

Amit Mitra slams Union Budget as "Destructive" and "Anti-People"

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Budget focuses on driving growth, inclusive development: Sitharaman

No Income tax for earning up to Rs 12 lakh annually, announces FM

MI News Service, New Delhi: Asserting that the Indian economy is fastest-growing among all developing economies in the world, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday that the 2025-26 Union Budget emphasises on accelerating growth and provide inclusive development in all sectors.

In her record 8th straight Budget presentation and the 14th consecutive Budget under the Narendra Modi government since 2014, the finance minister said, "We see the next five years as unique opportunity to stimulate growth and together we embark on a journey to unlock our potential for greater prosperity." Outlining key priorities to accelerate economic growth, ensure inclusive development, support industries, and enhance household the 2025-26 budget also emphasized increasing spending power for India's growing middle class, Sitharaman said "This budget with an effort to accelerate growth, secure inclusive development, invigorate society and industry, uplift household sentiment and enhance spending on power of India's rising middle class".

While acknowledging ongoing



geopolitical challenges that could slow global economic growth, the Finance Minister expressed confidence in India's strong economic foundation. She said the government's development policies and structural reforms over the past decade have positioned India as the world's fastest-growing major economy. This has strengthened

global confidence in India's potential, making the next five years crucial for achieving holistic development.

The Finance Minister also highlighted the government's vision of 'Sabka Vikas' (Development for All), aiming for balanced growth across all regions. Under the leadership of Prime minister

Modi, the government aims to unlock India's full potential and enhance its global standing. She added "Our economy is the fastest-growing among all major global economies. Our development track record of the past 10 years and structural reforms have drawn global attention. Confidence in India's capability and potential has

only grown in this period. We see the next five years as a unique opportunity to realize 'Sabka Vikas', stimulating balanced growth of all regions".

Quoting renowned Telugu poet and playwright Gurajada Apparao, the Finance minister emphasized that a country is not just its land but its people. With this philosophy, the government's vision for Viksit Bharat (Developed India) includes eradicating poverty, ensur-

UNION BUDGET 2025

ing 100 per cent quality education for children, providing affordable and comprehensive healthcare, developing a skilled workforce with meaningful employment, increasing women's participation in the economy to 70 per cent and strengthening India's agricultural sector to make it the "food basket of the world", she said The budget sets a clear path for India's growth, focusing on economic empowerment, industrial progress, and societal well-being. With a strong track record and ambitious targets, the government is determined to drive the nation toward greater prosperity in the coming years, the Finance minister said.

MI News Service, New Delhi: Individuals earning up to Rs 12 lakh annually will not have to pay any income tax under the new tax regime as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday gave relief to middle class by raising exemption limit and rejigging slabs.

For salaried employ-

In addition a tax payer in the new regime with an income of Rs 12 lakh will get a benefit of Rs 80,000 in tax. A person having income of Rs 18 lakh will get a benefit of Rs 70,000 in tax while a person with an income of Rs 25 lakh gets a benefit of Rs 1.10 lakh, she said. Adhil Shetty, CEO of Bankbazaar.com hailing the budget proposals said "In a significant move, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman relaxed the conditions for tax relief on self-occupied properties in the 2025 Union Budget. Taxpayers can now claim tax benefits for two self-occupied houses, a major change from the previous rule that allowed relief for only one property. This reform significantly eases the tax burden for individuals who own and live in multiple properties, offering financial flexibility and promoting homeownership. By acknowledging the diverse housing needs of families, this decision not only provides greater tax relief but also encourages real estate investment. The move aligns with the government's broader focus on financial empowerment and ease of living, strengthening the middle class while simplifying the tax structure." The Budget announcements are sending a clear message that Government will focus on governance, creating capacities, creating conditions conducive for compliance, execution and implementation of policies. The onus of demand creation has shifted to the private sector, middle class and the wider populace, he said. According to Sandeep Bangla, CEO - TRUST Mutual Funds "Tax slabs have

"The new structure will substantially reduce taxes of the middle class and leave more money in their hands to spend at will, boosting household consumption, savings and investment," Sitharaman said in her 2025-26 Budget speech. As per the rejig, for people earning more than Rs 12 lakh per annum, there will be nil tax for income up to Rs 4 lakh, 5 per cent for income between Rs 4 and 8 lakh, 10 per cent for Rs 8-12 lakh, 15 per cent for Rs 12-16 lakh. A 20 per cent income tax will be levied on income between Rs 16 lakh and 20 lakh, 25 per cent on Rs 20-24 lakh and 30 per cent above Rs 24 lakh per annum.

►► Continued on page 3

Union budget has nothing for Bengal claims TMC Gen Secretary Abhishek Banerjee

MI News Service, New Delhi / Kolkata : Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee, an MP from Diamond Harbour, on Saturday claimed that the 2025-26 Union Budget has "nothing" for West Bengal, alleging that the state continues to remain "deprived" under the BJP-led NDA rule at the Centre. Banerjee, the TMC National General Secretary, who was talking to reporters in Delhi after the budget presentation in Parliament, said several announcements were made for Bihar as the assembly elections there are due later this year.

Bihar remained in focus in the presentation of the Union Budget for the 2025-26 fiscal with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman making several announcements for the state, including setting up of a Makhana Board, financial assistance for western Kosi canal and support for enhancing the capacity of IIT Patna.

He also launched a strong attack on the Modi government, alleging that the Union Budget lacks clarity or vision, it has been rolled out to satisfy the coalition partners of the BJP and that it "was planned by two individuals to keep another two in good faith". Earlier participating in the discussion on the union budget, Abhishek Banerjee claimed that BJP-led NDA government is "on borrowed time" and "it is creaky, shaky coalition".

"It's a Budget without any clarity or vision which has been rolled out to satisfy the coalition partners of the BJP...this Budget was planned by two individuals to keep another two in good faith," he alleged, referring to Budget announcements for Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. JD-U is in power in Bihar and TDP in Andhra Pradesh and the BJP led government is dependent on support of the two parties for its survival. Referring to



the results of Lok Sabha polls in which the BJP did not get majority on its own, Banerjee alleged that it is "rejection of authoritarianism". "It's a clear rejection of authoritarianism. It's a rejection of arrogance, divisive politics and empty promises. The message from the electorate of this country is loud and clear," he said. Referring to the acronyms used by the BJP-led government for its various

schemes, Banerjee said he will reply to the government "in a language they understand". "Amidst the all failures in the last decade, the PM and his government achieved something truly remarkable. A world

UNION BUDGET 2025

class collection of abbreviations. Every new initiative feels like almost a linguistic surprise. Hundred and ten names. I want to reply to this government in a language they understand," he said. "This is a creaky shaky coalition govt. It is so uncertain and fragile and can implode anytime. B-U-D-G-E-T B for Betrayal U for Unemployment D for Deprived G for Guarantee (Zero warranty) E for Eccentric T for 'Tragedy," he added. He also accused the BJP-led government of "betraying housewives, daily wage earners, farmers".

"B for betrayal. BJP prom-

ised Ache din before coming to power in 2014. What have they done?"

Betrayed citizens. Betrayed daily wage earners. Betrayed farmers. Price rise, 63 crore people

earn less than Rs 308 a day. And 18 crore people earned Rs 180 a day. If the NDA government in the last ten years had spent even a quarter of the time it dedicated to political witch-hunting and addressed the real issue for the interest of the people India would not be ranking 111th out of 125 countries in the world in the global hunger index. They spoke about 'sab ka saath, sab ka vikas' which turned into 'jo hamare saath, ham un ke saath', he said. "The only thing that is growing faster than price rise and inflation is the BJP's list of broken promises," he added.

Leaders hail and criticise as FM makes slew of announcements for Bihar on election year

MI News Service, New Delhi: As Bihar which is currently ruled by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), will go to polls later this year, this Eastern state remained very much in focus in the 2025-26 Union Budget with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday making several announcements for the state, like setting up of a Makhana Board, financial support for the western Kosi canal and support for enhancing the capacity of IIT Patna. Presenting the Budget in the Lok Sabha on Saturday, the finance minister also announced that the Centre will set up a National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship, and Management in Bihar, besides facilitating greenfield airports in the state to meet future needs.

"A Makhana Board will be established in Bihar to improve production and processing of the nut," Sitharaman said in her Budget speech. She also said the Centre will provide financial support to

the state for the western Kosi canal, benefiting 50,000 hectares in the Mithilanchal region. The Finance minister's announcement that the Centre will create additional infrastructure in five IITs and provide support for enhancing the capacity of IIT Patna, Union minister and Lok Jan Shakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan said all these were very welcome steps for the state in the budgetary announcements. "Establishment of the National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and

Management in Bihar will strengthen food processing activities in the entire eastern region and increase the income of farmers by improving the quality of their produce," Paswan posted on X.

JD (U) working president Sanjay Jha also hailed the announcement of setting up of a Makhana

►► Continued on page 3

What all will get cheaper and costlier after presentation of Budget



MI News Service, New Delhi : For the layperson, the highlight of the Union Budget has always remained on what all have become cheaper and which of them has got

costlier to buy. This year too the first full budget of Prime Minister Narendra Modi government's third term in office has been no exception. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as part of her Budget presentation proposed a host of tweaks in basic customs duty (BCD) for various products or items that are critical for manufacturing or for day-to-day needs. In

some cases prices were raised to make domestic manufacturing robust. **Relief on import of drugs and medicines:** To provide relief to patients, particularly those suffering from cancer, rare diseases and other severe chronic diseases, Sitharaman proposed to add 36 lifesaving drugs and medicines to the list of medicines fully exempted from Basic Customs Duty (BCD). She also proposed to add six lifesaving medicines to the list attracting concessional customs duty of 5 per cent. Full exemption and concessional duty will also respectively apply on the bulk drugs for man-

ufacturing. Specified drugs and medicines under Patient Assistance Programmes run by pharmaceutical companies are fully exempt from BCD, provided the medicines are supplied free of cost to patients. The minister has now proposed to add 37 more medicines along with 13 new patient assistance programmes.. The government had also reduced BCD on two other such minerals to provide a major fillip to their processing especially by MSMEs. Now, the government proposed to fully exempt cobalt powder and waste, the scrap of lithium-ion battery, Lead, Zinc and 12 more critical minerals. "This will help secure their availability for manufacturing in India and promote more jobs for our youth," the FM said. To promote domestic production of technical textile products such as agro-textiles, medical textiles and geo textiles at competitive prices, the Finance Minister has proposed to add two more types of shuttle-

►► Continued on page 3

Sensex, Nifty turn volatile after presentation of Budget

MI News Service, Mumbai : Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty remained volatile on Saturday after the presentation of 2025-26 Union Budget as investors saw little coming in from the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for retail investors and the overall markets.

Stock indices opened with gains and traded in the positive territory during the Budget presenta-

UNION BUDGET 2025

tion. However, soon after Sitharaman completed her Budget speech in Parliament, the 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex declined 494.1 points to 77,006.47 in the late afternoon trade. The NSE Nifty went lower by 162.35 points to 23,346.05. Later, Sensex pared losses to trade sideways at 77,509.90 while Nifty was at 23,495.30. Both benchmarks had rallied for the past four trading days. The BSE Sensex dropped by 455 points and Nifty fell by 115 points shortly after the

►► Continued on page 3

PM Modi calls Union Budget 2025 "force multiplier" for India's all round growth

Mi News Service, New Delhi : Prime Minister Narendra Modi has hailed the Union Budget 2025 as a "Force Multiplier" for India's development journey, describing it as a "budget of aspirations" for 140 crore Indians.

He emphasized that this budget would fulfill the dreams of the people, with a strong focus on opening up several sectors for the youth. "This is the budget of the aspirations of 140 crore Indians, this is a budget that fulfills the dreams of every Indian," PM Modi stated on Saturday after the presentation of the Budget.

He further highlighted that the budget aims to

boost economic participation among the common citizens. "This is a budget which fulfills the dreams of our people. We have opened many sectors for the youth. Common citizens are going to drive the mission of Viksit Bharat. This budget is a force multiplier. This budget will increase savings, investment, consumption, and growth. I congratulate Nirmala Sitharaman and her entire team for coming up with a people-centric budget," he added. PM Modi also pointed out that, unlike previous budgets focused on filling govern-



ment coffers, this one is designed to benefit citizens directly. "Usually the focus of the budget is on how the government treasury will be filled, but this budget is exactly the opposite of that. How will this budget fill the pockets of the citizens of the country, how will the savings of the citizens of the country increase and how will the citizens of the country become partners in development... this budget lays a very strong foundation for this," PM Modi remarked. PM Modi also praised the reforms in the nuclear energy sector. "Encouraging the private sector in Nuclear Energy is historic. It will ensure a big contribution of Civil Nuclear Energy in the development of the country," he said. The Prime Minister also stressed the importance of

►► Continued on page 3

Bengal toll at Kumbh stampede reaches 5 families accuse UP govt of mismanagement

MI News Service, Kolkata: The number of people who had died in the stampede at the Mahakumbh in Allahabad reached five after three more pilgrims from the state were reported dead on Friday. On Thursday, the state government confirmed the deaths of two elderly women pilgrims — Basanti Poddar, 63, from Calcutta's Golf Green and Urmila Bhuniya, 78, from West Midnapore's Salboni. Within 24 hours, the administration received news of three additional deaths in the tragic crowd rush near the Sangam riverfront of Allahabad. The three are Bidhan Ruidas, 42, from West Burdwan's Jamuria, Gayatri Dey, 60, from Birbhum's Rampurhat, and Amiya Saha, 33, from Malda's Kaliachak.

According to family members, Bidhan and Gayatri were killed in the stampede early Wednesday morning, while Amiya died from

suffocation after being trapped in the crowd, soon after the tragic incident. As the bodies of Salboni's Urmila and Jamuria's Bidhan were sent without post-mortem reports or death certificates, family members cried about alleged mismanagement by the Yogi Adityanath government in UP. They accused the Uttar Pradesh administration of attempting to suppress the number of deaths in the stampede. Bidhan, a toto (rickshaw) driver from Jamuria in West Burdwan, had gone to the Mahakumbh Mela via Varanasi with his brother-in-law and a friend on Monday. His family members had last spoken to him on Tuesday night. Bidhan's brother-in-law, Bishnu Ruidas, said they were heading towards the river confluence for the holy dip when they got separated. "I later found him in the hospital morgue in Prayagraj. We weren't

assisted by the UP government. We were helplessly roaming from one hospital to another to find Bidhan," said Bishnu.

He said the hospital authorities handed him Bidhan's body but without a death certificate or post-mortem report. "How can they do this? Without a death certificate from the hospital in Prayagraj or a post-mortem report, how can we prove that Bidhan died in the Kumbh stampede and claim compensation?" Bishnu asked. Family members of Urmila raised similar concerns about the Yogi government's lackadaisical approach to delivering their loved one's body.

The district administrations conducted post-mortems of Bidhan and Urmila at their respective district hospitals, following instructions from chief minister Mamata Banerjee. They also made necessary arrangements for the last rites. "Following our chief

minister's instructions, we have been in touch with the families since they were informed about the tragedy. Today, we conducted the post-mortem of Urmila Bhuniya, whose body arrived from Uttar Pradesh on Thursday evening, in the presence of senior officials and minister Manas Bhuniya," said Khurshed Ali Qadri, West Midnapore district magistrate.

Qadri added that the administration would inquire about the legal procedures for issuing the death certificate. Pratap Dey, the son of Gayatri, who went missing from the Mahakumbh on Wednesday morning, said he received a list of deceased persons, where his mother's name and photograph appeared at serial number 18. "We couldn't contact my mother since Wednesday morning. Finally, we learned that she was among those killed in the stampede."

10th state Taekwondo competition begins



MI News Service, Kolkata: The 10th State Taekwondo Championship began on Saturday at the Khudiram Training Centre in Kolkata. 620 competitors from 17 districts of the state participated in the competition. Grandmaster Kimi R. Jagtiani, Secretary of the Taekwondo Federation of India, inaugurated the competition by lighting the lamp. Also present were Korean Grandmaster Seongkook Jeong, Master LM Singh, Secretary of the organizing Bengal Amateur Taekwondo Association, Grandmaster Roopkamal Nandi, and others. The competition will continue till Sunday. Roopkamal said that the first place winners in this competition will be able to participate in the national competition. The enthusiasm surrounding the competition was palpable.

CM requests report from Bratya Basu on Saraswati Puja controversy at Jogesh Chandra College



MI News Service, Kolkata: The Saraswati Puja celebrations at Jogesh Chandra College have become the center of an unprecedented controversy, prompting intervention from the state government. Following the Kolkata High Court's directive to hold the Puja under police supervision, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed her frustration over the ongoing internal conflicts within the college. The Chief Minister specifically requested a report from the state's Education Minister, Bratya Basu, to understand the root cause of the disruptions. Basu, responding to the Chief Minister's concern, confirmed that he had already reached out to the college principal to discuss the issue. He also stated that he would visit the college personally on Sunday to participate in the Puja and ensure the event proceeded smoothly. "I will be present at the college on Puja day, and I will also provide the Chief Minister with a report tomorrow," Basu said. The controversy centers around the entry of outsiders into the college campus, which has been allegedly causing disturbances, according to one student. The college authorities have claimed they are unable to prevent such individuals from entering. The conflict arose when students of Yogesh Chandra Day College and Yogesh Chandra Law College, who traditionally celebrate the Puja at separate locations, found that a pandal built on the path between the old and new buildings obstructed access for law students to their classes. Furthermore, reports of outside interference during the celebrations led to police complaints and eventually a case being filed in the Kolkata High Court. To address the situation and prevent any further disturbances, Justice Joy Sen Gupta ordered that the Puja be conducted under police surveillance, with additional security if necessary. Basu's proactive stance in addressing the issue underscores the government's commitment to ensuring that the celebrations go ahead without any further hindrances.



State Minister Aroop Biswas inaugurates a photo exhibition themed "Chitra Jetha Bhoj Shunya" organised by the 'Kolkata Photojournalists Association' at Esplanade in Kolkata on Saturday.

Police Cooperative Bank committed to making the common man a customer and providing better services



Nurul Islam Khan

A special general meeting was held on Saturday at the PTS auditorium on the occasion of the election of the Management Committee of Kolkata Police Cooperative Bank. Just a few days ago 103 representatives were elected in the 103 elections of the entire Kolkata Police, and in their presence election of the Management Committee of 15 people was held under the supervision of DRCS, Coop Societies, Kolkata range. The chairman of the last time's Management Committee, Shri Shantanu Sinha Biswas, has been re-elected as the chairman. 14 more people have been elected to various positions in the management committee under his leadership. Kolkata Police Convener Ruhul Amin Ali Shah has been appointed as Vice Chairman. Nani Gopal Das Panel Chairman (One) Sudeep Banerjee, Treasurer Nirupam Mukherjee (Labazar), Secretary Bapaditya Naskar, Joint Secretary Sheikh Shah Alam and Secretary (2) Smt. Leena Bhattacharya and many others have been nominated to the relevant committees.

Smt. Purnima Nayek and Sree Babul Akhtar

have been appointed as Directors. The current management committee of Kolkata Police Cooperative Bank is determined to take the bank to the peak of development. The bank will provide loan facilities up to a maximum of 15 lakh rupees along with customer service through core banking. Loan arrangements will also be made for the Home Guards and Civic Volunteers under Kolkata Police. It is also known that the bank will provide dividends to members and NEFT/RTGS facilities to transfer customer deposits. In the case of death, the family will be given Rs 20,000 by the bank. In the event of death, the loan will be waived. This bank has taken one of the places among the urban scheduled coop banks managed by the Reserve Bank of India. It has a business of more than Rs 600 crore and a membership of about 30,000. The authorities said that it offers more interest than SBI, PNB, BOB. It offers 8% interest for general and 8.75% for senior citizens. It has been opened for the service chief among the general public.

The management committee is introducing ATM cards and internet banking for the bank's customers.

Kolkata's Photojournalists showcase 'Fearless Photography'

MI News Service, Kolkata: Despite numerous challenges, Kolkata's photojournalists have consistently captured the dynamic moments of society and politics through their cameras. This year, the 'Kolkata Photojournalists Association' has created an intriguing fusion for their Saraswati Puja theme exhibition. Located at 6 Esplanade East, the display blends the reverence for Goddess Saraswati with a striking narrative centered on SidokanhuDhor. The exhibition was inaugurated on Saturday by State Minister Aroop Biswas, along with other distinguished guests.

This year's theme, "Chitra Jetha Bhoj Shunya" (Fearless Photography), has a profound connection to the pandemic. Senior photographers from the association reflected on the lockdown's early days, when they were faced with offices closing and finding alternative workspaces in places like street corners and car porches. "We're just common people, using our cameras to make a living. But this profession involves risks, which we continue to face every day," shared one of the photographers.

The exhibition runs from February 1st to 4th, showcasing over 240 images, most of which have been published in the print media. The collection spans various categories, from news photography and sports to features and entertainment. Many of the participating photographers have contributed two

images each for display. What makes this exhibition especially exciting is the opportunity for the public to meet the photographers whose work has touched their hearts throughout the year. For the first time, these photographers are facing the audience instead of just being behind the lens. The images on display are deeply moving, drawing crowds from all parts of the city. This event marks the second year of this initiative, and the organizers are optimistic about expanding it in the future. Last year, the exhibition was a huge success, with prominent figures like Minister Aroop Biswas, former MP and journalist Kunal Ghosh, and left leader Robin Deb attending the event. They all lauded the effort of the photographers and praised the 'Fearless Photography' initiative. The organizers are enthusiastic about expanding the exhibition to an even broader audience in the coming years, eager to showcase the power of photojournalism.

In addition to the theme of the Goddess's devotion, the exhibition also features the theme "Fearless Photography," which has been well-received by visitors. The photographers are excited to see the public's reactions to their work, with many expressing how this exposure has deepened their sense of responsibility toward their craft. This exhibition, celebrating the intersection of culture and photojournalism, promises to grow in significance and scale.

Colorful event of Kankurgachi Young Association



Nurul Islam Khan

A program was organized by Kankurgachi Young Association to worship Goddess Bagdevi on its 40th annual day. The event was graced by MMIC of Kolkata Municipality, Municipal Representative of Ward No. 56 Swapan Samaddar, Shri Shri Shivanandaji Maharaj, Honorable Minister, Mayor of Kolkata Municipal Corporation Firhad Hakim, councillor Ward No. 30 Smt. Papiya Ghosh Biswas and councillor of Ward No. 24 Smt. Elora Saha and many others were present. The invited guests were felicitated with a bouquet of flowers and gifts. On this day, prizes were given to the students who passed in the first and second division of the Secondary and Higher Secondary examinations. In addition, wheelchairs were distributed among the disabled. The formal inauguration was completed by cutting the ribbon and lighting the lamp at the Puja Mandap of goddess Saraswati. This event became a memorable moment of worship of goddess Bagdevi.

Court orders 20 year jail to 9 in a narcotic (heroin) case of Rs.150 cr.

Dipankar Edbar, Krishnanagar: Somnath Chakraborty, the Judge, Spl. Court, NDPS Act, Krishnanagar in Nadia pronounced the punishment of 20 years jail to 9 persons in a narcotic case on Friday, Subedi Sanyal, the Spl. P. P., STF, W B. said. The miscreants were arrested from Nakashipara Bamundanga on NH 12 in Nadia on May 15, 2022. According to S. Sanyal, a container stopped on NH 12 on May 12, 2022. After some time more 3 vehicles appeared the spot. They started to unload some bags and barrels from vehicles. There was the advance information to the STF, WB, and the concerned officials were observing the vehicles. Once the STF team caught the person during the unloading and searched the bags and barrels. They found 49.1 kg. heroin and 387.8 kg. of chemical that is used in making heroin. Sources stated that they had the plan to distribute the goods to a few places. However, STF arrested all 9. There were 2 persons from UP. They were the driver and assistant. The rest were the residents of Kotwali PS and surrounding areas in Nadia. The trial started. But the arrested persons were got bail never and the punishment was pronounced on Friday. All were given the highest punishment of NDPS, i.e., 20 years jail. According to Subedi Sanyal, the narcotic goods those were recovered were worth Rs. 150 crore. He claimed that this is the highest case of so big recovered and so big punishment in West Bengal.

Families await the return of their loved ones after tragedy at Kumbh Mela

MI News Service, Kolkata: Families are anxiously waiting for the return of their loved ones, as five residents of the state tragically lost their lives while attending the Mahakumbh. Some victims had gone to bathe, while others got lost in the chaos of the rush at the Kumbh Mela. Several individuals are still missing, and their families have approached the administration for help in locating them.

One of the missing individuals is Geeta Mandal (60), from Gosaba in South 24 Parganas, who disappeared after taking a dip in the Kumbh Mela. She had traveled to Prayagraj with her son, Gaurang Mandal, her son, shared, "While returning from the dip, due to a traffic jam, my mother and I got separated. I cannot find her, and the police at the station are not providing any help. Since then, I've been searching for her without any support." Another missing person is Dhiren Majumdar (75), from Chandgola in Uttar Dinajpur. His daughter, Pallabi Majumdar, recounted, "We took a bath at around 5 o'clock.

Trinamool worker shot dead on public at Naihati

MI News Service, Naihati: After Malda now again a trinamool worker was allegedly shot dead on a public road in Naihati. Trinamool worker Santosh Yadav was allegedly attacked in North 24 Parganas district. A Trinamool worker was shot in a water tank in Naihati, after being shot, he was taken to the hospital and the doctors declared him dead. However, Naihati chairman Ashok Chatterjee said that Santosh Yadav was an active Trinamool. For a long time, he had become the eyesore of Rajesh Sau, a close associate of former BJP MP Arjun Singh. He was protesting anti-social activities in the area. That is why he was being planned to be removed. He was protesting against the work. Trinamool MLA from Naihati Sanat Dey said, Santosh was an active worker of our party. He was attacked while returning home. Arjun Singh's pet goons Rajesh Sau, Chintu Singh and 8-10 others had a plan to kill Santosh for a long time, since Santosh is an active worker of our party. Then after everyone surrounded him, he ran away. Then they shot him right on the nose! With the intention of killing him. Because Arjun Singh had been trying this for a long time "The attempt has been going on for a long time. Today it was successful. One in the forehead and one in the nose, two bullets inside. And one in the neck and one exited by the ear. A total of 4 rounds were fired."

Barrackpur Police Commissioner transferred

MI News Service, Barrackpur: Alok Rajoria has been removed from his position as the Police Commissioner of Barrackpur and appointed as the DIG (Traffic). Ajay Kumar Thakur has been appointed as the new Police Commissioner of Barrackpur. While the administration has referred to this as a routine transfer, it is widely believed that this decision is in response to the growing concerns about law and order in Barrackpur. In recent months, there have been several murders within the Barrackpur Police Commissionerate area. On Friday, Santosh Yadav (32), a TMC worker, was shot dead by criminals. TMC leadership has accused BJP-affiliated goons of being behind the attack. The incident occurred near the Naihati water tank, where Santosh was shot and stabbed by the assailants. On the same day, Rajkumar Choudhury, a youth, was killed in Jagaddal. Additionally, on the day of the Naihati by-election, TMC leader Ashok Sahu was shot dead by criminals near the 4 No. bus stand in Bhatpara. Ashok Sahu, former president of the party's 12 No. Ward, was sitting at a tea shop when assailants fired multiple rounds at him.

Amit Mitra slams Union Budget as "Destructive" and "Anti-People"

MI News Service, Kolkata: In the Union Budget, while significant tax relief has been announced for the middle class, there have been several neglected sectors and cuts to important projects, which Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman outlined. The state's former finance minister and current economic advisor, Amit Mitra, heavily criticized these announcements, calling them "destructive" and part of a "anti-people conspiracy." He presented data and statistics to demonstrate how cuts to social welfare projects and food subsidies go against public interest.

Mitra raised concerns over the lack of a clear direction for controlling inflation in the Budget. He also pointed out the issue of health insurance GST, questioning why the government did not reduce it despite repeated demands from economic experts and his own repeated proposals as the Chairman of the GST Council. Many had hoped that the Budget would provide some relief in this area, but Sitharaman's speech failed to address it. The economic advisor also questioned why the Budget did not tackle inflation, particularly given the rising prices of essential goods. He stressed that reducing GST on health insurance was a much-needed move, but it was overlooked in the Budget.

In terms of women's welfare,



People watching the 2025-26 Union Budget presentation by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on a TV screen at a showroom in Kolkata on Saturday.

Sitharaman announced an expansion of the 'Poshan 2.0' program, which aims to provide nutrition support for women and children, with special emphasis on the Northeast region. Under this initiative, eight crore children, one crore pregnant and breastfeeding women, and 20 lakh adolescent girls will be covered. While the allocation for this program was increased, Mitra felt the provisions were insufficient. He also criticized the Budget for its lack of

substantial measures for women's empowerment, claiming that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's contributions were virtually nonexistent.

Overall, Amit Mitra described the Budget as "destructive" and part of a "deep conspiracy" against the people. His comments underline the deep dissatisfaction and concern over the Budget's approach to social welfare, inflation control, and its treatment of women's issues.

Claiming that there is nothing for the common people in this budget, he stated, "It (Union Budget) has cut everything. Social services were cut by 16 per cent. Housing cut by 4.38 per cent. Welfare and scheduled cast and scheduled tribes were cut by over 3 per cent. Social services and welfare, very important for the common people, were cut by 5 per cent. Now what is interesting is that even food subsidy had been cut by 1 per cent."

Sensex, Nifty turn volatile after presentation of Budget

From PG 1

Budget speech. This followed an earlier surge when the Finance Minister announced that there would be no income tax for individuals earning up to Rs 12 lakh. The news initially sent the markets rising, but the rally was short-lived as the markets turned flat soon after. The Budget estimate for the financial year 2025-2026 is around Rs 31.47 lakh crore, as announced by Sitharaman in Parliament.

The Nifty FMCG, Auto, Realty, and Consumer Durables indices saw positive movement, while other sectors struggled. Among sectoral indices, the Nifty Metal index recorded the biggest loss with a fall of 1.94 per cent. It was followed by Nifty Oil and Gas which dropped by 1.93 per cent, and Nifty PSU Bank and Nifty Mid-Small IT and Telecom, both of which de-



clined by 1.29 per cent. In other Budget-related updates, the new tax regime will revise the tax rate structure. For income between Rs 0 and Rs 4 lakh, there will be no tax. Income between Rs 4 lakh and Rs 8 lakh will be taxed at 5 per cent, while income between Rs 8 lakh and Rs 12 lakh will attract a 10 per cent tax. For income between Rs 12 lakh and Rs 16 lakh, the tax rate will be 15 per cent, and for income between Rs 16 lakh and Rs 20 lakh, the rate will be 20 per cent. Income between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 24 lakh will be taxed at 25 per cent, and any income above Rs 24 lakh will be taxed at 30 per cent.

Meanwhile, global markets were also impacted on Saturday as Wall Street indices fell after US President Donald Trump announced tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and China, set to take effect from February 1.

Leaders hail and criticize as FM makes slew of announcements for Bihar on election year

From PG 1

Board in Bihar, saying it will unlock new opportunities for the farmers and entrepreneurs. Stating that it will turn out to be a gamechanger for the region's agricultural economy, Jha said in a post on X, "The initiative will enhance production, processing, value addition, and marketing, driving economic growth in Mithila and Bihar."

However, on the contrary several opposition leaders including Manish Tiwari of the Congress and Abhishek Banerjee, the Trinamool Congress MP from Diamond Harbour have strongly criticised the Finance minister's slew of measures for only Bihar and no other state in her Budget speech. "It seems that apart from Bihar, there is no other state that needs new projects or additional funds for their development", said the Congress MP and described the Budget as completely one sided and biased. Similarly, Abhishek Banerjee also said that though they (TMC) do not oppose the new schemes for Bihar, but it was very unfortunate that the Finance minister did not think of any other state while allocating more funds for their development too. "We never had anything substantial allocation of funds from this government for West Bengal for the past many years, he said and ridiculed the Finance minister's mentioning the name of Bihar multiple times in her speech leaving all other states in dark.

PM Modi calls Union Budget 2025 "force multiplier" for India's all round growth

From PG 1

preserving India's heritage. "Today the country is moving ahead with the mantra of 'development as well as heritage'. Very important and concrete steps have been taken for this in this budget. In this budget, 'Gyan Bharat Mission' has been started for the preservation of one crore manuscripts," he added. PM Modi highlighted the granting of infrastructure status to shipbuilding, which he said would promote domestic production, support self-reliance, create jobs, and unlock the potential for tourism growth. "The designation of infrastructure status will promote the construction of large ships in the country. Additionally, it will accelerate Atma Nirbhar initiatives. Shipbuilding is a sector that provides significant employment opportunities. Furthermore, the country has vast potential for tourism development," he noted.

Additionally, he announced a new scheme providing loans up to Rs 2 crore without guarantees for SC, ST, and women entrepreneurs. "A scheme of providing loans up to Rs 2 crore without guarantee has also been introduced for SC, ST, and women of

the country who want to become new entrepreneurs," he said. PM Modi underlining the inclusion of Gig Workers in the budget explained, "In this budget, a big announcement has been made for Gig Workers, keeping in mind the New Age Economy. For the first time, Gig Workers will be registered on the e-Shram portal and then they will get the benefit of health services." The Prime Minister also hailed the announcement of tax relief for middle-class citizens. "In this budget, income up to Rs 12 lakh per annum has been made tax-free. For all income groups, taxes have been reduced. It will hugely benefit our middle class. Similarly, it will be an opportunity for the people who have recently joined the workforce," PM Modi added.

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has also congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for the "comprehensive" and "visionary" Budget. Highlighting the Union government's decision to exempt income tax up to Rs 12 lakh, Shah said that the middle class is always in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's heart.

No Income tax for individuals earning up to Rs 12 lakh annually, announces FM

From PG 1

been rationalised in personal income tax, increasing the purchasing power of the consumers. Demand will get a boost specially in consumer discretionary items like FMCG and auto. Government has not been able to spend in capital expenditure of 11 lakh crores this year, probably because of lack of credible projects and the increase in the outlay for next year to only 11.21 lakh crores is slightly disappointing. The private sector is unlikely to undertake large capex due to uncertainty over tariff wars and fears of dumping form China. It is a bold budget, as it takes a chance of putting the Indian consumer at centre stage. The demographic dividend in Indian democracy should create demand, which is a step in the right direction. Now it depends upon the resilience of the Indian mid-

dle class and the spirit of the private sector which will dictate the pace of Indian economic growth. Jay Ho!" he said. Kumar-manglam Vijay, Partner, JSA Advocates and Solicitors in hids post budget reactions said "The income tax reforms introduced in the budget are among the biggest in the last decade — simplified and rationalized to put more money in people's hands without compromising the fiscal deficit. The most important change has been the revision of the tax slabs keeping in line with inflation. This has been a long-standing request of the tax payers for the last so many years. In the updated tax reforms, with slabs adjusted for inflation, the 30 per cent tax rate is now applicable above ₹24 lakh, up from the initial ₹15 lakh. This change in the 30 per cent slab marks a 60 per cent adjustment.

What all will get cheaper and costlier after presentation of Budget

From PG 1

less looms to the list of fully exempted textile machinery. She also proposed to revise the BCD rate on knitted fabrics covered by nine tariff lines from "10 per cent or 20 per cent" to "20 per cent or Rs 115 per kg, whichever is higher". In line with 'Make in India' policy, and to rectify the inverted duty structure, she proposed to increase the BCD on Interactive Flat Panel Display (IFPD) from 10 per cent to 20 per cent and reduce the BCD to 5 per cent on Open Cell and other components. "To further boost the manufacture of such Open Cells, the BCD on these parts will now stand exempted." To the list of exempted capital goods, she proposed to add 35 additional capital goods for EV battery manufacturing, and 28 additional capital goods for mobile phone battery manufacturing. Considering that shipbuilding has a long gestation period, she proposed to continue the exemption of BCD on raw materials, components, consumables or parts for the manufacture of ships for another ten years. To prevent classification disputes, the government has proposed to reduce the BCD from 20 per cent to 10 per cent on Carrier Grade ethernet switches to make it at par with Non-Carrier Grade ethernet switches. To facilitate exports of handicrafts, the government proposed to extend the time period for export from six months to one year, further extendable by another three months, if required. To enhance India's competitiveness in the global seafood market, the government proposed to reduce BCD from 30 per cent to 5 per cent on Frozen Fish Paste (Surimi) for manufacture and export of its analogue products. She also proposed to reduce BCD from 15 per cent to 5 per cent on fish hydrolysate for manufacture of fish and shrimp feeds. In July 2024 Budget, to promote development of domestic maintenance, repair and overhaul for aircraft and ships, the government extended the time limit for export of foreign origin goods that were imported for repairs, from 6 months to one year and further extendable by one year.

Firhad Hakim urges civic workers to uphold integrity in recent meeting



MI News Service, Kolkata: During a Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) meeting, the city's mayor and state municipal affairs minister, Firhad Hakim, took on the role of a mentor, addressing municipal workers with a fatherly tone. Amid continuous criticism of the civic body, especially concerning the issue of several buildings leaning precariously, Hakim took the opportunity to stress the importance of honesty and integrity in their work.

He urged the employees to avoid getting involved in corruption, stating, "I've grown old... How much longer will I be here? You are the future." Hakim also emphasized the pride that comes with earning a living through honest means, saying, "If you earn honestly, one day you will live with your head held high."

Hakim also announced a new initiative to curb illegal construction in the city. "A gang is being formed to stop illegal buildings. We have already discussed this with the police," he said, addressing workers in the building department. He reminded them that their jobs were important and should not be seen as thankless tasks. "I may be old, but you will work here for sixty more years," he said. "If someone asks where your children work, they will proudly say, 'My father works at the corporation.' You have the responsibility to maintain the reputation of the municipality. I can no longer do that, but you can." The mayor also warned the workers about the consequences of unethical behavior. He stated that those involved in illegal building construction and corruption would face personal hardships as they aged, citing health issues and family problems as potential consequences. "When you do your work with respect, you will be able to stand tall, looking at yourself in the mirror with pride," Hakim added.

Industry Leaders applaud Union Budget 2025

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Union Budget 2025, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, has received widespread appreciation from business leaders across various industries. The budget emphasizes economic growth, infrastructure development, job creation, and innovation, reinforcing India's commitment to progress and self-reliance. Amit Saraogi, President of the Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI), termed it a "fine budget" benefiting the middle class while focusing on manufacturing, MSMEs, agriculture, investment, and exports—key sectors driving economic growth. He welcomed the increase in tax slab rates and rebates for individuals earning up to ₹12 lakh annually, calling it a significant relief for taxpayers. Dr. N.G. Khaitan, President of Bharat Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata, described it as "pro-people" and a "good budget." He highlighted tax exemptions, simplified compliance measures, and fiscal discipline with a 4.4% deficit. He emphasized the upcoming Income Tax Bill as a step towards easing business, resolving litigations, and improving revenue generation. Mamta Binani, President of MSME Development Forum WB, called the budget a "game-changer for MSMEs." She praised the ₹5 lakh customized credit card for micro enterprises, which will provide essential access to finance, driving growth and sustainability. The Calcutta Chamber of Commerce commended the budget's focus on agriculture, infrastructure, health, education, MSMEs, textiles, and startups. The Chamber also supported proposed

infrastructural growth and skill development to boost urbanization. Suvendra Kumar Behera, Chairman, CII Eastern Region, praised the government's focus on accelerating growth and boosting private sector investment. He welcomed the National Manufacturing Mission and new announcements for agriculture, aviation, and tourism, including new airports and Udaan 2.0. Harshvardhan Neotia, Chairman of Ambuja Neotia Group, highlighted the hospitality and tourism sector benefits, particularly incentives for hotels in 50 key destinations, relaxed e-visa regulations, and expanded Udaan Scheme benefits. Alok Garodia, MD of Jupiter International, praised the budget's focus on sustainable growth and clean technology manufacturing. The new clean tech mission under "Make in India" will strengthen India's solar manufacturing ecosystem and reduce import dependency. Pankaj Dhanuka, CEO of Fusion CX, hailed the ₹20,000 crore allocation for AI Centers of Excellence as a game-changer positioning India as a leader in transformative technology. Mahesh Agarwal, MD of Purti Realty, welcomed simplified tax benefits for self-occupied properties and the ₹1.5 lakh crore, 50-year interest-free loan for capital expenditure. Anil Agarwal, Chairman, Vedanta Limited, stated, "The budget has struck the right balance between middle-class relief and robust investment-driven growth." Warren Harris, CEO & MD, Tata Technologies, highlighted the ₹500 crore allocation for an AI Centre of Excellence in education, benefiting the technology and education sectors. Girish Kousgi, MD

& CEO, PNB Housing Finance, praised the increased tax exemption limit to ₹12 lakh, which will boost disposable income and increase housing demand. Bharat Puri, MD, Pidilite Industries Ltd, said, "This Budget fuels consumption by increasing purchasing power, driving long-term economic expansion." Lalit Beriwal, Director of Shyam Steel Industries Ltd, appreciated the focus on agriculture, MSMEs, investment, and exports, calling it inclusive and growth-oriented. For real estate, the ₹1 lakh crore Urban Challenge Fund is expected to transform cities into growth hubs. However, B.P. Singh Roy, COO, Keventer Realty, warned about rising construction costs and regulatory hurdles. Dr. Pratim Sengupta, Senior Nephrologist & CEO, Nephro Care India Ltd, praised the focus on medical tourism, life-saving drug exemptions, and healthcare expansion. Kanak Maitra, Director at AM Medical Centre, welcomed tax relief for critical treatments and cancer day care centres. Gautam Purakayasthya, Owner of Tamarind Restaurant, appreciated tax relief but hoped for infrastructure status and GST relaxation for hospitality. Ravi Tod, MD, BTL EPC Ltd, said, "This budget fuels business growth, creates jobs, and strengthens India's economic foundation." Ankit Aditya, Vice Chairman of Aditya Group, emphasized strategic financial planning to navigate cost pressures and enhance MSME incentives. Overall, the Union Budget 2025 has been welcomed by industry leaders, who see it as a balanced and growth-driven financial road map for India.

West Bengal Govt launches helpline amid Kumbh Mela chaos

MI News Service, Kolkata: The chaos at the Maha Kumbh Mela has put citizens from across the country, including West Bengal, in peril. Many people from Bengal traveled to Prayagraj for spiritual fulfillment, but some tragically lost their lives, while others narrowly escaped death. In light of this, the Mamata Banerjee-led government has extended a helping hand to those stranded, lost, or unwell, aiming to bring them back home safely. To assist the affected, the state government has launched a helpline. According to sources from Nabanna, the state administration is deeply concerned about the families of those who are unable to contact their loved ones. Many Bengal residents traveled to attend the

Kumbh, but now their families are anxious as they cannot reach them. The Bengal government is determined to help bring back the people in distress and has set up a helpline number. The newly launched number, managed by the state's Disaster Management Department, is 033-2214-3526. A toll-free number—1070—has also been provided to offer immediate assistance. The unprecedented crowd at the Kumbh this year, coinciding with the Triveni Sangam, led to a significant spike in the number of attendees, resulting in unfortunate incidents. Due to inadequate planning and security, a stampede occurred during the second royal bath on the night of Makar Sankranti, resulting in the tragic deaths of seven people from Bengal.

Fire breaks out in Dharmatala eatery, no casualties reported

MI News Service, Kolkata: A sudden fire broke out early in the morning at a food stall in Dharmatala, sending thick smoke into the air and causing panic in the area. Firefighters rushed to the scene, initially deploying two fire engines. As the flames spread further, three more engines were called in to control the situation. While the fire has been brought under control, residual smoke continues to linger in the vicinity. According to local sources, the fire erupted at a pub located at 4/1 Hog Street, near the Dharmatala crossing. The area, known for its dense commercial setup, also houses a popular biryani restaurant nearby. Given the congestion, the incident created a sense of alarm among shop owners and residents. Eyewitnesses reported that firefighters acted swiftly, preventing the fire from escalating

into a major disaster. The blaze was controlled before it could cause significant damage to adjacent establishments. The latest updates indicate that the fire is now under control, but the exact cause remains unclear. Fire department officials are investigating to determine how the incident occurred. The affected building, located near the New Market area, houses not only commercial outlets but also several offices and residential units. People living in the building panicked as the fire spread, fearing for their safety. Firefighters used hoses to spray water from the street, covering the surroundings in thick white smoke. Curious onlookers gathered on the road, observing the efforts to douse the flames. Since it was early morning, many shops in Dharmatala were still closed at the time of the incident.

NAME CHANGE I, Shaista Noor W/O Shah Nawaz Gani Residing At Premises No 419, G. T. Road, Pikhana, P.S.-Golabari, Dist: Howrah-711101, Do Hereby Solemnly Affirm And Declare By An Affidavit (No. 5183) Before The Ld. Judicial First Class Magistrate At Calcutta On 30th January 2025 That Shaista Noor And Shaista Gani Is The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE I, Soma Sarkar Biswas D/O Nirmal Biswas, W/O Sajal Sarkar, residing at Trailakya Manna Street, Monirampur, P.O & P.S.- Barrackpore, District North 24 Parganas, Kolkata-700120, do hereby solemnly affirm and declared that my name Soma Biswas in my all Educational documents and Same Sarkar Biswas is recorded in my Aadhar Card being No 7889 8326 2737 and Pan Card being No HYZPS2544 and some Documents my name Soma Sarkar. That I, Soma Sarkar Biswas, Soma Biswas and Soma Sarkar are the same and one identical person, Vide an affidavit (36AA562675) sworn before in the court of Learned Judicial Magistrate 1st class at Barrackpore, North 24 Parganas, date 23/12/2024

NAME CHANGE I, Sekh Najim (Old Name) son of Sekh Abdul Chatter, residing at Uttar Para, Kundapara, P.S.- Amdanga, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743145, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Najim (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 31/01/2025. Sk Najim (New Name) and Sekh Najim (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE I, Beauti Bhattacharya, Daughter of No 14369033L Rank Ex NK(TS) Name Hemanta Kumar Bhattacharya, resident of Vill-Dighaldanga, Po-Kimahar, Dist-Birbhum, W.B. Pin-731302 have changed my name & Date Of Birth from Beauti Bhattacharya, 09.08.1994 to Beauti Bhattacharya 09.03.1995 vide affidavit dated 20/01/2025 before the Executive Magistrate at Bolpur court Birbhum WB.

Change of Name I, ARVIND, S/o- Late Rampal Taprial, resident of Vill.+P.O.- Bhaderkali (Bandu), Teh.-Ghanari, Dist.-Una, Himachal Pradesh, PIN- 177204 have changed my name from ARVIND to ARVIND TAPRIAL for all purpose vide affidavit No.- S.M. 590 dated 30/01/2025 before the Notary Public at Kharagpur. Deponent

Change of Name I, RITY, wife of SANDEEP DHAMA, resident of PN- 90/4, SV Area, Air Force Station Kalaikunda, PS- Kharagpur (Local), Dist.- Paschim Medinipur, WB, 721303 have changed my name from RITY to KM. RITY PANWAR for all purpose vide affidavit No.- N/29 dated 31/01/2025 Before the Notary Public at Kharagpur. Deponent

NAME CHANGE I, am Md Marufulla (Old Name) S/O: Late Md Habib Ullah, Vill - Nirbaghna Saha Road P.O.- Kajibara, P.S.- Barasat, Dist- 24 Pgs.(N) Kol- 125 have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Maruf Ullah (New Name), which the Ld. Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class at Barasat Court Affidavit announced on 04/10/2024. Both Md Marufulla (old name) and Md Maruf Ullah (new name) are one and the same person.

NAME CHANGE I, TAMALIKA CHATTERJEE, Daughter of Shri Tanmay Chatterjee, years residing at House No. H-19, Indian Oil Nagar, Opp ESIC, Colony Site-2, Sector-55, Noida, Goutam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, Pin-201301, declare that my recorded name in school and college is TAMALIKA CHATTERJEE, but I myself popularly known as TAMALIKA CHATTERJI by virtue of this affidavit. I wholly renounce/relinquish and abandon the use of my former name/surname of TAMALIKA CHATTERJEE to TAMALIKA CHATTERJI and henceforth I shall be known as the TAMALIKA CHATTERJI. That the TAMALIKA CHATTERJEE and TAMALIKA CHATTERJI is the same and one identical person vide Affidavit dated 30.01.2025, before the Court of Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Kolkata.

NAME CHANGE I, Pradip Chakraborty (old name) son of Madan Mohan Chakraborty, residing at Vill-Petyakana, P.O.- Ghokunda, P.S.-Onda, Talangra, Bankura-II, Bankura, 722152, West Bengal, India, shall henceforth be known as Pradip Kumar Chakraborty (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 31/01/2025. Pradip Kumar Chakraborty (new name) and Pradip Chakraborty (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE I, Anantadev Patra & Ananta Deb Patra (Old Names) son of Bishnupada Patra, residing at Hatgacha Patrapara, Howrah Rural Uluberia, Pin- 711316, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Anantadeb Patra (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 31/01/2025. Anantadeb Patra (New Name) and Anantadev Patra & Ananta Deb Patra (Old Names) all are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE I, Papiya Sarkar (Old Name) wife of Pritwish Sarkar and daughter of Susanta Ghosh, residing at 78 Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, P.S.- Dum Dum, North 24 Pgs. Pin-700055, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Papiya Sarkar (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 31/01/2025. Papiya Sarkar (New Name) and Papiya Sarkar (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE I, Riyaj Mondal@Riyaz Mandal (Old Name), S/O Tahajel Mandal, Resident Of Vill-Harachandrapur, Po-Matikumra, Pin-741201, Dist-Nadia, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Riyaj Mandal (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 28/01/2025. Riyaj Mandal And Riyaz Mandal(Old Name) And Riyaj Mandal (New Name) Both Are The Same And One Identical Person

NAME CHANGE I, Tahajel Mandal (Old Name), S/O Ajjil Mandal, Resident Of Vill-Harachandrapur, Po-Matikumra, Pin-741201, Dist-Nadia, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Tahajel Mandal(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 28/01/2025. Tahajel Mandal (Old Name) And Tahajel Mandal (New Name) Both Are The Same And One Identical Person

NAME CHANGE I, Masjar Rahaman Malita (Old Name), S/O Late Ali Ahammed Malita @ Ali Ahmed Malita, Resident Of Vill-Ganganadapur, Po-Gazipur, Dist-24 Parganas (North), Pin-743251, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Mosiar Rahaman Malita(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 28/01/2025. Masjar Rahaman Malita (Old Name) And Mosiar Rahaman Malita (New Name) Both Are The Same And One Identical Person

NAME CHANGE I, Sukharanjan Parichha S/O Lt. Gopal Krishna Parichha, declare that my father said name Gopal Parichha (old name), residing at Vill & P.O.- Mohanpur, P.S.-Mohanpur, Pin- 721436, West Bengal, India, have changed my father name and he shall henceforth be known as Gopal Krishna Parichha (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on 28/01/2025. Gopal Krishna Parichha (new name) and Gopal Parichha (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE I, Sandip Agarwal (Old Name), S/O Late Inder Kumar Agarwal, Resident Of 16A, Gurusaday Road, Block-2, 1st Floor, Flat No.1C, Ballygunge, P.S.-Karaaya, Kolkata-700019, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sandip Kumar Agarwal(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 31/01/2025. Sandip Agarwal (Old Name) And Sandip Kumar Agarwal(New Name) Both Are The Same And Identical Person

NAME CHANGE I, Doshi Jitendra Maganlal @ Jitendra M Doshi (Old Name), S/O Late Maganlal Doshi Resident Of 46/1B, Chakraberia Road North, 1st Floor, Ps-Bhawanipore, Kolkata-700020, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Jitendra Maganlal Doshi(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 30/01/2025. Doshi Jitendra Maganlal And Jitendra M Doshi (Old Name) And Jitendra Maganlal Doshi (New Name) Both Are The Same And Identical Person

NAME CHANGE I, Shilpi Koley (Old Name), W/O Subhasis Koley, Resident Of D-35/4, Nayabad Avenue, Ps-Panchasayar, Kolkata-700094, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Shilpi Koley Saha (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 31/01/2025. Shilpi Koley (Old Name) And Shilpi Koley Saha (New Name) Both Are The Same And One Identical Person

NAME CHANGE I, Krishna Saha (Old Names) wife of Sanjay Saha, residing at Ambagan, Lottary Kail Bari, Nabapally, Barasat, Dist- North 24 Pgs, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Krishna Rani Saha (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 31/01/2025. Krishna Rani Saha (New Name) and Krishna Saha (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE I, Sanjoy Kumar Saha (Old Names) son of Rashmohan Saha, residing at Madhya Baluria Purbangsh Barasat, Dist- North 24 Pgs, Pin- 700126, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sanjay Saha (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 31/01/2025. Sanjay Saha (New Name) and Sanjoy Kumar Saha (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE I, Aarpan Saha (old name) S/o Soumen Saha, Resident of 20/3 BIPLABI BARIN GHOSH SARANI, ULTADANGA, KOLKATA, PIN- 700067, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Arpan Saha (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 31/01/2025. Arpan Saha (new name) and Aarpan Saha (old name) both are same and identical person.

Budget 2025: A Mixed Bag of Opportunities and Challenges Across Sectors

MI News Service, Kolkata: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget 2025 has sparked a blend of optimism and caution in various industries, as it brings forward several key initiatives aimed at boosting growth while also highlighting some challenges that need attention. For the real estate sector, the introduction of the ₹1 lakh crore Urban Challenge Fund is seen as a positive step towards transforming cities into growth hubs, potentially unlocking new opportunities for development. Additionally, the ₹1.5 lakh crore interest-free loan for infrastructure projects is expected to fuel urban expansion, benefitting both housing and commercial projects. However, Keventer Realty's COO, Mr. B.P. Singh Roy, noted, "While these measures aim to boost demand, rising construction costs and regulatory hurdles still pose concerns for developers."

Modern Ladies RPF barrack opened at Kolkata station

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a significant step towards enhancing the welfare and working conditions of female RPF personnel, a state-of-the-art 30-bed Ladies RPF Barrack was opened on Saturday (1.2.2025) at Kolkata Station. The facility was officially inaugurated by Smt. Seema Deoukar, President of the Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organization (ERWWO), in presence of Shri Milind Deoukar, General Manager/Eastern Railway. Shri Vikram Gupta, Principal Chief Engineer, Shri Paramshiv, IG-cum-Principal Chief Security Commissioner, Shri S. P. Singh, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer & Dr. Uday Shankar Jha, Principal Chief Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway were also present.



The project was spearheaded under the leadership of Shri Deepak Nigam, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Sealdah, whose vision and guidance played a crucial role in the successful completion of this initiative. Additionally, the dedicated efforts of key officials, including Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, Senior Divisional Security Commissioner (Sr. DSC), Sealdah; Shri Sachin Suman, Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination (Sr. DEN/Co.), Sealdah and Shri Abhay Kr. Singh, Senior Divisional Engineer-1 (Sr. DEN-1), Sealdah were instrumental in bringing this project to fruition. The barrack ensures ease of commuting for female RPF personnel, strategically located near Kolkata Station which is only International Terminal in Eastern Railway. The initiative aligns with Eastern Railway's commitment to promoting gender equality, employee welfare, and a safer work environment. The inauguration of the Ladies RPF Barrack marks a milestone in Eastern Railway's ongoing mission to enhance employee welfare and ensure a secure and comfortable work-life balance for women in the RPF. This initiative sets a benchmark for similar projects in the future, reinforcing the commitment of Eastern Railway to the well-being of its employees.

JSW MG Motor India unveils BESS

MI News Service, Bhubaneswar: JSW MG Motor India has launched the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) as part of its 'Project Revive' initiative. The system, made from repurposed MG ZS EV batteries, has a 4X longer lifespan and can reduce running costs by up to 60%. This is JSW MG Motor India's fourth pilot project for second-life battery applications. Epsilon Carbon and LICO Materials are also involved in the project.

Two trains to be cancelled for track maintenance work over South Eastern Railway

MI News Service, Kolkata: Due to track maintenance work in Chakradharpur division over South Eastern Railway, 13512/13511 Asansol - Tatanagar - Asansol Express (journey commencing on 02.02.2025) and 68055/68056 Asansol - Tatanagar - Asansol MEMU (journey commencing on 02.02.2025 and 05.02.2025) will remain cancelled.

Eastern Railway achieves record breaking scrap sales

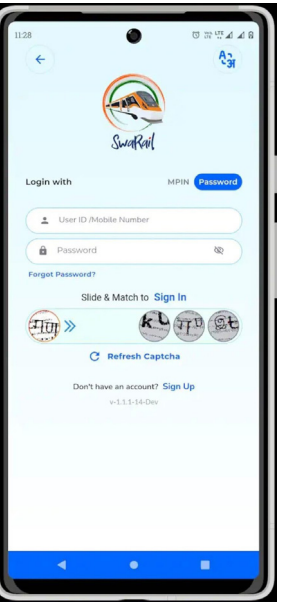
MI News Service, Kolkata: Eastern Railway has achieved a significant milestone in scrap sales, recording a total cumulative scrap sale of ₹ 444.43 crores till January 31, 2025. This marks a 37% increase compared to ₹ 323 crores in the same period of previous financial year (FY 2023-24). Notably, the scrap sale for January '2025 alone stood at ₹ 70.32 crores, the highest-ever monthly sales recorded. This achievement reflects the dedicated and concerted efforts of Eastern Railway's various workshops, store depots, other offices and establishments towards achieving the 'zero scrap' mission. This accomplishment underscores Eastern Railway's commitment to efficient asset utilization and revenue generation further strengthening its financial performance.

Regulation of circular railway trains for immersion of goddess Saraswati idols

MI News Service, Kolkata: As requested by the State administration, Eastern Railway's Sealdah Division has planned the following regulations in Circular Railway train services for immersion of idols of Goddess Saraswati from 16:00 hrs. to 05:00 hrs. on the following day on 03.02.2025 (Monday), 04.02.2025 (Tuesday) and 05.02.2025 (Wednesday): 03 (Three) nos. of Circular Railway EMU local (30312, 30314 and 30312) will be short terminated at Kolkata Station and 03 (Three) nos. of Circular Railway EMU local(30331, 30111 and 30313) will be short originated from Kolkata station. 01 (One) pair of Circular Railway EMU local (30154 and 30123) will be diverted and short terminated at/short originated from Sealdah (North) station. 01 (One) pair of Circular Railway EMU local (30711 and 30552) will be short terminated at/short originated from Ballygunge station. 01 (One) no. of Circular Railway EMU local (30112) will be diverted and short terminated at Ballygunge station and 1 (One) no. of Circular Railway EMU local (30317) will be short originated from Ballygunge and run via Ballygunge -Kankurgachi. 02 (Two) nos. of Circular Railway EMU local (30416 and 30451) will remain cancelled. 01 (One) no. of Circular Railway EMU local(30332) will be diverted via Kankurgachi Road Jn-Ballygunge route to Majerhat. 01 (One) no. of Circular Railway EMU local(30353) will run via diverted route from Majerhat and 1 (One) no. Circular Railway EMU Local (30135) will run via diverted route via Ballygunge. 01 (One) Sealdah - Baruipee Special will leave Sealdah at 19:10 hrs. and follow the path and link of 30451 from Ballygunge.

SuperApp of Indian Railways is slated to be released for public shortly

MI News Service, Kolkata: Centre For Railway Information Systems on behalf of Ministry of Railways is developing a SuperApp to provide a single platform for all public facing applications of Indian Railways. Initially the App will be offering services for Reserved ticket, Unreserved & Platform ticket, Train enquiries, PNR enquiry, Order food on board, RailMadad and Freight related enquiries. The App is designed to provide users with easy and seamless access wherein special emphasis has been placed on enhancing both the user interface and user experience.



App etc. 2. All-in-One App: - On date there are different Apps available for reserved and unreserved booking. Additionally, to check details of train movement/schedule separate App needs to be downloaded. All these services will now be accessible through a unified App. 3. Integrated Services: - The integration of services is being carried out to deliver comprehensive information from multiple sources in a cohesive and unified manner. For example, PNR enquiry will also be displaying associated train information. 4. Easy Onboarding/ Sign-Up: - Users are given facility to use their existing RailConnect or UTS App credential to get onboarded on SuperApp. The sign-up process has been simplified to enhance user experience and make the App easily accessible. 5. Ease of Login: - Multiple login options have been provided to enhance user experience. Once logged-in, App can be subsequently accessed either through mPIN or biometric.

The Indian Railways SuperApp will offer unique features such as: 1. Single-Sign-On: - Users will be able to access all services through single credentials. Moreover, the same credentials will be used across existing Apps of Indian Railways like IRCTC RailConnect, UTS Mobile

Director of Shyam Steel Industries Ltd. Lalit Beriwal Welcomes Union Budget 2025-26: A Visionary Step Towards Inclusive Growth and Economic Prosperity

MI News Service, Kolkata: Lalit Beriwal, a prominent figure in the steel and metals industry, commends the Union Budget 2025-26 presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. This budget, which rests on the pillars of agriculture, MSME, investment, and exports, promises to accelerate India's journey toward becoming a Viksit Bharat. The emphasis on inclusive growth, skill development, infrastructure expansion, and innovation is a testament to the government's commitment to economic development. We are particularly encouraged by

the provisions for MSMEs, rural development, and the substantial investments in urban rejuvenation, which will not only foster industries, this budget's focus on sustainability, technological advancement, and empowering the youth is bound to have a transformative impact on the economy, taking India a step closer to achieving its vision of a prosperous and inclusive future. Lalit Beriwal is a prominent figure in the Indian steel industry, serving as the Director of Shyam Steel Industries Ltd. Shyam Steel, established in 1953, is one of the leading manufacturers of TMT bars in India. The company has a strong presence in the infrastructure sector, supplying high-quality steel products to various segments such as Indian Railways, Defence, and major construction projects.



MSME Development Forum President Mamta Binani Lauds 2025-26 Union Budget as a Transformative Step for Indian MSMEs

MI News Service, Kolkata: CS (Dr.) Adv. Mamata Binani, President of MSME Development Forum WB said, "The recently announced Union Budget for 2025-26 by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is a game-changer for MSMEs. The enhanced credit guarantee, increased investment limits, and targeted support for women and young entrepreneurs will significantly drive growth and innovation, making Indian MSMEs more competitive on the global stage while creating much-needed employment opportunities. The introduction of customized credit cards with a 5 lakh limit for micro enterprises will provide essential access to finance, enabling



focus on women and youth entrepreneurs, will drive innovation, create jobs, and position India as a formidable global manufacturing hub. This holistic approach to strengthening MSMEs is a significant step towards inclusive and sustainable economic growth." Mamta Binani is a President of MSME Development Forum - West Bengal. Ms. Binani has served as a jury member of the ICSI National Award for Excellence in Corporate Governance and CSR, 2016, the Golden Peacock Award of The Institute of Directors for the year 2016, ASSOCHAM Award for Commendable CSR Activity for the year 2016. She is the Vice President of the Kolkata National Company Law Tribunal Bar Association, the Chairperson of the Merchant Chamber of Commerce-Legal Affairs Council, and also an executive committee member of INSOL India. She is a Board Member of International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC) and is presently the Co-Chair of the India Network. Ms. Binani is an Independent Director in some of the reputed Boards of the Country viz. Century Ply, Balrampur Chini Mills, Emami Limited, and others. Ms. Binani feels that the government is the engine and that as a member of that machinery, it is her responsibility to highlight the government's efforts by bringing them to the masses and classes.

East Coast Railway celebrates Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar-2024 with Recognition of Outstanding Railway Employees

MI News Service, Bhubaneswar: East Coast Railway (ECOR) marked the grand celebration of Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar-2024 today at the Railway Auditorium in Bhubaneswar, honoring the exceptional service and dedication of its employees. The event saw the felicitation of 49 Railway employees for their outstanding performance, as well as the distribution of several efficiency shields to different divisions and stations across the region.

Key Highlights of the Event: 49 Railway Employees Felicitated: In recognition of their continuous dedication and hard work, 49 Railway personnel received the prestigious Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar-2024. This special award, handed over by East Coast Railway General Manager, Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal, acknowledges their tireless efforts in meeting the organization's goals and targets.

Overall Efficiency Shield Awarded to Sambalpur Division: In a significant achievement, Sambalpur Division was honored with the Overall Efficiency Shield, recognizing its exemplary performance in maintaining high standards of operation and service. Best Clean Station Shields: Puri and Haridaspur stations, under Khurda Road Division, were recognized for their outstanding

Prog on diabetic management organised at Tapan Sinha Memorial Hospital



MI News Service, Kolkata: A Programme on Diabetic Management with Oral Semaglutide was organised at Tapan Sinha Memorial Hospital of Metro Railway today i.e. on 01.02.2025.

Dr. A. K. Prasad, ACMS/Metro Railway, with the help of Power Point Presentation, threw light on Diabetic management. An

EASTERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE

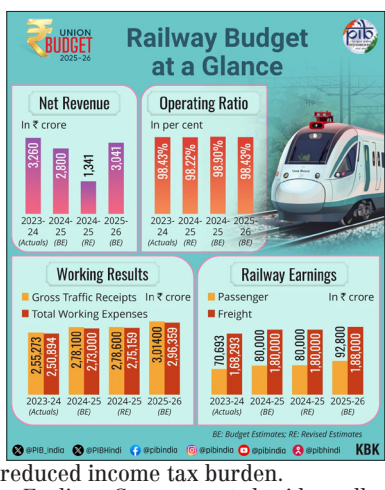
Admin Unit/Zone: Sealdah Division-Commercial Publicity, DRM Building, Kaiser Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700 014. Auctioning Authority: Sr. DCM/SDAH. Auto Extensions Zone: 120 Seconds. Auto Extension Duration: 120 Seconds. Initial Cooling Off Period: 30 minutes. Successful Lots Closing Interval: 10 minutes. Maximum Auto Extensions: 10 Times. Decision Mode: Auto, RP Displayed-No. Permit bid below RP-Yes.

(A) Auction Catalogue No.: PnU-SDAH-25-24. Auction Start (All lots): 08.02.2025 at 12:00 hrs. Auction Close Date/Time: 08.02.2025 at 13:00 hrs. Catalogue Published on: 24.01.2025 at 15:53 hrs. Category: Pay and Use - Toilets. Seq. No., Lot No., Description, Lot End Date & Time are as follows: AA/1, PnU-SDAH-JDP-Toi-17-23-1, Services by way of public convenience such as Provision of facilities of bathrooms, washrooms, lavatories, urinal or toilets at Jadavpur (JDP) Railway station of Sealdah Division, 08.02.2025 at 12.30 hrs. AA/2, PnU-SDAH-MPRD-Toi-73-23-1, Services by way of public convenience such as Provision of facilities of bathrooms, washrooms, lavatories, urinal or toilets at Mathurapur Road (MPRD) Railway station of Sealdah Division, 08.02.2025 at 12.40 hrs. AA/3, PnU-SDAH-FLU-Toi-140-25-1, Services by way of public convenience such as Provision of facilities of bathrooms, washrooms, lavatories, urinal or toilets on Platform No. 01 at Phulia (FLU) Railway station of Sealdah Division, 08.02.2025 at 12.50 hrs. AA/4, PnU-SDAH-MGM-Toi-54-24-1, Services by way of public convenience such as Provision of facilities of bathrooms, washrooms, lavatories, urinal or toilets at Muragachha (MGM) Railway station of Sealdah Division, 08.02.2025 at 13.00 hrs.

(B) Auction Catalogue No.: PnU-SDAH-26-24. Auction Start (All lots): 13.02.2025 at 12:00 hrs. Auction Close Date/Time: 13.02.2025 at 13:20 hrs. Catalogue Published on: 29.01.2025 at 12.20 hrs. Category: Pay and Use - Toilets. Seq. No., Lot No., Description, Lot End Date & Time are as follows: AA/1, PnU-SDAH-BRJ-99-24-1, Services by way of public convenience such as Provision of facilities of bathrooms, washrooms, lavatories, urinal or toilets at Madhyamgram (MMG) Railway station of Sealdah Division, 13.02.2025 at 13.10 hrs. AA/2, PnU-SDAH-CPA-Toi-143-25-1, Services by way of public convenience such as Provision of facilities of bathrooms, washrooms, lavatories, urinal or toilets on Platform No. 06 at Sealdah (SDAH) Railway station of Sealdah Division, 13.02.2025 at 12.50 hrs. AA/3, PnU-SDAH-SDAH-Toi-142-25-1, Services by way of public convenience such as Provision of facilities of bathrooms, washrooms, lavatories, urinal or toilets on South Unit at Sealdah (SDAH) Railway station of Sealdah Division, 13.02.2025 at 13.00 hrs. AA/4, PnU-SDAH-KPA-Toi-143-25-1, Services by way of public convenience such as Provision of facilities of bathrooms, washrooms, lavatories, urinal or toilets on Platform No. 01 at Kanchrapara (KPA) Railway station of Sealdah Division, 13.02.2025 at 13.10 hrs. AA/5, PnU-SDAH-CDH-Toi-123-24-1, Services by way of public convenience such as Provision of facilities of bathrooms, washrooms, lavatories, urinal or toilets on Platform No. 01 at Chakdah (CDH) Railway station of Sealdah Division, 13.02.2025 at 13.20 hrs. Rate Unit: Annual Licensing Fee [For each], Trips/Days: 1096 [For each]. Min. Incr. (%): 0.2 [For each]. Lot Status: New in Draft Catalogue [For each]. SDAH-344/2024-25 Tender Notices are also available at websites : www.w.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

"Amazing" Union Budget, says Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw; Thanks Prime Minister & Finance Minister for continued big allocation in a row to Railways with a focus on safety

MI News Service, New Delhi: Thanks to the big allocation in Union Budget, Indian Railways is all set to expand faster, safer & comfortable rail travel for all across the country. The country can expect 200 new Vande Bharat trains, 100 Amrit Bharat trains, 50 Namo Bharat rapid rail and 17,500 general non AC coaches in next two to three years time. Terming Union budget "amazing", the Union minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw thanked Prime Minister and Union Finance Minister for allocating the big amount of 2,52,000 crore rupees for the financial year (FY) 2025-26 as gross budgetary support to Ministry of Railways, second time in row. The new trains & modern coaches will go a long way in serving the low & middle class people, he added.



Earlier, Government besides allocating Indian Railways, same allocation of Rs. 2,52,000 crore as was done in last fiscal year also provided for Rs. 10,000 crore from extra budgetary resources to meet its expenses & modernize it, thus taking the Capital Expenditure, Capex to Rs. 2,62,000 crore. This means expenditure on assets, acquisition, construction and replacement will be met out of funds from not only Gross Budgetary Support (including Railway Safety Fund and Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh), but the General Revenues of Indian Railways. Provision of Rs. 200 crore out of Nirbhaya Fund is also there in

the budget. Railways will mobilize additional Rs. 3,000 crore rupees from its internal resources. Reimbursement of losses on operation of strategic lines has been kept at 2739.18 crore in Budget Estimate 2025-26 as against 2602.81 crore in last fiscal's Revised Estimates 2024-25. An amount of 706 crore is provided in this fiscal year towards debt servicing of market borrowings for National Projects. With this, the net revenue expenditure of Indian Railways is placed at Rs. 3,02,100 crore in this year's Budget Estimate as against 2,79,000 crore in revised estimate of last fiscal. This fiscal's gross budgetary support is almost 9 times of what it was only Rs. 28,174 cr. in 2013-14.

Four express trains to be cancelled

MI News Service, Kolkata: Due to operational reason, 22460 Anand Vihar - Madhupur Baba Baidyanath Dham Deoghar Humsafar Express (journey commencing on 03.02.2025) , 22459 Madhupur - Anand Vihar Baba Baidyanath Dham Deoghar Humsafar Express (journey commencing on 04.02.2025), 12316 Udaipur City - Kolkata Ananya Express (journey commencing on 03.02.2025), 14050 Delhi-Godda Express (journey commencing on 03.02.2025), 14049 Godda-Delhi Express (journey commencing on 05.02.2025), 12333 Howrah-Prayagraj Rambag Vibhuti Express (journey commencing on 02.02.2025, 03.02.2025 & 04.02.2025) and 12334 Prayagraj Rambag-Howrah Vibhuti Express (journey commencing on 03.02.2025, 04.02.2025, 05.02.2025) will remain cancelled.

Moreover, 12302 New Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani Express (journey commencing on 03.02.2025 & 04.02.2025), which was earlier decided to run on diverted route via Prayagraj Jn. - Prayagraj Rambag - Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn. , will run on its proper route.

Chidambaram slams govt over union budget, says Finance Minister walking on worn-out path, not willing to de-regulate

MI News Service, New Delhi: Congress on Saturday slammed the Union Budget 2025-26, stating that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is walking on a worn-out path and she and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have not followed the advice of Chief Economic Advisor on the need to deregulate and that the government's "stranglehold" on the activities of the people is getting tighter. Addressing a press conference, former Finance Minister P Chidambaram said the economy will

trudge along on the old path and deliver no more than the usual 6 or 6.5 per cent growth in 2025-26. "This is a far cry from the 8 per cent growth rate that the CEA estimated in order to become a developed country. In our view, this is a government with no new ideas and no will to reach beyond its grasp," he said. Recalling economic reforms carried out in 1991 and 2004, he said the Finance Minister is not keen to de-regulate. Chief Economic Advisor V Anant Nageswaran on Friday held a press conference on the Economic Survey which was presented in Parliament. Chidambaram said, "It is evident that neither the FM nor the PM care for the advice of the Chief Economic Advisor". "He gave sensible advice in the Economic Survey. 'Get out of the way' was his call to the government. On the contrary, the Budget is full of new schemes and programmes, many of which are beyond the capacity of this government.

Railways estimates for RE 2024-25 and BE 2025-26

MI News Service, New Delhi: Freight loading projected at 1635 MT vis-à-vis 1588.06 MT achieved in 2023-24. Freight Net Tonne Kilometres (NTKMs) increased to 938 billion in RE 2024-25 from BE 2024-25 level of 930 billion.

Originating passenger target in RE is kept at 7269.78 million against 6805.45 million achieved in 2023-24. Originating passengers in RE 2024-25 is 6.8% higher over 2023-24. Passenger Kilometres in RE 2024-25 are projected at 1204 billion against 1065 billion in 2023-24. Passenger revenue target kept at Rs 80,000 cr. with a growth of 13.2%.

Goods revenue target is maintained at Rs 1,80,000 cr. which is 7% higher over 2023-24. Other Coaching target is retained Rs 7,500 cr. whereas Sundry revenue target increased to Rs 11,000 cr. from Rs 10,500 cr. kept in BE 2024-25.

Gross Traffic Receipts increased by Rs 500 cr. from BE 2024-25 to Rs 2,78,600 cr. and higher over 2023-24 by Rs 23,327.36 cr. Miscellaneous receipts are retained at Rs 400 cr.

Total receipts of IR in RE 2024-25 is 2,79,000 cr. (growth of 8.9% over 2023-24). Ordinary Working Expenses (OWE) provision in RE is increased by 3,000 cr. over BE 2,08,000 cr. This reflects an increase of 8.8% over 2023-24 on account of higher expenditure under safety related maintenance heads.

Gross Traffic Receipts increased by Rs 500 cr. from BE 2024-25 to Rs 2,78,600 cr. and higher over 2023-24 by Rs 23,327.36 cr. Miscellaneous receipts are retained at Rs 400 cr.

Projected NTKMs in BE 2025-26 is 967 billion against 938 billion in RE 2024-25. Originating passengers kept at 7574 million compared to 7270 million in RE 2024-25. PKM is projected to grow to 1311 billion from 1204 billion in RE 2024-25. Passenger revenue target kept at Rs 80,000 cr. with a growth of 13.2%.

GST collections in January soar 12.3 pc to Rs 1.96 lakh crore

MI News Service, New Delhi: Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections in January, in gross terms, stood at Rs 1.96 lakh crore, with a yearly jump of 12.3 per cent, according to data from the finance ministry released Saturday.

In January 2024, the total collection was to the tune of Rs 1.74 lakh crore. CGST, SGST, IGST, and cess all showed an increase on year-on-year basis in December 2024, official data made available showed today. So far in 2024-25 (April-January), the total GST collection has been 9.4 per cent higher at Rs 18.29 lakh crore, as against Rs 16.71 lakh crore mopped up in the corresponding period of 2023-24. In April 2024, the total GST mop-up surged to a record high of Rs 2.10 lakh crore. During the financial

year 2023-24, the total gross GST collection was recorded at Rs 20.18 lakh crore, with an 11.7 per cent increase compared to the previous fiscal year. The recent GST collections reflects a positive trajectory for India's economy, underscoring robust domestic consumption and buoyant import activity. The figures bode well for the country's fiscal health and economic recovery efforts, signalling resilience amidst global uncertainties. The Goods and Services Tax was introduced in the country with effect from July 1, 2017, and states were assured compensation for loss of any revenue arising on account of the implementation of GST as per the provisions of the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 for five years.

Hair oil, toothpaste, soap; detergents and washing powder; butter; rice; curd, lassi, buttermilk; wristwatches; TV up to 32 inches; refrigerators; washing machines, mobile phones, are among key items on which GST rates have been slashed substantially, or for some kept at zero, benefiting people of this country. From time to time, the list is being revised with the approval of the Council. The GST Council, a federal body comprising the Union Finance Minister as its Chairman and Finance Ministers of all States as members, has played its part in the forum. The latest meeting of the GST Council was held on December 21 at Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Electronic interlocking & auto signalling at Kankurgachi and Ballygunge is in progress



MI News Service, Kolkata: The all important commissioning of the new Electronic Interlocking (EI) system is going on in full swing as per planning. Deactivating the age old Route Relay Interlocking (RRI) System at Ballygunge Jn was initiated at 00:20 hrs by officially declaring Non - interlocking. Both the old RRI systems at Kankurgachi and Ballygunge are about 30 years old and hence prone to failure. Installation and testing of new signals, point machines and track devices are being carried out as planned and expected to be completed well before 04:00 hrs on 03.02.2025. Commissioning of both the Electronic Interlocking systems will be beneficial in augmenting safety, security, average speed of the section and above all operational flexibility of Sealdah South Section which ply about 330 EMUs everyday to cater to lakhs of commuters.

330 disciplined, dedicated and trained Railway employees are working relentlessly on 24x7 basis to accomplish commissioning of the sophisticated cutting edge technology EI well within the scheduled deadline. Shri Deepak Nigam, DRM/Sealdah, visited Ballygunge Jn. today to take stock of the progress of the work. He has expressed his satisfaction over the pace of the complex infrastructure development project.

Notice Inviting e-Tender for work by the Pradhan SVGP, from reliable and bonafied Tenderer for work vide NIT No: NIT/35/2024-25/SVGP (2nd Call) (01 No. Scheme) and NIT/36/2024-25/SVGP (2nd Call) (07 Nos. Scheme). Tender fees & EMD deposit through E-procurement system from 01/02/2025 at 08:00 AM to 08/02/2025 up to 05:00 PM under 15th FC Fund. For details visit https://wbenders.gov.in.

Notice Inviting e-Tender for the Pradhan SVGP, from reliable and bonafied Tenderer for work vide NIT No: NIT/35/2024-25/SVGP (2nd Call) (01 No. Scheme) and NIT/36/2024-25/SVGP (2nd Call) (07 Nos. Scheme). Tender fees & EMD deposit through E-procurement system from 01/02/2025 at 08:00 AM to 08/02/2025 up to 05:00 PM under 15th FC Fund. For details visit https://wbenders.gov.in.

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Study finds breakthrough tool for detecting problems during protein synthesis

Tokyo [Japan] : Protein synthesis in eukaryotic cells--found in plants, animals, and fungi--involves more than just the straightforward ribosome assembly of amino acids.

During or shortly after their synthesis, over one-third of all human proteins need to be delivered to the endoplasmic reticulum (ER). These proteins' structure and function depend on the critical folding and changes that take place in the ER, such as the creation of disulphide (S-S) bonds.

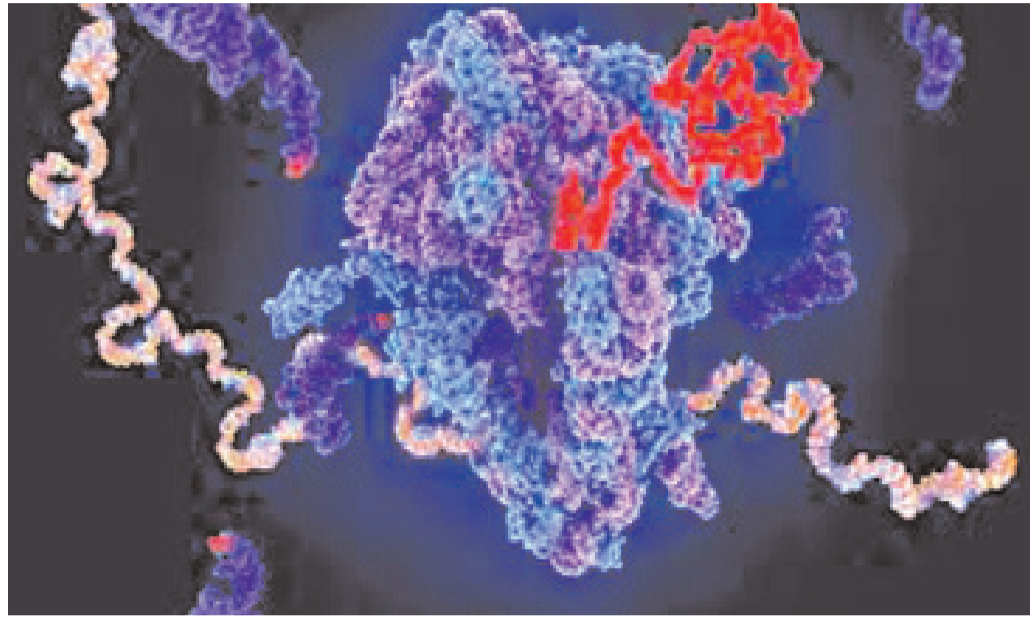
To overcome these challenges, a research team including specially appointed Associate Professor Hiroshi Kadokura and Professor Hideki Taguchi from the Institute of Science Tokyo, Japan, developed an innovative 'reporter' molecule that can detect ER-related problems during protein synthesis. Disruptions in protein translocation to the ER or disulfide bond formation underlie several diseases, and understanding the mechanisms that govern these processes is essential in biology

and medical science. Unfortunately, the tools available to study them are either quite limited in scope or require exceptionally expensive equipment and carefully repeated measurements.

While designing this reporter, the researchers took a page from a fusion protein called MalF-LacZ, derived from *Escherichia coli* bacteria. In these microorganisms, the MalF part of the protein helps with translocating LacZ from the cytoplasm to the cell envelope.

Once transported there, the LacZ enzyme undergoes oxidation through disulfide bond formation, thus deactivating it. Therefore, problems in either transportation or disulfide bond formation would result in an abnormally activated LacZ enzyme.

Inspired by these elegant natural mechanisms, the research team developed a reporter molecule based on firefly luciferase (FLuc) that operates in a similar manner. Luciferase is a bioluminescence producing enzyme of firefly that produces light when it



catalyzes the oxidation of D-luciferin in the presence of oxygen, adenosine triphosphate (ATP), and magnesium ions

(Mg²⁺). More specifically, they engineered a FLuc variant that is rendered inactive by disulfide bond formation in the ER, but

remains active in the cytosol or if disulfide bonds do not form. They 'targeted' this compound to the ER by introducing specific modi-

cations, and made it more prone to misfolding (and deactivating) within the ER by strategically replacing amino acids in the FLuc sequence with Cysteine.

Using this reporter, the researchers could easily detect problems in protein translocation to the ER, as well as problems in disulfide bond formation. A bioluminescence producing enzyme of a different type can serve as an internal control and ensures precise measurement.

Furthermore, the reporter protein is equipped with a motif that undergoes a modification (glycosylation) only when the protein is translocated into the ER. Thus, they could also determine which of the two possibilities were the underlying cause for the activation of the FLuc reporter.

To showcase the power of this method, the team ran experiments in cells where the redox environment of the ER was chemically altered, disrupting disulfide bond formation. Additionally, they showed that the proposed

reporter can detect defects in protein translocation induced by a potential anti-HIV drug, signaling the successful inhibition of the virus. "Given that luciferase-based assays are well-suited for high-throughput platforms, we suggest that this approach will facilitate large-scale screening of small molecules that specifically block the biosynthesis of harmful secretory pathway proteins," highlights Kadokura.

Notably, this novel reporter bears several advantages over other available methods, including its simplicity, robustness against environmental fluctuations, and high reproducibility. "Our reporter system will serve as a valuable tool across various fields related to secretory pathway proteins, extending beyond fundamental studies," says Taguchi, hopeful for the future.

With any luck, these efforts will lead to a better understanding of both life processes and diseases, paving the way to new medical advances and treatments.

Miracle Surgery: Reimplantation Restores Finger of 4-Year-Old Child



Finger reimplantation is a microsurgical marvel, a testament to the intricate skills of plastic surgeons. When a child, especially a young boy, suffers a finger amputation, the prospect of reattachment can offer hope for regaining function and preserving hand appearance. However, this delicate procedure presents unique challenges.

In a remarkable display of modern medical expertise, a 4-year-old child recently underwent successful finger reimplantation surgery at Peerless Hospital following a traumatic accident. The intricate procedure, carried out by Dr. Akhilesh Agarwal, plastic surgeon, has given the young patient a new lease on life and highlights the extraordinary possibilities of modern technology.

A 4-year-old kid suffered a severe injury while playing with a kitchen knife. The accident resulted in the amputation of his right index finger. Thanks to the quick actions of those his parents, the severed finger was immediately retrieved, cleaned, and preserved in a sterile, cool environment—a critical step that increased the chances of successful reattachment. Upon arrival at the hospital, the child was rushed into emergency surgery. The procedure, which lasted over several hours, involved meticulous repair of the finger's structures, including bones, tendons, blood vessels, and nerves. Using advanced microsurgical techniques, Dr. Agarwal reconnected arteries as small as 1 millimeter in diameter, restoring blood flow to the reattached digit.

Dr. Akhilesh Agarwal, the lead surgeon, described the operation as "a race against time." He explained, "In such cases, every minute counts. The quicker we can restore blood circulation, the higher the chances of

survival for the amputated. Time is of the essence in finger replantation. The severed finger must be preserved in a cool, moist environment, such as a plastic bag filled with ice water. Prompt medical attention is crucial to maximize the chances of successful reattachment.

The days following the surgery were critical. The medical team at PICU led by Dr. Saheli Dasgupta, monitored the child closely to ensure proper blood flow to the reimplanted finger and to prevent complications such as infection or clotting. Fortunately, the recovery has been smooth, with the young patient regaining partial sensation and movement in the finger within weeks of the surgery.

"The determinant for successful reimplant is proper transport of part. First the part has to be washed and dried. Place it in a plastic bag or container. Then put it on ice" added Dr. Agarwal of Peerless Hospital.

This groundbreaking success is a testament to advancements in medical technology and the dedication of healthcare professionals. Additionally, the coordinated efforts of critical care intensivist, surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, and physical therapists ensured the best possible outcome.

While the child faces months of physical therapy to fully regain function, the prognosis is optimistic. Children have a remarkable ability to heal and adapt, and Dr. Agarwal believes that the young patient will regain most of the finger's functionality over time. The time in which the parts can be reimplanted varies depending on level of amputation. Hand and fingers can be reimplanted upto 20-24 hrs. Similarly foot has the same time frame. The family expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the medical team, saying, "We are forever thankful for the doctors and nurses of Peerless Hospital who worked tirelessly to save our child's finger. Their compassion and skill have made all the difference." The successful reimplantation of a 4-year-old's finger is a beacon of hope and a reminder of the incredible capabilities of modern medicine. As the child embarks on the road to recovery, their story serves as an inspiration and a testament to the power of human resilience and innovation. Finger replantation is a complex and challenging procedure, but it offers a remarkable opportunity for children to regain hand function and appearance.

Research reveals artery calcification more common in night owls



Stockholm [Sweden] : According to a study from the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, artery calcification is nearly twice as common in night owls as it is in early birds. Circadian function appears to be crucial in the early stages of cardiovascular disease.

Atherosclerosis involves fatty deposits accumulating on the inside of the arteries, making it harder for blood to pass through. The disease develops over a very long period of time and is not noticed until it leads to blood clots causing angina, heart attack, or stroke. Previous research has shown that people with late-night habits have an increased risk of cardiovascular disease, but this is the first study to show how circadian rhythms specifically affect calcification of the arteries.

Coronary artery calcification The study, which has been published in the journal *Sleep Medicine*, involved 771 men and women aged between 50 and 64, all of whom are part of the larger population study SCAPIS. The degree of artery calcification in the heart's coronary arteries was examined using computer tomog-

raphy. Participants themselves indicated their so called chronotype on a five-point scale: extreme morning type, moderate morning type, intermediate type, moderate evening type, or extreme evening type. Of the 771 participants, 144 identified as extreme morning types, and 128 as extreme evening types. Among the group who were most alert in the morning, 22.2% had pronounced artery calcification - the lowest proportion of all five chronotypes. The extreme evening type group had the highest prevalence of severe coronary artery calcification, at 40.6%.

The first author of the study is Mio Kobayashi Frisk, a doctoral student at Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg;

"Our results indicate that extreme evening chronotype may be linked not only to poorer cardiovascular health in general, but also more specifically to calcification in the coronary arteries calcification and atherosclerosis," Mio Kobayashi Frisk says.

Preventive treatment The statistical analysis considered a range of other factors that

can affect the risk of atherosclerosis, including blood pressure, blood lipids, weight, physical activity, stress level, sleep, and smoking.

The last author of the study is Ding Zou, a researcher at Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg;

"As well as the previously known factors, the individual circadian rhythm also appears to be an important risk factor for atherosclerosis. We interpret our results as indicating that circadian rhythms are more significant early in the disease process. It should therefore particularly be considered in the preventive treatment of cardiovascular diseases", says Ding Zou.

Self-reported chronotype Those who had experienced a heart attack were excluded from the study, meaning that the study participants were healthier than the general population. Another weakness identified by the researchers is that participants themselves provided their chronotype.

Each chronotype can be said to have an average time when half of the night's sleep has passed. In a previous study on the same population, though not necessarily the same individuals, this time occurred at 02:55 AM for the extreme morning type group and at 04:25 AM for the extreme evening type group. With the remaining chronotype groups' mid-sleep times were somewhere in-between these extremes.

SCAPIS stands for Swedish CardioPulmonary bioImage Study. It is a research project within the field of cardiac, vascular, and pulmonary disease. As part of the project, 30,000 randomly selected Swedes aged 50-64 have undergone extensive health examinations: blood sampling, functional tests, and radiological advanced imaging of organs and blood vessels.

Discovery of brain cells raises hopes for fertility treatments



Washington DC [US] : Researchers from Nagoya University's Graduate School of Bioagricultural Sciences and Japan's National Institute of Physiological Sciences have demonstrated how a specific type of neuron in the brain influences the release of hormones that control ovarian function in females, such as follicular development and ovulation. These discoveries, published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, could help researchers better understand and treat reproductive diseases in both animals and humans.

Kisspeptin neurons in the brain regulate the release of hypothalamic gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) and pituitary follicle-stimulating hormone/antagonizing hormone (LH). This process is important for reproduction, as pituitary hormones stimulate the ovaries to perform their reproductive functions. Examples include follicular development and ovulation in all mammals, including humans.

There are two main areas of the brain involved in the process: the arcuate nucleus (ARC), in which kisspeptin neurons maintain the regular rhythmic (pulsatile) secretion of GnRH/LH that maintains normal follicular development and sex steroid production; and the anteroventral periventricular nucleus (AVPV), in which kisspeptin neurons trigger a surge of GnRH/LH that leads to ovulation.

The researchers focused on the fact that kisspeptin neurons in the ARC produce and respond to dynorphin, an inhibitory substance. "Kisspeptin neurons in the ARC express both dynorphin and its receptor, whereas those in the AVPV express the receptor only, suggesting a particular role of such kisspeptin neurons in fertilization," Mayuko Nagae, a postdoctoral fellow, and Yoshihisa Uenoyama, an associate professor at Nagoya University in Japan and corresponding author of the paper, explained in a joint statement. "However, the exact role of dynorphin and its receptor in the regulation of kisspeptin neurons was not clearly understood."

To investigate this, the researchers genetically modified female rats to delete *Kiss1*, a gene that codes for kisspeptin, only in neurons that expressed the dynorphin receptor. They found that the genetically modified rats with deleted *Kiss1* in dynorphin receptor-expressing cells had only 3% of kisspeptin neurons in the ARC and 50% in the AVPV. The rats were still fertile, but they had a longer estrous cycle, lower ovarian weight, and fewer pups than normal rats.

The results indicate that kisspeptin neurons with dynorphin receptors are important for normal female rat reproduction, as they allow proper hormone secretion and ovulation. "This is the first report to show that kisspeptin neurons receiving direct input of dynorphin are needed to fully generate the GnRH/LH pulse and surge in female rats," says Professor Hiroko Tsukamura from Nagoya University, the principal investigator of the research group and another corresponding author of the paper.

Professor Tsukamura is excited about the prospect of more studies to understand the molecular mechanism that controls kisspeptin neuronal activity. She says, "Our findings can help our understanding of the central mechanism underlying reproduction and have applications in the treatment of ovarian disorders in livestock and infertility in humans."

Scientists unveil comprehensive cell map of mammalian brain

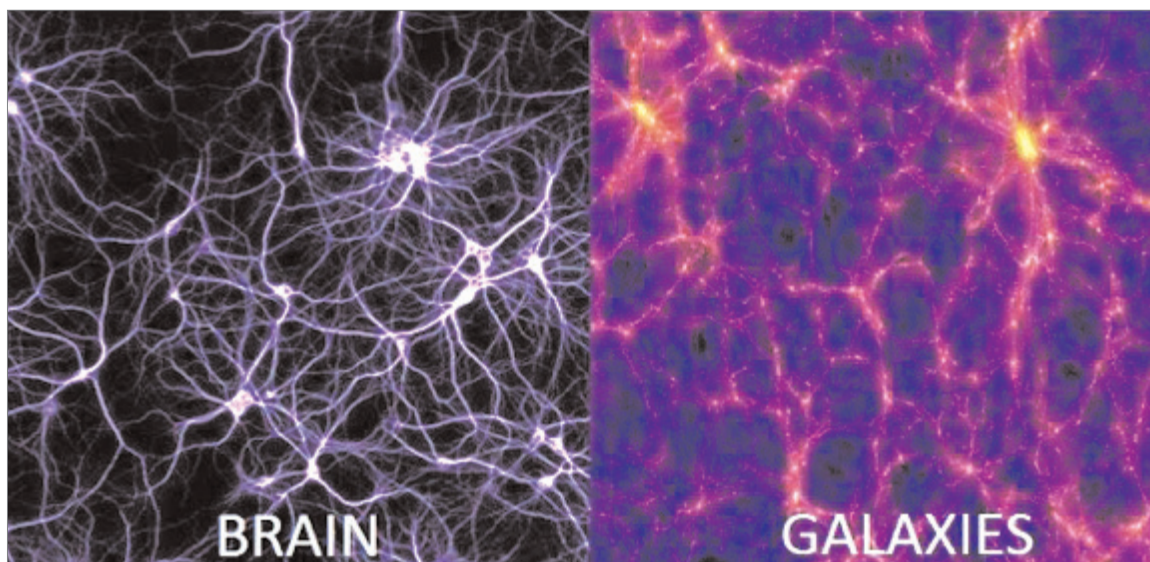
Washington DC [US] : An international team of researchers has constructed a full-cell atlas of an entire mammalian brain for the first time.

This atlas serves as a map of the mouse brain, describing the kind, location, and chemical information of over 32 million cells as well as information on cell connectivity.

The mouse is the most often used vertebrate experimental model in neuroscience research, and its cellular map paves the door for a better understanding of the human brain - probably the world's most powerful computer. The cell atlas also provides the groundwork for a new generation of precision treatments for those suffering from mental and neurological illnesses of the brain.

The findings were published in *Nature*.

"The mouse atlas has brought the intricate network of mammalian brain cells into unprecedented focus, giving researchers the details needed to understand human brain function and diseases," said Joshua A. Gordon, M.D., Ph.D., Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, part of the National Institutes of Health. The cell atlas describes the types of cells in each region of the mouse brain and their organization within those regions. In addition to this structural



information, the cell atlas provides an incredibly detailed catalog of the cell's transcriptome -- the complete set of gene readouts in a cell, which contains instructions for making proteins and other cellular products. The transcriptomic information included in the atlas is hierarchically organized, detailing cell classes, subclasses, and thousands of individual cell clusters within the brain. The atlas also char-

acterizes the cell epigenome -- chemical modifications to a cell's DNA and chromosomes that alter the way the cell's genetic information is expressed -- detailing thousands of epigenomic cell types and millions of candidate genetic regulation elements for different brain cell types. Together, the structural, transcriptomic, and epigenetic information included in this atlas provide an unprecedented map

of cellular organization and diversity across the mouse brain. The atlas also provides an accounting of the neurotransmitters and neuropeptides used by different cells and the relationship among cell types within the brain. This information can be used as a detailed blueprint for how chemical signals are initiated and transmitted in different parts of the brain. Those electrical sig-

nals are the basis for how brain circuits operate and how the brain functions overall. "This product is a testament to the power of this unprecedented, cross-cutting collaboration and paves our path for more precision brain treatments," said John Ngai, Ph.D., Director of the NIH BRAIN Initiative. "Of the 10 studies included in this collection, seven are funded through the NIH BRAIN Initiative Cell Census Network (BICCN), and two are funded through the larger NIH BRAIN Initiative. The core aim of the BICCN, a groundbreaking, cross-collaborative effort to understand the brain's cellular makeup, is to develop a comprehensive inventory of the cells in the brain -- where they are, how they develop, how they work together, and how they regulate their activity -- to better understand how brain disorders develop, progress, and are best treated. "By leveraging the unique nature of its multi-disciplinary and international collaboration, the BICCN was able to accomplish what no other team of scientists has been able to before," said Dr. Ngai.

"Now we are ready to take the next big step -- completing the cell maps of the and the nonhuman primate brain."

Chinese military activities intensify near Taiwan

MI News Service, Taipei: Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence stated that it detected one Chinese aircraft and six naval vessels around the island as of 6 am (UTC+8) on Saturday.

In a post on X, Taiwan MND said, "1 PLA aircraft and 6 PLAN vessels operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. #ROCARmedForces have monitored the situation and responded accordingly."

On Friday, Taiwan MND detected seven Chinese aircraft and five naval vessels in its territory around the island.

"7 PLA aircraft and 5 PLAN vessels operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 5 of the aircraft crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern and southwestern ADIZ. We have monitored the situation and responded accordingly," Taiwan MND said on X.

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

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

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

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

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

Another wave of terrorist crimes: Zelenskyy calls for stronger air defence support after latest Russian strikes

MI News Service, Kyiv: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Saturday condemned Russia's latest attacks on Ukrainian cities, calling it "another wave of terrorist crimes."

Sharing a post on X, Zelenskyy wrote, "Last night, Russia launched an attack on our cities using various types of weapons: missiles, attack drones, and aerial bombs. Another wave of terrorist crimes."

The Ukrainian President informed that in Poltava, a residential building was destroyed, while deadly strikes were also reported in Kharkiv, Sumy, Zaporizhzhia, Odesa, Khmelnytskyi, and Kyiv.

"In Poltava, a residential building was hit, a section of the building was completely destroyed. Ten people were wounded, including children. Tragically, three people were killed. My condolences to their families. All necessary emergency services are on-site, rescuing and providing necessary assistance. Damage has also been reported in Zaporizhzhia, as well as in the Odesa, Sumy, Kharkiv, Khmelnytskyi, and Kyiv regions. As of now, six people are confirmed wounded. In Kharkiv, one person was killed by a strike drone. In the Sumy region, this Russian attack claimed two more lives. My condolences to their families and loved ones," the post added.

Zelenskyy further reiterated the urgent need for stronger air defence support from international partners, emphasising that every system and interceptor missile could save lives.

Meeting in Furfura Sharif Darbar

Nurul Islam Khan

On Saturday, a prayer meeting was held in the Furfura Sharif Darbar in memory of Pir Ammajan, wife of Hezboallah founder Ala Hazrat Shah Sufi Baro Huzoor. On the same stage, a prayer meeting was also held for the repose of the soul of the eldest son of Baro Huzoor, the former Gaddishin Pir Hazrat Alhaj Maulana Abul Ansar Md. Abdul Qahhar Siddiqui (R.A.), the pioneer of world Muslim unity. Hazrat Pir Maulana Abdullah Siddiqui, Pirzada Maulana Mujahid Siddiqui and Pirzada Maulana Sawban Siddiqui delivered sermons in the meeting. Najmus Shahadat including the teachers of Khariji Madrasah were present on this



day. Numerous Madrasah students participated in the mahfil. The speakers highlighted the multifaceted social works of Sher-e-Furfura Pir Ansar Siddiqui Huzoor. His outstanding contribution towards the unity of Muslims was also talked about in the meeting.

Venezuela frees six American detainees, Trump calls it "good job"

MI News Service, Washington DC: Venezuela freed six American detainees on Friday following a visit by Richard Grenell, former special missions envoy under US President Donald Trump, to Caracas for talks with Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro, according to a report by The Washington Post.

Grenell's visit marked what is believed to be the first direct engagement between a US official and Maduro since 2022.

"We are home. God bless these Americans," Grenell said in a post on X on Saturday. In another post, he wrote, "We are wheels up and headed home with these 6 American citizens. They just spoke to @realDonaldTrump and they couldn't stop thanking him."

State-run Venezuelan media aired footage of Grenell and Maduro shaking hands inside the Miraflores presidential palace.

Earlier in the day, Trump announced that six American detainees were being brought home from Venezuela, and expressed gratitude to Richard Grenell and his staff for securing their release, calling it a "great job."

In a post on the social media platform Truth Social, Trump wrote, "Just been informed that we are bringing six hostages home from Venezuela. Thank you to Ric Grenell and my entire staff. Great job!"

Grenell, a former acting director of national intelligence, and Maduro, the authoritarian socialist who has ruled Venezuela since 2013, met to discuss the Americans detained in the South American country, as well as deportation flights, cooperation to confront the Tren de Aragua gang and energy, according to one person familiar with the plan, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive details, as reported by The Washington Post.

Maduro's government had been holding at least nine Americans, detaining them amid a crackdown on dissidents and foreign nationals after Venezuela's July presidential election.

He accused some detainees--without offering proof--of plotting violent acts in the country. The US officials and relatives of those arrested had spent months struggling to obtain information about their condition and whereabouts.

According to a report by CNN, like the European Union, the United Kingdom and Canada, the US also does not recognize Maduro as Venezuela's legitimate leader. It has placed a raft of sanctions or visa restrictions on Maduro-aligned officials. Washington has no diplomatic presence in Venezuela.

European Cargo has stated that they comply with the UK's Modern Slavery Act, which requires companies to prevent and report forced labour in their supply chains. Despite these claims, the rapid expansion of these direct flights has raised alarms over the transparency of the supply chains involved, with calls growing for further scrutiny from the UK government, Politico reported.

Yugur forced labour refers to the exploitation of the Uyghur ethnic group in East Turkistan province, where reports indicate they are subjected to forced, often hazardous labour conditions in factories, agriculture, and other industries. This practice is part of a broader pattern of human rights abuses against the Uyghur people.

Mariano Caucino, Ambassador of Argentina to India, also expressed his happiness at being able to participate in the ceremony. "I am very happy to take part in this important ceremony and follow the traditions," he said.

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Christian Villarreal, Bolivia Head of Mission in India, said, "... The Minister of External Affairs has the capacity to invite us once a year to the main celebrations of India. I had the privilege to be invited to Diwali 1.5 years ago, but nothing compares to this occasion. Not even my sons will be able to visit such an event which happens once in 144 years..."

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who at nine months old was the youngest hostage. A video of the terrified Shiri protectively wrapping her children in a blanket while being taken to Gaza became an iconic image of the war. The last sign of life from Yarden was in a Hamas propaganda video in November showing Yarden being told that his wife and children were killed in an Israeli airstrike - though Hamas never provided evidence of their deaths.

Kalderon, 53, was abducted from his home in Kibbutz Nir Oz along with his daughters, Sahar and Erez, 16 and 12 respectively. The daughters were freed during a temporary ceasefire in November 2023. Sahar said she met him in a tunnels and that his physical and mental condition was very poor. Ex-wife, Hadas kalderon was leading the campaign for Ofer's release.

Siegel, 65, originally from

North Carolina, was abducted with his wife, Aviva, from their home in Kibbutz Kfar Aza, where they have lived for 42 years. An occupational therapist, his last sign of life was in a Hamas propaganda video in April 2024. Aviva was released during the November 2023 ceasefire.

Saturday's handover to the Red Cross was executed swiftly during the morning hours, following mediators' stern reprimand to Hamas over Thursday's chaos. On Thursday, Israeli authorities briefly suspended the release of 110 Palestinian terrorists imprisoned in Israel after Hamas forced hostages Gadi Moses and Arbel Yehud to walk by foot through a mob of Palestinians in Khan Yunis to waiting Red Cross vehicles.

The terrorists were released after Qatari and Egyptian mediators provided assurances that the scenes would not be repeated.

Israel Prison Service Concludes Fourth Imprisoned Terrorist Release

MI News Service, Tel Aviv: Spokesperson of the Israel Prison Service: "The Israel Prison Service concludes the fourth imprisoned terrorist release in accordance with the agreement for the return of the hostages as part of operation "Wings of Freedom."

As part of Operation "Derech Eretz", 183 terrorists were transferred from several prisons across the country to the 'Ofer' and 'Ktziot' prisons, escorted by officers from the Israel Prison Service's 'Nahshon' Unit and with the assistance of the Israel Police.

After the conclusion of the necessary activities in the prisons and the approval of political authorities, all the terrorists were released from the 'Ofer' and 'Ktziot' prisons.

The prison officers of the Israel Prison Service are carrying out the release of the terrorists in accordance with the political directive, as agreed upon for the return of the hostages, and in full coordination with all security agencies".

Israeli President Herzog welcomes freed hostages

MI News Service, Tel Aviv: Israel President Isaac Herzog expressed relief following the return of three hostages--Yarden Bibas, Ofer Kalderon, and Keith Siegel--who were held captive in Gaza and welcomed them home.

Sharing a post on X, Herzog wrote, "Yarden Bibas, Ofer Kalderon and Keith Siegel are finally home. How we have worried, and awaited their return."

He added, "Yarden's reunion with his family is simply heartbreaking. We all remain deeply concerned for the fate of our beloved Shiri, Ariel and Kfir Bibas - as an entire nation we hold them in our hearts. The people of Israel stand by

Yarden and the whole family, with great concern and in heartfelt prayer."

He further said that Ofer's children, Erez and Sahar, were returned to their loving mother, the courageous Hadas, and the rest of their family during the first exchange. "Erez marked his Bar Mitzvah and read from the Torah just a few months ago - while his father was still held in Gaza," Herzog said.

He added, "Keith's heroic wife Aviva, was also returned in the first exchange to their four children and five grandchildren. Since then, we have seen Aviva speak out in countless meetings around the world, crying out and working un-

waveringly for Keith's return."

The Israeli President also reaffirmed Israel's commitment to securing the freedom of all remaining hostages, vowing that the country would not rest until every captive is brought back.

"Each one deserves the time to rehabilitate and rebuild their lives, and every one of the hostages deserves to come home soon. We will not rest nor be silent until we return all our sisters and brothers from the hell of captivity in Gaza - until the last one," Herzog said.

A day earlier, Israeli officials confirmed receiving the names of three hostages who were set to be released

Two killed, 10 injured in Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon

MI News Service, Beirut: Two people were killed and 10 others injured in Israeli airstrikes in eastern Lebanon, according to official and security sources.

The Public Health Emergency Operations Center of Lebanon's Ministry of Public Health confirmed in a statement that the Israeli airstrikes on Friday targeted Janta, a village in the Bekaa region, resulting in casualties, Xinhua news agency reported.

A Lebanese security source, who requires anonymity, told Xinhua that "Israeli warplanes carried out four airstrikes at dawn on Friday, targeting Janta and illegal crossings along the Lebanese-Syrian border in eastern Lebanon."

The source added that "Israeli jets fired eight air-to-ground missiles at the targeted areas, causing several casualties, destroying a truck, and inflicting significant damage on illegal crossings linking Lebanon and Syria."

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA) reported that "Israeli warplanes launched several air-



strikes at around 3:00 am Friday on the eastern mountain range in the Bekaa region."

It added that "the strikes also hit a truck carrying batteries and scrap metal in the Al-Wawiyat area, and the Jabb Al-Ward crossing near the outskirts of the town of Hanider in eastern Lebanon."

A senior official from the Lebanese Civil Defence told Xinhua that rescue teams transported "two bodies and several wounded individuals from the targeted sites to hospitals in the Bekaa region," noting that "one of the injured is in critical condition, and rescue operations are still ongoing."

Since November 27, 2024, a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Lebanon has been in place, halting clashes that erupted between the Israeli army and Hezbollah on October 8, 2023, amid the war in Gaza. The conflict escalated further in September 2024.

Despite the ceasefire, the Israeli military continues to carry out strikes in Lebanon, claiming they are aimed at neutralising Hezbollah threats.

The agreement set a 60-day deadline for Israeli forces to withdraw from southern Lebanon, but this deadline expired on January 26 without completion of the withdrawal.

by Hamas on Saturday -- Ofer Calderon, Keith Siegel, and Yarden Bibas, Times of Israel reported.

Keith Siegel, a 65-year-old US citizen originally from North Carolina, was abducted along with his wife, Aviva, from Kibbutz Kfar Aza. Aviva was released in November 2023.

Ofer Calderon, 54, was kidnapped from Kibbutz Nir Oz on October 7, along with his two children, Erez and Sahar. Both children were freed during the previous ceasefire.

Yarden Bibas, 35, was taken hostage separately from his wife, Shiri, and their children, Ariel and Kfir, who were also abducted from Kibbutz Nir Oz.

118-member diplomatic delegation from 77 countries arrives at Maha Kumbh Mela

MI News Service, Prayagraj: A 118-member delegation which includes Heads of Mission (HoM) and their spouses as well as diplomats from a total of 77 countries, arrived at Maha Kumbh Mela Kshetra on Saturday.

Speaking to ANI earlier today, Slovak Ambassador to India, Robert Maxian, congratulated the Indian government for organizing the event. "I am very excited. I want to congratulate your government for organising this great spiritual event... I am a fan of India. India is like my second home," he said.

Mariano Caucino, Ambassador of Argentina to India, also expressed his happiness at being able to participate in the ceremony. "I am very happy to take part in this important ceremony and follow the traditions," he said.

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BJP leader Sidharth Nath Singh said, "Ambassadors, High Commissioners have come to participate in the Maha Kumbh. We have to welcome them. Everyone is excited."

Stella Nkomo, Zimbabwe ambassador to India described this as a "once-in-a-lifetime experience," adding that "Diplomatic life is also about pursuing cultural and public diplomacy. This is a cultural diplomacy where we seek to understand India deeply... We are grateful to the Uttar Pradesh state for

hosting us."

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Siegel, 65, originally from

North Carolina, was abducted with his wife, Aviva, from their home in Kibbutz Kfar Aza, where they have lived for 42 years. An occupational therapist, his last sign of life was in a Hamas propaganda video in April 2024. Aviva was released during the November 2023 ceasefire.

Saturday's handover to the Red Cross was executed swiftly during the morning hours, following mediators' stern reprimand to Hamas over Thursday's chaos. On Thursday, Israeli authorities briefly suspended the release of 110 Palestinian terrorists imprisoned in Israel after Hamas forced hostages Gadi Moses and Arbel Yehud to walk by foot through a mob of Palestinians in Khan Yunis to waiting Red Cross vehicles.

The terrorists were released after Qatari and Egyptian mediators provided assurances that the scenes would not be repeated.

Crashed American plane had 3 Russian passengers, US State Dept confirms to Russian Embassy



MI News Service, Washington DC: Three Russian nationals died in the recent plane crash in Washington DC, the Russian Embassy in the US said in a statement, the Russian state media reported on Saturday.

The statement was based on a confirmation from the US Department of State according to TASS.

"The US Department of State has officially confirmed that our compatriots were among the passengers in the plane crash that occurred on January 29 in the skies above Washington, when a military helicopter collided with a passenger plane: world champions Evgenia Shishkova and Vadim Naumov of the Russian national team in pairs figure skating and figure skater," the statement cited by the Russian state media read.

The Russian nationals "lived permanently in the USA and worked as coaches in American figure skating clubs," the Russian Mission said.

Shishkova and Naumov, who were married to each other, won the world championships in pairs figure skating in 1994 and they also competed at two Winter Olympics.

Sixty-four people, including four crew, aboard a commercial airliner of American Airlines died Wednesday night after it collided with a military Black Hawk helicopter midair near Reagan Washington National Airport. It crashed into the Potomac River.

Previously, US President Donald Trump confirmed that there were Russian nationals among those killed.

The American Eagle Flight 5342 was

travelling from Wichita to Reagan National Airport in Arlington, Virginia, just over the Washington line, according to American Airlines.

Remains of 41 victims have been recovered, the DC fire chief said Friday as per CBC News.

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said the crew of the military aircraft were from the Bravo Company 12th Aviation Battalion at Fort Belvoir, an army base in Virginia that's about 14 miles away from the airport.

The Russian embassy in the US has launched a 24-hour hotline for the families of the deceased in order to provide them with the necessary consular and legal assistance, TASS reported.

Earlier TASS cited Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova saying at a news briefing that three people among those killed in the crash held Russian passports, and information regarding another passenger is being verified. According to Zakharova, Shishkova and Naumov, and a Soviet figure skater, Inna Volynskaya, who worked as coaches in the United States were on board the crashed passenger plane.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is leading an investigation into the disaster, NBC reported adding that the Federal Aviation Administration and the US Army will also be involved in the investigation.

All of the black boxes from the plane and the helicopter have been recovered, the NTSB confirmed.

Unbeaten India to lock horns with South Africa to defend U19 WC title

KUALA LUMPUR [MALAYSIA] : The Indian Cricket team will lock horns against South Africa in the final of the ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup 2025 in Malaysia on Sunday with the aim of defending their title.

The final match is scheduled to be held at the Bayemas Oval in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia at 12:00 PM IST on Sunday.

India stands just one step from winning successive ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup titles after winning the South Africa edition of the tournament in 2023, where it defeated England by 7 wickets.

South Africa, on the other hand, will be making their first appearance in the U19 Women's T20 World Cup final. They were knocked out in the group stage of the inaugural edition of the tournament.

The winner of the India vs



South Africa cricket final on Sunday will become the first team to win the U19 Women's T20 World Cup undefeated.

Led by skipper Niki Prasad, India registered convincing wins against Sri Lanka, West Indies and hosts Malaysia, in the group matches before beating Bangladesh and Scotland in the Super Six. In the semi-finals, they got the better of England to book a berth in the final.

Indian opener Gongadi Trisha is the top-scorer in the tournament with 265 runs in six matches at an average of 66.25 and a strike rate of 149.71. She created history in the Super Six encounter against Scotland by registering the first-ever century (110* off 59 balls) in the U19 Women's T20 World Cup.

Vaishnavi Sharma is the leading wicket-taker in the tournament with 15 scalps, including a

hat-trick against Malaysia in the group stage. Her hat-trick was India's first at the U19 Women's T20 World Cup.

Meanwhile, Kayla Reyneke-led South Africa beat Nigeria, New Zealand and Samoa in the group stage and then went on to defeat Ireland in the Super Six, which also saw their other match against the USA abandoned. South Africa beat Australia by five wickets in the semi-finals.

Jemma Botha and Simone Lourens have been their best batters having accumulated 89 and 71 runs, respectively, while skipper Kayla Reyneke has been their standout bowler with 10 wickets so far.

In the last five matches between India and South Africa's U19 teams, the Indian cricket team has won four times while one match was abandoned.

India take commanding lead as Ramkumar, Mukund dazzle on Day 1 of Davis Cup 2025



NEW DELHI [INDIA] : India made a strong start to their Davis Cup 2025 campaign on Saturday, taking a 2-0 lead over Togo on the opening day of the World Group I playoffs at the DLTA Complex.

Mukund Sasikumar and Ramkumar Ramanathan put in commanding performances to win their respective singles ties, bringing Team India to the cusp of a victory, a DLTA release said.

Mukund secured a decisive victory over Liova Ajavon in the opening match, setting the tone for India's campaign with a 1-0 lead before Ramkumar doubled India's advantage with a dominant win over Thomas Setodji, much to the delight of the Indian fans at the DLTA Complex, who waved tricolour flags, roared their support for every point won, and created an electric atmosphere that fueled the Indian players' performances.

Playing in front of a home crowd, the opening set began on a positive note for Mukund, who claimed the first game with confidence, before Ajavon responded by levelling the score, creating a tense contest. The momentum shifted in Mukund's favour during the third game when he successfully defended a crucial potential break before decisively breaking Ajavon's serve. Despite Ajavon's fierce attempts to regain control in game five, Mukund maintained his composure, eventually winning the set 6-2.

The second set proved to be more straightforward for Mukund, who dominated from the outset. He stormed to a commanding 4-0 lead, displaying clinical precision in both his serves and returns. Mukund secured the set 6-1 and, consequently, the match.

A short break later, Ramkumar Ramanathan and Thomas Setodji took to the courts, with the former taking no time to establish a commanding lead. Ramkumar's powerful forehands and aggressive baseline play left Setodji struggling to find his rhythm.

Dominating every aspect of the game, Ramkumar cruised through the first set with a flawless 6-0 scoreline.

Setodji regrouped in the second set, showing signs of resilience to claim two games. Despite the brief momentum shift, Ramkumar remained unshaken, continuing to dictate play with precise serves and relentless groundstrokes. His composure and consistency paid off as he sealed a commanding 6-0, 6-2 victory, further bolstering India's lead in the tie to end day one's play.

Speaking on his team's day one performance, India's non-playing captain Rohit Rajpal said, "Both the boys played fantastic today. I am very happy that they both stuck to the plan and played some fantastic tennis. But I'd say it's not over till it's over, so let's stay focused and get it done tomorrow."

"We discussed our plans quite a bit. It looked easy because these guys played very well. They didn't give a chance to the other guys to get into their rhythm. Whatever we planned, the boys executed it beautifully. It looked easier than it was, but that was because they stuck to the plan," Rajpal added.

With India only needing one win to seal the tie, day two will begin with N Sriram Balaji and Rithvik Bollipalli facing off against Setodji and Padio Isak in the doubles match. Mukund and Ramkumar will then return to the court to contest the remaining two singles matches, with the former facing Setodji and the latter Ajavon.

The Davis Cup 2025 World Group I Playoffs tie is being broadcast live on Doodardarshan Sports. Fans can also witness the matches live at the DLTA Complex with free entry.

Day 1 Round Up: Mukund Sasikumar (IND) vs Liova Ajavon (TOG) 6-2, 6-1. Ramkumar Ramanathan (IND) vs Thomas Setodji (TOG) 6-0, 6-2.

Women's Ashes: Tons from Sutherland, Mooney; King's 9-wicket haul guide Australia to victory over England by innings and 122 runs

MELBOURNE [AUSTRALIA] : Centuries from Annabel Sutherland and Beth Mooney in the first innings and Alana King's exceptional bowling performance across both innings stormed Australia to victory over England by an innings and 122 runs in the one-off Test match of the Women's Ashes 2025 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Saturday.

Riding on knocks from Annabel Sutherland (163) and Beth Mooney (106), Australia posted an imposing 440 in their first innings on day three.

After having secured a 270-run lead over the tourists, Australia bowlers followed it up with a clinical bowling display and won the one-off Ashes Test

in Melbourne by an innings and 122 runs to clean-sweep the Women's Ashes by a historic 16-0 margin.

Australia's win was marked by several spectacular individual performances, including Alana King's career-best figures of 9/98 (4/45 in the first innings and 5/53 in the second innings). Ash Gardner also shined with her impressive spell of 4/39 to bowl out the visitors in their second innings.

For Mooney, it was her first-ever Test ton. It also made her the only Australian women's player to score a ton across formats. Overall, she is just the fourth player in Women's cricket to score a ton in all three formats. The other players are

England's Heather Knight and Tammy Beaumont, and the current South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt.

She is also the fourth Australian player, Men's or Women's to achieve this feat, placing her on a list that includes Shane Watson, Glenn Maxwell and David Warner.

Australia's first innings total was 440, which was also their sixth-highest total in Women's Tests.

With this win, Australia has remained unbeaten throughout their home run of the Ashes, taking away all 16 points on offer.

The team had won their preceding engagements in ODIs and T20Is by a 3-0 margin.



This is the first-ever instance of an Ashes whitewash since the multi-format points system was introduced in 2013.

Brief Score: England Women 170 & 148 all out in 68.4 overs

(Tammy Beaumont 47, Heather Knight 32, Alana King 5/53) vs Australia Women 440 all out in 130.3 overs (Annabel Sutherland 163, Beth Mooney 106, Sophie Ecclestone 5/143).

Chhattisgarh Warriors to face Delhi Royals in Legend 90 League opener

RAIPUR (CHHATTISGARH) : Former Indian cricketers Suresh Raina and Shikhar Dhawan will face off each other as Chhattisgarh Warriors will lock horns with Delhi Royals in the blockbuster opening match of the upcoming Legend 90 League in Raipur.

The opening match will commence at 7:00 PM IST on February 6, promising a thrilling encounter as seasoned stars reunite to rekindle their on-field rivalries. The match will witness former Indian cricket stalwarts Suresh Raina and Shikhar Dhawan going head-to-head, marking the beginning of an action-packed tournament, a press release from Legend 90 League stated.

Following the opener, Rajasthan Kings will take on Dubai Giants in the second match on February 7, with Gujarat Samp Army facing Big Boys later the same day.

The weekend is set to deliver high-octane action as teams including Delhi Royals, Rajasthan Kings, Chhattisgarh Warriors, Dubai Giants, Big Boys, and Gujarat Samp Army battle for supremacy. Meanwhile, Haryana Gladiators will begin their campaign on February 11 against Dubai Giants.

Speaking on the full schedule of the League, Shivain Sharma, Director of the Legend 90 League, said, "We are thrilled to see legends like Suresh Raina, Shikhar Dhawan, Harbhajan Singh compete once again, reigniting old friendships and creating new memories for fans. This tournament is not just about nostalgia but also about giving cricket lovers a spectacle to remember."

The Chhattisgarh Warriors boast marquee players like Martin Gupthil, Suresh Raina, and Ambati Rayudu, while Delhi Royals have Shikhar Dhawan alongside Ross Taylor.

Haryana Gladiators will have Harbhajan Singh at the helm, and former West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo will represent Rajasthan Kings. Also, former Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan will play for Dubai Giants.

With double-header matches scheduled on most days, the tournament will build momentum toward the Qualifier on February 17 before culminating in the grand finale on February 18.

Full Squads:
Dubai Giants: Shakib Al Hasan, Thisara Perera, Kennar Lewis, Kevin O'Brien, Brendan Taylor, Liam Plunkett, Dwayne Smith, H. Masakadza, Richard Levi, Luke Fletcher, Rahul Yadav, Christopher M. Sid Trivedi, S. Prasanna.

Chhattisgarh Warriors: Siddarth Kaul, Sheldon Jackson, Pawan Negi, Kevon Cooper, Suresh Raina, Vishal Kushwaha, Martin Gupthil, Abhishek Sakuja, Ambati Rayudu, Amit Verma, Gurkeerat Singh Mann, Amit Mishra, Rishi Dhawan, Kalim Khan, Unmukt Chand, Manoj Singh, Abhimanyu Mithun, Colin de Grandhomme.

Haryana Gladiators: Pawan Suyal, Praveen Gupta, Abu Nechim, Anureet Singh, Imran Khan, Asela Gunaratne, Ishank Jaggi, Harbhajan Singh, Nagendra Chaudhary, Rikki Clarke, Peter Trego, Chadwick Walton, Manan Sharma.

Gujarat Samp Army: Yusuf Pathan, Moeen Ali, Obus Pienaar, Saurabh Tiwary, Kesrick Williams, Jesal Karia, Miguel Cummins, Chandrapaul Hemraj, Shapoor Zadrán, Mohammad Ashraf, William Perkins, Navin Stewart, Abhishek, Chaturanga De Silva, Mausif Khan.

Indian amateur Kartik Singh makes history at International Series India

GURUGRAM (HARYANA) : It was a historic day at DLF Golf and Country Club for Indian amateur Kartik Singh, as he made the cut at International Series India, the youngest-ever player from the subcontinent to do so on the Asian Tour.

Singh carded a one-under-par 71, taking him to a four-over total at the halfway stage and safely inside the cut line which fell at eight over.

Having only played one Asian Development Tour event previously this was Singh's second appearance in a professional tournament, with a field that he could have only dreamed of previously, featuring the likes of two-time Major winner Bryson DeChambeau, home favourite Anirban Lahiri and fellow LIV Golf League star Joaquin Niemann.

The world no.1 Under-15 amateur admitted that familiarity with his home course played to his advantage.

In a press release, he said, "It feels unreal playing with Bryson, because normally I'm looking at him on TV, and here I'm playing with him in the same tournament, so it's a great experience. I knew this is my home course, so I definitely have that advantage and then I know if my game is at that level and if I play my game, I'm able to compete with the pros."

"The experience was very good today. Today, I played quite well. I played one under. I was four under after 11 holes, but it's okay. I mean, I'm still happy with one under par on this course. Yesterday was not that good, but I'm still happy that I was able to make the cut, and hopefully, I can play well this weekend," he added.

The tournament, located in Gurugram on the outskirts of Delhi, has been affected by the weather with round two only finishing on Saturday.



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ISL: FC GOA LOOKS TO EXTEND UNBEATEN AWAY RUN AGAINST JAMSHEDPUR FC

JAMSHEDPUR (JHARKHAND) [INDIA] : Jamshedpur FC are all set to host FC Goa at the JRD Tata Sports Complex in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 on Sunday.

The Red Miners are placed third in the points table since they have 31 points from 17 matches courtesy of 10 victories and a solitary draw. While they trail table-toppers Mohun Bagan Super Giant (40) by nine points, the Mariners have also played an additional game as compared to Jamshedpur FC, as stated in a release from ISL.

Their nearest target would be surpassing the second-positioned FC Goa, who have 33 points to their name currently from as many encounters as Jamshedpur FC. The Khalid Jamil-coached side have a chance to do a league double over the Gaurs, since they had defeated Manolo Marquez's men by 2-1 in their reverse fixture on September 17, 2024.

Jamshedpur FC are relishing a formidable home record as of



now, as they are unbeaten in their last five games in the stadium, winning four times. However, they have emerged victorious only once in the five times that they have hosted FC Goa at the venue, losing thrice and drawing once.

They have failed to record a clean sheet in any of these matches, a fact that could inspire the FC Goa frontline, which has netted 32 times in 17 encounters

this season. FC Goa have been impressive defensively though, registering shutouts in their previous two ISL games. Their last longer such run was between October and December 2023, which also comprised a 1-0 win against Jamshedpur FC.

All in all, this is an encounter straight for the top-two spot as of now. The top-two ranked teams at the end of the league stages qualify directly for the semi-

finals, whereas the sides from third to sixth spots play a single-legged eliminator at the higher-ranked side's home venue. If Jamshedpur FC wins this match, they will leapfrog FC Goa in the points table, and if the Gaurs prevail, they will build a formidable distance with the Red Miners - an equation that brings lasting interest in this fixture.

Jamshedpur FC have optimised their strengths in this campaign. It is reflected by the recording of 22 shots from throw-ins in the current season, which is the highest tally among all teams. They have also attempted at least one shot from a throw-in in each of their previous six encounters, showing that they make the most of any minute opportunity coming their way.

Jamshedpur FC have netted four goals from the penalty spot this season, the joint-most alongside Odisha FC. At the same time, FC Goa have conceded five penalty goals, again the joint-highest with Chennaiyin FC and Kerala

Blasters FC. The Gaurs will have to track their defensive actions inside the 18-yard box closely.

FC Goa have been prolific offensively in away encounters, finding the back of the net in their previous eight ISL clashes on the road. They have also locked in their longest unbeaten away streak, winning and drawing four times each.

Brison Fernandes has netted six goals this season. A goal against Jamshedpur FC will make him only the seventh Indian player to score 7+ goals in a single ISL season. He has also made 49 recoveries in addition to winning 60 duels.

Jamshedpur FC head coach Khalid Jamil stressed the need to get a positive outcome in this game. "We are preparing well. The team is entirely focused. We need to get a positive result on our home ground," Jamil was quoted in a release from ISL as saying. FC Goa head coach Manolo Marquez praised Jamshedpur FC's season so far.

