

# Kalyani firecracker explosion: Nabanna asked DM to submit report

The West Bengal government has directed the District Magistrate of Nadia to conduct an independent investigation and submit a report on the Kalyani firecracker explosion. This comes after Nabanna had already sought a report from the district police. In addition to the ongoing police probe, the state administration has now mandated a separate inquiry by the District Magistrate. Furthermore, the government has announced compensation of ₹2 lakh for the families of the deceased. PG 3



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# Morning India

## BJP government to set up Special Investigation Team to probe AAP corruption

MI News Service, New Delhi: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will work to fulfil all its commitments to the residents of Delhi and set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe corruption under the Aam Aadmi Party government, said BJP leader Parvesh Verma on Saturday after the party's massive victory in the Assembly polls. Speaking to newsmen after his own victory against Arvind Kejriwal by a margin of over 4,400 votes from New Delhi seat, Verma said providing a clean and efficient government would be their top priority. About the formation of the new government, Verma, who has emerged as a giant killer, said the



party leadership will take decision on the post of Chief Minister in consultation with all other party MLAs. Once again giving full credit to his victory to party leadership he said people have expressed faith in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "In our party, the legislative party decides on the CM candidate and the party leadership gives its approval. So the party's decision will be acceptable to everyone," Verma said answering a query about him being seen as a frontrunner in the leadership sweepstakes. "I thank the voters of New Delhi, lakhs of hard-working workers and PM Narendra Modi. This is truly his victory. People have expressed their trust in him. Party chief JP Nadda and Home Minister Amit Shah took charge and there was extensive campaign, they raised morale of workers. It is victory of everyone," he said. Verma also outlined top priorities of the new government. "Our priority will be to provide Rs 2500 to every woman, we had talked of creating SIT to investigate corruption, Yamuna riverfront, reduce pollution, reduce traffic congestion... we will build such a capital that everyone will be proud of," he said. BJP repeatedly made allegations of "corruption" against AAP government and Kejriwal during the Delhi polls and took "sheeshmahal" jibes at him. Parvesh Verma's wife, Swati Singh Verma, said the victory shows the trust of people of Delhi have put in BJP and PM Modi. "Today's victory shows that people have trust in BJP and PM Modi. The people of Delhi were fed up with the different governments for the past 26 years. Now, the development will happen," she said. BJP is leading has won 48 seats and AAP 22 others in the 70-member Delhi assembly. BJP is poised to come to power in Delhi after 27 years.



Bharatiya Janata Party supporters celebrate after the party secured a majority in the Delhi Assembly elections .

# End to reign of lies & deceit start of new era of development

## BJP leaders say on Delhi poll results

MI News Service, New Delhi: Union Home Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah has hailed the party workers for Delhi poll results, describing it as the beginning of a new era of development in the national capital and an end to the reign of lies, deceit and corruption. Amid jubilation in the saffron party's camp following its return to power in the city after nearly 27 years, all its leaders praised the unquestioned leadership quality of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in guiding the party to its massive victory. Besides the Home minister, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh asserted on Saturday that a developed Delhi was extremely necessary to fulfil the resolve of a developed India. The double-engine government will take the pace of development in Delhi to a new high, he said in a post on X. In a series of posts on X, Shah -- who is credited for shaping the details of the party's poll strategy -- said Delhi would become an ideal capital under Modi's leadership. The BJP is determined to fulfil all its promises and make Delhi the number one capital of the world, he said.

Residents of Delhi have shown that repeated false promises cannot mislead people, he said, asserting that they answered through their votes to the problems of a polluted Yamuna, dirty drinking water, broken roads, overflowing sewers and liquor shops in every street. Be it respect for women, self-respect of unauthorised colony residents or the immense possibilities of self-employment, Delhi will now become an ideal capital under Modi's leadership, he said. BJP president JP Nadda said the party's massive win was a victory of people's unwavering support in its model of service, good governance, welfare of the poor, and development under Modi's able leadership. The "AAP-da" government in Delhi had crossed all limits of corruption, misgovernance and appeasement. The city is now free from its lies, deceit and fraud, and is starting a journey into a new era of progress and respect, he claimed. Nadda said, "This historic mandate reflects people's trust in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a brighter and more progressive future for Delhi."

Shah said the results were a defeat of arrogance and anarchy. "This is a victory of 'Modi ki Guarantee' and the trust of the people of Delhi in Modi's vision of development," he added. The people of Delhi dismantled the "Sheesh Mahal" of lies, deceit and corruption and made the city "AAP-da free", he said, targeting AAP. The BJP West Bengal unit also hailed the party's good performance in the Delhi Assembly polls, terming it a rejection of corruption and nepotism, while the TMC, which had backed the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), maintained silence on the outcome. BJP state president and Union Minister Sukanta Majumdar said the verdict in Delhi reflected people's faith in development and would serve as a morale booster for party workers in West Bengal ahead of next year's assembly elections. The BJP is poised to form a government in Delhi after more than 26 years, with the latest Election Commission results showed that the saffron party has won 48 of the 70 assembly seats, while AAP got 22 others and again the Congress drew a blank.

## Kejriwal loses New Delhi seat by over 4,000 votes

MI News Service, New Delhi : Aam Aadmi Party National Convenor and former Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal lost the New Delhi assembly seat to BJP's Parvesh Verma by a margin of 4089 votes, the Election Commission announced on Saturday. Kejriwal has been representing the New Delhi seat for over 10 years since winning against the then Delhi CM Sheila Dikshit in 2013 assembly polls. The EC data shows that the BJP candidate got 30,088 votes, whereas the AAP chief could manage only 25,999 votes. Congress' Sandeep Dikshit, who also contested from the same seat, showed a dismal performance, getting only 4568 votes. Earlier today, Kejriwal conceded his defeat and hoped that the BJP will fulfil all the promises in the new government. "We accept the mandate of the people with great humility. I congratulate the BJP for this victory and I hope they will fulfil all the promises for which people have voted for them," Kejriwal said in a video address posted on X. The former Chief Minister also highlighted the work done by AAP in the field of "health, education,



and infrastructure" over the past decade, reaffirming that his party would play a "constructive role" in opposition. "We have done a lot of work in the field of health, education, infrastructure in the last 10 years. We will not only play the role of a constructive opposition but will also remain among the people and continue to serve them. We did not come into politics for the sake of power, we considered politics as a medium through which the people could be served," he added. On the other hand, Pravesh Verma speaking to newsmen after his victory over Kejriwal gave the full credit to his victory to PM Narendra Modi, Union Home minister Amit Shah, BJP President J P Nadda and the party workers. It

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## AAP drowned due to liquor policy focus on money: Anna Hazare

MI News Service, Mumbai: As the BJP looked all set to re-capture the Delhi seat of power after more than 26 years, Arvind Kejriwal's mentor and social activist Anna Hazare, said the AAP "drowned" due to the liquor policy and its focus on money. In a strong word of criticism of Kejriwal, the anti-graft activist further said a candidate's character should be clean and he should know the virtues of sacrifice. They also failed to understand its duty to serve people selflessly, he said. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), born from Hazare's anti-corruption crusade, fell behind its main opposition BJP from the beginning of the counting of votes for the 70-member Delhi assembly polls held on February 5. The BJP is poised to form the next government in Delhi after more than 26 years, as the latest trends of the counting showed that the saffron party went ahead in 48 of the 70 assembly seats by this afternoon, while the AAP maintained lead in 22 others. "With the liquor policy issue came the money and they drowned in it. The (AAP's) image was tarnished. People saw he (Arvind Kejriwal) talks about clean character and then about liquor," Hazare, who led the anti-corruption movement in 2011, told reporters. The Kejriwal-led AAP was founded in 2012 following the anti-corruption movement. "AAP lost as it failed to understand the need to serve people selflessly and took

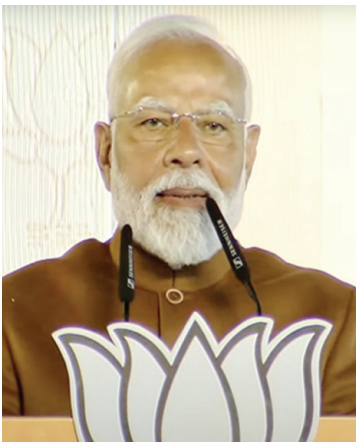


the wrong path. Money took the front seat which dented AAP's image, leading to its defeat," Hazare said. Hazare said, "I have been saying for a long time that while contesting the election - the candidate must have a character, good ideas and have no dent on image. But, they (AAP) didn't get that. They got tangled in liquor and money - his (Arvind Kejriwal) image was dented because of it and that's why they are getting fewer votes in the election." Hazare also emphasised the importance of proving one's innocence in politics. He added, "People saw that he (Arvind Kejriwal) talks about character but gets involved in liquor. In politics, allegations are made. One has to prove that he is not guilty. The truth will remain the truth...When a meeting was held, I decided that I would not be part of the party - and I have remained away from that day," he said. Kejriwal is known to be Hazare's protege but the two

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## Delhi has been freed from AAPda, PM Modi lauds BJP's victory in Assembly polls

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has profusely thanked the people of Delhi for their overwhelming support to BJP in assembly polls and said they are feeling relief on making the national capital "AAP-da free". Addressing a gathering at the party headquarters after party's resounding victory in assembly polls on Saturday evening, PM Modi said BJP will return love of the people of Delhi in form of progress and development. He took jibes at the ruling Aam Aadmi Party, referring to it as "AAPda (tragedy)" "I thank the people of Delhi. Delhi has given us love wholeheartedly and I once again assure the people that we will return you double the love in the form of development," he said. "Today, there is excitement and relief in the minds of the people of Delhi. Excitement for victory and relief is for making Delhi, AAP-da free...I bow my head and thank the people of Delhi for believing in Modi's guarantee," he added. BJP has won 48 seats, while AAP has managed 22 seats in the 70 member Delhi Assembly. Several prominent leaders of AAP including former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal



and former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia have lost polls, while Chief minister Atashi has won from Kalkaji seat with reduced margin.. PM Modi termed BJP's victory as "historic". "This is not an ordinary victory. The people of Delhi have driven out 'AAP-da'. Delhi has been freed from the 'AAP-da'. The mandate of Delhi is clear. Today, development, vision and trust have won in Delhi. Today, ostentation, anarchy, arrogance and the 'AAP-da' that had engulfed Delhi have been defeated. I congratulate every BJP worker and all of you for this victory," he said.

## FIR lodged against Rahul Gandhi in Odisha for alleged 'anti-national' statement



MI News Service, Bhubaneswar: Members of the BJP, its youth wing, RSS and Bajrang Dal of Jharsuguda district in Odisha have lodged an FIR against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for allegedly making an "anti-national" statement. Informing this a senior police officer of the district said on Saturday that the FIR was registered on Friday based on a complaint lodged by members of BJP, its youth wing, RSS, Bajrang Dal, of Jharsuguda district against the Opposition leader in the Lok Sabha to IGP Northern Range, Himanshu Lal on February 5. He said the FIR against Rahul Gandhi, at Jharsuguda police station (case No 31) under section 152 (criminalizes acts) of BNS for making false or misleading information that threatens India's unity, sovereignty and integrity. The complaint alleged that the Congress leader has been deliberately making anti-national statements which hurt each and every Indian individual. The IGP forwarded the complaint to Jharsug-

uda SP Parmar Smit Parshottamdas for inquiry and necessary legal action. As per the direction of the SP, an FIR has been registered against Gandhi at Jharsuguda police station (case No 31). "I do not know the nature of the allegation against Rahul Gandhi, let me see it first. The Congress as a political party has been fighting against the ideology of BJP and RSS," former Union Minister and senior Congress leader Srikant Jena said. Holding Rahul Gandhi responsible for a speech he made last month, the police sources said based on a complaint from one Rama Hari Pujhari, a resident of Sarabhal in Jharsuguda and a local functionary of the BJP the FIR was lodged. It pertains to a speech that Gandhi made at the inauguration of Congress's new headquarters at Kotla Road near Rouse Avenue District Court Complex in Central Delhi on January 15. On that day, Gandhi accused the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the BJP of "capturing every single institution" in the country, claiming that his party was not only fighting the BJP, but the Indian state itself. In his complaint on behalf of the BJP, the RSS and other similar right-wing outfits, Pujhari accused Gandhi of "deliberately giving anti-national statements which hurt each and every Indian individual". "The statement of Rahul Gandhi has crossed the limits of freedom of speech. By declaring his fight against the Indian State itself, he has consciously incited subversive activities and rebellion among the populace. The activities have undermined the sovereignty and

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## Kunal Ghosh dismisses BJP's claims, asserts TMC's strength in Bengal

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** After the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) historic victory in Delhi, political debates in West Bengal have intensified. BJP leader Suvedu Adhikari declared that Bengal is next in line for change and outlined several promises the party would fulfill if it came to power. However, Trinamool Congress (TMC) state secretary Kunal Ghosh firmly dismissed these claims, stating that the Delhi election results would have no impact on Bengal's political landscape. For the first time in 26 years, the BJP has secured power in Delhi, forming a government after its last victory on December 3, 1998. This development has led to speculation about its possible influence on the upcoming Bengal Assembly elections.

In the 2021 Bengal elections, the BJP had set a target of winning over 200 seats but fell significantly short, securing only 77, while the TMC won over 200 seats and formed the government. Similarly, in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP's seat count in Bengal declined, while the TMC increased its tally. Additionally, the TMC continued its winning streak in several by-elections held after the general elections.

Despite these results, Suvedu Adhikari remains confident about the BJP's chances in Bengal. Addressing a public gathering in Purbia Medinipur, he stated, "AAP's defeat in Delhi signifies the defeat of TMC as well since they had supported AAP." He further asserted, "After Delhi, it is now Bengal's turn for a change." Adhikari also announced several promises, including an increase in widow and old-age pensions. He stated that under BJP rule, beneficiaries of the housing scheme would receive ₹3 lakh instead of ₹1.2 lakh. Reacting to these statements, Kunal Ghosh took to social media to strongly counter Adhikari's claims. Posting on X (formerly Twitter), he confidently predicted that the TMC would secure more than 250 seats in the 2026 Bengal elections.

## Western Carriers secures Rs 1,089 cr order from vedanta ltd

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Western Carriers (India) Ltd (WCIL) has secured a ₹1,089 crore multi-modal logistics contract from Vedanta Limited, marking one of India's largest logistics deals. The four-year contract (until 2028) involves transporting aluminium ingots, billets, wire rods, pig iron, and EXIM shipments from Vedanta's Jharsuguda plant to export ports and key domestic hubs. With a pan-India presence, 50+ branch offices, 16 warehouses, and 55+ rake handling points, WCIL continues to strengthen its position as a leader in large-scale supply chain solutions.



BJP activists celebrate their Delhi election win, in Kolkata on Saturday.

## Forensic team visits Kalyani cracker factory explosion site

Dipankar Edbar

After the explosion at an illegal firecracker factory in Kalyani Rathhala in Nadia on Friday, police raided the area on Friday night and seized some firecracker materials. The raid took place at the house of accused Khokon Biswas and some neighbouring areas. Remarkable that, the explosion has snatched 4 lives. All the victims were female. However, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has announced to provide Rs. 2 lakh to each of the families. On Saturday, four-member forensic team also visited the spot on Saturday. They collected several samples from the scene. Police stated that when Khokon Biswas was produced before the Kalyani court on Saturday, he was taken into police remand for 7



days. BJP MP from Bangaon Assembly Shantanu Thakur arrived on the spot on Saturday afternoon. Occasionally he said that the State Government should investigate this incident of the explosion at the crackers factory. Otherwise, he would think that they were behind it. After the incident

on Friday, when local BJP MLA Ambika Roy reached the scene, Trinamool raised the slogan 'Go Back' slogan. This slogan was mainly aimed at the BJP MLA. In this regard, Shantanu Thakur said that an accident had occurred. It is not unusual for a local MLA to come there. Rather, those

who opposed his arrival, wanted to conceal something. That's why they opposed. It implies that Trinamool was behind the running of this illegal firecracker factory. However, District Fire Division sources stated that there is no licenced cracker factory in Kalyani.

## Dav Model School Iit Kharagpur: Report of Annual Concert

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** DAV Model School IIT Kharagpur, celebrated its Annual Concert Rhythm Divine 2025at Tagore Open Air Theatre IIT Kharagpurwith vibrancy and gaiety on 6th Feb 2025. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Patil Yogesh Ashokrao- IAS, S.D.O. Kharagpur, and the Guest of Honour was Col. Mridul Kanti Sinha- Deputy Commander and Chief Administrative Officer, Officiating Group Commander NCC GRP, HO Kharagpur. Other dignitaries present were N.K. Gautam, Principal DAV Model School Midnapur, Prof. Subrata Chattopadhyay of IIT Kharagpur, Dr. N. K. Som Senior Medical Officer B.C. Roy Hospital IIT Kharagpur, Amit Thakur of Tata Hitachi Kharagpur.

Entailing the formal welcome, the progressive annual report was presented by the Principal Lopa Chatterjee. This was followed by the Prize distribution ceremony to the students who excelled in Academics, Olympiads and winners of various National & State



standing ovation and much praise from the audience.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest stated that students should not only be imparted excellent education but also be given great scruple and values so they can effectively serve their nation. The exhilarating show was an unforgettable experience and left a lasting impression on the Guests, Guardians and everyone present. It was indeed a spectacular display of talent and fervor. The programme ended with proposing the Vote of Thanks followed by Shanti Path.

Level Competitions. The programme was an amalgamation of various hues on contemporary themes. Mind blowing performances of students with colourful props and costumes, captivated the guests and got

## Traffic Advisory for Kolkata Police SDSL Half Marathon

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Kolkata Police has announced a series of traffic restrictions ahead of the SDSL Half Marathon on February 9, 2025, to ensure smooth movement and public safety. On February 9, Red Road and the Kolkata Maidan area will be closed to traffic from 10:00 PM (February 8) to 12:00 PM, affecting multiple routes. Major roads will face closures, diversions, and altered traffic patterns to accommodate the marathon. A strict parking ban will be enforced from 4:30 AM until the event concludes, covering Khidderpore Road, RR Avenue, and J.L. Nehru Road. Traffic diversions will also be in effect on Esplanade Ramp, AJC Bose Road, and Maa Flyover, with rerouting in place to prevent congestion. Kolkata Police urges commuters to plan their travel accordingly as these measures aim to ensure a safe and seamless marathon experience for both participants and the public.

## Bengal

## Prince of Indonesia Honours Abdul Qayyum with Indian Headlines Award at Presidency University

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The annual sports event of Abul Hasan High School, a school under the Calcutta Muslim Orphanage, was held today at the Presidency University ground. The grand occasion was attended by several dignitaries, including Farzana Salim (Principal of AK Fazlul Haque School), Rehana Khatoon (Councillor), MLA Naina Bandhopadhyay, Abdul Majeed (President of the Calcutta Muslim Orphanage), Dur-e-Shahwar (Principal of Abul Hasan High School), and Abdul Qayyum Ansari (General Secretary of the Calcutta Muslim Orphanage), along with many other esteemed guests. The event saw a large gathering of students, faculty members, and well-wishers who came together to celebrate the spirit of sports and education. A highlight of the event was the special honour conferred upon Abdul Qayyum Ansari by HRH Prince Dr. M.A. Ali of Indonesia. He was presented with the prestigious Indian Headlines Award in recognition of his unwavering dedication and contributions to society, particularly in the fields of education and social welfare.



While presenting the award, Prince M.A. Ali acknowledged that Qayyum's contributions were beyond expectations, playing a significant role in uplifting the underprivileged and promoting education. The Prince commended his relentless efforts in ensuring better opportunities for students, enabling them to achieve academic and professional excellence. Additionally, Indian karate champions Erum Seraj and Md. Ali Waris, who recently won gold medals at the World Meet in Indonesia, were also felicitated at the event. The school honored them for their achievements and their efforts in promoting martial arts. To inspire the young students, they performed an impressive martial arts demonstration, showcasing their skills and dedication to the sport. Their performance was met with great enthusiasm and applause from the audience, highlighting the importance of sports in building discipline, confidence, and perseverance among students. The event also featured various sporting activities, with students participating in different competitions, including races, long jump, and team games. The enthusiasm and energy displayed by the students made the event a grand success. Awards and certificates were distributed to the winners, recognizing their hard work and dedication to sports. Faculty members and guests emphasized the role of physical education in overall student development.

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## JSW MG Motor India introduces Astor 2025 with panoramic sunroof under

**MI News Service, Bhubaneswar:** JSW MG Motor has launched the MY 2025 editions of India's most advanced SUV, MG Astor, with new features for its Shine and Select variants. The Shine variant features a panoramic sunroof and six speakers, while the Select variant offers six airbags and ivory leatherette seats. The SUV also comes with AI inside, ventilated seats, wireless charger, and an updated i-SMART 2.0 with Advanced User Interface.

## Eugenix Hair Sciences cements its position as the gold standard in hair restoration

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Eugenix Hair Sciences is a leading hair restoration clinic trusted by cricketers, legends, athletes, and Bollywood stars. With clinics in Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Bhubaneswar, the clinic combines scientific expertise with artistic mastery. Cricketers like Mohammed Shami and Ravi Shastri have experienced the transformative power of Eugenix's advanced techniques.

## Book inauguration programme of Surnandan Bharati and Ra Patrika at the 48th International Kolkata Book Fair 2025



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Recently, Surnandan Bharati and Ra Patrika organized a music, dance, painting, recitation and book launch programme at the 48th International Kolkata Book Fair's Narayan Sanyal Sabhagriha. Inaugural speech was given by Pritam Kundu highlighting the importance of Surnandan Bharati in the world of Indian Classical Music. The programme was started by the artists of Praner Anuranan, directed by singer Anamika Sarkar. They presented a splendid performance. Students of Art School of Naihati under the direction of Artist Goutam Ghosh showcased "Rhythm of Art" with music, dance and painting. It was appreciated by the spectators.

Debasish Sarkar recited the Raga rhymes written by Ritish Ranjan Chakraborty. "Baul Tantric" written by poet, baul and artist Papia Ghoshal, simultaneously based in London, Prague and Kolkata was inaugurated in the programme. Pt. Mallar Ghosh, Film-maker Ashoke Viswanathan, Producer of Radio Channel UK Abanti Mukhopadhyay, Sitarist Dipanjan Guha and Artist Manimala Dey Basu delivered speech on the book Baul Tantric. "Galper Badhan" edited by Abhishek Kumar Dey of Tripura and "Chitrnanandan" written by Ritish Ranjan Chakraborty of Kolkata were also inaugurated by Pt. Mallar Ghosh.

## India's Moral Obligation to Protect Persecuted Minorities from Bangladesh

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The alarming persecution of minorities in Bangladesh—Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, and Parsis—has escalated to an existential crisis. These communities face brutal violence, including killings, rapes, arson, and looting, at the hands of radical elements, highlighting the failure of Bangladeshi authorities to protect them. Given its historical role in offering refuge to persecuted groups from Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Afghanistan, India must act decisively to extend humanitarian assistance to these vulnerable minorities. Advocate Nripendra Krishna Roy has filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on behalf of Amnesty India, a human rights organization, urging the National Human Rights



Commission and the Indian government to intervene. Under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), India is morally and legally bound to provide asylum to those fleeing persecution. The country's ethos of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family) demands immediate action. Failure to do so contradicts India's longstanding tradition of sheltering the oppressed and undermines

its regional leadership in human rights protection. The PIL requests the Indian government to provide temporary refuge and humanitarian aid to these communities. If no action is taken, judicial intervention under Article 226 of the Indian Constitution may be sought. India must uphold its commitment to human rights and prevent the cultural and religious extinction of these persecuted minorities.

## Uttam Pati Won Golden Book Award 2025

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Prof Uttam Pati analysed Shrii P. R. Sarkar's Microvita theory and made a scientific hypothesis out of it. Mind Phenomenon book is dedicated to Shrii. P. R. Sarkar. Prof. Uttam Pati is a cancer biologist. This book has generated scientific impact among Scientists, academicians and readers. More-over this book comes under the category of Neuroscience and Consciousness. More than 50 print media and electronic media have reviewed it. He has got 1st award Indian Change makers Award 2024. On 15th Feb 2025, he is going to receive 2nd award, Winner Golden Book Award 2025 in Pune. About Uttam Pati: Professor Uttam Pati, an Emeritus Scientist, a Biotechnologist, and former Professor and Dean, at Jawaharlal Nehru University, has a PhD from the University of New Brunswick, Canada. He did his postdoctoral



studies at the Max Plank Institute, Germany, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA; and Yale University School of Medicine, USA.

Before returning to India he was an NRI and was a faculty at the Augusta Medical College, Georgia, USA. His major contributions are

in drug design and cancer biology. His pioneering work has been in hypoxia, tumour suppressor genes, and oxygen therapy for tumour regression. In addition to his extensive research accomplishments, Professor Pati has mentored numerous students and researchers, many of whom have gone on to make significant contributions in the field of biotechnology and medicine. His innovative approaches to understanding cancer biology have earned him recognition both nationally and internationally. His other interests are \*travelling, lecturing, social work, philosophy, and poetry. He writes poetry and is the author of "Verses of Reason." Through his poetry, he explores themes of science, humanity, and the intricate balance between logic and emotion, offering readers a unique blend of intellectual depth and artistic expression



Kolkata Police STF  
recovers weapons,  
3 arrested

MI News Service, Kolkata: Burrabazar, the bustling commercial hub of Kolkata, is always teeming with activity, with traders and buyers crowding its narrow lanes throughout the day. However, as the area fell silent on Friday night, the Special Task Force (STF) of Kolkata Police launched a major operation, uncovering a fresh stockpile of illegal firearms. The raid was conducted based on intelligence gathered from recent arrests.

A few days ago, police apprehended several individuals near Surendranath College in Sealdah, recovering firearms from them. During interrogation, the arrested suspects revealed crucial details, prompting the authorities to extend their search to Burrabazar. Acting on this information, the STF carried out a late-night operation around 11 PM on Friday, leading to the seizure of more weapons.

The city has been on high alert following the recovery of firearms in Sealdah. Concerns over security have intensified, particularly after a recent incident in which Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) Councillor Sushanta Banerjee was shot at in broad daylight. The latest discovery of weapons in Burrabazar has once again raised questions about the safety of the city.

During the operation, police detained three individuals—Santosh Sahani, Jitendra Kumar, and Manoj Kumar—all residents of Uttar Pradesh. From them, officers recovered two firearms, 17 rounds of ammunition, and a vehicle. The exact purpose for which these weapons were being stored remains unclear.

FIR lodged against  
Rahul Gandhi in Odisha  
for alleged 'anti-national' statement

From PG 1 integrity of India,” the complainant alleged. According to Himansu Kumar Lal, IG (northern range) he has received a complaint from BJP leaders and some other organisations on February 5. “I had directed the Jharsuguda SP to investigate the matter thoroughly. Hence, the case has been registered. We are investigating the matter,” Lal said

Kejriwal loses New Delhi  
seat by over 4,000 votes

From PG 1 were they who ensured my victory, he said and described himself as a small party worker only. The BJP is now all set to form the government in the national capital after 27 years by winning 48 seats in the 70 member Delhi Assembly.. According to the latest update from the Election Commission of India (ECI), BJP has won 48 seats, while, AAP could manage only 22 others. As the third major contesting party the Congress has, however, failed to even open its account in the Delhi elections and drew blank for the third straight time .

AAP drowned due to  
liquor policy focus on  
money: Anna Hazare

From PG 1 parted ways after the former formed the AAP in 2012. According to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the ED, irregularities were committed while modifying the Delhi excise policy for 2021-22, and undue favours were extended to licence holders. The Delhi government implemented the policy on November 17, 2021, but scrapped it at the end of September 2022 amidst allegations of corruption severely affected the clean reputation of the party and its leaders..



Players in action during the ISL match between East Bengal and Chennaiyin FC at Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Kriangan in Kolkata.

Kalyani firecracker explosion:  
Nabanna asked DM to submit report

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal government has directed the District Magistrate to conduct an independent investigation and submit a report on the Kalyani firecracker explosion. This comes after Nabanna had already sought a report from the district police. In addition to the ongoing police probe, the state administration has now mandated a separate inquiry by the District Magistrate. Furthermore, the government has announced compensation of ₹2 lakh for the families of the deceased.

According to sources, four people lost their lives in the explosion that occurred at an illegal firecracker factory in Rath Tala, Kalyani, Nadia district. Following the incident, political leaders and administrative officials visited the site. Later in the night, the Special Task Force (STF) of the state police inspected the scene. The fire department confirmed that the factory was operating without proper authorization, making it completely illegal. The property owner has been detained for questioning, and security measures have been intensified, including the installation of CCTV cameras and a police picket at the site. Several injured victims were rushed to Kalyani JNM Hospital for treatment. Meanwhile, the factory owner, Khokon Biswas, has been arrested.



rested. The explosion was so intense that it shook the entire area, causing the tin roof of the factory to be blown away and severely damaging nearby trees and properties. Local residents rushed to the scene to assist in rescue operations before police arrived within 30 minutes. The fire department faced challenges in reaching the site due to narrow roads, but firefighters managed to enter on foot and assist in the rescue operations. The police and fire department recovered the bodies from the debris. Later in the evening, Subrata Guha, the divisional fire officer of Nadia, inspected the site and confirmed that the factory lacked a valid license. He reiterated that it was an unauthorized firecracker manufacturing unit

operating in violation of safety regulations. Before the fire department's arrival, local residents had already begun efforts to douse the flames using water. Their quick response helped prevent further damage. Political figures, including West Bengal Pradesh Congress President Shubhankar Sarkar and Ranaghat MP Jagannath Sarkar, also visited the site to assess the situation.

The tragic incident has once again raised concerns over the proliferation of illegal firecracker factories in West Bengal. Despite previous accidents, unauthorized units continue to operate, often without adequate safety measures. The state government's decision to conduct a dual investigation—by both the police and the District Magistrate—suggests a serious approach to identifying lapses and taking corrective action.

Authorities have vowed strict action against illegal firecracker factories operating without licenses. The installation of CCTV cameras and the deployment of police personnel indicate heightened surveillance to prevent further incidents. With multiple investigations now underway, the government aims to hold those responsible accountable while ensuring that such tragedies do not recur in the future.



People through the 48th Kolkata International Book Fair at Boi Mela Prangan in Salt Lake, Kolkata on Saturday.

HCG Cancer Centre, Kolkata introduces  
advanced robotic surgery at Onco Conclave

MI News Service, Kolkata: HCG Cancer Centre, New Town, Kolkata, hosted the HCG Robotic Onco Conclave, bringing together leading oncologists to discuss cutting-edge advancements in robotic cancer surgery. The event marked the launch of the da Vinci X Robotic Surgery System, a game-changing technology in the field of precision oncology. Renowned specialists from various oncology disciplines—Dr. Rajeev Sharan (Head & Neck Oncology), Dr. S.K. Bala (GI Oncology), Dr. Gaurav Aggarwal (Surgical Uro Oncology), Dr. Subrata Debnath (Gynaecology & Obstetrics Oncology), Dr. Priya Eshpuniyani (Thoracic Surgery), and Dr. Karan Sehgal (GI Surgical Oncology)—highlighted the significant advantages of robotic surgery, emphasizing its enhanced precision, reduced recovery time, and lower complication risks.

“The da Vinci X system will revolutionize cancer treatment in Kolkata, offering unparalleled surgical accuracy and improving patient outcomes,” said



Consultant and Thoracic Surgeon Dr Priya Eshpuniyani, along with Regional Business Head, East and AP, Health Care Global Dr Prateek Jain unveils the 'da Vinci X Robotic Surgery System' in HCG Cancer Centre, New Town , Kolkata on Saturday.

Prateek Jain, Regional Business Head, HCG. Dr. Amarjeet Singh, COO, HCG Cancer Centre, reaffirmed the hospital's commitment to cutting-edge medical technology.

The da Vinci X Robotic Surgery System enables minimally invasive

procedures using robotic arms with EndoWrist technology, allowing surgeons to operate with greater dexterity and precision. This milestone reinforces HCG Cancer Centre's position as a leader in advanced oncology care in Kolkata and beyond.

State Prepares for Shahi Snan  
at Tribeni Sangam on Feb 12

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal government has directed the Hooghly district administration to take all necessary measures for the Shahi Snan (royal bath) at Tribeni Sangam on 12 February. In light of the recent stampede tragedy at Prayagraj's Maha Kumbh in Uttar Pradesh, where over 60 people lost their lives, state authorities have intensified safety measures to prevent any untoward incidents.

On Saturday, Hooghly Superintendent of Police (Rural) inspected the Kumbh Mela grounds at Tribeni, urging organizers to be arranged. Additional security personnel will be stationed to manage the crowd. Our government is prioritizing this Kumbh Mela,” said Minister Manna. A coordination meeting was held with the fair's organizing committee, municipal officials, and various government departments to streamline preparations. Kanchan Bandopadhyay, chief advisor of the 2025 Bongioy Tribeni Kumbh Porichalona Committee, confirmed that hundreds of saints will attend the festival. He also revealed that the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education had accepted their request to avoid scheduling secondary examinations during this period. “We have also requested that for the next five



equate police deployment, ten bio-toilets, and essential services will be arranged. Additional security personnel will be stationed to manage the crowd. Our government is prioritizing this Kumbh Mela,” said Minister Manna. A coordination meeting was held with the fair's organizing committee, municipal officials, and various government departments to streamline preparations. Kanchan Bandopadhyay, chief advisor of the 2025 Bongioy Tribeni Kumbh Porichalona Committee, confirmed that hundreds of saints will attend the festival. He also revealed that the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education had accepted their request to avoid scheduling secondary examinations during this period. “We have also requested that for the next five

years, exams should not be held during this time,” he added. Swami Prematmananda Ji Maharaj, head of Bansberia Sri Ramakrishna Vivekananda Ashram, confirmed their participation, emphasizing their commitment to serving saints and taking part in the grand procession. Apart from Tribeni, the Bengal Kumbh Mela will also be celebrated at Kalyani Majher Char and Gauranga Mahaprabhu Ghat in Nadia district. Swami Shiveshwarananda Maharaj, president of the Ramakrishna Vedanta Mission and Bangiya Kumbh Mela Committee, announced that the festival, held from 10 to 16 February, will feature: Shahi Snan on 12 February, Maha Rudrabhishek, Vishwashanti Yagna, Ganga Aarti, Devotional music and Spiritual discourses.

Kolkata secures major  
investment: Amul to build  
world's largest yogurt plant



MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata has hit the jackpot in terms of investment, as Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), popularly known as Amul, is set to invest ₹600 crore in the city. This massive investment will lead to the establishment of the world's largest yogurt manufacturing facility in Kolkata, marking a significant milestone for West Bengal's dairy industry. The announcement was made at the Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS), where Amul committed to this large-scale investment.

As per report, Amul, confirmed “An integrated dairy plant will be built in Kolkata, which will house the world's largest yogurt manufacturing facility. Once operational, the plant will have the capacity to produce 10 lakh kilograms of yogurt daily, along with 15 lakh liters of milk,” he stated. This ambitious project is expected to boost the state's dairy sector and create numerous employment opportunities.

The Bengal Global Business Summit 2025 has proven to be a major success for West Bengal, attracting substantial investments across various sectors. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee revealed that the state has received investment proposals worth ₹4, 40,595 crore. A total of 212 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed during the summit, highlighting the state's growing appeal as an investment destination. Mamata Banerjee described this year's business summit as a remarkable success, emphasizing its role in shaping Bengal's economic future.

Amul's decision to invest in Kolkata aligns with its expansion strategy and

its vision to strengthen its presence in eastern India. The company has been focusing on increasing its production capacity and diversifying its dairy product portfolio to meet growing consumer demand. With Kolkata emerging as a key hub for dairy production, the establishment of this facility will enhance the supply chain and benefit local farmers.

The announcement has been met with optimism from both industry experts and local authorities. The large-scale production of yogurt and milk in Kolkata will not only boost the state's dairy industry but also contribute significantly to its economy. Experts believe that this investment will help West Bengal position itself as a major dairy production center in India, competing with states like Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Apart from Amul's investment, the Bengal Global Business Summit has attracted commitments from several national and international firms, covering sectors such as manufacturing, IT, and infrastructure. The state government has been actively promoting Bengal as a business-friendly destination, offering incentives and infrastructural support to investors.

As the project moves forward, Kolkata is expected to witness rapid developments in the dairy industry. The world's largest yogurt manufacturing plant will not only bring technological advancements but also create thousands of direct and indirect job opportunities. With this investment, West Bengal is set to reinforce its position as a leading economic hub in India, attracting further investments in the coming years.

Over 9.8 lakh  
candidates to  
appear for  
Madhyamik

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Madhyamik 2025 examination is set to begin on Monday, February 10, and will continue until February 22. The West Bengal Board of Secondary Education (WBBSE) has announced that students will be allowed to enter exam centers from 9:30 AM on the first day. A total of 2,683 exam centers have been designated for this year's exams. According to WBBSE, a record 9,84,753 students have applied for the Madhyamik examination this year, an increase of 62,000 students compared to the previous year. Among them, 4,28,803 are male students, while 5,55,950 are female students.

However, 136 schools failed to issue admit cards correctly, affecting 181 students. Some of these students had been performing consistently well, but due to errors by school authorities, they did not receive their admit cards on time. WBBSE has expressed strong discontent over the negligence shown by these schools, stating that corrective actions must be taken to prevent such incidents in the future. WBBSE has also implemented strict measures to enhance security and prevent question paper leaks. Officials have warned that no electronic gadgets will be allowed inside the exam halls. If a student is found carrying any such device, their examination will be canceled. Last year, 45 students had their exams canceled for violating this rule. WBBSE has banned teachers from carrying any electronic gadgets during invigilation duty in the upcoming Madhyamik (Class 10 board) examination. The WBBSE recently released guidelines stating that invigilators must submit their mobile phones and other electronic gadgets to “their respective Centre Secretary/Venue Supervisor immediately on reporting to duty on examination days.” The restriction will be applicable on examination days from 9 am to 4 pm. A daily register will be made to keep a record of the gadgets submitted.



## Eastern Railway to provide additional stoppages at Lohapur station

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** For convenience of students & invigilators during Madhyamik and Higher Secondary Examination, Eastern Railway's Howrah

Division has decided to provide one minute temporary stoppage for 13017/13018 Howrah – Azimganj – Howrah Ganadevta Express and 13028 Azimganj – Howrah Kaviguru Express at Lohapur station in Nalhati – Azimganj section over Howrah Division on Feb 10, 11, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, March 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17 and 18 2025.

### Revision of divisional jurisdiction under the proposed South Coast Railway zone at Vishakhapatnam by retention of truncated Waltair

**MI News Service, Delhi:** The Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi on Thursday gave its ex-post facto approval to the following:

1. Partial modification of the earlier decision of the Cabinet dated 28.02.2019 to retain Waltair division in truncated form and rename it as Vishakhapatnam division.
- ii. Thus, one part of Waltair division, comprising approximately of the sections between stations Palasa-Vishakhapatnam-Duvvada, Kureru - Vizianagaram, Naupada Jn - Paralakhemundi, Bobbili Jn. - Salur, Simbachalam North - Duvvada bypass, Vadalapudi - Duvvada and Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant - Jaggayapalem (around 410 Km), will be retained as Waltair division under new South Coast Railway. It would be renamed as Vishakhapatnam division because Waltair name is a colonial legacy that needs to be changed.

111. The other part of the Waltair division, comprising approximately of the sections between stations Kottavalasa - Bachel, Kureru - Theruvalli Jn., Singapur Rd. - Koraput Jn. and Paralakhemundi - Gunpur (around 680 Km), will be converted into a new division with head-quarter at Rayagada under East Coast Railway.

Retention of Waltair division even in its truncated form, will meet the demand and aspirations of the people of the area.

### Two including a minor arrested with brown sugar worth Rs 50 lakh

**MI News Service, Malda:** The behavior of the two boys raised suspicions. Then again, the police had already received information that this big incident could happen. After that, the police did not take any more 'risks'. They caught them red-handed. And only then did the search begin. What was recovered from the two was practically eye-popping. The incident took place in Malda.

According to police sources, two people have been arrested with brown sugar worth Rs 50 lakh. One of them is a minor. While smuggling from Malda to Bihar, the police intercepted a vehicle on National Highway 34 at Kadubari intersection in Gazol. Both the arrested are residents of Bihar. 513 grams of brown sugar have been recovered from the accused. The estimated market value of which is more than Rs 50 lakh.

According to police sources, the names of the two arrested are Rahul Kumar. Age 25. The other is Chotu Kumar. Age 15. The two arrested are from Tetri area of Bihar. According to police sources, the seized banned drugs were being taken from Malda to Bihar for smuggling. Along with the arrest of the two accused, the police have also seized the vehicle used for smuggling.

### Justice for Tilottama

**MI News Service, Bhargarh:** Polerhat 'Thana Chal' campaign by Bhargarh Land Livelihood Ecosystem and Environment Protection Committee. The procession started from Bhargarh's Power Grid area on Saturday afternoon and ended at Polerhat Police Station. In wake of the incident, Polerhat police station operation was conducted on Saturday by land committee. The members said they will continue movement and protest demanding justice in the RG Kar incident.

## Walkathon organised by SER as a part of 100 day TB elimination campaign



Anil Kumar Mishra, General Manager, SER leading a Walkathon along with Dr. Anjana Malhotra, Principal Chief Medical Director and all other PHODs, Departmental Officers & Staff of SER Headquarters as a part of the 100 day TB elimination campaign on Feb 8 2025.

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** As a part of the 100 day TB elimination campaign -a bold step taken to intensify elimination of Tuberculosis (TB), a disease that continues to affect millions across the nation, a one of a kind exercise to enhance awareness on TB was initiated at SER Headquarters, Garden Reach, Kolkata in the form of Walkathon on 08.02.2025.

Anil Kumar Mishra, General Manager, SER has led the Walkathon along with Dr. Anjana Malhotra, Principal Chief Medical Director and all other PHODs, Departmental Officers & Staff of SER Headquarters to spread the mission statement of winning against Tuberculosis on.

## Mountains Moved! – The Railway to Kashmir

**Jaya Varma Sinha**

Sharp biting cold winds whip against you as you stand on the deck of the world's highest railway bridge spanning the blue green waters of Chenab, that course through the gorge, like adrenalin in your veins. Flanked by high mountain peaks, the Chenab Bridge stands 359 meters above mean sea level, dwarfing the Eiffel Tower by 35 meters, and the Qutub Minar five times over! With its head in the clouds and feet firmly anchored in football field size foundations, it is built to withstand windspeeds up to 266 kilometres per hour. Equipped with state of the art monitors and maintenance machinery, the Chenab Bridge will ensure an all season, seamless rail connectivity to Kashmir through the Udhampur – Srinagar – Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) which has a length of 272km.

As the country awaits the first commercial run of the newest Vande Bharat train between Katra and Srinagar, the journey promises to be more than just a passage. The route traverses some of the most picturesque and challenging geographies in the world. Recognised as a highly complex construction project, the USBRL comes at an estimated cost of 37,000 crore, with ballast-less tracks laid over bridges and tunnels, spanning deep gorges and piercing the heart of mighty mountains. More than ninety percent of the route is traversed over 943 bridges and 36 main tunnels, including India's longest railway tunnel, the T-50, stretching for more than 12.7 kilometres.

On the Katra - Banihal section of USBRL, lies the Anji Khad Bridge, the country's first cable-stayed rail bridge. The 725 meter long bridge, built with the support of 96 cables, stands 331 meters above mean sea level, and is a masterpiece in design and engineering.

Beyond the engineering marvel, the rail link also promises to boost tourism, trade, and all weather connectivity in the region, potentially transforming the socio-economic landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

The project is home to several railway stations that are key to the progress, security, and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir. Qazigund, known as the 'gateway of Kashmir,' serves as a vital connection between South Kashmir and the rest of the region. Stations like Pampore, Srinagar, Sopore, and Anantnag are central to the valley's economic activity, serving as major business hubs. Additionally, the significance of Reasi and Katra stations lies in their proximity to the renowned Mata Vaishno Devi temple, making them crucial for both spiritual and economic growth.

The state-of-the-art Vande Bharat Express has been tailored to specifically operate in the region's challenging winter conditions with a view to ensuring reliability, safety and comfort. Apart from its modern amenities, the Kashmir version of Vande Bharat is equipped with climate-specific adaptations to provide world-class travel experience. Its Advanced Heating Systems promise smooth operations even in sub-zero temperatures. The Driver's front lookout glass has also been embedded with heating elements for defrosting, ensuring clear visibility even in harsh winter conditions.

Pir Panjal, the sentinel of Kashmir valley, awaits the reassuring rhythm of train wheels chugging through the Banihal Tunnel, bringing alive in their wake, our long cherished dream of seamless connectivity, from 'Kashmir to Kanniyakumari'. India has always been one. The newest rail link only deepens that centuries old connection, with the added promise of making Kashmir accessible to all!

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**CRB & CEO of Railway Board**

## ERWWO run Chahak Kids Academy celebrates Annual Sports Day



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organization (ERWWO), Sealdah is involved in a range of philanthropic activities which includes welfare activities for the benefit of Railway employees, their families and the community at large. As a part of that noble endeavour, ERWWO/Sealdah, under the dynamic leadership of Smt Gunjan Nigam/President, runs a honorary Primary School "Chahak Academy at Sealdah to spread education amongst underprivileged and poor children.

Chahak Academy, run by ERWWO/Sealdah, held its annual sports day today (08.02.2025) at Sealdah DRM sports ground. Fifty two energetic students participated in the event.

The students competed in a variety of events, including races, ballon race, relay race, etc. The winners of each event were awarded medals and certificates by president ERWWO/Sealdah Smt Gunjan Nigam.

The annual sports day is an important event for Chahak Academy. It's a day when the students can come together and celebrate their love for sports. The event also helps to promote physical activity, inclusivity, healthy living and mental peace.

In her concluding speech, Smt Gunjan Nigam stated that, we are very proud of our students for their enthusiastic participation in the annual sports day and we look forward to holding it again next year.

Chahak Academy annual sports day was a resounding success. The students had a great time competing in the various events. The event also helped to promote physical activity and healthy living.

## Best friend arrested for cheating by opening friend's account

**MI News Service, Balurghat:** A close friend has been accused of opening three bank accounts in his name by blackmailing his friend. For a long time, despite receiving messages about transferring large amounts of money into that bank account, the accused did not answer who was sending the money and why. Finally, Vikram Sarkar of Banshihari police station area of Dakshin Dinajpur district approached the Cyber Crime police station in Balurghat. After receiving the complaint, the Cyber Crime police station started investigating the incident. After that, the police arrested the accused yesterday. He was produced in the Balurghat district court yesterday. The judge ordered him to be remanded in three-day police custody. In this regard, the DSP Headquarters held a press conference at Balurghat police station on Saturday afternoon. DSP Headquarters Vikram Prasad held a press conference on how the fraud is being committed.

It is worth noting that cyber fraud allegations are not new in South Dinajpur district. As a form of cyber fraud, other people's bank accounts are being used as rent. Even accounts are being sold. As such incidents came to light recently, DSP Head Quarters Vikram Prasad held a press conference at Balurghat Police Station this afternoon. Along with the DSP, Cyber Crime Police Station IC Saurabh Ghosh was present at the press conference today.

Rabsan Jani of Banshihari block of Dakshin Dinajpur district has been arrested in a fraud ring. DSP Head Quarter Vikram Prasad held a press conference with him. The arrested youth was accused of cyber fraud. He opened three accounts by blackmailing his friend. Fraud was committed in those bank accounts.

## Revision of divisional jurisdiction under proposed South Coast Railway zone at Vishakhapatnam by retention of truncated Waltair division

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Retention of Waltair division even in its truncated form, will meet the demand and aspirations of the people of the area.

## Special Ticket Checking Drive Conducted Under the Leadership of Principal Chief Commercial Manager



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Uday Shankar Jha, Principal Chief Commercial Manager, a special ticket-checking drive was successfully conducted, reinforcing Eastern Railways' commitment to ensuring a seamless and disciplined travel experience for passengers. On 6th and 7th February 2025, large-scale ticket-checking operations were carried out at Jasidih, Basukinath, Dumka, Madhupur, Simultala, and Jhajha stations. The intensive campaign aimed at curbing ticketless travel and enhancing passenger amenities was executed with remarkable efficiency by a dedicated team of ticket-checking staff.

On Feb 6th, in the Jasidih-Dumka-Deoghar section, 36 ticket-checking staff handled 284 penalty cases, traced 110 suspicious passengers, and recorded 9 unbooked luggage cases, totaling 403 cases. On 7th February, in the Madhupur-Jasidih-Simultala-Jhajha section, 45 ticket-checking staff handled

738 penalty cases, traced 75 suspicious passengers, and recorded 2 unbooked luggage cases, bringing the total cases handled to 815.

This extensive drive not only ensured compliance with railway regulations but also reaffirmed the commitment of Indian Railways to passenger safety, security, and convenience. The Principal Chief Commercial Manager/Eastern Railway commended the relentless efforts of the ticket-checking staff and railway personnel, emphasizing the importance of maintaining strict vigilance to uphold the highest service standards. Passengers are strongly encouraged to purchase valid tickets through the various hassle-free methods available today, including online booking via the IRCTC website and mobile app, unreserved tickets through the UTS mobile application, and ticket vending machines at stations. These options not only save time but also enhance convenience, ensuring a smooth and lawful journey for all.

## Fire fighting training organised at Mahanayak Uttam Kumar and Netaji Stations



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Metro Railway takes all possible measures and care for ensuring commuters safety. Shri P Uday Kumar Reddy, General Manager, Metro Railway regularly monitors and reviews safety measures adopted in the 'Lifecycle of Kolkata' to avoid any untoward incident like fire. In order to check the preparedness of Metro staff of different departments to tackle any fire emergency inside the tunnels or on the viaduct, regular training is conducted in Metro Railway, Kolkata.

Fire fighting training programmes for field staff were conducted under the supervision of senior officers on 07.02.2025 at Mahanayak Uttam Kumar and Netaji Metro stations. In this training, Metro staff were imparted training on how to douse the flame through simulation of various fire and smoke conditions at stations.

Staff from Traffic, Electrical, RPF and other departments attended this training. It is expected that such trainings will sharpen the skill and alertness of staff to respond to any emergency situation and minimize the rescue time and restore normalcy at the earliest.

## Two more days left! Madhyamik admit card still not received

**MI News Service, Alipurduar:** The secondary examination will be held on February 10. But till now, Jit Orao, a secondary examinee from Begum Rabeya Khatun High School in Falakata block of Alipurduar district, has not received admission. Jit Orao, a student from the tribal community, and his family members are worried about whether they will be able to take the secondary exams this year. Exam candidate Jit Orao says, "When everyone went to school to take admission. I also went. But my admission did not come. The school said that maybe the exams will not be held this time." Jeet Orao's father, Punai Orao, said, "This happened because of the school's mistake. Now the son is upset. I am making my son study with great difficulty. In the end, since the admit card did not come, the son will not be able to sit for the exam." The entire family is worried about this incident.



## Opportunities for youth: Skill India Prog

MI News Service, Kolkata:  
**Skill India Programme  
(Rs 8,800 Cr)**

1) **PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana**  
**4.0 (PMKVY 4.0)**

- demand driven skill development

- training and certification to youth in industry-relevant skills

- short term training and up-skilling and reskilling

2) **PM National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (PM-NAPS)**

- Financial incentives to industries for engaging apprentices

- ensuring school to work transition through hands-on experience

- both in manufacturing and services

- as per provisions of Apprentices Act, 1961

3) **Jan Shikshan Sansthan for Skill Development**

- community-based skill training to marginalized groups

- focus on women and rural youth

- fostering self-employment and local entrepreneurship

- flexible, training at their doorstep

PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 (Rs 6,000 Cr)

PMKVY provides National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) aligned Short-Term Skill courses and Recognition of Prior Learning through Upskilling and Re-skilling for the age group 15-59 years

- Candidate centric approach

- Flexible Learning, Digital certificates, focus on Employability Skills, Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT)

- Industry Focus

- Enhanced focus on Industry aligned training curriculum, On-the-Job training

- Improved Training lifecycle management

- No outsourcing allowed;

#	Cabinet Decision	Cost (Rs Cr)
1	Department of Science and Technology scheme - "Vigyan Dhara"	10,579
2	Rolling out Private FM Radio to 254 uncovered new cities / towns	785
3	Semiconductor unit under India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)	3,300
4	Establishment of Indian Institute for Creative Technologies	391
5	BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy for Biomanufacturing	1,500
6	Venture Capital Fund for Space Sector under aegis of IS-SPARC	1,000
7	PMVidyalok scheme	3,000
8	Real Innovation Mission (RIM 2.0)	2,250
9	Strengthening Agricultural Education, Management and Social Sciences	2,291
10	Bio-BEE scheme - Biotechnology Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development	9,197
11	Pradhan Mantri Janjyoti Utsav Gram Abhiyan	79,156
12	One Nation One Subscription (ONOS)	6,000
13	Opening 10 new KVVs, expanding 3 KVVs and opening 28 new NVIs	9,232
14	Skill India Programme	8,800
Total		= Rs 1,40,000 Cr

Aadhaar authenticated enrolment and biometric attendance; Training only allowed through certified trainers and assessment through certified assessors

- International Mobility focus

- MSDE has signed 8 MMPAs & 7 MoUs for workforce mobility and conducted 16 country skill gap study. Under the scheme - Language training, counselling, and domain specific technical training initiated

- Cross utilization of Infrastructure

- Skill India Centres in premier academic institutions (e.g., IITs, NITs, JNVs, KVs PM Shri Schools, EMRS); Institutes of National Eminence (NIPET, CIPET), Industry training centres, etc

- Course and Content Development

- Trainee & Trainer Handbooks in 8 Regional languages; Courses ranging from 7.5 to 30 hours in areas like AI, cybersecurity and digital marketing

- Job roles revised every 3 years. 400+ new courses introduced focusing on emerging technology

- Ease of Access

- Digitally enabled implementation on Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) – online portal

PM National Apprenticeship Programme (Rs 1,942 Cr)

PM-NAPS encourages establishments to engage apprentices by providing financial incentives as per the provisions of the Apprenticeship Act, 1961 in the age group 14-35 years

Government Support

- Seamless transition from education to employment with industry-specific training

- 25% stipend support (up to ₹1,500/month per apprentice) through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)

- Age & Inclusivity

- Open for individuals aged 14 to 35 years

- Focus on inclusive skilling, ensuring opportunities for diverse demographics

- Alignment with Future Job Markets

- Encourages apprenticeships in manufacturing and emerging fields - AI, Robotics, Blockchain, Green Energy, Industry 4.0

- Special Focus Areas

- Promotes apprenticeship opportunities in MSMEs and small establishments

- Targets aspirational districts and the North-East Region for enhanced skill access

- International Focus

- More than 10,000 apprentices deployed in Indian premises of companies from 10 countries

Jan Shikshan Sansthan (Rs 858 Cr)

JSS is a community-driven skilling scheme targeting women and other vulnerable sections of the community with an aim to provide skill training at the doorsteps of

the beneficiary through registered Societies (Civil Society Organizations) for the age group 15-45 years

- 307 Jan Shikshan Sans-thans in 26 States & 7 UTs

- Doorstep delivery of skilling driven by community with 100% grant from Govt. of India ensuring inclusion of socially disadvantaged sections and traditional trades

- JSS caters to local needs and empowers them for self-reliance by offering technical skills along with life skills and access to entrepreneurial opportunities, particularly in aspirational districts and difficult regions

- JSS is linked with key initiatives like: PM JANMAN, Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS), Vibrant Village Programme (VVP), etc. to promote inclusive skilling

- Livelihood cells are being set up in JSSs for promoting entrepreneurship

Progress in last decade

Skill Delivery (2014-24)

- Creation of network of training & skilling (ITIs, NAPS, JSS, PMKVY etc.)

- i. Network of more than 15,000 Training Institutions across the country

- ii. Pool of more than 85 thousand certified trainers and 20 thousand assessors

- iii. Network of 113 Awarding Bodies and 66 Assessment Agencies

- iv. Digital platform (SIDH) to manage complete training lifecycle from registration to certification

- v. More than 2,900 qualifications in traditional, contemporary and new age job roles

- vi. Joint Task force / Working Groups are formed with different Central Ministries / Departments

- 135.31 lakh candidates trained in approx. 15,000 ITIs

- 28.38 lakh candidate trained in 307 Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS)

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- 1.60 Cr candidates, including 70 lakh in RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning) trained under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PM-KVY – 2015-16 onwards)

- 39.47 lakh apprentices engaged under National Apprentice Promotion Scheme (NAPS)

- Government of India has not only imparted training in old/traditional courses but also in new-age courses like semiconductor, AI, cybersecurity, 5G/6G telecom, Green Hydrogen etc.

2. Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas: Extension of National Commission on Safai Karmacharis (NAPS)

National Commission for Safai Karmachari National Commission for Safai Karmachari

- Tenure extended for 3 more years from April 2025 to March 2028

- Big move for the welfare of marginalised sections of society

- Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas policy

- Commission comprises inter alia

- Chairperson

- Vice Chairperson

- Five members

- Secretary, Joint Secretary, etc

- Cost Rs 50.91 Crore

3. Infrastructure for growth:

1) South Coast Railway Zone

- New railway zone created as per Andhra Reorganization Act

- Will lead to efficiency in railway operations

- Meets the commitment made by the Parliament

2) New division in East Coast Railway: Rayagada Railway Division

- New railway division at Rayagada established

3) Waltair division named as Vishakhapatnam Railway Division

- Colonial name Waltair changed to Vishakhapatnam Railway Division



Chennaiyin FC player Connor Jon Shields with other players celebrate after goal during the ISL match between East Bengal and Chennaiyin FC at Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata.

## DMK candidate Chandhirakumar wins Erode (East) bye-elections

MI News Service, Erode:

The ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) in Tamil Nadu won the Erode (East) Assembly bye-elections with its candidate V C Chandhirakumar defeating NTK party candidate MK Senthilakshmi by a margin of 91,558 votes on Saturday.

As per the Election Commission data Chandhirakumar secured a total of 1,15,709 votes.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin thanked the people of Erode constituency for providing the victory as a testament to good governance.

He also thanked the coalition parties and allied movements for working shoulder to shoulder.

Taking to social media X, the CM wrote in a post "Big victory on Periyar soil!

More hard work required: Kharage on party's performance

MI News Service, New Delhi:

With the Congress party failing to secure a win for the third consecutive time in the Delhi assembly elections, party president Mallikarjun Kharage said on Saturday that "more hard work and struggle is required."

"Every Congress leader and worker worked untidely under adverse circumstances, but more hard work and struggle is still required," Kharage said in a post on X.

The Congress party did not win a single seat in the 2025 Delhi assembly elections, continuing their streak of not having an MLA in the national capital's assembly. The party had earlier ruled Delhi for three consecutive terms (1998-2013) before being unseated by AAP. In a similar turn of events, the party which had won a decisive victory in 2020 with 62 seats, had a dismal performance, winning only 22 seats out of the total 70.

Talking about the party's strategy for fighting the polls, Kharage said that the Congress had created sentiment against the AAP-led government "in public interest," and accept the public's opinion.

"In the Delhi Assembly elections, the Congress party created an atmosphere against the government in the public interest, but the public did not give us the mandate as expected. We accept the public opinion," the party president said.

He further said that Congress will continue to raise issues of public importance, including pollution, Yamuna cleaning, road repairs and more.

"In the coming days, we will continue to raise the issues of pollution, Yamuna cleaning, electricity, roads, water and development in Delhi and will remain connected with the public," he said.

Meanwhile, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khara also hit out AAP, saying that the recent elections are a "rejection of the Trojan horse that attempted to damage the liberal cause across the country."

Pointing towards a supposed "meltdown" of liberals, he added in a post on X, "The meltdown of a section of so called liberals is completely bizarre. They didn't give these lectures on opposition unity to AAP when the party went to Goa, Gujarat, Haryana etc to fight elections and weaken anti communal, secular vote."

Thank you to the people of Erode East constituency for providing this victory as a testament to good governance!

Thank you to the coalition parties and the allied movements who worked shoulder to shoulder!" the post read.

Visuals showed DMK party workers celebrating the win outside party headquarters.

Earlier in the day, security was significantly heightened outside the counting centre.

Personnel from various law enforcement agencies were also deployed to ensure the safety and smooth functioning of the vote-counting process.

AIADMK and BJP boycotted the bye-election on February 5, which was held in response to the

death of Congress lawmaker EVKS Elangovan on December 14, 2024.

The polling in 237 polling station began at 7 AM and concluded at 6 PM across 53 locations. The voter turnout at 9 AM was at 10.95 per cent, 26.03 per cent by 11 AM, 42.41 per cent by 1 PM, 53.63 per cent by 3 PM, and 64.02 per cent by 5 PM.

A total of 46 contenders contested in the by-polls. There were 2,27,546 electors in all, including 1,10,128 men, 1,17,381 women, and 37 transgender people. According to District Election Officer and Collector Raja Gopal Sunkara, electors can use any of the 12 specified documents as identification when casting their ballots if they are unable to provide an Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC).

## Railways Spends more than 80% of Budgetary Allocation for 2024-25, Registers Record Progress in Odisha

MI News Service, Bhubaneswar:

**Budget Allocation & Expenditure**

The total Budgetary Allocation for Railway Projects in Odisha is ₹10,586 crore for the fiscal year 2024-25. Till date, remarkable expenditure of 81.78% of this allocation has already been incurred towards key railway projects aimed at improving connectivity, safety and infrastructure across the region.

Up to January 2025 of the current Financial Year, i.e., 2024-25; Rupees 8657.23 Crores have been spent. This is the testament of Ministry of Railways commitment towards infrastructure development in Odisha.

**New Projects Sanctioned**

In line with the vision to strengthen Odisha's railway infrastructure, 8 new railway projects have been sanctioned in the fiscal year 2024-25, amounting to ₹18,118 crore. These projects include:

- Gunupur-Theruvani New Line (73.62 km): Costing ₹1,326 crore, this new line will benefit Rayagada District.

- Junagarh Road-Nabrangpur New Line (116.21 km): At a cost of ₹3,274 crore, this line will connect Kalahandi and Nabarangpur Districts.

- Malkangiri-Pandurangapuram New Line (173.61 km): Costing ₹4,109 crore, this project will connect Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana.

- Badampahar-Kendujhar-garh New Line (82.06 km): A ₹2,107 crore project benefiting Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj Districts.

- Bangriposi-Gorumahisani New Line (85.60 km): A ₹2,549 crore investment in Mayurbhanj District.

- Buramara-Chakulia New Line (59.96 km): At ₹1,639 crore, this project connects Mayurbhanj, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.

- Bargarh Road to Nawapara Road (138.32 km): A ₹2,621.92 crore project aimed at improving connectivity in Western Odisha.

- Puri-Konark Railway Line (32 km): ₹492 crore sanctioned for the new rail line connecting these iconic tourist destinations.

**Major Railway Flyers to Improve Connectivity**

As part of the effort to modernize and improve train services, 5 major rail flyers have been sanctioned costing Rupees 1173.12 Crore along with sanction for FLS for one Double Line Fly Over:

- Sambalpur Station to Sambalpur City Station (8.10 km): ₹288.61 crore for this important flyer project connecting Sambalpur City and Sarla Station to ease traffic from Sambalpur Main Station.

- Khurda Road Station Railway Flyover: ₹191.87 crore allocated to alleviate train traffic congestion at Khurda Road Station for Trains from Puri towards Bhubaneswar direction.

- Rail Flyover in Cuttack connecting Rajathagarh-Radhakishorepur-Machhapur (10.89 km): Rs 268.92 Crore project to alleviate train traffic congestion connecting Rajathagarh, Radhakishorepur, and Machhapur Railway Stations in Cuttack.

This infrastructure will improve operations by allowing simultaneous train movements, reducing delays from cross-traffic.

- Titilagarh Rail Flyover (8.11 km): ₹183.89 crore to ease train operations in the region.

- Singapur Road Station in Rayagada (5.50 km): ₹239.83 crore to ease congestion on the Raipur-Vizianagaram Rail Line.

Apart from this, Final Location Surveys (FLS) for Double Line Fly Over at Lajkura in Sundargarh District has also been sanctioned to improve rail infrastructure and boosting the efficiency of rail transportation.

**Khurda Road-Balangir Rail Line Project**

This important rail project, sanctioned in 1994-95, had faced delays due to land acquisition challenges. However, with ₹1160 crore allocated for the project in this fiscal, the expenditure as of January 2025 stands at approximately ₹913 crore. It is expected that expenditure will reach more than ₹1,100 crore by the end of this financial year. The Odisha Government has actively facilitated the land acquisition process, and work is progressing steadily, with major approvals and permits now in place. In the current financial year, Rail Line construction work target for the 74 Kms in Khurda Road-Balangir Rail Line project between Sonepur and Purunakatak has already been completed creating a history for this public centric

Rail Line project.

**Redevelopment of Key Railway Stations**

The redevelopment of Bhubaneswar, Puri, and Cuttack Railway Stations continues to make significant strides:

**Bhubaneswar Railway Station:** Over ₹269 crore has been spent, and the project is 60% complete. The work of re-development of Bhubaneswar Station was sanctioned by Railway Board in June'22. The work is in advanced stage with the buildings on both sides of the station completed and finishing work are in progress. The work of elevated road has commenced on the Main entry (West) side. Apart from this, Rs 50 crores have been spent at Puri Railway Station and Rs 168.39 cr has been spent at Cuttack Rail Station.

**Track Renewal**

For the fiscal year 2024-25, ₹1,134 crore was allocated for track renewal in ECoR with ₹935.77 crore (around 80% of the budget) already expended. Out of 365 Kms target, 341 Kms of Track renewal has already been completed.

**Safety Initiatives**

In ECoR, ₹1,290.36 crore has been spent towards safety initiatives, which comprises approximately 78% of the allocated budget for safety projects. This includes, Level Crossing, ROB/RUB, Track Renewal, Bridge Works and Signaling & Telecom works. Apart from this, Ministry of Railways has also Recently Sanctioned ₹275.01 Crore for provision of Safety Fencing along Railway Tracks.

Bhubaneswar and Palasa Railway Stations over Khurda Road Division along with Brahmapur-Golanthara Rail Section.

**Signal & Telecom**

The Automatic Block Signaling (ABS) system is being deployed across key Railway Sections, including the Jakhapura-Nergundi and Khurda Road-Golanthara Rail Sections. This advanced system will enhance the train operational capacity and safety of trains. East Coast Railway (ECoR) has initiated a major safety enhancement project by planning the installation of the advanced Kavach system between Ranital (Bhadrak) in Odisha and Duvvada (Visakhapatnam) in Andhra Pradesh, a vital section of the Howrah-Chennai Main Line covering a distance of 595 Kms. Tender has been notified for the survey, design, supply, installation, testing, and commissioning of Kavach equipment, as well as other associated works, with an estimated value of ₹280 crore, approx.

The Ministry of Railways remains fully dedicated to enhancing connectivity, promoting economic growth, and ensuring safety in Rail Transport in Odisha. With robust investments, active collaboration with state authorities, and tireless work, we are confident that the railway network in Odisha will see remarkable progress in the coming years, benefiting millions of citizens and boosting regional development.

## CM Dhama distributes appointment letters to 609 candidates in Uttarakhand

MI News Service, Dehradun:

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama on Saturday provided appointment letters to a total of 609 candidates selected in the Agriculture, Horticulture, and Social Welfare Department at the Himalayan Cultural Auditorium, Garhi Cantt. This includes 333 Assistant Agriculture Officers, 37 of Class 2 and 227 of Class 3 in the Horticulture and Food Processing Department and 12 Assistant

Social Welfare Officers, according to the Chief Minister Office (CMO) statement.

Wishing all the newly selected candidates well, the Chief Minister said that a new chapter is starting in the lives of the newly selected candidates. All will discharge their duties with the resolve of uplifting the agriculture sector and social welfare in Uttarakhand. He expressed hope that these young candidates will innovate in the

field of agriculture in Uttarakhand with their hard work and dedication and will work to connect farmers with modern agricultural technology, said the statement.

According to the statement, "The CM said that the state government is giving a loan of up to Rs 03 lakh to the farmers of the state without interest. Up to 80 per cent subsidy is also being given to farmers for purchasing agricultural equipment through the Farm Machinery Bank Scheme."

The state government is giving the right price to the farmers of the hilly areas, especially those in the hilly areas, by purchasing millets at a fixed minimum support price through the State Millet Mission. Work is also being done to convert the tea gardens of Dhauladevi, Munsiyari and Betalghat into

organic tea gardens. Work is being done to develop 6 aroma valleys in the state to promote aromatic farming as well.

The Chief Minister said that about 18 thousand cluster-based poly houses are being constructed to increase the income of farmers. This will increase the means of employment along with increasing the income of farmers.

The CMO statement stated, "The Uttarakhand Climate Responsive Rain-Fed Farming Project has also been approved at a cost of about Rs 1000 crore to take rain-based farming to new heights in the mountainous areas of Uttarakhand. Like vegetables, work is also being done at various levels to increase the production of fruits. Work is being done on Apple and Kiwi Mission in

the state."

CM Dhama's statement further added that the Social Welfare Department plays an important role in the upliftment of the weaker sections of society. Promoting equality, education, health, and employment opportunities in society are among the top priorities of the government. Our newly selected candidates will make an important contribution to taking government schemes and services to the last corner of society.

In a statement, CM Dhama



BAJAJ ALLIANZ  
GENERAL  
INSURANCE UNVEILS  
'HERIZON CARE',  
FOR WOMEN

**PATNA:** Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, a leading private general insurer in India, has today announced the launch of 'HERizon Care', a thoughtfully designed inclusive health insurance product that caters exclusively to women's evolving healthcare needs. This comprehensive policy addresses critical illnesses, maternal and reproductive health, wellness, and more, empowering women with financial security throughout their life stages. HERizon Care is the first health insurance plan in India that offers multiple specialized covers in a single policy, providing holistic protection tailored to women's unique needs. HERizon Care offers two comprehensive covers: Vita Shield and Cradle Care, along with a suite of optional covers to address specific healthcare needs. Vita Shield – Critical Illness & Holistic Wellness Protection Under Vita Shield, the Critical Illness cover offers protection against 34 critical illnesses, encompassing both general and female-specific conditions. Additionally, this cover can be enhanced with optional extensions to further support policyholders, such as:- Child Education, which secures the education of one or more children in case of a critical illness diagnosis.- Loss of Job that offers to mitigate financial instability caused by employment loss due to illness.- Incidental Expenses cover offers financial assistance for necessary medical expenses, including reconstructive surgery, physiotherapy, home nursing, post-surgical implants, or rehabilitation counselling, enabling a smoother recovery journey. Vita Shield also includes a Holistic Wellness ecosystem that provides access to resources that prioritize physical and mental well-being, including community support, diet and nutrition consultations, emotional wellness programs, teleconsultations, and preventive health check-ups promoting regular monitoring and early detection. Cradle Care – Redefining Women's Reproductive Health Coverage The Cradle Care cover under the HERizon Care policy supports women through unique reproductive health journeys. It includes Surrogate Care, covering medical expenses for surrogate mothers during surrogacy pregnancy and post-partum recovery, ensuring comprehensive care throughout the process. Additionally, the Oocyte Donor cover provides financial protection for medical expenses incurred during inpatient hospitalization for complications related to oocyte retrieval. There are also a range of optional covers including:- The Nurture Nest Cover under HERizon Care policy offers essential support for women planning or expanding their families. It includes coverage for surgical management of infertility for women aged 21-45 years, covering adoption expenses, and egg-freezing procedures, and empowering women with choices for future family planning.- The Motherhood Cover provides financial protection for assisted reproductive technologies like IUI, IVF, ICSI, GIFT, and ZIFT, alongside maternity expenses, including pre- and post-natal care.- Fetal Flourish Cover ensures comprehensive health support for unborn babies, covering prenatal techniques.

# How weight loss could reduce chances of severe infections in diabetic people

**WASHINGTON :** According to new research, weight loss therapies may lower the risk of severe flu cases and other infections in patients suffering from diabetes. The research will be presented at the annual meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) in Madrid, Spain (9-13 September). The study by Rhian Hopkins and Ethan de Villiers, of the University of Exeter Medical School, University of Exeter, Exeter, in the United Kingdom, there is evidence to support the link between severe illnesses and a higher BMI. In contrast, there was no evidence that mild hypergly-

camia contributes to the likelihood of a severe infection. Hopkins says: "Up to one in three hospitalisations in people with diabetes are for infections and people with diabetes are twice as likely to be hospitalised with infections than the general population. They are also at high risk of readmission." "Previous studies have found that a higher BMI and poor blood sugar control are associated with severe infections. However, these studies have been observational and so haven't been able to prove that the links are causal." "If one or both of these factors can be shown to be causal, it may be possible to design

interventions to lower the risk of severe infections in those at high risk, such as people with diabetes." The new study used data from the UK Biobank, which holds medical and genetic data on around 500,000 people in the UK, to explore the effect of higher BMI and poor blood sugar control on hospitalisation for bacterial and viral infections. The 486,924 participants were classified into three groups: those with a record of hospitalisation for a bacterial infection, such as pneumonia or a urinary tract infection, (n=64,005) or a viral infection, such as flu, (n=14,562) and an infection-free control group (n=408,357).

A higher BMI was found to be associated with hospitalisation with infections. The likelihood of being hospitalised with a bacterial infection increased by 30 per cent per 5-point increase in BMI (for instance, an increase in BMI from 30 kg/m2 to 35 kg/m2). Similarly, every five-point increase in BMI was associated with a 32 per cent increase in the likelihood a severe viral infection. Mild hyperglycaemia was also found to be associated with severe infections. The likelihood of being hospitalised with a bacterial infection increased by 32 per cent per 10mmol/mol increase in HbA1c, a measure of blood sugar levels. Similarly, every 10mmol/mol increase in

HbA1c was associated with a 29 per cent increase in the likelihood of a severe viral infection. The team then used Mendelian randomisation, a technique that uses genetic information to establish whether a factor actually causes ill health, to determine if the relationships were causal. This suggested that a higher BMI is one of the causes of severe bacterial and viral infections. However, mild hyperglycaemia did not appear to be a cause of severe infections. The study didn't focus on individuals with diabetes. However, given how vulnerable they are to infections, the results may be of particular rel-

evance to them, says Hopkins. She adds: "Infections are a major cause of death and ill health, particularly in people with diabetes. Anyone admitted to hospital with a severe infection is also at high risk of being admitted again with another. However, we currently have few effective ways to prevent this." "This study demonstrates that higher BMI is a cause of hospital admission with infection. Clinicians could discuss weight loss options for people with a high BMI at risk of severe infections and readmission to hospital for infection." "While this message may be particularly relevant to people with diabetes, it applies more widely, too."



**Bharatnatyam artists perform during the 21st Dhauli-Kalinga Mahotsav organized by the Odia Language, Literature & Culture Department of Odisha government and Orissa Dance Academy, at the foothill of Dhauli Shanti Stupa in Dhauli on Friday.**

ANI

## Study gives more insight into cardiovascular health in early pregnancy

**Washington [US], September 8 (ANI):** According to research, maintaining good cardiovascular health during the first trimester of pregnancy may mitigate the genetic risk of developing preeclampsia and or gestational hypertension. The preliminary findings were presented at the American Heart Association's Hypertension Scientific Sessions 2024. Leading scientific interchange on new developments in basic and clinical research on hypertension and its connections to heart and kidney disease, stroke, obesity, and genetics will take place during the Chicago meeting, which takes place from September 5-8, 2024. Preeclampsia and gestational hypertension are examples of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy that are a major cause of death for both expecting mothers and their unborn children. Based on a person's genetic background, a validated risk model known as a polygenic risk score can be used to estimate the likelihood that they will develop certain disorders. The American Heart Association's Life's Essential 8 (LE8) scoring system is used to determine cardiovascular health in early pregnancy, but it is unclear how much this score influences the risk. "We were looking to see if there was an association between



cardiovascular health during early pregnancy and risk of developing a hypertensive disorder of pregnancy such as preeclampsia or gestational hypertension, even across genetic risk groups for these diseases," said study coauthor Vineetha Mathew, a fourth year M.D.-candidate at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston. "Our results found that across all genetic risk groups, better first trimester cardiovascular health may partially mitigate the risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes and the risk of developing hypertensive disorders of preg-

nancy." The study investigated whether cardiovascular health in the first trimester of pregnancy can offset a genetic risk for developing gestational hypertension and preeclampsia during pregnancy. The researchers analyzed data on more than 5,000 individuals who were pregnant for the first time to calculate the rates of these hypertensive disorders during pregnancy. For the analysis, researchers classified each individual's genetic risk using a previously validated polygenic risk score, which estimates susceptibility to a disease based on the

aggregate effect of millions of genetic variants across the genome. In addition, a cardiovascular health scoring system categorizing first trimester health status from favorable to unfavorable was adapted from the Association's Life's Essential 8 and assigned to each woman. Seven out of eight of the LE8 components (diet, physical activity, sleep, nicotine exposure, diabetes, baseline blood pressure, and body mass index - not cholesterol levels) were incorporated into a cardiovascular health score for the entire cohort of pregnant individuals. Cholesterol was added for a sub-group (47%) for whom these values were measured. The analysis examined the association of cardiovascular health and genetic risk with preeclampsia and gestational hypertension and was adjusted for age, self-reported race and ethnicity, education level and marital status. "What was really interesting about our findings was how cardiovascular health in the first trimester appeared to be protective for all. We saw that the odds of developing a hypertensive disorder of pregnancy among those with a high genetic risk combined with favorable cardiovascular health was comparable or even better than those with low genetic risk but unfavorable cardiovascular health," Mathew said.



## AI Good at some tasks, but bad with Maths says Deutsche Bank research

**NEW DELHI :** Generative AI, while gaining widespread attention, is not without its flaws. A recent report by Deutsche Bank Research highlighted that despite its strengths, the technology still struggles with certain tasks, particularly when it comes to mathematical calculations. The report noted that though generative AI has proven useful in many areas, such as summarizing, translating, and even generating creative content on a wide range of topics, its limitations in reasoning, learning abstract concepts, and developing an understanding of the world remain significant obstacles. "Generative AI is certainly flawed... while Generative AI is surprisingly good at some activities, it is surprisingly bad at others, such as making mathematical calculations" said the report. As per the report one of the key issues is the tendency of generative AI systems to produce hallucinations, or inaccurate information, despite using reliable data. It noted that these systems can also introduce bias or irrelevance into their outputs, and existing solutions have not fully addressed these problems. This remains a challenge, even as AI models continue to evolve. The report also pointed

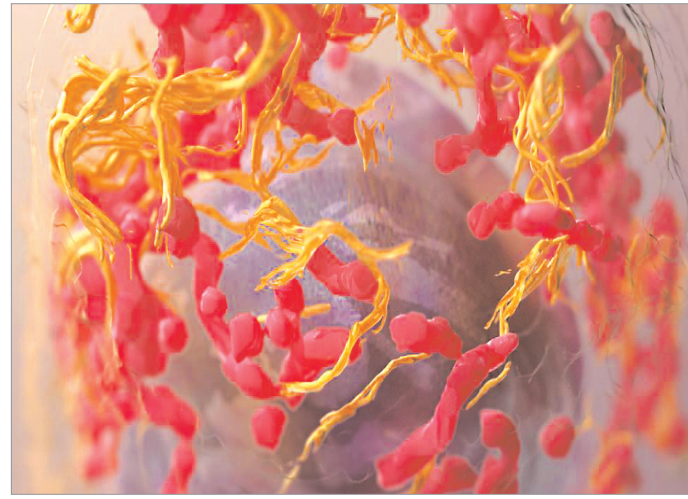
out that much of the optimism surrounding AI's potential to boost productivity comes from controlled experiments. However, real-world applications show that the technology may not be as effective in every setting. For instance, highly regulated industries like financial services and healthcare, where the stakes are especially high, have been slow to adopt generative AI despite the potential benefits of analyzing vast amounts of unstructured data. The risks in these sectors-where errors could lead to serious consequences-make it harder for them to integrate AI into everyday use. "The gap between high experimentation and low uptake is particularly striking in regulated industries such as financial services and healthcare" the report added. In some cases, generative AI is showing potential in unexpected ways, such as generating novel research ideas, identifying irony, and even creating game engines that simulate real-world environments. However, as per report the generative AI tools will only get better from here. And indeed even if they never did, it would take years for companies and individuals to find and implement the best use cases of AI.

# Study finds how skin cancer occurrence in young adults declines

**SOLNA [SWEDEN] :** A recent study suggested that the risk of malignant melanoma, or skin cancer, may be declining in Sweden, at least for people under the age of 50. "We can see a trend break in young adults around 2015 where the incidence curves are falling," says first author Hildur Helgadottir, senior consultant and associate professor of oncology at the Department of Oncology-Pathology, Karolinska Institutet. Her research colleagues have examined the incidence and death of melanoma for various age groups over time by analysing data from the Swedish Melanoma Registry. This indicates that they have made a comparison between

people in the same age range at one point in time and people in the same age range at another. The findings indicate that while the new-onset curves for individuals over 50 continue to rise, they began to decline about 2015 for those in the younger age groups. "This is the first time we see this in Sweden, and we are actually the first European country to report a decline," said Hildur Helgadottir. In terms of mortality, the curves have also turned downwards for ages up to 59, but not for those over 60. Hildur Helgadottir believes that the decrease in mortality in the younger groups is due both to a reduction in the incidence of the

disease and to the introduction of new oncological drugs that have improved the prognosis for the disease. She believes that the fact that mortality is not decreasing in the elderly is because the incidence of the disease is still so high in this group. "The question is why the risk of melanoma has decreased. "We have not directly analyzed the causes in our study, but we have hypotheses about factors that we believe have interacted," said Hildur Helgadottir. "There are four main factors," she said. The first is increased awareness of sun protection. "The first national 'Sun Safe' campaign in the 1990s specifically highlighted the importance of protecting children. About 20



years later, we believe that this has led to a reduction in the incidence of the disease in younger adults," said Hildur Helgadottir. Another factor is that access to sunbeds has decreased drastically. Since 2018, there has been an 18-year age limit on sunbeds, but the number of public sunbeds decreased much earlier. Third, mobile phones and computers mean that children and young people are spending more time indoors and are not exposed to sunlight in the same way today. Finally, immigration means that there are more individuals in Sweden with darker pigmentation who can tolerate the sun better. "We see that it is necessary to continue the work of

emphasizing the importance of sun protection so that the reduction of melanoma in younger people is maintained and that the incidence will eventually also decrease in older people," said Hildur Helgadottir. Hildur Helgadottir points out how necessary it is to continue to emphasize the importance of sun protection so that the reduction of melanoma in younger people is sustained and that the incidence will eventually decrease in older people as well. "We are having an unusually warm and sunny September. It is important to remember that from April to September the sun can be strong and you should be careful," said Hildur Helgadottir.



# 'Sufism is the solution to global conflicts'

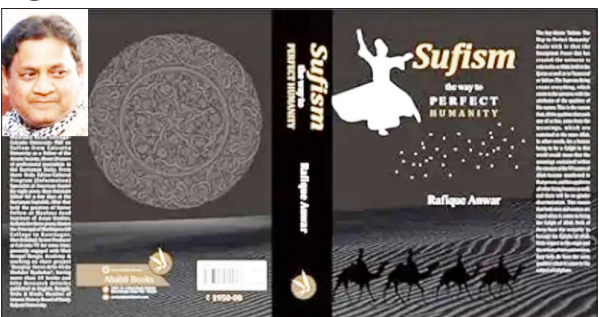
## Book by Dr Rafique Anwar

**Nurul Islam Khan**  
The solution to the world's problems, and conflicts, is available in Sufism; without it, it's difficult to achieve peaceful coexistence," says Dr Rafique Anwar, a leading scholar on Sufism, who seeks to challenge the existing notions about the Sufi practices in his upcoming book, Sufism: The Way to Perfect Humanity.

"There is no place for 'show-ism' in Sufism. Every human being with (human) qualities is a Sufi. Following cultural practices are being into Sufism," says Anwar. He feels there is a definite dilution of the ways Sufism is practiced these days.

Anwar has exhaustively researched Sufism for years. The preaching collectively aims at highlighting insaniyat (human bonding without distinctions), says Anwar. Unlike what most people tend to believe - that it's all about spirituality, Anwar says that great Sufis have rather talked about having a balance between the spiritual and the material needs.

Sufism and its followers faced challenges in the latter part of the nineteenth century as materialism slowly shadowed the spiritual quest of man. Yet, in today's world, it is more-than-ever relevant, feels



Anwar.

"Be a good human being, and the world will be at your feet," he adds. He says there are many myths and misconceptions about Sufism. "Humans discovered the Creator in different forms. As the brain developed, they all reached one conclusion that there is one Creator. Har koi Allah ka banda hai (Everyone is a creation of the Divine). Believe in the Divine power and do good deeds. This is Sufism," says Anwar.

A true follower of Sufism prays, does good work, helps people in need - all this without showing off.

Sufism: The Way to Perfect Humanity, putting forward teachings of Sufism, justifies it as a philosophy capable of tackling problems of the modern world. "Sufism treats individuals equally. Six out of ten people may conclude. This

doesn't mean the rest four individuals can be ignored. You have to treat them as equals. Instead, individual efficiency may make a person relatively important. Sufism encourages respect for all individuals," says Anwar.

Divine qualities of the Creator are a guiding force for individuals. The third point the book makes is the use of intellect, aqal. Sufism is not a tit-for-tat approach. It's about self-rectification which is a round-the-clock process, while prayers offered at particular hours are a reminder of the process.

Sufism is not avenging for wrongs; it's about standing for and offering justice. The book offers arguments, tackling one at a time.

Anwar argues that Sufism is a scientific approach for exploring the Divine power that created the uni-

verse. "Science is trying to discover the power (cause) behind creation. It is not creating. It is discovering something that's already there, something that's not in our view. The search is based on hard facts. Sufism is exploring the same with heart and mind. True Sufism and scientific research - both - aim at understanding the source of creation," he says.

Tit-for-tat approach. It's about self-rectification which is a round-the-clock process, while prayers offered at particular hours are a reminder of the process.

Sufism is not avenging for wrongs; it's about standing for and offering justice. The book offers arguments, tackling one at a time.

Anwar argues that Sufism is a scientific approach for exploring the Divine power that created the uni-

## Three hostages released by Hamas heading to Israel: IDF

**MI News Service, Tel Aviv:** The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said on Saturday that three hostages released by Hamas were on their way to Israel, where they will undergo an initial medical assessment. Hamas released three Israeli hostages as part of deal in exchange for release of Palestinian prisoners.

In a post on X, IDF stated, "The 3 returning hostages are currently being accompanied by IDF and ISA forces on their return to Israeli territory, where they will undergo an initial medical assessment. The IDF salutes and embraces the returning hostages as they make their way home to the State of Israel."

Earlier, IDF announced that Red Cross has informed them that the released hostages - Eli Sharabi, Or Levy and Ohad Ben Ami were handed over to them by Hamas, The Times of Israel reported. The Red Cross is bringing the hostages to IDF and Shin Bet forces in Gaza to then be moved out of the Gaza Strip, according to IDF.

Israel has planned to release 183 security prisoners Saturday, which include 18 who have been serving life sentences. Out of 183 Palestinian security prisoners released, 111 prisoners were arrested in Gaza over the course of the war and the remaining 72 lived in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Israel will deport seven of the prisoners after their release.

## US President Donald Trump says he will announce "reciprocal tariffs" next week

**MI News Service, Washington, DC:** US President Donald Trump has said that he would announce reciprocal tariffs next week that match the duties announced by other nations, Politico reported.

Addressing a press briefing with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba on Friday, Trump said, "I'll be announcing that next week, reciprocal trade, so that we're treated evenly with other countries." He said, "We don't want any more, any less."

Previously, Trump had threatened to slap 10 per cent or 20 per cent universal tariff and asked his administration with reviewing that possibility as part of a broader trade review due by April 1.

Trump, who announced that the tariffs would be applicable to every nation, added that the announcement would likely be made on "Monday or Tuesday," Politico reported.

He said, "I think that's the only fair way to do it that way nobody's hurt." Donald Trump said, "They charge us, we charge them. It's the same thing, and I seem to be going in that line as opposed to a flat fee tariff."

## Anil Nautiyal appointed as Ambassador of India to South Sudan

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** Anil Nautiyal, currently serving as the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of South Sudan. The Ministry of External Affairs in a press release said, "Shri Anil Nautiyal (YOA: 2004), presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of South Sudan." "He is expected to take up the assignment shortly," the release added. Nautiyal will replace Vishnu Kumar Sharma as the Ambassador of India to South Sudan.

South Sudan was a part of Anglo-Egyptian Sudan from 1899-1955 under joint British Egyptian rule. After two civil wars (1962-72 and 1983-2005), it became an autonomous region (Southern Sudan) in Sudan.

As per the MEA, in 2005, a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed (ceremony attended by the then Minister of State for External Affairs, E Ahmed) between the Government of Sudan and Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in Nairobi which led to the autonomy for the South-east part with a provision for South Sudanese referendum on independence in six years' time.

"All those who value the freedom struggle that nurtured Bangla identity and pride are aware of the importance of this residence for the national consciousness of Bangladesh. This act of vandalism should be strongly condemned," he added.

Yunus, however, also emphasized the importance of respecting the rule of law, stating that it differentiates the new Bangladesh from the old one under Hasina's regime. He urged citizens to channel their energy into productive, peaceful efforts to support positive

# Pakistan govt again offers to hold talks with Imran Khan's party

**MI News Service, Islamabad:** Pakistan's federal government has again extended a dialogue offer to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) as National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq stressed that the option of talks had never been dropped, Dawn reported.

Addressing reporters at the Punjab Assembly on Friday, Sadiq said that the government has always been open to dialogue with PTI and that's why he has not dissolved the committee formed for the purpose.

In response to a query, National Assembly Speaker said, "The ball is in the PTI court now as it has to seek approval from within the party first before engaging the government side," according to Dawn report.

Sadiq stressed that the

government's communication with PTI is intact and it has never been cut off despite political differences. Acknowledging complexities in engaging with PTI, he said that party founder is a "tough man."

Last week, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed government willingness to resume talks with the PTI, which had backed out of the dialogue process, complaining that its demand for establishing a judicial commission to investigate incidents on May 9, 2023 and Nov 26, 2024 as well as 2024 elections had not been accepted.

Shehbaz Sharif offered to constitute parliamentary committee to resolve the issue. He recalled that PTI had never constituted a judicial commission but a commit-

tee on opposition's demand when it was in power.

He called on Imran Khan-founded party to resume talks and accept establishing the proposed committee which would carry out probe into two elections that were held in 2018 and 2014, according to Dawn report. Political adviser to Pakistan PM, Rana Sanaullah had also expressed willingness to engage PTI in talks.

PTI has rejected Shehbaz Sharif's offer to resume talks with the government and to constitute a parliamentary committee, Geo News reported. Speaking on Geo News programme Capital Talk, PTI top leader and Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly Omar Ayub said: "We reject Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's offer [to resume dialogue]".

# Missing Alaska flight with 10 onboard found with no survivors: Officials

**MI News Service, Alaska:** A small regional flight that went missing in Alaska on Thursday, carrying nine passengers and a pilot, has been found but no one on board is alive, the US Coast Guard confirmed on Friday, CNN reported.

According to the US Coast Guard Alaska, the small commuter aircraft was found Friday (local time) about 34 miles southeast of Nome, according to the USCG.

Further, USCG Lt Commander Mike Salerno stated that two rescue swimmers identified three bodies inside the plane and the seven others "are believed to be inside the wreckage," but they are inaccessible at this time.

The Cessna, operated by Bering Air, was carrying nine passengers and a pilot. It disappeared Thursday afternoon while flying from Unalakleet to Nome - cities in western Alaska separat-

ed by the Norton Sound inlet, as per the Alaska State Troopers.

The Coast Guard said that it was about 12 miles offshore when its position was lost, according to the Coast Guard.

The aircraft "experienced some kind of event which caused them to experience a rapid loss in elevation and a rapid loss in speed" around 3:18 pm local time Thursday, CNN reported citing Coast Guard Lt. Commander Benjamin McIntyre-Coble's statement.

Sharing the picture of the missing plane on X, the Coast Guard wrote, "USCG has ended its search for the missing plane after the aircraft was located approx. 34 miles southeast of Nome. 3 individuals were found inside and reported to be deceased."

"The remaining 7 people are believed to be inside the aircraft but are currently inaccessible due to the

condition of the plane. Our heartfelt condolences are with those affected by this tragic incident," it added.

The official stated that the search for the aircraft had been complicated by the fact that the missing plane had not communicated its position through an emergency transmitter.

Notably, bad weather slowed the search efforts on Thursday, making it hard for aircraft to locate the missing plane. Initial flights by C-130 crews from the Coast Guard and US Air Force turned up nothing, according to the Nome Volunteer Fire Department on Friday morning.

Before the plane was found, McIntyre-Coble, speaking at a news conference on Friday, said there was "some sort of item of interest" identified by an aircraft involved in the search efforts, and the Coast Guard was heading to its location.

# Estonians call Maha Kumbh Mela "heart-opening" experience

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** Estonians who attended the Maha Kumbh Mela shared their experiences and described their visit to Prayagraj as a "great experience."

Acharya Ishwarananda spoke to ANI. "It was a great experience... The arrangement was perfect. The preparation was very good, very secure, very well done. I am very happy and I hope people can come to the next Mahakumbh Mela too."

Reflecting upon his visit, he said that it was "Very good, very sincere and heart-opening. It was a really great experience"

Speaking about India and Estonia ties, he expressed confidence in their growth.

Inga Murullarim told ANI, "That was a fabulous experience. It's one of the world's biggest pilgrimage."

Appreciating the arrangement and facilities, she said, "That was fantastic. When I got the news about the fact that they have built thousands of new roads, how many, all the tents, even the camp village, that was amazing. And it got hosted so many people and we were really well taken care of there. So there I say a big thanks to the Kumbh Mela village. We felt really good there."

She also said, "I enjoy the temples in India and the energies that are here and since we are coming also from Estonia, from the Shiva temple in Estonia, we know the essence of the temples. We really appreciate the good energies in the temples."

Speaking about India-Estonia ties, she said, "It's a beautiful relationship. One year ago in Estonia we opened the Shiva temple and the two communities, Estonian community and Hindu community were working together. So it was like bonding of two cultures. Many hundreds of people worked together for the opening of the temple so it was a beautiful event in Estonia that really tied Hindus and Estonians together."

## In touch with US authorities for surrender of Tahawwur Rana:MEA

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** In a special briefing by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday, ahead of Prime Minister Modi's overseas visit, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri responded to a query about the extradition of Tahawwur Rana from the US.

During the briefing, Foreign Secretary Misri said, "On the extradition of Tahawwur Rana, from recent developments, you would be aware that Mr Rana has exhausted all legal avenues in the United States with the US Supreme Court also dismissing his appeal and therefore we are now in touch with US authorities to work on the logistics of his surrender to Indian authorities." He added, "We will update you as soon as we hear further on this particular matter". The developments comes ahead of the Prime Minister's visit to the United States.

"The visit will be a valuable opportunity to engage

## US lawmakers push to end 'One China' policy, back Taiwan ties

**MI News Service, Taipei:** US Representatives Tom Tiffany from Wisconsin and Scott Perry from Pennsylvania reintroduced a resolution urging the US to end its "One China" policy, resume formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan and negotiate a bilateral Taiwan-US free trade agreement, Taipei Times reported on Saturday.

The resolution, backed by 22 Republican members of the House, was first introduced in 2021.

The resolution urges President Donald Trump to "abandon the antiquated 'one China' policy in favour of a policy that recognises the objective reality that Taiwan is an independent country, not governed by or included within the territory of China."

Trump should also recognise the legitimacy of Taiwan's democratically elected national government, appoint an official US ambassador to the nation and accept a Taiwanese counterpart in the US, the resolution added.

According to the Taipei Times, the resolution also urges the US representative to the United Nations, along with other officials, to support Taiwan's inclusion in the UN and other international organisations that the US is part of.

It praises Taiwan for its strong "commitment to democracy", civil liberties, and human rights. The resolution also references several former US presidents, including Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, and Bill Clinton.

The resolution points out that Taiwan and the US had maintained normal diplomatic relations until 1979 when "President Carter abruptly abandoned both without the approval of Congress in 1979" and despite Reagan strengthening ties, "The United States has not altered its position regarding sovereignty over Taiwan," the resolution says.

It also cites a statement by President Bill Clinton, who previously said that "the issues between Beijing and Taiwan must be resolved peacefully and with the assent of the people of Taiwan."

## Muhammad Yunus urges people to stop further attacks on properties of Sheikh Hasina's family

**MI News Service, Dhaka:** Bangladesh's Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus called on all citizens to immediately restore complete law and order and to ensure there will be no further attacks on properties associated with the family of Sheikh Hasina and politicians of Awami League party or against any citizen on any pretext, a statement from the Chief Adviser's press wing said on Friday.

The statement comes three days, after the residence of Bangladesh's founder, Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman, in Dhaka, was vandalized on February 5 during a live online address by his daughter, Sheikh Hasina, the deposed prime minister.

The protesters, reportedly demanding a ban on the Awami League, stormed the premises after breaking open the gate, causing widespread destruction.

According to the statement, "The anger of the activists who have attacked properties is understandable because they and their relatives and friends lived through years

of tyranny under Hasina."

"The Government understands the activists' sense of outrage," the statement said, "that even from their refuge in New Delhi, Hasina continues to try to mobilise her militants to hamper Bangladesh's recovery from her years of abuse."

A day after the vandalism incident, India on Thursday condemned the vandalism of Bangladesh's founding leader, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's residence in Dhaka, calling the act "regrettable."

"It is regrettable that the historic residence of

tact us to organize camps like this where we provide free eye check-ups, cataract surgery, medicines and spectacles. In today's event, social worker Gauhar Ali thanked the institution as well as the Rotary Club and its team, while Maulana Qamaruddin Sahil Hashmati, Imam of the Triveni Ghazi Dargah Shahi Masjid, who was also present at the event, also thanked everyone.



the institution, Md Alaudin, Murad Ali and others said that in the future too, they will continue to carry out such welfare work as they have been doing. Dr. Mr. Pandey of the Rotary Club said that we are very happy here that we are standing in front of the needy in such a large number and it has been useful for them. We would like more regional institutions and organizations to con-



Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, a symbol of the heroic resistance of the people of Bangladesh against the forces of occupation and oppression, was destroyed on February 5, 2025," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal sai in a statement.





### ODISHA'S ALL 314 BLOCKS TO OWN SPORTS STADIUMS IN 5 YEARS

The Odisha government has approved a new project for the construction of stadiums in all 314 blocks of the state over a period of five years. The Cabinet has approved an outlay of Rs 4124 crore for the project, news reports said.

Each block-level stadium will be developed on 8-10 acres of land and will have disciplines like football/cricket field, athletic track with throw and jump area, volleyball/kho kho/kabaddi court, indoor Hall (badminton, table tennis etc.), and common facility centre among others.

The project's objective is to strengthen grassroots-level sports infrastructure in Odisha, highlighting the government's dedication towards fostering a robust sports ecosystem while promoting health and wellness across the state.

"Recognising the urgency of closing this gap, the government has outlined several key objectives, including providing enhanced opportunities for athletes, nurturing local talent, and organising more grassroots sports competitions," a statement read.

The focus will be on core sports disciplines where Odisha shows significant promise. The project aims to address critical gaps in rural sports infrastructure, particularly at the block level.

Beyond fostering competitive sports, these facilities will encourage rural youth to participate in physical activities, supporting their overall development and long-term mental and physical well-being.

"Odisha, recognised as a rising sports hub in India, is committed to cultivating a vibrant sports culture. The construction of block-level stadiums marks a significant stride toward achieving this vision.

By providing state-of-the-art facilities at the grassroots level, the project will not only serve as a pipeline for nurturing high-performance athletes but will also inspire citizens to adopt sports as a lifestyle."

## Ranji Trophy: Karun Nair continues to knock on selectors door, slams unbeaten century for Vidarbha

NAGPUR (MAHARASHTRA) : Karun Nair continued to knock on the selector's doors after blazing his second century for Vidarbha in the second quarter-final of the ongoing Ranji Trophy on Saturday.

On the opening day of the final eight clash between Vidarbha and Tamil Nadu, the hosts were tottering at 44/4. Vidarbha needed a meaningful partnership and someone to play the anchor's role for the next 73. 5 overs left in the day.

With his scorching form, Nair arrived at the crease with a clear intent of helping his side see off the difficult phase. He had to bid his time, respect the menacing ones and punish those deliveries that landed in his hitting arc.

A combination of experience and young talent helped Vidarbha sail to a comfortable position. With Danish Malewar at



the other end, runs kept coming at a steady pace and the duo went from strength to strength.

Danish and Nair added 98 runs for the fourth wicket before the 21-year-old miscued Vijay Shankar at 75(119). After

off Sai Kishore.

He combined with captain Akshay Wadkar to add 64 runs for the sixth wicket and waited patiently to hit the three-digit figure. Nair stayed unbeaten with a knock of 100(180), lifting Vidarbha to 264/6 at the end of the day.

Defending champions Mumbai were saved by a massive 165-run partnership between Tanush Kotian and Shams Mulani. For the first 30 overs, Mumbai were forced to watch a horror show. On a hazy morning and seaming conditions, Mumbai's star-studded batters crumbled in front of inexperienced Haryana pacers.

Ayush Mhatre was the first to fall for a golden duck. Akash (10), Siddhesh Lad (4) and Suryakumar Yadav (9) were out on the crease and back in the dressing room within the blink of an eye.

Mumbai were dwindling at 25/4 and needed a partnership to take them past the early phase. Captain Ajinkya Rahane and Shivam Dube offered a moment of reprieve with their short yet effective 40-run stand.

They stemmed the collapse but the duo eventually edged it away off the Haryana quicks. Mumbai were reeling at 113/7 after group-stage hero Shardul Thakur's dismissal.

In a dire situation, Mumbai's lower order came to the rescue with Kotian and Mulani patiently dealing with the pacers. They trode with caution to stitch up a 165-run stand. The partnership came to an end when Mulani returned the ball to Jayant Yadav.

Kotian, who scored his 15th half-century, stayed unbeaten at 85(154), as Mumbai closed the day with a score of 278/8.

### DREAM SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP REGIONAL ROUND FINALS: PUNJAB FC, CHENNAIYN FC, MOHUN BAGAN SG BOOK THEIR BERTH

NEW DELHI : The Dream Sports Championship (DSC) has concluded its regional rounds across four cities, with Punjab FC (Delhi), Chennaiyin FC (Bengaluru), Reliance Foundation Young Champs (Mumbai), and Mohun Bagan Super Giant (Kolkata) emerged as winners to secure their spots in the National Finals of the U-17 Football Tournament, scheduled for April 2025 in Goa, as per the DSC press release.

Punjab FC became the first team to qualify for the National Finals, showcasing their dominance in the Delhi regional final on February 6. Forward Vishal Yadav continued his remarkable form with his second hat-trick of the tournament, scoring in the 4th, 52nd, and 68th minutes to secure a 3-0 victory over Garhwal Heroes FC.

The defending champions of DSC's first edition maintained an impressive defensive record throughout the regional round, without conceding a single goal while scoring 17.

## Champions Trophy: David Warner breaks silence on Australia's decision to drop Sam Konstas



"Australia are very good in the World Cups and Champions Trophies and in tournament play. So, the Australian team knows how to win. They know how to succeed. It doesn't matter what players they play," Warner told a virtual press conference.

"The guys are all built with playing under pressure. So, I think, whoever replaces those guys would do very well and the team in general would do great as well. "Australia have won the Champions Trophy twice, in 2006 and 2009, making them the most successful team in the tournament alongside India, who won in 2002 and 2013.

Asked about Australia's decision to drop Sam Konstas and promote Travis Head as Usman Khawaja's opening partner, Warner deferred the question to the selectors. "They've obviously wanted to get off to a good start and be positive. I think that's what they envisaged with Travis Head going up the order. But, I don't know. You'd have to ask them (selectors) why that happened," Warner said.

Warner, who retired from Twenty20s after Australia's 2024 T20 World Cup exit, is currently representing the Dubai Capitals in the International League T20 (ILT20) in the United Arab Emirates.

Australia are presently engaged in a two-match test series in Sri Lanka, leading 1-0 following a comprehensive innings and 242-run victory in the opening test in Galle.

## Delhi Capitals launches brand-new mobile app 'DC Fan Sabha', with fan rewards at its core



NEW DELHI [INDIA] : Ahead of the upcoming Women's Premier League and Indian Premier League seasons, Delhi Capitals launched a brand-new official mobile app, 'DC Fan Sabha'.

Having followed a 'Fan First' approach always, Delhi Capitals believes 'Yahan Fans ki Sarkar Hai' (Our Fans Rule Here), and has therefore designed the app aiming to elevate the second-screen experience for their fans, while delivering incredible rewards and opportunities for them as well. By registering on the app, fans will be able to unlock a variety of exclusive benefits, from match tickets to money-can't-buy experiences, as per a press release from Delhi Capitals.

All such opportunities fall under the umbrella of 'DC Rewards', a five-tier loyalty programme on the app. Fans can earn points through interactions within the app, which would then unlock exclusive experiences and rewards.

Inspired by Delhi's status as

the heart of the world's largest democracy, the DC Fan Sabha has the fan at its centre, giving them unique voting powers, player experiences like never before, and a chance to win multiple rewards.

Moving beyond traditional fan engagement, the DC Fan Sabha app enables users to:

- Vote for the type of content they would like to consume
- Participate in exciting pre-match games and quizzes
- Contribute to the community by engaging in DC's Greater Good initiatives

Speaking on the launch of DC Fan Sabha, Sunil Gupta, CEO, Delhi Capitals, expressed, "At Delhi Capitals, we have a strong vision of keeping our fans at the epicentre of everything we do, and this new app - the DC Fan Sabha - reiterates our commitment towards serving them better. From special fan experiences, exciting games, exclusive behind the scenes content to exclusive merchandise, the DC Fan Sabha App is a one-stop destination for all DC Fans."

In a thrilling Bengaluru regional final on February 7, Chennaiyin FC emerged victorious with a 4-3 win over Alchemy International FA in a match that saw multiple lead changes. Mohammed Sahir played a crucial role with two equalizing goals for Chennaiyin FC, while the turning point came in the 70th minute when Alchemy's Singamayum Iliyas received a red card. Nitishkumar converted the resulting free kick to give Chennaiyin their first lead, before Abinash Singh added a fourth. Despite Uttam Nagshepam's late penalty for Alchemy, Chennaiyin held on to secure their place in the finals.

The Mumbai regional final, also held on February 7, saw Reliance Foundation Young Champs deliver an outstanding performance to defeat Brothers Sports Association 6-1. RFYC dominated throughout, with Atul B Pulipra opening the scoring, followed by Faris A's double, Shawn Fernandes's brace, and a late goal from substitute Ayush Sihag. Brothers' only consolation came through Aryan Tamang's 49th-minute strike.

In the fourth of six cities, Mohun Bagan Super Giant clinched the Kolkata regional title on February 8 with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Mohammedan Sporting Club. Prem Hansdak emerged as the hero for the Mariners with a crucial double, scoring in the 49th and 59th minutes. Despite Sekh Kaiub's immediate equalizer for Mohammedan SC in the 50th minute, MBSG's resilience prevailed in what coach Deggie Cardoza described as a testament to their mental strength and preparation.

## World Padel League: SG Pipers Cheetahs beat Vernost Jaguars 22-21 in last league stage match



MUMBAI (MAHARASHTRA) : SG Pipers Cheetahs edged past Vernost Jaguars 22-21 in a tightly contested last league stage match of the World Padel League on Friday at the Nesco Center in Mumbai, as per WPL press release.

Both the teams have qualified for the finals as Vernost Jaguars finished on the top of the points table with 69 points and SG Pipers Cheetahs with 66 overall points. Meanwhile, Sohail Khan Ent. Panthers finished third with 62 points and Game Changers Lions with 61 points.

In the mixed doubles, Vernost Jaguars' David Gala Sanchez and

Maria Virginia Riera secured a comfortable 6-4 victory over SG Pipers Cheetahs' Pol Hernandez and Julieta Bidahorra, giving their team an early advantage in the match.

In the men's doubles, SG Pipers Cheetahs' Enrique Goenaga and Teodoro Zapata broke Vernost Jaguars' Alejandro Arroyo and Aris Patiniotis' opening serve and held their serve to take a 2-0 lead. However, Vernost Jaguars fought back to level the set at 3-3. SG Pipers Cheetahs responded with another break, held their serve to extend the lead to 5-3, and eventually sealed the set 6-4,

bringing the overall score to 10-10.

In the women's doubles, SG Pipers Cheetahs' Claudia Fernandez and Beatriz Gonzalez showed resilience, coming from behind to win the set against Vernost Jaguars' Alejandra Salazar and Tamara Icardo. They trailed 3-0 initially but not only equalised at 4-4 but also went on to clinch the set 6-4, putting their team 16-14 ahead in the match.

In the final set, SG Pipers Cheetahs' Francisco Guerrero and Juanlu Esbri gained an early advantage and maintained a one-game lead throughout

against Vernost Jaguars' Lucas Campagnolo and Maximiliano Sanchez. However, Vernost Jaguars fought back, saving multiple set points to equalize at 5-5 and eventually pushing the set into a tiebreak.

Vernost Jaguars trailed 0-2 in the tiebreak but scored five consecutive points to take a 5-2 lead and ultimately closed the set 7-6. Despite their comeback, they lost the overall match by a single point, 22-21.

The finals of the World Padel League will see Vernost Jaguars and SG Pipers Cheetahs pit against each other on February 8 at 6:30 PM IST.

# SAM KONSTAS AIMS TO BECOME ALL-FORMAT PLAYER, RECALLS IMPERSONATING ENGLISH ICONS

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : Australia's young prodigy Sam Konstas has set a long-term goal of becoming an all-format player after being overlooked for two Tests against Sri Lanka in the sub-continent.

Konstas, 19, is still new to the challenges, success and hardships that a player goes through in international cricket. The young opener earned his maiden baggy green in front of a sold-out crowd at the MCG in the Boxing Day Test against India.

With a swashbuckling 60(65) in the first innings, Konstas made a strong case for himself to become the next big thing in the future.

After taking his first step in the international circuit, Konstas isn't looking to limit himself to the red-ball format. He wants to explore white-ball cricket and emerge as an all-format player for Australia.

"I want to test myself and become

an all-format player one day. Travis Head is a legend of the game, just the way he goes about it is pretty simple, and he takes on the bowlers. I'm very lucky at my age to learn from these guys, and hopefully, I can build on that," Konstas said as quoted from The Sydney Morning Herald.

In his first Test appearance for Australia, Konstas caught the world by surprise with a touch of unorthodox in his stroke play. The world of cricket came to a pause when Konstas flawlessly executed a perfect ramp shot to smother the ball past the boundary line off Jasprit Bumrah.

The 31-year-old pace spearhead needed a moment to realise that he had conceded the first six in the Test format after more than 4,000 days.

Konstas continued to exhibit a wide array of shots from his arsenal during the final Test in Sydney,



which was enough to convince the selectors to send him to Sri Lanka. However, after considering and

taking all factors into account, Travis Head was promoted from middle to top. The decision worked wonders,

with Australia celebrating an emphatic win by an innings and 242 runs in the series opener.

Konstas was sent home before the second Test, but the opportunity to watch and work with the likes of Head and Steve Smith gave him much-needed inputs to improve his game.

"I don't think I'm that good at my sweets or reverse [sweeps], but that's something to work on when I'm back in Sydney. Uzzy and Marnus are the best at it, and then you see how Steve and Travis approach it differently. So understanding your strengths and trying to stick to it as long as possible," he said.

It is yet to be seen if Konstas will be in talks for Australia's World Test Championship (WTC) final against South Africa on June 11 at the iconic Lord's.

After the final, Australia will shift

its focus to the next WTC cycle, which will begin with a tour of the West Indies. Once the series concludes, the hype around the Ashes will start to build up.

Konstas, who used to emulate English pace bowling icons Stuart Broad and James Anderson, is hopeful for an opportunity to feature in the famous rivalry.

"I remember as a kid, we would mimic some of the England bowlers in the backyard Ashes series with my brothers. Stuart Broad a few times and Jimmy Anderson. Hopefully, I get that opportunity to play over there," he said.

"We had a series in England in the under-19s, so we were there for a month, and it was different conditions, swinging with the Dukes ball, so it's invaluable to have that experience. Hopefully, a county team can pick me up," he added.