



Prime minister Narendra Modi, flanked by some of his cabinet colleagues, addresses media on the opening day of the Budget session, outside Parliament in New Delhi on Friday.

## TMC doubts public welfare in upcoming Union Budget, prepares to intensify pressure on Centre

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Union Budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year is set to be presented by the third NDA government on February 1, tomorrow, but the Trinamool Congress (TMC) is skeptical that it will benefit the public. Ahead of the presentation of the Union Budget, the party is preparing to mount further pressure on the central government. This stance was made clear by Abhishek Banerjee, the All-India General Secretary of TMC, as he spoke to the media at Dum Dum Airport before his leaving for Delhi.

Banerjee indicated that the TMC has little hope for the budget, claiming that since the Modi government

took office, the outcome of every budget has been the same: the rich grow richer while the poor become even more impoverished. "Since the day Modi came to power, the budget results have been consistent. The poor become poorer, and the rich become wealthier," he said.

As the Union Budget countdown begins, all eyes are on Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who will unveil the nation's fiscal roadmap for 2025. Reports suggest that the budget might include some positive news for EPFO pensioners, such as an increase in the minimum pension and consideration for Dearness Allowance (DA). However, there is

growing concern over the country's economic outlook. The Economic Survey has suggested that the country's GDP growth rate may decline, which raises alarms about the broader economic situation.

Despite these concerns, Banerjee expressed his disappointment, noting that the government's budget policies have not alleviated the suffering of the common people. While there may be a few provisions for the working class, the wealth gap is widening, and large corporations and the wealthy continue to benefit disproportionately from the government's economic policies.

Banerjee also criticized the BJP for its perceived

anti-public stance and political tactics. Addressing the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections, he claimed that the BJP's tactics, including the use of raids and political repression, would backfire.

As the debate around the Union Budget intensifies, the TMC is setting itself up to challenge the BJP-led government on all fronts. The party aims to bring attention to the disparities in wealth and fight for the rights of the common people. With upcoming state elections and the general elections, the TMC is preparing for what could be a critical political battle, especially as the BJP's budgetary policies continue to face scrutiny.

## 2025-26 budget session in Bengal will begin with the address of Governor CV Anand Bose as per tradition

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Unlike last year, the 2025 budget session will begin with the address of Governor CV Anand Bose as per the tradition, state Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee said here on Friday. Speaking to newsmen prior to the month long Budget session, the Speaker said, this time as per the long tradition the session will begin with the Governor's address on February 10, revealing that Nabanna has also given its nod for maintaining the long tradition of the House. Discussions on the Governor's address will also be taken up on the opening day of

the session, the Speaker said. Incidentally the last year's budget session began without the Governor's address mainly due to the Nabanna-Raj Bhavan conflict. Though such conflict between the Governor and the state governments in India's federal structure is not new, however, it has been very vivid in Bengal during the past few years. Governor Bose had publicly raised his fingers against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's government on various issues. In turn Chief minister and supremo of the ruling Trinamool Congress Mamata Banerjee

brought out several allegations against the Governor. The situation had even reached such a pass that at one point of time the ruling party demanded the removal of Governor Bose.

However, the change of attitude towards one another in the form of better working relationship was visible during some recent government programmes where both the Governor and the Chief minister were present, the latest of them being on January 26, when the Chief Minister went to Raj Bhavan to attend the Governor's traditional tea party as per tradition on the Republic day

## Modi Govt's third term witnessing work at thrice the speed of previous dispensations, says Prez Murmu

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The work being done at Narendra Modi government's third term is at thrice the speed of the previous administrations with a determination to end "policy paralysis", President Droupadi Murmu said on Friday, citing decisions on issues such as Waqf boards and One Nation, One Election.

Addressing a joint session of Parliament, signalling the start of the Budget session, President Murmu said the government has placed special focus on the education of the youth and is creating new employment opportunities for them. She said "The third term of the government is witnessing work at thrice the speed of previous administrations. The government has taken big decisions on issues such as Waqf boards and One Nation, One Election."

Before starting her address, Murmu paid homage to former prime minister Manmohan Singh who passed away recently. She also paid tributes to those who died in a stampede at the Maha Kumbh on early Wednesday.

The President noted that the union government has worked with determination to end "policy paralysis". "My government has not only recognised the contribution of the middle class but also appreciated it at every opportunity. The government is also working to give appropriate rates for farm produce and increase the income of farmers, she asserted.

The government is establishing a modern education system for students through the National Education Policy, President Murmu said while noting that the number and quality of higher education institutions has increased significantly over the past decade., the President noted that a new law has been enacted to prevent incidents of paper leaks and ensure transparency in recruitment.

"Through the National Education Policy, my government is establishing a modern education system for students. To ensure no one is deprived of education, opportunities for learning in mother tongues are being pro-

vided. Additionally, various recruitment exams are being conducted in 13 Indian languages, eliminating language barriers, she said..

"Many employment opportunities are being created as various steps are being taken for economic empowerment of the cooperative sector," President Murmu said adding the government has decided to expand the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana to provide new houses to 3 crore additional families.

"Under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, the government has decided to provide health insurance to 6 crore citizens aged 70 years and above. The government has placed special focus on the education of the youth and creating new employment opportunities for them," she said.

Referring to the present peaceful situation in Jammu and Kashmir, the President said it has further improved after the abrogation of Article 370. "My government has made efforts to end the feeling of alienation in the

people of the northeast," she said.

Murmu also underlined that digital fraud, cyber crime and deepfake pose a challenge to social, economic and national security. "India's metro network has now crossed the 1,000-km milestone. The U-WIN portal has been launched to keep track of the vaccination schedule for pregnant women and children," she said.

Ahead of her address, Murmu was welcomed in Parliament premises by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and an official carrying the 'Sengol', adopted as a cultural symbol by the government.

The President arrived in a six-horse driven ceremonial buggy and was escorted by the horse-mounted Presidential bodyguard. She was given a guard of honour in the lawns of the Parliament building and was escorted to the Lok Sabha chamber by Dhankhar, Modi, Birla and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju..

## Arvind Kejriwal blames Election Commission, alleges ECI targeting AAP

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** App National Governor and former Delhi Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal has blamed the Election Commission as biased against him and said it was targeting him and his party before the upcoming elections.

Paying a visit to the ECI on Friday Kejriwal claimed that if AAP had not protested, one crore Delhi residents would have been deprived of water. But, he alleged, that instead of acting against Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini, ECI is targeting him. "If we had not protested and raised a hue and cry, one crore people of Delhi would have stopped getting water. But ECI has sent me a notice asking why no action is taken. I saved Delhi from water crisis and I am being threatened with punishment... Instead of filing an FIR and taking action against Nayab Saini, Election Commission is after me. Some neighbouring states where elections were held, they can influence elections by stopping water. Money, sarees, shoes and jackets are being openly distributed in Delhi but Election Commission is silent. ECI does not show the courage to take action against BJP today," he said. He further stated that "Whatever

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## Economic Survey calls for new strategic trade roadmap and boost export competitiveness

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The Economic Survey presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament on Friday called for a new strategic trade roadmap for India, along with measures to cut trade costs and enhance export competitiveness amid growing protectionism globally.

It said that much remains to be done to enhance trade competitiveness. "Global trade dynamics have changed significantly in recent years, shifting from globalisation to rising trade protectionism, accompanied by increased uncertainty. This calls for a new strategic trade roadmap for India," the survey said.

In this a new strategic trade roadmap for the country, it has also cited rising protectionism and heightened uncertainty amid a shift in global trade dynamics.

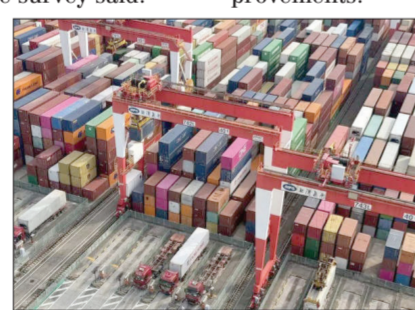
To address these challenges, India needs to remain competitive and enhance its participation in global supply chains, while continuing to reduce trade costs and improve trade facilitation to boost export competitiveness. The industry must also play its part by investing in quality, the Survey emphasised.

According to the Survey, India will face increasing threats from restrictive trade policies, such as the deforestation regulation and Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) introduced by the European Union (EU) to prevent carbon leakage and protect global forests. These measures could restrict India's exports and further widen the current account deficit. This comes at a time when net foreign direct investment (FDI) into India

is declining due to higher repatriation, successful exits by foreign investors, government incentives to retain investments onshore, and higher interest rates in hard currencies.

While gross FDI inflows have shown higher growth in the first eight months of the current financial year compared to the same period last year, a surge in repatriation has limited the expansion in net FDI.

The Survey also suggested that India should shift focus from merely wooing FDI to making itself more attractive for foreign investors through structural improvements.



"For example, most sectors in the country are open to foreign investors under the automatic route. The large amount of repatriations, as seen in the data, also suggests that it is easy to transfer returns on investments made in India," the Survey noted.

"However, there is room to improve tax certainty and tax stability in matters such as the Advance Pricing Agreement (APA). India has simplified many of its laws, rules, and regulations over the years, leading to a significant improvement in the ease of doing business compared to previous years. At the same time, all statutory and regulatory authorities must bear in mind that international investors benchmark countries cross-sectionally, not longitudinally. This will determine the success of the government's goal of making global companies produce in India for the world, integrating India into the global supply chain," it added.

## Daughter of Indian immigrants among those killed in worst US air crash

**MI News Service, Washington (DC):** Asra Hussain Raza, the daughter of Indian immigrants, was among the 67 people killed in a tragic midair collision between an Army helicopter and a jetliner at Ronald Reagan National Airport in the US, according to a local media report on Friday. The collision, deadliest aviation disaster in the US since 2001, happened when American Airlines Flight 5342 collided with the Army helicopter as it approached the airport on Wednesday night and fell into the icy Potomac river. As a result Raza, 26, died with all other co passengers in the aircraft, her father-in-law, Dr. Hashim Raza said. A daughter of Indian immigrants, Raza graduated with honours in 2020 from Indiana University and married her college sweetheart in August 2023, Hashim Raza said.

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Asra was a Washington, DC-based consultant who travelled to Wichita twice a month to work on a turn-

around project for a hospital there, her father-in-law said. She would often call him at the end of his late emergency room shifts to make sure he stayed awake on the drive home. "She went out of her way for everybody," her father-in-law said.

The husband of Asra said his wife texted him that she was about to land, but by the time he got to the airport to pick her up, his life had changed forever. "She said, 'We're landing in 20 minutes,'" Hamaad

Raza said adding that was the last thing he heard from his wife. "I was waiting and I started seeing a bunch of EMS vehicles speeding past me, like way too many than normal, and two, my texts weren't going through," Hamaad was quoted as saying by the local media. "It's just, feels crazy that it happened to us, to be honest," he said adding "I mean, it's like you see these things happen in the news, you see them happen in other countries. And then, I show up to the airport,

and my wife's not responding, and I look on Twitter and I see that it's her flight." He said he's been surrounded by loved ones who are all devastated by the tragic and unexpected loss. Meanwhile, at least 28 bodies were pulled from the icy waters of the Potomac River after the helicopter apparently flew into the path of the jet late Wednesday while it was landing at Ronald Reagan National

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# From Tax Cuts to Women-Led Startups: What Industry Leaders Expect from Budget 2025

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** As India anticipates Budget 2025, industry leaders are advocating for financial inclusivity, infrastructure growth, and policy support across various sectors. Key industries, including MSMEs, real estate, healthcare, hospitality, and brand marketing, are calling for reforms that will foster economic progress and drive growth.



A significant demand is improving financial access for underrepresented groups. Ms. Ritusmita Biswas, Founder and Director of Digital Brandz, stresses the importance of women-focused incentives. "A truly progressive budget must focus on inclusivity—supporting MSMEs, enhancing research and development, and improving financial accessibility. The budget should introduce measures such as low-in-

terest credit lines, dedicated venture capital funds for women-led startups, and increased government procurement from women-owned businesses."

In the healthcare sector, infrastructure and insurance reforms are crucial. Dr. Debasish Biswas, an aesthetic physician, advocates for a focus on preventive healthcare and MSME support. "HPV vaccination, screening, and testing for girls under 15 must be prioritized. Stan-

dardized treatment protocols for cervical cancer and a separate budget allocation for MSMEs are essential. More tax benefits and easier loan procedures for startups would strengthen the ecosystem."

Mr. Kanad Maitra, Director of AM Medical Centre, emphasizes the urgent need for increased government support to boost healthcare infrastructure and innovation. "A budget allocation increase of 2.5% to 3% is necessary,

particularly to enhance healthcare facilities in rural and semi-urban areas. Additionally, reducing GST on health insurance premiums and raising the deduction limit would make healthcare more affordable for citizens."

The real estate sector is calling for policies that stimulate infrastructure growth. Mr. B.P. Singh Roy, COO of Keventer Realty, is optimistic about reforms that can ease business operations and promote sus-

tainable urbanization. "We hope Budget 2025 will bring reforms that ease business, foster sustainable urbanization, and support affordable housing. A strong focus on tax benefits and commercial real estate development will act as a catalyst for the economy."

The hospitality sector, struggling under heavy taxation, seeks GST rationalization. Gautam Purkayastha, owner of Tamarrind, highlights the need for tax reforms. "With the Union Budget 2025 approaching, we hope for tax rationalization in the restaurant sector, especially a reduction in GST to make dining out more accessible. Lowering the current 5% GST (without input tax credit) or reintroducing input tax credit benefits would provide much-needed relief to restaurateurs."



The 29th Jatra Festival was inaugurated by State Minister and President of the West Bengal Jatra Academy, Aroop Biswas, on Friday, at Kachari Maidan in Barasat. Ministers Indranil Sen, Bratya Basu, and Rathin Ghosh, along with MP Partha Bhowmik, MLA and Chief Whip of the Legislative Assembly Nirmal Ghosh, Chairman of Bidhannagar Municipality Sabyasachi Dutta, District Magistrate Sharad Kumar Dwivedi, and other dignitaries, were present at the event.

## Road Safety Mela inaugurated at Chinsurah Indoor Stadium, app ready for speed limit control



**MI News Service, Hooghly:** The state government was formed regarding road accidents and in 2016 itself, State Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had started the Safe Drive Safe Life campaign with this campaign. On the directions of the Chief Minister, the "Road Safety mela 2025" was inaugurated on Friday at the Chinsurah Indoor Stadium. The inauguration was done by State Transport Minister Shhshesh Chakraborty. This fair was organized with the aim of making the common people aware. Apart from the Transport Minister,

Chandannagar Police Commissioner Amit P. Jawalgi, DM Mukta Arya, MLA Asit Majumdar and many other important personalities were invited to this event. During this event, "helmets" were distributed among the people for the safety of the common people. In addition, the institutions and school children who were involved in the road safety awareness campaign were also honored today. Transport Minister Shhshesh Chakraborty, while addressing the journalists, said that as you know, the state Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee

had started the "save drive safe life" campaign with Road Safety in 2016. Today, this is the reason why there has been a significant reduction in road accidents compared to the previous year. But we are continuously continuing such campaigns on the instructions of the Chief Minister so that the issue of road accidents comes to the fore at a minimum. Road Safety Week is being organized at the entire state level. We are running this awareness campaign by keeping school children in front. Not only this, a competition was also organized among children regarding the Road Safety campaign in which the successful children were honored today. The state police has also been kept along in this campaign. The traffic police is also at the forefront in this campaign. At the same time, a driving limit has been prepared to avoid road safety accidents. An APP has also been developed for this which will keep an eye on those who drive fast.

## TMC Worker Shot Dead in Naihati

**MI News Service, Naihati:** A midday shootout has rocked Naihati, resulting in the death of a local businessman and Trinamool Congress (TMC) worker, Santosh Yadav. According to initial reports, gunshots were fired suddenly in the Gauripur area of Naihati, hitting Yadav in the head. He was rushed to the hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Yadav was known as a local businessman, and according to the local MLA, he was also an active TMC member.

Panitanki region, as residents were shocked by the violence. After shooting Yadav, the assailants allegedly crushed his body, leading to accusations of brutal murder. Local TMC leaders have claimed that the BJP is linked to the attack, but the BJP has denied any involvement. They have suggested that the incident stemmed from personal disputes, not political motives.

Eyewitnesses reported that Santosh Yadav was attacked around noon on Friday while passing through Gauripur. Several assailants fired at him, and although Yadav initially fought back,

managing to seize a revolver from one of the attackers, the remaining assailants continued the assault, firing four more rounds. One of the bullets struck Yadav in the head, leading to his death after he was rushed to the Naihati State General Hospital.

Yadav, a well-known TMC worker in the area, was highly respected, and his murder has caused a surge of tension throughout Naihati. A heavy police presence has been deployed to maintain order, and investigations into the incident are underway to determine the perpetrators and their motives.

## Calcutta Electric Traders Association Hosts Inspiring Spiritual Session

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Calcutta Electric Traders Association (CETA) successfully organized an inspiring and impactful session at Hotel Kenilworth, Kolkata. The event was conducted by renowned spiritual guru and motivational speaker Rishi Nanda, with the aim of motivating and inspiring CETA members. Mr. Nanda used narratives from the Ramayana to effectively illustrate key business principles.

The session was attended by over 130 members, including prominent digni-

tional poet Ramdhari Singh Dinkar. Mementos were presented to the sponsors as a token of appreciation. Vice President Pulkit Chandgothia, Secretary Jitendra Surana, Treasurer Amit Jhunjhunwala, Joint Secretary Manish Gupta, and Prakash Kumar Singh, along with other committee members, played a significant role in the success of the event with their active participation and cooperation. The event was graced by notable dignitaries such as Sushil Poddar, Pawan Patodia, Siddhi Jain, Kumar M. Ajmera, Dinesh



ties such as past presidents Vijay Surana, Kamal Chandgothia, SL Lodha, Sanjay Kumar Singh, Sunil Singh, KD Mundhra, SP Mundhra, MM Bhattra, Om Chandak, and Uma Kant Agarwal (Bunty). President Ashish Agarwal warmly welcomed Rishi Nanda, while Secretary Jitendra Surana expressed gratitude to the sponsors, M/S Finomatic, Bandhan Mutual Fund, and Garuda Finance.

The event was graced by the presence of esteemed CETA members such as Dharmendra Daga, Murari Kedia, Sushil Hirawat, Om Prakash Jhajharia, Surya Prakash Toshniwal, Anand Chandgothia, Vinay Rathi, and Ramesh Baid, among others.

Young member Vineet Bhatia gave a splendid rendition of a poem by na-

Jain, Sunil Goenka, and Ratan Goyal.

Special thanks were extended to MOC Sanjay Kumar Singh for his tireless efforts and dedication in ensuring the smooth execution of the event.

The session was a great success, and CETA members expressed their gratitude to the Trade Development Committee, led by Convenor Goutam Begani, for organizing such an inspirational and enriching event.

CETA continues to play an active role in organizing various programs and activities for the benefit of its members and the broader trading community. This event marked another milestone in their ongoing efforts to inspire and empower their members to achieve new heights.

## Symphony Ltd launches 3 models— 9 SKUs in the water heater segment

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Symphony Ltd has launched a range of water heaters with 9-layer PuroPod Technology, converting hard water into soft water and filtering out harmful chemicals and sediments. The range includes Symphony Spa, Symphony

Sauna, and Symphony Soul models in various capacities. The company also introduced SmartBath technology, making it India's first water heater powered by artificial intelligence. Symphony Ltd is highly ranked in R&D and innovation.

## Gruesome murder at factory in Mandalpara

**MI News Service, Howrah:** A gruesome discovery was made at a chair-making factory in Banker Mandalpara, where the body of 30-year-old Zarijs Ansari, a worker from Jharkhand, was found with multiple injury marks. Ansari had joined the factory only 10 days ago.

A local resident saw a young man lying in a bloody state. There were multiple sharp weapon wounds all over his body. A large police force from the Banker police station and Dumjir police station including RAF rushed to the spot. The police have recovered the body of the deceased youth and sent it for autopsy. The other injured youth was taken to the Howrah



District Hospital for treatment. The police would be interrogating him in the course of time.

Howrah City Police is investigating the matter. In addition, CCTV footage from the area will be examined. Police have been deployed due to the tension in the area due to this incident. The police have taken one of Ansari's colleagues into custody for questioning.

## Ichapur Girl selected as Technical Official for 38th National Games in Uttarakhand

**MI News Service, North 24 Pgs:** Tanushree Choudhury, a renowned Taekwondo expert from Ichapur, has been selected as a Technical Official for the Taekwondo event at the 38th National Games, set to take place in Uttarakhand from February 6 to 8, 2025.



Tanushree's remarkable journey in Taekwondo began at the tender age of 8 when she won her first Gold Medal. Since then, she has dedicated herself to the sport, earning accolades and establishing herself as a proficient coach and official. Presently, she serves as the Chief Coach of the Royal Taekwondo Academy in North 24 Parganas, where she nurtures aspiring and young talents in locations

such as Ichapur, Shyamnagar and Kankinara.

Under her guidance, many of her students have excelled at District, State, National and International levels, bringing home numerous medals and recognition to the Academy. Ta-

nushree's exceptional skills as a Referee and Judge have also seen her officiate at various prestigious competitions and her selection for the 38th National Games marks a significant milestone in her career.

Affiliated with both the West Bengal Taekwondo Association and the Taekwondo Federation of India, Tanushree's achievement underscores her dedication to the sport and her role in its promotion at both the regional and national levels.

Her selection as a Technical Official for the National Games is a proud moment for her academy, the community and the sport of Taekwondo, as she continues to inspire future generations of athletes.



A girl engrossed in a book at a book stall in the 48th International Kolkata Book Fair (IKBF) in Kolkata on Friday.

## Tea workers leave TMC and join Cong

**MI News Service, Jalpaiguri:** Tea workers left Trinamool and joined Congress. Political tussle started as soon as the matter came to light. Thursday was the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. On this occasion, a program was organized to celebrate the death anniversary of the Father of the Nation in the area adjacent to Hatimor in Rajganj block of Jalpaiguri district by the initiative of Congress-affiliated workers' organization IN-TUC. Through this program, about 60 workers of Shikarpur Gram Panchayat left Trinamool Congress and joined Congress, taking the hand of Pradesh Congress Vice President and former District Congress Committee President Nirmal Ghosh Dastidar and Rajganj Block Congress President Debabrata Nag. As soon

as this news came to light, political tussle started between Congress and Trinamool Congress.

Joining worker Shashi Mohan Roy said, "The owner closed our tea garden. We were unemployed for 9 months. Then, on the advice of Trinamool leaders, we went to the tea garden and picked the leaves. Those leaves were sold for lakhs of taka. The Trinamool leaders took the money. Then the police came and tortured us. There was no party on our side. That's why we joined the Congress today."

Congress leader Debra-



brat Nag said, "60 workers of the Trinamool Congress have joined the Congress. The number of people joining the Congress is continuing. Even though people from different places have left different parties and joined the Congress, we do not bring it into the limelight for fear of political terrorism."

Pradesh Congress leader Nirmal Ghosh Dastidar said that legal aid will be provided to everyone who joins the party. Regarding the incident, Trinamool District Secretary Vikas Malakar said, "Congress leader Debu Nag, during the Left regime, tortured many tea garden owners in Rajganj block after being bribed by the CPM. Many owners have fled the gardens. Now they are in touch with Trinamool, which is why all these dramas are happening."

## Devastating fire at Bali razes vehicles & huts

**MI News Service, Howrah:** A devastating fire broke out in a garage located adjacent to the Balikhhal bus stand, directly opposite the ticket counter of Bali Ghat station. The inferno could have taken a catastrophic turn had not firefighters

reached the spot on time. Although the blaze has been extinguished, it has left a trail of destruction, causing widespread panic in the area.

Multiple buses including several huts were badly damaged in the blaze. Six fire engines arrived at the

scene to control the situation. The incident resulted in substantial property damage, and an investigation is likely to be conducted to determine the cause of the fire. However, it is reported that there were no casualties in the fire incident.

## TMC's mike campaigning to stop housing cuts

**MI News Service, Murshidabad:** No one whose name is on the housing list will be given any compensation... This announcement will be heard as soon as you walk around the Mirzapur area of Raghunathanj in Murshidabad district. The Trinamool Congress is conducting such a campaign there through miking. But why such a campaign? They have issued a message of awareness in advance to maintain a little distance from the controversy surrounding housing costs.

Trinamool Congress held a mike in Mirzapur area on Friday morning to raise awareness about housing cuts. They announced through the mike that no one can stop the money for

government projects, so no one should pay any cuts.

Of course, locals are making somewhat puzzling comments about this "effort" by the Trinamool. Rumors are being spread in the area that 'the leaders have regained their senses after being beaten by the upper echelons.' But it's all just rumors. In addition, they announced through miking that if anyone wants to get a cut, they should definitely contact Sanjay Saha, the local Trinamool regional president.

However, the Congress has also raised its voice regarding this miking. Local Pradesh Congress leader Ajay Kumar Chatterjee of the area claimed, "Who is Thakur, I have not eaten bananas. Their money has

been taken before they can be collected." However, the local Trinamool is reluctant to give importance to the Congress leader's taunts. They claim, "Some miscreants are taking all these bribes in the name of Trinamool. And this campaign is to prevent that issue."

Recently, during her visit to Murshidabad, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee raised the issue of extortion. She warned against extortion in the name of providing housing scheme benefits. Within 24 hours, a complaint was filed against two local panchayat presidents. This time, after the Chief Minister's 'call', Trinamool took to the mic with a message of awareness.

## No Postmortem, No Death Certificate: Bengali teacher's death at Maha Kumbh unrecorded

**MI News Service, Malda:** A school teacher from Malda died while attending the Mahakumbh. The 33-year-old teacher named Amiya Saha lost his life due to the pressure of the crowd. This is the claim of the family. With Amiya Babu's untimely demise, the death toll in the Mahakumbh stampede incident in Bengal has reached 4.



Shadow of grief overtakes the entire family

The teacher lives in Charbabupur area of Birnagar-2 gram panchayat in Vaishnavnagar. He was working at Kartikola Primary School. The news of his death has cast a shadow of grief over the entire area. The family members have also broken down in tears.

He went to Kumbh along with several family members and relatives. There were a total of 10 people in the group. Everyone is mourning the loss of Ami-

ya. They cannot forget that horrific day. Family members clearly say that Amiya was practically unable to get out after getting stuck in the crowd. After some time, he started having severe breathing problems. After being rescued, attempts were made to take him to the hospital, but he could not be saved. The Bengali teacher died on the road.

His body returned to his village home on Friday. Father Pradeep Saha is speechless after losing his son. According to family sources, the autopsy was not done in Uttar Pradesh. No death certificate was given. They want their son's autopsy to be done here. It is said that they are already approaching the district administration in this regard. Another two women from Kolkata were also died in the incident.



## Arvind Kejriwal blames...

**From PG 1**  
punishment is given to me, I will accept. We have not taken time from Election Commission, if we meet them then it is fine otherwise we will come to the gate and give our reply along with some water bottle to the three commissioners."

AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal claimed that the rising ammonia levels in Delhi's water was part of a political conspiracy aimed at disrupting the city's water supply. He further stated that the Haryana government's response was a politically motivated move.

"CM Atishi called Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini to complain about the rising ammonia levels in water. He agreed but did not take action. This happened thrice and after that, he stopped taking Atishi's calls... Even Bhagwant Mann tried talking to Haryana CM, but in vain. As a result Delhi's water treatment plants have started shutting down one after another", Kejriwal alleged.

Claiming that it was part of a political conspir-

acy aimed at creating water scarcity in Delhi. He revealed that after 15 January, ammonia levels in the water rose dramatically before gradually decreasing, attributing the reduction to the success of their agitation.

"When the Punjab irrigation secretary talked to his counterpart in Haryana, it was confirmed that it was a political conspiracy... What happened after 15 January is shocking. Ammonia levels reached 3.2 ppm and gradually started increasing and reached 7 ppm by 26 January... This is when CM Atishi organised a press conference and informed everyone about it... They thought that they would be able to blame AAP by creating water scarcity in Delhi. Now the ppm has reduced to 2.1 which means that it was well in their control... Our agitation worked..." he said.

Meanwhile, the Commission gave a patient hearing to Arvind Kejriwal to substantiate his statements on the recent allegation of Yamuna poisoning.



A group of book lovers organised a book fair on wheels, by transforming a vintage tram into a moving library from Dharamtala to Shyambazar in Kolkata on Friday.

## Bandhan Bank's total business grows 17% to Rs. 2.73 lakh cr

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Bandhan Bank has reported a 17% increase in its total business for the third quarter of the financial year 2024-25, bringing the figure to Rs. 2.73 lakh crore. The bank's share of retail deposits now stands at nearly 69%, marking a significant shift toward more sustainable and diversified sources of funding. The strong growth in business has been attributed to the bank's strategic expansion in distribution, enhanced business efficiency, and a favorable operating environment. As of now, Bandhan Bank serves its customers through approximately 6,300 banking outlets across India, and its workforce has grown to nearly 8,400 employees. For Q3 FY25, the bank's deposit book grew by 20% compared to the same period last year, reaching Rs. 1.41 lakh crore. Meanwhile, total advances stood at Rs. 1.32 lakh crore, with the current account



Managing Director and CEO of Bandhan Bank- Partha Pratim Sengupta along with Interim Chief Executive of Bandhan Bank- Ratan Kumar Kesh at a press conference on Bandhan Bank Q3 FY 24-25 Financial Results held at Bandhan Bank HO, in Kolkata on Friday.

and savings account (CASA) ratio maintaining a steady 32% of the total deposit book. The Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR), a key indicator of the bank's financial stability, is recorded at

16%, well above the regulatory requirement.

Partha Pratim Sengupta, Managing Director and CEO of Bandhan Bank, spoke about the bank's performance, saying, "Our results reflect consistent and sustainable growth, supported by our focus on risk management and compliance. Our continued success is a result of the trust of our customers and the dedication of our employees. With ongoing improvements in our loan book and a focus on technological innovation, we are positioned to enter the next phase of our journey as Bandhan Bank 2.0." Looking ahead, the bank is committed to diversifying its asset portfolio, with particular emphasis on expanding its retail business. Greater digitization will continue to be a priority to enhance productivity, boost operational efficiency, and elevate the overall customer experience.

## Daughter of Indian...



**From PG 1**  
Airport, just across the river from Washington, officials said. The plane carried 60 passengers and four crew. Three soldiers were aboard the helicopter.

One air traffic controller was doing work normally assigned to two people in the tower at Reagan National when the collision took place, a report filed by the Federal Aviation Administration said and claimed that the position configuration was not normal for the time of day and volume of traffic.

Soon after the mishap President Donald Trump said in a White House news conference that no one had survived. Trump opened a White House news conference after the crash with a moment of silence honouring the victims, calling it an "hour of anguish" for the country. He lashed out at the Biden administration and diversity efforts at the Federal Aviation Administration, saying they had led to slipping standards — even as he acknowledged that the cause of the crash was unknown.

Trump blamed air traffic controllers, the helicopter pilots and Democratic policies at federal agencies. He claimed the FAA was "actively recruiting workers who suffer severe intellectual disabilities, psychiatric problems, and other mental and physical conditions under a diversity and inclusion hiring initiative."

"We are now at the point where we are switching from a rescue operation to a recovery operation," said John Don-

nelly, the fire chief in the nation's capital.

The plane was found upside-down in three sections in waist-deep water, and first responders were searching an area of the Potomac as far south as the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, roughly 3 miles (4.8 kilometres) south of the airport, Donnelly said.

The helicopter wreckage was also found. Images from the river showed boats around the partly submerged wing and the mangled wreckage of the plane's fuselage. The collision was the deadliest US air crash since 2001.

There was no immediate word on the cause of the collision, but officials said flight conditions were clear as the jet arrived from Wichita, Kansas, with US and Russian figure skaters and others aboard.

A top Army aviation official said the Black Hawk crew was "very experienced" and familiar with the congested flying that occurs daily around Washington. "Both pilots had flown this specific route before, at night. This wasn't something new to either one of them," said Jonathan Koziol, chief of staff for Army aviation. "Even the crew chief in the back has been in the unit for a very long time, very familiar with the area, very familiar with the routing structure."

"Both aircraft will have recorders on board that will give us all of that information once we recover it, to give us the real truth on what those aircraft were doing. Up until now, it would just be speculation," he said.

## State bans 17 drugs from Pharma Impex Labs

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Following the suspension of saline production, the West Bengal health department has now banned 17 drugs manufactured by Pharma Impex Laboratories. Hospitals across the state have been instructed to stop using medicines produced by this company. The decision was taken after a three-day joint inspection by officials from the Central and State Drug Control Departments at the company's facility. Previously, the company had been served a notice by the regulatory authorities, highlighting concerns about the quality of its products. This latest move marks a significant crackdown on pharmaceutical safety in the state. List of 17 Banned Drugs are Amoxicillin Cap I.P 500 mg, Ciprofloxacin Inj. IP 2mg/ml, Dextrose Inj. I.P 25% in 100 ml bottle, Dextrose Solution Inj. IP 5% (Flow, Fill & Seal Process), Metronidazole Infusion I.P 5 mg/ml, 100 ml bottle, Sodium Chloride & Dextrose Injection I.P (Form, Fill

& Seal Process), Sodium Chloride Infusion (3%), Sodium Chloride Inj. IP 0.9% w/v 100 ml FFS, Cefepime Inj. 1gm/Vial, Ampicillin Sodium Inj. I.P 500 mg/vial, Dextrose Inj. 10% (650 mosm/L) Hypertonic, Levofloxacin Infusion 5mg/ml, 100 ml bottle, Mannitol Infusion I.P 20% - 100 ml bottle, Ofloxacin Infusion 200 mg/100 ml, Paediatric Maintenance Electrolyte Solution, Paracetamol Infusion 1000mg/ml and Sodium Chloride Inj. IP 0.9% (Normal or Isotonic Saline) Na+154mmol/L, Cl-154mmol/L (FFS Process)

The health department is now urgently looking for alternative suppliers to ensure an uninterrupted supply of saline. Meanwhile, the latest decision to ban 17 drugs from Pharma Impex underscores the state's commitment to maintaining strict pharmaceutical quality standards. Investigations into the matter continue, with authorities closely monitoring the situation.

## KMC seeks advice from Haryana Firm to fix tilting buildings

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has filed a complaint against a Haryana-based company following the collapse scare at Bagha Jatin, leading to the arrest of three of its workers. However, in a controversial turn of events, Mayor Firhad Hakim has now sought advice from another Haryana-based com-

pany on how to straighten tilting buildings. The report was officially submitted on Friday, outlining the technical process for stabilizing and straightening leaning buildings. Reports suggest that the Haryana firm has already submitted a detailed report on the method to the Director General (DG) of KMC's Building Depart-

ment. This has sparked criticism and raised questions about why the mayor chose an external company for consultation while simultaneously filing complaints and arresting workers from another Haryana-based firm.

Several buildings in Kolkata have been found leaning dangerously, many of them leaning onto adja-

cent structures, increasing the risk of multiple collapses. Concerned about public safety, Mayor Firhad Hakim met with Rameshwar Sisodiya, the head of the private Haryana-based company, at the KMC headquarters on Wednesday. Following the meeting, he instructed DG Building Ujjal Sarkar to review the firm's proposed solutions.

The mayor's decision to seek advice from a Haryana-based firm, bypassing reputed institutions like Jadavpur University and other premier technology institutes, has sparked debate. Critics question why an external company was chosen when Kolkata has its own engineering experts.

As KMC moves forward

with its plans to stabilize tilting buildings, concerns remain over the fairness of the arrests and whether proper engineering solutions will be implemented to prevent future disasters. The situation continues to raise questions about accountability, expertise selection, and the role of politics in crisis management.

## Cal HC orders Saraswati Puja at Jogesh Chandra College under police supervision

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The controversy surrounding Saraswati Puja at Jogesh Chandra Choudhury College has escalated to the Calcutta High Court. In a significant ruling, Justice Joy Sengupta directed that the puja be held under the supervision of a Joint Commissioner-ranked officer of Kolkata Police. The Commissioner of Police will de-

cide which Joint Commissioner will oversee the proceedings.

To prevent any disturbances during puja celebrations and idol immersion, the High Court instructed the deployment of an adequate number of armed police personnel. The decision follows allegations that outsiders had entered the college prem-

ises and caused unrest.

A female student lodged a complaint stating that outsiders frequently disrupt the campus environment during pujas, making it difficult for students to attend classes. However, the college administration claimed that they were unable to stop these outsiders from entering the premises.

## Med Council Registrar resigns before Cal HC deadline

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Manas Chakraborty, Registrar of the West Bengal Medical Council, has resigned ahead of the deadline set by the Calcutta High Court. Chief Justice had advised him to step down by 5 PM today, warning that failure to comply would lead to a formal directive for his removal. Before the deadline, Chakraborty submitted his resignation to the Council President. Manas Chakraborty's term as Registrar ended on November 1, 2019. However, allegations surfaced that he was illegally reappointed without informing the

Council. The controversy led to a legal battle, with claims that Council President and TMC MLA Sudipta Roy facilitated his unauthorized extension. In response, the High Court directed Chakraborty to resign voluntarily, failing which a removal order would be issued. Following this, Chakraborty stepped down, confirming that he acted in accordance with the court's instructions. During Thursday's hearing, the Chief Justice observed that Chakraborty had remained in the position beyond his retirement period without any legal grounds.

# State Govt opposes UGC's draft on Univ appointments

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The University Grants Commission (UGC) has recently proposed significant changes in the process of appointing Vice-Chancellors (VCs) and faculty members in colleges and universities. A draft proposal has been prepared, and the central body has sought feedback from all states. In

response, a committee formed by the West Bengal government has submitted a report strongly opposing various provisions in the draft, calling it undemocratic and an attack on the federal structure.

State Education Minister Bratya Basu stated that the committee's report would be

sent to the UGC after consultation with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The state's report has raised objections to 10 key provisions in the UGC's draft proposal.

Key Objections Raised by the State Government are VC Appointment Committee Size. The UGC draft suggests forming a three-member commit-

tee for appointing VCs. The state government committee argues that a five-member committee is necessary. The state insists that in addition to the Chancellor (Governor), UGC representatives, and university officials, a representative of the Chief Minister must be included, as state governments play a key role

in land allocation, infrastructure, and administration.

The state government emphasizes clear eligibility criteria and a transparent selection process for Vice-Chancellors.

The UGC draft proposes making the Vice-Chancellor the chairman of faculty appointment committees. The

state committee strongly opposes this, stating that a VC should not head the recruitment process.

The UGC draft also proposes making Ph.D. mandatory for assistant professor positions. The state government wants more flexibility, allowing universities to recruit based on merit, teaching

ability, and research experience. The state committee recommends that librarians and physical instructors be granted faculty status. The committee states that if the UGC does not agree to the five-member VC selection committee, then the existing state university laws should be respected.



**Adani to invest Rs 2.3 lakh Cr in Odisha over next 5 yrs**

**MI News Service, Cuttack:** The Adani Group signed an MoU with the Odisha government, committing an investment of Rs 2.3 lakh crore over the next five years across a host of sectors.

Managing Director of Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone Ltd, Karan Adani, met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and signed the agreement for investment in sectors like power, cement, industrial parks and aluminium, an official said.

"This is the biggest investment intent by any group in the conclave," Additional Chief Secretary (Industries) Hemant Sharma told reporters.

He said 54 MoUs worth Rs 4.5 crore have so far been signed on the first day of the conclave.

Meanwhile, six projects of Adani Total Gas Ltd (ATGL), which supplies natural gas and compressed natural gas to industrial, commercial and residential areas, were commissioned on Tuesday, officials said.

**Modi govt mulls cut in corporate tax**

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The Modi government is considering a proposal to reinstate concessional corporate tax rates for new manufacturing units to revive private investment and counter slowing growth.

Ahead of the 2025-26 Budget, the finance ministry is discussing the possibility of slashing the tax rate to 15-18 per cent for companies establishing greenfield and brownfield projects, according to officials familiar with the matter. The corporate tax rate for domestic companies stands at 22 per cent at present. A lower rate could make India a more attractive destination for global manufacturers, aligning with the "China+1" strategy, where companies diversify their supply chains away from Beijing. The concessional 15 per cent tax regime was introduced in 2019 under Section 115BAB of the Income Tax Act. It aimed to boost manufacturing by offering globally competitive rates to companies incorporated after October 1, 2019, and commencing production by March 31, 2023.

However, the scheme saw limited adoption due to disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns. In response, the government extended the deadline to March 31, 2024, but chose not to prolong it further after lukewarm industry interest. Now, the proposal is back on the table with a possible adjustment to a slightly higher rate of 18 per cent, plus surcharges, reflecting a more pragmatic approach to balance incentives with fiscal considerations. The proposal comes amid concerns about India's slowing growth trajectory, projected at 6.4 per cent for this fiscal year and below 7 per cent for 2025-26. "Extending the concessional tax rate would provide an opportunity for investors considering India as a potential destination," said Rohinton Sidhwa, partner at Deloitte India. "The measure has been pivotal in promoting economic goals and attracting foreign investments in the past." Aseem Mowar, tax partner at EY India, highlighted the scheme's strategic importance in competing with countries such as China, Japan and Vietnam. "Reintroducing this tax benefit would bolster India's manufacturing sector, generate jobs and enhance revenue, even with a slightly higher rate of 18 per cent," he said. Mowar suggested including infrastructure sectors such as EV charging and smart city projects, which could reduce reliance on fuel imports.

**IOC reports 64% slump in net profit**

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the country's largest oil refiner, reported a 64 per cent decline in its standalone net profit for the third quarter of 2024-25 because of significant inventory and foreign exchange losses, coupled with weaker refining margins. Net profit stood at ₹2,873.53 crore for the October-December period down from ₹8,063.69 crore in the same quarter a year ago, the company disclosed in a stock exchange filing on Monday. Profit rebounded sharply from ₹189.01 crore in the July-September quarter.

The sharp year-on-year decline was attributed to a ₹7,800-crore inventory loss and ₹1,900-crore in forex losses, IOC director (finance) Anuj Jain said. Inventory losses occur when crude oil purchased at higher prices is later processed and sold at lower prevailing prices, while forex losses stemmed from currency fluctuations. Cracks spreads — the difference between crude oil costs and product prices — also weakened significantly. Diesel cracks dropped to \$10.8 per barrel from \$19.18 per barrel a year ago, while petrol cracks fell to \$3.63 per barrel from \$7.04. IOC's gross refining margins (GRM) fell to \$2.95 per barrel in the third quarter compared with \$13.53 per barrel in the corresponding quarter a year ago, reflecting the broader pressure on profitability.

Despite the profit drop, IOC achieved its highest-ever quarterly fuel sales at 26.13 million tonnes (mt), up 6.2 per cent year-on-year. Petrochemical sales rose 7 per cent, and gas trading volumes surged 24 per cent during the period, according to IOC chairman A.S. Sahney.



cerns about India's slowing growth trajectory, projected at 6.4 per cent for this fiscal year and below 7 per cent for 2025-26. "Extending the concessional tax rate would provide an opportunity for investors considering India as a potential destination," said Rohinton Sidhwa, partner at Deloitte India. "The measure has been pivotal in promoting economic goals and attracting foreign investments in the past." Aseem Mowar, tax partner at EY India, highlighted the scheme's strategic importance in competing with countries such as China, Japan and Vietnam. "Reintroducing this tax benefit would bolster India's manufacturing sector, generate jobs and enhance revenue, even with a slightly higher rate of 18 per cent," he said. Mowar suggested including infrastructure sectors such as EV charging and smart city projects, which could reduce reliance on fuel imports.

He also advocated for extending benefits to global capability centers (GCCs), which have seen significant growth in India over the past five years. "GCCs play a crucial role in India's economic landscape, with an esti-

ated 1,700 centers generating \$64.6 billion in revenue. This number is expected to grow to 2,200 by 2030." Including GCCs under the concessional tax regime could boost India's appeal as a hub for MNCs. The reintroduction of concessional tax rates has been a consistent demand from industry groups such as Assocham. In its pre-budget memorandum, the association urged the government to revive the scheme, citing its potential to promote exports and support the "China+1" strategy. "The benefit would make India more competitive and attract multinational groups to set up manufacturing hubs here," Assocham said. It emphasised the importance of aligning tax policies with global trends to maintain India's attractiveness as an investment destination.

**UPS notified for greater financial security to govt employees**



**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The Modi government has notified the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), set to roll out on April 1, 2025, guaranteeing central government employees an assured pension of 50 per cent of their average basic pay from the 12 months preceding retirement, provided they complete 25 years of service.

The scheme, aimed at providing greater financial security to the 23 lakh central government employees currently enrolled in the National Pension System (NPS), combines features of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) and NPS to ensure guaranteed pensions. This initiative seeks to enhance retirees' financial stability, addressing demands for a more predictable post-retirement income.

Employees with at least 10 years of service who retire on superannuation will qualify for assured payouts from their retirement date. Similarly, those retired under Fundamental Rule 56(j) — a provision allowing the government to retire employees in the public interest — will also be eligible unless their retirement results from a penalty.

Employees opting for voluntary retirement after 25 years of service will receive payouts beginning on the date they would have superannuated had they continued working. However, individuals dismissed, removed, or resigning from service are excluded from the scheme. For shorter service du-

**Additional stoppage of Padatik Express at New Changrabandha Station**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Railway has decided to provide additional stoppage of 12377/12378 Sealdah - New Alipurduar - Sealdah Padatik Express at New Changrabandha station with effect on and from 02.02.2025. 12377 Sealdah - New Alipurduar Padatik Express and 12378 New Alipurduar - Sealdah Padatik Express will arrive New Changrabandha station at 10:35 hrs. & 19:00 hrs. respectively. The train will stop at New Changrabandha station for 02 minutes in both

**Young Bengali entrepreneur's book gets released**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Sagar Mondal, one of India's top 10 youngest entrepreneurs and a recipient of over 30 prestigious awards, unveiled his debut poetry collection, "Where the Light Finds Me" recently in Kolkata. Santi Das Basak, ASP, Aziz Sheikh, Senior Private Secretary, Department of Youth Services and Sports (GoWB), and Ashoke Kumar Mukhopadhyay (renowned author & researcher) were among the notable dignitaries present at the event.

**Oorja showcases Bengal's talent & culture**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The 'Oorja 2025' was recently showcased in Kolkata which exhibited Bengal's talent, culture and education. Saraswati World School (SWS) eventually hosted the event 'Oorja 2025'. The event was graced by Chairman Vikrant Singh, Vice Chairman Vinod Singh, and Director Sneha Singh (SWS), Biswajit Mukherjee (eminent environmentalist), and Debashis Mukhopadhyay (Researcher & writer).

**Consul General of Russia's love for Bengali gets appreciation**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Maxim Kozlov, Consul General of the Federation of Russia in Kolkata is a known face in the city. But what was unknown until few days back is love and passion for Bengali language. Recently he was present at the Annual Sports Day programme of St. Joan's Schools. Kozlov, in a heartwarming gesture, delivered part of his speech in Bengali and lauded the cultural and sporting excellence on display. Every one present there was stunned by his bold effort and diction as he expressed his love for the language.

**India's electronics mkt represents only 4% of global mkt**

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** Indigenous electronics production increased manifold in the last 10 years to reach Rs 9.52 lakh crore in 2023-24, the Economic Survey said, but pointed out that the industry has largely focused on assembly, making limited progress in design and component manufacturing. However, India's electronics market represents 4 per cent of the global market, the survey said. "Programmes such as Make in India and Digital India, along with improved infrastructure, ease of doing business, and various incentives, have boosted domestic manufacturing and drawn foreign investments. "However, India's electronics market represents 4 per cent of the global market. The industry has largely focused on assembly, with limited progress in design and component manufacturing," the survey said.

**GM/ER attended 54th state rally of Bharat Scouts & Guides, ER held at Madhupur**



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Shri Milind Deoskar, General Manager, Eastern Railway & Patron, ER's Bharat Scouts & Guides attended the 54th State Rally and camporee of the Eastern Railway Bharat Scouts & Guides, as the Chief Guest in the Valedictory Function and Prize distribution ceremony, held at State Training Park, Madhupur today (30.01.2025).

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Milind Deoskar, General Manager, Eastern Railway, emphasized that the Bharat Scouts & Guides play a crucial role in shaping the moral character of young individuals while fostering competence, self-reliance, and dependability. He highlighted that the movement not only builds leadership skills but also encourages volunteers of the Eastern Railway Bharat Scouts & Guides to actively participate in social service initiatives and support those in need. He further acknowledged their significant contributions during natural calamities and their continuous involvement in railway operations, ensuring enhanced services for passengers. Shri Chetna Nand

Singh, Divisional Railway Manager, Asansol & President of Bharat Scouts & Guides/ Asansol District, Dr. Anupam Sett, Additional Chief Medical Director & State Secretary/ER Bharat Scouts & Guides, Smt. J. P. Kusumakar Chief Personnel Officer/ADMIN & state commissioner (Guide) and other Principal Head of the Departments were also graced the occasion. There were lots of programmes and performances like, Grand Campfire, Folk Dance, Flash mob, Physical Display, Adventure Activities, Pioneering Project, Aerobics, Rangoli, Nukkad Natak etc. organized by the Bharat Scouts & Guides, Eastern Railway during the 54th State Rally at Madhupur from 28th to 31st January 2025.

More than 800 participants from different districts of Bharat Scouts & Guides, Rovers and Rangers of Eastern Railway like Asansol, Central, Howrah, Sealdah, Malda, Kanchrapara, Liluah and CLW took part in this Rally. GM/ER distributed the prizes to the different district for their excellent performance in different events. Shri Milind Deoskar, General Manager, Eastern Railway also inspected Liluah, Bandel and Shaktagarh Stations along with Principal Heads of Departments & senior officers of Howrah Division. At Bandel, GM/ER also inspected progress of re-modelling work of Bandel station under Amrit Bharat Scheme and reviewed the Bandel yard layout.

**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 Gates No. 107/E in between Rejinagar & Beldanga stations and Level Crossing Gates No. 118/E in between Beldanga & Saragachi stations 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. The LHS also significantly reduce the risk associated with Level crossing providing a safer passage for both pedestrians and vehicles. Accordingly, for construction of Limited Height Subway, 06 hours 30 minutes (from 10:30 hrs. to 17:00 hrs.) Traffic and Power Block has been planned on 02.02.2025. Consequently, following arrangement in train running have been made as under:

**Cancellation of Train on 02.02.2025 (Sunday)** • 31861/31864 Krishnanagar -Lalgola - Krishnanagar EMU Passenger. • 53178/53175 Lalgola - Sealdah - Lalgola Passenger. • 31773/31774 Ranaghat-Lalgola -Ranaghat EMU Passenger • 53092/53091 Krishnanagar -Azimganj - Krishnanagar Passenger

**Short termination/Short Origination on 02.02.2025 (Sunday):** • 31769 Ranaghat - Lalgola EMU Passenger will be short terminated at Plassey instead of Lalgola and 31770 Lalgola - Ranaghat EMU Passenger will be short originated from Plassey instead of Lalgola and will be rescheduled at 14:45 hrs. from plassey. • 63107 Sealdah - Lalgola MEMU Passenger will be short terminated at Plassey instead of Lalgola and 63104 Lalgola - Sealdah MEMU Passenger will be short originated from Plassey instead of Lalgola and will be rescheduled at 13:45 hrs. from plassey. • 31819 Sealdah - Krishnanagar EMU Passenger will be short terminated at Ranaghat and 31840 Krishnanagar - Sealdah will be short originated from Ranaghat instead of Krishnanagar City. Moreover, 53180 Lalgola - Sealdah Passenger will leave Lalgola at 16:15 hrs. instead of its schedule departure time at 14:45 hrs.

**Successful completion of restricted height Girder launching between Ekchhari and Ghoga Stations**



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Eastern Railway's Malda Division, under the leadership of Divisional Railway Manager, Shri Manish Kumar Gupta, continues to enhance railway infrastructure for safer and seamless operations. In a significant engineering feat, the division successfully launched an RH (Restricted Height) Girder at km 280/8-9 between Ekchhari and Ghoga stations in connection with an additional opening. This critical work, a part of Malda Division's broader flood mitigation strategy, was executed efficiently during a scheduled block from 01:00 AM to 05:00 AM, completing the process within just four hours. The division has planned seven additional RCC box bridges between Kahalgaoan and Jamalpur, where the Ganges runs

closest to the railway track, making it vulnerable to breaches during monsoons. Out of these, five have already been completed—two between Lailakh and Sabour and three in the Sultanganj-Jamalpur section. The RH girder launched today marks the sixth such opening, with placement using the air-pushing method to ensure precision. The entire bridge installation will be completed within a week, with meticulously planned short-duration blocks of 3 to 4 hours, minimizing disruption to train operations while significantly improving track safety, especially during monsoons. Malda Division remains committed to proactive infrastructure development, ensuring safer and more resilient railway operations for passengers and freight movement.

**TVS launches 3-wheeler EV in city**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** TVS Motor Company will launch an electric L5 cargo vehicle by the end of 2025 even as it introduced its first electric three-wheeler in the L5 segment in the city. Christened the TVS King EV MAX, the electric auto is TVS's first electric passenger vehicle in the L5 segment.

The L5 segment has a market of 42,000 units per month of which 16,000 units are electric vehicles. Both Mahindra and Bajaj are in the electric L5 segment with Piaggio in the third place. "We are very confident that EV adoption will rise in the L5 passenger vehicle segment. The segment is dominated by CNG, LPG and petrol vehicles. With CNG prices rising and very few CNG stations in Calcutta, we think electric adoption will rise in this market," said Rajat Gupta, business head, commercial mobility, TVS Motor Company, while launching the vehicle in the city on Monday. The company has launched the vehicle in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi so far. "It will be available across the country in the coming months," said Gupta.

The TVS King EV Max has a range of 179 km on a single charge. It has a 51.2V lithium-ion LFP battery with a top speed of 60 km per hour. The vehicle will retail at ₹2,95,000 (ex-showroom) and come with a warranty for six years and 150,000 km whichever is earlier. The vehicle can be charged up to 80 per cent in two hours, 15 minutes and up to 100 per cent in 3.5 hours.

**Name Change**  
I, Md Sayaduzzaman (Old Name) S/O Md Qamruzzaman Residing at 59M, M G J Khan Road, Tiljala, District - 24 Pgs(S), Pin - 700039 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Md sayaduzzaman(New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Date 31-01-2025. Md Sayaduzzaman (Old Name) and Md Sayaduzzama (New Name) both as same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, MAHAMMED NAZRUL ISLAM S/O Late BABUR ALI MOLLA Residing at Vill-Kuchiamora, P.O.-Khalisadi, P.S.-Haroa, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 700066, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as NAZRUL ISLAM as declared before the Notary Public govt of India at Alipore vide affidavit Dated 31-01-2025. MAHAMMED NAZRUL ISLAM and NAZRUL ISLAM both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Nabanita Das W/O Sumanta Saha, D/O Nitya Kamal Das by faith Hindu, Service, Indian, R/A 1602, Panchasayar Road, Peerless Hospital, P.S.-Panchasayar, Kolkata- 700094(W.B.) declare that Nabanita Das, Nabanita Das Saha and Nabanita Saha is the same and one identical person vide an Affidavit(No. 8407) before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate Court, 1st Class at Alipore (W.B.) dated 30.01.2025.

**Name Change**  
I, Somenath Mukhopadhyay (Old Name) son of Indubhushan Mukherjee, residing at Purbayan, B-111, Sodepur, P.O.-Sodepur, PS-Ghola, Dist-North 24 Parganas, Pin-700110, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Somenath Mukherjee (New Name) as declared before the Ld. 1st class judicial magistrate at Calcutta dated 30/01/20 25. Somenath Mukhopadhyay and Somenath Mukherjee both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Anindita Mazumdar (Old Name) son of Atanu Nag, residing at 116, S.N. Banerjee Road, North Barrackpore, PS-Titagarh, Dist-North 24 Parganas, Pin-700120, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Anindita Nag (New Name) as declared before the Ld. 1st class judicial magistrate at Kolkata, dated 30/01/20 25. Anindita Mazumdar and Anindita Nag both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Anil Kr. Das (Old Name) son of Ramdeo Das, residing at Garulia Main Road, Garulia, Dist-North 24 Parganas, Pin-743133, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Anil Kumar Das (New Name) as declared before the Ld. 1st class judicial magistrate at Calcutta, dated 30/01/2025. Anil Kr. Das and Anil Kumar Das both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Moloy Sardar son of Ashit Sardar, residing at Nalabara, Sanraipul, Dist-North 24 Parganas, West Bengal-743286, INDIA, That my Father's actual name is Ashit Sardar instead of Ashit Kumar Sardar before the Ld 1st class judicial Magistrate at Calcutta dated 30/01/2025. Ashit Sardar and Ashit Kumar Sardar both are same and one identical person.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Md Izhar Alam, S/O- Abdul Shakoor, Anand Vihar, Phulwari, Patna, Anisabad, Bihar, Pin - 800002, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Izhar Alam as declared Notary Public Sealdah Court, West Bengal vide Affidavit No. 3326 Dated 03/01/2025 Md Izhar Alam and Izhar Alam both are same and identical person.



My journey as a representative of the people has been guided by Swami Vivekananda's profound words : Abhishek Banerjee

MI News Service, Kolkata: For the past decade, my journey as a representative of the people has been guided by Swami Vivekananda's profound words: SERVICE TO HUMANITY IS SERVICE TO GOD.

At every step, I have strived to place the aspirations and well-being of my constituents above all else. It was this UNSHAKEABLE COMMITMENT to serve the people of Diamond Harbour that gave birth to #Sebaashray - an initiative rooted in EMPATHY and designed to BRIDGE THE GAP IN LAST-MILE HEALTHCARE DELIVERY.

month, more than 5 LAKH INDIVIDUALS have benefited from this GROUND-BREAKING initiative. The numbers yesterday from Bishnupur alone speak volumes: 10,614 INDIVIDUALS served at 47 HEALTH CAMPS. 8,571 HEALTH SCREENINGS conducted to ensure early detection. 11,448 PATIENTS received FREE MEDICINES, alleviating financial burdens. 32 INDIVIDUALS REFERRED for advanced care.



Texts of this SILENT REVOLUTION. Sebaashray is a testament to the transformative power of INTENT, EMPATHY and COLLECTIVE ACTION. Together,

we are not just improving lives; we are INSPIRING HOPE, one step at a time. The incident is extremely unfortunate: Abhishek Banerjee \* The incident is extremely unfortunate. You have seen that Maha Kumbh has been going on for so many days and we all know that Maha Kumbh comes once in every 144 years.

\* Till now, they couldn't give the official government figures [total number of casualties]. As far as I got to know after speaking to some of the journalists there, it would not be shocking if the numbers cross 100. There is no facility for the poor, whereas, we see special treatment for the VIPs and VVIPs. It is extremely unfortunate because everyone has the same right

what happens when publicity surpasses planning. I hope that they will take a lesson from this but the BJP never learns from their mistakes. They think that they own the country and media is their puppet \* People have seen how they are making special ways for the leaders and ministers at the Maha Kumbh, so much so, that their vehicles are allowed near Sangam. This should not have been allowed.

E-Tender Notice E-Tender is invited by the undersigned for the bonafied, resourceful, Govt. Contractor for the Construction of various works (04 Nos.) under Katwa-I Panchayat Samiti, Purba Bardhaman Vide NIT No.-25/DMF/2024-25 (1st Call) & 26/BEUP/2024-25 (1st Call) D-31.01.2025 (Tender ID-2025\_ZPHD\_809522\_1-3 & 2025\_ZPHD\_809581\_1). Details can be available from https://wbtdenders.gov.in. Last date of receiving application 17.02.2025 upto 05.00 PM. Sd/- Executive Officer Katwa-I Panchayat Samiti

EASTERN RAILWAY E-Tender No. 334\_2024-25, dated 30.01.2025. Following e-Tender is invited online by Senior Divisional Engineer/C, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building, Near Railway Station, Howrah-711001 from Tenderers having experience of similar nature of work and required financial capabilities including those registered with Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MES or any public sector undertaking for the following work under Sr.DEN/HQ/Howrah. Description of work : Remodelling and renovation of Rolling Stock Office at Eastern Railway, Head Quarters, Fairlie Place. Approx. Cost : ₹ 5,70,23,612.47; Earnest Money : ₹ 4,35,100.00; Cost of Tender Form : 0.00. Completion Period :12 (Twelve) months from the date of issue of acceptance letter. In case the date of closing mentioned in the Notice Inviting Tender is declared a holiday/ bandh/ strike on any account, the date of closing tender online will not be changed as the application in the website of IREPS does not permit submission of any offer after closing date and time of the tender. However, opening of tenders online will be done next working day. Closing date and time of tender : 24.02.2025 at 14.00 hrs. The details of tender are available at website: www.ireps.gov.in Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. Payment of EMD and TDC - Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Tender document cost, in respect of e-tendering, should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. Note: Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) will not be accepted as EMD for tenders invited on IREPS (e-tender portal). No manual offer will be accepted. HWH-576/2024-25 Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.easternrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

Guskara man donated blood despite losing a leg



MI News Service, Guskara: Rishikesh Adhikari, a resident of ward number 12 of Guskara Municipality, donated blood despite losing a leg. He donated blood in a camp organized by Ichchedana Welfare Society in collaboration with Guskara Municipality on Friday at Guskara Ratan Kali Mela.

He has two sons and a wife at home. One year ago, a tricycle was given to him by Ichchedana. In addition, a total of 51 people donated blood in this day's camp. Each blood donor is felicitated with a fruit tree. The number of women among blood donors is worth mentioning. Chairman of Guskara Municipality, Kushal Mukhopadhyay inaugurated the camp. While the blood donation camp was going on, Folk artist Manas Mukherjee performed Baul songs on the stage. Anupam Roy on behalf of the organization said that this initiative is to meet the demand of blood in the blood bank. One's blood can save three lives. Apart from accidents, during delivery, they donate blood to thalassaemia patients.

him by Ichchedana. In addition, a total of 51 people donated blood in this day's camp. Each blood donor is felicitated with a fruit tree. The number of women among blood donors is worth mentioning. Chairman of Guskara Municipality, Kushal Mukhopadhyay inaugurated the camp. While the blood donation camp was going on, Folk artist Manas Mukherjee performed Baul songs on the stage. Anupam Roy on behalf of the organization said that this initiative is to meet the demand of blood in the blood bank. One's blood can save three lives. Apart from accidents, during delivery, they donate blood to thalassaemia patients.

'Lost faith in you': 7 AAP MLAs resign days ahead of Delhi Polls citing "deviation from honest ideology"

MI News Service, New Delhi: Rishikesh Adhikari, a resident of ward number 12 of Guskara Municipality, donated blood despite losing a leg. He donated blood in a camp organized by Ichchedana Welfare Society in collaboration with Guskara Municipality on Friday at Guskara Ratan Kali Mela. With that he gave blood for the second time. He said that, He used to sell coffee on the train. In 2000 he lost a leg while boarding the train. Then he gave a tea shop at the station. After that shop was closed during the corona period, he ran his family by selling headphones on the train. He has two sons and a wife at home. One year ago, a tricycle was given to

him by Ichchedana. In addition, a total of 51 people donated blood in this day's camp. Each blood donor is felicitated with a fruit tree. The number of women among blood donors is worth mentioning. Chairman of Guskara Municipality, Kushal Mukhopadhyay inaugurated the camp. While the blood donation camp was going on, Folk artist Manas Mukherjee performed Baul songs on the stage. Anupam Roy on behalf of the organization said that this initiative is to meet the demand of blood in the blood bank. One's blood can save three lives. Apart from accidents, during delivery, they donate blood to thalassaemia patients.

KULPI PANCHAYAT SAMITY E-TENDER NOTICE E-Tenders are hereby invited by the E.O, Kulpi under 15th FC fund vide NIT No. -110/KLPS/15th FC/2024-25 & 2025\_ZPHD\_809693\_1-7. Bid Submission Last Date: 11/02/2025. For details visit Website: https://wbtdenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Officer Kulpi Panchayat Samity

Legal Notice It has been reported that, my client, 1. Mrs. Debi Debnath W/O-Suman Debnath & 2. Smt. Kabita Jele, D/O-Dulal Jele, made a Deed Power of Attorney, on 17/03/2021, vide Deed No.-2010, which was registered before D.S.R.-IV, South 24 Parganas at ALIPORE. According to the registered Deed of Power of Attorney, the Attorney holder Mr. Kanak Mondal, S/O-Prabhas Mondal and the Power Attorney is given by Utpal Kumar Basu under Muzra-Ram Jibanpur, J.L. NO. 34, L.R. DAG NO.-226, L.R. KHATIAN NO-461, 01 Cottahs 07 Chittacks 40 Sq. Ft. more or less through Deed No. 4589/2022 & 01 Cottahs 07 Chittacks 40 Sq. Ft. more or less through Deed No.-4590/2022. If anyone has any doubt or raise any voice against the above-mentioned property or obligation or restriction for the above-mentioned property, then he or she may issue a notice within one month and submit their issues or application related to the property at B.L. & L.R.O. Kolkata-5, S.N.Banerjee Road 328 No. Room 3rd floor, Kolkata-700133. Email-bilroam@gmail.com Sd/-, Nikhat Khatoon Advocate Alipore Judges Court Bar Library room no 9 Kolkata 700027 Mob. No. 8621924389

Panchla Mahavidyalaya invites e-Tender (PM/e-Tender/002/24-25) for purchase of Books of college. Details in website: www.panchlamvac.in

Notice My client has decided to purchase a flat from Alpana Banerjee at 32/3/6A, Sahitya Parishad Street, Kolkata - 700006, P.S. Burtolla measuring an area 600 sq.ft. in ground floor, within the jurisdiction of Kolkata Municipal Corporation of Premises No. 32/3/6A, Sahitya Parishad Street, Kolkata - 700006 under K.M.C. Ward No. 16. Any person having any lawful claim, lawful demand or interest in aforesaid flat or any part thereof is hereby required to communicate the same to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of the Notice with supporting documents. Subsequent claim shall not be entertained. SANJOY GHATAK Advocate 2/100, Sree Colony, Kolkata - 700 092

EASTERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice No. W\_LLH\_18\_2024-25, dated 28.01.2025. E-Tender (Open Tender) is invited online by Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Elect., Carriage and Wagon Workshop, Eastern Railway, Liluah, Howrah-711204 from tenderers having technical capabilities for the following work: Name of the Work: Provision of Cable transit entry sealing and footproof protection system to prevent rodent entry in HT Compartment of SBC of LHB type AC coaches = 1140 Nos. (LB Item No. 895/2024-25) (PH-21) at the Carriage and Wagon Workshop, Liluah. Approx. Cost of works: ₹ 2,34,43,153.80; Earnest Money: ₹ 2,67,200.00; Tender Closing date and time : 21.02.2025 at 14.00 hrs. Website where complete details of Tender available : www.ireps.gov.in MISC-322/2024-25 Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.easternrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter



Hitendra Malhotra, Member (Operations and Business Development), Railway Board, reviewed the performance of operating and business development of Metro Railway at Fairlie Place on Friday the Jan 31 2025. Later, he visited the Esplanade to Howrah stretch of Green Line-2 with the senior officers of the Traffic Department of Metro Railway and took note of the progress of ongoing works of Green Line Metro between Esplanade and Sealdah.

PM Modi gave Rs 8.5 thousand crore to built STP, but Kejriwal could not build it: Haryana CM Saini

MI News Service, New Delhi: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini doubled down on the allegations of former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal that the Haryana government has "poisoned" the water supply to the national capital, and said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave ₹8500 crore to build sewage treatment plant (STP) but still it was not built. CM Saini visited Yamuna Ghat in Wazirabad, Delhi on Friday.

dirty. We are giving clean water. And this is Delhi's water, the people of Delhi are being forced to drink this dirty water. Even after 10 years, he has not been able to clean the Yamuna river. You should apologize to the people of Delhi and Haryana. Meanwhile, Arvind Kejriwal congratulated the people of Delhi for the success of their 'struggle' to stop the flow of contaminated water. Taking to X, he said that ammonia levels in the water dropped from 7 ppm to 2 ppm, saving Delhi from a potential water crisis.

Office of the Khairamari Gram Panchayat Jalangi \* Murshidabad ENIT No. - 05/KHGP/15TH CFC/2024-25 SL NO1 TO 5 Memo No: 14/KHGP Dated 21/01/2025 Application Starting Date- 30/01/2025 AT 09 A.M., Last Date of Dropping - 11/02/2025 till 3.00 PM, Date of Opening Technical Bid - 14/02/2025 AT 12 P.M Probable Date of Opening Financial Bid- 17/02/2025 time 11.00 AM For Details See- www.wbtenders.gov.in Please take necessary Action. Sd/- Prodhan Khairamari Gram Panchayat Sagarpara, Murshidabad

SEALDAH - NEW ALIPURDUAR - SEALDAH PADATIK EXPRESS TO STOP AT NEW CHANGRABANDHA For the convenience of commuters, 12377/12378 Sealdah - New Alipurduar - Sealdah Padatik Express will provide stoppage at New Changrabandha station on an experimental basis w.e.f. 02.02.2025 until further advise as per the following timings :- Timings at New Changrabandha Train No. & Name Arr. Dep. 12377 Sealdah - New Alipurduar Padatik Express [w.e.f. (JCO) : 01.02.2025] 10:35 10:37 12378 New Alipurduar - Sealdah Padatik Express [w.e.f. (JCO) : 02.02.2025] 19:00 19:02 Passengers are requested to follow the Public Address System of stations. Chief Passenger Transportation Manager

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER Open e-Tenders are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)/Santragachi, S.E. Railway, Kharagpur Division for and on behalf of the President of India through e-Tendering in www.ireps.gov.in website as per details mentioned below. Eligible contractors are requested to apply for the same through online only, in www.ireps.gov.in website. No offline tender will be accepted for this tender. Please read the tender document carefully uploaded in the document section for details. Sl. No. & Tender Notice No.: Name of the work: Tender value; EMD/Bid security respectively: (i) Elect-OT-24-25-25C/MC-PC, dated 30.01.2025; Corrective Maintenance Contract (CMC) of electrical pantry appliance of LHB Pantry Cars and LHB AC coaches Sub-Pantry at Santragachi, Shalimar & Padmapukur Depot or any other Depot over Kharagpur Division in S.E. Railway for three years.; ₹ 1,99,49,173.68; ₹ 2,49,80,00. (2) ELECT-CHG-OT-24-25-SPP-26, dated 30.01.2025; Santragachi: Supply, Installation and Erection of Solar Power Plant at Santragachi Jurisdiction; ₹ 99,08,622.50; ₹ 1,98,200/-; Tender closing date & time : 24.02.2025, 11.00 hrs. for both. Tender notice, tender document and other details are given in the www.ireps.gov.in (PR-1086)

ED arrests four masterminds in fake chinese loan app scam

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate has arrested four masterminds in connection with fake chinese loan app scam ongoing across the country, the agency said on Friday. ED's Kochi Zonal Office arrested the persons namely: Daniel Selvakumar, Director of Xoduz Solutions Pvt Ltd and operator of Tyrannus Technology Pvt Ltd; Allen Samuel, Director of Aprikiwi Solutions Pvt Ltd., Anto Paul Prakash, proprietor of Global Expositions and Infomedia Solutions and the Director of Sozo Technology Pvt Ltd; and Kathiravan Ravi, Director of Future Vision Media Solutions Pvt Ltd on January 30. The case originated from 11 First Information Reports (FIRs) filed by victims in Kerala and Haryana that they were extorted in the name of loan facilitation and blackmail for excess repayment. As per the ED, the loan app operators used to blackmail using the private data hacked from mobile phones

of victims while installing their loan app. "The investigation revealed that such extorted proceeds were bank accounts of shell entities and ultimately remitted outside India in the guise of fake import of software, digital services, tour services through normal banking channels and Nium India Pvt Ltd (a global remittance facilitating Company), a wholly owned subsidiary of Nium Pte Ltd of Singapore," said the agency in a statement. ED investigation revealed that "on the instructions of a Singapore citizen, all the suspects played a key role in integration of proceeds of crime to the tune of Rs 230.92 crore, generated through fake app loan scam and collected in more than 400 mule accounts across India and further transfer of such proceeds to Singapore through companies controlled by them." The agency also conducted extensive searches

at over 10 locations across Mumbai, Chennai and Kochi in February 2024 to unearth proceeds of crime and evidence thereof. During the searches, multiple mobile phones, laptops, and other electronic devices containing substantial incriminating evidence were seized. During search proceedings, an amount to the tune of Rs 123.58 crore were freed lying in various bank accounts. Additionally, the ED said that the arrested persons misused the channel of Nium India Pvt Ltd, a global remittance Company. "Investigation revealed that huge amount of Rs 1,677 crores were remitted by the accused using channel of the accused using channel of Nium India Pvt Ltd circumventing various reporting such as Form 15CA/CB by the remitting entity as stipulated under Income Tax Act, 1961," it stated. Thus, the federal agency said, investigation also revealed major lapses on part of Nium India Pvt Ltd.



CM Saini said, "If Kejriwal is talking about mass genocide then he himself is responsible for it. Kejriwal is trying to commit mass genocide in Faridabad because the dirty water is being released inside this Yamuna river, chemicals and other types of contaminated water are falling in it, he is not cleaning it and is blaming others. Kejriwal used Rs 15 crores to built STP in his Sheesh Mahal. PM Modi gave 8.5 thousand crores to built STP but still he could not built STP," he said. The Haryana CM brought two jars of Yamuna water one collected from Delhi-Haryana border (Palla Ghat) and the other from Wazirabad in Delhi. He said that there is a huge difference in the quality of the water tested in Palla and the water collected from Wazirabad. CM Saini said, "Kejriwal is making baseless allegations to hide his failures. Kejriwal had said that he will clean the Yamuna river but he did not clean it and Kejriwal has made it

Earlier today, the AAP Convenor in a letter to the Election Commission raised serious allegations against Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini. He sent a written response to the Election Commission, demanding that a criminal case be filed against Nayab Singh Saini regarding the 'poisonous' Yamuna issue. On Monday, Arvind Kejriwal levelled serious allegations against the Bharatiya Janata Party, stating that the BJP-ruled Haryana government has "poisoned" the Yamuna water supplied to Delhi so that "people die" and the blame comes on the AAP.

REGULATION OF CIRCULAR RAILWAY TRAINS FOR IMMERSION OF GODDESS SARASWATI IDOLS As requested by the state administration, for smooth & safe immersion of Goddess Saraswati Idols following train services of Circular Railway will be regulated from 16.00 hrs. to 05.00 hrs. on the following days on 03.02.2025 (Monday), 04.02.2025 (Tuesday) & 05.02.2025 (Wednesday) as under : • Short termination at Kolkata - (i) 30312 (Barasat-Majerhat) via Tala (Tala-16.34 hrs.), (ii) 30122 (Naihati-Ballygunge) via Tala (Tala-16.14 hrs.), (iii) 30314 (Dattapukur-Majerhat) via Tala (Tala-18.58 hrs.). • Short origination from Kolkata - (i) 30331 (Majerhat-Habra) via Tala (Tala-18.25 hrs.), (ii) 30111 (Ballygunge-Barackpore) via Tala (Tala-19.35 hrs.), (iii) 30313 (Majerhat-Barasat) via Tala (Tala-20.47 hrs.). • Diversion & Short termination at Sealdah (North) - 30154 (Naihati-Majerhat) via Ballygunge-Kankurgachi Road [18.55 hrs. (approx)]. • Short origination from Sealdah (North) - 30123 (Majerhat-Naihati) via Tala (Sealdah-20.20 hrs.). • Diversion via Kankurgachi Road-Ballygunge to Majerhat - 30332 (Habra-Majerhat) via Tala [16.05 hrs. (approx)]. • Will run via diverted route (Kankurgachi Road) from Majerhat - 30353 (Majerhat-Dattapukur) (Majerhat - 16.20 hrs.). • Will run as per scheduled route to Majerhat - 30152 (Naihati-Majerhat) via Ballygunge (Majerhat-18.05 hrs.). • Will run via diverted route via Ballygunge - 30135 (Majerhat-Ranaghat) via Tala (Majerhat-18.13 hrs.). • Short termination at Ballygunge - 30711 (Lakshmitankapur-Majerhat) via Ballygunge (Ballygunge - 16.01 hrs.). • Short origination from Ballygunge & run via Ballygunge-Kankurgachi Road - 30317 (Majerhat-Dattapukur) via Tala (Ballygunge-17.00 hrs.). • Diversion & Short termination at Ballygunge - 30112 (Barrackpore-Majerhat) via Tala (Ballygunge-18.10 hrs.). • Short origination from Ballygunge - 30552 (Majerhat-Ghutiari Sharif) via Ballygunge (Ballygunge-19.58 hrs.). • Cancellation of train services - (i) 30416 (Sealdah-BBD Bag) via Majerhat (Sealdah-17.14 hrs.). (ii) 30451 BBD Bag-Baruipur Local (BBD Bag to Ballygunge portion) (BBD Bag-18.22 hrs.). • One Sealdah-Baruipur Special will leave Sealdah at 19.10 hrs. and will follow the path & link of 30451 BBD Bag-Baruipur Local from Ballygunge. Inconvenience is regretted. Divisional Railway Manager, Sealdah

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS E-OPEN TENDER NOTICE E-Open Tenders are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work: Sl. No.: [1]. Tender No.: MW\_P\_73\_AMC\_VPI\_2024. Name of Work: Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for 03 nos. of VPI Plants (i) 23/9963/01 (CGL Make); (ii) 23/9960/03 (CEE DEE Make Double Storage); (iii) 23/9963/02 (CEE DEE Make Single Storage) including free replacement of all spares for a period of 02 years in CLW, Chittaranjan. Tender Value (Rupees): ₹60,00,000.00. Cost of Tender Document (Rupees): Nil. Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees): ₹1,20,000.00. Period of Completion: 02 years. NOTE: (i) Date of Closing : 18-02-2025 at 11:00 hrs. (ii) Complete details can be seen in the Railway website www.ireps.gov.in. (iii) Tender Calling Authority : Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Plant (IV) Contact No. : 0341-2525566. (v) Email Id : dycemplantclw@yahoo.com. PR/6790 AWM/Plant-IV/CLW/CRJ. Like us on : www.facebook.com/clwrailways

"Working with US on procedural issues for early extradition," MEA on Tahawwur Rana

MI News Service, New Delhi: Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Randhir Jaiswal said on Friday said that the Indian side was working with the US on procedural issues for early extradition of Tahawwur Rana to India. Jaiswal said that after the US Supreme Court dismissed Rana's plea, it seemed like his appeal in the matter is dismissed. "You would have seen that on January 21, the US Supreme Court declined a petition from the accused. With that looks that his appeal in the matter has been dismissed.

We are now working with the US side on procedural issues for early extradition to India of the accused in the Mumbai terror attack," Jaiswal said. On January 28, US State Department said that it is currently evaluating the next steps with regard to Tahawwur Rana's extradition to India. A spokesperson from the State Department told ANI that the US has long supported India's efforts to bring to justice the perpetrators of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks case. "In view of the recent Su-

preme Court decision, and consistent with applicable US law, the Department of State is currently evaluating next steps in this case," the statement said. "We have long supported India's efforts to ensure the perpetrators of the Mumbai terrorist attacks face justice," the statement added. Pakistani origin businessman Tahawwur Hussain Rana, who was convicted for his role in the 26/11 attacks on Mumbai that resulted in the death of 164 people, could now be extradited to India.

Serampore-Uttarpara Panchayat Samity Notice Inviting e-Tender e-tender has been invited by the undersigned for 2(two) no. schemes bearing NIT No. -10/SU/2024-25, Office Memo No:77/PS, Date: 31.01.2025 (Tender ID No.: 2025\_ZPHD\_809833\_1, 2025\_ZPHD\_809833\_2), for construction of boundary wall at graveyard under MA & ME. Online bid submission commences on and from 31.01.2025 at 6:00 PM till 15.02.2025 at 1:30 PM. For more details please visit www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/-, Executive Officer Serampore-Uttarpara Panchayat Samity

Eastern Railway Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter



# Researchers discover blood stem cell could transform bone marrow transplants

**Melbourne [Australia]** : Researchers in Melbourne have achieved a first for the world: they have successfully created blood stem cells that closely resemble human tissue. Additionally, the discovery may eventually result in customized therapies for kids suffering from bone marrow failure syndromes and leukaemia.

The study, which was headed by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) and published in Nature Biotechnology, has successfully surmounted a significant obstacle in the production of human blood stem cells, which are capable of generating red, white, and platelets that are highly similar to those seen in human embryos.

MCRI Associate Professor Elizabeth Ng said the team had made a significant discovery in human blood stem cell development, paving the way for these lab grown cells to be used in blood stem cell and bone marrow transplants.

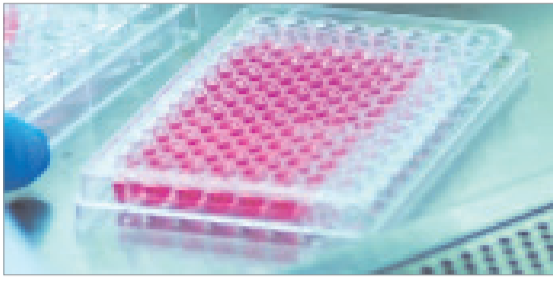
"The ability to take any cell from a patient, reprogram it into a stem cell and then turn these into specifically matched blood cells for transplantation will have a massive impact on these vulnerable patients' lives," she said.

"Prior to this study, developing human blood stem cells in the lab that were capable of being transplanted into an animal model of bone marrow failure to make healthy blood cells had not been achievable. We have developed a workflow that has created transplantable blood stem cells that closely mirror those in the human embryo.

"Importantly, these human cells can be created at the scale and purity required for clinical use."

In the study, immune deficient mice were injected with the lab engineered human blood stem cells. It found the blood stem cells became functional bone marrow at similar levels to that seen in umbilical cord blood cell transplants, a proven benchmark of success.

The research also found the lab grown stem cells could be frozen prior to being successfully transplanted into the mice. This mimicked the preservation process of donor



blood stem cells before being transplanted into patients. MCRI Professor Ed Stanley said the findings could lead to new treatment options for a range of blood disorders.

"Red blood cells are vital for oxygen transport and white blood cells are our immune defence, while platelets cause clotting to stop us bleeding," he said. Understanding how these cells develop and function is like decoding a complex puzzle.

"By perfecting stem cell methods that mimic the development of the normal blood stem cells found in our bodies we can understand and develop personalised treatments for a range of blood diseases, including leukaemias and bone marrow failure." MCRI Professor Andrew Elefanti said while a blood stem cell transplant was often a key part of lifesaving treatment for childhood blood disorders, not all children found an ideally matched donor.

"Mismatched donor immune cells from the transplant can attack the recipient's own tissues, leading to severe illness or death," he said.

"Developing personalised, patient-specific blood stem cells will prevent these complications, address donor shortages and, alongside genome editing, help correct underlying causes of blood diseases." Professor Elefanti said the next stage, likely in about five years with government funding, would be conducting a phase one clinical

trial to test the safety of using these lab grown blood cells in humans.

Riya was diagnosed at the age of 11 with aplastic anaemia, a rare and serious blood disorder where the body stops producing enough new blood cells. Riya's family, including parents Sonali and Gaurav Mahajan, were in India at the time when she started to feel fatigued, rapidly lost weight and developed bruises on her thighs. "We took Riya for a simple blood test, her very first one. But as soon as the results came in, we were told to rush her to the emergency department due to her being so low on platelets and red blood cells," Sonali said.

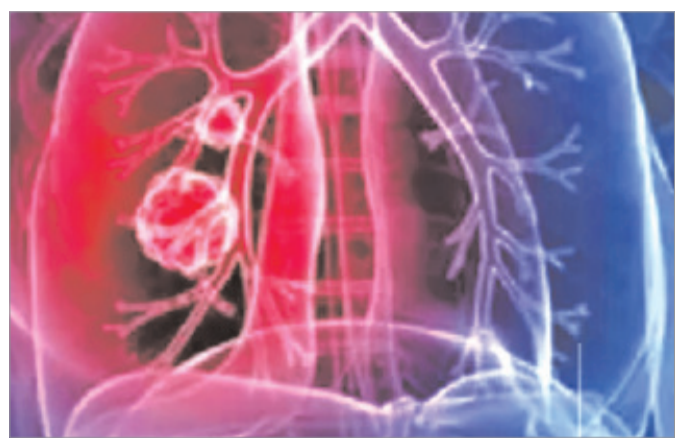
"Riya was originally diagnosed with leukemia because the symptoms are very similar to aplastic anaemia. When we got the eventual diagnosis, it was a complete shock and a condition we had never heard of before. "The doctors told us she had bone marrow failure and she started needing regular platelet and blood transfusions to get her blood cell count up."

Sonali said the family had already planned to return to Australia for Riya's high school education, but the diagnosis fast tracked the return.

"Once they were able to stabilise her, we were given a two-day window to fly her to Australia to be hospitalised," she said.

"As soon as we got off the plane we went straight to The Royal Children's Hospital. Within days Riya started therapy, but she never really responded to the medications. "Eventually a bone marrow transplant was recommended due to the amount of transfusions she was needing to have and the concerns around possible long-term complications." Sonali said over six months they struggled to find a perfectly matched donor and were losing hope. Despite being a half match, Sonali, following specialist advice, became her daughter's donor. Following the bone marrow transplant in June last year, Riya remained in hospital for three months where she had minor complications.

# Medication increases radiation therapy's efficacy for lung cancer that has progressed to brain



**Washington [US]** : A group of researchers from the University of Cincinnati has discovered a possible novel approach to enhance the efficacy of radiation therapy and enhance the prognosis of patients with lung cancer metastasizing to the brain.

The research, which was headed by Debanjan Bhattacharya, PhD, as the lead author, was just released in the journal Cancers.

Lung cancer accounts for approximately one in five cancer deaths in the United States, making it the primary cause of cancer death, according to the American Cancer Society. About 80 per cent to 85 per cent of all instances of lung cancer are non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), which is the most common kind of the disease. Up to 40 per cent of lung cancer patients develop brain metastases during the course of the disease, and these patients on average survive between eight and 10 months following diagnosis.

Current standard of care treatments for lung cancer that spreads to the brain include surgical resection and stereotactic brain radiosurgery, and whole brain irradiation is standard in patients with more than 10 metastatic brain lesions. "Lung cancer brain metastasis is usually incurable, and whole brain radiation treatment is palliative, as radiation limits therapy due to toxicity," said Bhattacharya, research instructor in the Department of Neurology and Rehabilitation Medicine in UC's College of Medicine. "Managing potential side effects and overcoming resistance to radiation are major challenges when treating brain metastases from lung cancer. This highlights the importance of new treatments which are less toxic and can improve the efficacy of radiation therapy, are less expensive, and can improve the quality of life in patients." Bhattacharya and his colleagues at UC focused on AM-101, a synthetic analog in the class of benzodiazepine drugs first developed by James Cook, a medicinal chemist at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Prior to this study, AM-101's effect in non-small cell lung cancer was unknown. AM-101 is a particularly useful drug in

the context of brain metastases in NSCLC. Bhattacharya said, as benzodiazepines are known to be able to pass through the blood-brain barrier that protects the brain from potential harmful invaders that can also block some drugs from reaching their target in the brain.

The team found AM-101 activated GABA(A) receptors located in the NSCLC cells and lung cancer brain metastatic cells. This activation triggers the "self-eating" process of autophagy where the cell recycles and degrades unwanted cellular parts.

Specifically, the study showed that activating GABA(A) receptors increases the expression and clustering of GABARAP and Nix (an autophagy receptor), which boosts the autophagy process in lung cancer cells. This enhanced "self-eating" process of autophagy makes lung cancer cells more sensitive to radiation treatment.

Using animal models of lung cancer brain metastases, the team found AM-101 makes radiation treatment more effective and significantly improves survival. Additionally, the drug was found to slow down the growth of the primary NSCLC cells and brain metastases.

In addition to making radiation more effective, adding AM-101 to radiation treatments could allow for lower radiation doses, which could reduce side effects and toxicity for patients, Bhattacharya said. The team is now working toward opening Phase 1 clinical trials testing the combination of AM-101 and radiation both in lung cancer within the lungs and lung cancer that has spread to the brain.

Bhattacharya began this research while working in the lab of former UC researchers Soma Sengupta and Daniel Pomeranz Krummel, who are now at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Bhattacharya credits their mentorship and the collaboration with other experts within UC and across multiple academic research institutions in the United States. Bhattacharya also emphasizes the role of shared university research resources that helped the study move forward. He dedicates this work to his father, who died in 2021 while he was in the early phases of the research.

# Study finds new source of cardiac inflammation



**California [US]** : Globally, ischemic heart disease is the leading cause of death. A myocardial infarction (MI), commonly referred to as a "heart attack," is the first event in which insufficient coronary blood flow results in the death of a portion of the heart. Heart failure, heart wall remodelling, and severe inflammation result from this.

Surprisingly, anti-inflammatory medications have not been able to stop heart failure. They are therefore not a standard component of post-MI care. The most effective cellular and molecular targets for inflammation, however, might still be unidentified.

In the Aug. 28, 2024 issue of Nature, researchers from University of California San Diego in the laboratory of Dr. Kevin King, associate professor of bioengineering and medicine, and a cardiologist at the Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center, report the discovery of a novel mechanism of cardiac inflammation that may expand therapeutic opportunities to prevent heart attacks from becoming heart failure.

Inflammation after MI is classically credited to professional immune cells like neutrophils and macrophages that infiltrate the infarcted heart and respond to molecules in the debris of dying cells. So the team was surprised when they discovered that the proinflammatory "type I interferon (IFN) response" was activated, not in the infarct where immune cells were concentrated, but instead in the borderzone, surrounding the infarct.

The borderzone has been a fascinating yet understudied area of the infarcted heart. It is where surviving heart muscle cells attempt to stabilize and even proliferate after being disconnected from their dying neighbor cells. Unfortunately, the borderzone has proven a challenging region to study

because it is not easily isolated from the rest of the heart. Researchers overcame this obstacle using methods they recently reported based on single cell RNAseq and spatial transcriptomics where cells of the borderzone are recognized based on their patterns of gene expression.

To determine which cell type initiates borderzone inflammation, the team created a library of conditional knockout mice, each unable to initiate IFN signaling in a different cell type. To their surprise, heart muscle cells called cardiomyocytes emerged as the dominant initiators of borderzone IFN signaling. They found that mechanically stressed cardiomyocytes in the borderzone frequently suffered nuclear envelope rupture, which allowed escape of nuclear DNA and sensing by cytosolic DNA sensors, leading to activation of IFN signaling. This in turn caused mechanical weakening of the heart wall and made it vulnerable to dilation, thinning, and rupture, providing a mechanistic explanation for the team's previous reported observation that mice lacking IFN responses exhibited improved survival after MI.

"In the hospital, we care for patients with heart attacks and heart failure every day. New therapeutic targets for MI with the potential to prevent development of heart failure are incredibly important, said Dr. King, senior author of the study on the faculty in the Shu Chien Gene Lay Department of Bioengineering and the Division of Cardiology at UC San Diego.

Many questions remain, however the newly reported findings suggest that limiting mechanical stress at the borderzone, inhibiting DNA sensing, and preventing type I IFN signaling may represent new opportunities for patients to avoid development of heart failure after MI.

# Study gives insight into treatment of rectal cancer

**WASHINGTON [US]** : Positive outcomes from a novel treatment for locally advanced rectal cancer include the occasional full avoidance of surgery. The chance of a recurrence is also decreased.

According to a thorough study done at Uppsala University and published in eClinicalMedicine, the approach is beneficial.

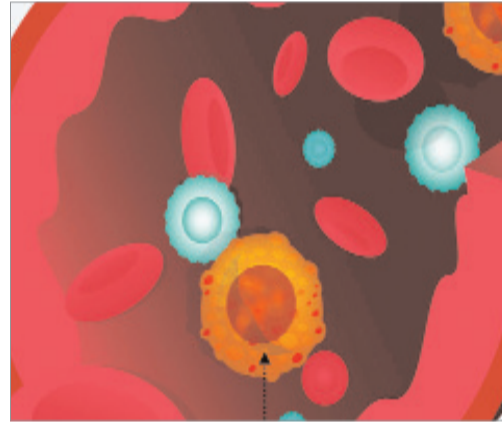
"The tumour disappears completely more often, thereby increasing the chance of avoiding surgery and retaining normal rectum and rectal function. Moreover, there are fewer metastases," said Bengt Glimelius, Professor of Oncology at Uppsala University and Senior Consultant at Uppsala University Hospital, about the new method.

Rectal cancer affects around 2,000 people in Sweden every year. Of these, a third have a high risk of recurrence. When a person is diagnosed with rectal cancer, part of the bowel is often removed, which could lead to the need for a stoma or problems controlling one's bowels. Patients often first receive radiotherapy or a combination of radiotherapy and concurrent chemotherapy for five weeks, followed by surgery and usually an additional round of chemotherapy for up to six months.

A study conducted by Uppsala University in everyday healthcare shows that it is possible to double the chance of eliminating the need to surgically remove part of the bowel if all radiotherapy and chemotherapy are given first and then the patient undergoes surgery, if necessary.

"If the tumour disappears completely during treatment, surgery is not required. This means that the rectum is preserved and the need for a stoma and a new rectum is eliminated. When part of the rectum is surgically removed, the new rectum does not quite understand that it should be able to refrain from frequently sending a signal to the brain that you need to use the toilet," said Bengt Glimelius.

A large number of doctors, researchers and research nurses have contributed to the study.



Patient data was collected for a large number of patients via the Swedish Colorectal Cancer Registry (SCRCR), with 461 patients included.

Locally advanced rectal cancer has traditionally been treated with a combination of radiotherapy and chemotherapy, followed by surgery and further chemotherapy. Four years ago, a randomised study showed that an alternative approach of one week of radiotherapy followed by just over four months of chemotherapy resulted in more tumours disappearing completely and fewer having distant metastases. Later on, however, slightly more local recurrences were observed. Uppsala was the first region to choose to introduce this treatment, but with a shortened chemotherapy period of three months. Several other regions later followed suit. The new study confirms the results of the previous randomised study, but also that the noted increase in local recurrences was not observed here. "With the old treatment, the randomised study failed to find any tumour in 14 per cent of patients who underwent surgery. The new model doubled that figure to 28 per cent.

# Study finds how certain diabetes medications might prevent dementia

**Washington [US]** : According to a study published, sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 (SGLT-2) inhibitors used to treat type 2 diabetes may prevent dementia, with higher advantages with prolonged treatment.

The findings of the Korea study were published in The BMJ.

The effect size may have been exaggerated in this observational analysis, the researchers add, and they now state that randomized controlled trials are required to corroborate these results.

According to the World Health Organization, the number of people with dementia globally is expected to reach 78 million by 2030 and type 2 diabetes is associated with a greater risk of developing dementia.

A recent study of over 65s with type 2 diabetes suggested a decreased risk of dementia associated with SGLT-2 inhibitors versus another type of diabetes drug, dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4) inhibitors. But the effects on younger people and specific types of dementia (eg, Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia) remains unclear.

To address this, researchers used the Korea National Health Insurance Service database to identify 110,885 pairs of adults with type 2 diabetes aged 40-69 years who were free of dementia and started taking either an SGLT-2 inhibitor or a DPP-4 inhibitor between 2013 and 2021.

All participants (average age 62; 56% men) were matched by age, sex, use of the diabetes drug metformin, and baseline cardiovascular risk and were followed up for an average of 670 days to see who developed dementia. Potentially influential fac-



tors including personal characteristics, income level, underlying risk factors for dementia, other conditions and related medicine use, were also taken into account. Over the follow-up period, a total of 1,172 participants with newly diagnosed dementia were identified.

Dementia rates per 100 person years were 0.22 for those using SGLT-2 inhibitors and 0.35 for those using DPP-4 inhibitors, corresponding to a 35% reduced risk of dementia associated with use of SGLT-2 inhibitors compared with DPP-4 inhibitors.

The researchers also found a 39% reduced risk for Alzheimer's disease, and a 52% reduced risk for vascular dementia associated with SGLT-2 inhibitors compared with DPP-4 inhibitors.

What's more, the effect of SGLT-2 inhibitors seemed more pronounced with longer treatment duration. A 48% reduced risk of dementia was seen for more than two years of treatment versus a 43% reduced risk for two years or less.

This is an observational study so no firm conclusions can be drawn about

cause and effect, and the authors note that details of health behaviours (eg, smoking and alcohol consumption) and duration of type 2 diabetes were not fully available.

However, they point out that this was a large study based on nationally representative data that included relatively younger people with type 2 diabetes, and results were highly consistent across subgroups.

As such, they say SGLT-2 inhibitors might prevent dementia, providing greater benefits with longer treatment, and they call for randomised controlled trials to confirm these findings.

This study reports promising results that have important implications for clinical practice as well as from a public health perspective, say researchers from Taiwan in a linked editorial.

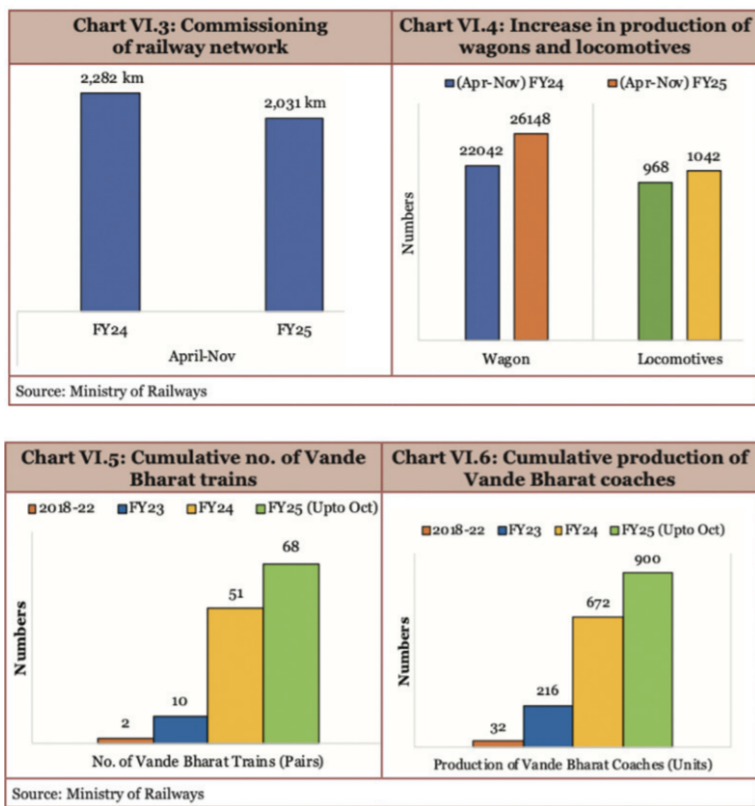
They agree that further trials are needed to confirm these findings, and suggest that studies are also needed "to explore the underlying mechanisms of any neuroprotective effects of SGLT-2 inhibitors."

As no cure currently exists for dementia and few effective treatment options are available, strategies that can potentially prevent onset are critically important, they write. Given the substantial socioeconomic and public health burdens associated with both dementia and type 2 diabetes, they also recommend that clinical guidelines and healthcare policies should be updated regularly to incorporate latest best evidence on the potential benefits of SGLT-2 inhibitors, including reduced dementia risk.



# Economic Survey 2025 Railway IT Electronics 31 Jan '25

• During FY25 so far, the progress in the expansion of the railway network stayed at levels comparable to the previous year, while the addition of rolling stock increased considerably. • Between April and October 2024, 17 new pairs of Vande Bharat trains were introduced to the network, and 228 coaches were produced. Recent initiatives in the rail system • Gati shakti multi-modal Cargo Terminal (GCT): 91 GCTs commissioned and 234 locations approved by October 31, 2024. • Net zero carbon emission: Indian Railways targets 30 GW of renewable energy by 2029-30, with 375 MW of solar and 103 MW of wind commissioned as of October 2024. • Major economic corridors: 434 projects valued at ₹11.17 lakh crore have been identified under three railway corridors, mapped on the PM GatiShakti portal. • Public Private Partnership (PPP): 17 projects have been completed (₹16,434 crore) and 8 ongoing (₹16,614 crore) under the PPP model. • Major projects • Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Project: Sanctioned in December 2015, this 508 km project, supported by Japan, has a revised cost of ₹1.08 lakh crore. As of October 2024, it has achieved 47.17 per cent physical progress with an expenditure of ₹67,486 crore. • Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs): As of November 2024, 2,741 km (96.4 per cent) of the planned 2,843 km DFC network has been commissioned. DFCs have transformed logistics in India by facilitating increased freight volumes without passenger train interference.



ence. Steps for enhancing passenger amenities in railways • Amrit Bharat Station Scheme: Under this initiative, aimed at enhancing railway station amenities, 1337 stations have been identified for redevelopment; work has started in 1197 of them. • Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs): In the pursuit to enhance the wellness and welfare of

passengers passing through railway stations, 50 PMBJKs were started in railway station premises. In addition, on November 13, 2024, 18 new PMBJKs were inaugurated, providing affordable medications and healthcare services at railway stations. • Food and catering services: A new policy for managing mobile catering was introduced on November 14, 2023. As of Novem-

ber 23, 2024, this has resulted in the establishment of 557 Base Kitchens servicing 468 pairs of trains. • One Station One Product Scheme: This scheme is operational at 1,900 stations, featuring 2,163 outlets that benefit 79,380 local artisans by providing sales opportunities for their products. • Passenger amenities: Train Indication Boards have been provided at 1,351 stations, Coach Guidance Systems at 866 stations, and Wi-Fi availability at 6,112 stations, enhancing passenger experience. Key initiatives to improve signalling systems in railways • Elimination of mechanical signalling: Indian Railways is replacing mechanical signalling with Electrical/Electronic Interlocking systems. In FY25, 25 out of 62 pending stations have been upgraded to electrical/electronic interlocking systems, with 9 zonal railways now free from mechanical signalling. • Kavach: This indigenously developed Automated Train Protection system has seen ₹1,547 crore invested (till November 2024). The specification version 4.0 was approved on July 16, 2024. • Electronic interlocking: EI systems have been installed at 227 stations in FY25, increasing the coverage to a total of 3,576 stations. The first Direct Drive Interlocking system was commissioned in November 2024 at Tajpur station. • Automatic Block Signalling (ABS): ABS is being installed to enhance capacity on high-density routes. 720 route kilometres have been completed this fiscal year, increasing the coverage to a total of 4,906 kilometres.

# Member (Operations & Business Development), Railway Board visits ER headquarters, Fairlie Place

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Shri Hitendra Malhotra, Member (Operations & Business Development), Railway Board, visited Eastern Railway (ER) Headquarters, Fairlie Place, today (31.01.2025) and chaired a high-level meeting with Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager, Eastern Railway. The meeting was attended by Shri Sumit Sarkar, Additional General Manager, Eastern Railway, along with Principal Heads of Departments from Eastern Railway and Metro Railway. During the discussions, key aspects of railway operations, infrastructure development, passenger services and business strategies were reviewed. Shri Malhotra emphasized the need for enhancing operational efficiency, optimizing freight



movement, and improving passenger amenities across the network. Later, Shri Malhotra also conducted a review meeting with the Operating and Commercial Departments of Eastern Railway, focusing on service improvements, revenue generation, and future growth plans. He highlighted the importance of technological

advancements, data-driven decision-making, and innovative business models to strengthen railway operations and enhance customer satisfaction. The visit reaffirmed the commitment of Eastern Railway to modernizing its services and improving operational performance in line with the vision of Indian Railways.

# Myanmar junta extends state of emergency on coup's fourth anniversary

**MI News Service, Naypyidaw:** Myanmar's military has prolonged its state of emergency for another six months as the country continues to struggle in maintaining control, with intense fighting continuing across the country, according to a report by Al Jazeera. The military-led National Defence and Security Council decided to extend emergency rule during a meeting in Naypyidaw on Friday, just a day before the coup's fourth anniversary. According to an official statement, all council members, including the commander-in-chief and the acting president, unanimously agreed to prolong emergency rule under Section 425 of the 2008 constitution. "All members of National Defence and Security Council including the commander in chief as well as acting president decided in unison for the extension of the state of emergency for another six months according to section 425 of the 2008 constitution," the statement said. "There are still more



tasks to be done to hold the general election successfully. Especially for a free and fair election, stability and peace is still needed," state-run MRTV said on its Telegram channel in announcing the extension of emergency rule. Al Jazeera reported. Notably, on February 1, 2021, the military junta seized power in a coup ousting the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, a Nobel laureate. Meanwhile, Amnesty International has urged the international community to take "urgent action" to ensure accountability for atrocities in Myanmar, ahead of the four-year anniversary of the 2021 military coup.

According to Amnesty International, since the 2021 coup, Myanmar's military junta has killed more than 6,000 people, arbitrarily detained more than 20,000, and renewed judicial executions. Over 3.5 million people are internally displaced. Human rights groups have documented the military's torture and other ill-treatment of detainees, indiscriminate attacks, and the denial of humanitarian aid, which may amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes. "Myanmar's military junta has carried out widespread and systematic attacks against the civilian population nationwide, bombing schools, hospitals, and religious buildings with total impunity. Armed groups fighting the military have also committed human rights violations. While some have pledged to hold perpetrators accountable, it remains to be seen whether these efforts are genuine and can meet international standards," Amnesty International said.

# Pakistan journalists body observes 'Black Day', protest against PECA Amendment Bill

**MI News Service, Islamabad:** The Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) is staging a nationwide "Black Day" protest on Friday against the controversial PECA Amendment Bill. Samaa TV reported. Demonstrations are taking place across the country, with journalists wearing black armbands while covering events. Union offices and press clubs have been draped in black as a symbol of resistance, according to Samaa TV. PFUJ President Afzal Butt criticised the government for passing the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) Amendment Bill without consulting relevant stakeholders. "The president signed the bill without even allowing journalists to voice their concerns," he bemoaned, as reported by Samaa TV. As part of the protest, he stated, "the freedom of press movement has been launched," adding that PFUJ has called for a sit-in in front of Parliament House to demand the repeal of the "black law."

The Joint Action Committee (JAC), which includes the Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), and the Association of Electronic Media Editors and News Directors (AMAND), is also participating in the PFUJ-led protests, according to Samaa TV. The JAC strongly condemned the government's approach, stating it failed to engage stakeholders before pushing the bill through the Senate Standing Committee and the National Assembly. It denounced the move as a clear attempt to suppress press freedom. "The passing of the bill is clear evidence of the government's ambitions and malice," the committee declared, as quoted by Samaa TV. Rejecting the bill outright, the JAC warned of an intense legal and public battle against it. It also accused the government of failing to honour its commitment to consult stakeholders before amending PECA.

# Alia's student commits suicide



Nurul Islam Khan

The body of Alia's former student, who suddenly disappeared, was found in Chingri Ghata. His name is Ismail Sheikh. He is said to have committed suicide in the mess in Chingri Ghata. There have been reports of many suicides of student before this incident. Faizan's family at IIT Kharagpur has not yet been brought to justice. Suicide incident happened again in the Sukantanagar-Chingri Ghata area of Sector-4 of Salt Lake. There is no solution to the suicide of a student in the Newtown campus. Panic has spread around the suicide of a former student on Wednesday night. The incident took place in P-313 Bandh Jyoti Tower under Bidhannagar South police station. This is where the former student Ismail Sheikh used to live. His home is in Bhuskulgram, Kharagpur, Murshidabad. After graduating from the English department of Alia, he enrolled in postgraduate studies. He joined the IT work without completing the course. He also left his job. Ismail committed suicide around 12:00 am on Wednesday. The family was informed on Wednesday night. He was taken to the NRS hospital. The doctors at the hospital declared him dead. Meanwhile, there is a mystery as to whether this was a suicidal incident or something else. According to his classmates, Ismail locked himself in his room and committed suicide. He was in a relationship with a girl. His classmates believe that this incident was due to tension. But the family is reluctant to accept that Ismail committed suicide. On Thursday, Ismail's uncle Monirul Haque. His father Ibrahim said that my family is unwilling to accept suicide theory. There was no family trouble. However, this incident cannot be a suicide. The family has filed a complaint with the Kharagpur police station regarding this unnatural death. The police are questioning the residents of the mess. Regarding this incident, Kharagpur police station SI Surjit Halder said that since the patient was admitted to the NRS hospital, the hospital belongs to the Entally police station. Therefore, Entally police station was asked to inform about the incident to the the Kharagpur police station. The Bidhannagar South police station is investigating the incident.

# ER Bharat Scouts and Guides concluded 54th State Rally with Community Service and Awareness Initiatives



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The final day of the 54th State Rally and Camporee of Eastern Railway Bharat Scouts and Guides commenced with a spiritual note, as participants gathered for an All Faith Prayer Meeting today. This was followed by a solemn Flag Ceremony, which instilled a sense of patriotism and unity among the gathered scouts and guides. As part of their community outreach initiative, participants took part in a Route March, spreading awareness about the importance of cleanliness (Swachhata). Carrying banners and posters, the Scouts and Guides engaged with the local community, encouraging them to maintain hygiene and cleanliness. This was followed by a Cleanliness Drive in Madhupur Railway Colony, where participants actively con-

tributed to improving the surroundings. In addition to the cleanliness drive, Passenger Safety Awareness programmes were also organized at Madhupur Station. Through creative mediums like Nukkad Natak (street plays) and posters, scouts and guides conveyed important messages about passenger safety, highlighting the do's and don'ts for travellers. These initiatives showcased the scouts' and guides' commitment to community service and awareness. These initiatives demonstrated the unwavering dedication of the Eastern Railway Bharat Scouts and Guides towards community service, social responsibility, and public awareness. Their efforts in promoting cleanliness and passenger safety were well received by the local community and railway passengers alike.

# Regulation Of Trains For Commissioning Of Auto Signalling Between Ballygunge & Kankurgachi Road Jn. Stations Over Sealdah Division

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** For commissioning of Hot Standby Dual Visual Display Unit Electronic Interlocking system with two (02) nos. 65 inches VDU-Monitor to replace Old RRI Panel at Ballygunge Jn. and Kankurgachi Road Jn. with provision of Multi Section Digital Axle Counters (in place of Track Circuits) in connection with the commissioning of Automatic Section in between Ballygunge Jn. and Kankurgachi Road Jn. (Chord Line) in Sonarpur-Ballygunge Jn.-Kankurgachi Road Jn.-Dum Dum Jn. section of Sealdah Division, 52 hours Interlocking /Non-Interlocking work has been planned at Ballygunge Jn. and Kankurgachi Road from 00.00 hrs of 01.02.2025 (Saturday) to 04.00 hrs of 03.02.2025 (Monday). Consequently, following arrangements in train running have been made as under:  
**ON SATURDAY (01.02.2025):**  
**CANCELLATION:** • Sealdah-Baruipur Jn. : Up : 34611, 34613, 34617, 34621, 34623, 34601, 34625, 34627, 34629, 34649, 34633, 34651, 34637, 34639, 34643, 34645, 34647. Down : 34612, 34614, 34616, 34618, 34620, 34622, 34624, 34626, 34628, 34650, 34632, 34652, 34636, 34638, 34642, 34644. • Sealdah-Sonarpur Jn. : Up : 34411, 34417, 34419, 34429, 34431. Down : 34412, 34414, 34416, 34418, 34432, 34434. • BBD Bag-Baruipur Jn. : Up : 30451. • Sealdah-BBD Bag : Up : 30411. Down:

30412, 30416. • Canning-Barasat : Up : 33061. • Champahati-Majerhat : Up : 30511. • Majerhat-GhutiariSharif : Down : 30552. • Madhyamgram-Majerhat : Up : 30357. Down : 30358. • Sealdah-Barasat : Down : 33438. • Sealdah-Naihati : Down : 31422, 31424. • K Budge Budge-Naihati : Up : 31051, 31053, 31055.  
**SHORT TERMINATION/SHORT ORIGINATION:** • At New Alipore (Kolkata) : Up : 30111, 34165, 34111, 34113, 34115, 34117, 34119, 34121, 34123, 34125, 34127, 34129, 34133, 34137, 34141, 34167, 34145, 34149, 34151, 34153, 34155, 34157, 34159, 34161, 34163. Down : 30122, 34112, 34114, 34116, 34118, 34120, 34122, 34124, 34126, 34128, 34130, 34132, 34136, 34140, 34168, 34146, 34148, 34150, 34154, 34156, 34158, 34160, 34162, 34164, 34166. • At Majerhat : Up : 34147. Down : 34152. • At Sonarpur Jn. : Up : 30711, 34899, 34641. Down : 30712, 34898. • At Barasat : Up : 30317, 30361. Down : 34062. • At PrinsepGhat : Up : 30313. Down : 30314. • At Dum Dum Jn. : Down : 30142.  
**DIVERSION [To Sealdah (Main & North)]:** (1) 30152 Naihati-Majerhat (2) 30154 Naihati-Majerhat (3) 34052 Naihati-K Budge Budge (4) 34054 Naihati-K Budge Budge (5) 34056 KalyaniSimanta-K Budge Budge.  
**SPECIAL TRAINS (WITH STOPPAGE AT ALL STATIONS EN-ROUTE):**

**ROUTE):** (1) Dum Dum Jn.-Barasat Special (from Dum Dum Jn. at 08:10 hrs.)(2)Sealdah-Ranaghat Special (from Sealdah at 19:00 hrs.)(3)Sealdah-Naihati Special (from Sealdah at 15:05 hrs.)(4) K Budge Budge-New Alipore (Kolkata) Special (from K Budge Budge at 17:30 hrs.)(5) New Alipore (Kolkata)-K Budge Budge Special [from New Alipore (Kolkata) at 20:12 hrs.]. (6)Sealdah-Baruipur Jn. Special (from Sealdah at 17:43 hrs.).  
**ON SUNDAY (02.02.2025):**  
**CANCELLATION:** • Sealdah-Baruipur Jn. : Up : 34611, 34613, 34621, 34623, 34625, 34627, 34649, 34633, 34651, 34637, 34639, 34643, 34645, 34647. Down : 34612, 34614, 34616, 34618, 34620, 34622, 34624, 34626, 34650, 34632, 34652, 34636, 34638, 34642, 34644. • Sealdah-Sonarpur Jn. : Up : 34411, 34417, 34419, 34429, 34431. Down : 34412, 34414, 34416, 34418, 34432, 34434. • BBD Bag-Baruipur Jn. : Up : 30451. • Sealdah-BBD Bag : Up : 30411. Down : 30412, 30416. • Canning-Barasat : Up : 33061. • Champahati-Majerhat : Up : 30511. • Majerhat-GhutiariSharif : Down : 30552. • Madhyamgram-Majerhat : Up : 30357. Down : 30358. • Sealdah-Barasat : Down : 33438. • Sealdah-Naihati : Down : 31422, 31424. • K Budge Budge-Naihati : Up : 31051, 31053, 31055.  
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**DIVERSION [To Sealdah (Main & North)]:** (1) 30152 Naihati-Majerhat (2) 30154 Naihati-Majerhat (3) 34052 Naihati-K Budge Budge (4) 34054 Naihati-K Budge Budge (5) 34056 KalyaniSimanta-K Budge Budge.  
**SPECIAL TRAINS (WITH STOPPAGE AT ALL STATIONS EN-ROUTE):**

# Israeli military reveals two October 7 terrorists eliminated before ceasefire

**MI News Service, Tel Aviv:** The IDF (Israel Defense Forces) reported that in recent months - before the Gaza Ceasefire went into effect - and together with other Israeli security forces, it eliminated two Hamas terrorists who took part in the murderous massacre of October 7, including the kidnapping of female IDF observers from the base at Kibbutz Nahal Oz. Last Month, an Israel Air Force (IAF) aircraft attacked and killed the terrorist Hatim Hazem Hejazi Regev, a Nakba terrorist in the Shu-

ja'iyya regiment of the terrorist organization Hamas. The terrorist Hejazi Regev took part in the murderous massacre and kidnapping of the female observers from the Nahal Oz base on October 7. Also, during the war in Gaza, he promoted and led many acts of terrorism against the IDF forces. In addition, in September 2024, an IAF aircraft attacked and killed Muhammad Ahmed Farij Saed, a terrorist from the Shati Battalion of the Hamas terrorist organization.

# Israel Air Force strikes Hezbollah weapons factory in Lebanon

**MI News Service, Tel Aviv:** The IDF (Israel Defense Forces) reported that Israel Air Force (IAF) fighter jets attacked during the night targets of the Hezbollah terrorist organization in the Bekaa region of Lebanon that the IDF said posed a threat to the Israeli home front and its forces. Among the targets attacked was a military site with underground infrastructure for the development and production of weapons and transit infrastructure on the Syria-Lebanon border through which the terrorist organization Hezbollah tries to transfer weapons.



### MUMBAI OPEN 2025 POISED TO ENTHRAL TENNIS ENTHUSIASTS AT CRICKET CLUB OF INDIA

MUMBAI (MAHARASHTRA) : The highly anticipated fourth edition of the Mumbai Open, a prestigious fixture on the global tennis calendar, is set to commence at the Cricket Club of India (CCI).

Organised by the Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association (MSLTA), this WTA 125 Series Tournament will begin with the qualifying rounds on February 1, followed by the main draw from February 3 to 9.

According to a release from Mumbai Open, the tournament will showcase an impressive array of international stars alongside India's most promising talents, who have secured wild card entries to compete for top honours on the renowned hard courts of the CCI.

Leading the international contingent is Tatjana Maria, currently ranked World No. 73, a three-time singles champion, including consecutive triumphs at the 2023 and 2024 Copa Colsanitas WTA 250 tournaments in Colombia. The 2022 Wimbledon semi-finalist is among the frontrunners for this year's title.

Speaking on the significance of the event, Sanjay Khandare, Treasurer of the Organising Committee said that the event will provide a remarkable platform for Indian players.

"The Mumbai Open is one of India's most eagerly awaited tennis tournaments, and this fourth edition promises to be even grander. The event provides a remarkable platform for Indian players and we look forward to witnessing some outstanding performances from them," Khandare was quoted in a release from Mumbai Open as saying.

The tournament boasts a rich legacy of champions, with World No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka clinching the title in 2017, followed by Thailand's Luksika Kumkhum in 2018. Defending champion Darja Semeništaja of Latvia and rising star Alexandra Eala from the Philippines are set to feature prominently in this year's competition, the release added.

India's Maaya Rajeshwaran, currently training at the Rafael Nadal Academy, will be vying for a spot through the qualifying rounds.

Wild Card Entries for Indian Players: Sahaja Yamalappalli - India No. 1, Ankita Raina - India No. 2, Shrivalli Bhamidipathi - India No. 3, Vaishnavi Adkar - Maharashtra No. 1, Qualifying Round Entrants: Maaya Rajeshwaran, Akansha Nitte - Maharashtra No. 2.



India's Shivam Dube plays a shot during the 4th T20I against England, at Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Pune on Friday. (ANI Photo)

### 38th NG Uttarakhand Jharkhand's Rana Pratap gets first bronze medal in Swimming



PC JHA

RANCHI : On the second day of swimming in the 38th National Games, Jharkhand's Rana Pratap won the first medal for Jharkhand by winning the bronze medal in 200m breast stroke with a time of 2:24.61. Apart from Rana Pratap wushu player Nishant Tirkey confirmed the medal for Jharkhand by making it to the semi-finals in the 48 kg category.

On the other hand, in the match going on in the squash court of the International Cricket Stadium, squash player Aadya Budhia gave her best performance but had to face defeat from the player of Goa. The teams of archery and lawn balls being held

in Maharana Pratap Sports College and International Cricket Stadium campus of Dehradun reached Dehradun. It is worth noting that in the last National Games, Goa, the players of both these games had performed brilliantly. This year, along with other players, Olympians Deepika Kumari and Ankit Bhakat are participating in the Jharkhand archery team in Uttarakhand, while Commonwealth Games medalists Lovely Choubey, Rupa Rani Tirkey, Sunil Bahadur and Dinesh Kumar are participating in the lawn balls team.

The shooting, archery and lawn balls events of the Jharkhand team of the National Games will be held tomorrow.

## ISL: Bengaluru FC face Punjab FC in a battle of contrasting styles and tactical adjustments in focus



NEW DELHI [INDIA] : Punjab FC will host Bengaluru FC at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 on Saturday. The Panagiotis Dilmeris-coached

team will have their task cut out in improving their home form since they have not won any of the last four encounters at this venue.

Bengaluru FC had beaten Punjab FC by a slender margin of

1-0 in the reverse fixture. However, the latter is one of the four active teams that the Blues are yet to round off a league double over, alongside Hyderabad FC, Mohammedan SC, and Mohun

Bagan Super Giant.

Both these teams are struggling for form, with Bengaluru FC having drawn once and losing twice in their last three away encounters. Their most recent match on the road saw them fall to a 0-1 loss to the Mohun Bagan Super Giant in Kolkata. They will want to find their groove upfront, as the last time they had not netted in consecutive away encounters was in 2022.

Bengaluru FC have suffered losses in four out of their last five encounters. They are placed fifth in the points table with 28 points from 18 matches, on the back of eight wins and four draws. Punjab FC followed in the ninth position with 20 points from 16 games due to six victories and two draws.

Punjab FC trails the sixth-placed Mumbai City FC (27) by seven points, having played a game fewer than the Islanders (17). They have a reasonable period in hand to reignite their charge for the top-six, whereas the Blues will want to push upwards as the

second-placed FC Goa have five more points (33) than them, having played a game less (17).

Punjab FC are the only team yet to find the back of the net through a headed goal in the current ISL season. On the other hand, they have conceded the second-most goals this way (7). Coach Dilmeris will have to work to ensure that his side's aerial prowess on both ends is fine-tuned to yield them the required results.

Bengaluru FC have recorded 147 sequences of 10+ open-play passes this season, the second-most behind Mohun Bagan Super Giant (151). Their highest-ever season tally is 152 (2017-18). This shows that they have embraced and implemented Gerard Zaragoza's playing philosophy to the full tilt this season.

Bengaluru FC have scored six headed goals this season, with only Mohun Bagan Super Giant (8) bettering them in this manner. The Blues have made good use of their players in the flanks by hav-

ing them deliver consistent crosses for their target men in the box. Given Punjab FC's drawback in defending aerial attacks, the Blues might just make the most of their proficiency in this regard.

Punjab FC head coach Panagiotis Dilmeris simplified the tasks for his team for the coming match.

"We will try to address as many issues as they try to create for us. Hopefully, we manage to keep a clean sheet and score more than them," Dilmeris was quoted in a release from ISL as saying.

Bengaluru FC head coach Gerard Zaragoza admitted that his team is preparing well for the coming match. "We have six games remaining in the league now, but the most important part is the next game against Punjab FC. The team has been training well," he said.

The two teams have played thrice in the ISL. Bengaluru FC and Punjab FC have won once each, whereas one game has ended in a draw.

### Former India skipper MS Dhoni features in ICC men's Champions Trophy 2025 campaign



DUBAI [UAE] : The International Cricket Council (ICC) kicked off their Men's Champions Trophy 2025 campaign by highlighting the event's 'all or nothing' format. With the world's top-eight teams competing in intense must-win encounters, every match result directly impacts their qualification chances.

Built on the insight of 'Har Match Do-or-Die', Star Sports Network's campaign set the stage for one of cricket's most anticipated competitions, beginning with a film featuring 2013 winning skipper, MS Dhoni, as per the ICC press release.

Dhoni, known for his usually calm demeanour, appeared in a rather rare avatar, giving fans a perspective on the drama, intense competition, and high stakes that define the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025. As the last Indian captain to lift the ICC Men's Champions Trophy, his presence adds both nostalgia and motivation, reminding fans of India's glorious triumph.

The promo film opens with

### Afghanistan's 2015 World Cup hero Shapoor Zadran announces retirement from international cricket

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : Afghanistan's left-arm speedster Shapoor Zadran announced his retirement from international cricket.

The tall fast bowler featured in 44 ODIs and 36 T20Is for Afghanistan since making his debut in 2009. Across both formats, he scythed 80 wickets. His last international appearance for Afghanistan dates back to March 8, 2020, in a T20I match against Ireland in Greater Noida.

During his playing days, Zadran was a typical fast bowler with an aggressive mentality, and once he even cited the Rawalpindi Express Shoaib Akhtar as his idol.

He emerged as one of the key figures in Afghanistan's rise to dominance on the international stage. He gained a cult hero status during the ODI World Cup 2015. The left-arm speedster ended the campaign with ten wickets, accompanied by some animated celebrations. His tally of wickets included modern-day greats Steven Smith, David Warner, Kane Williamson, Tillakaratne Dilshan and Mahmudullah.

The 37-year-old's most decorated performance came against Scotland. With figures of 4/38, he helped Afghanistan secure their first victory in the ICC tournament. "Today is the day I never wanted to face, but it eventually comes for every player. After 22 years of service, sacrifice, and love for cricket, I, officially announce my retirement from international cricket. This has been one of the toughest deci-



sions of my life because cricket has been more than just a game to me, it has been my passion, my identity and my purpose," Zadran wrote in his Facebook post.

"Since childhood, I dreamt of representing Afghanistan, and looking back now, I am proud to have played a part in raising our nation's flag on the international stage. My journey began in the most challenging times of Afghan cricket," he added.

Zadran thanked the fans, his family, teammates, and coaches who helped him overcome the set of challenges that he faced in his journey.

"I faced difficulties, played under limited resources, and overcame many obstacles, but I never lost faith. The support of cricket fans, my teammates, coaches, and especially my family kept me going through every

hardship," he said. "I sincerely thank everyone who stood by my side throughout this long journey. The love, prayers, and unwavering support of my family, friends, fans, and the people of Afghanistan have been my greatest strength," he added.

In the end, he wished for Afghanistan's success and said he would celebrate every victory and hope the new stars would take Afghanistan to greater heights.

"I will always be grateful for it. Though I am stepping away from international cricket, my commitment to the game remains. I will always pray for the success of Afghanistan cricket. If not as a player, then as a devoted supporter, I will celebrate every victory and hope for the emergence of new stars who will take Afghan cricket to greater heights," he concluded.

### Jacob Duffy called in New Zealand's ODI squad for tri-series in Pakistan as cover for Ferguson

WELLINGTON [UAE] : Fast bowler Jacob Duffy has been added to New Zealand's squad for their upcoming ODI tri-series against South Africa and Pakistan before the Champions Trophy, New Zealand Cricket's official website reported.

Duffy's inclusion comes as a cover for tearaway Lockie Ferguson, who is currently playing for Desert Vipers in the ongoing ILT20 in the UAE.

Duffy has featured in 10 ODIs for the Kiwis and boasts 18 wickets at an average of 25.94 at an economy of 6.25. In his recent appearances for New Zealand, Duffy picked up four scalps in two ODIs and eight in three T20Is against Sri Lanka at home earlier this month.

The Blackcaps will leave for Pakistan on February 3 to compete in the tri-series, beginning on February 8. Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium will host the opening two matches, and Karachi's National Bank Stadium will stage the final league match and the final.

The tri-series will begin with Pakistan and New Zealand squaring off at the scenic Gaddafi Stadium on February 8. The Kiwis will then go on to face South Africa on February 10 in a day match.

After the conclusion of the first two games, the action will shift from Rawalpindi to Karachi, with Pakistan taking on South Africa on February 12 in a day/night match. The final will be held on February 14 at the same venue,



days before the tournament opener.

Following the conclusion of the tri-series, New Zealand will play a warm-up match against Afghanistan at the National Stadium, Karachi, on February 16.

New Zealand will then play the Champions Trophy opener against Pakistan on February 19 at the same venue. They will face Bangladesh on February 24 at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. The Kiwis will head to Dubai for their final group-stage game against India on March 2.

New Zealand squad for tri-series and Champions Trophy: Mitchell Santner (captain), Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Will O'Rourke, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Ben Sears, Nathan Smith, Kane Williamson, Will Young, Jacob Duffy (tri-series only).