



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee addressing the concluding session of the 8th Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS), in Kolkata on Thursday. Pic: Prabir Bhattacharya

Record Rs 4.4 lakh Cr investment proposals at BGBS, announces Mamata Banerjee

MI News Service, Kolkata: The 8th Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) has set a new record, attracting investment proposals worth 4,40,594 crore for the state, according to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee here on Thursday.

This marks the highest-ever investment proposal in the history of BGBS, surpassing last year's 3.76 lakh crore, she said at the end of the two day summit.

Speaking at the concluding ceremony of the hugely successful gathering of the Captains of different industries, Mamata

Banerjee announced that the summit witnessed the participation of 5,000 investors and delegates from across the globe. A total of 212 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and Letters of Intent were signed with major corporate bigwigs like Reliance Industries and Jindal Group committing large-scale investments over several thousand crores of rupees.

"We have received investment proposals amounting to Rs 4, 40,595 lakh crore during the two-day event. This will create thousands of job opportunities in West Bengal," she

said.

The "overwhelming response" to BGBS 2025 is a testament to Bengal's "growing economic potential", Banerjee said.

The chief minister highlighted her government's developmental efforts since 2011, stating that these initiatives have helped over 1.72 crore people rise above the poverty line in the state.

"Our continued focus on infrastructure, industry, and social welfare has yielded results," she said.

Investment trends in the history of the BGBS have shown significant growth over the years. The

first BGBS recorded an investment of 2.43 lakh crore and the second edition saw a slight increase to 2.50 lakh crore in investments. The third BGBS brought in 2.35 lakh crore, followed by the fourth edition with 2.19 lakh crore. The fifth BGBS saw a remarkable rise to 2.84 lakh crore. In the sixth edition, investments surged to 3.42 lakh crore, while the seventh edition achieved 3.79 lakh crore. Finally, the eighth BGBS reached an all-time high of 4.40 lakh crore, marking the largest investment proposal in the event's history.

Key Investment Com-

mitments from Major Corporations are as follows :
Reliance Industries: Mukesh Ambani announced an investment of 50,000 crore by 2030. Jindal Group: Committed 32,000 crore for various projects. Ambuja Neotia Group: Pledged 15,000 crore in investments over

the coming years. RPSG Group: Currently executing investments worth 10,000 crore. ITC: Has already invested 7,500 crore in the last three to four years and Emami Group: Promised significant investments in

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Centre tells the US govt to ensure no mistreatment to deported Indians, says Jaishankar in RS

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Indian government has made it clear to their US counterpart that none of the deported Indians should be mistreated, and said that their focus should be only on strong crackdown on the illegal migration industry and not any harassment.

The was stated by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday through a statement in the Rajya Sabha amid opposition protests over the treatment meted out to 104 Indians, who were deported from the United States and brought to Amritsar on Wednesday.

"We are of course engaging the US government to ensure the returning deportees are not mistreated in any manner during the flight," Jaishankar said.

"At the same time the House will appreciate that our focus should be on strong crackdown on the illegal migration industry, while taking steps to ease visas for the legitimate travellers," he said.

The minister stated that the process of deportation is not a new one."The standard operating procedure for deportation by aircraft provides for the use of restraints. However, we have been informed that women and children are not restrained," he said.

"Further need of deportees during transit related to food and other necessities, including possible medical

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"RSS should be made to understand that they cannot attack Constitution", says Rahul Gandhi

MI News Service, New Delhi : Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has once again lashed out at the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and accused them of attempting to erase diverse histories, cultures, and traditions in India.

Addressing a protest rally by the DMK students wing against the University Grants Commission (UGC) draft rules on Thursday, the Congress leader alleged that the RSS aims to impose a single idea, history, tradition, and language on the country. "I have been saying now for some time that the aim of the RSS is the eradication of all other histories, all other cultures, all other traditions in this country. That is their starting point, and that is what they want to achieve," Rahul Gandhi said. Gandhi claimed that the RSS's attack on the Constitution is part of their larger agenda to dominate India's cultural and educational landscape, stating, "They attacked the Constitution because they wanted to impose one idea, which is their idea, one history, one tradition, and one language on this country."

Gandhi claimed that the RSS's attack on the Constitution is part of their larger agenda to dominate India's cultural and educational landscape.

"This attempt that they're doing with the education system of the different states is just another attempt to push their agenda..." said the Congress MP.

He expressed his support for protests

like the one organized by the DMK students wing, stating that the RSS needs to be held accountable for their actions.

"I wish that multiple protests like this happen because the RSS needs to be made to understand that they cannot attack the Constitution. They cannot attack our states. They cannot attack our cultures, our traditions and our histories," said Rahul Gandhi.

The protest in New Delhi was organized by DMK students in opposition to the proposed changes in the UGC draft rules, which they believe threaten the federal structure of India's education system.

According to UGC's new draft guidelines, candidates can qualify for faculty positions at higher institutions by clearing the UGC-NET in a subject of their choice, even if their undergraduate and postgraduate degrees are in different disciplines.

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced the guidelines for the appointment of faculty in higher education. It also includes changes to the selection process for Vice-chancellors, including the expansion of eligibility criteria to include professionals from academia, research institutions, public policy, public administration, and industry.

As per the guidelines, the subject of the PhD degree precedes the disciplines studied in undergraduate and postgraduate degrees for faculty selections.

Hooligans target homes of Awami League leaders in fresh wave of vandalism in Bangladesh

MI News Service, New Delhi / Dhaka: Protesters in Bangladesh targeted the homes of several leaders of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League and continued the demolition of a memorial in Dhaka to the country's founding leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on Thursday

On Wednesday night, protesters rallied in front of Mujibur Rahman's house in the capital's Dhanmondi area, now a memorial, following a social media call for a "bulldozer procession" before Hasina's scheduled virtual address from exile in India. The mob set the house on fire. Similar cases of arson were also reported from other parts of Bangladesh.

"They can demolish a building, but not the history... but they must also remember that history takes its revenge," Hasina said in her address on Wednesday night while her father's home was being demolished. An excavator was seen at work at the house continuing with the demolition. The building in the adjacent plot which had housed the offices of several Awami League outfits was also demolished. The violent demonstrators also defaced murals of Mujibur Rahman. The residence

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Amazon India signs MoU with the West Bengal Govt at BGBS to boost ecommerce exports

MI News Service, Kolkata : Amazon India, the country's largest online doorstep service provider, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and Textile, of the Government of West Bengal to boost exports and entrepreneurship of the state.

The MoU was signed on the second and concluding day of the Bengal Global Business Summit at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre here on Thursday in presence of Chief minister Mamata Banerjee and state Chief Secretary Manoj Pant.

As part of the MoU, Amazon will train and absorb several state based MSMEs in its Global Selling programme and help them export their unique Made in India products to customers in over 200 coun-

tries across the globe.

Later speaking to newsmen Rajesh Pandey, Principal Secretary, Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and , "Digitizing small businesses and boosting exports from the state are key focus areas for us and I would like to commend Amazon for launching initiatives that are aligned with our priorities. Our state will work closely with Amazon for the benefit of lakhs of entrepreneurs across West Bengal. I believe that initiatives like these can help them grow their business by reaching customers across the world, while contributing to the growing digital economy of our state."

Also speaking on the occasion, Bhupen Wakankar, Director Global Trade at Amazon India, said, "Technology adoption is

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SBI Q3 profit surges to record 84 pc to Rs 16,891 cr

MI News Service, New Delhi : The country's largest Public sector bank and lender SBI has reported a record 84 per cent jump in standalone net profit to Rs 16,891 crore in the October-December quarter. Informing this SBI sources said here on Thursday that during the corresponding period of last year they had earned a standalone net profit of Rs 9,164 crore

The bank's total income rose to Rs 1,28,467 crore in the third quarter of the current fiscal

against Rs 1,18,193 crore in the same period a year ago, SBI said in a regulatory filing. During the quarter, the bank's interest income grew to Rs 1,17,427 crore compared to Rs 1,06,734 crore a year ago. On the asset quality front, the bank witnessed improvement with gross Non-Performing Assets (NPA) moderating to 2.07 per cent at December-end from 2.42 per cent at the end of the third quarter of the last year. Similarly,

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MG Sewa empowers over 70,000 women and girls, drives social change in India

MI News Service, Bhubaneswar: MG Sewa, a social initiative by MG Motor India, has impacted over 1.2 lakh beneficiaries in India, with over 70,000 women and girls benefiting in 2024. The initiative focuses on girl child education, women empowerment, and community health, providing access to education, sanitation, and hygiene. It has expanded its reach through programs like WASH, making mathematics more accessible in tribal communities.

Little Thespian's 2nd National Drama Competition

MI News Service, Kolkata: The 2nd Drama Competition organized by Little Thespian, Kolkata's renowned Hindi/Urdu theatre group turned National this year. The 2 days Drama Competition was held on 4th and 5th February 2025 at Jogesh Mime Academy. Uma Jhunjhunwala, founder of Little Thespian and renowned theatre director/actor initiated this competition to develop the Hindi/Urdu theatre culture among the youth, to nurture new talents and provide them with a platform to showcase their potential. Seven teams participated in this drama competition. The first play Mahmood was staged by Ameteur Theatre Group, Gorakhpur. The play was based on a story by Shailesh Matiyani and was dramatized and directed by Asif Zaheer. Love for animal and the prevalence of insensitiveness in humans today was the crux of this



play. Hamara Prayas Group, Rishra presented the play Bahu Ki Vida, written by Vinod Rastogi and directed by Dr. Rama

Shankar Singh. This play dealt with the age old problem of dowry. The third and last play of the first day of the Drama Com-

petition was Bholaram by Balarko Nimta, Kolkata. Based on the story of Harshankar Parsai, it is a satire that criticizes

society, bureaucracy and also highlights how religion and culture can be used as a weapon by the oppressor class. It depicts the plight of Bholaram, a man whose soul is to be taken to Yamlok but he escapes the clutches of angels. The play Bholaram was dramatized and directed by Basanta Pathradkar. The second day of the Drama Competition saw Apekhhik & Shor Theatre, Kolkata stage their play Jyeshtha Kaunteya. This play was an adaptation from Mahabharat (Ved Vyasa), Rashmirathi (Ramdhari Singh Dinkar) and Maharathi (Vibhan-shu Vaibhab). The play was directed by Avik Roy and covered an episode from Karna's life. Swang Drama Club of Vidyasagar College for Women, Kolkata staged its play Teesri Taali written and directed by Md. Asif Alam. The play dealt with the lives of transgender.

Bhawanipur Education Society College's drama group Enact staged its pay Paani Nahi Aa Raha! Written by Bhaswar Paul and directed by Yuvraj Surana, it portrayed the struggles of common man and how they are fooled by the politicians. The Drama Competition concluded by the staging of play Nirdeshak by S M Rashid Theatre Group, Kolkata. The play was written by P. Jani and directed by Sanjeev Ray. This play depicted the life of a theatre director. Three best plays were selected by the judges: Smt. Swati Roy (Director, Oihik), Shri Dinesh Vadera (Director, Mudra Arts) and senior member of Little Thespian Md. Aftab Alam. The selected teams will stage their plays in Little Thespian's 14th National Theatre Festival Jashn-E-Azhar which is scheduled from 28th February 2025 to 5th March 2025 at Gyan Manch.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee interacts with industrialists from the MSME sector after the conclusion of the 8th Bengal Global Business Summit (GBGS), 2025, in Kolkata on Thursday.

Cousin and wife arrested in Dattapukur murder case

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Dattapukur police have successfully solved the gruesome murder case of Hazrat Laskar, a 25-year-old resident of Gaighata. The breakthrough came when investigators identified the victim through his clothes and tattoos, which were found on the headless body recovered from Bajitpur in Dattapukur. According to police sources, Hazrat's cousin, Obaidullah Mandal, and his wife, Nisha, have been arrested in connection with the murder. The motive behind the crime was reportedly Obaidullah's desire for revenge against Hazrat, who had been having an extramarital affair with Nisha while Obaidullah was in jail. The initial autopsy report indicates that Hazrat was murdered around 2 am,

with his hands and feet tied before his throat was cut with a heavy sharp object. Investigators believe that Hazrat worked in a garment factory, based on stickers found on his clothing. The police are still searching for the severed head and have made inquiries at local factories to gather more information about the deceased. No alcohol was found in his system, and the murder is believed to have taken place in the field where the body was recovered. Obaidullah had claimed that another person was involved in the crime, and police have traced the accomplice's location to Jammu and Kashmir. The investigation is ongoing, with the police working to uncover more details about the brutal murder.



Principal Secretary, Dept of MSME & Textile, Govt of West Bengal Rajesh Pandey, Vice President and Head of Corporate Office, Delhi, L&T Defence Vikas Khitha along with Comdt, Engr Stores Depot, Kakinada Col Jaswinder Singh Vohra during a seminar on 'Defence Manufacturing for MSMEs' in GBGS 2025, at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, in Kolkata on Thursday.

Mariners bow to goddess Swaraswati for ISL Shield

MI News Service, Kolkata: The giant of Indian football Mohun Bagan is in the verge of defending the Indian Super League (ISL) title. If they do so, they would be the only team to do it till now. But the job is yet to be accomplished. After a scintillating 3-0 victory against Punjab FC the Mariners are just few steps

away from defending the coveted shield. But the Green and Maroon supporters are keeping no stone unturned. The fanatic Mariners have chosen to ask blessings from Goddess Swaraswati to make their team win the Shield.

Mohun Bagan Fan's Club, Kasba, Bakultola

has clubbed both the sentiments together in asking blessings from Goddess Swaraswati to bless Mohun Bagan winning the much coveted ISL Shield. Even if the Pujo is over, they members of fan's club are religiously asking for Goddess Swaraswati's blessings for their wish fulfillment.

11th Kolkata Literature Fest begins

MI News Service, Kolkata: Renowned author Shrishendu Mukhopadhyay will grace the inaugural session of the 11th edition of the Kolkata Literature Festival, which kickstarts on February 6 and will go on till February 8 at the 48th International Kolkata Book Fair. Tridib Kumar Chatterjee, President, Publishers & Booksellers; Sujata Sen, Director, Kolkata Literature Festival; Sudhangshu Shekhar Dey, General Secretary, Guild announced the same at the book fair. To be held across three days, the Kolkata Literature Festival will have 15 sessions with over 50 participants including poetry, music and dance per-

formances. The event will also showcase poets from both English and Bengali literature. On February 6, state education minister Bratya Basu along with US author of Palestinian origin, Nathalie Handal, Gautam Datta and poet Subodh Sarkar will discuss 'Words don't have borders'. A special moment of the festival is the presentation of Samareesh Majumdar's Sriti Somman (worth Rs 50,000), which will be presented by his daughters to renowned musician and actor Anjan Dutta. Another important highlight of this festival is 'Baniye Basati Bangali,' inspired by the Bengali proverb 'Baniye Basati Laxmi.'

Kolkata hosts special session on India-Philippines Partnership



MI News Service, Kolkata: The Calcutta Chamber of Commerce successfully hosted a special session on "Promoting India-Philippines Partnership," bringing together key dignitaries, industry leaders, and members of the diplomatic community to discuss bilateral trade and investment opportunities.

The event was graced by Josel Francisco Ignacio, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines in India, as the Chief Guest. He was joined by Melissa Anne Telan, Third Secretary and Vice Consul of the Embassy of the Philippines, Deepak Kumar Khemka, Honorary Consul General, Consulate General of the Philippines in Kolkata, and Eugenio C. Elevado, Jr., Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of the Philippines, as Guests of Honour.

Hari Shankar Halwasiya, President of the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce emphasized the significance of strengthening economic ties between India and the Philippines under India's "Act East Policy" and the Philip-

pines' "Build-Build-Build Programme."

The session underscored the growth in bilateral trade, which surged from \$1.89 billion in 2015-16 to \$3.05 billion in 2022-23, marking a significant milestone as it surpassed the \$3 billion mark for the first time.

Josel Francisco Ignacio, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines emphasized strengthening economic and business ties between the Philippines and India, particularly with West Bengal, citing the region's remarkable economic growth and investment potential. He highlighted the Philippines' commitment to fostering bilateral trade, investment, and tourism, mentioning ongoing efforts to improve trade agreements, air connectivity, and visa accessibility.

The Calcutta Chamber of Commerce reaffirmed its commitment to facilitating stronger economic and business engagements between India and the Philippines, fostering a new era of bilateral cooperation and growth.

Police arrest neighbour for rape & blackmail of minor

MI News Service, Sonarpur: A disturbing incident has come to light in Sonarpur, South 24 Parganas where a 52-year-old man has been accused of blackmailing a ninth grade student living in the same neighborhood. The accused allegedly took secret photos of the minor and threatened to share them on social media, leading to multiple instances and rape. According to police sources, the victim lived with her grandparents and did not own an Android phone, due to which she would occasionally ask the accused for his phone, which allegedly led him to an opportunity to commit the heinous crime.

The victim finally reported the incident to her

grandmother and neighbors on Wednesday afternoon, after the accused attempted to rape her again. When confronted the accused confessed his crime. The victim's family immediately filed a complaint at Sonarpur police station, leading to the accused's arrest. The police have filed a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and have begun investigating the incident.

The incident highlights the importance of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of minors, particularly in their own neighborhoods. The police and the victim's family are commendable and it is essential that the victim is brought to justice.



Calcutta Electric Dealers Association held a press conference at Press Club, Kolkata on Thursday to announce the commencement of Trade Fair at Ketchi, Jain Bhawan at Ezra street from February 13-15, 2025.

Free Municipal bus for girl students in Krishnanagar



MI News Service, Krishnanagar : Krishnanagar Municipality is going to launch a free air-conditioned bus service for girl students at a cost of Rs. 70 lakh. According to the municipality sources, Krishnanagar Municipality is going to launch two air-conditioned bus services for the convenience of girl students in the city to travel to schools and colleges. Incidentally, last October, the municipality had launched two general bus services for girl students, and those two buses were

named 'Parijat'. This time, it has been reported from the municipality sources that two more AC buses will run with the same name. According to the municipality sources, Krishnanagar Municipality has taken this step so that girl students in the city do not face any problem in reaching their schools and colleges on time and do not face any delay in their studies. It is learned that these buses will operate daily from Ghurni and Shaktinagar in Krishnanagar. There are several

schools towards the district administrative building and buses will also go there. The reason for this bus service is that the fare of Toto is very high and not easy affordable. Also, when it comes to commuting to school on time, there is no proper bus or Toto service and students have to wait on the road, which delays their studies. In this regard, Krishnanagar Municipality Chairperson Rita Das said, "The State Chief Minister has taken several steps for the education of girls. The students sometimes are compelled to stand for buses in the sun and rain. Considering the hardship faced by the girls, Krishnanagar Municipality is now introducing two air-conditioned bus services along with the regular buses to alleviate that hardship."

State mulls to augment ginger cultivation in South Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Horticulture department has decided to augment production of ginger in South Bengal in a bid to reduce dependency on stock coming from North Bengal. The department has been successfully cultivating the same at Simlapal in Bankura. "We have been growing ginger in some parts of South Bengal for the last two-three years but the quality is no match to the 'Gorubathan' variety cultivated in North Bengal. We decided to launch a pilot project to find out if the same variety can be cultivated in the south. We identified one farmer (Utpal Mahapatra) for cultivating this variety. The seeds were sown before the onset of winter. We got 60 quintals of yield which is now selling like hot cakes," said Subhasis Batabyal, director of state Horticulture Development Board. During the Joypur

Utsav and Krishi (Agriculture) Mela, held from January 25 to 30, Mahapatra's success story in ginger production was shown to the farmers to encourage them to take up the same. "Farmers in a large part of South Bengal have a tendency to pursue potato cultivation. Due to stiff competition, they often don't get the desired results for the hard labour they put in. Shifting to ginger production will ensure better income," said a Food Processing Industries and Horticulture (FPI & H) department official. Minister in-charge of the department, Arup Roy recently visited Simlapal and witnessed the ginger cultivation. Batabyal said, now farmers in Kotulpur, Joypur, Bishnupur, Taldangra, Simlapal, Roypur and Sarena will be encouraged to grow ginger on a large scale while small farmers will be roped in.

Amazon India signs MoU...

From PG 1
rapidly transforming export opportunities for MSMEs across West Bengal and India. As e-commerce exports gain momentum, more businesses are reaching global markets with unprecedented ease. At Amazon, we are committed to supporting this growth, and under the guidance of the Chief Minister, we look forward to working with the West Bengal Government to help MSMEs and entrepreneurs from the state build strong global brands. Our efforts align with the broader vision of boosting India's ecommerce exports, with a goal of enabling USD 80 billion in exports by 2030."

Amazon will work with the Government of West Bengal to train and on-board MSMEs from the state on Amazon Global Selling, enabling them to sell their unique Made in India products to millions of

Amazon customers across 200+ countries and territories. Amazon Global Selling lowers the entry barrier for motivated Indian MSMEs to expand their business and launch their brands globally, from anywhere in India. With this programme, homegrown businesses get instant access to global markets from Day 1, benefiting from Amazon's distribution capabilities and global footprint to scale rapidly and build sustainable exports businesses. Today, there are more than one and a half lakh exporters from across India who are part of this programme who have surpassed USD 13 billion in cumulative exports from India. Thousands of these businesses have been able to create globally loved brands from India through ecommerce exports. Amazon has pledged to enable over USD 80 billion in cumulative exports from India by 2030.

Record Rs 4.4 lakh Cr...

From PG 1
the near future. During the event, Mamata Banerjee highlighted the oil extraction project in North 24 Pargana's Ashoknagar, calling it a major breakthrough. She revealed that ONGC has successfully discovered oil and gas deposits underneath the surface of the area and commercial extraction is now set to begin. "The state government has allocated land to ONGC, which has already confirmed the presence of crude oil and natural gas. These resources will now be extracted commercially, and

West Bengal will officially be on India's petroleum map," she stated. The state has assured full support to ONGC in its petroleum exploration initiatives, signalling a new era of industrial growth in Bengal, she said.. With record-breaking investment proposals and major industrial projects on the horizon, the 8th BGBS has strengthened West Bengal's position as an emerging investment hub. However, the focus now shifts to their implementation, as past summits have often faced criticism over the actual realization of investments.

SBI Q3 profit surges to...

From PG 1
net Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) also eased to 0.53 per cent against 0.64 per cent at the end of the same period a year ago. On a consolidated basis, SBI Group's net profit rose by 70 per cent to Rs 18,853 crore over Rs 11,064 crore in FY24.

Consolidated total income increased to Rs 1,67,854 crore over Rs 1,53,072 crore in the third quarter of the preceding fiscal. On a quarter-on-quarter (Q-o-Q) basis, the public sector bank's Q3 profit fell 7.8 per cent as against a profit of Rs 18,330 crore reported in Q2FY25.

On the bourses, SBI share price dropped to the day's low after Q3 results announcement. SBI share price fell 2.1 per cent to Rs 750 per share intraday before settling 1.6 per cent lower at Rs 754 per share. By comparison, the BSE SENSEX ended 0.27 per cent weak on Thursday.

Brokerages had estimated SBI's Q3FY25 profit to surge between 65 per cent and 86 per cent Y-o-Y. Operationally, SBI's net interest income (NII) came at Rs 41,446 crore for the quarter under study, up 4 per cent Y-o-Y. SBI's Q3FY24 NII was Rs 39,820 crore. Sequentially, SBI's Q3FY25 NII was 0.4 per cent lower than Rs 41,620-crore net interest income reported in Q2FY25.

BI's Q3 operating profit increased 15.8 per cent to Rs 23,550.81 crore from Rs 20,336.08 crore reported in the December quarter of FY24. Sequentially, however, it fell 19.6 per cent from Rs 29,293.74 crore seen in Q2FY25.

The bank's net interest margin (NIM) contracted

sharply to 3.01 per cent in Q3FY25 from 3.14 per cent Q-o-Q.

Similarly, NNPA rose to Rs 21,377.64 crore at the end of Q3FY25 from Rs 20,294.32 crore Q-o-Q. In Q3FY24, NNPA were Rs 22,408.38 crore.

In terms of NPA ratio, GNPA ratio was 2.07 per cent at the end of Q3FY25 vs 2.14 per cent Q-o-Q. NNPA, meanwhile, was flat at 0.53 per cent.

That apart, SBI created provisions worth Rs 911.06 crore during the quarter under review, higher than the provisions worth Rs 687.8 crore set aside in Q3FY24. Compared to the September quarter of the current fiscal year, SBI's provisions fell from Rs 4,505.73 crore.

The credit costs at the end of Q3FY25 inched up to 0.24 per cent from 0.21 per cent Y-o-Y.

Its Slippage Ratio was 0.39 per cent in Q3FY25 vs 0.58 per cent Y-o-Y/0.51 per cent Q-o-Q.

State Bank of India's Gross Loans crossed the Rs 40-trillion mark during the December 2024 quarter with Gross Advances reaching Rs 40,67,752 crore, up 13.5 per cent Y-o-Y from Rs 35,84,252 crore. Over the September quarter, gross loans were up 3.75 per cent from Rs 39,20,719-crore loans in Q2FY25..

On the Deposits side, Gross Deposits increased 9.81 per cent Y-o-Y/2.81 per cent Q-o-Q to Rs 52,29,384 crore, driven by 13.47 per cent Y-o-Y/3.5 per cent Q-o-Q rise in Term Deposits (Rs 30,48,623 crore). Domestic CASA Deposits were up 4.46 per cent Y-o-Y/down 0.03 per cent Q-o-Q at Rs 19,65,237 crore.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee greeting the industrialists during the concluding session of the 8th Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS), 2025. in Kolkata on Thursday.

Mamata Banerjee urges Airlines to resume direct Kolkata-Europe Flights

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has requested three major airlines—Air India (Tata-owned), British Airways, and Lufthansa—to consider launching direct flights between Kolkata and Europe. She claimed that the Tata Group has responded positively to her appeal, raising hopes for the return of direct air connectivity between Kolkata and European destinations. Mamata Banerjee also revealed that Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran has assured her of significant future investments in West Bengal. However, he was absent from the Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) on Wednesday. Addressing his absence, the Chief Minister explained that she had spoken with Chandrasekaran on Tuesday evening, and he had expressed his commitment to West Bengal but was unable to attend due to an unforeseen issue. Instead, senior Tata officials represented the group at the event. Mamata Banerjee emphasized her request for Air India to restart direct flights to Europe, highlighting the current inconvenience for passengers who must transit via Doha or

other hubs. She remains optimistic about a positive outcome, as Tata Sons has not rejected the idea.

At one time, direct flights operated between Kolkata and European cities, but these services were gradually discontinued: Lufthansa previously operated flights between Frankfurt and Kolkata, but the airline terminated the route in 2012. British Airways halted its Kolkata-London flights in March 2009, while, Air India discontinued its Kolkata-London service in October 2008.

Industry experts cited low profitability as the primary reason for airlines withdrawing direct Kolkata-Europe routes. A tourism industry source explained that the business class occupancy on these flights was significantly lower than in Bengaluru, Delhi, or Mumbai. The lack of premium travelers made the route financially unsustainable, leading to its closure.

With Mamata Banerjee's renewed push and a potentially positive response from Tata Group, Kolkata's international connectivity could soon improve, benefiting both business and tourism sectors.

SI attacked during Saraswati Puja immersion in Garden Reach

MI News Service, Kolkata: Once again, law enforcement officers have come under attack. During the immersion procession of Saraswati Puja, chaos erupted in Garden Reach, leading to the assault of a sub-inspector and a female civic volunteer. The incident occurred between 10:30 and 11:00 PM on Wednesday night. According to police sources, the unrest broke out in the Paharpur Road and Raja Bottola areas, where two local clubs were conducting their idol immersions. What started as a verbal altercation between the two groups soon turned into a physical scuffle. As tempers flared, the situation quickly spiraled out of control, creating a tense atmosphere in the area. Upon receiving reports of the disturbance, officers from Garden Reach police station rushed to the scene to restore order. Among them was a sub-inspector, accompanied by a female civic volunteer, who attempted to pacify the clashing groups. However, instead of backing down, some club members allegedly turned on the officers, attacking them physically.



Chief Operations Officer, Royal Bhutan Army, LT Gen Batoo Tshering, visited Vijay Smarak in Kolkata.

Man roams New Town streets with a bloodied knife, causes panic

MI News Service, Kolkata: New Town witnessed a tense situation when a man with a stocky build and a bald head was seen walking down the street, seemingly oblivious to the passing vehicles. However, what made the situation alarming was the sharp knife he carried in his hand, warning onlookers "Do not come near me... I will strike." Reports suggest that the man, an employee at Karigari Bhavan, attacked several police officers and security personnel over a dispute regarding leave. After injuring his colleagues, he

stepped onto the streets, holding the blood-stained knife in his hand, further escalating the panic among bystanders. As news of the incident spread, journalists rushed to the scene, attempting to gather information. However, none dared to approach him due to his aggressive demeanor. One reporter cautiously tried to calm him down, saying, "Please keep your cool, brother." In response, the man retorted, "I was calm! But they insulted me, talking about my father..." He then warned again, "Stay away from me!"

West Bengal Board reopens portal for admit card applications

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal Board of Secondary Education (WBBSE) has been directed by the Calcutta High Court to reopen its online portal for students who have not yet received their admit cards for the Madhyamik (Secondary) Examination. The court also set a deadline for submitting new applications.

The Madhyamik Examination is set to begin on Monday, February 10, but several students are yet to receive their admit cards. Concerned schools filed petitions in the Calcutta High Court, requesting the board to reopen the portal. On Thursday (February 6), Justice Biswajit Basu issued a significant order in response to these petitions.

Key Directives from the High Court were that the WBBSE must reopen its online portal on Thursday, February 6, from 6:00 PM.

Schools with students missing admit cards can apply during this window.

Once the application is submitted and registered, school authorities must visit the board's office on Sunday to collect the admit

cards. The board must publish an official notification regarding this process on its website. If Schools found responsible for errors that led to students not receiving their admit cards will be fined 10,000 each.

With just four days remaining before the exam, many students were worried and uncertain due to the non-receipt of admit cards. Schools had been demanding the reopening of the board's portal, citing errors in student enrollment data. In some cases, schools had incorrectly filled out enrollment forms, leading to students being registered under the wrong names. Notably, the WBBSE had already provided three chances for enrollment corrections, with the final deadline closing on January 6-7.

Following the court's ruling, both students and school authorities are expected to find relief, ensuring that all eligible students receive their admit cards before the Madhyamik Examination begins.

Medinipur Med College death: State clears Ringer's Lactate saline

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal government has given a clean chit to Ringer's Lactate Saline, which was previously suspected in the death of a pregnant woman at Medinipur Medical College. In a report submitted to Chief Justice T.S. Sivagnanam of the Calcutta High Court, the state backed the manufacturing company's claim that the saline was not defective.

In response to public interest litigation (PIL), the state government clarified that laboratory tests on the saline samples did not reveal any issues. According to the report, the nights of January 8 and 9 saw a severe shortage of senior faculty and resident medical officers (RMOs) at the hospital. The lack of proper supervision may have contributed to the tragic incident.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) is currently investigating the matter. State Advocate

General Kishore Dutta stated that although saline was not the cause, the affected families has been compensated with financial aid and government jobs. During the hearing, Chief Justice Sivagnanam questioned the saline manufacturer about the events leading to the incident. The company defended itself, stating: The central laboratory had already cleared the saline, confirming it was safe for use. Once the saline reached the state, the responsibility of handling it fell on local authorities. The state must follow strict guidelines for medical storage and administration. The Chief Justice further asked whether West Bengal has any in-house pharmaceutical production facilities to manufacture saline and similar products. The Advocate General assured the court that he would provide further details on the matter.

Lalbazar issues strict guidelines for passport verification

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a bid to ensure thorough verification of passport applications, Lalbazar has issued strict instructions to all police stations and the Special Branch (SB) of Kolkata Police. The directive warns officers that negligence in verification will not be tolerated.

Key directives issued by the Lalbazar department are that Officers must carefully examine all documents submitted with passport applications.

It is mandatory for local police officers to physically visit the applicant's residence to confirm their identity and Indian citizenship.

If any suspicion arises regarding submitted documents, officers must verify their authenticity with the issuing authority. In case of discrepancies, officers are required to report the matter immediately.

Lalbazar has made it clear that if any passport-related fraud surfaces, the concerned police officers will face disciplinary action.

Recently, Kolkata Police Commissioner Manoj Verma held a meeting with top officials to discuss multiple irregularities in passport verification. Sources indicate that the issue was highlighted following a recent incident at Alipore Court, where a

judge questioned Kolkata Police about verification lapses. A senior police official revealed, "The birth certificates submitted for some passports were fake. Additionally, several other documents provided by certain applicants were also found to be fraudulent. That is why all police stations have been warned."

Senior officials at Lalbazar suspect that some police officers responsible for passport verification are not performing their duties diligently.

As per standard procedure, officers must personally verify an applicant's details at their residence. However, there are allegations that officers are being lax, allowing fraudulent documents to go unnoticed.

This negligence has, in some cases, led to Indian passports being issued to foreign nationals.

This is not the first time passport verification irregularities have been reported in Kolkata. Authorities are now taking a zero-tolerance approach to prevent fraud and ensure that only eligible applicants receive passports. With Lalbazar's new directive, police officers handling passport verification will now face greater scrutiny, ensuring a more secure and accountable process.

Centre tells the US govt to ensure...

From PG 1
emergencies, are attended to. During toilet breaks deportees are temporarily unrestrained if needed. This is applicable to chartered civilian aircraft as well as military aircraft," he said.

"There has been no change from past procedures for the flight undertaken by the US on February 5," he added.

A US military aircraft carrying 104 illegal Indian immigrants landed in Amritsar on Wednesday, the first such batch of Indians deported by the Donald Trump administration as part of a crackdown against illegal immigrants.

The deportees claimed their hands and legs were cuffed throughout the journey and that they were unshackled only after landing in Amritsar.

Meanwhile, the opposition Congress and several other political parties have expressed concern over "pictures of Indians getting handcuffed and humiliated" while being deported from the US and said that America will soon have to regret over the treatment meted out to Indian migrants.

Referring to the case of Indian diplomat Devyani Khobragade who was sent back here in 2013, the Congress in a statement here said the then UPA government under Manmohan Singh had lodged a strong protest with the US government and retaliated sharply.

Reacting to the deportation of over 100 Indians from the US in the first batch, Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera said, "Looking at the pictures of Indians getting handcuffed and humiliated while being deported from the US saddens me as an Indian." Referring to the earlier case, Khera once again stated that in addition to the strong protest, Income Tax department had also investigated the American Embassy school." forcing the US Secretary of State John Kerry to express regrets at the treatment meted out to Devyani Khobragade.. A 1999-batch IFS officer, Khobragade was arrested in New York on visa fraud charges, triggering a row between the two countries with India retaliating by downgrading privileges of certain categories of US diplomats among other steps.

Name Change
I, Gita Neogi D/o Arun Chandra Sarkar, W/o Nirmal Neogi, a residency of Chotonilpur, Subhaspara, P.O.- Sripalli, P.S.- Burdwan, Dist-Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal, Pin-713103, declares that my correct name is Gita Neogi, D/o Arun Chandra Sarkar, W/o Nirmal Neogi. In the Aadhaar Card (being no.35312529 7753) my name has been written as Gita Neogi, W/o.Nirmal Neogi. In the Voter Identity Card (being no. WB/39/271/639272) my name has been recorded as Gitarani Niyogee W/o Nirmal Niyogee. In the PAN Card (being no.ALBP6869Q), my name has been recorded as Gita Neogi, D/o Arun Chandra Sarkar. In the Andhra Bank A/c (being no. 126210100059137, Customer ID- 46865151) my name has been written as Gita Rani Niyogee. In the Ration Card (being ID no. RKSY-II-1206936283) my name has been recorded as Gita Beogi, D/o- Arun Sarkar, W/o- Nirmal Kanta Neogi .As per affidavit before the Executive Magistrate Court at Purba Bardhaman on 28-01-2025 Gita Neogi D/o- Arun Chandra Sarkar, W/o Nirmal Neogi, Gitarani Niyogee, W/o-Nirmal Niyogee, Gita Neogi, W/o- Nirmal Neogi, Gita Neogi,D/o. Arun Chandra Sarkar and Gitarani Niyogee and Gita Beogi D/o Arun Sarkar, W/o Nirmal Kanta Neogi all are same and identical persons.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **HIRANMOYEE SAHA D/o Amalin Poddar, W/o Late Naresh Chandra Saha Residing at Vill – Gopainagar, P.O. & P.S. – Gopainagar, District – North 24 Parganas, Pin – 743262 have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as NIHAR BALA SAHA as declared before the Notary Public at Bongacon Court, District – North 24 Parganas, State – West Bengal vide Affidavit No 77 Dated 24.12.2024 Hiranmoyee Saha and Nihar Bala Saha both are same and identical person.**

NAME CHANGE
I MD. HARIAS AFTAB, son of SK Md. Aftab Alam, residing at 652, Taltala Lane, P.S. Park Street, Kolkata-700016, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my father name is SK. Md.Aftab Alam and my mother name is Shaheen Aftab. In my Birth Certificate my father name has been wrongly recorded as S.M. Aftab in place of SK. Md. Aftab Alam and mother name is wrongly recorded as Shahin Aftab in place of Shaheen Aftab. In Mouzana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology, West Bengal my father name has been recorded SK. Md. Aftab instead of SK. Md. Aftab Alam. By an affidavit before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Calcutta on 07.11.2024 that SK Md. Aftab Alam, S.M. Aftab, SK. Md. Aftab and Shaheen Aftab & Shahin Aftab are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, A K Nath @ Amal Krishan Nath S/O- Subal Chandra Nath resident of Renaissance, P.O.- Natungani, P.S.- Burdwan, Dist- Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal, Pin-713102, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as ‘AMAL KRISHNA NATH’ vide an affidavit before the Notary public at Purba Bardhaman on 04/02/2025. That A K Nath @ Amal Krishan Nath and Amal Krishna Nath both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Parul Mondal D/O- Bipin Bihari Debnath resident of 23, Biswas Para Road, P.O.- Nabadwip, P.S.- Nabadwip, Dist- Nadia, West Bengal, PIN-741302, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as ‘PARUL DEBNATH’ vide an affidavit before the Notary public at Purba Bardhaman on 04/02/2025. That Parul Mondal and Parul Debnath both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Faiyaz Siddiquee, Alam S/O- Mahboob Alam, Residing At P-154, 3rd Floor, Mudiali, P.s-Metiabruz, Kolkata-700024, That In The Pass Certificate Of My Son Namely Md. Mehtab Alam, My Name Has Been Recorded As Md. Faiyaz Alam Which Is Incorrect. So Vide Affidavit Before The Ld.1st Class J.M At Alipore Dt-30.01.2025 Faiyaz Siddiquee No-8396, That Faiyaz Alam & Md. Faiyaz Alam Is Same And One Identical Person.

Change of Name
I, ARIF BILLAH MIA and MOHAMMAD ARIF BILLAH MIYA (Old Name) S/O HAZI ABDUR RAHIM MIYA Residing at Maliadanga, P.O.-Fatepur, P.S.-Haringhata, District - Nadia, Pin - 741249, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as ARIF BILLAH MIYA (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public govt of India vide affidavit Dated 06-02-2025. ARIF BILLAH MIA and MOHAMMAD ARIF BILLAH MIYA (Old Name) and ARIF BILLAH MIYA (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Change of Name
I, Bisakha Saha (Old Name) W/o Kinkar Saha Residing at 166, Banku Behari Chatterjee Road, VTC+P.O-Kasba, District-Kolkata, Pin-700042 India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Bishakha Saha (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 007/2025 Dated 06-02-2025. Bisakha Saha (Old Name) and Bishakha Saha (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Change of Name
I, KOJAGARI SEN (Old Name) D/O SHATABDI DAS Residing at Vill-Jalakhanbar, P.O.-Contai, District - East Medinipur, Pin - 721401, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as KOJAGORI SEN (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public govt of India vide affidavit Dated 06-02-2025. KOJAGARI SEN (Old Name) and KOJAGORI SEN (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Change of Name
I, ACHIYA BIBI (Old Name) W/O ARIF BILLAH MIYA Residing at Maliadanga, P.O.-Fatepur, P.S.-Haringhata, District - Nadia, Pin - 741249, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as ACHIYA KHATUN BIBI (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public govt of India vide affidavit Dated 06-02-2025. ACHIYA BIBI (Old Name) and ACHIYA KHATUN BIBI (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Change of Name
I, Imteyaz Akhtar S/o Shamsul Haque Residing at Naim Nagar D Block Old Court Durgapur, P.s - Durgapur, District - Paschim Bardhaman, Pin- 713203 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Saiyad Imteyaz Akhtar. I declare that Imteyaz Akhtar and Saiyad Imteyaz Akhtar is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 06-02-2025.

Change of Name
I, Md Giasuddin S/o Mojammmel Mondal Pandey Residing at Vill - Swarupnagar, P.o - Kachua Swarupnagar, Ps - Matia, District - 24 Pgs(N), Pin- 743293 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Giasuddin Mondal. I declare that Md Giasuddin and Giasuddin Mondal is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 06-02-2025.

Change of Name
I, Mustakur Rahaman alias Sk Mustakur Rahaman (Old Name) S/o Nashrudin Sk Residing at Vill - Gobardhanpur, Po-Kharuigarh, Ps-Patashpur, District - Purba Medinipur, Pin - 721429 West Bengal India have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mustakur Rahaman Sek (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public, Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 06-02-2025. Mustakur Rahaman, Sk Mustakur Rahaman (Old Name) and Mustakur Rahaman Sek (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Change of Name
I, Sahala Parvin W/o Saiyad Imteyaz Akhtar Residing at Naim Nagar D Block Old Court Durgapur, Ps-Durgapur, District - Paschim Bardhaman, Pin-713203 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Shahla Perween. I declare that Sahala Parvin and Shahla Perween is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 06-02-2025.

Change of Name
I, Md Shahanzaj Ansari S/o Md Kasim Ansari Pandey Residing at 43/E/4, Narayan Roy Road, Barisha Silpara, Po - Barisha Sakher Bazar, Ps - Thakurpukur, District-Kolkata, Pin-700008 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Md Shahanzaj Ansari. I declare that Md Shahanzaj Ansari and Shahanzaj Ansari is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 06-02-2025.

Name Change
I, Ajmot Ali Khan (Old Name) son of Late Javed Ali Khan, residing at Sultanpur Senko Uttar, Shyampur, Howrah- 711312, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ajmat Ali Khan (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 06/02/2025. Ajmat Ali Khan (New Name) and Ajmot Ali Khan (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Parama Sikdar (Old Name) daughter of Samir Sikder, residing at 50/7, Gouri Bari Lane, VTC Shyambazar Mail S/O, Kolkata- 700004, W.B, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Paroma Sikder (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 06/02/2025. Paroma Sikder (New Name) and Parama Sikdar (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I,Priyanka Banerjee, Daughter Of Tapan Sarkar, Residing At 6/88 Bijaygarh, Jadavpur, Kolkata-700032, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Priyanka Sarkar Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 06/02/2025.That Priyanka Banerjee And Priyanka Sarkar Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I,Shaikh Shamsul Alam, Son Of Sk Enamul Haque, Residing At Vill-Adambandhi, Po-Mayapur, Hooghly-712413, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sk Shamsul Alam Vide An Affidavit No 16 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 06/02/2025. That Shaikh Shamsul Alam And Sk Shamsul Alam Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I,Malavia Twinkle Jayesh And Twinkle Malavia, Daughter Of Jayesh Malavia,Wife Of Nishit Shah,Residing At 19B Chakraberia Road South, PO-Bhawanipore, Kolkata-700025, West Bengal,shall Henceforth Be Known As Twinkle Shah Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public Kolkata On 21/01/2025. That Malavia Twinkle Jayesh And Twinkle Malavia And Twinkle Shah Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Roshni, Wife Of Jayesh Malavia, Residing At 387 G.T. Road, Salkia, Howrah-711106, West Bengal. Shall Henceforth Be Known As Roshni Malavia Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public Kolkata On 21/01/2025. That Roshni And Roshni Malavia Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I Mohammad Kowcher Ali Molla, S/O Mohammed Anower Ali Molla,R/O Nimkuria, Joypur Kashipur, South 24 Parganas, 743502, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md Kowcher Ali Molla,Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 05/02/2025, That Mohammad Kowcher Ali Molla And Md Kowcher Ali Molla Ali Are The Same And One Identical Person

Name Change
I,Sufia Dafader (Old Name) wife of Samsur Dafadar, residing at Puratan Helencha, Helencha Colony, Bagdah, North 24 pgs, Pin- 743270, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sufia Dafadar(New Name)asdeclaredbeforethe Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 05/02/2025.Sufia Dafadar (New Name) and Sufia Dafader (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Bhaiya Sunil Singh (Old Name) son of Bijay Narayan Singh, residing at 4TH FLOOR FLAT NO 502 69 DEWANEE STREET PO RISHRA DIS HOOGHLY PIN 712248, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sunil Singh (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 06/02/2025. Sunil Singh (New Name) and Bhaiya Sunil Singh (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Souvik Basu (Old Name) son of Sunil Ranjan Basu, residing at KHEJURDANGA, RAMNATHPUR NORTH 24TH PARGONA PIN 743423, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Soubhik Basu (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 06/02/2025. Soubhik Basu (New Name) and Souvik Basu (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I,Sk Habibul Islam, Habibul Islam And Habibul Sekh (Old Name), Son Of Sk Kabir, Residing At Vill-Baruihati, PO-Prithibi, North 24 Parganas, Pin-743704 West Bengal,Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sk Habibul (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public Kolkata On 20/01/2025.That Sk Habibul Islam, Habibul Islam And Habibul Sekh Also Sk Habibul Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I Sk Ziaur Rahman S/O Sk Abul Kalam (original school certificate name) R/o Vill-Mulgram, PO-Ranir Bazar Simulia, PS-Ghatil West Medinipur, West Bengal. Unfortunately in my lost passport surname given SHEIKH instead of SK.I declared before the notary public at kolkata on dated 06/02/2025. That SK Ziaur Rahman (New name) and Sheikh Ziaur Rahman (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Pampa Khatun (Old Name) wife of Md Faruk Mandal, residing at Baikara,P.O.-Haripurkuria,Ranaghat,P.S.-Haringhata, Pin-741257, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Pampa Mandal(New Name)asdeclaredbeforethe Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 06/02/2025. Pampa Mandal (New Name) and Pampa Khatun (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Sushila (Old Name) wife of Late Hargian Sharma, residing at P-2, Bharat Nagar Rohtak Road, Bhiwani, Haryana, Pin-127021, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sushila Sharma (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 06/02/2025. Sushila Sharma (New Name) and Sushila (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, De Rosario Felicity Xavier (old name) daughter of Xavier De Rosario, residing at Eastern High Apartment, Tower-4, 12 floor, Flat-C1, Street No.70, Newtown,North 24Pgs,Pin-700156,West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as FelicityDeRosario(new name)asdeclared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 06/02/2025. Felicity De Rosario (new name) and De Rosario Felicity Xavier (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Muhammed Osman (old name) son of Md Kausar, residing at 2 Janagar Road, P.S.- Beniapukur, P.O.- Circus Avenue, Kolkata- 700017, Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Osman (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 06/02/2025. Md Osman (new name) and Muhammed Osman (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Sk Shamim (Old Name), Son Of Late M Alam, Residing At 33/H/5, Dent Mission Road, Ps-Ekbalpore, Kolkata-700023,West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md.shamim(New Name)Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Ld.1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Alipore On 13/01/2025 Vide Affidavit No.3539.That Sk Shamim (Old Name)And Md.shamim (New Name) Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Hazra Khatun (old name) wife of Md. Shamim, residing at 33/H/5,Dent Mission Road, Ps-Ekbalpore, Kolkata-700023, West Bengal. Have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Hazra Begum (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the Ld. 1st class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore on 13/01/2025 vide affidavit no.3539. That Hazra Khatun (old name) and Hazra Begum (new name) both are the same and one identical person.

Fort William renamed Vijay Durg as part of Colonial Legacy shift
MI News Service, Kolkata: Fort William in Kolkata, the headquarters of the Indian Army's Eastern Command, has been officially renamed Vijay Durg as part of the Modi government's efforts to eliminate British colonial influences from the nation's heritage. The iconic fort, which was initially named after King William III of England, is now named after the historic Sindhudurg fort on Maharashtra's coast, which was a key naval base during the reign of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

The decision to rename the fort was made in the second week of December, though it has not yet been formally announced. However, Wing Commander Himanshu Tiwari, Chief Public Relations Officer of the Ministry of Defence in Kolkata, confirmed that 'Fort William' is no longer used in internal communications.

Fort William, built nearly 250 years ago, was named after King William III, the British monarch during the fort's establishment in 1700. The King was also a key figure in the spread of Protestant Christianity in Europe.

In addition to renaming the fort, other structures within the complex have also received new names. Kitchener House is now Manekshaw House, and the South Gate, previously known as St George's Gate, is now Shivaji Gate. According to a senior official from the Eastern Command, the new Fort William, covering over 177 acres, replaced the original fort destroyed by Siraj-ud-Daula's forces in 1757. Construction of the new fort began in 1758 and was completed in 1781. The fort was designed with enhanced defenses, including 497 cannons placed along the ramparts. Despite this, the fort was never attacked.

CBI arrests 'Kinpipin' in fake residency certificate scam

MI News Service, Kolkata: The CBI has arrested the alleged mastermind behind a fraudulent scheme to provide employment in paramilitary forces using fake domicile certificates. The accused, Mahesh Kumar Chowdhury, is said to have forged documents, including educational and domicile certificates, by tampering with official stamps from administrative authorities in North 24 Parganas. The scam involved charging hefty sums of money from job seekers in exchange for these fraudulent certificates. Chowdhury, who was employed as a constable in the Kankinara Engineering Store in North 24 Parganas, was arrested by the CBI on January 31. During the investigation, nearly 1 crore rupees were seized from his account. The CBI claims that Chowdhury collected large amounts of money, sometimes directly from the job applicants and at other times through intermediaries. He was allegedly involved in creating fake domicile certificates and educational qualifications, enabling individuals to secure jobs in the paramilitary forces. On Wednesday, Chowdhury was presented before a court, where his lawyer sought bail citing his wife's illness. However, the CBI's lawyer argued that it was crucial to understand where the money came from and how the entire operation was conducted, emphasizing the need for his custody. The court granted police remand for two days. Additionally, there are allegations of Pakistani and Bangladeshi nationals securing jobs in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) under this scheme. According to the complainants, two Pakistani nationals are working in the Barrackpur camp in Bengal.

Name Change
I, Chandra Mahto (Old Name) son of Late Ashraf Yadav, residing at GRAM KATHAUN, POST-KATORIA, DIST-BANKA, BIHAR-813106, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ramchandra Yadav (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 06/02/2025. Ramchandra Yadav (New Name) and Chandra Mahto (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Anjuben Gattani (Old Name) W/O Punshottam Gattani And D/O Late Jawalimal Nagouri, Residing At 1/3, D. J. Lane, Ps-Uttarpara, Po-Bhadrakali, Dist-Hooghly, Pin-712232, West Bengal. Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Anju Gattani(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 06/02/2025. That Anjuben Gattani(Old Name) And Anju Gattani (New Name) Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Anjuben Gattani (Old Name) W/O Punshottam Gattani And D/O Late Jawalimal Nagouri, Residing At 1/3, D. J. Lane, Ps-Uttarpara, Po-Bhadrakali, Dist-Hooghly, Pin-712232, West Bengal. Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Anju Gattani(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 06/02/2025. That Anjuben Gattani(Old Name) And Anju Gattani (New Name) Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.



A Multipurpose health checkup camp was organized by the Department of Health & Family Welfare, Malda Divisional Railway Hospital on 05.02.25 at Godda station. Around 65 employees and their dependant family members participated in this camp. They availed the facility of General Physician, Gynaecologist, ENT Specialist etc. In the medical camp Height, Weight, calculation of BMI, BP and RBG, ECG, Blood investigations LFT, Lipid profile, HbA1Cand Hb% were diagnosed on the advice of specialist doctors. Doctors also interacted with the employees and their dependents & enquired about the mental health, lifestyle both at home and at workplace.

Observance of World Cancer Day 2025 at B. R. Singh Hospital



MI News Service, Kolkata: World Cancer Day 2025 was observed in B. R. Singh Hospital, Sealdah on 4th February in the OPD complex, organised by the Health & Family Welfare Department, Sealdah under the guidance of Dr. Kalpana Mondal, Chief Medical Superintendent/Sealdah, in presence of Dr. Subhasish Das, MD/B. R. Singh Hospital, Dr. Subhankar Home, CS-IB. R. Singh Hospital, IRHS doctors, Asst Dietary Officer & nursing officers. Dr. Mandira Banerjee/ Additional Chief Medical Superintendent/Sealdah elaborated the theme of the

day " United by unique " & emphasised on the collective action to ensure compassionate care. Dr. Joydeep Ghosh, Divisional Medical Officer/ Med/B. R. Singh Hospital, discussed about the presentation, danger signs, importance of early diagnosis & management, long term care plan of cancer patients. Dr. Sourav Karmakar, Sr Divisional Medical Officer/ Surgery, discussed about the early signs & important facts on urogenital malignancy. Dr. Beauty Sarkar, ACHD/ IC/ Gynaecology & obstet-

rics, enlighten the audience on breast cancer, cervical cancer & ovarian cancer, early signs, preventive measures, screening & management. Dr. Suman Meyur, CMP/ Radiation oncology, described the treatment modalities, supportive care, family centric care etc. Dr. Chaitali Patra/Sr. Divisional Medical Officer/Paediatrics/B. R. Singh Hospital, highlighted salient facts on childhood malignancy. The programme was a grand success with active participation of the enthusiastic participants, railway beneficiaries & staffs.

Public Relations Dept of ER conducted safety awareness campaign at level crossing gates near Rishra Station

MI News Service, Kolkata: Trespassing the Level Crossing Gate as in closed condition is a social evil which has always proved fatal. At the busy Level Crossing Gate especially at suburban sections it has been seen that the road users are often passing Level Crossing with the gate boom in closed condition when train is approaching. The road users also pass through the level crossing by bizarre causing road traffic jam. These not only causes delay in road traffic at level crossing but also trains are delayed resulting in suffering of lots of passengers.

Officer and staff of Chief Public Relations Department, Eastern Railway with the active participation of RPF personnel, RPF post Sheoraphully conducted an awareness campaign at Level Crossing Gates No. 3B & 4 SPL near Rishra station over Howrah division today (06.02.2025), wherein the pedestrians and owners of



road vehicles crossing the level crossing were counseled about safety rules to be followed for passing through a Level Crossing Gate. The staff of the Public Relations department & officials of RPF, Eastern Railway counseled them about the requirement of keeping patience for smooth closure and opening of Level Crossing Gate to give precedence to the approaching train which in turn will help in streamlined flow of both train and road traffic. Information - Education - Communication (IEC) materials

were distributed and posters and banners were displayed at the level crossing for easy perception about the Do's and Don'ts while passing through a level crossing. RPF personnel were also conducted announcement through loudheller to promote awareness amongst the road users. The road users widely accepted these communication attempts of Eastern Railway down the line at user level to educate and counsel them about safety rules for passing through a level crossing.

BiGo partners with BGBS 2025 to power sustainable mobility



MI News Service, Kolkata: At the 8th Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS), BiGo has signed a groundbreaking MoU with the Government of West Bengal which will not only accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) but will also make West Bengal a key player in India's transition to Electric Vehicles. To introduce sustainable, business-first transport and mobility solutions, BiGo, an electric two-wheeler mobility service is making its mark in West Bengal with a bold vision.

BiGo's journey led by its visionary found-

ers, Ankit Nevatia, Ankit Jalan, and Prateek Agrawal, driven and dynamic team with rich work experience in the automotive, business management and information technology industry. This MoU also paves the way for BiGo to rapidly expand its services within the state and also create a solid foundation to launch all over the nation with its roots deeply grounded in West Bengal.

Ankit Jalan, Founder of BiGo says, "BiGo is more than just a mobility service; it's a revolution. Our full-stack approach of owning the fleet, developing the right infrastructure, training drivers, and managing operations, ensures reliability and sustainability. BiGo is empowering businesses to move smarter and faster. We at BiGo would like to thank our Chief Minister and the Government of West Bengal, for the support extended to us. The MoU we signed is a testament to the state's commitment to promoting entrepreneurship and innovation."

Regulation of trains for bridge work over Sealdah division

MI News Service, Kolkata: In connection with erection of Foot Over Bridge Girder at Basuldanga station in Sealdah Division, 09 hours 45 minutes (22:15 hrs. of 08.02.2025 to 08:00 hr. of 09.02.2025) Traffic & Power block has been planned. Consequently, following arrangements in running have been made as under: Cancellation of trains on 08.02.2025 (Saturday):

- Sealdah – Diamond Harbour: DN- 34860, 34856 / UP-34857
- Cancellation of trains on 09.02.2025 (Sunday):
- Diamond Harbour – Sealdah: UP- 34812, 34815, 34817, 34823/ DN- 34812,34818, 34820
- Sonarpur – Diamond Harbour: DN- 34882
- Diamond Harbour – Baruipur: UP- 34891
- Short Termination/ Short Origination of trains:
- 34854/34859 Sealdah – Diamond Harbour – Sealdah local will be short terminated at / Short originated from Magra Hat on 08.02.2025.
- 34858 Sealdah – Diamond Harbour local will be short terminated at Baruipur on 08.02.2025 and 34811 Diamond Harbour – Sealdah local will be short originated from Baruipur on 09.02.2025.
- 34814/34819 Sealdah – Diamond Harbour – Sealdah local will be short terminated at / Short originated from Magra Hat on 09.02.2025.
- 34814/34819 Sealdah – Diamond Harbour – Sealdah local will be short terminated at / Short originated from Magra Hat on 09.02.2025.

Services available on Sunday on green line-1 for 48th International Kolkata Book Fair

MI News Service, Kolkata: Metro Railway has been operating additional services on Green Line-1 for all the book lovers eager to go to the 48th International Kolkata Book Fair. Metro is now operating additional services on Sealdah- Salt Lake Sector V stretch during the Fair days (28.01.2025 to 09.02.2025) for the convenience of the book lovers. Like last Sunday, Metro will operate services on coming Sunday (i.e. 09.02.2025) too. On SUNDAY (09.02.2025) Metro will operate 74 services (37 East-bound & 37 West-bound) on Green Line-1. Metro services on this line will be available from 14:15 hrs to 21:40 hrs. Services will be operated at an interval of 12 minutes from 14:15 hrs to 21:15 hrs. First Service: At 14:15 hrs. from Sealdah to Salt Lake Sector V At 14:25 hrs. from Salt Lake Sector V to Sealdah Last Service: At 21:35 hrs. from Sealdah to Salt Lake Sector V At 21:40 hrs. from Salt Lake Sector V to Sealdah

BAJAJ ALLIANZ LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Regd. Office :
Bajaj Allianz House, Airport Road,
Yerwada, Pune - 411006
Tel.: 020 68026777

PUBLIC NOTICE

In furtherance to our notice dated 18 November 2024 we hereby inform that the office of Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Limited located at JK Millennium Centre, 2nd Floor, No.46-D, Chowringhee Road, Kolkata - 700016, will be shifted at its new address at Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co. Ltd., located at Constantia, 1st Floor, 11, U. N. Branchachhary Road, Kolkata - 700017 with effect from 28th Feb 2025.

"Why did PM Modi let this happen?": Priyanka Gandhi questions Centre on deportation of Indians from US

MI News Service, New Delhi: Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday launched a sharp criticism at the Central government over the recent deportation of over 100 Indian nationals who were allegedly living illegally in the United States.

Highlighting the relationship between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra questioned PM Modi why he let this incident happen.

In a video shared by All India Congress Committee, Vadra said, "A lot of things were said that President Trump and PM Modi are very good friends. Why did

them back? Is this how humans are behaved with? That they are sent back handcuffed and shackled?... EAM and PM should answer," the Congress MP said.

Meanwhile, the Opposition parliamentarians today staged a protest demanding a discussion in Parliament over the recent deportation.

Congress MP from Amritsar, Gurujit Singh Aujla was seen joining the protest sporting handcuffs on his hands.

Voicing his concerns, Aujla said, "The way they were brought in was wrong. They were humiliated. Their hands and feet were chained. When our government already knew that they



Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra arrives at Parliament House during the Budget session, in New Delhi on Thursday.

PM Modi let this happen?"

She further questioned the manner in which the deportation happened and asserted that India could have sent its own aircraft to bring the deportees back to the country.

"Couldn't we have sent our own aircraft to bring

were going to be deported, then they should have sent a commercial flight to bring them back."

Congress General Secretary KC Venugopal, Samajwadi Party MP Dharmendra Yadav, and a few other leaders were also seen sporting handcuffs to mark their protest outside the main door of the Parliament alleging that Indian citizens were subjected to inhuman treatment while being deported from the US. Placards held by the members read "humans, not prisoners."

Congress today submitted an adjournment motion in the Lok Sabha, calling for a discussion on the deportation of the Indian nationals from the US.

The Motion read, "This House must urgently address the issue to prevent further dehumanisation of our people and to uphold the dignity of every Indian, both at home and abroad."

The Lok Sabha was adjourned until 2 pm over ruckus on the issue.

EASTERN RAILWAY

Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Eastern Railway, Asansol Division, Station Road, Asansol, Pin-713301 invites E-Tenders, Competitive, single stage Two packet system, from food and catering service providers for the following work:

Name of work: Provision of Catering Services through Modular Catering Stall under General Minor Unit (GMU) for a period of 05 years at following 'A & B' Category Stations over Asansol Division.**SI. No.; Unit No.; Tender Notice No.; Station/Category; Location; Reserve Price per annum; Earnest Money; Cost of Tender Form:** 1; ASN-PF-5-6-03; CATG-GMU-UR-ASN-PF-5-6-03; Asansol/Category-A; Beside Cold Water Booth BL No. 1271; Rs. 7,16,100/-; Rs. 74,500/-; Rs. 3,360/-; 2; ASN-PF-7-01; CATG-GMU-UR-ASN-PF-7-01; Asansol/Category-A; Near North side Booking Office; Rs. 2,22,222/-; Rs. 23,200/-; Rs. 2,240/-; 3; ASN-PF-2-01; CATG-GMU-UR-ASN-PF-1-2-01; Asansol/Category-A; Between Food Safety Office and Gouri Devi Hospital; Rs. 3,37,555/-; Rs. 35,200/-; Rs. 2,240/-; 4; DGR-PF-2-3-01; CATG-GMU-UR-DGR-PF-2-3-01; Durgapur/Category-A; In between Seat No. 274-283 to 284-293; Rs. 5,59,020/-; Rs. 58,200/-; Rs. 3,360/-; 5; DGR-PF-4-5-01; CATG-GMU-UR-DGR-PF-4-5-01; Durgapur/Category-A; In between Seat No. 821-826 to 827-832; Rs. 3,72,467/-; Rs. 38,800/-; Rs. 2,240/-; 6; RNG-PF-3-01; CATG-GMU-UR-RNG-PF-3-01; Raniganj/Category-B; Near Water Cooler and OHE Mast No. 194/4; Rs. 83,501/-; Rs. 8,700/-; Rs. 1,120/-, Total 06 locations at 03 stations. **Bid Documents:** The tender documents are available on IREPS Portal www.ireps.gov.in and the same can be downloaded / viewed for submission of bid. The cost of tender document as indicated in the NIT will have to be deposited by the bidder online on IREPS Portal www.ireps.gov.in failing which the offer will be summarily rejected. **Earnest Money:** The bid must be accompanied by Earnest Money as mentioned in the NIT. The Earnest Money as indicated in the NIT will have to be deposited by the bidder online on IREPS Portal www.ireps.gov.in

Receipt of Bids: The bidder should submit his bid online on IREPS Portal www.ireps.gov.in not later than 15.00 hrs. on date as mentioned in NIT. Bids shall be opened on the same day on IREPS Portal www.ireps.gov.in at 15.30 hrs. Railway reserves the right to accept/reject any or all Bids without assigning any reason thereof. The Bids which fulfill the eligibility criteria will be evaluated based on the evaluation criteria given in this Standard Bid Document (SBD). Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall not be evaluated. **Address for Communication:** Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Eastern Railway, Asansol Division, Office of the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Eastern Railway, Asansol-713301, Dist: Paschim Bardhaman (WB), E-mail: sdcmersan@gmail.com.

ASN-323/2024-25

Tender Notices are also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at: [@EasternRailway](https://twitter.com/EasternRailway) [@easternrailwayheadquarter](https://facebook.com/easternrailwayheadquarter)



President Droupadi Murmu in a group picture with Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar, his wife Anjali Tendulkar and daughter Sara Tendulkar, at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Thursday.

Congress had "anger, hate" towards Ambedkar, made all efforts for his defeat in elections: PM Modi

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday accused Congress of "hated and anger" towards BR Ambedkar and said they were raising slogan of 'Jai Bhim' due to compulsion.

Replying in Rajya Sabha to the motion of thanks on President's Address, PM Modi alleged that Congress did all to defeat Ambedkar in elections due to its "hated"

He said Congress did not confer Bharat Ratna on Babasaheb Ambedkar.

"It is well documented how much anger and hatred Congress had towards Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar. It is well documented how much anger Congress had towards Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar. They felt irritated with his words. Due to this anger, they did everything to defeat Babasaheb in the two elec-

tions (1952, 1954) . They did not consider Babasaheb worthy of the Bharat Ratna. Today due to compulsions they are having to raise the slogan of 'Jai Bhim'. Congress is expert in changing colours. This can be clearly seen," PM Modi said.

He accused Congress of destabilising elected governments when it was in power at the Centre.

He alleged that a reason for the "present condition" of Congress is that rather than trying to improve its own position, it is busy impeding progress of others.

"Congress destabilised the governments. Because their motto remains, 'Dusre ki lakeer chhoti karo (to limit others)'. This is why Congress' condition is like this. The country's grand-old party, connected with freedom struggle, and this is their plight? Aap apni lakeer

lambi karne main mehnat kijiye to kabhi na kabhi desh apko bhi ye 10 meter yahan ane ka avsar degi [If they would have thought about themselves, they would get a chance to sit on the ruling side (in the Parliament)]," PM Modi said.

PM Modi also said attempts were being made to spread "caste poison" in the society.

"Today, attempts are being made to spread caste poison in the society..For many years, OBC MPs from all parties have been demanding constitutional status for the OBC Panel. But their demand was rejected, as it might not have suited their (Congress) politics. But we gave constitutional status to this panel," PM Modi said.

The House later adopted the motion of thanks to the President's address.

UGC extends deadline to submit feedback on draft UGC regulations

MI News Service, New Delhi: The University Grants Commission (UGC) on Thursday extended the deadline for submitting feedback on the Draft UGC Regulations of 2025 to February 28, which focuses on minimum qualification for appointment and promotion of teachers and academic staff in universities and colleges.

The Draft UGC Regulations, which also focuses on measures for the maintenance of standards in higher education, were uploaded on January 6, requesting feedback from stakeholders connected with academic institutions. The original date to receive feedback was February 5.

"In view of requests received from stakeholders to extend the last date to submit feedback on the draft

UGC Regulations 2025, UGC has now decided to extend the last date to February 28, 2025. Stakeholders can submit feedback on the draft regulations till 28/02/2025," the notice signed by UGC Secretary Manish R Joshi read.

Earlier, six states adopted a joint resolution seeking the withdrawal of draft Regulations, 2025.

Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Karnataka adopted the 15-point resolution at the conclave of State Higher Education Ministers-2025 in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

The states said that the draft UGC regulations do not envisage any role for the state governments in the appointment of the vice-chancellors of public universities

established under state Acts and thus impinge on the legitimate rights of the state in a federal set-up. The resolution demanded that the State Governments must be given a pivotal role in the appointment of vice-chancellors to state public universities.

The resolution says that the regulations severely curtail the rights of the States in constituting the search-cum-selection committees for the selection of Vice Chancellors.

The provision relating to appointing non-academics to be appointed as Vice-Chancellors requires to be withdrawn, the states said.

The Draft UGC regulations focus on setting up the minimum qualifications needed for appointing teachers and academic staff in educational institutions offering higher studies.

Regulation of trains for track maintenance work over South Eastern Railway

MI News Service, Kolkata: Due to Track Maintenance work between Kandra - Chandil section over South Eastern Railway on 07.02.2025, 13512/13511 Asansol - Tatanagar - Asansol Express (journey commencing on 07.02.2025) will remain cancelled.

Moreover, 68055/68056 Asansol - Tatanagar - Asansol MEMU (journey commencing on 7.02.2025) will be Short terminated at / Short originated from Purulia.

English books by writers Ram Kumar and Amar Mitra Published Nurul Islam Khan

On the occasion of the Kolkata International Book Fair, the novel Dukhe Keora by renowned writer and Bankim Chandra Smriti Award-winning writer Ram Kumar Mukherjee has been published in English. The book has been translated by Nava Malati Neog Chakraborty. The author received the relevant award for the book. On the other hand, the English book Pachanada Pur, My Little Town by renowned writer Amar Mitra has been published. The author Amar Mitra is a popular writer. He has also received many valuable awards. Translated by Titas Das. Notable books are available at the book fair.

32nd Foundation Day celebration of Surnandan Bharati

MI News Service, Kolkata: Surnandan Bharati celebrated its 32nd Foundation Day on 1st February at the Asutosh Memorial Hall, Kolkata. The event unveiled the screening of a one hour documentary film "Matir Gane" based on the life of folk singer Amar Paul produced by Kamal Chakraborty and Ritish Ranjan Chakraborty and directed by Sumit Bandyopadhyay and Ritish Ranjan Chakraborty and presented by Surnandan Bharati. Before documentary the All India Secretary of Surnandan Bharati, Ritish Ranjan Chakraborty, said, "Surnandan Bharati is an Examination Board. It has today grown in stature. Established in 1994 its affiliates have sprung forth almost in every state of our country and abroad.

It was followed by an award ceremony announcing the names of Papia Ghoshal, poet-folk singer-painter of London, UK who was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award alongwith Dr. Mridula Chakraborty, Medical Practitioner, Kolkata who received the Krishnandanan Award, with Riddhi Chakraborty, Founder Member of Surnandan Bharati who was given the Surnandan Award.

Subsequently, the inauguration of a special edition of Ra Patrika on folk singer Amar Paul inaugurated by Eminent Cardiologist Dr. Sukamal Das. The event was marked by a book release, namely "Mukher Michhil" - a full-fledged novelet penned by Satya Basu and presented by International poet-artist-singer Papia Ghoshal.

The second half of the programme arranged a musical soiree where singer Supti Roy, Ramit Mukherjee, Kamalini Baruah and Manisha Rani Biswas presented their vocal renditions. There was a solo dance-painting by Manikana Upadhyay and recitation of self composed poem by Chanchal Bhattacharya. This was followed by another dance and vocal rendition by Debasmita Pramanik and Indrani Chakrabarti, with Papia Ghoshal from UK and Prague presented folk song as guest artist. The repertoire roped in a magic show by Sajal Mitra. Surnandan Bharati organised also a music, dance, painting, recitation and book inauguration programme in 48th International Kolkata Book Fair. "Baul Tantrics" authored by Papia Ghoshal of London, "Galper Badhan" edited by Abhik Kumar Dey of Tripura and "Chitranandan" written by Ritish Ranjan Chakraborty of Kolkata were inaugurated. Vocal presentation by the students of Praner Anuranan under the guidance of singer Anamika Sarkar and Rhythm of art by the students of Art School of Naihati, directed by Artist Goutam Ghosh presented in the programme.

Hyderabad Police bust fake education certificate racket, two arrested

MI News Service, Hyderabad: Hyderabad Police arrested two individuals on Wednesday for their alleged involvement in a fake education certificate racket, which was being operated to provide forged academic documents to job seekers and students.

The arrests were made by the Dabeerpura Police and the South East Zone Task Force at Diamond Hotel, New Road Chanchalguda.

The accused have been identified as Abdul Qadeer (47), a private teacher residing in Shalibanda, and Mohd Shakeel (37), an unemployed resident of Dabeerpura. Another key suspect, Sanjay Sharma alias Sahil Sharma from Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, is still absconding.

According to police officials, the arrests were made based on credible intelligence. Sub-Inspector G. Naganna and his team intercepted the accused while they were travelling

on a two-wheeler towards Yakutpura.

Investigations revealed that the duo had been supplying fake educational certificates to individuals who lacked formal qualifications, charging them large sums by promising employment opportunities both in India and abroad.

Authorities have seized a total of 91 counterfeit certificates, additionally, the police recovered two mobile phones, Rs 1,080 in cash, and a motorcycle used in the crime.

During the investigation, it was found that the accused had ties with Sanjay Sharma, who was responsible for fabricating the fake certificates.

The arrested individuals would collect details and payments from clients and forward them to Sharma via WhatsApp. Sharma would then create the forged documents and courier them to Abdul Qadeer, who would hand them over to the buyers.

The police have launched efforts to track down the absconding accused and are further probing the extent of the racket. Authorities have urged job seekers and students to be cautious and verify their credentials through official channels.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice to all concern on behalf of client Sri Ranjan Chakraborty Son of Late Narayan Chakraborty residing at 27, Hari Charan Chatterjee Street, Kolkata 700 057, that one registered original Deed Vide No. 2431/1951. (Mouza Ariadaha Kamarhati Touz No. 173, J. L. No. 1, R. S. No. 12, R. S. Khatian No. 1504, 1505, R. S. Dag No. 2440, 2441, area of land more or less 03 Cottah 02 Chittak 19 Sq. Ft. lying and situated at 27. Hari Charan Chatterjee Street. Kolkata-700 057. The above referred original Deed is lost. A missing G.D.E. No. 316 dated 06/03/2024 with Dakshineswar Police Station is lodged. At present my client and other Co sharer are the owners of the above mentioned property. If any person, bank or financial institution having above property or original deed please intimate the undersigned in writing with supporting within Fifteen days from the date of this publication otherwise no such claims or demands entertained thereafter as advised.

Mrs. Mantu Mukherjee,
Advocate, Barasat Judges' Court
12/3, Sree Gopal Mallick Road,
Kolkata-700 057.



Lok Sabha LoP and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi during the protest by the DMK students wing against the UGC Grants Commission (UGC) draft rules, at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Thursday

Paschim Gopinathpur Gram Panchayat
Paschim Gopinathpur, Haripal, Hooghly, 712403

Notice Inviting e-Tender

e-Tender are being invited from intending bonafied resourceful Contractor for below mentione Tender as follows :-

e-NIT No.: 050/ 15th FC Untied/PGGP/2025, Date: 06.02.2025.

For more details please visit Paschim Gopinathpur Gram Panchayat office on any working days from **06.02.2025 to 20.02.2025 at 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM** & e-Tender website www.wbtenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Pradhan
Paschim Gopinathpur Gram Panchayat

Office of the Tikashi Gram Panchayat
Tikashi, Purba Medinipur

Tender Notice

NIT No. 11/TIK/5Th SFC/2024-25 Date-06/02/2025 The Pradhan, Tikashi Gram Panchayat invites e Tender 01 No. Construction of Village Market at Tikashi Bazar under Khejuri-I Block. Intending Bidders may access detailed information and respond from e procurement portal of Govt. of West Bengal <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in> on and from 07/02/2025 at 10:00 Hours to 14/02/2025 at 15:00 Hours.

Sd/- Pradhan
Tikashi Gram Panchayat

REGULATION OF TRAINS FOR TRAFFIC & POWER BLOCK OVER HOWRAH DIVISION

In connection with placement of RCC box segments and base slabs for Limited Heights Subway at Level Crossing No. 24/A/9 (Km 157/41-43) between Khagrahagat Road and Kamasubarna Stations of Azimganj - Katwa Section over Howrah Division, Traffic & Power Block for **06 Hours on 08.02.2025 (Saturday)** will be required. Consequently, the following trains will be regulated as under : ● **Cancellation of Passengers/ MEMU Trains on 08.02.2025 (Saturday) : From Katwa - 53011, 53015, 53017, 63007, 53009, 53053, 53055, 63031, 63039. From Azimganj - 53014, 53016, 53018, 63010, 53012, 63032. From Ahamadpur - 53056, 63040. From Nimtita - 53054. From Rampurhat - 63026. ● Short Termination / Origination on 08.02.2025 (Saturday) : 13177 / 13178 Sealdah - Jangipur Road - Sealdah Express** will be short terminated at / short originated from Katwa. **Note :** Special / Late Running Trains, if any, will be suitably diverted or controlled enroute. Passengers are requested to follow the public Address System of stations. Inconvenience that will be caused to the travelling passengers is deeply regretted.

Divisional Railway Manager, Howrah

EASTERN RAILWAY

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SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI BANK LTD, BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata West Bengal- 700091. CIN No: L65190G1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice (in Bengali) (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Elora Ghosh/ Arunava Ghosh/ C/o Arunava Ghosh/ Flat No. B-1, Jagannaya Apartment Surya Sen Pally, Ranidanga, District Darjeeling, West Bengal Siliguri- 734011/ LBSGI000006127494/ LBSGI00006139191	Flat at The First Floor, R.S. Plot No. 403, L.R. Plot No. 744 and 752, R. S. Khatian No. 57/1, L.R. Khatian No. 548/1, J.L. No. 71, Touz No. 91, Police Station Matigara, Mouza Boromohan Singh, Asharakhai Gram Panchayat, Pargana Patharghata, Sub Division Siliguri, Additional District Sub Registrar Office Siliguri II, Bagdogra, District Darjeeling, West Bengal Measuring An Area of 1200 Sq. Ft. (Approx.) (Including Super Built Up Area) Together With Proportionate Undivided Indivisible Share In The Land/ Date Of Symbolic 03.02.2025	November 13, 2024 Rs. 21,21,278.06/-	Siliguri
2.	Elora Ghosh/ Antara Ghosh/ Flat No. B1, Jagannaya Apartment Surya Sen Pally, Vtc Ranidanga P. O. Kadamtala, Sub District Naxalbari, District Darjeeling, West Bengal Siliguri- 734011/ LBSGI00006208322/ LBSGI00006240221	R.S. Plot No. 49/517, L.R. Plot No. 75, Road Zone By Lane Sreem Sarani, R.S Khatian No. 480, L.R. Khatian No. 403, R.S. Sheet No. 11, L.R. Sheet No. 86, Ward No. 38, SMC, Mouza Dabgram, P.S. Bhiknagar, B.L. and L.R. O. Rajganj, A.D.S.R. Office Bhaktinagar, Sub Division Jalpaiguri, District Jalpaiguri, West Bengal Measuring An Area of Vacant Land Measuring 2 Kathas 4 Chatakas or 0.0371 Acre/ Date Of Symbolic 03.02.2025	November 13, 2024 Rs. 42,84,916.86/-	Siliguri

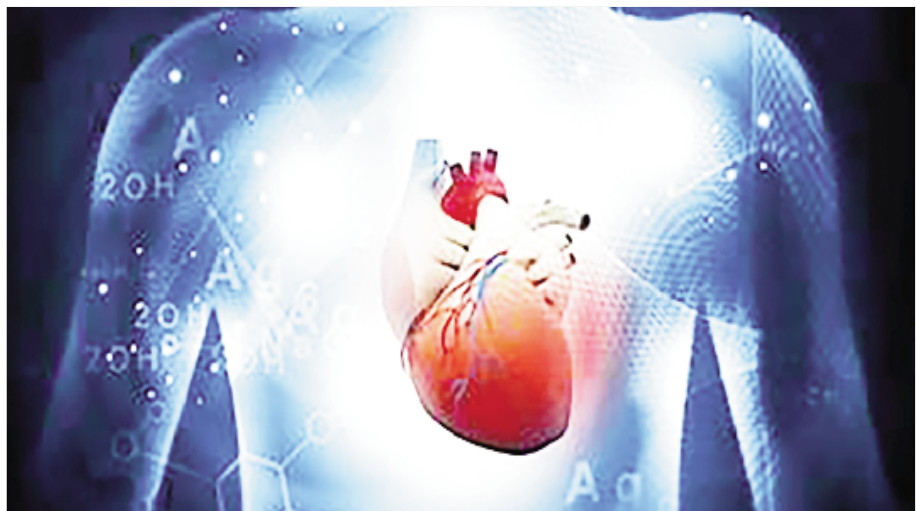
The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: February 07, 2025 Place: Siliguri

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Researchers discover protein that help prevent cancer treatment-related heart damage



Washington [US] : Blocking the protein CDK7 could prevent heart damage caused by a routinely used cancer chemotherapy treatment, according to a study conducted by scientists at Washington State University. Importantly, the researchers discovered that blocking CDK7 could improve the medication's cancer-killing efficacy.

Based on an animal model, the study's findings potentially lay the groundwork for future treatment options to decrease chemotherapy-related heart damage and improve treatment efficacy. This has the potential to help people with cancer live longer lives. Heart damage caused by chemotherapy can manifest decades later and lead to heart attacks, heart failure, cardiomyopathy, and other types of heart disease.

The findings of the study were published in the journal Cardiovascular Research, the WSU

study focused on doxorubicin, a chemotherapy drug used to treat breast cancer, lymphoma, leukemia and other cancers.

Capable of killing a wide range of cancer cells, doxorubicin and other similar chemotherapy medications are known to be toxic to the heart. Despite this toxicity, the drug still sees a lot of use.

"Doxorubicin remains the mainstay treatment for certain cancer types for which targeted therapies or other better treatments are not available," said senior study author Zhaokang Cheng, an associate professor in the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.Cheng has been working to unravel the underlying mechanisms of doxorubicin-induced heart toxicity to make the use of doxorubicin safer for patients who rely on the drug. This new study builds on findings from earlier research that showed that doxorubicin

activates a protein known as CDK2. That protein then activates another known as FOXO1, which causes heart cells to die. Cheng's team collaborated with WSU cancer biology researcher Boyang (Jason) Wu to take a closer look at CDK7, a protein that helps fuel cell growth and has been shown to play a role in the development of cancer.

The researchers found that CDK7 activated CDK2, which set off the chain of molecular signals that eventually led to heart cell death. They also showed that mice that lacked the CDK7 gene were protected from doxorubicin-induced heart toxicity. Next, they used a CDK7 inhibitor drug known as THZ1 to block the protein's activity and examine the impact on heart health and cancer growth. A similar inhibitor is currently being tested as an anti-cancer drug in clinical trials, but its effect on the heart is still not clear.

"We are the first to study the effect of THZ1 on the heart and tumour growth in the same model," said study first author Jingrui Chen, a WSU research associate. "And what we found is that this CDK7 inhibitor drug can increase heart function and at the same time inhibit tumour growth."

Though more research is needed, the researchers said their findings suggest that combining doxorubicin and THZ1 could help prevent heart damage and increase the effectiveness of chemotherapy treatment.

The researchers' next step is to test the effect of THZ1 on heart damage and cancer growth in younger mice and follow them longer. This would more closely mimic long-term doxorubicin-induced heart toxicity seen in childhood cancer survivors. They also plan to look at other proteins that may somehow be involved in the signaling pathway that underlies doxorubicin-related heart damage.

Study reveals key protein that helps prevent excessive bone loss in osteoporosis



Tokyo [Japan] : Osteoporosis, a disorder characterised by porous and weak bones, is a major hazard to skeletal health. As the foundation of the human body, bones provide critical structural support. When bone mass decreases, it not only weakens this support but also lowers general function, resulting in a lower quality of life.

With an ageing population and a rise in osteoporosis cases, the burden on healthcare resources for long-term care is clear. As a result, there is a need to understand the mechanisms that cause osteoporosis and develop effective targeted therapeutics to mitigate its long-term effects.

Osteoblasts and osteoclasts are two types of cells that play critical roles in bone tissue maintenance and remodelling. Osteoblasts are bone-forming cells that synthesise and deposit new bone tissue, whereas osteoclasts break down and remove old or damaged bone tissue. Increased proportion of osteoclasts causes bone mass loss in situations such as osteoporosis, rheumatoid arthritis (joint inflammation), and bone metastases (cancer that has spread to the bones). Osteoclasts develop from the development of macrophages or monocytes, two types of immune cells. Suppressing osteoclast differentiation could thus be used as a therapeutic technique to prevent bone loss. However, the precise molecular pathways driving the complicated process of bone remodelling are unknown.

In a new groundbreaking study, Professor Tadayoshi Hayata, Mr. Takuto Konno, and Ms. Hitomi Murachi from Tokyo University of Science, along with their co-workers, delved deeper into the molecular regulation of osteoclast differentiation. Receptor activator of nuclear factor kappa B ligand (RANKL) stimulation induces the differentiation of macrophages into osteoclasts. Further, bone morphogenetic protein (BMP) and transforming growth factor (TGF)- β signaling pathways have been implicated in the regulation of RANKL-mediated osteoclast differentiation. In the current study, the researchers sought to investigate the role of

Ctdnep1 - a phosphatase (an enzyme that removes phosphate groups) that has been reported to suppress BMP and TGF- β signaling.

Giving further insight into their work set to be published on July 30, 2024, in Volume 719 of Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications, Prof. Hayata states, "RANKL functions as an 'accelerator' for osteoclast cell differentiation. Driving a car requires not only the accelerator but also the brakes. Here, we find that Ctdnep1 functions as a 'brake' on osteoclast cell differentiation."

First, the researchers examined the expression of Ctdnep1 in mouse-derived macrophages treated with RANKL and untreated control cells. They noted that Ctdnep1 expression remained unchanged in response to RANKL stimulation. However, it localized in the cytoplasm in granular form in the macrophages and differentiated into osteoclasts, distinct from its normal peri-nuclear localization in other cell types, indicating its cytoplasmic function in osteoclast differentiation.

Further, Ctdnep1 knockdown (downregulation of gene expression) resulted in an increase in tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase-positive (TRAP) osteoclasts; wherein TRAP is a marker for differentiated osteoclasts. Additionally, Ctdnep1 knockdown led to an increase in the expres-

sion of crucial differentiation markers including 'Nfatc1', a RANKL-induced master transcription factor for osteoclast differentiation. These results support the 'brake function' of Ctdnep1, whereby, it negatively regulates osteoclast differentiation.

Moreover, Ctdnep1 knockdown also led to increased absorption of calcium phosphate, suggestive of the suppressive role of Ctdnep1 in bone resorption. Lastly, while, Ctdnep1 knockdown did not alter BMP and TGF- β signaling, cells deficient in Ctdnep1 showed elevated levels of phosphorylated (activated) proteins downstream of the RANKL signaling pathway. These findings suggest that the suppressive effect of Ctdnep1 in osteoclast differentiation may not be mediated by BMP and TGF- β signaling, but, through the negative regulation of RANKL signaling and Nfatc1 protein levels.

Overall, these findings provide novel insights into the process of osteoclast differentiation and reveal potential therapeutic targets which can be pursued to develop treatments that address bone loss due to excessive osteoclast activity. In addition to diseases characterized by bone loss, Ctdnep1 has also been reported as a causative factor in medulloblastoma - a childhood brain tumor. The authors are, therefore, optimistic that their research can be extended to other human diseases beyond bone metabolism.

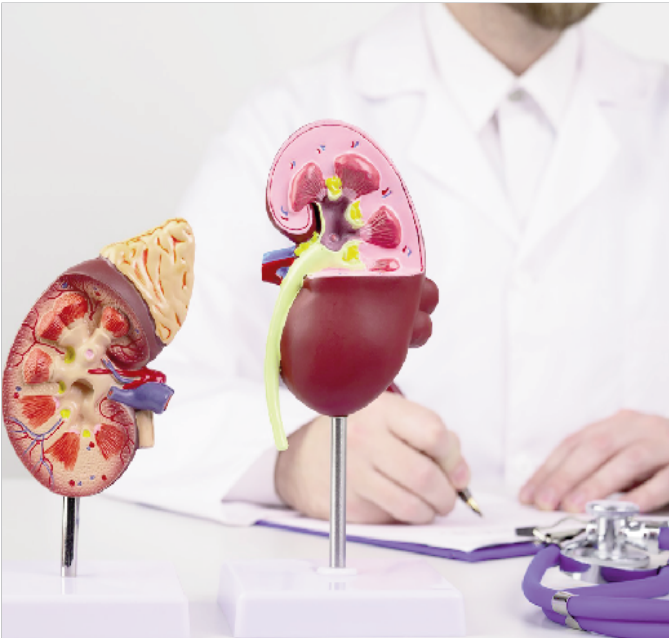
Semaglutide ingredient can help protect kidney function in people with obesity: Study

WASHINGTON [US], : Semaglutide, a glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonist, has been shown in the SELECT Trial to be effective in preventing the loss of kidney function in people who are overweight or obese and have established cardiovascular disease but do not have diabetes.

The remarkable secondary analysis from the SELECT (Semaglutide Effects on Heart Disease and Stroke in Patients with Overweight or Obesity) experiment, a randomised trial with a participant pool of 17,604 people, was unveiled by researchers today at the 61st ERA Congress.

The study's findings, according to experts, give individuals who suffer from obesity hope since this illness is known to increase the risk of renal function decline and macroalbuminuria, or abnormally high levels of the albumin protein in urine.

With an average follow-up of approximately 3.5 years, among patients who were administered a once-weekly subcutaneous injection of semaglutide 2.4 mg (n=8,803) adverse kidney-related events were experienced by 22% fewer persons (1.8%) compared to those receiving placebo (n=8,801) (2.2%) (p<0.05). These events included death from kidney causes, initiation of chronic kidney replacement therapy, significant ($\geq 50\%$) decline in kidney function, or onset of persistent macroalbuminuria. Semaglutide's ability to prevent the onset of macroalbuminuria was highlighted as a pivotal factor in reducing



the likelihood of kidney-related complications.

The study also assessed the impact of semaglutide on estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR), a measure of kidney function in removing waste and excess water from the blood through urine. The findings indicated a significantly lesser decline in eGFR among semaglutide recipients compared to the placebo group, with the effect being more pronounced in participants with baseline eGFR below 60 ml/min/1.73 m² (p<0.001). These results indicate the potential for semaglutide to particularly protect kidney function in individuals with a pre-existing kidney

impairment. The reduction in urinary albumin-to-creatinine ratio (UACR) further substantiated semaglutide's beneficial effect on kidney health, with a significant decrease observed in semaglutide-treated individuals compared to placebo (p<0.001). UACR analysis measures the ratio of albumin (a protein) to creatinine (a waste product) in urine, aiding the detection of albuminuria, which can signal kidney damage or dysfunction. With semaglutide, there was a net 8.1% decrease in UACR in those with normal albumin levels at baseline, a 27.2% decrease in those with microalbuminuria (slightly raised albumin) at baseline, and a 31.4% decrease

in those with macroalbuminuria at baseline relative to placebo.

Importantly, the study found no increased risk of acute kidney injury associated with semaglutide treatment, irrespective of baseline kidney function.

Over one billion people worldwide are affected by obesity.3 Rates of obesity are rising significantly, having doubled among adult women (8.8% to 18.5%) and nearly tripled in adult men (4.8% to 14.0%) between 1990 and 2022. The total number of children affected by obesity in 2022 was nearly 160 million, compared to 31 million in 1990.

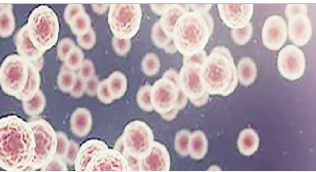
Professor Helen M. Colhoun, lead study author, commented, "By addressing key markers of kidney health, semaglutide 2.4 mg weekly may contribute to a significant reduction in the risk of kidney-related complications, including chronic kidney disease and end-stage renal disease. This could lead to improved management of comorbidities and, ultimately, enhance the quality of life for individuals with obesity."

"The observed benefits in eGFR and UACR are particularly encouraging, suggesting potential for the enhanced management of kidney complications in the patient population with overweight and obesity without diabetes. The findings also underscore the importance of continued research into the possible renal benefits of semaglutide and highlight its role as a promising therapeutic option in the multifaceted management of cardiovascular and renal health in this high-risk population."

Researchers use 'cloaked' proteins to deliver cancer-killing therapeutics into cells

Ithaca (New York) [US], : Researchers at Cornell University have created a generalized method for "cloaking" proteins, which may allow for the recycling of materials like antibodies for biological research and therapeutic applications.Lipid nanoparticles, which resemble tiny bubbles of fat, have the ability to ensnare the "cloaked" proteins. Because of their microscopic size, these bubbles are able to secretly deliver their cargo into living cells, where the proteins unfold and begin to work as medicine. The group's paper published in ACS Central Science. The lead author is doctoral student Azmain Alamgir, who works in the labs of the paper's co-senior authors, Chris Alabi, associate professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering, and Matt DeLis, professor of engineering.

For some drugs to impact a cell's biology, and ultimately treat disease, they need to get inside the cell and reach a specific space. Protein-based therapeutics have



many virtues - they can have more specific effects, with lower toxicity and diminished immune response - but ease of delivery is not one of them. Proteins are large and cumbersome and don't freely diffuse into cells as easily as small molecules do.

"We had been looking for a clever way to efficiently get our engineered proteins inside of cells, especially in a translational context that would not only work in lab-cultured cells, but that would also be effective and safe in animal models and eventually in humans," DeLis said. The researchers had the broad idea of using a bioconjugation approach that would allow the proteins to be loaded into lipid nanoparticles, which form around nucleic acids.

A major advantage of this approach was that lipid nanoparticles were a key component in the successful COVID-19 vaccines developed by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna. Those vaccines worked by delivering a payload in the form of messenger RNA, which are nucleic acids. The researchers now would use the same lipid nanoparticle delivery concept - the same materials even - but with a protein payload. The trick would be to make proteins look more like nucleic acids. The researchers found they could accomplish this by "cloaking" the proteins with a negatively charged ion, so they would join with the positively charged lipids electrostatically.

"The crux of our strategy is conceptually very simple," Alamgir said. "We're taking proteins and specifically remodeling their surfaces with negative charges, so they look like nucleic acids and can similarly assemble into nanoparticles when formulated with the characteristic lipids."

Light therapy helps in brain connectivity following injury

Illinois [US] : A study suggests that low-level light treatment may have an impact on the healing process in the brains of individuals who have experienced serious brain injuries.

The findings of the study were published in Radiology, a journal of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA).

The ability of various wavelengths of light to heal wounds has been researched for many years. Low-level light treatment was used by researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) on 38 patients who had experienced moderate traumatic brain injury, which is defined as a head injury severe enough to affect cognition and/or be detectable on a brain scan. Within 72 hours of their injury, patients underwent light therapy using a near-infrared light-emitting helmet.

"The skull is quite transparent to near-infrared light," said study co-lead author Rajiv Gupta, M.D., Ph.D., from the Department of Radiology at MGH.

"Once you put the helmet on, your whole brain is bathing in this light."

The researchers used an imaging technique called functional MRI to gauge the effects of the light therapy. They focused on the brain's resting-state functional connectivity, the communication between brain regions that occurs when a person is at rest and not engaged in a specific task. The researchers compared MRI results during three recovery phases: the acute phase of within one week after injury, the subacute phase of two to three weeks post-injury and the late-subacute phase of three months after injury.

Of the 38 patients in the trial, 21 did not receive light therapy while wearing the helmet. This was done to serve as a control to minimize bias due to patient characteristics and to avoid potential placebo effects.

Patients who received low-level light therapy showed a greater change in resting-state connectivity in seven brain region pairs during the acute-to-sub-



acute recovery phase compared to the control participants.

"There was increased connectivity in

those receiving light treatment, primarily within the first two weeks," said study coauthor Nathaniel Mercaldo, Ph.D., a

statistician with MGH. "We were unable to detect differences in connectivity between the two treatment groups long term, so although the treatment appears to increase the brain connectivity initially, its long-term effects are still to be determined."

The precise mechanism of the light therapy's effects on the brain is also still to be determined. Previous research points to the alteration of an enzyme in the cell's mitochondria (often referred to as the "powerhouse" of a cell), Dr. Gupta said. This leads to more production of adenosine triphosphate, a molecule that stores and transfers energy in the cells. Light therapy has also been linked with blood vessel dilation and anti-inflammatory effects.

"There is still a lot of work to be done to understand the exact physiological mechanism behind these effects," said study coauthor Suk-tak Chan, Ph.D., a biomedical engineer at MGH.

While connectivity increased for the light therapy-treated patients during the

acute to subacute phases, there was no evidence of a difference in clinical outcomes between the treated and control participants. Additional studies with larger cohorts of patients and correlative imaging beyond three months may help determine the therapeutic role of light in traumatic brain injury.

The researchers expect the role of light therapy to expand as more study results come in. The 810-nanometer-wavelength light used in the study is already employed in various therapeutic applications. It's safe, easy to administer and does not require surgery or medications. The helmet's portability means it can be delivered in settings outside of the hospital. It may have applications in treating many other neurological conditions, according to Dr. Gupta.

"There are lots of disorders of connectivity, mostly in psychiatry, where this intervention may have a role," he said. "PTSD, depression, autism: these are all promising areas for light therapy."



SA20: SUNRISERS EASTERN CAPE'S TITLE HAT-TRICK HOPES REMAIN ALIVE WITH WIN OVER JOBURG SUPER KINGS IN ELIMINATOR

CENTURION [SOUTH AFRICA] : Sunrisers Eastern Cape's hopes for a hat-trick of SA20 titles remained alive as skipper Aiden Markram's half-century helped them secure a 32-run win over Joburg Super Kings in the eliminator at Centurion on Thursday.

SEC will now meet the Paarl Royals in Qualifier 2 at the same venue on Thursday, as per a press release from SA20.

Captain Aiden Markram's love affair with the Pretoria ground continued with the skipper's 62 not out off 40 balls (five fours and two sixes) setting up the Sunrisers' 184/6, as per a press release from SA20.

Super Kings' run-chase stuttered throughout with the Joburg side unable to put together any meaningful partnerships as they slipped to 152/7 in their 20 overs.

The Eliminator was virtually decided in two separate overs of each innings.

The Sunrisers innings was delicately poised on 149/5 with 12 balls remaining when Markram and Marco Jansen (23 in 12 balls, with two fours and two sixes) bashed 29 runs off Lutho Sipamla's penultimate over.

Sipamla conceded three sixes, two boundaries and delivered a no ball to finish with the second-most expensive figures of 0/72 in SA20 history. Imran Tahir (2/21) was the pick of the bowlers for JSK.

In contrast, the Super Kings were on track at 91/3 after 12 overs requiring 94 from 48 balls with set batters Jonny Bairstow (37 in 17 balls, with three fours and three sixes) and Wihan Lubbe (13) at the crease.

Sunrisers skipper rolled the dice and opted to bowl out seamer Craig Overton (2/20). The decision reaped the desired rewards with Overton sending down a miraculous double-wicket maiden over by dismissing both Lubbe and Moeen Ali as the Super Kings slumped to 91/5.

There was no way back for the Super Kings as they were left to contemplate a third play-off in a defeat in a row.

"Lot of credit to the boys. We have not put a complete game of cricket throughout and tonight was the closest we got," said Markram.

"The bowlers were brilliant, the ball came on even better under lights so lot of credit to our guys. We saw the odd one react differently and that is why we wanted to wait before using the spinners. It is all about execution on a surface like this."

"It was a tricky one to pace our innings, but we hit a phase where (Tristan) Stubbs and I got into the groove, and then Marco chipped in with a valuable knock," he concluded.



Harshit Rana becomes first Indian bowler to pick three wickets across formats on debut

NAGPUR (MAHARASHTRA) : During the first ODI against England at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium on Thursday, Indian right-arm seamer Harshit Rana became the first Indian bowler to take 3+ wicket on his debut innings across each of the three formats.

Harshit finished off his first ODI innings with three wickets in seven overs where he conceded 53 runs in his spell of seven overs where he bowled one maiden over too. With this spell, the speedster achieved the landmark and became the first Indian to do so.

The fast bowler didn't have a good start to his ODI career as England wicketkeeper-batter Philip Salt smashed 26 runs in his third over of the spell after which he was removed from the spell as he gave away 37 runs in his first three overs.

But later, the cricketer made a comeback and snapped three wickets and bowled a maiden over in the remaining four overs of his spell and finished his spell with 7-1-53-3.

Earlier last month, Harshit Rana came in as a concussion substitute for Shivam Dube during the fourth T20I of the five-match



series against India at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium. Harshit finished his spell with a figures of 4-0-33-3.

Harshit Rana made his Test debut during the opening Test of Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2024-25 against Australia at Perth where he snapped three wickets and gave away 48 runs.

The fast bowler has played two Tests and a sole T20I for India. In

two Tests, he has four wickets at an average of 50.75, with best figures of 3/48. In a solitary T20I appearance against England, he took three wickets at an average of 11.00, ending the match with figures of 3/33. In 14 List-A matches, Harshit has taken 22 wickets at an average of 23.45, with best figures of 4/17.

The 23-year-old's T20I debut became a hot topic for debate for

fans and former cricketers in the fourth T20I. He came on as a concussion substitute for Shivam Dube and delivered a match-winning spell. The decision certainly triggered England fans, and captain Jos Buttler didn't hide away his dissatisfaction after the game.

Recapping the first innings of the Nagpur ODI, England won the toss and elected to bat first.

Openers Phil Salt (43 in 26 balls, with five fours and three sixes) and Ben Duckett (32 in 29 balls, with six fours) gave England a fine start with an explosive 75-run opening stand. After England stumbled to 111/4, with experienced Joe Root (19 in 31 balls, with a four) in the pavilion, skipper Jos Buttler (52 in 67 balls, with four boundaries) and Jacob Bethell had a 59-run stand.

After Buttler was dismissed, Bethell reached his half-century, scoring 51 in 64 balls, with three fours and a six. A cameo from Jofra Archer (21* in 18 balls, with three fours and a six) took England to 248 in 47.4 overs.

Ravindra Jadeja (3/26) and Harshit Rana (3/53) were top wicket takers for India. Axar Patel, Mohammed Shami and Kuldeep Yadav got a wicket each.

ISL steps into Shillong as NorthEast United FC aim to push playoffs against Mumbai City FC

SHILLONG (MEGHALAYA) : NorthEast United FC will host Mumbai City FC as the Indian Super League (ISL) makes its debut in Meghalaya with this match taking place at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Shillong on February 7.

The Islanders will be targeting a bounce back after a goalless draw in their previous game against East Bengal FC, whereas the Highlanders are aiming to extend their unbeaten streak to nine games, a release from ISL stated.

In the reverse fixture, the Highlanders prevailed by a dominating 3-0 margin and will have their eyes set on securing their second league double against Mumbai City FC, having previously done so in 2020-21. It was incidentally the last time that NorthEast United FC had qualified for the playoffs as well, and they are arguably primed to do so this season around as well.

Currently, NorthEast United FC have 29 points on the back of seven victories and eight draws after 19 encounters, placed fourth in the points table, having drawn four times and won once in their last five games.

The Islanders are positioned sixth in the rankings, as they have 28 points to their name from 18 games due to seven wins and draws each. Their last five games have seen the team win and draw twice. Incidentally, Mumbai City FC's seven stalemates this season are only surpassed by NorthEast United FC's eight.

One of the key contributors to that is the fact that the Islanders are the fourth-least scoring team in the ISL this season, having netted 22 times in 14 games. Nikolaos Karelis' nine strikes are followed by Lallianzuala Chhangte, who has scored only thrice.



The Highlanders have fared admirably well on this front, netting 37 times - the second-most in the league. ISL 2024-25's leading goal-scorer Alaeddine Ajarai (18) has spearheaded their pursuit of glory upfront with aplomb, and he even bagged a brace in the clash between these two teams in Mumbai earlier this season.

Will the joyous crowd of Shillong inspire NorthEast United FC to continue their formidable form, or enable Mumbai City FC to regain their touch in the frontline?

The Highlanders' longest-ever unbeaten run in the competition was an 11-match streak between January and March 2021 (W6 D5). Can they inch closer to that record with five league games remaining this season?

NorthEast United FC average 32.6 penalty area entries per game this season, the second

highest behind Mohun Bagan Super Giant (34.4). Ajarai's 18 strikes are followed by Guillermo Fernandez (5) and Nestor Albibach (4) for them.

The Islanders are unbeaten in their last six away matches in the ISL (W3 D3). The last time they underwent a longer such streak on the road was a nine-game run (W8 D1) between October 2022 and February 2023.

Mumbai City FC have the highest passing sequence average (3.5 passes per sequence) in the ISL, while NorthEast United FC's 2.2 passes per sequence is the joint lowest (alongside Chennaiyin FC and Jamshedpur FC). It highlights the difference between the two playing philosophies, something that makes it an interesting clash of contrasts.

NorthEast United FC head coach Juan Pedro Benali said that the forthcoming fixture will not be an easy task for either of the two teams.

"It's a very difficult game. Points are very important right now. It's a direct contest between Mumbai and us (in the points table), and it won't be easy for either of the two teams," Benali was quoted in a release from ISL as saying.

Mumbai City FC head coach Petr Kratky admitted that there are areas that his team needs to improve their gameplay on.

"There are a lot of areas that we should improve upon. NorthEast United FC are a very good team. So, we have to focus on ourselves and our processes," Kratky said.

The two sides have faced each other 21 times in the ISL, with Mumbai City FC winning 11 times and NorthEast United FC emerging victorious on six occasions. Four encounters have produced draws.

Trisha Gongadi, Beth Mooney, Karishma Ramharack nominated for January's Women's Player of the Month award

DUBAI [UAE] : India Under-19 star Trisha Gongadi along with Australia's veteran wicketkeeper-batter Beth Mooney and West Indies' Karishma Ramharack were nominated for January's ICC Women's Player of the Month award on Thursday, according to ICC.

Trisha Gongadi (India Under 19) Trisha Gongadi consistently shone with the bat for the India side at the ICC Women's U19 T20 World Cup in Malaysia as she flourished in her role as an opener. Her aggressive batting style at the top of the order set the tone for India.

She became the first batter to score a century in the tournament against Scotland with a spectacular 110* off 59 balls at a monstrous strike rate of 186.44.

Gongadi was the leading run scorer in the tournament at the end of the semi-finals stage. Her batting exploits were instrumental as India eventually went on to win the tournament.

Gongadi scored 265 runs off six U-19 T20Is at an average of 66.25 and a strike rate of 149.72. She even contributed with the ball, taking four wickets at an average of 7.50 and an economy rate of 3.75.

Beth Mooney (Australia) Beth Mooney had a fantastic January with commendable performances in the T20 series against England.

She scored two fifties which included a knock of 94 not out as Australia whitewashed England 3-0 in the T20I component of the Ashes series.

Mooney was undoubtedly Australia's standout batter, earning the Player of the Match award in both the first and final T20Is of the series. She also finished as the leading run-scorer across the T20Is.

Apart from her batting, Mooney was outstanding behind the stumps, taking three catches and executing a stumping during the T20I series.

Mooney amassed 213 runs in three T20Is at an average of 106.50 and an exceptional strike rate of 146.89.

She also scored 90 runs in three ODIs at an average of 30 and a strike rate of 82.56 to end her January.

Karishma Ramharack (West Indies) Karishma Ramharack was a standout performer for the West Indies in their ODI series against Bangladesh.

After a slow start to the series, Ramharack found her groove in the second ODI. She dismantled the Bangladesh middle-order and finished the game with figures of 4/33 off her 10 overs with an economy rate of 3.30 and remained a standout performer for the West Indies despite their loss.

In the final game of the ODI series, she starred with a magnificent bowling performance, racking up figures of 4/12 off 6.5 overs at an incredible economy rate of 1.75. This time, her performance helped the West Indies wrap a 2-1 series win.

Ramharack finished with the Player of The Match and Player of The Series Awards to round up a fantastic January.

She finished the month with eight wickets across three ODIs and two T20Is with an economy rate of 3.30.



Amid injury concerns, Australian camp hit by shock ODI retirement of Marcus Stoinis

MELBOURNE [AUSTRALIA] : Australia all-rounder Marcus Stoinis has shocked the cricketing world by announcing his retirement from ODI cricket with immediate effect, reported the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Thursday.

Stoinis will retire from ODIs with immediate effect so the 35-year-old can concentrate on T20I cricket, meaning Australia will be without his services for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy.

The Aussies are already suffering an injury crisis for the tournament in Pakistan and UAE that commences on February 19, with all-rounder Mitch Marsh already ruled out of the eight-team tournament and key pacers Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood also in serious doubt.

It means Australia may be on the lookout for up to four new

players for their 15-member Champions Trophy squad, with the likes of Spencer Johnson, Jake Fraser-McGurk and Sean Abbott all likely to be in the mix as replacement.

Australia great Ricky Ponting recently said uncapped all-rounder Mitchell Owen should be considered for the Champions Trophy and the 22-year-old has many similar qualities that Stoinis possesses. Stoinis finishes his international ODI career having represented Australia on a total of 71 occasions in 50-over cricket and having appeared at two ICC Men's Cricket World Cups in 2019 and 2023, with his most recent contest coming against Pakistan in Perth in November last year. He scored 1,456 runs in 64 innings at an average of 26.69, with a century and six fifties and best score of 146. He also took 48 wickets at an



average of 43.12, with best figures of 3/16. Stoinis suggested the decision to retire from ODI cricket was made so he could focus on prolonging his T20I career, but said he would still be keeping a close eye on proceedings at the Champions Trophy.

"Playing ODI cricket for Australia has been an incredible journey, and I am grateful for every moment I have had in the green and gold. Representing my country at the highest level is something I will always cherish," Stoinis said as quoted by ICC.

"This was not an easy decision, but I believe it is the right time for me to step away from ODIs and fully focus on the next chapter of my career. I have got a fantastic relationship with Ron (Andrew McDonald) and I have hugely appreciated his support."

"I will be cheering the boys on

in Pakistan," he concluded.

Australia coach McDonald paid tribute to Stoinis and said the all-rounder had made a great impact throughout his ODI career.

"Stoin has been such a pivotal part of our ODI setup for the past decade," McDonald said.

"Not only has he been an invaluable player but also an incredible person to have in the group. He is a natural leader, an exceptionally popular player and a great person."

"He should be congratulated on his ODI career and all of his achievements," he concluded.

Australia preliminary squad: Pat Cummins (c), Alex Carey, Nathan Ellis, Aaron Hardie, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Marnus Labuschagne, Glenn Maxwell, Matt Short, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Adam Zampa (squad yet to be finalised).

Gujarat Giants unveil official jersey ahead of Women's Premier League 2025

AHMEDABAD (GUJARAT) : As the third season of the Women's Premier League (WPL) approaches, the Gujarat Giants are gearing up for their home debut at a new venue in Vadodara. On Thursday, the team held a press event in Ahmedabad attended by Head Coach Michael Klingler, players Harleen Deol and Shabnam Shakil, and Adani Sportsline's CBO, Sanjay Adesara, during which their official jersey was unveiled.

The WPL 2025 is set to begin on February 14 and will be played across multiple venues, including Vadodara, Bengaluru, Lucknow, and Mumbai.

Addressing media at the event, head coach Klingler laid down the ambitions for his team

this season, aiming to win the ultimate prize this year.

Sharing insights into the team's preparations, he said, "All the players are really excited. The overseas players will start arriving over the next day or two and then we can all start work together."

"We are certainly here to compete really hard. We are looking forward to playing some really strong cricket and hopefully qualify for the finals. We are not shying away from it, that is going to be our aim this season. I feel we have got the team to do it, in terms of a few additions, but also one of the things I was really proud of, since the last WPL season that we had, is that six of our players playing in the A team,

and some someone of them playing for the first time playing in the senior team. So, just with those experiences and exposure to top-level cricket and other franchise cricket as well. That is going to hold us in good stead," he added.

Having missed the previous season due to injury, India all-rounder Harleen Deol also expressed her excitement to be back with the team, especially in Vadodara, where she has some fond memories.

She mentioned, "I missed the last season because of an injury, so I am even more keen to play this edition. I have a lovely memory of scoring my maiden ton in Vadodara, but in cricket, you have to start from zero every day.

If you have scored runs before that does not mean you have those runs in your pocket already. So, I am very excited to be playing there for this tournament, and I am looking forward to it." Fresh from her second consecutive U19 World Cup triumph with the Indian team, Shabnam Shakil, highlighted how being a part of the Gujarat Giants in the WPL has helped her in her growth as a player.

She said, "There have been plenty of learnings with the exposure to experienced players and foreign players. They helped me a lot, especially in season two when I got opportunities to play four matches. I would say that the Gujarat Giants and the WPL gave me the platform to have a

lot of experience and exposure to express myself."

Sanjay Adesara, Chief Business Officer, Adani Sportsline, also put forward the expectations for the team this season. He mentioned, "The expectation is straight and simple- as a team, Gujarat Giants will try and give the best and give a great cricket experience to our fans out there, not only in Gujarat, but across the country and across the world. That's the very simple expectation what we have brought for the home audience. It's the first time we will be playing in front of our home crowd. So, that in itself is enough excitement for all of us." (ANI)

Gujarat Giants will take on the defending champions Royal



Challengers Bengaluru in the WPL 2025 opener on February

14, 2025, at BCA Stadium in Vadodara.