

Abhishek Banerjee slams budget, calls tax exemption a "deception"

The Union Budget 2025-26 has introduced a major income tax exemption, allowing individuals earning up to ₹12 lakh annually to be exempt from paying income tax. For government and private sector employees, this benefit extends up to ₹12.75 lakh per year. The announcement by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has been welcomed by many. However, TMC's All India General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee has strongly criticized the move, calling it a "deception" rather than a genuine relief. Banerjee claims that despite the tax exemption, individuals would still end up losing ₹98,000 per year due to indirect taxes. **PG 3**

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Abhishek Banerjee slams Centre over JPC report on Waqf Bill



MI News Service, Kolkata : Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee on Thursday slammed the Centre over the joint parliamentary committee report on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, alleging that the BJP was trying to stifle voices of the opposition.

Earlier in the day, the report of the joint committee of Parliament on the Waqf Bill was tabled in the Rajya Sabha.

Opposition MPs led by Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that dissent notes were deleted from the report, a charge denied by Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju.

Asked about the JPC report on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, Banerjee said, "This is what they do. You saw how they silence opposition voices. It's okay, let's wait and watch - people are noticing." On criticism of the West Bengal budget, which was presented on Wednesday in the state assembly, Banerjee said, "Those who call it directionless should first read it. Criticising without understanding has become a trend." He also termed them "empty vessels", and alleged that they had "nothing to offer" for Bengal in the union budget.

"That's why we said the BJP-led Centre deprived Bengal," he claimed.

Criticising the Centre's income tax relief announcements in the union budget, he alleged, "The BJP is talking about tax relief for income up to Rs 12 lakh, but GST is imposed on everything except water. Whatever they give, they take back through GST." Commenting on the Delhi election results, Banerjee accused the BJP of obstructing the AAP government to function properly.

"They didn't allow the Delhi government to function and then campaigned that the AAP dispensation was ineffective. They put the CM and ministers behind bars. How will they function then?" he asked. Referring to the 2023 ordinance in Delhi, he said, "The AAP couldn't effectively counter the false narrative". "The BJP-led Centre tried to block funds for Bengal but we asked them to furnish a white paper which it didn't. People saw the BJP's ill intentions as we have effectively communicated them," Banerjee alleged.

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Bengal budget indicates populism tilt in election year, believe experts

MI News Service, Kolkata : The West Bengal government's 2025-26 budgetary proposals, presented in the state Assembly here on Wednesday, look like one that has its eyes clearly set on the next year's state elections as it emphasised on a sharp increase in revenue expenditure and a marginal rise in capital outlay.

Expressing their opinion

about the state budget of the Mamata Banerjee government, the experts have reiterated that a sharp increase in revenue expenditure coupled with a marginal rise in capital outlay for the 2025-26 fiscal clearly look like that the last full annual budget of the TMC government has its eyes set on the state elections due next year.

The budget, tabled before the

West Bengal assembly on Wednesday by the Minister of State for Finance (Independent charges) Bhattacharya, proposed significant cash dole-outs under the revenue expenditure head, amounting to over Rs 30,000 crore higher in 2025-26 than the revised estimates of the current fiscal of 2024-25, but tendered an increase of less than Rs 12,000 crore under capital

outlay for the same period.

Revenue expenditures of an organisation are short-term expenses used to service its ongoing operational costs, including salaries of employees, overhead costs and financing welfare schemes, while capital expenditures (capex) are funds used for one-time creation of fixed assets that are expected to generate revenue over a longer period.



Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Tejasvi Surya takes a sortie on HTT-40 Trainer Aircraft at 'Aero India 2025', at Yelahanka Airforce station in Bengaluru on Thursday.

JPC report on Waqf (Amendment) Bill tabled in Rajya Sabha amid opposition protest

MI News Service, New Delhi : The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) report on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, was tabled in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday amid ruckus and continuous sloganeering from opposition benches.

As soon as the BJP MP Medha Vishram Kulkarni presented the report along with a copy of the record of evidence given before the panel on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, the opposition members began their protest and even tried to rush to the well of the House. Their protest and continuous slogan shouting against the government soon reached such a point that the Chairman was forced to adjourn the house till 11-20 a.m to restore order in the House.

But as soon as the Upper House re-assembled and the proceedings resumed, the house again witnessed the disruption from the opposition MPs forcing the Chair to once again adjourn the house till 2 p.m.

Earlier today, Jagadambika Pal, BJP MP and Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, said the JPC will present its report in Parliament after six months of nationwide consultations. He emphasized the

committee toured the country to collect inputs before finalizing the report, which included the adoption of 25 amendments across 14 clauses.

"Today, the JPC will table its report in Parliament. To have a detailed discussion and deliberation, the JPC was formed six months ago. In the last six months, we have prepared a report after touring the whole nation. We have adopted 25 amendments in 14 clauses," he said.

Meanwhile, Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi said that instead of focusing on the already available Waqf Act, an attempt is being made to bring a politically motivated amendment.

He asserted that several members of parliament have expressed their dissent in the JPC report, highlighting the constitutional negligence caused by this bill.

"Currently, there is an act that manages Waqf properties, and instead of focusing on how the government can better implement this act, an attempt has been made to bring a politically motivated amendment," he said.

Congress MP KC Venugopal also slammed the Centre and said that the way in which the JPC conducted, "was wrong." The JPC on the Waqf

(Amendment) Bill adopted the draft report and the amended revised bill on January 29.

However, opposition leaders submitted their dissent notes on the report.

Trinamool Congress MPs Kalyan Banerjee and Md Nadimul Haque, who were members of the panel, had protested "the expunction of key portions of their dissent notes" submitted to the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

Banerjee and Haque alleged that the committee's conclusions were biased and predetermined and claimed that the committee ignored stakeholder representations, witness depositions, and submissions made by opposition members.

The Waqf Act of 1995, enacted to regulate Waqf properties, has long been criticised for issues such as mismanagement, corruption, and encroachments.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 aims to address these challenges by introducing reforms such as digitisation, enhanced audits, improved transparency, and legal mechanisms to reclaim illegally occupied properties.

TMC is set to focus on building better Image ahead of 2026 Assembly Elections

MI News Service, Kolkata: With just over a year to go before the 2026 West Bengal Legislative Assembly elections, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) is gearing up for a series of strategic changes in the party to ensure its return to power for the 4th consecutive term since 2011.

Accordingly, Party supremo Mamata Banerjee has already started to overseeing these organizational changes from the state budget session itself which began on February 10.

According to party sources, soon after the conclusion of the budget session concludes, Mamata Banerjee will convene a meeting of all its 226 ML to lay out the party's plans and focus areas for the year ahead.

As part of these plans, TMC is focusing on its further improving the not only party's image among the general public but also those of its workers and leaders including the supreme leader Mamata Banerjee

As per the informed sources, within the party, a significant directive has been issued which says all party lawmakers must use only two specific photographs of Mamata Banerjee in their campaign materials and public outreach programmes. Apart from these two, no other photograph of the Chief minister could be used by the party workers at any forum.

As per reports, a WhatsApp group named 'West Bengal Legislative Assembly Members' has been created to ensure direct communication between the leadership and the MLAs. Through this group, the directive was shared, emphasizing that these two images should be consistently used in all campaign materials. These two photographs have been shared with the legislators, who have been informed that they must exclusively use these images in all official materials, including posters and hoardings. No other im-

ages of Mamata Banerjee are to be used for party-related activities, ensuring a uniform and controlled visual representation.

The two approved images are: one of Mamata Banerjee performing a 'hands-folded' greeting, a gesture often associated with respect and humility, and another of her engaged in conversation during an event. Both images highlight her approach to 'people engagement,' which has been a hallmark of her political style.

The directive comes after internal reports indicated that opposition parties had been exploiting the use of various images of Mamata Banerjee for criticism, especially on social media. By focusing on these two specific images, the TMC aims to create a clear and positive public perception, ensuring that any attempts at negative propaganda can be effectively countered. This move is part

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TMC delegation meets President Murmu over pending Aparajita Bill

MI News Service, New Delhi : An 11 member delegation of Trinamool Congress MPs called on President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Thursday, urging her to expedite the Aparajita Women and Child (West Bengal Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill, 2024, which had been sent to her by West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose on September 6.

The delegation, led by the party's Lok Sabha Parliamentary party leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay and included TMC Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien as well as MPs Dola Sen, Pratima Mondal, Sayani Ghosh, Jui Bandyopadhyay and other women MPs from the party. Later speaking to newsmen after meeting the President, Bandyopadhyay and others said they wanted to draw the President's attention to the pending Bill.

On September 3, the West Bengal Assembly unanimously passed the bill, which seeks capital punishment for rape convicts if their actions result in the victim's death or leave her in a vegetative state, and life imprisonment without parole for other perpetrators.

Speaking to the media the TMC MPs also said they presented their demands to President Murmu.

Asked about the President's response, Bandyopadhyay said she gave them a patient hearing and assured them she would look into the matter.

"The Bill was passed unanimously by the West Bengal Assembly, and the West Bengal Governor reserved the Bill for the President's consideration," Mondal told reporters.

She explained that the Governor had three options: to give assent to the Bill, withhold assent, or reserve the Bill for Presidential consideration, as was done in this case.

"This Bill seeks to mandate swift, streamlined procedures for handling rape cases, ensuring justice is neither delayed nor denied. By implementing clear timelines for investigation and trial, this Bill seeks to reinforce public trust and strengthen the deterrent against such heinous crimes," she said.

"The Bill is awaiting the assent of the President. We urged the President to take the necessary action at the earliest regarding this Bill," she added. Other significant features of the proposed legislation

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Prime minister Narendra Modi hugs US President Donald Trump as the two leaders meet in the White House on Thursday.

Prime Minister Modi arrives in the US for crucial bilateral talks with President Trump

MI News Service, Washington (DC) : In order to hold the first bilateral talks with US President Donald Trump after the announcement of his new "America First" trade agenda and the policy on immigration, Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived here on Thursday on a two-day visit to the US.

Following an invitation from President Trump after the two leaders had a lengthy telephonic conversation early last month, they had decided to hold high-stakes talks in the face of concerns in New Delhi over Washington's new "America First" trade agenda as well as its policy on immigration.

The prime minister will be hosted by the US President later in the day in what would be the first bilateral talks between the two leaders after Trump assumed the Presidency for a second term on January 21.

"Landed in Washington DC a short while ago. Looking forward to meeting @POTUS Donald Trump and building upon the India-USA Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership. Our nations will keep working closely for the benefit of our people and for a better future for our planet. @realDonaldTrump," Modi posted on X along with pictures.

On his arrival PM Modi left for at the Blair House, the US presidential guest house at the heart of the American capital city for his stay there.

As Prime Minister Modi reached Blair House, the President's Guest House, he was accorded a rousing welcome by members of the Indian-American diaspora. Braving freezing temperatures and rain, the community members gathered at Blair House and welcomed him with slogans of 'Bharat Mata ki Jai', 'Vande Mataram' and 'Modi Modi' as they waved the Indian and American flags. With Trump's tariff policy sending shockwave across the world, Modi's key priority is likely to be to pre-empt any punitive trade action by Washington against India. People closely tracking India-US ties said there is a possibility of both sides exploring the option of looking at a trade pact to avoid high tariffs and expand the overall trade basket. In their meeting, the two leaders are likely to broadly focus on ramping up India-US cooperation in sectors like trade, investment, energy, defence, technology and immigration. Apart from some possible sector-specific outcomes, it will be interesting to see the optics and what kind of broader signal the meeting between Modi and Trump, known

for their personal bonhomie, produces with sensitive issues like immigration and tariff expected to be focus of the talks.

"A warm reception in the winter chill! Despite the cold weather, the Indian diaspora in Washington DC has welcomed me with a very special welcome. My gratitude to them," Modi said on X.

Prime Minister's office posted on X, "Upon his arrival in Washington DC, PM @narendramodi received an enthusiastic welcome from the Indian community." He also shared few pictures.

Prime Minister Modi also met newly appointed Director of National Intelligence in the Donald Trump administration Tuli Gabbard, and discussed India-USA friendship, of which he said, she has been a "strong votary".

He also congratulated 43-year-old Gabbard on her confirmation as the nation's top intelligence official.

This was Modi's second interaction with the top leadership of the Trump administration. Earlier on Tuesday in France, at the dinner, he met US Vice President JD Vance, who was there to attend the AI Summit.

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The prime minister's visit to the American capital comes days after the Trump administration deported 104 Indians in handcuffs and shackles on a military aircraft that sparked outrage in India.

Last week, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said in Parliament that New Delhi is in touch with the US to ensure that returning Indian deportees are not mistreated in any manner.

Another major issue on the table is set to be trade as Trump's policy on tariffs on rivals and allies alike.

Modi's visit to the US comes shortly after Trump announced a 25 per cent tariff on global steel and aluminium imports into the US. The move is expected to hit the Indian firms exporting steel and aluminium to the US. India has already indicated its readiness to adopt a more conciliatory approach on the sensitive issue unlike its hardline approach during Trump's first term. It is learnt that New Delhi may consider slashing tariffs

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KRIBHCO and Farm Frites of the Netherlands sign a JVA to set up Hi-Tech Potato Processing Unit in Shahjahanpur



MI News Service, New Delhi: Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd ("KRIBHCO") and Farm Frites of the Netherlands signed a joint Venture Agreement on 12th February, 2025 to set up a state of art, hi-tech potato processing

unit at Shahjahanpur in UP. From KRIBHCO's side, the JVA was signed by its MD Mr M.R. Sharma whereas from Farm Frites' side, it was signed by their Chairman Mr Pieter de Bruijne. Chairman of KRIBHCO Dr Chan-

drupal Singh and other Directors were also present on the occasion.

Special varieties of potatoes from Netherlands like Santana and Quinterawill be grown in Shahjahanpur in large areas. A

dedicated team of KRIBHCO and Farm Frites will provide the seed of special varieties and guide them in its cultivation. This project will help in increasing the income of the farmers of Shahjahanpur and nearby areas. This plant will also help in generation of hundreds of employments. As per Uttar Pradesh's industrial policy, this project is going to be a Super Mega Project.

A high-level team of KRIBHCO and Farm Frites, led by Farm Frites' Chairman Mr Pieter de Bruijne visited Shahjahanpur on 10 February to finalize the project site.

KRIBHCO is one of the leading fertilizer entities of India. KRIBHCO owns a mega gas-based Urea plant at Hazira (Gujarat) capable of producing 23 lakh MT Urea annually. Through its 100% owned subsidiary KRIBHCO Fertilizers Ltd, KRIBHCO owns another gas-based fertilizer complex in UP capable of producing 11 lakh MT Urea. KRIBHCO is also one of the lead promoters of

Oman India Fertilizer Company. Apart from Urea, KRIBHCO also provides DAP, NPKs, Bio fertilizers, City compost, Certified seeds, Bio stimulants and other allied farm inputs to the farmers.

KRIBHCO is owned directly or indirectly by farmers of India. Since its inception, KRIBHCO has worked for betterment and upliftment of farmers. In this connection, KRIBHCO intends to set up a potato processing unit in Shahjahanpur in joint venture with Farm Frites of the Netherlands.

Farm Frites is a fifty years old company involved in the business of production of a variety of potato fries and potato specialties. Farm Frites delivers its products to foodservice providers in over 100 countries. Farm Frites is key supplier to global food chains like McDonalds, KFC, Dominos etc. The Farm Frites grows 15 lakh MT potatoes worldwide and supplies more than eighty types of fries, specialties and appetizers.

Chief Executive of the Year award to Chairman and Managing Director WBPDCI at the Energy Excellence Awards 2025 by ASSOCHAM



MI News Service, Kolkata: Under the visionary leadership of its Chairman and Managing Director, Dr. P. B. Salim, IAS, The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDCI), a premier thermal power generating enterprise of the Govt. of WB, has embarked on a remarkable journey in the power sector. An IAS officer of the 2001 batch of the West Bengal cadre, Dr. Salim hails from the southern state of Kerala. Under his able guidance since June 2019, WBPDCI has reached unparalleled heights of excellence, making it a beacon of innovation and sustainability in the energy landscape.

WBPDCI is committed to providing good quality uninterrupted power supply to all, at affordable rates, and has contributed to the economic growth and development of the State by investing proactively in capacity addition for tomorrow's needs. Its power plants at

Sagardighi, Santaldih and Bakreswar have consistently ranked in the All India PLF ranking merit order. In a move towards self-sufficiency, WBPDCI's captive coal production journey which started in 2019 has ensured zero dependency on external coal sources.

As a mark of acknowledgement and recognition of Dr. P. B. Salim, IAS, Chairman and Managing Director's immense contribution to the growth of WBPDCI, he has recently been awarded the Chief Executive of the Year award by ASSOCHAM at the Energy Excellence Awards 2025, held at Hotel Hindustan International on 12 February 2025.

Here's wishing that WBPDCI's illustrious journey continues under the strong leadership and tutelage of Dr. P. B. Salim, IAS, Chairman and Managing Director, WBPDCI - making WBPDCI an indomitable force in the energy sector.

Kalyani cracker-factory explosion: under treatment woman dies, toll rises to 5



MI News Service, Kalyani: The death toll of the cracker factory explosion at Kalyani Rathtala in Nadia raised to 5. Ujjala Bhunia, who was seriously burnt in the Rathtala cracker explosion, expired at Kalyani JNM Hospital at around 9.30 pm on a Wednesday. The explosion at an illegal cracker factory at Kalyani Rathtala on last Friday (February 07) afternoon snatched lives of 4 females on spot and one was admitted in JNM Hospital. She was taking treatment since then. But she expired on Wednesday night. The illegal cracker factory of Kalyani Rathtala was running at a proper location amid the dense residential area for last about 10 years. However, the local police and administrative were active only after losing of 4 lives. Later on, a forensic team of 4 members arrived on spot on last Saturday. They collected samples from the spot of explosion at Kalyani Rathtala. On the other hand, police produced the factory owner Sadhan (Khakon) Biswas in Kalyani Court on Saturday and was ordered 7 days remand, police said. Kalyani Municipal Chairman Nilimesh Roy Chowdhury said, "The fire licence is given by Fire Department, not by the Municipality. However, we have formed a committee to look into the matter." The local TMC Councillor Subrata Chakraborty stated on last Saturday morning that once Rathtala was well known for the Mahabir Cracker factory. It was India famous cracker factory. At that time there were above 100 ancillary factories here. But the old Mahabir factory got closed about 10 year back. Since then here are 1 or 2 such factories. But the factory of Khakon Biswas was only of such factory about which we were unaware. It was at his home." According to a local, they thought the cracker boxes would be made here. But, as police has recovered materials of crackers from a few places, it proves that more factories are there which produces crackers. Subrata Guha, the Divisional Fire Officer, Nadia stated that there are around 10 to 12 licenced cracker factories are there in Nadia. "These are scattered at all 4 subdivision like Kalyani, Ranaghat, Krishnanagar and Tehatta. But there is no licenced cracker factory in Kalyani." He more said that there are many illegal cracker factories in Nadia and these are basically near to the licenced factories. According to him, the sulphur, the iron dust, the aluminium and charcoal are generally used for crackers. But sometimes they use other chemicals to develop colour in the crackers.

Mass pilgrimage at Triveni sangam: Over one lakh devotees take holy dip

SUMAN GANGULY

More than one lakh devotees participated in the holy bath at the Triveni Sangam under the supervision of the state government. From early morning, thousands of pilgrims thronged the fairground, forming a massive procession stretching over 5 to 10 kilometers from the main Saptarshi Ghat. The day began with a grand Shahi Snan (royal procession), with the participation of over 100 Naga Sannyasis, according to Swami Prematmananda, the head of Bansberia Sri Ramakrishna Vivekananda Ashram. Kanchan Banerjee, one of the fair organizers, acknowledged the immense support from the state government, including the police, health department, and municipality, in managing the massive gathering. Tomorrow, the Shahi Snan (royal bath) will continue at the sacred site until 10 AM. At Kalyani's Majher Char, the Mahamandaleswar of Shri Panchayat Nirvani Akhara, Swami Paramatmananda, will lead another grand procession with numerous sannyasis before taking the holy dip at the confluence. To ensure safety and order, a large number of police personnel, including RAF,



Combat Force, and a significant number of female officers, were deployed across Bansberia, Triveni, and surrounding areas. Medical camps were set up at multiple locations, and a fleet of ambulances was stationed to provide emergency healthcare services. Swami Paramatmananda emphasized the cultural and religious significance of this fair, urging both the central and state governments to invest in developing the site as a major tourism destination. He believes such initiatives would benefit the local economy and create employment opportunities for residents. However, many pilgrims faced severe accommodation issues, as there were no hotels or proper lodging fa-

cilities in the area. Several devotees expressed their discontent over the lack of shelter, making their pilgrimage experience challenging. With the event continuing tomorrow, the authorities remain on high alert to ensure smooth proceedings at the sacred confluence. The Triveni kumbh mela area is jam packed with pilgrims and visitors all set to have Sahi Sanan (holy Dip) on the auspicious day of Maghi Purnima at Triveni Sangam at Bansberia. The holy presence of Naga Sadhus, saints and monks are the center of attraction for the pilgrims, troubled by worldly odds, people are desperately waiting in long queue to have a glimpse of the sadhus and seek their blessings.

Smearing by holy ash on the entire body the Naga sadhus are extending their blessings to all. Bullet Baba have come all the way from Kashmir, Tupti Baba from Kedarnath, Sonali Nanda Giri of Assam kinner Akhra and others are drawing massive multitude. Bike Baba have come from Prayag Raj to Triveni khumb Mela, he said following the Sanatan dhrama the ancient Muni and Rishis from satyayuga are performing the khumb, the khumb have come down the ages, till day, the sadhus, saints and monks with much reverence are performing the khumb for the well being of the world and the humanity. Kinner Nanda Giri said from Assam i went to Prayag raj and now i have come to Triveni Sangam for the purna sanan, those who missed the holy dip at Triveni Sangam. The Naga sadhus who stay bare in minus temperature in the Himalayas are feeling uncomfortable in the present climatic conditions in Bengal. The TMC Malda MLA and previous minister Sabitri Mitra said, i have come for the holy dip and to seek blessings of the sadhus. The state administration is all set to cope up with the massive influx of pilgrims and visitors on the maghi Purnima for the holy dip.

Sebaashray model camp at Sanjua, Satgachia

MI News Service, Kolkata: Abhishek Banerjee visited to Sebaashray model camp at Sanjua, Nibaran Dutta Road, Satgachia on Feb 13th, 2025. In this context, Abhishek wrote in his X handle, "Public service, when pursued with sincerity and purpose, forges an unbreakable bond of trust and faith between people and their representatives. #Sebaashray has not only earned that trust but has also become a beacon of



hope for those who need it the most. That hope shines brightest for our elderly citizens, who have long yearned to see the world with clarity once again. As part of this mission, 15 senior citizens from Bishnupur and

Panagua underwent free cataract surgeries today at Renuka Eye Institute, because the ability to see should never be dictated by financial constraints. Referred from the Bishnupur Model Sebaashray Camp, they now step into a world where blurred vision is no longer their reality. But Sebaashray is doing more than just restoring eyesight; it is restoring independence, dignity and a renewed sense of life."

Special Lecture organised by Department of Sanskrit, Utkal University on Concept of Brahma and Creation

MI News Service, Kolkata: Department of Sanskrit, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar organized a special session on Shrii Shrii Anandamurtiji's contribution to concept of Brahma and creation. Dr. Manoranjan Senapati, HoD Department of Sanskrit, introduced Acharya Divyachetnananda Avadhuta, Central Public Relations Secretary, Ananda Marga Pracharak Samgha and also briefed multifarious contribution of Shrii Shrii Anandamurtiji. Acharya Divyachetnananda Avadhuta explained the concept of Brahma saying that the combination of Shiva and Shakti is Brahma. Here Brahma means the entity which is great and makes all other entities great. Relation between Shiva (Purush) and Shakti (Prakriti) is just like a sheet of paper, whiteness of milk and thermal value of fire, which can not be separated. He further elaborated that there are two stages of Brahma; Nirguna Brahma (non qualified) and Sadguna Brahma (qualified). The fulfilment of Shiva and Shakti is in the process of centrifugal (Sanchar) and centripetal (PratiSanchar). Here centrifu-

gal movement means extrovertial phase of creation, from subtle to crude or from one to many. Where as centripetal means introvertial phase of creation from crude to subtle or from many to one. He further said that in this cosmic factor there are two forces; centrifugal (Avidiya Maya) means force of ignorance and centripetal (Vidyamaya) means force of knowledge. Later, he highlighted that there are three evolution process which comes within the unit structure. First is physical force emanated from physical clash, second is psychic force resultant of psychic clash and third is spiritual force emanated from attraction of great. This talk was organized by Department of Sanskrit on a very short notice. Prof. Brajnsundar Mishra, Dr. Niranjana Sabar, Dr. Dharmendra Das were present during session along with 30+ students. In Indian philosophy there are four elements; ontology, ethics, epistemology and metaphysics. Shrii Shrii Anandamurtiji has also enriched Indian philosophy by adding two more elements; spiritual cult (meditation) and psychology.*

Kolkata hosts 'Dhakai' food fest

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata is hosting the 'Dhakai food Fest' in Kolkata, despite a strained Indo-Bangla relationship. Celebrity Bangladeshi chef Nayana Afroz visited Kolkata for the same purpose. Usha Restaurant hosted the Dhakai Food

Pop-Up Festival, celebrating the authentic flavors of Bangladesh. In the opening day, the menu featured 11 specialty dishes, each bringing out the unique taste of Bangladeshi culinary heritage.

Fighting Cancer: Govt hospitals also provide ample support to people

MI News Service, Kolkata: Private hospitals are always here to serve the cancer patients in West Bengal, but government hospitals also provide ample support to mass in this respect. SSKM Medical College, also known as IPGMER, is one of Kolkata's oldest and most respected government hospitals. It offers comprehensive cancer treatment through a multidisciplinary approach, specializing in chemotherapy, radiation, and surgical oncology. With state-of-the-art technology and experienced oncologists, SSKM provides affordable care for all sections of society. Calcutta Medical College, the first medical college in India, has a rich legacy of providing quality healthcare. Its oncology department offers a wide range of cancer treatments, including chemotherapy, radiation, and surgical procedures. Patients benefit from the advanced cancer treatment technologies available here. It remains a go-to hospital for affordable and reliable cancer care in Kolkata.

Nil Ratan Sircar (NRS) Medical College is one of Kolkata's largest government hospitals, providing high-quality cancer treatment. Its oncology department is known for its expertise in radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and surgical oncology. The hospital is equipped with modern facilities and aims to offer accessible care to all patients. Located centrally, it serves a large number of patients from Kolkata and nearby regions.

R.G. Kar Medical College is a renowned government institution offering a

full range of cancer treatments, including surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy. The oncology department is equipped with the latest technology, ensuring advanced treatment options for patients. The hospital has been a beacon of affordable cancer care for decades, providing holistic treatment to patients.

Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute (CNCI) is a premier government cancer hospital in Kolkata, known for its advanced oncology care and research. It provides a range of cancer treatments, including chemotherapy, radiation, and surgical oncology, making it a top choice for cancer patients. CNCI plays a pivotal role in affordable cancer care for the public. It is widely regarded as one of the top 10 cancer hospitals in Kolkata, offering comprehensive oncology services.

E.S.I.C Hospital in Manikata is part of the Employee State Insurance Corporation and provides affordable cancer treatments to insured employees and their dependents. It is known for its oncology services, offering chemotherapy and radiation therapy to cancer patients. As part of the cancer hospital Kolkata list, it is highly regarded for its specialized care in a government setting.

Bangur Institute of Neurosciences specializes in neurological conditions, but it also offers oncology services, especially for cancers involving the brain and nervous system. It is considered one of the top cancer hospitals in Kolkata for patients requiring neurological cancer care.

Chief Minister sends greetings to the authorities of Bangiya Kumbh Mela in Kalyani



MI News Service, Kalyani: The Bangiya Kumbh Mela has started from January 10 at the Gauranga Mahaprabhu Ghat in Kalyani Majherchar in Nadia. It will continue till February 16. This fair has entered its third year this time. However, a craze has been developed among the people of the State regarding this fair. The great Mahakumbh is being held at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh after 144 years at the confluence of three rivers in Prayagraj. And the Bangiya Kumbh Mela is being held at the opening of rivers Bhagirathi, Yamuna and Saraswati. It is said that Gauranga Mahaprabhu once took bath with Sachi mata at this ghat. Therefore, the greatness of this ghat is also immense. The fair authorities said on Thursday that the State Government has fully supported this fair. State Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has sent a congratulatory letter and said, "I wish the success of the holy Bangiya Kumbh Mela and extend my sincere respect and greetings to all the pilgrims and devotees who have been coming here. I hope that this holy confluence will create an atmosphere of peace, harmony and unity in everyone's lives and make it more prosperous. I would have

been happy to be present there in person. But such events attract a large crowd, so to avoid any inconvenience to the devotees, I wished the success of this fair through greetings instead of being present in person." The Majherchar Gauranga Mahaprabhu Ghat has been decorated since the February 10. Various saints and monks including Naga sadhus have appeared here from all over the country. The Shahi Snan was held on Thursday. The authorities concerned claimed that lakhs of people took bath on Thursday. In addition, several Bhandara centers have been set up on the premises of the Bengal Kumbh Mela. In response to a question from journalists at this Bengali Kumbh Mela, Mahamandaleswar Swami Paramatmananda Maharaj said, "When those who are becoming Ministers or MLAs, wear saffron robes and go to Parliament, whether it is the upper house or the lower house, then their democratic character is what counts. If they say they are saints, they will no longer have any respect there. If a saint gets involved in politics and performs political duties, then he is no longer a saint. Then he is an elected representative of the people."

Waste management has huge prospect in Bengal: Experts

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal does have a huge prospect in terms of waste management. According to experts, if proper initiatives can be taken in this respect, there would be lot of employment generation and cash flow in this sector. Regarding waste management movement in the nation and also in

West Bengal, Spiral Initiative Foundation (SIF) collaborated with Goodeebag Mobile Application in Kolkata. Waste management experts like Nandan Mall (SIF), Abhishek Agarwal (Goodeebag), Pauline Laravode and others were present in a symposium recently held in Kolkata regarding waste management.

Abhishek Banerjee slams...

From PG 1
Indicating a strong possibility of the TMC contesting alone in the 2026 assembly elections, Banerjee emphasised that the party had "previously performed better when fighting independently".

people, making them aware that it is the Centre that has deprived Bengal, not the state government. People are never wrong. You have to accept their mandate, whether you like it or not," he claimed.

Highlighting the TMC government's outreach programmes he said, "We reached out to 50 lakh

However, he kept the doors open for dialogue for any alliance saying, "Let's wait, we have a lot of time."

TMC is set to focus on...

From PG 1
The party's preparations have gained momentum from February 10, when the West Bengal Assembly's budget session began. On the same day, Mamata Banerjee held a crucial meeting with the TMC legislative party at the Assembly. State party president Subrata Bakshi was also present at the meeting.

It is anticipated that Mamata Banerjee may introduce specific behavioral guidelines for legislators during this session. The timing of the WhatsApp directive on campaign imagery, just ahead of this meeting, suggests a well-coordinated strategy to ensure party discipline and uniformity in its public messaging.

In addition to the image directive, TMC leaders have also started emphasizing Mamata Banerjee's personal struggles and journey, aiming to inspire the younger generation. As part of this effort, senior party leaders are sharing the story of her life and the challenges she has faced in a bid to connect with the voters.

TMC delegation meets...

From PG 1
Include the completion of investigations into rape cases within 21 days of the initial report, reduced from the previous two-month deadline and the establishment of a special task force where women officers will lead investigations. A special two-day session of the House was

convened by the West Bengal government for the introduction and passage of the Bill, which was moved in the wake of widespread protests that rocked the state following the brutal rape and murder of a post-graduate trainee doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9.

Prime Minister Modi...

From PG 1
in at least a dozen sector provided some reciprocity by the White House. Modi and Trump are unlikely to discuss specifics on tariff but the two leaders may deliberate on a broader picture.

Delhi announced plans to amend its nuclear liability law and set up a nuclear energy mission. Certain clauses in India's Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 have emerged as hurdles in moving forward in implementation of the historic civil nuclear deal that was firm up between the two strategic partners around 16 years back.

The bilateral trade between India and the US was around USD 130 billion last year.

It is learnt that India is looking at the possibility of civil nuclear cooperation with the US in the small modular reactors (SMRs). Modi arrived right after his visit to France where he had co-chaired the Artificial Intelligence Action Summit with French President Emmanuel Macron.

The two leaders are also likely to touch upon overall situation in the Indo-Pacific, Ukraine and developments in West Asia.

He is the fourth foreign leader hosted by Trump over the weeks since his inauguration.

Modi and Trump, during a phone conversation on January 27, vowed to work towards a "trusted" partnership with a focus on boosting India-US cooperation in areas of trade, energy and defence.

Within less than a month of the start of his second term in the White House, Trump has hosted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, and Jordan's King Abdullah II.

Following the phone talks, the White House said Trump emphasised the importance of India increasing its procurement of American-made security equipment and moving toward a fair bilateral trade relationship. Modi and Trump are likely to focus on boosting the energy ties. On February 1, New

Abhishek Banerjee slams budget, calls tax exemption a "deception"

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Union Budget 2025-26 has introduced a major income tax exemption, allowing individuals earning up to 12 lakh annually to be exempt from paying income tax. For government and private sector employees, this benefit extends up to 12.75 lakh per year. The announcement by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has been welcomed by many. However, TMC's All India General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee has strongly criticized the move, calling it a "deception" rather than a genuine relief. Banerjee claims that despite the tax exemption, individuals would still end up losing 98,000 per year due to indirect taxes. Addressing journalists at Sebashram, he explained how the budget



was misleading and why the middle class should not be too optimistic about the tax relief. Banerjee dissected the real impact of the budget, stating, "The Union Budget is nothing but deception. They say that individuals earning 12 lakh annually will

pay no income tax. That means a monthly salary of 1 lakh. But in reality, they are still paying taxes indirectly." Explaining further, he said, "A person earning 1 lakh per month has daily expenses—buying groceries, tea, milk, sugar, and other essentials—all of which are taxed under GST. The individual ends up paying 98,000 annually in GST alone. Additionally, there are other hidden charges like toll tax, security transaction tax, and surcharge. With inflation rising at an average of 6% annually, in three years, the cost of living will increase by 18%." Banerjee also stated that he had submitted official data regarding these calculations to the Lok Sabha Speaker to substantiate his claims. In the previous year's budget, the stan-

dard deduction under the new tax regime was increased from 50,000 to 75,000. However, this year's budget has kept the standard deduction unchanged, meaning taxpayers will not receive any additional relief under this category.

Banerjee's criticism highlights concerns that while the government promotes zero tax liability for individuals earning 12 lakh, the actual financial burden on taxpayers remains high due to indirect taxation and rising inflation.

As debates over the budget continue, the TMC leader's statements add to the growing discourse on whether the Union Budget truly benefits the middle class or simply shifts the tax burden through indirect means.



Joka-BBD Bag Metro rail work in progress at Khidderpore, Kolkata.

State announces major reforms for modernizing Madrasa education

MI News Service, Kolkata: The state government has announced significant budgetary measures aimed at modernizing madrasa education across the state. In addition to upgrading infrastructure and improving the quality of education, the budget has allocated substantial financial resources for school education, higher education, and public education programs. This initiative focuses on enhancing learning environments in madrasas through the introduction of smart classrooms, e-books, and computer labs. Before the current fiscal year ends, the government has already approved the establishment of 600 smart classrooms, 100 digital laboratories, and upgraded science labs in 76 madrasas. The total budget allocation for madrasa education stands at 5,602.29 crore, underscoring the administration's commitment to modernizing traditional learning institutions. In an effort to support financially disadvantaged yet academically bright students, the government has expanded the Aikyashree scholarship program, which has already benefited 4 crore students with an expenditure of 4,100 crore in the current financial year. According to official data, as of December 31, 2024, a total of 16 lakh scholarships

have been awarded out of 45 lakh applications for the 2024-25 academic year. Additionally, the Shikshashree scheme, aimed at promoting inclusive education, has allocated 810 crore, benefiting over 1.04 crore students. The Medhashree Scholarship, with a budget of 53.24 crore, has provided financial assistance to 6.65 lakh students, ensuring better access to higher education. The Student Credit Card Scheme has also gained momentum, with 2,800 crore in bank loans approved for 80,000 students, enabling them to pursue their academic aspirations without financial constraints. Further emphasizing its commitment to education, the government has increased funding for higher education, proposing a budget of 6,593.58 crore to improve universities and research institutions across the state. In parallel, 366.46 crore has been allocated to strengthen public education and library services, ensuring better access to knowledge and literacy programs for the masses. These reforms highlight the state's commitment to digital accessibility, modernized education infrastructure, and inclusive learning opportunities, reinforcing its vision for an equitable and progressive education system.

Shocking details emerge in New Town rape and murder case

MI News Service, Kolkata: New revelations have surfaced in the New Town rape and murder case, exposing the horrifying past of the accused, e-rickshaw driver Soumitra Roy. His first wife allegedly died by suicide due to his extreme physical abuse, yet his violent tendencies never changed. His second wife has now come forward, calling him a "monster" and demanding severe punishment.

Speaking to reporters from the doorstep of her rented home in Gouranganagar Adarshapalli, Soumitra's wife, Mausumi Adhikari, expressed her outrage and lack of sympathy for her husband. "I consider myself fortunate that this beast did not kill me. The court must ensure that he is punished harshly," she said, visibly shaken by the revelations.



West Bengal Youth Welfare Minister Aroop Biswas, along with monks and other dignitaries, attends the Buddhist monastic vows ceremony of Shrestha Barua at Sambodhi Buddha Vihara, Tollygunge, Kolkata.

18-Year-Old Kolkata girl takes Buddhist monastic vows

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a rare spiritual commitment, 18-year-old Kolkata college student Shrestha Barua has shaved her head and taken Buddhist monastic vows, embracing celibacy to spread the teachings of Gautama Buddha. She, along with two other women, donned saffron robes in a ceremony at Sambodhi Buddha Vihara, Tollygunge, during the 75th anniversary of the Tollygunge Moore Avenue Buddha Samiti on Maghi Purnima.

Dr. Arunjoyoti Bhikhu noted that Buddha pioneered a monastic system for women 2,568 years ago, and with these women embracing Buddhism, his teachings of non-violence and equality are set to reach more people.

Facebook identity issue: Abhishek Banerjee sends legal notice to Meta

MI News Service, Kolkata: Trinamool Congress (TMC) National General Secretary and Member of Parliament (MP) Abhishek Banerjee has found himself entangled in an identity issue on Facebook. His legal team has sent a notice to Meta, the parent company of Facebook, demanding immediate rectification. The issue stems from the disappearance of "Trinamool Congress" from his official Facebook page, which usually displays his designation as MP, National General Secretary, or National General Secretary of Trinamool Congress.

Recently, Abhishek Banerjee's supporters noticed that the name of his political party was missing from his Facebook profile. Typically, his page men-

tions his association with the Trinamool Congress, but this crucial detail had suddenly vanished. Upon being informed of the issue, Banerjee promptly took action and sent a legal notice to Meta. The notice demands an immediate resolution, warning that legal measures will be taken if corrective action is not implemented without delay. Legal experts note that any unauthorized changes to a political leader's social media profile can lead to significant misinformation or speculation. High-profile political figures, celebrities, and influencers rely on social media to maintain their public identity. Any unauthorized alterations can create confusion among followers and the general

public. In Banerjee's case, the sudden disappearance of his party's name has raised questions in political circles. Observers are speculating about whether this was a technical glitch, a deliberate act, or a potential security breach. Given the political landscape in India, where digital presence plays a crucial role, such incidents are bound to attract attention and scrutiny.

Political analysts believe that such incidents, if not addressed promptly, could influence public perception. Supporters and party members often rely on official pages for verified updates. A missing political affiliation, even for a short period, could lead to unnecessary debates and confusion among followers.

Special Session of MCCI on 'India-Russia Economic Partnership'

MI News Service, Kolkata: Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised a Special Session with Mr. Maxim V. Kozlov, Consul General of the Russian Federation in Kolkata on 'India-Russia Economic Partnership: Trade and Investment Prospects' here today at the Chamber. Ms. Ekaterina Tyurina, Vice Consul of the Russian Federation in Kolkata was also present at the Session. Mr. Amit Saraogi, President, MCCI, focused on giving efforts to diversify trade between the two countries by identifying new sectors with opportunities such as pharmaceuticals, agriculture, tourism and livestock. He highlighted several challenges like geographical constraints, trade imbalance, regulatory environment, currency issues and competing partnerships to be addressed to take the bilateral trade to its full potential. While giving the theme address Mr. Arun Kumar Garodia, Chairman, Council on Foreign Trade, MCCI emphasized more on the role of a state in facilitating bilateral ties and viewed that West Bengal is now all set to play a lead role in facilitating bilateral economic and commercial relation with Russia. Mr. Garodia also underscored the importance of FTA/ CECA with the Eurasian Economic Union. Mr. Garodia further mentioned several areas of collaboration opportunities specifically focussing on



Special Session with H.E. Mr. Maxim Kozlov, Consul General of the Russian Federation in Kolkata on 'India - Russia Economic Partnership: Trade and Investment Prospects' and Amit Saraogi, President, MCCI at Kolkata.

West Bengal such as shipbuilding, medical devices and energy saving technologies. He further highlighted immense opportunities in mobility sector in eastern India. Mr. Maxim V. Kozlov, Consul General of the Russian Federation in Kolkata in his address mentioned that India-Russia trade volume has grown 5 times over the last 5 years. While prioritizing the strategic partnership, the two countries have set the bilateral trade goal of achieving US\$100 billion by 2030. The envoy mentioned that technology remains the cornerstone of Russia-India partnership underscoring focused sectors like edutech, digital marketing, cyber security. He further emphasized on the export of skilled manpower from India to Russia. He also pointed out that India is the main supplier of medicines, smartphones to

Russia. The Sectors including energy, IT, pharmaceuticals, machineries, cyber security, agri-machinery, bio-technology, nuclear energy offer huge scope for both nations to enhance their co-operation. He mentioned that India-Russia have decided to sign the Mutual Trade Protection Agreement, to boost overall trade. He further informed that the customs services of Russia and India have signed an agreement on mutual recognition of national institutions of the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) in May 2024. The session ended with a hearty Vote of thanks proposed by Mr. Munish Jhajarharia, Vice President, MCCI. He proposed that MCCI would be happy to host a High-Level Business Delegation from Russia to Bengal to explore collaboration in different sectors.

Rs12 lakh missing from post office: Court orders CID probe

MI News Service, Kolkata: A significant financial irregularity has come to light in West Bengal, where 12 lakh has gone missing from a post office. Unlike typical chit fund scams, this case involves a government-run postal service, raising serious concerns about financial security. Frustrated with police inaction, the Calcutta High Court has directed the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to take over the case. Expressing dissatisfaction

with the handling of the case, Justice Tirthankar Ghosh strongly criticized the Jamalpur police station for failing to take action over the past one and a half years. He remarked, "People deposit their hard-earned money in post offices for security. If such incidents occur and the police do nothing, public trust in postal services will be lost." During the hearing, Justice Ghosh further stated, "This is a central government institution.

KMC issues show-cause notice to councillor over Narkeldanga fire incident

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has issued a show-cause notice to councillor Sachin Singh in connection with the Narkeldanga fire incident. The notice was sent by KMC's Chief Whip Bapaditya Dasgupta on the instructions of Mayor Firhad Hakim. The councillor, who represents Ward 38, has confirmed receiving the notice and stated that he will submit his response to the party. The controversy erupted after a dev-

astating fire broke out on February 8 in the slums along the Narkeldanga canal, destroying over 30 shanties. Following the incident, angry residents accused Sachin Singh of taking bribes and illegally setting up warehouses, alleging that the fire originated from one of these illegal structures. When Mayor Firhad Hakim visited the affected area, the situation quickly turned volatile, with residents protesting against Sachin Singh and chanting "thief, thief"

slogans. Supporters of the councillor retaliated with counter-slogans, leading to a violent confrontation. The chaos escalated further after the mayor left, with a man allegedly being attacked with an iron rod, resulting in severe injuries. In response, Sachin Singh's followers filed counter-complaints, accusing the protesters of assault, molestation, and armed attacks. An FIR was subsequently lodged against the councillor.

New Kolkata police guidelines for investigating unnatural deaths and murders

MI News Service, Kolkata: According to Kolkata Police records, in the past three months alone, there have been five complaints of police negligence in investigations related to unnatural deaths in the city. Additionally, the August 2023 rape and murder of a young doctor at R.G. Kar Hospital had already sparked public outrage over the police's handling of major crimes. To avoid similar criticisms in the future, Kolkata Police Commissioner Manoj Verma has introduced new standard operating procedures (SOPs) for handling unnatural deaths, suspicious deaths, and murder investigations. Lalbazar has issued strict guidelines to all police stations, ensuring prompt and thorough investigations. According to sources in Lalbazar, police stations must respond immediately upon receiving reports of un-

natural deaths or murders. Officers must reach the crime scene as quickly as possible and update the Officer-in-Charge (OC) and Detective Department about initial findings before arrival. When a dead body is discovered, the duty officer must immediately record all information in the General Diary (GD). This includes the source and time of information. The investigating officer, upon arrival at the scene, must first speak to the victim's family. If the family wishes to file a complaint, it must be accepted without delay.

For individuals who live alone in Kolkata due to work or education, the police must contact a close neighbour or local guardian in case of an unnatural death. The investigating officer must inquire whether they wish to file a complaint and facilitate an FIR if necessary.

NAME CHANGE
I, Abdul Bari Sk, S/o Ashadul Sekh residing at Vill-Chandipur, P.O.-Malumgachha, P.S.-Nakashipara, Dist.-Nadia, Pin-741126, WB, declare that my actual name is Abdul Bari Sk as mentioned in my Admit Card of WBME and father's Name is Ashadul Sekh as mentioned in his Aadhar Card but in my Aadhar Card my name has been recorded as Abdul Bari in my WBME Admit Card my father's name has been recorded as Abdul Khalek Sk, and in my Aadhar Card my father's Name has been recorded as Ashadul Sk. That Abdul Bari Sk and Abdul Bari both are same and one identical person i.e., myself and Ashadul Sekh, Abdul Khalek Sk and Ashadul Sk all are same and one identical person i.e., my father vide affidavit sworn before Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) at Krishnagar, Nadia on 12.02.25

NAME CHANGE
I, Arun Kumar Gupta son of Late Shyam Lal Gupta residing 110/H/14, Elliot Road, Kolkata-700016 is also known as Arun Gupta. Henceforth I shall be known as Arun Kumar Gupta as declared before the First Class Magistrate South 24 Parganas, Sealdah Court vide affidavit no. 144 dated 07.02.2025. Arun Kumar Gupta and Arun Gupta are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Hashi Mondal, W/O Lt. Bhisma Mondal, R/o, C-10, Khasmahal, P.O.-Nowbhang, P.S.-Bidhanagar (S), (N) 24 Pgs, Pin- 700105, that Hashi Mondal and Kalpana Mandal is same & identical person vide affidavit No. 2013, dated 07.02.2025 vide 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Alipore.

NAME CHANGE
I, Zehra Izzaar / Zehra Unsa Izzaar daughter of Syed Izzaar I Haque residing at 41-B Lower Range, Kolkata-700019 have changed my name after marriage and shall henceforth be known as Zehra Izzaar Quader as declared before the First Class Magistrate South 24 Parganas, Sealdah Court vide affidavit no. 143 dated 07.02.2025. Zehra Izzaar / Zehra Unsa Izzaar and Zehra Izzaar Quader are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Tulshi Mal, Mother Of Army NO. 13627655N, RANK Hav Name Dibyendu Mal, Resident Of Vill- Belar, P.O.-Belar Bardhaman, P.S.-Madhabniti, Dist- Purba Bardhaman, W.B., PIN-713427, have changed my name & Date of Birth from Tulsi Mal & 02.01.1970 To Tulshi Mal & 28.05.1967 Vide Affidavit Dated 04.02.2025 before The Notary at Purba Bardhaman. That Tulshi Mal and Tulsi Mal both are the same one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Asok Kumar Nayak S/o Lt. Kanai Lal Nayak R/A E - 130, 1st Floor, Baghatjan Colony, P.O. Baghatjan, P.S. - Patuli, Kolkata - 700086, Dist. South 24 Pgs (W.B) have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ashok Sen as declared before the Learned 1st Class Judicial Magistrate Court, Alipore (W.B.) vide Affidavit no. 11201, dated 11.02.2025. Ashok Kumar Nayak and Ashok Sen S/o Lt. Kanai Lal Sen both are same and identical person. That due to my personal reasons I have changed my name from Asok Kumar Nayak S/o Lt. Kanai Lal Nayak to Ashok Sen.

Change of Name
I, PRASANTA MONDAL (Old Name) S/O SHASANKA SEKHAR MONDAL Residing at Vill-Bhabanipur, P.O.-Chakdaha, P.S.-Chakdaha, District - Nadia, Pin - 741222, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as PRASANTA KUMAR MONDAL (New Name) as declared before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate 1st Class at Kolkata vide affidavit No. 4075 Dated 27-01-2025. PRASANTA MONDAL (Old Name) and PRASANTA KUMAR MONDAL (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Change of Name
I, SK AJMUL MOHAMMAD (Father's Name) on behalf my minor son MUJAHID MAHAMMAD SHAIKH (Old Name) Residing at Vill-Jatimati, P.O.-Digha New Township, District-East Medinipur, Pin-721463, West Bengal, India have changed his name and he shall henceforth be known as SK MUJAHID MAHAMMAD (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Govt of India vide affidavit Dated 13/02/2025. MUJAHID MAHAMMAD SHAIKH (Old Name) and SK MUJAHID MAHAMMAD (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Change of Name
I, Sushanta Choudhury alias Sushanta Choudhury (Old Name) S/o Kathiswar Choudhury Residing at Vill - Kalkhali Nutanpara, Haritala, District - Nadia, Pin - 741502 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Sushanta Choudhury (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Date 13-02-2025. Sushanta Choudhury, Sushanta Choudhury (Old Name) and Sushanta Choudhury (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

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

NAME CHANGE
I, Shaikh Abdul Rahaman (Old Name), Son Of Shaikh Nuruddin (Sk Nura Residing At Vill & Po- Jerrhan, Ps- Egra, East Medinipur -721420, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sk Abdul Rahaman (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 12/02/2025. That Shaikh Abdul Rahaman And Sk Abdul Rahaman Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Change of Name
I, SK AJMUL MOHAMMAD (Father's Name) on behalf my minor son MOYAJ MOHAMMAD SHAIKH (Old Name) Residing at Vill-Jatimati, P.O.-Digha New Township, District-East Medinipur, Pin-721463, West Bengal, India have changed his name and he shall henceforth be known as SK MOYAJ MOHAMMAD (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Govt of India vide affidavit Dated 13/02/2025. MOYAJ MOHAMMAD SHAIKH (Old Name) and SK MOYAJ MOHAMMAD (New Name) both are same and identical person.

Change of Name
I, AJMUL MOHAMMAD SHAIKH (Old Name) S/O SK EKRAM MOHAMMAD Residing at Vill-Jatimati, P.O.-Digha New Township, District - East Medinipur, Pin - 721463, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as SK AJMUL MOHAMMAD (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Govt of India at Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 13-02-2025. AJMUL MOHAMMAD SHAIKH (Old Name) and SK AJMUL MOHAMMAD (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Change of Name
I, Juliet Bhatia (Old Name) W/o John A Bhatia Residing at Manaspur Road, Purbayan, Lily Bagan, VTC-Hugli-Chinsurah(M), Po-Sahaganj, District-Hooghly, Pin - 712104 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Juliet Fatima Bhatia (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Date 13-02-2025. Juliet Bhatia (Old Name) and Juliet Fatima Bhatia (New Name) both as same and one identical person.

Change of Name
I, Baigita Nazreen (Old Name) D/o Haji Abdul Jabbar Residing at 25/B, Mofidul Islamlane, Entally, Intally S.O. Intally, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700014 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Bazgha Nazreen (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Date 13-02-2025. Baigita Nazreen (Old Name) and Bazgha Nazreen (New Name) both as same and one identical person.

Change of Name
I, Argha Pratim Chowdhury S/o Late Anjan Krishna Chowdhury Residing at 23 D K.P. Roy Lane Tollygunge, Po-Tollygunge, P.S.-Charu Market, District-Kolkata, Pin-700033 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Argha Pratap Chowdhury. I declare that Argha Pratim Chowdhury and Argha Pratap Chowdhury is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 12-02-2025.

Change of Name
I, Samrat Mondal (Old Name) S/o Late Sankar Mondal Residing at Vill - Kalkhali, Po - Haritala, P.S. - Hanskhali, District - Nadia, Pin - 741502 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Samrat Mandal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Date 13-02-2025. Samrat Mondal (Old Name) and Samrat Mandal (New Name) both as same and one identical person.

Change of Name
I, Samrat Mondal S/o Late Sankar Mondal (Date of Death: 23-02-2005) Residing at Vill-Kalkhali, Po-Haritala, P.S.-Hanskhali, District-Nadia, Pin-741502 West Bengal India that my deceased father who previously known as Shankar Mondal and Sankar Mandal shall henceforth be known as Sankar Mondal. I declare that my deceased father Shankar Mondal, Sankar Mandal and Sankar Mondal is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 13-02-2025.

Change of Name
I, Ajanta Choudhury (Old Name) W/o Shusanta Choudhury Residing at Vill - Kalkhali Nutanpara, Haritala, District - Nadia, Pin - 741502 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Ajanta Choudhury (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Date 13-02-2025. Ajanta Choudhury (Old Name) and Ajanta Choudhury (New Name) both as same and one identical person.

Change of Name
I, Biswanath Choudhury (Old Name) S/o Shusanta Choudhury Residing at Vill - Kalkhali Nutanpara, Haritala, District - Nadia, Pin - 741502 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Biswanath Choudhury (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Date 13-02-2025. Biswanath Choudhury (Old Name) and Biswanath Choudhury (New Name) both as same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Gautam Bhuiya, Son Of Radhaballav Bhuiya, Residing At 59/60, Bagmari Road, B.R.S-3, Block-13, Flat-19/20, P.S.-Manicktala, Kolkata-700054, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Gautam Bhuiya (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 12/02/2025. That Gautam Bhuiya And Gautam Bhuiya Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Nayan Chandra Pal (Old Name), Son Of Kalapada Pal, Residing At Vill-Barunia, Po-Darra, Ps-Debra, Paschim Medinipur 721124, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Nayan Pal (New Name) Vide An Affidavit No 5238 Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Kolkata On 30/01/2025. That Nayan Chandra Pal And Nayan Pal Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Dwitteya Ashish Chaudhuri (Old Name), D/O Late Ashish Kumar Chaudhuri, R/O Flat-5/3, Salt Lake, Ps-Bidhanagar South Bidhanagar-700097, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Dwitteya Chaudhuri (New Name), Vide An Affidavit No 89 Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Kolkata On 02/12/2024. That Dwitteya Ashish Chaudhuri And Dwitteya Chaudhuri All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Naren Bag (Old Name), Son of Jiban Krishna Bag residing at Chickrand, P-Chanditala, Hooghly Pin-712304, West Bengal, shall henceforth be known as Narendra Nath Bag (New Name) vide an affidavit sworn Before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 12/02/2025. That Naren Bag and Narendra Nath Bag both are the same and One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Amrita Ghosh, Wife Of Sibnath Ghosh, Residing At 11/2A Gour Day Lane, Ps-Muchipara, Kolkata-700012, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Amrita Karmakar Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 12/02/2025. That Amrita Ghosh And Amrita Karmakar Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sabiha Azid d/o Mohammad Anzar Alam, residing at Fe 506 flat- 7, Sector 3, Salt Lake, Bidhanagar 700106, was called Sabiha Alam before marriage. After marriage I became Sabiha Aziz. This name I have retained even after divorce. Hence Sabiha Alam and Sabiha Aziz are same person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Soyab Alam Shaikh (Old Name), S/O Sk Johur Alam, R/O Vill-Kantila, Po-Nibra, Ps-Domjur, Howrah-711409, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sk Soyab Alam (New Name), Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 12/02/2025. That Soyab Alam Shaikh And Sk Soyab Alam All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Shaikh Johur Alam & Sk Johur Alam (Old Name) S/O Mohammad Ali Shaikh, R/O Sekh Para, Near Power House, Kantila, Ps-Domjur, Howrah-711409, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Johur Alam Shaikh (New Name), Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 12/02/2025. That Shaikh Johur Alam & Sk Johur Alam And Johur Alam Shaikh All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Shamila Chaudhury (Old Name), W/O Late Ashish Kumar Chaudhuri, R/O W/5, C1-12, Purbachal Housing Estate, Salt Lake, Bidhanagar(M) Purbachal North 24 Parganas-700097, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Samliia Chaudhuri (New Name), Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 12/02/2025. That Samliia Chaudhuri And Shamila Chaudhuri All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Mohammed Majid (Old Name) S/O Aziz Ahmed Resident Of 118, Elliot Road, Po & Ps - Park Street, Kolkata-700016, West Bengal. I have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md Majid (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/02/2025. That Mohammed Majid (Old Name) And Md Majid (New Name) All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Pinaki Banerjee (Old Name) son of Purnatosh Bandyopadhyay, residing at Banerjee Para, Moydah Kalitara, Bakultala, Pin- 743337, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Pinaki Bandyopadhyay (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 13/02/2025. Pinaki Bandyopadhyay (New Name) and Pinaki Banerjee (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Manoj Biskarma (Old Name) son of Sitaran Biskwakama, residing at 76/1 P Road, Near Kishor Bahini Club Belghachia, P.S.- Liluah, Dist.- Howrah, Pin-711108, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Manoj Kumar Biskwakama (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 13/02/2025. Manoj Kumar Biskwakama (New Name) and Manoj Biskarma (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Biswajit Biskarma (Old Name) son of Manoj Kumar Biskwakama, residing at 76/1 P Road, Near Kishor Bahini Club Belghachia, P.S.- Liluah, Dist.- Howrah, Pin-711108, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Biswajit Biskwakama (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 13/02/2025. Biswajit Biskwakama (New Name) and Biswajit Biskarma (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sneha Sekhani & Sneha Abhilasha Sekhani (Old Name) wife of Nishant Kotthari, residing at P-104, Senhati Colony, Kolkata- 700034, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sneha Kotthari (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 13/02/2025. Sneha Kotthari (New Name) and Sneha Sekhani & Sneha Abhilasha Sekhani (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Anil Kumar Pari (Old Name) son of Kalachand Pari, residing at Dakshin Palasi, P.O.- Khursi, West Medinipur, P.S.- Narayangarh, Pin- 721437, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Anil Pari (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 13/02/2025. Anil Pari (New Name) and Anil Kumar Pari (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Afgil Mullik (Old Name) son of Late, Luffar Rahaman Mullik, residing at Darsa Bara Mullik Para, P.O. - Baltikuri, P.S.- Dasnagar, Howrah, Pin- 711113, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Afgil Mullik (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 13/02/2025. Afgil Mullik (New Name) and Afgil Mullik (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

More passenger convenience at Raniganj station with new 13-person capacity lift



MI News Service, Kolkata: In a significant move towards enhancing passenger convenience and accessibility, a new lift has been installed with a capacity of 13 persons at Raniganj Station, Platform No. 4. This addition marks a pivotal step in improving the travel experience for the passengers, with more comfortable movement for differently abled persons, senior citizens and lady passengers. The new lift is designed to ensure smooth and comfortable access to the platform, thereby significantly reducing the challenges faced by passengers with mobility issues. Different-

ly-abled passengers, senior citizens, and those with heavy luggage will now be able to navigate the station with ease, enhancing their overall journey experience. Additionally, the lift is equipped with an Automatic Rescue Device (ARD), which ensures passenger safety by automatically moving the lift to the nearest floor in case of power failure. This initiative aligns with Eastern Railway's ongoing efforts to modernize its infrastructure and provide world-class amenities to travelers. By prioritizing accessibility, Asansol Division of Eastern Railway aims to create a more inclusive environment, ensuring that every passenger, regardless of their physical abilities, can travel with dignity and convenience. Passengers have expressed their appreciation for this thoughtful addition, highlighting the positive impact it will have on their daily commute. The lift is now operational and ready to serve the needs of all passengers at Raniganj Station in Asansol Division.

Executive health check-up camp held at Tapan Sinha Memorial Hospital

MI News Service, Kolkata: Medical Department of Metro Railway regularly organizes health camps to bring health care & check-up facilities to Metro employees, officers and their family members. As a part of this endeavour, an Executive Health Check Up camp was organised today i.e. on 13.02.2025 at Tapan Sinha Memorial Hospital. Shri P. Uday Kumar

Reddy, General Manager, Metro Railway inaugurated this camp this morning. He and other senior officers were present in this camp. Altogether, 61 officers attended this Health Check Up Camp today. In this camp different health parameters were checked and blood tests were done. Senior Medical Officers advised all the participants accordingly.

Regulation of trains for bridge maintenance work between Diara - Singur station over Howrah division

MI News Service, Kolkata: For maintenance of Bridge No. 16 between Diara & Nasibpur stations and Bridge No. 21 between Nasibpur & Singur stations of Howrah Division, following arrangements in train running have been made on 15.02.2025 & 16.02.2025 as under:
Cancellation on 15.02.2025 (Saturday): From Howrah to Tarakeswar: 37349, 37351 From Tarakeswar to Howrah: 37354
Cancellation on 16.02.2025 (Sunday): DN Direction From Tarakeswar to Howrah: 37312, 37314, 37316, 37318, 37320, 37356, 37322, 37328

From Tarakeswar to Sheoraphuli: 37412, 37416 From Goghat to Howrah: 37372 From Goghat to Tarakeswar: 37390 From Arambagh to Howrah: 37360 From Haripal to Howrah: 37308 UP Direction From Howrah to Goghat: -37371, 37373 From Howrah to Tarakeswar: 37309, 37353, 37311, 37313, 37315, 37317 From Sheoraphuli to Tarakeswar: 37411, 37415 From Howrah to Arambagh: 37359 From Howrah to Haripal: 37307

Snowfall likely in Darjeeling, fog warnings issued across Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecasted snowfall in Darjeeling on Friday, while light rain is expected in Jalpaiguri and Kalimpong. Dense fog warnings have been issued for Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, and Cooch Behar, with visibility expected to drop between 50 to 199 meters in the mornings, potentially disrupting travel. While northern West Bengal will remain mostly dry apart from these localized weather events, dense fog is expected to affect parts of South Bengal, including North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, East Burdwan, and Nadia. Other districts may also experience patchy fog, which could cause traffic disruptions and reduced visibility. No rainfall has been predicted for South Bengal.

Alipore Regional Meteorological Commissioner Somnath Dutta explained that the foggy conditions are due to excessive water vapor entering the state from the North Bay of Bengal. This has led to moisture accumulation, which, combined with low wind speeds, results in fog formation. He advised caution for morning travelers in fog-prone areas. While fog and light rain persist in some parts of Bengal, the overall winter season is weakening. Temperatures have remained above normal for most of February, with Kolkata experiencing unseasonably warm nights. On Wednesday, Kolkata's minimum temperature was recorded at 21.8°C, which is 4.1 degrees above normal. Meanwhile, the maximum temperature on Tuesday reached 29.1°C, slightly exceeding the seasonal average. Although a slight drop of 2 to 3 degrees is expected in both North and South Bengal over the next two days, it won't bring any significant chill. Instead, temperatures are predicted to rise again by 2 degrees shortly after, said Dutta.

NAME CHANGE
I, Zia Nafis (Old Name), Son Of Late Nafisul Hasan, Residing At 2B Colonel Biswas Road, Kolkata - 700019, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Mohammed Zia Nafis (New Name) Vide An Affidavit No 2092 Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Kolkata On 12/02/2025. That Zia Nafis And Mohammed Zia Nafis Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Zia Nafis (Old Name), Son Of Late Nafisul Hasan, Residing At 2B Colonel Biswas Road, Kolkata - 700019, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Mohammed Zia Nafis (New Name) Vide An Affidavit No 2092 Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Kolkata On 12/02/2025. That Zia Nafis And Mohammed Zia Nafis Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Safi Noor Selim Javed (Old Name) son of Saifque Ahmed, residing at Vill.- Amodpur, P.O.- Amodpur, P.S.- Minakhan, Dist.- Minakhan, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin-743456, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as S. N. Selim Javed (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 13/02/2025. S. N. Selim Javed (New Name) and Safi Noor Selim Javed (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Safi Noor Selim Javed (Old Name) son of Saifque Ahmed, residing at Vill.- Amodpur, P.O.- Amodpur, P.S.- Minakhan, Dist.- Minakhan, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin-743456, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as S. N. Selim Javed (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 13/02/2025. S. N. Selim Javed (New Name) and Safi Noor Selim Javed (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Eastern Railway to install Train Indication Boards (TIB) at 40 key stations in Howrah division

MI News Service, Kolkata: Eastern Railway is continuing its commitment to passenger convenience and station modernization with the installation of Train Indication Boards (TIB) at 40 key stations across the Howrah Division. This major infrastructure upgrade will cover stations including Belmuri, Diara, Gurap, Palla Road, Dainhat, Dhatrigram, Khamargachi, Patuli, Srirampur, Rishra, Konnagar, Sheoraphuli, Belur Math, Liluah, Hooghly, Agradwip, Lakshampur, Bhandarkuri, Bagnapara, Behula, Somrabazar, Balagarh, Dumurdaha, Kuntighat, Arambagh, Mayapur, Bahirkhandha, Sainthia, Bolpur, Pakur, Rampurhat, Madhusudanpur, Porabazar, Shibaichandi, Ha-

zigarh, Jhapandanga, Gobra, Janai Road, Mirzapur Bankipur, and more. The installation of TIBs at these stations aims to enhance passenger experience by providing real-time information on train schedules, platform numbers, delays, and cancellations. These dynamic boards will be positioned at strategic points across the stations, ensuring passengers can easily access crucial travel updates without confusion or unnecessary crowding. Beyond convenience, the initiative also plays a crucial role in passenger safety. By offering clear and timely updates, TIBs will help manage crowds, minimize last-minute rushes, and reduce congestion at platforms. This

will particularly benefit passengers during peak travel hours, allowing for a safer and more organized station environment. This step aligns with Eastern Railway's broader station modernization efforts, which focus on integrating smart solutions into railway operations. The implementation of TIBs will streamline passenger movement, enhance travel efficiency, and contribute to an overall improved railway experience. With this initiative, Eastern Railway continues its commitment to providing seamless and reliable services to millions of passengers, making train travel smarter, safer, and more efficient across the Howrah Division.

MP Raju Bista pushes for infra development in hills and Terai

MI News Service, Darjeeling: Darjeeling MP Raju Bista recently met with Nitin Gadkari, the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, to discuss the urgent need for infrastructure development in the Darjeeling hills, Terai, and Dooars regions. The meeting primarily focused on expediting crucial highway projects that would enhance connectivity and boost economic growth in the region. During the discussion, Bista emphasized the importance of constructing an alternative highway to Darjeeling via Balason and Ghoom. He urged the ministry to speed up the project to ensure smooth and safe travel for residents and tourists. Additionally, he pushed for the completion of the Siliguri Ring Road, a long-pending project that, once completed, would help decongest traffic in Siliguri and improve overall transportation management in the region. Bista also highlighted the significance of a new highway connecting Darjeeling to Teesta via Lebong and DabaiPani. This project, he stated, would provide an

alternative route and enhance connectivity between the key regions, benefiting both locals and visitors. Furthermore, he pressed for the expansion and maintenance of NH55, a critical highway that serves as a lifeline for the Darjeeling hills. He requested that the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) take charge of ensuring its proper upkeep and timely development. Another key proposal put forward by Bista was the construction of a new bridge to complement the existing Coronation Bridge. The Coronation Bridge, which connects Siliguri to the Dooars and Northeast India, has long been a concern due to its age and increasing traffic load. A new bridge would significantly improve safety for travelers and enhance connectivity to the region. In addition to road infrastructure, Bista proposed the development of several ropeways across the Darjeeling hills and Dooars. He argued that ropeways would provide an eco-friendly and efficient mode of transportation, easing the burden

on roads while improving accessibility for residents, tourists, and businesses in the hilly terrain. Responding to Bista's demands, Minister Nitin Gadkari expressed his full support for the proposals. He assured the MP that the requests would be treated as a priority, with steps being taken to fast-track approvals and funding for the proposed projects. The push for Infrastructure development in Darjeeling, Terai, and Dooars comes at a crucial time, as the region continues to struggle with poor road conditions, heavy traffic congestion, and limited connectivity. The proposed projects, if implemented effectively, will not only boost tourism and local businesses but also enhance overall quality of life for the people of the region. With Minister Gadkari's assurance and continued efforts from MP Raju Bista, residents of North Bengal are hopeful that these long-pending infrastructural issues will finally be addressed, paving the way for better roads, improved connectivity, and sustainable development.

MCCI organised Special Session on 'India-Russia Economic Partnership

MI News Service, Kolkata: Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised a Special Session with Mr. Maxim V. Kozlov, Consul General of the Russian Federation in Kolkata on 'India-Russia Economic Partnership: Trade and Investment Prospects' here today at the Chamber. Ms. Ekaterina Tyurina, Vice Consul of the Russian Federation in Kolkata was also present at the Session. Mr. Amit Saraogi, President, MCCI, focused on giving efforts to diversify trade between the two countries by identifying new sectors with opportunities such as pharmaceuticals, agriculture, tourism and livestock. He highlighted several challenges like geographical constraints, trade imbalance, regulatory environment, currency issues and competing partnerships to be addressed to take the bilateral trade to its full potential. While giving the theme address Mr. Arun Kumar Garodia, Chairman, Council on Foreign Trade, MCCI emphasized more on the role of

a state in facilitating bilateral ties and viewed that West Bengal is now all set to play a lead role in facilitating bilateral economic and commercial relation with Russia. Mr. Garodia also underscored the importance of FTA/CECA with the Eurasian Economic Union. Mr. Garodia further mentioned several areas of collaboration opportunities specifically focussing on West Bengal such as ship-building, medical devices and energy saving technologies. He further highlighted immense opportunities in mobility sector in eastern India. Mr. Maxim V. Kozlov, Consul General of the Russian Federation in Kolkata in his address mentioned that India-Russia trade volume has grown 5 times over the last 5 years. While prioritizing the strategic partnership, the two countries have set the bilateral trade goal of achieving US\$100 billion by 2030. The envoy mentioned that technology remains the cornerstone of Russia-India partnership underscoring focused sectors like edu-tech,

digital marketing, cyber security. He further emphasized on the export of skilled manpower from India to Russia. He also pointed out that India is the main supplier of medicines, smartphones to Russia. The Sectors including energy, IT, pharmaceuticals, machineries, cyber security, agri-machinery, bio-technology, nuclear energy offer huge scope for both nations to enhance their co-operation. He mentioned that India-Russia have decided to sign the Mutual Trade Protection Agreement, to boost overall trade. He further informed that the customs services of Russia and India have signed an agreement on mutual recognition of national institutions of the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) in May 2024. The session ended with a hearty Vote of thanks proposed by Mr. Munish Jhajharia, Vice President, MCCI. He proposed that MCCI would be happy to host a High-Level Business Delegation from Russia to Bengal to explore collaboration in different sectors.

Indian Railways is working day and night to ensure that pilgrims return home without any delay after taking the holy bath on MaghiPurnima : Ashwini Vaishnav

MI News Service, New Delhi: Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav along with CEO & CRB, Satish Kumar on Thursday reviewed crowd management situation of Prayagraj Railway stations in the war room at Rail Bhavan. The Minister instructed officials to ensure that trains are made available for pilgrims in all directions. He also mentioned that the Prayagraj division has been directed to run extra trains as needed to ease passenger congestion while ensuring passenger comfort in the holding areas. According to the Mahakumbh Railway Information Bulletin, by 6:00 PM today (12 February 2025), 225 trains had been run for the convenience of passengers, with over 12.46 lakh passengers having travelled. On Tuesday, 11 February 2025, 343 trains



were operated, carrying more than 14.69 lakh passengers. Information related to trains is continuously being provided by Indian Railways through various channels—including special bulletins, the Mahakumbh area holding zones, railway stations, social media, and other media outlets. For the convenience of passengers, four holding areas near Prayagraj junction railway station (each with a capacity of 5,000) have fully been operational. Addition-

ally, a new holding area at Khusrabagh with a capacity 100,000 passengers has been operational today on the occasion of MaghiPurnima with Special arrangements for lodging, meals, and other essentials have been made so that waiting passengers can stay comfortably until they board their trains. All passengers are advised to obtain information only from official sources and to avoid any unverified reports and misleading information.

Fire at Jalpai More guts six shops, Siliguri Mayor assures support

MI News Service, Siliguri: A massive fire broke out late Wednesday night at Jalpai More in Siliguri, causing extensive damage to six shops in the area. The incident, suspected to have been caused by a short circuit, quickly escalated as gas cylinders inside one of the shops exploded, intensifying the blaze. Local residents, upon noticing the fire, alerted

the fire department immediately, and several fire tenders were dispatched to the scene. However, despite their efforts, the fire had already gutted multiple shops, leading to losses worth several lakhs of rupees. The affected businesses include a fast-food outlet, a sweet shop, and a photo studio, all of which suffered significant financial losses.

the fire department immediately, and several fire tenders were dispatched to the scene. However, despite their efforts, the fire had already gutted multiple shops, leading to losses worth several lakhs of rupees. The affected businesses include a fast-food outlet, a sweet shop, and a photo studio, all of which suffered significant financial losses.

Karnataka HC quashes fake news case against journalist Arnab Goswami

MI News Service, Bengaluru: The Karnataka High Court on Thursday passed a judgement in favour of renowned journalist Arnab Goswami, the editor-in-chief of Republic News and quashed the case filed by the Bengaluru Police last year. The case was filed following accusations that Goswami broadcast a false news report about the Chief Minister of Karnataka.

The bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna has passed the order in the matter. A detailed order is awaited in the matter. In December 2024, the Karnataka High Court had put a hold on the criminal proceedings initiated by the Karnataka police against journalist Arnab Goswami. During the issuance of the interim order to halt the investigation against the Republic TV editor-in-chief, the court referred to the filing of the FIR as a "reckless registration of a crime."

Centre grants Z category CRPF security across India to Dalai Lama

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Central government has granted Z-category Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) security cover for Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama across India, sources said.

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) took the decision to provide the security cover following a recent Intelligence Bureau's threats analysis report. Dalai Lama was previously under the protection of the Himachal Pradesh Police and other security agencies. However, given recent intelligence inputs and potential risks, the Home Ministry has decided to assign the CRPF for his security, ensuring a more coordinated and robust protection plan.

No objection to dissent notes, says Amit Shah amid Oppn protests in Lok Sabha on Waqf Bill report

MI News Service, New Delhi: Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that the government has no objection if dissent notes of the Opposition are added to the Joint Parliamentary Committee report on the Waqf Amendment Bill, which was tabled in Parliament today.

Chairman of the Waqf Amendment Bill, Jagdambika Pal today tabled the panel's report in the Lok Sabha amid opposition protest. Earlier in the day, the report was tabled in Parliament today.

Addressing the Lower House of Parliament, Union Home Minister Shah amidst Opposition sloganeering said that, "Some members of the Opposition have raised objections that their dissent notes have not been fully included in the report. On behalf of my party, I would like to request that the disputes of the opposition be included in the appropriate procedure of the

parliamentary process; my party has no objection to this." Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said that he has included all the dissent notes after meeting with the Opposition leaders.

"Whatever issues were raised by the members of the Waqf Board who met with me, I have included them in the annexure," Birla said. The Lok Sabha was subsequently adjourned till 11 am on March 10.

Congress National President and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge had earlier opposed the JPC report on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, alleging that dissent notes from Opposition members were removed.

Kharge said that it is not right to remove the dissent notes and views of the Opposition members from the report. "In the JPC report on the Waqf Board, many members have their dissent report. It is not right to remove those notes and buldoze our views. This is anti-democratic and con-

demnable. Stockholders were called from outside and their statements were taken. I condemn any report that has been presented after deleting the dissent reports. We will never accept such fake reports. If the report does not have dissent views, it should be sent back and presented again," Kharge said.

Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha, JP Nadda, hit back at the opposition, calling their protest "irresponsible." "Inside the Parliament, there are debates and discussions on various issues, and within a democracy, we agree to disagree, but we must respect traditions. While keeping traditions in mind, the proceedings of the house should be conducted under the provisions of the Constitution," he said.

"I regret that despite repeated requests from the Chairman, the opposition's behaviour has been extremely irresponsible, and it deserves all the condemnation it receives," Nadda added.

Not right to call JPC report unconstitutional, all dissent notes included," says Kiren Rijiju on Oppn protest on Waqf Bill

MI News Service, New Delhi: Amid Opposition protest over a joint parliamentary council report on the Waqf Amendment Bill, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday assured that dissent notes of the leaders are included in the report and it is not right to term the report as illegal and unconstitutional.

Speaking to mediapersons, Rijiju asserted that the whole report has been presented, and the annexure has also been presented in the House.

"If the dissent notes cast aspersion on the committee, then the chairman has the power to remove it if needed. The chairman has this power as per the rules. If the members think that something should not have been removed, they can ask the chairman. It is not right to call the JPC report illegal and unconstitutional... It is not NDA's report; it is the report of the Parliament," Rijiju said.

"All dissent reports are included in the report which was tabled in the Rajya Sabha and will be tabled in the Lok Sabha," Rijiju added.

Congress National President and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, on Thursday alleged that dissent notes from Opposition members were removed.

Kharge said that it is not right to remove the dissent notes and views of the Opposition members from the report.

"In the JPC report on the Waqf Board, many members have their dissent report. It is not right to remove those notes and buldoze our views. This is anti-democratic and condemnable. Stockholders were called from outside and their statements were taken. I condemn any report that has been presented after deleting the dissent reports. We will never accept such fake reports. If the report does not

FM Sitharaman tables new Income Tax bill in Lok Sabha, virtual assets like crypto defined under income from other sources

MI News Service, New Delhi: The government on Thursday tabled the New Income Tax Bill, 2025, which aims to simplify tax laws, modernize definitions, and provide more clarity on various tax-related matters.

This new bill, tabled in Lok Sabha by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, seeks to replace the existing Income Tax Act, 1961 and introduce changes that affect different categories of taxpayers, including individuals, businesses, and non-profit organizations.

After presenting the income tax bill the Finance Minister asked Lok Sabha Speaker to nominate members for a standing committee to reviewing the newly tabled income tax bill. One of the significant changes in the new bill is the introduction of simplified language and modern terminology. It replaces outdated terms and brings in new ones to align with today's economy.

For example, it introduces the term "tax year" in-

stead of the existing terms like financial year and assessment year systems. It also defines "virtual digital asset" and "electronic mode", reflecting the growing importance of digital transactions and cryptocurrency in today's financial landscape.

In terms of scope of total income, the new bill makes certain clarifications while maintaining the existing tax principles. Under the previous law, Sections 5 and 9 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, stated that Indian residents were taxed on their global income, while non-residents were taxed only on the income they earned in India.

The new bill, in Clauses 5 and 9, retains this rule but provides a clearer definition of deemed income, such as payments made to specific individuals, making tax rules more transparent for non-residents.

The bill also brings changes to deductions and exemptions. Earlier, Sections 10 and 80C to 80U of the Income Tax Act, 1961, allowed deductions for investments, donations, and specific expenses.

The new bill, in Clauses 67 to 91, keeps the same categorization but introduces explicit provisions for virtual digital assets and updates beneficial tax rates. This ensures that digital assets, such as cryptocurrency, are covered under a proper tax framework.

For non-profit organizations, the previous law, under Sections 11 to 13, provided income tax exemptions for certain charitable purposes

but had limited compliance guidelines. The new bill, in Clauses 332 to 355, establishes a more detailed framework, clearly defining taxable income, compliance rules, and restrictions on commercial activities. This introduces a stricter compliance regime while also providing well-defined exemptions.

Overall, the Income Tax Bill, 2025 aims to simplify tax laws, encourage digital and startup investments, and bring greater clarity in taxation policies for businesses and non-profits. The government believes these changes will make tax compliance easier while ensuring a fair tax structure for all categories of taxpayers.

PWD (GOVT OF WB) TENDER NOTICE eNIT No.: 77/City (E) of 2024-25 of The E.E.-I, City Dvn., P.W.D. for 08 (eight) nos. work are invited from bonafied outsider only having credential for similar nature of works.

Office of the Salboni Panchayat Samity, Salboni, Paschim Medinipur E-TENDER NOTICE NIT NO-396/EO/SALBONI PS/e NIT 2024-25 Dated-11.02.2025 e-tender is invited by the E.O, Salboni Panchayat Samity for 2 No of civil work under Salboni Panchayat Samity

Office of the Salboni Panchayat Samity, Salboni, Paschim Medinipur E-TENDER NOTICE NIT NO-394/EO/SALBONI PS/e NIT 2024-25 Dated-11.02.2025 e-tender is invited by the E.O, Salboni Panchayat Samity for 1 No of civil work under 15th CFC under Panchayat Samity

Office of the Block Development Officer Katwa-II Development Block Dainhat, Purba Bardhaman Notice Inviting e-Tender e-Tenders are invited vide eNIT No.-WB/PURBA-BWN/KAT-II/24-25/042 & 043, Date: 11th February, 2025 by the BDO, Katwa-II Dev. Block, Dainhat, Purba Bardhaman.

ED freezes Rs 170 crore of 30 bank accounts in money laundering case linking QFX Trade Ltd

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has frozen movable properties in the form of more than 30 bank account balance of some shell companies to the tune of Rs 170 crore following a raid conducted two days ago in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana in connection with a case of QFX Trade Ltd, the agency said on Thursday.

The action was taken after the ED's Chandigarh Zonal Office conducted search operations on February 11 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 at various locations in Delhi, Noida, Rohtak in Haryana and Shamli in Uttar Pradesh as part of an ongoing investi-



gation in the case of QFX Trade Ltd and others running multi-level marketing scheme (MLM) under the guise of forex trading through their Directors Raiender Sood, Vineet Kumar and Santosh Kumar and one of the mastermind Nawab Ali alias Lavish Chaudhary.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of multiple FIRs registered by Himachal Police against QFX company which had defrauded many investors through a fraudulent forex trading scheme.

"QFX company and its Directors were running an unregulated deposit scheme, promising high returns on investments to the investors," said the ED.

count balances of these shell companies to the tune of Rs 170 crore have been frozen as directors of the company could not explain the source of funds.

"Searches were also conducted on some of the agents of QFX and YFX. Cash amount of more than Rs 90 lakh were seized from one of the premises of one of the agents. Various incriminating documents and digital devices have been recovered and seized during the search operation," it added.

Ali alias Lavish Chaudhary such as BotBro, TLC Coin, Yorker FX projecting them as forex trading apps and websites.

"Various events are being organized in India and Dubai to lure more customers," stated the ED.

ED investigation further revealed that multiple bank accounts of Rax Box Private Limited, Capter Money Solutions Private Limited and Tiger Digital Services Private Limited are being used for collection of funds from investors.

ED said that the searches were conducted on the office and premises of directors of these companies, which revealed that these shell companies were being used by the masterminds of QFX and YFX scheme for receiving deposits from public for investment in QFX and YFX in the name of giving high returns claiming that returns are generated from forex trading.

During the course of search operations, movable properties in the form of more than 30 Bank ac-

Metro Railway, Kolkata Tender Notice for e-tendering is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway for the following work: Name of work: Rehabilitation of PF of Kavi Subhash (KKS) Station by removal of existing roof shed and rebuilding the damaged portions of the Platform and erection of new sheds on Platforms of Metro Railway Kolkata.

EASTERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING E-AUCTION E-Auction Notice No. COM/PUB/HWH/GBT/RS/24, dated: 12.02.2025 E-Auction is invited by Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, 4th Floor, Rail Yatri Niwas Building, near Howrah station, Howrah-711101 for awarding contract of Commercial Publicity Rights.

Kumbh Mela Special Train between Agra Cantt. & Kolkata To clear extra rush of passengers, 01903 / 01904 Agra Cantt. - Kolkata - Agra Cantt. Kumbh Mela Special train will run as per following abstract timings, dates of run, stoppages and composition:

GOLECHHA GLOBAL FINANCE LIMITED CIN : L615191WB1991PLC201747 Registered Office : Room No. 522 Floor, 1. Old Court House Corner, Kolkata-700 001 TEL : 91-33-22483331

Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Andhra see obesity more among women than men: Economic Survey

Delhi : Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh have higher proportion of women with obesity compared to men, according to a shocking revelation in the Economic Survey tabled in the Parliament on Monday. In the National Capital Territory (Delhi), 41.3 per cent of women are obese compared to 38 per cent for men, said the survey, citing National Family Health Survey (NFHS). In Tamil Nadu, it is 40.4 per cent for women while 37 per cent men are obese. In Andhra Pradesh, 36.3 per cent of women are obese as against 31.1 per cent for men.

Tabled by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the survey said, "Combined with an ageing population in some states, obesity presents a concerning situation. Preventive measures must be taken to enable citizens to have



a healthier lifestyle." The survey added that obesity is higher in cities than in rural areas, affecting 29.8 per cent men in urban local-

ities compared to 19.3 per cent of men in villages. Unhealthy diets contribute to 54 per cent of total disease burden in India, said the survey, sparking worries about increased consumption of processed food items, reduced physical activity and limited access to diverse foods.

The survey warned that preventive measures must be taken to enable citizens to have a healthier lifestyle. In order to reap the gains of the country's demographic dividend, it is critical that Indian population's health parameters transition towards a balanced and diverse diet, said the document. The adult obesity rate in the country has more than tripled while the rise among children is the steepest in the world, after Vietnam and Namibia, said the survey, citing a World Obesity Federation report. The Economic Survey was tabled a day ahead of the presentation of the Union Budget 2024.

Mental health crisis emphasises access issues: Study

MASSACHUSETTS [US] : According to the American Psychological Association's 2023 Practitioner Pulse Survey, the ongoing mental health crisis is posing substantial obstacles for many psychologists as they deal with increased demand from patients coming with increasingly severe symptoms year after year.

The survey, which was completed by 561 licenced practising psychologists between August 30 and September 29, 2023, discovered that not only did more than half of psychologists (52 per cent) report an increase in the severity of symptoms among their patients, but 41 per cent reported an increase in the number of sessions spent treating each patient, which may limit their capacity to accept new patients.

Similarly, more than half (56 per cent) said that they had no openings for new patients. And more than two-thirds (69 per cent) of psychologists who maintained a waitlist said that the average wait was up to three months for a first appointment, while 31 per cent said average wait times were longer than three months. Psychologists reported increasing demand for treatment of certain mental health conditions, including anxiety disorders (68 per cent) and trauma- and stressor-related disorders (50 per cent), among those who treat those disorders.

"As the mental health crisis continues, psychologists are under



pressure," said APA CEO Arthur C. Evans Jr., PhD. "These findings underscore the sustained demand for care, led by increased severity of symptoms and extended treatment courses, compounded by increases year after year. This paints a clear picture of psychologists operating at the brink of their capacity. To better meet demand, it is essential that we develop comprehensive public health strategies that reach people throughout their lifespan and robustly address behavioral health alongside physical health."

The survey found that the psychologist workforce is already

adapting to meet the changing needs of the population -- for example, as part of integrated care teams or in medical settings. More than 4 in 5 psychologists (86 per cent) said they have worked alongside other health care providers, with 59 per cent saying they do so frequently or very frequently. Collaborating providers included psychiatrists (76 per cent of psychologists said they worked with them, with 38 per cent doing so frequently); other physicians (45 per cent, with 17 per cent doing so frequently); occupational therapists (30 per cent, with 6 per cent doing so frequently); physi-

cian assistants (41 per cent, with 11 per cent doing so frequently); community health workers (30 per cent, with 4 per cent doing so frequently); and speech language pathologists (28 per cent, with 5 per cent frequent collaborators). Alongside mental health concerns, psychologists reported treating patients with physical conditions, including 50 per cent treating patients with chronic pain, 42 per cent treating obesity or weight conditions, 27 per cent some symptoms of cancer, and 25 per cent high blood pressure.

"Integrated care, where psychologists work on health care teams with other providers, is one way that we can expand access to care, prioritize preventive care and find ways to better meet the biological, psychological and social needs of the patients," said Evans. "We must also support and expand the mental health workforce, foster innovation and technology, and support psychologists in extending their reach in the communities in which they live and work."

Psychologists have shown themselves to be adaptable, changing their work habits during the pandemic to include fully remote or hybrid practices. Only 21 per cent are now offering fully remote practices (down from a peak of 64 per cent in 2020), according to the poll, yet more than two-thirds (67 per cent) are now working in hybrid practices

Research shows diet has significant impact on risk of Alzheimer's disease

CALIFORNIA [US] : In a detailed study published in the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease, Diet's Role in Modifying risk of Alzheimer's Disease: History and Present Understanding, we can finally discover which diets are useful in lowering the chance of getting Alzheimer's disease. The importance of nutrition in reducing the risk of Alzheimer's disease is well examined. Plant-based diets, such as the Mediterranean diet and traditional cuisines in China, Japan, and India, have been demonstrated to minimise risk, particularly when compared to the Western diet.

Alzheimer's disease rates rise in these countries as they make the nutrition transition to the Western diet. This study identifies dementia risk factors including higher consumption of saturated fats, meat, especially red meat such as hamburgers and barbeque as well as processed meats such as hot dogs, and ultra processed foods high in sugar and refined grains.

This review also lets us know why certain foods increase or reduce risk of Alzheimer's disease. For example, meat raised risk of dementia the most by increasing risk factors such as inflammation, insulin resistance, oxidative stress, saturated fat, advanced glycation end products, and trimethylamine N-oxide. This study also outlines several foods that are protective against Alzheimer's disease, such as green leafy vegetables, colorful fruits and vegetables, legumes (like beans), nuts, omega-3 fatty acids, and whole grains.

Ultra processed foods can



increase the risk of obesity and diabetes, themselves risk factors for Alzheimer's disease. Ultra processed foods often lack the very ingredients found in whole plant foods that keep dementia away, such as anti-inflammatory components and antioxidants.

Poverty is an important driver of Alzheimer's disease in the US since ultra processed foods and meat are cheaper sources of energy than fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and other more nutritious foods, thus promoting obesity.

The paper also suggests that Alzheimer's disease rates in the US are projected to increase by 50% from 2018 levels by 2038. This calculation is based on comparing trends of obesity in the US with Alzheimer's disease trends. This comparison shows a 20-year lag between obesity rates and Alzheimer's disease rates. This estimate is very close to the estimate published by the Alzheimer's Association in 2018, an estimate of a 56% increase. Our estimate suggests that the rising trend of obesity, due to consumption of meat and ultra processed foods, is the force driving dementia. Although our personal risk of

Alzheimer's disease can be reduced with diet, it is expected that those who continue to eat the Western diet will continue to have a higher risk.

"Grant and Blake comprehensively review and synthesize the role of dietary factors in Alzheimer's disease. Evidence from diverse perspectives support that a diet that emphasizes fruits, vegetables, legumes, nuts, whole grains, and...de-emphasizes meat, especially red meat, saturated fats, and ultra-processed foods is associated with lower risk of Alzheimer's disease. Physical inactivity and obesity also contribute to higher risk. In addition, the dietary and lifestyle patterns associated with higher risk of Alzheimer's disease are known to affect the constellation of mechanisms believed to increase risk, including inflammation, insulin resistance and oxidative stress, among others. Grant and Blake make a strong case that, while further research is needed to better understand the mechanisms, diet and lifestyle factors linked to diabetes, cardiovascular disease and some cancers are likely to influence risk of Alzheimer's disease."

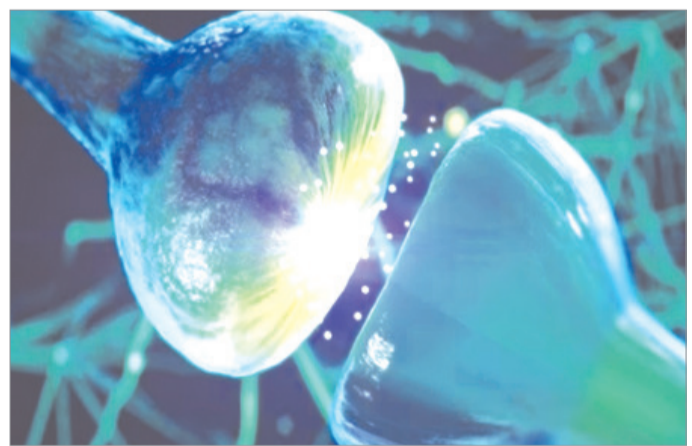
Study assesses therapeutic strategies for severe obesity in adolescents

ILLINOIS [US] : According to a study, adolescents with severe obesity who got both meal-replacement therapy and financial incentives had a higher reduction in body mass index compared to those who just received meal-replacement therapy. The finding was published in JAMA Pediatrics. Justin Ryder, PhD, Vice Chair of Research for the Department of Surgery at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and Associate Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, was a co-author of the study. Severe obesity currently affects about one in five children and adolescents in the U.S., accord-

ing to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and is defined as having a body mass index, or BMI, either at or above the 95th percentile for age and sex. The condition is associated with an increased risk of adult obesity, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and other conditions. Previous research has found that meal replacement therapy (MRT), rather than traditional lifestyle modifications, is more effective in helping reduce BMI in adolescents with severe obesity. In the current study, the investigators sought to determine if MRT paired with financial incentives to adolescents with severe obesity would increase the efficacy of MRT and lead to a greater reduction in

BMI, when compared to MRT alone. "There's literature for adults that supports that tying in financial incentives to weight loss or physical activity programs increases adherence, and so we wanted to see whether or not adding financial incentives to a behavioural/nutrition weight loss program using meal replacement therapy would increase adherence and through adherence, increase the efficacy of the treatment," Dr Ryder said. Of the 126 adolescents enrolled in the study, 63 participants received MRT plus financial incentives and 63 participants received only MRT for one year. MRT included pre-portioned meals totalling 1,200 calories per day.

Researchers shed light on how to restore nerve cells after injury



LA JOLLA (CALIFORNIA) : More than 3 million people in the United States suffer from peripheral neuropathy each year, a condition in which nerves outside of the brain and spinal cord are destroyed, resulting in pain and loss of feeling in the affected areas.

Peripheral neuropathy can be caused by diabetes, trauma, genetically inherited disease, infection, and other reasons.

Salk researchers identified a way to repair destroyed nerves in mice during peripheral neuropathy. They discovered that the protein Mitf aids in the activation of the repair function of the nervous system's specialist Schwann cells.

The findings, which will be published in Cell Reports, may inspire new therapeutics to increase repair function and heal peripheral neuropathy.

"We wanted to know what mechanisms control damage response in peripheral nerves under varying conditions--like acute trauma, genetic disorders, or degenerative diseases," says senior author Professor Samuel Pfaff. "We found that Schwann cells, which are special cells in nerves that protect and support

neurons' axons, enter their repair state because of a pathway mediated by the protein Mitf."

The peripheral nervous system is made up of all the nerves that branch out from the brain and spinal cord to give us sensation throughout our bodies. There are many cell types in peripheral nerves, but Pfaff and his team focus on understanding neurons, which transmit information throughout the nervous system, and Schwann cells, which protect healthy neurons and repair damaged ones.

The peripheral nervous system's ability to repair damage is remarkable considering that the central nervous system--made up of the brain and spinal cord--is not able to repair damage. Yet, the mechanisms that orchestrate this feat have remained poorly understood.

To unravel how Schwann cells differentiate to begin repairing peripheral nerve damage, the researchers looked at mouse models of Charcot Marie Tooth disease (CMT), a type of hereditary neuropathy.

"Going into this project, I thought that when you have a

genetic nerve degeneration disorder, cells are dying and recovery isn't possible," says first author Lydia Daboussi, a former postdoctoral researcher in Pfaff's lab and current assistant professor at UC Los Angeles. "But our findings show that there are gene programs turned on by Mitf that repair some of the damage done in those chronic disease scenarios, and when you turn those programs off, disease symptoms get worse."

In mice with CMT, the researchers noticed that the Schwann cells completing the repairs had high levels of Mitf in their nuclei--where the genetic instructions for how to be a Schwann cell and how to conduct repairs are stored.

Upon investigation of this relationship between Mitf and Schwann cells, they found that Mitf was in the cytoplasm of Schwann cells until sensing neuronal damage. Damage then prompted Mitf to relocate from the cytoplasm of the cell to the nucleus, where it would direct the Schwann cell to make repairs.

To validate the importance of Mitf in creating repair Schwann cells, the researchers removed Mitf altogether. In cases of both trauma and CMT, nerve repair was arrested in the absence of Mitf--demonstrating that Mitf is required for peripheral nerve repair and regeneration.

According to Daboussi, Mitf acts like a fire extinguisher. Always there, sitting in the Schwann cell, unnoticed until damage occurs. And when that damage occurs, Mitf is ready to go and immediately turns on the cell's repair functions.

Most surprising, noted Pfaff, was that Mitf was orchestrating these repairs during a chronic disease like CMT.

Researchers reveals ways of preventing cancer cells from colonizing liver

ZURICH (SWITZERLAND) : Nine times out of ten, metastasis is the cause of cancer deaths. This is the point when the primary tumour has sent out cells, like seeds, and invaded other organs of the body. Despite significant advancements in the treatment of primary tumours, medicine remains mainly powerless against metastases. As of right now, there are no drugs that stop this process.

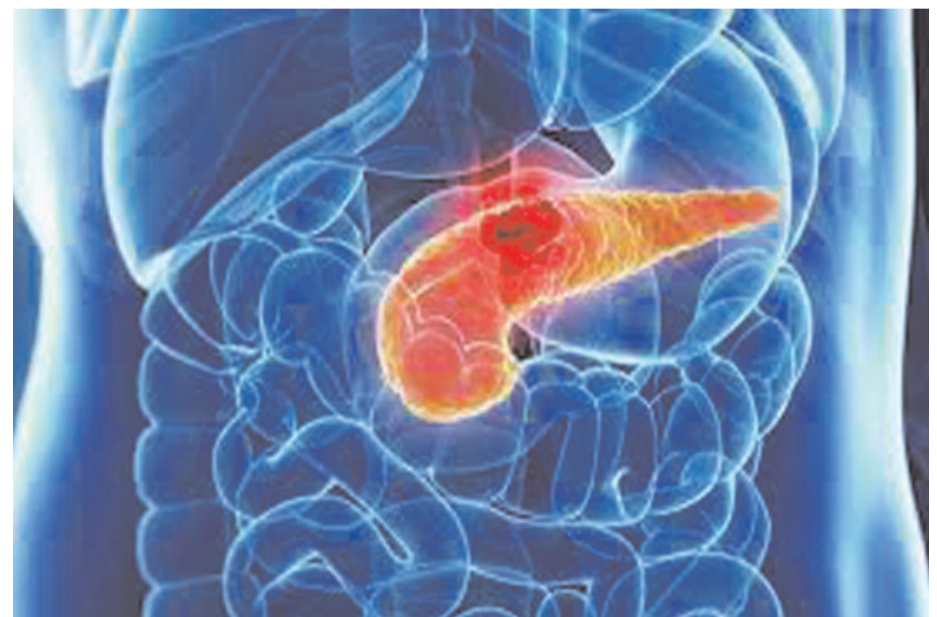
Researchers from the Department of Biosystems Science and Engineering at ETH Zurich in Basel, under the direction of Andreas Moor, have now published findings in the journal Nature that demonstrate how colorectal cancer cells colonise the liver. Their research will aid in the creation of therapies that might impede the spread of disease.

Cancer is said to metastasise when cells from the primary tumour break off and travel via the circulatory system to other parts of the body. "Colorectal cancer metastasises to the liver because of how our blood flows," Moor says. Blood is first enriched with nutrients in the intestines before it goes to the liver, which metabolises the nutrients. For colorectal cancer cells, the liver is the last stop. "They get caught in the liver's capillary network," Moor says.

Costanza Borrelli, a doctoral student, and other members of Moor's team have now shown that the liver cells also play a large role in whether or not the cancer cells lodged there can colonise their new location. Science has known for over a century that, much like plant seeds in soil, cancer cells are dependent on their environment, yet it was previously unknown which molecular mechanisms play a role here.

Using sophisticated tests on genetically modified mice, Moor and his team have discovered that the secret lies in certain proteins on the cell surface. When liver cells have a protein called Plexin-B2 and the colorectal cancer cells possess certain proteins from the semaphorin family, the colorectal cancer cells can attach themselves to the liver cells.

Cancer cells that have semaphorins on their surface are especially dangerous, as attested by clinical studies cited by Moor's researchers in their paper. The study data shows that colorectal cancer metastasises earlier and more frequently to the liver if the tumour has large



amounts of semaphorin. Plexin and its counterpart semaphorin were previously known to the research community for their function in the nervous system, where the two proteins steer growing nerve cells and ensure they form the right pathways. "Why liver cells also create plexin and what this protein does in healthy livers is anything but clear - and interests us immensely," Moor says. In other words, the question of its function remains open.

What Moor and his team have discovered, however, is that direct contact between plexin and semaphorin triggers fundamental changes in colorectal cancer cells. To break off from the primary tumour, the cancer cells have to change their identity: they free themselves from the surface layer of the intestine, or epithelium, severing their close connections to neighbouring cells. Once in the bloodstream, the cancer cells resemble those from connective tissue called mesenchyme. Yet once they find their new niche - thanks to the plexin on some liver cells - the cancer cells turn back into their sedentary form. "An epithelialisation process takes place," the researchers wrote in their paper. Moor expands: "You can spot this

immediately if you look at the cancer cells, as they form invaginations similar to the folds or crypts in the intestines."

The researchers' discovery will have an impact on more than colorectal cancer patients: further tests have shown that plexin also encourages the formation of metastases in melanoma and pancreatic cancer. For Moor and his team, this throws up many new research questions. One in particular is drawing their focus: when cancer cells cluster together to form a tumour, they also influence cells in their environment. "Cancer cells set up their own ecosystem," Moor explains.

If efforts to inhibit the crucial interaction between plexin and semaphorin succeed, it may be possible to prevent the cancer from establishing new tumours in the first place. That's because early on, when the relationships among the cells in this ecosystem have not yet been firmly established, tumour metastases are especially vulnerable, Moor explains. He appears confident that an answer lies within this "critical period of time in the development of metastases", even though the path to any potential treatment is still long.

Jordan to treat 2,000 sick Gaza children, rejects Palestinian displacement: PM

MI News Service, Amman: Jordan is ready to receive 2,000 sick Gaza children for medical treatment, as the healthcare system in the coastal enclave has been devastated, Prime Minister Jaafar Hassan said.

According to Jordan's state-run Petra news agency, during a parliamentary session, Hassan on Wednesday reaffirmed Jordan's clear and unwavering position that there should be no resettlement nor displacement of Palestinians and that no solutions to the Palestinian issue should come at Jordan's expense.

Jordan will not act unilaterally on matters concerning the future of Palestine and the region, he said, adding that the country is working with Arab nations, alongside Egypt and Palestinians, to formulate a unified and clear Arab position on Gaza's reconstruction, Xinhua news agency reported.



He said that supporting Palestinians' resilience and defending their just rights are at the core of Jordan's efforts, and a just resolution to the Palestinian cause based on the establishment of an independent Palestinian state is the foundation of achieving regional security, stability, and peace.

He added that Jordan's stability and security, and the protection of its people, are paramount.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi on Wednesday reaffirmed that Jordan will not accept any proposal to relocate Palestinians from Gaza to other countries, including Jordan and Egypt.

"There are firm and unchanging Jordanian positions. Palestinians cannot be transferred to Egypt, Jordan, or any other Arab state," Safadi told Al Jazeera. He stressed that a just peace can only be achieved through a two-state solution,

ensuring Palestinian sovereignty and independence. Both Jordan and Egypt have strongly opposed any forced displacement. The Palestinian Authority, Hamas, and Arab nations have rejected Trump's plan outright, while China has also said, "Gaza belongs to Palestinians."

Hassan's remarks came a day after Jordanian King Abdullah II rejected US President Donald Trump's proposal to relocate Palestinians in the Gaza Strip during his visit to Washington.

Earlier, Trump had proposed that the US should take control of Gaza and that the Palestinians be relocated to neighbouring Jordan and Egypt, which has been widely condemned.

Trump later threatened that the US "could conceivably withhold aid" from Jordan and Egypt if the two countries did not agree to receive Palestinians.

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Tulsi Gabbard sworn in as Director of National Intelligence



MI News Service, Washington, DC: Tulsi Gabbard was sworn in as the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) at the White House on Wednesday (local time), just hours after the Senate confirmed her.

US Attorney General Pam Bondi administered the oath to Gabbard at the Oval Office, with US President Donald Trump in attendance. The White House shared the video of Gabbard's swearing-in ceremony on X.

While sharing the video of the swearing-in ceremony on X, the White House stated, "Tulsi Gabbard has officially been sworn in as Director of National Intelligence by AG Pam Bondi in the Oval Office! MAKE AMERICA SAFE AGAIN!"

Bangladesh Islamic groups obstruct cultural festival

MI News Service, Dhaka: The commemoration of philosopher and Sufi saint Lalon Fakir in Bangladesh has been cancelled following objections from various Islamic groups, local media reported on Thursday.

"In Madhupur of Tangail district, the commemoration of Lalon was cancelled due to the objection of Hefazat-e-Islam, Bangladesh's largest Islamic group. The festival was scheduled to be held at Madhupur Upazila Bus Stand area from 8 pm on Wednesday. Madhupur Lalon Sangha organized the cultural festival to celebrate the 134th death anniversary of Fakir Lalon Sajji," Samakal, a Bengali-language daily newspaper published in Dhaka, reported.

"Lalon Festivals were held several times earlier without any hindrance, but this time committee canceled the event in the objections. In the afternoon, they expressed regret for cancelling the event due to unavoidable circumstances," Samakal reported.

Bibartan Cultural Centre, a cultural group, also condemned the incident.

"We strongly condemn this incident. Hefazat Islam and Ulama Parishad (Madhupur branch) these two Islamic parties will not allow 'false ideology to propagate' in Madhupur. The organizers of the event had promised that there would be no discussion of Lalon's ideology for the sake of the event, but they did not keep it," Mojibur Rahman Laltu, General Secretary of Bibartan Cultural Centre, said in a statement.

"Since the fall of the fascist Hasina government on August 5, attacks on shrines, removal of tribal graffiti from textbooks, barring of 'Tawhidi Janata' banners in women's football matches, attacks by communal groups on book fair stalls, have resulted in the suspension of this cherished commemoration today. However, there is no sign of the interim government bringing those responsible for these attacks to justice," the statement added.

Lalon, also known as Lalon Shah, Lalon Fakir, Shahji, was a Bengali spiritual leader, philosopher, mystic poet and social reformer. Regarded as an icon of Bengali culture, he inspired and influenced many philosophers, poets and social thinkers including Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam and Allen Ginsberg. Lalon's philosophy of humanity rejects all distinctions of caste, class, and creed and takes stand against theological conflicts and racism. It denies all worldly affairs in search of the soul and embodied the socially transformative role of sub-continental Bhakti and Sufism. Earlier on Monday, a group of madrasa students had attacked a stall at the Amar Ekushey Book Fair in Dhaka over the display of book written by Taslima Nasreen, who is in exile in India as per police and eyewitness' accounts. Chief Adviser of the Interim Government in Bangladesh, Muhammad Yunus, had strongly denounced the mob attack on the Amar Ekushey Book Fair in Dhaka, and said that the attack shows "contempt" for both the "rights of Bangladesh citizens and for the laws of our country."

China says Taiwan "inalienable part" of its territory as two US vessels sail across Taiwan Strait

MI News Service, Beijing: Following the recent transit of two US ships through the Taiwan Strait, Beijing reiterated its position on Taiwan, emphasised that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory and stated that it "opposes any country challenging or threatening China's sovereignty and security under the pretext of freedom of navigation."

In a post on X on Wednesday, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence (MND) had said that two US naval vessels sailed through the Taiwan Strait from north to south on February 10.

It wrote, "Two U.S. naval vessels sailed through the Taiwan Strait from north to south starting on the 10th. During this period, #ROC Armed Forces maintained full control over the surrounding sea and airspace, with the situation remaining normal."

Meanwhile, Taiwan on Thursday detected six sorties of People's Liberation Army (PLA) aircraft, eight People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) vessels, and one official ship operating around the island as of 6 am (UTC+8).

According to MND, four of the six aircraft sorties

crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ).

In a post on X, MND wrote, "6 sorties of PLA aircraft, 8 PLAN vessels and 1 official ship operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today."

It added, "4 out of 6 sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern ADIZ. We have monitored the situation and responded accordingly."

In recent weeks, China has visibly increased its capacity to conduct amphibious assaults on Taiwan's beaches with new naval equipment. This includes the formal launch of a unique advanced landing helicopter assault (LHA) vessel and the mass production of floating bridge docks to aid ship unloading during beach landings.

According to MND, four of the six aircraft sorties

China's military escalation forces Taiwan to expand defence drills amid growing threat

MI News Service, Taipei: Taiwan plans to enhance the scope of its primary yearly military exercise by mobilizing additional reserve brigades. Radio Free Asia (RFA) reported that speculations surround media reports that the number of Chinese military aircraft entering the airspace surrounding Taiwan has doubled since President Lai Ching-te's inauguration in May, last year.

RFA reported that China sees Taiwan as a breakthrough province that must eventually reunite, even by force if necessary. Beijing sees Lai, who supports independence, as a separatist and has stepped up military exercises, applied economic pressure, and severed diplomatic ties to undermine his authority.

"This year's drill will mobilize an entire reserve brigade with an estimated force of 2,400 to 3,000 troops to conduct regional defence operations," Su Tong-Wei, deputy director of the Joint Operations Planning Division at Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence, told at a press conference, referring to the Han Kuang exercise as quoted by RFA.

RFA outlined that the exercise is Taiwan's largest annual military drill, it tests the country's defences against a Chinese invasion. Amidst escalating tensions across the Strait, the island's emphasis on asymmetric warfare is demonstrated through live-fire training, joint operations, and attack simulations. Only a few hundred reserve troops were mobilized in previous drills.

According to defence analysts, this year's exercise

aims to evaluate the mobilization and operational capabilities of Taiwan's recently formed county-level reserve brigades, RFA highlighted.

"With a mobilized force of 2,400 to 3,000 troops, if the brigade can independently carry out mobilization and training without external support, it would demonstrate the ability to rapidly and effectively deploy reserves in response to a potential threat—this is the core focus of the exercise," Taiwanese retired major general Arthur Kuo was quoted by Radio Free Asia.

"Effective command and coordination of brigade-level units, especially when integrating with nearby active-duty forces during the exercise, require careful planning, thorough rehearsals, and precise execution," he added as quoted by RFA.

Pak journalists' nationwide protest continues over controversial PECA Law, condemn crackdown on press freedom

MI News Service, Islamabad: Journalists protested the Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Act (PECA) for the second day in a row in response to a call from the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) on Thursday.

The News International (NI) reported that journalists have filed numerous cases against the law in both the High Court and the Supreme Court, claiming it is an attack on media freedom.

"The PECA is unconstitutional and illegal, hence, the court should conduct a judicial review on it," the plea lodged by the PFUJ at the Islamabad High Court states as quoted by The News International.

The News International outlined that journalists nationwide have staged rallies and symbolic hunger strike camps in opposition to the controversial PECA law, drawing attention to the government's attempts to restrict free speech.

The Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ) staged a symbolic hunger strike outside the Quetta Press Club to protest the recently passed law, TNI reported.

"We will not accept the controversial Peca law at any cost. We will not let any attempt to curb freedom of expression succeed," the BUJ said as quoted by TNI.

TNI reported, on a nationwide protest appeal by the PFUJ, the Karachi Union of Journalists (KUJ) set up a hunger strike camp in the Karachi Press Club, and it has already entered its second day.

TNI highlighted that during the first two days of the three-day hunger strike camp, representatives of human rights organizations, attorneys, and civil society were among the people from a variety of backgrounds who attended, according to the KUJ. It stated that the hunger strike camp would keep raising its voice every day between 11 AM and 5 PM.

According to the KUJ, during the first two days of the three-day hunger strike camp, representatives of human rights organizations, attorneys, and civil society were among the persons who attended, representing a variety

of backgrounds. The hunger strike camp stated that it would keep raising its voice every day between 11 AM and 5 PM.

The Rawalpindi Islamabad Union of Journalists (RIUJ)

Talagang-Chakwal Unit also staged protest rallies and a hunger strike camp in response to PFUJ's call for protest. In opposition to the PECA, protesters chanted slogans, revealed a TNI report.

Trump speaks to Zelensky, discuss meeting set to be held in Munich: White House

MI News Service, Washington, DC: US President Donald Trump spoke to his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky after having telephonic conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt announced on Wednesday (local time).

While addressing a press briefing on Wednesday (local time), Leavitt said that the calls between Zelensky and Trump were "very positive" and expressed the US government's commitment to a "peace deal" and ending the war between Russia and Ukraine.

Quoting Trump, she said that the President of US and Ukraine spoke about the meeting being set up in Munich on Friday where US Vice President JD Vance and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will lead the delegation.

Karoline Leavitt said,



"The President just spoke to President Putin of Russia. They spoke at length and the president released a statement following that conversation in great detail. I can also confirm that the President also just got off the phone with President Zelensky of Ukraine. His truth is as follows: 'I just spoke to President Zelensky of Ukraine, and the conversation went very well. He, like President Putin, wants to make peace. We discussed a variety of topics having to do with the war but mostly, the

meeting that is being set up on Friday in Munich where Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio will lead the delegation."

"I am hopeful that the result of that meeting will be positive. It is time to stop this ridiculous war where there has been massive and totally unnecessary death and destruction. God bless the people of Russia and Ukraine. I myself spoke to the President about these calls and he told me to tell you that they were very good calls. They

were very positive and the administration is wholeheartedly committed to a peace deal to end once and for all the Russia-Ukraine war," she added.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky also took to X to share details regarding his conversation with Trump. He appreciated Trump's genuine interest in shared opportunities and how they can bring peace together.

"I had a long and detailed conversation with President Trump. I appreciate his genuine interest in our shared opportunities and how we can bring about real peace together. We discussed many aspects—diplomatic, military, and economic—and President Trump informed me about what Putin told him. We believe that America's strength, together with Ukraine and all our partners, is enough to push Russia to peace," Zelensky posted on X.

were very positive and the administration is wholeheartedly committed to a peace deal to end once and for all the Russia-Ukraine war," she added.

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Pakistan: HRFP demands justice for blasphemy accused Farhan Masih, others

MI News Service, Faisalabad: Human Rights Focus Pakistan (HRFP) on Thursday condemned the ongoing violations of minority rights in Pakistan, where religious minorities, particularly Christians and Hindus, face severe persecution and discrimination.

The HRFP said that the communities are subjected to forced conversions, abductions, and physical violence, with the abuse of blasphemy laws intensifying their vulnerability.

"Human Rights Focus Pakistan (HRFP) strongly condemns the violations of minority rights across Pakistan, where religious minorities continue to face severe persecution and discrimination,"

HRFP said in a statement. It added, "Religious minorities are routinely subjected to forced conversions, especially targeting young women and girls belonging to Christian and Hindu families, while the misuse of blasphemy laws has created an atmosphere of fear and vulnerability as there is an addition of recent case of Christian youth Farhan Masih who has been accused on 26 January 2025 by local Islamic cleric Muhammad Bilal Khan with another man Tasleem Khan in district Sahiwal."

HRFP further said that a FIR was registered at the local police station on the same day, stating by the complainant that Farhan Masih had used

desecrated against Muslims and Islam under the charges of 295A/298A and 7-ATA of PPC.

Section 295 A calls for imprisonment of up to 10 years for deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs; and 298 A with a punishment of up to 10 years in prison for disrespecting and companions of the prophet of Islam; and Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, includes a clause related to causing civil commotion or unrest and is punishable by a minimum five years jail term. HRFP further elaborated.

"While through Fact Findings mission trip, the HRFP team found that

Farhan Masih, a resident of Chak # 134/9L Sahiwa, had been working in a hospital and accused of blasphemy because the accuser Muhammad Bilal Khan was mocking and Farhan asked them to stop as both have also a history to know each other's and the small conflict directed by the personal grudge to accusing of blasphemy by the complainant, HRFP team founds the facts," HRFP said.

Farhan Masih's family members shared with the HRFP team that he quit the job by force from some people alleging he was addicted to drugs. HRFP team met Farhan's family and assured them of every possible support until justice.

Lalon, also known as Lalon Shah, Lalon Fakir, Shahji, was a Bengali spiritual leader, philosopher, mystic poet and social reformer. Regarded as an icon of Bengali culture, he inspired and influenced many philosophers, poets and social thinkers including Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam and Allen Ginsberg. Lalon's philosophy of humanity rejects all distinctions of caste, class, and creed and takes stand against theological conflicts and racism. It denies all worldly affairs in search of the soul and embodied the socially transformative role of sub-continental Bhakti and Sufism. Earlier on Monday, a group of madrasa students had attacked a stall at the Amar Ekushey Book Fair in Dhaka over the display of book written by Taslima Nasreen, who is in exile in India as per police and eyewitness' accounts. Chief Adviser of the Interim Government in Bangladesh, Muhammad Yunus, had strongly denounced the mob attack on the Amar Ekushey Book Fair in Dhaka, and said that the attack shows "contempt" for both the "rights of Bangladesh citizens and for the laws of our country."

Baloch Women Forum condemns surge in state atrocities, calls for global intervention



MI News Service, Balochistan: The Baloch Women Forum has strongly denounced the recent spike in "state-sponsored terrorism, extrajudicial killings, and enforced disappearances" in Balochistan, especially in the Makran region.

The group has demanded immediate international intervention and has referred to these acts as part of a continuing genocide campaign against the Baloch people, The Balochistan Post (TBP) reported.

The Baloch Women Forum issued

a statement highlighting several recent events that show the serious human rights abuses taking place in Balochistan, as reported by The Balochistan Post.

Sharif Zakir, a renowned scholar and educator, has endured numerous attacks and harassment. The recent abduction of his son and cousin demonstrates the state's flagrant contempt for civilian safety and human rights, The Balochistan Post reported.

The Balochistan Post further reported that Hayat Sabzal was forcibly disappeared by security personnel in Turbat on July 3, 2024. On February 11, 2025, his mutilated body was found in Panjgoor.

On February 4, 2025, Allah Dad, a young and accomplished Baloch scholar, was targeted and slain in Turbat. TBP reported following Allah Dad, eleven Baloch youths from Parni and Kulanch (Chakkuli) were forcibly abducted, contributing to the region's constantly expanding list of missing people.

Asma Bibi, a young Baloch woman, was forcibly abducted from her home by local state forces, and her

family members were brutally beaten. Following protests and public outcry, which included road closures around Balochistan, officials were forced to deliver a video statement. The offenders are still unpunished, TBP reported.

The systematic targeting of Baloch intellectuals, scholars, and youth has been fiercely denounced by the Baloch Women Forum, which claims that these measures are part of a larger attempt to stifle Baloch's identity and resistance. Human rights organizations and the international community have been urged by the forum to act swiftly and effectively to stop these atrocities.

TBP reiterated that the group emphasized the pressing need for accountability, victim justice, and an end to the impunity of those who commit crimes. The international community's silence is still a serious problem despite several requests. The Baloch Women Forum has reaffirmed its call for international action to stop additional abuses of human rights and guarantee justice for the oppressed Baloch people.

BHATKAWA TEA INDUSTRIES LIMITED						
CIN : L01132WB1911PLC002077						
Regd. Office : 2 Hare Street, Kolkata - 700001						
Statement of Standalone Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and Nine Months Ended 31st December, 2024						
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Nine Months Ended		Year Ended
		12/31/2024 (Unaudited)	9/30/2024 (Unaudited)	12/31/2023 (Unaudited)	12/31/2024 (Unaudited)	3/31/2024 (Audited)
1	Income					
a.	Revenue from Operations	1,514.17	1,189.68	1,247.90	3,793.30	3,698.33
b.	Other Income	59.74	278.66	208.47	397.79	312.49
1	Total Income	1,573.91	1,468.34	1,456.37	4,191.09	4,010.82
2	Expenses					
a.	Cost of materials consumed	-	-	-	-	-
b.	Purchase of Trading Goods	-	-	-	-	-
c.	Changes in Inventories of finished goods, stock-in-trade and work-in-progress	300.99	(233.23)	253.10	36.33	53.34
d.	Employee benefits expense	515.60	638.00	550.72	1,786.09	1,858.98
e.	Finance cost	10.28	10.53	7.66	31.04	26.18
f.	Depreciation and amortisation expense	24.97	33.66	17.19	83.63	63.11
g.	Other expenses	249.19	296.45	213.00	824.19	742.56
2	Total Expense	1,101.02	1,468.34	1,041.67	2,761.27	2,744.17
3	Profit Before Tax (1-2)	472.89	722.93	414.70	1,429.82	1,266.65
4	Tax Expense					
a.	Current Tax	-	-	-	-	68.68
b.	Deferred Tax	-	-	-	-	(20.82)
c.	Mat Credit Entitlement	-	-	-	-	(7.95)
d.	Income Tax relating to earlier years	-	-	-	-	-
4	Total Tax Expense	-	-	-	-	39.91
5	Net Profit/(Loss) For The Period (3-4)	472.89	722.93	414.70	1,429.82	1,266.65
6	Other Comprehensive Income					
(a)	Items that will not be Reclassified to Profit & Loss					
	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit plans	27.04	27.08	37.57	81.11	97.57
	FVTOCI of Investments	(226.03)	203.44	246.10	593.31	652.41
	Tax effect on above	-	-	-	-	(97.94)
6	Total Other Comprehensive Income	(198.99)	230.52	283.67	135.02	660.88
7	Total Comprehensive Income (5+6)	273.90	953.45	698.37	1,564.84	1,927.53
8	Income (5+6)	273.90	953.45	698.37	1,564.84	1,927.53
9	Reserve excluding Revaluation Reserve as at Balance Sheet	224.00	224.00	224.00	224.00	224.00
10	Basic Earning Per Share (EPS) (Rs.) (*not annualised)	21.11	32.27	18.51	63.83	56.55
11	Diluted Earning Per Share (EPS) (Rs.) (*not annualised)	21.11	32.27	18.51	63.83	56.55

Notes:
1. The above standalone results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their respective meeting held on 13th February 2025. The results for the quarter ended 31st December, 2024 has been subjected to Limited Review by the Statutory Auditors.
2. The Company is engaged in the business of cultivation, manufacture and sale of tea, which is seasonal in nature and the performance can be impacted by weather conditions and cropping pattern, and as such the foregoing results should not be construed as being representative of likely results for the year ended 31st March 2025.
3. The company is primarily engaged in the business of growing and manufacturing of tea and accordingly there are no separate reportable segments as per Ind AS 108 dealing with segment reporting.
4. Previous year/ period figures have been rearranged / regrouped wherever necessary to make them comparable with current period figures.
For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
For Bhatkawa Tea Industries Limited
Padmanabh Jalan, Whole Time Director
Place: Kolkata
Date: 13th February, 2025
(DIN : 01651268)

INDIA GO DOWN 2-3 AGAINST SOUTH KOREA IN BADMINTON ASIA MIXED TEAM C'SHIPS SECOND GROUP MATCH

QINGDAO [CHINA] : Men's singles player Sathish Kumar Karunakaran and women's doubles pairing of Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly fought back from two matches down to keep the team in the hunt, but that did not prove enough as India went down 2-3 against South Korea in their second Group D clash in the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships 2025 at Qingdao, China on Thursday, as stated in a release from Badminton Association of India (BAI).

Having already qualified for the knockout stage, India and South Korea faced off to determine the group winner. It wasn't an ideal start for India as the mixed doubles combination of Dhruv Kapil and Tanisha Crasto and women's singles player Mahvika Bansod lost their respective matches.

National Games double gold medalist Sathish brought India back into the contest, keeping his nerves under pressure to beat Cho Geonyeop 17-21, 21-18, 21-19.

World no 9 combination of Gayatri and Treesa then raised hope of an Indian win by getting the better of Kim Min Ji and Kim Yu Jung 19-21, 21-16, 21-11 to make the tie score 2-2.

India once again tweaked their men's doubles combination, this time fielding Satwiksairaj Rankireddy with MR Arjun against Jin Yong and Na Sung Seung. Satwik and Arjun struggled to find the rhythm in the opening game but gave their opponents a tough fight in the second, eventually going down 25-23.

Earlier on Wednesday, Last edition's bronze medallists, India, kicked off their Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships 2025 campaign with a thumping 5-0 victory over Macau in Group D at the Qingdao Sports Centre Conson Gymnasium in China.

The dominant victory also confirmed India's passage to the knockout stage. To determine the group winner, India will face two-time runners-up South Korea in the second Group D clash on Thursday, according to a press release from BAI.

Jharkhand clinches 38th NG women hockey bronze

PC JHA

RANCHI : Jharkhand's girls succeeded to clinch bronze medal after defeating Maharashtra by 2-1 in an exiting match of the 38th Dehradun National Games on Thursday.

In the 38th National Games held in Devbhoomi Haridwar, Uttarakhand from 28 January to 14 February 2025, Jharkhand Women's Hockey Team won the bronze medal today by defeating Hockey Maharashtra 2-1 in their bronze medal match in a tough match.

From Jharkhand team's side, Pramodani Lakra scored a field goal in the 12th minute of the first quarter of the match giving Jharkhand a 1-0 lead. Thereafter as soon as the second quarter started, in the 17th minute of the match, Jharkhand's Albela Rani Toppo scored a goal in a penalty corner taking Jharkhand's lead to 2-0.

After the interval, Maharashtra team tried to make a comeback by scoring a goal in the 39th minute but Jharkhand play-



ers did not give them any more chance and won the match by 2-1 and captured the bronze medal.

On Jharkhand team winning bronze medal, Sports Minister Sudipya Kumar Sonu, Manoj Kumar, Secretary = Tourism, Art

Culture Sports and Youth Affairs Department Jharkhand, Sandeep Kumar, Director Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Bholanath Singh, General Secretary Hockey India, Madhukant Pathak, General Secretary Jharkhand

Olympic Association, including all the officials of Sports Department Jharkhand Government, Jharkhand Olympic Association and Hockey Jharkhand have congratulated the entire team and coach, manager.

"Well trained": Indian women's team bank on home support ahead of FIH Pro League



BHUBANESWAR (ODISHA) : After the remarkable Women's Asian Champions Trophy title win in November last year, the Indian Women's Hockey Team is all set to continue its run of form into the FIH Pro League matches at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar from February 15 to 25.

India will kickstart their campaign with two matches against England on February 15 and 16 followed by clashes against Spain on February 18 and 19. The side will also face challenging opponents in World No. 4 Germany and World No. 1 Netherlands on February 21, 22 and February 24, 25 respectively, as per a Hockey India press release.

India is led by Arjuna Awardee Salima Tete with deputy Navneet Kaur by her side. With a blend of experienced players of the likes of Savita, Sushila Chanu, Nikki Pradhan, Vandana Katariya, Uditia, Lalremsiami and Sharmila Devi alongside star youngsters like Deepika, Sunelita Toppo and Jyoti in the ranks, India have a

well-balanced squad.

The Indian players are heading into the tournament after their recent performances in the Hero Women's Hockey India League which followed their iconic Women's ACT win in Rajgir. Last season, India had a disappointing campaign finishing eighth with only eight points won in 16 games and will be eyeing to put up an improved show backed by a home crowd.

Ahead of the India leg matches, Captain Salima Tete stated, "We cannot wait to play at the Kalinga Stadium again and win as many points as we can. We are facing challenging opponents but I am confident that the girls are ready to take on the challenge and do their best on the field. We had a disappointing season last time but I feel we are well-trained and prepared to do better this time around."

Head coach Harendra Singh commented on India's preparation ahead of the crucial matches and stated, "The girls have worked extremely hard in the camp and I am confident that we have a squad, good enough to play on par with all our opponents. With the support of the home crowd behind us, we have crucial matches coming up and we need to focus on winning maximum points."

Newly appointed RCB captain Patidar reflects on his "quiet, calm" captaincy style, up-and-down IPL journey

Bengaluru (Karnataka) : Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) batter and newly-appointed skipper Rajat Patidar on Thursday talked about his style of captaincy and his self-belief after being chosen as Faf Du Plessis' successor ahead of the 2025 Indian Premier League (IPL) season.

Thursday marked the start of a new era for RCB as the 31-year-old Patidar, who has played a crucial role in his franchise's and state Madhya Pradesh's success over the years, was chosen as the new skipper of the Red and Gold franchise ahead of the 2025 season.

Speaking in a video posted by RCB on their Instagram, Patidar expressed his happiness at being chosen as the captain and elaborated on his captaincy style, which relies on calmness, game awareness and being rock solid under pressure.

"My way of captaincy is slightly different. I am more quiet, calm and at the same time, I am aware of the situations, what is needed and what is not needed. I do not express much and I do not really panic in pressure situations and I think this is my strength. There are a lot of experienced leaders in the group of Indians and overseas as well. So I think their input will definitely help me in my leadership role," he said.

Reflecting on his journey with RCB, which saw him get released by the team after playing four games in 2021 and being wel-



comed back as a replacement player following an injury in the camp during 2022 for Rs 20 lakhs, Patidar expressed happiness on his ongoing stint with RCB and support from its loyal fanbase over the years.

"I started playing in 2021 for RCB when I got a chance. I did not get picked in the mega auction and I was a bit emotional that I would not get a second chance. All these things were going on in my mind and RCB picked me as a replacement. I had a belief that if this happens, something good will happen," recalled Patidar.

"I am very thankful that they have given me a second chance. I was very confident that if I can come this far, I can go further. It was a belief that brought me here and the whole scenario changed,"

Pakistan's Shaheen Shah Afridi, Saud Shakeel, Kamran Ghulam fined for breaching ICC Code of Conduct

KARACHI [PAKISTAN] : Pakistan's Shaheen Shah Afridi, Saud Shakeel, and Kamran Ghulam were fined on Thursday for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during the tri-nation series match against South Africa in Karachi.

According to a release from the ICC, pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi was fined 25 percent of his match fee for breaching Article 2.12 of the Code, which pertains to "inappropriate physical contact with a Player, Player Support Personnel, Umpire, Match Referee or any other person (including a spectator) during an International Match."

The incident occurred in the 28th over of South Africa's innings when Shaheen deliberately obstructed batter Matthew Breetzke as he ran a single, resulting in physical contact and a heated exchange between the two players.

In another incident, Saud Shakeel and substitute fielder Kamran Ghulam were fined 10 per cent of their match fees for celebrating too closely to batter Temba Bavuma following his run-out in the 29th over.

Both players were found guilty of breaching Article 2.5 of the Code, which relates to "using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter upon his/her dismissal during an International Match."

All players have accepted the sanctions imposed, and there will be no formal hearings regarding the incidents.

that kept Patidar going despite all hurdles, his belief in himself.

"Wherever I go, that word (belief) is always with me. That belief is my strength. I carry that belief with me wherever I go. The way we took the team to the next level and qualified from the bottom (in the 2024 season), that was a happy moment for me," he added.

Patidar said that getting appointed as a captain has been the "best moment" of his IPL career. "I am very happy and ready for the upcoming challenges," he concluded.

Patidar has captaincy experience as a part of the Madhya Pradesh team across all formats. In last year's Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, he led MP to the finals and played a crucial role in their campaign with 428 runs in 10 matches at an average of 61.14, a strike rate of over 186 and five fifties, ending as the second-highest run-getter in the tournament.

Patidar's game against spin and ability to tonk sixes against them has been a standout feature of his game.

He has been one of RCB's standout Indian talents since 2022, scoring 799 runs in 24 innings at an average of 34.73 and a strike rate of 158.84, with a century and seven fifties. His century against LSG during the 2022 IPL eliminator is a standout knock, making him the first uncapped player with a century in the IPL playoffs.

Once white-ball kings, England tackle glaring negatives ahead of CT2025 with 'Bazball' under scrutiny

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : England, not-so-long hailed as white-ball cricket revolutionaries for their game-changing performances across both ODI and T20I formats after the 2015 50-over World Cup that impacted scoring rates and statistics worldwide, have plenty of issues to address ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy.

Be it the absence of some prominent players, dip in form of senior mainstays or their spin troubles, there is plenty of things currently holding back the team with skipper Jos Buttler and newly appointed coach Brendon McCullum at helm.

England will kickstart their Champions Trophy campaign against arch-rivals Australia from February 22 at Lahore, with matches against Afghanistan (February 26) and South Africa (March 1) coming later. Leading up to the series since the 2023 ODI World Cup, England's ODI form has been mostly average at best, with few glimpses of brilliance that led them to simultaneous world championship glory in ODIs and T20Is. Under their new head coach McCullum, they have failed to unleash his 'Bazball' school of cricket badly during the white-ball series against India.

*Bilateral series form: After the 2023 50-over World Cup, England has participated in four ODI series, out of which they have failed to win any. Since the 2023 World Cup end, England has played in 14 ODIs, out of which they have won just four. In these 14 ODIs, England has lost eight while defending a total, though twice it was as per the Duckworth-Lewis Method. They have won only once while defending. While chasing, England has won thrice (once as per Duckworth-Lewis Method) and lost twice. In nine matches away from home, they have won just two.

Their series records are: 1-2 loss to West Indies (away from home), a 2-3 loss to Australia (at home), 1-2 loss to West Indies (away from home) and a 3-

0 loss to India (away from home).

*Positives:

-Clarity: One thing that England carries with itself is clarity in gameplay. The mantra of playing attacking and positive cricket given by former skipper Eoin Morgan which won them the 2019 World Cup, has been passed to the next generation of England players and leadership. While the execution has been missing plenty of times, the clarity being retained by this generation about their brand of cricket is a positive.

-Fine form of Adil Rashid: England's lead spinner, Adil Rashid has been in an excellent form. Since the 2023 World Cup, he has taken 13 wickets in 11 matches, averaging 41.30, with an economy rate of 5.69 and best figures of 4/64. While his bowling may not result in truckloads of wickets, the pressure he creates on batters makes things easy for other batters. He finished the ODI series against India as the top wicket-taker, with seven scalps in three matches at an average of over 27 and an economy rate of 6.36. He could be England's safe bet at the National Stadium in Karachi, where spinners like Muttiah Muralitharan, Ajantha Mendis (both Sri Lankans), Shahid Afridi and Shoaib Malik feature in the top 10 wicket-takers.

-Recent strong performances of Harry Brook, Ben Duckett in ODIs: In these 14 ODIs played, Duckett and Brook have put their hands up for England on many occasions. Duckett is England's leading ODI run-getter after the 2023 WC, with 530 runs in 11 innings at an average of 48.18, a strike rate of 108.60, with a century and four half-centuries. In the recent series against India, he emerged as top-run-getter with 131 runs in three innings at an average of 43.66, a strike rate of 122.42, with a half-century to his name.

Brook, despite his poor performances against India, has done well to become England's second-highest ODI run-getter after WC2023 till now, with



477 runs in 11 innings at an average of 53.00, a strike rate of 106.23, with a century and three fifties. His best score is 110*. During the series against Australia at home, he managed the burden of captaincy well, scoring 312 runs in five innings at an average of 78.00 and a strike rate of 127.86, with best score of 110*, a century and two fifties.

*Negatives:

-Lack of reliability in the opening: The opening pair of Phil Salt and Ben Duckett is extremely destructive on its day. Salt though explosive, has not proven to be a player who can stay long

on the crease. Out of his 28 innings, Salt has faced more than 30 balls only six times, which shrinks down to three occasions against Test-playing nations.

After England's last massive white-ball reset following a premature group-stage World Cup exit in 2015, the prominent English opening pair of Jason Roy and Alex Hales faced up 1,413 balls in 42 innings and 1,454 balls in 35 innings leading up to the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy, with their balls per innings average being 33.64 and 41.54 respectively. They together scored eight centuries and 17 fifties. The innings per century across their 77

combined innings was 9.6 innings per century and 3.08 innings per fifty-plus score.

Coming to Salt and Duckett, they have played 421 balls in 14 innings and 385 balls in eight innings respectively, with their balls per innings average being 30.07 and 48.12 respectively, with Duckett outclassing Salt by miles. Even Will Jacks, who played six innings as an opener, has played 164 balls, with balls per innings average of 27.33. In their 28 innings overall as a trio, they have scored a century and six fifties each, which means 28 innings per century and four innings per fifty-plus score, way poorer than Roy-Hales Salt has been the most underwhelming performer with just two fifties in 14 innings and a lot of England's opening woes come down to him throwing away his wicket.

The question is: Though these attractive 30s and 40s could look good in T20Is, are they truly needed in ODIs?

-Form of senior stalwarts Jos Buttler and Joe Root: They say, a team is as good as its leadership.

The team's senior-most batters, skipper Buttler and Root, have experienced a dip in form. Since the end of the 2023 WC, Buttler has scored 153 runs in six innings at an average of 30.60 and a strike rate of 90.00, with two half-century and three single-digit scores. Root, on the other hand, seems to have taken Test cricket to be his top priority. While his numbers in Tests have been astonishing for the last four years, same cannot be said for ODIs. In 31 ODIs after World Cup 2019, Root has made 778 runs at an underwhelming average of 29.92 and a rather disappointing strike rate of 82.24 by his standards. He has made just seven fifties in 28 innings with the best score of 86.

-Recent inability against spin: England's woes against spin were showcased during the recent tour of India, where the Three Lions would often stumble against spinners. In the

ODI series, they lost 13 of their 30 wickets to spin, with 13 lost to pace as well. It was even worse in T20Is, where they lost 29 of their 48 wickets to spin.

Come the Champions Trophy, spinners like Adam Zampa, Glenn Maxwell, Travis Head, Matt Short, Tabraiz Shamsi, Keshav Maharaj, Rashid Khan, Nour Ahmed etc could create problems for England.

-Lack of prominent all-rounders: England is missing some prominent all-rounders this time around, with Sam Curran, Will Jacks and Ben Stokes being left out of the squad, Moeen Ali being retired and Jacob Bethell being ruled out due to injury.

*Top performers for England between the 2023 World Cup end to now:

Top run-getters: Ben Duckett (530 runs in 11 innings at an average of 48.18 and a strike rate of 108.60, with a century and four fifties), Harry Brook (477 runs in 11 innings at an average of 53.00, with a strike rate of 106.23, a century and three fifties), Phil Salt (409 runs in 14 innings at an average of 29.21, with two half-centuries), Liam Livingstone (403 runs in 13 innings at an average of 40.30, with a century and fifty) and Will Jacks (308 runs in 11 innings at an average of 28.00, with two half-centuries).

Top wicket-takers: Adil Rashid (13 wickets in 11 matches at an average of 41.30), Brydon Carse (nine wickets in eight matches at an average of 44.77), Livingstone (nine wickets in 14 matches at an average of 53.66), Gus Atkinson (eight wickets in five matches at an average of 35.87) and Matthew Potts (eight wickets in six matches at an average of 26.62).

England Champions Trophy squad: Jos Buttler (c), Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, Tom Banton, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Ben Duckett, Jamie Overton, Jamie Smith, Liam Livingstone, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Saqib Mahmood, Phil Salt, Mark Wood.