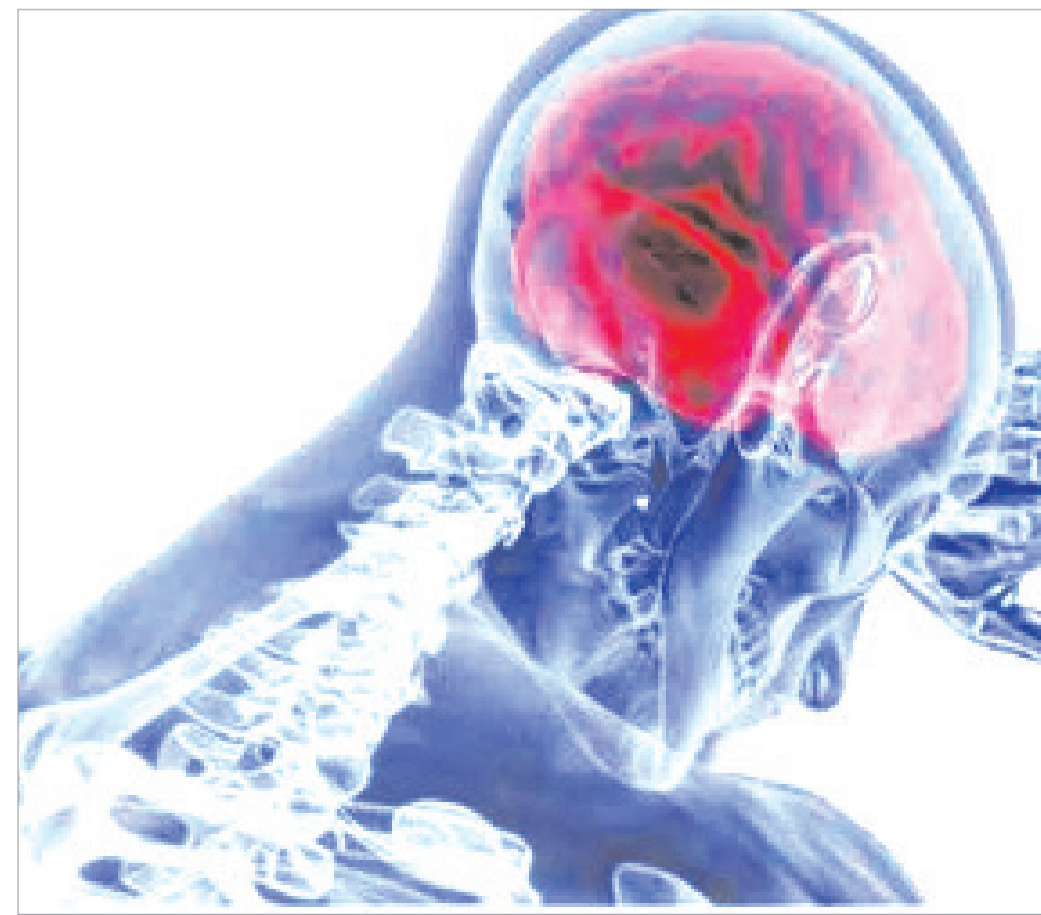
Additionally, researchers have established that these functional anatomical circuits play a specialised role in appetite and cognition. However, neither impulsivity nor hunger are connected to the routes. The results show that sensory-specific visual regions and the prefrontal cortex, which is involved in cognitive control, are inequitably connected to the reward system, which may cause food-related visual stimuli to become cravingly salient.

"Our study is relevant for basic scientists, clinicians, and for patients, alike," said Francantonio Devoto, PhD, Department of Psychology, University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan, Italy. Devoto is the corresponding author of the study.

"We provide novel insights into the brain mechanisms underlying excessive motivation towards food in obesity, a feeling that every person who is overweight or living with obesity has felt when tempted by food images. Based on these findings and once validated by clinical trials, patients may appreciate that there soon might be more strategies becoming available for their treatment."

Obesity is characterized by altered connectivity of the mesocorticolimbic and of the prefrontal cognitive control network. Most studies to date have focused on the main efferents and afferents of the VTA projections, including the hypothalamus, amygdala and ventral striatum, rather than on the VTA itself. This leaves the possibility that the observed differences do not strictly pertain to neuroadaptations occurring at the roots of the mesocorticolimbic circuit, according to experts.

In the current research, the study's authors characterized resting-state functional connectivity of the VTA in 23 healthy-weight adults compared to the same number of adults with obesity to investigate whether obesity is associated with altered mesocorticolimbic activity. The two groups were matched for age, gender and education. Both groups of individuals underwent a



resting-state functional magnetic resonance imaging scan and an assessment for impulsivity, food craving, appetite and implicit bias for food and non-food stimuli. The VTA was used as a seed to map for each participant the strength of its functional connections with the rest of the brain. The between group difference in functional connectivity was then computed and brain-behavior correlations were performed. Results revealed VTA-ventral occipitotemporal cortex connectivity was positively associated with food craving and food-related bias towards high-calorie foods, and not associated with bias towards non-food stimuli. The reverse correlation was observed for VTA-inferior frontal gyrus connectivity and food craving. The study's authors explained that the findings provide two insights: tighter VTA-ventral occipitotemporal cortex connectivity may reflect stronger cue-reward associations in obesity, which favors food craving via the automatic activation of the rewarding properties of food and second, weaker coupling of the VTA with the lateral prefrontal cortex may contribute to faulty cognitive control over food craving and behavior due to inefficient down regulation of the midbrain via the prefrontal cortex.

"Our results pave the way to

novel interventions to treat obesity, providing a proof of concept that non-invasive brain neurostimulation techniques may be used to modulate midbrain activity and connectivity via the lateral prefrontal cortex," the study's authors write in the report.

"Over the past decade, several imaging studies in children and adults demonstrated that subjects with obesity have enhanced brain activation in sites involved in reward/incentive salience. On the other hand, a recent meta-analysis (Morys et al.) suggests that there is little evidence for such an effect. The current study by Devoto et al. is the first to demonstrate food-related visual stimuli in subjects with obesity were "cravingly salient" due to hyper-connectivity of the VTA with areas of the brain involved in visual stimuli. They found decreased connectivity with brain sites involved in cognitive control. The authors suggest such findings could help treat obesity via non-invasive brain stimulation. It would be of interest to evaluate whether subjects being treated with GLP-1 medications have brain activity similar to patients without obesity," said Professor Emeritus of Food Science and Nutrition Allen S. Levine, PhD, of the University of Minnesota. Levine was not associated with the research.

HRCP report highlights rising migration of Hindus from Sindh amid violence, discrimination

MI News Service, Karachi: A new report by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), titled "Exodus: Is the Hindu Community Leaving Sindh?" underscores the alarming trend of Hindu families migrating from Sindh due to ongoing violence, economic hardships, and climate change.

In a post on X, HRCP stated, "The report underscores the state's failure to protect a vulnerable minority, with many Hindu families compelled to migrate not only in connection with faith-based violence but also economic struggles and climate change."

The HRCP's fact-finding study reveals that the state has failed to protect this vulnerable minority, with many Hindus feeling compelled to leave not only due to religious-based violence but also due to systemic economic struggles.

At a meeting to present the findings, HRCP chairperson Asad Iqbal Butt highlighted the underreporting of violence and discrimination against Hindu communities in Sindh. He noted that despite facing growing challenges, many Hindus have been forced to migrate overseas, including to India, despite the significant social and emotional costs involved, HRCP stated in a post.

HRCP further highlighted that Rajvir Singh Sodha, special assistant to the Sindh chief minister for human rights, addressed the issue of extortion by criminal gangs, particularly targeting upper-caste Hindu families. He linked this to the deteriorating law and order situation in the province, which further exacerbates the vulnerability of these communities.

HRCP council member Pushpa Kumari pointed to the specific threats faced by Hindu women, including abductions, forced conversions, and underage marriages, which remain pressing issues in the region.

According to HRCP, journalist Sohail Sangi urged both the Sindh and federal governments to take urgent action, calling for enhanced law enforcement, greater Hindu representation in police forces, and consistent dialogue with local Hindu communities to create a safer, more dignified environment.

Thailand becomes first Southeast Asian nation to legalise same-sex marriage

MI News Service, Bangkok: Hundreds of same-sex couples are tying the knot in Thailand on Thursday, as the country becomes the first in Southeast Asia to legalise marriage equality, according to a report by CNN.

According to Bangkok Pride, which partnered with local authorities to organize the event, over 200 couples registered to marry at the Siam Paragon shopping center.

This bill marks a major victory for the LGBTQ+ community, which has spent more than a decade advocating for equal marriage rights. The law, approved by Thailand's parliament and endorsed by the king in 2024, grants same-sex couples the ability to legally register their marriages, offering them full legal, financial, and medical rights, as well as adoption and inheritance rights. "This marriage equality law marks the beginning of Thai society's greater awareness of gender diversity, and our embrace of everyone regardless of sexual orientation, race, or religion -- our affirmation that everyone is entitled to equal rights and dignity," Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra said in a recorded message played at a mass wedding in the capital Bangkok on Thursday, according to CNN. Shinawatra hailed the legalization of same-sex marriage as a historic milestone for equality and inclusion. She celebrated the LGBTQIA+ community's decades-long struggle for marriage equality, calling it a "collective achievement from everyone's efforts."

Davos: Andhra CM Naidu meets Bill Gates, Unilever official, Cenmat CEO on sidelines of WEF

MI News Service, Davos: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu met Microsoft and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) Founder, Bill Gates, on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum summit in Davos.

The meeting between the two leaders focused on forging partnerships to transform the state of Andhra Pradesh into a 'global hub' for health, education, and innovation, an official statement stated.

During the discussion, the Chief Minister proposed the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Health Innovation and Diagnostics in Andhra Pradesh. Highlighting the potential of the Centre to deliver cutting-edge healthcare services to the public, CM Naidu emphasised the state's commitment to leveraging innovation to improve public

health outcomes.

CM Naidu also invited Bill Gates to join the advisory board for the proposed Artificial Intelligence University in Andhra Pradesh. This initiative aims to position the state as a leader in AI research and development, aligning with global advancements in technology and education, as per the statement.

The Chief Minister also expressed interest in implementing BMGF's successful programmes, such as health dashboards and other social initiatives, within Andhra Pradesh. He underscored the need for collaboration to adapt global innovations to local challenges, ensuring maximum impact, the statement read.

Chandrababu Naidu assured Bill Gates that Andhra Pradesh could serve as a gateway for the foundation's initiatives

across South India, providing a platform to amplify its reach and effectiveness in the region.

"I am delighted to meet Bill Gates again after a long time," said CM Chandrababu Naidu.

"His (Bill Gates) focus on technology and innovation has been an inspiration to all. We discussed opportunities for collaboration in health and AI innovation, and I look forward to BMGF's partnership in Andhra Pradesh's progress," he added.

CM Chandrababu Naidu also met Willem Uijen, Chief Supply Chain Officer of Unilever, a global leader in consumer goods known for its food, home care, beauty, and personal care products. Operating in India under the name Hindustan Unilever, the company is looking to expand in line with India's growing demand.

Taiwan MND detects 35 Chinese aircraft, 6 vessels around its territory

MI News Service, Taipei: Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence (MND) has detected 35 Chinese aircraft and 6 naval vessels around the island as of 6 am (UTC+8) on Thursday.

Among them, 27 aircraft crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern, southwestern and eastern Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ).

Sharing a post on X, MND wrote, "35 PLA aircraft and 6 PLAN vessels operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 27 of the aircraft crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern, southwestern and eastern ADIZ. We have monitored the situation and responded accordingly."

On Wednesday, Taiwan MND detected 14 Chinese aircraft and 5 vessels around its territory around the island.

In recent weeks, China has been visibly boosting its ability to invade Taiwanese beaches with innovative new naval equipment.

This includes the formal launching of an enormous landing helicopter assault (LHA) vessel, the likes of which no other navy in the world possesses, and the mass production of floating bridge docks to assist the unloading of ships during beach landings. Both types of equipment are strong indications that China is serious about one day invading Taiwan.

The Taiwan-China issue

is a complex and long-standing geopolitical conflict centred on Taiwan's sovereignty. Taiwan, officially known as the Republic of China (ROC), operates its own government, military, and economy, functioning as a de facto independent state.

However, China considers Taiwan a breakaway province and insists on the "One China" policy, which asserts that there is only one China, with Beijing as its capital.

This has fuelled decades of tension, especially since the Chinese Civil War (1945-1949), when the ROC government retreated to Taiwan after the Communist Party, led by Mao Zedong, took control of mainland China.

Global leaders call for action on AI, regional reforms, environmental initiatives at WEF 2025

MI News Service, Davos:

Global leaders have called for action on artificial intelligence, regional reforms, and environmental initiatives at the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2025, discussing key issues such as social media reform in Europe, closer regional integration in Asia, the creation of the world's largest tropical forest reserve in Africa and opportunities for progress in the Middle East.

President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Felix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, on Wednesday at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2025 announced the creation of the world's largest tropical forest reserve, according to a press release. The Kivu to Kinshasa Green Corridor Reserve will protect over 550,000 square kilometres of forest throughout the Congo River Basin.

"This historic, unprecedented initiative will transform not only our natural landscapes but also the livelihoods of millions of our citizens," he said, adding that the initiative goes far beyond environmental preservation and includes

economic development.

As he prepares to assume the ASEAN chairmanship, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim expressed optimism about the 10-nation union's future and Malaysia's role in it.

"The spirit of collaboration and esprit de corps between [ASEAN] leaders is unique," Anwar said, pointing to the contributions that closer regional integration in green energy has made to Malaysia's emergence as a high-tech manufacturing powerhouse.

Anwar noted that while the US remained the largest single investor in Malaysia, the nation's "closeness, investment and trade with China" are growing. Stressing the importance of dialogue over conflict, he remarked, "We don't go to war or threaten--we discuss, get a little angry, but focus on economic fundamentals and move on."

In a special address, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez called for a reform of social media governance across the European Union to curb misinformation and cyber harassment. He urged for

stronger enforcement of the Digital Services Act and expanded powers for the European Centre for Algorithmic Transparency. He emphasised that "the values of the European Union are not for sale" and called for increased funding for research into social media algorithms to ensure Europe's brightest minds address this critical challenge.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also issued a stark warning about two escalating global threats: the unchecked expansion of artificial intelligence and the climate crisis. These challenges, he warned, pose unprecedented risks to humanity and demand immediate, unified action from governments and the private sector.

On artificial intelligence, Guterres acknowledged its immense potential but cautioned against the risks of leaving AI unregulated. He emphasised the need for international collaboration, pointing to the Global Digital Compact adopted at the United Nations as a roadmap for harnessing digital technology responsibly.

servants were overlooked. Bajwa also criticised the government's approach to privatising state-owned institutions, calling for better management and restructuring instead.

In addition to salary concerns, protesters are demanding the regularisation of contract employees and daily wage workers, the reinstatement of employees dismissed under the government's right-sizing initiative, and the withdrawal of recent tax hikes on salaries. Rahima Rehman, former president of the Federal Government College Teachers Association, also joined the protest, calling for the rollback of recent reforms related to leave encashment and pensions that she argued negatively affected teachers and government employees, the Dawn reported.

Pakistan: Govt employees stage protest for better salaries, reversal of pension reforms in Islamabad

MI News Service, Islamabad: Government employees in Pakistan, under the banner of the All Government Employees Grand Alliance (AGEGA), staged a protest outside the Pakistan Secretariat on Wednesday, demanding better salaries and the reversal of recent pension reforms, as reported by the Dawn.

The protest, which involved over 100 unions and associations from various government departments, was part of a wider demonstration that took place in Islamabad and provincial headquarters nationwide.

According to Dawn, AGEGA members called for a 200 per cent increase in house rent, medical, and conveyance allowances, a demand that mirrors recommendations made by the Pay and Pension



Dawn further highlighted that Rehman Ali Bajwa, the Chief Coordinator of AGEGA, addressed the crowd, expressing frustration over the unequal salary hikes for different government sectors. He pointed out that while some government officials received substantial pay increases, ordinary civil

One terrorist killed in Gaza as Israeli military responds to ceasefire violations

MI News Service, Tel Aviv: The IDF (Israel Defense Forces) reported that during the last day, its forces acted to defend themselves after they came under threats posed to them in the Gaza Strip, despite the terms of the ceasefire agreement that entered into force on Sunday.

In the south of the Gaza Strip, the IDF forces acting in accordance with the terms of the ceasefire agreement, identified a number of armed suspects who posed a threat to them. They acted to remove the threat and in doing so killed the terrorist Akram Ataf Farhan Zenon, a member of the Islamic Jihad terrorist organization.

In addition, in a number of areas in the Gaza Strip, many masked suspects were identified moving towards the forces who fired at the terrorists from a distance.

The IDF is again calling on the Palestinian residents to obey its instructions and not to approach the Israeli forces deployed in the area.

New cases of bird flu found in Israel

MI News Service, Tel Aviv: H5N1 bird flu was diagnosed in a flock of turkeys at Kibbutz Tzora in the Mateh Yehuda Regional Council. Following an unusual mortality of approximately 19,300 turkeys, aged 6.7 weeks, in four chicken coops, samples were sent to the laboratories of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, which confirmed the suspicion.

This is the 16th case of bird flu diagnosed in the current flu season in commercial chicken coops. As a reminder, in the past two weeks, two additional cases of bird flu were discovered in a turkey coop at Kibbutz Tzora.

In order to prevent the spread of the disease, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security is acting in accordance with the procedures recommended by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) regarding the treatment of avian influenza.

Among other things, a quarantine zone has been defined within a range of up to 10 km from the infected poultry houses, in which the movement of poultry is restricted, the population of poultry houses is prohibited, and strict biosecurity measures are required from those involved in the industry. The veterinary services at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security continue to conduct active monitoring of all poultry houses in the area.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security calls on breeders of ornamental birds and poultry farms, as well as free-range poultry farms, to keep the poultry they own inside buildings, prevent them from roaming in open areas, and thus reduce the risk of infection from wild birds during the migration season.

Trump's pick for UN Ambassador pledges to boost Taiwan's participation in international bodies

MI News Service, Washington DC: US nominee for Ambassador to the UN, Elise Stefanik, currently a member of the House of Representatives, has pledged to work toward Taiwan's maximum meaningful participation in international organizations, the Taipei Times reported.

"I am committed to making sure that Taiwan has the most maximum meaningful participation within the UN system, as it should in all international organizations," Taipei Times quoted Stefanik who made the remarks during a Senate confirmation hearing in Washington on Tuesday.



Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 128th Birthday celebrated at Mass Public School, Mallickpur, South 24 Parganas, W.B. The event included a rendition of the National Anthem by everyone present. PIC: MJ Yousof

South Korea's anti-graft agency hands over martial law probe to prosecutors

MI News Service, Seoul: South Korea's anti-corruption agency has handed over its investigation into President Yoon Suk Yeol's alleged attempt to impose martial law to the prosecution, urging that he be charged with insurrection and abuse of power, according to a report by Yonhap News Agency.

The Corruption Investigation Office for High-ranking Officials (CIO) announced on Thursday that it transferred all related investigation materials, totaling over 30,000 pages compiled into 69 volumes. The CIO does not have indictment powers against a president.

"The suspect continues to be uncooperative and defy the procedures under the criminal justice system despite facing nationally serious charges of being a leader of an insurrection," Lee Jae-seung, the CIO

deputy chief, said during a press briefing.

"In these circumstances, we decided that rather than continually trying to question him, it would be more effective for determining the truth behind the incident for the prosecution, which has to decide on the indictment, to combine the investigation thus far and look further into what ever is needed," he added, according to Yonhap.

Yoon is currently detained at the Seoul Detention Center in Uiwang. Meanwhile, the Constitutional Court is conducting a trial to determine whether his impeachment by the National Assembly will be upheld or overturned.

If the impeachment is confirmed, Yoon will be removed from office, triggering a presidential election within 60 days. If it is overturned, he will regain his position.

The prosecution is expected to file for an extension of Yoon's arrest and indict him following further questioning around February 5, according to Yonhap. Earlier on January 19, Seoul Western District Court in Seoul issued a detention warrant for Yoon, citing concerns over potential evidence tampering and allowing authorities to hold him for an extended period over his controversial martial law declaration in December 2024.

South Korean investigators had arrested Yoon on January 15 over accusations of prompting an uprising against the government.

On December 14, Yoon was impeached by the National Assembly over his attempt to impose martial law in the country. The members of the unicameral National Assembly had voted 204 to 85 to impeach South Korea's President.

Karachi faces severe water shortages amid another leak at Dhabeji pumping station

MI News Service, Karachi: The water crisis in Karachi has worsened as a recently repaired pipeline at the Dhabeji pumping station has sprung another leak, as reported by the Express Tribune.

According to the Express Tribune, the situation has been exacerbated by reduced water supply at government hydrants and a halt in operations at several regional pumping stations. Citizens are now forced to purchase water from tankers at inflated prices.

A spokesperson for the Water Corporation explained that two pipeline lines were affected due to a power breakdown, causing a significant shortfall of 100 million gallons per day (MGD) of water, or 300

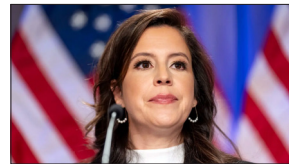
million gallons over the past three days. Though repair work on line number 5 began on Wednesday, a leak was discovered, and efforts to fix it are still ongoing. Meanwhile, repairs on line number 01 have not yet started, Express Tribune reported.

The city's water supply system relies on 24 pumps, but currently, only 14 are operational, further compounding the crisis. As a result, numerous areas across the city are experiencing severe water shortages, affecting residents and businesses alike.

The ongoing repairs and limited pump availability continue to disrupt the daily water supply, leaving citizens in urgent need of alternative solutions, as reported by Express Tribune.

Earlier on Monday, Karachi experienced a water shortfall of 100 million gallons per day following an unexpected power outage at the Dhabeji Pumping Station, disrupting the city's water supply, the Dawn reported. The breakdown caused a complete halt to all operations at the pumping station.

The Dhabeji Pumping Station, operated by the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC), plays a crucial role in supplying water to Karachi. However, over the past ten years, it has experienced ongoing maintenance and technical problems, causing frequent disruptions in the city's water supply. These issues have made it difficult to ensure a reliable and consistent flow of water to Karachi's residents.



Taipei Times.

In her remarks, Stefanik also underscored her support for Taiwan, specifically mentioning her votes in Congress in favor of defense aid to strengthen Taiwan's deterrence capabilities.

While discussing the need to counter China, Stefanik stressed the importance of working closely with US allies and partners to ensure "we're running candidates, either Amer-

ican or allied nations, in the elections process for key leadership posts within the UN system."

She further added, "We have to be vigilant both in the long-term and the short-term to make sure that China is not able to make significant inroads ... in international organizations."

According to the Taipei Times, the envoy-designate also stated that the US should keep a close eye on all documents and statements released in Chinese by the UN, arguing that Beijing has attempted to insert "specific language [in those documents] that is counter to our values."

Coach Jude vows to play free flowing hockey as Soorma Hockey Club on verge of securing women's HIL final spot

RANCHI (JHARKHAND) : Soorma Hockey Club is a step away from qualifying for the Final of the Women's Hockey India League (HIL) 2024-25. They need to secure at least one point against Shraichi Rarh Bengal Tigers at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Astroturf Hockey Stadium in Ranchion Friday to advance to the final, a release from the league said.

Soorma Hockey Club is at the top spot in the women's HIL with three wins and two losses, giving them a total of 10 points.

"Our approach to this whole campaign has been that we want to win every game we play. So, we're just focusing now on the match against the Shraichi Rarh Bengal Tigers. That's the most important game for us at this stage so we're taking it one step



at a time and after that game, then we look ahead of what we have got to do. We have still got to

do the business in the next game," head coach Jude Menezes shared ahead of the game as quoted by a

HIL press release.

Soorma has been flying high in the League. Sonam has been in scintillating form up front, scoring four goals in five matches for Soorma while Charlotte Englebert has chipped in with two goals. Although, all of their 11 goals have come from open play with the teams struggling to convert from penalty corners across the League.

"We are struggling with the initial trap. I think most teams have been struggling with it because if you look at the other teams around as well, there have not been too many penalty corners being scored. So, I think we need to keep working on it and hopefully, we can actually get some outcomes from there but we are a very strong unit in terms of you know our forwards and our

defence is quite compact and strong as well. So, with the quality that we've got in our forward line, we know that we have got the ability to score goals," he explained.

The last time Soorma took on the Tigers, they came from one goal down to register a commanding 4-1 victory in their first match of the campaign. Olivia Shannon, Charlotte Englebert, Captain Salima Tete and Sonam found the back of the net to complete an all-round performance on the day.

"I think once again the approach will be to try to get some outcomes in the shooting circle, try to score goals and make sure we are playing a free-flowing, aggressive attacking style which actually suits the way we play," he signed off.

Australian Open: Sabalenka beats Badosa to reach third straight Australian Open final



MELBOURNE [AUSTRALIA] : Two-time champion Aryna Sabalenka reached her third successive Australian Open final, defeating 11th seed Paula Badosa in the semifinal on Thursday.

Beating Badosa 6-4, 6-2, the defending champion now has a chance to win her third Australian Open title. She also extended her winning streak at Melbourne Park to 20 matches.

The star player remains undefeated in 2025, extending her win streak to 11 matches. Sabalenka, 26, is the first woman to reach three Australian Open finals since Serena Williams and the youngest since Martina Hingis.

With this win, Sabalenka improved her record against Badosa to six wins and two losses. She will face either world number two Iga Swiatek or number 14 Madison Keys in the title clash. Sabalenka is also aiming to become the first woman to win three successive Australian Open

titles since Hingis, who won from 1997 to 1999.

Badosa, the Spaniard, is set to return to the top 10 in the WTA rankings after making it to her first-ever Grand Slam semifinal. She also secured her first top-10 win at a Grand Slam, defeating Coco Gauff in the quarterfinals.

Badosa made a strong start to the match, holding a 2-0, 40-0 lead but failed to convert it into a triple-game point. Sabalenka steadied herself and broke Badosa in an eight-minute game to put the match back on serve. The world number one then won four successive games to build a 4-2 lead. From that point, she never looked back and did not face another break point in a match that lasted almost one and a half hours.

Sabalenka secured the win with 26 winners and 18 unforced errors, while Badosa managed just eight winners and 14 unforced errors.

India spinner Varun Chakravarthy vows to work harder to "perfect" a key aspect of his game

KOLKATA (WEST BENGAL) : India's ace T20I spinner Varun Chakravarthy revealed the key aspect he has been working on to make his deliveries more mysterious after delivering a Player of the Match performance in the first T20I against England at Eden Gardens.

Kolkata's local hero, Chakravarthy, showcased his unpredictable variations, leaving English batters in a spin. On a pitch where Chakravarthy has bowled extensively, it wasn't the turn that made him effective, but the variation in pace combined with the bounce he generated off the surface.

Chakravarthy already has an ace up his sleeve -- the googly, which is difficult for batters to pick. However, the 33-year-old has focused on varying his pace, keeping opposition batters guessing.

"I've worked on trying to vary my pace. I don't want batters to line me up because I'm bowling at the same speed every ball. That's what I've worked on, and I'm trying to perfect it further," Chakravarthy said on Disney+ Hotstar.

In the first T20I, after India won the toss and decided to bowl, it was Arshdeep Singh who produced a rollicking spell with his scorching pace and swing. Within the blink of an eye, England's opening pair, Ben Duckett and Phil Salt perished and returned to the dressing room.

The stage was set, and Chakravarthy had all the time he needed to pull tricks out of his mystery box to bamboozle the hard-hitting English middle-order.

Chakravarthy quickly realised that bounce was the key to success, rather than relying solely on turn. He adjusted his plan of attack according to the surface's requirements.

When England threatened with a promising partnership between Buttler and Brook, Chakravarthy executed a perfect counter-punch. Young sensation Brook was the first to fall for 17, followed by Livingstone, who was dismissed for a two-ball duck in the same over.

England's hopes of crossing the 150-run mark now rested on how long Buttler could stay at the crease. As the first innings neared its conclusion, Buttler knew he had to target the boundary.

He attempted to pull the ball to deep square leg, but Nitish Reddy came charging in to take a brilliant catch, ending Buttler's innings at 68(44). With the loss of their skipper, England could only manage to reach 132, a target India chased down comfortably.

Buttler's wicket was Chakravarthy's final scalp of the match as he finished with impressive figures of 3/23 in his four-over spell.



Women's Ashes: Australia announce 13-player squad for one-off Test, provide injury update on Healy, Gardner

CANBERRA [AUSTRALIA] : Australia named a strong 13-member Test squad for the Test in the ongoing Women's Ashes series against England while providing an update on the fitness of key players.

Before the Test leg, Australia successfully retained the Ashes with flying colours, courtesy of their four successive wins in the series, three ODIs and one T20I.

As the Women's Ashes is on the cusp of moving to the Test action, the top-ranked team across all formats, will need to rely on its depth in the red-ball format. Captain Alyssa Healy missed out on the ongoing second T20I against England on Thursday with a foot injury. Cricket Australia said in a statement that "her availability for the Test match will be determined in due course." National selector Shawn Flegler revealed the nature of the Australian skipper's injury. "Alyssa has got a stress response in her foot," Flegler told reporters, according to ICC.

"We're going to try and get a



little bit more information before we make a call on her. It's a big call for Alyssa," Flegler added.

Along with Healy, there are also concerns over the fitness of star all-rounder Ash Gardner. She was also a notable absentee in Australia's playing XI for the second T20I. According to Cricket Australia, there is no time frame for Gardner's return. "Ash Gardner will continue to be assessed daily, and her availability for the 3rd T20I remains uncertain," it said in a release.

Even though there is uncertainty over their involvement, Gardner and Healy have been added to the squad. The one-off Test will begin on January 30 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

Australia Test Squad: Alyssa Healy (c), Tahlia McGrath, Darcie Brown, Ashleigh Gardner, Kim Garth, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Voll, Georgia Wareham.

Abhishek Sharma smashes record for most sixes by an Indian in T20I chase

KOLKATA (WEST BENGAL) : Abhishek Sharma delivered a stunning performance in the first T20I against England on Wednesday, smashing a blistering 20-ball half-century while hitting the most sixes by an Indian in a T20I run chase, according to Wisden.

The match, held at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata, saw India's spinners dominate the first innings, bundling England out for just 132. Varun Chakravarthy (3/23), and Axar Patel (2/22), kept England's batters under pressure, with only England skipper Jos Buttler offering resistance. Buttler played a lone hand with a 44-ball 68 before falling to Chakravarthy.

Chasing a modest target, India cruised to victory in just 12.5 overs with seven wickets in hand. Leading the charge was Abhishek Sharma, who hammered 79 off just 34 balls. His explosive knock included eight sixes, setting a new record for the most sixes hit by an Indian in a T20I chase. Sanju Samson (26 off 20) and Tilak Varma (19 off 16) provided valuable support as India comfortably overhauled the target.

Abhishek's six-hitting spree featured three maximums off Adil



Rashid, two against Mark Wood, and one each off Jofra Archer, Jamie Overton, and Gus Atkinson. His tally of eight sixes surpassed the previous Indian record of six sixes in a T20I chase, a mark jointly held by Rohit Sharma (achieved twice), Suryakumar Yadav, Virat Kohli, Tilak Varma, Yashasvi Jaiswal, and Axar Patel.

Globally, the record for most sixes in a T20I chase stands at 18 by Estonia's Sahil Chauhan. Among players from Full Member

nations, South Africa's Richard Levi holds the record with 13 sixes against New Zealand.

Indian left-handers bashing English bowlers in the T20I format has been a love affair that became famous with Yuvraj Singh's exploits in the 2007 T20 World Cup.

Mentored by Yuvraj, Abhishek put his power-hitting ability on exhibition in the series opener against English tearaways. It was the second-fastest fifty by an

Team India, England arrive in Chennai ahead of second T20I

CHENNAI (TAMIL NADU) : Team India and England arrived in Chennai ahead of their second T20I of the five-match series, which will be played on Saturday. With India 1-0 ahead in the series after a three-wicket win in the first T20I at Kolkata's Eden Gardens on Wednesday, Men in Blue will be aiming to take another step in continuing their dominant ways in T20I format. On the other hand, England, under new head coach Brendon McCullum, would be looking forward to finally delivering the 'Bazball' brand of cricket after a stumble at Kolkata. The second T20I will be played at the Chepauk Stadium. Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Hardik Pandya, coach Gautam Gambhir, skipper Suryakumar Yadav, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Dhruv Jurel and Abhishek Sharma were among the players spotted. Coming to England, Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, Liam Livingstone, and Ben Duckett were among the players spotted. Coming to the first match, India won the toss and elected to field first. England lost wickets at regular intervals, with only skipper Jos Buttler (68 in 44 balls, with eight fours and two sixes) fighting it out for Three Lions. England was restricted to 132 in 20 overs. Spinner Varun Chakravarthy (3/23) was the top wicket-taker for India. Arshdeep Singh, Hardik Pandya and Axar Patel got two scalps for India. In the run-chase, Sanju Samson (26 in 20 balls, with four boundaries and a six) put on a 41-run stand with Abhishek Sharma (79 in 34 balls, with five fours and eight sixes), who ended up winning the match single-handedly with seven wickets and 43 balls to spare. Varun got the 'Player of the Match' award for his bowling spell.



Sudeva conducts successful football trials in Mizoram, Assam; draws over 1800 aspiring players

AIZAWL (MIZORAM) : Sudeva Delhi FC, a leading name in Indian football development, hosted two football trials this month in Mizoram and Assam, attracting an overwhelming response from grassroots football talent. Held on January 17 in Aizawl, Mizoram, and January 19 in Kokrajhar, Assam, the trials saw the participation of over 1800 players from both states waiting for an opportunity to train with Sudeva's residential football academy in Delhi.

Anuj Gupta, President of Sudeva, personally attended both events, demonstrating his commitment to discovering and nurturing football talent from across India. A pioneer in grassroots

football development, Gupta has been conducting pan-India trials for over a decade, scouting and mentoring promising players to realize their full potential.

"The talent and passion displayed at these trials were extraordinary," said Gupta, as per a release from Sudeva Delhi FC. "We are dedicated to identifying young footballers from all corners of India and providing them with world-class training, infrastructure, and a pathway to professional football," he added.

Sudeva's residential academy in Delhi offers elite coaching under highly qualified professionals and boasts top-tier infrastructure to foster development for young athletes. Many players

who trained at Sudeva have gone on to join Indian Super League (ISL) and I-League clubs and have been scouted for the Indian national team.

The trials in Mizoram and Assam continue Sudeva's mission to bring football opportunities to untapped regions and inspire the next generation of players. The overwhelming participation at these events underscores the deep reservoir of untapped football talent in the Northeast and reaffirms Sudeva's commitment to providing a platform for young athletes to shine.

Earlier, Stuttgart's Bundesliga club and Sudeva Delhi FC officially announced their partnership at the MHP Arena in Stuttgart.

This historic collaboration signified a major leap in fostering ties between Indian and German football, showcasing a shared commitment to the sport's growth and development across borders.

The event was a memorable occasion, highlighted by the official signing ceremony during a grand gala evening on November 22, immediately following an engaging panel discussion featuring football experts and representatives from both clubs.

The discussion delved into the opportunities and challenges for Indian football and how international collaborations can pave the way for a brighter future in the sport, according to a release from the Delhi Soccer Association.

