

Morning India

18th annual conference of LIAFI concludes, appealed to unite and agitate

MI News Service, Kharagpur: The 18th annual conference was organized in the Kharagpur College Auditorium on Sunday by the Kharagpur branch of Life Insurance Agents Federation of India (Liafi). On this occasion, social worker Deepak Das Gupta said that due to the hard work of agents, LIC is in a strong position today. He said that just as there is no value of trees without leaves, in the same way LIC without agent has no existence. Liafi Secretary Satyajit Halder said that the central government is bent on ruining the insurance industry, there is a need to



unite against it. He said that apart from the government, we also have to fight a trimukhi battle against LIC officials and IRDA's non-Nearly rules. Other demands were made, including 25 lakhs to the house loan to pay ten thousand rupees monthly salary to permanent agents. BK Das, Director Atanu Pal, Amit Mukherjee and others were present on the occasion.

Shree Cement advances sustainable construction with Bangur Marble Cement launch in Patna

MI News Service, Vaishali: Shree Cement has launched Bangur Marble Cement in Patna, Bihar, a sustainable PSC cement with high brightness, strength, and crack resistance. It integrates GGBS, a by-product of steel manufacturing, reducing the environmental footprint and enhancing durability. The product is set to expand across Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal, reaching over 2,000 retailers.



Before his address on the first day of the Budget Session, Governor C.V. Ananda, along with Speaker Biman Banerjee and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, paid floral tribute at Dr. Ambedkar's statue at the State Assembly, in Kolkata on Monday.

Kamarhati Municipality orders demolition of 57 illegal buildings

MI News Service, Kamarhati: In a decisive move against unauthorized construction, the Kamarhati Municipality has ordered the demolition of 57 illegally built houses across Wards 1 to 7. Amid increasing concerns over unauthorized buildings across various municipalities in the state, this action sets a significant precedent. According to municipal officials, legal proceedings have already been initiated against 17 of the property owners, with FIRs lodged against them. The demolition process has commenced, starting with a high-rise building in the Dhubia Bagan area. Gopal Saha, Chairman of Kamarhati Municipality, stated that repeated notices were sent to the owners of these illegal structures. "We served notices three times, asking them to appear before the authorities, but they failed to comply," he said. The municipality claims that these buildings were constructed without approved blueprints or permissions, making them illegal. Given their hazardous state, authorities have now ordered their demolition. With municipal authorities determined to clear illegal structures, the crackdown on unauthorized constructions in Kamarhati is expected to continue.

Foresters on alert to help Madhyamik examinees avert jumbo risk, Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts draw up plans for student safety near wildlife hubs

MI News Service, Siliguri: Foresters of the Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts have drawn up plans to ensure the safety of Madhyamik examinees who have to travel to the fringes of wildlife habitats and through elephant corridors. The Madhyamik exam starts on Monday across Bengal.

The move assumes significance as on February 23, 2023, Arjun Das, a resident of Mahara-jaghat in Rajganj block of Jalpaiguri, was killed by a wild elephant while he was on his way to the examination centre on his father's bike to appear for his Madhyamik exam.

Bangio Kumbh Mela starts in Kalyani

MI News Service, Kalyani : Along with Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, the Bangio Kumbh Mela has started in Bengal on Monday at the Char Gaurang Mahaprabhu Ghat in Nadia's Kalyani. The Kumbh Mela in Bengal has been organized for the past several years. Like last year, this time too, the 'Kumbh Snan festival' has started at the Gaurang Mahaprabhu Ghat on Monday. The 'Kumbh Mahotsav' in Bengal which was started on Monday will be continued upto February 16. So, the fair premises were decorated. The Char Gaurang Mahaprabhu Ghat in Kalyani Maghher char () was renovated. The local Police and adminis-



trative officials visited the area in phases. As demanded by the concerned Mela Authority, all arrangements were made to ensure that there is no problem at the Char Gaurang Mahaprabhu Ghat in Kalyani. Saints and monks have already started arriving from different parts of the Country, said Mahamandaleshwar Swami Paramatmananda Maharaj. This program consists of congregations, Sahi Snan, Jagyo etc. and gathering of monks and devotees. The Sahi Snan will occur on morning of February 13 after the procession. The Medical team, Fire brigade, Ambulance were arranged there.

DAV Model School IIT Kharagpur hosts spectacular annual concert

MI News Service, Kharagpur: DAV Model School IIT Kharagpur celebrated its Annual Concert, Rhythm Divine 2025, with great enthusiasm and grandeur on February 6, 2025, at the Tagore Open Air Theatre, IIT Kharagpur.

The event was graced by esteemed guests, with PatilYogeshAshokrao (IAS, S.D.O. Kharagpur) as the Chief Guest and Col. MridulKanti Sinha (Deputy Commander and Chief Administrative Officer, NCC GRP, HO Kharagpur) as the Guest of Honour. Other notable dignitaries included N.K. Gautam, Principal of DAV Model School Midnapur, Prof. Subrat-Chattoopadhyay of IIT Kharagpur, Dr. N.K. Som (Senior Medical Officer, B.C. Roy Hospital, IIT Kharagpur), and Amit Thakur of Tata Hitachi Kharagpur.

The evening commenced with a formal welcome, followed by the Annual Progress Report,



presented by Principal Lopa Chatterjee. The much-anticipated Prize Distribution Ceremony honored students excelling in academics, Olympiads, and various national and state-level competitions.

The cultural program featured a vibrant mix of performances on contemporary themes. The students' mesmerizing acts, colorful props, and dazzling costumes left the audience spellbound, earning a standing ovation and widespread appreciation.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Guest PatilYogeshAshokrao emphasized the importance of holistic education, moral values, and national service. He encouraged students to uphold integrity and dedication in all aspects of life.

The spectacular show left a lasting impression on guests, parents, and attendees. The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks, followed by the Shanti Path, marking the end of an unforgettable evening filled with talent and enthusiasm.

Tiger Attack in Maiptha: Forest Worker Seriously Injured

MI News Service: A terrifying incident occurred in Maipith, South 24 Parganas, when a tiger suddenly attacked a temporary forest worker, leaving him seriously injured. The incident has sparked widespread panic in the area. According to eyewitnesses, the tiger emerged from the forest and jumped onto a paddy field, where it attacked the forest worker. A dramatic video of the incident shows several forest workers attempting to chase

the tiger away with sticks, but it attacked one of them, leaving him severely injured. The incident occurred on Monday morning, when forest officials were attempting to locate the tiger, which had been spotted in the area on Sunday. The tiger is believed to have originated from the nearby Ajmalmari forest. "We are in a state of extreme fear," said Madhusudan Nandi, a resident of Maipith. "We cannot go out at night due to fear."

Madrasa board exam students said the first paper was good, finger pointed at the administration for the behavior of children at the Pandua exam center

MI News Service, Hooghly, February 10 (Muhammad Shabbir Alam) The Madrasa/Madhyamik board exams have started from Monday. On Monday morning, the students of various high madrasas of the district had to leave their homes to reach their respective exam centers on time, but they faced difficulties due to the traffic system. The teachers and guardians complained about this directly to the SDO president over the phone. Today, a total of 187 students from IM High Madrasa in Bansberia left for their exam center Pandua Sultania Madrasa for the tenth grade exam, while a total of 307 students from Adabi Society High Madrasa in Champdani, whose exam center was IM High Madrasa, all of them reached before the scheduled time. Many guardians had also reached there to welcome the students. Now, SDO president Samita Saneyal Shukla had also reached there to welcome the students. She went here and met the children face to face and talked about their preparations for the exam. At the same time, she was also seen asking them that are you guys not nervous? Don't be nervous at all.



Saying this, all the children handed over pens, flowers and chocolates to the students in turn with their hands. The students were very happy to see them receiving these gifts from their hands and talking openly at the same time. The students thanked the SDO Madam. At the same time, the teachers of the madrasa were also impressed by their performance and presented them with flowers. During this time SDO told the representative of AAwwami News that the first important exam of life is the board exam. Children go to another place away from their homes and take the exam there, due to which they are a little nervous. I will tell them that they should not be nervous at all and forget all the talk here and there, first read the question paper with

satisfaction and solve all the questions. She further said that I visited several examination centers today and reviewed the arrangements there. I am also making sure that there are no traffic problems on the way to the exam. But when the Guardian went to the Pandua Sultania Madrasa center, the teachers and children of IM High Madrasa themselves were seen making various complaints. First, they faced difficulty due to traffic jams in Magra ganj Bazaar while going to Pandua. The teacher of the madrasa complained by phone call to sdo about this, while the journalist also talked to him about this problem, he said, "Okay, I am looking into it." Apart from this, the Guardian complained that only boys were written on both sides at the entrance gate. Apart from

this, only transparent examination boards were allowed inside the center, but the children were not allowed to enter after seeing the file in which the admit and registration certificates were written as IM High Madrasa. On this, the students complained that they carry these two necessary documents and certificates without any cover in their hands and what will happen if they get lost for some reason? Not only that, students come to any examination center to take the board exam for the first time, if the staff and teachers there do not help them in telling them which room is where and which seat of which roll number is which, then how will the children sit in their seats? But no one came forward to tell the children all this, so the children were seen complaining after coming out of the examination center. Meanwhile, the secretary of the IM Madrasa Administration Committee, Zulfiqar Ali, was asked what he would say about such a problem with the children, to which he said that he is talking to the administration of this examination center here, I hope that such a problem will not arise from tomorrow.

Rowing and Sailing Expedition- 2025 (Bay of Bengal)

MI News Service, Kolkata: Sea Explorers' Institute flagged off its 28th expedition from Sundari Ghat on 10th February, 2024. The organization working relentlessly for the last 40 years in maritime and riverine training, research and exploration. To instill the spirit of adventure and foster it has been the mainstay of our work. Thus the team of 7 chosen for this expedition from Kolkata's Sundari Ghat to Susni island in the Sundarbans comprises of some veteran seamen like Tenzing Norgay Awardee Tapas Chowdhury, skipper Aseem Mondal, Puspenn Samanta and somewhat experienced like Momin Ali Mondal and Biswajit Mondal to first timers like Partha



Mondal and Jotinmoy Mishra.

A whaler boat called "Abhinandan" named after Group Captain Abhinandan Varthaman of Surgical Strike of India in Uri sector is 27th feet long gifted to Sea Explorers' Institute by the Indian Navy. A total distance of 320 kms of the expedition is likely to be com-

pleted in 10-12 days. The route chart for the expedition is as follows.

The commander of 2nd Bn NDRF Cdr Gurminder Singh flagged off the expedition and encouraged the boys to undertake a successful journey. Follow us on social media for regular updates.

Barrackpore Police's readiness becomes a lifeline for Madhyamik students

MI News Service, Barrackpore: The Madhyamik Examination has begun, and on the very first day, the Barrackpore Police Commissionerate set an extraordinary example of efficiency and humanitarian service. While students faced immense exam pressure, some encountered unforeseen challenges, but the police's swift response ensured their dreams remained intact. One such incident involved Alisha Khatun, who was supposed to appear for her exam at Sinthee Ramkrishna Sangha Vidya-mandir for Girls but mistakenly arrived near Rameshwar School, under the jurisdiction of Baranagar Police Station. As time slipped away and panic set in, Barrackpore Police Commissionerate officials, led by ACP Belghoria and DCP South, took immediate action. They swiftly escorted Alisha and her mother to the correct examination center, ensuring she arrived on time to take her crucial exam. Another critical case involved Aritra Dey, a student of Belghoria High School and a resident of Pathanpur, under Nimta Police



Station. Upon reaching his examination center, he realized he had forgotten his admit card at home. His mother was unavailable as she was attending to his father, who is undergoing treatment for a recent cardiac arrest. Understanding the urgency, the police swiftly retrieved his admit card from home and delivered it just in time. Without their intervention, Aritra would have missed his exam. The remarkable efficiency and dedication displayed by Barrackpore Police Commissionerate during these

crucial moments have been widely praised by the public. At a time when students and parents are already under immense stress, their proactive approach provided invaluable support and reassurance. This incident reinforces the fact that police officers are not just law enforcers but also guardians of the community. Barrackpore Police have once again proven that with compassion and commitment to duty, no obstacle is too great to overcome in safeguarding the future of students.

Abhishek Banerjee Ensures Surgery Of A Child With Tumour On His Hand

MI News Service, Kolkata: During his visit to Sebaashray health camp in Falta, Shri @abhishekaic met a child struggling with a benign tumour on his hand. Moved by his plight, he ensured the little one received the medical attention he deserved. The child has undergone a successful operation- completely free of cost! This is not just assistance; this is compassion in action. A



leader who truly stands by the people, ensuring no one is left behind. On 15th January 2025, at the Model Sebaashray Health Camp in Falta, I met a mother whose distress was etched across her face.

Her young son had developed a tumor on his hand, and needless to say, she feared the worst. I assured her that his treatment would not be left to fate, that we would move swiftly to ensure accurate diagnosis and immediate medical intervention. Today, I am relieved and overjoyed to share that his tumor was diagnosed as benign and, more importantly, has now

been surgically removed. The operation was successful, and the little warrior is on his way to a healthy, pain-free recovery. This is what #Sebaashray stands for: Not just providing treatment, but eliminating fear, not just diagnosing ailments, but restoring faith. It is about ensuring that no mother loses sleep over whether her child will receive the care he deserves.

Massive explosion in abandoned house at Ketugram raises alarm

MI News Service, Ketugram: A powerful explosion rocked an abandoned house in Ketugram, blowing off the roof and collapsing walls, sending debris flying several feet away. Locals described the blast as resembling an earthquake, with bricks and concrete slabs scattered across the road.

The police quickly cordoned off the area and launched an investigation. Preliminary findings suggest that a large cache of explosives and bombs had been stored in the house, leading to the devastating blast. A forensic team will determine nature and quantity of explosives involved. The explosion, which occurred yesterday, has left behind a lingering smell of gunpowder in the air. Twines, suspected to have been used for tying bombs, were found scattered across the site. Investigators believe that the intensity of the blast indicates the presence of a significant stockpile of explosive materials. The

house, which had been abandoned for some time, is now the center of a high-level probe. Authorities are working to determine how such a large quantity of explosives came to be stored there and who was responsible. The police are also trying to ascertain whether this explosion was accidental or part of a larger illegal operation.

Meanwhile, in a separate incident, a horrific explosion at an illegal firecracker factory in Kalyani, Nadia, has claimed four lives. The police have arrested Khokon Biswas, the owner of the factory, in connection with the tragedy.

During a search operation, authorities discovered a large quantity of firecrackers on the roof of Biswas's house in Ward No. 20 of Kalyani Municipality. Further raids at multiple locations led to the recovery of additional firecracker-making materials, suggesting that the illegal operation was widespread in the area.

Global leaders meet in Paris...

From PG 1
conflict ends — an idea that's been flatly rejected by Arab allies. The summit, which gathers major players such as Google, Microsoft and OpenAI, aims at fostering AI advances in sectors like health, education, environment and culture.
A global public-private partnership named "Current AI" is to be launched to support large-scale initiatives that serve the general interest.
The Paris summit "is the first time we'll have had such a broad international discussion in one place on the future of AI," said Linda Griffin, vice president of public policy at Mozilla. "I see it as a norm-setting moment."
Nick Reiners, senior geotechnology analyst at Eurasia Group, noted an opportunity to shape AI governance in a new direction by "moving away from this concentration of power amongst a handful of private actors and building this public interest AI instead."
However, it remains unclear if the US will sup-

port such initiatives.
French organizers also hope the summit will lead to major investment announcements in Europe.
France is to announce AI private investments worth a total of 109 billion euros (\$113 billion) over the coming years, Macron said, presenting it as "the equivalent" of Trump's Stargate AI data centers project.
India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi is co-hosting the summit with Macron, in an effort to involve more global actors in AI development and prevent the sector from becoming a US-China battle.
Macron will also travel Wednesday with Modi to the southern city port of Marseille to inaugurate a new Indian consulate and visit the ITER nuclear research site.
France has become a key defence partner for India, with talks underway on purchasing 26 Rafale fighter jets and three Scorpene submarines. Officials in New Delhi said discussions are in final phase and the deal could be inked in a few weeks.

Cal HC warns of CAPF deployment for illegal construction demolition

MI News Service, Kolkata: A single-judge bench of the Calcutta High Court on Monday cautioned that Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) might be summoned to demolish illegal construction in the city if state authorities fail to do so with the assistance of police.
The bench, presided over by Justice Amrita Sinha, also set a deadline for the process. If the deadline is not met, the court will assign the demolition task to central forces.
The illegal construction in question is a five-storey building in Narkeldanga, North Kolkata. Although the structure was declared illegal and a demolition order was issued, the process has yet to begin for unknown reasons.
During the hearing, Justice Sinha set March 10 as the deadline for ensuring the demolition with the help of state police. If the deadline is missed, CAPF will be called in.

Salt Lake woman assaulted for feeding stray dogs, FIR lodged

MI News Service, Kolkata: A shocking incident of violence against an animal lover has emerged from Salt Lake, Bidhannagar. A middle-aged woman was allegedly assaulted by a group of residents in the EC Block of a central government housing complex for regularly feeding stray dogs. The attack, which took place on Saturday night, also left a few local youths and an

elderly man injured when they tried to intervene. Reports suggest that the assailants used bamboo sticks, iron rods, and bricks during the assault. The victim, identified as Benu Atha, is well-known in the area for her dedication to stray dogs. She feeds around 250 dogs daily and also provides them with medical treatment and essential care.



Students of Welland Goldsmith School participate in SDSL Road Safety Week 2025 at BBD Bag North-East intersection, promoting pedestrian safety under the Head Quarter Traffic Guard's jurisdiction, in Kolkata on Monday.

State Government to impose heavy fines for spitting in public

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has taken a firm stand against public spitting, particularly from those consuming betel leaves and gutkha, stating that she dislikes seeing Bengal's streets stained with red spit marks. To curb this unhygienic practice, the state government is set to introduce stricter laws imposing heavy fines on violators. This decision was reportedly taken during a recent cabinet meeting as part of an ongoing effort to maintain cleanliness in the state.
Many residents, including those from other states, have been accused of dirtying the roads and public places. To address this, the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has started an awareness campaign, installing posters in both Bengali and English at various locations, including the iconic Maa Flyover. The posters serve as public notices warning against spitting and its consequences.
The state government is also planning to introduce a stringent bill during the budget session to reinforce these rules. Notably, a law was already enacted in 2001—"The West Ben-

gal Prohibition of Smoking and Spitting and Protection of Health of Non-Smokers and Minors Act, 2001." According to this law, first-time offenders caught spitting or discarding gutkha stains in public places could be fined 1,000. Repeat offenders may face fines ranging from 2,000 to 5,000. However, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee intends to make this law even stricter by increasing penalties and expanding enforcement measures.
One of the biggest concerns for the Chief Minister is the defacement of public infrastructure, particularly the Maa Flyover, which has been painted in the state's signature blue-and-white colors but is often stained with red betel juice marks. She has personally expressed her displeasure over this issue and has instructed the Chief Secretary to take immediate action. To further raise awareness, additional posters and banners have been placed at multiple locations across the city. The Maa Flyover was chosen as the starting point since it witnesses heavy vehicular movement throughout the day and night. The aim is to ensure that these messages reach a large

audience, particularly drivers, who are among the most frequent offenders.
The warning notices explicitly state: "Kolkata is our pride. Do not spit in public. Keep the city clean." The KMC has made it clear that anyone caught violating this rule will face a hefty fine. Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim reaffirmed this, stating, "We have put up banners and hoardings in Bengali, Hindi, and English to raise awareness. People must stop spitting indiscriminately and dirtying the city. It is the responsibility of every citizen to keep Kolkata clean."

In addition to penalizing individuals, authorities are considering fines for vehicles whose occupants are found spitting from moving cars. "Even vehicles will now be fined if passengers are seen spitting from them," Hakim added. The government is working towards amending the law to ensure stricter enforcement, following the Chief Minister's directives.
With these initiatives, the West Bengal government aims to make Kolkata cleaner and more hygienic, reinforcing civic responsibility among its citizens.



Governor C.V. Ananda Bose delivers his customary address in the presence of Speaker Biman Banerjee and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on the first day of the Budget Session at the State Assembly in Kolkata on Monday.

State orders probe into Contai Cooperative Bank's previous board

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Contai Cooperative Bank is set to undergo scrutiny, with files from the previous board being reviewed for possible irregularities. Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo Mamata Banerjee has directed an investigation into whether any corruption occurred under the bank's former administration. According to sources, she delivered this strong message on the very day the chairman of the bank was nominated. Through her representatives in Kanthi, she issued strict instructions to ensure transparency in the bank's operations.
The TMC achieved a sweeping victory in the Contai Cooperative Bank elections, securing 101 out of 108 seats. However, internal disputes within the ruling party delayed the formation of the board, leading to Mamata Banerjee's intervention. Eventually, 15 directors were elected, and the meeting to nominate the chairman and vice-chairman was held on the same day.
During this meeting, the Trinamool chief, through her representatives, emphasized the need for a thorough review of the bank's previous records. While she did not name any individuals, she made it clear that any evidence of corruption should be investigated, and strict action should be taken if any wrongdoing is found. Simultaneously, she advised the newly elected board members to operate with complete transparency.
Political analysts believe that Mamata Banerjee's increased focus on Purba Medinipur, particularly Contai, signals her intent to strengthen TMC's hold in the region ahead of the crucial 2026 assembly elections. By pushing for transparency and addressing potential corruption, she is positioning the party as a responsible governing force.
The Contai Cooperative Bank issue is now poised to become a key political talking point, with the opposition likely to respond to these developments. As the investigation unfolds, all eyes will be on how the ruling party manages internal challenges while ensuring clean governance.

Bangladeshi infiltrator suspected, detained in Kolkata with Indian passport

MI News Service, Kolkata: Concerns over Bangladeshi infiltration in West Bengal have been persistent, with allegations that the numbers have surged in recent years. In a shocking incident, Kolkata authorities detained a man suspected of being an illegal Bangladeshi immigrant, raising fresh concerns about document fraud.
The detained individual, identified as Rafiqul Islam Biswas, was apprehended at the passport and birth certificate section of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) on Monday. Officials became suspicious after discrepancies were found in his submitted documents, including an Indian passport, Aadhaar card, and other identity proofs.
Sources said Rafiqul had arrived early in the morning to complete passport-related formalities. However, when municipal staff cross-verified his documents, they discovered glaring inconsistencies. His Aadhaar card and voter ID did not match the details on his passport, triggering suspicion. He was immediately detained and handed over to New Town police for further interrogation.
During questioning, Rafiqul allegedly confessed that he was originally from Bangladesh. He admitted to obtaining an Aadhaar card and voter ID from Kolkata, which were later used to secure an Indian passport. Authorities are now investigating how he managed to acquire these fraudulent documents.
Meanwhile, the suspect has reportedly claimed that he was framed, asserting his innocence during police interrogation. The case has now been handed over to law enforcement agencies for a detailed probe into potential document forgery and illegal immigration networks operating in the state.

Guv Bose praises Mamata's leadership, highlights Bengal's achievements

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose on Monday lauded Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as a "visionary, enterprising, and dynamic leader" while outlining the state government's achievements over the past year.
Delivering his customary address on the first day of the budget session in the state assembly, Bose spoke about the government's focus on economic growth, employment generation, and welfare initiatives. He described the recently concluded Bengal Global Business Summit as an "overwhelming success," expressing confidence that the proposed investments would enhance economic activity and provide new opportunities for Bengal's youth.
Bose stated that law

and order in West Bengal had remained largely peaceful over the past year. He emphasized the government's commitment to social welfare, particularly in supporting minority communities.
"The State Government has taken numerous initiatives over the past 13 years to benefit the minority population, focusing on education, modernisation of madrasas, employment generation, skill development, and sustainable livelihoods," he said.
Despite financial constraints and the non-receipt of central funds, the state government has maintained its focus on key welfare programs. Bose highlighted the launch of the 'Karmashree' and 'Banglar Bari (Gramin)' schemes, which aim to boost employment and

provide rural housing. He noted that both initiatives are funded entirely through the state's own resources.
The Governor's speech underlined the state's resilience in the face of financial challenges. He reiterated that the government remains committed to generating employment and improving infrastructure, despite limited financial assistance from the Centre.
With the state gearing up for the upcoming financial year, the budget session is expected to focus on economic policies and strategies to sustain Bengal's growth trajectory. The Governor's address set the tone for discussions, highlighting key areas of development and the government's priorities moving forward.

SC defers hearing on primary teacher recruitment case

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Supreme Court has postponed the hearing on the West Bengal primary teacher recruitment case, prolonging the uncertainty for thousands of job aspirants. The case pertains to the 2022 Primary TET (Teacher Eligibility Test), conducted in December that year, with the recruitment process still incomplete. The apex court, however, has directed the state's Primary Education Board to submit an affidavit detailing the current status of the recruitment process. This affidavit must clarify the exact stage of the hiring process and provide transparency regarding pending appointments.
The 2022 recruitment process aimed to fill 11,758 vacancies for primary teachers, out of which 9,533 candidates have

already been appointed. However, complications have arisen regarding the remaining recruitments. Allegations have surfaced questioning the transparency of some appointments, while concerns over the validity of certain applicants' qualifications have also emerged. Some candidates reportedly applied based on a specific course, the legitimacy of which is now under scrutiny.
On Monday, the Supreme Court bench comprising Justice P. S. Narasimha and Justice Manoj Misra heard the matter. The court instructed the state to file an affidavit specifying when the remaining appointments will be completed, thereby putting pressure on the authorities to resolve the issue at the earliest.

West Bengal introduces holistic report card for students' overall development

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a significant step towards comprehensive student evaluation, the West Bengal government has introduced a Holistic Progress Report Card under the School Management System (SMS) Portal. A notification was issued by the state's school education department, outlining the implementation of this new system from the 2025 academic session.
To help students and parents understand this new evaluation method, a separate window has been created on the Bangla Shiksha Portal, where detailed information will be provided.
From this month onwards, schools will be required to submit student data online. The new system will cover the evaluation of over 1.3 crore students from primary to class VIII throughout the academic year. Unlike traditional report cards that focus mainly on marks, the Holistic Progress Report Card will assess students based on a range of cognitive and personal development factors.
Teachers will not only assign marks

during the three periodic assessments but also evaluate students' intellectual growth, stress-handling ability, communication skills, organizational skills, and self-expression. The report card will also include insights into a student's preferred subjects, creative abilities, and areas of concern or anxiety.
While workshops have been conducted for headteachers on implementing this new evaluation method, teachers' associations have expressed concerns about the lack of proper training for schoolteachers and staff. Many teachers feel unequipped to handle the extensive evaluation process, which demands a more detailed and qualitative assessment of students.
The state government aims to make student assessments more holistic, ensuring that students' overall development is monitored beyond just academics. However, teachers' organizations are urging the authorities to provide structured training sessions before fully implementing the new system.

Tension erupts in Narkeldanga following fire and clashes between rival groups

MI News Service, Kolkata: Violence broke out in Narkeldanga following a devastating fire, leading to clashes between a local councillor and an opposing faction. The unrest escalated on Sunday afternoon, with allegations of molestation and jewelry theft by miscreants. In response, an FIR was lodged at Narkeldanga police station on Monday, naming Pappu Khan, a known rival of local councillor Sachin Singh, as the main accused.
According to reports, the ac-

cused and his associates attacked with iron rods and sticks on Sunday. Amidst the chaos, a woman was allegedly assaulted, her clothes torn, and her gold necklace stolen. This led to the filing of two FIRs at the police station.
The trouble began on Saturday night when a massive fire broke out in a slum near the canal in Narkeldanga. The blaze claimed one life and reduced at least 40 shanties to ashes. Although firefighters managed to

douse the flames, tensions flared in the area by Sunday morning. Displaced residents blamed the administration for negligence and staged protests. Mayor Firhad Hakim visited the site, spoke with the affected residents, and assured them of support. However, the situation remained volatile. After the mayor left, local councillor Sachin Singh staged a protest outside Narkeldanga police station, demanding action and support for the victims. This led to a

confrontation as Pappu Khan and his supporters arrived at the scene, allegedly with weapons, and attacked Singh's group. Reports suggest that iron rods and bamboo sticks were used in the assault. Among those accused in the attack were Pappu Khan, Hamid Khan, and Sikandar Khan, all of whom are reportedly known anti-social elements in the area. Amidst the violence, a resident named Nargis Begum filed a complaint stating that she and her friends were attacked

while passing through the area on Sunday afternoon. According to her FIR, they were harassed, their clothes torn, and an 80,000 gold chain was snatched. The complaint names Pappu Khan, Hamid Khan, and Sikandar Khan as the culprits.
Following the complaints, police have launched an investigation and are searching for the accused. Authorities are also closely monitoring the situation in Narkeldanga to prevent further escalation of violence.

Name Change
I, Amit Howladar,S/O Late Nimai Hawladar, R/O Vill Taherpur H/13/522 ,Po+Ps- Taherpur, Nadia-741159, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Amit Hawladar.Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 06/02/2025,That Amit Howladar And Amit Hawladar All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Gour Chandra Saha (Old Name) Son of Late Keshab Lal Saha, residing at Saha Kutir Vivekananda Nagar, Madhyamgram (m), Madhyamgram, North 24 Parganas, Pin-700129, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Nitai Chandra Saha (New Name) as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Kolkata, dated 04/02/2025, Nitai Chandra Saha (New Name) and Gour Chandra Saha (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Bhavana Rastogi wife of Mayank Rastogi on behalf of my minor daughter Anika (Old Name) , residing at P-161/14, Saraswati bldg, BMC, Gurusaday Dutta Road, Kolkata- 700019, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed her name and she shall henceforth be known as Anika Rastogi (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 07/02/2025. Anika Rastogi (New Name) and Anika (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Md Ansar Alam & M.A.Alam, S/O Mahmood Alam, R/O Fe-506,Flat-7, Sector-3,Salt Lake, North 24 Parganas-700106, West Bengal,Shall Henceforth Be Known As Mohammad Ansar Alam,Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 10/02/2025,That Md Ansar Alam & M.A.Alam And Mohammad Ansar Alam All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Mansar Alam & M.A.Alam,S/O Mahmood Alam, R/O Fe-506,Flat-7,Sector-3,Salt Lake North- 24 Parganas-700106,West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Mohammad Ansar Alam,Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 10/02/2025,That Mansar Alam & M.A.Alam And Mohammad Ansar Alam All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Sk Musarat Ali,S/O Sk Ali Hossain,R/O Vill-Dalugachha, P.O-Par Gopinagar, P.S-Singur, Dist-Hooghly,Pin-712418,West Bengal,Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sk Mosarat Ali Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 10/02/2025,That Sk Musarat Ali And Sk Mosarat Ali Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Md Abbas(Old Name),S/O Md Il-Ilyas,R/O 6/A,Sapgachi 1st Lane Tiljala,Kolkata-700039,West Bengal,Shall Henceforth Be Known As Mohammad Abbas(New Name), Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 10/02/2025,That Md Abbas And Mohammad Abbas All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Amar Manna(Old Name),S/O Muktipada Manna,R/O Narra,Po-Akul,Ps-Indas,Bankura-722201, West Bengal,Shall Henceforth Be Known As Amar Kumar Manna (New Name),Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Bishnupur,Bankura On 05/02/2025, That Amar Manna And Amar Kumar Manna All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Gopal Sadhu,R/O Vill & Po-Sarapul,Ps-Swarupnagar,North 24 Parganas-743286,West Bengal,Do Hereby Notified That My Father Nemai Chandra Sadhu (Old Name) Shall Henceforth Be Known As Late Nimai Sadhu(New Name),Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 10/02/2025,That Nemai Chandra Sadhu And Late Nimai Sadhu All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Sijy Parakattil Varkey D/o Late Ouseph Varkey Parakattil R/o Vianney Home 9/3 Middleton row Kolkata 700071 in my passport Koeing no. K60e2739) my name has been wrongly recorded as sijy parakattil varkey instead of my actual name Sijy Parakattil & surname Varkey as mentioned in my Aadhaar Card. That Sijy Parakattil Varkey and name Sijy Parakattil surname- Varkey both are same and one identical person i.e., myself vide affidavit dated 06.02.25 before Notary Public at Kolkata.

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

নাম/পদবী পরিবর্তন
আমি, বাসন্তী সার, ডি/ও নীলকণ্ঠ সার, আবাসিক প.ও.- জবুকাঞ্চলপুর, প.স.- বারুইপুর, জেলা- দক্ষিণ 24 পরগনা, পিন- 743363, এখন থেকে বাসন্তী দেবী নামে পরিচিত হবেন কারণ তিনি নোটারি পাবলিকের সামনে হিন্দুধর্ম থেকে ইসলামে ধর্মান্তরিত হওয়ার ঘোষণা দিয়েছিলেন, বারুইপুর দক্ষিণ বঙ্গ আদালত নোটারি পাবলিকের সামনে: D430/12/2024 বাসন্তী সারদার এবং বাসন্তী দেবী উভয়েই অভিন্ন এবং অভিন্ন ব্যক্তি।

Name Change
I, Ajit Kumar Bachar S/o Late Santosh Bachar Residing at Somodpur, Mukherjee Bagan, Po&P.s - Sonarpur, District - 24 Pgs(S), Pin- 700150 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Ajit Bachar. I declare that Ajit Kumar Bachar and Ajit Bachar is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 10-02-2025.

Name Change
I, Hamidur Rahman Mallik S/o Late Jaynal Abedin Mallik Residing at Dwarika Complex, Flat no I/201, 20 Carry Road, Po - Santargachi, Ps - AJC Bose B Garden District - Howrah, Pin- 711104 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Hamidur Rahman Mallik. I declare that Hamidur Rahman Mallik and Hamidur Rahman Mallik is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 10-02-2025.

Name Change
I, AKBARI DEVI (Old Name) W/O PRATAP JHA Residing at I/173, Mirpara Road Liliuah, P.O.-Bhat-tanagar, P.S.-Liluah, District - Howrah, Pin - 711203, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as AK-BARI DEVI JHA (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public govt of India vide affidavit Dated 10-02-2025. AKBARI DEVI (Old Name) and AKBARI DEVI JHA (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Ratna Biswas W/o Subir Biswas Residing at Vill - Amtala, Po - Kanyanagar, P.s - Bishnupur, District - 24 Pgs(S), Pin- 743398 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Ratna Biswas Das. I declare that Ratna Biswas and Ratna Biswas Das is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 10-02-2025.

Name Change
I, Malek Mandal S/o Altaf Hossain Mondal Residing at Vill - Doula, Po - Purbanawapara, P.s - Dhan-tala, District - Nadia, Pin- 741501 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Abdul Malek Mondal. I declare that Malek Mandal and Abdul Malek Mondal is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 10-02-2025.

Name Change
I, RATAN GOPAL SAHA (Old Name) S/O Late NIRANJAN LAL SAHA Residing at No-502 A Block Marvel Sequoia SY No-139, Veeraswamy Reddy Layout AB Vajpayee Road, Chhannasandra Kadugudi Plantation, District - Bengaluru, Pin 560067, Karnataka, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as RATNA GOPAL SAHA (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public govt of India vide affidavit Dated 10-02-2025. RATAN GOPAL SAHA (Old Name) and RATNA GOPAL SAHA (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I am Barun Giri. Father - Bhim Giri. Village & Post - Shibrampur, Thana - Namkhana, District - South 24 Parganas. My passport (number - M9515918) has date of birth 03/01/1989. Affidavit dated 07/02/2025 Kakkdwp First Class Judicial Magistrate Court my date of birth was considered as 03/02/1989. As of today Barun Giri, father - Bhim Giri born on 03/02/1989 and 03/01/1989 are one and the same person.

Name Change
I, Narayan Kumar Burman (old name) S/o. Bachindra Chandra Barman R/o. 18 Bigha, Basudevpur, Tribeni, Mogra, Hooghly-712503, W.B., have changed my name to Narayan Kumar Barman (new name) vide an affidavit no. 06 sworn before S.D.E.M. Sadar, Hooghly Court on 10/02/25. Narayan Kumar Burman & Narayan Kumar Barman S/o. Bachindra Chandra Barman both are the same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Kuntal Debi,W/O Sudama Prasad Kahar/R/O 19/A, Khub Lal Shah Street Dumdum Cantonment, Barrackpore, 700028, West Bengal,Shall Henceforth Be Known As Kuntal Debi Kahar,Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 10/02/2025,That Kuntal Debi And Kuntal Debi Kahar All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Saddam (Old Name) S/O Jiyaul Haque R/O 59, Dasu Babu Bagan, Po&Ps- Kamrathi, Dist-North 24 Parganas, West Bengal,Pin-700058.I Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Saddam Hussain Khan (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 08/02/2025,That Sad-dam (Old Line) And Saddam Hus-sain Khan (New Name)All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Maidul Islam Mullik,Son Of Mofid Mallik, Residing At Vill-Chotto Gabberia, Po- Gobardhan-ba t i, P.s - Panch hla, Howrah Rural-711322, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Maidul Islam Mallik Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 05/02/2025,That Maidul Islam Mullik And Maidul Islam Mallik Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Samim Mullik,Son Of Maidul Islam Mallik,Residing At Vill-Chotto Gabberia, Po- Gobardhan-ba ti, P.s -Panch hla, Howrah Rural-711322, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Samim Mallik Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public Kolkata On 05/02/2025,That Samim Mullik And Samim Mallik Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Delhi HC grants custody parole to Engineer Rashid

MI News Service, Baramulla: The Baramulla MP is facing trial in a terror funding case with the allegations that he funded separatists and terror groups in Jammu and The Delhi High Court allowed two-day custody parole to jailed MP Abdul Rashid Sheikh alias Rashid Engineer to attend the ongoing Parliament session. Justice Vikas Mahajan said Rashid could attend the Parliament session on February 11 and 13. Custody parole entails a prisoner being escorted by armed police personnel to the place of visit. Rashid was saddled with certain riders as bail conditions, including not using a cell phone.

The Baramulla MP is facing trial in a terror funding case with the allegations that he funded separatists and terror groups in Jammu and Kashmir.

Rashid moved the high court alleging he was left without a remedy after the NIA court dealing with his bail application left him in a limbo post his election to the Lok Sabha last year on account of it not being a special MP/MLA court. As an interim relief, he prayed sought custody parole.The NIA counsel opposed the grant of custody parole, saying Rashid had no vested right to attend Parliament and he had not shown any "specific purpose" while seeking the relief.

Name Change
I, Md Khurshid Alam Khan (old name) son of Astullah Khan, residing at 10/2, Kasal Buste, 2nd Lane, P.S- Narkeldanga, Kolkata-700011, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Khurshid Alam Khan (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Sealdah dated 04/02/2025. Md Khurshid Alam Khan (old name) and Khurshid Alam Khan (new name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Papiya Barman alias Papiya Sarkar W/o Anup Kumar Sarkar D/o - Late Tapan Barman Residing at 77 Purbayan, Chingrighata Canal South Road, Po - Nowbhanga, P.s - Pragati Maiden, District- Kolkata, Pin - 700105 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Papiya Sarkar Barman as declared before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate (First Class) at alipore vide affidavit no 28782 Date 12-06-2019. Papiya Barman, Papiya Sarkar and Papiya Sarkar Barman both as same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Bijoy Chowdhury (Old Name) S/o Biswajit Chowdhury Residing at Garapota Purbapara, Garapota, Hanskhali, District - Nadia, Pin - 741502 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Bijay Chowdhury (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Date 10-02-2025. Bijoy Chowdhury (Old Name) and Bijay Chowdhury (New Name) both as same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Bijoygopal Pramanick (Old Name) S/o Suresh Pramanick Residing at Barachupria, Chupria, Hanskhali, District - Nadia, Pin - 741502 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Bijay Pramanick (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Date 10-02-2025. Bijoygopal Pramanick (Old Name) and Bijay Pramanick (New Name) both as same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Arpita Biswas D/o Basudev Sanpui Residing at Kamrabad Chandpur, Block-Sonarpur, P.s - Narendrapur, District - 24 Pgs(S), Pin - 700150 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Arpita Biswas Sanpui. I declare that Arpita Biswas and Arpita Biswas Sanpui is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public,Kolkata on 10-02-2025.

Name Change
I, Dipak Tamret S/o Deb Kishor Tamret, Residing at GB-4/4, Ashutosh Sarani, Rabindrapally, Baguiati, District - 24 Pgs(N), Pin - 700059 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Dipak Kumar Tamret. I declare that Dipak Tamret and Dipak Kumar Tamret is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary public,Kolkata on 10-02-2025.

Name Change
I, Md Zeyauddin S/o Late Sk Nasiruddin Residing at 4th Floor, 7 Pemonte Street, Po&P.s - Park Street, District - Kolkata, Pin-700016 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Md Zeyauddin Ansari. I declare that Md Zeyauddin and Md Zeyauddin Ansari is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 10-02-2025.

CPI(M) to focus on Independent identity and equal opposition to TMC, BJP at state conference

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] is set to hold its crucial state conference in West Bengal later this month, with a key focus on maintaining its independent identity while opposing both the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). A senior party leader confirmed on Monday that these priorities would dominate discussions at the conference, scheduled from February 22 to 25 in Dankuni, Hooghly district.

This conference holds strategic importance as the party prepares for the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections, where 294 new members will be elected. The CPI(M) leadership is expected to finalize its political roadmap, ensuring that alliances do not dilute its distinct ideological stance.

A draft political resolution, set to be debated at the conference, stresses the need for the CPI(M) to focus on independent political campaigns and mass mobilization. It warns against allowing electoral alliances to overshadow the party's own activities.

"The party should pay more attention to independent political campaigns and mass mobilisation around its platform. There should be no blurring of our identity or diminishing of independent activities in the name of electoral understanding or alliances," the draft resolution states.

Rebuilding and expanding the party's influence in West Bengal and Tripura is also a key concern. The resolution highlights the need to strengthen the party's base among the rural poor and marginalized communi-

ties, ensuring their participation in political struggles and movements.

The CPI(M) has consistently opposed both the TMC and the BJP in West Bengal. However, the party faces challenges in balancing while opposing both the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). A senior party leader confirmed on Monday that these priorities would dominate discussions at the conference, scheduled from February 22 to 25 in Dankuni, Hooghly district.

"The party has to focus more on the political and ideological fight against the BJP while opposing both the TMC and BJP," the draft resolution emphasizes.

This year's state conference carries additional significance as it precedes the CPI(M)'s national party Congress, scheduled to take place in April in Madurai, Tamil Nadu. The West Bengal conference is expected to influence discussions at the national level, particularly concerning the party's position on alliances.

One critical issue likely to be addressed is the CPI(M)'s relationship with the Congress in West Bengal. While the two parties have collaborated in the state, they remain fierce rivals in Kerala, where the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) are locked in a long-standing political battle.

With the 2026 elections approaching, the CPI(M) is keen on redefining its role in West Bengal's political landscape. The state conference will play a crucial role in shaping the party's electoral strategy, ensuring that it remains a formidable force in the state's shifting political dynamics.

Uber driver caught fleeing with stolen cash and gold in West Bengal



MI News Service, Kolkata: An Uber driver attempting to escape with a significant amount of stolen cash and valuables was apprehended by the Purba Bardhaman District Police before reaching his destination in Bihar. The accused was fleeing via road when law enforcement intercepted him. The police recovered gold and silver jewelry, three mobile phones, and ₹4 lakh in cash from his possession.

As per sources, the arrested individual has been identified as Dilip Mahato, a resident of Ratuara village under the Katra police station in Muzaffarpur, Bihar. Mahato worked as an Uber driver in Kolkata and allegedly committed a major theft in the Lake Town area on Saturday. He reportedly stole ₹5 lakh in cash, gold and silver ornaments, mobile phones, and other valuables from a house before escaping.

Following a formal complaint from the victims, Lake Town police immediately alerted Purba Bardhaman district authorities, suspecting that the accused was heading towards Bihar. Acting swiftly, officers from the Memari police station managed to intercept the fleeing driver at Palshit on National Highway 19 (NH-19) and took him into custody. Subsequently, Mahato was handed over

to the Lake Town police for further investigation.

According to Purba Bardhaman police sources, the Lake Town Officer-in-Charge (OC) provided specific details about the accused and the stolen items to the Memari police station on Saturday evening. The tip-off indicated that an Uber driver had committed theft and was driving towards Bardhaman with stolen cash and jewelry. Officers at Memari police station, led by Assistant Sub-Inspector Chayan Samanta, swiftly set up a checkpoint at Palshit and successfully stopped the suspect's vehicle.

Upon searching Mahato, the police recovered ₹4 lakh in cash, approximately 100 grams of gold, a complete set of silver jewelry, and three mobile phones. He was immediately detained, and his vehicle was seized.

Following the arrest, Lake Town police officer SI Tapas Roy arrived at Memari police station to complete the necessary legal formalities. All recovered items were formally handed over to Lake Town police for further proceedings. The suspect will now be presented before the court, where he is expected to face multiple charges, including theft and criminal breach of trust.

Press conference of ER, Metro Railway & Eastern Railway's sealdah division on Kumbh Mela arrangements by the Railways



MI News Service, Kolkata: A Press Conference was organized by Eastern Railway Headquarters participated by Public Relations Officers of Eastern Railway, Metro Railway and Sealdah division of Eastern Railway to brief the media persons regarding special arrangements made by Indian Railways to facilitate to & fro journey of the Kumbh Mela pilgrims. In the conference, the elaborate arrangements from running of special trains to augmented passenger amenities, facilities etc. were discussed.

PRESS BRIEF – 1
47 Pairs of Kumbh Mela Special Trains are run by Eastern Railway

• 11 pairs of trains run between Malda Town & Prayagraj • 27 pairs of trains run between Howrah & Tundla • 4 pairs of trains run between Howrah & Bhind • 5 pairs of trains run between Bha-galpur & Kanpur Central.

Factual Position of Prayagraj Area
Sunday 09.02.2025: • Total Trains run from Prayag Area stations : 330 • Total Passengers : More than 12.5 lakhs. **Monday 10.02.2025 till 15.00 hrs:** • Total Trains: 191 • Passengers boarded: More than 8.18 lakhs • All scheduled trains are running as per program. • Special Trains also running as per plan. • Unreserved Passenger trains run on demand basis. • Top level Railway

officials including GM/North Central Railway, DRM/Prayag, Varanasi and Lucknow camping at Prayag. • Round the clock Monitoring at Station/Division/Zonal and Railway Board level is going on. • Hon'ble Railway Minister is also regularly monitoring the running of trains to Prayagraj from War Room of Railway Board. There are 8 Railway stations in Prayagraj City from where passengers of different directions can catch their train on main bathing days.

1) Prayagraj Jn., 2) Naini Jn., 3) Prayagraj Chheoki, 4) Subedarganj, 5) Prayag Jn., 6) Phaphamau Jn., 7) Prayagraj Rambag, 8) Jhusi.

In addition to this, pilgrims can also avail services from Prayagraj Sangam station on other than peak days. So, all the trains are running to the close vicinity of Prayagraj area to facilitate the holy bath of Mahakumbh.

PRESS BRIEF 2
Operation of Kumbh Mela Special and Regular Trains from 08 Stations in Prayagraj Region

On February 9, 2025, a total of 330 trains, including Mela Special and regular trains, were operated from eight Railway stations of the Prayagraj region—Prayagraj Junction, Prayag, Phaphamau, Prayagraj Rambagh, Jhusi, Subedarganj, Naini, and Prayagraj Chheoki and facilitated the

travel of approximately 12.50 lakh (1.25 million) devotees.

By 3:00 PM on February 10, 2025, 191 trains had been operated, ensuring smooth travel for approximately 8.18 lakh (818,000) devotees. The smooth operation of such a large number of regular and special trains from all eight stations in the Prayagraj region is being managed through a well-planned strategy and continuous monitoring by the railway authorities. To support this large-scale operation, additional staff, extra rakes, proper maintenance of rakes, CCTV monitoring, control towers, passenger shelters, and platform supervision by railway officials and employees have been arranged. Trains are being dispatched efficiently to maximize operations, while special attention is being given to passenger facilities, medical assistance, and security.

Throughout the entire Mela period, the Railway has planned to operate approximately 13,450 trains, including 10,028 regular trains and over 3,400 special trains. The Railway authorities have ensured that all trains are being operated as per the planned schedule. Some trains have been rerouted as per prior notifications, while the terminal station for certain trains has been changed from Prayagraj to Subedarganj. For passengers' convenience, continuous train operations are being conducted from Prayagraj station to all directions as per demand. General Manager, Shri Upendra Chandra Joshi is monitoring the situation from the War Room, while Divisional Railway Manager, Shri Himanshu Badoni is overseeing operations from the Control Room to ensure smooth management of train services.

Over 22,500 hectares degraded mangroves restored across India under MISHTI initiative so far: Centre in Parliament

MI News Service, New Delhi: India has restored 22,561 hectares of degraded mangroves across 13 states and Union Territories under the Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI), the government informed the Lok Sabha on Monday.

Launched on June 5, 2024, the initiative aims to strengthen coastal ecosystems and enhance climate resilience. In a written reply, Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Kirti Vardhan Singh said: "Approximately 22,561 Hectares of Degraded Mangroves have been restored in 13 States/UTs and Rs 17.96 Crore released for the restoration of 3,836 Hectares in 6 States/UTs" MISHTI is a crucial step towards restoring India's mangrove cover, which serves as a natural barrier against coastal erosion and climate change impacts, he stated. The government also highlighted progress on other environmental schemes, including the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), which targets a 40 per cent reduction in particulate matter by 2025-26, and the Mission Life campaign promoting sustainable lifestyles. Under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (#Plant4 Mother) initiative, 109 crore saplings have been planted as of January 2025, with a goal of 140 crores by March, the minister said. India now has 89 Ramsar-designated wetlands, making it the largest network in Asia, he added. With ongoing afforestation efforts, the country's forest and tree cover has risen to 25.17 per cent of its total geographical area.

Eastern Railway Sanctions Infrastructure Upgrades to Improve Passenger Experience Across Malda Division

MI News Service, Kolkata: Eastern Railway is pleased to announce that works to raise passenger platforms (PF) at 13 stations within the Malda Division, including Dhamdhamiya, Tildanga, Bonidanga, Dashrathpur, Dhanauri, Uren, Kalyanpur Road, Masudan, Ghogi Bariarpur, Kharia Pipra, Barahat, and others, have been sanctioned and are currently ongoing. These infrastructure upgrades are part of Eastern Railway's continuous commitment to improving the travel experience for passengers. The raising of platforms is designed to address several critical aspects of passenger safety and convenience. Elevated platforms will enable passengers to board and disembark trains more safely and comfortably, particularly benefiting senior citizens, children, and passengers with disabilities. The alignment of the platform height with the train doors will significantly reduce the gap, thus minimizing the risk of accidents while passengers are getting on and off the trains. The improvements will also enhance the over-

all comfort of train travel, as passengers will no longer have to navigate excessive height differences when boarding or alighting, especially with heavy luggage. These upgrades are essential for accommodating the growing number of passengers in the region and will provide them with a smoother, more convenient travel experience. Moreover, these works will be accompanied by other improvements at the stations, including better lighting, seating arrangements, and more efficient infrastructure, contributing to a more comfortable and efficient station environment.

As part of Eastern Railway's vision to cater to future passenger needs, this initiative is designed to support the increasing demand for safe and efficient travel. The works will also ensure that these stations are better prepared for handling more passengers in the years to come. Eastern Railway remains dedicated to continuously improving its services, ensuring that the passengers enjoy a safer, more reliable, and comfortable journey.

Indian Constitution now accessible in Braille version

MI News Service, Bengaluru: Governor of Karnataka Thawar Chand Gehlot launched a Braille-enabled version of the Indian Constitution, to mark 75 years of the Constitution. The project was done in collaboration with Sankara Eye Hospital Bengaluru and CII Young Indians (YI) Bengaluru. "This initiative aims to empower those who are blind or have low vision by enabling them to read and understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens," said Dr Kaushik Murali, President of Medical Administration, Quality & Education at Sankara Eye Foundation India, in a press statement issued on Monday.

Mitochondria may hold key to curing diabetes: Study



MICHIGAN : Mitochondria are responsible for creating energy, which fuels cells and keeps them functioning. However, mitochondrial abnormalities have been linked to the development of disorders like type 2 diabetes. Patients with this illness are unable to produce enough insulin or use the insulin produced by their pancreas to maintain normal blood sugar levels.

Researchers at the University of Michigan used mice to show that dysfunctional mitochondria trigger a response that affects the maturation and function of b-cells.

Several studies have shown that insulin-producing pancreatic b-cells of patients with diabetes have abnormal mitochondria and are unable to generate energy. Yet, these studies were unable to explain why the cells behaved this way.

"We wanted to determine which pathways are important for maintaining the proper mitochondrial function," said Emily M. Walker, Ph.D, a research assistant professor of internal medicine and first author of the study.

To do so, the team damaged three components that are essential for mitochondrial function: their DNA, a pathway used to get rid of damaged mitochondria, and one that maintains a healthy pool of mitochondria in the cell.

"In all three cases, the exact same stress response was turned on, which caused b-cells to become immature, stop making enough insulin, and essentially stop being b-cells," Walker said. "Our results demonstrate that the mitochondria can send signals to the nucleus and change the fate of the cell."

The researchers also confirmed their findings in human pancreatic islet cells.

Their results prompted the team to expand their search into other cells that

are affected by diabetes.

Losing your b-cells is the most direct path to getting type 2 diabetes. Through our study we now have an explanation for what might be happening and how we can intervene and fix the root cause," said Scott A. Soleimanpour, M.D.

"Diabetes is a multi-system disease--you gain weight, your liver produces too much sugar and your muscles are affected. That's why we wanted to look at other tissues as well," said Scott A. Soleimanpour, M.D., director of the Michigan Diabetes Research Center and senior author of the study.

The team repeated their mouse experiments in liver cells and fat-storing cells and saw that the same stress response was turned on. Both cell types were unable to mature and function properly.

"Although we haven't tested all possible cell types, we believe that our results could be applicable to all the different tissues that are affected by diabetes," Soleimanpour said.

Regardless of the cell type, the researchers found that damage to the mitochondria did not cause cell death.

This observation brought up the possibility that if they could reverse the damage, the cells would function normally.

To do so, they used a drug called ISRIB that blocked the stress response. They found that after four weeks, the b-cells regained their ability to control glucose levels in mice.

"Losing your b-cells is the most direct path to getting type 2 diabetes. Through our study we now have an explanation for what might be happening and how we can intervene and fix the root cause," Soleimanpour said. The team is working on further dissecting the cellular pathways that are disrupted and hopes that they will be able to replicate their results in cell samples from diabetic patients.

FIFS Launches 'Sports Data Gameathon' - A Sports AI Challenge for India's Premier Institutes

PATNA : In line with its vision to make India a global hub for sports tech, the Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS) has launched the 'Sports Data Gameathon', a sports AI challenge, powered by Dream11. This competition is a step towards exploring new ways to integrate data and use of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) to sports.

Students teams from premier institutes will take part in the Gameathon, where they will compete in daily fantasy sports format during the ICC Champions Trophy 2025. Participants will have to leverage data analytics skills and build AI & ML models to develop a winning strategy while adhering to transfer constraints and other rules of the Gameathon.

More than 30 premier institutes showed interest in the Gameathon, and after reviewing their strategy papers, 52 teams from institutes like IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kanpur, IIIT Dharwad have been shortlisted. The top three teams will share a total prize pool of INR 25,00,000 (INR 25 lakh) each receiving INR 12.5 Lakhs, INR 7.5 Lakhs, and INR 5 Lakhs, respectively. Joy Bhattacharjya, Director



General, FIFS said, "We are excited to launch the first edition of the Sports Data Gameathon. The response has been overwhelming, and we're thrilled to have young minds compete in this Gameathon. This will not only encourage greater integration of technology with sports, but will also provide a platform for the youth to hone their skills, engage with the sports community, and contribute to improving the fan

experience in innovative ways. We envision this Gameathon becoming a global competition, expanding across multiple sports disciplines in the years to come."

The Gameathon will challenge participants to leverage their data analytics skills to model and forecast outcomes for an entire sports tournament, testing both their analytical thinking and ability to apply cutting-edge decision-making technology to sports. These

Fibre in diet may boost the body against infections: Study

WASHINGTON : A new study has found that the composition of the gut microbiome helps in predicting how likely a person will succumb to potentially life-threatening infection with Klebsiella pneumoniae, E.coli and other bugs -- and it may be altered by changing your diet.

The group of bacteria called Enterobacteriaceae, including Klebsiella pneumoniae, Shigella, E.coli and others, is present at low levels as part of a healthy human gut microbiome. However, certain catalytic factors such as increased inflammation in the body, or by eating contaminated food these bugs can cause illness and disease. In extreme cases, too much Enterobacteriaceae in the gut can be life-threatening.

Researchers have used computational approaches including AI to analyse the gut microbiome composition of over 12,000 people across 45 countries from their stool samples. They found that a person's microbiome 'signature' can predict whether a person's gut is likely to be colonised by Enterobacteriaceae. The results are consistent across different states of health and geographic locations. The researchers identified 135 gut microbe species that



are commonly found in the absence of Enterobacteriaceae. It likely protects against infection. The results are published in the journal Nature Microbiology.

Notable among the protective gut species is a group of bacteria called Faecalibacterium, which produces beneficial compounds called short-chain fatty acids by breaking down fibre in the foods we eat. This seems to protect against infection by a range of disease-causing Enterobacteriaceae bugs.

The researchers suggest that

eating more fibre in our diet will support the growth of good bacteria -- and crowd out the bad ones to significantly reduce the risk of illness. In contrast, taking probiotics -- which don't directly change the environment in the gut -- is less likely to affect the likelihood of Enterobacteriaceae infection. "Our results suggest that what we eat is potentially very important in controlling the likelihood of infection with a range of bacteria, including E.coli and Klebsiella pneumoniae because this changes our gut environment

to make it more hostile to invaders," said Dr Alexandre Almeida, a researcher at the University of Cambridge's Department of Veterinary Medicine and senior author of the paper. He added: "By eating fibre in foods like vegetables, beans and whole grains, we can provide the raw material for our gut bacteria to produce short-chain fatty acids -- compounds that can protect us from these pathogenic bugs." Klebsiella pneumoniae can cause pneumonia, meningitis and other infections.

Study uses clues from body to understand signaling in brain

Virginia : Our biceps and brain cells might have more in common than we believed. According to a new study from the Lippincott-Schwartz Lab, a network of sub-cellular structures similar to those responsible for propagating molecular signals that make muscles contract are also responsible for transmitting signals in the brain that may facilitate learning and memory.

"Einstein said that when he uses his brain, it is like he is using a muscle, and in that respect, there is some parallel here," said Janelia Senior Group Leader Jennifer Lippincott-Schwartz. "The same machinery is operating in both cases but with different readouts." The first clue about the possible connection between brain and muscle cells came when Janelia scientists noticed something strange about the endoplasmic reticulum, or ER - the membranous sheets and folds inside cells that are crucial for many cellular functions.

Lorena Benedetti, a research scientist in the Lippincott-Schwartz Lab, was tracking molecules at high resolution along the surface of the ER in mammalian neurons when she saw that the molecules were tracing a repeating, ladder-like pattern along the entire length of the dendrites -- the branch-like extensions on brain cells that receive incoming signals. Around the same time, Senior Group Leader Stephan Saalfeld alerted Lippincott-Schwartz to high-resolution 3D



electron microscopy images of neurons in the fly brain where the ER was also forming regularly spaced, transversal structures.

The ER normally appears like a huge, dynamic net, so as soon as Lippincott-Schwartz saw the structures, she knew her lab needed to figure out what they were for. "In science, the structure is a function," said Lippincott-Schwartz, who also heads Janelia's 4D Cellular Physiology research area. "This is an unusu-

al, beautiful structure that we are seeing throughout the whole dendrite, so we just had this feeling that it must have some important function." The researchers, led by Benedetti, started by looking at the only other area of the body known to have similar, ladder-like ER structures: muscle tissue. In muscle cells, the ER and the plasma membrane - the outer membrane of the cell - meet at periodic contact sites, an arrangement controlled by a molecule called

junctophilin. Using high-resolution imaging, the researchers discovered that dendrites also contain a form of junctophilin that controls contact sites between their ER and plasma membrane. Further, the team found that the same molecular machinery controlling calcium release at muscle cells' contact sites -- where calcium drives muscle contraction -- was also present at dendrite contact sites -- where calcium regulates neuronal signalling.

Because of these clues, the researchers had a hunch that the molecular machinery at the dendritic contact sites must also be important for transmitting calcium signals, which cells use to communicate. They suspected that the contact sites along the dendrites might act like a repeater on a telegraph machine: receiving, amplifying, and propagating signals over long distances. In neurons, this could explain how signals received at specific sites on dendrites are relayed to the cell body hundreds of micrometres away.

"How that information travels over long distances and how the calcium signal gets specifically amplified was not known," shared Benedetti. "We thought that ER could play that role and that these regularly distributed contact sites are spatially and temporally localized amplifiers: they can receive this calcium signal, locally amplify this calcium signal, and relay this calcium signal over a distance."

The researchers found that this process is triggered when a neuronal signal causes calcium to enter the dendrite through voltage-gated ion channel proteins, which are positioned at the contact sites. Although this initial calcium signal dissipates quickly,

it triggers the release of additional calcium from the ER at the contact site.

This influx of calcium at the contact site attracts and activates a kinase called CaMKII, a protein known to be important in memory.

CaMKII alters the plasma membrane's biochemical properties, changing the strength of the signal that is passed down the plasma membrane.

This process continues from contact site to contact site all along the dendrite to the cell body, where the neuron decides how it will communicate with other neurons.

The new research reveals a novel mechanism for signal transmission in brain cells and helps answer an open question in neuroscience about how intracellular signals travel over long distances in neurons, enabling information received at specific sites on dendrites to be processed in the brain.

It also sheds light on the molecular mechanisms underlying synaptic plasticity - the strengthening or weakening of neuronal connections that enable learning and memory. Figuring out this process at the molecular level could increase understanding of how the brain works normally and in diseases where these processes go awry, like Alzheimer's.

"We are showing that a structure - a beautiful structure - operating at a level of subcellular organization is having a huge effect on the way the entire neuronal system is operating vis-a-vis calcium signaling," Lippincott-Schwartz said. "This is a great example of how, in doing science, if you see a beautiful structure, it can take you into a whole new world."

heart of the experience, this initiative drives advancements in sports tech, bridging entertainment, data-driven insights, and innovation to shape the future of India's sports industry on a global stage.

About Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS): The Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS) is India's foremost industry body dedicated to the self-regulation, growth, and innovation of the Fantasy Sports (FS) ecosystem. Established in 2017 as a Section 8 company under the Indian Companies Act, 2013, FIFS serves as the representative national body advocating for the interests of both users and operators in the fantasy sports industry.

With a commitment to fostering transparency, integrity, and responsible gaming, FIFS strives to set the highest standards for self-regulation and operational excellence. By promoting best practices, facilitating policy dialogues, and driving industry-wide innovation, FIFS envisions a thriving fantasy sports ecosystem that enhances user experience, fuels technological advancements, and contributes to India's leadership in the global sports tech landscape.

Research discovers new skeletal tissue with potential for regeneration: Study

CALIFORNIA : An international research team has discovered a new type of skeletal tissue that offers great potential for advancing regenerative medicine and tissue engineering.

An international research team led by the University of California, Irvine has discovered a new type of skeletal tissue that offers great potential for advancing regenerative medicine and tissue engineering.

Most cartilage relies on an external extracellular matrix for strength, but 'lipocartilage', which is found in the ears, nose and throat of mammals, is uniquely packed with fat-filled cells called lipochondrocytes'.

It provides super-stable internal support which enables the strength of tissue. It makes to remain soft and springy -- similar to bubbled packaging material.

The study, published in the journal Science, describes how lipocartilage cells create and maintain their own lipid reservoirs while remaining constant in size. Unlike ordinary adipocyte fat cells, lipo chondrocytes never shrink or expand in response to food availability.

"Lipocartilage's resilience and stability provide a compliant, elastic quality that's perfect for flexible body parts such as earlobes or the tip of the nose, opening exciting possibilities in regenerative medicine and tissue engineering, particularly for facial defects or injuries," said corresponding author Maksim Plikus, UC Irvine professor of developmental and cell biology.

"Currently, cartilage reconstruction often requires harvesting tissue from the patient's rib - a painful and invasive procedure. In the future, patient-specific lipo chondrocytes could be derived from stem cells, purified and used to manufacture living cartilage tailored to individual needs. With the help of 3D printing, these engineered tissues could be shaped to fit precisely, offering new solutions for treating birth defects, trauma and various cartilage diseases."

Dr. Franz Leydig first recognized lipochondrocytes in 1854, when he noted the presence of fat droplets in the cartilage of rat ears, a finding that was largely forgotten until now.

Now with modern biochemical tools and advanced imaging methods, UC Irvine researchers comprehensively characterised lipo cartilage's molecular biology, metabolism and structural role in skeletal tissues. In their research, they also uncovered the genetic process that suppresses the activity of enzymes that break down fats and reduce the absorption of new fat molecules. When stripped of its lipids, the lipocartilage becomes stiff and brittle, highlighting the importance of its fat-filled cells in maintaining the tissue's combination of durability and flexibility.

China's marriage rate drop to record low, up-swing of divorces

MI News Service, Beijing: China's marriage rate hit a record low in 2024, continuing a troubling trend despite the government's efforts to encourage young people to marry and have children, CNN reported.

According to the Ministry of Civil Affairs, only 6.1 million couples registered their marriages last year, a 20.5 per cent drop compared to 2023. This is the lowest number of marriages recorded since the ministry began tracking the data in 1986. According to CNN, the decline in both marriages and births presents a serious challenge for China, as it faces the effects of a shrinking workforce and an aging population, which are putting pressure on its economy. The number of marriages in 2024 is less than half of the 13 million registered in 2013, the peak year for marriages in China. Data released on Saturday also revealed a small increase in the number of divorces in China. In 2024, nearly 2.6 million couples filed for divorce, a rise of 28,000 compared to the previous year. Since 2021, China has imposed a mandatory 30-day "cooling-off" period for couples filing for divorce, despite criticism that it could make it harder for women to leave broken or even abusive marriages, as per CNN. tradition of large "bride price" payments from the groom to his future wife's family that put marriage out of reach for many poor men in rural areas.

Myanmar welcomes Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar for peace and meditation

MI News Service, Yangon: Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's meditation session in Yangon received an overwhelming response, with over 1,500 attendees, including Myanmar cabinet members, gathering at the National Theatre to hear the spiritual leader and head of the Art of Living. The Myanmar government invited Sri Sri Ravi Shankar for the session, which was accepted by the Art of Living and held after clearance from the Embassy of India in Yangon. Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Abhay Thakur posted on X, "Meditation & @ArtOfLiving Session by @Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar for over 1500 people at National Theatre, and on leadership for 300 professionals, y'day in Yangon were hugely successful. Honoured to receive Gurudev at India House, and be a part of his peace efforts." The event attracted people from all walks of life.

US President Donald Trump says hostages freed by Hamas looked like "Holocaust survivors"

MI News Service, Washington DC: US President Donald Trump compared the released hostages to Holocaust survivors, a video shared by the White House Monday noted.

In the video, US President Donald Trump said, "Hamas has been a disaster. By the way, I have to tell you that I watched the hostages come back today and they looked like Holocaust survivors. They were in horrible condition. They were emaciated."

Trump further added, "How much longer we can take that when I watch that? I know we have a deal where we're supposed to get, they dribble in and keep dribbling in, but they are in really bad shape. They have been treated brutally, horribly. Even the ones that came out earlier, they were in a little bit better shape, but mentally they were treated so badly. Who could take that? You know, at some point we're going to lose our patience. When I see that scene that I saw today with people com-



ing out of helicopters and airplanes that are emaciated that look like they haven't had a meal in a month. No reason for that."

In his remarks, Trump further added, "I don't know how much longer we can take it. I don't know how long we can take it. When I watch people that were healthy people a reasonably short number

of years ago and you look at them today, they look like they've aged 25 years. They literally look like the old pictures of Holocaust survivors, the same thing. I mean, the same thing. I don't know how long we're going to take that." Earlier US President had shared on Sunday his plans for the US to redevelop Gaza, saying that he viewed

the war-torn enclave as a "big real estate site", CNN reported.

"I think that it's a big mistake to allow people -- the Palestinians, or the people living in Gaza -- to go back yet another time, and we don't want Hamas going back. And think of it as a big real estate site, and the United States is going to own it and we'll slowly -- very slowly, we're in no rush -- develop it. We're going to bring stability to the Middle East soon," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One while he had travelled for the Super Bowl in New Orleans, CNN reported.

During the visit of the Israeli PM to US, during a joint press conference with Trump, Netanyahu had stated, "I'm honoured that you (US President Donald Trump) invited me to be the first foreign leader to visit the White House in your second term. This is a testament to your friendship and support for the Jewish state and the Jewish people."

Israeli army kills four Palestinians in Gaza: Health authorities



MI News Service, Gaza: Israeli troops killed four Palestinians, including an elderly woman, in two separate incidents in the north and south of the Gaza Strip, the Gaza-based health authorities said.

"Three Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces while returning to their homes near the Kuwait Roundabout, east of Gaza City. Their bodies were transferred to the Baptist Hospital," the health authorities said in a press statement.

In a separate incident, the health authorities reported that an elderly woman from the Mahna family was shot dead by Israeli forces east of the town of Al-Qarara, near Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip on Sunday, Xinhua news agency reported. The killings follow the withdrawal of Israeli

forces from the Netzarim Corridor -- a strip of land that bisected Gaza from north to south. Meanwhile, the health authorities announced that the death toll from Israeli attacks on Gaza since October 7, 2023, has risen to 48,189, with 111,640 others injured.

Gaza's health authorities reported eight deaths and two injuries in the past 24 hours, including seven bodies recovered from the rubble and one additional fatality. They warned that more victims remain trapped beneath the debris in areas that are difficult to access due to ongoing shelling.

On Sunday, the health authorities urged Palestinian residents to donate blood, warning that supplies have been completely depleted after 15 months of war.

Israel issues warning as troops hold buffer zones in Gaza



MI News Service, Tel Aviv: One day after completing its withdrawal from the Netzarim Corridor in Gaza, the Israel Defense Forces warned Palestinians against approaching soldiers or entering prohibited areas.

"We note that the movement of gunmen or the transfer of weapons through these routes to the northern Gaza Strip is strictly prohibited and will be considered a breach of the agreement," tweeted the army's Arabic-language spokesperson, Col. Avichay Adraee. His warning on X, formerly known as Twitter, included a map showing IDF deployments inside Gaza and along the Philadelphi Corridor, which runs along the Gaza-Egypt border. "We call on you to refrain from cooperating with any terror group seeking to exploit you in order to transfer weapons or prohibited materials," Adraee added. Palestinian civilians can now return to northern Gaza via the Salah a-Din, the Strip's main north-south thoroughfare, and along coastal roads. Cars crossing between northern and southern Gaza are subject to inspection. On Sunday, Israeli soldiers opened fire on a group of Palestinians act-

ing suspiciously as they approached the Israeli border near Kibbutz Nahal Oz. Troops stationed in the buffer zone fired in the air, then at the Palestinians. The IDF said the group withdrew after several suspects were hit.

The Netzarim Corridor, a roughly seven-km-road running from east to west, that bisects the Strip. It crosses from Israel, at a point between Kibbutz Be'eri and Kibbutz Nahal Oz, and stretches to the Mediterranean.

The Philadelphi Corridor is a buffer zone that runs the length of the 14-km Gaza-Egypt border. It was created in 2006 to prevent weapons smuggling after Israel disengaged from the Strip but Hamas violently seized control of Gaza from the Palestinian Authority the following year. The ongoing first phase of the ceasefire is supposed to see a total of 33 Israeli hostages freed over six weeks in exchange for up to 1,904 Palestinian terrorists imprisoned in Israel. The exact number will depend on how many Israeli captives are alive. Hamas notified Israeli authorities in January that of the 33, eight are dead, but offered no evidence.

East Turkistan govt in exile rejects Uyghur migration plan, calls it part of China's genocidal agenda

MI News Service, Washington DC: The East Turkistan Government in Exile (ETGE) has rejected the Uyghur migration plan to Turkiye from East Turkistan. The migration plan was proposed by Professor Erhan Afyoncu, the president of Turkiye's National Defense University. Urging that the proposal aligns with China's broader agenda, ETGE on its official website stated, "While we acknowledge concerns regarding Turkiye's declining birth rates, we must emphasise that this pro-



posal ultimately serves China's agenda of genocide, colonization, and occupation. It aids China's objective of ethnically cleansing East Turkistan, the cradle of Turkic civilization and the sacred homeland of the Turkic people, by depopulating its native Uyghur population and replacing them with

Chinese colonial settlers." ETGE urged that Turkiye must provide political and strategic support against China's practices of occupation, colonialism, and genocide. ETGE further reiterated that Turkiye should assist the people of East Turkistan in regaining their legitimate independence.

Turkiye hosts one of the largest Uyghur diaspora communities outside China, with Uyghur groups estimating the population to be between 50,000 and 75,000 according to a report published by Voice of America. Since the 1950s, Uyghurs seeking refuge from what they describe as severe repression by the Chinese government have found shelter in Turkiye.

The persecution of Uyghurs in China, particularly in Xinjiang, involves widespread human rights abuses, including mass detentions in "re-education camps," forced labour, and heavy surveillance.

The Chinese government has been accused of religious repression, cultural destruction, and forced assimilation, limiting the Uyghur language, religious practices, and cultural traditions.

Reports indicate family separations, forced indoctrination, and destruction of Uyghur heritage sites. International bodies and human rights organizations have labelled these actions as genocide and crimes against humanity, while China denies these claims, calling them false and part of a campaign to fight extremism.

Pakistan: Death toll due to road accidents rises to 92 in Karachi in 2025

MI News Service, Karachi: Karachi has witnessed a significant rise in traffic accidents, as 92 people lost their lives due to road accidents in 2025, Ary News reported citing rescue authorities report.

As per the statistics released by the rescue authorities, 92 people lost their lives in traffic accidents that occurred between January 1 and February 8. Additionally, over 900 people were injured, which included more than 100 women. According to Ary News, nearly 9,000 traffic accidents were reported in Karachi in 2024. Citing Rescue services, Ary News reported that as many as 771 citizens lost their lives, while 8,174 others were injured in nearly 9,000 road accidents in Karachi.

Earlier on Thursday, Karachi reported 99 major incidents reported in the first 37 days of 2025, resulting in 39 fatalities, ARY News reported, citing the traffic police.

In response to the rising number of accidents taking place in the city, a four-member committee has been formed to investigate the cause of the accidents. As per a report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) road safety in Pakistan has suffered because of lack of strong leadership in the past and management at the central and provincial levels. The ADB report warned that unless the government implements strong measures, fatalities are estimated to increase by at least 33 per cent by 2030. It further noted that in urban areas, road design and operation remain car-focused, with poor safety standards for pedestrians, motorcyclists, three-wheeler occupants, and bicyclists.

US President Trump signs proclamation, renames Gulf of Mexico as Gulf of America

MI News Service, Washington, DC: United States President Donald Trump signed a proclamation on Sunday (local time) declaring February 9 as "the first-ever Gulf of America Day," celebrating the renaming of the area formerly known as the Gulf of Mexico. Trump was on his way to the New Orleans for the Super Bowl 59 and signed this proclamation as Air Force One flew over the area he was renaming. This follows the signing of Executive Order 14172 on January 20, 2025, which mandated the renaming of the US Continental Shelf area.

As part of the order, the Secretary of the Interior was directed to take the necessary actions to rename the area bounded by Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, and extend to the seaward boundary with Mexico and Cuba. In a statement, President Trump explained his decision: "I took this action in part because, as stated in that Order, "[t]he area formerly known as the Gulf of Mexico has long been an integral asset to our once burgeoning Nation and has remained



an indelible part of America."

"Today, I am very honoured to recognize February 9, 2025, as the first-ever Gulf of America Day," according to the White House. "On January 20, 2025, I signed Executive Order 14172 ("Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness"). Among other actions, that Executive Order required the Secretary of the Interior, acting pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 364 through 364f, to "take

all appropriate actions to rename as the 'Gulf of America' the U.S. Continental Shelf area bounded on the northeast, north, and northwest by the State of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida and extending to the seaward boundary with Mexico and Cuba in the area formerly named as the Gulf of Mexico," the statement added.

Sunday marked the President's first visit to the Gulf of

America since the renaming, White House said, "As my Administration restores American pride in the history of American greatness, it is fitting and appropriate for our great Nation to come together and commemorate this momentous occasion and the renaming of the Gulf of America." In his proclamation, Trump also said, "I call upon public officials and all the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities."

Sharing the map, the White House wrote on X, "The Gulf of America" Trump shared a video on X, signing the proclamation and stated, Make America great again, right. That's what we care about." Google Maps said it will change the name of "Gulf of Mexico" to "Gulf of America" once it is officially updated in the US Geographic Names System, it said in an X post on January 27. The change will be visible in the US, but it will remain "Gulf of Mexico" in Mexico. Outside of the two countries, users will see both names.

Quran competition in Kolkata



Nurul Islam Khan

The grand final round was held with great pomp by the All India Jamiatul Qurra Wal Huffaz Association. In this meeting held at Kolkata Topsia, in the first round, 450 students from about 200 madrasahs in India were selected online. In the second round, the semi-final round was completed with pomp at Metiaburuz Mannat Garden. This national competition was divided into two categories. In the first round: Hifzul Quran and in the second round, Qiraat and Tadhbir Tilawat. The first and second prizes were Rs.50,000/ and 40,000/ and Umrah package. The third, fourth and fifth places were Rs. 30,000/ 20,000/ and 10,000/ and all the participants who passed the final round were given Rs. 5000/ and 3000/ respectively. The judges were Syed Miqdad Sahab, an international reciter from Makkatul mukarrama, Qari Abdul Hadi and Qari Umar Sajuli from Malaysia, Salim Bin Noor from Egypt. Minister Javed Ahmed Khan and many famous Hafiz, Qari, Maulana of India were present. This is the first national Quranic competition of All India Jamiatul Qurra Wal Huffaz Association. Qari Ruhul Amin, the president of the association, and Qari Nuruddin, the secretary, were also present.

